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**The Beatles:
Chart-Toppers to Solo Legends**

April is a memorable month for the Beatles whether together or not... On April 4, 1964, the Fab Four made history by holding the top five spots on the Billboard Hot 100. Fast forward to April 17, 1971, and each member—Lennon, McCartney, Starr, and Harrison—had their solo singles on the UK charts.



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- Supply & install new showerhead & diverter spout
- Supply & install new mold-resistant board
- Supply & install new tile to ceiling
- Supply & install one corner caddy & soap dish
- Supply & install new subfloor
- Installation of new tile flooring
- Supply & install new vanity
- Supply & install new granite or quartz countertops with undermount sink
- Supply & install new Delta vanity tops
- Supply & install new drain system & pop-up stopper

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- Supply & install new toilet with soft close seat
- Supply & install new corner caddy with soap dish
- Supply & install new subfloor
- Installation of new tile flooring
- Supply & install new vanity
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RANGLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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Vice-President	Sharon Blackwell vice-president@ranchlandscommunity.com
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Director at Large	Laurie Lin, Christy Edwards, Nadine Bird Contact RCA Office

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Ranchlands Food Pantry	Contact RCA Office www.ranchlandscommunity.com/RFP
Skating Rink Coordinator	Darren Angell Contact RCA Office
186th Ranchlands Scouts	186thRanchlandsScouts@gmail.com
Girl Guides of Canada: Wichewakn District	register.girlguides.ca/web/en/unit

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Ranchlands Elementary School	403-777-6350 ranchlands@cbe.ab.ca
St. Rita's Catholic Elementary School	Cindy De Paoli 403-500-2083 stritas@cssd.ab.ca
Rise Calgary	403-204-8280 info@risecalgary.ca
MLA Julia Hayter	403-288-4453 Calgary.Edgemont@assembly.ab.ca
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Spring Into April

As we welcome April, we look forward to the continued extra daylight, the chance to be outdoors (hopefully without snow), and the ability to look at our community space with fresh eyes. The theme of continuing to enhance the appeal and beauty of our neighbourhood continues to weave its way into our board meetings and planning.

We have had two different interested community members share their vision for enhancing and modernizing our Welcome to Ranchlands sign. We will be working on the approvals to get this done – another step to show our pride in Ranchlands. There are inspirational ideas flowing.

We have applied to the City for a date to host a community cleanup which allows residents to operate in 4D – Dispose of items that are no longer useful, Donate items that are still useful for others, all the while Decluttering their homes and yards by Delivering items to the community hall. Please watch our website and Facebook page for the dates.

We continue to focus on maintaining the hall to ensure that we have a viable rental and program space, but it is worthwhile to note that while our rentals generally offset our monthly operating costs, our major program and building expenses are funded either through grants from the City of Calgary along with other targeted grants, or through our casino funds. Please consider this your invitation to hang out with fellow Ranchlanders and board members on Friday, June 6 and Saturday, June 7. If you have never volunteered at a casino, please feel free to email me at president@ranchlandscommunity.com and I will be happy to chat with you about the roles. It is not difficult and kind of fun to be out at 3:00 am (at least for some of the shifts).

Finally, save the date for our Neighbour Day celebration. We will have an event at the community centre on Saturday, June 21. In response to the suggestions from last year, we are working to create an event that is family-friendly, adult-friendly, economical, and fun – we have our work cut out for us. If you would like to serve on a planning committee, let us know. You can email me as above or contact the office.

With warm regards to our community,

Kathy Ervin

April Fools... Not!



On April 1, 2004, many people thought Google played an April Fools' joke when they launched Gmail.

But the joke was on them – Gmail was real, and it's still one of the most popular email services today.



Mark Your Calendars for April 28 - Kindness in Calgary: Pay It Forward Day

by Darlene Doskoch, Canadian Ambassador for Pay It Forward Day International, Rise Calgary

Do you remember the movie, or did you read the book? If not, I still bet you have heard of 'Pay it Forward.' The book, written by Catherine Ryan Hyde inspired a worldwide movement. In 2007 Blake Beattie (Australia) started Pay It Forward Day, a global initiative that aims to make a positive impact on people's lives by sparking a ripple of kindness felt worldwide

In 2009 I became a volunteer for Pay it Forward International, also lead by Beattie. As of this year, we now have over 88 countries involved in Pay It Forward Day. An amazing testimony to the people of this world and their desire to share acts of kindness. Over the years since I began volunteering, Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and four other provinces have proclaimed Pay it Forward Day along with several cities in a variety of provinces.

On April 28, we're celebrating Pay It Forward Day with a global goal: to spark over 20 million acts of kindness. Rise Calgary is doing our part by hosting a Free Hot Dog Day, and we'd love for other organizations and Calgarians to join the movement. You can participate by hosting your own event or simply spreading random acts of kindness throughout the day. Remember, an act of kindness doesn't have to be grand. It could be as simple as a friendly "hello" to someone you've never greeted before. It's the small gestures that can make a big difference.

Most importantly though, it's okay if a person doesn't say thank you. Sometimes receiving acts of kindness can be uncomfortable for someone. Besides, a true act of kindness is done without the expectation of anything in return, including a thank you.

What Can You Do?

- Pay for someone's cup of coffee
- Get the next person's food, bus fare, etc.
- Help someone out in need
- Host pay it forward activities in your office, school, church, or community
- Hold the door open for someone
- Rake someone's yard or sweep their sidewalk
- Be creative!

Community Garden

You are invited to rent a garden box at the Ranchlands Community Garden at 1313 Ranchlands Way NW. Check out the improvements to the garden located in the SW corner of the property. Prices remain the same as last year: \$15 for a regular-sized 4x6 box, and \$20 for one of the large 4x10 boxes. Please email wendy@westviewchurch.ca or call 403-239-1114 to inquire about availability and to rent a garden box. Look forward to hearing from you!



GAMES & PUZZLES

Guess the Flower!

1. This flower's colour depends on the acidity of the soil.
2. Named after the Greek messenger of the gods, this flower comes in nearly all colours of the rainbow except red.
3. Despite misconceptions, this spring-blooming bulbous plant is not officially the Dutch national flower.
4. This prickly pink plant became Alberta's floral emblem in 1930.
5. The national flower of South Africa belongs to one of the oldest families of flowering plants on Earth – approximately 300 million years!
6. This flower's Greek name, Galanthus, translates to "milk flower".



SCAN THE QR
CODE FOR THE
ANSWERS!



Rise Calgary (formerly Bowwest Community Services): 14 – 1840 Ranchlands Way NW

Westview Baptist Church: 1313 Ranchlands Way NW

St. James Anglican Church: 6351 Ranchview Drive NW

Islamic Association of NW Calgary: 7750 Ranchview Drive NW

Al-Salam Centre: 6415 Ranchview Drive NW

Good Food Box: Ranchlands' Depot is St. James Anglican Church

An Earn and Learn Program Right in Our Community

Ranchlands is home to many initiatives that make young families stronger. That is why we are so happy that Rise Calgary's Earn and Learn Program is here to help our community residents boost their financial skills while they grow their savings at the same time.

Starting April 9, 2025, Rise Calgary will be offering a six-month online 'Earn and Learn' program to help individuals build strong financial habits while working toward important financial goals. Every other Wednesday, participants can also participate in financial literacy workshops, covering topics like budgeting, saving, and investing.

The best part? As you save between \$20 and \$50 per month, the program rewards you by matching your savings, helping you earn between \$300 and \$900 toward an approved asset, such as education, or other important financial goals.

This program is a great opportunity to take control of your finances, build long-term stability, and turn small savings into big wins.

Spots are limited! If you're interested in joining or learning more, visit www.risecalgary.ca/earn-and-learn to apply today!



Vaping and Youth

by Alberta Health Services



Vapes or e-cigarettes are one of the most popular ways of consuming substances such as nicotine, cannabis, or chemical flavouring among youth. This trend has spiked over the years due to marketing around it being "safer" than cigarettes. What we do know is that any use of vaping can cause harm.

There is still a lot more information needed but below is what we do know when addressing vaping among youth.

Educate Yourself and Others

You do not have to be an expert on the topic but it's important to understand the basics and have access to knowledge on the facts and where to access supports and resources.

Educate Children and Youth

We want schools and natural supports to teach and implement lesson plans as soon as possible. At home we want to share the facts, have open conversations about safety, and support healthy choices. There are free lesson plans and information for different age ranges so you can have the conversations in ways that make sense to them!

Focus on Prevention

To help reduce rates of use among youth we need to implement effective prevention strategies that teach life skills, involves young people that are led by young people, and connect youth to the community. This helps strengthen core social competencies such as problem solving, decision making, and critical thinking.

Have open conversations about vaping with the young people in your life. This will help build relationships and trust so if there are questions, you are the person they will lean towards!

Ranchlands Girl Guides

It was a perfect night to skate at our community rink, warm in the air and cool on the ice.

We had the first-time skaters, much better than last year skaters, dreaming of becoming an Olympian skaters, and simply having fun skaters. In Girl Guides, we learn, grow, and dream together!

Thank you to the rink volunteers!

Ranchlands Girl Guides (76th Sparks, 60th Guides, and 82nd Pathfinders)



Ranchlands School April Update

As we welcome the arrival of spring, Ranchlands School has a busy and exciting month ahead! Here are some important dates and reminders for our school community.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parent-Teacher Interviews will take place on March 20 and 21. This is a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and set goals for the remainder of the school year. Please check your email or school communication channels for information on how to book your appointment.

Spring Break

Spring Break runs from March 22 to March 30. We hope all our students and families have a restful and enjoyable break. Classes will resume on March 31.

School Council Meeting

Our next School Council Meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2025. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend and participate in discussions about school initiatives, events, and updates. Your input and engagement are always appreciated!

Professional Development Day

Please note that April 21 is a Professional Development Day for staff. There will be no classes for students on this day.

Spring Weather and Safety Reminders

With the changing spring conditions, we encourage families to monitor the weather and ensure students are dressed appropriately for outdoor activities. Spring can bring unpredictable temperatures and wet conditions, so proper footwear and layers are essential.

Additionally, we kindly ask all parents and guardians to respect the designated bus zones. For the safety of our students and efficient traffic flow, please refrain from parking in these areas during drop-off and pick-up times.

Thank you for your continued support in making Ranchlands School a safe and welcoming place for all. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the school office. We look forward to another great month of learning and activities!



Why Ranchlands is One of Calgary's Best Communities to Call Home

by Christy Edwards, Ranchlands Resident and Board Member

I've called Ranchlands home for over 20 years, and I can honestly say it's been one of the best decisions I've ever made. When I first moved here, I was drawn to the peaceful streets, the friendly neighbours, and the easy access to everything I needed. Now, two decades later, I still feel the same way—Ranchlands is more than just a neighbourhood; it's a community in the truest sense of the word.

One of the first things I noticed about Ranchlands was its family-friendly atmosphere. Whether it's kids playing at the local parks, parents walking their dogs along the pathways, or neighbours chatting in their front yards, there's a sense of warmth and belonging here. The homes are affordable, making it a great option for young families looking to settle down. And with excellent schools just around the corner, it's easy to see why so many families choose to stay here.

Living in Ranchlands means you're never far from what you need. I really appreciate that Crowchild Trail and Stoney Trail are just minutes away, so getting around Calgary for me is a breeze. I also love the ease of access to public transit, especially the Crowfoot LRT station so if I want to, I can get downtown hassle-free.

One of my favorite conveniences is the Crowfoot Shopping Centre. Whether I need to grab groceries, meet a friend for coffee, or squeeze in a workout at the gym, it's all right there. It's the perfect balance of suburban peace and city accessibility.

But it is not always about getting to do the busy things of life. One of the things I love most about Ranchlands is its connection to nature. I often take early morning walks through the community pathways, enjoying the fresh air and peaceful surroundings. And for those days when I need a bigger dose of the outdoors, Nose Hill Park and Bowmont Park are just a short drive away. Whether it's hiking, biking, or simply enjoying a quiet moment in nature, there's always an opportunity to get outside and explore.

The heart of Ranchlands is its community association. Over the years, I've seen firsthand how much effort goes

into organizing events, activities, and programs that bring people together. From outdoor skating rinks in the winter to summer festivals and community cleanup days, there's always something happening. The local tennis courts, playgrounds, and community hall make it easy for residents to connect and stay active.

One of the reasons I've stayed in Ranchlands so long is the sense of security. It's a neighbourhood where people look out for one another. With an active community watch program and many long-term residents, there's a feeling of trust and connection that can be hard to find elsewhere.

Ranchlands is home to people from all walks of life—families, young professionals, retirees, and newcomers from different backgrounds. It's a place where diversity is embraced, and everyone feels welcome. No matter where you come from, Ranchlands has a way of making you feel like you belong.


For me, Ranchlands isn't just where I live—it's where I've built my life. It's where I've made lifelong friends, watched families grow, and seen the neighbourhood evolve while still maintaining its charm. With its affordability, strong sense of community, and unbeatable location, Ranchlands truly is one of Calgary's best places to call home.

BRAIN GAMES

SUDOKU

4								
5		6		1				
3	2					9		1
			8		2	3		7
7			1		6			2
8		2	7		3			
9		8					5	4
				8		7		9
								6

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE SOLUTION



Get Your Taxes Done for Free!

Are you looking for assistance with your taxes? The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) is here to help! Our volunteer tax clinic at the Ranchlands Community Association is designed to provide free tax return services for individuals with modest incomes and straightforward tax situations.

How to Access the Clinic

Setting Up an Appointment: To schedule an appointment, contact the RCA Clinic directly at 587-207-5909 or send an email to taxclinic@ranchlandscommunity.com.

Be sure to mention that you are interested in the volunteer tax clinic.

What You'll Need

To make the process as smooth as possible, please bring the following documents:

- Identification: Valid photo ID (e.g., driver's license, passport)
- Social Insurance Number (SIN)
- Income Slips: T4, T5, and any other relevant income documents
- Receipts: For medical expenses, childcare expenses, and other deductions
- Last Year's Tax Return: If available

Clinic Details

- Location: RCA Community Centre
- Operating Period: The clinic will be open from February 25 to May 31
- Contact Information: For any questions or to confirm your appointment, call the RCA Tax Clinic at 587-207-5909

Don't miss this opportunity to get your taxes done for free by experienced volunteers! If you have any questions or need further assistance, feel free to reach out.

We look forward to helping you with your tax needs!



Hidden Gem



Ranchlands is home to many talented and kind people and Chrystal happens to be one of those neighbours.

Not only is she a talented and artistic photographer; she is also a mom. As she celebrates the fact that her oldest is graduating elementary school in June, she reflected on this

milestone and wondered how the auspicious occasion could be marked in a meaningful way. Her dream was to capture the school journey, fun, and friendships that have been so important to all the students leaving the Ranchlands School and heading off to Junior High in a new neighbourhood.

And then her bright idea came. Chrystal is offering to do a really cool photoshoot to get as many Grade 6 students from Ranchlands School and take photos of them holding their Kindergarten photo! Her plan is to take the photos in front of the school starting in May preferably on weekends and weekday evenings as long as there is enough daylight. She also will do "Besties" shots as well for any interested Grade 6-ers.

Parents of Ranchlands School Grade 6-ers can send an email with their child's name to starrdawnphotography1@outlook.com.

It is so nice that people in our community are not all about the money – they are community and memory builders, and Chrystal is definitely that. We look forward to seeing this project come alive!

Thank you, Chrystal!

Joke of the Month



Dressed Up

What does a house wear?
Address.

Shaping Calgary's Future Through Community Engagement

by *The City of Calgary*

The Federation of Calgary Communities, in partnership with The City of Calgary, bring you Partners in Planning, a free, award-winning certificate program. Through a series of engaging events, residents are empowered to help shape the city's future. This year's program features workshops aimed at fostering collaboration and deepening community understanding of city planning. Here are some upcoming events:

Crafting Calgary: Planning Implementation Unveiled **April 5, 9:00 am to noon** **Capitol Hill Community Association**

This workshop delves into the complexities of city planning, offering insights into how the City of Calgary implements change. Learn about the balance planners strike between policies, the Land Use Bylaw, and five community needs through various application reviews, including land use amendments and development permits.

Navigating Calgary's Blueprint: Understanding Planning **May 31, 9:00 am to noon** **Capitol Hill Community Association**

Explore Calgary's planning framework and the legislative policies that guide it. This event covers the Municipal Development Plan, Local Area Plans, and how these policies work together to prepare Calgary for future growth.

Elective One: Built Forms Walking Tour **June 22, 9:00 am to noon** **Marda Loop Communities Association**

Join this walking tour to learn about different built forms in low-density residential districts. Attendees will explore architectural elements and how they contribute to the urban fabric, highlighting how these elements enhance established communities.

Join the Federation of Calgary Communities and The City of Calgary for these insightful events and be part of shaping Calgary's future!

Host Your Next Event at the Ranchlands Community Association!



Did you know that the Ranchlands Community Association (RCA) has a bright, welcoming space available for rent? Whether you're planning a birthday party, family potluck, crafting night, or a casual get-together, our space is the perfect spot to bring people together!

Why Choose RCA?

- Spacious and Bright – A warm and inviting space to celebrate, create, or connect.
- Kitchen Access – Perfect for preparing and serving food at your event.
- Easy Online Booking – Secure your date in just a few clicks!
- Affordable Rates – A budget-friendly option for your gathering.

Whether you're hosting a small private event or a larger community gathering, we're happy to provide a comfortable and convenient space to make your occasion special.

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For rates, availability, and to book online, visit ranchlandscommunity.com/rentals/, stop by to have a look, call our office at 403-241-0335, or email ranchlandscommunity@outlook.com.

*RCA Members receive exclusive rates on rentals!

#HostWithUs #RanchlandsEvents
#CommunitySpaceForYou

Word of the Month



Ebullient: adjective
(ih-buhl-yuhnt)

Liveliness, enthusiasm,
overflowing with
excitement.

He was in quite
an ebullient mood.



News from the Friends of Nose Hill

by Anne Burke

Connect: Calgary's Parks Plan will determine how Calgary's 2,900+ parks are managed, developed, and redeveloped over the next 20 years. A draft will be presented to City Council after review by the Community Development Committee. Parks connect urban communities, but the city is projected to grow to two million people within the next two decades (<https://engage.calgary.ca/parksplan>).

Calgary has over 200 natural areas in the parks system. Our relationship with the natural world is primarily to preserve undisturbed land, wildlife, and native plant communities. In a natural area all uses and activities must comply with the approved habitat management plan to protect the natural environment and not cause damage. New natural areas should be designated. There are different types, but all need to be protected to conserve nature now and for the future. The landscape offers access to the natural world which helps our physical and mental well-being. Special places like Nose Hill, a major natural area, foster stewardship, support biodiversity, and reduce impacts of heat, flooding, and drought. Some areas are sacred spaces for Indigenous Nations and provide opportunities to learn about cultural history.

Controlled burns and animal grazing are encouraged as alternate land management practices. We must assess and update the cost of maintenance to ensure the value of natural areas with a compensation model. We can allow litter-control-only (with guidance) in natural areas to be included in enhanced landscape maintenance requirements. We should develop ten-year operational Habitat Management Plans for all natural areas, including those required as part of the development approval process. Prior to subdivision the developer is responsible for restoration and compensation must be paid to the City when there is damage or disturbance to land dedicated to environmental reserve. Back sloping should not be allowed.

St. Rita: Learning to See the Forest and the Trees



Nature-based learning at St. Rita elementary school integrates outdoor environments to enhance students' understanding of core subjects through hands-on experiences. By exploring forests, gardens, and local ecosystems, children develop observational skills and a deeper

appreciation for the natural world. Lessons often include activities like planting seeds, studying insects, or measuring tree growth, making abstract concepts more tangible. This approach also promotes physical activity and reduces stress, supporting both mental and emotional well-being. Additionally, nature-based learning fosters curiosity and critical thinking, encouraging students to ask questions and seek answers through exploration.

Long-term impacts of nature-based learning on students are significant, influencing their academic, emotional, and social development well into adulthood. Academically, it fosters stronger critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a lasting curiosity for science and the environment. Emotionally, regular exposure to nature has been linked to reduced stress, improved focus, and enhanced resilience, helping students manage challenges more effectively. Socially, collaborative outdoor activities promote teamwork, communication skills, and empathy as students work together to explore and solve real-world problems. Additionally, positive early experiences with nature often lead to pro-environmental attitudes and behaviours, encouraging lifelong stewardship of the environment.

Teachers at St. Rita use the forest behind the school regularly to promote nature-based learning, and students eagerly look forward to the return of spring this month to get back on the hill and into the trees!

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NEIGHBOURHOOD CONFLICT? Community Mediation Calgary Society (CMCS) is a no-cost mediation and conflict coaching service that can help you resolve problems and restore peace! We help neighbours be neighbours again! www.communitymediation.ca, 403-269-2707.

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Say Cheese! It's Grilled Cheese Month!

April is celebrated as Grilled Cheese Month, a perfect time to indulge in a gooey and perfectly toasted sandwich. Why not honour this tasty tradition with your favourite cheesy creation all month long?



ELDERDOG
CANADA

HELP KEEP LOVE IN THE HOME



ElderDog Canada is a national registered charity whose mission is to assist and support older adults in the care and wellbeing of their dogs.

We have a vibrant presence here in Calgary! Reach out to us if you are a senior in need of dog care support (dog walking, transportation to a groomer/vet clinic), to volunteer with us, or for more information at calgaryldr@elderdog.ca.

 facebook.com/elderdoggycc

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