

A Howlin' Good Time

OFF-LEASH NEWS

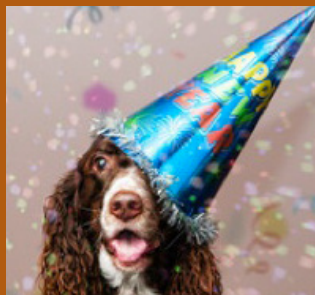


JANUARY 2017

New Year's Day Fun River Park

Sunday, Jan 1
11am to 1pm

Ring in the New Year with canine friends. Come and enjoy light refreshments and social time.



**K9 Gentle Dental Teeth
Cleaning**
Tuesday, Jan 10
Pet Valu Deer Valley
1221 Canyon Meadows
Drive SE
10am to 5pm
Find more info [here](#).

UNSUBSCRIBE OPTION

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

Candice



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🌐 riverparkdogs.com

🐦 [@riverparkdogs](https://twitter.com/riverparkdogs)

📘 [riverparkdogs](https://www.facebook.com/riverparkdogs)



Linda and Chica

New Year's Day at River Park

Bring your dog for a walk at River Park on New Year's Day and join us for a pawty! We'll be by the fountain in the middle of the park between 11:00am and 1:00pm on January 1.



Enjoy some cookies and spiced tea while socializing in front of the decorated Christmas trees. Pose for a picture or two that will be shared in the next newsletter and on social media.

Don't miss out on this dog- and family-friendly holiday opportunity. See you there!

New Year's Resolutions

Humans often make resolutions. If you're making plans, why not include the special canines in your life? No pressure... how about these ideas:

- Set aside an allowance for occasions, replacement items, special treats etc
- Clean the dog's bathroom (aka the yard), their bowls, bed and blankies more frequently
- Go for walkies at a different park for a change
- Have leash-walkies in a different environment to pique their interest
- Keep their minds and manners sharp: try a little refresher in training or teach them a new trick

Newsletter Content

For me, putting together the monthly newsletter is a labour of love. I find it's always a guess to figure out what people want to read and see. I've been following a set pattern for years:

- Events
- Park update
- General or specific dog news (local and beyond)
- Health and safety features
- Behaviour articles

Since I don't use an email newsletter platform such as Constant Contact or MailChimp, I'm never totally sure whether people open the newsletter or click on any of the links. The only reason I haven't used a newsletter platform is because there are costs associated with it.

So I'd love to have your help! A new perspective or opinion is very welcome. Please submit your ideas, online finds, personal stories, your dog's photos, experiences at River Park, etc and I'll share with others. Thanks for your consideration!





River Park Vandalized!

Frustrating news to report... Vandals took their toll twice on River Park in December. Grrrr! Thanks to **Colleen H** from The Friends of River Park Leadership Team who reported both issues so they could be rectified.

Port-a-Potty

On December 19, 2016 someone knocked over the outdoor toilet which we understand is apparently privately funded by a good samaritan for park users.

Bulletin Board

On December 23, 2016 someone used an item with enough force to shatter all of the plexiglass on the bulletin board at River Park. The plexiglass was tagged with graffiti in May 2014. For two years, **Candice L** from The Friends of River Park Leadership Team worked with The City of Calgary to get the plexiglass replaced. She was told that community groups were required to maintain structures specific to their use but she continued to work with them until spring 2016 when it was finally replaced at no charge to our group. Sadly because the replacement took so long to arrange and lasted for such a short time, we speculate future efforts are futile and have decided not to pursue replacement at this time.



Taking Great Dog Photos

Everyone enjoys great dog photos but taking them yourself can be just a bit challenging. There's so much to consider: location, lighting, background, colour of the dog, subject's attention span and then there's all of the settings on the camera.

Sheesh! What to do?!!

Check out some [tips](http://www.dogster.com) from www.dogster.com to help make the task fun and easy.



Bag Dispenser Returns!

In September/October 2016, all of the power poles along the trail in River Park were replaced.

One day in October, we went to fill the bag dispenser on a pole close to the parking lot, only to find it wasn't there. A new pole was installed, but the bag dispenser was nowhere in sight. After a few calls, we connected with James from The City of Calgary. The bag dispenser was delivered to **Candice L** on Dec 16. After a thorough cleaning and graffiti removal, she and her husband re-installed it on Dec 18.



Paws for Thought

Some heartwarming info to share with everyone this month!

[Read an article](#) about the importance of pets in supporting people with mental health conditions



Watch [Hearts Aligned](#): a video showing the benefits of human and dog relationships



Caring for Your Pet In Sickness and Health

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



A link to find [Pet First Aid Courses](#) from [Saint John Ambulance](#)



Five [life-lengthening tips](#) for your pet from [Pet Md](#)

