

COUNTY CONNECTIONS



WINTER 2018

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Reeve's Message



With the County soon heading into interim budget deliberations, Council has been reviewing background information on numerous projects and programs as we look towards 2019. While part of the County budget is targeted for County operations, programs and services, we also designate

a significant percentage to local organizations. The articles in the upcoming pages of Connections really bring our budget to life, giving you an opportunity to see some of the ways these funds support the well-being of local residents and businesses.

BUILDING AND COMMUNITY-BUILDING

Local infrastructure projects we see around the County are a real testament to the dedication of the community-minded organizations so often the catalyst behind these initiatives. Congratulations to the Bezanson Agriculture Society on the grand opening of the Knelsen Centre (see article on page 4). The County was proud to contribute \$2.19 million toward the facility. In La Glace, Phase I of the Regional Recreation Centre is also underway – a project that received \$3 million in County support. Both facilities will increase recreation and culture opportunities for rural residents and serve as a hub of community-connectedness. Overall in 2018, the County contributed \$5.4 million in community grants to various local organizations.

In Clairmont, the Grande Spirit Foundation's "Lakeview" is about 80-90 per cent full, and is definitely helping fill the gap for local senior's housing. The County was proud to support the facility's development with a gift in kind of site services.

"WEATHERING" HEAVY SNOWFALL AND RAIN

Effects of heavy rain and snow this year have been costly for the County and local residents. This past spring, heavy run-off and flooding caused about \$3.5 million in damage to County-owned infrastructure. The County applied for, and successfully received provincial Disaster Recovery Assistance funding to help with the repairs and replacement of County infrastructure and on private land.

The fall snow brought additional challenges for our agricultural community. In my conversations, I have heard from many about the great deal of difficulties this weather is creating. For those seeking support to deal with this stress, our Family and Community Services (FCSS) department staff can provide information, as well as referrals to local services.

This winter, our Public Works department is gearing up for another busy season clearing snow and ice off of our 3,600 km of roads. If this winter is anything like last year's, we will need your help and patience to ensure the snow removal season goes smoothly (read page 9 for more about this).

If you prefer not to drive, you may be interested in using the new rural public transportation service, launching soon. As part of this two-year pilot project, public transportation will run between the City and the surrounding communities of Clairmont, Sexsmith, Wembley, Beaverlodge and Hythe. The system will launch in two separate phases. **Learn more on Page 3 and at www.countygp.ab.ca/ruraltransportation.**

LOBBYING

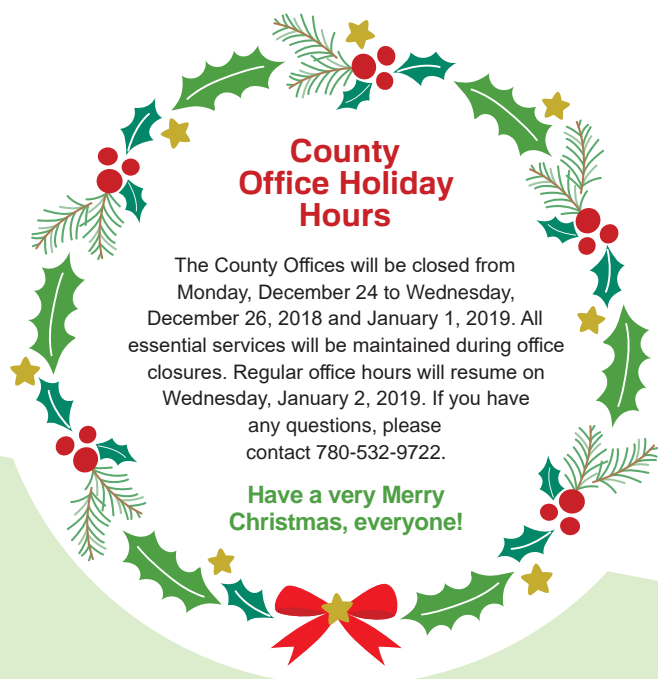
Engaging with the people impacted by the decisions that the County makes is a priority for Council and Administration. Engagement includes the everyday conversations and meetings we have in the community to understand your priorities. To address some of those conversations, we continue our advocacy efforts around Highway 40, including

the twinning of the highway from the City to Norbord, and installation of a second bridge over the Wapiti River. This highway is an integral part of the transportation network in our region and is increasingly seeing more traffic. The safety of all travellers is a priority. Advocacy for the replacement of the aging hospital in Beaverlodge also continues. The County partners with neighbouring communities on both of these advocacy priorities.

WE HOST PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENTS SUCH AS THE FOLLOWING:

Recently, the Tri-Municipal Industrial Partnership (TMIP) Area Structure Plan invited the public's input into its proposed world-class heavy eco-industrial district on Highway 40 in the MD of Greenview. TMIP was created by the County, Greenview and the City. Visit www.expandyourvision.ca/tmip to learn more about project details and engagement.

Stay updated and engaged in our Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDP). IDPs set the framework for coordinated land use planning, economic development, and servicing and transportation issues, while ensuring each community maintains its own autonomy. Visit engage.countygpp.ab.ca. Work on our Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICF) with other local municipalities also continues. ICFs show collaboration on planning and service delivery, as well as how services around the region are funded. We are developing individual agreements with each of the municipalities we share a border with. This approach supports the unique needs of each community and ensures each community maintains autonomy in how they want to manage their services.



WATER/WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The County would like to congratulate Horse Lake First Nation on the recent opening of their water treatment facility. A dependable source of safe drinking water is essential to quality life in all of our communities. Below is a quick update on County water/wastewater project timelines. Investment into water and wastewater infrastructure is critical to support the increasing population and development around the County; to provide quality services to citizens; and to ensure healthy and sustainable growth into our future.

- Projected completion of the Wembley Waterline in West County and the booster station in the Dimsdale area is set for summer 2019. The County invested \$1 million in funding to oversize the line for potential future expansion and for the construction of a booster station.
- The County invested \$2.5 million in the Hawker Waterline, with work on the County portion of the line to be complete by year-end. This waterline will service industrial development in the east section of the County along Highway 43.
- Work on the Regional Lift Station in Clairmont will commence next spring.
- The County section of the Clairmont Lagoon Discharge expansion project is nearly complete, with the City portion to be complete by spring/summer 2019.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

A quick review of upcoming local events/dates show there's a lot going on that impact our communities:

- Recreational cannabis became legal in Canada in October. Our article on page 8 highlights information about local cannabis businesses and where cannabis can be consumed.
- November is Family Violence Prevention Month. This is a very real and serious issue. Please help promote awareness by wearing purple, and show your support at local awareness events.
- We invite you to attend our 2019 interim budget meetings. These take place December 3, 4 and 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- The County is proud to again co-host the Growing the North economic development conference this February at Evergreen Park. Businesses will want to take advantage of the many networking opportunities and high-calibre speakers. See Page 20 for more details on the event.

Over the past few months, the County has welcomed some new faces to our leadership – individuals who are community-driven and bring a diversity of perspectives and talents to their roles. In June, Dan Verdun, who was Deputy Fire Chief previously, began his role as the new Fire Chief of the County's Regional Fire Service. A few months later, we welcomed Dan Lemieux as Director of Community Services and Dale Widsten into the newly created role of District Fire Chief.

As many of our residents already know, Sexsmith's Mayor Claude Lagace passed away shortly before Thanksgiving. Our County family was saddened by his passing. Mayor Lagace was a large presence in his community and will be missed by many. On a personal note, I considered Claude my friend and colleague. Although a quiet and private man,

he was well respected and had a great work ethic. Our deepest sympathies to his family and those in his community and the region.

I wish everyone a safe and wonderful holiday season. With so many worthy causes, this is a great time to give back to the community. Perhaps while you are out shopping, consider picking up a few items to donate to your local food bank. Those little contributions make a significant impact on local families.



Leanne Beaupre

Rural Transit Service Launching Soon

Starting December 5, the public will have access to transit services in the Hamlet of Clairmont and the Town of Sexsmith, which will connect to the City of Grande Prairie. Phase Two of the service will launch in early 2019, where the public will also be able to take public transit to and from the towns of Beaverlodge and Wembley, the Village of Hythe and the City of Grande Prairie.

The County Connector will provide a reliable and consistent means of transportation to those who need to access medical services, employment, education, recreational, social and/or other essential services. It will allow users to reduce their environmental footprint and minimize traffic on our busy roads. The County Connector will also enhance local economic development opportunities and make our communities more accessible and connected.

This has been made possible due to a grant of approximately \$640,000 provided by the Government of Alberta through the Rural Transportation Pilot Program, a GreenTrip grant from the Province of \$276,667 and \$138,333 in funding from

the County. The City of Grande Prairie will operate the service which will run for two years as a pilot program, with the project partners monitoring and evaluating the program throughout the term to determine the viability of continuing the service after provincial funding has ended.



Be sure to visit www.countygp.ab.ca/connector for all the details including a service launch date for Phase 2 of the project, transit fare costs, SUPERPASS purchasing locations, accessibility, routes and schedules, transit hours of operation, contact information, frequently asked questions, access to the Where's My Ride App, background information and much more!

Stay tuned by following and visiting the County of Grande Prairie's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cogp1 or our Twitter page at @CountyofGP for upcoming announcements!

Interim Budget Meetings

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 final budget meetings, which finalize all the numbers, take place in the spring.

THE INTERIM MEETINGS FOR THE 2019 BUDGET WILL TAKE PLACE IN COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON:

December 3, 4 & 5 from 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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



Bezanson Celebrates New Cultural and Recreation Facility



Reeve Beaupre and County Council attended the grand opening celebration of the Knelsen Centre last month alongside representatives from the Provincial and Federal governments. The County was proud to contribute \$2.19 million to this new facility, which will serve as a community hub for the Hamlet of Bezanson and beyond.

There is a buzz in the Hamlet of Bezanson around the new Bezanson Regional Community Cultural Centre – now named the Knelsen Centre. Members of County Council were on hand to celebrate the Centre's grand opening, which was held October 13.

The County of Grande Prairie is proud to support the facility with \$2.19 million in contributions. Reeve Leanne Beaupre highlighted the important role new facilities like the Knelsen Centre play in rural communities.

"These types of facilities are central to the quality of life in our rural communities," said Beaupre. "They not only increase recreational and cultural opportunities for rural residents, but play a key role in cultivating local community-building."

The Knelsen Centre connects to the existing Bezanson Memorial Hall, which will continue to operate in its same capacity. Connecting this new 16,000 square foot expansion to an existing facility will allow for multiple events to be held at the same time.

The new facility holds an auditorium with seating for over 400 people banquet-style, a commercial kitchen and bar, a gymnasium with full-size basketball and volleyball courts,

plenty of storage for gym equipment, change rooms and showers, and a large and spacious lobby where community members can gather before events.

"There's just a lot more space, a lot more room and a lot more opportunity to grow and expand some of the programs and initiatives that are offered in our community," said Laura LaValley, Capital Campaign Manager for the project. LaValley said they not only aim to host events like Christmas parties, office parties, meetings, and family gatherings, but see the possibilities for enhanced and new education and programming, such as continuing education programs and after school programs.

The facility, which in the words of LaValley will be the "hub" of Bezanson, was designed with community input and with community needs in mind. Around five years ago, members of the Bezanson Agricultural Society initiated a feasibility study in the community to determine the community's needs and assess how such a facility might best address these priorities.

"We were able to ask residents what they wanted to see in this centre," explained LaValley. "The study also showed that the majority of people felt that this type of facility would be a good healthy addition to Bezanson."

LaValley said that the success of the project is really the result of dedicated community members, and through support from the County and the Province, who are committed to ensuring that our rural communities are strong and vibrant. Numerous hours were spent in planning to ensure the facility was functional, served the needs of the community and was a project that community could afford to construct.

A capital campaign commenced in 2016. LaValley said that the community was very much behind the project and their commitment, combined with the support of the County as the main funder, have led to the campaign's success. She added that there are still opportunities for the public to make financial contributions to the facility.

LaValley noted that what is especially exciting about the Knelsen Centre is not only what it will offer the community, but what Bezanson can offer the region. "Now that the facility is built, we believe people from around the region are going to be more interested in seeing what we are doing and what we can offer right here in Bezanson."

With a firm belief that rural communities are grounded by strong family values, LaValley maintains that Bezanson is no exception to that. "The Knelsen Centre will be a place to gather and help build community," said LaValley. She added: "Bezanson is very much alive, and this facility is very much going to be the heartbeat."

LaValley said the community – and local students – are especially proud of the new gym and its possibilities.

"The new gym is particularly exciting because the Bezanson School has a fairly small gym, so our students have not been able to host tournaments and events to the same magnitude that they might like to," said LaValley. "Our students can now stay in their community to participate in sporting events." She noted that along with hosting sporting events, students are already using the facility for classes such as cooking and physical education.

As she looked back on the past five years of planning, fundraising and construction, as well as the recent grand opening, LaValley reflected on the present and what lies ahead. "The Knelsen Centre means a lot to our community now and for our future," she said. "Bezanson is small on the map, but is huge at heart."

To learn more about the facility, visit the Bezanson Agricultural Society's website at www.discoverbezanson.ca/capital-campaign-2.

Did You Know



The County contributed \$5.4 million in grants this year to community groups in and around the County, the City, Beaverlodge, Hythe, Sexsmith and Wembley.

The County has several programs in which grant funding is provided annually to local organizations and volunteer groups that operate and/or own community halls, arenas and curling rinks, senior centres and societies, museums, camps, school, cultural, sports, recreational, social and community clubs and centres, agricultural societies, cemeteries, libraries and much more.

We've committed \$333,333 in funding over the next six years, to the La Glace Agricultural Society to help build their Regional Recreation Centre. This will bring our total funding contribution to \$3 million.

The County provides a share of its annual municipal tax revenue from co-generational facilities and new commercial/industrial development in areas serviced by Aquatera to the City of Grande Prairie. Since 2004, the County has contributed \$9.17 million to the City through this Revenue Sharing Agreement to reflect the use of City facilities by County residents.

County Funding for New Sexsmith Fire Hall Helps Build Capacity and Community



County of Grande Prairie Fire Chief Dan Verdun, District Fire Chief for the Town of Sexsmith and County of Grande Prairie Dale Widsten and County of Grande Prairie Councillors Corey Beck and Daryl Beeston take part in the “uncoupling of the hose” ceremony to mark the grand opening of the Sexsmith Fire Hall, alongside other representatives.

THE FORMER SEXSMITH FIRE HALL WAS BURSTING AT ITS SEAMS – LITERALLY

As older fire trucks were replaced with new, more modern – and much larger – trucks, doors to the former fire hall had to be enlarged so that the new vehicles could actually fit through the doorways. But that created further issues, as little space was left inside for training.

The space was proving to present other issues as well. The building was showing significant signs of deterioration. Further, the location was less than ideal, as not only was there little room for expansion of the hall, traffic travelling to and from the station had to pass through a residential area.

In an earlier interview a few years ago, while serving as mayor of Sexsmith, the late Claude Lagace spoke to the importance the Town placed on building a new facility: “A new fire hall has long been a priority to address safety in our growing community.”

Three years ago, County Council committed \$500,000 in funding toward a new \$1 million fire hall in Sexsmith. That new fire hall has been open for several months, and a grand opening celebration was held in September. Members of County Council and staff attended the event, which drew a large crowd.

The Town of Sexsmith and the County have a strong relationship, with partnerships between the Sexsmith Fire Department and the County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Service. These partnerships include mutual aid agreements, training, and the newly-created position of District Fire Chief for the Sexsmith Fire Department.

The new building boasts not only a larger space to house equipment, but increased space for training and office work, as well as enhanced technology. The facility also has a kitchen and lounge area.

Jason Nesbitt of the County Regional Fire Service said a space where members can gather is very important to a volunteer fire department. Nesbitt, who is currently Platoon Captain at the Clairmont Fire Station and served as Acting District Chief for the Sexsmith Fire Department from April to August this past year, until new fire chief Dale Widsten was hired.

“With a space to socialize, members can come in on their own time and have get togethers and enjoy games nights,” said Nesbitt. “In a volunteer fire department, it’s really important to be able to build camaraderie that way.

“And to top that, when people are at the fire hall, they are able to respond more quickly in an emergency.”

Nesbitt also discussed the increased safety the new fire hall brings to the community and to the region as a whole. “Having a larger indoor space for theory and practical training is really valuable,” he said. “We can now do skills training inside year-round, which increases skills-competency of our members.”



County of Grande Prairie Councillor Corey Beck brings greetings to the grand opening.

He also noted that the new location is closer to the highway. That, said Nesbitt, means improved response time to the County and outlying areas.

Nesbitt said response to the new hall has been tremendous. The September grand opening exceeded their expectations and the fire hall was well-received by the public.

"People are pleased with the new facility, and that it was built within a reasonable time frame and for a reasonable budget, and that ultimately we are able to increase the levels of service," said Nesbitt.

Nesbitt was quick to highlight the strong sense of community that a fire department creates within rural communities. "It really is good way to form bonds and have people participate and engage in the community," he said. Upon moving to the area, Nesbitt became a volunteer firefighter in Sexsmith in 2007. He then went to the County Regional Fire Service in 2011 to become a career firefighter, and said he forged many friendships through this work.

While the new fire hall will increase community connection, Nesbitt said he also sees the many ways it can revitalize the fire department, re-engaging more people and attracting new people to the department, which ultimately benefits the region and the County Regional Fire Service.

"With facilities such as these, we're building capacity and working to improve the services we provide to the public by having facilities that can support our firefighters in serving our local communities."



County Assessors Conducting Property Inspections

County of Grande Prairie assessors will be performing property inspections until January to complete the annual assessment. Property inspections are conducted to fairly and accurately determine all characteristics of the property in order to determine property value.

All assessors will be driving County-marked vehicles and will be carrying visible County identification. Upon arrival at your property, assessors will obtain assessment information from you. If you are not at home, callback cards will be left at your door.

Most inspections will be conducted outdoors with photographs taken of the property. More complex properties, however, may require indoor inspections. Assessors will be:

- inspecting new development, based on permits acquired from the County
- inspecting year-to-year progress of a building project
- inspecting status of parcels of land, considering legislation set out in the Municipal Government Act as well as associated regulations
- verifying sales information as our valuation each year is based on market value
- following up on requests to re-evaluate and verify all information collected on a property

For more information, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/inspections. If you have any questions, call the Assessment department at 780-532-9722.

Where Can I Consume Cannabis in the County?

The County is currently working on developing regulations regarding cannabis usage. For the time being, residents and visitors must follow the guidelines set out by the Province in the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act along with the cannabis framework.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- Albertans are allowed to use cannabis in their homes and in some public spaces where smoking tobacco is allowed, but use is banned in cars
- Cannabis usage is not permitted at any cannabis retail outlets
- Public smoking or vaping of cannabis in Alberta is prohibited from any place where tobacco is restricted, and in the following places:
 - on any hospital property, school property or child care facility property
 - within 5 metres of:
 - a playground
 - a sports or playing field
 - a skateboard or bicycle park
 - a zoo
 - an outdoor theatre
 - an outdoor pool or splash pad
 - any motor vehicles, with the exception of those being used as a temporary residences, such as a parked RV

The Province has established offenses for improper cannabis usage, including the following fines:

- \$575 for cannabis usage in a motor vehicle
- \$115 for illegal transportation of cannabis
- \$115 for cannabis possession by a minor
- \$287 for smoking or vaping cannabis in a prohibited area

GROWING CANNABIS

According to federal legislation, adults can grow up to four plants per household from seeds bought from licensed cannabis retailers. Rules for renters and apartment or condo-dwellers are based on the rules outlined in their rental agreements or condominium bylaws.

For more information about the Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act and Alberta Cannabis Framework and legislation, visit www.alberta.ca/cannabis-framework.aspx.

Cannabis and the Land Use Bylaw: Information about Cannabis-Related Business in the County

As of October 17, recreational cannabis is legal across Canada. As required by the provincial and federal governments, and to help prepare our community for the change, the County has amended our Land Use Bylaw.

The Alberta government has introduced legislation that proposes the Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission (AGLC) will be responsible for the oversight of private retailers and distribution of cannabis in Alberta. The AGLC will not issue a retail cannabis store licence in the County without first receiving municipal approval.

The County uses its Land Use Bylaw when making decisions about the location of cannabis related businesses including cannabis retail sales and cannabis production and distribution facilities. Approvals of these businesses may be granted subject to the provisions of the bylaw, which include setbacks as well as consideration of the impacts on adjacent locations. The Municipal Planning Commission may reduce the separation distance where it is demonstrated that there would be no adverse land use impacts and the intent of the regulation is not compromised.

For more information related to cannabis businesses in the County, including questions around site selection and the process for approvals, contact the Planning & Development Services department at 780-513-3950 or visit our website at www.countygp.ab.ca/cannabis.

Minimum Distance Required (Setbacks)

CANNABIS RETAIL SALES

500 m from:

- Recreational Uses / Zoning
- Municipal Reserve Land
- School Reserves
- Elementary and High Schools
- Licensed Daycares
- Health Facilities

100 m from:

- Other Cannabis Retailers
- Residential Districts
- Liquor Stores

CANNABIS PRODUCTION/ DISTRIBUTION FACILITY

500 m from:

- Recreational Uses / Zoning
- Municipal Reserve Land
- School Reserves
- Elementary and High Schools
- Licensed Daycares
- Health Facilities

100 m from:

- Residential Districts



Another Season of Snow Removal is Underway

The County of Grande Prairie Public Works department has geared up for another busy season clearing snow and ice off County roads.

The County's dedicated snow removal crew is made up of 20 graders, five plow trucks, three large tractors, and three loaders which clear and maintain over 3,600 km of paved and gravel roads. Reasonable efforts are made to clear all rural roads within five days following a significant snow fall; however, multiple snow fall events may alter the snow clearing cycle and require extra time to complete.

If this winter is anything like last year's, we will need your help and patience to ensure the season goes smoothly.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- During periods of heavy snowfall or other extreme weather conditions, please have patience as crews work to clear snow from your area as quickly as possible.
- Please use extreme caution and reduce your speed when approaching plows, graders, and other snow removal equipment.
- Do not push snow or ice from private property onto roads or another's property. Bylaws in the County prohibit pushing snow onto or across County roadways or onto any other property other than your own. If windrows freeze, they can cause accidents, or damage County equipment and private vehicles.
- Watch for snow removal equipment operating in your neighbourhood and ensure your vehicles are not parked on the roadside while crews are at work clearing your street.
- If you have questions about traffic bylaws or wish to make a complaint about improper snow removal, please contact Regional Enforcement Services at **780-532-9727**, **enforcementservices@countygp.ab.ca** or use the online reporting system at **www.countygp.ab.ca/occurrencereport**.

For detailed information about our Winter Road Maintenance Program, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/snowremoval or contact the Public Works department at 780-532-7393.

STAY UP-TO-DATE

The County uses many channels to provide updates and keep residents informed of snow removal activities during the winter season. Details and information about the snow removal schedule during significant snowfall events will be posted on the County's snow removal webpage at **www.countygp.ab.ca/snowremoval** as well as on the County of Grande Prairie's Facebook page and Twitter page @countyofgp.

PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS

All primary and secondary highways are the responsibility of and maintained by Alberta Transportation. If you have questions or concerns about maintenance of these roads please contact Alberta Transportation at **780-538-5310**. For updated highway conditions and reports, please call **5-1-1** or visit **511.alberta.ca**.

TRAIL CLEARING

The County's Parks & Recreation department is responsible for snow removal on County owned trails. For more information visit **www.countygp.ab.ca/trails** or contact Parks & Recreation at **780-532-9727**.



Curbside Waste & Recycling Collection Schedule Changes for the Holiday Season

County residents that normally have their waste carts and blue bagged recyclables collected on Tuesdays and Wednesdays will have their waste collected on the next day between December 25, 2018 and January 3, 2019.

Waste and recyclables will be collected from the curbside in the following subdivisions on Wednesday, December 26 and Wednesday, January 2:

- Wedgewood
- Dunes on 17
- Maple Ridge Estates
- Taylor Estates
- Clairmont north of 108 Avenue.

Waste carts and blue bagged recyclables will be collected from the curb on Thursday, December 27 and Thursday, January 3 in the subdivisions of:

- Carriage Lane
- Clairmont south of 108 Avenue

Curbside collection dates will remain unchanged for the subdivisions of Whispering Ridge and Westlake in Clairmont.

Regular collection days will resume January 4, 2019. If you have any questions, contact Public Works at 780-532-7393.



Recycling and Waste Management Facility Holiday Hours

The County of Grande Prairie wishes to inform County residents that the County landfill/transfer station holiday hours between December 24, 2018 and January 1, 2019 are as follows:

CLAIRMONT CENTRE FOR RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT	WEST GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL LANDFILL	DEMMITT TRANSFER STATION	ELMWORTH TRANSFER STATION	TEEPEE CREEK TRANSFER STATION
OPEN: December 26 – 29 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CLOSED: December 24 – 25 & January 1	OPEN: December 27 – 29 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. CLOSED: December 24 – 26 January 1	OPEN: December 26 & 29 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	OPEN: December 26 & 29 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	OPEN: December 27 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. & December 29 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. CLOSED: December 25 & January 1

Regular hours of operation will resume January 2, 2019.

Recycling and Waste Management Facility Hours

Tear it out and post it where you can refer to it often

CLAIRMONT CENTRE FOR RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT	WEST GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL LANDFILL	DEMMITT TRANSFER STATION	ELMWORTH TRANSFER STATION	TEEPEE CREEK TRANSFER STATION
OPEN: Monday to Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	OPEN: Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	OPEN: Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	OPEN: Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	OPEN: 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 view an interactive map of all the County's waste management and recycling service facilities and to learn more about our various recycling programs. For landfill and transfer station information please call our Landfill Information Line at 780-513-3967.

Wildfire Prevention a Priority for the County

Dramatic images of wildfires burning forests and threatening, and even destroying, communities have become increasingly common over recent years. The County of Grande Prairie has long been aware of the risks associated with wildfire, especially in more heavily-forested populated areas. As early as 2010, we began working closely with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (formerly Sustainable Resource Development) to minimize the fire risk on Crown land within the County's boundaries.

The work that's underway in the County this season is just a portion of many years of work we've undertaken to reduce the risk of wildfires, loss of life and damage to infrastructure to our area.

With local population and development on the rise, the need for a more formal approach to reduce wildfire risk has become even more important. In 2015, the County developed a comprehensive three-prong Wildfire Mitigation Strategy that includes operations, prevention, and intermunicipal cooperation. What makes this approach particularly effective is that it prioritizes governments working together with community stakeholders with the vision of safer communities.

The County's successful approach to wildfire mitigation has drawn national attention. In 2016, FireSmart Canada recognized the County with a national award for going "above and beyond" to include FireSmart planning for local communities within our Wildfire Mitigation Strategy. FireSmart is a national program created to help communities reduce wildfire.

Part of the County's FireSmart work, which is a component of its Wildfire Mitigation Program, targets pine beetle-infested forest in areas near residential and commercial areas. Infected pine trees need to be harvested quickly as, when they die, they act as fuel, increasing the risk of wildfire. Efforts have been focused in areas south, west and east of the City, where community meets forest.

To date, the County has managed over 3,100 hectares of FireSmart projects, which includes thinning, harvesting and creating fire breaks (a strip of cleared land free of trees

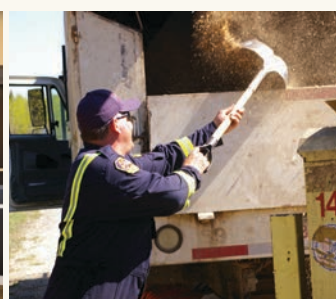
designed to stop or slow the progress of wildfire). Harvested timber is sold to local forestry companies, covering about 80 per cent of the cost of the work. The remaining work is jointly funded by the County and the provincial government as part of the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) Grant Program and in partnership with the Alberta government.

A key component of our work includes programs and events to educate the community, leaders, residents, and landowners about the steps they can take to prevent the risk of wildfires. These opportunities include hosting workshops for community leaders, to better inform their decision-making and planning around reducing wildfire risk. The County Fire Marshal attends trade shows to reach large numbers of people with education on how the public can be proactive in taking steps to protect their homes and communities.

The County also provides education opportunities for local residents on the importance of keeping yards free of debris and understanding the types of building materials that are least flammable. Since 2014, we have visited residents right in their own neighbourhoods, holding free wood waste clean-up events. Bringing a chipper right into rural neighbourhoods makes it much easier for locals to clear wood waste from their yards.

Intermunicipal cooperation is a priority for the County's Regional Fire Service, and collaboration with other municipalities and communities is central to our Wildfire Mitigation Strategy. The County has mutual aid agreements with four municipalities and our surrounding neighbours, including Horse Lake First Nation. Fire departments throughout northwestern Alberta created a mutual aid agreement among all communities with which we do not share a common border so we can call on one another for assistance during emergencies.

For more information about the work the County is doing to reduce the risk of wildfire here in our communities, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/firesmart.



New Hires & Promotions at the County

JOIN US IN WELCOMING DAN LEMIEUX, NEW COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR; DAN VERDUN IN HIS NEW ROLE AS REGIONAL FIRE SERVICE CHIEF; AND DALE WIDSTEN, DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF.



**DAN LEMIEUX
– COMMUNITY
SERVICES
DIRECTOR**

Dan Lemieux commenced his role in August,

replacing Acting Community Services Director Kathleen Turner.

“Dan is a visionary leader with 25 years of senior management experience in municipal government,” said CAO Bill Rogan. “He knows our region, he’s highly-respected and community-minded, and he’ll bring a lot of strategic foresight and expertise to our current initiatives and future plans.”

Lemieux previously served in the role of Director of Emergency Services and Fire Chief at Strathcona County. Prior to that position, Lemieux was employed by the City of Grande Prairie as Fire Chief, a role he served in for nine years. He has held other senior leadership and management positions with the City, including Deputy Fire Chief, Enforcement Services Manager and Public Works Administrator, and was also a Human Resources Consultant for the City. In addition, Lemieux is a contract instructor with Northern Lakes College and holds a number of professional designations.

“I have had an extensive career working in several areas of municipal government,” said Lemieux. “I am really looking forward to this new leadership opportunity and being able to put my experience into practice at the County of Grande Prairie,”

As Director of Community Services, Lemieux is responsible for leadership and daily operations of five County departments, working with the teams from Agriculture, Regional Enforcement Services, Family and Community Support Services, Regional Fire Service, and Parks and Recreation.



**DAN VERDUN
– REGIONAL
FIRE SERVICE
CHIEF**

Dan Verdun, formerly Deputy Fire Chief for the

Regional Fire Service, began his role as Fire Chief earlier this summer.

“Dan has been with the County since the expansion of the Regional Fire Service in 2010 and brings a wealth of experience to the position,” said CAO Bill Rogan. “Dan is dedicated to his team and to the County and has demonstrated his commitment to continually improving our Regional Fire Service.”

Prior to joining the County, Verdun was with Union Bay Fire Rescue on Vancouver Island, most recently as Fire Chief. Overall, Verdun has 23 years of experience in fire service.

Verdun is an active member of the International, Canadian, Albertan and Peace Region Fire Chiefs Associations. He has also been recognized for his years of dedicated work in the industry, including an Exemplary Service Medal for 20 years of service and a Provincial Service Award in recognition of his service to Fort McMurray.

“I am proud of what our Regional Fire Service has accomplished and am excited to continue my career with the County of Grande Prairie in this new role,” said Verdun. “We will continue to work collaboratively with our partners and with the support of County Council to provide the best service possible to our residents.”



**DALE WIDSTEN
– DISTRICT FIRE
CHIEF**

Dale Widsten began his role in the newly created District

Fire Chief position in August, a role which manages the Sexsmith Fire Department administration and operations; and provides support to the Bezanson, La Glace and Teepee Creek fire stations. In addition, Widsten works cooperatively with the County Regional Fire Service to assist with planning, training and operations.

“As regional demand grows and service levels expand, this role will provide the necessary support and leadership to address this growth,” said CAO Bill Rogan. “This new position builds on the County’s existing administration contract and partnership with Sexsmith in which we provide high level administration for their fire department.”

Sexsmith CAO Rachel Wueschner added, “Dale’s leadership qualities, community mindedness and commitment to fire services will be very instrumental in bringing this hall to a higher level of service, benefiting both Sexsmith and County residents.”

“I look forward to being part of this progressive organization,” said Dale Widsten. “It’s a great opportunity to be able to bring my firefighting and administrative background to this new role to help shape the development of the fire departments I oversee.”

Widsten previously served as Fire Chief of the Charlie Lake Fire Department, which is located near Fort St. John, British Columbia. He is a member of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Society of Fire Service Instructors; and a former member of the Fire Chiefs’ Association of British Columbia, and the British Columbia Fire Training Officers Association.

County Celebrates New Firefighter Grads



County of Grande Prairie Deputy Reeve Ross Sutherland bringing greetings on behalf of Council.



The County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Service firefighter graduates.



The four Chiefs Coin recipients with the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief. From left to right: Fire Chief Dan Verdun, Firefighter Candace Green (recipient), Fire Captain Jason Nesbitt (recipient), Lieutenant Marc Leger (recipient), Fire Captain Harold Bulford (recipient), and Deputy Fire Chief Bart Johnson.

The ranks of certified firefighters in the County increased as the County of Grande Prairie, along with the Town of Sexsmith, recognized eight firefighters for their completion of the County's firefighter training program at the 2018 County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Service graduation ceremony held at Evergreen Park's Clarkson Hall on October 12.

The latest group of graduates included candidates from the Bezanson, La Glace and Teepee Creek fire stations. Each year, prospective candidates from the five County fire stations receive the necessary training to become firefighters. As part of a collaborative agreement operating between the Town of Sexsmith and the County, candidates from the Sexsmith Fire Department also participated in the training and were honoured at the ceremony.

"All of our personnel train to the internationally recognized NFPA 1001 Professional Firefighter Standard," said Regional Fire Service Chief Verdun. "It speaks to the dedication of our paid responders to complete this extensive training program all in the service to their communities."

A number of dignitaries, including Deputy Reeve Ross Sutherland, joined over 150 family members and friends to congratulate the graduates.

"Our firefighters play an integral role in the safety of our residents and business owners throughout the County," said Deputy Reeve Sutherland. "As the County's population grows and development is on the rise, quick response times and having highly trained, qualified responders are critical to the well-being and safety of our communities."

A number of awards were handed out throughout the evening. Captain Harold Bulford from the Bezanson Fire Station, and Captain Jason Nesbitt, firefighter Candace Green, and Lieutenant Marc Leger that work from the Clairmont Fire Station, received Chief Coins, an award recognizing fire service members for exceptional service above and beyond the scope of daily job responsibilities; recipients are selected through the recommendations of fire service peers, supervisors and Chiefs.

Grande Prairie-Wapiti MLA Wayne Drysdale presented the provincial Alberta Emergency Services Medal (AESM) for long-term service to three members: Captain Nesbitt, as well as firefighter Green and Lieutenant Leger.

Firefighter Tony Huether of the Teepee Creek Fire Station, who was unable to attend the event, was honoured with a 25-year service award. An additional two members received 15-year service awards (Bezanson firefighter Gordon Ford and Captain Bulford, Bezanson Station Captain), 21 members received five-year service awards, and three received 10-year service awards.

Rural Homelessness Estimation Project – What is it all about?

WHAT DOES HOMELESSNESS LOOK LIKE IN OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES?

That's the question that the County set out to answer through the Rural Homelessness Estimation Project. The County's Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) department led the project in partnership with the towns of Beaverlodge, Wembley and Sexsmith and the Village of Hythe.



"The purpose of the project is to establish who within our rural areas, are homeless or are living at risk of homelessness," said Lisa Watson, FCSS Child, Youth, Family and Community Team Lead.

Phase One of the project, the estimation or official "count", took place from September 17 to October 17. The municipalities worked with local agencies that provide social services to count the number of people who are accessing these services, facing homelessness and living in one of the participating communities.

There were four categories of living situations that were counted in the estimation:

- Unsheltered individuals who are living entirely on the streets
- People living in emergency shelters like Odyssey House Women's Shelter or Rotary House
- People who are temporarily accommodated. For example, people who are couch surfing for an extended period, living in temporary housing or in their vehicle
- Individuals or families who are not homeless but are in financial situations that put them at risk of becoming homeless or losing their house

County FCSS is working to tabulate the data and create a final report, which will be presented to the project task force that is made up of representatives from the partnering municipalities. Once finalized, the report will be presented to County Council in December 2018.

The project was made possible by a \$5,000 grant from the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) Program and the Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN).

To learn more about the project visit www.countygp.ab.ca/ruralhomelessness.

Donate and Volunteer for Your Local Foodbank in Clairmont



The Wellington Resource Centre in Clairmont is a drop-off location for the Sexsmith and Area Food Bank. The County partners with the non-profit organization, based in Sexsmith, to provide foodbank services to meet the growing and changing needs of our residents.

We need your help! The Clairmont location of the Sexsmith and Area Food Bank depends on local community groups, teams, clubs and other residents to volunteer their time and donate non-perishable food items for their neighbours.

DONATIONS NEEDED

The Clairmont location of the Sexsmith and Area Food Bank accepts non-perishable, non-damaged food items as well as pet food. Some examples of nutritional non-perishable items for donation include school snacks, dried lentils, beans and rice, powdered milk, canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, whole grain cereal like oatmeal and more. Donations can be dropped off at the Wellington Resource Centre in Clairmont Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays) from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

We depend on volunteers to lend their hands to pick up and sort through donations, bring them to drop-off locations, and more. Whether you can volunteer once, a few times or you would like to become a regular volunteer, we would love your help.

Food drives are a great way for clubs, teams and local businesses to give back. To drop-off a large donation to the Clairmont location of the Sexsmith and Area Food Bank, contact the Wellington Resource Centre.

HOW TO ACCESS THE FOOD BANK

County residents in need of food items can contact the Wellington Resource Centre by calling 780-567-2843 or via email at wrc@countygpa.ab.ca.



Nine Energy Services



Northstar Sharp's Foundation Specialists

Commercial and Industrial Businesses in the County “Growing” Great Community

Nine Energy Service earned the Best Landscaped Lot award and Northstar Sharp's Foundation Specialists secured the People's Choice award in the County of Grande Prairie's 2018 Landscape Recognition Program.

Eight County-based businesses were nominated this year. Companies were judged on a number of factors, including their use of landscaping design principles from the County's Land Use Bylaw; year-round maintenance; effective use of trees, shrubs and perennials; and use of native vegetation.

County judges awarded Nine Energy Service of Clairmont top marks for landscaping design and overall appearance.

“It's nice to be recognized for our efforts,” said Nine Energy Service District Manager Mitch Bacon. “We take pride in how we present our business as it shows we care about our customers and our community.”

For the first time, this year the County invited the public to select their fan favourite after viewing the nominee businesses picturesque properties through a video on Facebook, then casting their vote. Northstar Sharp's Foundation Specialists, also out of Clairmont, earned this prize.

Bill Pfeifer, Manager of Strategic Initiatives for Northstar Sharp's Foundation Specialists said they feel very proud when they receive compliments from the public about their business property.

“The time and care we take on our outdoor spaces are representative of the work we're doing in all areas of our business,” said Pfeifer.

Both Pfeifer and Bacon were quick to speak about how their well-maintained lots is a direct reflection of their business and their people.

“Our company and our employees are proud of what we do, and I think the first impression we give people really speaks to that,” said Pfeifer. He added that they use their outdoor space to host BBQs and employee appreciation events.

Bacon reiterated a similar message during his conversation with County staff: “That first presentation when people drive up sends a strong message about our company values and our support for community.”

The County's Planning and Development Services department hosts the competition as a way to encourage commercial and industrial businesses to think not only about creating an attractive space in industrial/commercial areas, but to do so with the environment in mind. Director Nick Lapp feels the competition is also important because it is a way for the County to publicly recognize those businesses that make the extra effort with their outdoor space.

“Well-maintained outdoor areas are very inviting and really speak volumes about a business and a community,” said Lapp. He went on to explain how well-planned, well-maintained and sustainable landscaping creates a positive ripple-effect across the entire community.

“Effective use of sustainable landscaping materials not only has the potential to increase the value of a property and reduce overall business costs, but sends a message to customers and potential new businesses that we're a community that is both welcoming and well-looked after,” added Lapp.

This year's contest winners walked away with plenty of prizes, including free advertising and promotion.

Check out this year's eight nominees, go online for a “tour” and see the winning landscapes, and learn more about the Program – all just a click of a mouse away at www.countygp.ab.ca/bestlandscaping. Of course, make sure you stop by these businesses and congratulate them.

Eight Nominees Recognized in Friendly Landscape Competition

This year's County of Grande Prairie Landscaping Recognition Program saw eight businesses recognized for their commitment to the environment and for “shaping and pruning” a more beautiful neighbourhood. Congratulations to our two winners and to all eight nominees!

NOMINEES:

- Nine Energy Service
- Northstar Sharp's Foundation Specialists
- Decca Industries Ltd.
- Finning Canada
- Fountain Tire
- McClelland Oilfield Rentals Ltd.
- STEP Energy Services
- TAHK Projects Ltd.

Grande Prairie Regional Animal Care Facility Continues Interim Animal Care Services



In June 2016, the Grande Prairie & District SPCA (GPSPCA) revealed it was shutting its doors due to financial instability. As a result of this closure, the County and City of Grande Prairie created the Grande Prairie Regional Animal Care Facility (GPRACF) to temporarily deliver an animal care plan that guaranteed the continuation of humane animal shelter, care, and adoptions for the region.

Since the GPSPCA's closure and dissolution, the County and City of Grande Prairie have continued to deliver temporary animal care services for the region until a permanent solution can be put into place.



Pound Services – The Pound provides temporary holding of animals that are lost or stray, picked up by animal control, or are the subject of an investigation because of a bite or a necessary quarantine. The main goal of the Pound is to return animals to their owners.

Animal Shelter Services – Surrendered animals go up for adoption following a health assessment, deworming, microchipping and any necessary vaccinations.

Adoption Services – Approximately 1,000 animals will be adopted in the Grande Prairie region this year! All animals available for adoption are checked by a veterinarian, dewormed, microchipped and given a first set of vaccinations.



In an effort to keep reducing the unwanted pet population in the region, the County provides all adopted animals with a 50 per cent off voucher for spaying or neutering services.

Adoption Rates – At the Grande Prairie Regional Animal Care Facility, animal adoption fees are affordable!



A few of the newly adopted animals with their new families.

NEW ADOPTION RATES

Puppies (0-1 year old*)	\$200
Adult Dogs (1-6 years old*)	\$175
Senior Dogs (7+ years*)	\$100
Kittens (0-1 year old*)	\$90
Adult Cats (1-6 years*)	\$80
Senior Cats (7+*)	\$50
Rabbits	\$30

*Ages are in human years.

Please "Like" and visit our Facebook page regularly at www.facebook.com/gpracf to view the animals up for adoption today!

View the Enforcement Services contact section to the right for the Grande Prairie Regional Animal Care Facility's hours of operation and contact information.

County Makes Recreation More Accessible Through Recreation Fee Assistance Program

The County is working to ensure all residents have access to recreation opportunities through the Recreation Fee Assistance (RFA) Program.

The RFA program helps qualifying low-income individuals and families living in the County of Grande Prairie to access recreation facilities. Residents can apply to the program to access a ten-punch pass to the Crosslink County Sportsplex, Beaverlodge Recreation Centre or the Eastlink Centre.

“Access to recreation is important for every individual’s health and overall well-being. Our goal is to provide opportunities to individuals who typically could not afford to access these recreational facilities.”

— Lisa Watson, FCSS Child, Youth, Family and Community Team Lead

Applicants must be 18 years old, reside in the County and meet all criteria of the program.

For more information about the RFA Program, and to apply, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/rfa or call FCSS at 780-532-9727.

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



How to reach County Regional Enforcement Services

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

Phone: 780-532-9727

Email: enforcementservices@countygp.ab.ca

Online: www.countygp.ab.ca/occurrencereport

In person: Community Services Building. Open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. and on statutory holidays

Occurrence Reporting form: Pick up a pamphlet at any local municipal office, complete and submit it.

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

In Person: Brochu Industrial Park, 12220 – 104 Avenue, Grande Prairie.

Open Monday to Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Closed between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. and on statutory holidays.

How to Report a Drug House

Phone: 780-830-5889

Online: www.countygp.ab.ca/drughouse

Report a drug house form: Pick up a pamphlet at any local municipal office, complete and submit

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



countygp.ab.ca

Nominate a Farm Family

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 2019 Farm Family Award.

The winning Farm Family will be honoured at the Peace Country Classic Agri-Show during the Annual Banquet event.

Nomination packages are available online at www.countygp.ab.ca/farmfamily or can be picked up at the County Community Services Building located at 10808 – 100 Ave., Clairmont (1.5 km west from 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).

The deadline to submit nominations is 2 p.m. on December 14.

RETURN COMPLETED NOMINATION FORMS BY:

Fax: 780-567-5589
Attention: Sonja Raven
Agricultural Service Board

Direct mail:
Sonja Raven
County of Grande Prairie
Agricultural Service Board
10001 – 84 Avenue
Clairmont, AB, T8X 5B2

In person:
County Community Services Building
Located at 10808 – 100 Ave, Clairmont
(1.5 km west off Highway 2 on Township Road 724)

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SLETTE FAMILY!

The 2018 Farm Family Recipients, the Slette Family, were awarded with a BMO Farm Family Award on November 10 in Edmonton. Congratulations to the Slette's for receiving even more recognition for their farming family values and community involvement.



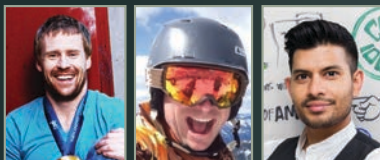
2018 Farm Family Award Recipient – The Slettes

10th ANNUAL



GROWING THE NORTH

CONFERENCE



Speakers for this year's Growing the North Conference include Jay Baer, Jim Barr and Shawn Kanungo.

Registration is now open for the 10th annual Growing the North Conference, taking place February 20 and 21, 2019 at Evergreen Park.

The conference helps municipal leaders and entrepreneurs examine innovation and explore economic development opportunities in the Peace Region of Northwest Alberta and Northeast BC. Attendees will listen to a wide range of professional speakers who provide expert insight into the industries that are vital to our area and economic diversity. There are many networking opportunities to build and renew relationships with fellow delegates.

This year's speakers include host of Amazing Race Canada and Olympic gold medalist in skeleton, Jon Montgomery; CEO of the multi-media production company Seekers Media, Jim Barr; internationally recognized innovation strategist, Shawn Kanungo; and more!

Growing the North is a partnership between the County of Grande Prairie, City of Grande Prairie, Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce, MD of Greenview, Community Futures Grande Prairie Region, Farm Credit Canada, Grande Prairie Regional Innovation Network and the Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association.

Registration is \$ 299.00 plus GST.

Visit www.growingthenorth.com to stay up to date on scheduling, speaker lineups, 2019 sponsors, and networking opportunities.

To register visit the website or contact Janice at the Grande Prairie and District Chamber of Commerce via email at janice@gpchamber.com. For details on sponsorship opportunities contact Cindy at the Grande Prairie and District Chamber of Commerce via email at cindy@gpchamber.com or call 780-532-5340.

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The 100 Years of Farming Award recognizes these contributions and celebrates the descendants of these pioneers. The award has two categories: The Heritage Homestead Award, available to families who still own or reside on their original homestead from a century ago; and the Pioneer Farming Family Award, which recognizes families who have lived and farmed in the County for over 100 years.



Photographed above are the most recent award recipients being presented with their gate signs. Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Chair Corey Beck and Councillor Karen Rosvold presented the Norman Family with their Heritage Homestead gate sign; and Deputy Reeve Ross Sutherland and ASB Chair Beck presented the Van Schaik Family with their Pioneer Farm gate sign. The gate sign is an original design by local artist Dominic Valine, and produced locally in Sexsmith by PG Tech Manufacturing.

Apply for a 100 Years of Farming Award and get more details at www.countygp.ab.ca/farmfamily or by calling the Agriculture department at 780-532-9727.

The Mega Awesome Camps were held for County youth during the holiday season and spring break. These camps broke up time off from school and gave youth an opportunity to meet new people, try new activities, learn new skills and have some fun!

The Mega Awesome New Year Adventure Camp took place in January 2018. A total of 26 youth ages 10 to 14 engaged in various activities, including lacrosse, dance, wilderness survival skills, self-esteem building activities and baking. At the Mega Awesome Spring Fling Camp, youth participated in soapstone carving, painting and took part in self-esteem building activities.

These camps were highly successful and will return this year by popular demand!

JOIN US FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL MEGA AWESOME CAMPS!

Free to attend and open to youth ages 10-14!

Mega Awesome New Year Adventure Camp

- January 3 - 4, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Wellington Resource Centre & the Clairmont Community School Gym
- Limit of 30 youth so sign up early!

Mega Awesome Spring Fling Camp

- March 27, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Wellington Resource Centre & the Clairmont Community School Gym
- Limit of 15 youth so register early!

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



Get Outdoors This Winter



Whatever this winter throws at us, County folk are a hardy bunch! This year, don't hibernate – embrace the outdoors and make a point of enjoying the Alberta sunshine regardless of the temperature. Keep an eye on

our website and social media channels for updates on winter programming including family-friendly activities like snowshoeing, winter picnics, and photography.

Stay tuned to
www.countygpp.ab.ca/recreationprograms
for upcoming events.

Got Ice? We Can Help!



DID YOU KNOW THAT THE COUNTY HAS A SEASONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD ICE SURFACE PROGRAM?

Communities with greenspace that is owned and managed by the County of Grande Prairie (also known as Municipal Reserve greenspace), are encouraged to create a temporary neighbourhood ice surface for families to enjoy this winter! The program requires an informal volunteer group of four people per neighbourhood to host the project. The Parks & Recreation department will conduct a pre-inspection of the site and once the application and pre-inspection are approved the group is responsible for building, flooding and maintaining the ice surface for the winter.

Volunteer groups can apply for up to \$1,000 for their ice surface to help with the costs of purchasing of boards or having water trucked in if a hydrant is not present on site. Note: high boards and competitive hockey play are not permitted under this program.

To learn more about the program and for details on how to apply visit www.countygpp.ab.ca/icesurfaces or contact the Parks and Recreation department at 780-532-9727.

County Parks and Trails Open Over the Winter

Get outdoors and discover all the amazing parks in the County, including the Hommy, Pipestone, Bear Lake, and Kleskun areas. These parks are open for use during daylight hours throughout the winter and are the perfect venue for snowshoeing, nature hikes, cross country skiing, dog walking (on a leash) and campfires!

During the parks' hours of operation, the public will have free use of the picnic tables, fire pits, firewood, bathrooms, trails and natural areas.

The County also maintains the paved trail system that runs through the Dunes during the winter months. You can easily 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. Please note that under County Bylaw 3061, dogs must be kept on leash in this area, and owners are responsible for pet waste removal.

Vehicles and motorized equipment, overnight parking or camping, and chopping down of trees are not permitted in these areas.

For information about the County's parks, including locations and directions visit www.countygpp.ab.ca/parks.

Next Steps for the Wapiti Recreation Area Plan



At the County's Recreation Advisory Committee earlier this fall, Council was presented with a detailed design plan developed by consultants ISL Engineering, along with the estimated investment for Phase One of the proposed Wapiti Recreation Area.

The Wapiti Recreation Area will be a natural outdoor space that provides an opportunity for people from around the area to take part in low-impact recreation activities while enjoying the remediated habitat and ecosystems. Over the past 50 years the land was used to extract gravel for industry. Now that one of the gravel pits have been depleted, the County is working to rejuvenate the area to create a recreation space for all to enjoy. The 130 hectares will be developed in two phases.

Three development areas were identified for Phase One:

- Day use area on the west side of the park
- Dog park and toboggan hill
- Performance area including an outdoor amphitheatre and classroom, as well as a day use area on the east side of the park

Construction in Phase One is expected to commence in 2020 once the active gravel pit to the east has been exhausted, and gravel truck traffic is reduced significantly. Phase Two will include a separate public consultation and planning process, which will take place in about five years.

Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/wapitirecplan to take a look at the proposed design plan and for more information about the project.

We want feedback on the proposed design plan! Public input on this community space is important to us. Contact the project lead Megan Schur at 780-532-9727 or email mschur@countygp.ab.ca to share your thoughts and feedback.



Apply for the Dust Control Program Starting on January 2nd!

Does the road in front of your residence, rural subdivision, or business require dust control? The County has a program for that! In order to have dust suppressants applied to your gravel road, you must apply.

Starting on January 2, 2019, interested candidates will be able to 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. Interested candidates have until April 30, 2019 to apply.

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.



Recycling at Events Made Easy

Are you hosting a holiday event or winter BBQ? The County's here to help make recycling a breeze.

The County's Recycling Trailer is available to book for community events and functions throughout the year, completely free of charge! The trailer allows your guests to recycle their cardboard, paper, bottles, cans, plastic and tin items on site. When you book the trailer, we will deliver it to you beforehand and pick it up when you are done.

This year the recycling trailer made its way to many community events including the annual County Annual Open Houses, Grande Prairie Pow Wow, Public Works Day in Bezanson, the 2018 Alberta Summer Games and Bear Creek Folk Festival.

Take advantage of the County's Recycling Trailer and feel good knowing that you're helping to protect the environment!

To book the trailer, contact the Public Works department at 780-532-7393.



Landfill Access Tags

The Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management has a Landfill Access Tag Program that makes visiting the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management simple and easy. Non-County residents and commercial waste haulers pay a tipping fee to use the facility, but for County residents it's completely free!



In order to drop your items off at the Centre for free, residents must present their landfill access tag to the attendant every time they visit the site. Residents who do not have their landfill access tag will be charged \$10 or more depending on the weight of the items they're dropping off to use the site.

HOW DO I GET A LANDFILL ACCESS TAG?

1. Visit the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management or visit www.countygp.ab.ca/landfillaccess to obtain and fill out an application form.
2. Submit the completed form in person to the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management. We must have your proof of residency, so bring photo ID along with a current utility bill, tax notice or another document that includes your name and legal land description in the County.
3. Once the form is submitted and you're confirmed as a County resident, landfill staff will issue you a Landfill Access Tag.

The first Landfill Access Tag per household is free! Additional or replacement tags are \$5.

For more information visit www.countygp.ab.ca/landfillaccess or contact the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management at clandfill@countygp.ab.ca or 780-567-4194.



Cardboard Campaign

Watch out for the "Cardboard Crusaders" at the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management this winter!

Cardboard is a valuable resource, which is found all too often in the landfill. Did you know that one tonne of recycled paper and cardboard products can save 17 trees, 1,440 litres of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4,000 kilowatts of energy and 26,500 litres of water? Our landfill attendants, also known as "Cardboard Crusaders", are always on site to help you navigate the facility and to guide your cardboard to the recycling bin; not to the landfill.

What Can I Recycle and Where?

Take a look at this handy guide that will help plan your next trip to the local recycle and waste management facility.

	CLAIRMONT CENTRE FOR RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT	WEST GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL LANDFILL	DEMMITT TRANSFER STATION	TEEPEE CREEK TRANSFER STATION	ELMWORTH TRANSFER STATION
Electronics & Appliances	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Propane Tanks (Under 100lb)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Refundable Bottles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cardboard & Boxboard	✓	✓			
Vehicle Batteries	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fluorescent Bulbs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pesticide Jugs	✓	✓		✓	✓
Tires	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Metal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clothing	✓				
Agricultural Plastics	✓	✓			
Rechargeable Batteries	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Paper, cardboard, tin & glass	✓	✓			
Drop n Swap program	✓			✓	
Concrete	✓	✓			
Used Oil	✓		✓	✓	✓
Household Hazardous Waste & Paint	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Tear it out and post it where you can refer to it often.

There are also 14 recycling bins that accept paper, cardboard, tin and glass located throughout the County. Recycling some of your household waste means you can feel good about protecting our environment, reducing waste in our landfills and helping to reduce air and water pollution.

For more information about recycling and waste management visit www.countygrip.ab.ca/recycleprograms.

The Crosslink County Sportsplex has a program for everyone!

780-830-7407 | info@cgpsportsplex.com | www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

U4, U6, U8 & U11 Indoor Soccer Fun Leagues

Register your children for these fun-filled Saturday leagues! Information will be posted on www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com, in mid-February, 2019. Registration includes a t-shirt and a season-ending medal. Parents who coach or assistant coach will receive a \$30 refund at the end of the season.

Santa Skate & Play

Santa Claus Is Coming To Town! Join Santa in the Trican Fieldhouse and on the ice in Overland Transport Rink on December 9, 2018. Santa will be available to play games with the kids in the Fieldhouse from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and to skate with everyone from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Join Santa, Sparky and our County Firefighters for some hot chocolate and candy canes! Admission is by donation of a non-perishable food item or cash.

Learn to Skate

This introductory program for skaters aged 3–12 years old places an emphasis on fun in a structured class environment! Skaters of all abilities will learn new skills and improve their overall skating. The first session of 2019 will run from January 7 to February 14, 2019 and following sessions will continue running six week sessions until March 2019. Register your child at www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com.

Catch a County of Grande Prairie JDA Kings Game

The County of Grande Prairie JDA Kings joined the North West Junior Hockey League (NWJHL) when the league began operations in 1994. The County of Grande Prairie JDA Kings home ice is on the Overland Transport Rink. Come cheer on your local Junior B hockey team at one of their upcoming games. Visit www.grandeprairiejdakings.com for game times and to find out how to become a "King".

Winter Break Kids Camp

Let your kids join us for our Winter Break Kid's Camp, taking place on January 2-4, 2019! Kids will stay healthy and active while having fun. Activities include indoor play in the Trican Fieldhouse; crafts, activities, and games; as well as making new friends. Early drop-off and late-pick up is available.

Introduction to Hockey

Designed for aspiring young hockey players, this program focuses on the fundamental skills of hockey. To sign up, participants should already be able to skate forward, fall down and get up without assistance. Sessions run from Jan 9 to Feb 27, 2019 on Wednesday's from 3:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Full hockey equipment is required. Sign up for this session at www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com.

Hockey 101

Hockey 101 focuses on the fundamentals of the sport and is designed for players from the ages of 5 to 8 years old, who are new to the game of hockey as well as first year house league players. This program improves overall skills by teaching proper technique in power skating, puck control, passing and receiving. Sessions run Saturday mornings from 8:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. through January and February, 2019.





Seniors Walk & Talk

Seniors are invited to take a walk, jog or run around the Happy Trails indoor track. This free event runs on Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. until May 30, 2019. Enjoy free track admission, hot coffee, and meet and greet with other seniors. All other drop-in dates and times require a \$3 drop-in fee, or you can purchase a 10 punch pass for \$30.

Book Your Next Party or Event at the Sportsplex!

The Sportsplex is the place to be for your next party or event! Book the ice rink, fieldhouse, meeting room, KnockerBalls or bouncy castles! You can leave the catering to us – choose from a wide variety of food and drinks from the Over-Time Family Sports Lounge or Tito's Concession. Contact the Sportsplex for more information about party costs and packages, to view menus, and to secure your booking. For more information about the Sportsplex and the programs and events available, visit www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com or contact 780-830-7407 or info@cgpsportsplex.com.

GET FIT WHILE HAVING FUN!

Sign up or drop in today for one of these exciting programs offered at the Sportsplex:

- Introduction to Hockey & Hockey 101 programs
- Stick and Puck
- Fieldhouse Activities
- Adult Shinny and Stick and Puck
- Lunch Time Stick and Puck
- Tender Tots
- Bouncy Castle Days
- Seniors Walk and Talk
- Aerial Yoga
- KnockerBalls
- 13 and Under Stick & Puck and Shinny
- Lacrosse
- U4, U6, U8 and U11 Soccer League
- Learn to Skate
- Indoor Batting Cage
- Adult Non-Contact Hockey League and Industrial League. Register your team for the next season!
- Fung Loy Kok Taoist Tai Chi

For more information about these programs and drop-in activities, including class descriptions, times and locations, visit www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com.



countygpa.ab.ca

Decking the Halls? Be Aware of the Dangers



As we prepare for the holiday season ahead, it's a good time to think about some simple things you can do to make your home fire smart for the season – particularly when it comes to care of a natural Christmas tree. A small fire that starts in the tree can grow very quickly.

IMPORTANT TIPS:

- When choosing your tree, check the needles. If they fall off, the tree is too dry. Once you get your tree home, its placement can help keep it fresh. Cutting two inches from the base of the trunk prior to placing it in the stand will also help.
- Position the tree no closer than three feet away from any heat source, such as a fireplace, heat vent, or light. Heat sources that are too close to trees are the cause of one in every five tree fires. Of course, make sure it is not blocking any doorways for safe evacuation in the event of a fire or other emergency. Don't forget to add water regularly!
- Each year, check your lights and make sure they are in good working order. Some lights are designated for indoor or outdoor use only. Before shutting your eyes at night, remember to shut off the lights on the tree.
- Once the season is over, bring your outdoor electrical lights inside to prevent hazards. Do not store your tree in a garage. The County offers recycling for Christmas trees at our Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management and the West Grande Prairie Regional Landfill.

Cardboard Recycling Tips for the Holidays

The holidays are right around the corner. Here are some handy tips on recycling cardboard this season for when you're swimming in boxes and packages!

FLATTEN YOUR CARDBOARD BEFORE YOU RECYCLE IT

Whether you have curbside pickup or you're bringing your recyclables to the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management, one of our 14 recycling bin locations, or one of the many other recycling facilities in the County, flattening your cardboard saves space in our bins, and makes it easier on you and the collectors.

CARDBOARD ONLY, PLEASE!

Just one piece of Styrofoam, plastic and other materials that aren't cardboard can contaminate an entire load of cardboard recycling! Make sure to remove these items

from your cardboard boxes before they hit the recycling bin or curbside.

OTHER HOLIDAY TIPS

- Recycle old Christmas lights, extension cords and other electronics at the Clairmont Centre for Recycling & Waste Management, West Grande Prairie Regional Landfill or at the Demmitt, Teepee Creek, and Elmworth transfer stations
- Christmas trees can be dropped off at the Clairmont Centre for Recycling & Waste Management, West Grande Prairie Regional Landfill or at the Demmitt, Teepee Creek, and Elmworth Transfer Stations



Planning to Celebrate the Holiday Season with a Bang?



As the holiday season approaches, the County would like to remind residents that a permit is required before celebrating any occasion with fireworks.

Permits are free but applications must be made in person at the County Community Services Building. There is a \$100 annual fee for businesses to sell and stock fireworks.

For more information, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/firepermits or call 780-532-9727.

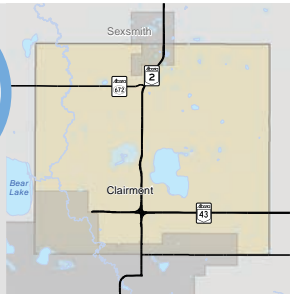
County Divisions & Area Councillors Contact Information

Find out what division you live or do business in, what Councillor represents you based on your location, how to reach your Councillor, and which boards and committees they serve on at www.countygp.ab.ca/committees.



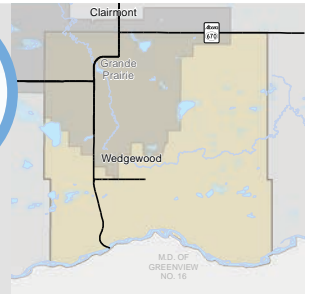
DIVISION 1 COUNCILLOR:
HAROLD BULFORD

780-876-9009
hbulford@countygp.ab.ca



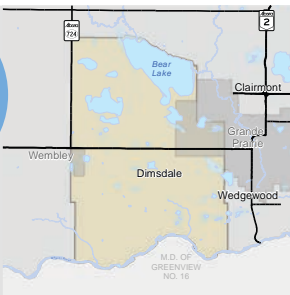
DIVISION 2 COUNCILLOR:
DARYL BEESTON

780-933-3464
dbeeston@countygp.ab.ca



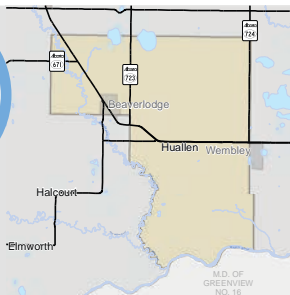
DIVISION 3 COUNCILLOR AND REEVE: LEANNE BEAUPRE

780-814-3121
lbeaupre@countygp.ab.ca



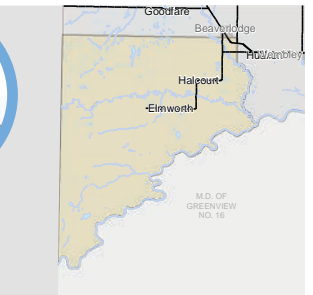
DIVISION 4 COUNCILLOR AND DEPUTY REEVE:
ROSS SUTHERLAND

780-512-5385
rsutherland@countygp.ab.ca



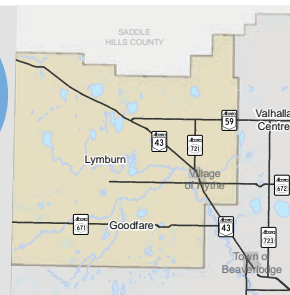
DIVISION 5 COUNCILLOR:
BOB MARSHALL

780-933-2053
bmarshall@countygp.ab.ca



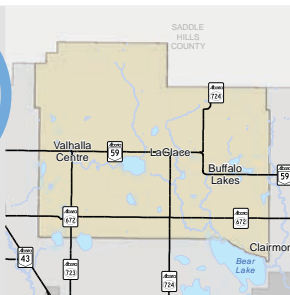
DIVISION 6 COUNCILLOR:
PETER HARRIS

780-933-3074
pharris@countygp.ab.ca



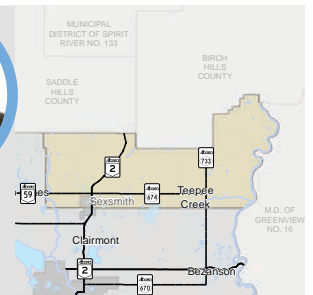
DIVISION 7 COUNCILLOR:
LINDA WADDY

780-897-5609
lwaddy@countygp.ab.ca



DIVISION 8 COUNCILLOR:
KAREN ROSVOLD

780-831-0902
krosvold@countygp.ab.ca



DIVISION 9 COUNCILLOR:
COREY BECK

780-831-6394
cbeck@countygp.ab.ca



countygp.ab.ca



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

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

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

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Services Director
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Dan Lemieux

Community
Services Director
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Dale Van Volkingburgh

Public Works Director
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Dawn Sauvé

Corporate Services Director
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COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION

EMAIL:

info@countyp.ab.ca

ADDRESS:

10001 – 84 Avenue
Clairmont, AB T8X 5B2

WEBSITE:

www.countyp.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,
Economic Development, Finance
& Systems, Communications, Human
Resources, Public Works, Planning &
Development Services

780-532-9722

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDINGS

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

780-532-9727



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The County of Grande Prairie No.1
10001 – 84 Avenue, Clairmont, AB T8X 5B2

