

#yourflagstaff



The official newsletter of Flagstaff County

Fall/Winter 2021



Santa will be **LIVE!**



Kids and parents, you're invited to join us as we go LIVE with Santa (and Mrs. Claus) on the Flagstaff County Facebook page on **Thursday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m.!**

Get your wish list and questions ready for Santa because the Jolly Ol' Elf can't wait to hear from you!

'Tis the season for winter road maintenance

Roadways are cleared of snow as necessary. During normal winter conditions, collector and local roads should be cleared of snow within four days and arterial roads should be cleared of snow within two to three days, unless there is heavy snow and persistent winds.

Collector and local roads are cleared utilizing a fleet of nine graders, each responsible for an average of 120 to 160 miles. Two graders are



allocated for snow and ice removal on arterial roads. One plow truck is designated to remove snow and apply sand/salt to oil and paved surface roads. Back roads or blind roads will not be plowed unless deemed

necessary by Public Works.

Please keep in mind that our crews will be out working on our roadways and to use extreme caution while travelling on these roads while they are being maintained in any way.



Private Laneway Maintenance Available

Flagstaff County offers laneway snowplowing and winging to rural residents. The landowner is required to sign a Private Laneway Service Agreement.

County staff is required to conduct an Occupational Health & Safety Inspection/Hazard Assessment prior to

any work being completed, and this process must be completed on an annual basis. The fee for an Occupational Health and Safety Inspection/Hazard Assessment is \$149.

Services to the public will be conducted after all scheduled road

maintenance is completed on gravel, oil and paved surface roads. A fee of \$87/ half hour (half hour minimum charge) or \$174/ hour will be charged for this service.

Please contact the Public Works Department for further details.

2021 Programs and Services

Public Works crews completed a planned 23.5 miles under the 2021 Road Recovery Program. The Road Recovery Program is designed to rehabilitate road structures, restore drainage, and dispose of any rocks and regrowth of trees and shrubs within the right of way.

Shoulder pulling is a process that extends the life of the road and reduces maintenance costs. This process includes drainage improvements, culvert

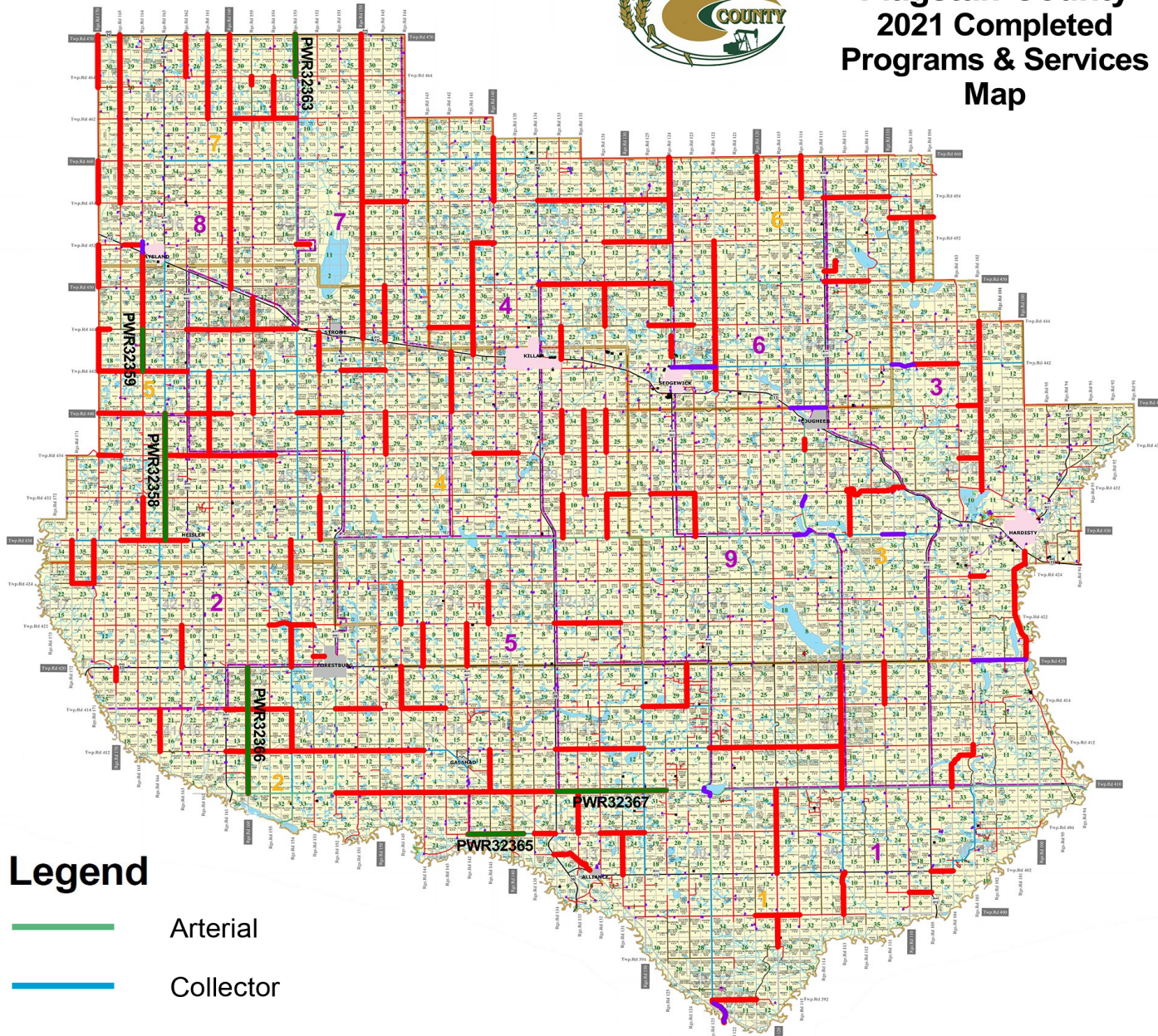
replacement, reshaping back slopes/side slopes, re-compacting the sub-grade and re-establishing the road surface crown, and is applied to roads in excess of 10 metres wide.

Within the gravel program, 369.5 miles were graveled. This includes the application of gravel for roads on the five-year regravelling cycle, arterial routes, 2020 and 2021 road recovery and 2020 road construction projects.

Please see the 2021 Programs and Services Map on the next page.



Flagstaff County 2021 Completed Programs & Services Map



Legend

-  Arterial
-  Collector
-  Local
-  Highways
-  Oiled
-  Field Access
-  2021 Regravel
-  2021 Shoulder Pulling
-  2021 Dust Suppressant

FLAGSTAFF COUNTY 2021 COMPLETED PROGRAMS & SERVICES MAP

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Projection: **UTM Zone 12 NAD 83**

Date: **November 12, 2021**

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Compiled from the Rural Cadastral Digital Base February 22, 2018, 1:20,000 Digital Base.
Land Ownership derived from municipal tax data, February 22, 2018.
Building/Site/Feature information compiled from municipal assessment data, December 2017.

Due to name length and parcel size some parcels cannot be labeled.

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS OR OMISSIONS



Strome Lagoon Upgrades Completed

Construction at the Strome Lagoon has been completed. This project included extensive upgrades and repairs to the cells and berms, due to significant erosion and degradation of the berm slopes.

The berms were rebuilt with clay, and a liner was installed to maintain the slopes and prevent future erosion.

A final inspection was completed on September 27.



Strome Water Well

After one of the two water wells in Strome collapsed in, a new water well was drilled and connected this fall. It is important to have two water wells to supply a municipality in case of failure of one well. The old well has been decommissioned; no interruptions in service were experienced during this transition.

2021 Bridge Repairs

The 2021 Bridge Repairs contract, for repairs on four bridge structures, was completed on October 31. The repairs included driving piles, replacement of timber caps, and repairs to guardrails, backwalls, and concrete, among other miscellaneous work.

Flagstaff Region Featured Business

Do you follow along with the monthly Flagstaff Region Featured Business? Flagstaff County has a partnership with The Community Press to feature a monthly profile in print and online. Participating businesses receive a County-produced promotional video and write-up on their business, and special advertising rates in The Community Press.

Due to COVID-19, this partnership has been put on hold – however, we anticipate resuming the program in January 2022, at which time we will be accepting applications for the year. Stay tuned and don't miss this opportunity to showcase your business. If you have a favourite business you would like to see featured, encourage them to register when applications open in the new year!

Flagstaff Crafted Gift Guide

Flagstaff County's Economic Development Team is thrilled to present the third edition of the Flagstaff Crafted Gift Guide. View the beautiful collection of Flagstaff Crafted products at:

www.flagstaffcrafted.ca by clicking the "GIFT GUIDE" link. We are confident you will find the perfect item for yourself or someone special in the Gift Guide. The broad range of categories and phenomenal craftsmanship is sure to impress.

Flagstaff Crafted continues to grow and expand, and the gift guide is no exception. The number of participating businesses grew by 71% since our last publication in May 2021.



It features 24 makers/ businesses and 50 unique products. Flagstaff Crafted participants have created a hub for entrepreneurs, collaboration, and support in the Flagstaff Region, and with all of the challenges of 2020/21, it has never been more important to shop local and show support for small

business! From our team to all readers of this Gift Guide, thank you for supporting Flagstaff Crafted entrepreneurs!

Make sure to stay up to date with Flagstaff Crafted by following us on Instagram at [@flagstaffcrafted](https://www.instagram.com/flagstaffcrafted) and online at: www.flagstaffcrafted.ca.

Succeeding Together

Succeeding Together is an initiative to highlight and celebrate a culture of support throughout the Flagstaff Region. It is about much more than just shopping local, although it is a great place to start.

Succeeding Together is about sharing and celebrating how we work together for the success and sustainability of the Flagstaff Region. It is about looking towards the future to ensure we remain a collaborative, innovative, and welcoming region that has opportunity for growth and success.

APPAREL

One initiative of Succeeding Together is to build awareness and community pride through the Succeeding Together apparel. Apparel pop-up sales were hosted at the Killam Wild Rose Co-op, The Rusty Daisy Gift Co., and Coutts Home Hardware over the last few months. Each retailer selected a Flagstaff Region Charity to support with the profits from sales at their location, and a total of \$505.00 was raised for two local Flagstaff Region Charities (Flagstaff Food Bank and Canine Rescue Society).

We anticipated a great turnout of support but are blown away by the interest in this initiative. So much so, that a second order of Succeeding Together apparel has been placed! We anticipate this order to arrive in the new year – stay tuned!



FLAGSTAFF COUNTY Connection

Collaborative, Innovative, and Welcoming



Welcome to Our New Online Store

If you haven't had a chance to purchase your apparel yet, good news! We're online. You can

now visit our online store to purchase our Succeeding Together apparel and Flagstaff County swag.



Flagstaff County
Connection
Visit our store

From the Flagstaff County website, click on the "Flagstaff County Connection" store button.

Five dollars from every Succeeding Together apparel purchase will be donated to a local Flagstaff Region charity every month.

Flagstaff Crafted Makers Box

Passionate about collaborating with other local businesses and being supportive of the Flagstaff Region business community, the Economic Development Team has created two makers boxes

during 2021. The latest, being the 'Comfy Cozy Are We' Fall/Winter 2021 gift box. This box exemplifies these attributes, and has arrived just in time to provide comfort and warmth through the colder temperatures ahead.



This box is a nod to winter, featuring all the essentials for staying warm and cozy. With limited quantities and a great price point, we encourage you to place your order early because we don't anticipate they will last long!

The participating makers, their included products, and further information can be found by visiting www.flagstaffcrated.ca and simply clicking the "MAKERS BOX" link.

ARE YOU READY FOR TOMORROW?

Business Succession Program

Proper succession planning is essential to the health of our small businesses, communities, and local municipalities – not only in the Flagstaff Region but the rest of Canada!

In Canada, \$1.5 trillion of business assets could be transferred to a new generation of business owners over the next decade, up 50% from the last estimate in 2012. If this is not managed well, this could have a significant impact on local jobs and the economy overall. How many of our businesses will be prepared and positioned as an “Investable Opportunity” for a new generation of owners? Statistics show that 50% of small businesses in rural municipalities are either contemplating their exit or are currently for sale.

Due to unused spots remaining in the program for 2021, Economic Development

partnered with the Agricultural Service department to run a contest for agricultural producers. A winner was selected at random to receive a consultation with Grant Thornton valued at \$1,500 to discuss their agricultural succession needs and strategy.

Whether you’re looking to retire, create an exit strategy, plan the next chapter of your life, or even pass down the reins to a family member, employee or entrepreneur, the Flagstaff Succession Program will be of interest to you and is currently accepting participants for 2022.

If you are interested in learning more about this program, or registering for a space, contact Shaina George, Economic Development Coordinator, at sgeorge@flagstaff.ab.ca. Spaces are booked on a first-come, first-served basis.

Meet Our New Assistant Ag Fieldman

Hi there, my name is Nick Dunn; I am pleased to present myself as the new Assistant Agricultural Fieldman for Flagstaff County. I was raised in Killam, which brought to me my passion in the agriculture industry. I graduated from Olds College in 2018, where I took the Agriculture Management program. I started my career with Nutrien Ag Solutions in Killam, working four years as a Crop Production Advisor.



New opportunities have led me to my new position, and I look forward to serving the Agricultural Service Board and producers in Flagstaff County. I am very interested in helping to sustain our practices and ensure longevity within soil productivity. I aim to maintain soil and water conservation and

prohibited noxious and noxious weeds under the Alberta Weed Control Act.

Integrated Pest Management is an everchanging challenge in the ag industry and it's our duty as officers and producers to be aware and manage accordingly to prevent the spread of these pests. Many operations in our county are generational and, to maintain their

viability, it's crucial for us to have awareness and inherit good practices. We need to pass this onto the next generation through succession planning and farm management, ensuring that we can feed the future and leave the land in better condition than we received it. I look forward to meeting and working for you!

— Nick

Apply for 2022 Shelterbelt Program

As part of the annual Shelterbelt Establishment Program, Flagstaff County provides trees to rural landowners to help promote, establish, and maintain healthy shelterbelts.

Shelterbelts conserve soil, protect crops and yard sites, trap snow, provide wildlife habitat, and beautify the landscape, among other benefits.

The program is delivered through an



application process and at a 50/50 cost share between Flagstaff County and the landowner for the price of the trees.

Plastic mulch is also available at cost.

Applications can be found at the Flagstaff County Office or on the website at: www.flagstaff.ab.ca.

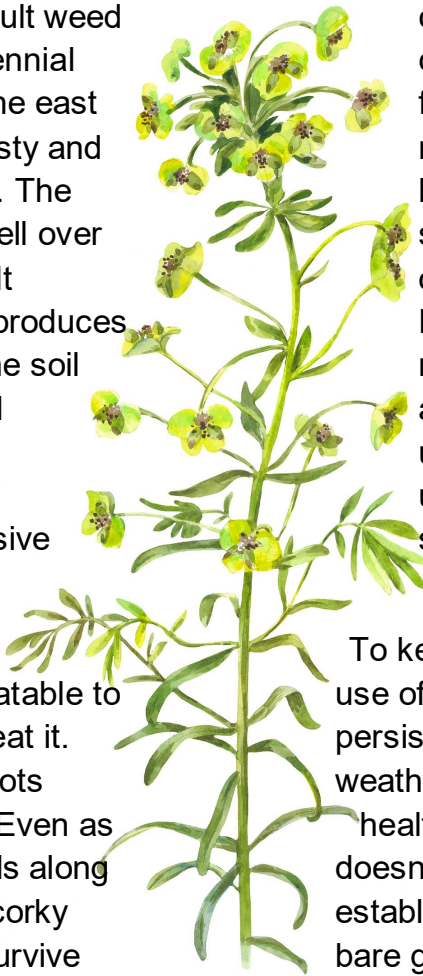
The deadline to apply — Monday, January 31 — is fast approaching. For inquiries, please call 780-384-4100.

Leafy Spurge a Regional Scourge

Why is leafy spurge such a difficult weed to control? It is a long-lived, perennial plant and a serious problem in the east side of the county, around Hardisty and extending along the Battle River. The plant has been in this area for well over 60 years and is very persistent. It spreads by seed and by root. It produces seed that can remain viable in the soil for several years. Once the seed germinates, the plant survival is relatively low. However, the big advantage it has is a very extensive root system.

Leafy spurge has a milky sap in all parts of the plant. It is not palatable to cattle, but sheep and goats will eat it. Once established, it can have roots reaching down 15 feet or more. Even as it starts to grow, it is forming buds along the lateral roots. There is thick, corky bark on the roots allowing it to survive extended droughty conditions. In the spring the buds begin to grow, and it expands its footprint.

As it likes coarse textured soils, it is very



competitive on pastures, out-competing grass and desirable forbs for both moisture and nutrients. There are numerous beetles that can feed on leafy spurge but they are, at best, only going to limit the spread. Herbicides can work but it requires several years of diligent application to get the plants under control. Goats have been used to effectively thin out stands but there is no, one, silver bullet.

To keep it under control requires the use of multiple strategies and persistence over the years. And the weather also must cooperate. In a healthy, thick stand of grass it doesn't get an opportunity to establish, but watch out once there is bare ground showing!

Flagstaff County will continue to concentrate resources on this difficult weed. Everyone needs to make it a priority to keep on top of leafy spurge.

Online County Planning Tool at your Fingertips

Webmap is a very useful mapping tool for planning your development site and subdivision design, and it's available through the County webpage.

Sign in as a guest, and you will be able to locate any parcel within the County, access measuring tools, view aerial photos of

properties and much more.

Webmap is available by clicking on the "I Want To" dropdown menu at the top of the County homepage, scrolling down to "View", and choosing "Maps". Once there, you will see the link to "Webmap". If you need help finding Webmap, please don't hesitate to call us!

Water Quality for Drinking Purposes

Water is essential to life and that certainly applies to rural areas.

Up until 2020, Flagstaff County conducted a “Watch Your Water” program where we would test water samples for rural residents for bacteria, mineral content and arsenic.

Through drilling large volume, agricultural wells for tank loaders, it was found some areas had elevated levels of arsenic, beyond what is recommended for human consumption. The “Watch

Your Water” program was started to help get an idea of how extensive the problem was and to help rural water users. For over 10 years the Agricultural Service Board funded this program.

However, due to budget considerations, this program was discontinued after 2020. The good news is that the majority of information available from these tests is still accessible to rural water users.

If you are a rural resident and have concerns about the safety of your water,

there is still testing available, just not from the County. Alberta Health Services, through their health centres, will provide bottles and testing for bacterial and mineral content for drinking water for rural residents from their own wells. This does not apply to any real estate transactions or testing for the purposes of water testing for livestock use.

For most of us, once you get the results of the water test, you still need some help interpreting the results. Alberta Agriculture previously developed an interpretation tool to help give you information on the safety and quality of your water.

The link to that tool is: <https://www.alberta.ca/understanding-water-test-results.aspx>.

Once you know the water quality and any issues it may present, then you can choose an appropriate water treatment system to allow for drinking water.

If you are concerned particularly with levels of arsenic, which is not tested in the mineral or bacterial tests, it is available as an individual test through accredited testing labs for a fee. Testing for an individual metal, such as arsenic, is usually less than \$50.

Potable water is essential and testing is still available for rural land owners. Regular testing for water well quality is encouraged.

How does your internet measure up?

Flagstaff County has partnered with CIRA to conduct internet speed testing across the Flagstaff Region.

The data will be used to support applications for improved internet coverage throughout the Flagstaff Region.

Measure your speed on different days and at different times of the day.



<https://performance.cira.ca/flagstaff>