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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.

OAKRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Complex

9504 Oakfield Drive SW
Calgary, Alberta T2V 0L1
Telephone: 403-238-0007
Fax: 403-238-1115
Email: oakcomm@telus.net
www.oakridgecommunity.ca

Office Hours

9:00 am to 5:00 pm weekdays

General Manager

Darrell Ogden

Operations Manager

Matt Brewster

Maintenance

Ron Lukie, Jay Stewart


Hall Rentals

- Contact Darrell on weekdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
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Social Media

The Oakridge community is now on Facebook and Instagram!

Please follow and like us to get all the latest news and community updates!

 OakridgeCommunityCalgary

 oakridgecommunityassociation

Oakridge Community Centre Abuse Policy

The Oakridge Community Centre values its staff, volunteers and patrons of the facility. In order to provide a safe and healthy environment, we are a zero-tolerance facility. Abuse or harassment towards volunteers, staff and patrons will not be tolerated.

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President	Brian Pedlar
Past President	Gerry Stoddart
Treasurer	Steve Langmaid
Secretary	Jocelyn Giroux
VP Complex	Jim Anderson
VP Membership	Vacant
VP Social	Dave Thomson
VP Sports	Steve Hunter
VP Civic Affairs	Hugh Stewart
VP Civic Affairs	Terry Kemp
VP Community Affairs	Dale Evans
VP Communications	Gary Davies
Directors at Large	Ian MacRae, Rachael McCarthy, Derek Dallen, Bruce Sutherland, Liam Woofter

DIRECTORY

Beavers/Cubs/Scouts	Lori Baher loribaher@hotmail.com	403-253-8662
Before/After School Program Manager	Kelly Krebs	403-238-9322
Bingo Volunteers	Darrell Ogden	403-238-0007
Silverbirch Girl Guides	anycalgarysilverbirch@girlguides.ca	
Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator	Cathi Groves	403-476-7290
Oakridge Curling Club	Rick Waraksa oakridgecurling@gmail.com	403-281-4733
Elm Obedience School	Eda Milne	403-281-7937
Holiday Adventures	Kelly Krebs	403-238-9322
Jump Start	Kelly Krebs	403-238-9322
Line Dancing	Mary Rochfort	403-238-4692
Netball	Anna Rocha	403-608-2646
Quick Fit	Darrell Ogden	403-238-0007
Ringette	Steve Hutchison	403-238-3538
Soccer	Gene Pawlak	403-238-2199
Southwest Hockey Association	admin@southwesthockey.ca	
Weaselhead Society	Maureen	403-701-7474
Yoga with Jane		403-281-7553
Yoga with Rob		403-862-6042
Learning Experience Preschool	Nicole Rosendorff	403-460-0389
Tai Chi with Jane		403-281-7553
Oakridge Community Garden	Bev Romerman	587-437-2494



Keep the Oakridge Community Centre Smoke-Free

Please be aware that smoking is not permitted within 5 metres of the Oakridge Community Centre entrance, per City of Calgary Bylaw 57M92 the provincial Tobacco Reduction Act.

The Tobacco Reduction Act prohibits smoking in public places and workplaces, and within 5 metres of any doorway, window or air intake. If you do smoke, please be sure to do so at least 5 metres from the entrance. We appreciate your cooperation.



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Make Your Voice Heard: Participate in the Oakridge Community Survey Today!

The Oakridge Community Association (OCA) is dedicated to making Oakridge a vibrant, welcoming, and family-friendly neighbourhood. To achieve this, the OCA needs your input! Stone Olafson will be conducting a comprehensive Oakridge Community Engagement Survey during the month of December to better understand the needs, priorities, and goals of residents like you. Your insights will help shape the future of our community.

This survey is designed to gather feedback on important topics, including your experience living in Oakridge, concerns about development and green spaces, and your engagement with OCA programs and activities. It only takes about 12 minutes to complete, and your opinions will directly influence the direction of community initiatives and programs.

Participation is easy and convenient! You can complete the survey over the phone or online at www.oakridgecommunity.ca/survey. Plus, as a thank you for your time, you'll be entered into a draw to win one of three \$100 cash prizes.

Your voice matters. Whether you've lived here for decades or just moved in, your unique perspective will help ensure the Oakridge Community Association continues to meet the needs of all residents. By sharing your experiences, concerns, and ideas, you'll play a key role in shaping the future of Oakridge.

Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference in your community. Complete the survey today and encourage your friends and neighbours to do the same. Together, we can keep Oakridge a place we're proud to call home!





Carolyn's Corner: Winter Wonders - Bringing Holiday Magic to Your Planters

by TJ Yurko

As the holiday season approaches, it's time to let your creativity shine with seasonal décor. Capture the magic of winter and invite festive cheer into your home with these beautifully crafted, whimsically inspired holiday planter ideas.

Containers

Start with picking the perfect container. Terracotta pots, ceramic vases, wooden crates, woven baskets, and metal buckets work perfectly for indoor arrangements. For outdoor planters, choose containers made from durable, weather-resistant materials like waterproof plastic, metal, or wood.

Plants

Next, think about plant selection. Seasonal flowers like poinsettias, cyclamen, and amaryllis kindle holiday glamour indoors. Evergreens like pine, spruce, cedar, fir, and juniper evoke a classic holiday feel in any setting, with holly, euonymus, magnolia, and eucalyptus adding unique features. For a cascading effect, use weeping or trailing plants near the container's edges.

Quality substrate is crucial for keeping plants fresh. Use hydrated floral foam or a reusable floral grid with well-drained potting mix to keep your plants thriving all season long.

Ornaments

Add character to your holiday planter with decorations like cones, twigs, branches, ornaments, ribbons, faux birds, and lights. Battery-operated lights provide a warm, comforting glow without the hassle of cords and plug-ins. Arrange these accessories, so they complement your plants rather than overshadow them.

Designs

When designing your holiday planter, use the "thriller, filler, spiller" technique: Begin with a tall, focal plant or decoration ("thriller"), fill in with medium-height materials ("filler"), then let elements drape over the edge ("spiller"). Experiment with different holiday

colours like red, green, gold, blue, silver, and white. Place arrangements in high-traffic areas to showcase your creations.

Remember, the best holiday pots reflect the unique style and design of your home. So, embrace the spirit of the season, have fun with arrangements, and transform your planter into a masterpiece that personifies the true meaning of the holidays.

Need help sprucing up your landscape this holiday season? Don't hesitate – contact a professional today!



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The Magical Origins of Santa Claus



Santa Claus, the jolly man in red we know and love, has a history as rich as the cookies he enjoys on Christmas Eve. His story begins centuries ago with Saint Nicholas, a kind-hearted monk born in the third century in what is now Turkey. Known for his generosity and love for children, Saint Nicholas became the stuff of legends after secretly delivering gifts and helping the needy, earning him the title of Patron Saint of Children.

Fast forward to the 18th century, where Dutch settlers in America celebrated "Sinterklaas," their version of Saint Nicholas. He eventually evolved into the cheerful Santa Claus, thanks to a combination of European folklore and clever American marketing. In 1822, Clement Clarke Moore penned the famous poem *A Visit from St. Nicholas* (better known as *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*), which gave us many of Santa's iconic traits: his reindeer, his sleigh, and his joyful chuckle.

The modern image of Santa, with his rosy cheeks, twinkling eyes, and trademark red suit, was solidified in the early 20th century, largely thanks to Coca-Cola's holiday advertisements. Santa's heartwarming image has since spread worldwide, bringing joy to millions of children each Christmas season.

This year, Santa is making an extra-special stop right here in Oakridge! Gather your family and join us for Skate with Santa on Christmas Eve Day, a magical free event for the whole community. Glide across the ice with Santa himself and make unforgettable holiday memories.

So, dust off your skates, bring your festive cheer, and meet us at the Oakridge community centre rink. Let's celebrate the season with laughter, fun, and a little holiday magic! Event details are at www.oakridgecommunity.ca. See you there!

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Keep being you **Love your ears**

Glenmore Landing Redevelopment Letter

Dear Oakridge Community Association,

We hope you have been keeping well since we last connected on the application for redevelopment of the Glenmore Landing Shopping Centre site.

We would like to begin by expressing our appreciation to the Oakridge Community Association and members of your community, who we have had the opportunity to meet at various engagement events over the course of the project to provide feedback and input on the application. We acknowledge the time and effort that has been committed by you and community members to participate in the engagement process.

Since the conclusion of the formal public engagement in November 2023, there have been numerous modifications to the application, in response to input gathered during the engagement period and to incorporate feedback from the City. The current proposal for land use redesignation is for development on the surplus City owned lands only. The application no longer includes a proposal to redesignate the existing shopping centre, with land use remaining as the Commercial – Community 2 (C-C2) District.

We are writing to let you know that after extensive collaboration with the City of Calgary (City), the application for redevelopment of Glenmore Landing is ready to be brought forward to Approving Authorities at the City. As such, we would like to bring the Oakridge Community Association's attention to the following upcoming City meeting dates.

December 3, 2024 (tentative date): Council/Public Hearing Public meeting for approval of the Land Use Redesignation and proposed non-statutory Design Framework policy document.

This meeting is anticipated to be held in person at City Hall in Council Chambers, where the public will have the opportunity to speak.

For more information, please visit the City website to understand the Public Hearing process and instructions to register to participate.

We thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,

Mike Coldwell, Urban Systems, on behalf of RioCan

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Saturday: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday: Closed

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Reaching Out to Oakridge Neighbours

Text or phone Bruce at 403-816-7271 or email suds1071@gmail.com for a contact list, details, or for answers to questions.

Drop-in Wednesday mornings for Chat and Coffee Time from 9:15 to 11:15 am at the Oakridge community centre main floor. Drop-in and meet others! During October, we met new arrivals, and eight people returned to continue the connection. We have guest speakers come in on Wednesdays at 11:00 am about every four to six weeks. Located on the second floor of the community centre. Presentation topics come from suggestions we receive. October 23, Karen Lee shared insights about life stories. Karen shared techniques to accumulate short memoirs of life experiences. Writing journals, revisiting photos, or recording memories sparked numerous questions and dialogue. Tuesdays at 10:00 am, we lead morning walks to explore the Reservoir pathway, Oakridge community, and a visit to Fish Creek Park. Our monthly calendar includes location details. Various outings have introduced us to various experiences in Calgary and nearby areas.

Upcoming Community Calendar Events

- **Guest Speakers:** 11:00 am, second floor of the Oakridge community centre (upstairs lift available). Wednesday, December 4 at 11:00 am we will have Mr. Frank Okeeffe, local author of several book publications. Frank lives in a neighbouring community, and he participates in our weekly chat group. Frank has created and published a wide variety of book genres. He will share how he creates ideas, writes books, and finds publishers for his variety of books and publications.
- **Presentation by Healthy Aging Alberta:** Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 11:00 am. Bridging the Gap for Community Supports between medical and social care services. Appropriate for all adult age groups, as at various times, families need to address situations which may benefit from having awareness on how to access support during stressful times. Through this approach, healthcare professionals refer and connect patients to community-based programs, services, and activities to improve their health and enhance their quality of life.

Special Outings Invite

*Contact information is at the top of the page.

1. Friday, December 6, Christmas Luncheon, 11:30 am, Carriage House Hotel.
2. Thursday, December 26, Boxing Day Jubilations Dinner Theatre, *All Those Rolling Stones*. Let's go as a group (yes, Boxing Day). Bill and Karen have started already and booked seats, 280 A and B. Book early to ensure you get seats together or that day. Let us know if you are coming so we can meet you there. www.jubilations.ca/calgary-shows/all-those-rolling-stones/3.
3. Tuesday Outdoor Walks from 10:00 to about 11:30 am. About one hour plus café time. Different routes, easy and moderate, along Glenmore Reservoir, Oakridge community, and Fish Creek Park. Our calendar is posted in the Café Concession glass cabinet and the hockey rink bulletin board. Text or phone Gary at 403-831-5682 for details.



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The Art of Finding Work - You Can Minimize the Odds of Being Ghosted

by Nick Kossovian



When job seekers complain about being ghosted—a form of silent rejection where candidates hear nothing after submitting an application or having been interviewed—I wonder if they're unaware of the changes in social norms and mannerisms. Do they not know that social norms and the workplace are intertwined? Since the advent of social media, manners, courtesy, and empathy have significantly diminished.

If there's one thing job seekers can be certain about, it is that they'll be ghosted multiple times throughout their job search. It wouldn't be a stretch to say ghosting candidates has become a norm. It's worth pointing out that companies don't ghost candidates, the company's employees ghost candidates. When the recruiter or hiring manager is of a generation that finds ghosting an acceptable way to terminate a relationship, romantic or otherwise, it shouldn't come as a surprise when they ghost candidates.

Bad News: You can't change or control other people's behaviour.

Good News: You can take proactive steps to minimize—as with all human interactions, there are no guarantees—the chances of being ghosted.

Build a Strong Relationship. Focus on Being Likeable.

Understandably, hiring managers—recruiters less so since they won't be working with the candidate—look to hire candidates they can envision getting along with; hence, most job seekers would significantly boost their chance of job search success by focusing more on being likeable.

By likeable, I mean being pleasant, respectful, and expressing genuine interest in the company and the role. I've yet to meet a hiring manager who hires candidates they don't like. As I've mentioned in previous columns, likeability supersedes your skills and experience. Most job seekers don't focus enough on being likeable.

The stronger the relationship you establish with the recruiter or hiring manager, the more likely they won't ghost you. From your first interaction, focus on creating a rapport beyond just transactional communication.

Personalizing your correspondence can make a significant difference. Use the hiring manager's name instead of a generic 'To Whom It May Concern.' Find commonalities such as place of birth, hobbies, schools attended, associations you belong to, favourite restaurants, and people you know.

Avoid Appearing Confrontational

Anyone reading this can relate to the number one reason why people ghost: to avoid confrontation. Today, many people feel entitled, resulting in job seekers being frustrated and angry. You only need to scroll through LinkedIn posts and comments to see that bashing employers has become an unproductive trend. Hence, it's likely that a candidate will become confrontational if told they don't get the job.

Smile throughout your interview! Avoid appearing desperate! My best interviews have been those in which I was nonchalant; I was indifferent to whether or not I got the job. In addition to being a turn-off, showing signs of desperation will raise questions about how you'll react if told you aren't hired.

Lastly, tell your interviewer how much you enjoyed talking with them and that you look forward to hearing back.

"I really enjoyed our conversation, Khloe. Thank you for taking the time to meet with me. I look forward to hearing your hiring decision."

"Either way, please call or email me to let me know about my application status."

You're more likely to receive a response by asking explicitly for communication.

Earn Your Interviewer's Respect

People tend not to ghost someone they respect.

Respect must be earned, starting with one of life's golden rules: Treat others how you want to be treated. In other words, give respect to get respect.

Throughout your job search, be professional and courteous. Respond promptly to emails and calls and thank people for their time. Approaching recruiters and hiring managers politely and professionally improves your chances of being treated similarly.

Ask For Advice, Not Feedback

Asking for advice encourages communication. As your interviewer is wrapping up the interview, mention that you'd welcome their advice. "Given your extensive background in project management, any advice you may have for me wanting to advance my career would be greatly appreciated."

Why ask for advice and not feedback? The first problem with asking for feedback is it puts the other person on the spot. The second problem is feedback can lead to disagreement, hurt feelings, or defensiveness, a common reaction resulting in confrontation. On the other hand, asking for advice is asking for guidance and suggestions to achieve a better result. Essentially, you're acknowledging the other person's experience and massaging their ego. Do you know anyone who doesn't like being asked for advice?

Send a Thank You Note

Sending a thank you note expressing appreciation for the interview and the insights you gained reinforces your interest and keeps the lines of communication open. Conclude with a forward-looking statement, encouraging the recipient to respond.

"I look forward to hearing from you regarding the next steps."

"I look forward to staying in touch."

Job searching aside, direct, open, and honest communication—say what you mean, mean what you say—which I highly value, has become rare, which explains the prevalence of ghosting. When you're ghosted, assume the company isn't enthusiastic about hiring you. Silence may be golden in some things, but ghosting is not one of them.

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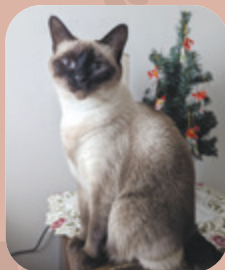
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Easy Turkey Chili

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!



Directions:

- In a large pot add olive or vegetable oil, chopped onion, garlic, and red pepper. Sauté the vegetables for 3 to 4 minutes until onions are softened and then add the ground turkey. Sauté the turkey for 4 to 5 minutes until cooked through.



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