

# COUNTY CONNECTIONS



## SPRING 2024



County of  
Grande Prairie No. 1

- |                              |                               |                                 |                                   |
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## REEVE'S MESSAGE



As spring gets fully underway, our thoughts naturally return to last spring and the wildfire challenges we experienced both locally and across the province. With the province's declaration of an early start to wildfire season this year, please take the time to be prepared. Everything you do also helps your friends and neighbours.

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

All residents and property owners can do their part in advance of emergency situations. We invite you to download the FireSmart™ Home Assessment app or schedule an in-person assessment with our Regional Fire Services team. Find information about our Livestock Emergency Response Plan and other programs at [www.countygp.ab.ca](http://www.countygp.ab.ca) to ensure you, your family, and our community are ready. Learn more about Emergency Preparedness on page 10.

### BUDGET

Spring also brings final budget numbers. Council approved the 2024 budget with a 2.9 per cent municipal tax rate increase that aligns with public feedback which identified fire services and road conditions as two important areas of focus in recent and past Citizen Satisfaction Surveys. The approved budget includes funds to enhance the County's fire response through additional firefighters and dedicated prevention officers, along with funds to install television service at the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital and investments in home support to help meet increased need. Read more about the budget starting on page 2.

The Wapiti Bridge Trail Connector surfacing project has been approved for construction. The \$1 million project will feature a four-kilometre asphalt trail from the Wapiti Bridge to the Dunes paved trail network on Township Road 704A.

The County of Grande Prairie provided land for the replacement Harry Balfour School, in addition to a \$50,000 capital grant to the school's Participarent Association to help build Phase 2 of the playground. The building is on schedule to open this fall for the 2024-2025 school year. Read more about capital grants on page 13.

Council approved \$504,400 to connect Five Mile Hall to municipal water and sewer services to ensure it is operating at full capacity prior to the opening of nearby Harry Balfour School.

### CRIME PREVENTION

The County's Crime Prevention Committee is working on strategies to reduce rural crime and to engage and inform residents. Council approved the committee's Annual Work Plan which includes rural crime watch committees, expanded virtual meeting options, and the pursuit of grants or other options to fund a Crime Prevention Coordinator position. Read more on page 21 and stay tuned to [www.countygp.ab.ca](http://www.countygp.ab.ca) for opportunities to engage with the Committee.

### ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

Using data from the municipal census, we'll be looking at demographic changes and population distribution within the County. The full electoral boundary review process, triggered by the dissolution of the Village of Hythe and mandated by the Provincial government, must be completed before our next election in 2025. See page 8 for more information and how to share your input.

### LAND USE ENGAGEMENTS

We require your input to make sure the County is growing in ways that meet the needs of our community. This spring, Plan Your County activities start up again, giving residents opportunities to help shape the plans, strategies, and other documents that guide growth in the County and with neighbouring communities. Read more on page 9.

## QUALITY OF LIFE

The recent Citizen Satisfaction Survey showed 96 per cent of County residents report good quality of life. Part of quality of life in our community is the amazing volunteers we continue to celebrate through the 'It Takes a Volunteer' program featured on page 18.

The same survey found over 70 per cent of residents believe the County has been successful in economic development and effective transportation networks, areas that have been a specific focus of Council's advocacy efforts. Additional priorities, recent successes, and updates to Council's ongoing advocacy are available at [www.countygp.ab.ca/advocacy](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/advocacy).

County residents gave top marks in satisfaction to Fire Services (82 per cent). With additional programs, mitigations, and resources approved by Council this year, fire services will be

ready when we need them. You should be ready, too! Sign up for targeted emergency alerts, service disruption notices, and more, through the Voyent Alert system. Find more information on page 11.

## SPRING/SUMMER FUN

I'm looking forward to seeing people out enjoying our attractions, trails, parks, facilities, campgrounds, and each other as spring progresses and summer arrives. Please take care around road construction and farm vehicles, and don't forget your chance to connect with the County at three Open Houses in June (see page 17 for details).

Wishing you all a wonderful summer,



## COUNTY COUNCIL MAINTAINS SERVICES PRIORITIZES ROADS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN 2024 FINAL BUDGET

County of Grande Prairie Council approved the 2024 budget with a 2.9 per cent municipal tax rate increase that aligns with public feedback which identified fire services and road conditions as two important areas of focus in recent and past Citizen Satisfaction Surveys. The increase translates to approximately \$58.69 annually, or \$4.89 per month on a residential property valued at \$482,000.

The \$223.5 million budget includes an estimated \$107 million for general operations, \$6.5 million for debt payments and \$110 million for capital investments including \$54.3 million for projects continued from previous years.

"A growing number of residents told us in our 2023 Citizen Satisfaction Survey that they receive good value for taxes," said Reeve Bob Marshall. "For the past three years, we have held the line on the municipal portion of taxes and used reserve funding to balance the budget, and we hope our residents will be understanding that inflationary pressures are affecting us all. The moderate municipal tax increase is vital to maintaining our current service delivery levels to ensure our residents continue to experience a high quality of life."

The County continues to contend with millions in lost revenue following provincial changes to assessment rules. With the pause on taxes for new well and pipeline projects, over the past four years the County has lost an estimated \$12.7 million, in addition to an estimated \$9 million due to the eliminated oil well drilling tax. The County is also currently grappling with nearly \$984,000 in unpaid property taxes from the oil and gas industry in addition to \$382,000 which has been written off.

### A few of the services, programs and projects Council approved for 2024 include:

- Approximately 63 per cent of the capital budget is going toward road and bridge projects
- \$5.4 million in grants to various organizations for recreation, health, community, culture, seniors and special needs transportation, and libraries
- \$3 million in transfers to the provincial government for RCMP policing costs
- \$2.4 million in Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) Contributions, cost sharing agreements with other municipalities, including the City of Grande Prairie and the towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, and Wembley
- Council invested \$483,140 for 2024 to enhance the County's fire response, including a second Fire Prevention Officer position, six decontamination washing machines, a light fire service vehicle, and four full-time firefighters. This is in addition to the \$750,000 approved during interim budget to fund a new Fire Prevention Officer position and eight full-time firefighter positions.
- Installation of television services at the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital
- Investing in home support to respond to increased need
- Increased Parkland Patrol resources.

Find out more about the 2024 operating and capital budget in the attached Budget Highlights or at [www.countygp.ab.ca/budget](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/budget).



# BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



## CAPITAL BUDGET

The 2024 capital budget is \$110 million, including \$52 million for projects carried forward from previous years.

Approximately \$33.2 million is being invested in new capital road and bridge projects.

Grant funding is estimated at \$26.8 million, including an estimated \$6.4 million Canada Community Building Fund, an estimated \$12.3 million in funding from Local Government Fiscal Framework Grant, and an estimated \$5.7 million Alberta Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program grant.

### Road and bridge projects planned for the 2024 season:

- \$1 million, cost-shared equally with industry, for a \$2 million upgrade to Range Road 100 from Highway 667 to Highway 43 – base paving
- \$400,000 to conduct a geotechnical investigation at Aspen Ridge, Resources Road, and access to Pipestone Campground and Wapiti Gardens
- Pavement overlay of:
  - Crossroads South Industrial Subdivision – 158 Avenue, 163 Avenue, 94 Street, and 95 Street – 2.57 km
  - Range Road 30 from Highway 43 South – 4.83 km
  - Range Road 71 and Township Road 711 – 4.56 km
  - Range Road 63 from City limits to south of 162 Avenue 1.5 km

### In addition to road and bridge construction, the capital budget includes:

- \$2.2 million in culvert and bridge replacement projects
- \$950,000 to replace the water sources for three recreation facilities in Hythe
- \$550,000 to upgrade the Hythe water system
- \$504,000 for Five Mile Hall water and sewer servicing
- \$62,000 for facility improvements at the Crosslink County Sportsplex

- An additional \$30,000 for improvements at the Old Bezanson Townsite campground and day use area
- \$20,000 for fencing to protect the Hythe Willow Grove Water Treatment Plant

## OPERATING BUDGET

### The operating budget for 2024 includes:

- \$6.3 million in grants to various organizations for recreation, health, community, culture, seniors and special needs transportation, and libraries
- \$2.4 million, in Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) Contributions, cost sharing agreements with other municipalities, including the City of Grande Prairie and the towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, and Wembley
- \$1.2 million to the City of Grande Prairie for the revenue sharing agreement which has the purpose of fostering regional development (share of municipal tax revenue – 20 per cent from the co-generational facility and 10 per cent on any new commercial/industrial development in areas serviced by Aquatera)
- \$100,000 for the Hamlet Area Structure Plan Incentive Program
- \$80,000 for a study to determine the size and location of a sewer lagoon system that can service the Hamlet of Bezanson for the next 25 years.
- New positions include Soil Conservation in the Agriculture department and a Community Safety Coordinator position in Regional Enforcement Services
- \$50,000 for a study to assess the Hythe lagoon
- \$35,000 to the Bezanson Agricultural Society to supplement the existing Executive Director position for a one-year trial term
- \$20,000 to the Hythe & District Recreation Society
- \$15,000 addition to the \$5,000 Rio Grande recurring operating assistance grant (total of \$20,000)





OF THE

# MAKING SENSE 2024 BUDGET



## BUDGET BASICS

Every program and service in the County has a cost. Each year, Council makes financial decisions to provide money for each program and service in the Operating and Capital budgets.

**The total budget for 2024 is \$223.5 million.**

**OPERATING BUDGET:** The County's operating budget is for day-to-day costs to keep everything running smoothly. This includes enforcement and fire services, parks and recreation facilities, road maintenance, including snow removal, and waste management.

**CAPITAL BUDGET:** The County's capital budget funds major assets, including machinery and equipment, vehicles, buildings, major road construction projects and debt repayments.



includes \$54.3 Million in carried forward projects

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

**2024 PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND TAX NOTICE**  
DUE DATE: June 28, 2024  
Date Mailed: May 16, 2024  
Notice of Assessment Date: May 24, 2024  
Final Date of Complaint: July 23, 2024

----- Please retain this portion for your records -----

ROLL NUMBER	PROPERTY ADDRESS	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	ASSESSMENT CLASS	ASSESSMENT VALUE
			12 RESIDENTIAL MARKET VALUE Jan 1, 2023 to Dec 31, 2023	LAND & BUILDING 496,561

Separate School Support % Public School Support 100%  
Provincial School Taxes are collected on behalf of the Province of Alberta. The Tax rate is determined by the Province.

DESCRIPTION	PERIOD OF TAXATION	RATE	AMOUNT
UNASSIGNED TAX LEVIES	Jan 1, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024	1.00000	3,373.19
<b>TOTAL NEW TAX LEVIES</b>			<b>3,373.19</b>
Tax Prepayments/Adjustments			0.00
<b>TOTAL OUTSTANDING TAXES</b>			<b>3,373.19</b>

**DUE DATE: JUNE 28, 2024**  
**AMOUNT DUE**  
**\$3,373.19**

## READING YOUR PROPERTY TAX NOTICE

Your property tax notice includes more than municipal taxes – it also includes taxes for education and seniors lodging. The Province of Alberta and the Grande Spirit Foundation determine the financial amount required and the County is required to collect and send these funds to each of them, respectively.

**MUNICIPAL TAXES** 61.73% | \$2,082.18

County of Grande Prairie  
Used to fund the budget

**EDUCATION TAX** 36.87% | \$1,243.74

Province of Alberta  
Allocated towards education

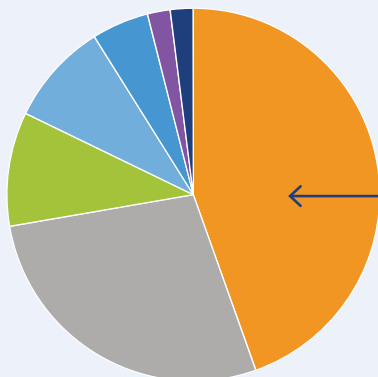
**SENIORS LODGING** 1.4% | \$47.27

Grande Spirit Foundation  
Allocated towards seniors housing

Note: A phased tax rate reduction is in place for the Hamlet of Hythe, bringing them in line with the rest of the County. The reduction will take place from 2022 to 2025 and applies to all properties, including residential, non-residential and farmland. Hythe taxpayers will also pay an additional amount to repay the Hamlet's long term debt, at the time of dissolution, until the debt is paid in full.

## WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

Funding for the County's programs and services comes from several sources, with most coming from property taxes.



**46%**  
MUNICIPAL TAXES  
YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

**28%**  
TRANSFER FROM RESERVES\*  
SAVINGS SET ASIDE FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS

**13%**  
GRANT REVENUE  
FROM OTHER ORDERS OF GOVERNMENT

**4%**  
DEBT FUNDING

**6%**  
USER FEES, SALE OF GOODS  
& MISC. REVENUES  
FOR EXAMPLE, EQUIPMENT RENTAL,  
ANIMAL RECLAIM, GARBAGE COLLECTION

**1%**  
RETURN ON INVESTMENT  
EARNINGS ON COUNTY INVESTMENTS

**2%**  
LEVIES, FINES & PENALTIES  
FOR EXAMPLE, DEVELOPMENT LEVIES

\*A portion of municipal taxes are put into reserve accounts, similar to savings accounts. Money is transferred from reserves when needed for critical capital and operational projects. Reserve accounts provide additional funding for the County as interest builds up on a large portion of the balance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
→ [countygp.ab.ca/budget](https://countygp.ab.ca/budget)

## MUNICIPAL TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

Wondering how much of our sample residential property tax bill went towards County operational and capital expenses? The municipal tax portion of \$2,082.18 is broken down as follows:

### TRANSPORTATION NETWORK



**\$1,064.00**

- 29.2%** ROAD CONSTRUCTION & BRIDGE PROGRAM
- 18.5%** ROAD MAINTENANCE, SIGNAGE & CONSTRUCTION
- 2.6%** TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES ADMINISTRATION
- 0.8%** FLEET & MAINTENANCE

### COMMUNITY, RECREATION, CULTURE & SAFETY



**\$516.38**

- 13.8%** REGIONAL ENFORCEMENT, FIRE & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
- 4.0%** PARKS & RECREATION SERVICES
- 2.2%** COMMUNITY GRANTS
- 2.2%** AGRICULTURAL SERVICES
- 1.9%** FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES
- 0.7%** LIBRARY SERVICES

### RUNNING THE MUNICIPALITY



**\$308.16**

- 14.8%** ASSESSMENT, ASSET MANAGEMENT, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING, COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE, FINANCIAL SERVICES, PEOPLE & ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, INSURANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT, LEGISLATIVE SERVICES, PROCUREMENT

### RECYCLE & WASTE MANAGEMENT; WATER SUPPLY & DISTRIBUTION, AND WASTEWATER COLLECTION & TREATMENT



**\$137.42**

- 0.7%** WASTEWATER COLLECTION & TREATMENT
- 3.8%** WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION
- 2.1%** RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES & SERVICES

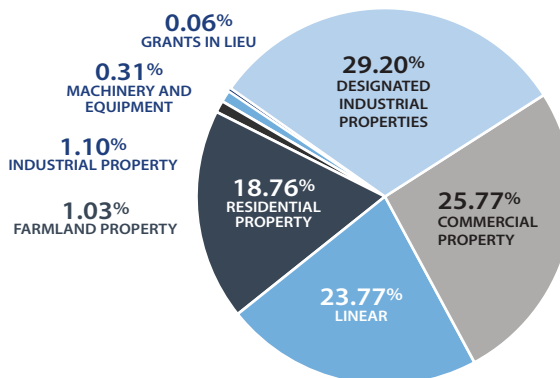
### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT



**\$56.22**

- 2.1%** LAND USE, PLANNING, ZONING & DEVELOPMENT
- 0.6%** ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## SOURCE OF MUNICIPAL TAX PORTION



# 2024 ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



County residents have identified roads as their top priority and we're pleased to share a line-up of planned improvements.

Council approved approximately \$33.2 million of the \$110 million capital budget as an investment in new capital road and bridge projects.

Projects planned for the 2024 construction season include surface road overlay work, bridge replacement and improvements, and re-construction road projects.

Grant funding is estimated at \$26.8 million, including an estimated \$6.4 million Canada Community Building Fund, an

estimated \$12.3 million in funding from Local Government Fiscal Framework Grant, and an estimated \$5.7 million Alberta Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program grant.

See page 7 for a list of County road projects which are also pinned on the Construction Projects Map above.

Visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/roadconstruction](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/roadconstruction) to view an interactive version of the map along with timelines and potential traffic impacts. Thank you for your patience through this construction season.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**GRADING:** Digging out an existing road structure to re-align, level or widen the road and building a new road from the bottom up.

**OVERLAY:** Adding a new layer of pavement. This type of work can also include minor spot fixes and milling the surface on occasion.

**BASE PAVING:** Removing the top layer of gravel, repairing the base of the road, if needed, then packing the current road surface and paving a layer of asphalt.

**CURB AND GUTTER:** Constructing concrete curbs and gutters along street sides to ensure proper stormwater drainage.

**INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS:** Can involve installing traffic lights and/or improving, extending, expanding, or adding traffic lanes.

**BRIDGE CULVERT REPLACEMENT:** Replacing an underground steel tunnel, known as a culvert, which carries stream water.

## PLANNED PROJECTS FOR THE 2024 CONSTRUCTION SEASON

Visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/roadconstruction](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/roadconstruction) to view an interactive version of the map along with timelines and potential traffic impacts.

PROJECT #	ROAD PROJECT	TYPE OF WORK
C10552	Range Road 74 between Township Road 712 and Highway 43	Base Paving 3.2 km
C10551	Range Road 75 from Highway 43 north for 1.6 km	Base Paving 1.6 km
C10125	Township Road 714 and Township Road 713A, east of Range Road 41	Grading 7.4 km
C10573	Range Road 100 from Highway 43 to Highway 667	Base Paving 1.9 km
C10512	Crystal Creek Estates road upgrades	Base Paving 2 km
C10384	Township Road 750 from Highway 724 to west of Range Road 83	Base Paving 4.8 km
C10379	Range Road 60 - Evergreen Access Road	Base Paving 0.9 km
C10380	Township Road 710 - East of Evergreen Access Road to west of Range Road 55	Base Paving 0.7 km
C10382	Range Road 41 from Township Road 714 to Crystal Creek Estates	Base Paving 1.2 km
C10563	Range Road 63 north of city limits to Township Road 722	Overlay 1.5 km
C10377	Crossroads South Industrial Subdivision - 158 Avenue, 163 Avenue, 94 Street and 95 Street	Overlay 2.57 km
C10365	Township Road 711 and Range Road 71	Overlay 4.6 km
C10364	Range Road 30 south of Highway 43 to south of Township Road 720	Overlay 4.9 km
C10511	Township Road 750 from Range Road 101 to Range Road 110	Chip Seal Coat 7 km
SP.24401	Township Road 704 from Range Road 64.5 to Range Road 70	Grading 1.6 km
SP.24601	Township Road 691 for 1.6 km west of Range Road 120	Grading 1.6 km
SP.24701	Township Road 734 between Range Road 104 and Range Road 105	Grading 1.6 km
SP.24801	Township Road 730 between Range Road 91 and Range Road 92	Grading 1.6 km
SP.23902	Range Road 51 north of Highway 674	Grading 1.6 km
BF13632	Range Road 65 between Highway 59 and Township Road 742	Bridge Culvert Replacement
BF08417	Range Road 64 between Highway 59 and Township Road 742	Bridge Culvert Replacement
BF86316	Range Road 41 south of Highway 671	Bridge Update
BF70213	Range Road 74 between Highway 43 and Township Road 712 – Completed Winter 2024	Bridge Culvert Installation



# EXPLORING EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION: A REVIEW OF COUNTY ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES



In 2021, we welcomed the Village of Hythe as a hamlet within the County of Grande Prairie. Despite this change, the existing nine electoral divisions have remained untouched, prompting the initiation of a review of the County's electoral boundaries.

## THE NEED FOR A REVIEW

Following the dissolution of the Village of Hythe, the Provincial government mandated a review of the County's electoral boundaries before the next municipal election in 2025. While this review may or may not result in changes, as our County has changed, it's important to ensure that residents are adequately represented.

## THE REVIEW PROCESS

This process began with the municipal census. This data will help us gain insight into demographic changes and population distribution within the County.

We have begun the process of exploring various boundary options. This includes looking at the number of councillors, divisions, and division boundaries.

## GETTING INVOLVED

Your voice is important to this process. We value your insights regarding the different boundary and councillor options. Stay tuned for more information about an upcoming online survey where you can provide your input. We will review your feedback and create options for your feedback in a second survey in August. You can also find out more by attending an open house in late August. Council will then review the recommended options, based on your feedback, in September.

## LOOKING AHEAD

As the review progresses, we'll provide updates to keep you informed. It's through collective effort and participation that we can ensure our electoral system is truly representative of our community's diversity and aspirations.

The review of County electoral boundaries presents an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to equitable representation and inclusive governance. By working together, we can lay the groundwork for a stronger, more resilient community that serves the needs of all residents.

Stay tuned to [www.countygp.ab.ca/engage](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/engage) for further updates.

## ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Have your say in both engagement phases to ensure your views are considered in the Electoral Boundary review process.

### PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT:

- **May/June – Online Survey #1**  
Provide your feedback on changes in the quantity of County Councillors and Electoral Boundary Divisions.

### PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT:

- **August: Online Survey #2**  
Provide your feedback on the options arising out of the Phase 1 Engagement and County Council's direction.
- **Late August: Attend an Open House**  
Learn more and provide your feedback on the outcomes of the Phase 1 Engagement and County Council's direction.

Stay tuned to [www.countygp.ab.ca](http://www.countygp.ab.ca) for details on these engagement opportunities.





## PLAN YOUR COUNTY

The first phase of the Plan Your County initiative focused on understanding the County of Grande Prairie's values and priorities and what makes our County special. So far, more than 300 residents and students have contributed their feedback via open houses, community event pop-ups, interviews, the online portal, and surveys.

From this feedback, three main priorities became clear: outdoor recreation and nature, community and people, and low taxes.

The Plan Your County initiative is also developing the County's first Hamlet Resiliency Strategy, looking at the longer term for these unique parts of the community. A final draft of this strategy will be made available to the public for comment before going to Council in 2024.

## CAREFUL PLANNING: TAKING OUR TIME TO GET THINGS RIGHT

To continue growing in a way that meets the needs of our community, the County of Grande Prairie does a lot of planning. To make sure these plans reflect the needs and priorities of our residents, good planning takes time and public feedback.

In 2023, we created the Plan Your County initiative to show how plans need to work together to be successful. This initiative began with the Hamlet Resiliency Strategy and an initial review of the Municipal Development Plan. Once these processes are complete, our team will work with residents, landowners, and businesses to update other County plans, documents, and guidelines.

We are also working with our neighbours to plan. Right now, Intermunicipal Development Plans are being developed with the towns of Beaverlodge and Wembley, and the City of Grande Prairie to better coordinate land use, servicing, and transportation between our municipalities.

As we work on these plans, new issues arise, including resident questions and concerns with the draft direction. The County promptly addresses these concerns and communicates any delays, such as those caused by unforeseen events like the 2023 fires, which may impact scheduled events and timelines.

This spring, Plan Your County activities will kick off again. This will be your opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the draft plans being developed. You'll get to tell us if we've heard your concerns and are getting it right.

Want to get involved? Sign up for project updates at [www.countygp.ab.ca/planyourcounty](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/planyourcounty).



**1,500+**

VISITS TO: [countygp.ab.ca/engage](http://countygp.ab.ca/engage)



**450+**

PEOPLE ENGAGED



**485**

LETTERS TO HAMLET RESIDENTS



**20**

IN-PERSON EVENTS



**11**

EMAIL UPDATES

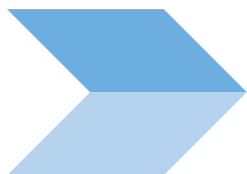


**2**

SURVEYS

## IT'S BUILDING SEASON

Applications for building, electrical, gas, plumbing, and private sewage permits in the County and towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, and Wembley are accepted at the County Administration Building at 10001 – 84 Avenue in Clairmont or by emailing [plan@countygp.ab.ca](mailto:plan@countygp.ab.ca). For more information visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/permits](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/permits).



# PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR PROPERTY PRESERVATION DURING EMERGENCIES



With the Government of Alberta announcing an early start to the 2024 fire season due to dry winter conditions and ongoing drought, it's crucial for County residents to prioritize emergency preparedness and adopt FireSmart™ principles. Implementing practical strategies not only protects your property but also safeguards our entire community against wildfires.

FireSmart Canada is a national program designed to help everyone increase their neighbourhood's resilience to wildfire and minimize its devastating impacts. FireSmart Canada arms us all with the knowledge and tools to protect our homes from wildfires. It's practical, effective, and something we can all do.

Learn more at [www.countygp.ab.ca/fire](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/fire) and [www.firesmartcanada.ca](http://www.firesmartcanada.ca).

## HERE ARE SOME ACTIONABLE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE:

### 1. Establish Defensive Space and Non-Combustible Zones

Begin by creating a defensible space around your property extending 1.5 meters out. Within this zone, clear away combustible items such as firewood piles, patio furniture, and woody shrubs. Utilize non-combustible materials like gravel or concrete in this critical area to reduce fire risk. Search Non-Combustible Zones at [www.firesmartcanada.ca](http://www.firesmartcanada.ca) for more information.

### 2. Ensure Proper Ventilation

Embers can enter homes through vents, potentially igniting fires within. Install non-combustible 2 mm screens on external vents (excluding dryer vents) to block this common entry point for embers. Search FireSmart fact sheets at [www.firesmartcanada.ca](http://www.firesmartcanada.ca) for more information on gutters and eaves.

### 3. Proper Firewood and Flammable Material Storage

Store firewood and other flammable materials at least 10 meters away from your home. Ensure sheds and other structures are constructed from fire-resistant materials and meet proper maintenance standards. Search Non-Combustible Zones at [www.firesmartcanada.ca](http://www.firesmartcanada.ca) for more information.

### 4. Choose Fire-Resistant Landscaping

Opt for fire-resistant plants in your garden and maintain a well-pruned landscape. FireSmart Canada provides a list of suitable plants to guide your choices. Search Yard and Landscaping at [www.firesmartcanada.ca](http://www.firesmartcanada.ca) for more information on suitable plants to guide your choices.

## 5. Invest in Fire-Resistant Building Material

Evaluate your home's construction materials and consider upgrading to fire-resistant options such as metal roofing and stucco siding. Regular maintenance is crucial in preventing debris buildup that could ignite from sparks or embers.

## 6. Clear Dry Vegetation Regularly

Regularly clear dry vegetation from around your property to minimize fuel for wildfires and create a safer environment. Search FireSmart fact sheets at [www.firesmartcanada.ca](http://www.firesmartcanada.ca) for more information on gutters and eaves.

## 7. Ensure Functioning Smoke Detectors and Fire Extinguishers

Test smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries annually. Keep fire extinguishers accessible in key areas of your home and ensure all household members know how to use them. Search for Fire Safety Checklist at [www.countygp.ab.ca](http://www.countygp.ab.ca).

## 8. Develop a Wildfire Evacuation Plan

Prepare an evacuation plan for your household to ensure a quick and safe exit in the event of a wildfire, minimizing risk and confusion. Search Emergency Preparedness at [www.countygp.ab.ca](http://www.countygp.ab.ca) for more information, tips, and checklists.

## 9. Obtain a Fire Permit

Did you know that fire permits expire on December 31? The county requires one if you plan on having outdoor fires on your property. Visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/firepermits](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/firepermits) for the permit requirements and application.

## 10. Download the "FireSmart Begins at Home" app

Complete a self-conducted home assessment through the FireSmart app. Find it on the App Store and Google Play to download it today.

## 11. Schedule a FireSmart Home Assessment

If you would like someone else to do an assessment, a member of Regional Fire Services can complete an assessment for you. Search FireSmart at [www.countygp.ab.ca](http://www.countygp.ab.ca) for information on home assessments.

The threat of wildfires is a reality that demands our attention and action. By implementing these FireSmart strategies and additional safety measures, we contribute to the safety and resilience of our entire community. Let's collectively embrace these practices to create a safer environment for ourselves, our loved ones, and the natural beauty that surrounds us.

*FireSmart, Intelli-feu and other associated Marks are trademarks of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC).*

In the case of an emergency, FireSmart Canada offers a last-minute checklist for protecting your home and property from wildfire.

Find it on our website at [www.countygp.ab.ca/firesmart](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/firesmart)



## SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR FARMERS AND AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES

- **Clear Buffer Zones:** Establish clear areas around crops, barns, and outbuildings devoid of vegetation to serve as firebreaks.
- **Ensure Adequate Water Supply:** Have irrigation systems or water tanks readily available for firefighting purposes.
- **Safe Storage:** Store flammable materials in designated, fire-resistant buildings away from main structures.
- **Livestock Safety:** Register your livestock through the Livestock Emergency Response Plan (LERP) at [www.countygp.ab.ca/LERP](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/LERP) to ensure you get the help you need with your livestock in an emergency.

Details of the next Farm Emergency Planning Workshop are coming soon. Stay tuned to [www.countygp.ab.ca/agriculture](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/agriculture).



# REGISTER FOR FREE TODAY

## WHAT IS VOYENT ALERT!?

Voyent Alert! is a multi-purpose communication service provided by the County of Grande Prairie to keep you informed of critical events like fires or floods.

Coming soon: Day-to-day communications such as road maintenance and service disruptions. Sign up today!

**1. Mobile App Users:** Get the Voyent Alert! app from the App Store or Google Play.

**2. Email or Text (SMS) Users:** Register online to receive email or text-based alerts at <https://register.voyent-alert.com>

**3. Landline Phone Users:** Register online to receive text-to-voice alerts at <https://register.voyent-alert.com>

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





## SPARK YOUR FUTURE: STUDENTS INVITED TO APPLY TO ATCO FIRE CADET PROGRAM

Youth ages 16 to 18 are invited to apply to the County's new ATCO Fire Cadet Program. The program launched in January 2024, bringing in more than 50 applications, with 21 qualifying candidates accepted into the program.

Due to the overwhelming response, members of the County Regional Fire Service selection team focused on Grade 12 students as their first class of cadets (pictured above), to help them gain a better understanding of firefighting and emergency services as potential career choices prior to graduating high school.

"The ATCO Fire Cadet Program provides an exceptional opportunity for County youth to explore an area of interest and,

potentially, professional growth," says Regional Fire Service District Chief Matt Smith. "We are grateful for ATCO's investment and look forward to welcoming new cadets each semester."

Grade 11 students who applied in January are encouraged to re-apply for the next intake in September.

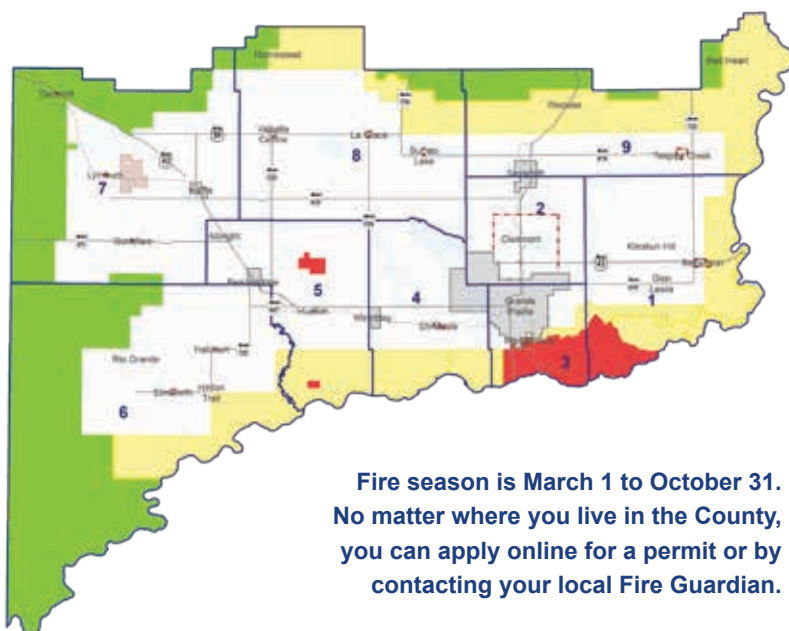
The opportunity is made possible thanks to a three-year \$18,000 commitment from ATCO spanning 2023 to 2026. In February, representatives from ATCO officially presented a cheque to Councillors and members of the County Regional Fire Service (pictured below).



The program is open to high school students attending Beaverlodge Regional High School, Peace Wapiti Academy, St. John Paul II Catholic School, St. Joseph Catholic High School, and Sexsmith Secondary School, as well as homeschooled students who live in the County.

Intake will be ongoing with new cadets entering the program each semester. To learn more about the program and apply online, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/cadets](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/cadets).

## IT'S FIRE SEASON



**Fire season is March 1 to October 31.**  
No matter where you live in the County,  
you can apply online for a permit or by  
contacting your local Fire Guardian.

The County has four Fire Burn Areas, each with its own guidelines for fire permits. If you live in one of the following three areas, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/firepermits](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/firepermits) to complete the Fire Permit Request form and find contact information for your area Fire Guardian.

### • WHITE AREA

Requires a verbal permit during fire season.

### • YELLOW AREA

Requires a written fire permit during fire season.

### • RED AREA

Restricted burn zone where permits are required year-round.

### GREEN AREA

Designated Forest Protection Area requiring a written fire permit during fire season from a Provincial Forestry Fire Guardian.

Visit [www.wildfire.alberta.ca/firepermits](http://www.wildfire.alberta.ca/firepermits) to find your nearest office or call 310-0000.

To stay up to date with any fire bans in place, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/fireban](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/fireban).





## APPLY FOR COMMUNITY CAPITAL GRANTS STARTING AUGUST 1

Starting August 1, organizations that deliver recreation or cultural services to County residents can apply to the Capital Grant program for improvements or repairs to their facility.

The County provided two Capital Grants to the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie (pictured above) in support of the DCoy Armouries Community Hub Project – a two-year gift totaling \$200,000 spread across 2023 to 2024.

Bruce Tattrie, Rotary Club of Grande Prairie member and Chair of the DCoy Community Hub Project Committee, said they were

thrilled to receive the funds from the County, noting it as the largest financial gift received for the project outside the initial \$1.8 million gift from the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie.

The project's total cost is \$3.8 million and involves adding about 12,000 square feet to the existing facility, along with renovations and refurbishments to the current 9,400 square foot space.

Tattrie said having this level of support from a municipality has further helped the Committee in their efforts to obtain additional funding from other sources.

“We can’t say enough about how much it has meant to have the County provide this boost to our project,” adds Tattrie. “Additionally, the County is a supporter of the Grande Prairie Regional Airshow, the proceeds of which will also help support the DCoy project.”

Tattrie says the DCoy Armouries’ main tenants are the air and army cadet youth programs.

“The intent of the project is to provide a youth-centric hub for multiple organizations, as well as an enhanced community gathering place for the Swanavon neighbourhood and surrounding residential areas.”

Fundraising currently sits at \$2.4 million. Construction will begin once the \$3.8 million project is fully funded.

### TWO CAPITAL GRANT OPTIONS

Capital grants support local groups who help make the County a great place to live and provide enjoyable spaces where our residents and visitors can spend time. Community groups can apply for two grant options:

Up to 50 per cent of project costs, to a maximum of \$50,000, to improve or repair a physical facility. Must be a recreational or cultural facility that serves County residents.

OR

Funding for projects valued at more than \$100,000. New construction, rehabilitation, repairs, or improvements to a recreation or cultural facility that serves County residents are eligible.

The County awards Capital Grants annually. Last year, Council approved \$8.7 million in community contributions and grants, including \$3.3 in Capital Grants to support important projects throughout the County and the region. For more information, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/grants](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/grants).

### APPROVED 2024 CAPITAL GRANTS:

- \$1,500,000 to the La Glace & District Agricultural Society for the Tamarack Recreation Centre “dry fit” out – \$500,000 per year over three years (2023-2026)
- \$551,000 to the Nitehawk Year-Round Adventure Park for capital equipment replacement – over four years (2023-2026)
- \$500,000 to Maskwa Medical Center
- \$300,000 to the Grande Prairie Youth Emergency Shelter Society for the new Sunrise House – \$100,000 per year over three years (2023-2025)
- \$200,000 to the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie for the DCoy Armouries Community Hub project – \$100,000 per year over two years (2023-2024)
- \$200,000 to Rising Above for their new building – \$100,000 a year over two years (2024-2025)
- \$50,000 to the Spring Lake Ski Hill Association for Phase 2 of the ski hill rehabilitation
- \$50,000 to the Harry Balfour School Participarent Association for a playground at the replacement school
- \$30,000 to the Saskatoon Lake Agricultural Society for new kitchen appliances
- \$25,000 to the Teepee Creek School Booster Club for a new playground
- \$25,000 to the Sexsmith & District Museum Society for the Dining Car Project
- \$20,473 to the Wapiti Nordic Ski Club for trail grooming and maintenance equipment
- \$20,000 to the Grande Prairie Regional Association of Volunteer Organizations for HVAC upgrades
- \$13,000 to the Albright Community Hall Association for upgrades to doors and decking
- \$12,100 to the Royal Canadian Legion Hythe Branch 93 for bathroom renovations
- \$11,278 to the Grande Prairie Minor Baseball Association for facility improvements
- \$10,000 to the Royal Canadian Legion West Smoky Branch No. 244 for a kitchen renovation project

# New property tax system MyProperty

You can now access your property tax information and make payments online with MyProperty. This gives you the flexibility to access County of Grande Prairie property tax information anytime and anywhere. Whether you are relaxing on your couch on a Saturday night, enjoying a winter getaway, or sitting in your office, our property tax services are at your fingertips.

## Important details

- **New property tax notice look:** While your property assessment and tax notice looks different it still has all the essential details you need.
- **System access:** You'll need to create a new profile online for the new system, if you don't already have one.
- **Property tax account access:** After you've created your profile and received your 2024 property assessment and tax notice, you'll need to add your tax account to your MyProperty account.

Discover how user-friendly this new system is by visiting [myproperty.countygp.ab.ca](https://myproperty.countygp.ab.ca).



## PAY YOUR PROPERTY TAXES BY THE END OF JUNE

Property owners are encouraged to pay their property taxes on or before the last business day of June to avoid late penalties. The County of Grande Prairie collects property taxes to help pay for services, facilities, and projects in the County. Your property tax notice includes municipal taxes along with taxes for education and seniors lodging as determined by the Province of Alberta and the Grande Spirit Foundation. To learn more about how your tax dollars are used, read 'Making Sense of the Budget' on page 4.



## PROPERTY ASSESSMENT APPEALS

If you have questions about your assessment, talk to one of your local assessors. You can reach them at 780-513-3952 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Find information about assessment appeals, including the County's deadline, at [www.countygp.ab.ca/assessment](https://www.countygp.ab.ca/assessment). To avoid penalty charges, you must pay your taxes by the deadline, even if you plan to appeal your assessment. For more information about the appeal process, contact Legislative Services at 780-532-9722.

# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP: REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Following the insights from Deloitte's 'Regional Workforce Development Research: Attraction and Retention 2022-2023' report published in November 2023, the Regional Workforce Development Partnership has sprung into action. This partnership includes the County of Grande Prairie, the City of Grande Prairie, the M.D. of Greenview, the Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce, and Northwestern Polytechnic. Together, they have spearheaded the Strategic Action Plan to revitalize the regional workforce.

The partnership's efforts focus on more than just attracting talent; they are deeply committed to developing local talent and bolstering local businesses. This strategy received funding support from the Northern and Regional Economic Development (NRED) Program, through the Government of Alberta, and Matt Jones, MLA and Minister of Jobs, Economy, and Trade.

At the core of the initiative is a dedication to showcasing the region's rich culture, stunning natural scenery, exceptional quality of life, and robust economic opportunities, continually promoting the region as an outstanding place to live, work, and succeed.

The initiative invites both Canadian and international jobseekers to discover the professional and lifestyle opportunities available in the M.D. of Greenview, County of Grande Prairie, and City of Grande Prairie. Through engagement with over 660 stakeholders, including employers and employees, the partnership has gathered valuable insights into factors that influence where people choose to work and live, promoting a vibrant community and establishing a solid foundation for ongoing growth and prosperity.

## 50%

of local employers struggle to find required labour in the region

## 50%

of employers felt more is needed to attract talent (new residents)

## 38%

of employers reported their employee base had increased in the past year

## 55%

of employers expect their employee base to grow again in the next 12 months



## OPEN DATA PORTAL: FIND FREE DATA, TOOLS, AND RESOURCES

The County's Open Data portal provides free and convenient access to the County's published data, along with air photos, the public web map, and more. View it, map it, style it, chart it, download it, or share it – the choice is yours! The data is not restricted by copyrights or patents. Access the portal at <https://opendata.countygp.ab.ca/>.

### BROWSE BY CATEGORY:



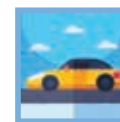
Data



Information Systems



Water



Transportation



Planning



Parks & Recreation



Public Works



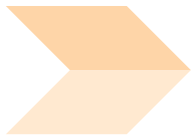
Boundaries

### WHO USES OPEN DATA?

- **Third Party Agencies:** For access to data for construction and engineering projects within the County. Access to address points for first responders and delivery companies.
- **Service Providers:** To decide what services to offer or where to locate new projects in a region.
- **Researchers:** For data and findings to publish in research papers.
- **Businesses:** To find the best location based on land availability and demographics.
- **Community Members:** To advocate for themselves in data-driven conversations.

**Remember:** Open Data should never be used to replace Alberta One Call when you need to locate underground infrastructure.





## DO YOU HAVE CLUBROOT?

Clubroot is a serious, soil-borne disease that affects all plants in the broccoli family, and of most concern to our County, canola.



*Photo credit: Canola Council of Canada*

### HOW CLUBROOT AFFECTS PLANTS:

It forms galls on the roots, reducing and eventually destroying a plant's ability to take up water and nutrients.

### HOW TO STOP THE SPREAD:

Sanitize agricultural and industrial equipment to keep clubroot from spreading.

Unfortunately, clubroot is becoming more prevalent throughout Alberta, including the County of Grande Prairie. Annual inspections in the region located two early-phase infections which were confirmed by lab testing as affecting only a few plants. No signs were evident in the crop.

### CLUBROOT PROTOCOL: HOW TO PROTECT YOUR LAND

- Ensure no soil is transported onto fields.
- Establish an equipment cleaning area adjacent to your access point in the field.
- Clean equipment before entering and leaving the field.
- Knock off all soil stuck to equipment before moving fields to significantly reduce the risk of clubroot.
- Insist that all non-farm equipment accessing your land is clean of soil and has been soaked with a two per cent bleach solution for at least 10 minutes.
- Treat any new equipment with the two per cent bleach solution before using it on your land.

The County requires all industrial operators to follow the clubroot protocol. For more information, search "clubroot" at [www.countygp.ab.ca](http://www.countygp.ab.ca).



## COUNTY SHELTERBELT PROGRAM: JOIN OUR WAITLIST

The announcement of our pilot Shelterbelt Program garnered widespread popularity in the fall, and the enthusiastic participation and support we received from County residents has been key to its success.

Recognizing the program's popularity thus far, we have plans to expand the program significantly in 2025. This expansion expects to provide a greater volume and variety of seedlings to help extend the benefits of improved soil conservation, wind protection, and enhanced biodiversity to even more County residents.

Visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/shelterbeltprogram](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/shelterbeltprogram) to learn more about shelterbelts, the species that were available in the program this year, and planting and caring for seedlings.

For anyone who was unable to place a seedling order this year, please contact Kate Winterford, Soil Conservation and Stewardship Coordinator at [kwinterford@countygp.ab.ca](mailto:kwinterford@countygp.ab.ca) to be added to the waitlist.

## UPCOMING AGRICULTURE EVENTS

The County's Agriculture department is providing advance notice of two upcoming events. Dates will be announced in June. Stay tuned to [www.countygp.ab.ca/agriculture](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/agriculture).

- Ladies Ranch Retreat – Grazing School
- Emergency Planning on the Farm



# RECYCLING CORNER

## IMPROPER BATTERY DISPOSAL

### It's just a battery, what harm could it do?

When a fire breaks out at a waste facility, the cause can often be pinpointed to combustion of items that do not belong in a landfill. Batteries are the most common of these items, as they are prone to ignition when run over by landfill equipment.

"Despite our efforts, we're still seeing batteries ending up in the County landfill," says Kate Biendarra, Recycling Coordinator with the County of Grande Prairie.

"Over the past year, we have safely removed 10 smoking batteries from the landfill," adds Biendarra. "We've also pulled nearly 50 more from the tipping pads before they could cause fires. These batteries have been standalone, or attached to electronics such as robot vacuums, cordless vacuums, tablets, laptops, smart-phones, toys, and power tools."

### SAFE DISPOSAL – ELECTRONIC WASTE PROGRAM

The County's electronic waste program provides a safe disposal option for batteries, available at all transfer stations and the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management. Properly recycling batteries mitigates the risk of costly incidents like fires in landfills and helps keep County staff safe at work. While the County Regional Fire Service does not charge residents for response, the costs of a battery fire are extremely high.



Security camera image of a battery-caused landfill fire on February 13, 2024.

Municipal Utilities  
staff and equipment



Regional Fire Service  
assistance



\$4,000/hour (minimum)  
to extinguish a fire

## JOIN US! COUNTY OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

County Councillors and staff look forward to connecting with residents during three County Open House events in June. Join us from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for fun, food, and friendship. Talk to staff and learn about County programs and services. Stop by the location nearest to you:

### 1. Valhalla Community School

Monday, June 17

### 2. Lyons Events Centre, Teepee Creek

Wednesday, June 19

### 3. Five Mile Hall

Thursday, June 20



## JUNE IS RECREATION AND PARKS MONTH

June presents the perfect opportunity to embrace outdoor adventures and explore the County's abundance of parks, campgrounds, and trails. Need some inspiration? Embark on a day trip to Bear Lake Campground, immerse yourself in the wooded trails at Pipestone Creek Campground (pictured), or indulge in a delightful picnic with your loved ones amidst the picturesque surroundings of Kleskun Hills.

Gather your family and friends to make the most of June by experiencing the County's natural beauty on a hike, camping adventure, or leisurely stroll. Visit the 'Recreation Events and Programs' link at [www.countygp.ab.ca/recreation](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/recreation) for events and programs happening throughout the month.





## 'IT TAKES A VOLUNTEER' CONTINUES TO CELEBRATE VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE

The County proudly continues the It Takes a Volunteer program, now entering its second year, to recognize and honour the outstanding contributions of volunteers and organizations in our region.

"The program celebrates dedicated volunteers who embody the spirit of community service and provides a platform to showcase the incredible work happening right here in our own communities," says Reeve Bob Marshall.

Ten individual volunteers, six volunteer groups, and three volunteer organizations were recognized last year. The celebration continued with 24 nominations submitted for the 2024 program.

Visit the It Takes a Volunteer Hall of Fame at [www.countygp.ab.ca/volunteers](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/volunteers) to see the amazing individuals and organizations recognized for their contributions. Nominees were honoured during National Volunteer Week, April 14-20, and received a recognition package from the County.

Stay tuned to the County's social media channels for more videos profiling local volunteerism.



### REBECCA HAMM, FEATURED VOLUNTEER

Rebecca Hamm is the owner of My LuvPak, a non-profit providing backpacks filled with essentials for children in foster care, and those experiencing poverty or crisis, championing vulnerable families in northern Alberta. For more than seven years, Rebecca's commitment has been fueled by a passion for others. Her 24/7 operation is supported by partnerships with agencies such as FCSS, RCMP, and schools. Rebecca's tireless efforts have inspired those around her and continue to bring about positive changes in the lives of countless young people and their families.



### LYNNE OE, FEATURED VOLUNTEER

Lynne Oe, nominated by the Bezanson Golden Years Club, is a dedicated volunteer of more than 50 years in Bezanson. At 75, she supports various organizations, including the Bezanson Golden Years Centre, Bezanson Catholic Church, and Kleskun Hills Museum where she helps promote tourism in the County. Lynne also assists refugees, organizes food hamper collections, and contributes to fundraisers. Her homemade jams are popular auction items benefiting community causes. She remains humble, prioritizing kindness and community over personal recognition.



### SUE BAILE, FEATURED VOLUNTEER

Sue Baile, accompanied by her faithful dog Spencer, has been a therapy dog handler with the Grande Spirit Foundation for over five years. Their presence at Lakeview Lodge is a cherished one, bringing joy, comfort, and companionship to residents when they need it most. Sue's dedication to spreading happiness and love has made her an invaluable member of our community.

## REGISTER TODAY FOR PLAYSCHOOL

Our programs are child-centred and focus on delivering developmentally appropriate programming for three- and four-year-olds. Children can start the program the month they turn three and must be potty trained. Offered in Bezanson, Clairmont, Elmworth, La Glace, Valhalla, and Whispering Ridge. Learn more and apply at [www.countygp.ab.ca/playschool](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/playschool).





# ENJOY YOUR COUNTY STAYCATION: CAMPGROUNDS AND PARKS OPEN FOR RESERVATIONS

All County campgrounds and parks are now open for the season. Choose one or plan to visit them all! Book your camping site online at [www.countygp.ab.ca/campgrounds](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/campgrounds) and find photos and details about Pipestone Creek, Hythe Municipal, Bear Lake, Demmitt, Hommy and Kleskun campgrounds, as well as Bear Hill and the Old Bezanson Townsite for exclusive group camping. Remember to be a courteous camper to ensure everyone has a great experience.

A \$7 nightly fire permit fee is in place at all County campgrounds to supplement the costs of firewood handling and firepit safety maintenance. Fire bans are subject to change, check [www.countygp.ab.ca](http://www.countygp.ab.ca) for updates.



## WHAT'S NEW AT BEAR LAKE CAMPGROUND?

Improvements for the opening of 2024 camping season will include:

- 11 new power sites along the lakefront
- Upgraded RV site pads
- New landscaping and trees
- Floating dock with kayak launch

## NEW NAME: RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT

In an ongoing effort to prepare for growth and change, the County has been focusing on ways to improve our operations, enhance efficiency, and maximize our ability to serve our community. With improvement comes changes, including restructuring and renaming the former Parks and Recreation department, now known as Recreation and Culture, to better reflect the scope of their service delivery. The department will continue to offer all the same great programs and services, with one exception: mowing.

## MEET OUR NEW COMMUNITY GROUPS SUPPORT COORDINATOR



We are excited to welcome Carla McQuaig as the new Community Groups Support Coordinator with the County's Recreation and Culture department. She brings more than 20 years of local non-profit and volunteer experience to the role, including Grande Prairie & District Victim Services and Alberta Health Services. She looks forward to meeting the many volunteers and service groups that support recreation and culture in the County.

## COMMUNITY GROUPS WEBSITE: SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Want to stay on top of Community Groups news and find out about new opportunities? Visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/communitysupport](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/communitysupport). While there, subscribe to our Community Groups newsletter for updates, information and reminders about County grant opportunities, training sessions and workshops, articles on fund generation, board governance and leadership, safety, and risk management, as well as links and referrals to resources.

Community groups can also promote their non-profit, community-based events and meetings on the County's online events calendar: [www.countygp.ab.ca/events](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/events).

## MOWING NOW PART OF AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

As part of the restructuring of the Recreation and Culture department, mowing will now fall under the Agriculture department. For questions about community beautification and mowing in cemeteries, hamlets, and some rural subdivisions, please contact the Agriculture department at 780-532-9727.



# SPRING AND SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR COMMUNITIES



## HYTHE AND AREA COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

### Free Seniors Intergenerational Lunch – Bingo and Brunch

Monday, June 3 | 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Hythe Regional School gym  
Call 780-933-7212 to register by May 29.

### Babysitter Basics – Cost \$50

Friday, May 24 | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Ages 11 to 15  
Hythe & Area FCSS Office

### Home Alone – Cost \$10

Thursday, July 4 | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Ages 9 to 11  
Hythe and Area FCSS Office

For more information on the above community programs, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/hythe](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/hythe) or contact the Hythe Community Program at 780-933-7212.

## WELLINGTON RESOURCE CENTRE (WRC) COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

### Home Alone – Cost \$10

Friday, May 24 | 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Ages 9 to 11  
Clairmont Community School

### Home Alone – Cost \$10

Friday, June 7 | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Ages 9 to 11  
Bezanson Community Event Centre

For more information on the above community programs, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/wrc](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/wrc) or contact the Wellington Resource Centre at 780-567-2843.

### Free Youth Drop-In Support Group

2nd Tuesday of the month  
May 9 to October 10  
Ages 13 to 17  
Wellington Resource Centre

Parental/guardian consent required prior to attending first meeting. Contact 780-402-1579 or [youthsupport@sp-rc.ca](mailto:youthsupport@sp-rc.ca)

## Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

Free, year-round help to file your income tax return. Open to students, seniors, families or single parents with a modest income and simple taxes.

## Sexsmith and Area Foodbank, Clairmont location

Wednesdays | noon to 2 p.m.  
by appointment only.

## Free Clairmont Seniors Intergenerational Luncheon

Tuesday, June 4 | 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Clairmont Community School gym  
Call 780-567-2843 to register by June 1.

## Biannual Seniors Tea

Thursday, June 13 | 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Tara Centre, Evergreen Park  
Call 780-567-5586 to reserve your seat by June 5.



## SUMMER DAY CAMPS

Do you know a child aged 6 to 12 looking for fun and exciting activities this summer? Our summer day camps are led by engaging and energetic leaders. Stay tuned to the County's website at [www.countygp.ab.ca/summercamps](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/summercamps) and the County's social media channels for details.

## SUMMER AT THE LIBRARY

Summer offers the perfect opportunity to catch up with your community in the air-conditioned comfort of a County library. Visit our locations today to sign up for a free library card and enjoy unlimited check-outs, free coffee, learning opportunities, and internet access.

Summer programs for kids will take place during July and August. Visit our websites to find out what's happening:

Elmworth | [www.elmworthlibrary.ab.ca](http://www.elmworthlibrary.ab.ca)

Hythe | [www.hythelibrary.ab.ca](http://www.hythelibrary.ab.ca)

La Glace | [www.laglacelibrary.ab.ca](http://www.laglacelibrary.ab.ca)

Valhalla | [www.valhallalibrary.ab.ca](http://www.valhallalibrary.ab.ca)







## COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE STRENGTHENS CRIME PREVENTION EFFORTS

Last December, Council showed they are serious about keeping our community safe by approving the Crime Prevention Committee's Annual Work Plan. This plan is all about finding ways to reduce crime and make sure residents feel secure.

Reeve Bob Marshall highlighted the importance of focusing on preventing crime. "People have told us loud and clear that reducing crime and feeling safe are their top concerns. By really focusing on stopping crime, we want to build trust, unity, and a strong sense of community in the County."

Two highlights of the plan include a strengthened focus on rural crime watch committees and the exploration of virtual meeting options, in addition to in-person opportunities, for divisional meetings commencing this year.

The County is determined to make our neighborhoods safe and welcoming for everyone. By working together to reduce crime and increase safety, we can make sure that happens.

For more info on how we're keeping our community safe, check out our website at [www.countygp.ab.ca](http://www.countygp.ab.ca).

## NEW ENFORCEMENT DETACHMENT UPDATE



We're moving forward with plans for a new enforcement detachment in Clairmont. Right now, we're working hard with the RCMP to choose the right spot for the building and bringing in architects and builders to help with the design and construction.

This collaborative effort underscores our commitment to providing the best facilities for our community and law enforcement agencies. As we move forward, we'll continue working closely with the RCMP to ensure that the new building meets their operational needs and aligns with community requirements.

We'll keep you updated on further developments as this exciting project advances.

## REMINDERS FOR DOG OWNERS

County dog owners, did you know dog licences are required for all dogs over six months of age? Apply online for a free license at [www.countygp.ab.ca/DogLicences](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/DogLicences) or in person at the Community Services Building, 10808 – 100 Avenue, Clairmont. County Bylaw Officers will run the tag/chip info on any dogs found and then contact the owner. Please note, it is illegal to let your dog run at large on the street or on other peoples' property. Dogs must be leashed on County trails and owners must pick up after them.





# Come Play!

The Crosslink County Sportsplex has a program for everyone!

780-830-7407 | [info@cgpsportsplex.com](mailto:info@cgpsportsplex.com) | [www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com](http://www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com)

## KIDS SUMMER CAMPS

Kids aged 5 to 12 are invited to participate in seven weeks of fun-filled activities at our Summer Kids' Camps. Camps are planned for July 8 - August 23, 2024, with a new theme each week! Our Summer Camps are designed to spark the imagination, confidence, independence, and communication skills of all our campers.

Registration fees are per week. Children must bring their own beverage and water bottle, two snacks and a lunch, along with a change of clothes, swimsuit, towel, ice skates and a helmet (ice skates are optional), and appropriate outdoor wear. Drop-off from 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Pick-up from 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. **To register, visit [www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com](http://www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com) or call 780-830-7407.**

## SUMMER CAMPS 2024

**ANIMAL PLANET**  
Week 1 | July 8 - 12  
**\$250**



**SUPERHERO SUMMER**  
Week 4 | July 29 - August 2  
**\$250**



**CROSSLINK OLYMPICS**  
Week 5 | August 6 - 9  
**\$200**



**DEEP SEA ADVENTURE**  
Week 2 | July 15 - 19  
**\$250**



**INTERGALACTIC ADVENTURE**  
Week 6 | August 12 - 16  
**\$250**



**CHRISTMAS IN JULY**  
Week 3 | July 22 - 26  
**\$250**



**AROUND THE WORLD**  
Week 7 | August 19 - 23  
**\$250**





PHILIP J. CURRIE  
DINOSAUR MUSEUM

# SUMMER PROGRAMMING

**COME EXPLORE THE PREHISTORIC PAST WITH US!**

The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum offers unique experiences for all ages. This summer, go beyond the walls of the museum and join us at the bonebed or on the Wapiti River for an unforgettable journey!

## BOOK YOUR NEXT EVENT WITH US

Our museum books birthday parties, weddings, facility rentals, and more! Find the perfect space for your next event. Contact us for pricing.

## THINK YOU'VE FOUND A FOSSIL?

Become part of Alberta's fossil heritage by emailing details of your found fossil to our curator, Dr. Emily Bamforth, at [curator@dinomuseum.ca](mailto:curator@dinomuseum.ca). Include a photo of your discovery beside an object (coin, finger, pencil, etc.) for scale.



## PALAEONTOLOGIST FOR A DAY

Become a paleontologist for a day, working shoulder-to-shoulder with researchers at one of the densest bonebeds in North America. Uncover 72-million-year-old mysteries of a world lost to time. Ages 12+.

## SECRETS OF THE WAPITI

Learn about the natural history of the region on this gentle four-hour guided river tour. Learn from palaeontologists, touch newly exposed fossils, explore sites only accessible by water, and dine on a picnic-style lunch provided by Café on 43.

## DINO SUMMER CAMPS

Sign up your dinosaur enthusiast for a fun and educational week-long day camp this summer! Our dino camps are for kids aged 4 to 12+ and run through July and August, in our museum and at Pipestone Creek Park. Campers will learn about dinosaurs, fossils, science, and nature.

## PALAEO PALOOZA – BACK FOR A FOURTH YEAR

Come out and experience our two-day science festival, August 10-11, featuring educational booths, family-friendly activities, and palaeontologists from around the world. Ask questions, have fun, and discover the world of dinosaurs!



Visit [www.dinomuseum.ca](http://www.dinomuseum.ca) for more information and follow [@curriemuseum](https://www.instagram.com/curriemuseum) on





RETURN UNDELIVERABLE ITEMS TO  
THE COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE NO.1  
10001 - 84 AVENUE  
CLAIRMONT, AB T8X 5B2



## COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION

### EMAIL:

info@countygyp.ab.ca

### ADDRESS:

10001 - 84 Avenue, Clairmont, AB T8X 5B2

### WEBSITE:

www.countygyp.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 and Strategy, Economic Development, Financial and Business Planning Services, Information Technology, Insurance/Risk Management, Legislative Services, Procurement, Communications and Marketing, People and Organizational Development, Transportation and Utilities, 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**



Watch us on YouTube



Like us on Facebook



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Deputy Reeve Brian Peterson, Councillor Karen Rosvold, Councillor Bob Chrenek, Reeve Bob Marshall, Councillor Amanda Frayn, Councillor Leanne Beaupre, Councillor Kurt Balderston, Councillor Steve Zimmerman, Councillor Peter Harris

## COUNCILLOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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### Deputy Reeve Brian Peterson

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### Councillor Bob Chrenek

Division 9  
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bchrenek@countygyp.ab.ca

## SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

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