



Varsity VOICE

MAY 2024

The Official Newsletter of the
VARSITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
www.vcacalgary.com

*Happy
Mother's
Day*

Varsity Open Stage Night: May 10th
Food Trucks: May 17th
Scholarships Deadline: July 15th

 Suburban Journals
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Varsity Community Association

4303 Varsity Dr. N.W., Calgary T3A 0Z7
Tel: 403-288-9001, Fax: 403-247-3100

General E-mail: info@vcacalgary.com Website www.vcacalgary.com

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Crowchild Twin Arenas	Jim Courchesne, 403-288-3617
Parks	Sue Davison, atbowmontpark@gmail.com

Community Office Staff

General Manager	Doug Smith, gm@vcacalgary.com
Office Coordinator	Ann Wohlers, office@vcacalgary.com
Building Coordinator	Dalmain Davis, building@vcacalgary.com
Accountant	Cheryl Yowney, accounts@vcacalgary.com
Childcare Services (Out of School)	childinfo@vcacalgary.com
Director	Shelley Harrison
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MLA	Luanne Metz, 403-216-5436
School Board	Dana Downey, 403-617-7933
Catholic School Board	Myra D'Souza, 403-500-2761

Varsity Voice

Editor & Article Submissions:

Ann Wohlers 403-288-9001

Advertising Sales:

Pam: 403-880-1819 pam@suburbanjournals.ca

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In Our Community

Councillor Report

Hello Ward 1! Here are the latest updates from City Hall and on what's happening in your community:

Drought update

The drought conditions Calgary has been experiencing may mean that water restrictions could be put in place this month. We ask all Calgarians to observe any water restrictions put into place in order to protect our ecosystems and drinking water supply. Visit calgary.ca/drought to learn more.

Blanket rezoning

In April, Council held its Public Hearing on blanket rezoning to Calgary. A big thank you to everyone who participated. Regardless of the outcome, your voices made a difference. You can visit calgary.ca/ward1 to learn about the final result and for more information on what happens next.

Single-Use Items repeal

The Public Hearing to consider the repeal the Single Use Items Bylaw will take place on May 7. You are welcome to address Council to submit written feedback. Visit calgary.ca/publichearing to learn more. You can also visit calgary.ca/ward1 for further updates on this issue.

Street sweeping

Weather permitting, The City begins cleaning winter debris from our streets beginning in April and continuing through May. Sweeping happens Monday through Friday between 8 am and 4 pm. You are required to move vehicles off the street when a sweep is scheduled, or you could be ticketed and towed. Visit calgary.ca/sweep to learn when cleaning is scheduled for your neighbourhood.

Neighbour Day

Neighbour Day is coming up on Saturday, June 15! Consider hosting or visiting a Neighbour Day party for some family fun and a chance to connect with your neighbours. The City has a number of resources for a successful event at calgary.ca/neighbourday.

Waste collection reminder

Weekly pickups of Green Carts resumed for the season on April 23 and will remain in place until the fall. Visit calgary.ca/collection to set up pickup reminders and for important cart placement tips.

Sonya Sharp, Councillor, Ward 1

Varsity Open Stage Night

Live Music in Varsity!

7:00 to 10:00 pm, Friday, May 10, 2024

Varsity Community Centre

4303 Varsity Drive NW

Come out and enjoy live music/performance by local talent in an all-ages venue. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

At 7:00 p.m., Sue Chick Denton will start the evening with a 30-minute set. Open mic sign-up starts at 7:00 p.m. For Open Mic, there will be two sessions for 3-4 performances, two songs each (10 min max), running from 7:30 to 8:15 pm and 9:00 to 9:45 pm. In between the Open Mic Sessions we will have a 45-minute set by our feature performers, Chartier and Checora. A full sound and lighting system and refreshments are provided. Donations are accepted and go to the VCA. Call Gillian (604-349-2511) or email gm.donald@gmail.com for more details.



VCA Programs Spring 2024

Visit www.vcocalgary.com to register
Registration opens Mar 1st

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

- Chinooks Grassroots Soccer (3yrs-8yrs)
- Loose Parts – Kids Play (all ages)
- Run_Jump_LEAD (Girls 7yrs - 12yrs)
- Sportball (2yrs - 8yrs)

ADULT PROGRAMS

- Tai Chi – Beginner & Intermediate
- Cardio Dance, Strength, Flexibility
- Hatha Yoga
- Qi Gong – Fusion Fitness

SENIOR'S PROGRAMS

- Cardio Combo 55+
- Seniors Yoga 55+
- Senior Fit +55
- Silver Swans Ballet Fitness 55+

Varsity Child Care

School Age Child Care at Varsity Out of School

We offer child care for children Gr. 1 to Gr. 5 attending Varsity Acres. The program is operated at the Varsity Community Centre. Our program is full of fun, games, various child friendly clubs, sewing, hockey and much, much more. We are an accredited and licensed program with the Alberta government. We offer full day care on professional days, teacher convention and Spring break for children enrolled in the Out of School programs.

We offer child care for children attending the A.M. Kindergarten program at the Varsity Acres School. **There is still space available in our Kindergarten Care Program.**

Information and Registration: www.vcocalgary.com
Contact: childinfo@vcocalgary.com 403-247-1145 ext 2

What We Are In Need of In Childcare...

Seashells, Lego, Yarn,
Costume Jewellery

Varsity Civic Affairs Committee News

City-Wide Blanket Upzoning of Residential Lots – Public Hearing April 22, 2024

By the time this article is published, the public hearing regarding city-wide blanket upzoning will have been held and the results will be covered by the news media.

Ward Boundary Commission

The Ward Boundary Commission is inviting Calgarians to share their thoughts in a public engagement on what effective representation at the municipal level means to them. This public engagement is part of a larger review directed by Calgary City Council in June 2023.

The engagement focuses specifically on the activities performed by Councillors (e.g. legislative duties, resolving local issues, communicating with constituents, advocating to other orders of government), as well as the systems Calgarians use to communicate with their Councillors (e.g. 311, email, social media, public hearings, meetings and events).

Visit calgary.ca/heard to fill out the questionnaire, find pop-up event details and learn more about the project.

VCA Collecting for the Veterans Food Bank

We are accepting food donations for the Veterans Food Bank of Calgary. Please drop off to the collection box located on the main level during business hours. Thank you for supporting our Veterans!

Food Truck Fridays at the VCA

May 17, 2024, 4:00 – 7:00 pm
(weather permitting)

South Shaganappi Local Area Plan

The Local Area Plan engagement process is well underway. The City will be hosting an open house in May or June and will distribute an information booklet prior to that. More information can be found on the City's website at engage.calgary.ca/Shaganappi.

University Innovation Quarter (formerly University Research Park)

The University Innovation Quarter is a 76 acre site north of 32 Avenue, south of Crowchild Trail, and east of 37 Street. Planning for redevelopment of this site is underway and public engagement sessions will be held in the next few months. Go to uiqcalgary.com for more information and sign up for their updates.

Playground Review Subcommittee

This project will resume in May 2024. If you have any concerns about safety of playground equipment, contact the City directly through 311. They are committed to providing repairs as quickly as possible.







For information regarding the Civic Affairs Committee, please contact JoAnne Atkins, Director of Civic Affairs, at joanneatkins@shaw.ca.


Alex Amsterdam Annual Scholarship Gord Smith Memorial Scholarship

There is a total of 6 scholarships to be awarded
Deadline: July 15th, 2023
Information and how to apply visit
www.vcacalgary.com



In Our Community

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE...	JULY 2024				
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Week One	1 	2 Space Day @ Centre 	3 Telus Spark Science Centre 	4 Drumheller Tyrell Museum 	5 Library / Park 
Week Two	8 Western Day @ Centre 	9 Bowness Park 	10 ZOO 	11 Calaway Park 	12 Library / Park 
Week Three	15 Multi-Cultural Day @ Centre 	16 Prairie Winds Park 	17 Movie @ Theatre 	18 Heritage Park 	19 Library / Park 
Week Four	22 Sports Day @ Centre 	23 Valley View Splash Park 	24 ZOO 	25 Calaway Park 	26 Library / Park 

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE...	August 2024				
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Week Five	29 Camping @ Centre 	30 Edworthy Park 	31 Movie @ Theatre 	1 Calaway Park 	2 Library / Park 
Week Six	5 	6 	7 	8 	9 
Week Seven	12 Inventors Day @ Centre 	13 Bowness Park 	14 ZOO 	15 Calaway Park 	16 Library / Park 
Week Eight	19 Games & Weird Hair Day @ Centre 	20 Prairie Winds Park 	21 Movie @ Theatre 	22 Heritage Park 	23 Year End BBQ @ Centre 

Summer Day Camps

Leap into Summer –
Registration Ongoing

Varsity Out of School Care offers fabulous, full day summer camps for ages 6-12 years. Our days are full of arts/crafts, games, activities and amazing field trips. We go to many child friendly local attractions. Up to 4 field trips per week i.e. Calgary Zoo, Calaway Park, Wave Pool, Splash Parks and much much more. Reasonable weekly rates and professional transportation. Our qualified staff are trained in childcare, first aid and have obtained a police check.

Marion Carson School News

Marion Carson School, located at 5225 Varsity Drive Northwest has now opened online registration for students and families interested in joining our school community for the start of the 2024-2025 school year. Register at www.cbe.ab.ca. We are the designated Kindergarten to Grade 6 Community English School for students living in the community of Varsity and are also the home of the Kindergarten to Grade 4 Mandarin Bilingual Program which houses students from many of Calgary's Northwest communities.

Families wanting to enter the Community English Program may enter at any grade level. Students may enter the Mandarin Bilingual Program in Kindergarten or Grade 1 without any previous Mandarin language experience. Families wanting to enroll their child in Grades 2-4 are offered spaces in the program based on age appropriate Mandarin language fluency and space availability within the school.

At Marion Carson School, we bring the whole school community together by giving each student a sense of belonging through a safe, caring and welcoming environment that supports student learning and whole student success. Families interested in hearing more about learning at Marion Carson School are invited to visit our school website at <https://marioncarson.cbe.ab.ca/> and/or review the news story titled "Marion Carson 2024-2025 Open House Presentation". You may also call the school at 403 777-6050, or email MarionCarson@cbe.ab.ca for more information.

*Sincerely, Mr. D. Turner
Principal, Marion Carson School*

Christmas Craft Sale 2024

Friday Nov 15th 2:30 – 6:30pm
Saturday Nov 16th 10:00am – 3:00pm

\$45 – 8Ft tables
\$21 – 4Ft tables
Now accepting new applications for the craft sale. Please email Ann at info@vcacalgary.com with a brief description of your craft and the size of table you would like.



**Varsity
CHRISTMAS
CRAFT SALE**

Friday November 15, 2024
2:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Saturday November 16, 2024
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Over 45 creative and innovative vendors with a wide selection of unique and hand-crafted items.

New City Church Bake Sale

Out of School Care Children supporting Cochrane Humane Society

(Location: 4303 Varsity Drive NW)

VCA Commercial Kitchen Rental

Available daily Monday – Friday
9:00am – 4:00pm or
6:00 – 9:00 pm

If interested please email
gm@vcacalgary.com

Learn To Play Pickleball

Learn To Play Pickleball - Adults And Seniors

Tuesday & Thursday Mornings

Jun 4 – Jun 27 (9:30-11am)

8 Sessions-\$75 (Max 10 participants)

VCA is excited to offer pickleball lesson for Beginners (someone who has NEVER played pickleball before) and Novices (someone who might have come to open play once or twice but is not comfortable playing with others yet). These lessons are intended to teach players the basics of pickleball, from the court, equipment and scoring to hitting the ball and how scoring works. Paddles will be supplied

Lessons will include:

Safety (proper footwear, balls entering the court, running backwards, etc.), court layout, rules of the game, scoring and how to hold the paddle. Beginning with small strokes, and how to follow through with the paddle players will get the feel of the paddle and add to their game play selections and strokes during the 9 sessions of instruction. Our instructors are seasoned players offering their experience during this program.

Learn To Play Pickleball - Children Ages 9-12

Saturday Afternoon -May 4 to June 29 (Noon-1:30pm)

*Except May Long, May 18th no session

8 Sessions-\$60 (Max 8 participants)

VCA is excited to offer pickleball lesson for children ages 9-12 as an introduction to the game of pickleball. These lessons are intended to teach players the basics of pickleball, from the court, equipment and scoring to hitting the ball and how scoring works.

Lessons will include:

Safety (proper footwear, balls entering the court, running backwards, etc.), court layout, rules of the game, scoring and how to hold the paddle. Beginning with small strokes, and how to follow through with the paddle players will get the feel of the paddle and add to their game play selections and strokes during the 8 sessions of instruction. Our instructors are seasoned players offering their experience during this program.

Check the website www.vcocalgary.com for more information and to register.

Varsity Community Association in association with
The Calgary Dance Club

Pre-Stampede Dance

Varsity Community Centre

Saturday June 15, 2024

Cost:\$15 (online purchase in advance only through the website)

- 7:00pm - 8:00pm: Introduction to Two Step (optional lesson and practice)
- 8:00pm- 11:59pm: General Dancing to a variety of music

Tickets are on sale now

For more info: www.vcocalgary.com



Energy Efficient Futures Introduction

Concerned about how to reduce utility bills, make homes more comfortable, and reduce the impact on the environment? Join Green Calgary for a free workshop to help you understand your home energy use and take steps towards energy efficiency.

Varsity Community Centre
Tuesday, May 14, 2024
1:00 – 3:00pm

Take home a free energy efficiency kit (value \$100). The kit includes weather stripping, window film, LED light bulbs, power bar and more.

Registration is mandatory:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/energy-efficient-futures-introduction-tickets-881025048637?aff=oddtcreator>

Park Cart Smart

When you set out your blue, green and black carts properly, you're helping to ensure safe and efficient operation of The City's waste collection trucks. That includes how you park on the street outside your home, especially in cul-de-sacs. A few simple reminders will help make everyone's day go smoothly:

- **Parking in a cul-de-sac:** All vehicles must be parallel parked with passenger side wheels to the curb, unless there are signs permitting angle parking. This helps collection trucks reach your carts and turn around in a cul-de-sac.
- Place your carts on flat ground, one metre away from your vehicle if parked on the street.
- Improperly parked vehicles block driveways for residents and restrict access for emergency and waste management vehicles.
- **Parking in an alley:** Do not block the end of a closed alley with parked vehicles. Collection trucks need space to turn around safely.

These simple but important steps help ensure safe and efficient cart collection.

Learn more at calgary.ca/cartplacement.

City of Calgary

Loose Parts Kids Play

Our volunteer-run Loose Parts Kids Play program has been going strong over the winter, and with spring on the way, we invite community members to sign up for this free, outdoor, all-ages play program! Once you're signed up on the VCA website, your child can attend any of the free play days.

Please join us on Saturday June 1 from 1pm-4pm in the VCA field for our FREE re-launch event, as we celebrate all things PLAY! We welcome donations of baskets, corks, spools, tape, clothes pins, chalk, sharpies, scissors, tarps, and rope at this time.

We're looking for more volunteers to get involved- if you'd like to find out more, please contact Devon at devonkarchut@gmail.com.



CREATIVE, COLLABORATIVE, UNSTRUCTURED OUTDOOR PLAY FOR ALL AGES!

MEET IN THE VARSITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OUTDOOR SPACE

UPCOMING DATES

FREE WITH A VARSITY COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP SCAN TO REGISTER	APRIL 11	2:30-4:00PM
	APRIL 27	3:00-4:30PM
	MAY 9	2:30-4:00PM
	MAY 30	2:30-4:00PM
	JUNE 1	1:00-4:00PM
	JUNE 13	2:30-4:00PM
	JUNE 17	4:00-5:30PM
	JUNE 20	2:30-4:00PM

QR CODE

"A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take."

- Cardinal Meymillood

A Short History of Calgary's Dams

May begins Calgary's flood season, so let's talk about river dams. Dams control water flow and can also supply drinking water, irrigation and electricity.

The first hydroelectric station in Calgary was built in 1893 - a weir at Prince's Island. Ten years later, demand was outstripping supply.

Calgary Power Company (today's TransAlta) began construction to meet demand from a tenfold increase in population (from 4,398 Calgarians in 1901 to 43,706 in 1911). Horseshoe Dam, Alberta's first large-scale hydro dam, began operations in 1911. It's one of seven plants on the Bow River today, making it the province's most managed river.

Hydro dams work best with consistent water flow. Lake Minnewanka Dam was constructed in 1912 to partially regulate the Bow's seasonal flows. With ample power, more investment poured into Calgary, including the Canadian Pacific Railway's engine repair shop in Ogden.

Plans for additional dams were met with opposition to further development in Rocky Mountain (later Banff) National Park. In 1929, Ghost River Dam and Reservoir was constructed on land leased from Stoney Nakoda First Nations.

Despite regulation, flooding remained a risk. Bearspaw Dam was constructed in 1954 to prevent winter flooding and ice packing. The dam is named after Chief Jacob Bearspaw, who signed Treaty 7 at Blackfoot Crossing. It is one of the city's two drinking water reservoirs.

The other reservoir is Glenmore (Gaelic for "big valley"). The area was settled by Sam Livingston, who was born in

County Wicklow, Ireland and brought the first mechanised farm equipment to Calgary. The reservoir was completed in 1932, with Sam's house moved to Heritage Park.

In 2005, the highest waters in two centuries overflowed Glenmore Dam, with 2,000 residents evacuated. In June 2013, heavy rainfall and snowmelt caused both the Bow and Elbow Rivers to flood. 100,000 people were under evacuation orders, with the flood causing \$6 billion in damage. It was the worst flooding in Alberta's history and the provincial government is currently evaluating the construction of another dam.

From over a century of development, the Bow River's dams are "one of the great industrial projects of Canada's history".¹

¹ "Protecting the health of Alberta's Bow River", The Globe and Mail, 11 October 2015, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/protecting-the-health-of-albertas-bow-river/article26767720/>

Anthony Imbrogno is a volunteer with The Calgary Heritage Initiative Society/Heritage Inspires YYC

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To discover more about Calgary's heritage, visit:

HERITAGE *inspires* YYC.org



Bearspaw Dam under construction, 1954 (Glenbow Library and Archives Collection)



Construction of Ghost River dam, ca. 1928-1930 (Glenbow Library and Archives Collection)



Horseshoe Falls dam and power plant, 1913 (Glenbow Library and Archives Collection)

Corporate Memberships

Starting September 1st, we are pleased to share that we are introducing new levels to our Corporate Memberships.

Our new Bronze Membership will be for smaller business looking to get some initial exposure to VCA members and residents.

- \$50 annually, runs from September 1 to August 31
- Listed on our website as a Bronze Member, bulletin board at VCA
- Able to offer discounts to approximately 700 VCA Members
- Listed on Corporate Member page in the Varsity Voice reaching 5600 residences.

Our new Silver Membership for businesses

- \$125 annually, runs from September 1 to August 31
- Includes Bronze benefits plus
- 5% discount on Varsity Voice ads
- 1x per year corporate profile in Varsity Voice
- Co-sponsor opportunities for VCA Events
- Newsletter profile 1x per year (700 VCA Members)
- Free tickets to one paid VCA Event

Our new Gold Membership for businesses

- \$250 annually, runs from September 1 to August 31
- Includes all of Silver and Bronze benefits plus
- Sole Sponsorship of one VCA Event
- Inhouse advertising on TV display
- Onsite Advertising opportunities (Rink Boards, Tennis Court, Room Naming)*

Featured Corporate Members

University District Dental

We are excited to be in the vibrant new community of University District nested just in between the University of Calgary and Market Mall. We invite you to experience our new dental office where our goal is to build relationships with families in our neighbourhood while providing comprehensive family dentistry services. We want to make your dental visits with us comfortable, whatever your needs may be. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Varsity patients for your continued support of our new dental clinic. As a U of C Graduate, the Varsity community holds a special place in Dr. Safina's heart, and we are proud to be a part of your ongoing oral health care needs.

- *some additional fees may apply to development of rink and tennis courts signs

We look forward to continuing working with our community partners and businesses to encourage members and residents to shop local in 2023/2024.

Corporate Members

Gold Corporate Members

Colin Ongyerth – Realtor Remax
Things to do in Calgary
University District Dental

Silver Corporate Members

ATB Brentwood
Always Best Care Senior Services
Chinooks Grassroots Soccer
Dance Fitness by Ruth Winnitoy
Farideh Abbasi – WFG Associate

Joyride Automotive
Minus One Club
Organized Place
Run.Jump.LEAD!

Sportball Sports Instruction
The b. Class & Girl Be YOU
The Calgary Dance Club
Things To Do In Calgary
Varsity Open Stage
Western Pizza Express
Zenith Music

More info at www.vccalgary.com



YES!

I want to be a supporter of my community and all the good it does!

Purchase online at:
www.vccalgary.com

Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Postal Code: _____

E-mail: _____

Type of membership: Community (Household) - \$36.75

Senior (55+) - \$10.50/senior

Payment: \$ _____ Donation: \$ _____

Please issue a tax receipt for my donation

* Memberships are valid from September to August of the following year.
Please mail or drop off, along with your cheques made payable to:

**Varsity Community Association,
4303 Varsity Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta, T3A 0Z7**