

SEPTEMBER 2021

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BRIDGELAND RIVERSIDE

BRIDGES

THE OFFICIAL BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

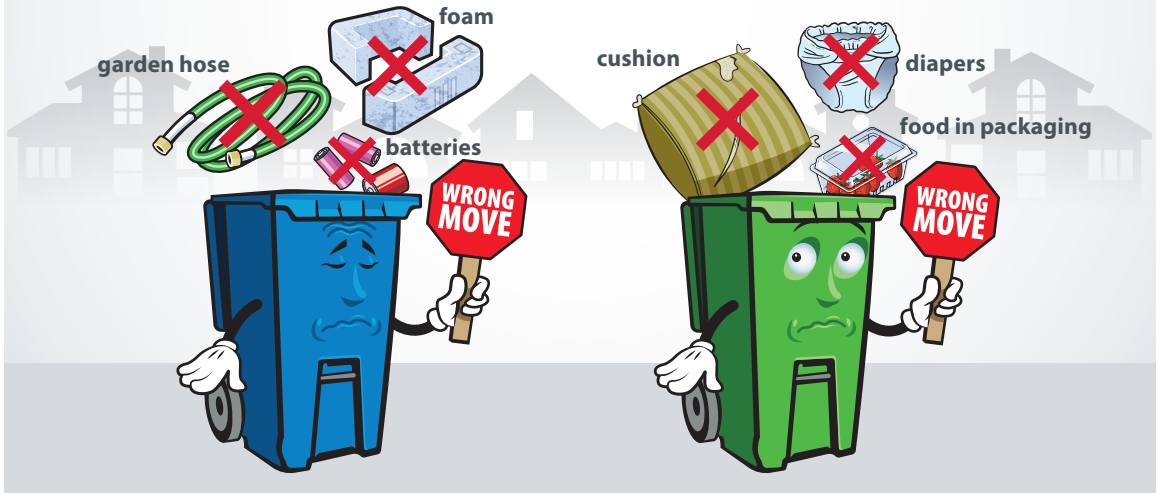


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BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



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- Dr. Laura Brescia



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PRESIDENT/ EDITOR'S MESSAGE



by Alex MacWilliam

Pandemic summer number two is now behind us, and we approach fall with hope and perhaps less trepidation than was the case this time last year. Vaccination levels will hopefully continue to climb as children return to school and businesses continue to recover from previous shutdowns and restrictions.

The BRCA is doing its best to facilitate the safe usage of the community hall and plan events that will promote the neighbourhood spirit that has been the hallmark of Bridgeland-Riverside. The Park Naming Project run by volunteers on our Beautification Committee is continuing, with input from the users of these spaces and others interested in formally recognizing our hitherto unnamed gathering spots.

Our wonderful Flyover Park is the culmination of efforts started in early 2017 to transform what had become lost space into an award-winning active, beautiful site that could be enjoyed by everyone. The development of this project involved many individuals and organizations, including Ali McMillan, the BRCA, students and teachers at Riverside School, the City of Calgary, Government of Alberta, Calgary Foundation, and TD, to name just a few. Flyover Park has been in use since last winter and it continues to evolve, with a recent collaboration with the Beltline Urban Mural Project (BUMP) leading to striking murals painted by Boris Biberdzic on the walls and pillars. Flyover Park is finally having its Official Opening on September 18, with food trucks, kids entertainment, and live music on site. Details will be posted on the BRCA website and on our social media. I hope to see you there.



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BRCA FARMERS' MARKET COMMITTEE



BRIDGELAND RIVERSIDE FARMERS' MARKET

FALL HARVEST

VENDORS * FARMERS * MUSIC
FOOD TRUCKS * FUN



FREE ADMISSION * OUTDOORS * MASKING RECOMMENDED

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2021
3:30-7:30PM * RAIN OR SHINE
BRIDGELAND RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY HALL
917 CENTRE AVE NE

Helenizing Our Back Lanes



Helen Jusic the backlane art, August 2021

Here is an amazing garage door painting by Jennifer Jacoby and approved by Helen! Check it out in the lane between 7A and 8 Streets in the 500 block. How many creatures can you find in this picture?

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

New and returning members, please apply online at brcacalgary.org/ membership or use this form and mail or drop off along with cheque made out to:

Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association
917 Centre Ave. NE
Calgary AB T2E 0C6



Membership type: (please check one)

Individual

Family

Senior

During this time, membership fees are waived; you can still sign up to be a member and when you do so, you will not be charged a fee.

Member information: (please print clearly, attach additional family member names)

Last name: _____

First name: _____

Address: _____

Postal code: _____

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

Or, please feel free to communicate with us about community events at events@BRCAcalgary.org

Bridges contains editorial content and information provided by Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association and is distributed free to community residents and businesses 11 times per year. Circulation is approximately 5,600.

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How To Figure Out Which Plastics Are Recyclable



Do you stare at your empty plastics wondering if it belongs in the blue cart? Ask yourself this question to be sure you recycle your plastics right.

Is it a container? If your plastic is a container like a bottle, jug, or tub, it can be recycled. Make sure it's empty, clean, and dry. If it's not a container, it is not accepted in the blue cart. There may be other disposal options for your item – check calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere.

Be aware of these exceptions:

Bundle your clean, stretchy plastic wrap, bubble wrap, and other plastic film into a single plastic bag and tie closed for the blue cart.

Foam packaging (polystyrene, EPE, EPS, Styrofoam) including foam marked with the recycle symbol belongs in your black cart as garbage.

Recycle plastic lids larger than the size of your palm in the blue cart. If it's smaller, it goes in the black cart.

Stay tuned for upcoming presentations on waste diversion and reduction this fall – search “waste” at calgarylibrary.ca.



mybabysitterlist

Calling All BABYSITTERS
Enroll free at mybabysitter.ca and choose the Calgary communities you would like to babysit in.

Calling All PARENTS
Visit mybabysitter.ca and find available babysitters in and around your community.

BRCA Volunteer Opportunities

We are always looking for volunteers to assist with events and projects happening in our community. This is a great way to make new friends in the neighbourhood and to contribute to the community. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the following events coming up in August or September, email membership@brcacalgary.org or go to <https://brcacalgary.org/connect/volunteer-opportunities/> for more details.

- Parks Naming Project Volunteers: August/September
- Rock Stars – Rock Painting: September 11 and 12
- Fly Over Park Grand Opening Event: September 18
- BRCA Committees: Ongoing

Baseball in Bridgeland-Riverside?

Did you know we have an amazing baseball diamond right here in our community? To be specific, in Bridgeland Park (aka McDougall Park).

Step 1 - To book this baseball diamond, go to <https://www.calgary.ca/csps/recreation/rentals-and-bookings/book-a-playfield.html>. Check availability and book a date and time, there is no cost to book.

Step 2 - There is also baseball equipment available. There is a locked tote at the baseball field with all the equipment you will need. To access the tote, email hall@brcacalgary.org or call the BRCA hall at 403-263-5755 to coordinated getting the key.

Step 3 – Play ball! And have fun!



Slowing Traffic – Some Ideas for Residents

by Jana Lait and Jason Kubke
of the BRCA Transportation
Committee

Many Bridgeland-Riverside residents are understandably frustrated by the speed of vehicle traffic around our community. We encourage residents to take even small actions to help make the situation better.



Slow children playing sign

Here are some ideas:

1. Report problem intersections and streets to the City of Calgary. Call 311 or use the online request form at calgary.ca/cfod/csc/311.html. Encourage your neighbours to do the same. Multiple requests get more attention.
2. Also use 311 to let the City know what you like. For instance, do you like the “polka dot” bump-out intersections in front of the Piazza on 1st Ave at 9 St and 8A St? Let the City know!
3. Use the Calgary Police Service’s traffic service request system at calgary.ca/cps/traffic/traffic-service-requests.html. The CPS uses this tool to track issues. This system is part of the Residential Traffic Safety Unit, created to specifically address residential

traffic issues. They focus on playground zones, pedestrian-rich locations, and other high-risk locations identified through collision data analysis.

4. Collaborate with neighbours on your street to put up signs asking drivers to slow down. Residents have done this at intersections, streets, and alleys throughout the community. See the photos for examples. The dollar store has inexpensive signs or you can make your own. Be creative and get your kids involved in making or decorating the signs.

The BRCA Transportation Committee communicates with City departments and the Ward 9 office to make improvements to various areas in the community as we strive to enhance safety and enjoyment for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. In addition to this Committee, every contribution by residents in the community makes a difference.

Please share with us any traffic safety efforts you have tried. Email us at transportation@brcacalgary.org.



Slow down sign



We're All Rock Stars!
A Painting Event to Celebrate
Resilience

Sunday Sept 12, 2021
9:00 - 4:30
BRCA Community Hall

FUN FOR EVERYONE!
Come out, meet some neighbours, help paint some rocks!

THE DETAILS

- ✓ Rain or shine
- ✓ All supplies provided
- ✓ Come ready for fun!
- ✓ Wear clothes that can get messy!
- ✓ Your painted rocks will be displayed in Bridgeland-Riverside as part of a scavenger/rock hunt
- ✓ Remember to register!

Register at:
brcacalgary.org/connect/events-activities/

BRCA
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VOLUNTEER PROFILE



Laura McLeod on the left

Volunteer Profile: Laura McLeod

How long have you lived in Bridgeland-Riverside?

What do you like about living here?

My spouse John Humphrey and I moved here 6 years ago. We were looking for a more walkable neighbourhood, had always liked Bridgeland-Riverside, and had family here. The move turned out even better than we expected. We love that Bridgeland-Riverside is like a village, with diverse people and housing, and is close to the river and city centre, but relatively peaceful. We spent almost 30 years in a suburban community and within 6 months we knew more people here.

How did you get involved in volunteering in our community?

As many people have already answered, Deb Lee got me involved. I joined the Wednesday evening walking group when we moved in, and Deb gently nudged me into most of my activities. Deb is such an asset to our community!

What kind of volunteer activities have you done?

I started helping with the park weeding group, and the litter pick-ups. Then I became one of the co-leaders of the walking group, with Deb and Nony. Last year I helped with the parks review group; looking at ways to improve our parks, especially with the increased need for outdoor space during the pandemic. I've helped move the Piazza furniture into winter storage. This May, John and I directed traffic at the community cleanup. Sometime in there I became a member of the Beautification Committee and am now the lead for their Tree group.

What ideas do you have for volunteering in the future?

What interests or excites you?

I am interested in the environment, as I guess you can tell from my activities. I get oddly excited about litter pick-up, as all the plastic we pick up is not going into the river, and therefore, not into the ocean. We can make a difference globally as well as locally!

My current project with the Beautification Committee Tree group is just starting. Although Bridgeland-Riverside has

some magnificent trees, there are some trees showing signs of stress or dying, and lots of places that could take more trees. I think we have all noticed this hot summer how lovely the shaded streets are. Where trees have been removed, stumps have often been left that are tripping hazards. Our group of volunteers is walking all the streets, avenues, and parks in Bridgeland-Riverside, looking for places on public land that don't have trees and might benefit from having one, as well as assessing the health of the trees we already have and stumps that aren't safe. We will work closely with the City of Calgary Urban Forestry program. Homeowners will be involved in any recommendations for new trees near them, though as of the writing date in early August, we are still figuring out how to do that. Readers can contact us at trees@brcacalgary.org.

What would you tell others in the community about volunteering?

It's well worth it! You feel part of the community, not just someone who lives here, and you can make a positive change. Pick something you care about and go for it! The BRCA volunteer coordinator is the best place to start if you aren't sure how to help. There are some tasks that are one-time tasks, and others that are ongoing, and you can find something that suits your level of commitment. We have great community volunteer leaders like Deb Lee and Ali McMillan, but they need our help to work their magic! If you are interested in volunteering, you can email membership@brcacalgary.org.

What do you like most about volunteering for the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association?

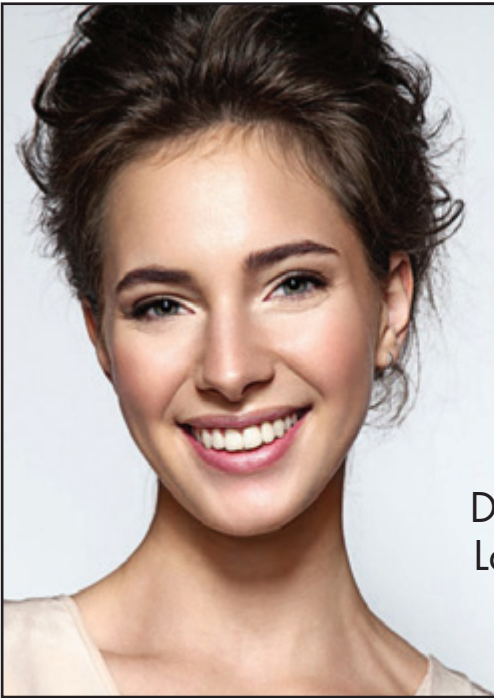
The people—we have a great bunch of people who really care about the community.

During the pandemic, were you still able to do volunteer activities in a safe manner?

Yes! Last year we delayed the walking group until the COVID numbers were low, and we asked people to mask, since we knew we couldn't all walk two meters apart. It's a social activity! That worked out well. This year with higher vaccination levels, we aren't requiring masks, but people can wear them if they prefer. Group activities like weeding and litter picking are outdoors and well spaced. Meetings have been on Zoom or outdoors or masked if indoors.

What is a hidden gem in Bridgeland-Riverside that you have discovered and would like to share?

The CNIB Fragrant Garden is a gem, and not everyone knows about it. Definitely worth regular visits. My favourite scent there is from brushing my fingers on the silver leafed Artemisia at the entrance!



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BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE FOOD TRUCK POP-UPS



On the same Thursday as the
Farmers' Market Box pick up days:

• Thursday, September 16



Bridgeland School is 100 Years Old!

If you haven't seen the lovely two-storey red brick heritage school yet, you really must take a walk over to a quiet local street, 11A Street and 2nd Avenue, and check it out. The school where grades one to six were originally taught, served our community and several generations of Bridgeland kids until 1985.



Rear view kids playing, 1950s

This was not the first Bridgeland School. That honour went to the 1912 sandstone school on 8 Avenue, now in the community of Renfrew, whose name was changed in 1916 to honour Captain Stanley Jones, who was the first to sign up for military service in WWI and one of the first to die in combat. Even with Riverside Public School (1910), Riverside Bungalows 1 (1914) and 2 (1920) and Bridgeland Cottage School, there was not enough space to accommodate the growing number of children living in the communities, so a new four room Bridgeland School was built in 1921 and opened for classes in February 1922. The addition of two classrooms in 1930 and the gymnasium and admin offices in 1960 completed the school site.

Declining enrolment in the 1980s led the Calgary Board of Education to close the public school and rent it to Rundle College (1986-1996), ABC Charter School (1996-1998), and finally Deltawest Academy (1998-present). The school building and immediate grounds were purchased by Deltawest in 2002 and they continue to offer private schooling for students in grades one to twelve.

The building, designed by William Branton, has some unique aspects:

"[it] reflects some Edwardian Commercial elements with its brick construction, stone trims, parapets, central pediment, and pressed-metal cornices. The classroom interiors feature broad expanses of windows that create light and airy spaces. A unique component of this specific school's design is its spiral slide fire escape, a rare example of an emergency evacuation route not seen in any other extant Calgary schools." – Calgary Inventory of Heritage Resources.



Girls baseball, 1956

From 1930 to 1933, special needs students attended classes here, a first in Calgary at that time.

Pictures from the 1950s show that the school grounds and hillside to the rear had a much different appearance than what we see now, and that baseball was a popular game with the students of all ages.

Many hundreds of students have attended school here over the years. How can we celebrate this amazing 100-year-old school building?

Deb Lee, Heritage Committee

Update from AHS on Continuing Care Centre Construction

The Bridgeland-Riverside Continuing Care Centre project team is engaging with local schools to create artwork for display along the wooden construction fence. Foundations and piling have been completed. Construction of concrete columns, stairwells, and suspended slabs will be progressing throughout the month. The project team continues to monitor and control dust generated on the site by the use of water trucks.

The project team continues to be committed to the community of Bridgeland-Riverside and are available to address concerns which the community may have. Please use the email address INFRAS.BRCCC@gov.ab.ca to forward your comments or concerns and a response will be issued.

Thank you for your patience as construction continues to build a facility the community of Bridgeland-Riverside can be pleased with.

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BRIDGELAND RIVERSIDE

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—

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BANK TO BASICS! The Dollar Detectives is a local not-for-profit delivering fun and experiential financial education to enhance youth's confidence, leadership, and self-determination. Practical work experience, activities, and field trips included! Register today for fall 2021. Check out our suite of extra-curricular, school-based, and community-partner programs at thedollardetectives.com.



Meet the Queen in a Car Shop

Queen Elizabeth the Second, although a Queen, was once busy doing something much different. She is the only woman in the royal family to have served in the military! At her insistence, she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) when she was 18 and trained as a truck driver and mechanic! Wouldn't that be the coolest trip to the car shop ever?



Starting Fall SMART

Fall is a great time to set goals! Goals help us make positive changes in our day-to-day lives that move us towards our hopes for the future. It is hard to know if we are moving in the right direction if we don't know where we're going! Goals are like a map, they guide us. They give us a sense of comfort knowing we have a plan, something to work towards. Setting goals gives us the chance to think about what is most important in our lives. Goals that we share and work on with our family, friends or colleagues can also build stronger relationships and closer connections.

Goal setting should not feel like it's "too much work" or leave us feeling trapped. Some people like to call it "intention" setting instead. Intentions come from our beliefs and values but focus on the present rather than on far-off outcomes. Intention setting tells us it's what we do today that matters the most. Whether we set goals or intentions, we need to give ourselves the freedom to change our minds and adjust our goals as we move towards them.

There is no one "right" way to set goals. Some people find the SMART strategy helpful, which gives us the following cues.

- **Specific:** What exactly would you like to do? What is your aim?
- **Measurable:** How will you know if you are moving towards your goal? What will you see?
- **Achievable:** Can you act to reach your goal? Is it something you can do?
- **Relevant:** Does this goal have meaning for you?
- **Time:** When would you like to reach this goal?

All parts of our lives can benefit from setting meaningful goals.

- **Attitude** (Ex. Being positive, being hopeful, seeing the good, being grateful)
- **Physical Health** (Ex. Being active, eating healthy food, sleeping, drinking water)
- **Relationships** (Ex. Spending more time with family and friends)
- **Public Service** (Ex. Volunteering, helping your community)

Taking time to write out or tell others our goals helps us to reach them! It is also important to see and celebrate our successes along the way. Goals are not all or nothing. Keep in mind how much you have already done instead of focusing on the things you still need to do.

Remember to be kind to yourself. This is a good year to think about what is important and fall gently back into our routines again!



This summer, Calgarians were able to return to many of the outdoor summer activities they enjoy most. It was wonderful to see the community come together and once again be able to share in the outdoor spaces and parks Mountain View has to offer, as Albertans continually work to find the balance between a return to normal and keeping our neighbours safe.

Alberta has seen a rise in COVID-19 numbers as public health restrictions eased this summer. And as the temperatures shift and we begin to spend more time indoors, we must remain diligent to keep the most vulnerable members of our society safe during the ongoing pandemic.

Students are returning to classes this month and COVID-19 will continue to play a role in the health and safety of students in the classroom. With the drop in COVID-19 restrictions, it's more important than ever that we work to protect those who can't yet be vaccinated. That's why I am proud to stand with my colleagues in the NDP Caucus in calling for the introduction of an in-school COVID-19 vaccination program this fall. The proposed initiative would allow parents to opt-in to vaccines available through public, private, and charter schools.

Alberta already holds school-based vaccination programs in grades 1, 6, and 9 to vaccinate against viruses like hepatitis B, meningitis, and diphtheria. Community-based vaccine clinics have been successful, and accessibility improves Albertans' participation. Having COVID-19 vaccinations in schools is a natural progression of programs already in place. It is a strong step in protecting those too young to be vaccinated and improves our outcomes overall.

As always, I'm happy to hear from constituents. Please keep in touch through my constituency office: Calgary.MountainView@assembly.ab.ca or 403-216-5445.





Responding to Calgarians

The City of Calgary is dedicated to investing citizen tax dollars wisely and maximizing the value citizens receive from our services. Throughout the pandemic, we have worked closely with City Council to adjust and respond to the needs of Calgarians through these difficult times.

Here are some facts about our finances:



65%
to City services

Residential property tax is generally split, 65 per cent goes towards funding City services, while the remaining 35 per cent goes to the province.

\$5.88*

per day
is the cost to a typical Calgary household for City tax-supported services.



77%

of homeowners



saw a reduction or no increase at all to their 2021 property tax bill. The City reduced expenses to support citizens through the pandemic while still providing the critical services needed.

Below-average taxes

In 2019, Calgary had below-average residential property taxes relative to a cross-section of major Canadian cities and regional neighbours for a representative two-storey house.



\$177 million**

in permanent reductions made since July 2019. Calgary was the only major city in Canada to cut taxes during this challenging year and a half.

60%

of property owners



in Calgary pay their property tax monthly through the Tax Instalment Payment Plan (TIPP).

Learn more about how we're responding to Calgarians at calgary.ca/respond

* Calculation based on typical single residential home assessed at \$445,000 in 2021. Actual values will vary based on your property's assessed value, visit calgary.ca/taxcalculator.

** \$90 million found from the previously approved budget

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