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Fax: 403-268-8091
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**Editorial
Content
DEADLINE**

1st
of each month
for the next
month's
issue



CALGARY COIN SHOW

**March 19 & 20, 2016
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IN & AROUND SCHOOLS

Mapleridge Cooperative Preschool

This month our 3-year-old students will be learning about nursery rhymes and what lives in the sea. Our 4-year-old students will be learning about space. They will be going on the big yellow bus to the Telus Spark Science Centre where they will have a chance to use their natural curiosity and creativity to learn more about the world around them.

The students will be off for spring break on March 18 and we will welcome them back on March 29.



Lenten activities underway at École St. Cecilia School

For our Lenten activity this year, our school community is supporting Habitat for Humanity through a variety of activities culminating in an Art Evening to raise funds. The Lenten period leads up to March 24 when students will celebrate the Stations of the Cross.

Our grade 5 and 6 students will enjoy skiing and snowboarding lessons in March at Winsport while our grade 2 students will visit the Glenbow Museum to learn about Calgary's history.

The activities will wind down for Spring Break which begins on March 24 at noon.



**Plant
Trivia**

What is the most common
type of plant in the world?
Answer: Grass



South West Communities Resource Centre

Located in the Professional Wing of the Oakridge Co-Op Mall

#42 2580 Southland Drive SW, T2V 4J8

Phone: 403-238-9222 • Email: info@swcrc.ca • www.swcrc.ca

Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting Register Now

**Tuesday mornings, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm for 8 weeks.
Next session is April 12 – May 31 2016. Program offered free of charge and includes program materials, child minding, coffee, and snacks.**

Children have the right to protection from physical punishment and to positive discipline that respects their dignity. In this wonderfully affirming program, parents of children 0 – 18 years will learn the four principles of positive discipline: setting goals; creating a positive home climate; understanding how children think and feel; and problem solving in challenging situations. Parents will practice their skills in hands-on exercises and learn to apply these principles across a wide range of situations. The result will be a positive relationship with your child that will last a lifetime.

This program is facilitated by the SWCRC's social workers. To register, please call Marylou Breig at 403-238-9222 ext. 225 or Aynsley Walsh at 403-238-9222 ext. 224.

Parent Talk – Register Now

Thursday mornings, 10:00 – 11:30, January 21 to March 31 2016. Free child-minding, coffee, and snacks. Parenting tip sheets and children's books to take home.

This free program is open to all parents of babies and young children.

- Enjoy the company and support of other parents
- Give your children some supervised play time
- Get your parenting questions answered with the help of facilitators from the Further Education Society
- Help your young children learn and develop their potential

You can register and start the program anytime over the 11 weeks of the session. Attend as many weeks as you can. To register, call the SWCRC at 403-238-9222.

Neighbours Helping Neighbours

Calgary's economic downturn is hitting people hard. The baby and personal care items we have in stock are dwindling rapidly. We are in need of the following to share: newborn and sizes 1 to 6 diapers and pull-ups, formula and baby shampoo; for children, youth and adults shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste tooth brushes, bar soap (Dove recommended), feminine hygiene products, deodorant, disposable razors, men's shaving cream.

SWCRC Volunteer Opportunity: Parenting Group Assistant

SWCRC is expanding its parenting education programming. To support the participation of low income and socially isolated parents, we would like to offer free child care for the parents' young children. As a member of our team of Parenting Group Assistants, you will care for the children by providing a safe, loving and fun environment in which to play, socialize and learn. The time commitment is approximately 2 ½ hours, 9:30 – noon, either Tuesdays or Thursdays.

It takes a village to raise a child. Your passion for kids, and your desire to contribute your knowledge and experience towards a community effort to optimize children's social, emotional, and intellectual development, will inspire you to contact the SWCRC for more information about this important volunteer role. Call 403-238-9222 ext. 222.

Tutoring Program

Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:30 pm at the SWCRC. Offered free of charge to students in grades 4 – 12. Registration is on-going throughout the school year.

This program is for students who are struggling with a particular subject(s) and who could make better progress in understanding concepts or improving grades given more individual attention. Qualified volunteer tutors assist students. This is not a homework club. Students must have problems or assignments to work on with the tutors. For more information and to register, please call 403-238-9222 ext. 223.



BLACKFOOT DISTRICT

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Spring is just around the corner and our Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders, Rangers and Trex will be selling yummy sandwich Girl Guide cookies beginning the last week of March and first week of April. Look for us in your neighbourhood or at a local retail location. They are only \$5.00 a box and support our many activities.

Blackfoot District held a super roller skating event at Lloyd's! Everyone enjoyed themselves with laps around the rink and dancing to the hokey-pokey!

The Spark units will be attending STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Day, completing a Polar Challenge, have a visit from a GG music trainer and be sleeping over at Telus Spark.

The Brownie units went to Brownie Academy at Camp Jubilee, are having a movie night, visiting the library and learning about the weather and our feathered friends.

The Guides units will be busy with camping, snowshoeing, rock climbing and St. Patrick's Day celebrations and cookie selling in March.

The Pathfinders, Rangers and Trex units had a baking contest, are going bowling, cross country skiing, will be attending Calgary Area spring Pathfinder/Ranger camp and going to Alberta Girl's Parliament in Edmonton.

Guiding is a great place to build new friendships and experience new challenges. Why not give us a try?

If you have any questions regarding Guiding or registration please call Calgary Area Girl Guides at 403-283-8348 or email ginfo@calgarygirlguides.com.

Girl Greatness Starts Here!



Residents of partnered communities' pay 20% less for memberships than those who reside outside partnered communities. Phone: 403-278-7542 or see www.tricocentre.ca to find out more.

March at Trico Centre

Trico Centre for Family Wellness is a non-profit, community-owned and operated recreation facility. Our memberships are affordable and our programs are family-friendly. With a membership, you can work out in the fitness centre, take more than 70 drop-in fitness classes a week, use the gymnasium, swim, skate, or play shinny, plus you get 20% off our fun, active registered programs.

Residents of communities partnered with Trico Centre (yours!) pay 20% less for a Trico Centre membership with presentation of a community association membership or payment of the Community Support Fee (which is sent to your community association.)

Pool Refurbishment

After 33 years in operation, Trico Centre's Aquatics Centre is undergoing a major refurbishment. This project will address lifecycle issues, improve health and safety components, and take the Aquatics Centre into the next 10 to 15 years. **The Aquatics Centre including pool, hot tub, and slide will be CLOSED starting February 19.** Trico Centre is very excited about the new enhancements and can't wait to share the progress with you. We will be hosting a pool grand opening, so watch for details.

Price Freeze

Recession-busting price freeze in effect at Trico Centre on memberships, admissions, and program fees. No increase until September 2016.

Adults

• More than 70 drop-in fitness classes every week. Free for members, drop-in fee for non-members. See the Drop-In Fitness schedule at www.tricocentre.ca under the Schedules tab or pick up a copy at Guest Services.

• Foam Roller Workshop: March 5 from 1-2:30pm Members \$23, non-members \$30.

Older Adults

• Many of the more than 70 drop-in fitness classes every week are specifically designed for older adults: Check out Be Fit Age Well, Fit 'n Fab, and our numer-

ous yoga options. Free for members, drop-in fee for non-members. See the Drop-In Fitness schedule at www.tricocentre.ca under the Schedules tab or pick up a copy at Guest Services.

• Drop-in Pickleball is offered several times a week. Check out the Drop-In Gym schedule (available on the website or at Guest Services.) Free for members or drop-in fee for non-members.

Families, Children & Youth

• Spring Break Day Camps: Half and full-day daily camps for 6-12 yrs from March 21 to 24 and March 28 to April 1. Plus weekly camps from March 21-24: Little Springer (4-5 yrs); Adventure Spring Break Camps (6-12 yrs.)

• Check out the Drop-In Gym schedule for drop-in gym, Drop-In Playtime, Drop-In Gymnastics, youth drop-in gym, and more. See the Drop-In Arena schedule for lots of cool activities including leisure skate, adult shinny, youth shinny, women's shinny, and stick & puck.

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Who Is Responsible to Educate the Children?

Louise Ridout, B.Sc. (Hon Math), M.S. (Stats)

As a teacher and tutor, I recently attended a presentation to learn best practises for getting results in mathematics education and ideas to support children's learning.

At the end of the presentation, I heard the announcement: "It is the job of the Province to educate the children. It is not the job of parents to educate the children."

I shook my head. Did I hear correctly? Why would anyone ever have the idea that it was someone else's

responsibility to educate their children? We have knowledge and values that we want to pass on to our children. How can we expect anyone else to educate our children about the things that are important to us? How can we expect anyone else to care about our children or know our children as well as we do!

Governments collect tax money from us and use some of that money to build schools, hire teachers and set curriculum. Can we count on them to educate our children? Should we hand over responsibility to the government to do that? Do you trust the government to make sure your children learn what you believe is important? Or to tailor their teaching to fit your child?

My answer would be a resounding NO. I often disagree with things that governments do. They don't always speak for me. I need their help to educate my children. I appreciate the schools and teachers that the government hires to teach. I must work together with teachers to make sure my children learn what I know they need to learn and to learn well.

What do you think? Do you think the government always teaches your children what is most helpful for them in the best way possible?

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| SEMINAR | DATES |
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| Cash Flow Management | March 9 or April 6 at 7pm |
| Women Only Investment Seminar (1 evening session) | March 1, 8, 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19 or 20 at 7pm |
| Corporate Tax Strategies | March 3 or 31 at 7pm |
| Estate Planning | March 17 at 7pm |
| Transitioning Through Divorce | March 24 at 7pm |

Bring a friend or relative and join us!
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IN & AROUND CALGARY

EMS: Burns and Scalds

Alberta Health Services EMS paramedics respond to a number of emergencies where a young child has sustained severe burns, or scalds. These incidents often occur inside the child's own home. Common causes include: a child accidentally tipping hot liquids onto themselves, touching a hot surface, or making contact with an electrical outlet. Fortunately, incidents such as these can be avoided by taking preventative measures.

Degrees of burn

1°: Affects only the top layers of the skin; appears red like a sun burn; discomfort is generally tolerable;

2°: Deeper and much more painful than 1° burns; broken skin or blisters commonly develop;

3°: Severe: the deepest layers of skin and tissue are injured; may appear charred or leathery.

First Aid for burns

- Skin may continue to burn if not aggressively cooled. Immediately douse burns with large amounts of cold water.
- Cover the burn with a sterile dressing, or any clean material to protect from infection;
- Over the counter medications may be used for pain. Adhere to directions given on the label;
- Seek further medical attention, as required.

Prevention of burns

- Check the temperature of your hot water tank. Temperatures as high as 60°C / 140°F will scald a child in just seconds;
- Use placemats instead of tablecloths. Tablecloths can be yanked downward causing hot drinks, or food to spill on a child;
- Turn pot handles to the back of the stove and ensure cords from kettles, slow cookers, and other electrical appliances cannot be reached;
- Avoid picking up a child while holding any hot liquids;
- Ensure electrical outlets are made secure by installing commercially available safety devices which prohibit access;
- If able, have children avoid the kitchen area while appliances are operational.
- If you require immediate medical attention, call 9-1-1.

March is Community Association Membership Awareness Month!

Did you know that Mayor Nenshi declares the month of March as Community Association Membership Awareness Month?

Did you also know that there are 150 community associations in Calgary that are run by your neighbours? In fact, more than 20,000 volunteers are involved in community associations here in Calgary, making it the LARGEST collective volunteer movement in the city!

Are you a member of your community association? If not, you are missing out on numerous benefits, including sizeable discounts at local businesses. Membership is extremely affordable with most community association memberships averaging under \$30 a year!

Throughout the month of March we encourage you to "be part of it" and find out what your community association can do for you! It's easy and you may be surprised by the many benefits and options available to you as a resident.

Community associations are run by your neighbours, they bring residents together, they provide endless opportunities right in your backyard, and they act as a voice for your community. Most importantly, these hard-working volunteers are dedicated to making sure your community is a great place to live, work, and play. Purchasing a community association membership is a great way to get involved and show your support for the many ways your neighbours work to ensure you love where you live.

For example, this very community newsletter is just one of the many ways your community association works to keep you informed on events, topics and issues of interest close to home, written and compiled by your neighbours.

So take a minute during March Community Association Membership Awareness Month and find out more about your community association and how you can get involved!

IN & AROUND CALGARY

Relocation of Midnapore Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off

You can take household hazardous waste, such as cleaners, paint and oil, to any of The City's landfill 'n' Go areas or designated fire stations with special storage depots.

Due to construction of the interchange along 162 Avenue and Sun Valley Blvd. S.E. the household hazardous waste drop-off at Midnapore Fire Station 26 will be relocated effective March 1, 2016 to:

Evergreen Fire Station 37
2511 Eversyde Avenue S.W.

The Midnapore household hazardous waste drop-off will remain closed until early 2018.

Other household hazardous waste drop-offs in the south include:

Shepard Landfill - 68 Street and 114 Avenue S.E.
Cedarbrae Fire Station 24 - 2607 - 106 Avenue S.W.

Fire stations are open for drop-off seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Before you drop off materials, make sure they are stored, labelled and sealed properly. These household hazardous waste materials can pose a danger to our workers, your family, your pets, your neighbourhood and the environment.

For more information, visit calgary.ca/waste.



Theobromine, the compound in chocolate that makes it poisonous to dogs, can kill a human as well. You'd have to be a real glutton to go out this way though, as an average 10-year-old child would have to eat 1,900 Hershey's miniature milk chocolates to reach a fatal dose.

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IN & AROUND CALGARY

Springtime in Fish Creek Provincial Park

www.friendsoffishcreek.org

Spring Birding Course

12 week Spring Birding Course starts Monday, March 28, 2016.

Increase Your Knowledge of Fascinating Bird Species as they Return from their Wintering Grounds and see them in their Local Habitats!

Whether you are a beginner, intermediate or expert, this course will help you to identify the newly arriving migrant birds, and allow you to become familiar with the valuable bird habitat near you. The course will take place outdoors (2.5 - 3 hours) within Fish Creek Provincial Park, where you will see birds in varied habitats, from the spruce forest of Shannon Terrace in the west to the open waters of the Bow River in the east - as well as other natural areas within Calgary. As a fundraiser for the Friends of Fish Creek, these courses will once again be conducted by volunteer instructor and lifelong naturalist Gus Yaki - and other knowledgeable and experienced volunteer instructors. Registration Required.

Fish Creek Speaker Series

Presentations will take place at the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre at Shannon Terrace in Fish Creek Provincial Park. Registration Required. For more information visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/speaker-series

Sticks and Stones: Using Bioengineering to Improve Fish Habitat

Thursday, February 25, 2016 — 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Presented by Lesley Peterson (P.Biol) Provincial Biologist
Trout Unlimited Canada

Top Dog: The Ecology, History and Survival of Gray Wolves in Kananaskis and Alberta

Thursday, March 24, 2016 — 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Presented by Melanie Percy, Regional Park Ecologist,
Heritage Protection Team Lead

The topic of gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) elicits a spectrum of human responses that extend from passion and respect,

to fear and hatred. A subject of absolute fascination for many, wolves are a top predator native to Alberta and are often considered integral to the maintenance of ecological health. While few of us have actually seen wolves, their presence can be confirmed by paw prints on trails and by the occasional howl on a moon-lit night. This presentation will discuss aspects of wolf ecology, social behaviour, and research techniques, as well as some of the challenges that wolves face throughout Alberta and much of this continent. Melanie will highlight these topics with anecdotes and personal stories from her years studying wolves.

Fish Creek Community Fair

Would You Like to Volunteer in Fish Creek? The Friends of Fish Creek Need YOU!

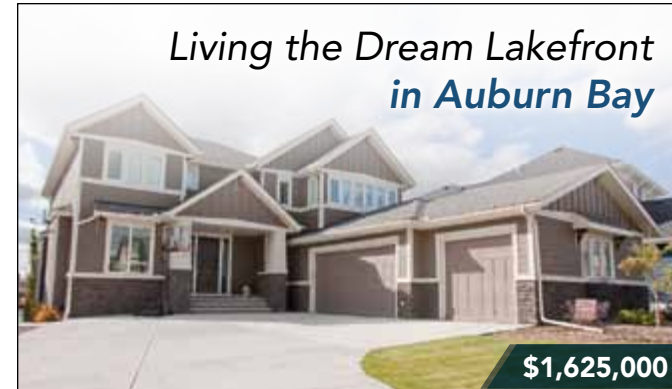
Saturday, February 27, 2016 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre, Shannon Terrace, Fish Creek Provincial Park
(13931 Woodpath Rd. SW - Access via 130 Ave. SW and 37 St. SW)

Come to the 3rd annual Fish Creek Community Fair to learn about the amazing range of programs, courses, events and opportunities taking place in 2016. The ground may still be covered in snow, but Spring starts now in Fish Creek!

Looking for Ways to Support Refugees?

In October 2015, our Federal Government responded to crisis overseas and made a commitment to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees in Canada by the end of March 2016. Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS), an organization who has been involved in refugee resettlement for over 30 years, is a community leader with a mission to "...work in partnership with the community to help immigrants and refugees settle and become contributing members of Canadian society".





Thus, they have created a helpful and interactive website, www.srcacalgary.ca where you can find information on how to volunteer, donate or simply catch up on related news. If you are interested or just want to find out more check out the website or call 211 and help support settlement and integration of our new neighbours!



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READYCALGARY 2016

READYCALGARY is a **FREE** community preparedness program developed by the Calgary Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) for the citizens of Calgary. It has been designed to inform, educate and build resiliency to the impacts of emergencies and disasters. Visit Calgary.ca/READYCALGARY for more information or to register today!

Program Structure:

This course, delivered in a workshop setting facilitated by CEMA, has been purposefully designed to reflect the diverse needs of its participants by dividing course material into two distinct sections:

- **Section 1:** Covers the fundamentals of emergency management (preparedness, response and recovery) particularly significant for individuals and families. As personal preparedness education and awareness is applicable to all, Section 1 is the foundation of this program.
- **Section 2:** Further develops on the material in Section 1 to reflect the needs and requirements of a whole community. This section is for individuals interested in further contributing to their neighbourhood and community.

2016 Session Dates:

- Program and registration details, as well as online versions of course materials, can be found at Calgary.ca/READYCALGARY
- The registration process is available online via 311 or email your preferred dates to CEMATraining@calgary.ca
- Participants must register for both Section 1 and Section 2 to complete the full program. Section 1 must be completed before Section 2, but participants may register for any available sections at their convenience (Sections do not need to be taken in the same month).
- Note that the registration deadline is 7 days prior to the session of choice.

Section 1: March 8 (17:30 - 20:30 at CEMA)

Section 2: March 22 (17:30 - 20:30 at CEMA)

Section 1: April 6 (17:30 - 20:30 at CEMA)

Section 2: April 20 (17:30 - 20:30 at CEMA)

Section 1: September 15 (17:30 - 20:30 at CEMA)

Section 2: September 22 (17:30 - 20:30 at CEMA)

Section 1: October 4 (17:30 - 20:30 at CEMA)

Section 2: October 18 (17:30 - 20:30 at CEMA)

Southland Leisure Centre

Southland Leisure Centre (2000 Southland Dr. SW)

See calgary.ca/leisurecentres for schedules and more information.

Please call 403-648-6550 for more information

Friday Night Dance Party – March 18 from 7:15-10:00pm.

Admission to the Party includes a dance lesson (primary movements, rhythmic structure, posture, leading and following), social dance, as well as refreshments. No Partner Required!

Wednesday Soccer Drop

Age: All ages

Soccer in the gymnasium. Please supply your own soccer ball.

Tuesday, Mar 22 – 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. - Family Easter Craft & Cookies Celebrate Easter.

Drop-in to our lobby.

Calgary AfterSchool

Cost: Free

Ages: 11 – 15

Day: Monday to Thursday, 3 – 6 pm and Fridays, 1 – 5 pm

South Calgary Youth Council (SCYC)

Meetings are held once a month, October – June, along with additional volunteer opportunities.

Fridays, 7:30 to 10 p.m. Youth Night Friday nights have taken an active twist! Come with your friends and join us in the Sport Hall for a variety of youth exclusive sports including basketball, badminton, dodgeball, soccer and much more. General youth admission applies.

Volunteer Opportunities

Southland welcomes volunteers, 13 years old to seniors, to assist in a variety of programs and activities throughout the year.

Drop-in Preschool Programs

Check out some of our drop-in preschool programs including Kinder Room, Friday Funtime, Kinderschool, Snug and Tot's Gym Time.

Drop-in Climbing and Gymnastics

Come have some fun and unique experiences in our rock wall climbing and gymnastics gym drop-in times. All equipment is provided and instructors are present to guide you.

Drop-in Badminton and Basketball

Every Sunday, 8 am to noon. Family Swim Adults must be accompanied by a child and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Regular admission applies.

Babysitting Room

Mon – Wed 8:30am – 8:15 pm, Thursday 8:30am -8:00 pm, Fri 8:30am-6pm, Sat & Sun 8:30 am – 12:30pm. Reasonable rates for a well deserved break!

March Break Day Camps

Check out the City of Calgary Recreation program guide on stands or online at www.calgary.ca/recreation for lots of great day camp programs over March/April Break.



Carla Berezowski, CAPS

Numerous studies indicate, including a recent one by Harvard Joint Centre for Housing Studies (www.jchs.harvard.edu) and AARP, over 90% seniors want to live in their own homes. They already own their homes, are comfortable there, and are familiar with the neighbourhood people and services. This is also the most economical option for receiving care as well as taking advantage of family/friends supports and informal care. Also, we can't afford to build enough 'senior housing' for everyone and most people don't want to live their anyhow! Harvard concluded that long-term care at home is the best strategy for the vast majority of seniors.

That being said, we are still faced with major barriers to a long-term care at home strategy. Namely, our homes are not designed to accommodate disability or care, we have too few caregivers, and critical connections such as healthcare, shopping, transportation are not designed to support this.

Planning for our homes to accommodate the challenges associated with a long term care at home strategy is something that we can start immediately. Planning

will enable you to start saving for potential renovations and upgrades to things like lighting, flooring, and bathrooms and kitchens. It also enables a staged approach to these upgrades so you can better manage costs and requirements.

If you are past the long-term planning stage and are already aging-in-place it is not too late to make some simple changes to make your home more safe, comfortable and suitable to accommodate a long term care at home strategy. Updated lighting, fresh, bright paint with contrasting switch-plates, replacing door knobs with levers, as well as applying non-slip treatments to your current floors in wet areas are great ways to start making your home ready to support a long term care at home strategy.

Figure out where you want to live as you age. If you are like 90% of the population over 50, it will be in your current home. Then make a plan to prepare your home for the long-term care at home strategy. If you need help, call a professional – you will still save money and be happier!

Calling All Neighbours!



To have your Family profiled (Story and Professional Pictures) in the next edition of this Community Newsletter, please send us an email to neighbours@great-news.ca

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LOOKING TO BUILD & RETAIN A PRODUCTIVE, MOTIVATED WORKFORCE?

RBC Group Advantage is a comprehensive program designed to help business owners meet their employees' financial needs by providing:

- In-person financial advice for all employees
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CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Website: <http://www.cbe.ab.ca> • Email: boardoftrustees@cbe.ab.ca

Creating welcoming, caring, safe learning environments for all

At the Calgary Board of Education, we work together every day to create welcoming, safe, caring and respectful school communities where each and every student feels a sense of belonging. When students feel that they belong, it encourages them to stay in school, to learn and to succeed.

Our schools welcome students and families from every background and from all over the world, and we foster healthy and respectful relationships where diversity is celebrated. Students, staff and school communities share the responsibility of cultivating environments that welcome everyone and provide opportunities to thrive in life and learning. This includes ensuring we create safe, caring environments for gender and sexual minority youth.

This responsibility is reflected in our mission, in our Results policies and Three-Year Education Plan. It is also expressed in law, in the School Act and Alberta Human Rights Act.

Alberta Education recently released guidelines to ensure school boards create learning environments that specifically respect diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. All school boards have been asked to use these best practices to develop or update their own policies, regulations and procedures related to creating these learning environments.

The provincial guidelines are aligned with many of the practices already in place in CBE schools to protect and care for all students. The CBE is working on developing its own guidelines, which must be completed by the end of March, 2016.

We recognize the important role all of us play in providing these safe, inclusive environments where all students can thrive.

More information can be found on our website, www.cbe.ab.ca under About Us, School Culture & Environment.



Building young brains can be as simple as using the 3 Ts!

When it comes to interacting with your baby or young child, there are three easy ways for parents to harness the power of their words to build their children's brains and shape their futures.

Tune In

Notice what your baby or child is focused on and talk about that. Respond when your child communicates ideas, questions and emotions – including when your baby coos or cries.

Talk More

Narrate day-to-day routines, such as diaper changes. Use details: "Let mommy take off your diaper. Oh so wet! And smell it. So stinky!" Or when tooth brushing: "How many teeth do you have now? Let's count them together ... 1, 2, 3 ..."

Take Turns

Keep the conversation going. Respond to your child's sounds, gestures and eventually words – and give them time to respond to you. Ask lots of questions that require more than 'yes' or 'no' answers.

Adapted from the book, *Thirty Million Words: Building a Child's Brain* the 3 Ts are based on research that found children in some households heard 30 million fewer words by age three than children in other homes. These children also heard a smaller variety of words

and fewer words of encouragement. This 'word gap' can exist in families of any socioeconomic status but, on average, children from low-income homes may be most at risk of hearing less words.

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. Using the 3 Ts can help you expose your child to more words. And, children who hear more words are better prepared when they enter school. And, by grade three children who have heard more words at home tend to have bigger vocabularies and are stronger readers.

Other tips include:

If you are bilingual, talk to your child mostly in your first language – it will be richer. But, also be sure to expose your child to the language of the broader community; here in Western Canada, that's English.

Embrace baby-talk – not made-up words, but a melodic pitch, positive tone, and sing-song rhythm.

Read aloud to your child. Even babies benefit. And, as you child gets older and can read themselves, read aloud to them from books above their own reading level. It introduces new vocabulary and makes these words familiar when they later encounter them in print.

With thanks to: www.thirtymillionwords.org

For resources to help your child develop critical literacy skills and a joy of reading, visit our website. The CBC Calgary / Calgary Reads Big Book Sale, happens May 13 to 15, 2016. This is Calgary Reads signature fundraising event. Find full event details and how to donate books on our website: www.calgaryreads.com.



**APRIL 8 TO 9
DANCE AT NIGHT:**

The senior students in the University of Calgary Dance program's choreography and performance concentration showcase their final presentations of the year. www.scpa.ucalgary.ca



**APRIL 10 TO 11
EXTREME PLANET
WITH PHOTOGRAPHER
CARSTEN PETER:**

Experience some of the most extreme environments on this planet with photographer Carsten Peter as your guide. Go into active volcanoes in the South Pacific and chase a storm along Tornado alley. www.artsccommons.ca



**APRIL 14
THE VIEW FROM BEHIND
BARS – AN EVENING WITH
PIPER KERMAN:**

Spend a special evening with Piper Kerman, best-selling author of *Orange is the New Black*, *My Year in Women's Prison* and inspiration behind the award-winning Netflix series. www.facebook.com/Elizabeth-Fry-Society-of-Calgary-232422026837022/



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AT A GLANCE...**

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- **April 1 - Taste of Bragg Creek:** Taste of Bragg Creek returns for its fourth year and showcases some of the best that local restaurateurs, caterers and food and liquor merchants have to offer. www.tasteofbraggcreek.ca
- **April 6 - Video Games Live: Bonus Round!** This concert is a combination of synchronized lights, lasers, video clips and live music from some of the world's most popular games performed by the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. www.calgaryphil.com
- **April 6 to 17 - Canmore Uncorked:** This mountain food and drink festival is 12 full days of special set-price menus, cooking classes, progressive dinners and cooking events. www.tourismcanmore.com
- **April 11 to 13 - Dance at Noon:** The junior students in the University of Calgary Dance program's choreography and performance concentration showcase their original compositional work. www.scpa.ucalgary.ca
- **April 11 to 17 - Calgary Underground Film Festival:** The festival has been carefully programmed to include thought-provoking, entertaining and sometimes obscure movies of all genres that defy conventions. www.calgaryundergroundfilm.org
- **April 15 to 17 - Dreams of Broadway:** 26 performers and 31 hit Broadway songs collide in this inaugural production by Imagine Performing Arts! This whirlwind production will have you laughing, crying and dancing in your seat! www.musicandplay.ca
- **April 22 to 24 - The Adventures of Robin Hood:** Unleash your imagination and follow the adventures of a band of brothers looking to rob the rich to help the poor. www.vertigotheatre.com
- **April 26 to 29 - Annie:** The well-loved, family-friendly musical Annie is based on the popular comic strip Little Orphan Annie. It's a feel-good production with the same energy and warmth of the original. <http://calgary.broadway.com/>
- **April 28 to May 1 - Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo:** For four days, Calgary celebrates science fiction, comic books, film, television, horror, fantasy, pop culture and more. www.calgaryexpo.com

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Caring For Your Elderly Pet



People are living longer with better health care, nutrition, and overall improved living conditions, and so are our pets. I see pets in their late teens regularly and geriatric medicine is advancing in leaps and bounds. Never dismiss changes in your older pet as “just part of getting old” as these may be changes we can treat. Preserving quality of life for both us and the furry ones should be our objective.

If you can equate one year of aging in a person to seven in a dog, an annual examination for a pet is like you being seen every seven years by your doctor. Annual examinations are imperative and even bi-annual examinations may be recommended. Veterinarians discuss history, changes in food and water consumption as they examine your pet for masses, aches and pains, and anything that raises concern. This includes rotten painful teeth. Health care starts with the examination.

Diet is the cornerstone of any older pet’s health needs. An older pet has a slower metabolism and sleeps more. Don’t justify weight gain by saying “but treats are all he enjoys now”. An obese pet has difficulty moving, arthritic joints have to work harder, and stress is placed on all organs including the heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys. It’s easier if a pet is fit and not wheezing with exertion.

Switch a pet to a geriatric diet around 8 to 10 years of age in cats and small dogs, in large dogs earlier. Specific diets have been formulated for pets suffering from kidney, liver, and heart disease. Some diets are for joints and include products for enhanced mobility. There is even a diet to try and slow the progress of canine dementia.

Unlimited water is imperative in the elderly pet. Kidneys are fragile. If your pet begins to drink and urinate ex-

cessively this is an early symptom of many serious, but often treatable, geriatric diseases.

People use physiotherapy or try alternative therapies for aches and pains. These therapies are equally beneficial to our pets. Old bodies get relief with heat packs, massage, range of motion exercises, and physiotherapy. Acupuncture, cranio-sacral therapy, chiropractic medicine, and numerous herbal and homeopathic formulas are used successfully to treat old joints, muscles and bone. To this end remember five or 10 minutes gentle exercise three times daily is preferable to 40 minutes of intense exercise with fragile pets. Like you pets stiffen up and hurt! Older pets have a much reduced tolerance for heat and cold extremes.

Because they don’t exercise as much, some older cats and dogs tend to need their nails trimmed more often. Elderly pets find it more difficult to groom and may need more help. Cats may not be able to contort themselves to reach places on their backs and hind end and fur can become matted.

Older pets may become crankier if sore and maybe are more easily startled if their hearing and sight is failing. Try to make allowances, especially where children are involved, don’t startle or pounce on elderly pets.

There are many anti-inflammatory and painkillers now on the market for older dogs and cats to reduce pain. Older pets deserve a comfortable and gentle retirement, but if all of your best efforts can no longer maintain your friend in a comfortable state and there are many more sick painful days than not, knowing when to say goodbye is the least selfish thing you will ever do for an old loved companion.

Jennifer L. Scott, D.V.M.

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Mine, yours, ours – a couple of financial planning tips for new couples

Suzanne Smith-Demers – Consultant

Once there was just you – now there are two. You've joined with a partner to share your life and love and that's good. As a new couple, here is what you should know about how to equitably manage your finances.

As a married or common law couple, the integration of your financial lives must be fair and match your lifestyle together. It is wise to disclose assets, financial commitments (such as loans) and credit history.

Here's some items to consider that will help start the conversation:

- Who will manage day-to-day finances, who will manage overall financial affairs and how much input does each partner want?
- Should bank accounts, credit cards and investments be merged or remain separate?
- Do you have a new will? Wills drafted prior to marriage usually become invalid.
- What happens to your mortgage, life insurance and in-

come if either of you dies or becomes unable to work due to an accident or illness?

- What should go into your domestic contract? Especially if one partner brings significant assets into the relationship and/or if children or past spouses are involved.

Make your decisions with a clear understanding of tax and legal implications and if you are bringing significant assets into the marriage, speak to a family lawyer or mediator about the financial implications and how best to protect your assets.

Although couples must file separate individual tax returns, there are many tax-planning strategies that can reduce your total tax bill now and in the future. Take advantage of all your deductions and income-splitting opportunities.

As a couple, you need a shared financial plan. Your professional advisor can help you build such a plan for a strong financial future together.



CBC Calgary / Calgary Reads Big Book Sale

One of Calgary's most anticipated and attended events!

More than 1,000,000 previously-loved books will be ready to be purchased and find new homes. This is a signature fundraising event for Calgary Reads.

Our 14th annual event! Held at the Calgary Curling Club, 720 3rd St. NW, Calgary:

- **Friday May 13 - 9am – 9pm**
Author reading 7pm
- **Saturday May 14 - 9am – 9pm**
Back by popular demand! Shop to the musical sounds of **Midnight Blue** with cash wine bar 7 – 9pm.
- **Sunday May 15 - 9am – 1pm**
Other special activities during the Big Book Sale will be announced on our website as they confirm: calgaryreads.com.

Donate books: We welcome donation of adult and children books for the book sale! (We do not accept encyclopaedias, text books, Harlequin Romances, Readers' Digests, book tapes, VHS, cassettes, 8-tracks or magazines.)

Book collection locations, dates and times:

- At **Calgary Food Bank**, 5000, 11th Street SE, Calgary:
 - Monday to Thursday April 25 to 28 - drop off at Door #3 from 8:30am – 7pm
 - Friday, April 29 - drop off at Door #3 from 8:30am – 3:30pm
- At **Calgary Curling Club**, 720 3rd St. NW, Calgary:
 - Thursday to Sunday May 3 to May 6 from 9am - 7pm sharp
 - Monday and Tuesday May 7 and 8 from 9am - 4 pm sharp

At Calgary Reads we build connections, strengthen networks, champion, involve and innovate—because we ALL have a role to play in creating a thriving community where all children can read with confidence and joy! Learn more: Calgaryreads.com.



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Are You Scheduled Or Just Completed Joint Replacement Surgery?

By Penny Hodgson C.H.N. C.T.C.

If your joint has deteriorated to the point of requiring surgery, consider the following:

- 1. Acute Pain** from the degraded joint and surgery can **disrupt digestion**, which can prevent certain nutrients from getting into your system.
- 2. Mineral depletion**, caused from the body trying to maintain and even repair the joint on its own, is not usually replenished without the added use of a variety of mineral supplements. Analysis of mineral deficiencies will indicate the appropriate amount of nutrients needed to replenish bone stores and fortify the new joint.
- 3. Chronic pain, worry and stress** cause strain on the adrenal glands by keeping your body in a fight or flight response. Nutrients that support the adrenal glands should be taken until all the symptoms of adrenal exhaustion have reduced significantly, or are gone altogether.
- 4. Certain pain relievers, antibiotics and other medications** (anaesthetic, relaxants etc.) can further disrupt the digestive process, reduce the level of beneficial bacteria needed for a healthy intestinal tract, thereby interrupting the assimilation process and preventing the uptake or even depleting your body of required nutrients.

Disrupted or reduced digestion means that the nutrients in your food, or supplements, are not being absorbed properly. No matter how healthy you think you are eating, or how many supplements you are taking, until your digestive process is functioning normally your body is not getting the required nutrients for optimal healing.

In some cases, disrupted digestion can lead to other issues like intestinal inflammation and leaky gut syndrome. An imbalanced intestinal system can lead to excessive weight gain, food allergies and intolerances, unexplained aches and pains, fibromyalgia, and chronic fatigue syndrome just to name a few.

Don't forget that doctors and other health care practitioners such as physiotherapists and massage therapists are focused on the task at hand. Nutrition has become a specialized therapy, and proper nutritional guidance requires that a doctor or therapist has studied or specialized in nutritional science.

Along with proper nutrition, the body requires the right amount of exercise in the right way. If you have had joint replacement surgery, seeking the counsel of a physiotherapist to ensure you are performing the required exercises properly is a good idea, even if you exercise regularly. Physiotherapy is usually prescribed by the surgeon to ensure exercises are done properly, so as to not jeopardize the new joint.

In order for muscles to heal properly, good blood circulation is required to deliver the much needed nutrients to the damaged tissue. Massage therapists can help ensure proper circulation and also stimulate lymph flow, which is also an important factor in the healing process.

Emotional health can also be affected by stress resulting from long surgery waiting times, fear of upcoming surgery, fear of pain, and financial strain as a result of having to take time off work. Talking with a trained therapist can help you find your way back to positive emotional wellbeing.

Nurturing your spirit will also help your body heal. Stress and pain can sometimes become so paramount in your day that your usual Spiritual practice gets put aside. In some cases, you might question why you have been put through such an ordeal or blame God for your situation. In these cases, seeking help from an elder that shares your beliefs might bring much needed insight into your situation.

Penny Hodgson is certified in Holistic Therapeutic Counseling and Holistic Nutrition

CALGARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Website: www.ccssd.ab.ca/board-of-trustees/, Email: trustees@ccsd.ab.ca

Learn more about your Calgary Catholic School District Board of Trustees!

The month of March means the start of spring and a time of renewal during our Lenten season. Here at Calgary Catholic, spring brings a focus on our annual budget. While the budget process happens throughout the year and is a standing item at every Calgary Catholic Board Meeting, spring is a time when we begin to finalize details of our operating budget for the following year. Below are a few points about our process:

- The 2016-2017 District Operating Budget document will be a financial plan for the district for the fiscal year that runs from September 1, 2016 through to August 31, 2017.
- The district budget process begins early in the year and involves gathering essential financial information, consulting with stakeholders, making appropriate decisions on new and existing expenditures and ensuring staffing decisions are made as expeditiously as possible.
- Calgary Catholic utilizes software called Thought Exchange to engage our parents, staff and students on a large scale, so they are able to provide input on budget priorities. If you are a Catholic rate-payer that does not currently have children in the Catholic school system, you are encouraged to participate in the process by sending an email to thoughtexchange@ccsd.ab.ca.
- We are a people-focused organization and employ over 5,000 staff members. Eighty cents of every dollar we spend goes to salary and benefits. A further significant portion of our budget goes to fixed costs like contractors, insurance and utilities. We will be opening up to four new schools in 2016/2017 and up to six new schools in 2017/2018 and resourcing for those schools also needs to be included in this budget.
- The district budget is prepared by administration in accordance with board policies, linkage with district vision statements and provincial goals and in support of the district three-year plan.
- The Board of Trustees is involved at every stage of the process and ultimately approves the budget which will be submitted to the Minister of Education. Budget approval generally occurs in May or June every year. However, timing is dependent on when the government releases their budget.
- We always work to present a budget that is balanced and allows us to continue to provide the best possible teaching and learning environment for our students and staff.

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Family Dental Care in Calgary

Stephanie McIntyre

From Baby teeth to dentures – everyone has unique dental needs that require attention to ensure that optimal dental health is achieved. As varied as the stages of dental care, there are many different types of dentists, all focused on different forms of treatment – so who should you see if you are looking for Family Dental Care in Calgary?

Family Dentists

Family Dentists are frequently referred to as General Dentists as they provide general dental services to patients of all ages in various scopes of dentistry. Unlike Dental Specialists who have focused on one area of dentistry and only provide services that fall within their specialty – Family, or General Dentists, have elected to provide a full range of services from dental cleanings to fillings and root canals and frequently see patients who have baby, permanent or no teeth.

Preventive Dental Care

Family Dentistry is focused on maintaining optimal dental health and preventing dental issues that require significant treatment. You may have wondered why your family dentist reinforces the importance of Routine Dental Cleanings and Exams – that's because

during this type of appointment a dentist and hygienist is able to monitor the health of your teeth and other oral tissues and provide treatment that reduces the risk of developing dental decay, gingivitis and periodontal disease. Allowing your dental team to capture x-rays on a regular basis provides an opportunity to see what is happening between teeth and below the gum line – areas that dental decay can quickly form.

Caring For Your Smile

Along with Preventive Dental Care that includes procedures like exams, cleanings and sealants – your Family Dentist also focuses on the health of individual teeth and your bite as a whole. Restoring teeth that are damaged due to decay, trauma, clenching and grinding is an everyday event that often expands to include the crowning of teeth that have excessive damage or have been restored numerous times and requires additional support. Your Family Dentist cares if you are happy with the health and esthetics of your smile – and is experienced in providing certain cosmetic options like Teeth Whitening and Dental Veneers that can improve the color of teeth and in the case of veneers a tooth's shape, size and alignment.



Interesting ARCHITECTURE

The Chrysler building attained the title of world's tallest in building in 1930 for just one year when the Empire State was erected. Image Joris Van Rooden In the early part of the 20th Century, people everywhere were in a race to build the tallest building. At the time, this gorgeous Art Deco skyscraper was almost outdone by the Bank of Manhattan but its spire (which was constructed in secret) enabled it to take the title of 'tallest building in the world' in 1930.

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Help Your Children Succeed in Life!

Louise Ridout, B.Sc. (Hon Math), M.S. (Stats)

I'm a math teacher and tutor. In my work, I see repeatedly, disappointing results from students – many currently in, or graduates of schools in Calgary -- who do not know how to do basic, simple math operations needed to be successful. I have seen students pick up a calculator to find the answer to 4×3 . Parents – do you know the answer to that – without a calculator? The most valuable skill that students are missing is knowledge of the multiplication tables. Without having a solid grasp of the multiplication tables, students cannot understand relationships between numbers, and are unable to easily do many midlevel math questions. I regularly see their frustration at not being able to do these problems....while at the same time maintaining a **stubborn refusal** to memorize the multiplication tables!

Students who succeed in math at the high school level do much better in every university class they take. They have the tools to succeed and surpass others to get the highest level jobs and excel at them. 90% of the highest paying jobs require math. The kind of logical and analytical thinking that is required to make good decisions, no matter what field we are working in, is learned as we study and do math problems!

The best way to have your children succeed in high school math classes is to make sure they learn the multiplication tables so well when they are young that they are second nature to them.

Help your children memorize their multiplication tables and they will succeed in high school math classes. Then they will do well in their university courses, and be prepared to be leaders in the workplace, the community and in their homes!



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SENIORS IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD: Some may be at risk or struggling, but unable or unaware of how to get help. So how do you spot the signs? And what should you do about it? Visit seniorconnect.ca to view a free 30 minute educational video.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED: to get seniors to urgent medical appts. From your computer or phone, you can choose days/times that fit your life (no need for same time every week), the areas closest to you, and which seniors you drive. We pay mileage or issue tax receipts. Visit drivetovolunteer.org.

TREES NEED PRUNING, REMOVAL, REPAIR? INSECTS OR DISEASE A PROBLEM? Fall/Winter/Spring (the dormant seasons) are excellent times to have your trees/shrubs serviced by an established (est. 1995), professional tree service. Our goal is to educate and provide practical options. Call - The Yardist Ltd. Tree & Spray Service - 403-242-3332.

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FIND SOLUTION ON PAGE 34

Art of the world



Las Meninas, 1656 By: Diego Velazquez

Diego was a Spanish painter who was the leading artist in the court of King Philip IV and one of the most important painters of the Spanish Golden Age. Las Meninas, or The Maids of Honor, depicts a room in the Madrid palace of Spain's King Philip IV. The painting is famous for its complexities regarding reality and illusion. Uncertainty is played out in the relations between the viewers and the figures, as well as between the figures themselves. These complex uncertainties have welcomed much discussion and analysis among critics and scholars.



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Hello friends and neighbours!

On March 8, the next session of the Alberta Legislature begins and I am proud to continue representing the constituents of Calgary Acadia in Edmonton. In addition to being your representative I've been appointed as Associate Minister for Health. Part of my role will be to help implement the recommendations of the forthcoming mental health review. Mental health is something that touches us all. It's been estimated that one in five people will be affected by mental health issues during their lives. Allowing people to talk about it and providing supports to both those directly suffering and those around them is critical to creating a solution. I've also been asked to focus some time on primary care networks and fentanyl. Fentanyl has become one of the most dangerous street drugs in Alberta, and attention needs to be focused on its control. As always, I'm committed to continue working hard to meet your expectations.

No matter what other important issues our government is dealing with, the economy is always front of mind. Times are tough for so many in our communities and we are working to create stability and good mortgage-paying jobs. Our government has already created significant initiatives:

Petrochemicals Diversification Program: This program will support the development of new petrochemical and refining capabilities – creating jobs and keeping more of the wealth of our resources in the province.

Modernization of the Royalty Structure: Adoption of the recommendations of the Royalty Review Advisory Panel means that Alberta will continue to be a competitive jurisdiction for oil and gas development and more importantly provides certainty and direction for the energy industry so it can continue to invest and generate employment for Albertans.

The Canada-Alberta Job Grant and re-instating the Summer Temporary Employment Program: Both of these initiatives help employers train and retain work-

ers and provide valuable experience to employees just starting out, or in need of training to boost their careers.

While we know that economic prosperity and stability will not be achieved overnight, we will continue to work towards these goals. In difficult times it is more important than ever that we work together, and if history has proven anything, it has proven that people in Alberta and Calgary look after each other when it's needed.

We are excited to hear your ideas about our economy and our province. Our next Constituency Office Open House is on Saturday, March 12, 2016 between 1-4 pm. Please stop by the office to have a coffee, ask questions and join in the conversation. There is plenty to talk about!

As always, my staff and I are here to help and love to hear your feedback. If you need assistance accessing government programs, want some support for a community event or initiative or just want to say "hi", feel free to contact us.



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| ALL EMERGENCY CALLS | 911 |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------|
| Alberta Adolescent Recovery Centre | 403.253.5250 |
| Alberta Health Care | 403.310.0000 |
| AHS Addictions Hotline | 1.866.332.2322 |
| ATCO Gas – 24 Hour Emergency | 403.245.7222 |
| Calgary HEALTH LINK 24/7 | 811 |
| Calgary Police – Non Emergency | 403.266.1234 |
| Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter | 403.234.7233 |
| Child Abuse Hotline | 1.800.387.5437 |
| Kids Help Line | 1.800.668.6868 |
| Child Safe Canada | 403.202.5900 |
| Distress/Crisis Line | 403.266.4357 |
| ENMAX – Power Trouble | 403-514-6100 |
| Poison Centre - Alberta | 1-800-332-1414 |
| HOSPITALS / URGENT CARE | |
| Alberta Children's Hospital | 403.955.7211 |
| Foothills Hospital | 403.944.1110 |
| Peter Lougheed Centre | 403.943.4555 |
| Rockyview General Hospital | 403.943.3000 |
| Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre | 403.955.6200 |
| South Calgary Urgent Care Health Centre | 403.943.9300 |
| South Health Campus | 403.956.1111 |
| OTHER | |
| Calgary Humane Society | 403.205.4455 |
| Calgary Parking Authority | 403.537.7000 |
| SeniorConnect | 403.266.6200 |
| Calgary Kerby Elder Abuse Line | 403.705.3250 |
| Alberta One-Call Corporation | 1.800.242.3447 |
| City of Calgary | 311 |
| Kerby Centre for the 55 plus | 403-265-0661 |
| Community Mediation Calgary Society | 403.269.2707 |
| RNR Lockworks Ltd. | 403.479.6161 |
| Road Conditions – Calgary | 511 |
| Weather Information | |
| Gamblers Anonymous | 403.237.0654 |

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Deadline – 1st of each month for the next month's publication.

Contact news@great-news.ca

- ◆ Free announcements: lost/found, household items for sale, wanted, garage sale, student/senior services, etc.
- ◆ Forty word limit

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY IS CURRENTLY RECRUITING PEOPLE with type 2 diabetes, aged 35 years or older, for a research study. All participants will increase their aerobic exercise (walking or jogging) and some will complete resistance band training. Please call 403-955-8116 for more information.



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Action Plan - Mid Cycle Review

Hello Ward 9 Neighbours!

Well, we've collectively made it through another February. It has been a challenging start to the new year - with oil prices low, the cost of food on the rise, and the Alberta economy in what feels like a more and more precarious position with each day that passes, it is hard not to grow wary of our economic stability.

We know that Calgary is an amazing city for people to live. It has all of the means to offer the rich economic, cultural, and environmental diversity necessary to keep us on this trajectory toward a city of Great Neighbourhoods and inspiring communities.

The change in our local economy is not lost on City Council. How to maintain Calgary's strength as a growing metropolis, ensuring we have the infrastructure, amenities, and services - such as accessible and affordable public transportation, a strong and responsive police service, recreational facilities, and roads and pathways to reduce our commute times - needed to attract more people to live and invest in our city, is essential.

To better understand our collective goals and maintain our economic stability, City Council approved the first ever four-year business plan and budget for the City of Calgary in 2014. Aply named *Action Plan 2015-2018*, this outlines Council's five priorities:

- A prosperous city
- A city of inspiring neighbourhoods
- A city that moves
- A healthy and green city
- A well run city

Each year Council considers adjustments to the plan and budgets annually to allow us to respond to emerging issues and unexpected events. This year we introduced a more comprehensive mid-cycle process called the *Action Plan Check-in*.

Throughout the month of February, City Administration collected feedback from Calgarians on their priorities

for 2017-2018, particularly keeping in mind the changing economic landscape. The aim of this engagement was to ensure that the priorities originally directed by Council still align with what we heard from Calgarians.

One of my missions at City Hall is to empower local governance structures and residents in the decision-making process. I fundamentally believe that meaningful engagement in our budget and business plan - how your money is being spent - is instrumental in achieving this goal.

At the time of writing this newsletter, *Action Plan Check-in* data was still in the process of being collected. I look forward to reading the report coming to Council with what we heard from Calgarians and having it help shape our next steps moving forward.

If you did not have a chance to participate, I invite you to reach out to your Team Ward 9 with any comments that you would like added to this process. As always, we can be reached at 403-268-5330 or ward09@calgary.ca.

Yours truly,
 Gian-Carlo

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