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A CHRISTMAS CAROL

The first edition of the Christmas classic A Christmas Carol, written by Charles Dickens, was originally published in London on December 19, 1843. This story was published as a novella by Chapman & Hall and the first edition sold out by Christmas Eve that first year!



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CONTENTS

- 7 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 8 EVENTS DIRECTOR UPDATE
- 9 FACILITIES YEAR-END REPORT
- 11 ANOTHER PLAYGROUND GRAND OPENING!
- 13 HANSON RANCH IN HIDDEN VALLEY 2024 AND WHAT'S COMING FOR 2025
- 15 BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS



SCAN HERE TO VIEW ADDITIONAL HIDDEN VALLEY CONTENT

**News, Events,
& More**



**Crime
Statistics**



**Real Estate
Statistics**



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News from the Friends of Nose Hill

by Anne Burke

Phase 3 of the Connect: Calgary's Parks Plan is underway, and the draft plan was shared with the public and partners before Council's expected approval in early 2025. You can send questions or comments directly to the project team by emailing parksplan@calgary.ca. Please note that these will not be included in the final Phase 3 What We Heard Report. A Park is a space set aside for enjoyment, recreation, education, cultural or aesthetic use, or for the protection of wildlife or natural habitats. An urban forest includes trees and shrubs intentionally planted, naturally occurring, or accidentally seeded within city limits. This means all trees in parks, river valleys, streets, roadways, natural areas, and commercial and private lands.

A Natural Area is a City-owned park or open space where the primary role is protection of a (relatively) undisturbed parcel or with a natural/native plant community. Natural areas are categorized to provide guidance for management and permitted uses according to habitat sensitivity and conservation needs. Habitat is the environment where the life cycle of a species is found and characteristics of the place (climate or suitable food and shelter). A Habitat Management Plan means a ten-year operational plan on how we manage natural areas that help maintain or improve the health and function of a park. Calgary's natural ecosystems are categorized by their habitat type (e.g., grassland, forest, wetland). There are also categories for classifying parks with natural environments: Special Protection or Major; Supporting (may be buffers), and other naturalized parks. Naturalization means improving management or repairing some function. For Environmentally Significant Areas, some key natural components recognized by the City of Calgary are Water Quality and Quantity; Rare, Intact, or Biologically Diverse content; and Habitat for Native Species of Interest. Read more at engage.calgary.ca/parksplan.



4-H Alberta

This month the hiking group hosted a "Take a walk on the wild side" hiking event. Where everyone in the club was invited. They did a 5 km hike along Nose Hill Park. After making sure they packed everything from the packing list, there was a fun list proved to make this outdoor adventure even more fun and inclusive. With great interactive questions for everyone, especially great questions for the little kids. One of the questions being - Identify three to five different types of plants and/or insects! Besides the cold weather, the overview of Calgary was gorgeous!

Our club also offered a money workshop this month to teach the youth of our club the importance of money! We all learned about how we should split our money properly and how much goes to saving. Not to forget about the difference between credit cards and debit cards. As well as when we should use which one and how to use them responsibly. We were also taught about RRSP/RESP/TFSA and how we should always have a money plan for the future. For retirement or accidents. You never know what will happen. We were also taught how to prevent debt and the difference between good and bad debt.

Lastly our Explore 4-H had combat archery. It was hosted outside of the Lions club. There was an instructor who brought helmets, bows, and arrows. The arrows had a chunk of rubber at the end for safety. There were also big inflatable blocks that you could hide behind when playing. Everyone as a team pitched in and helped set up! This was a very interactive and fun game for all of our members with of course some fun and friendly rivalry!

Overall, our club was active, learned an important life skill and a fun activity to end the month off.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we wrap up another busy month here in Hidden Valley, I want to take a moment to reflect on how far our community association has come and where we still need to go. Since I took over as president, we have made tremendous strides: our general account has seen a remarkable 100% increase, and our membership has surged by 250%! These numbers are a testament to our collective efforts and commitment to making Hidden Valley a vibrant place to live. However, it's important to remember that we still have a long way to go to fully realize our community's potential.

The growth in our membership is particularly encouraging, but it also highlights the importance of participation. To keep this momentum going, I urge all residents to consider joining the Hidden Valley Community Association. Your membership not only supports our ongoing initiatives but also strengthens the integrity and character of our neighbourhood. Together, we can continue to enhance our community and address the challenges we face.

October was an exciting month for us, especially with our door-knocking membership drive. Thank you to all the friendly faces and positive comments we received during this effort. I am thrilled to report that we achieved a 5% increase in memberships during this drive! It was wonderful to connect with so many of you, answer your questions, and discuss the future of our community.

As we move forward, we have several positions available on our community association board. If you're looking for a way to get involved and make a difference, I encourage you to consider joining us. We meet at the Hidden Hut on the third Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm, and your voice is crucial in shaping our community's future.

This past Halloween was a blast! Our decorations, featuring the Headless Horseman and a spooky spider, brought a festive spirit to our neighbourhood. I hope everyone enjoyed the "Walk of the Pumpkins" event as much as we enjoyed organizing it. A huge thank you to all the volunteers and Scouts who helped make this event a success. Your dedication and hard work do not go unnoticed!

As the holiday season approaches, I want to take a moment to appreciate the stunning display of Christmas

lights throughout Hidden Valley. It's truly heartwarming to see such community spirit shining bright. This year let's carry that spirit into 2025 as we have so many exciting plans in store for our community. Be sure to keep an eye on our calendar and website for real-time updates and events!



The Simpsons

The Simpsons made their grand debut on Fox with the holiday episode "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire" on December 17, 1989. That means Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa, and Maggie have been making us laugh for 35 years – and counting!



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Events Director Update

As the Events Director of the Hidden Valley Community Association, I am thrilled to share the resounding success of our recent “Walk of the Pumpkins” event! This year, we had an incredible turnout, with 77 beautifully carved pumpkins submitted by our talented community members. Each entry brought its own unique flair, showcasing the creativity and spirit of Hidden Valley.



A special thank you goes out to our local Scouts, who played an essential role in organizing and thoughtfully laying out the pumpkin displays. Their hard work and dedication ensured that every pumpkin was perfectly positioned for all to admire. The Scouts not only helped enhance the event’s visual appeal but also demonstrated the true essence of community spirit.



On the day of the event, we welcomed approximately 100 community members who came together to celebrate the season. The atmosphere was filled with laughter and excitement as families strolled along the pumpkin path, admiring the incredible displays. To warm up the evening, we served hot chocolate, Timbits,

and marshmallows, which were a hit with both kids and adults alike. It was heartwarming to see everyone enjoying the treats and sharing in the joy of the season.

The “Walk of the Pumpkins” was more than just an event; it was a wonderful opportunity for neighbours to connect and create lasting memories. Whether it was admiring a particularly spooky pumpkin or sharing stories over a cup of hot chocolate, the event brought our community closer together.



Looking ahead, we are excited to announce our upcoming events for the first quarter of 2025. Mark your calendars for the “Winter Family Fun Fest” scheduled for January and February. This event promises to be filled with fun activities for families of all ages, ensuring that winter in Hidden Valley is as vibrant and engaging as ever. We are also planning several new events that we can’t wait to share with you!

Stay tuned for updates and additional details on these events by checking our community calendar on the HVCA website. We encourage all community members to get involved, whether by volunteering, submitting ideas for events, or simply joining us for the festivities. Your participation is what makes Hidden Valley a wonderful place to live and thrive.

Thank you once again for making the “Walk of the Pumpkins” such a memorable occasion. Your enthusiasm and support are what drive us to create engaging events for our community. We look forward to seeing you at the Winter Family Fun Fest and all our upcoming activities. Together, let’s keep the spirit of Hidden Valley alive!

Anita K.

Events Director, HVCA

Facilities Year-End Report

It was an exciting year for the area around the Hidden Hut and the Outdoor Rink in 2024! The easiest to notice is the outstanding new mural painted by artist Erin Conn at the Hidden Hut. You may recall our poll on social media back in the middle of May, offering several choices for our new look. Well, you voted, and your decision became the basis for our new look. She started work on the project in early July, and within a couple of weeks, transformed a drab, off-yellow Hidden Hut into a beautiful, vibrant piece of art. If you haven't yet seen it, please take a walk by and appreciate her hard work, and our new look! Erin had this to say:

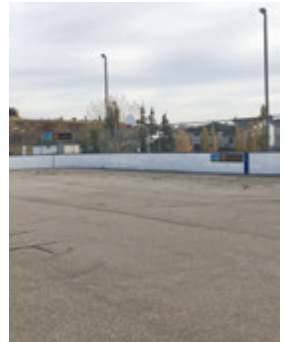
"Thank you, Hidden Valley community, for embracing my bright mural filled with colourful nature and pollination. It was a pleasure chatting with so many wonderful members of the community and seeing the curiosity of the adorable children who stopped by. Your support and enthusiasm made this experience truly special. Thank you for allowing me to share my art with you all!"



Around the same time that Erin Conn was sprucing up the look of the Hidden Hut, the boards of our Outdoor Rink were coming down for a full replacement of the rink boards. With help from the City of Calgary, Parks Foundation Calgary, and the Calgary Flames Rink Award, we removed all the old broken rink boards and replaced them with new UV resistant boards that we hope will last for many years of outdoor hockey, or ODR as they say on the prairies! Many thanks to Aaron Taylor, from the City of Calgary, for his guidance along the way.

It's been a busy year, and we look forward to reaping the benefits of all that hard work in 2025!

Just a reminder that it still takes a lot of work to flood and clean the Outdoor Rink, from the time the temperatures drop below freezing until the spring thaw. We can always use more volunteers. If you can lend a few hours to help, we'd love to help. No experience necessary. Just fire me an email at facilitiesdirector@hiddenhut.org, or Mitch Gallant, our sports director, at sports@hiddenhut.org



Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and all the best in the coming year!

Bruce Ritchie

Facilities Director, HVCA





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City Kids: Exploring 4-H Beyond the Farm

by Lori Nielsen, Senior Program Coordinator for 4-H Intro Clubs

The Intro Clubs in our city have been buzzing with excitement! We're wrapping up another round of daytime and evening programs, filled with hands-on workshops that let kids try new things and make connections with friends over six weeks.

Kids have enjoyed a wide range of activities, from pottery and beekeeping to crafting their own Grinch trees. Each workshop sparked creativity and teamwork, and the feedback from families has been fantastic. Along the way, the kids picked up core 4-H skills like leadership, communication, record-keeping, and community service.



One highlight was our Sourdough Workshop, where participants got a taste of bread dough-making, complete with a wheat grinding demonstration! They also learned about the science behind sourdough and had fun making pizzas with sourdough crust. The aroma of fresh pizza filled the air, and the favourite part was tasting their creations.

We're excited to announce that the Sourdough Workshop will be back in January as part of our next round of clubs, so those who missed it will get another chance!

The Intro Clubs are a great place for kids to grow, make friends, and have fun. We can't wait for the new workshops and activities coming up! For more information on upcoming clubs, please email introclubs@4hab.com. Thank you to all the families who've joined us on this journey—stay tuned for updates, and we hope to see you at our next workshop!

Aurora Sky District includes the following communities: Edgemont, Evanston, Glacier Ridge, Hamptons, Hidden Valley, Hanson Ranch, Kincora, Nolan Hill, Sherwood, and Sage Hill.



Unit 229 is a sparks/embers unit that kicked off the guiding year with welcoming ten new girls into the unit. The girls spent the last couple of weeks getting to know each other.

Over the past couple of weeks, we have played some introduction games to get to know the girls better. We also learnt how to express emotions appropriately, learnt about respect, and also spent a week learning about truth and reconciliation.

We took our first field trip of the year to a seniors home in our community. The girls spent some time interacting with the seniors and reading to them. The girls also worked with seniors on making thank you cards for the veterans.

We are looking forward to our enrolment on November 4. We are also hosting a meet and greet with parents and guiders that day.

We are looking forward to an eventful guiding year and seeing the girls build friendships with one another over the year.

If you'd like to register your daughter, please visit www.girlguides.ca and use the unit finder to find an open unit in your area. If you cannot find a unit in your neighbourhood, it might be because the unit is full (you can modify the search – try searching "all" units; the default is to show only units with space available). You might want to consider becoming a leader – with more leaders, we can take in more girls. For more information, please email any-calgaryaurorasky@girlguides.ca.



Sports Update

This coming year the HVCA is doing a bit of a change due to lack of hockey coaches. Instead of a hockey league, the HVCA will be hosting a Learn to Skate on January 8 from 6:00 until 8:00 pm. We will also be hosting a Learn to Skate on January 18 from 12:00 until 2:00 pm followed by a family-friendly hockey game.

This year the rink will be designated the following days:

- Tuesdays from 5:00 to 8:00 pm is designated family-friendly hockey in the arena.
- Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 pm is adult hockey in the arena.

Lights will be on! Invite your friends and family and come on out!

Mitch G.

Sports Director, HVCA

Another Playground Grand Opening!



After three years of hard fundraising, the HVCA is proud to announce the playground opening at the Duck Pond. This park space is part of the CA's H2 Spaces Master Plan; a path to revitalizing our community park spaces. The Duck Pond is one of the most identifiable parks due in part to its stormwater pond water feature which gives it its name and helped to create the playground theme. Based on community engagement, this park space is now a destination spot in our beautiful community of Hidden Valley. Special thanks need to go out to all our community members who participated in numerous bottle drives, craft fair/bake sales, food truck rallies, and raffles. 3% of funding support came from direct donations from community members to our project account with Parks Foundation Calgary. A dedicated group of volunteers raised 12%, another 53% from grant funding, and we couldn't have accomplished this without both in-kind and financial contributions from the City of Calgary's Parks Department. Equipment vendor PlayQuest also provided a significant number of in-kind contributions.

There are approximately 15 playgrounds at various stages of their lifecycles in Hidden Valley/Hanson Ranch. The HVCA has played a key role in better connecting and utilizing our community park spaces. It's amazing to see what our community can do when we work together!

Special thanks to Elizabeth W, Neil C, Jenn C, Heather G, Sarah P, and all the residents from Hidden Circle and Hidden Valley Heights who helped to make this happen.

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Lasagna Soup

by Jennifer Goertzen of Hidden Valley/Hanson Ranch



Servings: 6 to 8 as a main dish

Ingredients:

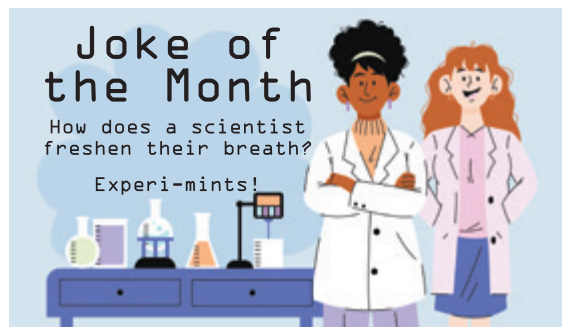
- 1 to ½ lbs. Italian sausage
- 3 cups chopped onions (about 1 ½ large onions)
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tsp. dried oregano
- ½ tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
- 2 tbsp. tomato paste
- 28 oz. petite-diced tomatoes
- 2 bay leaves
- 6 cups chicken stock
- 8 oz. fusilli pasta (Our favourite is the mini lasagna noodles from Bulk barn)
- ½ cup finely chopped fresh basil leaves
- salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste (I didn't add any salt because the sausage, tomatoes, broth and cheese were salty enough)
- 8 oz. ricotta
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- pinch of freshly ground pepper
- 2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Instructions:

1. Sauté meat in a large pot over medium to high heat until browned, about five minutes. Adding oil to the pan wasn't necessary because the sausage gives off enough fat on its own.
2. Add the onions and garlic to the pot and cook until the onions have softened, about five minutes.
3. Stir in the dried oregano, crushed red pepper and the tomato paste. Cook the tomato paste until it has browned slightly and evenly coated the meat and onions, 3 to 4 minutes.
4. Add in the diced tomatoes, bay leaves and chicken broth, then turn down the heat to medium to low and simmer 30 minutes.
5. Crank the heat back up to medium to high and bring to a boil before adding the pasta. Cook until al dente according to the package directions (probably 8 to 10 minutes).
6. While the pasta is cooking, mix the ricotta, parmesan and pepper together in a little bowl.
7. Once the pasta is al dente, spoon a little of the ricotta mixture in each serving bowl, then ladle the soup over. Sprinkle with chopped basil and the shredded mozzarella.

Notes:

- We like to cook the pasta separately and add it to each bowl when you serve it so the noodles don't soak up too much of the broth.
- Leftovers freeze well! Freeze single servings without the pasta. Thaw, warm up on the stove and add in pasta of choice!



Hanson Ranch in Hidden Valley 2024 and What's Coming For 2025

What a year 2024 has been for Hanson Ranch in Hidden Valley! With the support of so many within the community as well as community businesses, our Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator and the Hidden Valley Community Association, we were able to:

- Repair, repaint, and make our Hanson Ranch in Hidden Valley entry sign once again a point of pride.
- Beautify the entry garden to Hanson Ranch with the help of donated plants from Calgary gardeners, new mulch provided by the City of Calgary, as well as funding from local businesses and the Hidden Valley Community Association. It took a lot of work and a lot of help from community members, but the entry is once again inviting, colourful, and a showpiece.
- Working in partnership with the City's Mobility department, the concerns presented by Hanson Ranch residents to the city about traffic safety gained traction. This past September and October, traffic safety measures were implemented including sidewalk bump outs at crosswalks and key points along Hidden Creek Drive, Hidden Creek Boulevard, and Hidden Creek Way, repainting of shoulder and centre traffic lanes, and construction of the permanent roundabout at Hidden Creek Boulevard x Hidden Creek Way x Hidden Creek Heights was initiated.
- Working with Mobility, an agreement was reached to reinstall the orphaned architectural post and realign the one standing, so they once again flank one another and grace the entrance to Hanson Ranch.
- Installation of an electrified outlet in the Hidden Creek Boulevard x Hidden Creek Drive park, allowing for seasonal light displays.
- Installation of a garbage receptacle at the bus stop near Hanson Ranch Plaza and relocation of the garbage receptacle from the wetland overlook park to the greenspace at the SW corner of the Hidden Creek Boulevard x Hidden Creek Drive intersection.
- Thanks to the many residents that volunteered their time, a community trash clean-up event held in the spring was a great success and a celebratory after-event was supported by local businesses donating food and drinks.
- Increased memberships to the Hidden Valley Community Association to continue building our entire community.

What's Up For 2025?

- Once again, open discussions with the City's Parks department to address the safety and security of the community with improved lighting within the park at Hidden Creek Boulevard x Hidden Creek Drive.
- Work with the City's Parks department to replace the stolen statue of "Roy", Gene Hanson's faithful bronze companion at the park.
- Work with the City's Parks department to try and gain approval for improved maintenance at the park at Hidden Creek Boulevard x Hidden Creek Drive. The turf had been severely damaged by gophers and sadly overrun with weeds, dead trees and shrubs. We would like to see that include the greenspace and wetland overlook area across the street from the park.
- Work towards renewal of the playground structures in both community parks in Hanson Ranch.
- Remain informed on the Hanson Ranch Wetlands project and push towards the inclusion of improvements to the wetlands overlook next to the Hanson Ranch replica house.

As directors of Hanson Ranch with the Hidden Valley Community Association, we welcome the suggestions and viewpoints of our community. If there are things you are enthusiastic about and would love to see happening or if you have concerns, please bring them to us! You are also welcome at all HVCA Board meetings. Watch for upcoming meetings on community Facebook pages. We would love your participation.

We wish everyone a warm and peaceful holiday season and the very best for 2025!

Sonia Q. and Sandy R.B.





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The fall legislative session is drawing to a close and unfortunately none of the bills the government brought to debate addressed the issues I hear about most from constituents. I continue to hear concerns regularly about wait times for surgeries such as hip and knee replacement. Wait times for cancer care have grown alarmingly, and many newcomers in Calgary-Beddington are struggling to find a family doctor. The continued re-organization of the health care bureaucracy has done nothing to reduce wait times or increase access to health care for Albertans.

The only issue I hear more about than healthcare is affordability. Albertans are struggling right now and under five years of the UCP, we are the only province in the country to see average wage growth slower than inflation. So, Albertans are making less money at a time when the cost of just about everything is going up. Organizations like food banks are increasingly having to step up to support families whose income isn't keeping pace with cost-of-living increases.

This year the Calgary Food Bank will distribute 175,000 emergency food hampers, a 200% increase over five years. 37% of Calgary Food Bank clients are employed, which is more than double the national average. My office will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items for the month of December, please drop by with a donation if you are able to do so.

I am always looking for more opportunities to connect with folks in Calgary-Beddington so I will be hosting a holiday Open House on Tuesday, December 17. We'll have hot chocolate and snacks at the constituency office (#106, 8220 Centre Street NE) from 5:00 to 7:00 pm and I would love to see you there. Please RSVP to Calgary.Beddington@assembly.ab.ca so we can make sure we have enough treats for everyone.



MLA Calgary-North
Hon. Muhammad Yaseen

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Happy Holidays!

Healthcare Improvements

To better recruit and retain healthcare professionals, Alberta has introduced a competitive compensation package for resident physicians. As a result, the province had over 12,000 registered doctors by the end of September, a gain of more than 500 compared to last year.

Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre

The Alberta government announced that the Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre, a state-of-the-art facility, is now welcoming patients. With 127,000 square meters, 160 inpatient beds, and extensive research space, the centre aims to deliver world-class cancer care and drive innovation. As one of Alberta's largest infrastructure projects, it will expand cancer care capacity by integrating and enhancing services, ensuring high-quality, patient-centred care for today and the future.

New Affordable Housing Helps Those in Need

Alberta's government is committed to ensuring Albertans have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing and is celebrating the completion of HomeSpace's Hope Heights affordable housing project which will provide 35 one-bedroom units for those in need in the Crescent Heights community. Through Alberta's Affordable Housing Partnership Program, over \$2 million has been invested in HomeSpace's newly completed Hope Heights building. The Hope Heights project will provide residents with access to wrap-around support services on-site to help those in need of specialized supports.

Christmas is a season for traditions, for creating treasured memories with loved ones, and for embracing the spirit of giving and gratitude. May the warmth of the season surround you, bringing reflection and renewal as we look forward to a new year filled with promise and opportunity. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Councillor, Ward 3

Jasmine Mian

✉ ward03@calgary.ca 🌐 jasminemian.ca

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✂ @jasmine_mian

As the year comes to an end, I want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season with your loved ones and a very happy new year! It has been my pleasure to represent you for the past three years, and I'm looking forward to what 2025 brings.

Here are some updates related to new City initiatives and programs.

Food Drive for the Calgary Food Bank!

Each year, my office participates in an annual city-wide food drive alongside the other Councillors. Check out jasminemian.ca for the full details.

Christmas Tree Cleanup

If you're looking to get rid of your real Christmas tree, you have a few options. If you have the means to cut the tree, it can go in your green bin for pick up. If you don't, there are over a dozen locations throughout the city that will take it for free – check them out at calgary.ca/waste.

New Year's Eve Celebrations

Ring in 2025 with a fireworks show put on by the city! Each year the city hosts a fireworks display synchronized to music by Canadian artists. View all the details at calgary.ca/events.

If you want to spend New Years on the ice, check out a map of all the ice-skating rinks at calgary.ca/parks/activities and find one near you.

For questions and concerns, or to view my voting record, visit www.jasminemian.ca.

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Word of the Month



Absquatulate: Verb (ab-skwoch-uh-leyt)

To run away or leave abruptly.

The sneaky cat managed to absquatulate any time the door was open.



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		Properties		Median Price	
		Listed	Sold	Listed	Sold
October	24	9	14	\$577,450	\$585,000
September	24	12	7	\$629,000	\$613,000
August	24	13	13	\$580,000	\$595,000
July	24	16	9	\$600,000	\$627,000
June	24	18	18	\$664,500	\$664,000
May	24	20	18	\$662,400	\$660,500
April	24	18	13	\$587,000	\$620,100
March	24	11	9	\$569,900	\$580,000
February	24	8	7	\$579,900	\$625,000
January	24	9	8	\$607,500	\$628,000
December	23	1	6	\$564,450	\$563,625
November	23	9	9	\$589,000	\$583,300

To view more detailed information that comprise the above
MLS averages please visit hid.mycalgary.com