



Chatter

- IN THE WOODS -

Read the online version of the CHATTER at

www.redwoodmeadows.ab.ca

Let's get social!

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Hello Redwooders and Neighbours,

Calling all **CREATIVE WRITERS!!!**

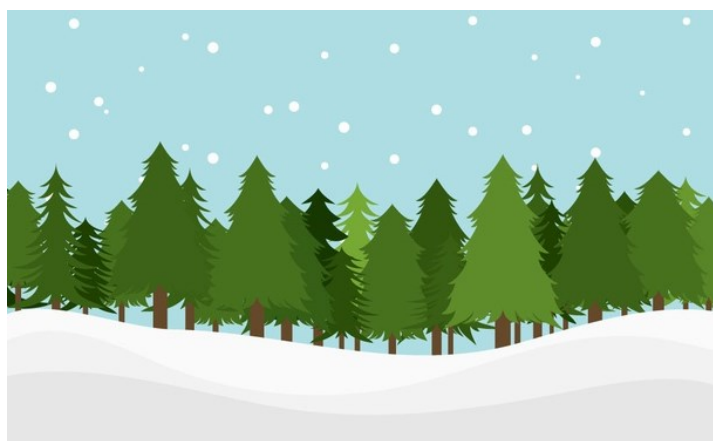
In the Chatter, we would love to include a fictional story that builds on itself with each issue that is published. You would only need to provide 300-500 words each month that leave the reader in suspense until the following month. We are also looking for a new contributor to write our monthly Local Business Spotlight. We know you're out there...come join the Chatter team!

Additionally, please note that our Local Business Listings section will no longer be a complimentary service starting January 2021. Business listings will cost \$50 for a ten-month cycle (that's only \$5 an issue!) Please support the RMCA by signing up for this advertising option.

Please contact us at theredwoodchatter@gmail.com for all Chatter and volunteer related inquiries.

Warm regards,

Rebecca Parzen



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A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW RMCA PRESIDENT

Dr. Ed Stetzer writes, “The danger of being in community is hurt; the danger of not being in community is a shipwreck.”

As the new president of the RMCA I would like to introduce myself. My name is Jennifer Illescas (e-yes-cuz). I was born and raised in Calgary. We’ve lived in Redwood Meadows coming up on two years this month. We’re a family of five with our oldest already out of the nest and the youngest in grade two. I’m a real estate agent and love the dynamics of what I do.

When I was young my family was very connected within our community. As I went on my way, got married, started a family, working.... life got busy. I kept thinking one day I’d ‘find’ community, almost like it’s an item you can just reach over and grab when you need it. Working with my clients and hearing that same request for an active community time and time again, I started to reflect on my childhood and our community involvement and I also took note of my husband intentionally interacting with the people around him. Boy have I learned a lot! I’ve learned that we BUILD community and we do that by creating it with others. It’s not something you can lean over and grab if you haven’t built it.

It’s no secret we’re in difficult times and difficult situations. This year has been a tough year and with the continued uncertainties it will be challenging. I want you to know you’re not alone! We’re united by the struggles we face right now more than ever. Philo of Alexandria once wrote, “Be kind, because everyone you meet is in a great battle.” Is that ever true! When we focus on what we have in common instead of what separates us, we have a platform on which to build relationships and build community.

Definition of Build *verb*

1. to construct (especially something complex) by assembling and joining parts or materials
- 2 to establish, increase, or strengthen (often followed by *up*)
3. to mold, form, or create:

We all get busy in our day-to-day lives with the lists that never seem to end. My husband is my reminder of where my heart is, at the top of my list with my community! A typical evening conversation in our house goes something like this. My husband: “Let’s go outside and chat with the neighbours” Me: “there’s no one outside and I have so much to get done!” My husband: “well if we get out maybe they’ll come out.” Who’s your reminder of the community you yearn so deeply for? I challenge you to put community at the top of your list and have someone hold you accountable and encourage someone else to do the same!

I want to dig into the well-being of this community and how we as the Redwood Meadows Community Association can best support you. The new Board is dedicated, united with Townsite and Council, committed to complete transparency and building solid relationships in the community, and they are darn well capable (I’ve already seen them in action). Please, if you see them in the community tell them thank you for their hard work!

Let’s use ‘Build’ as a verb. and remember no man is an island like the book by John Donne. We’re united by our struggles. I’d love to see this community encourage each other to not just SURVIVE BUT THRIVE. We’re Redwood after all! We’re united and resilient!

I look forward to getting to know each and everyone of you!

Kind regards,

Jennifer Illescas
RMCA President



CHATTER IN THE WOODS

is a monthly, volunteer-managed publication of the Redwood Meadows Community Association and is distributed via email to residents of Redwood Meadows and the surrounding area. The Chatter is also available online at:

www.redwoodmeadows.ab.ca.

Receive a link to the Chatter on the first day of each month by emailing us at:

theredwoodchatter@gmail.com

Printed copies are available from the Chatter boxes at Redwood House, the mailbox banks. And the Bragg Creek Community Centre

ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card	\$30/month
Quarter Page	\$44/month
Half Page	\$63/month
Full Page	\$120/month
Business Listing	\$5/month for 10-month lease

Payment is required with your advertisement.

Discount rates are offered for six-month or one-year commitments.

The deadline for submission is the 20th of the month prior to publication. All articles and photograph submissions must be signed or credited.

Chatter in the Woods is not responsible for the content or accuracy of articles printed. The views reflected in this newsletter do not reflect the views of the editors.

Contact the Editorial Team at:
theredwoodchatter@gmail.com

Congratulations to the newly elected RMCA Board

Jennifer Illescas, President
Rebecca Parzen, Vice President
Andrea Hanson, Secretary
Aspen Gowers, Treasurer

Directors: Dean Svoboda, TC Rogers, Sonja Allen



Linda A. Anderson

Barrister & Solicitor, Notary Public

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403-949-4248

linda@lindaandersonlaw.com

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- SMALL BUSINESS

A MESSAGE FROM REDWOOD MEADOWS MAYOR & COUNCIL

*W*ow – it is December already! This certainly has been a year for the record books!

With the Province setting up new COVID-19 protocols last week, the Townsite is examining the order and will communicate any changes in policy shortly. Please check the website for updates. As always, it is our goal to keep our community safe and healthy. The Townsite office is still open by appointment only. Other organized events such as group Tae kwon do have been suspended. The Townsite office also has a supply of disposable masks. Feel free to contact the office if you need some.

Townsite continues to be focused on ensuring winter outdoor recreation and associated amenities are ready to help keep everyone safe and active in the coming months. You may have noticed a strange pattern plowed into our sports field – this will be an Olympic size Speed Skating Oval! This will be ready as soon as the weather cooperates! We will continue to have the fire pit and the concession by the rink open more regularly on Saturdays to promote community engagement. Please stay tuned for any COVID related restrictions.

We continue to move closer to our lease vote date!! The lease group has conducted eight information sessions and one financial session to date with more scheduled.

Here is what you need to know:

- There is a final online Q&A session scheduled for December 5th. Please contact the Townsite Office to register
- By now you should have received your lease package. Please contact the Townsite office if you have not.
- **Each leasehold must formally delegate one (1) voter per leasehold to vote. To date, 297 of 351 have completed the process. You must delegate a voter to be eligible to vote. If you have not completed your voter delegation package, contact the Townsite office immediately.**
- Ballots have been sent out to those who have indicated they wish to vote by mail-in. In-person voting will be at Redwood House from 8am – 8pm on December 11, 2020. Be assured that all COVID and safety protocols will be in place for everyone's safety.
- If you have any questions, please contact redwoodlease@redwoodmeadows.ab.ca

On behalf of Council and Townsite, I wish you the very best of the Holiday Season; a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. In the words of Dr. Bonnie Henry – Stay Safe and Be Kind!

Redwood Meadows Mayor and Council





POSTED
OCT 22, 2020

shh

Notice of Vote December 11, 2020

TO: Redwood Meadows Sublease Holders

TAKE NOTICE that a General Polling station will be held to conduct a Lease Ratification Vote on December 11, 2020 to determine if the Delegated Sublease Voters wish to ratify the proposed Lease Agreements for the Townsite of Redwood Meadows.

The following question will be asked of the Delegated Sublease Voters by ballot:

Do you approve the proposed Lease Agreements, as defined in the Redwood Meadows Lease Ratification Process?

General Polling Station hours will be from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm at Redwood House, 1 Manyhorses Drive, Redwood Meadows, Alberta T3Z 1A4 on December 11, 2020.

A full copy of the proposed Lease Agreements for the Townsite of Redwood Meadows may be obtained from the Redwood Meadows Administration Office located at 1 Manyhorses Drive, Redwood Meadows Alberta, T3Z 1A4.

PLEASE NOTE that one (1) Sublease Holder per sublease must be delegated and registered to vote by December 11, 2020 to participate in the Lease Ratification Vote.

Any questions regarding the Lease Ratification Vote, *Redwood Meadows Lease Ratification Process* and/or the proposed Agreements for the Townsite of Redwood Meadows should be directed to the Townsite Office.

Shirley Kine has been retained as the external Returning Officer for this vote, and can be contacted via email at ReturningOfficer@redwoodmeadows.ab.ca.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As many of you are well aware, our provincial government recently imposed several mandatory restrictions to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Last week, anticipating these restrictions, Council activated our Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) and declared a local State of Urgency. Other municipalities have also stood up their ECC/Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Calgary has declared a Local State of Emergency. The purpose of the ECC is to enable our leaders to quickly interpret and respond to active novel coronavirus cases and a constantly evolving situation. I want all of you to know I am meeting with other Directors of Emergency Management bi-weekly in the South Central region to share information and ensure we consider the impacts of regional decisions for Redwood Meadows.

In addition, the Townsite Office will remain closed, with exception of approved appointments, and masks will now be mandatory while inside the building. We are working with officials to ensure the appropriate protocols are in place for our lease vote at the Townsite Office December 11. Signage will be posted on our outdoor sport facilities with friendly reminders outlining restrictions. We ask that everyone do your part, remain patient and be kind to each other.

I want to acknowledge these are challenging times. Townsite recently polled several residents inquiring how they were managing through the COVID-19 pandemic. I am pleased to hear most are doing well and coping. We are seeing disruptions to our usual daily routines, social lives, and for many their livelihoods. For many this is causing uncertainty and anxiety but for all of us this will be one of the most defining moments of our generation. Please know Townsite and all our numerous volunteers are here and are eager to help where we can. Your Council is committed to doing all it can to help combat COVID fatigue and balance keeping members our community, especially at-risk groups, safe.

We hope you can get out this winter and enjoy the great features our community has to offer, including:

- Skating the new oval rink at Curtis Field
- Cross-country skiing or fat biking
- Walking our berm and stopping to read the new trail signs
- Disc golf
- Warming up by the community fire pit (open on Saturdays and also available for booking in accordance with COVID-19 protocols)
- Enjoying a hot chocolate, chili and more from our Tate Shack concession (open on Saturdays).
- Checking out our upcoming virtual education session on bats. They love eating spruce budworms and mosquitos! We will be offering instructions on how to build bat houses as an educational activity.
- Private bookings will be available and all activities must adhere to COVID restrictions. Please understand these are subject to change on short notice.

At a time when things in the world seem so divisive, while acknowledging different concerns and views, let's remember each of our personal situations, concerns and tolerances for risk differ. I invite you reach out to neighbours and check in. Offer to pick up items if you are going to the city for someone that may not be able or comfortable. Offer help where it would be appreciated. Engage with our community association and offer support where you can. Reach out and accept help where you need it. Our community pantry is available to anyone in need and may help reduce social contacts if you have run out of something at home. This is a defining moment for us all. Let's be kind to each other and be a part of the community. When better times return and we reflect on this time now, I hope we remember a strong and vibrant community that connected, stepped up, and built traditions that will be the envy of others.

Ed Perkins

Redwood Meadows Council Secretary and Director of Emergency Management

REDWOOD MEADOWS TOWNSITE UPDATE

VOTER DELEGATION PACKAGE

The vote date for the new lease agreement has been set for Friday, December 11, 2020. If you have not already completed your voter delegation package please contact prupert@redwoodmeadows.ab.ca to book your appointment. Completed paperwork is required in order to participate in the vote for the new lease agreement.

ICE RINK PROCEDURES DURING COVID

Under the current Government of Alberta mandated COVID outdoor recreation restrictions, a maximum of ten skaters/participants are allowed for any private bookings. Please also note that unseasonably warm weather has created challenges with the north side ice as it receives sun exposure all day. We are aware and are doing our best to mitigate, Townsite is working on a booking/scheduling platform that will be readily accessible on the website upon deployment. Please stay tuned for developments.



RINK BOARD ADVERTISING

Have your business advertised on the ice rink boards for all spectators to see! Prices: \$500/year for prime spots between blue lines facing stands. \$400/year for all other spots. Email: admin@redwoodmeadows.ab.ca

CONCESSION AND FIRE PIT

Townsite will be opening the concession and have the fire pit going Saturday from approximately 11am to 4pm. Please come out and get some fresh air during these stressful times. Concession will be serving a variety of hot and cold beverages, hotdogs, hamburgers, and chili.

SOILED DIAPERS

Soiled Diapers will no longer be providing a general community pick-up from the centralized location but rather will be working with individual clients. If you would like to avail Soiled Diapers of their services, please contact Mark at mark@soileddiapers.ca

BYLAW CONTACT INFORMATION

Please Note: Bylaw Officer Lynn Gallen can be reached at 403-813-3105 or email at lgallen@redwoodmeadows.ab.ca

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meeting agendas are available to the community on the Redwood Meadows website prior to the Council meeting. If there is an agenda item that you would like added, please forward this to Peg Rupert, our Council Executive Assistant on or by the Friday before the scheduled Council meeting. Contact: admin@redwoodmeadows.ab.ca



REDWOOD MEADOWS—LOCAL BUSINESS LISTINGS

Adrian Turner Wall&Floor Tiling/Bow Valley Rugby	403-863-2758	rugby34@telus.net
BCCA	403-949-4277	program@braggcreekca.com
Blinda Bilou - Interior Design & Renovation	403-461-9748	BlindaBilouInteriors.ca / bdbilou@gmail.com
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Calgary and Area		Leila.maillet@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca
Bragg Creek Community Church	403-949-2072	braggcreekcommunitychurch@gmail.com
Bragg Creek Tree Huggers - Pruning & Removal	403-589-6594	
Bragg Creek Insurance and Registry	403-949-2599	info@braggcreekinsurance.ca
Care in the Creek	403-949-2457	careinthecreek@gmail.com
Cochrane Public Library	403-709-0346	Andrea.Johnston@cochranepubliclibrary.ca
Counseling, Dr. Karen Massey, Reg. Psychologist	403-390-1815	drkaren@emerge.ca / www.emerge.ca
Countryside Financial - Candace Perko	403-949-4129	cperko@countrysidedefinancial.ca
Fitness with Ann Sullivan	403-689-4835	anns@safari.ca
Harder and Sons Exterior Maintenance Services	403-949-3442	Lowell@exteriormaintenance.ca
Jeff MacKinnon, Maxwell Canyon Creek	403-860-9525	homesinalberta.ca
Jennifer Illescas, CIR Realty	403-966-4224	jillescas@cirrealty.ca / jenniferillescas.alberta.cirrealty.ca
KarmiK Sport & Personal Development	403-408-6998	karmikathletics@outlook.com
Kamp Kiwanis	403-686-6325	general@kampkiwanis.ca / www.kampkiwanis.ca
Linda Anderson - Barrister, Solicitor, and Notary	403-243-6400	linda@lindaandersonlaw.com
Maverick Law	403-949-3339	admin@mavericklaw.ca / www.mavericklaw.ca
Mountain's Edge Renovations	403-949-7727	www.mountainedgerenovations.com / 4wolves@persona.ca
Redwood Meadows Emergency Services	403-949-2012	www.rmefire.org Call 911 in an Emergency
Redwood Meadows Tae Kwon Do School		redwoodtaekwondo.com / redwoodtaekwondo@telus.net
Refining Fire Metalworks (comm & res welding)	403-589-6594	bdbilou@gmail.com
Resource & Support Services in Bragg Creek	403-851-2286	wendy.farnsworth@cochrane.ca
Robotics	403-993-2334	
Rocky Mountain Adventure Medicine Inc.	403-949-2632	rmam@adventuremed.ca / www.adventuremed.ca
Swamp Donkey Musical Theatre Society		www.swampdonkeytheatre.com / swampdonkeytheatre@gmail.com
The Little Schoolhouse	403-949-3939	www.thelittleschoolhouse.ca
Trish Berkshire—Avon & Tupperware Consultant	403-949-5508	bberkshire@personainternet.com
Wintergreen Golf Course	403-861-8918	sjackson@wintergreengolf.com
XC Bragg Creek Ski and Bike Society		www.xcbraggcreek.ca
Youngevity Distributor—Helen Cirin	403-604-9785	helencirin@gmail.com / helencirin.youngevitysocial.com

Starting January 2021, Business Listings will be charged \$5/month for a 10-month contract

Writing a Letter to Santa

IS YOUR CHILD INTERESTED IN WRITING A LETTER TO SANTA? SEND YOUR SANTA LETTERS NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 10, 2020 TO GUARANTEE A REPLY BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS. YOU CAN DOWNLOAD A LETTER TEMPLATE FROM CANADA POST OR WRITE YOUR OWN. INCLUDE YOUR RETURN ADDRESS AND DROP IT IN A MAILBOX. NO STAMPS REQUIRED. SANTA ANSWERS LETTERS IN MORE THAN 30 LANGUAGES, INCLUDING BRAILLE.

SANTA'S ADDRESS:

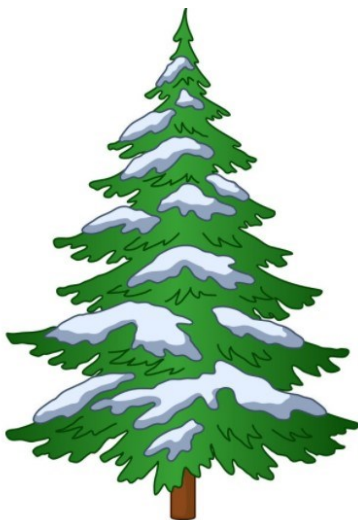
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REDWOOD MEADOWS EMERGENCY SERVICES

The holidays are a magical time, but Christmas traditions, decor, and celebrations can lead to accidents (or worse) if you're not careful. Here's how to keep your family safe and healthy through to the New Year.

1. Your tree is a fire risk — even if it's fake: While Christmas tree fires aren't super common in our area, when they do happen, they're likely to be serious. Keep your tree at least three feet away from all heat sources such as fireplaces, radiators, and heat vents. If you have a real tree, remember to keep it watered and use electric lights – not candles – to light it up. Be sure to choose a sturdy stand so the tree won't tip over.

2. Don't overdo it on the lights: As much as you may want to cover every inch of your house with lights, you may have to scale back depending on your outlets. Check the packaging for the power output and never plug in more than what a power strip or outlet says it can handle. Use indoor lights, indoors. Use outdoor lights, outside. Be sure to unplug indoor lights when you leave the house.

3. Candles are pretty, but they're still open flames: December is the peak time of year for candle-related house fires, according to the NFPA. Keep lit candles at least 12 inches away from surrounding objects. Trim wicks to a quarter of an inch before you light them and never leave lit candles unattended.

4. Never toss anything but logs into your fireplace: Don't try to burn evergreens or wreaths in a fireplace or wood stove. Tree needles burn much faster than logs, creating sparks, which can fly into the room or onto the roof. They can also cause a build-up of creosote, a highly flammable compound, in the chimney. Don't burn wrapping paper, because it can contain metallic materials that could be hazardous to breathe in. Make sure the fire is out and the embers have cooled before you leave the house or go to bed. Put the ashes in a metal bin at least 25 feet away from the house. Have your chimney professionally serviced annually.

5. Watch the clutter: Extra decorations means more tripping hazards!

6. Festive favorites aren't safe for everyone: Candy canes and candy can become a choking hazard for wee ones! Holiday cooking can contain allergens that aren't safe for some in your cohort – be sure to ask about allergies.

7. Don't forget the outside of your house: Keep your driveway and walkways clear of ice and snow. Be mindful when decorating the exterior of your home to not impede access points for first responders – our gear takes up more room than you think. Be extra careful as you're shoveling your property and pace yourself so you don't tire yourself out. Wear proper boots with enough traction and “walk like a penguin” on slippery surfaces, taking small, slow steps.

8. Play safely: If you're planning to enjoy some outdoor time, plan your trip for the conditions and your experience level, wear the appropriate gear and tell someone where you're going and when you'll return.

On behalf of the members of Redwood Meadows Emergency Services and our families, we wish you a safe, happy, COVID-aware holiday season and a happy new year! If you need help, dial 911 (do not call the station as the phones aren't manned) and we'll be on our way to you as quickly as we can.



Calling All Chatter Enthusiasts:

We are looking for contributors (yes, YOU!) to make the Chatter the best it can be. Make a submission once or commit to a monthly article. If you are looking for a topic here are some ideas:

Gardening - Some topics could be how to prepare your garden for winter or planting bulbs in the fall.

Recipes - Do you have a favourite family recipe (or one you just came across) that you'd like to share?

How-To Article - This could range from a small building project to making an origami crane to practicing mindfulness. You choose!

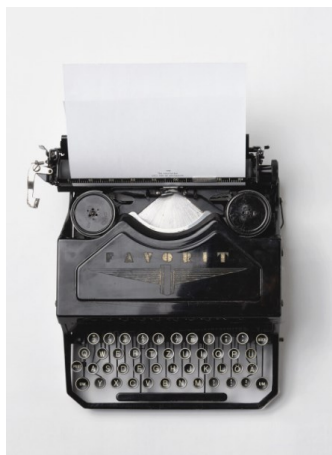
Top Ten List - Another open-ended one...movies from the '80s, poisonous spiders, vacation destinations. So many possibilities!

Get to Know Your Community Volunteers - Any aspiring journalists out there? Interview our wonderful community volunteers and write a monthly article on a different person doing amazing things in Redwood Meadows.

Creative Entries - Do you write short stories or poems? Are you an artist? Send your work in and we'll share it with the community.

Kids Entry - KIDS, the Chatter is for you too! Write a story, draw a picture, come up with anything creative you would like to see published!

Please help make the Chatter the best it can be and fun for the entire community to read! Email submissions and inquiries to theredwoodchatter@gmail.com



We want what you
have to say!!!!
Contribute to the chatter today



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BRAGG CREEK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Hello Creekers!

Christmas in coronavirus times will be one for the books, unlike any in living memory. Recommendations to travel less, restrictions on gatherings, traditions cancelled - what will a pared-down holiday season look like? While it won't be the Christmas most of us are used to let's get creative and find some new ways to celebrate; perhaps making some new traditions along the way.

For someone who loves to gift experiences as often as possible I am struggling with crossing things off my Christmas list. So instead I will look for ways to support our community by shopping locally and participating in the various online fundraising efforts benefiting our community groups. I am especially looking forward to finding unique gifts at our Light up Outdoor Market on December 5th.

While many parades, photos with Santa and other holiday traditions may be cancelled, we are happy to tell you about the following fun initiatives happening here at your Community Centre.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS – December 5th

Light up Outdoor Market – You'll be sure to find gifts for everyone from our group of local makers. 12:00 – 5:00 pm

Parade of Lights – Let's come together in community spirit by lighting up all of Bragg Creek! At 5:00 pm flip the switch to your Christmas light display in unison with your neighbours. A drone will be flying overhead to capture the awesome spectacle.

2nd Annual Tree Lighting – Join us for the newest of our annual community traditions. At 5:00 pm we will light various trees around the Hamlet with our inaugural tree at the Centre being lit by a special guest.

Kids Only Store – Our Elves will be available to help kids 12 and under pick out the perfect gift for Mom & Dad and will even wrap them ready for under the tree! 10:00 am – 3:00 pm by appointment only. Register at www.eventbrite.ca. **Moved to December 12th.**

Zoom with Santa – Visit with St. Nick virtually. 10:00 am – 3:00 pm by appointment only. Register at www.eventbrite.ca. **Moved to December 12th.**

FUNDRAISING

Saddled with the costs to operate an aging building, drastically reduced revenues and fundraising opportunities due to the pandemic the Centre is in a dire position.

You can help ensure your Community Centre is available now and for future generations by participating in our fundraising initiatives.

Fundscrip Gift Card Fundraiser – purchase gift cards at face value to use as gifts, do your holiday shopping or for your everyday purchases like groceries or gas and participating vendors donate a percentage to us! Go to www.fundscrip.com, click 'Support Your Group' and enter invitation code Y5QV4X or visit our website for more information.

Purdy's Chocolatier Fundraiser - support us through purchasing some very sweet Christmas gifts for friends, family and yourself! Visit our website for more information.

Happy Holidays and take good care Creekers!

Christine Pollard
Program and Event Manager

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A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICES OF MIRANDA ROSIN, MLA

Our province has overcome a lot in 2020! We faced an oil price war that dropped our commodity prices into negative values, a collapse of the entire global economy, and the evaporation of international travel and tourism, all of which left our unemployment rate in the double digits. There is no denying that many of you felt hardship over the past twelve months. Yet as we finish off the year and prepare to embark on a new one, we cannot afford to let that eternal optimism that makes up our Albertan identity grow dim. As we say goodbye to the year that some wish never was, I want to highlight some of the good news stories that never made media headlines so that you can join me in looking towards 2021 with newfound hope for the future.

Throughout the year, Alberta decisively managed to keep 85% of our economy open, contrary to many jurisdictions who chose to lockdown. All the while, our Government worked to make strategic policy and financial investments that will ensure our province emerges from COVID 19 with a stronger, more diversified economy than ever.

We advanced an industry-transcending reduction of the business tax rate, giving our province a competitive edge over other North American jurisdictions. We also instituted a new research and development tax credit for Albertan entrepreneurs; reduced red tape on job creators; passed prompt payment legislation to ensure contractors do not go unpaid for their labour and sunk costs and significantly deregulated the green energy market. On top of all this, we began developing a broadband strategy to help rural Albertans work from home and invested \$99 million into childcare so parents could get back to work.

To avoid sounding naïve, I will acknowledge that Alberta undoubtedly still has a long way to go until we reach pre-pandemic employment levels, despite our best efforts. Regardless, recent announcements from nearly every industry, coupled with job growth of over 38,000 full-time positions in September, suggest that 2021 looks optimistic and that these policy changes will indeed bring economic returns in the future.

Construction of the Keystone XL pipeline commenced on April 1, creating the opportunity for 7000 Albertan jobs while increasing our daily export capacity by over 830,000 barrels. Suncor announced that they would be relocating all of their corporate Ontario operations to Alberta, stating “their commitment to Calgary.” E3 Metals announced the creation of 500 jobs at their new lithium production facility. Private green investment injected \$2.4 billion into our economy, including \$200 million by Perimeter Solar, \$500 million by Greengate Power, \$200 million by BHE Canada for their Rattlesnake Ridge wind farm, and \$1.4 billion into cogeneration units for the oil sands. Echelon Wealth opened a new western Canada investment bank in Calgary for oil and gas, power generation, renewable energy, and clean technology. Alberta’s agricultural commodity sales increased by 4.8% over the five-year average of \$7.2 billion. Construction began on a \$45 million biorefinery, which will use Alberta-made technology to convert animal and plant waste into organic fertilizer and renewable natural gas. \$280 million from Alberta’s new industry-funded Technology, Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) Fund created 5,000 new jobs working on emissions reduction projects. Calgary realized \$200 million of private investment in the technology sector, breaking an historical record. Alberta Culture Days managed to go on with four full weeks of performing and fine arts shows. And our province even recognized a net gain of 246 doctors!

The year is now almost over, and I know many of you are grateful for that. When you reflect on these times, I hope you will be able to remember that it wasn’t all bad. Aside from the economic advancements our economy made, 2020 also gave us the unique opportunities to spend extra time with our families, reconnect with nature, try new hobbies, volunteer in our communities, and re-evaluate what is most important to us. In the busyness of ordinary life, we don’t often afford these simple pleasures our time.

The year 2020 may not have been our favourite year, but reflecting, we still have a lot for which we can be thankful. There tends to always be good all around us, sometimes we just forget to open our eyes and see it.

Rosie's Nuts n' Bolts

This festive snack is a staple in our house over the holidays and makes a lovely gift for friends and family. As you may have guessed, it's my daughter's (Rosie) favourite mix.

- 1 box Cheese Nips
- 1 box Crispex
- 1 bag original Bugles
- 1 bag straight pretzels
- 1 can cashews
- 1 pkg. powdered Ranch dressing
- 2 Tbsp. dried dill
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil

1. Pour Cheese Nips, Bugles, Crispex, pretzels, and cashews into a large paper grocery bag (double bag). Shake well.
2. Sprinkle with powdered Ranch dressing and shake again.
3. Sprinkle with dill and shake again - really shake so dill won't clump onto oil.
4. Pour oil over all ingredients and shake well to evenly coat nuts and bolts. Leave overnight.

We like to shake and dance to our favorite carols while making this holiday treat. So much fun and so delicious!



*Recipe and
adorable photo
provided
by Andrea Hanson*

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful." Norman Vincent Peale

Especially in Bragg Creek and Redwood Meadows.....



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PICAPIX PUZZLE

A picture will evolve as you complete the puzzle. Start with the largest numbers or combination of, colour in squares and proceed to work back and forth between columns and rows.

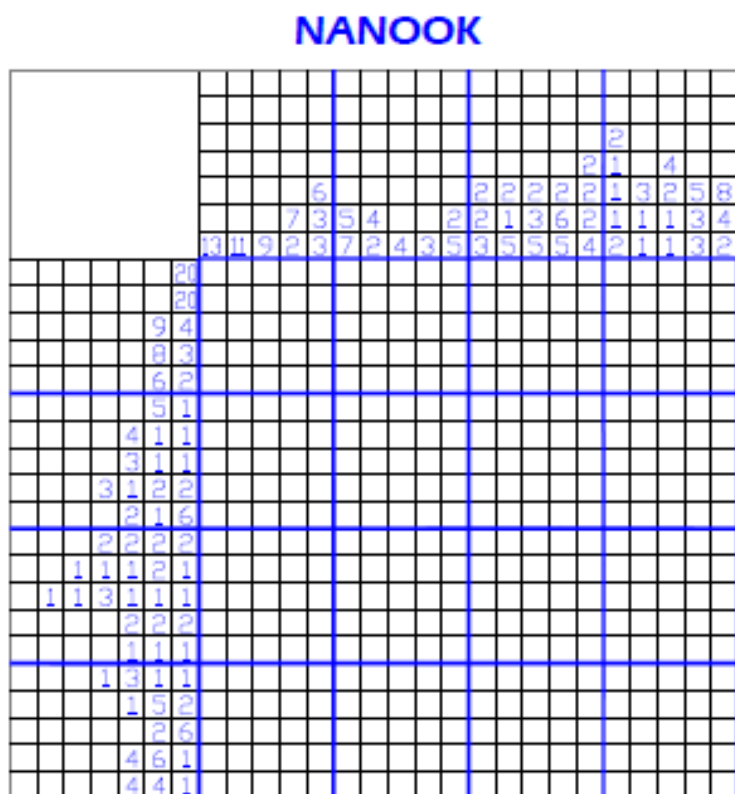
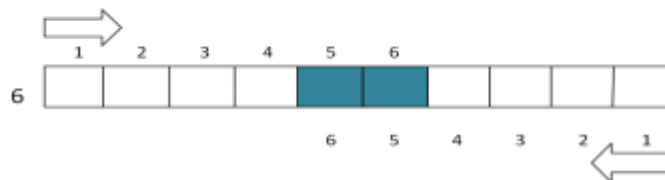
The three basic rules are:

1. Numbers represent how many squares you colour in to form a group or block.
2. Leave at least one square between these blocks.
3. The sequential order of the numbers is the order of the blocks, i.e., top number for a column is the top, block, and left-most number for a row is the left-most block.

The “logic count method” shown below is very useful: The clue at the left of the row is 6, so count 6 squares from the left to right and then count 6 squares from right to left. Confidently shade in the overlapping squares.

This same method can be applied even when there is more than one number, remembering to allow one empty square between groups or blocks. Use a second colour for elimination of background squares.

Created by Diane Baher of Okotoks



Christmas Trees
Delivered To Your Door

Is there anything more pleasant or nostalgic than the scent of a real Christmas tree in your home over the holidays?

Residents of Redwood Meadows and Bragg Creek now have the option to order premium grade Christmas Trees online and have them delivered to your doorstep.

If you enjoy picking out your own tree, please visit one of our three retail lots located in Okotoks (by Staples), Black Diamond (at the Westwood) or in Calgary (at Heritage Park).

www.RealTrees.ca

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NATURE CORNER—THE NOT-SO-FROZEN ELBOW RIVER

This is one of my favorite times of the year to walk down to the Elbow River and just stand there observing the icy water flow by. The next day I do the same thing, and then the next day, and so on. Observing the river slow as winter settles in, and ice increase and decrease depending on temperature fluctuations and the time of day, is fascinating and meditative. Since my academic and professional background is all about water, I unfortunately have a hard time just leaving it at ‘fascinating and meditative.’ I am always drawn to ponder the physical, chemical, and biological forces at work in the river system.

For instance, how amazing is it that as water gets colder it becomes denser and sinks, but after a seemingly arbitrary temperature (3.98°C) water is less dense and rises until it freezes at 0°C? So, as water travels down the Elbow River, it is slowly cycled from the surface to the bottom and then back up again depending on its temperature. Almost all of the water at the river bottom is 4°C because denser masses sink to the bottom, and everything in the middle is a swirling quagmire of variable temperatures either rising or sinking depending on if it is above or below 4°C. My imagination assigns a spectrum of color to the water molecules depending on temperature and density and I can almost see the beautiful marbled, ever-changing artistic masterpiece flowing past. Is that completely nerdy? You bet, but I embraced that part of myself long ago.

The next obvious question (to my mind, anyway) is how does the ice form on the river? Ice is a rigid, open framework of hydrogen bonded molecules. The mass of this framework is the same whether it is present as water or ice, but the volume expands by 9% as water becomes ice, making it less dense. Hence, ice (lower density) rises to the surface as water (higher density) flows beneath. Once a layer of ice has formed, it becomes thicker as cooled water molecules freeze and affix to the bottom ice layer.

Now, you may wonder why the whole river does not freeze. There are many factors to consider, but the main reasons are as follows. Ice is a good insulator so the water flowing under its surface is protected from atmospheric temperatures much colder than 0°C. The next reason is that flowing water is full of potential energy. As it flows, potential energy is transferred to kinetic (heat) energy that resists freezing on a molecular level. Groundwater discharging into the river can also impact the temperature, but I’ll leave it here before I bore you too much.

Next time you go down to the river I invite you to think about these natural forces constantly at work. While the river may seem like it follows the bears into hibernation for the season, it is constantly working and churning to equilibrate to the ever-changing environmental conditions.

Rebecca Parzen



MORTGAGE MATTERS—MORTGAGES IN REDWOOD MEADOWS

Wowza, I've heard some good ones lately... "I heard you can only get a mortgage for 16 years in Redwood," "I was told that you pay a higher interest rate in Redwood?" and the best yet, "I heard you cannot get a mortgage in Redwood." There appears to be a lot of misinformation swirling about recently regarding mortgages in Redwood Meadows. It seems like a good time to provide the facts as they are today.

I will start off by confirming **BANKS ARE LENDING IN REDWOOD MEADOWS!** Rest assured that lenders are still lending on your properties. Yes, it is true that some lenders will not finance in Redwood (or any leasehold property for that matter, Redwood has not been singled-out). However, there are lenders that have no issues with a Redwood mortgage. If you would like to refinance your property or are trying to sell your property, the buyer can get a loan on your property (assuming they qualify, OAC).

Lease Land Criteria (underwriting guidelines for all leased-land mortgages):

- The lease must be reviewed and found to be satisfactory,
- Must be in favour of the borrower, and must be signed by the landlord (or as it is in Redwood, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development/Sarcee Developments),
- Must be assignable to the bank, and no restrictions as to the registration of the Assignment of Lease on title,
- The term of the lease must exceed the amortization of the mortgage by a minimum of five years (Currently—**and a lease renewal will change this**—the lease is due to expire in September 2049 which leaves less than 29 years remaining, so a mortgage amortization cannot exceed 23 years at the moment),
 - Lease cannot be subject to re-negotiation at the landlord's discretion prior to the expiry of the original term,
- It must be a Crown or Government lease, not private,
- No restrictions to the banks access to the property, and no restrictions or limitations on the re-sale of the property (i.e. purchase price or type of purchaser).

There are two types of mortgages when you purchase a home, conventional (means your mortgage is less than 80% of your home's value) or high-ratio/insured (means your mortgage is 80-95% or more of your home's value). For a high ratio loan, CMHC insurance is mandatory and you will pay a premium on top of your mortgage. When you are refinancing your home, you are only eligible for a conventional mortgage.

It is at the discretion of each lender which properties they want to mortgage and what conditions they place on a mortgage application. Some lenders will not lend on condos, some don't like acreages, and some don't lend on leased land; but a few lenders treat Redwood no differently than any other property.

The key to successfully mortgaging a Redwood property is to always deal with the people who know and understand the paperwork & process. Your real estate team (i.e. realtor, mortgage broker, lawyer, appraiser, local bank) should be experienced with these transactions. I am saddened when I hear stories after-the-fact that "I couldn't get financing" or "My bank told me not to buy there." In truth, it is just a matter of working with the right people.

Candace Perko, local mortgage broker



MORTGAGES IN REDWOOD MEADOWS

As the lease extension draws closer, I think it is important to share the facts about mortgages in Redwood Meadows. As your local area mortgage expert for 15+ years, I would like to share with you the mortgage options as they are today and what may change after the lease is extended.

Lease Land Criteria (including Redwood Meadows):

- The lease must be reviewed and found to be satisfactory,
- Must be in favour of the borrower, and must be signed by the landlord (or as it is in Redwood, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development/Sarcee Developments),
- Must be assignable to the bank, and no restrictions as to the registration of the Assignment of Lease on title,
- The term of the lease must exceed the amortization of the mortgage by a minimum of 5 years,
- Lease cannot be subject to re-negotiation at the landlords discretion prior to the expiry of the original term,
- Must be a Crown or Government lease,
- No restrictions to the banks access to the property, and no restrictions or limitations on the re-sale of the property (i.e. purchase price or type of purchaser).
- Subject to all standard underwriting criteria and qualifying requirements. OAC.



Candace Perko, Mortgage Broker
403.560.6016
cperko@countrysidefinancial.ca

Question?	Mortgage NOW	Mortgage AFTER Lease Renewal
Are banks still lending in Redwood Meadows?	Yes! It is true that some lenders will not finance in Redwood (or any leasehold property for that matter, Redwood has not been singled-out). However, there are a few lenders that love lending here.	I expect the same few lenders to continue to offer their mortgages; but I intend to reach out to all the other lenders I work with (currently not lending here) and try to bring them on board to build-up more options for borrowers.
Do I pay a higher interest rate when I purchase here?	No, the lenders that lend here offer their best discounted rates to borrowers. OAC.	No, the lenders that lend here will continue to offer their best discounted rates to borrowers. OAC.
Do I need a higher down payment when purchasing here?	No, all the same down payment rules apply; minimum 5% (10% for values over \$500K) for CMHC insured, 20% for a conventional file.	No, all the same down payment rules apply; minimum 5% (10% for values over \$500K) for CMHC insured, 20% for a conventional file.
Do I have a reduced mortgage amortization when I purchase here?	With a lease expiry of Sept 2049, this is a maximum amortization now of 23 years. Before Sept 2020 it was 24 years, now that Sept has lapsed, it is reduced to 23 years with most lenders.	With a lease expiry extension, the mortgage amortization will revert back to the standard 25 years. Furthermore, 30 years is available for conventional loans but hasn't been available due to lease expiry date.
What if I already live here and I want to refinance my mortgage?	Yes, you may refinance your mortgage anytime for equity take-out or better rate/terms. Your mortgage must not exceed 80% of your property value.	Yes, you may refinance your mortgage anytime for equity take-out or better rate/terms. Your mortgage must not exceed 80% of your property value. 25-30 year amortization maximum.
I don't want to refinance but I need a 2nd mortgage to pay some debts/costs, is this possible?	Yes, I have lenders that will approve second (or third) mortgages if you have enough equity.	Yes, I have lenders that will approve second (or third) mortgages if you have enough equity. I am hopeful there will be more options after extension is complete.
I don't qualify for a "prime" mortgage, do I have any alternatives?	Yes and no. The few lenders that provide mortgages here are considered "prime" lenders, so a borrower must meet strict lending criteria. If you do not, there aren't any "sub-prime or B" lenders. However, there are "private" lenders that finance here; albeit at higher interest costs & fees.	I am very hopeful that when the lease is extended, more "sub-prime or B" lenders will come into the marketplace. This is a necessary option for many borrowers as some do not meet the strict criteria, but are still an excellent applicant needing an alternative solution before resorting to private lending.
I would like to buy or refinance a property here, can I use my out-of-area representatives?	I highly recommend using local area experts. The local bank, mortgage broker, realtors and lawyers are very familiar with the process, paperwork, etc. and will ensure a smooth transaction. The 11th hour issues I see are when a borrower deals with those inexperienced in this area.	Even more important to use local area experts. Head/sub lease documents will be revised and we will all have the current version & be very familiar with the process, paperwork, etc. to ensure a smooth transaction. The 11th hour issues I see are when a borrower deals with those inexperienced in this area.
Yay! The lease extension is all done ... what now?		If you have put-off necessary renovations to your home, require funds for any other purpose, or have a mortgage renewal coming up - now is the time to consider refinancing your current mortgage. With super low rates and a fresh lease, it is the perfect time.

INTERVIEW WITH REDWOOD'S ICE RINK VOLUNTEERS

This month I was fortunate enough to interview Dave Dunay and Bart Frasca, two of Redwood's most hard-working and dedicated volunteers. Dave and Bart took time out of their busy day to chat with me and tell me the story of their volunteering journey here in Redwood.

The first question I asked, was to establish what exactly their role is:

Dave: Getting the rink ready for the season. It's a hard task, as it takes countless hours, sometimes going out to the rink in the late or early hours of the day when it could be pushing -30 degrees

Bart: We use a hose to fill the rink with water until it's up to five inches deep, it freezes, and then we can think about getting the Zamboni on the freshly frozen ice.

Matthew: Could you tell me a little bit about the Zamboni?

D: It's a 1986 Olympia that was purchased through grant money, it was originally used at the Kingsman Sports Arena in Edmonton. Driving it is a fun experience, I learnt how by watching Youtube and with the assistance of Redwood resident Glenn Van Camp, who had previously driven a Zamboni in the city. I now train others to use it including Bart, Darcy Curle and Sean Conaboy. Luckily there's no special licensing needed.

M: How long have you been volunteering in Redwood?

D: I've been volunteering here for fourteen years, I spent a couple of years on Redwood Council before volunteering for this position.

B: Ten years for me.

M: Why did you choose to volunteer for the rink job?

D: I love hockey so I kind of just decided that I would volunteer to help out with the rink, and it was a great way to meet some of the people in the community, it was also great fun as well, which is a bonus!

B: My kids play hockey for the Bragg Creek Bears, and we [Dave and I] coach the Bears so it was just natural for me to work on the rink.

M: How many hours a week do you have to commit in the winter months?

D and B: It's a long process, and you can't leave the hose unattended for too long when you're trying to flood the rink. Once the cold snap comes at the start of the season, we can be at the rink for easily fifteen hours a week.



M: Is there lots of early starts?

B: The Bears [Bragg Creek Bears] typically play their games on a Saturday morning, so if it snowed overnight or the ice is in poor condition, you might find Dave or myself out there at 5 am getting the ice ready for the game.

M: Can you tell me about the secondary ice rink?

D: People had heard that Redwood had fantastic ice, so the main rink was getting used a lot. Darcy Curle took on the responsibility of making a smaller secondary rink. The good thing is that it's actually easier to set up than the main rink because the ground is cold and then you just spray the snow down on top of it. It started off as just a small, fun rink, and over the years it's gotten bigger and bigger and it's almost the same size as the main rink now, and it gets used just as much.

M: How does it feel helping the Redwood Meadows community?

D: There's definitely a sense of pride and accomplishment in what we do. Even though the times that we work are a bit of an inconvenience, there's still something great about it, like how we get to see the sunset or sunrise. Also, the smell of the fresh air or even spraying the water on in the morning. You lose yourself in it all, like snowshoeing in the middle of nowhere.

B: It's a ton of fun, and we get to enjoy the end result.

M: How many people would you say volunteer alongside you?

D: There's about half a dozen of us that volunteer from Redwood, Darcy Curle and Sean Conaboy are two residents that have spent countless hours at the rink, and there's lots of people from Bragg Creek hockey that help out before and after games.

B: We must also mention Gord Tate, another Redwood resident who donated and built the 'Tate Shack' [the building at the rink], without this building the rink wouldn't be what it is today.

Finally, I asked Bart and Dave whether they were looking for more volunteers to help out. I was informed that the townsite is taking over the responsibility of the ice rinks and that they would both be stepping down. They are unsure at this time whether more volunteers are needed, but if residents are interested, contact the Townsite Office.

I may just be a kid that doesn't have the largest interest in hockey or skating, but I can tell that all the volunteers take time out of their lives to help the Redwood Meadows community. So, on behalf of all Redwood residents, I'd like to thank Dave, Bart and all the other volunteers who work countless hours to try and make this community a more fun and enjoyable place to live.

Matthew Cowen

Local youth writer and sports contributor



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WINTER TRIVIA

1. About how many snow crystals fall from the sky each winter?
2. What is the persistent fear of snow called?
3. What place holds the record for the most snow angels at one time?
4. What is the coldest temperature ever recorded?
5. How tall is the largest recorded snowman ever built?
6. T/F: Around 22% of Earth's land surface is covered in snow and ice.
7. How much water does ten inches of snow melt down to?
8. What place is said to be the largest city with the most snow in all of the US?
9. What animals change their fur color to white during the winter?
10. T/F: Winter cold kills more than twice as many Americans as summer heat does.

ANSWERS: (1) One septillion (2) Chionophobia (3) Bismarck, North Dakota (4) -123° C (5) 113 ft (6) False, 12% (7) One inch (8) Rochester, NY (9) Arctic fox, arctic hare, ptarmigan, barren-ground caribou, and ermine (10) True

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BLEACHERS AT THE REDWOOD RINK

It's official, we finally have bleachers at the rink! You will find these beauties sitting on the north side of the ice - the opposite side from the players boxes. This location was picked as it should be nice and sunny on those cold winter mornings, and it keeps the area behind the players boxes open for the walking path that is already there. The bleachers seat 82 people (in a non-COVID year!) so there should be ample seating for parents from each team under normal circumstances. As it stands at the time of writing, we are allowed to have spectators at the Redwood Rink, but of course, social distancing is in effect.

A huge thank you to every family who donated their time and money in the past two years for this project. To raise funds, we held two Pub Nights at Rockies Tavern and Grill, and had two Wine Survivors, plus we sold toques last year. Thank you to Ben and Emma at Rockies for allowing us to use their facility and for donating to the cause. Thanks also goes out to the Redwood Meadows Community Association (RMCA), for generously donating the metal bleacher frame that was fabricated by Hi-Hog Industries; and to Rocky Bond and his crew at Redwood Townsite, for providing us with a packed gravel pad to put the bleachers on. This was truly a community effort!

The bleachers were installed by Marco Koomans of Bragg Creek Property Services - he did a fantastic job and got them finished under budget! Thanks Marco!

If you have any questions regarding the bleachers or about our fundraising in general, please contact us at: braggcreekbearsfundraising@gmail.com.

The 2019/20 Bragg Creek Bears' Fundraising Team



KIDS CRAFT—SALT DOUGH ORNAMENTS

Salt dough is fun to make as well as to model with. Salt dough ornaments makes a nice present or tree decoration. Left-over dough can be kept in the refrigerator for about five days.

6 tablespoons plain flour
3 tablespoons salt
Mixing bowl
3 tablespoons water
Pastry board
Baking parchment
Rolling pin

Blunt knife
Drinking straw
Baking sheet
Acrylic paint
Medium and fine paintbrushes
Narrow ribbon
Optional: glitter, cookie cutters

Materials:

- Mix the flour and the salt in the bowl. Gradually add the water until you have a firm, pliable dough. Set aside for ten minutes.
- Place the dough on the pastry board and roll into small balls, to then flatten with a rolling pin to ¼ inch (5 mm) in thickness. If your ornament is not flat, it can be molded like playdough into the desired shape.
- Lay your creation on baking parchment. Overlaying is possible for 3D effect. Make a hole at the top with the straw.
- Place the baking parchment on a baking sheet. Place in a preheated oven 250 degrees Fahrenheit, for about 6 hours, until hard. Leave to cool in the oven.
- Paint your ornament. Leave to dry then thread the ribbon through the hole and tie.



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EASY CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

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1. How many ghosts come to visit Scrooge?

- ☐ four ☐ three
☐ two ☐ one

2. What ran over Grandma on Christmas Eve?

- ☐ a sleigh ☐ a train
☐ a reindeer ☐ a truck

3. Why didn't the other reindeer like Rudolph?

- ☐ his shiny nose
☐ his good looks
☐ Santa liked him best
☐ he was the fastest

4. What sound did Frosty make as he ran through town?

- ☐ Bumpety-bump-bump
☐ Thuddety-thud-thud
☐ Slippety-slip-slip
☐ Thumpety-thump-thump

5. What should children not do when Santa Claus is coming to town?

- ☐ lie or cheat
☐ sing or dance
☐ cry or pout
☐ run or jump

6. In the movie A Christmas Story, what does Ralphie want for Christmas?

- ☐ a puppy
☐ a Red Ryder bb gun
☐ a baseball
☐ a cap pistol

7. What color Christmas do people dream of in the famous song?

- ☐ red ☐ green
☐ silver ☐ white

8. How many horses pull the sleigh in Jingle Bells?

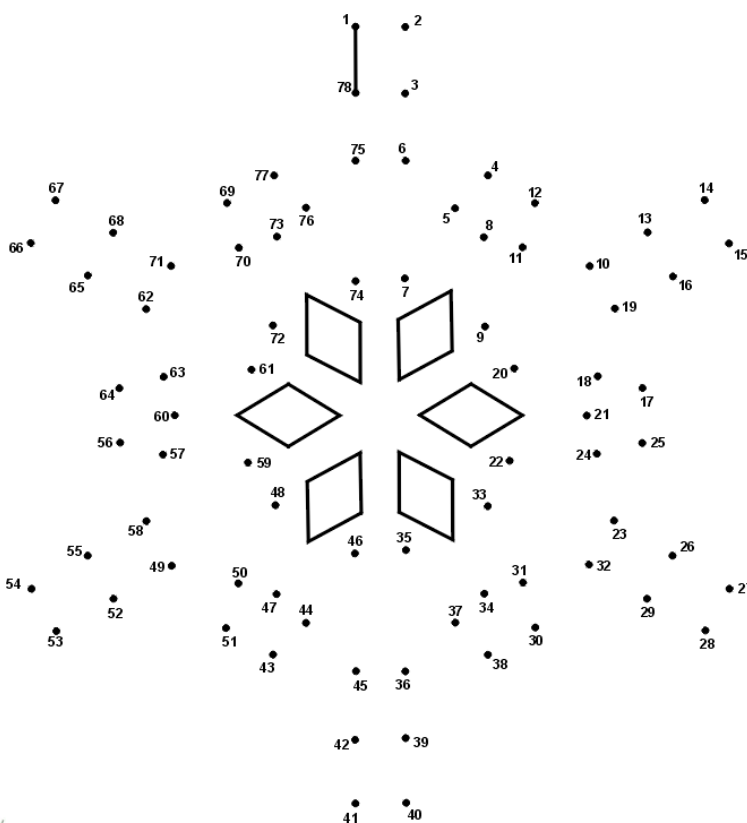
- ☐ two ☐ four
☐ one ☐ eight

9. How many reindeer pull Santa's sleigh?

- ☐ eight ☐ four
☐ twelve ☐ ten

10. What is the another name for Santa Claus?

- ☐ the tooth fairy
☐ the Easter bunny
☐ St. Nicholas
☐ St. Francis



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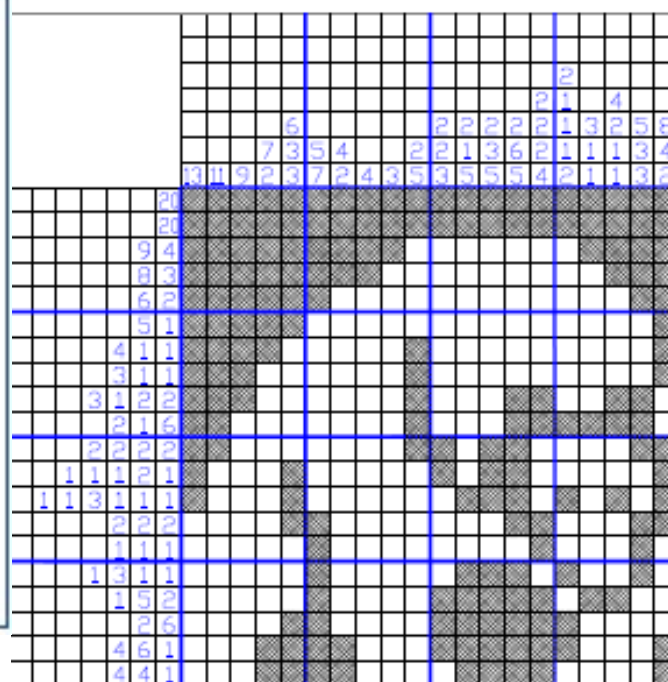
3-Afternoon 12:15pm-3:15pm (M/W/F)

5-Mornings 8:45am-11:45am (M-F)

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PICAPIX SOLUTION

NANOOK



WINTER WINES

It's time to start thinking about some winter wines to cozy up with, decant for occasions, *mull* over holidays, and snuggle up to with Netflix. All we need to do is explore and find out what we're hot for when the temperature drops!

The first grape to consider is Nebbiolo. This Piedmont grape is classically grown in the northern Italian ranges of Barolo, Barbaresco, and Roero. Its grippy tannins and high acidity will match with your mouth watering mushrooms, risotto, and winter squash. Make sure you decant for at least 45 minutes to reveal the beautiful rose, cherry and leather flavors! Another grape is Sangiovese. These are your Tuscans, Brunellos and Chiantis. These are more earthy and bold in flavor with your tomato sauces and pizzas.

Other grapes to consider are Cabernet and Shiraz. This is powerful black fruit territory. These big broods with high alcohol will warm you up and tame that wild boar, venison and big grilling meat. Try the classic regions of Australia's Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale.

Let's not forget the whites. 'Tis the season for more full-bodied Chardonnays and some bigger mouth feels of Viognier. Not to replace your hot buttered rum toddy's, oaked Chardonnays will round out nicely with turkey, gruyere cheese and cream sauce pastas. And the tropical flowery white peach and honey suckle notes of Viognier will have you feeling like spring when you need to break the back of winter!

And for all your snacky nights, go for bubbles! Champagne and sparkling wines are the best with potato chips, popcorn, cheese, nuts, French fries, and even bacon. There are endless reasons to get new wines on your palate, so have fun, and don't be afraid to try something new. If it's not love at first taste, turn it into red wine hot cocoa. Liquid chocolate makes most people happy!

Red Wine Hot Cocoa

2 ½ cup semisweet chocolate chips

¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder

½ cup granulated sugar

Pinch of salt

6 cups milk

1 bottle of red wine

Throw into a crockpot on high for 1 hour, top with marshmallows and enjoy!

Karla Watts

Ruby Red Vino

Wine Education



Dr. Karen Massey, REGISTERED PSYCHOLOGIST



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Local Baking Enthusiast



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