

#yourflagstaff



The official newsletter of Flagstaff County

Late Summer 2024

7
Divisions

or

5
Divisions

?



Weigh in on Boundaries

Flagstaff County Council is currently conducting an Electoral Boundary Review based on the results of our recently completed census — and we're looking for public feedback. The main issue at stake: Should we reduce the number of councillors from seven to five? County and hamlet residents, you are urged to weigh in on this important issue in a number of ways.

Online or Print Survey

First, register your vote via our online survey at: <https://bit.ly/FlagstaffBoundary> or fill out the survey on Page 6 of this newsletter, cut it out and drop it off at the Flagstaff County Administration Building or mail it to: Electoral

Boundary Review; Flagstaff County; Box 358; Sedgewick, AB; T0B 4C0.

Public Open House

Second, be sure to attend our Public Open House from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1 at the Flagstaff County Administration Building and give us your input in-person.

Email Feedback

Finally, residents are also invited to email your feedback by Wednesday, October 2 to: PublicInput@flagstaff.ab.ca.

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What exactly are You Weighing in on?

(Article Continued from Front Page)

Council is looking for your choice on the following three options.

Option 1: Five divisions based on balanced population.

Option 2: Seven divisions based on balanced residences.

Option 3: Seven divisions with no changes. Currently, the County is divided into seven electoral divisions, each represented by a single councillor.

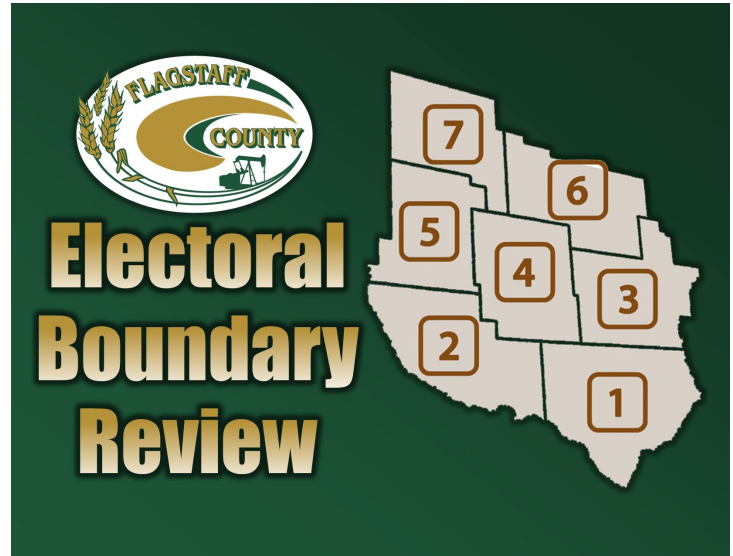
Look for the proposed concept maps starting on the next page.

Who's Affected?

Amending the electoral boundaries may impact a portion of residents within the County, as their current elected official may change if their land is amended to a different division. The change in electoral boundaries may also impact nominations and candidates in upcoming elections for Council. As such, residents have an interest in understanding how the change in electoral boundaries may impact them.

Budget Implications of Reducing Council from Seven to Five Councillors

The annual estimated cost to support one



councillor position annually is approximately \$56,925 (\$227,700 over four years), which includes wages, travel, conference, benefits, laptop, and reimbursed expenses. Over a four-year electoral term, decreasing from seven councillor positions to five councillor positions equates to an estimated cost savings of \$455,400 for the County.

The Review Process

This process began this past spring (May and June) with the municipal census, which provided insights into demographic changes and population distribution. The results of the municipal census are outlined in the table below.

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Division	2024 Municipal Census Population	Percentage
1. Rick Manning	417	11.4%
2. Mat Ponto	527	14.4%
3. Jeff Eckstrand	657	18.0%
4. Melvin Thompson	437	11.9%
5. Don Kroetch	707	19.3%
6. Larry Hiller	530	14.5%
7. Howard Shield	385	10.5%
Total	3660	100.0%

A Look at Proposed Concept Maps

Using the 2024 population census data, along with pre-determined criteria agreed upon by Council, four concept maps were established.

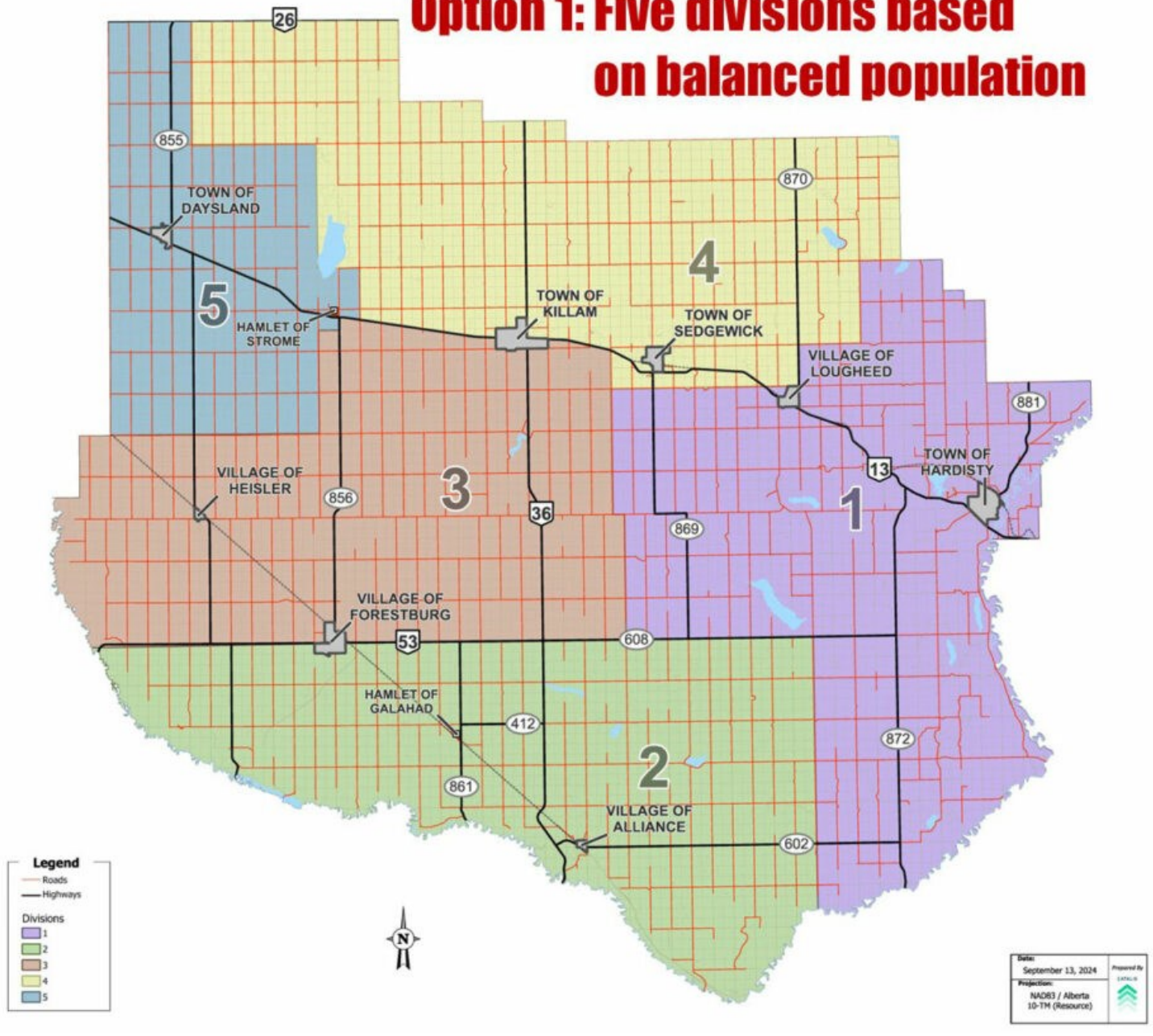
Council decided to put forth to the public two of these options, as well as the option to stay with the current electoral boundaries with seven divisions.

Option 1: Five divisions based on balanced population. The electoral boundaries would result

in the following population/residences split per division:

Division	Population	Residences	Deviation*
1	754	269	3
2	754	281	3
3	709	275	-3.1
4	700	269	-4.4
5	743	278	1.5

Option 1: Five divisions based on balanced population

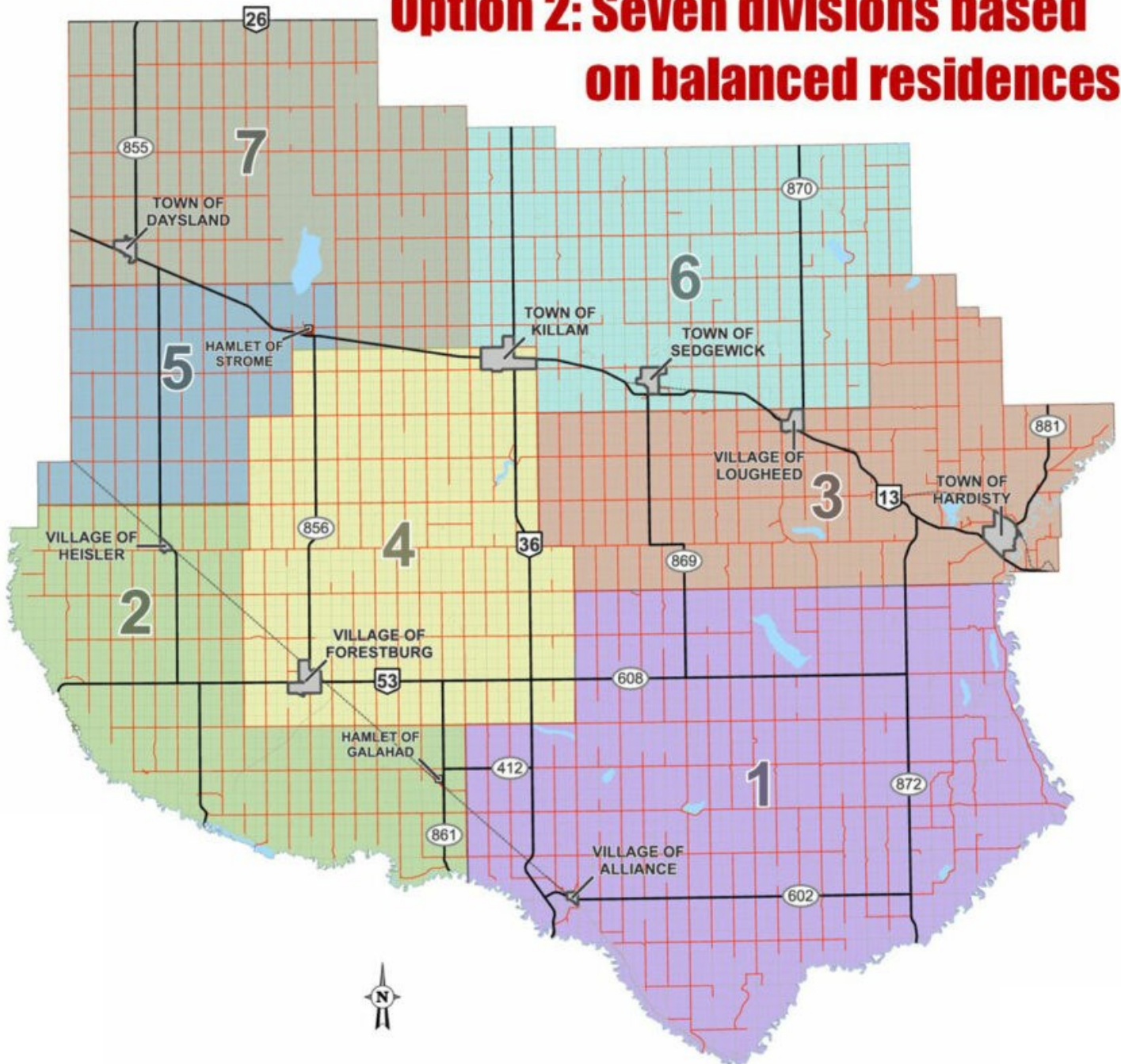


Option 2: Seven divisions based on balanced residences.

The electoral boundaries would result in the following population/residences split per division:

Division	Population	Residences	Deviation*
1	671	202	3.1
2	489	201	2.6
3	473	196	0
4	494	196	0
5	562	205	4.6
6	489	185	-5.6
7	482	187	-4.6

Option 2: Seven divisions based on balanced residences

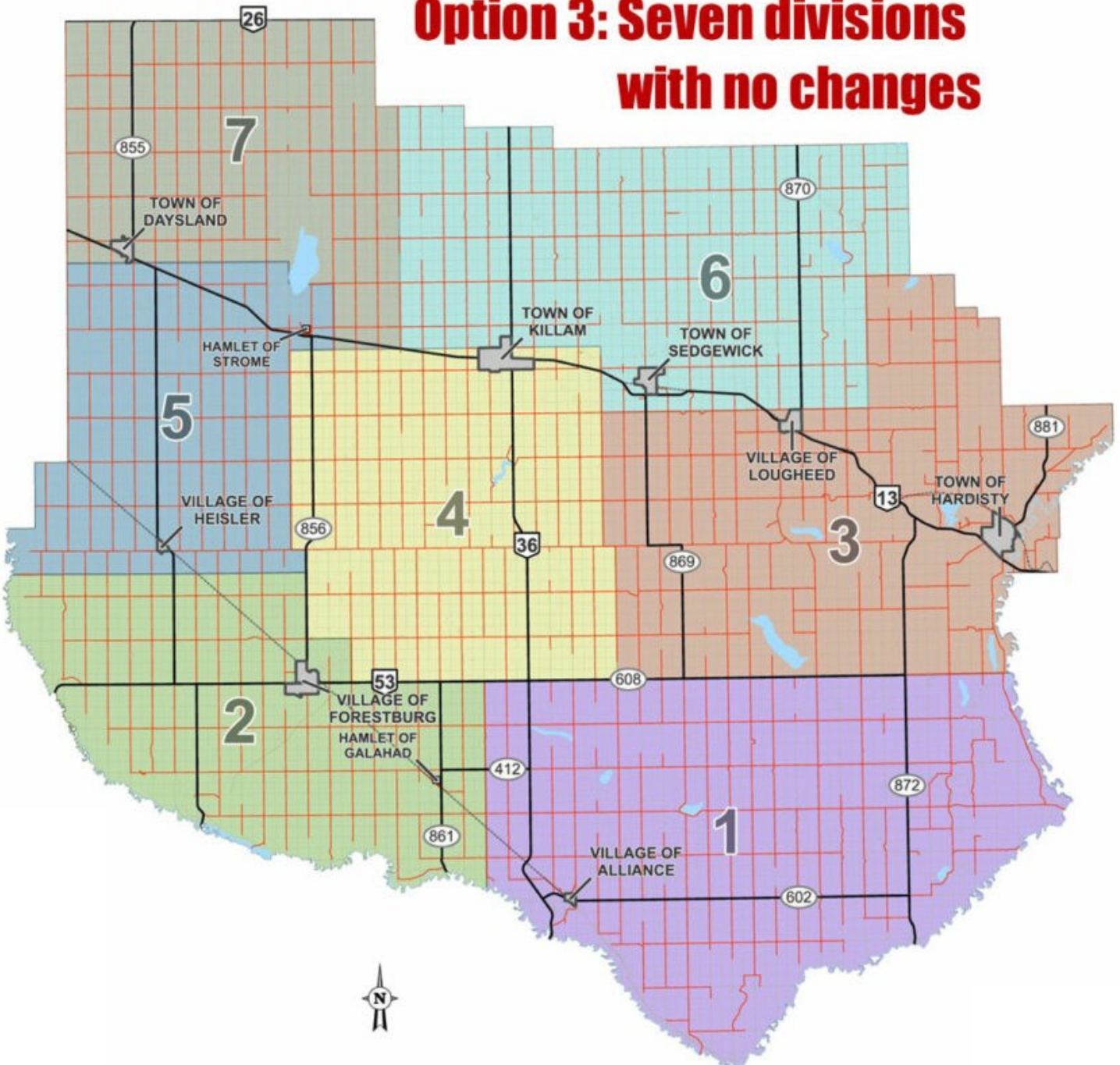


Option 3: Seven divisions with no changes.

Leaving the current electoral boundaries with no changes would result in the following population/residences split per division:

Division	Population	Residences	Deviation*
1	417	144	-26.5
2	528	220	12.2
3	657	226	15.3
4	437	171	-12.8
5	706	260	32.7
6	530	200	2
7	385	151	-23

Option 3: Seven divisions with no changes



The Need for Electoral Boundary Review

Years of population change, including the more recent incorporation of the Hamlets of Strome and Galahad, have left an uneven distribution throughout our seven electoral divisions.

It's time to redraw our electoral boundaries to give residents the best possible municipal representation.

Electoral boundaries distinguish the divisions represented by our councillors. Our boundaries haven't changed since we became a County in 1968. Currently, the County is divided into seven electoral divisions, each represented by a single councillor.

This Electoral Boundary Review is occurring not only to help ensure fair representation, but also for efficient delivery of public services.

Timeframe/Process

The following timeframe allows for the input to meaningfully influence Council's decisions:

- The Electoral Boundary revision concept maps and information will be advertised, and feedback options made available for a minimum of three weeks.
- A public open house will be held at the administration office on Tuesday, October 1, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- The results of the public engagement will be presented at a Special Council Meeting on Monday, October 7.
- First Reading of the Electoral Boundaries Bylaw with a single boundary map to present to the public at the October 7 Special Council Meeting.
- Public hearing to consider a new Electoral Boundary Bylaw: Rescheduled Regular Council Meeting on Wednesday, December 18, 2024 (to allow for the 60-day petition period).

Fill out a Printed Ballot and Return it to Us

Ballot

My choice for the Flagstaff County Electoral Boundary Review is:

- Option 1: Five divisions based on balanced population.**
- Option 2: Seven divisions based on balanced residences.**
- Option 3: Seven divisions with no changes.**

I live in:

- Rural Flagstaff County.**
- The Hamlet of Strome or Galahad.**
- Other.**



Drop off this ballot at the Flagstaff County Administration Building or mail it to:
Electoral Boundary Review; Flagstaff County; Box 358; Sedgewick, AB; T0B 4C0.



Please Join Us For Our Small Business Awards Night

FLAGSTAFF CELEBRATES SUCCESS

GALIA



OCT 24 2024

— 5:30 PM —

Killam Community Hall

GUEST SPEAKER JAMES BOETTCHER

Tickets will be available starting October 1st



Bridge Maintenance in 2024



The following bridges are slated for maintenance work:

- BF#72912 – SE 10-40-13 W4 (Twp Rd 401A) south of Alliance – Culvert repairs: Large-diameter culvert replacement
- BF#2408 – SW 21-44-12 W4 (Rge Rd 124) north of Sedgewick – Bridge repair: Structural repairs to bridge
- BF#1459 – NW 18-42-11 W4 (Rge Rd 120) southwest of Hardisty – Bridge repair or replace with culvert

Work has been completed

on the following bridges:

- BF#7688 – SW 23-44-12 W4 (Rge Rd 122) north of Sedgewick – Bridge repair: Structural repairs to bridge
- BF#77982 – SW 05-43-10 W4 (Rge Rd 105) west of Hardisty – Bridge repair: Structural repairs to bridge
- BF #1019 – SE 03-46-15 W4 (Twp Rd 460) north of Daysland – Replace with culvert
- BF#76355 – SW 15-42-12 W4 (Twp Rd 422) south of Sedgewick – Replace with culvert

Taxes due Oct. 15

This is just a friendly reminder that 2024 taxes are due on October 15.

A 12% penalty on all outstanding taxes will be levied on October 16.

For more information on taxation, please visit the Flagstaff County website at: www.flagstaff.ab.ca.

Tree Care Workshop



With ISA Certified Arborist Toso Bozic



Oct. 22, 2024
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Flagstaff County Office

To register, call 780-384-4100.



Dams removed with dynamite

Flagstaff County will blast any unwanted beaver dams on private land. The fee charged in 2024 is cost recovery on materials, plus \$50/hr.

If interested in this service, please contact Agricultural Fieldman Nick Dunn at 780-384-4138.



Please note that no beavers are harmed in this program.

Gravel for sale to County landowners

Gravel is available for sale to a maximum of 150 tonnes per year per residential/farm/acreage site within the County. Landowners wishing to purchase gravel must contact the Transportation Department to make arrangements and obtain a "Permission for Purchase of Gravel" form prior to receiving any gravel sales.

Gravel Sales are limited to the following dates for the remainder of 2024, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.:

- **September 25**
- **October 9 & 23**

Gravel sales are limited to the following gravel pits: Mazure Pit (NE 16-43-09 W4); Skori Pit #2 (N 1/2

09-46-11 W4); Barber Stockpile (NE 17-44-09 W4); and Daysland Stockpile (SE 13-45-17 W4), providing a loader is available at that gravel pit on that particular day.

To arrange for the purchase of gravel, please contact John Guhle, Field Coordinator - Gravel, at 780-390-0321 or jguhle@flagstaff.ab.ca. Information regarding a list of available aggregate products and pricing can also be obtained.

Flagstaff County does not haul gravel for ratepayers; hauling arrangements must be made by the ratepayer. The intent of gravel sales is for use on private lands for laneways and yard sites, not for re-sale.



McNabb Stockpile (west of Forestburg)

With Guest Expert:

Jessica Janzen

Resiliency | Mindset | Author | Philanthropist | Mental Health Advocate



Small Business Workshop

TOPIC: MINDSET & RESILIENCY



In-Person Workshop

SESSION THREE: Wednesday October 9, 2024
12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Virtual Follow-Up Coaching Session

SESSION FOUR (follow-up) : Wednesday October 30, 2024
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

REGISTER NOW:

csutter@flagstaff.ab.ca



THE OFFICIAL
FLAGSTAFF REGION
TOURISM PAGE

EXPLORE_FLAGSTAFFREGION



TRAVEL
DESTINATION

DISCOVER
HIDDEN GEMS

LOCAL
ADVENTURE

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORTS

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE

For more information on the available small business supports, please contact Shaina Dunn – Economic Development Coordinator at 780-384-4151 or email sdunn@flagstaff.ab.ca.

Succession Readiness Support Program
Small Business & Agricultural

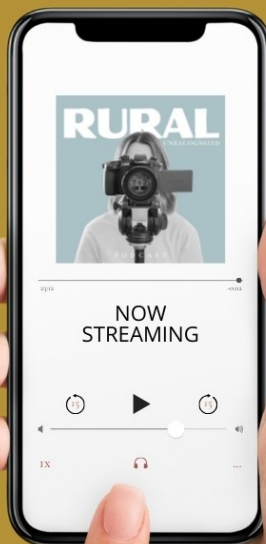
BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAM

ONE-ON-ONE BUSINESS COACHING SESSIONS

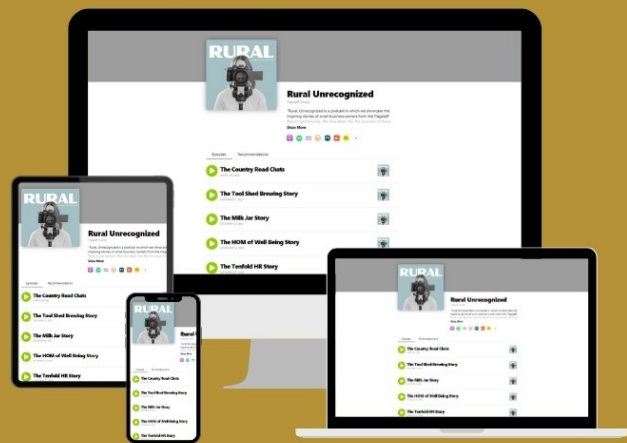
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SUPPORT PROGRAM

- BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAM
- ONE-ON-ONE BUSINESS COACHING
- REGIONAL THOUGHT EXCHANGE PROGRAM
- SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SUPPORT PROGRAM
- AGRICULTURE SUCCESSION READINESS PROGRAM
- SMALL BUSINESS SUCCESSION READINESS PROGRAM

<https://www.flagstaff.ab.ca/county-services/economic-development/>



PODCAST



The Rural Unrecognized podcast showcases the inspiring stories of small business owners. Tune in and get inspired by the amazing stories of these passionate and dedicated individuals who are making a difference in their communities and beyond.



LISTEN ON YOUR FAVOURITE PLATFORMS!

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



BOOKKEEPING CLASSES

Classes will be held at Flagstaff County Administrative Building in Sedgewick - Sterling Room

In partnership with

SAVE THE DATE

\$50 /class incl. lunch

- Bookkeeping Fundamentals
- Payroll Regulations
- QuickBooks Online
- Excel Level I 75% discount

FLAGSTAFF COMMUNITY ADULT LEARNING
LEARN HERE | CONNECT HERE | BELONG HERE
www.fcal.net

FCAL office
780-385-3712

Braeden at
programs@fcal.net

Dates:
Oct 10 & 31; Nov 7 & 28

Each session runs from 9-3PM

Participants need to bring a laptop - please contact us if you need one



2024 Tourism Forum

9am to 3pm, Railway Station, Forestburg AB
Tuesday October 22, 2024

PRESENTATIONS

MARTY PARK
Your best business, Your best life

STRONG COFFEE MARKETING
Leveraging Media

PANEL DISCUSSION
Rural Gets It

TICKETS \$50

www.braedalberta.ca



regional ec...
D...