



A Howlin' G ood Time OFF-LEASH NEWS

OCTOBER 2016



Blessing of the Animals
Saturday, Oct 1 | 11am
Cathedral Church of the Redeemer

604 1st Street SE

Honouring current and past fur family members.



Thanksgiving
Monday, Oct 10

Give thanks for the furry beings that make our lives complete.



Halloween
Monday, Oct 31

Keep pets safe and have fun!



SAVE THE DATE
River Park Christmas
Tree Decorating
Saturday, Nov 26
Time TBA

Join us to bring festive spirit to River Park.

UNSUBSCRIBE OPTION

If for some reason you no longer wish to receive communication, just let me know.

Candice

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River Park Construction Update

Still avoiding River Park because of construction? We notice numbers continue to be lower but if you haven't been walking the park, here's a small summary of the changes we noticed in September:

- Most of the blue temporary fencing has been removed at the south end
- Black frost fencing remains around new plants
- Preparations have begun to pour the cement pad for the middle dumpster
- Blue temporary fencing was extended on both sides of the trail in the north end of the park
- Many of the poles have been replaced
- Seating around the newly moved Eric Harvie rock
- Unknown work at the south end in the staging area (looks like removal of big rocks)

We have not received any information so we can only provide a progress report based on our observations.

Onleash Only at River Park

There's been a LOT of talk about the off-leash part of River Park becoming on-leash when work is completed or beginning sometime in 2017. We started hearing this in July but we were really inundated with comments and questions during our September event at River Park.

On September 27, Councillor Brian Pincott addressed this concern on Twitter: "*Nope. No truth to that at all.*"

The development plans for River Park on The City of Calgary website continue to show off-leash access on both sides of the spine trail from the parking lot to the fence by the dumpster at the north end (approximately 40 Ave).

Let's hope this is true and that plans will not change in the future.

a note of Thanks

CLEAN-UP DAY RESULTS

Even though there was less park space to address, 46 people came out to pick up poop and garbage on September 10. As we expected, volunteers reported less leftovers than usual. It was also a great opportunity to introduce our group to some new park users and gain their support. Many thanks to everyone who came to help!

PARK FAIRIES WATCHING OVER RIVER PARK

In the middle of September, **two kind people** replaced broken IKEA bag dispensers in the park. One of them is **Deb M** and the other person remains unknown. We appreciate your efforts to help us care for the park. Everyone is welcome to fill holders with clean empty bags whenever possible.



Shed Some Light On It

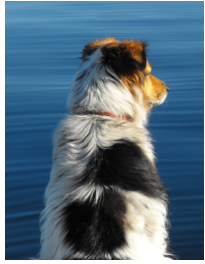
If you walk your dog in River Park around 8pm, you'll notice it's dark out there! Less light means it's harder to see your dog and most definitely harder to find their poop. We're so fortunate to have lights along the trail in River Park. Problem is our dogs often head away from the trail to do their business and there are plenty of areas the light does not reach.

The solution is easy. We just have to be more diligent about keeping the dog within sight. Besides using a flashlight, we can also dress up the dog with an illuminated collar or light-up bobble. Bike lights are also an inexpensive option. It's somewhat festive dressing up the dog! If you're not on board already, please consider one of these options for the dogs' safety and to help keep the park clean.



A Fond Farewell to Four Dogs from our Community

It's been a very sad month in the River Park dog community as we lost four longtime members.

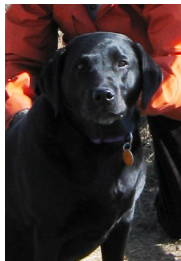


Patricia H shared heartbreaking news about her **Sarah**. *"Beloved Sarah passed away after more than 15 years of loyal friendship. There was never a day that I didn't thank my lucky stars that we found her at the SPCA and brought her home*

from Peace River in 2001. She was 11 months old at the time and had been 'thrown away'. Sarah was the best of friends and "Queen of River Park". She patrolled the park faithfully for a decade and a half, keeping dogs in check and owners on alert to do the right thing. She was a very special friend. Sarah was spunky to the end in spite of her cancer. I'll miss her forever.

*I'd love to thank **Jason Tolton** from Cornerstone Square Veterinary Centre for her wonderful care over the years and **Dirk Dekens** of Dekens Housecall Veterinary Services for his compassion at the end. Jason could not come in time and Dirk was able to help her out. Also Pet Heaven Crematorium and Funeral Chapel were so kind and helpful.*

YoYo was faithful companion to **Louise F** for many years. A friendly, sweet soul, YoYo loved to greet people in typical lab style and with her lively prance. Many of us will remember YoYo also gave everyone a toothy smile whenever she was in River Park.



Louise wrote: *"Life is very sad and lonely for me and YoYo's sister cat Cappuccina. I treasure all my wonderful memories of more than 12 years with her."* YoYo passed away at the end of August.



Fraser K announced that **Wylie** suffered a stroke on the evening of September 23 and crossed The Rainbow Bridge the next day. Wylie acted as park ambassador while accompanying Fraser, his fur-siblings and many dogs

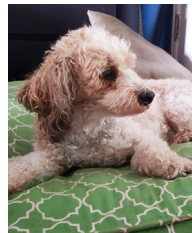
for strolls and cleaning efforts in River Park during his lifetime. Wylie also made wonderful contributions to the community as a PALS dog for several years.

Tracy L said goodbye to **Barkley** on September 26. He had a tough life for many years with another family, spending his days alone, locked in a bathroom.



That all changed as he became part of Tracy's pack when he was 11 years old. Barkley lived out the remainder of his senior years being spoiled with lots of love and attention and he enjoyed many long walks beside his fur-siblings Boomer and Charlie. Barkley came to be known as one of the best dressed dogs at River Park.

Tracy wishes to acknowledge the wonderful care provided by Dr. Pradeep Budihal and the staff at Westland Veterinary Hospital during Barkley's lifetime and for his final visit.



Paws for Thought

Some heartwarming videos to share with everyone this month!

Grab a hanky and [watch a video](#) of a bridesmaid as she carries a dying dog down the aisle during a ceremony



This video suggests a great idea for a stress-free wedding photo shoot — just [add puppies](#)



Caring for Your Pet In Sickness and Health

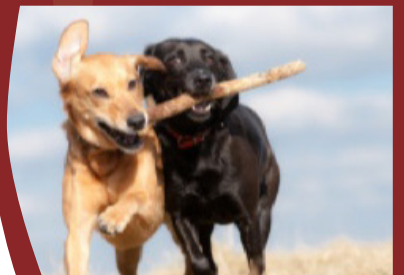
This section features some great online info to help keep all of our furry family members healthy and happy.



Researcher seeks help to determine factors that affect successful dog relationships and placements — [participate in four 10-minute tests](#)



The [scoop on safety](#) of onions or garlic and dogs from [Pet Md](#)



Help Your Pet Have a Pawsome Halloween



Does Halloween cause stress and anxiety for your pet? Help them have the best experience possible. Here are some tips to give your furry family member a paw up during the event.

Decorations

- Pet-proof indoor and outdoor items
- Jack o' lanterns or candles and tails don't mix well

Costume Tips

- Make sure costumes are comfy and unrestrictive
- Don't limit their movement or senses
- Watch for choking hazards
- Choose a bright color and make sure ID tags are worn if they're outside

Mental and Physical Health

- Watch for any signs of stress or anxiety when trying to dress your pet in costume
- Ensure your pet doesn't bolt out the door
- Have a quiet spot for them to hang out
- Avoid a bite incident — ensure your pet doesn't get spooked by people in costumes

Treats

- Keep people treats in a secure location
- Chocolate and candies or gum (containing xylitol) are extremely toxic for dogs
- Candy wrappers are a choking hazard and can cause a painful and/or costly obstruction

Wishing a happy, healthy and safe event for all!