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Getting ready for back-to-school parking

As families prepare for the new school year, streets around schools become busier with increased traffic and activity. Planning ahead helps create safer, calmer school zones for everyone.

Parking rules near schools focus on keeping sightlines clear, traffic flowing and children visible. Stopping too close to crosswalks or corners, double-parking, or blocking bus zones can create confusion and safety risks during peak times.

Parking legally—even if it means walking a short distance—helps reduce congestion and improves safety for students and families returning to daily routines.

A few extra minutes and thoughtful parking choices make a big difference as the school year begins.

Learn more: calgaryparking.com/safeschools.

Helping keep pets and families together

The City of Calgary is partnering with the Calgary Humane Society on a new campaign to increase access to pet-friendly housing and help keep pets with the families who love them.

Across Calgary, many renters face challenges finding housing that allows pets, sometimes leading to difficult decisions, including surrendering animals. This campaign raises awareness of the benefits of pet-friendly housing and provides practical tools to support both landlords and renters.

Through a shared resource hub, landlords can access templates and guidance to reduce risk, while renters can find tools to strengthen their applications. The campaign also highlights research showing pet owners are often reliable, long-term tenants.

By supporting more pet-inclusive housing, the City and Calgary Humane Society are working to reduce avoidable pet surrenders and build more inclusive, compassionate communities for all Calgarians.

Learn more at calgaryhumane.ca/meettheneed.

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Summer gardening made easy

The City of Calgary's YardSmart program offers tips to keep your yard thriving, rain or shine.

1. **Make the most out of rainy days.** Plants prefer rainwater over water from the hose. Collect water with a rain barrel and use it to water your yard. Point downspouts towards your lawn or garden, so they soak up every drop.
2. **Mow less often.** Keep your grass 2 to 3 inches high to shade the soil and leave clippings on your lawn.
3. **Add mulch to garden beds.** Mulch helps prevent water evaporation and reduces weeds. Use 2 to 4 inches of mulch on top of garden beds, leaving an inch around the base of plants.
4. **Water plants at the roots – low and slow, allowing the soil to fully absorb the water.** Hand watering with a watering can, using drip irrigation or using soaker hoses are all effective ways to water plants at the roots. If you're watering with a sprinkler or irrigation system, remember to water on your scheduled days. Visit calgary.ca/whentowater for more information on Calgary's lawn and landscape watering schedule.

Now that your yard is summer-ready, it's ready for its close-up. Share your YardSmart yard with us for a chance to be featured on calgary.ca. A YardSmart yard can include:

- Drought tolerant, water-wise plants
- Lawn alternatives
- Rain barrels or other rain harvesting set-ups
- Efficient irrigation systems
- Native plants
- Rain gardens

Simply snap a photo of your YardSmart yard and complete the 'Show us your yard' form at calgary.ca/yardsmart.

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Your City. Your Voice. Your Impact.

Ready to help shape Calgary? Applications to serve on the City of Calgary's Boards, Commissions and Committees (BCCs) open Friday, July 31, 2026.
Bring your experience, champion inclusion, and give back to your community—while helping make meaningful decisions for our city. If you're available to serve, step forward and apply at calgary.ca/boards.
Know a Calgarian who should be at the table? Share this with them—and help spread the word!
Deadline to apply is Tuesday, Sept. 1 at 4:00 p.m.

Safe disposal of smoking materials prevents fires

Careless disposal of smoking materials, such as cigarettes, is a leading cause of fires in Calgary. Citizens can take small but important steps to reduce fire risk and help keep everyone safe.
Remember that planters and lawns aren't ashtrays. Soil contains combustible materials that can easily ignite. You aren't smothering your smoking product with dirt, you are fueling a fire.
Dispose of smoking materials safely by extinguishing butts and ash with water prior to putting in the trash. Ashtrays should be made from metal and filled partially with sand or water.

Use extreme caution if smoking in natural areas and green spaces in the city. Dry vegetation provides combustible fuel if an ignition source is applied.
Don't store propane tanks, firewood or yard waste next to your house and assess potential fire hazards around your home.
Working smoke alarms save lives – more than one third of all fire fatalities are associated with having no smoke alarm.
For more information, visit calgary.ca/fire.

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Find a farm stand near you this August

Fresh, seasonal food is easy to find across Calgary this August through The City of Calgary's Farm Stand Program. Farm stands are hosted at community hubs such as community associations, parks and transit stations, making it easier to pick up fresh food close to home while supporting local and regional producers.

Whether you're shopping for tomatoes, peppers, berries or other in-season produce, farm stands are a simple way to bring local food to your table. The program also helps create more opportunities for local and regional farms to sell food in Calgary.

Before you go, check the schedule on the website for current locations, dates and times. Schedules can change with weather and harvest. Visit calgary.ca/localfood to find a farm stand near you.

Washroom Attendant Program keeps parks clean, safe and welcoming

Access to clean, safe public washrooms is a basic service that helps make parks welcoming for everyone. That's why The City continues to invest in the Washroom Attendant Program that supports safety, cleanliness and dignity in some of Calgary's busiest public spaces.

Year-round washroom attendant services are now available at Central Memorial Park, Century Gardens and Devonian Gardens with more locations to come! In the first three months of 2026 alone, these locations recorded over 60,000 visits, a significant increase from the same period last year. The rise suggests growing public confidence that downtown park washrooms are safe, clean and available when people need them.

Washroom attendants do much more than clean. Working in pairs, attendants remain onsite throughout the day to maintain washroom conditions, manage traffic flow and respond to a wide range of situations. They are trained in deescalation, first aid and naloxone administration and work closely with community partners such as the HELP Team, onsite security, emergency services and law enforcement when needed.

The Washroom Attendant Program also supports inclusive employment in our community. The program

is delivered by Hiregood Services, a local social enterprise that prioritizes employment opportunities for people who face barriers to work.

Attendants help keep washrooms open more consistently and reduce costly closures for repairs—something that disproportionately affects seniors, families with young children, people with health conditions and those without access to private washrooms.

For more information, visit calgary.ca/washroomattendants.

Find some fun this summer!

Spend this summer getting outside, staying active and making memories.

The City of Calgary offers a wide range of fun and free programs for all ages in communities across Calgary.

- Drop off your kids ages 6 – 12 at a Park n' Play site, where they will spend the day enjoying field games, creative activities and visits from special guest speakers.
- Check out The City of Calgary's LEAD, LEAD 2.0 and Nature LEAD program, where youth 11 – 15 can earn a leadership certificate, build skills and gain hands on experience in the community.
- Drop in for some free wheeled activities at The City's Mobile Skate & Scoot sites or sign up for a Skate Spot Skateboard lesson. All ages and skill levels are welcome.
- Join your family in exploring local wildlife at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary's Birding Breaks or learn about underwater critters at Wetland Wonders in Ralph Klein Park.
- Explore parks and learn about local plants and wildlife through Community Nature Walks and YYC Trees: Guided Walks.

Find some fun at calgary.ca/free.

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Rain barrel rebates are still available

Hot, dry summer weather can increase outdoor water use. A rain barrel is a simple way to collect rainwater from your roof and use it later on trees, shrubs and flowers. Using rainwater first can help reduce how much treated city water you use outdoors. Rain barrels can also help reduce stormwater runoff to creeks and rivers.

The City of Calgary's 2026 Rain Barrel Rebate is still available through Green Calgary. Eligible Calgary households can receive $50 back per eligible rain barrel, up to 3 rebates per household, while funding lasts. Applications are open until Oct. 31, 2026, or until funding is fully allocated. Up to 3,500 rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The rebate applies to the rain barrel storage container only. Accessories and add-ons are not eligible, and rain barrels must be an original sale (not resale). Receipts must be dated within 12 months of the date you apply. For full eligibility, required documents and the application link, visit calgary.ca/rainbarrel.

Calgary's lawn and landscape watering schedule – know your days and times

Let's take turns watering our lawns and landscapes to protect Calgary's water supply. Calgary's Lawn and landscape watering schedule is a year-round schedule that sets regular days and times for outdoor watering across Calgary.

Water with a sprinkler or irrigation system up to three days per week based on the last number of your street address:

- Even street address (ending in 0,2,4,6,8) – Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays
- Odd street address (ending in 1,3,5,7,9) – Wednesdays, Fridays, Sundays

Water before 10 a.m. and after 7 p.m. on your assigned days to reduce evaporation and keep more water where it's needed.

The following activities are allowed any day, anytime:

- Hand watering landscapes (excluding grass) with a hose connected to a spring-loaded nozzle or watering can
- Watering newly planted grass, trees or shrubs
- Watering fruits and vegetables
- Filling pools, hot tubs and fountains
- Washing windows, decks, fences and siding
- Running through sprinklers

Find your days and times at calgary.ca/whentowater.

Together, we are water wise.

Beat the heat: simple ways to make your home more climate ready

Hot weather can make homes uncomfortable and increase health risks during extreme heat. The City of Calgary's Climate Ready Home Program resources can help you take practical steps to stay more comfortable at home and prepare for hotter summers.

At calgary.ca/ClimateReadyHome, you can:

- use the **Home Self-Evaluation Tool** to get a personalized checklist for your home
- download the **Climate Ready Home Guide** for advice on maintenance, renovations and upgrades
- explore the **Virtual Climate Ready Home** for ideas that can help improve comfort and resilience

These resources include practical, non-emergency guidance to help you plan ahead — from simple low-cost actions to bigger home improvements over time.

For emergency preparedness tips, visit calgary.ca/getready.

Learn more at calgary.ca/climatereadyhome.

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Calgary Culture Days: a month-long celebration of arts and culture

Calgary Culture Days is back this September — and the city is ready to celebrate. From September 1 to 30, Calgary comes alive with creativity, connection and the vibrant arts and culture experiences that make our city so special.

Think film screenings, art exhibitions, live performances, festivals and hands-on experiences – all happening in neighbourhoods across the city. Whether you're bringing the kids, planning a date night or meeting up with friends, there's always something to discover. Even better, many events are free and family-friendly, making it easy to jump in and explore.

Calgary Culture Days celebrates the artists, organizations and communities that shape our city's thriving arts and culture scene. It's a chance to connect with local talent, experience different cultures and see Calgary from a fresh perspective. Behind every event are community members bringing ideas to life – helping make Calgary a more creative, connected and vibrant place to live.

Start exploring events happening across the city this September at calgary.ca/culturedays.

Village Square Leisure Centre closing Aug. 31: services and program updates

Village Square Leisure Centre will undergo major repairs and upgrades beginning **Aug. 31, 2026**, with reopening expected at the end of 2027.

This work is focused on replacing aging mechanical and electrical systems that are past their useful life. These upgrades are essential to keep the facility safe, reliable and available for the community, while reducing the risk of unexpected closures and lowering long-term operating costs.

Here's what to expect for other services and spaces at the site:

Open during construction:

- Calgary Public Library, Fair Entry and the Alberta Health Services Community Health Centre will remain open and continue to serve the community. They will have a short closure period during construction. Timing will be confirmed soon.
- The arenas will remain open until March 2027, then close for construction. They are expected to reopen in mid-September 2027.

Moving, changing or pausing:

- Calgary Transit customer service location will permanently close on Aug. 17. A temporary location has been set up at Bow Parkade (234 7 Ave. S.W.) Visit calgarytransit.com to learn more.
- Centre for Newcomers is closed during this time. You can visit their location at #125 565 36 St. N.E.
- The Village Square Community Hub and Pineridge Community Social Worker will serve these communities from local spaces in Pineridge, Rundle, Temple and Whitehorn.

Thank you for your patience as we work to extend the facility's lifespan.

For the latest updates on the project, facility closures and program alternatives, please visit calgary.ca/VillageSquareRepairs and sign up for our project newsletter to receive service updates directly.

Help cyclists get home safely this summer

Seven people have been killed and more than 1,700 cyclists injured in Calgary over the past decade, underscoring the risks as more people use pathways and roads during the summer months.

Many of these incidents are preventable and often come down to speed, spacing, and predictability on shared pathways. Riders are reminded to keep right, yield to pedestrians, and adjust their speed to suit conditions. While the posted pathway speed limit is 20 km/h, cyclists are expected to slow further in crowded areas, on corners, and near underpasses where sightlines are reduced.

Safe passing remains a key focus. Riders should signal early using a bell or voice, leave at least one metre of space, and wait for a clear opportunity to pass. Passing in tight spaces or on blind corners increases the risk of collisions, especially as children, pets, and groups can move unpredictably.

Please use extra caution while using shared e-bikes and e-scooters. Their added speed, weight, and quiet operation can reduce reaction time for others, requiring earlier slowing and clearer signaling.

On roadways, cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers but are more vulnerable. Motorists are required to leave at least one metre when passing at lower speeds and 1.5 metres at higher speeds, and to check carefully before turning, opening doors, or pulling away from the curb.

Consistent, predictable behaviour from all users is key to reducing injuries and preventing further loss of life. Learn how you can keep our pathways safe calgary.ca/besafe.