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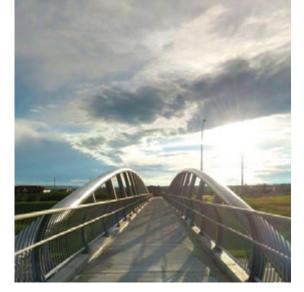
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MENTAL HEALTH MOMENT

How to Create Personal Happiness

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



Creating personal happiness is a multifaceted journey that varies for each individual. The following are some tips to guide you to a more fulfilling and content life:

- **1. Self-Awareness** Understand yourself. What are your values, strengths, weaknesses, and what already makes you feel happy. Think about how you show up in the world. Read a book or listen to a podcast on emotional intelligence.
- **2. Positive Mindset** Cultivate a positive outlook on life. Focus on gratitude, optimism, and self-compassion. Smile more and give compliments. It's okay to acknowledge unhappy times and feelings, accept them and then move on.
- **3. Healthy Relationships** Seek to surround yourself with supportive, positive people who uplift you, encourage your growth, and contribute to your happiness. Become friends with yourself. Go out to dinner or a movie alone.

- **4. Work-Life Balance** Create healthy boundaries around working hours and away from work disconnection. Prioritize activities that bring you joy and fulfilment outside of your work and work responsibilities. Create weekly structure and habits.
- **5. Self-Care** Take care of your physical, emotional, and mental well-being. Focus on exercise, nutrition, sleep, and stress management. Slow down and breathe. Journal your thoughts and feelings. Spend less time on socials and your phone.
- **6. Set Goals** Establish realistic and meaningful goals. Ensure these align with your personal values, character, and aspirations. Remember to celebrate your progress and milestones along the way. Avoid comparing yourself to others. What you see outwardly may not be as it seems. Plan something new, like a trip, to look forward to
- **7. Be Mindful and Present** Practice mindfulness to stay in the moment. Appreciate the small things happening daily. Declutter your space. A disorganized, cluttered space creates anxiety and can be distracting.
- **8. Contribute** Find a purpose. Seek the fulfilment of giving back to others. Volunteer, practice random acts of kindness, or support a cause you believe in. Having things to do keeps your mind engaged leaving less time for rumination.
- **9. Learn and Grow** Seek opportunities for personal and professional development. Learning new things and personal growth significantly contribute to happiness. Trying new things is also a great way to meet new people.
- **10. Acceptance** Embrace imperfections and accept yourself as you are, while also striving for growth and improvement. Accept the things you have the power to change and let go of the ones that are out of your control. It's okay to fail. Learn to let go and practice forgiveness. Forgiveness is for you, not the other. Holding onto resentments is like drinking poison and expecting the other to die.

Personal happiness is an ongoing journey. You don't have to do it all alone. Seek support from friends, family, coaches, mentors, or mental health professionals along the way.



Prairie Winds 4-H Club Update for Mav

by Abigial Dowler, Prairie Winds 4-H Club reporter



We started off the month of March by learning how to decorate cookies. In this advanced cookie decorating workshop, we learned how to decorate cookies by flooding them with icing. It was Easter themed, so we made a carrot, an egg, and a bunny. My favourite was the egg because we got to put

gold specs on it to make it look like a robin's egg.

We also did many other workshops over the past month; the Rothney Observatory was late at night so we could look at the night sky and find constellations. This involved using a telescope to see the sky



and find planets. Following Rothney there were two workshops on the same day, Crochet and Lego Robotics. During the crochet workshop members got to learn the simple knots and started to crochet a mini dinosaur, there will be a second part to this workshop where we will complete the project. The Lego Robotics included building a robot out of Lego pieces then coding it to move around tables and floors

We had our monthly general meeting followed by a fun little social after. We played dodgeball with a twist where the balls were socks. We did senior members versus intermediate and junior. This game sure was fun!

We also had a few members in our club move on to higher levels of communications in 4-H at the Areas and District levels over the past month. Those that successfully placed will shortly compete at the Regional Level.

Overall, it was another fun and full month of 4-H.







News, Events, & More





Real Estate Statistics

Shrimp And Rice Noodle Stir Fry

by Jennifer Puri

Seafood has a variety of nutrients that contribute to our well-being and is also low in calories.

A great source of lean protein, seafood is good for our eyes, heart, brain, muscles, skin, and bones.

Generally, fatty fish such as salmon and mackerel are better as they contain fat soluble nutrients our bodies can absorb.

Raw shrimp should be firm, and their shells should always be translucent, greyish green, light pink, or a pinkish tan in colour.

Seafood is delicious, healthy, cost-effective, and easy to prepare as shown in the recipe below.

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Servings: 3 to 4

Ingredients:

- 225 g rice noodles
- 16 jumbo size shrimp
- 1/2 red pepper thinly sliced
- 16 snow peas
- 12 baby carrots, sliced
- 8 broccoli florets
- 4 green onions thinly sliced
- 4 tbsp vegetable oil
- 4 to 5 tbsp dark soy sauce
- 4 tbsp green curry paste
- 1 tbsp red chilli flakes

Directions:

- 1. Prepare rice noodles in accordance with package instructions, drain and set aside.
- 2. Heat 3 tbsp of oil in a wok or skillet, add green onions and sauté until they turn a light brown.
- 3. Add the sliced carrots, red pepper, broccoli, and snow

peas. Stir fry for about five minutes or until tender, then add the green curry paste and soy sauce and sauté for another two to three minutes. Remove from heat while you cook the shrimp.

- 4. In a frying pan or wok, heat the remaining oil, add the shrimp, and sauté for three to four minutes or until the shrimp turn pink and are no longer translucent.
- 5. Add cooked shrimp and noodles to the veggies and return skillet to the stove allowing it to heat through before serving.
- 6. Garnish individual bowls with sliced green onion and some chilli peppers if desired.

Bon Appétit!





SAFE AND SOUND

Window and Balcony Safety

from Alberta Health Services

With the return of warmer weather, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) would like to remind parents and caregivers of an often-overlooked hazard in the home – access to open windows. Every year, paramedics respond to emergencies where a child has fallen from an open window, often from the second floor. These can be avoided by following safety measures. Take the time to assess potential hazards in your home before a preventable fall occurs.

Windows and Screens

- Prevent access to windows by moving furniture such as cribs, beds, stools, and change tables out from under them.
- Keep drapery cords out of children's reach. Wrap excess cord around cleats, or tie-downs to avoid a choking hazard.
- Remember, screens are not safety devices. They are designed to keep bugs out, not children in.

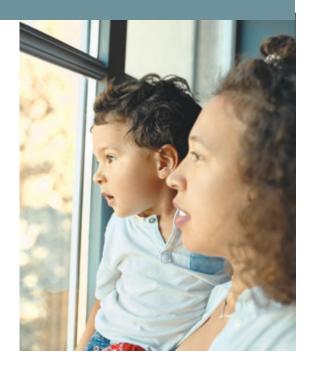
Balconies

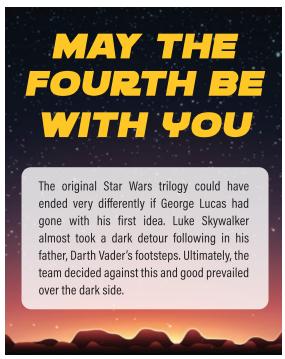
- Do not underestimate a child's ability to climb. Furniture and other items stored on balconies and decks can be used to climb resulting in falls over the railing.
- Ensure that your balcony railings are not more than 10 cm (4 inch) apart. This will eliminate access between the vertical bars of a balcony, or deck.

Further Prevention Tips

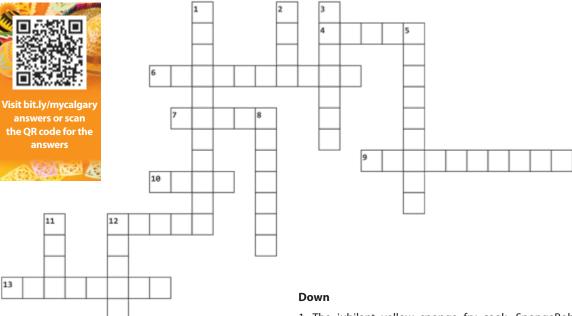
- Toddlers and preschoolers are at highest risk of falling from a window, or balcony, but it may happen at any age.
- Direct supervision of children is the single most effective way to prevent falls from windows and balconies.
- Install safety devices which limit the distance in which a window be can open to a maximum of 10 cm (4 inches).
- Ensure the safety device can be released quickly, so the window can be used for escape in case of emergency.
- Consider purchasing a portable air conditioner, which will enable windows to stay closed and secure.

EMS is proud to be a member of the Partners Promoting Window and Balcony Safety. Take time to assess your home for window and balcony hazards and eliminate the risks before a preventable fall occurs.





May Crossword



Across

- 4. On May 25, 1963, the legendary comedian Mike _____ was born in Scarborough, Toronto. He is well-known for characters such as Austin Powers, Shrek, and Wayne Campbell.
- 6. This movie, which tells the story of Sir William Wallace leading a rebellion against the English to free Scotland from King Edward I's rule premiered on May 18, 1995.
- 7. In May 1873, Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis created this fashion forward denim pants.
- 9. This annual international song competition starts on May 7 this year and has seen winners in the past such as Celine Dion and ABBA.
- 10. Born in Fort Macleod, Alberta, _____ Mitchell was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997.
- 12. In May 1997, Garry Kasparov started a game of _____ with IBM supercomputer Deep Blue.
- 13. In May of 1992, M.C Hammer's horse, Dance Floor, came third in the ______ Derby.

- 1. The jubilant yellow sponge fry cook, SpongeBob ______ first graced our screens in May 1999, on Nickelodeon.
- 2. On May 25, 1997, one of George Lucas' greatest creations *Star Wars: Episode IV A New* _____ was released.
- 3. The official birthstone of May most famously symbolizes rebirth and growth; however, others suggest that the birthstone actually symbolizes love and success.
- 5. On May 19, 2020, Suzanne Collins released *The Ballad of _____ and Snakes*, a prequel to her *Hunger Games* trilogy.
- 8. The famous phrase "April ______ bring May Flowers" first appeared in a poem written by English Poet Thomas Tusser in the 1500s.
- 11. The first film of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, _____ *Man*, starring Robert Downey Jr. is released on May 2, 2008.
- 12. ______ de Mayo is celebrated on May 5 every year and honours the Mexican army's victory over the French in 1862.

How To Have a Budget-Friendly Mother's Day

by Danielle Robbertze

With Mother's Day being celebrated on May 12 this year, you might wonder how to spoil your mom or maternal figures in your life without spoiling your bank account. As we live in a time of heightened consumerism, Mother's Day is one of the many holidays where prices are jacked up for ultimate profitability. Although it would be nice to receive a bouquet of flowers, eat out at a fancy restaurant, or treat your mother to a luxury spa day, this is not the reality for many people out there.

So let us look at a few ways you can save this Mother's Day and still show your mother some much-deserved appreciation.

1. Handmade All the Way

Mother's Day cards are a popular way to show your appreciation to maternal figures. Although the cards in stores may look great, they are often impersonal and contradict what the whole day is about. Test your creative skills and make a card that would genuinely mean something to your mother. This is not only something for young children to explore but for adult children as well.

Remember to include a heartfelt message that truly shows your appreciation. Make it as personal as possible by including memories that you will forever cherish of your mother. Other handmade options can include curating a family photo album or scrapbook.

2. Bring Luxury to the Home

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Instead of taking your mother to a spa with exorbitant prices, plan a spa day at home. A simple foot massage or face mask with relaxing music in the background and candles goes a long way. Treat her to some budget-friendly beauty products which you can find at your local pharmacy or grocery store and make it into a gift basket. Items can include face masks, bath salts, body lotions, bubble bath, and essential oils.

3. Make the Day About Her

As Mother's Day falls on a Sunday annually, let your mother sleep in and wake her up with a breakfast filled with her favourite treats. Clean the house, tend the garden, and possibly buy the groceries, so that she doesn't have to worry about any of that on her day off.

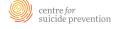
Make her a special lunch or dinner at home where the whole family sits at the table. Go around the table and make everyone list what they appreciate about her.

Remember this day is not about showing your love through money but rather through quality time and thoughtful gifts.

Do you know a young person thinking about suicide?

Skills for Safer Living is a free four-week support group program for youth ages 12-24 with thoughts of suicide and their caregivers.

Learn more: www.suicideinfo.ca/workshops









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Emergency Preparedness Week Is May 5 to 11, 2024

by the City of Calgary

Emergencies can happen anytime and anywhere. Knowing what to do before a disaster strikes can go a long way in assisting you, your family, and your community during an emergency.



Emergency Preparedness Week is May 5 to 11, 2024. This annual event takes place across Canada every May to highlight the importance of getting prepared for emergencies before they happen.

During Emergency Preparedness Week and throughout the year, Calgarians are encouraged to take steps to get prepared for emergencies to help minimize the impacts.

- Know the risks. Learn about the types of hazards that can occur in Calgary and how you can better prepare for them.
- Stay informed. Stay tuned to local and regional emergency alerts and other trusted sources of information such as local radio, television, and social media.
- Get prepared. Every emergency is different, but having a plan will help you and your family know what to do and who to contact in different situations. Get started by downloading our emergency action plan, available in different languages at ca/getready.

In addition to preparing yourself and your household for emergencies, building connections within your community can also help. Neighbours, co-workers, and friends often provide crucial support during times of crisis. Creating a network that you can rely on during an emergency can help you and others in your network stay safe.

Visit calgary.ca/getready to learn more about how to prepare for emergencies, and the events taking place in the community during Emergency Preparedness Week.

'Aging Is More...' Seniors' Week Explores the Potentials of Aging

by the City of Calgary

Seniors' Week is celebrated annually across Alberta, and it will be held this year from June 3 to June 9. It is a time to show appreciation for older adults and the significant contributions they make to our communities. They support their families and friends, volunteer their time and resources to various charities, and play an essential role in making our communities better places to live.

The theme, 'Aging is More...', is deliberately open-ended to highlight the potential of aging. Seniors' Week is not just for older adults, but it's a time when seniors-sector organizations, not-for-profits, businesses, and Calgarians from all walks of life come together to organize fun, inclusive, cross-cultural, and multi-generational events in our city.

Get involved! Whether or not you choose to attend a Seniors' Week event, Age-Friendly Calgary encourages you to celebrate aging in your own way. Help spread Seniors' Week awareness with the social media hashtags #seniorsweek and #agefriendlyyyc.

Seniors' Week events and updates will be posted at calgary.ca/seniorsweek.





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