

JUNE 2016

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Queensland Community Association

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"To promote and facilitate community spirit and involvement in Queensland and Diamond Cove"

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Insects & Technology

The Namib Desert's darkling beetle is the inspiration for a new idea to turn morning fog into droplets of water and will have the ability to provide enough water per day for survival of Namib Desert people. The beetle's body has little bumps that repel water, sending the droplets down his back into his mouth.

Discovery Magazine



IN & AROUND SCHOOLS

St. Philip Fine Arts Elementary School

13825 Parkside Dr. S.E., Parkland

It is hard to believe that another year is coming to a close and we are already planning for the upcoming school year! As a Fine Arts School we want to expose our students to all types of imaginative and creative experiences.

Bringing another great year at St. Philip Fine Arts School to an end, we look forward to our Year-End Mass at St. Bonaventure Parish. We also want to take the time to recognize and say good-bye to our Grade 6 students. This spectacular group of young leaders is sure to move on to great things! We are also planning our Fun Activity Day, the theme of which is the Rio Summer Olympic Games!

On behalf of all the staff at St. Philip Fine Arts School we would like to wish all our families a safe and enjoyable summer spent with friends and family. We look forward to seeing all our new and returning families on Thursday, September 1, 2016 for another exciting school year.



Guides Canada FAMOUS FIVE DISTRICT

Unit meetings are winding down and girls are advancing and attending the last sleepovers and camps for the year. Parents, please re-register girls for the fall, their spot is guaranteed if registered before June 1.

Classic cookie stock is disappearing. If we missed you, please contact Pat, isteads@telus.net with your address. Cookies are the major fundraising for Girl Guides and your purchase allows us to provide programming that teaches self-respect, community awareness, safety, leadership and so much more.

Beginning June 1, 2016, new members will be able to register for the fall program start. To register, visit www.girlguides.com, click on the Unit Finder button, enter your postal code and select the branch, unit and location that suit your family best. Sparks (ages 5 and 6), Brownies (ages 7 and 8), Guides (ages 9 to 11), Pathfinders (ages 12 to 14) and Rangers (ages 15 to 17) all accept new members.

A special thanks to all the volunteer leaders. It doesn't happen without you. Would you like to become a leader for the fall? We're always looking for women to help. No experience necessary. No daughter required. Why not start the registration process now, take advantage of trainings offered in June and be ready for fun in September. Contact Pat, isteads@telus.net, for more info.

YOUR COMMUNITY - PROGRAMS - EVENTS



MONDAYS	Play Group Jazzercise Basket ball
TUESDAYS	After School Program Sparks/Brownies/Guides
WEDNESDAYS	Playgroup Art Class Jazzercise Basket ball Garden Club
First Wed.	
THURSDAYS	After School Program Quilting Beavers/Cubs and Scouts
FRIDAYS	Playgroup Private Functions
SATURDAYS	Private functions
SUNDAYS	Basketball

Linda Brown
qcag99@hotmail.com

Editorial Content DEADLINE 1st

of each month for the next month's issue

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649 Queensland Dr 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.

June 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 (more than 55 in the summer months), use the gymnasium, skate, or play shinny, plus with a membership 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).

Membership Specials while the Pool is Closed

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. **The target reopen date is August 15, 2016.** There is still lots to do at Trico while the pool is closed. We will be hosting a pool grand opening, so watch for details.

- Purchase a new membership up until August 14, 2016 and receive 14 months for the price of 12.
- Purchase an All-Inclusive 10-Visit Pass up until July 31, 2016 and receive 13 visits for the price of 10.
- If you were a member on February 19, 2016 when the pool closed for its makeover, make sure to drop by Guest Services and fill out your form to receive a three-month free extension on your membership and five free passes*

Spring Activities for Families, Children, Youth

- **Summer Day Camps:** Trico Centre is known for its summer camps. Want your child to have fun and learn over the summer? Good quality themed camps. 3-14 yrs, weekly or daily, full day, half, day, pre and post care.
- More registered summer programs than ever before including Parent & Tot classes, preschool, children and youth. See the Summer Program Guide or check www.tricocentre.ca for all the details.
- Summer drop-ins include Drop-In Playtime (walking and up, Thursdays, 5-6:30pm, Drop-In Craft (2 yrs and up) Drop-In Dodgeball (10-14 yrs.) Check the Summer 2016 Program Guide for details.
- Skating Lessons – what could be a better way to spend a hot summer than in a cool skating rink. Parent & Tot, Preschool Learn to skate, Youth Learn to Skate, Teen Learn to Skate, and private lessons.

~continued on page 15~

IN & AROUND CALGARY



June and July Events in Fish Creek

Qi Gong and the Fish Creek Wellness Showcase

Qi Gong (pronounced Chi Gong) is a way of enriching and supporting the life energy that flows through all people and all things. It is an ancient form of exercise derived in China that features recurring movements that help to unify physical, mental and spiritual aspects in participants. This system can be beneficial for reducing stress, alleviating the effects of illness, and improving and maintaining physical well-being. Learn about the general principles and history of Qi Gong, follow along as Spring Forest Qi Gong Certified Instructor Diane Smith leads you in simple movements, and learn some of the basic exercises that you can practice at home.

June Fish Creek Speaker Series – Qi Gong and the Fish Creek Wellness Showcase:

Wednesday, June 22, 7:00 - 8:30pm at the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre

Outdoor Qi Gong Sessions: Tuesday nights, June 14 – July 26 6:30 - 7:30pm at the Bow Valley Ranch, Fish Creek Provincial Park

For more information or to register www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/wellness-clinics

Capture Nature Photography Contest

The Friends of Fish Creek are excited to offer our Capture Nature Photography Contest for the second year in a row! Capture Nature offers a fun and creative opportunity for park users to engage with their natural surroundings as they search and explore for the best images of the year! All proceeds from the contest will

help to support our stewardship and education activities in Fish Creek Provincial Park. Capture Nature will run from July 1 to August 15. Register for a chance to win one of the amazing prizes from Vistek and MEC! www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/capturenature

Parks Day & Creekfest

Free Fun for the Whole Family!

Sunday, July 17, 2016 11:00 am – 4:00pm, Glennfield, Fish Creek Provincial Park

Celebrate Alberta's Natural Provincial Parks and Learn about Protecting our Watersheds at Parks Day & Creekfest! Juno-award winning Peter Puffin's Whale Tales will return to Fish Creek to host a concert and song writing workshop! Enjoy the performance "Good Night and Good Duck" from Alberta Parks' K-Country Interpretive Theatre! Coyote Kids Theatre will present "A Muskrat's Tail" and local musician Alex Boisselle will return to Fish Creek! Take part in an outdoor yoga session and fly fishing demonstration.

Enjoy interactive booths and activities hosted by community organizations dedicated to the environmental sustainability of our Provincial Parks! For more info: www.friendsoffishcreek.org/event/creekfest

Full Moon Guided Meditation in Fish Creek

Let go of outside distractions and just be. Join Naomi Parker and Gwen Draude Woolverton for outdoor meditation sessions on full moon evenings at the Bow Valley Ranch in Fish Creek Provincial Park.

7:00 - 8:00 pm on Monday, June 20 (The first day of summer!) Tuesday, July 19, and Thursday, August 18. Registration is recommended and fees apply. For more information, visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/wellness-clinics.

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IN & AROUND SCHOOLS

St. Bonaventure Junior High School

June will provide the St. Bonaventure School community with a chance to bring the year to a close through liturgical celebrations, athletics, and final exams.

In Catholic Community of Caring news, St. Bonaventure students and staff will celebrate the annual year end retreats. What a great opportunity to come together and celebrate the year! Please know that our many CCC service learning initiatives have been successful due to the humility of our entire school community! Of special note will be the Grade 9 Farewell Retreat and Mass - a great example of spirituality, citizenship, and excellence.

The St. Bonaventure school community also will participate in a year-end Liturgy of the Eucharist. We continue to appreciate the very special relationship that the school has with the parish in support of Catholic education.

Athletically, St. Bonaventure's track and field team competes at the District championship. Congratulations to our coaches and athletes on hopefully a very successful showing. Moreover, thanks to our parents for their continued support of Falcons' athletics.

Finally, we would like to wish students, parents, staff, school council, and the parish a safe and enjoyable summer. Thank you for your contributions to St. Bonaventure!



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Kids Help Phone

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- Anonymous and confidential
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- Online and phone counselling available.

Scrapbooking with Grandma Judi

Any child from the age of 6 onward and interested in learning the art of scrapbooking, is welcome to join Grandma Judi at the Queensland Community Centre.

Dates: Saturdays. Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Adult Classes—Fridays— Call for dates. There is a limited amount of space for this date, so please contact Judi 271-2176 to reserve a spot. Hope to hear from you soon!

These are for children ages 6 to 12 years. The times are from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Also, on Friday evenings we will be having a monthly Scrapbooking program for students 12 plus to adults.

Guides – Girls can join at anytime of the year if there are spaces in the unit and we have opportunities for women over 18 years of age. Please contact 1-800-565-8111, answered locally.

Queensland Playgroup: *Are your children bored or lonely? Do you crave some adult conversation? Need to get out of the house?* Drop in to meet some new friends for you and playmates for your little ones!

Large gym to run in, lots of toys, weekly crafts ...

Queensland Community Centre. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9:00 – 11:00 am. \$1 per child per visit (or bring a snack to share). Call for Fall Schedule.

Art Classes for Kids

April to June - Starting April 6 for 12 classes, Wednesdays, 4:30-6pm. Queensland Community Centre. Registration via e-mail kidsart@telus.net. More info, Call Lillian at 403-236-9819.



DIAMOND COVE NEWS

Diamond Cove Neighbours

Surprisingly, even with the downturn in the economy, Diamond Cove has lots of activity, especially with repairs and renovations. This is good news for the community and for property values. Residents should be aware of any restrictions, responsibilities or requirements for their property, especially as it relates to fences and walls (both stub and attenuation). Please remember that homeowners are responsible for their fences, on both sides. If it is a wooden fence, it is required that everyone use the right colour of "Diamond Cove White" which is available at Benjamin Moore-Overwall in Midnapore. It should be based on the Flood-pro pastel base. Of course, this colour can also be matched at any other paint dealer.

One of our Board members has spoken with the good people at Benjamin-Moore in Midnapore and they are offering to pre-mix your Diamond Cove White if you call ahead, and provide a special rate to incent purchase at their store.

The Annual General Meeting was held on April 20th and we had a better turn-out this year, with new residents coming to hear how the Cove residents association is working on behalf of the community. Some of the highlights from the meeting...

* Break Ins. In recent months several break-ins have been reported. These are taking place in the middle of the day. Perpetrators have been getting in through the front doors and basement windows. A discussion took place about the use of security cameras. The president of the Queensland Community Association (Judith Nichols) was in attendance and stated that Queensland has installed security cameras. The Queensland community feels these were a worthwhile purchase, as perpetrators have been seen on camera, caught and apprehended. Some residents in attendance have installed security cameras on their private residences.

* Graffiti is down, but if you see it call 311. The more people who call in, the quicker the response will be for cleanup.

* 2016 PARADE OF GARAGE SALES is scheduled for September 10th.



T-BALL
REGISTRATION
ONGOING

T-Ball will be played on Saturday mornings @ 11:00 a.m. weather permitting.

\$20.00 per child.
Ages 4-6 yrs.

Equipment required - Baseball & a Glove
Season runs June 11-July 30

*PARENT VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Call 278-3366 for more information
649 Queensland Dr.
qca99@hotmail.com

Community Membership
Required

* Judith Nichols president of the Queensland Community Association suggested she would look into Diamond Cove joining forces with Queensland. Currently Queensland participates in a Casino at the Deerfoot Casino every 18 months and a Bingo at the Grey Eagle Casino every month. The Board will discuss at the next meeting.

Please note that complete minutes of the meeting are available on the website at <https://sites.google.com/site/diamondcovecommunity/Home/annual-general-meeting>.

We would like to thank all the residents who walk the community and pick up garbage that plagues our streets. This act of community spirit improves the look and feel of the Cove for all of us. Thanks again!!!

As always, if you have suggestions, comments or questions about our community, please email them to me. Guy Huntingford, guy.huntingford@gmail.com.

GOOD FOOD box

The Food Box is a program where you can purchase fresh fruit and vegetables for a very low cost. This program is available to everyone to promote a healthy and nutritional living.

Apples	Celery	Oranges
Bananas	Cucumber	Potatoes
Broccoli	Lettuce	Tomatoes
Carrots	Mushroom	Green Pepper
Cauliflower	Onions	

*(selection will vary)

Large Family 40-45 pounds	Family 30-35 pounds	Senior/Single 20-25 pounds
\$35.00	\$30.00	\$25.00

Good Food Boxes are ordered once a month. Payment for your Good Food Box will be required when you place your order. All food boxes need to be picked up from Queensland Community hall on the day of delivery.

For more information or to place an order:
Email: mavergo@shaw.ca

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THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS FOR WORKING AT THE BINGO



Zoe Nelson	Lisa Carlson
Blanche Sheridan	Bruce Dawson
Sue Read	Linda Brown
Amber Vergo	

Many thanks once again to The Multicultural Arts Society for sharing the bingo with us!

Volunteers are needed for June 21 at Grey Eagle Bingo Hall for afternoon only. Please call Linda at 403-278-3366 if you are available to volunteer.



Pre-teen dance

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~continued next page~

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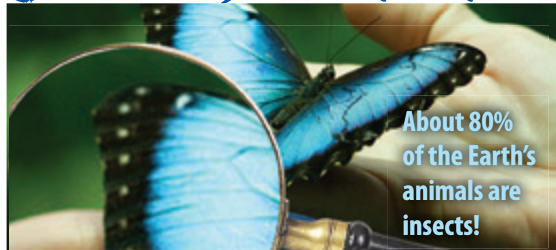
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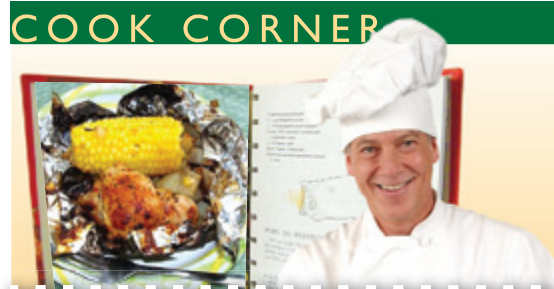
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Insect Trivia



About 80% of the Earth's animals are insects!



COOK CORNER

Chicken Foil Dinner for Camping (or to Grill at Home) Makes 4 packets

- 4 large pieces of heavy duty (or double-thick) aluminum foil
- oil
- 4 small potatoes, chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 ears corn, cut in half (can use frozen cobs)
- butter, melted
- Basic Spice Rub (or spices of choice)
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken thighs (if using breasts, pound the thickest parts flat)

To assemble: Lay out the pieces of foil and oil the centers of each.

In the center of each piece of foil pile the potatoes and onions.

Brush corn cobs with melted butter and place next to the potatoes. Sprinkle everything with the spice rub (or spices).

Lay the chicken atop the potatoes and onions and sprinkle with more spice rub.

Seal the edges all nice and tight, but leave a little room for steam. If taking camping, put the pouches in ziplock baggies in case of leakage (which did happen). Cook right away or freeze to take camping to be used the first 1-2 days.

To cook: Cook thawed packets 5 inches from the fire/ coals, 15 minutes on one side and 15 minutes on the other. If they are closer because of stationary grate at the campsites, just turned them a little more often and move them to avoid hot spots. In this case, they might cook closer to the 20 minute mark, so you'll have to be checking after this point (it's okay if they are still partially frozen, they seemed to cook the same amount of time over the hotter campsite fire).



MLA CALGARY - FISH CREEK RICHARD GOTFRIED

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calgary.fishcreek@assembly.ab.ca
www.richardgotfried.ca

facebook.com/RichardGotfried4FishCreek • @GotfriedMLA

Summer arrived early and I am excited about attending and hosting events, and meeting with constituents in Calgary-Fish Creek, in the months ahead. There are some great things happening that I suggest you mark in your calendar.

Deerfoot Trail is a critical piece of our city's infrastructure, and Alberta's busiest highway, with traffic volumes ranging from 27,000 to 158,000 vehicles per day depending on location. Its efficiency affects the lives of most Calgarians and I know that many Calgary-Fish Creek constituents depend on the Deerfoot for their daily commutes. Therefore, I want to invite you to our Deerfoot Engagement session on Thursday, June 23 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at the First Alliance Church - 12345 40 Street SE. City Councillors, Calgary MLAs, City of Calgary Transportation and Government of Alberta Transportation & Infrastructure representatives will be available to provide information, answer questions and listen to suggestions or concerns from participants.

Spring Session at the Legislature is scheduled to conclude in early June. With that, I will host another MLA Café on Friday, June 24 from 10:00 am – 11:00 am. This engagement session will give constituents the opportunity to share their thoughts about Alberta one year after the provincial election while expressing their priorities and concerns related to our provincial government. I also want to thank all constituents who participated in the survey that was attached to my spring newsletter. The information provided was truly helpful. Please take the time to complete and send your survey to our office.

Park 96's Summerfest is one of my favorite summer events. The activities, music, food, and location make for a great family and community celebration. I welcome all constituents to Summerfest on Saturday, June 25 from 8:00 am – 10:00 pm. Tickets are still available and can be purchased by calling or visiting the Park 96 office. When you get to Summerfest, make sure your kids get one of my beach balls for some summer fun in the waterpark!

Stampede is a fun and busy time with many events happening in our communities, around Calgary and of course

June at Trico Centre cont'd

• Intro to Hockey for 6-8 yrs, Intro to Hockey Adult & Child (4-6 yrs with parent/caregiver), and Power Skating & Recreational Hockey (7-12 yrs.)

Summer Programs for Adults

- Check out these registered summer programs: Core Fusion Barre, Obstacle Race Training, Stroller Fit, Fit 101: For the Absolute Beginner, and Sore Joints Training.
- Even though it is summer, there is still lots to do in the Fitness Centre. Choose from more than 55 dryland drop-in fitness classes every week. Free for members, drop-in fee for non-members.

Summer Programs for Older Adults

- Balance Builders: Fall Prevention for Older Adults, Bone Builders: Weight Training for Older Adults, Chair Yoga, and Sore Joints Training are registered fitness classes for older adults offered over the summer.
- Drop-in Pickleball is offered several times a week over the summer. 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.

Trico Centre is located at 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.

at the Stampede grounds. One that you won't want to miss is my Stampede BBQ on Saturday, July 9 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at the constituency office - 1215 Lake Sylvan Drive SE. There will be face painting and crafts for kids, door prizes, and delicious food for everyone. If you need more information about my Stampede event, please contact my office and we will be happy to assist. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

ATCO Gas Fish Creek Provincial Park System Improvements are now complete. This project included the addition of a new paved pathway to connect the Fish Creek Provincial Park to 146 Avenue along Bow Bottom Trail. This trail will be an asset to Fish Creek Park users and I want to commend the great work of ATCO Gas for completing this project and keeping the communities updated on progress.

As always, I welcome you to follow me on Facebook and Twitter, or to email or call and schedule a meeting. All opportunities to communicate with constituents greatly assist me in effectively representing you, while you can rest assured your privacy and confidentiality will always be respected.

SUMMER SUN WORD SEARCH

- BARBEQUE
- BASEBALL
- BICYCLE
- BOAT
- CAMPING
- GARDENING
- GOLD
- HIKING
- JOGGING
- LOTION
- SPRINKERS
- SWIMMING

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STAMPEDE KICK-OFF

Dinner & Dance



Saturday, July 9 @ 6:30

Door Prizes Country Music BBQ Steak

Tickets	Members	\$20.00
278-3366	Non Members	\$25.00

649 Queensland Dr. S.E.



**COUNCILLOR, WARD 14
PETER DEMONG**

www.calgary.ca/ward14
eaward14@calgary.ca or 403 268-1653

Happy June Ward 14!

Ward 14 Wordsmith Award

Every year I hold an essay contest for the Grade 6 students in Ward 14. Every year they write about what municipal government means to them, and every year I am blown away by the calibre of the essays.

For four years the winner of the Ward 14 Wordsmith Award, and their entire class, have joined me at a City Council meeting. I read the winning essay on TV during a Council meeting—so everyone can be just as impressed as I—and present the winner with the Ward 14 Wordsmith Award.

This year Ian Samuel Benham of Prince of Wales School became the winner of the fifth annual Ward 14 Wordsmith Award. He and Mrs. Armstrong-Shaver's class joined me in Council on May 16 and he received a very special prize in addition to the traditional trophy: a signed Johnny Gaudreau jersey courtesy of the Calgary Flames!

Congratulations Ian! It is great to see young people who understand the importance of democracy. Thank you to all of the teachers who instil that importance, and to all the students who participated! I can't wait to see what the students have in store for next year.

For those of you who would like to read Ian's essay, you can find it at calgary.ca/ward14.

Counciltalk

I will be holding one more Counciltalk session before summer. It will be at the ATB in Walden (300-151 Walden Gate S.E.) on June 18 from noon to 2 p.m.

This has been the most popular year for Counciltalk yet, and that makes me happy. As good as it is to see young people who understand the importance of democracy it is equally as good to see adults participate in it.

Thank you to everyone who joined me at one of my Counciltalk sessions this year. Keep an eye out for the next one on calgary.ca/counciltalk.

Ward 14 Communities BBQ & Walden Community Association

I think people must be getting familiar with my community BBQ. I will speak about it in a little more detail in the coming months, but for now you should mark it in your calendars. It will be a great time.

The BBQ is on September 24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and I will be officially welcoming Walden's brand new community association for the first time. It will be in the same location as always: the Southcentre Mall parking lot. You can find out more about the Walden Community Association at waldenyyc.ca and more about the BBQ at calgary.ca/ward14bbq.

Deerfoot Trail Engagement

I want to briefly mention a couple of opportunities to give your input on the future of Deerfoot Trail.

You will have to keep an eye on calgary.ca/engage to get the fine details of the first opportunity, but in general it will be a chance to share your thoughts on what you want to see on Deerfoot. Watch for the Deerfoot Trail Corridor Study on the City's website.

The second opportunity will be focused specifically on the south section of Deerfoot. I will be at the First Alliance Church (12345 40 Street S.E.) on June 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. with area MLA Richard Gotfried, other area councillors, and other stakeholders to listen to what the citizens of Calgary's south have to say.

Thanks for reading. Please feel free to contact me any time.

VENDOR'S MARKET

Spring into Summer

Queensland Community Center. June 5, 11-5 pm.

50+ Vendors offering beauty products, jewelry, clothing, arts, crafts and much more! There will be 3 amazing door prizes available. All proceeds from door prize tickets go to Alpha House Detox Center to help our needy. Food trucks, henna tattoos, face painting, and balloons!

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ALLEYS AND HOLLYHOCKS

Barbara Shorrock

Watch out for a woman on a mission, particularly if she is a gardening-type woman. You might just get caught up in her quest, and who knows where that could lead.

Take back alleys, for instance. Most older houses in Calgary have a back alley (or lane, if you wish) and most of them are pretty dismal. Not a thing of beauty. Scruffy. Untidy. Unloved. Ignored. Most are surfaced with gravel, with the exception of those blocks that have been upgraded to asphalt. Nicer and cleaner, but expensive. Many of us who have a dog to walk (or a "granddog" in my case) spend more time in the alley than on the street some days, so we see what goes on behind our neighbours' fences. Would you agree with me that there could be some improvement here?

How much trouble would it be to plant a little something out there for our fellow gardeners and dog walkers, not to mention ourselves? Me, I adore Sweet Peas – the scent is so edible I can stuff my head into a bunch and just inhale the intoxicating fragrance. Usually, I prefer to leave summer flowers outdoors; they look better where Mother Nature placed them. Sweet Peas, however, must be cut because if you leave just one to go to seed (looks like a little pea pod) that's it, game over, no more blooms. Keep cutting them (they make the kitchen smell heavenly) and the plants will bloom and bloom right until snowfall. So toss a bunch of sweet pea seeds along the fence and make your neighbours smile.

My next favourite is the old-fashioned Hollyhock for its statuesque beauty. Tall and tough, with dramatic papery flowers arranged all the way up the towering

spires, they also bloom for weeks through summer and fall. You might have to tie these to the fence, as our summer storms can send them off in odd directions. Hollyhocks are biennials (bloom in their second year, then die), so must be planted for two consecutive years to assure continued bloom. They will reseed themselves from then on with little fuss. Furthermore, they attract bees like crazy.

The main focus of the Blockwatch program is to watch out for one another and prevent crime. The easiest way to talk to newcomers in the neighbourhood is about their garden, whether it be the one facing the street, the private one glimpsed through the fence, or the Sweet Peas and Hollyhocks in the back lane. Summer is short. Stop and smell the flowers.

How do you know you are a Master Gardener?

- There is a decorative compost container on your kitchen counter.
- You would rather shop at a garden centre than a clothing store.
- You prefer gardening to watching television.
- You plan vacation trips to arboretums and botanical gardens.
- Dirt under fingernails and calloused palms are matters of pride.

Barbara Shorrock is a retired realtor, writer, book lover, ESL coach, traveler and gardener. She can often be found at the Queensland Garden Club, which meets the first Wednesday each month at 7:00 pm at the Queensland Community Centre. Everyone is welcome, and we don't care where you live.

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