

#yourflagstaff



The official newsletter of Flagstaff County

Winter/Spring 2021

County Launches Podcast

Flagstaff County is excited to announce the launch of a new podcast to assist in our ongoing efforts to communicate important issues and relevant information to all residents throughout the region.



The first few episodes of "Flagstaff County: The Podcast" have been hosted by Agricultural Fieldman Harry Brook and have

revolved around agriculture. But stay tuned. The one-on-one, interview-style podcast will be hosted by a variety of staff members and will cover a range of topics important to Flagstaff County residents.

It's available via Apple Podcasts at: bit.ly/FlagstaffPodcast, as well as other popular directories.

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The wait is almost over for the 2nd edition of the Flagstaff Crafted Gift Guide: Page 8.

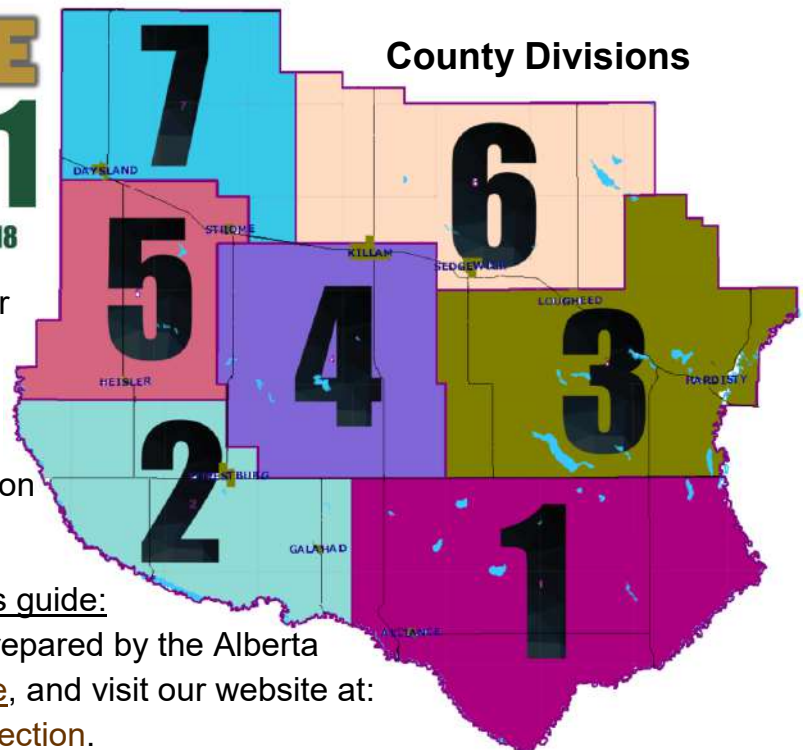
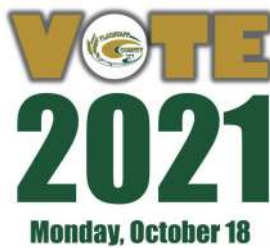
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Nominations Open for Municipal Election

Nominations for this year's municipal election are now open.

To become a municipal candidate, you must be at least 18 years of age on Nomination Day (Monday, September 20, 2021), a Canadian citizen, and you must have been a resident of the local jurisdiction for the six consecutive months immediately preceding Nomination Day.

For more information, read [A candidate's guide: running for municipal office in Alberta](#), prepared by the Alberta government, at: bit.ly/ABCandidateGuide, and visit our website at: flagstaff.ab.ca/council/2021-municipal-election.



Winter Public Works Programs & Services

This winter, crews have stockpiled approximately 15,000 tonnes of gravel at the Daysland Stockpile site. The maintenance area grader operators have been removing ice from gravel roads with Sandvik bars. Operators have also been out sanding, salting and plowing as required.



Mulching Conducted throughout Winter

Every year, Public Works employees identify locations throughout the County wherein trees and brush are overgrown and affecting sightlines adjacent to road allowances. These issues can be effectively dealt with by mulching.

Mulching is a unique method of removing trees and brush as it chips the brush into small pieces, and is both environmentally friendly and visually appealing. Once the grass begins to grow, it camouflages the mulch on the ground. Mulching is done in the winter when the trees are frozen, as it allows the mulcher to work more efficiently.

This service is provided to landowners upon request, as crews and equipment are



available. Motorists are asked to slow down and drive with extra caution when approaching any Public Works equipment.

Overload/Weight Restriction Permit Process

In the coming months, spring road bans may be applied to certain gravel roads throughout the County; please refer to the Flagstaff County website at flagstaff.ab.ca for the latest information regarding road bans. Should a situation arise whereby an overweight vehicle must travel on a banned road, a person or company may apply to Flagstaff County for an Overload/Weight Restriction Agreement. The agreement holder shall accept full responsibility for all damages to the road. Security under the agreement shall be in the following amounts:

- Energy or Oil/Gas & Private Trucking Companies: \$25,000
- Agriculture Sector: \$5,000

Security may be in the form of a certified cheque or an irrevocable letter of credit.

Should the entire trip on the banned road in question be less than one (1) mile, Public Works has the authority to issue a Special "Site Specific" Permit, without entering into an Overload/Weight Restriction Agreement.

The County will undertake a pre- and post inspection of the road(s) under this agreement to assess road conditions. An administration/inspection fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) for each road location requested shall be charged to the company. Both pre- and post inspections must be initiated by the company. The pre- and post inspection may be conducted in the presence of a representative of the company upon the Company's request.

In addition to entering into an Overload/

Weight Restriction Agreement with the County, the person or company must also obtain a Project Permit and it shall only be valid for the routes, vehicles and dates indicated. The Project Permit shall be obtained through RoaData Services Ltd.

The Project Permit issuer may apply conditions to the permit as deemed necessary to preserve the integrity of the route.

All vehicles owned or operated by the person or company, for which a Project Permit has been issued pursuant to this section, must have a copy of the Project Permit in the cab of the vehicle and produce it to a Peace Officer or County employee upon demand.

An Overload/Weight Restriction Agreement must be entered into at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to traveling on County roads.

A person or company that has entered into an Overload/Weight Restriction Agreement with the County must report any damages immediately to the County.

After the expiration or termination of the Overload/Weight Restriction Agreement, the person or company in question shall be refunded the security amount less any costs assessed for damages to any road. A detailed statement of costs shall be included with the refund, if any.

An Overload/Weight Restriction Agreement will expire at the end of each year.

Please see the next page for more information relevant to Spring Road Ban Preparation for Hauling.

Multiple Load Road Use Agreements

Where more than ten (10) loads per day will be required by the same person or company, a Multiple Load Road Use Agreement is required. The agreement holder shall accept full responsibility for all damages to the road.

Agricultural producers are only required to obtain a Multiple Load Road Use Agreement from Spring Ban season to July 1, the remainder of the year

Agricultural producers are exempt to haul commodities.

The Multiple Load Road Use Agreement shall be obtained through RoaData Services Ltd. at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to traveling on County roads. In addition to entering into a Multiple Load Road Use Agreement with the County, the person or company must also obtain a permit through RoaData Services Ltd. and it shall only be valid for the routes, vehicles and dates indicated.

The County will undertake a pre- and post inspection of the road(s) under this agreement to assess road conditions. An administration inspection fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) shall be charged to the permit holder. The pre- and post

inspection may be conducted in the presence of a representative of the agreement holder upon the agreement holder's request.

The agreement holder is required to supply dust suppressant, if hauling more than twenty-five (25) loads per day, for all residents along the haul route prior to the start of and during the duration of the project. MG 30 or a water truck will be utilized for a minimum distance of 200 metres in front of the residence or location of concern.

The County may apply conditions to the permit as deemed necessary to preserve the integrity of the route.

All vehicles owned or operated by the person or company, for which the permit has been issued pursuant to this section, must have a copy of the permit in the cab of the vehicle and produce it to the Peace Officer or County employee upon demand.

A person or company that has entered into a Multiple Load Road Use Agreement with the County must report any damages immediately to the County.

Roadside Haying Permits Available

It is that time of year again when we start thinking of feed for our animals and where we are going to source it. Flagstaff County has haying permits available for landowners to hay along municipal right-of-ways to cut and bale hay for themselves.

Landowners must apply for a Roadside Haying Permit from Flagstaff County prior to May 15. The landowners must have their haying completed on the municipal right-of-ways by July 15. All permits are valid for one year and annual renewal is required. If no permits are obtained, the municipal right-of-ways will be mowed by Flagstaff County.



For an online application form or to access a printable PDF version of the Roadside Haying Permit, please visit:

bit.ly/RoadsideHayingPermit.



Roadside Vegetation Management

Flagstaff County ASB controls weed and brush on municipal owned roadsides with herbicides. Roadsides will be sprayed up to 500 feet from a farm site and continue 500 feet past the farm site. Landowners/tenants that are not in favour of having municipally owned roadsides adjacent to their property treated with herbicide are encouraged to complete a No Spray Agreement prior to June 1. The No Spray Agreement is good for five years. Please keep in mind that by signing the agreement, you are responsible for maintaining the weed and brush along those areas to municipal

standards. Once the No Spray Agreement is sent to Flagstaff County there are "Do Not Spray" signs available at the Flagstaff County Administration Building for pickup. These signs must be posted along the roadsides for our spray crew to look for when they are out spraying.

For an online application form or to access a printable PDF of the No Herbicide Application Agreement, please visit:

bit.ly/RoadsideVegetationManagement.

What Does the ASB Do? (for you)

The Agricultural Service Board has its own Act in legislation. The ASBs were begun back in 1945 to address agriculture in the rural municipalities. Agriculture was important enough to have a committee made up of County councillors to look at and make policy addressing the concerns of and challenges to agriculture.

There are four general roles performed by the ASB. They are policy and administration, program development and review, program promotion and advertising, and a general role.

The duties of the ASB are to act as an advisory body, both to council and ultimately to the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, in matters of mutual concern. They advise on and direct weed and pest control, and soil and water conservation programs in the County. If necessary, they assist in the control of livestock diseases as listed under the Animal Health Act. The committee is to promote, enhance and protect the viability and sustainability of agriculture while also improving the economic viability of agricultural producers, and finally, to promote and develop agricultural policies that meet the needs of the County.

Flagstaff County ASB provides a number of services. They include renting out traps for nuisance wildlife, such as skunks, magpies and raccoons. The County has three tree

planters available for rent to those planting shelterbelts, as well as plastic mulch for sale, and the applicator.

The County has paid for the installation and maintenance of seven high-capacity water wells to help speed up filling for agricultural sprayers and other large water users. We also provide strychnine for Richardson's ground squirrel (gopher) control and sell traps for both ground squirrel and pocket gopher trapping. We also assist producers in obtaining and sending away feed and water samples.

There is also a weed control service provided, on agricultural lands, where private land can be sprayed by ASB staff, at cost, to control problem weeds. Other weed services include spraying one-third of the County roads every year for brush and weed control, roadside shoulder hydroseeding and pest surveys. The ASB also plans and delivers extension activities throughout the year.

Agricultural Service Boards function effectively when there is good communication between agricultural producers and the committee. They need to be aware of issues and opportunities to provide service and help to the agricultural public. If you have any ideas for projects to benefit the agricultural community in Flagstaff County, please contact Agricultural Fieldman Harry Brook at 780-384-4100.





Tree Pruning

For beginners doing pruning in their yards.

For any large pruning please contact professional certified arborist.

When to prune?

- **Coniferous trees**, like spruce or pine, can be pruned any time of year. For most trees, the best is time from March to mid-April or during the winter
- **Birch and Maple** – prune **ONLY** during the growing season – June and July – leaves must be fully developed
- **Elm trees** – **DO NOT** prune from April 1 till October 1
- **Hardwood trees**, like aspen or ash, and **shrubs without showy flowers**, prune in the dormant season
 - to easily visualize the structure of the tree,
 - to maximize wound closure in the growing season after pruning,
 - to reduce the chance of transmitting disease, and
 - to discourage excessive sap flow from wounds

Why prune trees?

- To remove “**3D- Dead, Diseased or storm-Damaged**” branches
- To thin the crown to permit new growth and better air circulation
- To reduce the height of a tree or to remove obstructing lower branches
- To shape a tree for design purposes
- To reduce potential fire hazards
- To encourage flowering, to promote fruit production
- To address safety issues for people or property

How much to prune?

- Every time you prune a tree, it stresses the tree and increases vulnerability
- Pruning increases the opportunity for insects and diseases to invade trees
- Generally speaking, prune no more than 25 % of living branches
- The amount of live tissue that should be removed depends on the tree size, species, and age, as well as the pruning objectives



Basic principles of pruning

- Visualize the shape of the plant at maturity – how the tree will look like after pruning
- Remove dead, damaged and diseased wood
- Select the key branches or main stems that you want to keep
- Remove weak crotches, crossed branches, suckers and watersprouts (new branches growing near bottom of the tree)
- Cut back to branch collar to leave the smallest wound possible
- Remember that more is not always better – you can always prune next year



Pruning techniques

- **Cleaning** is the removal of dead, dying, diseased, crowded, weakly attached, and low-vigor branches from the crown of a tree.
- **Crown Thinning** is the selective removal of branches to increase light penetration and air movement through the crown (the branches and leaves extending from the trunk or main stems). Thinning opens the foliage of a tree, reduces weight on heavy limbs, and helps retain the tree's natural shape.
- **Raising** removes the lower branches from a tree in order to provide clearance for buildings, vehicles, pedestrians, and vistas.
- **Reduction** reduces the size of a tree, often for clearance for utility lines.



For more tips and tricks, watch the video at: bit.ly/PruningTipsAndTricks.

2021 Flagstaff Crafted Spring/Summer Gift Guide

The wait is almost over! The 2nd edition of the Flagstaff Crafted Gift Guide will be launching in late April 2021. We hope to build on the success of the first Gift Guide, which increased revenue, web traffic, and media attention for almost ALL participants.

Thanks to the outpouring of support from local consumers, many participants sold out of their featured products!

You can stay up-to-date on all things Flagstaff



Crafted by checking out the website www.flagstaffcrafted.ca or following along on Instagram @flagstaffcrafted.

Flagstaff Region Business Succession Program

Flagstaff County has partnered with Grant Thornton to offer FREE one-on-one support to Flagstaff Region businesses that are succession planning. Participants will receive an initial consultation with Grant Thornton to discuss their unique circumstances, and then dive deeper to determine the next steps and considerations most relevant to their business.

This program was developed due to staggering statistics that directly impact the future vitality of the Flagstaff Region economy, such as:

- 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?

(Continued on the next page)

2nd Innovation Masterclass this May

Our first Innovation Masterclass was so successful that we've decided to launch another! Flagstaff County invites YOU to join the 2nd Innovation Masterclass coming this May! (Dates will be finalized based on participant registration and their availability).

The Innovation Masterclass is a comprehensive 6-to-8-week program designed to introduce innovative thinking to leaders 16 years and older through collaborative group sessions, as well as to provide valuable hands-on experience using the Exponential Organizations Model. Throughout this program, participants will learn from and interact with global business leaders, gaining valuable experience in innovative thinking, idea development, business development, public speaking



and leadership skills. Participants will also build upon their knowledge base to become highly capable business industry leaders. This program is offered online and is flexible to each participant's schedule. For more information on the program and how to apply, please contact Jordyn Prior, Economic Development Coordinator, at

jprior@flagstaff.ab.ca.

"The Innovation Masterclass was such an amazing experience! I learned so much and enjoyed making new connections and working with others in and outside the region. I am so thankful to have been a part of this amazing experience."

– Trish Granger, Rustic Stars.

Flagstaff Region Business Succession Program

(Continued from the previous page)

- 60% of small business owners do not have a succession plan in place because they are working too hard to secure a financial future, and;
- 50% of small businesses in rural municipalities are either contemplating their exit or are currently for sale.

A handful of businesses have started their succession planning through this program, and we have 10 REMAINING SPACES for 2021. If you are a Flagstaff Region business owner that would like to explore succession planning in more detail, or look at options to improve your existing plan, please reach out to Jordyn Prior, Economic Development Coordinator, at jprior@flagstaff.ab.ca.

Do I require a Development Permit?

While there are a few exceptions, most projects require approval. For example, dugouts and some signs require a development permit. A list of developments not

requiring a development permit can be found in the Land Use Bylaw (Section 3.5).

Please contact our office regarding setback and permit

regulations, or if you have any questions regarding your proposed development. It is always a good idea to contact us when planning proposed projects.

YES



Permit
required

- Build or expand a house/major renovation
- Demolition
- Garage or Residential Shop
- Manufactured Home
- Dugout
- Farm Building
- Accessory Building 10m² (108 ft²) and over
- Operation of business, including home business
- Sign

Examples of developments

NO



Not
required

- Minor renovations/maintenance (paint, shingles, etc.)
- A building under 10m² (108ft²)*
- Fence 2.2m (6.6ft) or under*
- Shelterbelts*

***Provided all setbacks and regulations are met.**

Still not sure if you need a permit?
Contact us at county@flagstaff.ab.ca
or at 780-384-4102.

Applying for a Development Permit

How do I apply?

To apply, you must submit the following:

- A completed application form
- A site plan
- Building plans
- Application fee

Please be aware that additional information may be required at the discretion of the Development Officer.

How long will it take to be approved?

The Development Officer has 40 days to make a decision on a permit application.

Typically, however, a permit for a permitted use is issued within one week.

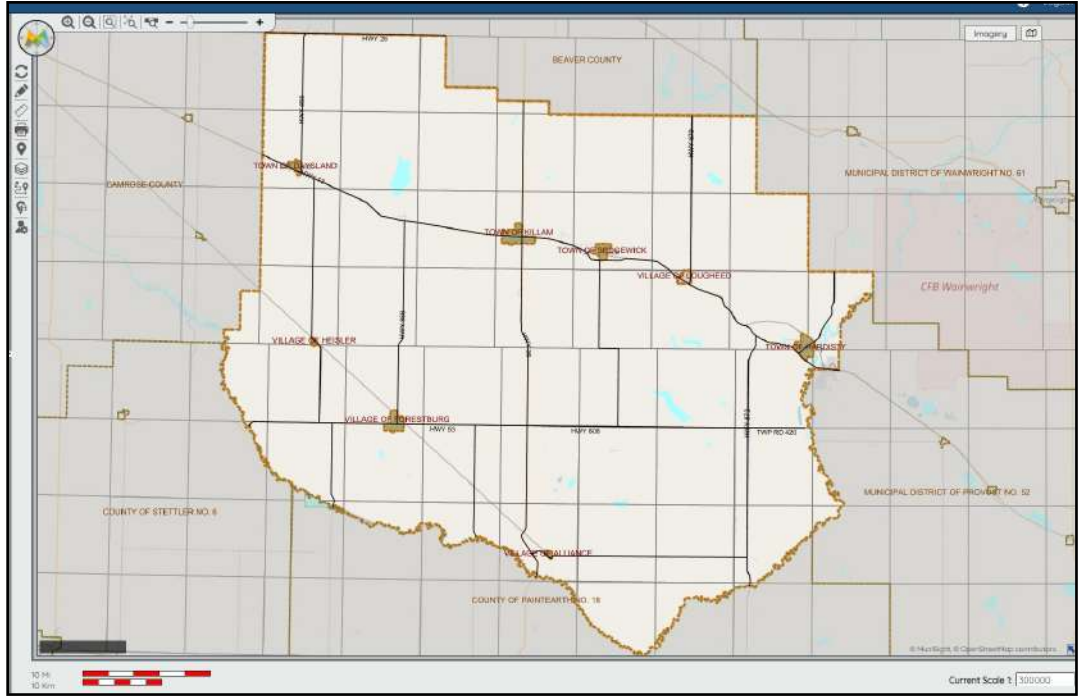
A permit for a discretionary use can take a full month due to the extra processing requirements.

Development Permit applications may be found on our website at: <https://www.flagstaff.ab.ca/county-services/planning-development>.

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” drop-down at the top of the County home page, 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!

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3,393 Follows

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YouTube

208 Videos

117,792 Views

79 Subscribers



Twitter

6,375 Tweets

1,699 Followers





**Please slow down around
our workers and equipment.**