

Westwords

Westgate Community Newsletter

May & June 2016



**Westgate's Little Free Libraries
Back Yard Fire Pits
Westgate's Leucistic Magpie**



Important Dates

(check the website for full details)

Stretch Your Roots (ReTree YYC)

Saturday, May 7

Westgate Parade of Garage Sales

Saturday, May 28 9am-4pm

Neighbour Day Picnic

Saturday, June 18

Community Clean Up

Sunday, June 12

Canada Day Bike Parade (organizer needed!)

Friday, July 1

Want more information?

Check out

www.westgatecommunity.ca to
register, volunteer or read more
about these great events.

Did we miss something? Contact newsletter@westgatecommunity.ca to
have your event added to future calendars.

Westgate Community Hall Rentals

The Westgate Community Association has three areas available to rent.

Main Hall (capacity 150 people)	\$500 full day or \$50 per hour
Club Room (capacity 50 people)	\$400 full day or \$40 per hour
Kitchen	\$300 full day or \$30 per hour

All areas are non-smoking and require a minimum \$500 deposit and a \$100 non-refundable booking fee.

Call the hall rental coordinator at (403) 249-5656 or email
info@westgatecommunity.ca for full details.

Happening at the Hall

Community Soccer

Mondays & Wednesdays 6:15pm -
7:15pm

Adult Fitness

Mondays & Wednesdays 9:30am -
10:30 am

Sit Fit

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am - 11am

RSVP Ministries (formerly Calgary West Christian Women's Club)

2nd Tuesday of the Month 10:30am -
12pm

Kick Start Fitness

Tuesdays & Thursdays 7pm - 8pm

Chinook Martial Arts

Wednesdays 7pm - 8pm

Westgate Acoustic Music Jam

Last Sunday of the Month 2pm - 5pm

Westgate Community Association

4943 8th Ave SW Calgary, AB T3C 3V4

T: 403.249.5656 E: info@westgatecommunity.ca

Office hours are:

Monday & Wednesday 11am – 2pm

Thursday 10am – 1pm

Position	Name	Contact Info
Past President	Dan Hassett	pastpresident@westgatecommunity.ca
President	Pat Guillemaud	president@westgatecommunity.ca
1st Vice-President	Meghan Ruholl	info@westgatecommunity.ca (name in subject line)
2nd Vice-President	Vacant	
Treasurer	Jane Kennedy	treasurer@westgatecommunity.ca
Secretary	Gillian Lefebure	secretary@westgatecommunity.ca
Newsletter	Robert McBain	newsletter@westgatecommunity.ca
Casino	Jodi Smid	Info@westgatecommunity.ca (name in subject line)
Planning/Civic Affairs	Glenn Webber	
Director	Susan Giesen	
Director	Renee Kirby	
Director	Laurie Montegary	
Director	Lesia Luciuk	

From the Editor's Office...

Westwords is a volunteer run newsletter with a goal to promote a sense of community and local involvement. Here are some ways to get in on the action!

Newsletter Contributions: Any community member is welcome to submit articles, photos, art, comments, etc. to *Westwords*.

Graphic Design Help: Do you have experience with Adobe software and are willing to help improve the look of *Westwords*?

Advertising Opportunities: *Westwords* is a great way to communicate with your neighbours. With a circulation of 1100, *Westwords* is an affordable way to tell us about your business and a great way to show your support.

Westwords Classifieds: Future issues will feature a free-of-charge classifieds section for WCA members. Some conditions will apply.

Upcoming Art Issue: If you're a local artist, we want to feature your work! Musician, writer, dancer? Yep, that's art! Please contact before September 30th to be included.

Please contact newsletter@westgatecommunity.ca for more information on these wonderful opportunities.

From the WCA President...

Spring is in the air, buds are blooming and the trees are green. Little residents of Westgate will be playing soccer in the fields. Please watch your speed when driving in Westgate; the children are excited to play soccer and see their friends, they may not be careful when crossing the road – please SLOW DOWN. Thank you to Sandra for coordinating our Westgate Soccer Program for neighbourhood youth.

We had a successful Casino in March, thanks to Jodi for handling all the arrangements and volunteers for this event. Westgate Community

relies on funds raised through the Casino to maintain the Hall, offer programs and services for all residents of Westgate. A great big THANK YOU to all involved.

Have you noticed the brightly coloured mural on the fence surrounding Westgate School? Stream of Dreams is at Westgate Community! We are very excited that Westgate School is partnering with the Calgary Stream of Dreams Society to build a “fence fish mural” during the month of April. The project combines Science and Art as children learn about their role in the maintenance and creation of healthy watersheds. With our school community living so close to the Bow River, this is a valuable and impactful lesson relevant to our children. Please refer the website for more information: www.streamofdreams.org. This project is a daily reminder to students at Westgate School and all resident about the importance of protecting our rivers and water ways.

Parade of Garage Sales is fast approaching, contact George (George@geocosta.com) to add your location to the list. Check WCA website for details.

Once again we will be combining with Rosscarrock Community to host Clean-Up day in June. Check Westgate CA website for details.

Another successful Ladies Pot Luck was held in April, thanks to Pat & Louise for coordinating this event for all to enjoy.

All residents please ensure you lock all valuable out of sight, lock your back gates, shed, garages, etc. We appear to have some visitors to our community who would like to enjoy the fruits of your labours and relieve you of valuable possessions.

Enjoy the coming warmer weather, have fun in the garden, at the park, lake or where ever your summer fun takes you.



Pat Guillemaud

President

Westgate community Association

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Westgate Community Membership Form

Support your community association - purchase your membership today!

Membership is only \$20.00 per household and is valid for 1 year from date of registration. Please visit www.Westgatecommunity.ca to sign up online or submit the following form to the hall in person or by mail. Please make your cheque payable to the Westgate Community Association. The hall's mailing address is 4943 8 Avenue S.W., Calgary Alberta, T3C 2V8.

Our Strength is Our Volunteers!

Family Name: _____ First name: _____

Email Address: _____

Street Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone Number: _____

Number of adults in household: _____ Number of children: _____

Would you like to receive an Email version of the Newsletter in the future? Yes _____

Volunteer Spotlight - Ken Goosen



If you have been to Winterfest, you know the highlight is the amazing fireworks. What you might not know is that the man behind the scenes is Ken Goosen, a producer at Globalfest. Ken's connection to Westgate is through the school which his children attended. Not only does Ken plan and run the fireworks show but he spends hours (and hours!) with the CA beforehand handling permissions, forms and paperwork to allow the fireworks to happen. He then also comes back to Westgate the next day to help pick up paper debris from the fireworks. If you see Ken, make sure to shake his hand and say thank you.

Thanks, Ken!

Keeping the Water Flowing in Ward 8

The neighbourhoods that make up Ward 8 are some of the oldest and most historic communities in Calgary. The countless number of Century Homes, Beltline's Central Memorial Park, Wildwood's Sandstone Quarry Mines, Mission's Rouleau House, the list goes on. This history lends so much character, charm and warmth to each neighbourhood. That said, with inner city neighbourhoods comes aging infrastructure and water mains. There's currently a total of 208km of water mains in Ward 8, with the oldest pipe being cast iron and dating back to the 1910 era and the newest pipe being PVC and installed in 1992.

Interestingly, water main breaks in Calgary spiked in the 1970's with our city experiencing a peak in 1982 with 1,813 breaks per year. In response to these rising rates, The City allocated a budget of \$35M per year (2015 dollars) and implemented innovative asset management programs like enhanced data collection, inspection technologies, and risk analysis techniques. This strategy cut main breaks in half to approximately 900 per year by the early 1990's. Now, in 2016, the City's efforts have resulted in a drastic 85% reduction in breaks and a savings of \$150M over the last 31 years.

I was surprised and happy to see that



in Ward 8 specifically, we've seen a significant drop in breaks over the last five years, from 45 breaks in 2010 to only 23 in 2015. This is thanks to the aggressive installation of corrosion protection on our water mains. While our city's population steadily rises and our water network continues to grow, the proactive approach The City has taken will allow us to continue to reduce the numbers of main breaks and most importantly, reduce capital spending.

One of my biggest goals when I chose to run for City Council was to make sure that more of Ward 8 residents' taxes flowed back into their neighbourhoods. Seeing the increased service life and reliability of the water mains in our communities is a great example of how we're working to make our neighbourhoods better.

Evan Woolley, Councillor, Ward 8, City of Calgary
PO Box 2100, Stn. M, #8001B Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M5
T:403.268.2431 E:ward08@calgary.ca
W:www.calgary.ca/ward8

From our MLA...

Spring has truly sprung here in Calgary Currie. The snow is gone for another year (fingers crossed), and we relish the days getting longer as we inch closer to summer.

Springtime means many things to many people but for me, the springtime activity that stands out from my youth is the planting of the garden.

I can recall playing at gardening in my grandparents backyard garden. I marvelled in the skill my grandmother showed in digging the trenches where I would put the seeds. She never took out more dirt than she needed, and she never needed to go back to dig deeper, she just seemed to know how much was needed.

Many years later I now know that this skill wasn't something she was taught, it was something she knew from doing it every year for decades on end.

Looking back, a lot of the things I learned in that backyard garden are lessons I have kept with me for my whole life.

I learned about patience and diligence. No garden grows overnight, nor does one grow without constant attention. The changes that happen when looked at in isolation, are minuscule to the point that they are almost immeasurable. Over the



course of a summer, the hard work of weeding, and watering transformed a tiny seed into a giant eggplant. The product of our garden labour is rarely seen up front, but boy, watching gardens grow over the course of a growing season is like nothing else.

The ability to look to the future, to visualize what things will look like at the beginning, middle and end is a skill that I have found immeasurably transferable to my role as an MLA, giving us perspective of where we are on our particular journey in life.

Old, young, or in-between, anyone can get into gardening. To encourage gardening, I have been reaching out to schools, community associations and individuals with gifts of seeds to be planted in community gardens, school planters, balcony flower pots and backyards across the riding.

If you would like some seeds for your own patch of dirt, feel free to stop by our office at 2108B 33ave SW, say hi and pick up your pack of seeds to help keep the tradition of gardening in Calgary alive.

Brian Malkinson, MLA for Calgary Currie
2108 B - 33 Avenue SW Calgary, Alberta T2T 1Z6
T:403.246.4794 F:403.686.1543
E: calgary.currie@assembly.ab.ca

Calgary-Currie MLA Brian Malkinson's 1st Annual Stampede Breakfast

When: Sunday, July 10 from 9:00 – 11:00am

Where: Killarney-Glenarry Community Hall at 2828-28 Street SW Calgary

What: Pancakes, sausages, coffee and juice, along with live music and face painting for the kids

From our MP...

As your Member of Parliament, I value your thoughts and opinions. None is truer going forward on the changes to the government legislation proposed for physician assisted death. While I may have my own opinion on this matter, I want to cast my vote in Parliament based on the position that the majority of my constituents believe.

Over the past few weeks we have been gathering feedback from the Calgary Signal Hill residents to ensure that I can go forward with an accurate representation of the constituents.

To provide a brief background, on February 6, 2015 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that certain sections of the Criminal Code which deemed it an offense to consent to death or assist another with suicide was in violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Parliament of Canada established a Special Joint Committee on December 11, 2015 for the purpose of developing and providing recommendations to the legislations that would require amendments to all relevant Acts of Parliament. This Supreme Court ruling comes into effect on June 6, 2016 so there are many factors that need to be investigated and in a tight time frame.

The Special Joint Committee has made many recommendations that are captured in the Medical Assistance in Dying committee report. The feedback that we are requesting from you is not whether this should be permissible as the Supreme Court has already ruled on that. Instead we are looking for your thoughts and opinions on the recommendations that have been laid out in the report.

We encourage you to go to my website as www.ronliepert.ca/pad to read more on the Supreme Court ruling, the Recommendations of the Special Joint Committee, the Dissenting Report from the Conservative members as well as the feedback survey form that we are utilizing to gather your thoughts.

If you have any questions or require assistance in completing the feedback form, please feel free to call the Calgary office at 403 292-6666.

Other news, as we expected, the Liberals presented their 2016 Budget which was almost three times the deficit they predicted during their election campaign coming in at \$29.7 billion dollars. Presented were many initiatives that, we, the Conservatives, are not in the best interest of Albertans but as the opposition we will continually work on your behalf to ensure the negative impact will be a minimal as possible. If you have specific questions or feedback, we would like to hear from you as we want to bring your voice to the government on these and other issues.



Ron Liepert, Member of Parliament, Calgary Signal Hill
#2216, 8561 8A Avenue S.W. Calgary, Alberta T3H 0V5
T:403 292-6666 F: 403 292-6670
E: ron.liepertC1A@parl.gc.ca

How Safe Is Your Backyard Fire Pit?

Backyard fire pits are great places to gather and share good times in Calgary's summer months, but these great times can quickly become tragic if you aren't safe. The City of Calgary has bylaw standards to help minimize some of the dangers of your backyard fire pit, outdoor fireplace, wood burning oven or chimneys. The Calgary Fire Department also has a number of tips to help prevent anyone from getting hurt.

Safety tips and bylaw regulations:

- Backyard fire pits should be built into the ground, on brick or stone, or in a fire-resistant container.
- Portable fire pits may be used on a deck as long as they sit on brick or stone, and not directly on your wooden deck.
- Fire pits must be at least two metres away from your property line, house, garage, or fence.
- Fire pits must not be under any trees, branches, plants or other materials that can catch fire.
- Always have a way to put out the fire close to your fire pit. Easy options are your watering hose or a bucket of water.
- All fires in your fire pit must be kept to a reasonable size; under 1 metre high and wide. This helps ensure the fire's embers, sparks or smoke do not harm anyone or cause a nuisance to neighbouring properties.
- All fires in your fire pit must be continually supervised.
- Fires may only be burned in fire pits from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m., unless prohibited in a fire ban.

Do not burn:

- Painted or treated lumber containing glue or resin
- Wet or green/fresh cut wood
- Yard waste (cut grass or leaves)
- Garbage
- Rubber or plastic
- Furniture

Always check www.calgary.ca/firebans to ensure no fire bans are in effect, which may caution against or forbid using fire pits. Remember, you can be fined from \$500 to \$5,000 for not following Calgary's fire pit bylaws (5M2004) or the instructions of fire bans. Learn more about Calgary fire pit safety and bylaws by visiting calgary.ca and searching the term 'fire pits'.

Little Free Libraries in Westgate

The Little Free Library movement was started by Todd Bol in Wisconsin as a tribute to his mother, she was a teacher and loved to read. He built one, filled it with books and posted it in his front yard. His neighbours and friends loved it. He posted a sign "Take a book, leave a book".

The first LFL came to Westgate in the spring of 2014. The CA was able to secure funding for the first four through the City and they were built by Westgate residents. There are at least six Little Free Libraries in Westgate now. They offer the opportunity for us to share with each other, encouraging us all to participate in our community.

Most LFLs are adopted, their stewards keep them clean and do the occasional purge. They take care of the LFLs so all can enjoy.

We love our little Free Libraries, please donate high quality books (no textbooks, manuals or encyclopedias) to your nearest one. Or walk around the neighbourhood and find them all. Take a book, leave a book!

If you would like more information or your own Little Free Library, details can be found at the following websites. Google "Little Free Library" to see pictures of unique designs. If you put one up, please let the CA know, we'd love to post a map on our website of every one in Westgate. There is definitely room for more LFLs in Westgate!

littlefreelibrary.org
calgaryreads.com
westgatecommunity.ca



Family Events Around Our City

Neighbour Day on June 18

Do you miss the days when neighbours connected and got to know each other?

Held annually on the third Saturday of June, Neighbour Day is an opportunity for neighbours to come together in the form of a front yard barbecue, garden party, picnic, clean-up or afternoon tea in a local park to celebrate our strong community spirit in Calgary.

The idea is to meet your neighbours, make new friends, have fun and maybe work together on a project that benefits the entire community.

Make Saturday, June 18 the day you get to know your neighbours! Visit calgary.ca/neighbourday for ideas.

ReTree YYC Fair May 14

You're invited! Join us at our ReTree YYC Fair this spring and listen to free talks about how to care for your trees, pick up some free mulch, and talk to tree care experts.

ReTree YYC Fair will take place Saturday May 14th from noon - 4p, at North Glenmore Park (Snowy Owl picnic site, only accessible from Crowchild Trail)

City of Calgary's Parks Fest June 19

Enjoy some family time at Canada's largest man-made wetland

Bring the family to Ralph Klein Park on Sunday, June 19 from 1 to 3 p.m. for free activities and entertainment at The City of Calgary's Parks Fest! Enjoy an afternoon of face painting, pond dipping, guided walks, nature crafts and more. Learn about Canada's largest man-made wetland, visit the park's Environmental Education Centre and explore the wonders of nature all around.

Don't forget your sunscreen and water bottle, and please leave your furry friends at home. Pets are not permitted on site, excluding assistance dogs.

For more information, visit calgary.ca/parksevents.

International Migratory Bird Day May 8

In celebration of International Migratory Bird Day, The City of Calgary will be hosting a free festival on Sunday, May 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary.

This all-ages event will include guided sanctuary

tours, face painting and mini birdwatching sessions. Exhibitors and birding experts will be on hand to share information about bird species, migration and how you can help conserve bird habitats in your backyard.

International Migratory Bird Day is celebrated throughout North, Central and South America. More than 600 events and programs are hosted annually to promote bird migration and conservation awareness, and serve as a call to action to help preserve birds and their habitats. Come celebrate the return of our feathered friends as they migrate back to Calgary after the winter season.

Bring the family to enjoy this free Bird Day event! (calgary.ca/parks)

JUNE 12

Join the Rosscarrock and Westgate Community Associations for

their Annual Spring Clean Up on June 12 at the Rosscarrock Community Hall.

All proceeds donated to the Community Associations.

We will be on hand to assist homeowners with their spring clean up needs. We will have a 1 ton cube van and a ½ ton-pick-up truck and volunteers available to help you with your loads to the Community disposal site.

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Stop by or call Pat for more information - 403.2497377

Older Adult Exercise

Monday & Wednesday
9:30 am - 10:30 am

We do cardio, strength, balance and flexibility training with a focus on making daily tasks easier.

Sit / Fit / Balance Exercise

Tuesday & Thursday
10:00 am - 11:00 am

This is a 'no impact' way to stay active or a first step to recovering from an operation or illness.

Keep Fit & Have Lots of Laughs

WESTGATE COMMUNITY 4th ANNUAL PARADE OF GARAGE SALES

Saturday, May 28, 2016 from 9am - 4pm

Doing some spring cleaning? Thinking of hosting a garage sale? Not too keen on going to the trouble of making signs and advertising all by yourself?

Let your neighbours George and Robert help you!

We will provide:

- Advertising
- Signs
- Community maps highlighting your location

All you need to do is contact George Costa (george@geocosta.com or 403-875-7653) by May 23 to receive your FREE garage sale kit.

Westgate Average Sale Prices April 2015 - March 2016 Single Family Homes

Month	# of sales	Average list price	Average sell price
Apr-15	1	\$595,000	\$595,000
May-15	5	\$666,560	\$646,700
Jun-15	6	\$601,467	\$589,000
Jul-15	6	\$531,650	\$515,000
Aug-15	2	\$644,950	\$628,500
Sep-15	1	\$509,900	\$500,000
Oct-15	0	\$-	\$-
Nov-15	3	\$601,500	\$593,967
Dec-15	3	\$523,217	\$502,333
Jan-16	2	\$832,450	\$780,000
Feb-16	2	\$684,490	\$665,000
Mar-16	4	\$532,175	\$508,250

Stats provided by Westgate resident George Costa of Remax Real Estate (Central). Please contact George for a free market evaluation of your home.

Advertise here for as little as \$26 an issue! Contact newsletter@westgatecommunity.ca for more details



RE/MAX
REAL ESTATE (CENTRAL)
 206, 2411 4TH STREET NW
 CALGARY, ALBERTA T2M 2Z8

GEORGE COSTA

CELL: 403-875-7653
George@geocosta.com



Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

Thank You...

On behalf of the Westgate Community Association I would like to offer a sincere thank you to all the fantastic volunteers who participated in this year's casino.

There are 36 positions that need to be filled and because of the long and late hours, it is difficult to find people whose schedules can even make volunteering possible, so thank you to those of you who contacted me with the desire to help but just couldn't make it work. There were also a few fabulous people who worked double shifts, therefore a double thank you goes out to you!

There is a casino held every 18 months and the money generated is integral in keeping our Community Hall operational. It also allows us to offer special programming like soccer and shinny as well as special events like Winterfest and The Bike Parade. Our hall, our rink, our programs and our events help unify us as a community. It's gets families meeting families and neighbours meeting neighbours.

I personally had a blast with the people I volunteered with, we definitely laughed more than we worked. The casino was a great success and it honestly would not be possible without the time and effort of our fellow community members.

A heartfelt thank you,

Jodi

Casino Director

Volunteer Opportunities...

We Need Your Help!

Westgate Community Association (WCA) is in need of dedicated and committed volunteers to donate their time and skills in the following areas:

Special Event Planning: Pub nights, family potlucks, Lego contest, Easter egg hunt, Halloween party, Canada Day bike parade, etc.

Treasurer: Shadow our current volunteer starting immediately and take over the position in March 2017

Community Clean Up Coordinator: This event is held in partnership with Rosscarrock at the Rosscarrock community centre on June 12

Canada Day Bike Parade Coordinator: A Westgate favorite, but without someone stepping forward, this will not run

Board Positions Available: Volunteer Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, 2nd Vice President

Please contact info@westgatecommunity.ca for more information on these positions or if you have any special talents that could benefit WCA.

Have You Seen This Bird?

Lisa Smit and Kent Brown E: brownwk@telus.net

This winter, Westgate was home to an unusual Magpie. Black-billed Magpies are common in Calgary year round. Their plumage is striking, with a black head, blue-green iridescent wings and tail, and white wing patches and bellies. The one in this picture, however, did not fit that description. It had a condition known as “leucism” (lu-kism) which is caused by a genetic mutation that does not allow pigments to be deposited normally in feathers, hair or skin. Birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, and amphibians can all be leucistic.

Leucism is different than albinism which affects all of the body’s pigments, with albino animals showing no colouration anywhere including the eyes (which are usually pink), legs, and skin. Leucistic animals typically have normally coloured eyes and leucistic birds usually have normally colored legs, feet and bills, as this Magpie did. Leucistic birds can range from partially discoloured to almost pure white.

Very likely the same bird was seen in Strathcona Park, west of Westgate in September and reported on Twitter. We saw it in Westgate regularly in the Winchester Crescent/Westminster Drive area through the early winter. It was often with a flock of 5-10 other magpies. We have not seen it since December, although we check every Magpie we see. It may have relocated to another neighbourhood, or may not have survived the winter. Leucistic birds may be at a disadvantage, because their feathers tend to be less durable than those of normally pigmented individuals. They may also have difficulty finding a mate. Birds often prefer mates with the darkest, most vivid plumage.



We’re curious if anyone else saw this brown Magpie in the neighbourhood this winter, and if anyone knows if it’s still about. Please let us or the editor know if you have any information about this unusual bird.

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www.kickstartfitness.ca

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Hello Westgate!

I am thankful for the opportunity of being asked to introduce myself as a long time resident of the Westgate Community where I grew up and later returned to raise my own family 17 years ago. It is a wonderful community that I am proud to call my home. My name is Judy Kondo-Turner and I am a partner at Jones & Salt Insurance Brokerage, where I have proudly hung my hat for the last 22 years.

We invest a great deal of time getting to know you so that we can arrange an insurance program that will effectively meet your needs. It is this personal attention, combined with our knowledge, which enables us to ensure you are purchasing the appropriate coverage at the right price. This is a measure of our success.

Like you, we understand that as consumers we have many choices available to us. Let us show you how we can earn your loyalty and trust and become your broker of choice!

Sincerely,



Judy Kondo-Turner, C.A.I.B. Partner



Jones & Salt
Insurance Brokerage Ltd.



Contact Us Today:
(403) 234-8782
reception@jsinsure.com