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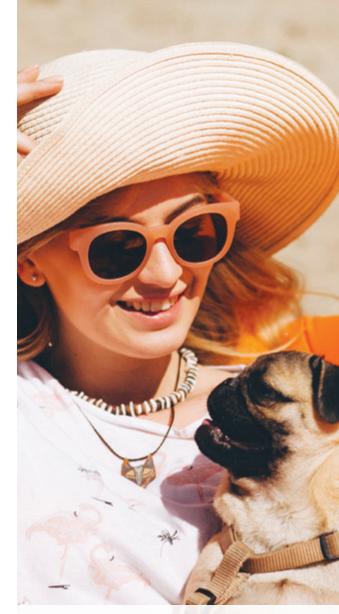




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tired of the wacky weather as everyone else! In April we met with Ward 3 Councillor Jasmine Mian's

Playground Boosters

staff member, Sarah, who had lots of practical advice on "how to playground". Country Hills is not alone among Ward 3 neighbourhoods trying to refresh and revitalize playgrounds. Hidden Valley's playgrounds are also undergoing a makeover!

We're still waiting for spring to come and we're just as

Update from the Country Hills

We were invited to the NHCA AGM on May 28, so we hope you were there!

We're also waiting for a pick-up date from the City of Calgary Recreation Department. We're going to bring pathway games to four of the playgrounds. Stencilled pathway games are the easiest, guickest, and cheapest improvement we can make. The paint has been purchased—now we just need the weather to cooperate!

We also began surveying the playgrounds in April and have reached out to the community and community groups for volunteers. The Boosters can't be everywhere, so we need your help! Contact us for a printable or paper survey sheet. Surveying helps us understand which playgrounds and equipment are popular and helps us make good, data-driven decisions.

Watch for us at the playgrounds and around the community as we spread the word about our initiative!



Father's Day is a wonderful date to celebrate all father figures and paternal bonds. This celebratory day was proposed by Sonora Smart Dodd in 1909 and takes place on the third Sunday in June every year. How will you celebrate?

MENTAL HEALTH MOMENT

Anxious Attachment Style? Ten Ways to Show up More Secure in Your Romantic Relationships and Ten Ways You Can Help Your Partner to Feel More Secure

by Nancy Bergeron, R.Psych. | info@nancybergeron.ca



Showing up as secure in romantic relationships involves fostering trust, communication, and self-awareness.

1. Work on Yourself – Build your self-esteem and confidence. Know your worth and understand that you are deserving of love and respect.

2. Communicate Openly – Express your thoughts, feelings, and needs openly and honestly with your partner. Encourage them to do the same.

3. Trust – Trust yourself and trust your partner. Trust is the foundation of a healthy relationship. Avoid unnecessary jealousy and possessiveness. Unless they truly show you otherwise, then trust your gut.

4. Set Boundaries – Establish clear boundaries and respect each other's boundaries. Boundaries help maintain a sense of safety and autonomy within the relationship.

to your partner. Show empathy and understanding towards their experiences and emotions.

6. Maintain Independence – While it's important to be close to your partner, maintain your independence and individual interests. This helps prevent co-dependency and maintains a healthy balance in the relationship. This also helps you show up as a whole person.

7. Address Insecurities – Recognize and address your own insecurities. They can self-sabotage good relationships. Seek therapy or counselling if necessary to work through deeper issues. Do the personal work, you won't regret it.

8. Practice Self-Care – Take care of yourself physically, emotionally, and mentally. Prioritize activities and habits that promote your wellbeing. Your partner will support you in this if they too are healthy.

9. Focus on the Present – Avoid dwelling on past relationship traumas or projecting future fears onto

5. Be Supportive – Offer support and encouragement

your current relationship. Stay present and focus on building a positive connection with your partner. Take the time to get to know the new person in your life before making big changes and decisions with them.

10. Seek Growth Together – Continuously work on personal growth and relationship skills together. Attend couples therapy or workshops to strengthen your bond and deepen your understanding of each other. A partner who is open to their own growth and self-awareness is a green flag.

The following are tips to help your anxious partner to feel more secure:

1. Communication – Keep open and honest communication about your feelings, plans, and concerns.

2. Reassurance – Offer regular affirmations of your love, commitment, and support.

3. Trust – Build and maintain trust by being reliable, dependable, and transparent. This allows space for both of you to share and explore your vulnerabilities.

4. Empathy – Listen actively (listen to understand, not defend) and empathize with your partner's emotions and experiences.

5. Boundaries – Respect your partner's boundaries and communicate your own clearly.

6. Quality Time – Spend meaningful time together, creating positive experiences and memories.

7. Appreciation – Show appreciation for your partner's efforts, qualities, and contributions.

8. Consistency – Be consistent in your actions and behaviours to foster a sense of security and stability.

9. Problem Solving – Work together to address any concerns or challenges that arise in the relationship. A relationship is not one sided.

10. Self-Care – Take care of yourself mentally, emotionally, and physically. Your own well-being contributes to the overall health of the relationship.

Book Suggestions:

- The Power of Attachment Diane Poole Heller
- You are the One You've Been Waiting For Richard C. Schwartz
- Attached A. Levine & S. Heller



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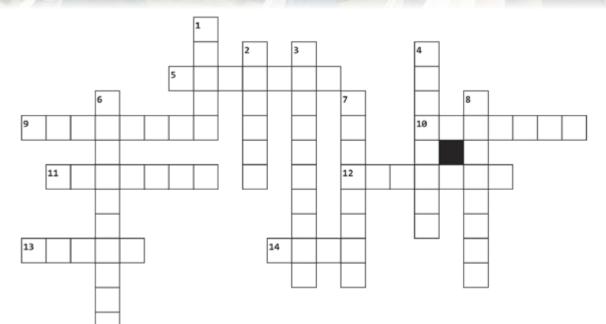


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June Crossword



Across

5. On June 21, 1957, Canada's Prime Minster Louis St. _____, who had the distinction of having the longest continuous term as prime minister, resigned.

9. This year's F1 Canadian Grand Prix in _____ will be held from June 6 to 10.

10. In history books, June 21, 1749, marks the date that _____, Nova Scotia was founded.

11. The ______ released their hit album "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" in June of 1967.

12. In June 2003, J.K. _____ released *The Order of the Phoenix*, the fifth book of the Harry Potter series.

13. Interestingly, the most _____ Laureates are born in June.

14. June is named after which Roman goddess of marriage, childbirth, and love?



Down

1. June's birthstone, the _____, is the only stone that is made by a living sea creature.

2. On June 5, 1998, audiences were captivated by the release of "The ______ Show," featuring Jim Carrey in the lead role, portraying a man unwittingly thrust into the spotlight as the star of a live television program.

3. On June 21, Canada honours the contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples by celebrating National ______ Peoples Day.

4. The novel *Crazy Rich Asians*, released on June 11, 2013, later became a film starring Oscar-winning actress ______Yeoh.

6. June's full moon, known as the _____ Moon, will illuminate the sky on June 21 this year.

7. June 28, 1980, ______ entered Ontario as part of his incredible Marathon of Hope.

8. Founder of Tesla and SpaceX, _____, was born on June 28, 1971.

Backyard Play Safety

by Alberta Health Services, EMS

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) would like to encourage parents and caregivers to ensure their backyard play areas are made safe for children this summer. Although direct supervision is the best method to reduce the chance of injury, always ensure play equipment in your yard is in good repair and is suited to the age and skill of the children using it. Check the equipment often; replace or repair any worn or broken parts. It's also advised to set up play equipment on top of a nine-inch layer of shock-absorbing material which extends six feet out in all directions from the play area.

Water Hazards

- Drowning contributes to unintentional injury-related death among children ages one to four.
- Children can drown in just a few centimetres of water if it covers their mouth and nose.
- Ensure all backyard swimming pools are fenced. The fence must be at least 1.8 metres high and have a self-latching, self-closing, lockable gate (*Alberta Building Code).

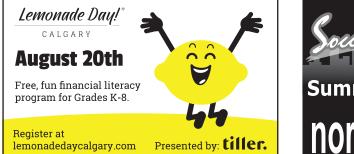
Lawn and Garden Tools

- Keep young children away from outdoor power equipment.
- Serious burns may result from touching hot engine surfaces.
- Ensure that all sharp tools, fuel, chemicals, and other hazardous substances are stored in a secure, locked area. A simple latch may not be sufficient.



Insect Bites and Stings

- Minimize the risk of attracting insects by not wearing strong perfumes or scented lotions.
- Avoid wearing brightly coloured clothing outdoors.
- Consider destroying or relocating hives and nests situated near your home.
- To avoid injury through inadvertently stepping on a stinging insect, always wear footwear outdoors.
- If your child has received an 'EpiPen, Junior' prescription from your physician (for anaphylactic reactions only) ensure they understand when and how to use it.
- If your child experiences a severe reaction to an insect sting, or other environmental cause, seek medical attention, or call 911.





TAKE ON WELLNESS

Managing Seasonal Allergies

by Alberta Health Services

Allergies occur when your immune system overreacts in response to certain substances, mistaking harmless elements as harmful germs or viruses. Numerous triggers can cause this to happen such as pollens, medicine, food, dust, animal dander, and mould.

If your allergy symptoms occur seasonally, it's likely due to an allergy to specific pollens from trees, grasses, or weeds.

Allergies can range from mild to severe, and some overthe-counter allergy medications may alleviate certain symptoms. Remember to carefully read and follow the instructions on medication labels.

Effectively managing your allergies is key to maintaining good health. Your healthcare provider might recommend tests to pinpoint the exact cause of your allergies. Once you identify your triggers, you can take steps to avoid them, which will help prevent allergy symptoms and potential health complications.

In some cases, immunotherapy could be beneficial. This treatment involves injections or pills containing small amounts of specific allergens. Over time, your body becomes desensitized to these allergens, resulting in reduced or prevented allergic reactions.

Symptoms and Treatment of Seasonal Allergies

Seasonal allergies can happen during any season and are very common. Some symptoms include:

- Itchy, watery eyes
- Sneezing
- Runny, stuffy, or itchy nose
- Temporary loss of smell
- Headache and fatigue
- Dark circles under the eyes ("allergic shiners")
- Drainage from the nose down the back of the throat (post-nasal drip)
- Sore throat, coughing, or snoring

Home treatments are usually all you need to treat seasonal allergies, depending on your symptoms. Medicines you can try for a stuffy nose include steroid nasal sprays, which can also help with red, itchy, watery eyes.

Other treatments include:

- Clean the inside of your nose with salt water to provide relief of a stuffy nose.
- Use a humidifier in the bedroom and take hot showers to help clear a stuffy nose. Follow the directions for cleaning the humidifier.
- If your nose is red and raw from rubbing, put petroleum jelly on the sore area.
- Use over-the-counter allergy medicine to help your symptoms. Use a nasal or oral decongestant (such as Drixoral) to relieve a stuffy nose. For itchy, watery eyes; sneezing; or a runny, itchy nose, try a non-sedating over-the-counter antihistamine, like fexofenadine (such as Allegra) or loratadine (such as Claritin). To help relieve pain, try acetaminophen or ibuprofen.

Preventing Seasonal Allergies

You can reduce your exposure to pollen and other allergens that cause seasonal allergies by:

- Keeping your house and car windows closed.
- Checking the Air Quality Health Index before you go outside.
- Limiting the time you spend outside when pollen counts are high (during midday and afternoon).
- Wearing a pollen mask or dust mask if you need to mow the lawn.
- Limiting your mowing tasks if you can.
- Rinsing your eyes with cool water or saline eyedrops to remove clinging pollen after you come indoors.
- Taking a shower and changing your clothes after you work or play outside.

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The University of Calgary Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board has approved these research studies (REB20-0983, REB20-2133, REB21-0535)







by Anne Burke

Nose Hill is an isolated remnant of the upland plain that flanks the Bow River Valley. It also includes side slopes (escarpments) and ravines that cut into the upland plain. Domestic dogs are a major user of Nose Hill Park. The remaining large mammals on Nose Hill are deer and coyotes. Almost one third (31%) of users are dog walkers and many leave their animals unleashed. It was recommended that bird and rare plant inventory be conducted for Nose Hill as a baseline against which impact predictions can be tested. The Park is a grassland-dominated natural area, along the western edge of the Foothills Fescue Natural Subregion, where it abuts the Foothills Parkland Ecoregion. The deciduous forest (aspen and balsam poplar), native (rough fescue) grassland, and tall willow communities are primary foraging and breeding habitats in the Park.

The grass known botanically but popularly as "rough fescue" was adopted as the grass emblem of Alberta. It was designated officially in 2003 due to the efforts of the Prairie Conservation Forum. www.albertapcf.org/. The province has the largest area of rough fescue grassland in the world and is the only place in North America that hosts the plains, foothills, and northern variations. Rough fescue provides excellent year-round forage for wildlife and livestock; and is a symbol of Alberta's prairie heritage and the need for the conservation of our rich biodiversity of native grasslands.

The City of Calgary has unveiled its new brand as "Blue Sky City." The provincial shield already features blue skies over a range of snow-capped mountains with green hills, prairie land, and a wheat field in front. The great horned owl, which is a year-round resident, was adopted as Alberta's official bird, in 1977, after a provincewide children's vote.

One Pan Chicken Fajitas

by Jennifer Puri

Originating in South and Central America, bell peppers have been cultivated for thousands of years. Available in a variety of colours: red, orange, yellow, green, and even purple, they are related to chili peppers, tomatoes, and breadfruit.

All bell peppers start out as green, but their colour and ripeness depend on the amount of time the pepper spends on the plant. Red peppers are riper, and their flavour is typically sweeter, milder, and generally easier for most people to digest. They can be eaten raw, cooked, dried, or powdered.

Bell peppers are an excellent addition to a healthy diet as they are mainly composed of water with smaller amounts of carbohydrates, protein, fiber, and fat. Rich in many vitamins, antioxidants, and carotenoids they are beneficial for eye health and reduced risk of anaemia.

Peppers can be enjoyed as a snack, in a salad, stuffed, grilled, roasted, pickled, raw, or sautéed as shown in the one pan chicken fajitas recipe below.

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Servings: 4

Ingredients:

- 3 boneless chicken breasts
- 1 medium white onion
- 1 lime
- 3 red and yellow bell peppers
- 5 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- ¾ tsp. chili powder
- 1/2 tsp. paprika
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. cumin powder
- ¼ tsp. black pepper
- ¼ tsp. oregano
- Salt to taste

Directions:

• Slice onion and bell peppers (seeds and stems removed) into ¼ inch thick slices.

- In a small mixing bowl, combine 3 tbsp. of olive oil, juice of half a lime, chili and garlic powder, paprika, cumin, black pepper, oregano, and salt to taste. Slice chicken breasts into thin strips and add to the spice mixture.
- Add half the chicken pieces to a large non- stick frying pan or skillet and sauté over medium to high heat until cooked, about four to five minutes. Remove from pan and repeat with remaining chicken.
- Set cooked chicken aside and add 2 tbsp. of olive oil and the sliced onions to the frying pan. Sauté for two minutes then add the sliced peppers and continue sautéing until peppers are cooked and brown at the edges. Add the cooked chicken and combine with the peppers and onion until heated through.
- Serve chicken fajitas over warm tortillas with a squeeze of lime, avocado, sour cream, and pico de gallo.

Bon Appétit!





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