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SAGE HILL



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Symons Valley Park Update



Season's Greetings from Symons Valley Park,

Hello everyone, I hope your families have been healthy and happy. This year the volunteer board of Symons Valley Park focused our efforts on developing relationships with community groups and prospective partners. The board also moved forward with applying for an LOC or License of Occupation, which is the legal expression of the relationship between social recreation organizations with The City of Calgary. This arrangement will give us the ability to move closer to applying for a development permit for construction.

One of our proudest moments this year was hosting the Movie in the Park event, a wonderful evening where families, friends, and neighbours gathered to enjoy a movie under the stars. This event was more than just a movie screening—it was a celebration of our shared community and the spirit of togetherness that makes Symons Valley so special. We couldn't have made the Movie in the Park a reality without the support of our dedicated volunteers, community members, and generous local business sponsors. Your support allowed us to create a memorable evening, and we're so grateful for your involvement in making events like these possible. A big thank you to our sponsors:

- Calgary Blizzard Soccer (Platinum Sponsor)
- Fresh Air Cinema (Gold Sponsor)
- Calgary Foundation (Gold Sponsor)
- Servus Credit Union (Gold Sponsor)
- The City of Calgary (Silver Sponsor)
- Cottage Care North (Silver Sponsor)
- The Kincora Community Association (Silver Sponsor)

This year also saw two reputable studies done to highlight the current and future state of parks in North-Central Calgary. The first one, Place Matters: A North Calgary Project, was co-authored by Vivo for Healthy Generations and Parks Foundation Calgary. The study set out to discover what creates a sense of belonging in North-Central Calgary, and also helped to build tools for organizations like ours to use, along with generating a list of priorities of community-driven outdoor space projects for the future. The Symons Valley area was at the top of the list of communities with potential projects.

The second document is Connect: Calgary's Parks Plan. The City of Calgary's Parks and Open Spaces is creating a 20-year plan on how the city will develop, redevelop, and manage parks to connect Calgarians with nature, wellness, and each other. This plan has commitments to important priorities like inclusive parks, sustainable community funding, tree (canopy) coverage, and climate resilient landscaping and water use. Our project is aligned with what the City of Calgary is planning and would suggest that we are the perfect candidate for the City to partner with to achieve their goals of building parks and promoting volunteerism.

As the year draws to a close, now is a great time to maximize your tax credit through charitable giving. If you believe that we need more recreational amenities in our neighbourhood that bring our community together, please consider making a donation to Symons Valley Park. Every contribution helps us build toward our goals and bring more vibrant experiences to the area. Find a link to donate at www.symonsvalleypark.ca/donate.

At Symons Valley Park, we believe in creating spaces that bring people together, foster friendships, and strengthen our local bonds. The Movie in the Park event highlighted the importance of these connections, helping everyone feel part of something greater. These gatherings align with our vision of Symons Valley Park as a welcoming, vibrant hub for all. We're excited to bring even more events, programs, and improvements to the Symons Valley area in 2025. Our commitment to building an outdoor destination for our community remains at the heart of everything we do, and we can't wait to create more opportunities for us all to connect, celebrate, and grow together.

Thank you for being a part of our journey this year. We look forward to everything we'll accomplish together in the year ahead. Have a very Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. See you in 2025!

Kris McPherson

President, Symons Valley Leisure and Amenities Society



#HealthyTechnologyUse

by Community Health Promotion Services



Technology is not going anywhere, in fact, it will continue to advance in the coming years. We use it everywhere, for school, work, and leisure. Strong connections and relationships are a protective factor for us that has been shown to help buffer risk and boost resilience. The availability of computers, smartphones, video consoles, and other electronic devices have given many the opportunity to always be connected. However, it is the time, the content, and reason of use that we want to focus on.

To ensure healthy technology use among the young people in your life, there are 4 Ms that you can refer to:

- **Manage:** The information online can be easily accessed but you can manage this by setting limits and clear expectations of use. It is also useful to continually learn about different platforms, especially those most popular in your life. For instance, using your phone during certain times of the day, what you can post, having limit checks, or learning about privacy settings on apps like TikTok to ensure healthy use.

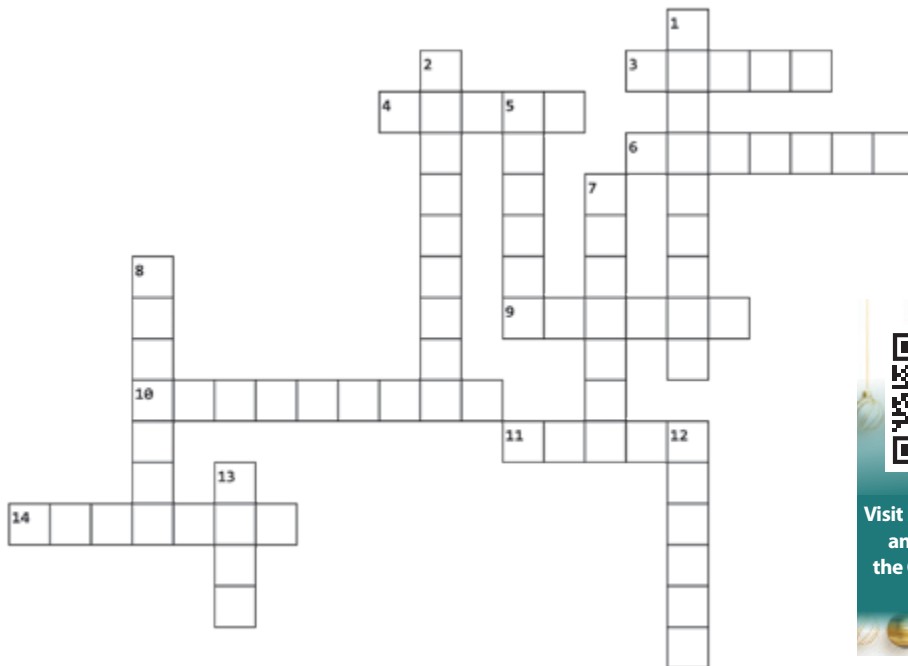
- **Meaningful:** To see the positive impacts of technology, you want to make sure that the use is active, educational, and social. Is social media being used to post and connect with peers or are the people you love feeling FOMO “fear of missing out” on an event that may be posted by their peers.

- **Model:** If you are setting rules and expectations, you want to also follow what you are asking the young people in your lives to do. Review your own use, are you on your phone during dinner or before bed? Ask them to show you platforms they are using and ask questions about the posts they see, for example, how this makes you feel, or do you know what filters are?

- **Monitor:** The monitoring of use will help you to see if there are any warning signs of problematic use. When they are not using technology, are they bored or angry, have low self-esteem, are they exhibiting worsening symptoms of mental health issues such as anxiety, or does it interfere with school, social interactions, or sleep?

There are pros and cons when using technology. We encourage the use of the 4 Ms as a tool to ensure the positives of technology are weighed against the negatives.

December Crossword



Visit bit.ly/mycalgary
answers or scan
the QR code for the
answers

Across

3. On December 5, 1991, Jostein Gaarder's novel, *Sophie's _____*, was published and tells the story of a Norwegian teenager on a journey of discovery about the history of philosophy.
4. *Driving Miss _____*, starring Morgan Freeman as a chauffeur to an elderly widow played by Jessica Tandy, was released on December 13, 1989.
6. Canadian singer, Nelly _____, was born on December 2, 1978, in Victoria, British Columbia.
9. This Christmas tree decoration, originally made from real silver that was shredded, was first invented in Germany in 1610.
10. December's official birthstone has the same name as the colour that it is.
11. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was awarded the Nobel _____ Prize on December 10, 1964.
14. James Cameron's _____ was first released on December 19, 1997, and is one of the highest-grossing films ever.

Down

1. International _____ Day was mandated by the UN General Assembly in 1985 and takes place every year on December 5.
2. December's birth flowers are the _____ (also known as paperwhites) and the holly.
5. On December 24, 1818, a choir in Austria first performed the popular Christmas carol "_____ Night".
7. This annual holiday celebrating African American culture is observed from December 26 to January 1.
8. On December 29, 1989, the Associated Press named hockey player Wayne Gretsky and tennis player _____ Navratilova Best Athletes of the Decade.
12. Canadian actor and comedian, _____ Levy, was born on December 17, 1946, in Hamilton, Ontario.
13. On December 1, 2003, the final film of *the Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *The Return of the _____*, premiered in New Zealand.

Save The Community Association!



The Sage Hill Community Association has dissolved and
needs new leadership to revive.

Please contact Aaron Taylor from the City of Calgary
regarding the process of taking over.

Cold Weather Safety

by Alberta Health Services

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) paramedics respond to a number of cold weather-related emergencies every winter. However, by taking appropriate measures to dress properly, anticipate sudden weather changes and preparing to be out in the cold, may reduce your risk of sustaining a cold weather illness/injury. It's also advised you store an emergency kit in your vehicle at all times containing extra clothing, blankets and other road-side supplies.

Frostnip

- Frost-nipped skin is extremely cold, but not yet frozen skin;
- It commonly affects the ears, nose, cheeks, fingers and toes;
- The skin may look red and possibly feel numb to the touch;
- When treated promptly, frostnip usually heals without complication;
- Move to a warm environment and immediately, but gently, re-warm the affected area through skin to skin contact (i.e. hand covering tips of ears).

Frostbite

- Frostbite occurs when skin becomes so cold, the skin and underlying tissues freeze;
- Affected skin may look white and waxy and will feel hard to the touch;
- Move to a warm environment immediately and place the affected area in warm, *not hot*, water until fully re-warmed;
- Call 9-1-1 or seek further medical attention as required.

Hypothermia

- Hypothermia is abnormally low body temperature, less than 34°C (as compared to normal body temperature of about 37°C);
- Early hypothermia may manifest as profound shivering; moderate hypothermic patients may act inappropriately: stumbling, mumbling, and fumbling, as their body temperature continues to drop resulting in severe hypothermia (<30°C);
- Left untreated, severe hypothermia may progress to unconsciousness or death;



- Early recognition and prompt medical attention is key. Call 9-1-1. Don't forget to protect yourself from the factors that originally lead to the patient's situation;
- Initiate gentle re-warming as quickly as possible. Remove any wet or constrictive clothing; cover with blankets or sleeping bags. Protect from further heat loss: eliminate contact with cold surfaces, and shield from wind and moisture.

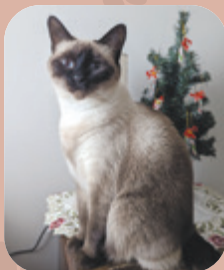
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City Kids: Exploring 4-H Beyond the Farm

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!

Easy Turkey Chili

by Jennifer Puri

Turkey is a large bird which is rich in protein and other nutrients such as iron, zinc, and selenium. It provides many of the same calories as chicken and most people are easily able to digest it.

Ground turkey is an inexpensive way to consume turkey and over the years has grown in popularity as a substitute for ground chicken. Rich in vitamins and minerals it can contribute to a healthy diet as it is low in fat. Dark meat is more flavourful but has more calories than white meat without the skin.

Turkey can be added to soups, salads, sandwiches, burgers, or Chili as shown in this Easy Turkey Chili recipe below.

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 1 hour

Servings: 6

Ingredients:

- 1 lb lean ground turkey
- 2 tbsps. olive or vegetable oil
- 3 garlic cloves finely chopped
- 1 medium yellow onion chopped
- 1 red bell pepper finely chopped
- 1 900 ml carton (low sodium) chicken broth
- 1 28 oz can diced tomatoes
- 1 small can corn niblets drained and rinsed
- 1 540 ml can black beans drained and rinsed
- 1 540 ml can red kidney beans drained and rinsed
- ½ tsp Chili powder
- 2 tsps. ground cumin
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp ground black pepper



- Add the Chili powder, ground cumin, oregano, salt and black pepper and continue to cook for a couple of minutes.
- Add the black beans, kidney beans, corn, and diced tomatoes and blend in with the turkey.
- Add the chicken stock and bring to a boil and then reduce heat and allow the Chili to simmer for approximately 45 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Garnish the Turkey Chili with sour cream, shredded cheddar cheese and chopped coriander leaves or taco chips and sliced avocado if preferred.

Bon Appétit!



BRAIN GAMES SUDOKU

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It's Christmastime in Calgary

by Garth Paul Ukrainetz

It's Christmastime in Calgary
In foothills west a silent night
The constellations fill the sky
Forever sharing starry light

The whitetail deer in Nose Hill Park
Prancing over city's glow
Sweet homes of dancing candlelight
Gentle as the falling snow

And high on top of every tree
The stars and angels overlook
For bleak and icy winter hearts
The melting grace of warm chinook

It's Christmastime in Calgary
Though heights of mountains cold in snow
Our gifts stay warm beneath the trees
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The University of Calgary Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board has approved this research study "Predictors and Moderators of Long-Term Outcome of Persons at Clinical High Risk for Psychosis" (REB21-1762)



Councillor, Ward 2
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As we enter the final month of the year, the spirit of the holidays is in full swing. Whether you're busy with festive preparations, winter activities, or simply enjoying the cozy indoors, we're looking ahead to the new year while focusing on ways we can give back and support each other. As we welcome the holiday season, it's the perfect time to reflect on what truly makes our community special. Family traditions, time with loved ones, and faith are all part of why we celebrate.

I'd like to give a heartfelt thank-you to our amazing community association volunteers, who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to make Ward 2 a welcoming place for everyone. From hosting events to creating spaces where neighbours can connect, your dedication is part of what makes our community great.

From the Ward 2 Office, we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! May this season be filled with warmth, joy, and time spent with those who matter most.

Drive Safe and Prepare for Winter

With winter on its way, the season brings new challenges. Here are some winter driving tips to help you stay safe:

- Find a safe place or empty parking lot to learn how your vehicle responds to snowy, icy conditions.
- Test your brakes gently to get a feel for slippery surfaces and keep your distance from the car in front of you.
- Equip your car with essentials like tire chains and an ice scraper. A bag of sand or a floor mat can help add traction if you're stuck on ice.
- Clear any snow from your exhaust pipe to avoid carbon monoxide issues.
- Keep a tow truck contact on hand.
- Download a rideshare or taxi app in case you need alternative transportation in an emergency or after holiday parties.

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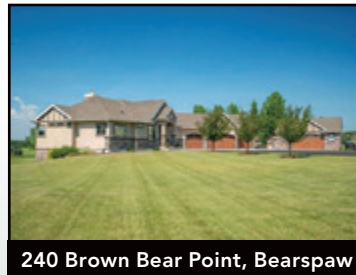
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