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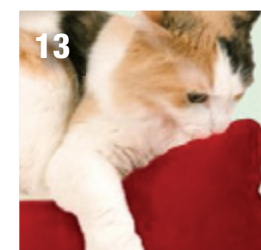
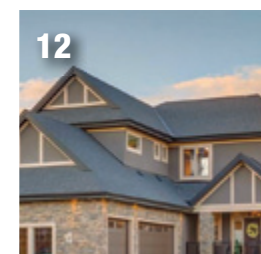
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## CALLING LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

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Please submit your best captioned photos along with your name for the photo credit and where the photo was taken to [news@great-news.ca](mailto:news@great-news.ca).

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All advertisements and editorial submissions must be submitted by the 1st of the month for the following month's publication.

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Check out our website:  
[www.great-news.ca](http://www.great-news.ca)

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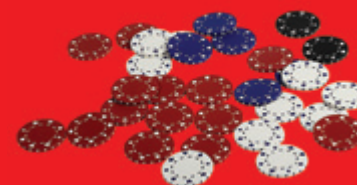


### Riverbend Fundraising Casino at the Deerfoot Inn and Casino

*March 10-11, 2017*

- This fundraising effort provides Riverbend with a critical source of funds needed to allow it to keep operating.
- Therefore it is important we get enough volunteers to help us during this 2 day event.
- Riverbend requires a minimum of 25 volunteers to work a Casino

Visit [www.riverbendcommunitiy.ca](http://www.riverbendcommunitiy.ca) for more information and available volunteer positions.



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RIVERBEND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

9 Rivervalley Drive SE  
Phone: 403-236-7270 | Fax:403-236-1821  
info@riverbendcommunity.ca  
www.riverbendcommunity.ca

ELECTED OFFICIALS



**Councillor Gian-Carlo Carra**  
**Ward 9 Office**  
P.O. Box 2100, Station M  
Calgary, AB, Canada T2P 2M5  
Phone: 403-268-5330  
Fax: 403-268-8091  
Email: ward09@calgary.ca  
Web: www.calgary.ca/ward9



**Councillor Shane Keating**  
**Ward 12 Office**  
P.O. Box 2100, Station M  
Calgary, AB, Canada T2P 2M5  
Phone: 403-268-2478  
Fax: 403-268-8091  
Email: ward12@calgary.ca  
Web: www.calgary.ca/ward12



**MLA Brandy Payne**  
**Calgary-Acadia**  
#10, 8318 Fairmount Drive SE  
Calgary, AB, Canada T2H 0Y8  
Phone: (403) 640-1363  
Fax: (403) 640-2970  
Email: calgary.acadia@assembly.ab.ca



**MLA Richard William (Ric) McIver**  
**Calgary-Hays**  
255, 11488 - 24 Street SE  
Calgary, AB Canada T2Z 4C9  
Phone: (403) 215-4380  
Fax: (403) 215-4383  
Email: calgary.hays@assembly.ab.ca

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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
Social Service Info & Referral	211
Community Mediation Calgary Society	403.269.2707
RNR Lockworks Ltd.	403.479.6161
Road Conditions – Calgary	
Weather Information	511
Gamblers Anonymous	403.237.0654



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Dominic	18	403-926-3399	Yes
Franny	14	403-293-8847	Yes
Roman	13	403-464-3696	Yes
Rose	41	403-978-5300	Yes
Tyanna	12	403-966-4115	Yes


### Calling All BABYSITTERS

Enroll free at [mybabysitter.ca](http://mybabysitter.ca) and choose the Calgary communities you would like to babysit in.

### Calling All PARENTS

Visit [mybabysitter.ca](http://mybabysitter.ca) and find available babysitters in and around your community.

**Disclaimer:** We recommend for your own peace of mind that references be checked when choosing your babysitter. This babysitter list is provided as a service to the community and is governed by the terms & conditions outlined at [mybabysitter.ca](http://mybabysitter.ca).



## Footloose Photography

BY SHERI

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## BRAIN GAMES SUDOKU

		1		6		3		9
					4	1	7	5
							6	
7							1	4
	4		2		6		8	
1	5							2
	3							
5	1	4	8					
6		8		7		2		

FIND SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

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# Accountant

## Stanley Doherty, CPA, CMA

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A Safety Management System (SMS) is all about managing the safety interaction you have with your workers. It's an overall strategy to help you communicate information on hazards and best practices in your workplace so you can develop a stronger, lasting culture of safety within all stakeholders in your organization.

# Riverbend

## Real Estate Update


### Last 12 Months Riverbend MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
December 2016	\$459,950	\$447,500
November 2016	\$419,900	\$410,000
October 2016	\$437,350	\$428,750
September 2016	\$469,900	\$450,000
August 2016	\$445,900	\$444,000
July 2016	\$459,900	\$446,500
June 2016	\$369,900	\$362,000
May 2016	\$474,900	\$460,000
April 2016	\$470,900	\$456,750
March 2016	\$414,900	\$404,025
February 2016	\$439,000	\$425,000
January 2016	\$449,900	\$435,000

### Last 12 Months Riverbend MLS Real Estate Number of Listings Update

	No. New Properties	No. Properties Sold
December 2016	2	4
November 2016	8	11
October 2016	15	8
September 2016	8	9
August 2016	12	7
July 2016	11	17
June 2016	15	9
May 2016	14	11
April 2016	10	8
March 2016	13	8
February 2016	10	5
January 2016	6	3

To view more detailed information that comprise the above  
MLS averages please visit [riverbend.great-news.ca](http://riverbend.great-news.ca)



**TRICO CENTRE**  
FOR FAMILY WELLNESS  
11150 Bonaventure Drive SE

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](http://www.tricocentre.ca) to find out more.

**February at Trico Centre**  
Trico Centre for FamilyWellness is a non-profit, community-owned and operated recreation facility. Our passes are affordable and our programs are family-friendly. With a pass, 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 pass with presentation of a community association membership or payment of the Community Support Fee (which is sent to your community association.)

- Recession Busters**
- The Trico Cares program offers fee assistance for passes and admissions. Plus, we have partnered with organizations that offer fee assistance for programs (Canadian Tire Jumpstart, KidzFirst, and KidsSport.) See [www.tricocentre.ca](http://www.tricocentre.ca) for details.
  - Affordable swim specials: 8:30-9:30pm Monday to Saturday, just \$3/person. Sundays 6-8pm, Family Night Swim, \$3/person.
  - Swim specials: Early bird 50% off admission and last hour swim special for \$3/person. Parent and Tot swim \$6/parent; \$1/tot aged 2-6. See [www.tricocentre.ca](http://www.tricocentre.ca) for schedule.

- Did You Know?**
- Refer a new passholder and get a free month on your pass!
  - Buy a new pass and receive a coupon for up to \$50 off a program, personal training, or a daily/ 10-visit pass for friend/family.

- Adults**
- Focus on your specific goals in a 6-week, small-group (max of 4 participants) setting. Choose from Focus on Fat-Burning, Focus on Learning the Basics, Focus on Power Lifting, Focus on Strength Training Design, or Focus on Healthy Back and Joints. Register at [www.tricocentre.ca](http://www.tricocentre.ca).
  - Learn how to stop the chatter of your mind and relax your body with our Mindful Relaxation Intro Workshop February 4, 2 – 3:30pm.
  - Maximize your mobility and reduce pain with Myofascial Stretch and Release. This 6-week registered



class runs Tuesdays 5:30-6:30pm starting February 21 or Thursdays 9:15-10:15am starting February 23.

- Trico Centre now provides emergency response certification courses. This month, CPR C/AED recert & First Aid/CPR full recert on February 4. Wilderness & Remote First Aid covers material in Standard First Aid & CPR, plus special material on techniques for wilderness & remote areas. Part of the class is taught in an outdoor setting. February 11 and 12, 8am – 6pm.

**Families**  
Family Day Event: Join us for SHINE FM and Trico Centre's Funderful Family Day Celebration, Monday February 20 from 10am to 2pm. Admission to the event is free. There will be lots of cool activities including a free family leisure skate, hot chocolate bar, and Storytime Theatre. Plus, a swim in the wave pool is just \$2 per person.

**Children & Youth**

- Mindfulness for Youth Workshop (8-12 years with parent.) You and your child will learn techniques that will achieve life- long calming strategies. February 4, 12-1:30pm.
- Preschool Drop-Ins: Drop-In Gymnastics (Monday 9:30-10:30am and 10:45-11:45am, Wednesday 11:30am-12:30pm.) Drop-In Playtime (Tuesday and Fridays 9:30-11:00am) and Drop and Go (Saturday and Sunday 9am-12pm.) See [www.tricocentre.ca](http://www.tricocentre.ca) for schedule and details.

### BRAIN GAMES

## SUDOKU

4	7	1	5	6	8	3	2	9
8	6	9	3	2	4	1	7	5
3	2	5	7	9	1	4	6	8
7	8	2	9	5	3	6	1	4
9	4	3	2	1	6	5	8	7
1	5	6	4	8	7	9	3	2
2	3	7	6	4	9	8	5	1
5	1	4	8	3	2	7	9	6
6	9	8	1	7	5	2	4	3





# Ask Charles

*I saw a house for sale, and I want to check it out – will I have to sign a contract to get a real estate professional to show me the house?*

The short answer is no. If you see a house for sale and you simply want a real estate professional to show you that house, you're not required to sign a contract.

Simply viewing a home with a real estate professional doesn't trigger a regulatory requirement to sign a contract with that real estate professional. However, if you start sharing confidential information such as your motivation for buying or your financial qualification, the real estate professional has a responsibility to clarify your working relationship, at which point they are going to provide you with some documents to review.

In the process of clarifying your working relationship, the first document a real estate professional should present to you is the Consumer Relationships Guide. The Consumer Relationships Guide is a mandatory document for real estate professionals when they begin working with a buyer or seller of residential real estate. It explains the different types of working relationships between real estate professionals and consumers.

The Consumer Relationships Guide is not a contract. It does not commit you to a specific ongoing working

relationship with your real estate professional, but it is an essential information piece for consumers to understand what working with a licensed real estate professional entails. Among other things, it discusses responsibilities and obligations.

The Consumer Relationships Guide contains an acknowledgement that consumers have to sign indicating they've read the Guide, understand it, and have been provided with an opportunity to ask the real estate professional questions about it. Consumers need to review and sign the Guide before entering into any contract with a real estate professional.

Some real estate professionals may actually present the Consumer Relationships Guide and request that you sign the acknowledgement even before showing you a single property, but that specific practice is not a requirement.

*"Ask Charles" is a monthly question and answer column by Charles Stevenson, Director of Professional Standards with the Real Estate Council of Alberta (RECA), [www.reca.ca](http://www.reca.ca). RECA is the independent, non-government agency responsible for the regulation of Alberta's real estate industry. We license, govern, and set the standards of practice for all real estate, mortgage brokerage, and real estate appraisal professionals in Alberta. To submit a question, email [askcharles@reca.ca](mailto:askcharles@reca.ca).*



## Happy February Everyone!

The end of winter is almost in sight! At Calgary Humane Society our dogs and dedicated dog walking volunteers are hoping for an early spring, but they have been keeping busy and enjoying plenty of time outside despite the snow and cold this winter.

This month, we wanted to share with you three of the great projects our kids clubs and winter camps have been working on! If the cold weather or snow has you staying closer to home, these projects will hopefully be a hit with the whole family! Not only will the humans have some creative fun, your fluffy friend will also enjoy your finished project!

- 1. Snuffle Mats!** This popular project has taken the internet by storm! Drop by a hardware store to pick up a rubber floor mat (or rubber floor tiles) with holes in them. Using colourful fleece from a fabric store, tie strips into all the holes to make a fun and interactive toy for pets of all shapes and sizes. Hide treats amidst all of the fleece strips and watch your pet snuffle for tasty goodies! Looking for detailed instructions? Check out our Youtube channel (CalgaryHumaneSociety) and search for "snuffle mat"!
- 2. Catnip Pouches!** This project is a fun and easy way to teach sewing skills. Cut out two squares of cotton material and hand stitch three sides. Turn your square right side out and fill with stuffing and a pinch or two of catnip. Stitch up the top edge and give the finished project to a feline friend for 'quality inspection'.
- 3. Homemade Pet Treats!** This activity is always popular with our campers and kids club. Google pet treat recipes based on your pet's favourite flavours and let your creativity loose in the kitchen to create tasty treats for Fido or Fluffy. Homemade treats are a delicious snack for any pet and a great way to teach kids how to cook (we recommend baking some apple cinnamon dog cookies – the office always smells great when our kids club whips up a batch!)

From all of us at Calgary Humane Society, have a happy and safe February!

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### BEFORE & AFTER RENOVATION PROJECT



BEFORE



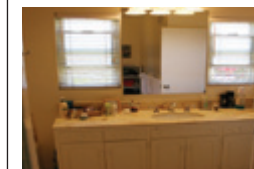
AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

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**NEIGHBOURHOOD CONFLICT?** Community Mediation Calgary Society (CMCS) is a no cost mediation and conflict coaching service that can help you resolve problems and restore peace! We help neighbours be neighbours again! www.communitymediation.ca, 403-269-2707.

**HOME BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY:** Clinicair is the leading provider of Indoor Air Quality and Medical Grade Duct Cleaning services in Canada. We are looking for a dealer in Calgary to represent our growing company. We offer a royalty free business. Clinicair supplies you with the latest technology, and training. Call Craig: 1-416-277-6067.

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**INCOME TAX TIME IS COMING, BE PREPARED:** Professional CPA with more than twenty years' experience in personal and corporate tax services. I prepare financial statements, T4, T5, and GST returns. Payroll and bookkeeping services are also available. Call Janice at 403-617-8956 or email jawilcpa@telus.net for a free consultation.

**K2 BOOKKEEPING:** Are you too busy to keep up with your bookkeeping? Experienced bookkeeper now accepting new clients. Specializing in small to medium sized business. Twelve years of experience with QuickBooks and Simply Accounting, GST, Payroll, WCB Filing, T4 Filing, and competitive rates. Phone Katie 403-870-0737.

**GOT ELMS?** Pruning Elms April-October is banned in Alberta. Winter is ideal to prune many trees and remove Black Knot fungus. King Cole Tree Service for all your pruning and removal needs! Professional service, affordable prices. ISA member, licensed/insured. Call for your free estimate, 403-200-4408 or www.kingcoletreecare.ca

**COMPUTER RELIEF:** Call Larry at 403-238-3139. Repair desktops and laptops, virus and spyware removal, internet solutions, upgrades, networking home and business, wireless connectivity, custom built computers, data recovery, software support, tutoring office products, connectivity to cameras, iPods, Blackberries, router installation with high security, laptop sales, system set-ups in your home, data transfers and backups.

**RICHARDS PLUMBING & HEATING:** Over 15 years of experience with very reasonable rates. Richards Plumbing & Heating is a fully insured company ready to take on the plumbing work that you need completed. Located in Walden. Accredited by the BBB. Please call for a free quote. Wade Richards 403-813-2941.

**QUALITY DAYHOME IN OGDEN:** Experienced midwife, caregiver and mother, with childcare First Aid/CPR certificate, has spots available for ages 11 months - four years old. Spacious play area, high fenced backyard. Lots of fun, arts and crafts, serves nutritious meal and two snacks. I also offer hemming and alterations. Call Chery: 403-875-8997 Email: chery.roy@hotmail.com.

## IN & AROUND SCHOOL

### Mapleridge Cooperative Preschool

We at Maple Ridge Cooperative Preschool will be holding our 2017/2018 Preschool Open House at the school on Thursday, February 2nd from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, and Saturday, February 4th from 10:00 am to noon. You will be able to meet our highly experience teacher Mrs. Marshall and explore the classroom with your child.

The fun will continue this month with Valentine's Day and Family Day approaching. Mapleridge Cooperative Preschool children will be learning about and celebrating friendship, love and family in the classroom. Students will celebrate Valentine's Day with in-class parties filled with cupids, crafts, and crunchy heart cookies! We will also be learning exciting facts about Bears.

If you would like more information about Mapleridge Preschool please contact us by phone at 403-278-9594, by email at info@mapleridgepreschool.com or visit the web site at www.mapleridgepreschool.com.

## IN & AROUND CALGARY

### February Is Heart Month

Do you know the signs and symptoms of a heart attack and what to do if someone experiences these? Knowing can make the difference between life and death. Recognizing and responding immediately to the warning signs of a potential heart attack can significantly improve survival and recovery.

**February is Heart Month** - take the time to be heart safe and learn how you can reduce your risk.

#### Know the signs of a heart attack

(Any, or all, of these signs & symptoms may occur)

- Chest discomfort described as crushing, squeezing, pressure, or heaviness;
- Discomfort that moves beyond the chest, such as the shoulder, arm, neck, or jaw;
- Shortness of breath, sweating, or nausea and vomiting.

#### Reduce your risk

Heart attack risk factors include:

- Obesity\*
- Sedentary lifestyle\*
- Smoking\*
- High cholesterol\*
- Age / gender
- Family history

Speak with your doctor about how to treat your modifiable (\*) risk factors and learn to be heart safe.

#### What to do when seconds count

- Call 9-1-1 immediately. Early treatment can greatly reduce heart damage and make the difference of life and death;
- Treatment starts the moment EMS arrives. Paramedics can provide oxygen, start an intravenous and perform an electrocardiogram (ECG);
- Paramedics can also administer important medication(s) in the early minutes of a heart attack to lessen heart damage;
- During transport, EMS will share information with the hospital, so definitive treatment can begin immediately upon arrival;
- Take a CPR/AED (automated external defibrillator) course. Training is widely available from many reputable organizations. It's easy, inexpensive, and only takes a few hours.





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### Constituency Boundaries Review:

In the coming months, the province's Electoral Boundaries Commission will undertake a review of the electoral constituencies. It's the first time the boundaries have been reviewed since 2009/2010. The province says Alberta's population has increased by more than 20 per cent in the last eight years. As a result, we need to review our provincial constituency boundaries prior to the next provincial election.

Provincial law directs the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission to review the existing boundaries and names for the 87 electoral constituencies and report to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta by October 31, 2017.

The Commission will consider the following in making recommendations to the Legislative Assembly:

- Your input
- Population figures and relative population density throughout the province
- Common community interests
- Existing municipal and natural boundaries
- Effective representation

Albertans can take part in the process by attending a public hearing (See dates and times @ abebc.ca), providing a written submission and by following the Commission's progress on social media with **#AlbertaEBC**.

While this is an important process, I am worried about gerrymandering by the NDP government. Even though Calgary Hays is an urban riding, I hope you will agree giving everyone an equal voice matters. The fear is NDP will give rural Alberta much less representation as they have little support in rural Alberta. If you are concerned, please contact the committee via the methods above or send me a note to forward to them.

### Happy Valentine's Day:

Valentine's Day is more than flowers and gifts. Sometimes, it is about spending time with your love/friends/family. Just wanted to wish you a wonderful Valentine's Day together. Enjoy!

### February 20, 2017, Alberta Family Day:

Fun facts I found in different articles about Alberta Family Day:

- Former Lieutenant Governor Helen Hunley was responsible for proclaiming the holiday. The Premier of Alberta at the time that helped make the day a statutory holiday was Don Getty in 1989. Alberta was the first province in Canada to have a statutory holiday in February. The holiday always falls on the third Monday of February so it will coincide with the American holiday, President's Day.

- It helps break-up the hectic pace of our lives and lets us take a moment with our family

### What Do People Do?

- On Family Day, many people plan and take part in activities aimed at the whole family. These include visiting art exhibitions, watching movies, skating on outdoor ice rinks, playing board games and taking part in craft activities. Some communities plan special public events, and art galleries and museums may have reduced price or free entry.
- As the weather is usually very cold in February, hot chocolate and freshly baked cookies are popular snacks. Other people use the long weekend as an opportunity for a short winter break or to travel to visit family members or friends. As Family Day falls on the same date as National Heritage Day (except in British Columbia), some people use the day to explore their personal heritage and family history
- Family Day gives families the chance to spend time together.
- Family Day is observed to celebrate "the importance of families and family life to people and their communities."
- So what do people do—what do you do, if you have the day off—on Family Day?

### Schools:

I am scheduled to visit schools in the Calgary-Hays area in the coming months. Thank-you in advance to the students and teachers for allowing me to spend time with you and to visit your school.

### Scrolls:

Birthday scrolls are available to constituents celebrating their 65+ birthday, in five-year intervals.

Anniversary scrolls are available to constituents celebrating their 25+ Anniversary, in five-year intervals.

### Budget Consultations

The NDP have scheduled "budget consultations" which you can only get into by being invited by – wait for it – an NDP MLA. That is correct. They have turned a taxpayer funded exercise into a completely partisan process even though the 50 billion dollars plus they will spend next year belongs to all Albertans and to no single or any political party. I only tell you this so you know of the decision your government has made.

In order to include you in the process I am interested in your opinion on our PC party holding a true public consultation on the budget. I invite your input.

### Contact:

As your MLA, I am here to help you. My newsletter is written a few weeks ahead of publication, so if you are looking for updated information or have any questions for me or any concerns that you want to share, I would like to hear them. I also look forward to attending your events in the Calgary-Hays area. Please contact me or my assistant, Tannis Turner at the constituency office.

We can be reached at 403-215-4380 or at calgaryhays@assembly.ab.ca



**MLA Calgary - Acadia**  
**Brandy Payne**  
 #10, 8318 Fairmount Drive SE  
 Calgary, AB, Canada T2H 0Y8  
 Phone: (403) 640-1363; Fax: (403) 640-2970  
 calgary.acadia@assembly.ab.ca

Hi friends and neighbours

You may have heard in the news that last month our Government banned door-to-door sales of household energy products at the beginning of the year.

I am really proud of this decision, which helps protect Albertans from misleading, high-pressure sales.

The Government had received more than 1,000 consumer complaints about energy products and services, including:

- Deliberate misrepresentations,
- Selling products they don't really need,
- Energy contracts not being cancelled upon request, and
- High-pressure tactics

Under these new rules, Alberta has banned door-to-door sales of:

- Furnaces
- Hot water tanks
- Natural gas and electricity contracts
- Air conditioners
- Windows
- Energy audits

Energy companies can continue to sell directly to Albertans, including telephone and online sales, kiosks, and advertising. Consumers are still able to invite salespeople to their homes if they choose, and at the customer's request.

Alberta's *Fair Trading Act* protects consumers from unfair business practices before, during, and after a consumer transaction. Anyone with concerns about door-to-door sales should:

- Call our consumer protection line at 1.877.427.4088, and
- Visit servicealberta.ca to learn more about their rights

Alberta's Utilities Consumer Advocate website offers tips on buying energy products; helps customer shop around by comparing utility rates online; and explains utility bills. UCAhelps.alberta.ca

Open House Saturday March 28th from 2-4pm. Chat with your neighbours and friends over coffee and a snack. Bring your questions and join the conversation.

As always, my staff and I are here to help and 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," you can reach us by email at Calgary.Acadia@assembly.ab.ca, by phoning 403-640-1363 or visiting #10, 8318 Fairmount Dr SE.

## IN & AROUND CALGARY

### St. Augustine Fine Arts School

After a well-earned and restful Christmas break, the students of St. Augustine Fine Arts School are rejuvenated and are looking forward to opportunities that 2017 will bring. This month, we have started the basketball season, as the rosters have been finalized for the senior and junior teams, and students have begun to compete against other schools in our area. Our Junior High students are preparing works in Visual Art and performances in Dance and Band to be showcased in the coming months, and our Drama department is beginning to prepare for their spring production. Midterms have also been written this month by our Jr. High students as our elementary classes eagerly prepare for 100 days of school, marking the halfway point of the year.

The month of January is one of great opportunity and new beginnings for our students. It is a time that they can reflect on the past challenges and achievements of the previous year and can be mindful of what goals they would like to achieve in the coming months. For some of our students it will mark an occasion where they will make the decision to focus their ambitions on experiencing success in the classroom. For others it may be a time where they finally decide to try out for a sports team they were always afraid to join. Some students may make efforts to develop new friendships or to strengthen and renew old ones. The New Year offers all of us a second chance in our personal, professional, and academic lives.

The staff of St. Augustine Fine Arts School we would like to wish everyone a wonderful and opportunity filled year in 2017.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**LOVE TO SING?** Want to experience the benefits of singing in a welcoming vocal community? Vocal Latitudes may be the choir for you. A non-audition World Music community choir, Vocal Latitudes meets Tuesday evenings from September to May in a convenient central location. For more information, see [www.vocallatitudes.org](http://www.vocallatitudes.org).



**Councillor, Ward 9**  
**Gian-Carlo Carra**  
 c/o Office of the Councillors  
 PO Box 2100, Stn 'M'  
 Mail Code #8001A  
 Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

Hello Ward 9!

I hope that you enjoyed the last couple weeks of 2016.

With the recession that we Calgarians have suffered through for the past two years, it's important that we reflect on what we have, maintain hope for what may be, and roll up our sleeves together and work towards making our neighbourhoods prosper—as we always do.

We have seen our quality of life shaken by the hit to our local economy. As your City Councillor, I have seen and heard about it from you at events, through email, social media, and in one-on-one meetings. Things are tough, but we are still optimistic.

In 2016, your Team Ward 9 supported increasing affordable housing stock for seniors, reformed the secondary suite process, increased the potential space for child care services, lowered property taxes, and removed the "Greenfield" development subsidy for new developments on the edges of our city - decreasing the tax burden on tax payers to the tune of \$6,000 to \$20,000 per residential unit built.

We have also supported moving up the time tables of, and building, infrastructure projects to get Calgarians back to work, and amended the sliding scale subsidy for our less fortunate neighbours to ensure that they do not get left behind as we all tighten our fiscal belts.

I am proud to report that just over 8 out of 10 (82%) Ward 9 residents still say the quality of life in Calgary is good, and that almost 9 out of 10 (88%) residents are proud of the neighbourhood they live. This is the very basis of our upcoming success, as it is this togetherness that will ultimately see us out of the current rut that we are in.

This year, your Team Ward 9 and I will continue to focus on infrastructure, transit and traffic (and congestion), crime, safety, sustainable community growth and planning, and supports for people living in poverty and affordable housing.

I continue to hear you, and work towards creating the environment that will help our friends, families and neighbours flourish.

As always, I encourage you to contact me to let me know what your priorities are. I also encourage you to sign up for our updates at [calgary.ca/ward9connect](http://calgary.ca/ward9connect) to stay in the know.

See you soon and let's make this a great 2017.



**Councillor, Ward 12**  
**Shane Keating**  
 Phone: 403-268-1698 • Email: [Ward12@calgary.ca](mailto:Ward12@calgary.ca) • Twitter: @CouncillorKeats  
 Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CouncillorKeating>  
 Web: <http://shanekeating.blogspot.com/>

The weather outside might be chilly, but things have been heating up in my office over the last few weeks. We are continuing to pave the way towards construction of the Green Line LRT. Recent upgrades to the 302 bus route are a great first step and some early work pre-construction activities will be starting soon. My office has also had some great discussions with the Deerfoot Trail study team about some of their short term implementation ideas to improve traffic flow in southeast Calgary. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have questions or want clarity on some of the big things that are happening in southeast Calgary.

**Notices of Assessment Appeal Period**

Assessment notices were mailed out to property and business owners in the first week of January. These assessments provide the property value that your property taxes will be based on. If you do not agree with your assessment, you do have the opportunity to take part in the Customer Review Period. The Customer Review Period will be open from January 5 to March 6, 2017. Changes to your assessment will only be considered during this window.

You can visit [calgary.ca/assessment](http://calgary.ca/assessment) for more information.

**Snow Angels Among Us**

We've seen quite a bit snow to kick off winter already and it sounds like more might be ahead in the forecast. While many of our neighbours might be excited about heading out to the ski hills this winter, clearing snow from sidewalks and driveways can be a daunting task for some Calgarians. The Snow Angels program is a great good neighbour initiative that can make a world of difference for people in your community.

You can learn more about Snow Angels at [calgary.ca/snowangels](http://calgary.ca/snowangels)

**Ward 12 Open House**

The Ward 12 Open House is right around the corner! My office invites City of Calgary departments and external stakeholders to participate. They will have presentation booths that provide information and they will answer your questions. The 2017 Open House is right around the corner, and I am looking forward to hearing your feedback!

**When: Wednesday, February 8 from 7:00pm – 8:30pm**  
**Where: Remington YMCA, 108 Quarry Park Road SE**

Feel free to contact my office if you have questions about our open house.

**403-236-7616**

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