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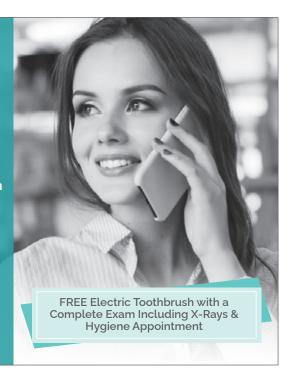
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WEST SPRINGS









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What does the WSCRCA do?

- We run youth and family related programs.
- We are your voice at City Hall. Dealing with planning and development proposals, traffic, parks and recreation, and a direct voice to our local City Councillor.
- We support community initiatives and events. Community clean up, Charity Stampede Breakfast, community garden, and so much more!

Community Association Versus Residents Association

The community of West Springs/ Cougar Ridge encompasses several subdivisions, some of which have a Residents or Homeowners Association. Both play an important, but different role, in the community.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
√ Membership is voluntary	√ Membership is mandatory
✓ Represents all households in the WSCRCA boundaries	✓ Annual fees registered against property title. Fees must be paid in full prior to the sale of the home.
✓ Organizes community wide events and programs	✓ Maintains the landscaping and other amenities in the public green spaces for a specific subdivision

Check out our website, www.wscr.ca, for all that we do! Want to stay up to date and have early access to all our events and offerings? Become a member!

Become a West Springs Cougar Ridge Community Association Member

\$25 per Household or \$15 for Seniors

That gets you:

- Priority registration and discounts for WSCRCA run program and events.
- Support for a more vibrant community by supporting community-based initiatives.
- Members only emails.
- The right to vote at the AGM if you are a WSCR resident.

You can still become a member even if you do not live in the community! Purchase your membership online at www.wscr.ca.



We have strong community spirit in West Springs Cougar Ridge. Do your part and join the Community Association and, if you can, volunteer to make it even stronger – we can always use more help and it's a great way to meet residents of your community! Visit wscr.ca for more information.

FOLLOW US ON

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/wscrca/

X (Twitter): @WSCRCA

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Website: https://wscr.ca

City of Calgary's Back-to-School Safety Tips

Make sure your child knows:

- Their full name, age, address, area code, home phone number, and parents' work/cell phone number.
- How to use a pay phone to make both local and longdistance phone calls.
- How to contact police, fire and EMS in an emergency (9-1-1) and in a non-emergency (403-266-1234).
- To use the same route to and from school.
- Where the safe places are to play (front and backyards, playgrounds).
- What places to avoid (vacant lots, dark, wooded, bushy areas).

If your child is being followed by a person or car, make sure they know to do the following:

- Turn and run in the opposite direction.
- Get a description and licence number of the stranger's vehicle if possible.
- Run to the closest safe place; and,
- Stay in open areas that are visible.
- Remember to tell them that uniformed police officers are friends who can be trusted.

The Stranger Rules

Familiarize your child with "the stranger rules" - these rules will help keep them safe.

- Never talk to strangers.
- Never take anything from strangers.
- Never go anywhere with a stranger.
- Do not be fooled by tricks or phoney conversation.
- If a stranger tries to grab you, yell, scream and kick.
- Never tell a stranger you are by yourself or that your parents or guardian are not home.



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45 SOCIATION								
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Building Safer Communities Group	Heather Zaba	safercommunity@wscr.ca						
Stampede Breakfast	Justin Barrett							
Community Garden	Evan Ashdown Bhavna Lobo							
Directors at Large	Boyd England							

WSCRCA Board Meetings

Meetings are typically held on the second Wednesday of every month in the upstairs community room of the Calgary Co-op on 85 Street SW, however, we are presently meeting via Zoom video conferencing. Anyone in the community is welcome to attend these meetings. If you would like to discuss a particular issue or idea, please notify our secretary by email a week before the meeting at secretary@wscr.ca.

The WSCRCA Planning and Development Committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Currently meetings are held via Zoom video conferencing. Anyone in the community is welcome to attend, and if you are interested in attending, please email planning@wscr.ca.



You can stay in touch with your community by following us on Facebook and joining this FB Group. It's a great way to grow our community and keep up to date on what is happening in WSCR.

The WSCR Babysitters Group: A place where parents can find local babysitters, as well as where local babysitters, aged 12 to 25, can add themselves to the list to find jobs. Follow this group here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/wscrbabysitters/.

Follow the main WSCRCA page here: https://www.facebook.com/wscrca/.

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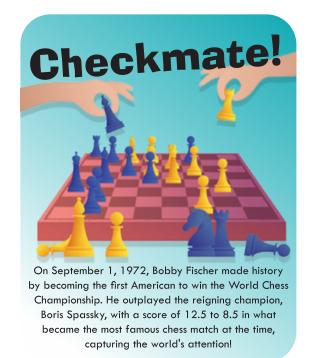
Stavrianna Kodellas

Prepare For Fall

As fall approaches, it's important to prepare for the changing season. Here are some essential tasks and activities to consider for the upcoming months.



- Heating System Check: Make sure to have your furnace inspected and serviced to ensure it's ready for colder temperatures.
- Window and Door Inspections: Check for drafts and seal any gaps to improve energy efficiency in your home.
- Garden Cleanup: Remove dead plants, mulch flower beds, and consider planting fall flowers such as asters and ornamental kale to spruce up your garden for the season.
- Seasonal Clothing: Store away your summer clothes and bring out warmer items like sweaters, jackets, and boots.
- Winter Tires: Consider switching to winter tires for better traction as temperatures drop.
- Emergency Kit: Update your car's emergency kit with warm blankets, snacks, and a first aid kit to prepare for any unexpected situations.
- Explore Nature: Take advantage of the beautiful fall colours by going for hikes in nearby parks such as Fish Creek Provincial Park or Nose Hill Park.
- Fall Cooking: Try out hearty meals using seasonal ingredients like squash, apples, and root vegetables for delicious fall dishes.







Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

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How to Deal with Resentment: A Better Way to Process the Poison We Drink, Expecting the Other to Die

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



In the recovery community, resentment is a hot topic. It's often referred to as "drinking poison hoping the other person will die." Psychologist Susan Albers, PsyD, shares some of the signs you might be harbouring resentment, along with ways you can pull yourself out of it.

Resentment is a complex emotional reaction to being or feeling mistreated or wronged by another person, situation, or series of circumstances. Resentment can feel like a mix of anger, bitterness, disgust, or disappointment toward the person or events from your perception. It can be triggered by several things:

- Being taken advantage of by others.
- Being put down, dismissed, or ignored.
- Feeling inadequate, overlooked, or unheard.
- Having unrealistic expectations of others or the world around you.
- Maintaining relationships with people who insist their needs are more important than your own.
- Having interactions with people who undermine your authority.

The challenge with resentment is that if you hold onto it tightly, it becomes harder to forgive or let go and move on from the situation. When you've been mistreated or wronged, it's common to experience an overlap of

negative emotions that continue to resurface and return whenever you're confronted with these individuals, situations, or memories. These emotions may include anger, hostility, hate, bitterness, discomfort, or disgust. Suppressing these emotions over time, can lead to resentment, which can have significant negative effects on your mental and physical health. "In the short-term, suppressing feelings may seem like a way of coping. However, in the long run, pushing down or ignoring emotions can be an entry into mental health issues like PTSD, trauma, depression, and anxiety," warns Dr. Albers.

Resentment can make it difficult to let go of your anger. You find yourself hyper-focusing on these feelings, especially whenever you're confronted by the person or situation that caused them in the first place. You might even be enraged or experience strong urges to seek revenge. These things can take a significant toll on your mental and physical health. "Emotions are not solely confined to our minds; they can also take residence in our bodies," clarifies Dr. Albers. "Anger, if left unaddressed, can manifest physically by increasing your heart rate and blood pressure, causing muscle tension and headaches, digestive issues, weakening your immune system, and causing sleep disturbances. These can all put you at higher risk for cardiovascular issues like high blood pressure and heart disease or chronic conditions like diabetes and autoimmune disorders."

When emotions like resentment linger, we tend to associate it with other feelings like regret, shame, guilt, or remorse, especially if we're made to feel like we're at fault. When you're resentful, you're on guard. Why would you ever surround yourself with the same people or situations that hurt you again from the start? We see this often in relationships. If you've been wronged in the past by a previous partner, you might resent them and anyone else who reminds you of them or presents that kind of behaviour because it triggers your fears and anxiety around betrayal and lack of commitment. On the surface, resentment may appear to offer you the ability to have power and control over the situation. But internally, it can cause real, long-lasting damage to your mental health. "At first, it may seem like avoiding the situation is a way of coping. However, by engaging in avoidance behavior, we inadvertently fuel the flames of resentment, allowing it to fester and intensify inward," says Dr. Albers.

When you're ready to let go, and leave resentment in the past, these steps are useful:

- Do a personal inventory of what's important to you. What would it take for you to "settle the score"? Are you looking for an apology? Are you looking for an explanation? Or are you looking to make amends?
- Acknowledging where you stand on the issue, what you need in order to heal, and what your expectations are for yourself and the other party involved are the keys to handling any unresolved conflict.
- "Empathy plays a vital role in putting a stop to resentment, as it allows us to step into the shoes of others and understand their perspective," says Dr. Albers. "Coming to terms with the person or situation that caused resentment can open the door to healing and closure, as it enables us to find empathy towards ourselves and create space for forgiveness and growth."
- When you're steeped in doubt and negativity, lean on the people, places, and things that bring you peace and positivity by practicing gratitude. Try keeping a gratitude journal of all the things that make you happy and serve as a positive step toward improving your well-being.

"It's OK to seek support because navigating resentment alone is not easy," reaffirms Dr. Albers. "Working with a therapist can help you to see the situation from a new perspective and access self-compassion, which becomes key to making a manageable journey of healing and growth."

Finding ways to practice self-love and compassion will not only set you up for success in the future. It will also help you recognize that when you feel like you're caught in the throes of resentment, you can stop drinking the poison hoping the other person will die.

Pet Fosters Needed

Have you thought about fostering a pet? Give a safe and loving space to dogs and cats in need today!

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Make a positive impact and change lives by choosing to foster today! Visit https://www.calgary.ca/volunteer/foster-animals.html to apply.





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Calgary's Food History

by Anthony Imbrogno (The Calgary Heritage Initiative Society/Heritage Inspires YYC)

The leaves are turning, the nights are colder, and it's time to harvest the garden. Whether you're jarring, pickling, or having a family dinner, our stunning natural landscape is a breadbasket.

After the last Ice Age 11,000 years ago, Indigenous peoples thrived on buffalo. Herds traversed down the escarpment to reach the Bow River along the path today called Edmonton Trail. Nearby, the confluence of Mohkinstsis, meaning "elbow", and the Bow River was a fine place to camp during the seasonal round. Europeans and Métis then arrived to trade manufactured goods for beaver pelts, Canada's main export for a century.

Southern Alberta was investigated for its agricultural suitability by Captain John Palliser (the Palliser Hotel, Square, and neighbourhood are named in his honour). His expedition travelled from 1857 to 1859, determining parts of the Palliser Triangle area as suitable for livestock and a smaller, fertile part for settlement. More land opened to agriculture thanks to government scientists' introduction of Marquis wheat, a crop that matures before the fall frost. Farmers' irrigation infrastructure helped too. You can visit Calgary's very own canal, which begins at Western Headworks below Max Bell Arena and empties into Chestermere Lake.

In 1914, under the Vacant Lots Garden Club, the City purchased land for community gardens and beautification. The Club was supported by Annie Gale, the first woman city councillor in the British Empire. These plots became Victory Gardens during WWII to support the war effort. You can still visit the last of these gardens in Bridgeland-Riverside, at the Vacant Lot Gardens municipal historic site.

Calgary is also famous for ginger beef. In 1975, Louise Tang and Lily Wong of Hong Kong opened Silver Inn Restaurant. They included a beef centered menu item among other Beijing-style Chinese dishes to introduce the cuisine and cater to the palates of Calgarians.

Today, Calgarians enjoy cuisines from all over the world. You can participate too by volunteering at your local community garden or visiting farmers' markets. You can also join Light Cellar's foraging community to find nature's goods yourself. We are blessed to be stewards of this bountiful land.

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"Harvesting wheat at Brooks, Alberta.", 1912, (CU183021) by Unknown. Courtesy of Glenbow Library and Archives Collection, Collections, University of Calgary. https:// digitalcollections.ucalgary.ca/asset-manage ment/2R3BF1OM0GCA?WS=SearchResults.



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https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Silver_Inn_Restaurant_(02)_(9520722503). jpg Silver Inn Restaurant, 2013, Calgary. Photo by Mike W., via Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic license.



"Mrs. Annie Gale and her son Bill, Calgary, Alberta.", 1914, (CU1198772) by Unknown. Courtesy of Glenbow Library and Archives Collection, Libraries and Cultural Resources Digital Collections, University Calgary. https://digitalcollections. ucalgary.ca/asset-management/2R3BF1S T51CF?WS=SearchResults.



Vacant Lot Garden Municipal Historic Site, Bridgeland-Riverside, June 2024. Photo courtesy of Anthony Imbrogno.

Easy Apple Crisp Recipe



Ingredients:

- Sliced apples (about 4 to 5 medium apples)
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup rolled oats
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ cup unsalted butter, melted
- · Pinch of salt

Instructions:

- Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C).
- Prepare the apples in a large bowl, toss the sliced apples with lemon juice, and half of the cinnamon (½ teaspoon). Spread them evenly in a greased 9x13 inch baking dish.
- Make the topping: In another bowl, combine brown sugar, oats, flour, remaining cinnamon, and salt. Pour in the melted butter and mix until crumbly.
- Assemble: Sprinkle the oat mixture evenly over the apples.
- Bake in the preheated oven for about 30 to 35 minutes, or until the topping is golden brown and the apples are tender.
- Serve: Let it cool slightly before serving. Enjoy it warm, optionally with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream!





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Were you in a NAPLS study?

- We are trying to find people who previously took part in any of our NAPLS studies at the At-Risk for Mental Illness Research Program.
- We invite you to participate in a short interview so we can learn how you have been doing.

For more information, please contact: 403-210-8740 or napls@ucalgary.ca

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)

PSA: Hiring A Licensed Contractor



The City wants to remind Calgarians of the following when choosing a contractor:

- Check the identification tag of any door-to-door salespeople, for authenticity and a name.
- Do not pay for services in full before they are completed.
- Ensure that the contractor holds a valid City of Calgary Business Licence by phoning 3-1-1 or using the Calgary.ca database tool to search the list of licensed trade contractors.

- Ask for detailed estimates from multiple contractors.
 When you have decided on who to hire, ask the contractor to provide a comprehensive, written contract that includes both project and business details.
- Ask potential contractors for references.
- Verify that the contractor carries liability insurance.
- After the work is complete, verify that there are no builder's liens registered to your land title. A builder's lien is a legal notice filed by unpaid suppliers or subcontractors for materials or work on your property.

Fraud prevention begins with fraud awareness. Calgarians should make sure a company is licensed before entering into a contract. Businesses licensed by The City of Calgary have had their qualifications validated and meet the necessary regulations and standards to operate in Calgary. There are more than 10,000 licensed contractors in the city who provide excellent services for Calgarians.



Navigating Your Mortgage Renewal with Confidence

by Arefa Kachwala, CFA

As your mortgage renewal date approaches, it's a perfect time to reassess your financial situation and explore options to enhance your financial well-being. Here are key tips to make the most of your mortgage renewal:

Shop Around for Rates and Offers

Don't settle for the first renewal offer. Compare rates and cash back offers from different lenders. A bit of homework could save you money over the term of your mortgage.

Review Terms and Conditions

Carefully review the renewal terms, including interest rates and amortization periods. Ensure they align with your long-term financial goals to avoid surprises.

Assess Your Financial Situation

Take this opportunity to evaluate your overall financial health. Review all debts, such as credit cards and personal loans, and consider debt consolidation. Combining high interest debts into your mortgage could simplify payments and reduce interest costs.

Consider Penalties for Mid-Term Changes

Life is unpredictable, and you may need to change your mortgage mid-term. Review the penalties for breaking your mortgage early to make informed decisions and avoid financial pitfalls.

Optimize Your Mortgage for Faster Payoff

If your goal is to pay off your mortgage faster, consider:

- Making Lump-Sum Payments: Apply any bonuses or tax refunds as lump-sum payments.
- Increasing Monthly Payments: Adding \$100 monthly can save thousands in interest and shorten your mortgage term. For example, on a \$400,000, 25-year mortgage at 4.5% interest, this could reduce your mortgage period by around 22 months and reduce total interest paid by \$23,500.
- Bi-Weekly Payments: Switching to accelerated bi-weekly payments results in an extra payment each year, reducing your mortgage term.

Evaluate Cash Flow and Savings Goals

Assess how your cash flow aligns with your financial goals. Optimize spending and saving strategies. Consult



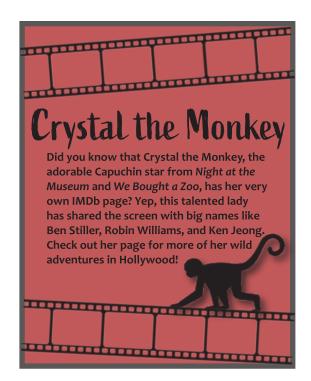
a qualified financial advisor to identify opportunities to increase your net worth and ensure your mortgage renewal supports your broader strategy.

Know Your Options

Being informed about your options - whether switching lenders, adjusting terms, or exploring different mortgage types - empowers you to make the best financial decisions.

Key Takeaways:

- 1. Shop around for rates and offers.
- 2. Optimize for faster payoff.
- 3. Review your overall financial goals and consult with a financial professional.



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WEST SPRINGS COMMUNITY **REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY**

		Properties		Media	n Price
		Listed Sold		Listed	Sold
July	24	25	22	\$694,450	\$685,000
June	24	26	19	\$600,000	\$605,000
Мау	24	33	32	\$764,450	\$770,000
April	24	25	19	\$874,900	\$875,000
March	24	24	27	\$729,231	\$755,000
February	24	18	10	\$469,450	\$480,500
January	24	19	16	\$666,500	\$667,500
December	23	7	10	\$554,900	\$538,500
November	23	12	14	\$719,900	\$715,000
October	23	23	16	\$747,450	\$741,150
September	23	11	18	\$775,000	\$768,250
August	23	15	12	\$520,500	\$508,250

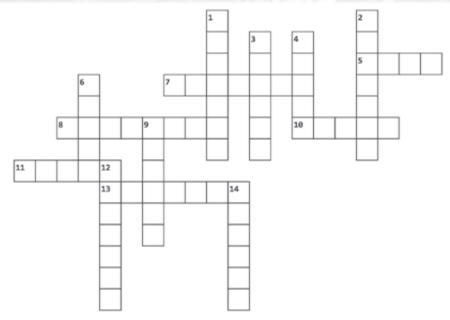
To view more detailed information that comprise the above MLS averages please visit wsp.mycalgary.com

COUGAR RIDGE COMMUNITY REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY

		Drone	ution	Median Price	
		Properties		Mediai	I Price
		Listed	Sold	Listed	Sold
July	24	12	12	\$732,000	\$726,250
June	24	11	9	\$700,000	\$751,000
May	24	17	18	\$774,900	\$821,000
April	24	15	13	\$725,000	\$805,000
March	24	8	8	\$774,450	\$800,000
February	24	7	10	\$750,000	\$752,000
January	24	3	5	\$729,900	\$715,000
December	23	7	0	\$0	\$0
November	23	2	5	\$710,000	\$703,000
October	23	3	7	\$849,900	\$865,000
September	23	15	9	\$750,000	\$750,000
August	23	6	6	\$780,000	\$770,000

To view more detailed information that comprise the above MLS averages please visit cgr.mycalgary.com

September Crossword



Across

- 5. The first _____ Hour movie, starring Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker, was released on September 18, 1998.
- 7. World _____ Day is celebrated on September 2 annually and is dedicated to a fruit grown in a woody husk.
- 8. The birthstone for September, the ______ symbolizes royalty and nobility.
- 10. World _____ Day, held on September 22 every year, raises awareness for this endangered mammal often poached for its horns.
- 11. At the 1988 _____ Olympics, Greg Louganis won the 3m springboard in diving after hitting his head on the board the day before.
- 13. On September 1, 1905, _____ was officially declared a Canadian province.



Down

- 1. On September 1, 1972, Bobby _____ made history by becoming the first American to win the World Chess Championship held in Reykjavík, Iceland.
- 2. On September 10, 1991, this Alternative Rock band released their biggest hit "Smells Like Teen Spirit" as the lead single for their album "Nevermind".
- 3. On September 29, 1962, ______ became the third country (after the Soviet Union and the U.S.) to launch a satellite into space.
- 4. One of September's birth flowers, the _____ comes from the Greek word for star.
- 6. Treasured Canadian actor, _____ Reeves turns 60 this year on September 2.
- 9. September 22 is Day, celebrating the beloved fictional characters Bilbo and Frodo Baggins' birthdays.
- 12. Canadian pop-punk singer, Avril _____ was born on September 27, 1984, in Belleville, Ontario.
- 14. The Blind Assassin by Canadian author Margaret _____, was published in September 2000 and is set in the fictional Ontario town of Port Ticonderoga.

The Art of Finding Work: A Job Search Game Changer: Assertive Communication

by Nick Kossovan



King of all skills: communication skills.

Clear, concise communication is the key to getting and keeping an interviewer's attention. An hour-long interview boils down to having 30 minutes to make your case.

First 15 minutes: Small talk, building rapport, setting the tone for the interview.

30 minutes: Actual interview.

Last 15 minutes: Asking questions and wrapping things up, which influences how your interviewer will remember you.

Making your case in 30 minutes requires assertive communication, a powerful skill for conveying your messageclearlyanddirectly. When you start using assertive communication, you'll experience a game-changing shift in your job search and career because it's linked to self-confidence and an alpha-like personality, traits that are valued in business environments.

During the interview process, your competitors will likely exhibit signs of passivity or aggression. In this context, assertive communication is a strategic advantage, making you stand out and, most importantly, be taken seriously. You want to aim for the sweet spot between the timid passivity of "I'm not sure, whatever you think is fine" and the overly aggressive "This is how it's going to be."

The assertive communicator strikes a balance between self-promotion and humility. They state their case firmly

but also listen to the other person's point of view. This balance is crucial during an interview, where you must promote yourself by showcasing your qualifications while appearing poised, professional, and easy to work with.

Assertive communication has three elements:

- 1. Adamantly believing in what you speak of.
- 2. Knowing why you believe what you believe.
- 3. Being ready to prove why you believe, think, or feel what you do; otherwise, it's just your opinion, and "opinions" rarely convince anyone to take action.

A few examples of assertive communication in an interview setting:

Scenario 1: Discussing salary expectations

Passive approach: "I'm open to whatever you offer for this role."

Aggressive approach: "To take this job, I need no less than \$80,000."

Assertive approach: "Based on my 20 years of experience managing inside sales teams and my track record for exceeding sales targets, I think \$85,000, plus a commission and quarterly bonus, which we can work out, would be fair. Would this work for you?"

The assertive communicator clearly and confidently states their salary expectations, acknowledges the employer's perspective, and leaves room for negotiation. Rather than just throwing out a number, they provide context and explanation.

Scenario 2: Addressing a weakness

Passive approach: "I definitely need to improve my public speaking. It's something I struggle with."

Aggressive approach: "Public speaking is not my weakness at all. I'm an excellent presenter and communicator."

Assertive approach: "I'm actively improving my public speaking skills. In my last role, I volunteered to conduct more team presentations. This past March, I joined Toastmasters and have given three talks since. Although I am proud of my progress, there is still room for improvement."

An assertive communicator acknowledges their weaknesses honestly and explains how they're addressing them, demonstrating self-awareness and a growth mindset, qualities employers find attractive.

Scenario 3: "Do you have any questions for me?"

Passive approach: "No, you've covered everything."

Aggressive approach: "When can I expect a job offer?"

Assertive approach: "Yes, I do. I'm excited about this opportunity and believe I would excel in this role. How soon can I expect to hear from you regarding next steps? I'm eager to move forward."

Scenario 4: Expressing interest in the job.

Passive approach: "I'd be happy to work here."

Aggressive approach: "I am perfect for this job. I expect you to offer it to me today."

Assertive approach: "This opportunity excites me. Based on our discussion, I can see how my qualifications and experience align with being able to meet the expectations you have for this role; therefore, I'm confident I would excel in this role. I'm very interested in joining your team. Is there anything else I can tell you about my background to help you decide to hire me? Otherwise, when can I expect to hear from you regarding next steps?"

The assertive communicator expresses interest and enthusiasm for the job while respecting the employer's decision-making process. They state their case compellingly without demanding or pressuring the interviewer.

Today's job market is hyper-competitive, making job seekers desperate. Hence, it's becoming common for candidates to ask outright at the end of an interview, "Am I hired?" No matter how much you need or want the job, never ask outright if you got the job.

While it's understandable you want to "close the deal," putting pressure on the hiring manager to tell you whether you got the job will create an uncomfortable situation. As I mentioned earlier, how you end your interview will influence how you're remembered. Creating an uncomfortable situation isn't what you want to be remembered for.

Finding the right balance is the key to assertive communication. Your goal: Be bold and confident without being arrogant or confrontational. Assertive communication is a superpower. Few do it well. It shows employers that you're self-assured, adaptable, and can advocate for yourself. By embracing assertive communication, you'll be far ahead of your competition.

Residential Waste Drop-Off Facilities: New Eco Centres

The City is offering a new way to streamline your recycling efforts. The new Eco Centres are a one-stop shop to dispose of a variety of materials. Rather than driving around to all the specialized recycling centres around the City you can now bring it to one convenient location. Some items can be dropped off for free, while others include a cost for details see the webpage at calgary.ca/waste/drop-off/eco-centres.html.





RESIDENT PERSPECTIVES

How a Girl Guide Unit Works, Generally Speaking

by Karla W.

I wanted to write an article in my own words about how a Girl Guide unit works – a little birdie told me it might interest some of you who have never been in a unit or haven't been in Girl Guides for some time.



To register youth in a unit, there needs to be a unit open. In order to have a unit open:

- There always needs to be at least two female supervisors. One could be a Girl Guide leader, and one could be a (PRC-cleared) parent volunteer.
- Even though Girl Guides of Canada used to have a basic minimum number of youth members in a unit, a unit can vary from two youth members (e.g. the older units like Rangers) to over 30. Most units tend to have between ten and 20 members.
- There are "branches". Sparks: ages 5 to 6 years, Embers: ages 7 to 8 years, Guides: ages 9 to 12 years, Pathfinders: ages 13 to 15 years, and Rangers: ages 16 to 18 years.
- Planning meetings even at the youngest age level, units aim to make the program girl-driven. Whether it be through dot-mocracy, or brainstorming their favourite activities for example, leaders try really hard to plan activities that the girls want to try doing.
- The program is also based on badges. There are a total of 32 badges that can be earned, but it is harder (i.e. takes more time and effort) for say a Ranger to earn a badge, versus a little Spark.

The Girl Guide program has morphed over the years, but generally speaking, Girl Guides aim to make their members confident young people who contribute meaningfully to their community and have fun doing it. This can be through volunteering in the community with service projects, gaining outdoor skills while camping, or learning new non-traditional skills like fixing cars or building structures.

If you would like more information about Girl Guides, please email any-calgarypr@girlguides.ca.

Reduce The Fire Risk Around Your Home

Do not store propane tanks, firewood or yard waste next to your house.

Prune all tree branches within two metres of the ground and plant new trees at least three metres apart.

Assess potential fire hazards within 1.5 metres of your home, including natural debris, trees, and other structures.

It is imperative that every family has a home escape plan that is practiced twice per year. In a typical home fire, you may have as little as two minutes to escape from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Knowing how to use those minutes can make a lifesaving difference.

A home escape plan contains the layout of your home, the escape routes that should be used, and where to meet once you are outside. It is important to create and practice an escape plan with everyone who lives in your home so that they know what to do if there is a fire. For more information on fire prevention and fire safety, please visit calgary.ca/fire.

Do You Remember?

Do you remember the 21st night of September? Neither does Earth, Wind & Fire! The legendary band chose that date for their hit "September" simply because it flowed perfectly with the music. Even without a profound backstory, this funky disco anthem has endured, keeping dance floors alive and kicking!

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GAMES & PUZZLES

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FOR THE SOLUTION

- 1. This individual holds the Guiness World Record for best-selling solo artist.
- 2. Before going solo, this world dominating musician was in a supergroup called 'Destiny's Child'.
- 3. On his debut album, this musician is said to have played 27 different instruments.
- 4. At 1,560 words, this artist has the most words spoken in a single song.
- 5. This famous musician's stage name came from a popular song by the band 'Queen'.
- 6. This incredible artist was the first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.







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Bike Safety for Everyone

by Alberta Health Services

Biking can be a great way to get around and to keep fit. To ride safely though, good balance, control, strength, and judgement are key tools to remember each time you get on your bike.

Here are some important safety tips to lower the risk of injuries while biking:

- Obey the same rules when you ride on the road as you do when you drive a car. This includes riding on the right side of the road so you're going in the same direction as traffic and stopping at all intersections.
- Look behind you (shoulder check) each time you turn or move out to pass.
- · Learn and use hand signals.
- Look left, right, and left again before going ahead.
- Watch the road for hazards like debris, grates, or holes.
- Be extra careful in wet or cold weather that could affect the road conditions or how well you can see.
- Watch for people walking, animals, and others on bicycles when you ride in shared spaces like bike paths or trails.
- Plan your route and choose the safest way to your destination.
- Ensure your bike fits you correctly. Adjust the seat to fit your height. Ensure your bicycle is working properly and do an ABC quick check before every ride: A for air (make sure the tires are firm), B is for brakes, bar, and bell (check your brake levers are working, handlebars are at the right height, and test your bell.)

Do You Have Protective Gear?

Bike helmets protect people of all ages. It's the law in Alberta that anyone younger than 18 years must wear a helmet when riding a bicycle. Here are some things to consider when selecting a helmet and ensuring you will be well protected on your bike:

- Make sure your bike helmet meets current, approved helmet safety standards. Look for a CSA, Snell, or ASTM sticker to know if the helmet is approved.
- Take the Bike Helmet YES Test to make sure your helmet fits properly. It should be snug, level, and stable.
- Replace your helmet every five years, or whenever recommended by the helmet manufacturer or, after you've been in a crash.



- Set a good example for children by wearing your bike helmet.
- Let your child choose their own bike helmet because they'll be more likely to wear it.

Other protective gear includes things like a bell or horn for your bike, gloves for a better grip on the handlebars, proper supportive shoes, reflective tape, reflectors, and lights so it's easier to see you at night. Reflectors should be on the front, back, and spokes of the bicycle. Wear bright clothing during the day so it's easier for other people to see you on your bike.

Staying Safe While Riding with Children

Children can often ride a bicycle before they understand how to be safe. Children aren't ready to ride alone until they understand road safety rules, know how to signal, and know how to avoid major risks. When riding bicycles, young children should always:

- Ride with an adult.
- Ride in a single line behind an adult who knows how to ride safely.
- Use hand signals.
- Get off their bicycles to cross the street.

Most children have the skills they need to ride on the road alone at ten-years-old. But every child is different, so supervise actively. Stay where you can see, hear, and reach them, and pay close attention to what they're doing. Lead by example and show children how to be safe. Teach them the safety rules and make sure they follow them.

Encouraging Physical Activity in Children

by Alberta Health Services

Physical activity is key to lifelong health and wellbeing. Children as young as preschool age benefit from exercise and fitness as much as adults do.



Being active helps children and teens to feel stronger and have more energy to do all the things they like to do. It can help them feel, think, and sleep better. It allows them to focus when they're at school and perform better in sports. They can reach and stay at a healthy weight and build lean muscle. Being physically active lowers the risk for serious health problems, and keeps bones, muscles, and joints strong.

Tips for Getting Moving!

One of the best things you can do for your child's health is to help make physical activity a habit, something that will be a natural part of your child's daily life through adulthood.

Stay positive! It's important for children to have fun, so don't force them to exercise. Instead, find activities they like to do and will do without being asked.

Create ways for your child to be active for at least one hour each day. Try to break it up throughout the day so it adds up to one hour. Encourage your child to do things like running, jumping rope, or playing soccer.

Plan family activities that involve exercise. Hike, bike, wash the car, walk ... the options are endless. Try an online exercise video. Offer choices, and let your child decide.

Have your child invite a friend over. This can be a weekly planned physical activity, such as a bike ride, water balloon toss, or building a snow fort in the yard.

Join other families and create neighbourhood time. Include group activities like touch football, basketball, or hide-and-seek.

Let your child try different organized activities. See what your child enjoys! Basketball, lacrosse, dance, soccer, martial arts ... again, the options are endless. Praise your child for doing exercise that they enjoy.

Talk to your child's caregiver or sitter. Discuss ways they can encourage your child to be physically active throughout the day.

Get your child involved in activities at schools or clubs. Check local schools, YMCAs, and other community resources for exercise or sports programs. Take your child with you to your health club if it has a family exercise time or a swimming pool.

Types of Activities for Children

There are three types of activities that children should take part in:

- Aerobic or "cardio" exercise: This kind of exercise strengthens the heart and lungs and builds endurance. Children often get aerobic activity without realizing it. Playing tag, dancing, swimming, racing down the street, walking, and playing catch with friends all provide aerobic exercise. Many schools and communities have programs for soccer, T-ball, and other activities. These are great ways for your child to get aerobic exercise and meet new friends.
- Muscle strengthening: This type of exercise helps support proper posture, balance, coordination, and reduces the risk of injuries. Regular strength training can help regulate metabolism and improve insulin sensitivity, reducing the risk of obesity and related metabolic disorders in children. Playing on playground equipment, monkey bars, rope or tree climbing, and gymnastics are a few examples of activities that work on muscle strengthening.
- **Bone strengthening:** Anything that uses the body to work against gravity, like running, jumping rope, playing hopscotch, and playing basketball are activities that help with bone growth and strength. Many bone strengthening activities are also aerobic and muscle strengthening exercises.

Your Child's Habits Start with You!

The most important thing to remember is that you are your child's role model. Your habits affect your children's habits. If your habits are healthy – eating a balanced diet, getting regular exercise, looking forward to tomorrow, for example – your children are more likely to build those habits in their own lives.



The Samaritan Club of Calgary's Super Thrift Sale is the oldest, largest, single day 'thrift' sale event in the city. Great deals on collectables, clothing for all, books, toys, art, shoes, jewelry, linens, household goods and more.

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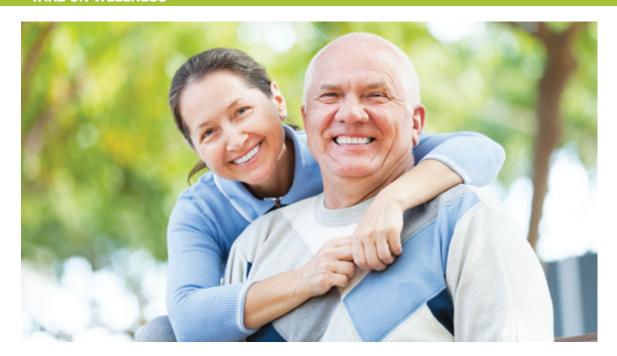
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For more information, visit calgary.ca/webinars.



September is a legendary month in Hobbit history! On September 21, 1937, J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* hit the shelves, kicking off the journey through Middle-earth. Then, on September 22 — known as Hobbit Day — both Bilbo and Frodo Baggins, two of the most cherished hobbits ever, celebrate their birthdays!



Smile More: Simple Habits for More Happiness

by Calgary and area Primary Care Networks

If you are looking for ways to boost your happiness, there's reason to smile. Research shows simple habits can help you improve your mental and physical health, energy levels, and even reduce pain.

Daily Mindfulness

Being mindful involves focusing your thoughts on the present moment. Taking a few short breaks each day to practice mindfulness can lower stress and make you feel happier.

"Mindfulness can be as simple as going for a walk. Try to breathe slowly and pay attention to your five senses – for example, notice the sun on your face or the sound of your feet on the pavement. Being aware of the present moment is a great way to check-in with how you're feeling," says Tracy Mullen Primary Care Network Health Management Nurse.

Focus on the Positives

Happiness research looks at ten positive emotions – joy, gratitude, serenity, interest, hope, pride, amusement, inspiration, awe, and love. Studies show we need more positive emotions to balance negatives.

"Doing positive activities, like volunteering or spending time with friends and family, can help us tip the emotional scale from negative to positive and make us feel happier," says Mullen.

Get Moving

Being physically active can improve your mood, energy levels, and overall well-being. Try to make time every day for movement you enjoy. Activities like gardening, yoga, or taking a short walk are great ways to be active.

Learn Happiness Habits

Alberta Primary Care Networks offer a free 'Happiness Basics' workshop where you can learn strategies to be happier. Sign up to attend online or in-person at www. albertapcns.ca. You can also talk to your family doctor about your mental health.



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Photos represent David's detached homes SOLD, January - June 2024, on the Westside.

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