

Community Announcements & Events Calendar

ERLTON LITTLE LIBRARY

ERLTON LITTLE LIBRARY LAUNCH PARTY

Saturday September 13, 2014

1:00 to 3:00pm

In the Park @ Erlton St and 27th Ave SW

~ Music ~ Refreshments ~
~ Grab and/or donate a book ~
~ Visit with Neighbours ~

What is a Free Little Library, you ask?

The way it works is simple:

- ⇒ We stock the library with a variety of books
- ⇒ You stop by and take whatever catches your fancy
- ⇒ You return and bring books to contribute
- ⇒ The books are always a gift – never for sale!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Event Volunteers Needed! Contact Michelle Smekal for more info:
parks@erltoncommunity.com

Supported By:





A message from the Federation of Calgary Communities Building Safe Communities Program

Be a Partner in Fire Safety!

Did you know that in 2012, the Calgary Fire Department responded to over 1,800 fires in Calgary?

Here are some tips on staying safe from the Calgary Fire Department:

- Ensure your bedroom doors are closed while you are sleeping
- Ensure there are smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home
- Ensure there are at least two exits out any room where people are sleeping (ex. a window and a door)
- Prepare a home fire escape plan including a meeting place

Want to learn more about home fire safety?

Please join us and the Calgary Fire Department for a FREE informative session on home fire safety. Topics include: fire extinguishers, home escape plans, fire prevention tips, fire detection requirements and more.

Date: Wednesday, October 29th 2014

Location: Glamorgan Community Association: 4207 - 41 Avenue SW

Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Cost: FREE – space is limited

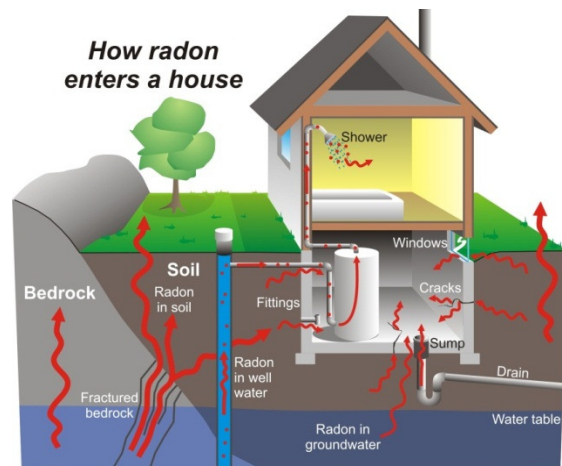
Register: calgarycommunities.com/events

It's Time to Test for Radon!

Have you been thinking about testing your home for radon? As it happens, the ideal time to test for radon is between the months of October and April. The reason for this is that the windows and doors to your home generally remain closed due to cold weather. By keeping the windows and doors closed radon builds

up, which allows you to get a more accurate reading of the radon level in your home.

Radon is a radioactive gas produced naturally in soil and rock as uranium breaks down. It is tasteless, colourless and odourless. Due to its nature, radon can accumulate to a high level indoors and pose a serious health risk. Long-term exposure to radon can increase your risk of developing lung cancer and is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.



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The amount of radon in your home varies. The only way to know if you and your loved ones are at a higher risk for developing lung cancer due to radon exposure is to test your home. Testing is both easy and inexpensive. It requires placing a radon detector in the lowest level of your home (such as the basement or main floor) where it will not be disturbed. Health Canada recommends long-term testing, lasting a minimum of three months. Once the testing period is over, the radon detector is collected and mailed to a laboratory for analysis.

If the radon level in your home is higher than the Health Canada guideline (200 becquerels per cubic metre or Bq/m³), it is recommended that you take appropriate measures to decrease the radon level. Health Canada recommends reducing the radon level to as low as possible during remediation, as there is still a small health risk from a radon level below the guideline.

The Lung Association, Alberta and NWT (“TLA”) is striving to raise awareness about radon and wants to make radon detectors easily accessible. To learn more

about radon and radon testing please contact Amy Elefson at TLA (1-888-566-LUNG (5864) x 2252; aelefson@ab.lung.ca) or visit our website at www.ab.lung.ca/site/radon. Educational presentations can also be booked through Amy.

Article written by: Amy Elefson – The Lung Association, Alberta & NWT



equinox vigil

in Union Cemetery

September 20, 2014 | 6:30 - 9:30 pm

A free, family event to honour the deceased in creative and meaningful ways.

» Art Installations & Shrines » Live Music » Video & Film Projections » The Union Choir
» Digital Shrine » Memorial Craft-Making » Hosted Tea Garden » Poetry & History
» Candlelike Processions

PARKING: 25 Ave & Macleod Trail
TRANSIT: Ertlon/Stampede Station

Our valued sponsors & supporters:



www.equinoxvigil.ca

Equinox Vigil: A creative and meaningful event to honour the dead

Calgary, Alberta - A graveyard might be the last place you'd expect to find live music and performances, contemporary art installations, and an atmosphere of community camaraderie. But that's exactly what Calgarians can look forward to at the 3rd annual Equinox Vigil in Union Cemetery, which takes place Saturday, September 20, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm.

Inspired by global cultural traditions like Mexico's Day of the Dead celebrations, Equinox Vigil is the brainchild of local artist and social activist Sharon Stevens. She describes the Vigil as a "non-religious,

sacred event to honour the dead and reflect on the natural cycle of life and death itself."

The event is held each autumn in Union Cemetery, Calgary's oldest burial ground and a sanctuary of tranquility in the heart of the city. There, surrounded by fluttering prayer flags, fresh flowers and glowing lanterns, the public is invited to pay respect to their deceased loved ones and ancestors in creative and meaningful ways.

Colorful shrines and art installations created by professional artists form the heart of the Equinox Vigil experience. But Stevens points out that this is not art as displayed in a gallery setting. Rather, she says, these artworks come alive through public participation.

"By performing simple acts like adding personal mementoes to shrines or joining a lantern procession, each visitor to Equinox Vigil becomes part of a community drawing close to mourn its deceased through art and ritual," says Stevens.

The event also includes live acoustic music; innovative storytelling and spoken word performances; poetry readings by Poet Laureate Emeritus Kris Demeanor; and fascinating presentations about the history of Union Cemetery with Calgary's Historian Laureate Harry Sanders. Visitors can also create personal memorial tributes in a Craft Tent, warm up with tea and treats in a hosted Tea Garden, and post messages in honour of departed loved ones at a Digital Shrine.

With the volunteer-led event costing \$20,000 to produce, Stevens admits that coming up with the money to pay for the annual event is a challenge. However, she says, "Equinox Vigil is such a profoundly meaningful, healing and inspiring experience for Calgary families it's important to carry on the tradition every year." Those wishing to make a tax-deductible donation can do so online at equinoxvigil.ca/

Equinox Vigil is free, family-friendly, and welcomes all members of Calgary's culturally diverse community, regardless of whether they have loved ones interred at Union Cemetery. Visitors are advised to dress for the weather and bring a flashlight.

Complete details can be found at equinoxvigil.ca/

Details

What: Equinox Vigil 2014

When: Saturday, September 20, 2014

Time: 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Where: Union Cemetery (off Macleod Trail at 25 Ave SW)

Information: equinoxvigil.ca

Tax-deductible donations: equinoxvigil.ca

Media contact: Sharon Stevens, Producer/director
403-463-6616 or Info@equinoxvigil.ca

ANIMAL & BYLAW SERVICES

Partnering with Calgarians

The City of Calgary launching new pet licensing website

Animal & Bylaw Services is launching a new pet licensing website in order to improve service to Calgarians. Effective 8 a.m. on September 29, the new website will launch at <https://petlicence.calgary.ca>.

If you previously bookmarked the animal licensing website, please DELETE your bookmark, it will no longer be in effect after the scheduled date and time.

After testing of the new site is complete in the spring of 2015, we will have the ability to add features such as interac, automatic withdrawals and renewals. Currently, pet owners can only pay by credit card when using the online service or calling 311.

If you want to use another form of payment, such as Interac, please register your pet licensing bill with your own bank.

In Calgary, all cats and dogs over three (3) months of age must be licensed. An animal licence enables The City to return your missing cat or dog to you and it tells others that your lost pet is not a stray and needs to be returned to his family.

For more information, visit Calgary.ca and search [Licensing a Cat or Dog](#).

Animal & Bylaw Services has a new Facebook page!

Subscribing the [ABS Facebook page](#) is the best way to keep up-to-date on our feature events, campaigns, promotions and news.

Please "Like" us on Facebook and share our page with friends, family and colleagues and help us reach our membership goals:

- 500 likes by Halloween
- 1,000 likes by New Year's Day



Preparing for Flu Season

It's almost here... and it's something we don't look forward to: flu season. Influenza, or "the flu," as it is commonly known, is a viral infection of the nose, throat and lungs. Various strains circulate every year. Most healthy people can recover from the flu without severe complications. However, for some people, especially those with pre-existing conditions, the flu can be very serious. Over 1000 Albertans were hospitalized during the 2013/2014 flu season, and almost 30 died.

The virus is spread from person to person when an infected person coughs, talks, or sneezes. Tiny droplets of moisture containing the virus can enter the eyes, nose, or mouth of people nearby. The virus can also live on hard surfaces such as door handles, light switches and countertops.

Symptoms of the flu include sudden fever of 38°C (100.4°F) or higher, headache, dry cough, muscle aches, and fatigue. Other symptoms include chills, loss of appetite, sore throat, and a stuffy nose.

The Calgary Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) wants you to stay healthy this flu season. There are things you can do to avoid contracting the flu. These include:

- Wash your hands frequently. One of the best ways to combat the spread of disease is to wash your hands. Use soap (antibacterial soap is not necessary) and warm water, and scrub your hands for at least 15 seconds. If soap and warm water is not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Consider getting a flu shot. The flu shot does NOT give you the flu because it contains no live virus. Some people may experience mild

flu-like symptoms that usually disappear within 48 hours after vaccination. Severe side effects are very rare. Immunization is 70 – 90 per cent effective in preventing illness in healthy children and adults. Visit www.albertahealthservices.ca/influenza.asp for more information on flu clinics.

- Get plenty of rest, eat well and exercise regularly. People who are healthy are generally at lesser risk for contracting illness, or if they become sick, recover faster.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder, not into your hand or open air. If you cough or sneeze into a tissue, make sure you discard it after use.
- Wipe down common surfaces – door handles, telephones, etc. – with disinfectant or disinfecting wipes.
- If you do get sick, stay home and avoid others.

For more information on influenza and how to avoid it, visit www.calgary.ca/flu.

Mayor Nenshi's Walk Challenge

Take Mayor Nenshi's Walk Challenge and walk (or roll) to school this fall!

By walking (or biking, rollerblading, skateboarding—whatever you want as long as it's active!) to school, kids are protecting the environment, staying healthy, and doing better in school. It's an easy way to make our lives and our community better!



Learn more at Calgary.ca/WalkChallenge

Share pictures or video of your walk on Facebook (Facebook.com/WalkChallenge) or Twitter (using #yycwalk)

Get Ready to Make Tracks Downtown!

As part of The City's goal to provide Calgarians with better transportation choices, City Council approved a one-year pilot project for a cycle track network in April 2014. The cycle track network will include new cycle tracks on:

- 5 Street (3 Avenue SW to 17 Avenue SW)
- 12 Avenue (11 Street SW to 4 Street SE)
- 8 Avenue (11 Street SW to 3 Street SW and 1 Street SE to Macleod Trail)
- 9 Avenue (Macleod Trail to 4 Street SE)

There will be no cycle track on Stephen Avenue, however, a plan is being developed to create shared space for both pedestrians and bicyclists on these blocks.

Construction work on this project began at the end of the summer with the modification of certain traffic signals and since the fall, City staff have been seeking input on the designs from local businesses, residents, and community associations along each route. New vehicle lane markings are now being installed on the roads. The majority of cycle track installation work will take place in spring 2015, with the cycle tracks and Stephen Avenue shared space set to open in July 2015.

The cycle tracks will connect to Calgary's existing pathway and bikeway network, and can become a real, year-round transportation option for Calgarians.

Stay tuned for project updates on:
www.calgary.ca/cycletracknetwork.

O.I.S.E.A.U. – Agents of Nature

Kids can explore our parks and connect with nature throughout the year using the super-secret OISEAU Agents of Nature Mobile App. The app is filled with fun challenges designed to help explore select City of Calgary Parks to find hidden wonders. Learn more at Calgary.ca/parks.

Leaf and Pumpkin Composting Program



The Leaf & Pumpkin composting program is underway! Bring your leaves and pumpkins to a depot near you until November 9. Thirty-six convenient locations are available around the city.

For more information visit calgary.ca/waste

Apply Now to Volunteer as a Member on a City Board

Each fall, the Assessment Review Board, Subdivision and Development Appeal Board and Licence and Community Standards Appeal Board look to Calgarians to volunteer and share their expertise. The Boards hear appeals and formal complaints from the public on a number of different issues, including decisions made by The City of Calgary subdivision and development authorities, the assessed values of property and business as determined The City of Calgary, and appeals of decisions made by The City of Calgary Administration.

Visit calgary.ca/cityclerks to learn more about how you can make a difference by serving on the Boards.

Calgary AfterSchool

Calgary AfterSchool offers, fun, safe, supervised, and quality after school programs for Calgary kids aged 6 to 16. A collaborative effort between The City of Calgary and community partners, Calgary AfterSchool programming takes place during the critical hours of 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., when kids are out of school, but parents may not yet be home. Calgary AfterSchool participants gain physical, social, leadership and creative skills.

For more information, including a listing of all programs, visit calgary.ca/afterschool.

School and Playground Zone Hours

School and playground zones are an important part of keeping children safe on city streets. As of September 1, 2014, school and playground zone hours have been changed to one consistent time. Here are the facts.

The new hours

School and playground zone hours are now the same. Slow down to 30km/h during these times:

- Playground zones are in effect from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., all year around.
- School zones are in effect from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., on school days only.

Why the change?

The City talked to school boards, the Calgary Police Service, the Alberta Motor Association, and other municipalities in Alberta about changing school and playground zone times. The following items were consistently mentioned in the discussions:

- Schools are regularly used past 5 p.m., and well into the evening for community sports, clubs, and other extracurricular activities.
- The “one hour after sunset” end time for playground zones was not effective. Depending on the time of year, the end times could be as early as 5:30pm in winter, and as late as 11 pm in summer. The unspecified time made it difficult for drivers to follow the rules.

The new hours reflect the times that these areas are being used by children and other pedestrians, and provide drivers with consistent and specific times that can be easily remembered and enforced.

Travel time impacts

The impacts to travel times are minimal. Most school or playground zones are 100-200 metres long. Slowing down to 30km/h in these areas will only add 4-10 seconds to your commute.

More information?

Visit Calgary.ca and search “School/Playground Zones” Thanks for helping us keep Calgary safe!



The Property Tax Assistance Program – help is available

Do you qualify for property tax assistance? Find out if you or a family member is eligible for a credit at calgary.ca/ptap or call 311.

Our Property Tax Assistance Program is available to low-income homeowners who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the increase in property taxes. You may be eligible for a credit on your property tax account.

Please visit our website at www.calgary.ca/ptap or contact 311 for information, eligibility criteria or to apply. Application deadline: December 1, 2014.

Recycling – Not Sure What Goes Where?

Calgarians are doing a great job recycling.

Make sure your recycling counts. Only put items like plastic containers with recycling symbols numbered 1 through 7, glass jars and bottles, food cans and foil, paper, cardboard and beverage containers in your blue cart. If you're not sure if an item is acceptable check out whatgoeswhere.ca

You + recycling = a big difference. Let's keep working together to keep recyclables out of our landfills.

Art Exhibition – Open Spaces: *Windows to a View*

If you are waiting for the train at the Centre Street LRT Station, take some time to check out the art displays in the window galleries facing the platform. These

revolving exhibits feature local artists, giving them an opportunity to present their work in everyday spaces.

For more information about the program call 403-476-4325 or go to calgary.ca/publicart.



Council Priorities for 2015-2018

Council Priorities 2015 – 2018 are set by City Council and focus on Calgarians and the services they want and need to achieve their goals. They include defined outcomes for each of the five priority areas and 44 strategic actions to provide direction for administration.

To develop the priorities, City Council considered trends, citizen engagement results, legislation, long term plans, economic indicators and the needs of day to day operations. Council Priorities help guide City departments as they create their business plans and budgets, called Action Plan 2015 – 2018, within the spending limits set by Council. Working together, City departments are collaborating to realize the outcomes set in Council Priorities.

The draft Action Plan will be released in early November for public review and comment followed by Council deliberations November 24-December 5. To learn more, please visit calgary.ca/actionplan.

