

The Valley Breeze



**Thank you for supporting the first
Valley Ridge Oktoberfest!**

Photo Credit: Anne Marie Bootsman

The Valley Breeze

The Valley Breeze is the official newsletter for Valley Ridge and the Valley Ridge Community Association

It is published 12 times a year by Suburban Journals Publishing and delivered by Canada Post. The Valley Breeze is also available for pickup at Valley Ridge Pharmacy. An electronic version of The Valley Breeze can be viewed at www.suburbanjournals.ca/current-issues.

Questions regarding article / photo contributions should be directed to the editor at breeze@vrca.community. Submissions (300 words or less) and high resolution pictures are due the 5th of the preceding month. Questions regarding advertising should be directed to Suburban Journals Publishing at phil@suburbanjournals.ca or call Phil at 403-660-7324.

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VALLEY RIDGE

Valley Ridge Community Association

Next Board meeting is TBD



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In Our Community

President's Update

I hope this article finds everyone healthy and safe.



We are struggling to be able to maintain and operate our existing facilities, such as the ice rink and sports court. Your membership in the VRCA allows us to maintain and operate these facilities. Please support the VRCA by purchasing a membership for 2023, starting December 1.

The Board will be taking the month of December off, to spend time with family and friends. During this vacation time, please be on the lookout for crime in our neighbourhood. Report any suspicious activity, no matter how small, to the non-emergency police phone number: 403-266-1234. Since this is a one-entrance neighbourhood, you should know everyone on your street. If you see a strange car, get the license plate number and report it to the police non-emergency phone number. Watch out for people who are stalking our neighbourhood. Thieves are targeting unlocked cars, so do not leave any valuables in plain view for the criminals to take. Be on the lookout for people on bikes that have been targeting unlocked cars. Please remember to close your garage door. Neighbours, if you see an open garage door, please phone your neighbour and remind them to close their garage door. If you don't know your neighbour's phone number, you should. If you are away on vacation, please let your neighbours know and make your house look lived in. You should have timers on your lights. Please help us to prevent crime in our neighbourhood so we can have a safe and happy holiday.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from myself and all the directors of the VRCA. Be safe and enjoy the holidays.

Dave McCarrel, VRCA President

DID YOU KNOW?

Around 28 Lego sets are sold every second during the Christmas season.



A BIG Thank You to Our Oktoberfest Sponsors!

The VRCA Board of Directors would like to thank all our sponsors that made our inaugural Oktoberfest a resounding success. A special thank you goes to:

- Chair Flair Inc. for donating the decor for our Oktoberfest event. When planning your next event, check out www.chairflair.ca.
- Shayla from A Basket Case for donating the amazing gift basket that was raffled off at the event. A Basket Case takes pride in offering beautiful, unique, innovative, and customizable gifts that are always superior in quality and design. If you weren't our lucky winner, go to www.abasketcase.ca to get your own!
- The Lodge At Valley Ridge for donating chairs for our guests.
- Gerard Chiasson for his kind donation towards the cost of the band.
- Dandy Brewing for donating a 30L keg of draft beer—hurra!
- John Card, John Gabert, and all the other rink volunteers and community members for helping with setup and takedown with the event.

Valley Ridge Halloween Decorations and Jack O'Lantern Contest!

Thank you to all the residents who sent in photos for our community Halloween contest. It was a very spooky, safe, and successful night as our little ones enjoyed trick-or-treating.



The votes are in, and Blair, Tess, and Clara McCormick at 11520 Valley Ridge Drive NW are the WINNERS! Their lawn decorations featured skulls, tombstones, a giant inflatable ghost, and even the Pumpkin King himself, Jack!

Want another chance to win?

We welcome you to submit your Christmas photos for our next contest in December. Keep an eye on your email or the VRCA Facebook page for details.

A Letter From The President

Dear Valley Ridge Residents,

I would like to thank Alberta Transportation for relocating the WCRR noise wall to the appropriate location. The noise wall looks great.

I met with the former Minister of Transportation, Ric McIver; our MLA, the Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides; our former City of Calgary Ward 1 Councilor, Ward Sutherland; and representatives of Alberta Transportation (AT) on Friday, April 9, 2021. Representatives of the Valley Ridge Concerned Resident's Group were also present. This meeting took place in one of the resident's backyards on Valley Meadow Close.

Additionally, on Friday, September 10, 2021, I met with the former Minister of Transportation, Rajan Sawhney; along with our MLA, the Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides; and AT's Project Director, Mr. Shane De Lorey. Representations of the Valley Ridge Concerned Residents Group were also present, along with George Benns of Valley Meadow Close; Sharon Lawson and Gord Jones, both of Valley Brook Circle; and Ron Matthezing of the Valley Ridge Heights condominiums.

These meetings were important opportunities to have the concerns of our community heard, and now I am pleased to see that action has been taken and the noise wall has been relocated.

Once again, a big thank you to Alberta Transportation and all those who participated in the support of our community.

Dave McCarrel, VRCA President

DID YOU KNOW??

If you gave all the gifts listed in the "Twelve Days of Christmas," it would equal 364 presents.



December LEAF Update

We were so fortunate to have our summer planters last as long as they did. The weather was beautiful for almost all of October, and we were one of the last communities to still have summer planters.

Our winter planters should be installed either by now, or in the next few days. Our gardeners will begin installing in mid-November.

We are almost through construction! This will be a busy time for the LEAF committee. We are in discussion with Alberta Transportation and the City to regain access to the entryway to our community. Once construction is finally complete and debris has been removed, we hope to be able to mow south from the 4-way stop. We are also looking into sustainable landscape features for the traffic circle and updating the 4-way stop garden beds. This will not occur or be completed next year but will hopefully be in place for 2024. However, we must once again remind residents that this area is not yet under our jurisdiction. We have no ability to enter the construction areas. Mowing and fall/spring cleanups are prohibited at this time. But we will get to it, once we are permitted!

The other exciting project is the renewal vote for the LEAF program. Every five years, LEAF is up for renewal. Residents are encouraged to attend the in-person AGM, which will be held in April 2023 at the golf course. More details to follow as the AGM plans solidify.

In order to have your vote count, you must do the following:

1. Show up to the meeting. We will have a presentation first, followed by the vote.
2. Bring your property tax letter with you. You will receive it in the New Year and before the AGM. This proves that you are the homeowner.
3. Bring your driver's license to match the name on your property tax letter.

Only one vote per residence is permitted. You do NOT have to be a VRCA member to vote for LEAF. LEAF is a separate program, monitored by the community

Notice of VRCA AGM and LEAF Meeting

Mark your calendars. The 2023 VRCA AGM is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at the Valley Ridge Golf Club. Please arrive 30 minutes in advance for registration. A LEAF meeting will immediately follow the AGM.

association for auditing purposes, and LEAF is open to all property owners in Valley Ridge.

You will have received the annual special tax information letter already, in early November. This letter arrives every year and informs residents of the annual fee for LEAF. The fee will increase this year from \$63.65 to \$65.56. The increase of \$1.91 for the year per household will be quickly eaten up with increases in inflation costs from our contracted landscape and gardening companies. It represents only the third increase in fees in 15 years of the LEAF program! We originally started at \$60/year.

We thank everyone for all their support of this program, and all the helpful information and messages that have been sent over this past summer. Your participation makes this program work for our community. Thanks so much.

Christa McKegney, Chair of LEAF

VRCA Members-Only Family Skate

I am pleased to announce that the VRCA will be having a members-only family skate every Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., starting January 7, 2023 (weather permitting).

So get your VRCA membership early and come out for a family skate on the ice rink!

Dave McCarrel, VRCA President

Ice Rink Rental

This winter, the Valley Ridge Community Association is allowing private rentals of the outdoor ice rink by community members.

Weekday rentals

- The ice rink can be rented in 1-hour periods (2 hours maximum), before 4:00 p.m.
- Rental rate is \$100.00/hour. For a group whose age is 17 years or younger, the rate is \$80.00/hour.

Weekend rentals

- The ice rink can be rented in 1-hour periods (2 hours maximum), before 12:00 p.m.
- Rental rate is \$125.00/hour.

There is a 10% discount on rental rates available to VRCA members. If you are interested in renting the outdoor ice rink, please email facilities@vrca.community.

Community Garden

“Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle”—Luther Burbank, American botanist

It's the end of another wonderful season for the Valley Ridge Community Garden. The gardeners have harvested their crops and prepared the beds for winter. We are ready for the miracle that happens each year as we and the soil rest and prepare for the spring.

We enjoyed a good growing season and experienced only one incident of vandalism. New lights and security cameras helped. The snow arrived a bit early and some of us scampered to get the last vegetables out of the ground. We held an “end-of-season” social event in late November and shared our successes and funny stories of plans that went awry.

Important notice: We are looking for new coordinators for the garden. Debbie Burke and Barb Pedersen will take on other volunteer roles and look forward to new coordinators with new ideas. A volunteer coordinator needs to be in place by January 2023. Please contact Barb or Debbie if interested at barbpedersen@shaw.ca or bvinc@shaw.ca. We can guarantee that the volunteer role is fun and easy with most work occurring in mid-January to late April.

Renting a Box in 2023

Do you want to be part of the springtime miracle? Box rentals open on the first Monday in February 2023. For information, visit the Garden page under About the VRCA on the website <https://www.vrca.community/>.

*Barb Pedersen,
Co-chair of the VRCA Gardening Committee*



Time to Make the Ice

Volunteers make the Valley Ridge rink “the best outdoor skating rink in the city” (not our claim but the words of skaters from across the city).

Why? Because we are fun-loving, courteous, reliable team players.

Please contact facilities@vrca.community as soon as possible with your name and contact info for more information.

Do You Want To Drive The Zamboni?

Actually an Olympia, the Canadian equivalent.

Join our team to help provide a safe, clean, quality facility for skaters of all ages. Your commitment involves:

- four two-hour training sessions, at your convenience
- two or three two-hour ice maintenance sessions each week through the season
- times convenient to you!

Qualifications:

- a valid driver's license
- clean, respectable, confident
- 18 to 80 years old
- a desire to help others to have a great time!

Contact facilities@vrca.community with your name and contact info, or stick a note under the door of the garage by the rink. We'll get back to you to arrange an introduction at your convenience.

DID YOU KNOW??

The Christmas pickle is more than just a common ornament. As the tradition goes, the first child to find the pickle ornament hidden in the tree on Christmas morning earns the privilege of opening the first gift.



SAVE THE DATE!

2023 VRCA Memberships Are Available for Purchase December 1, 2022!

It's that time of year again—the 2023 VRCA memberships will be available on December 1, 2022.

Our community was finally able to get back to some of our favourite events this year, including the annual BBQ, garage sale, and Family Skate Day. Our kiddos enjoyed full-scale soccer and T-Ball seasons, and the ice rink was busy all winter long. We also hosted the inaugural VRCA Oktoberfest, which we plan to make an annual tradition here in Valley Ridge (bring on more of those pretzels, right?)!

Did you know that these opportunities are only possible because of your membership fees? It's true! We can't host events and run the sports court or Music-in-the-Park without the support of the community.

There are two ways to purchase or renew your annual membership:

- Visit <https://www.vrca.community/memberships/>
- Drop the form on the back page of the Breeze, as well as the \$35 membership fee, into the mail. Once your membership is processed, you'll receive an email confirmation for your records.

The VRCA is a community-based volunteer organization that supports recreation facilities and community events that help make Valley Ridge the amazing place we call home. Membership fees and volunteers help ensure that our community members have access to a variety of information, programs, and amenities, including:

- Construction, operation, and maintenance of the community facilities, including the skating rink, sports court, and fitness park;
- Community garage sale, Family Skate Day, and BBQ;
- Community garden;
- Music- and Yoga-in-the-Park;
- Soccer and T-ball; and
- Ongoing updates related to the construction in and around our community.

If your neighbours aren't members yet, please encourage them to join so we can continue to be the vibrant community we are today!

Please contact memberships@vrca.community if you have any questions or concerns.

Dréa Sampson, Director of Memberships

St. Sylvester School News

The month of December and the Christmas season is a busy time of year at St. Sylvester School. We are excited to share some upcoming events taking place at our school:

Annual Poinsettia Fundraiser

Thank you to all those who participated in our school council's annual poinsettia fundraiser. We appreciate all of your orders and the funds that we raised will go towards school council funded activities and initiatives, as well as to support field trips. Orders will be ready for pick up at the school on Friday, December 2.

St. Sylvester School Christmas Concert

On December 8, the St. Sylvester School community will once again showcase the talents of our students during our Christmas concert. This much anticipated event will feature students in grades 1-6 performing a total of 12 Christmas songs in celebration of this holy time of year.

Community Christmas Card Delivery begins

Starting December 1, students will be delivering Christmas greeting cards made in class to nearby Silver Springs residents. This is one of the opportunities we have to share the special message of Christmas and to show kindness to our neighbours as well as our community spirit. We are proud to be part of the Silver Springs community!

Students' last day of classes before the Christmas break is December 21. On behalf of the staff at St. Sylvester School, we would like to wish the community a safe and happy Christmas holiday and all the best in 2023. We look forward to seeing everyone again in the new year starting on January 9.

Please visit our website at stsylvester.cssd.ab.ca for more information about what is happening at our school. Make sure to follow us as well on Twitter @stsylvester_ccsd.

DID YOU KNOW??

Although gingerbread houses date back to the 1600s, the tradition became widespread in Germany after the story of Hansel and Gretel was published in 1812.



VALLEY RIDGE NOTICE BOARD

WILLING WORKERS IN VALLEY RIDGE: The Vice President maintains a list of people willing to do odd jobs or babysit for families within Valley Ridge and Crestmont. People have offered to do a variety of things such as shovel snow, house watch, walk pets, dig flower beds and mow lawns. The babysitter list notes whether the sitter has taken the babysitting course, whether they are comfortable with babies and the general location where they live. If you would like a copy of the either of these lists, please contact vicepresident@vrca.community.

Classifieds

Ads are \$10 per month for 40 words maximum. Payment is required in advance in the form of cash or cheque payable to "VRCA". Please drop off or mail in care of The Valley Breeze Classifieds Editor, 252 Valley Crest Rise NW, T3B 5Y4. Online payments are now accepted at www.vrca.community/index.php/advertisement. Ads must be received by the classifieds editor

by the 5th of the preceding month. For more information, contact Janine at breezeads@vrca.community. The Valley Breeze does not endorse or guarantee the businesses or individuals that advertise in the Classifieds.

STRESS? HEADACHES? MUSCLE PAIN? MASSAGE THEM AWAY! Valley Ridge MTAA massage therapist with 19 years experience and 2200 hours of schooling. Specializing in Deep Tissue Massage. Please phone Christa at 403-471-9363 to book your free assessment.

GARAGE DOOR PROBLEM? Call Best Doors today and we will have your door up and running in no time. Visit www.bestdoorsinc.ca for info. Contact Tony at 403-862-2162.

PLUMBING WORK. Need a shower repaired or toilet replaced? Give me a call for advice and reasonable rates. Local Valley Ridge business. Call Bill at 403-851-8208

MUSIC TEACHER: QUALITY LESSONS IN MY VALLEY RIDGE HOME STUDIO! 35+ years experience in Piano, Voice, Violin. B.Mus, B.Ed., Kodály Diploma. Kids 5+, adults and seniors welcome! Call Judy 403-274-4383 or judy.buzogany@gmail.com.

PRO CLEAN SERVICES will give you a sparkling clean home and free time to enjoy it! Thorough, efficient and reliable. With over 30 years of experience - I am the Queen of Clean! Call Tammy @ 403-608-5239.

EXCELLENT CLEANING SERVICES Cleaning the way it should be! Detailed and thorough house and commercial services. Everything done to your satisfaction! Weekly, bi-weekly, once a month, one time cleaning or Move-in/Move-out. Licensed, insured and bonded. Call Toni 403-470-6548.

APPLIANCE REPAIR NEEDED? Call/text Rohan at 403-200-5324. ECO APPLIANCE Sales and Service. LOCAL, 15 years experience, Efficient repair, BBB accredited, insured and bonded. NEW - we also sell Reconditioned Appliances. Same day service targeted. www.ecoapplianceservice.com.

VINTAGE TUBE RADIO/RECORD PLAYER REPAIRS 50+ years hobbyist/experience in this area. Contact 780-945-1344 or email: g-graham@shaw.ca.

SPARKLING CLEAN HOUSE SERVICES You deserve a clean house today! Professional cleaner with over 35 experience. Satisfaction guaranteed! Bonded & insured. Monthly, weekly or bimonthly. Call Vall for a free estimate today 403-614-8528.

GET YOUR HOUSEHOLD BUDGET BACK ON TRACK! Feeling financially stressed? Having trouble balancing your budget? We will help you get on track! Take back control by learning how to manage your monthly cash flow! Contact www.legacyleader.ca for a consultation.

FEELING UNMOTIVATED, SLUGGISH, OVERWEIGHT OR TIRED? Get your MOJO back so you can be feel passionate and enthusiastic once again no matter your age or physical limits. Call or text to set up a Free Coffee Chat with Sheila 403-479-7935.

EXPERIENCED MATH TUTOR: Catching up? Want to stay on top? Looking for an A? Private lessons online or in person. Certified Math Teacher, taught Alberta curriculum, 25+ years experience. B.Sc., B.Ed., MBA. Grades 6-10. Please call Cheryl 403-919-8125.

SNOW REMOVAL, WINDOW CLEANING AND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS by Squeegee Brothers. Prompt, reliable and affordable. Satisfaction guaranteed. References available. Call Steve for information and pricing. 403-383-4309 or email spotvin58@gmail.com.

"I CAN DRAW!" Students 7+ will be taught the skill of drawing using a 7-step fun, easy system. Quality instruction (35+yrs), combined with mindful art practices. Valley Ridge NW: January 2023. Contact: Alice, B.Ed., professional artist, art therapy facilitator. alikesartinmind@gmail.com.

LOCAL CERTIFIED IICRC APPLIED MICROBIAL REMEDIATION TECHNICIAN offering mold inspections following ANSI/IICRC S520 mold remediation protocols. Have remediated large commercial mold projects; now specialize in residential remediations. Experience with mold species *Stachybotrys/Memnoniella* to standard household species *Aspergillus/Penicillium*. Michael 403-700-2000.

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON GIVE THE GIFT OF EXPERIENCES THEY WON'T FORGET! Plan a vacation with your loved ones whether it be a beach vacation, tour of another country, river or ocean cruise, I can help! Phone 403-796-8160 or email: cmarkell@expediacruz.com.



Like Us on Facebook!

Please tell your friends, family, and neighbours in Valley Ridge to join us on our Facebook page, [Valley Ridge Community Association](https://www.facebook.com/ValleyRidgeCommunityAssociation).



Note: All phone numbers begin with 403

VRCA 695-7533
VRCA website vrca.community
VRCA Facebook Valley Ridge Community Association

VRCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Dave McCarrel president@vrca.community
Vice President Megan Roy vicepresident@vrca.community
Secretary Chelsea Hunter secretary@vrca.community
Treasurer Christa McKegney treasurer@vrca.community

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Communications and Community Relations
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Sports Programs
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VALLEY BREEZE NEWSLETTER

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VALLEY RIDGE COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

garden@vrca.community

VALLEY RIDGE SOCCER CLUB

www.vrca.community
sports@vrca.community

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Rockstar Tanning 984-2826
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Smartmart Gas Station 247-7677
Stoney Trail Veterinary Clinic www.stvc.ca 247-2737
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Valley Ridge Family Physicians 282-3806
Valley Ridge Pharmacy 532-4500
Valley Ridge Wine and Liquor khlee0717@gmail.com 247-0341
Valley Ridge Chiropractic & Wellness Centre www.vrchirowellness.ca 202-1114
Valley Ridge Psychologist: Dr. Tanja Haley www.drktanja.com 669-0005
Van Gogh Grill & Bar 288-9664
Yulia's Tailoring 617-9372

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Councillor, Sonya Sharp ward1@calgary.ca 268-2430
M.L.A., Nicolaidis Demetrios calgary.bow@assembly.ab.ca 216-5400
M.P., Ron Liepert ron.liepert@parl.gc.ca 292-6666

OTHER

Calgary Public Library www.calgarypubliclibrary.com
Bowness 221-2022 Crowfoot 221-4122
Community Resource Officer Cst. David Down 428-6200
DDown@calgarypolice.ca
Calgary Police Nonemergency 266-1234
Lodge at Valley Ridge www.lodgeatvalleyridge.ca 286-4414
Valley Ridge Golf Club www.valleyridgegolf.com 221-9682

VRCA

Membership Update

2022 Valley Ridge Community Association memberships are now available!


There are two ways to purchase or renew your membership:

- Visit <https://www.vrca.community/memberships/>
- Drop the membership form (found in the Breeze), as well as the \$35 membership fee, in the mail. Once your membership is processed, you'll receive an email confirmation for your records.

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- Community Garage Sale, Family Skate Day, and BBQ;
- Community Garden;
- Music- and Yoga-in-the-Park;
- soccer and T-ball; and
- ongoing updates related to the construction in and around our community.

Please contact memberships@vrca.community if you have any questions or concerns.



I would like to become a member of the
Valley Ridge Community Association

NEW **RENEWAL**

VRCA occasionally emails members with community event information.

I consent to receive emails from VRCA

I do not wish to receive emails from VRCA

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Mail with \$35 cheque payable to VRCA:
Valley Ridge Community Association – attn.: Director of Memberships
11743 Valley Ridge Blvd NW, Calgary, AB, T3B 5Z9