

COUNTY CONNECTIONS



WINTER 2020

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Reeve's Message



As 2020 comes to a close, I look back on a year of unexpected and unprecedented challenges. But what is most impressed in my mind is the kindness I've seen around me; the efforts people are making to look after one another – neighbours and strangers – and the resiliency of the people who live and work here. I am proud to be part of this community.

RECYCLING AWARD

The County is pleased to share we received an Alberta Recycling Management Authority award for our annual Recycling Roundup. Couldn't attend? Remember County waste and recycling facilities are open year-round.

INTERMUNICIPAL COLLABORATION FRAMEWORK (ICF)

Recently, the County finalized our ICF with the Town of Sexsmith. This agreement marks successful completion of six out of seven ICFs the County is required to develop with our municipal neighbours, as mandated by the Province.

Our last ICF to be completed is with the City of Grande Prairie. In October, we were notified by the City of their decision to stop mediated negotiations and move to arbitration. This was disappointing as the County felt we were making good progress on an outcome supported by both municipalities over the past 18 months of negotiations. Arbitration will ultimately determine how our two municipalities will jointly deliver services. We believe it's important that both Councils work together to find solutions to outstanding issues. A service delivery framework that best serves the interests of City and County citizens should be built by our municipalities, not imposed on us by an outside body. Working through consensus builds more positive relationships and will influence successful future negotiations. We will keep you informed of next steps.

ADVOCACY

With a new provincial budget expected for release early 2021, the County is working to secure government funding for critical infrastructure. These projects are urgently needed for regional health and safety and economic prosperity. County Council and senior administration are working with other municipalities, industry, community groups and others to bring awareness to the Province of the needs across our region. A new County Government Relations Plan acts as the County's "roadmap" to guide our advocacy efforts. For more information, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/advocacy.

We are also partner in other ways with neighbouring municipalities to, through collaboration, drive a coordinated approach to support our communities and local economy – especially as we experience the impact of COVID-19. These include the Growing the North economic development conference held virtually in February, the Business Resiliency Taskforce, the Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership, and a regional Labour Market Needs Assessment (see Pg. 23).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure investments, including County transportation networks and area highways, are continued priorities for the County. Some projects underway are:

- Twinning and other improvements on Highway 40, cost-shared with the MD of Greenview and the Province. County investment: \$10 million.
- Paving 10 kilometres of Highway 724 north of La Glace, cost-shared with the Province. County investment: \$2 million.
- Spring Creek Road rehabilitation project. \$5 million is directed towards replacing the bridge culvert and rebuilding the road.
- Several flood mitigation projects across the County are now complete. Council approved over \$1 million for this work. This is in addition to the \$2 million invested on road repairs and \$515,000 on the Ditch Cleaning Program



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this year. A Surface Water Management Action Plan, including a policy is also being developed to manage surface water issues to help reduce the risk of future overland flooding, and involves working with residents to address drainage issues, and providing landowners with key information regarding their role and responsibilities in surface water management.

- Site servicing is underway to prepare for the future development of land and a future school slated to be building on the surrounding lands around the Five Mile Community Hall. The County borrowed \$6.5 million earlier this year to advance this provincial project.

CONNECTING & ENGAGING

We're continually looking for ways to better connect and engage with residents, and keep the public informed about "all things County." Here's some ways we're making that happen.

- A new and improved website at www.countygp.ab.ca. Details on Pg. 4.
- Public engagement opportunities to learn your vision for the Clairmont Northeast Area Structure Plan. For future engagement details see Pg. 22.
- Public members recently filled several positions on County boards and committees. Thank you! These important decision-making bodies influence matters affecting life in our community.

- I invite you to attend our upcoming interim budget meetings virtually on December 2, 3 and 4. See below information for more details.

OIL AND GAS ASSESSMENT REVIEW MODEL

This fall, the Province announced several short-term initiatives to enhance oil and gas industry competitiveness. Initiatives that focus on municipal property assessment and taxation. The change will significantly impact the County financially, though much less than the impacts of the model previously considered by the Province. We are hopeful that increased rural economic activity will offset these revenue impacts. We'll continue to advocate for a long-term solution that benefits the County and the oil and gas sector.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Our holiday season will be different for many of us. Take precautions to be safe by following Alberta Health Services guidelines. Look for opportunities to slow down. Find joys in new traditions. Take part in the many fun upcoming local events and winter activities in the County for families (check inside this issue for details). We also encourage everyone to support your local and home-based businesses, especially during these uncertain times.

We are in this together. Don't hesitate to reach out and access the many support programs available in our communities.

On behalf of County Council, staff and our families, I wish you and yours a very safe, blessed, and happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.



County Office Holiday Hours

County Offices will be closed December 24, 25 and 28 - 31 2020 for Christmas break as well as New Year's Day January 1, 2021.

All essential services will be maintained during office closures.

Regular office hours will resume on
Monday, January 4, 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact
780-532-9722.

Have a very Merry Christmas, everyone!

Interim Budget Meetings

SAVE THE DATE

Every December, County Council has special meetings to review the upcoming year and following years' financial plans.

The interim budget meetings are intended to review the planned budgets. The interim meetings for the 2021 budget will take place:

December 2, 3 & 4 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

To watch the meeting via live stream, go to
www.countygp.ab.ca for details.

If you have any questions, contact Financial Services at
780-532-9722.

Innovative Partnerships at Work

Strengthening our communities and local economy is closely linked to the partnerships we make at the County of Grande Prairie. These partnerships ensure residents, local citizens and visitors have access to services and infrastructure urgently required for health and safety, and the economic well-being of our communities. These services and infrastructure build strong, sustainable communities. And they are critical to businesses in our region and potential investors. This kind of collaboration is good for our residents, the region and the province.

The County's Strategic Plan guides our work and decision-making, and is aimed at providing an unmatched quality of life and opportunity for all. With the plan complete, we've rolled up our sleeves, and are working on opportunities and initiatives to help forward this goal. We strike partnerships when it makes sense, and when they can help drive our work more effectively.

The County has several partnerships with neighbouring municipalities, local organizations and/or the provincial government. Three partnerships underway are driving major projects, and include partnering with the Province. While all three are usually within provincial jurisdiction to fund, the County stepped up to provide funding to help advance these urgent projects.

HIGHWAY 40 TWINNING

This cost-sharing agreement between the County, Greenview and the Province involves twinning 19 kilometres of Highway 40, and includes a second bridge and other improvements. The County's contribution is \$10 million.

HIGHWAY 724 PAVING

In a cost-sharing agreement between the Province and the County, nearly 10 kilometres on Highway 724 north of La Glace will be paved. The County's share of the cost is 25 per cent, to a maximum of \$2 million.

FIVE MILE HALL SERVICING

Council passed a bylaw to borrow just over \$6.5 million for site servicing of Five Mile Hall School site. This is a cost-sharing partnership with Alberta Infrastructure.

Learn more about the County's strategic plan at www.countyp.ab.ca/stratplan and advocacy and government relations priorities at www.countypg.ab.ca/advocacy.

Considering Running in the Next Municipal Election?



Interested in running for position of County of Grande Prairie councillor in the next municipal election? Due to recent changes to the Local Authorities Election Act, those considering running for public office will be able to submit nomination papers beginning January 1 until September 20, 2021. The election will be held October 18.

Candidate information packages, including all necessary forms for submitting nomination papers, will be available at www.countypg.ab.ca/elections or at the County Administration Building during office hours.

*For office location and hours visit www.countypg.ab.ca or see the back page of Connections.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 1, 2021 – First Day of Nomination Period.

- Note: County Offices will be open beginning January 4, 2021 to accept nomination papers.
- The nomination period runs from January 1, 2021 to September 20, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.
- Candidates can file nomination papers anytime during the nomination period.

September 20, 2021 – Nomination Day

- Last day to file nomination papers. Deadline is 12:00 p.m.

October 18, 2021 – Municipal Election Day

For more information on Municipal Elections or becoming a candidate, contact the Legislative Services department at legislativeservices@countypg.ab.ca or 780-532-9722.

*Picking packages up at the Administration Building is subject to COVID-19 protocols.

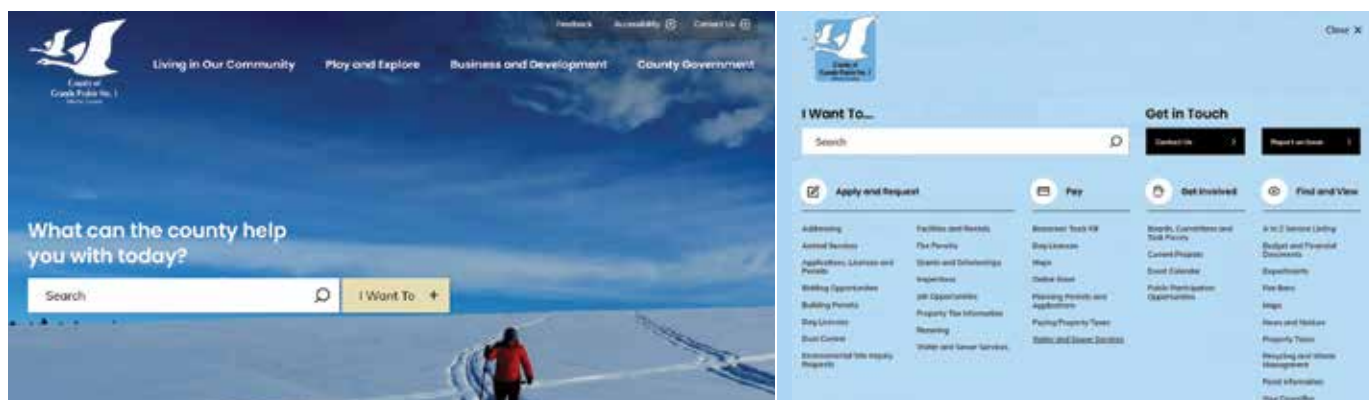


County Launches New Website

After months of planning and community input, the County is excited to announce the launch of our new streamlined website, located at www.countygp.ab.ca. The site has a fresh new look and is easier to navigate, helping users find the information they need faster. The mobile-friendly format makes it compatible with smartphones and tablets.

The new site is more than just a facelift. It's more user-friendly and adaptable to the needs of the various users who visit the County's website every day. The new website also reflects extensive user testing, public feedback and best practices.

Visitors will find the site more interactive, making it much simpler to locate information, access services and communicate with County departments. Website content has been updated, reduced and reorganized so it's easier to search, browse and read. The site's intuitive navigation system has enhanced menu functions, providing plenty of options to direct you to the most relevant information for your needs.



FEATURES TO HELP YOU STAY CONNECTED

- See the enhanced **accessibility** features, just one of the ways we're helping create a barrier-free community.
- **Connect** to social media and **sign up** for County Connections (online or print), delivered three times a year.
- **Subscribe** to the events calendar to stay up-to-date on events happening in and around the County.
- **Post** your organization's community events on the events calendar.
- **Report an issue** through the website.
- Click on the **A-Z Services menu** to quickly find services the County offers.

TAKE A TOUR!

Go ahead and explore! And while you're visiting, make sure you check out our 'Tis the Season Contest at www.countygp.ab.ca/contest for a chance to win great prizes!

We hope you'll love our new website as much as we do and welcome any feedback on how we can further improve the site. Click the **Website Feedback** link in the footer of any page.

As the County evolves, so will our website. We will be continually updating content. Visit us often. Subscribe to Page updates. Thanks for visiting!

'Tis the Season Contest

VISIT OUR SITE. ENTER TO WIN!

We're pretty excited about our new website. With new updated content, modern features and easy navigation, we hope you will be, too. Join the launch celebrations. Since it's the season of giving, we're in the mood for some giveaways! Check out our 'Tis the Season Contest at www.countygp.ab.ca/contest, join the fun for a chance to win. Contest closes soon – don't delay!

Snow Removal in Residential Neighbourhoods – Help us keep County Roads Safe!



When the snow falls, snow removal crews move into action to keep everyone moving safely across the County.

To ensure we can clear snow quickly and safely, residents and businesses are asked to do their part.

Pay attention to signage at the entrance to your neighbourhood notifying you of temporary parking bans. When signage is posted, move vehicles and all other obstacles off the street to allow our crews to clear the roads.

The County's Operations Manager for Public Works, Clint Diederich, said that from time-to-time, obstructions in residential streets make it difficult for crews to work efficiently, causing snow removal delays. He noted that some streets have not been plowed multiple times due to people not adhering to parking restrictions.

"It can take two to eight times longer to clear a residential street, and in some cases, our crews have to skip streets where vehicles, waste carts and other obstacles are left on the street," he explained. "Unfortunately, some streets are so congested with obstacles that crews can't clear the snow, as it's just not safe to do so."

Diederich said that the County is continually working to make it convenient for the public to stay in the know about snow removal and temporary parking ban notifications. Updated information is available online 24-7 at www.countygp.ab.ca/snowremoval.

New this year, residents and businesses can visit the snow removal page on the County's website to be immediately notified about new or updated parking bans. To subscribe, go to www.countygp.ab.ca/snowremoval.

The County is also implementing a trial project this winter, installing digital signs (as shown above) in six neighbourhoods to improve visibility of parking ban signs. If the project is successful, Public Works will replace all remaining temporary parking ban signs with digital versions next year.

WATCH FOR NEW SIGNS IN:

- Clairmont at 100 Ave & 100 St
- Whispering Ridge in Clairmont at 154 Ave & 102 St
- Westlake Village in Clairmont at 156 Ave & 102 St
- Clairmont at 107A Ave & 100 St
- Whispering Ridge in Clairmont at 149 Ave & 102 St
- Entrance to Wedgewood

For more information about temporary parking bans and snow removal around the County, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/snowremoval.

Residential Winter Safety Reminders

Residents can take steps to improve neighbourhood winter safety by removing snow from fire hydrants, clearing sidewalks and ensuring drainage doesn't flow onto walkways and trails.

FIRE HYDRANTS



Firefighter access to water can be the difference in saving lives and protecting homes.

"Keeping fire hydrants clear of deep snow is an important factor in allowing fire crews quicker access to a fire hydrant in your area," said Deputy Fire Chief Bart Johnson.

"Firefighters need to work quickly to prevent fire from spreading. The time saved by not having to dig out a hydrant might save your neighbour's house or yours. If you have a hydrant on or near your property, please keep it clear and visible!"

The Community Standards Bylaw

requires property owners or occupants to clear snow from hydrants. It also determines responsibility for maintaining the area around the hydrant when it is in between two properties. Penalties for damaging, interfering, or tampering with fire hydrants are also outlined.

Report a hydrant that is not visible or accessible to Regional Enforcement Services at 780-532-9722 or at www.countygp.ab.ca/occurrencereport.

SIDEWALKS

The Community Standards Bylaw makes property owners or occupants responsible for clearing snow- or ice-covered sidewalks.

- Property owners and occupants must remove snow and ice from public sidewalks adjacent to their property within 24-hours of substantial completion of the snowfall.
- When clearing sidewalks, it's illegal to place snow on roads as it creates

driving hazard. Sidewalks must not be damaged while clearing snow.

- Off-highway vehicles are not allowed on the sidewalks and paved trails, even to help clear snow. View the trail clearing schedule at www.countygp.ab.ca/trailmaintenance.

DRAINAGE

Sump pumps, eaves troughs and any type of pump drainage on properties in the County must drain within the owner's property lines as per the Community Standards Bylaw. Improper placement of these drainage mechanisms can cause ice hazards on trails and other publicly accessed walkways and land.

Failure to comply with this bylaw may result in the property owner being fined \$250 or facing other penalties for repeat offenses.

For more information about the Community Standards Bylaw, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/csb.



Residential Winter Safety Reminders for OHV Safety

Thoughts of zooming through snow drifts on open fields and traversing endless miles of trails will bring a glint to the eyes of snowmobile riders in the County of Grande Prairie and across Alberta.

Using Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) can be a fun way to get around in winter – when safety is top of mind. Here are some reminders and resources to ensure your rides this winter are both enjoyable and safe.

1. Using a helmet while driving an OHV in Alberta is the law. Wear one that is an appropriate size with face and eye protection. Be mindful of the right fit for your all-terrain vehicle (ATV). No child/youth under 16 should operate an adult ATV. Refuse to carry or be a passenger on a single-rider ATV.
2. Alcohol, drugs and ATVs don't mix. It's illegal and dangerous.
3. You can maximize your fun and enjoyment by taking an operator safety course. Visit www.albertasnowmobile.ca to access information on training, safe operation, memberships, club listings, trails, and more
4. Unsafe and illegal operation of Off-Highway Vehicles can lead to serious injuries and result in significant penalties such as:
 - Illegally consuming alcohol - \$300
 - Illegally conveying alcohol - \$120

- Operating an unregistered OHV - \$162
- Stunting - \$567
- Failing to wear a safety helmet - \$162
- Equipment violations (headlights, stop lights, brakes, exhaust) - \$81
- Trespassing onto private property - \$600
- Operating an OHV on designated Environmental Reserve land, developed trails, and outside Designated Usage Zones and/or roadways - \$300

Contact www.countygp.ab.ca/bylaws for details on the County's Off-Highway Vehicle Bylaw 3023. To report a violation, contact **780-532-9727** or go to www.countygp.ab.ca/occurrencereport.

Links to ATV laws and safe practices:

- www.alberta.ca/off-highway-vehicle-helmet-law.aspx
- myhealth.alberta.ca/Alberta/Pages/all-terrain-vehicle-atv-safety.aspx
- www.transportation.alberta.ca/3278.htm
- www.alberta.ca/motorized-recreation-on-public-land.aspx

TIPS FOR WINTER RIDING

- Plan your trip and pack emergency and first aid supplies.
- Let someone know your whereabouts and route.
- Make sure your ATV is safe and running properly.
- Travel with others when possible and be familiar with the terrain.
- Take extra caution when riding in low light and inclement weather.

Respect Private Land

– Always Ask For Permission Before Accessing

Riley Strid has farmed in the County of Grande Prairie his entire life. As the number of people trespassing on their land grows, he and his family find themselves feeling increasingly uncomfortable and unsafe on their own property.

Strid continues to be amazed at the lack of respect trespassers have toward his family's land. People on Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) drive through wet areas causing ruts, and drive across fields even with harvest underway. They damage crops and dump garbage. Trespassers have even built dirt ramps in the field, then left them.

"If we hit these ramps with our equipment, this would cause huge damage, costing thousands of dollars for downtime and equipment repairs," said Strid.

Kodi Anderson farms just north of Sexsmith with her husband, Jason, and their family. She said they, too, experience trespassing on their property routinely, leaving her family feeling very unsettled and frustrated.

"Our livelihood is at stake when people drive over our crops," said Anderson.

While she said people have even been so bold as to drive quads through the middle of a standing pea field, off-roaders also cause significant damage when they ride around the edges of crops.

Anderson's land has become a popular unauthorized exit from the Town of Sexsmith for some off-roaders. That, she said, has created numerous problems: new weeds have been introduced to their land, standing crops have been damaged, and stranded crops have been rendered un-harvestable.

County Agricultural Fieldman Sonja Raven said that as the popularity of OHVs, including quads, side-by-sides, dirt bikes and snowmobiles has increased, so has trespassing on private rural property. This has not only resulted in more damage to crops and equipment, but could even cause injuries for those working the land.

Last year, as in some previous years, many farmers were unable to remove all of their crops before winter due to early snowfall. It's important that even during winter months, OHV operators ask for permission prior to going on private

land. Regardless of the season, driving on rural property without the owner's permission is trespassing.

"When vehicles drive over crops under the snow, they are literally taking money right out of the pocket of the person that is trying to feed them," said Raven. "Guaranteed, if a farmer has stranded crops, it hasn't been a good year for them."

"Damage by vehicles trespassing is amplified because they have already had a difficult year of little or no returns."

Both Strid and Anderson are passionate about what they do, and work hard to keep their land productive to provide for their families. Both compared an individual entering their land without permission to a random stranger walking into a back yard in an urban or rural setting, setting up a lawn chair, and settling down to relax for a while. This would not be acceptable to most people. Farmers are no different.

"Always ask before crossing private property, whether it's a small piece in town or vast rural area," said Anderson. "All it takes is a knock on our door."

Riley echoed this sentiment. "Just because our land is in a rural area, it doesn't mean others are entitled to it whenever they please," he said. "Private land is private land."

Unauthorized trespassing onto private property is also a violation of the provincial Petty Trespass Act and Trespass to Premise Act may result in fines of up to \$600. Farmers are not required to fence their land or post "No Trespassing" signs. It is the responsibility of the OHV operator to check whether land is public or private and ask permission before entering private land. Often, if the person is respectful and considerate, and if the crop has been harvested, permission may be granted.

To find the owner of the property you wish to access and learn what areas are Crown/public land, refer to the **County Ownership map** at www.countygp.ab.ca/printablemaps. Please note that the use of third party map sites or applications is not recommended as they may not have the most up to date information.

The County Agriculture department is again providing up to five free signs for County producers to post on their land advising trespassers to please stay off. To request the signs, contact the department at **780-532-9727**.





cut here and place on your refrigerator

'Tis the Season for Scams



Who hasn't got a bogus phone call indicating your taxes are in default and to call the Canadian Revenue Agency at a fake number or face prosecution? You've probably also been contacted that your credit card has been breached.

These scams occur throughout the year and fraudulent activity of varying kinds ramps up during the holiday season.

Don't let the Grinch steal your Christmas while you're feeling generous. More than ever, it's important to remember the phrases "buyer beware" and "you don't get something for nothing" whether by phone, online or being approached at your door.

Outside of common holiday scams, you'll even see COVID-19 related fraud occurring. At any time of year, grandparents are approached that a family member is in trouble and/or misleading service promotions are offered. Numerous others include medical, charity, romance, prize, investment scams and money transfer requests.

If you believe you've fallen victim to a scam, report the incident to the police. This will help stop the cycle of fraud.

The Government of Canada website provides resources on how to recognize various types of scams and steps to take if you've been targeted. Go to www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca for more information.

Christmas Tree Disposal Available for Curbside Recycle and Waste Collection Customers



Just like last year, residents who receive curbside recycle and waste pickup services, and are billed for waste and recycle collection through an Aquatera utility bill, will be able to dispose their Christmas Trees from January 2 to 16, 2021. It's simple: place your tree(s) one metre from your waste cart on your regular collection day.

PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION:

- Ensure trees are no taller than 4 feet or 1.2 metres
- Place no more than two trees out per household
- Only include live trees, not artificial trees will be accepted
- Ensure that all tinsel and decorations are removed

County residents without curbside waste and recycle collection services can bring their trees to the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management free-of-charge by showing their landfill tag.

Don't have a landfill tag? Find out how to get one at www.countygp.ab.ca/landfillaccess.

How to reach County Regional Enforcement Services

Do you have questions, concerns, complaints? Would you like information regarding traffic safety and enforcement? The following is a list of important contacts in the event you ever need to reach Regional Enforcement Services.

Feel free to cut out this contact information and place it in a familiar place for your reference.

Phone: 780-532-9727

Email: enforcementservices@countygp.ab.ca

Online: www.countygp.ab.ca/occurrencereport

Secure Fax: 888-779-5895

How to reach the Grande Prairie Regional Animal Care Facility

For animal shelter, pound services and adoptions:

Phone: 780-830-0199

Email: regionalpound@countygp.ab.ca

Fax: 780-532-4745

How to Report a Drug House

Phone: 780-830-5889

Online: www.countygp.ab.ca/drughouse

For Emergencies

EMERGENCIES (POLICE, FIRE & EMS)	911
RCMP GRANDE PRAIRIE	780-830-5700
RCMP BEAVERLODGE	780-354-2485
LITTER – CROWN LAND/TRAILS	1-800-222-6514
WILDLIFE EMERGENCIES	1-800-642-3800
PUBLIC LANDS ABUSE	1-800-642-3800
REPORT A POACHER	1-800-642-3800
REPORT A DRUG HOUSE	780-830-5889
SAFE COMMUNITIES (SCAN)	1-866-960-SCAN (7226)
WILDFIRE HOTLINE	310-FIRE (3473)
ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES	1-800-222-6514
PUBLIC WORKS EMERGENCIES	780-532-7393
ALBERTA SPCA	1-800-455-9003
DANGEROUS GOODS	1-800-272-9600
POISON AND DRUG INFORMATION	1-800-332-1414
PET POISON	1-800-213-6680
ANIMAL POISON	1-888-426-4435
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY	1-866-415-8690
CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE CRISIS UNIT	1-800-638-0715
CANADIAN NATIONAL (CN) RAIL	1-800-465-9239

Recycling and Waste Management Facilities Holiday Hours

The County of Grande Prairie wishes to inform County residents that the County landfill/transfer station holiday hours between December 24, 2020 and January 1, 2021 are as follows:

CLAIRMONT CENTRE FOR RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

OPEN: December 28 - 30 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

CLOSING EARLY: December 24 & 31 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CLOSED: December 25, 26 & January 1

WEST GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL LANDFILL

OPEN: December 29 & 30 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

CLOSING EARLY: December 24 & 31 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CLOSED: December 25, 26, 28 & January 1

DEMMITT TRANSFER STATION

OPEN: December 30 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

CLOSED: December 26

ELMWORTH TRANSFER STATION

OPEN: December 30 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

CLOSED: December 26

TEEPEE CREEK TRANSFER STATION

CLOSING EARLY: December 24 & 31 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CLOSED: December 26

Regular hours of operation will resume January 2, 2021.

Recycling and Waste Management Facility Regular Hours of Operation

CLAIRMONT CENTRE FOR RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Monday to Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

WEST GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL LANDFILL

Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

DEMMITT TRANSFER STATION

Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

ELMWORTH TRANSFER STATION

Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

TEEPEE CREEK TRANSFER STATION

Tuesday and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/recyclingprograms to learn more about the County's recycling and waste management facilities and various recycling programs. For landfill and transfer station information, please call our Landfill Information Line at 780-513-3967.

Curbside Waste & Recycling Collection Schedule Changes for the Holiday Season



Please note that County residents that normally have their waste carts and blue bagged recyclables collected on Friday will be moved to following Monday between December 25, 2020 and January 1, 2021.



Waste and recycling will be collected from the curbside in the following subdivisions on **Monday, December 28** and **Monday, January 4**:

- Whispering Ridge in Clairmont
- Westlake Village in Clairmont

Curbside collection dates will remain unchanged for the subdivisions of Taylor Estates, Maple Ridge, Wedgewood, Clairmont north of 108 Avenue, Clairmont south of 108 Avenue, and Carriage Lane.

Regular collection days will resume January 2, 2021. If you have any questions, please call the Landfill Information Line at **780-513-3967**. For more information on the County's recycling and waste management facilities and programs, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/recycleprograms.

The Do's and Don'ts of Used Oil Recycling



As you're clearing space in your home, keep in mind that the County accepts used oil for recycling at all five County waste and recycling facilities. Only certain oil is approved for disposal: residential hydraulic, engine and gear. Oil filters and oil containers are also accepted, and used cooking is not.

Once used oil is collected by the County, it is shipped away to be recycled into new oil. Used oil, however, must not be contaminated. Please ensure the following items are not in your recycled oil containers:

- Coolant & Water: Put coolant into a separate container and place in hazardous materials area. Replace lids and caps to prevent rain from entering the container.
- Diesel fuel and gasoline: We do not accept gas and diesel.
- Cooking oil: We do not accept used cooking oil of any kind.
- Mouse and bird carcasses: Replace lids and caps to keep animals and birds from getting into containers.
- Rags: Place rags in the garbage.

For more information on used oil recycling and other recycling programs in the County, go to www.countygp.ab.ca/recycling.



[countygp.ab.ca](http://www.countygp.ab.ca)

Electronic Recycling Program Expanded at County Recycling Facilities



It's now even easier to recycle electronics in the County of Grande Prairie. The electronic recycling (e-waste) program has expanded. Residents can drop off additional electronic items with their e-waste at the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management, the West Grande Prairie Regional Landfill and any of the three transfer stations (Demmitt, Teepee Creek and Elmworth).

WHAT IS ACCEPTED?

Small Appliances	Audio Visual	Telecom	Power & Air Tools	Games, Toys & Music
Fan Hair dryer Heater Iron Microwave Toaster Shaver Vacuum Residential Air Conditioner <i>PRODUCTS WITH FREON NOT ACCEPTED</i>	CD Player Clock Radio Digital Camera DVD Player Headphones Satellite Dish Satellite Radio Speakers Video Camera	Answering Machine Cell Phone Landline Phone Modem and Router Pager Satellite Phone Speakerphone	Drill Grinder Miter Saw Nail Gun Residential Air Compressor Sharpener Table Saw Shop Vacuum Skillsaw	Action Figure Amplifier Guitar Keyboard Microphone Ride-on Toy Toy Robot Toy Vehicle Video Gaming Equipment

THE COUNTY CONTINUES TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING E-WASTE:

TVs and Monitors | Computers and Laptops | Tablets and Chromebooks | Printers

The complete list of ePilot items can be found at www.armaepilot.com/product-list.

WHY RECYCLE ELECTRONICS?

The rapid rate of electronic gadgetry being introduced would only increase the amount of waste in our landfills without a concerted recycling effort. Some components contain hazardous materials so dismantling items must be done safely.

Recycled parts are used in many ways. Televisions and computers contain several valuable materials that are broken down and reused. Steel, aluminum and copper metal in wires, cables and circuitry is recycled for use in new products. Television and computer screen glass is melted, separating the lead, and reused. Plastic from cases, keyboards and mouse units are processed to produce plastic flakes or pellets for making fresh items.

MORE ABOUT THE E-RECYCLING EXPANSION

The expansion is part of a two-year pilot project underway across Alberta through the Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA). This initiative increases the scope of electronic items that can be recycled.

Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/recycleprograms for more details on the array of recycling options in the County.

More information on ARMA's recycling efforts is at www.albertarecycling.ca/.

WHERE TO SAFELY RECYCLE USED BATTERIES AND OIL?



Household, power tool, lithium, vehicle, cell phone/lithium ion and rechargeable batteries are accepted

Approved used batteries and used oil can be disposed of safely at the following County facilities:

- Clairmont Centre for Recycling & Waste Management
- Demmitt Transfer Station
- Elmworth Transfer Station
- Teepee Creek Transfer Station
- West Grande Prairie Regional Landfill

The Rundown on Recycling – Batteries

Wondering what to do with those used batteries sitting around your house or garage? Like e-waste, batteries should never go into your garbage or recycling bag. Many batteries are hazardous. As they break down, they leak into the ground, polluting the soil and water.

Incorrect battery disposal also creates serious dangers for those handling your garbage and recycling. Waste and recycling facilities across Canada are experiencing an increasing number of fires caused by batteries that have not been disposed of properly. Our own County operations are all too familiar with this scenario.

In September, a battery tossed out in a garbage bag caught fire in a collection truck in the County. Fortunately, the driver quickly noticed and removed the bag before flames spread to other garbage. Batteries can also cause landfill fires: they are costly to extinguish, damage infrastructure, and endanger staff and others. So just what happens to the batteries when they are properly disposed of for recycling? Once they leave our facilities, they are made into a variety of products, including new batteries, silverware, golf clubs, concrete aggregate, and steel. Have questions about proper recycling of batteries? Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/recycling.

Looking for the Road Ban Status in the County? Call our new phone line!

The County's Road Ban status can change rapidly, and the times they are declared vary, depending on weather conditions. Some roads in the County have weight restrictions year-round.

STAYING UP TO DATE ON THE COUNTY'S ROAD BAN STATUS TAKES ONE EASY STEP:

Call the County of Grande Prairie Road Ban Phone Line at **780-513-3964** or visit www.countygp.ab.ca/roadbans.



Apply for the Dust Control Program Starting on February 1st!

Does the road in front of your residence, rural subdivision, or business require Dust Control? The County has a program for that! To have dust suppressants applied to your gravel road, you must submit an application form.

Starting on February 1, 2021, interested candidates can fill out application forms online at www.countygp.ab.ca/dustcontrol, or in person at the County Public Works Building at 10001-84 Avenue Clairmont, AB (subject to COVID-19 protocols). Interested candidates have until April 30, 2021 to apply.

RATES

CALCIUM APPLICATIONS: OIL APPLICATIONS:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Residential Cost Share
\$4.40/meter | • Residential Cost Share
\$19.20/meter first 150 meters
\$21.95/meter after 150 meters |
| • Commercial/Industrial
\$6.60/meter | • Commercial/Industrial
\$21.95/meter |

Residents who apply for dust control will have pink stakes pegged by Public Works personnel, adjacent to the road where they want the dust suppressant applied. The work will begin once spring road bans are lifted and continues until the program is complete.

For more information on the County's Dust Control Program, please visit www.countygp.ab.ca/dustcontrol or contact the Public Works department at **780-532-7393**.

Roadside Cleanup Program Reaps Benefits for the Environment and Volunteers

This year, volunteers from 40 local non-profit groups suited up in masks, gloves and orange safety vests, and trekked across nearly 260 kilometres of County roadsides, picking up litter, and raising over \$56,000 total for their organizations. By the completion of the 2020 County Roadside Cleanup program, which ran from the end of May to mid-August, volunteers had collected a total of 7.52 tonnes of garbage. That's about the equivalent of the weight of three pick-up trucks!

"The program is a great partnership between the County and volunteer groups. It makes a positive impact across communities, reaping benefits for the environment and local organizations," said County Technical Services Manager Jennifer Besinger.

Brandie Skaksen, a parent volunteer with the CNG Rebels hockey team (2008 group), said the event brought rewards they had not expected. As a newly formed group, this was their first year participating.

"This was a fundraising opportunity, but also a great awareness and team-building event," said Skaksen. "The team came together, worked hard to raise funds for their organization, and also had their eyes opened about litterbugs and the importance of caring for our community."

Skaksen added that help from parents and siblings working alongside the team to pick up trash, and friendly support from County staff, made for a positive overall experience. Funds raised are being directed to player development, and travel and ice-time costs.

Clients, staff and volunteers from Blue Heron Support Services, an organization that supports adults with brain injuries, also participated. Service Coordinator Jackie Svecla said the funds their group raised go directly into programming and activities for clients, including an annual summer camping trip.

"Most of our clients do not have the financial means to cover the costs of the activities we offer, so these funds are really important," said Svecla. "Our programs help clients build natural supports and share experiences, as sometimes people become very secluded after a brain injury."

Svecla said many of their cleanup crew were clients. "We enjoyed the social connection and team-building. And it was a great workout!" she added, laughing.

Roadside The Cleanup program runs annually from the end of May until the end of July. This year, due to COVID-19, the County added two weeks to help stagger the number of crews on the road.

"Safety is always a priority," said Besinger. "This year, we took extra precautions with disinfected equipment and physical distancing."

Besinger said the additional precautions did not deter groups from participating. The 2020 cleanup outperformed the 2018 and 2019 events. Registration opens February 2021 for community groups interested in participating in next year's event. To register, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/roadsidecleanup.



Got Ice? We can Help!



There's nothing like gliding across the ice at an outdoor rink on a frosty winter day. The County of Grande Prairie makes it easy for that to happen. The Seasonal Neighbourhood Ice Surface Program allows temporary ice surfaces to be constructed in communities with greenspace that is owned and managed by the County of Grande Prairie (also known as Municipal Reserve greenspace). Stormwater ponds are not a suitable for ice surfaces due to constant run-off and salt content, which makes the ice unstable.

The program requires a volunteer group of four people minimum to apply to the County. The Parks and Recreation department will conduct a pre-inspection of the site. Once the application and pre-inspection is approved, the group is responsible for building, flooding and maintaining the ice surface over the winter. To help groups get started, they can apply for up to \$1,000 to purchase material for boards or have water trucked in if a special standpipe is not present on site. Chris Doerksen, was delighted with their experience last winter.

"It was a simple and pleasant process," the Wedgewood resident said.

"I tapped three neighbours on the shoulder to see if they'd like to get involved. We made the application, got the start-up materials and handed in our receipts. When we had questions, County staff came out right away. They were there throughout the process. It was a huge piece for us getting to know our neighbours," he said.

Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/icesurfaces or contact Parks and Recreation at **780-532-9727** for details about the County's Ice Surface grant program and to apply.

2ND ANNUAL

Winter Family Festival

SUNDAY | MARCH 14, 2021 | 12 TO 3 P.M.

Located at the Crosslink County Sportsplex

Bring the family outdoors at this **FREE** event! Join us for a variety of winter themed family fun activities!

Stay tuned to the County's social media channels and our website at www.countygp.ab.ca/recreationprograms for more information.






*Event is subject to COVID-19 protocols.

County Offering Snowshoe Rentals this Winter

Are you looking to explore the great outdoors this winter in the County for a day or weekend? Or maybe you're interested in trying snowshoeing before you invest in a set for yourself? Look no further! Snowshoe rentals are available through the County on a first-come, first-served basis (limited quantities are available).

RENTAL FEES

- Weekday full day – \$10 per pair
- Weekend or 2 day mid-week rental – \$15 per pair

Choose from the following sizes:

- Large – Up to 300 lb
- Medium – Up to 200 lb
- Small/Children – Up to 150 lb

PICK UP & DROP OFF DETAILS

Monday to Friday at the Community Services Building in Clairmont from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (excluding statutory holidays).

*Subject to COVID-19 protocols

HOW TO RESERVE

Call **780-532-9727** or email parksandrecreation@countygp.ab.ca.

Stay tuned to www.countygp.ab.ca/recreationprograms for details on upcoming Snowshoeing programs.

County Park Day-Use Winter Hours

Are you looking to spend a day or afternoon in the wilderness on a sunny winter (or spring) day? Day-Use areas in County parks are open to the public for the following hours and activities:

PARK	DAYS OPEN	HOURS AVAILABLE	AMENITIES AVAILABLE	IDEAL ACTIVITIES
Bear Hill	Daily*	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Trails, Picnic tables Pedestal grills, No firewood (bring own wood or charcoal), Porta-potty	Snowshoeing, Cross country skiing (no tracks set)
Bear Lake	Weekends & statutory holiday Mondays only*		Outhouses, Group shelter (rentable), Firepits, Firewood, Picnic tables	Picnics Marshmallow and hot dog roasts
Hommy	Weekends & statutory holiday Mondays only*		Outhouses, Trails , Firepits, Firewood, Picnic tables	Dog walking (on leash only)
Kleskun Hills	Daily*		Outhouses, Trails, Firepits, Firewood, Picnic tables, Gazebos (rentable), Group shelter (rentable)	
Pipestone Creek	Weekends & statutory holiday Mondays only*			
Demmitt	Daily*	24 hour access	Washroom	Rest stop

*All parks are closed when outdoor temperature drops below -20C windchill.

For park locations, directions and other details, go to www.countygp.ab.ca/parks.



Your Guide to Using County Trails

Did you know that the popular paved trail system that runs through the Dunes is maintained throughout the winter months? You can park and walk to the trails using the lot on the south side of Highway 668, between Highway 40 and Resources Road/Range Road 60A. The lot also has a space for handicap parking and has a portable outhouse available year round.

Trails in Clairmont including Westlake and Whispering Ridge, Wedgewood-Evergreen Park, Carriage Lane, Taylor Estates, Maple Ridge, and the County Sportsplex Pond are also maintained throughout the winter.

You are welcome to bring your dogs (on a leash please).

We have a Leave No Trace philosophy:

- Please ensure you are picking up after yourself, including any pet waste and disposing it in the nearest waste receptacle. We also have pet waste bag dispensers along the trails.
- Motorized equipment, overnight parking or camping, campfires or chopping down trees, are not permitted in the parking lot or on paths.

It's easy to check the status of trail maintenance. Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/trails to stay up-to-date.



Wellington Resource Centre Winter Programs

MEGA AWESOME ADVENTURE CAMPS RETURNS!

In 2018, the Wellington Resource Centre (WRC) launched the Mega Awesome Camps. These camps break up time off from school and give youth an opportunity to meet new people, try new activities, learn new skills, and have some fun!

The 2020 New Year's Adventure Camp took place January 2020 with 12 youth ages 10-14 attending. They engaged in activities like Chef for a Day, Actor for a Day, self-esteem building activities, games, and peer connections. We are excited to host Mega Awesome Camps!

Mega Awesome New Year Adventure Camp

December 29-30, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wellington Resource Centre

Registration opens in early December

Mega Awesome Spring Fling Camp

One day during the week of April 6-9, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wellington Resource Centre

Registration opens in March



We will be taking all steps necessary by following Alberta Health Services guidelines to keep our youth safe and slow the spread of COVID-19.

Both camps are free to attend.

Stay tuned to www.countygp.ab.ca/wrc for details on the upcoming camps and how to register.

*Please note that FCSS operations, programs and services are subject to change given COVID-19 and Provincial regulations. Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/covid19 for up-to-date information.



TIS' THE SEASON TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY SEXSMITH AND AREA FOODBANK – CLAIMONT LOCATION ACCEPTING VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS

The Clairmont location of the Sexsmith and area Foodbank continues to operate every Wednesday from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. with physical distancing and safety measures in place.

If you are looking for ways to give back to your community, donations and volunteers are welcome.

The most needed donations include:

- Canned meat, fruit and vegetables
- Pasta and sauces
- School lunch and snack items
- Juice boxes

As there is limited space to accept perishable items, please call in advance.

To donate, volunteer or access the foodbank, please contact the Wellington Resource Centre at **780-567-2843** or email wrc@countygp.ab.ca.



CLAIRMONT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN IN FEBRUARY

Do you know a dedicated individual who has gone above and beyond in supporting our community throughout the year and has inspired volunteers, led volunteer groups, or is an exceptional volunteer? If so, we want to hear from you!

For more information about nominating an outstanding volunteer for the Clairmont Volunteer of the Year award, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/clairmontvolunteer. Nominations for 2021 Volunteer of the year award will be accepted from February 1 to March 31, 2021.

The award recipient will receive a \$100 gift card, Certificate of Appreciation, public recognition, and their name placed on the Volunteer of the Year award plaque displayed at the Wellington Resource Centre.



FAMILY DAY UNPLUGGED CHALLENGE

The Wellington Resource Centre is challenging families and individuals to disconnect from electronics including their cell phone, television, computer and/or video games and connect with their family and community this Family Day for the Unplugged Challenge.

Challenge participants will be entered in a draw to win some great prizes. Stay tuned to www.countygp.ab.ca/wrc for 2021 Family Day Unplugged Challenge details!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM

Do you want to help people in your community? Do you have a basic understanding of income tax? Volunteer at the Wellington Resource Centre to help people by doing their taxes!

With the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP), you will receive training and support to complete tax forms for people who have low income and a simple tax situation. To volunteer, please contact the Wellington Resource Centre at **780-567-2843** or email wrc@countygp.ab.ca.

DID YOU KNOW...

that the Wellington Resource Center completed 69 low income tax returns from March to September 2020. This put \$133,338 back into our community!

Spotting the Signs of Stress in Families and their Youths, and How to Cope

With Christmas right around the corner, this is often a time of heightened stress for families. The FCSS team wants to remind residents of common signs of stress and provide ways to cope effectively before it becomes too much.

It is important to remember that stress is normal, and it serves an essential function in humans. It helps to motivate us and ensure that we take action. Small amounts of stress can be helpful, but it can feel overwhelming and harmful to our health when it builds up. Some people do not realize that any change can cause stress, no matter how big, small, positive or negative.

Typical signs of stress are sleep or weight changes, sadness, guilt, distraction, negativity, and lack of interest. Stress is a warning sign from your body to your brain, to remind you to cope better with stress. To stay healthy and manage stress better, it is important to have a routine, eat healthy foods, exercise, get lots of sleep, and use screens less. Working on these basic habits can improve our mental and physical health and help lower problem behaviours. Above all else, remember that it is never too soon or too late to seek support.

The County's Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Community School Liaison Counsellors are an excellent resource for families of children who attend Peace Wapiti Division schools in the County and the Valhalla Charter School. They are available to answer your questions and concerns.

You can learn more about the Community School Liaison Counsellors program by asking your school or calling the FCSS office at **780-532-9727** extension **2400**.

OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY INCLUDE:

- Alberta Mental Health Line: 1-877-303-2642
- Kids Help Line: 1-800-668-6868
- Indigenous Help Line: 1-855-242-3310
- Resource Centre for Suicide Prevention
780-539-6680 | www.sp-rc.ca
- ICAT- Walk in support
Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Aberdeen Centre, 3rd floor 9728 101 Ave, Grande Prairie
587-259-5513
- The Gryphon & Phoenix Youth Group
Free youth programs for grades 4-12
www.sp-rc.ca/programs/youth-programming
780-539-7142



A COVID Christmas

Celebrations of every kind have been impacted in one way or another in 2020 because of COVID-19. Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Canada Day, weddings, and birthdays have left us struggling to figure out how to celebrate while following health guidelines and restrictions. One of the biggest holidays of all is looming with a great chance that restrictions will remain in place. So how are we going to manage the festivities, stay happy and help keep everyone safe?

This can be the year we create new traditions or at least modify the old ones. Instead of visiting Santa at the mall there could be visits over video messenger apps. Pictures of the little ones with Santa will have to be done six feet apart—no more knee sitting. Or get creative and superimpose their photo onto a Santa picture template. Work parties might be a series of smaller gatherings instead of a whole organization. Instead of going out to lunch or supper, maybe we donate to a local non-profit that serves those less fortunate.

Even shopping will look different. If you plan on shopping online, do it early to make sure you get your parcels on time. This is a good opportunity to look at different kinds of gifts. Many people are facing financial hardships with being laid off and are watching their budget. Instead of giving store-bought things—consider something you make yourself. A gift from

your hands is a gift from your heart. That pan of brownies or lasagna or a hand knit scarf or hat are made even more valuable by the time and thought you put into it. Gift cards are an option; but put conditions on them. Like a gift card for a restaurant but it can only be used for a lunch for the two of you. Or a card for a specific store so you can go shopping together.

What about the big family gathering? How are we going to do without that? If we can't all get together what are our options? Smaller groups all sitting down at the same time to have video chats with each other is a great way to stay connected. It could make the after-dinner games a little challenging but even that can be figured out. Scaling back is not a bad thing. A Christmas dinner with the immediate family is less work and stress than preparing a meal for 20. There would be more time to connect and try out those new toys and gadgets, watch some Christmas classics and relax. Bigger doesn't always mean better. Many people expressed how much they enjoyed slowing down before going into Phase 2 of the Province's Relaunch Strategy. They spent time at home playing games, doing jigsaw puzzles, taking walks. A nice quiet Christmas could be exactly what's needed after a year filled with navigating new challenges.

One thing we can all agree on is we don't want COVID to be the thing we give to our loved ones. So be creative in how you prepare and celebrate this holiday season. And may 2021 be brighter and full of new opportunities.





PHILIP J. CURRIE DINOSAUR MUSEUM

Upcoming Programs

Visit **www.dinomuseum.ca/events** or call **587-771-0662** for more information.



Nature Room

We are excited to announce the museum's new Nature Room is now open! This new space provides nature lovers of all ages with an evolving place to explore the natural world of the Peace Parkland region. Natural history specimens, images, and field guides will be available for visitors that are curious about our local plants and wildlife. It's a place where nature lovers can meet and exchange sightings, information, and ideas with each other. The Nature Room will also be home to the museum's resident live animals! Visitors can come see Peanut the corn snake and our pair of adorable leopard geckos here.

Collectors and traders can make use of the Nature Room to exchange items and images collected from the outdoors in an ethical and ecologically friendly manner. Objects like spruce cones picked from the ground, a photo of a cool bug you saw, or a drawing of the birds in your back yard can be brought in and traded for points!

How to be a Palaeontologist Day Camp

This summer, our department of education ran a brand new day camp concept called "How to be a Palaeontologist". During the week-long program, youth ages 12 and up learned the tools and techniques used real fossil hunters. We started with some fun introductory activities to introduce the campers to the world of dinosaurs and palaeontology, highlighting the amazing diversity of prehistoric creatures known to science.

In the middle of the week, the kids found themselves in our Palaeontology Lab and under the leadership of our fossil technician, where they learned first-hand how to prepare real dinosaur bones from our fossil collections. They spent the day with picks and brushes, carefully removing rock and dirt from the bones. After this, the next couple days were spent helping our palaeontology team prospect for fossils along Pipestone Creek, as well as actually excavating bones from the dinosaur bonebed there.

This camp was a huge success, and a once in a lifetime experience for dinosaur-enthusiast kids. This winter, we're hoping to expand on this success and get more local youth ages 12 and up participating in the science of palaeontology. While digging outdoors for fossils is off the table in winter, there's plenty of fun challenges and skills to learn in our lab and collections. Keep an eye on our website and social media for more information on this opportunity soon!

Winter at the Museum

Plan a visit to the Museum for some winter fun. This year, the museum is offering indoor and outdoor activities.

Bring Your Skates

Come to the museum in December and enjoy our outdoor skating rink. Take a break from the ice on our heated patio or sit by a firepit. Bring your snowshoes or cross-country skis and practice in our newly fenced grounds!

Countdown to Christmas

Visit the Museum in December to participate in special activities and challenges during the month of December. Before Christmas, follow the museum Facebook page for our 12 days of activities. There will be activities every day during the holiday. Space for some activities may be limited, so don't forget to check our website for pre-booking information. Come and See the Burgess Shale quilts. These quilts, made by quilters from British Columbia, are inspired by the fossils of the Burgess Shale. The quilts will be displayed throughout the Museum from December 1 to January 3. Looking for the perfect gift for a budding palaeontologist? Come in and browse our gift shop for a wide array of toys, gifts and books and dinosaur inspired crafts



Parent and Tot Programs



The County invites parents or caregivers and their children ages 0 to 6 to join us at a parent and tot playgroup near you.

Children and their parents or caregivers can make new friends, learn and grow together, and have fun at these FREE programs! Read what participants had to say about the program:

“The Parent and Tot Program has provided a safe and trusting environment for my kids to play with other kids. It’s helped instill values in my children, such as the importance of sharing and being respectful and gentle towards others. It’s helped bring out my sons’ funny, outgoing, and inquisitive personalities and helped build my daughter’s confidence. On the flip side, I’ve made lifelong friends, where we have helped each other through tough times, becoming stronger mothers.”

“I have been taking my kids to the Parents and Tot Program for over four years. At first, I went for the sake of getting my kids to socialize with other kids, and now I go for multiple reasons. Our children can practice social and developmental skills in a small, supportive group. I encourage other parents and their young children to attend as the takeaways are invaluable.”

For program locations, contact information and scheduling, see below:

BEZANSON PARENT AND TOTS

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Knelsen Centre, Bezanon
780-933-0964

CLAIRMONT PARENT AND TOTS

Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Wellington Resource Centre, Clairmont
780-228-0065

There will be safety measures in place including sanitization of toys and equipment before, during and after play. Parents and caregivers are asked to help ensure everyone’s safety by not attending if anyone is experiencing any illness or has travelled internationally within the past 14 days.

Find information about other programs offered by County FCSS at www.countygp.ab.ca/fcss.

*Please note that Parent and Tot programs are subject to change given COVID-19 and Provincial regulations. Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/covid19 for up-to date information.

Discover the Crosslink County Sportsplex



The Crosslink County Sportsplex reopened as of July 2 with health and safety measures in place as per the Province’s guidelines outlined in the Relaunch Strategy.

For information about programs, amenities available, hours of operation, and safety guidelines in place, please visit www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com, www.facebook.com/cgpsportsplex, or call **780-830-7407** prior to your visit.



*Please note that Crosslink County Sportsplex operations, programs and services are subject to change given the COVID-19 situation and regulations put in place by the Province. Visit www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com for up-to-date information.



countygp.ab.ca

Seniors Walk and Talk Program

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THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO STAY WARM AND ACTIVE ALL WINTER LONG

Winter in the County of Grande Prairie, while beautiful and picturesque, is also long, cold, and windy and leaves many seniors reluctant to venture outdoors. Although the conditions can make getting out risky, the desire to stay physically active and connected to others prevails.

When the opportunity to exercise and gather with friends, neighbours and share a coffee presents, many County seniors take advantage of our weekly Seniors Walk and Talk programs.

The programs run annually from October to May at the Knelsen Centre in Bezanson, and the Happy Trails Track at the Crosslink County Sportsplex in Clairmont.

The lack of sunshine and vitamin D during the winter months can affect our mood and happiness. Exercising helps to lift our moods and increase happiness. Add companionship to exercise and both the mind and the body becomes engaged.

For participant Gary Sarmaga, going to Seniors Walk and Talk started out as an opportunity to exercise and be active, which eventually evolved into a social outing to visit with his neighbours and meet others.

"It is a lot of fun, especially for seniors and older people, and is a great way to exercise," said Sarmaga.

Theresa Moon also frequently attends the Bezanson Walk and Talk program and enjoys the exercise and interaction with others. A highlight for Theresa was seeing the inclusion of all seniors ranging in levels of fitness.

"The program allows for everyone to walk at their own pace and experience success. There were no judgements, everyone was happy," said Moon.

Now that winter is here, we'd love to see you at one of our locations. Bring a friend or come by yourself, either way you will be feeling good!

GYMNASIUM IN THE KNELSEN CENTRE, BEZANSON

Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Runs from October 7, 2020 to May 12, 2021

HAPPY TRAILS TRACK AT THE CROSSLINK COUNTY SPORTSPLEX

Thursdays from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Runs from October 8, 2020 to May 13, 2021

For more information about the program, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/walkandtalk.



County Regional Fire Service

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The County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Service provides fire, rescue, investigation and medical services covering a 5,700 square kilometre area through a coordinated regional approach that includes multiple fire stations and a blend of paid responders and career firefighters. Personnel respond to nearly 2,000 calls per year.

Firefighters work from two full time (Dunes, Clairmont), three paid responder (La Glace, Bezanson, Teepee Creek), and four contract (Beaverlodge, Hythe, Sexsmith, Wembley) departments. Mutual-aid agreements with surrounding fire departments are in place to assist each other at major incidents.

The Regional Fire Service deliver service with 38 strategically located apparatus' including a ladder, fire engines, rescues, brush trucks, water tenders, cars and squads, specialty equipment and more!



Protecting Lives and Property Across the County

READY TO ANSWER THE CALL?

The County is recruiting paid responders for its fire stations in La Glace, Teepee Creek and Bezanson. Paid responders are part of a trained team that provide fire and rescue services for their communities.

Members dedicate many hours to training, maintaining skills and making sure equipment is ready. They are women and men from all walks of life, working in a variety of careers. Previous firefighting experience is not required.

“We’re committed to being an inclusive workforce and a flexible workplace,” said Fire Chief Dan Verdun. “Our service has many needs, so if someone feels they can help in any way, let us know, and we’ll work with them to see where they fit into our family.”

He added: “Paid responders are neighbours, co-workers and friends with a strong sense of motivation and a desire to help out their communities.

Verdun said that the role comes with both personal and financial benefits. County paid responders are paid to respond to emergency calls and attend training. The County provides members with professional-level training, a \$20,000 value (transferable anywhere in North America) and covers the cost of all their gear. Additional benefits include WCB coverage and life insurance coverage. A tax credit of \$3,500 per year is also provided to those who put 200 hours or more into volunteering.

The role is a great way to make connections, grow networks and get to know the community. County paid responders and their families become part of the larger County Regional Fire Service family.

“We’re a strong team with a great sense of comradery whether we’re dealing with a crisis, meeting with the community, or just getting together,” said Verdun.

An added bonus for paid responders is the diverse skills they acquire that transfer to their other workplaces. Skills range from fire safety and first aid to leadership and decision-making.

“The training and hands-on experience acquired in the role can be leveraged in any career, and are highly valued by employers,” said Verdun.

MEET DAWN – MOM, CARPENTER, FIREFIGHTER

Dawn Dalke is a mom of three children and a self-employed carpenter. She’s also a paid responder with the County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Service, replacing her hammer, coveralls, and hardhat with a helmet, fire resistant gear, air



David Edgeworth, La Glace firefighter; and Dawn Dalke, La Glace Fire Station Lieutenant.

tank and axe. And she wears the title of lieutenant, serving the La Glace Fire Station.

MEET DAVID – MEDICAL STUDENT, FIREFIGHTER

David Edgeworth is a full-time medical student, studying to be a doctor. He still splits his time between being in school and serving as a paid responder with the County Regional Fire Service. His goal is to continue medical practice in the region upon completing his residency. Previous to becoming a firefighter, he served as a cadet at the La Glace Fire Station. He attributes his acceptance into two medical schools partially to the skills and experience he learned as a firefighter.

“Paid responders like Dawn and David are essential to our operations and extremely valuable to the communities they serve,” said Verdun. “When there’s an emergency in the La Glace, Teepee Creek and Bezanson areas, we rely on these firefighters to protect citizens and property.”

APPLY TODAY TO BE A PAID RESPONDER

Interested individuals can access more information and apply at www.countygp.ab.ca/fire recruit. Applications are accepted year-round. Prefer to talk directly someone? Give us a call at **780-532-9727**.

Minimum Qualifications

PAID RESPONDER RECRUITS MUST:

- Live no more than 15 kms from the fire station
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have a current Alberta Driver's License; Driver Abstract, demonstrating a safe driving record; Grade 12 education; RCMP Criminal Record Check; and doctor's letter confirming you are medically fit to perform firefighting duties



Nominate a Farm Family



2020 Farm Family Award Recipient – The Ray and Dunnigan families

Do you know a farm family in the County of Grande Prairie that is deeply committed to agriculture and actively involved with helping their community?

If so, the County of Grande Prairie Agricultural Service Board, in partnership with the Peace Country Classic Agri-Show, want you to nominate them for the 2021 Farm Family Award.

The winning Farm Family will be honoured at the Farm Family Banquet during the Peace Country Classic Agri-Show (subject to COVID-19 protocols).

The deadline to submit nominations is 2 p.m. on December 15.

Nomination packages are available at www.countygp.ab.ca/farmfamily or can be picked up (subject to COVID protocols) at the County Community Services Building.

RETURN COMPLETED NOMINATION FORMS BY:

Email: sraven@countygp.ab.ca

Attention: Sonja Raven
Agriculture department

Direct mail:

Sonja Raven
County of Grande Prairie
Agriculture department
10001 – 84 Avenue
Clairmont, AB, T8X 5B2

In person (subject to COVID-19 protocols):

County Community Services Building Located at 10808 – 100 Ave, Clairmont (1.5 km west off Highway 2 on Township Road 724) during business hours (8:30 a.m. – noon, 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays).

For more information, please contact Sonja Raven, Agricultural Fieldman, at **780-532-9727**.

Livestock Emergency Response Plan

The County's Agriculture department is in the process of developing a Livestock Emergency Response Plan (LERP) for the County of Grande Prairie. With the increasing frequency of catastrophic wildfires, potential flooding events and other threats, it is important that the County have a plan in place to assist livestock producers and residents who own animals.

Over the next few months, we will be identifying and contacting residents who own livestock to get a sense of the type and scale of their operations – from one or two horses, or a few sheep or chickens, to large scale livestock producers. The information we gather will help identify the resources required in the event of an emergency. We will also be looking at identifying resources that may be available to us should animals require evacuation, emergency stabling, additional feed, etc.

We sincerely appreciate your assistance with this work if you are contacted. All information will be kept strictly confidential. Please contact Sonja Raven, Agricultural Fieldman at **780-532-9727** if you have any questions or suggestions. Further information will be available throughout the project.

Paszkowski Chosen to be Inducted into Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame



Walter Paszkowski has been selected to be inducted into the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame. He will be honoured when COVID protocols allow. Created in 1951, the award recognizes exemplary agricultural leadership and accomplishment in Alberta. Mr. Paszkowski's substantial contribution to the development of canola as an economic driver in the prairies, his deep commitment to agriculture, and his terms serving as the Province's Minister of Agriculture and the County's Economic Development Manager in past years are but a few of the accomplishments earning him this prestigious honour. Congratulations, Walter Paszkowski!

County Seeking Input on Proposed Re-addressing of Clairmont

The County is seeking input from residents and businesses in Clairmont regarding the proposed readdressing of the Hamlet.



In 2007, the County expanded the hamlet boundaries to include 34 sections, about 5,440 acres of land, spanning from the City limits to Mercer Hill and one half mile west of Range Road 63 to one half mile east of Range Road 54. The significant growth and development in the Hamlet of Clairmont has led the County to consider updates to addressing.

WHAT ARE THE PROPOSED CHANGES?

The County is exploring making three significant changes to the addressing in the Hamlet:

- **Establish a Consistent Municipal Identifier** – Currently, properties within the Hamlet are addressed as Clairmont, County of Grande Prairie No.1, and City of Grande Prairie. This change would see all addresses within the Hamlet boundary assigned a “Clairmont” address.
- **Base all Civic Addresses off the Clairmont Grid** – The area south of Highway 43/43X, including Whispering Ridge, Westlake Village, Althen Corner, Highway 43 East and West, and Crossroads South industrial parks are addressed using the City of Grande Prairie addressing grid. These areas would be readdressed based on the Clairmont grid.

To simplify this change, the County is proposing to reduce all avenues in this area by 100. For example, 156 Avenue will become 56 Avenue, and those addressed off a street would drop the first digit in the civic number of their address (example: 15402 – 105 Street will become 5402 – 105 Street).

- **Resolve Addressing Errors** – A few areas that were developed with both curved and straight roads have issues like avenues intersecting avenues and street numbering not aligning logically. The proposed changes would see these as well as other addressing issues corrected throughout Clairmont to make navigation easier.

WHY IS RE-ADDRESSING CLAIRMONT BEING CONSIDERED?

Current addressing has created confusion about the boundary between Clairmont and the City, with some residents unclear about which municipality they live in. The County has received reports of landowners having difficulty hooking up utilities due to addressing confusion, along with delivery and routing issues. We are looking for ways to improve these services.

Additionally, the randomly assigned municipal identifier on rural addresses within the Hamlet means neighbouring parcels have either a Clairmont or County of Grande Prairie address despite being on the same road.

As Clairmont continues to grow and becomes more populated, the identified issues become increasingly difficult to resolve. Reassigning addresses in Clairmont will clarify boundaries, ensure consistency in addresses, and make locating addresses easier for residents, businesses, utility companies, emergency services and anyone travelling through the area.

HOW WILL CLAIRMONT RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES BE IMPACTED?

If approved by County Council, this initiative would impact approximately 1,100 residents and 250 non-residential properties. Changes could take effect as early as Fall 2021; however, timing and coordination may cause the changes to be pushed into 2022 to avoid disruptions during the holiday season.

When the changeover occurs, residents and businesses would be required to change their physical address on their property and update their mailing address with Alberta Registries, Canada Post, the County of Grande Prairie, and other service providers.

HOW CAN RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES PROVIDE INPUT?

The County is seeking feedback from potentially impacted businesses and residents through a survey that will be available from November 27, 2020, to January 15, 2021. Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/engage to provide your feedback and learn about other engagement opportunities!

Questions? Contact Planning and Development Services at 780-513-3950 or email plan@countygp.ab.ca.

Area Structure Plan Underway for Northeast Clairmont



WE WANT YOUR INPUT ON THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHEAST SECTION OF THE HAMLET OF CLAIRMONT!

An Area Structure Plan (ASP) is being developed for the northeast area of the Hamlet of Clairmont, to guide future development of over 3,300 acres of land, outlining land use and development plans, including roads and other infrastructure.

Nearby residents, businesses, area landowners and the public are invited to take part in public engagement opportunities to help shape the future of northeast Clairmont.

For more information and details on the latest public engagement opportunities, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/NEClairmontASP or call Planning & Development Services at **780-513-3950**.

The Northeast Clairmont ASP is located north of Highway 43, east of Clairmont Lake, south of Township Road 730 and stretches to the east boundary of Clairmont.

Looking for Business Support?



JOIN THE COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE BUSINESS SUPPORT NETWORK

The County of Grande Prairie Business Support Network (CGPBSN) is an ongoing group of businesses, business organizations, and government, who identify and work together to address business and workforce challenges in the region.

The partnerships formed through the CGPBSN contribute to the long-term sustainability of the region and its surrounding areas.

CGPBSN events are intended to be an open and positive venue for business groups and individuals to collaborate, exchange ideas and information on current labour market trends, and to address workforce development, attraction, and retention challenges.

We host an event at least once a month ranging from learning sessions to general roundtables.

The roundtable mornings are an open forum for business leaders and supports to discuss trends they are seeing, issues that they may be facing or projects they are working on.

Past events have included professional speakers on Cannabis at Work, Human Rights in the Workplace, M.E.L.T, TC Energy's vendor process, and success stories from local businesses who have mastered the pandemic.

While AHS guidelines are in place, the events will continue to be free and virtual.

For a list of upcoming events and additional information, visit www.countygp-bsn.eventbrite.com, or email Hetti Huls, Economic Development Coordinator at hhuls@countygp.ab.ca.

GROWING THE NORTH

CONFERENCE 2021



Where Insights Meet Impact

Over the past 11 years, entrepreneurs, community and government leaders, have congregated in the Grande Prairie area for the Growing the North Conference. They come together to examine innovation and explore economic development opportunities in the Peace Region of northwest Alberta and northeast British Columbia.

The economic development event attracts a range of high-level speakers, including, Chief Clarence Louie of the Osoyoos Indian Band, Komal Minhas of Komal Minhas International, and former Canadian astronaut and Air Force pilot Chris Hadfield, and many more. Beyond the speakers, the conference also offers plenty of networking opportunities.

Planning is underway for the next Growing the North, to be held virtually due to COVID-19. Held over three half-days, February 17, 18 and 19, the event promises the same excellence in speakers, and will even have opportunities for networking. A range of economic development issues and opportunities relevant to the Peace Region from a global perspective will be the conference's focus. For more information about the conference including speakers, sponsorship opportunities and to register, visit www.growingthenorth.com.

WHAT DO PAST ATTENDEES SAY ABOUT THE EVENT?

"I am always impressed with the high calibre and mix of speakers that cover a wide range of local industries on relevant topics. The event is an opportunity to network with a wide range of industry and government contacts as well. For Aquatera, Growing the North is an opportunity to showcase our services to a wide audience and gain knowledge of what is happening in the northern area of our province."

— Jeff Pieper, Chief Financial Officer, Aquatera Utilities

"I enjoy the diverse topics shared at the Growing the North conference. I find it is a great opportunity to learn about other businesses in our community and test where we have synergies for improvement."

— Lisa Hall, Utilities & Chemicals Department Leader, International Paper

"The Growing the North Conference puts world-class speakers right in front of you, and we appreciate the presenters' thoughts, opinions, and many times motivational content. The added bonus is networking - mingling with business people, government, and other organizations is an unmatched opportunity to foster good relationships with our community and beyond. Many of the speakers are accessible for a conversation. This conference will bring value to your business. I'd definitely recommend attending."

— Cris Seppola, Partner, nine10

Local Labour Study Aims to Strengthen Local Business Environment

A labour market study is nearing completion in the County of Grande Prairie, City of Grande Prairie and MD of Greenview. The study will provide relevant, timely, and accurate labour market information to stakeholders, including job seekers, employers, industry, post-secondary institutions and government. It will serve as an important tool to more effectively understand and respond to the market challenges at a municipal and regional level.

As a collaboration between the County, City and Greenview, along with the Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce, and Alberta Labour and Immigration, the partners' overall aim is to foster a more competitive business environment locally. Phase One of the study involved developing labour market profiles for individual municipalities and the region. Phase Two included gathering the experiences and insights of local stakeholders through one-on-one conversations and surveys. By exploring the market at both a regional and community level, the study aims to strike a balance between the priorities of individual municipalities and those of the region.

The study is funded in part by an Alberta Labour and Immigration Labour Market Partnerships (LMP) grant, along with financial contributions from project partners. McSweeney and Associates are leading the needs assessment.

A summary of the results will be available at the completion of the study later this year. To learn more and to view the results, visit the Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce website at www.grandeprairiechamber.com.



countygp.ab.ca

Return undeliverable
Canadian addresses to:
The County of Grande Prairie No.1
10001 - 84 Avenue, Clairmont, AB T8X 5B2



TOP ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Councillor Harold Bulford, Councillor Bob Marshall, Deputy Reeve Peter Harris, Councillor Corey Beck

FRONT ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Councillor Linda Waddy, Councillor Daryl Beeston, Reeve Leanne Beaupre, Councillor Ross Sutherland, Councillor Karen Rosvold

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Clairmont, AB T8X 5B2

WEBSITE:

www.countygp.ab.ca

OFFICE HOURS:

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.
and on statutory holidays

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS

Administration, Assessment, Asset Management, Corporate Services, Economic Development, Finance, Information Technology, Insurance/Risk Management, Legislative Services, Procurement, Communications, Human Resources, Public Works, Planning and Development Services

780-532-9722

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDINGS

Agriculture, Family and Community Support Services, Regional Enforcement Services, Regional Fire Service, Parks and Recreation

780-532-9727

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