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Saint Patrick

Saint Patrick (Latin: *Patricius*; Irish: *Pádraig*) was a fifth-century Romeo-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Known as the "Apostle of Ireland", he is the primary patron saint of Ireland, along with saints Brigit of Kildare and Columba. He is also venerated in the Anglican Communion, the Old Catholic Church and in the Eastern Orthodox Church as equal-to-apostles and the Enlightener of Ireland.

The dates of Patrick's life cannot be fixed with certainty but there is broad agreement that he was active as a missionary in Ireland during the second half of the fifth century. Early medieval tradition credits him with being the first bishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland, and they regard him as the founder of Christianity in Ireland, converting a society practising a form of Celtic polytheism. He has been generally so regarded ever since, despite evidence of some earlier Christian presence in Ireland.

According to the *Confessio* of Patrick, when he was about 16, he was captured by Irish pirates from his home in Great Britain, and taken as a slave to Ireland, looking after animals, where he lived for six years before escaping and returning to his family. After becoming a cleric, he returned to northern and western Ireland. In later life, he served as a bishop, but little is known about the places where he worked. By the seventh century, he had already come to be revered as the patron saint of Ireland.

Saint Patrick's Day is observed on 17 March, the supposed date of his death. It is celebrated inside and outside Ireland as a religious and cultural holiday. In the dioceses of Ireland, it is both a solemnity and a holy day of obligation; it is also a celebration of Ireland itself.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Patrick

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IN & AROUND SCHOOLS

St. Augustine Fine Arts School

Happy almost spring! February always seems to come and go so quickly with the shortened calendar and the many happenings that have taken place throughout the school.

Basketball season is winding down and we are very proud of our Senior and Junior players for their great performance and their excellent representation of the school. Their sportsmanship on the court, dedication in coming to all the early morning practices and leadership in our school community makes us all very proud.

Our Jr. High Fine Arts departments have likewise been very busy this month, as the New Media, Visual Art, Drama, Dance and Instrumental Music students have been busily preparing for our Junior High Fine Arts Showcase that takes place this in early May. This preparation is made even more demanding as all of the art areas contribute to a school wide production of Disney's Peter Pan Jr. in April. Both these amazing evenings allow our students to showcase the many gifts and talents of the St. Augustine School community and emphasize our integrated fine arts learning program.

We are also very excited to welcome our artist in residence, Anna Bilek from Passion for Glass. She will be working with all of our elementary students during the month of March to create a unique glass tile with each student. All these tiles, will be later gathered to form a giant glass mosaic which will be featured in the school, a symbol of how each student in the school community makes a unique offering that contributes to the whole.

On February 28th we will celebrate Shrove Tuesday with pancakes for all of our students. Ash Wednesday follows and marks the beginning of Lent, which is a time of reflection on the life and ministry and sacrifice of Jesus. During this time, each one of us is faced with the challenge of sacrificing something we enjoy in order to gain a sense of Jesus' gift to the world. During this time we will be working with students in considering their own Lenten promises and working hard to keep them throughout March and April.

We hope that everyone has a wonderful and blessed month of March.

Steve Laberge, Principal, St. Augustine Fine Arts School

Mapleridge Cooperative Preschool

This month our students will be exploring units on our 5 senses and Space. The 4-year-old classes will be going 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 27th and we will welcome them back on April 3rd.

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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
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Calgary Parking Authority	403.537.7000
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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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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 to find out more.

March at Trico Centre

Trico Centre for Family Wellness 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. See www.tricocentre.ca for details. Plus, we have partnered with organizations that offer fee assistance for programs (Canadian Tire Jumpstart, KidzFirst, KidsSport.)
- Affordable swim specials: 8:30-9:30pm Monday to Saturday, just $3/person. Sundays 6-8pm, Family Night Swim, $3/person.

Spring/Summer Program Guide

Check out our Spring/Summer Program Guide for lots of new registered offerings for children, adults, and older adults. Swimming and skating lessons for all ages. Adult fitness options. Children's programs fro 12 months to 14 years.

Register for Spring/Summer Programs

Registration for Spring/Summer programs (including day camps) starts Monday March 6 and Tuesday, March 7 an ongoing for pass holders and begins Wednesday, March 7 for non-pass holders.

Adults/Older Adults

Included in your affordable Trico Centre pass, are more than 70 drop-in fitness programs. Choose from endurance classes with a cardiovascular focus, group resistance training, high intensity interval training, aqua fitness, and mind/body classes. Options for all fitness levels and ages

Families

- Children's Drop-In activities: check out our new expanded schedule of parented drop-ins for preschoolers. Drop-In Playtime is now offered 5 times a week, Drop-In Gymnastics is 3 times a week. Plus Drop-In Crafts on Sundays, Drop 'N Go on Saturdays, and the brand new Storytime, Thursdays at 2pm. All drop-ins are free for pass holders.
- Family Night: Sunday Night is Family Night – swim from 6 to 8pm. Free for pass holders; general public is $3 per person.

Children & Youth

Spring Break Day Camps: week-long and daily camps available. Choose from Adventurer Camp for 6-8yrs or 9-12 yrs or Aqua Adventurers for 6-12 yrs, all running March 27 to 31. Daily Spring Break Camp for 6-12yrs is also available for full-day, mornings or afternoons. Pre-care is available from 7 to 9am and post-care from 4 to 6pm.

Trico Centre is located at 11150 Bonaventure Drive SE. Residents of partnered communities' pay 20% less passes than those who reside outside partnered communities. Phone: 403-278-7542 or see www.tricocentre.ca to find out more.

We hope you are having a great early spring. At Calgary Humane Society our dogs are enjoying the first few sprigs of green in our dog park (though our volunteers are less enthused about the early spring mud!). Spring also means that Easter is just around the corner and our school field trips have been asking some great questions about rabbits! Today, we wanted to share 5 of the best questions we've heard!

1. **How much work is a rabbit?** Like all pets, rabbits take a lot of time and attention. Rabbits need regular feeding, cleaning, grooming, playtime, vet care and attention to be happy and healthy. Some people think that rabbits are OK to be left alone at home for a weekend, but this is not true, they need care every day.
2. **How long can rabbits live?** Rabbits come in many breeds and different breeds have different lifespans (just like dogs!). An average rabbit lifespan is 8-12 years, but at the shelter we have met people with rabbits who are more than 16 years old!
3. **What should rabbits eat?** Rabbits have a food pyramid just like people! Rabbits should have access to fresh hay all of the time. In addition to hay, rabbits at the shelter eat rabbit pellets every day and get vegetables as a treat from our awesome bunny huggers. Your rabbit's vet is the best person to tell you how much a rabbit should eat.
4. **Do rabbits need to go to the vet?** Absolutely! Rabbits should have regular check-ups. To get your rabbit a check-up you will need to find an "exotics" veterinarian – they have special training about how to look after rabbits!
5. **Are rabbits a good pet?** For some people rabbits are a great pet, but just like any animal they are not the best choice for everyone. If your family is looking for a pet our adoption counselors would love to help you find the perfect new friend!

A big thanks to all of the classrooms that have visited the shelter and asked us such good questions! If you or your family is interested in learning more about rabbits and other pets, we would love to meet you! We have just finished renovating our rabbit room at the shelter and our adorable bunnies cannot wait to show off their new home. You can visit any time during our opening hours which are available at www.calgaryhumane.ca.

Happy spring everyone!

calgary reads Writings on Reading

Explore nonfiction books with your child and discover . . . anything and everything!

Children love to read about real people, places, and events. Nonfiction books present real information in engaging and interesting ways. However, most children read a lot more fiction than nonfiction, so spend some extra time helping your reader learn how to navigate a nonfiction book.

Nonfiction books do not have to be read from cover to cover. Readers can use the table of contents and index to jump right to the information they are most interested in.

As natural learners, young readers are drawn to books that give information about something or explain something they've always wondered about. With a little help and guidance about 'how-to' read nonfiction, you can feel good about introducing your child to a new world of information and great new vocabulary words.

Explore these nonfiction books or ask your school or public librarian for other suggestions:

First Human Body Encyclopedia *by DK Publishing*
This beginner's encyclopedia shows what's inside the human body and how things fit and work together — through fascinating facts and close-up photographs. (Age 6 and up)

Frogs *by Nic Bishop*
Stunning color photographs of frogs as well interesting and quirky facts show how these beautiful, creatures survive in the wild. (Age 4-8)

Our Solar System *by Seymour Simon*
This beginner's guide to our solar system is filled with facts, engaging text, diagrams and charts, maps, and remarkable photographs. (Age 6-9)

With thanks to Reading Rockets

Calgary Reads helps children learn to read with confidence and joy. Help further our work by supporting our annual fundraiser, the ***CBC Calgary Reads Big Book Sale*** *happening* ***May 12-14, 2017 at the Calgary Curling Club****. Please donate used books for our sale starting Monday April 17 to Friday April 28 at the Calgary Food Bank and Tuesday May 2 to Sunday May 7 at the Calgary Curling Club. For full details of where and when and what we can accept, visit: calgaryreads.com*

The Bad and Noxious Guys

Barbara Shorrock

There are weeds and then there are noxious and invasive species. The latter are seriously bad for the environment, taking over and crowding out native plants that belong here and provide benefit to other flora and fauna.

Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula)* is native to Europe and Asia. It found its way to North America in the early 1800's and was first reported in Alberta in 1933. It is an aggressive invader and, once present, can completely overtake large areas of open land. It displaces native vegetation in prairie habitats by usurping available water and nutrients and through plant toxins that prevent the growth of other plants near it. The stems contain a white sap that is toxic to most livestock and is a serious irritant to human skin. Goats are unaffected by the sap and graze on the young plants without ill effect, but will only eat them in the spring when they are fresh and succulent. Sheep have also been used along with herbicides and flea beetles, to fight it. The small light green flowers produce massive amounts of seed, which explode from the seed pod and travel as far as 6 meters. In addition, the root system is deep and very efficient in producing new plants as it creeps extensively underground.

Scentless Chamomile (*Matricaria maritima)* is a member of the Aster family, having single, white, daisy-like flowers with yellow centers at the ends of each branched stem. It produces rapidly by seed, with a single plant producing up to 1 million seeds that are mature as soon as the flower forms. Seeds remain viable for up to 15 years in the soil and are readily dispersed by wind or water, on equipment and vehicles, or as a contaminant in soil, fill material, crop seed, and animal feed. Seeds can float on water for up to 12 hours and new infestations are often found around watercourses. Not eaten by livestock, dense stands of scentless chamomile can reduce crop yields in hay fields, pastures, and other cultivated crops. Like many of our invasive species, it originated in Europe, and has no natural enemies here, except for man, who has found chemicals to control it. We are not terribly fond of herbicides in our parks, however, and mechanical and manual removal is our best line of defense.

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria)* has had a lot of press in recent years, as Alberta works hard to keep this species with no natural enemies under control. Native to Europe and Asia, Purple Loosestrife was likely introduced when its seeds were included in soil used as ballast in European sailing ships. The plant was also spread by early settlers and is still used in flower gardens and occasionally sold in nurseries today. The plant forms dense stands with thick mats of roots that invade and destroy wetlands, spreading over large areas, degrading habitat for native birds, insects, and other species. By crowding out native plants it reduces biodiversity. If you have *Lythrum* in your garden, you should consider replacing it with something less noxious. To dispose of Purple Loosestrife, put the plants in plastic bags, seal them, and put the bags in the garbage. Do not put them in the compost or discard them in natural areas. Discarded flowers can still produce seeds.

***Barbara Shorrock** is a writer, reader, traveler, retired realtor, ESL teacher, Spanish student and brand new great-grandmother! She can be found most first Wednesdays at the Queensland Garden Club, which welcomes all gardeners, experienced and new. We don't care where you live.*

Ask Charles

I heard that if someone calls themselves a "contractor," they don't need to have a licence to provide property management services. Is that true?

No, that's not true. The truth is it doesn't matter what a person calls themselves. If they are providing property management services and they are not the owner of the property or an employee of the owner, they require a licence from the Real Estate Council of Alberta (RECA).

The *Real Estate Act*, which RECA administers, defines property management as:

1. leasing, negotiating, approving or offering to lease, negotiate or approve a lease or rental of real estate;
2. collecting or offering or attempting to collect money payable for the use of real estate;
3. holding money received in connection with a lease or rental of real estate; and
4. advertising, negotiating or any other act, directly or indirectly for the purpose of furthering the activities described in items 1-3.

Licensed property managers can find suitable tenants, deal with nuisance tenants, draft lease agreements, and regularly inspect and maintain property on behalf of a property owner. It is up to property managers and the property owners to negotiate the specific tasks the property manager will provide, but ultimately, before providing property management services, the property manager needs a licence.

Property manager licensing provides vital protection for property owners. Individuals must complete comprehensive education before becoming licensed as a property manager, they must also provide a Certified Criminal Record Check to RECA prior to receiving a licence, and there are ongoing education requirements.

If a property owner is working with a licensed property manager, they have the added protection of the Consumer Compensation Fund. The Fund compensates consumers who suffer a financial loss as a result of fraud, breach of trust, or a failure to disburse or account for money held in trust by an industry member in connection with a real estate trade, mortgage deal, or property management services.

If you work with an unlicensed property manager, and the property manager disappears and takes rental payments or damage deposits with them, your only recourse is through the courts.

As a property owner, you're not required to hire someone to manage your rental or investment property, but if you do, take steps to protect yourself. Ensure that the company and individual you hire are licensed to provide property management services in Alberta. You can check if someone is licensed through RECA's website at www.reca.ca.

"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. 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.

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Christina	14	587-433-6962	Yes
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Dominic	18	403-926-3399	Yes
Rose	41	403-978-5300	Yes

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Hello Neighbours!

March is here and your government is working hard to support Alberta families. We know that job creation and job security are the most pressing concerns right now - you want to know that you will be able to build and maintain a happy and stable life for yourself and your family. Your government is focused on job creation and building a brighter future for all Albertans.

Alberta has been and will continue to be an oil and gas province, with our energy sector being a main source of income for many Albertans. In order to revive our oil and gas economy, after the global drop in the price of oil, we needed to break through Alberta's land lock so that we can sell our oil around the world. Through our government's hard work with other provinces, and a focus on both environment and the economy, our Oil and Gas industry now has approval for three new pipelines. This is excellent news for Alberta. These pipelines mean more work for our Energy industry, and will help bolster jobs in other sectors.

If you are looking for resources to find employment, please visit www.alis.alberta.ca, this website has information to help with your career path - please contact my office if you have any questions.

If you are considering a career change, or if your kids are approaching college or university age, we know that the financial pressures of increasing tuition fees can be a real concern for families. That is why we've frozen tuition fees for the last two years, and are working with post-secondary institutions to find ways to keep university and college affordable for Alberta families like yours. We're currently reviewing the overall funding model for colleges and universities, and would love to hear your input - visit www.tuitionreview.alberta.ca to share your thoughts and ideas.

In order to support our economy, high-quality and affordable child-care must be more widely available to Alberta families. This is why we've launched a new Child-Care Pilot program, which will create 1,000 new child-care spaces with 230 new child-care jobs. The program will focus on addressing gaps in the existing system, including flexible schedules for parents doing shift work, support for children with diverse needs, and easy-to-access location - all within a $25/day fee and with a focus on early childhood development. The pilot locations will be announced in mid-2017, and we will use these new spaces as a model for other programs over the coming years.

If you have questions about these initiatives or anything else our government is doing, I would welcome you to join us during the upcoming Office Open House on Saturday,March 18th 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. You can reach us by email at Calgary.Acadia@assembly.ab.ca, by phoning 403-640-1363 or visiting #10, 8318 Fairmount Dr SE.

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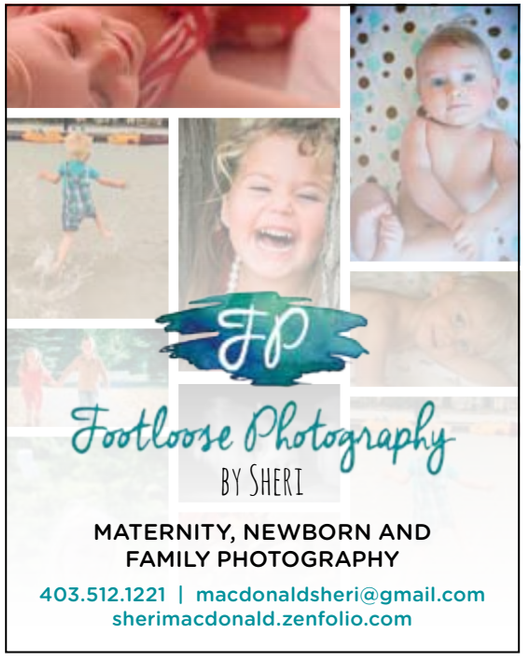

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Last 12 Months Riverbend MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
January 2017	$412,400	$404,250
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

Last 12 Months Riverbend MLS Real Estate Number of Listings Update

	No. New Properties	No. Properties Sold
January 2017	12	6
December 2016	2	4
November 2016	4	11
October 2016	14	8
September 2016	8	9
August 2016	11	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

To view more detailed information that comprise the above MLS averages please visit **riverbend.great-news.ca**

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Councillor, Ward 12
Shane Keating
Phone: 403-268-1698 • Email: Ward12@calgary.ca
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Web: http://shanekeating.blogspot.com/

Can you believe that spring is nearly upon us? Looking ahead, March promises to be another busy month for southeast Calgary. I am really pleased that Dr. Martha Cohen School in New Brighton and McKenzie Highlands School in McKenzie Towne will officially open this month. We will also have a very busy month at Council as the Green Line LRT returns to the Transportation and Transit committee on March 15th. As we transition from winter to spring I'll remind everyone that my office is here to help. If you have questions about what is going on in your community, do not hesitate to let us know.

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 closed on March 6, 2017. Changes to your assessment will only be considered during this window.

You can visit calgary.ca/assessment for more information.

River Access Strategy
In June of 2016 I co-sponsored a Notice of Motion that directed City Administration to develop a river access strategy. After the floods in 2013 many public access points along Calgary's rivers were damaged and others were closed. Currently there are only three boat accessible launches within the city limits and a few smaller launches for smaller rafts and kayaks.

Our rivers shape this great city. These are places where we float, fish and walk. Our rivers also contribute to our local economy. Anglers from all over the world come to Calgary to enjoy world class fishing in the Bow River. We are also seeing emerging businesses with activities like river surfing and white water rafting. Our rivers aren't just something that pass through our city; they are a resource that we should be tremendously proud of.

The River Access Strategy passed unanimously at committee at the beginning of February. The strategy outlined some additional access opportunities to improve how we interact with our rivers. The strategy deliberately made sure that access was happening in a way that demonstrated good environmental stewardship by keeping sensitive areas well protected. Getting these new access points in place will take time, but we are certainly moving in the right direction.

If you are interested in the River Access Strategy you can find more information at Calgary.ca/RiverAccess

Coffee With Your Councillor
I am really excited for my first "Coffee With Your Councillor" of 2017. These meetings have initiated some really fascinating discussions about the local issues that make a difference in your life. I hope to see you there - coffee is on me!
When: Tuesday, March 21, 7:00pm-8:30pm
Where: Prestwick Room, McKenzie Towne Hall – 40 McKenzie Towne Blvd SE

"If one cannot enjoy reading a book over and over again, there is no use in reading it at all."

- Oscar Wilde

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 Neighbours,

Businesses are integral to Great Neighbourhoods and it is my fundamental belief that great neighbourhoods are the most powerful tool we have to build a diversified economy. Additionally, on account of our industrial working landscapes, Ward 9 hosts Calgary's second largest economic engine behind the downtown.

Over the last few weeks, many of you have reached out to my office concerned about how the City of Calgary's revenue neutral tax policy has spread the pain of taxation across our local business community, as assessments in the downtown core have plummeted on account of historic vacancy levels; our non-residential tax base outside of the downtown having to pick up the tax slack has been exceptionally hard on Ward 9 businesses.

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the increases to non-residential property taxes and how we plan to help. At the end of January, City Council endorsed the Municipal Non-Residential Phased Tax Program (the PTP).

During the Mid-Cycle Adjustments in November 2016, City Council set aside $15 million with the intention of shaving the peak off of the rising taxes that our small- and medium-sized businesses would be dealing with in 2017.

We quickly learned that defining what entities actually met a meaningful test for what constitutes a small- and medium-sized business was incredibly challenging, and in the face of this uncertainty, that $15 million probably wouldn't be enough. Happily, on January 23, Council voted in favour of taking $45 million from savings so we could broadly offer relief to all non-residential property tax payers.

The PTP will reduce taxes to a 5% increase for all non-residential accounts assessed. What this means is that, despite the increases pushed across the board due to lower downtown assessments, any business in Calgary facing an increase in the municipal portion of their non-residential property tax will not have to pay an increase of more than 5%.

On the whole, I'm very pleased that Council understands the challenges facing Calgarians right now, and that we've managed the City into a position where we're able to help. In total, Council has approved $183 million in supports for Calgarians, which includes $73 million in tax relief, $66 million in user fees and utility rate freezes, $9 million in targeted initiatives, and $35 million in lower revenues absorbed by the City of Calgary through efficiencies.

I will continue to work on the behalf of my Ward 9 businesses, institutions, and residents.

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.vocalatitudes.org.

FLC SENIORS CLUB 55+ Join us for a healthy, happy, and active lifestyle. For more information: www.flcseniors.ca. Highlighted activities are LINE DANCING call Ann 403-254-9181 or Joan 403-719-7763 or emaillinedancing@flcseniors.ca; and TAI CHI call Juliette 403-225-1593 or email taichi@flcseniors.ca.

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