



12 COMMUNITY CONNECTOR

SPRING 2022

YOUR QUARTERLY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

*Spring is in the air...
and the water!*

INSIDE...

- **New International Ave businesses**
- ***Focus on Diversity***
New series celebrates communities
- **Area Community News**
- **Bylaw Reminders**

**YOU ARE
NOT
ALONE**

**KidsHelpPhone.ca
1 800 668 6868**

Kids Help Phone

WELCOME!

To the newest members of our business community

Calgary's Culinary and Cultural Capital



intlave.ca | @intavebrz



- Brothers Kitchen**
3917 - 17 Ave SE (403) 272-7234
- Filson Latest Clothes & Fashion**
3917 - 17 Ave SE
- Tavern 52**
110, 1830 - 52 St SE (403) 454-6952
- Radiance Day Spa**
118, 4909 - 17 Ave SE (403) 923-3787
- Forest Lawn Medical Clinic**
A, 4710 - 17 Ave SE (403) 776-2558
- King Pizza House**
3, 4604 - 17 Ave SE (587) 353-3333
- Xpert Auto Sales**
5410 - 17 Ave SE (403) 452-0340
- Sheger Tech Computer/Mobile Repair & Sales**
3456 - 17 Ave SE (403) 283-2030
- Minte Int. Furniture Home Decor**
3456 - 17 Ave SE (403) 283-2030
- Eastside Physiotherapy Clinic**
3462 - 17 Ave SE (403) 248-0030



Unity Park

✿ Now Available for Event Booking ✿

3111 17 Ave SE

Book your next...

Flea market, cultural dance, concert, etc!
Special rates for community/non-profits
Power and other services available



Photographs by local resident Ramona Mills



intlave.ca/unity-park | intave@shaw.ca | (403) 248-7288

intlave.ca | @intavebrz

12 Community Safety Initiative Message

Happy Spring to one and all!

It seems like a positive light is shining for all of us to be able to gather more often in the coming months. As we look to make plans it's good to remember that one of the greatest powers we have is **the power to choose**.

I would encourage you to consider choosing to spend your time in the building of your community. Whether it's with your neighbours directly, or with your community association or any other community building organization. The needs are many and the personal value you get back from volunteering to help your ncommunity is unmatched.

Consider joining a board, a committee or show up and roll up your sleeves - there is something for everyone to contribute. **Choose community, choose your neighbours and choose yourself and your family.**

We are never safer than when we have people to count on when we need them and when we know our neighbours and community - we all have each other for support.

Also please remember that this March is our **Community Association Awareness month**. What a great time to get involved! It is also fraud prevention month. See more in the coming pages to get involved.

Our **East Calgary Ambassador program** - an important partnership between the International Avenue BRZ and the 12 Community Safety Initiative (12CSI) - is growing stronger and more effective at helping and connecting people. The program is now a full seven days a week. **Please say hi to the "purple people" when you see them in the area.**



Larry Leach
Executive Director 12 CSI

Look for more information on our next **"Focus on Safety"** in the newsletter and our monthly Indigenous Reads "Chapters and Chat" book club.

We are excited to share in this issue another two articles from our "Focus on Diversity" series. This month we focus on the Arabic-speaking community and Afghan community. Many thanks to our friends who contributed these articles to our 12CSI newsletter.

As I always say. "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." get out there and make your community better every day.

WHAT IS 12 CSI ALL ABOUT?

12 Community Safety Initiative (12CSI) is a local area crime prevention collaborative that fosters community action on the issue of crime prevention by providing support, facilitation and advocacy.

We operate in the communities of District 4 of the Calgary Police Service which are **Abbeydale, Albert Park/Radisson Heights, Applewood Park, Calgary Marlborough, Crossroads (Mayland & Vista Heights), Dover, Erin Woods, Forest Heights, Forest Lawn, Marlborough Park, Penbrooke Meadows and Southview.**

Together, we work toward creating safer neighbourhoods using the actions of our Teams - Youth, Communications, Diversity, Community Action and Governance.

CONTACT: 12 Community Safety Initiative
Unit 250, 3515 - 17 Avenue SE
Calgary, AB T2A 0R5
info@12csi.ca



YouTube:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCnV8UrTZjaWkxWgJwb5_A

@TwelveCSI



www.facebook.com/12CSI/



Our vision is communities that are vibrant, inclusive and free of crime.

12CSI is also involved in these other pilot, community-based, safety-focused Facebook groups:

- Indigenous Pride with 12CSI
- Crossroads Community Safety Page



ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

12 COMMUNITY CONNECTOR

Delivered by Canada Post to over 30,000 homes in your neighbourhood every three months.

Full colour on EVERY page and EVERY ad.

Exciting partnerships with business and social organizations in the communities.

ADVERTISE WITH US TO MAXIMIZE YOUR REACH IN EAST CALGARY

Call Larry at 587-223-3749 or larry@12csi.ca


12CSI acknowledges that our 12 communities are on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations and the Blackfoot Nation south of the US/Canadian imposed border). In 1887, the area signed Treaty 7, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy, the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (of the Chikini, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis, Inuit and visiting Indigenous Nations, status and non-status.


Let's Celebrate!

St. Patrick's Day  March 17th

April Fool's Day  April 1st

Mother's Day  May 8th

Easter  Good Friday April 15th
Easter Sunday April 17th

Easter Break for Schools 
CBE March 8-25
CSSD April 2-9

FOCUS on Safety Series



STOP THE ONLINE HATE!

Learn more about Cyberbullying and how to prevent it! Join us to hear from the Crime Prevention Team at the Calgary Police Service with a Q&A to follow.



Follow our social media or email jen@12csi.ca for more details and to be added to our email list.

the Gutter Doctor

Home Exterior Services
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Over 20,000 happy customers since 2003.
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Sexual Violence statistics paint a concerning picture

1 in 3  1 in 6 

will experience sexual violence before the age of 18

This is a vastly under reported crime

90-95% of sexual assaults in Canada go unreported 

Often, society still buys into the stranger danger myth. BUT sexual assaults committed by strangers are less common than we think.

In over 85% of sexual assaults the offender is known to the victim

only 2-4% of sexual assault incidents are actually considered false reports.

Yet many individuals are not believed and suffer in silence



For information: CCASA (Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse)

(403) 237-6905 - Open 24 hours





MARLBOROUGH PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

6021 Madigan Drive NE T2A 5G8
403-248-1775
Tim Decaire, President

MP

www.marlpark.ca
marlpark@shaw.ca

Meeting: 2nd Wednesday - 7pm

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear Marlborough Park Residents,

We are well into the winter season. For the most part we have had pretty good weather so far.

We have continued to face challenges with Covid-19 for two years now. The latest variant seems to be changing course and we continue to be on our way to recovery.

The dry pond ice surface continues to be a popular and a terrific place to exercise outdoors during the winter months. If you have the opportunity to utilize it you will not be disappointed.

Your board continues to work on the business plan to better support the activities planned in the coming months.

Community rentals have been steadily on the rise. We are excited to see more and more activity within our community facility.

One of our big projects coming up in the late spring is our annual community cleanup. Watch for updated information about this event both in this publication as well as the signage displayed out front of the community center.

Tim Decaire, President

Marlborough Park Community Association

UPCOMING BINGO DATES

at the Bingo Palace
2604 – 35 Avenue NE

| | | |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------|
| April 13, 2022 | Monday | 10:30pm to 3:30pm |
| April 21, 2022 | Thursday | 4:30pm to 9:30pm |
| May 08, 2022 | Sunday | 4:30pm to 9:30pm |
| May 18, 2022 | Wednesday | 4:30pm to 9:30pm |
| June 02, 2022 | Thursday | 10:30pm to 3:30pm |



GOOD FOOD BOX DATES (2022)

Money due:

March 14
April 18
May 09
June 06

Delivery date:

March 25
April 29
May 20
June 17

**For more information
please contact Denyse at 403-248-1775.**

MARLBOROUGH PARK PRESCHOOL NEWS

We have ongoing preschool registration. Due to covid we are only offering 2 and 3 days a week programs. If you have any questions about government subsidies and the cost of classes, please inquire at 403-248-1775 or in person at the hall.

Pre-registrations for 2022/2023 year are starting in April.

Due to covid we are doing cohorts to keep the kids safe. We do have space in our afternoon programs - you can come in and register your child at 6021 Madigan Drive N.E.

NOTE: There is a non-refundable \$40 registration fee. For more information regarding times and costs please call the hall at 403-248-1775 and ask for Denyse.

Marlborough Park Community Association Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone (Day) _____ E-mail Address _____

Membership fees: \$20 per family (yearly) \$10 per senior 60 years of age or over (lifetime)

Memberships expire August 31, 2021

Make cheque payable to: Marlborough Park Community Association

Mail completed application to: Marlborough Park Community Association

6021 Madigan Drive NE

Calgary, AB T2A 5G9

SAFETY TIPS: Bylaws - Questions and Answers

When should I call 311 to report a bylaw infraction?

Call 311 for City information and non-emergency and non-law enforcement related services (e.g. bylaw-related issues, potholes, street cleaning, tax account inquiries).

Why bylaws are important

- Our bylaws help to ensure Calgary functions well.
- Our Calgary bylaws are written for many reasons including public safety, enabling proper maintenance of public spaces, encouraging good neighbour relations, protection of habitats for all to enjoy, accessibility of pathways and sidewalks for all Calgarians, to name just a few.
- The regulations laid out in our bylaws help to ensure stability, continuity, and structure, especially during these times when our city is growing and evolving. All City bylaws undergo regular reviews to ensure they are still appropriate and relevant, and to account for changes in our city and society.

Education versus Enforcement

- When enforcing The City's bylaws, Calgary's Peace Officers use a measured and progressive approach.
- The optimal situation is one in which peace officers can engage with citizens who violate our bylaws, educate them on why our bylaws exist and why compliance is necessary and ultimately achieve voluntary compliance.
- Officer exercise discretion regarding enforcement, starting with education, then following up with a written warning if necessary. If these measures do not result in compliance, stronger enforcement methods, such as issuing tickets, may be taken.

Bylaw Infractions

All City of Calgary bylaws can be found on Calgary.ca

How to file a complaint and what happens to it

If you know of a bylaw infraction and would like to report it to Animal & Bylaw Services, please call 311 (from within Calgary) or 403-268-CITY (2489) (from outside Calgary).

To help us respond faster, please have the following information ready before calling

- Your name and address.
- A primary and alternate phone number.
- The address and exact location of the property for which you wish to register a complaint.
- A brief and concise description of the complaint.

This information will remain confidential. No anonymous complaints will be accepted - you must identify yourself to the 311 service representative.

Complaints registered with 311 are assigned a file number and forwarded to a peace officer, who will investigate the complaint. Due to the high volume of complaints registered and limited City resources, it can take several days before an initial visit occurs. Complaints are handled on a priority basis.

Priority is given to complaints with a serious public safety implication.

The enforcement procedure depends upon the type of infraction

1. Public safety hazards are assigned to City crews or an appropriate contractor to resolve the issue in a timely manner.
2. Private property owners who commit infractions are issued a Remedial Order giving them 14 days to solve the problem. After 14 days, a peace officer will visit the property, and if the problem has not been solved, a Notice of Corrective Action will be issued and City crews or contracted personnel will complete the work and the property owner is invoiced for the cost of the service (see the Community Standards Bylaw for more information).
3. For animal infractions, the officer may issue a Warning Ticket asking the owner to comply with the bylaw, or a Violation Ticket with an associated penalty (see the responsible pet ownership page for more information).

Logging recurring issues and bylaw complaints for 311

At times, citizens experience recurring issues with bylaw infractions with neighbours or elsewhere in their neighbourhood or community.

When recurring issues happen, make sure you note:

- the issue.
- the date or dates the issue occurred.
- the specific location where it occurred.
- the specific details about the issue.

This information should be provided as part of the complaint to assist bylaw officers in investigating your complaint.

If there are several people in the area experiencing the same issue, this information can also help bylaw officers to identify root causes of issues, and broader issues that may require a response coordinated across several business areas of The City.

What can I do to help my community?

Community Projects and Improvements

- We encourage citizens who want to engage in community projects or improvements to consult with The City before proceeding to ensure you are complying with all bylaws.

Citizens can call 311 for more information or to be referred to an appropriate City business area.

311



INTERNATIONAL AVENUE
ARTS & CULTURE

PSSSSSTTTTT...WE'RE BACK!

Saturday MAY 28, 2022!!!

We are Calgary's music festival on
International Avenue, going into year three.



Inspired by the thriving Calgary independent music scene,
major festivals like SXSW, and the excitement of
International Avenue, East Town Get Down melds location
and performance into an immersive event.

for information www.etgd.ca

WATCH OUT
for great artistic things happening
on 32 Street at 17Ave SE

Do you have an idea for an art project in your community?

★ **CONTACT US** ★

250- 3515 17th Avenue SE. Calgary, AB. T2A 0R5

Tel:403-235-4414 email: theiaac@gmail.com www.iaacc.ca

International Avenue Arts and Culture (IAAC) is a charitable organization.

FOCUS on Diversity

This article is one presentation of a 12 part series whose intent is to celebrate and share aspects of the many different cultures that make up our neighbourhoods. Many thanks to the the Multiculturalism, Indigenous and Inclusion Grant (MIIG) Program from Alberta Culture and Tourism whose support makes these presentations possible.



There is Still Some Hope, My Afghan Community! by Fauzia Khedri

My family arrived in Canada as refugees in the year 2000 after staying in Pakistan for five years as refugees. As an Afghan girl and woman, I had limited opportunities back home to explore life, to acquire knowledge and to realize my dreams.

I felt my rebirth in this country and learned how to believe in my potential and to move forwards. I started learning French and did my high school and postsecondary education in Quebec. I started working as interpreter and gradually, I was hired by immigration Quebec/settlement committee to help newly arrived families, especially Afghan families.

In the year 2012, I came to Calgary and settled here with my family. Gradually, I started volunteering in different places including *F.O.C.U.S. on Seniors* to help my community members coming out of the isolation and trauma of the war that they have lived with for decades.

Back home, we had lived with discrimination and unjust situations for more than four decades. From a very young age I was witness to the suffering of my countrymen and I learned some lessons that no university in the world would teach. I learned that how precious a life is and how love for human beings should be at the center of our concerns and on the top of our priorities.

I knew how hard their lives had been in Afghanistan and in a transit country before arriving to Canada. Whenever I hear news about a war or other human rights violations in any part of the world, it disturbs me, and I want something to be done immediately to stop it.

Newly Arrived Afghan Community Members

I curiously observe and want to know more about the life condition of my Afghan community members arriving here. No one can say exactly how hard it is for them, compared to other ethno-cultural community members, to start making a new life among other people. For most of them the road towards integration is extremely bumpy and some even get stuck and that stops their progress due to multiple barriers. As they arrive in Canada, they need lots of support and guidance to find their ways within this beautiful country.

On the 22nd of December, 2021, I had a discussion with my community members including newly arrived members. I listened to each and every one of them, their stories and challenges. I would like to share some of the concerns of my community members.

Most Afghans come here with language limitations and they have difficulty to find a job. If they are hired, they are often misused as they don't know laws and regulations at the workplace.

Children arriving here are placed at a grade level according to their age often despite being many years behind that level. Finally, they are graduated without really being able to catch up with their level. Most parents do not realize this and think that their children have the capacity for their placement in the education system. Most parents do not understand well the report cards and they are not able to help their children in their scholar life. This issue hinders success levels in children and it leads to a very low number of entrants of Afghan youth (being said less than ten percent) towards high education.

Many women and even professional drivers from back home, can not take the learner test of driving in English although some other communities can take this test in their language.



Afghan parents coming here struggle in disciplining their children as they only know and use a traditional way - the brick wall - and they face very devastating consequences...

Most of these problems are the aftermath of the wars that we have lived through for almost 50 years, and it persists. We are the generations of sacrifice, and we don't know for how much longer we should pay for it?

Perhaps like other communities our Afghan communities definitely need a package or series of informative sessions on variety of topics plus lots of support when they arrive in Canada. I cannot stop thinking about my Afghan community members, seniors, women, single mothers and others who are in need of help and support to live better in Canada and to become a more contributing member of the community.



ALBERT PARK/RADISSON HEIGHTS CA

2636 12 Avenue SE

403-272-7317

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday at 7pm

AR

apr@shaw.ca

apr.ca

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all to our fellow communities!

Happy to say as of February 8th some restrictions are being scraped. So it gives me a great feeling to maybe see what some-what normal is like.

First off - the **Seniors Breakfast is a definite go for March 17th** (St Patrick's Day). Dress up in your finest green and join the crowd. We will need some volunteers so, if you can help, please leave your name and phone number with Ann Craig at 403-252-6795.

Things have been pretty quite in the Albert Park / Radisson Heights community but we were able to put some ice down for skating but then *Mr. Chinook* blows in and the ice starts to melt. **Thanks to Les Burton and Frank Kearney for their long hours, sweat and desire to get it done.** For those who used the rink it was greatly appreciated:

The same problem occurs with other activities and rentals at our rec centre due to no parking - so very frustrating when our voices fall on deaf ears with silly hall.

Luckily we have been called to have a **casino fund-raiser on Feb 28 and Mar 01/22**, so there is a shining star.

We are very sad to have had **the loss of two of our long time residents: Bill Ruzycski and Carrie Long.** Our condolences to their families. Both were very active in Albert Park/Radisson Heights throughout the years and contributed enormous hours as volunteers.

So the days are stretching and I am out looking for greenery in the ground - "lol". Our community garden will soon be getting some attention and our tomato lady Gloria has those grow lights starting to shine. **For anyone interested in a garden plot please leave a message at the community phone number 403-272-7327 and we will return you call.**

Still looking for members to be active with us in the community, volunteers to help clean up the garbage that the transients leave behind.

So I hope everyone is well and I look forward to greeting many of you on the 17th of March seniors breakfast.

Hope you have had your vaccination shots. I developed COVID-19 in August but fortunately I had taken both the shots previously. If not I would probably not be here to chat with you.

Last, but not least, many of you have been asking how Rosemarie Besplug, *our pancake server*, is doing. Things are great and she so enjoys the care home she is in. She still has the same phone number if anyone cares to call her. So stay safe and blessings to all.

Nancy Kearney, President

Albert Park/Radisson Heights Community Association

Albert Park/Radisson Heights Community Association

2636 - 12th Avenue SE

RENTALS at only \$45/hour!

Small groups such as
weddings, wedding receptions,
birthday parties, memorial services.

Can be just the right size for
small church groups!

Please phone **403-272-7317**
and and leave a message. Thank you!

Albert Park/Radisson Heights Community Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

Family Name(s) _____

Please check the
appropriate box.

Single - \$ 10

Family - \$ 20

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Email _____

Please make out cheque to:

Albert Park/Radisson Heights Community Association

then mail cheque and completed form to:

2636 12 Avenue SE, Calgary AB

12CSI presents
CHAPTERS and CHAT
BOOK CLUB

12CSI believes in crime prevention through community collaboration including all members of the community.

To include the Indigenous community and conversations on inclusion, we have a book club called **Chapters and Chat**.

Meetings are usually held on the 2nd Monday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

Check "Indigenous Pride with 12 CSI" Facebook page for info on the books and registration.

Currently virtual meetings are held using Zoom.

Everyone is welcome!

To participate using Zoom, or for more information, please contact Michelle at michelle@12csi.ca or call **403-467-0856** or **Facebook @ 12csi** for more info.

#IndigenousReads

Waste & Recycling Services Update

Safely dispose of household batteries

Don't put any kind of battery in your blue, green or black carts. Batteries contain metals like lead, lithium, cadmium and mercury that can be dangerous to human health and the environment. If they end up in any of your carts, batteries can get crushed and cause fires at the recycling, composting and landfill facilities. Household batteries include non-rechargeable alkaline batteries (AA and AAA) and rechargeable batteries found in cellphones, laptops and cordless power tools.

Safely dispose of batteries by taking to a participating retailer for free recycling, including London Drugs, Staples, Home Depot, Rona, IKEA and Best Buy.



For more information visit
calgary.ca/battery

Find more tips at
calgary.ca/recyclerright

Good Food Box

What is the Good Food Box?

The Good Food Box (GFB) is a program under the Community Kitchen Program of Calgary whereby you can purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at a very low cost. The Good Food Box is a hands-up program as opposed to hands-out. We offer all Calgarians' sustainable access to nutritious food to ensure that no one has to go hungry. The boxes are put together and delivered by dedicated volunteers who along with The Community Kitchen desire to see individuals and families accessing affordable nutritious food.

How The Good Food Box Works

The boxes are delivered once a month to various depots around the city. A depot could be any place where 5 or more boxes are ordered, examples of current depots are churches, community centres, senior centres, apartment complexes etc.

When a member of the community wishes to order a GFB they are matched with the closest depot to them by calling into our office. They are then given the contact details of the depot and are responsible for contacting the depot, placing their order and payment as well as pick-up of the GFB on the delivery date. Customers pay \$25, \$30, \$35 for their box, depending on the version that they choose. Each box contains the same mixture of food, though the contents change with each delivery.



Box Options

Small Box: \$25, 20-25lbs* of fruits and vegetables

Medium Box: \$30, 30-35lbs* of fruits and vegetables

Large Box: \$35, 40-45lbs* of fruits and vegetables

*These weights are just an approximate. Weights will vary depending on produce size and density.

Depots in your area include:

- Phoenix Foundation at 320 19 Street SE. Please call 403-265-7701.
- Marlborough Park Community Association at 6021 Madigan Drive NE. Please call 403-248-1775.
- Cedar Court Hub at 1820-14 Avenue NE. Please call 403-891-6715
- Sunrise Community Link Resource at 3303-17 Avenue SE. Please call 403-204-8280.
- Greater Forest Lawn Senior Centre at 3425 - 26 Ave SE Please call 403-272-4661. (Program starts up in Jan. 2020.)



ERIN WOODS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

83 Erin Park Drive SE

403-273-7209

President: Lori Losowy

erinwood@telus.net

<http://www.ewcocalgary.ca>

Meeting: 2nd Monday, 7pm

Please find and "LIKE" us on Facebook at: Erin Woods Community Association and at Erin Woods Crime Watch

Happy Spring! It seems like it's been a very short winter, but no complaints from me on that! Even though it means the outdoor rink season was shortened, the rink got plenty of use from around Christmas time to at least mid-February. **Kudos to Rink Coordinator Jonathan Masri and his team,** for your hard work making and maintaining the ice for Erin Woodians to enjoy!

The weather was perfect on December 4th for the **Kids' Christmas Party**, and everyone enjoyed the **horse-drawn sleigh rides** around the park, and then inside for hot chocolate, coffee and snacks, as well as a **visit from Santa!** EWCA sends a **huge thank you to Sherman at Pro Star Productions and Events Director Ali Myshrall and her team.** Ali will not be running for this position again, so if you have a knack for events and party planning, please consider putting your name in the hat at our AGM in May. **Thank you for all the fun and exciting events** you've organized over the years, Ali, the community really appreciated them!

I'd like to introduce you to **our newest board member, Kayla Schlaugat.** Kayla has taken on the role of **Fundraising and Grants Director.** Welcome Kayla!

EWCA would like to give a **huge shout-out to Shannon F. and Brian A.** and those who donated materials and cash to help them build and install a **beautiful new Little Free Pantry** outside the Hall! This is Pantry #2, so now there is **plenty of space for neighbours to help neighbours with food, toiletries, and love!**

A reminder that the EWCA Hall is now fully open for **rentals and events at 100% capacity.** All mandatory AHS regulations still apply, but it's likely that most restrictions will be lifted by early March. Please contact Carolyn or Christina at 403-273-7209 or erinwood@telus.net if you would like more information about booking an event date or are interested in presenting a programming idea to the Board.

The EWCA Community Clean-Up Day is scheduled for **Saturday, September 24, 2022.** If you can't wait that

long, you can always visit any other community clean-up happening anywhere in Calgary. It's a free service no matter which community association is holding the clean-up, so you are not restricted to only visiting EWCA.

The Erin Woods Garden Committee is looking for new members to participate in the planning, building, and running of the community garden that will be built at the EWCA Hall this spring. The committee has done an outstanding job fundraising this past year, and they have **earned around \$1,700 so far from various fundraising projects!** If you are interested, or have bottles to donate to their fundraising efforts, please contact Shellbie at shellbie.chayeski@gmail.com or 403-988-2445 to arrange for pick-up.

This is my final newsletter column, as my time is up as the EWCA president. It's hard to believe it's been six years already, which is the maximum term allowed under our bylaws. It's been an absolute pleasure to have worked alongside **so many wonderful volunteers, staff, and community partners.** But not to worry, I'm very excited to let you know that our **1st VP Shannon Coleman** has been busy shadowing me this past year, and **is planning on putting her name forward to run for president** in May! Shannon is **very capable, qualified, and has the experience needed** that comes from her many years on the board as Bingo and Casino Director as well as 1st VP.

The AGM will be held on **Monday, May 9th at 7:00pm,** hopefully live at the Hall, but via Zoom if necessary. For more **info on positions needing to be filled,** please contact the Hall office at 403-273-7209 or erinwood@telus.net. Hope to see you there!

*Lori Losowy, President
Erin Woods Community Association*

Reminder: there are both a Little Free Libraries and Little Free Pantries located at the EWCA Hall. Please donate to, or use, as you are able to, or need. These initiatives are stocked entirely by people like you in Erin Woods.

Erin Woods Community Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

Family Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Email _____

Our fee is \$20.00 for everyone regardless of age.

Please make out cheque to:

Erin Woods Community Association

then mail cheque and completed form to:

83 Erin Park Drive SE

FOCUS on Diversity

This article is one presentation of a 12 part series whose intent is to celebrate and share aspects of the many different cultures that make up our neighbourhoods. Many thanks to the the Multiculturalism, Indigenous and Inclusion Grant (MIIG) Program from Alberta Culture and Tourism whose support makes these presentations possible.



Arabic speaking newcomers face many challenges by Sam Nammoura

My name is Sam Nammoura and I have been a resident of Calgary for the last 25 years. I am a trained electronics engineer from Syria.

Most of my time in Calgary I spent as a businessman running a security and alarms system, however for the last 6.5 years I have been heavily vested in volunteering with the Arabic speaking community of mostly newcomers (especially refugees) by supporting them in their resettlement in Canada through ways where traditional resettlement agencies lacked.

This included connecting with them even before they arrived in Canada, to airport welcomes, to supporting them during financial and emotional crisis, family violence, sickness, death, celebrations and many more.

I tried to fix problems in innovative ways when established institutions were not adequate. I tried my best to advocate for refugee families and stand beside them. I also lead and ran the warehouse/ donation centre for newcomers and used my language, knowledge of the Arabic culture (especially Syrian) and my leadership skills to connect Canadians and refugees to support each other and build relationships. This has helped thousands of newcomers.

Throughout my experiences I have noted that the newcomer Arabic community is generally very conservative religiously, very centred around the family, especially children, and very resourceful in finding ways to save money.

They connect with those who came before them and advise each other on how to save money, whether it is going to a farm to sacrifice a lamb for meat rather than going to the



grocery store, or doing cash income if possible so they have some extra savings. They are very generous hosts towards their guests and have great love for Canada.

I have also noted they hold a level of suspicion towards whoever wants to help them out, in that they constantly question their motive and they don't usually believe that someone is doing this to help them for the sake of humanity. They always think there must be a catch, there must be a hidden motive as to why I am helping them. I realize this could be because years of war and poverty pushed them to lose faith in humanity and to constantly question any help they receive.

Some of my biggest concern is the discrimination, Islamophobia, anti-refugee and anti-immigrant sentiments that they face in person and often online. Sentiments like - "they are stealing our jobs, sucking our tax dollars, they are criminals or even terrorist". We need the community's help to fight these prejudices and false narratives.

One of the places where they need help is to support them by getting them involved in civil society. This is where community associations can step up by actively recruiting newcomers especially women and youth to take part in volunteer activities that leads to community building. This will get them out of the cocoon of their tight knit community of same ethnicity or religion and get them involved in the greater Calgary community. This will hugely help with integration, confidence building, language improvement and overall sense of self worth.





CALGARY MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CM
 636 Marlborough Way NE T2A 2V9
 403-273-5894
 Board: Diana Tokalic (Pres.)

info@calgarymarlborough.com
 https://calgarymarlborough.com/
 Meetings: 1st Wednesday, 7pm

CMCA BOARD MESSAGE

If you've been by the hall you might have noticed a new skating rink in the soccer field. Unfortunately, it has either been too warm or too cold to have it filled. Hopefully, we would have had this resolved by the time this newsletter gets out and we get a chance to test the ice!

Have you ever wondered what it is we do at the Calgary Marlborough Community Association? Why not attend one of our CMCA Board meetings to find out more? We meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm. We've had our last few meetings virtually and if this interests you, then send an email to president@marlboroughca.com to get the link to the meeting.

Keep an eye out for our Community Clean Up. We'll have City of Calgary trucks at the hall for waste disposal, as well as electronics and metal recycling depots. All at no cost to you!

This is a great resource to save you from having to go to the landfill. We're hoping to get a date in June but we could be selected for as early as the end of May. While you're at it, consider picking up around your neighbourhood and help our community shine! **Free clean up kits will be available again in the spring.** Contact the hall for more details.

Our City of Calgary social worker, Lemlem and our Programs Coordinator, Theresa Meeder are continuing to plan community-based programs. Visit our Facebook page for the most up-to-date events.

Have you renewed your membership? Membership is a way to get involved and show your support for your community. We are a volunteer-run organization and aim to provide programs and services that enhance our community while promoting a safe and healthy place to live, work and play. Please consider supporting your community by using the membership form below or visiting our web site.



WEEKLY MARLBOROUGH EVENTS

Check our website weekly for updates.

TUESDAY:

Seniors Social Walk Group - main hall, 8 to 10am
 Coffee and conversations, walking/light exercise. Free with community membership / Self motivated program

WEDNESDAY:

Community camel caravan literacy and book program.
 Please call or visit the website for more information.

Homework Hub

Family Activity Night – different activities monthly
 Free with membership - Check website, Facebook, Instagram for monthly calendar

THURSDAY:

Yoga with Michelle Irving 10:00am –12:00pm

For more information and to register please contact the center 403-273-5894.

Check out our Facebook page at:
 CalgaryMarlboroughCommunityAssociation
and our Instagram at: marlborough_community

Calgary Marlborough Community Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

Family Name(s) _____

Please check the
appropriate box.

Single - \$ 10
 Family - \$ 20

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Ph. # _____

Email _____

Please make out cheque to:

Calgary Marlborough Community Association

then mail cheque and completed form to:

636 Marlborough Way NE Calgary, AB T2A 2V9

WHAT IS YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION?

Each of us needs CONNECTIONs – our very own safety net. This Covid - 19 pandemic has shown that connections are extremely important to a healthy life. March has been set aside as *Community Association Awareness Month*.

Are you CONNECTED?

Community can be defined in many ways and they are all important. It can be our culture, our place of worship, our sport center, our senior center, our workplace or our neighbourhood. It is what you describe as yours. No matter what or where – this CONNECTION is important!

The last two years have been tough on many of us. Perhaps this is the time to RECONNECT! Here are just 12 ideas that may give you some ideas that may be right for you:

1. Buy a Community Association membership - \$10 to \$20 is a good investment.
2. Join or initiate a new program that uses your skills or is of interest.
3. Help at program where children and youth need you – a sports program, Scouts, Guides, Boys and Girls Club etc.
4. Volunteer for a position on a local Board Council – all our local groups need people to serve as Directors or as a team member, including 12CSI.
5. Create a project with your local art or craft group.
6. Get physical by joining a walking club or sport club.
7. Connect with 12 CSI and help organize a Community Action Walk (CAT Walk) to help improve the image of your block.
8. Connect with your Community Association to help implement a Community Clean-Up Campaign.
9. BlockWatch.ca as provincial resources are still available.
10. Join an Inter-generational program such as Linkages.
11. Join the local GFLS Senior Center and participate in a whole variety of programs.
12. Help with one of the local Community Gardens of the Alex Food Center.

Get thinking! Get creative! Whatever you decide, whatever you can do – **GET CONNECTED!** There are so many great people waiting to be part of your “support” group.

Together we make our world a better place to live for me and for you!



WEBINAR

IDENTITY THEFT

CST. MIKE MEADE

WITH THE CRIME PREVENTION TEAM

CALGARY POLICE SERVICES

MARCH 10, 2022 2 P.M.

To register use QR code





*Partnership with the International Association of Better Business Bureaus and 2022 theme

Community Associations Contact Information

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| ABBeyDALE | 821 Abbeydale Drive NE | 403-248-2229 facebook.com/AbbeydaleCommunityAssociation |
| ALBERT PARK/RADISSON HEIGHTS | 2636-12 Avenue SE | 403-272-7317 apr@shaw.ca aprh.ca |
| APPLEWOOD PARK | 899 Applewood Drive SE | info@applewoodpark.ca |
| CALGARY MARLBOROUGH | 636 Marlborough Way NE | 403-273-5894 info@marlboroughca.com |
| CROSSROADS | 1803 14 Avenue NE | 403-277-6201 crossroadscommunity@shaw.ca |
| DOVER | 3133 - 30 Avenue SE | 403-273-6124 doverdenca@gmail.com dovercommunitycalgary.com |
| ERIN WOODS | 83 Erin Park Drive SE | 403-273-7209 erinwood@telus.net ewcocalgary.ca |
| FOREST HEIGHTS | 4909 Forego Avenue SE | 403-272-0212 events@forestheightscalgary.com |
| FOREST LAWN | 4020 26 Avenue SE | 403-272-3150 info@myforestlawn.ca |
| MARLBOROUGH PARK | 6021 Madigan Drive NE | 403-248-1775 marlpark@shaw.ca |
| PENBROOKE MEADOWS | 6100 Penbrooke Drive SE | 403-272-1690 penbrookemeadows@hotmail.com |
| SOUTHVIEW | 2020 33 Street SE | 403-272-1407 svcrentals@gmail.com www.southviewyyc.com |



The **Block Parent® Program** is back in Calgary.

The **Block Parent® Program**, needs people like you to help keep your community safe by becoming a safe haven for a child or adult in need of help.

It is so easy to be a **Block Parent®**.

Simply put the sign in your window when you are available to answer the door to someone who needs help.

You could help a child who is frightened, hurt or lost.

Remember, you only answer the door, you do NOT have to let a person into your home.

To apply, either:

e-mail: admin@albertablockparent.com

or call at: 403-248-8791

Help us keep **YOUR** Community safe

www.albertablockparent.com

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