

# A Howlin' Good Time

## OFF-LEASH NEWS



Tree Decorating Just Before the Snow Arrived



### WINTER 2021

#### Events

As a result of the pandemic, many 2021 animal rescue fundraising events were scaled back or cancelled. These organizations rely on the generosity of donors to run programs and services that support animals in their care. If you're able, please consider donating time, talent or treasure to your favourite animal charity.



#### River Park Clean-ups

Please pick up any leftovers until we can get back on track with regular park clean-up efforts. Thank you!

#### UNSUBSCRIBE OPTION

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

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## Christmas Spirit Arrives at River Park

Our winter holiday off-leash experience just wouldn't be the same without Christmas festivities at the focal point in the middle of River Park, an area dedicated to the late and great Cathryn Margetts.

Recently, a group of eight elves focused on decorating five trees, including one tree that commemorates park members who have passed away. Memorial ornaments were kindly provided and decorated by **Shirley P.**

Most of the eclectic mix of handmade and store-bought ornaments have been provided by the Friends of River Park team, and over the years, a few park users have also contributed some.

Many park members look forward to joining the effort but to ensure everyone's safety during the

ongoing pandemic, this year's plans were altered to include only members of our team.

During the holiday season, please feel welcome to contribute a shatter-proof ornament. Do note the security of any items can't be ensured. Early in February, we will remove display items and they are stored for the following year's use.

Should you find any fallen decorations in the weeks to come, please lend a hand and rehang it, or if it's broken, throw it in one of the garbage bins. Thanks for your consideration and support.

We hope everyone and every dog enjoys a pawsome holiday season with family and friends.

A very Merry Christmas to one and all!





# Shower Your Dog With Love This Christmas



Ho, ho, ho... 'Tis the season! Looking for ways to make the holidays bright for your special family member? As if we need a reason to spend more quality time with our dogs!

Sure a new toy or treat is always welcome but maybe you don't want to do any shopping. Here are a few no- or low-cost ideas to consider.

- Make a snuffle mat for your best friend ([see video](#) from The Calgary Humane Society)
- Bake them some delicious noms
- Shake it up and take a different route for their walk (new sniffs are very exciting and will likely result in the need for a post-walk nap that you can take together)
- Hide some yummy treats around the house
- Teach them a new trick (that's right, they're never too old to learn something)
- Play hide and seek (loads of fun for you too; try not to giggle — that's a dead give-away)
- Help them learn the names of their toys
- Give them a massage
- Teach them to put away their toys (don't tell them this also benefits you)
- Pop on over to the off-leash park for them to visit with all of their furry friends (social time for you too)
- Take lots of photos of them for great memories to cherish (enjoy the challenge and creativity of having them pose for a photo session)
- Rotate a few of their toys (when they get to play with one of their favourites again, it's like seeing an old friend)
- Teach them something in a different language (if you don't know another language, you can use hand signals — a good challenge for both of you)
- Wash their blankets or bed (things get a little smelly with time so this one benefits humans too)
- Scoop up their bathroom (people aren't the only ones who appreciate clean facilities)
- Look for things you already have around the house that you can repurpose for dog fun

## Holiday Safety Tips

With all the excitement during the holiday season, it's hard to keep track of so many details. Include some aspects to make sure our dogs have an enjoyable and safe time too.



Check out this [alphabetical list of toxic plants](#) for dogs from the UK Kennel Club.

As well, here are some [great holiday safety tips](#) from the ASPCA to keep in mind.

## Festive Videos

No holiday season is complete without some classic Christmas dog videos for your viewing pleasure. Enjoy!

[How to Decorate Christmas Tree \(Doggie Style\)](#)

[Dachshund Decorates Christmas Tree](#)

[Dogs Think Santa is an Intruder](#)

[Freshpet Holiday Feast](#)

## The Christmas Song (dog version)

In the spirit of the season, we hope you'll enjoy a seasonal favourite (lyrics modified by Candice). You can [play this classic karaoke music](#) in the background and sing along to your pupper.

*Doggie sleeping by a gentle fire  
Nap time filled with silly dreams  
Thoughts of play, walks and many tasty treats  
And making "furends" by any means.*

*Every doggie knows it's important to be good  
Santa Paws keeps watch throughout the year  
For good behaviour at the park and in the hood  
Extra points for listening with both ears.*

*They hope Santa Paws is on his way  
With lots of toys and goodies on his sleigh  
And every doggie must pretend not to hear  
The arrival of Santa Paws and reindeer.*

*And so all doggies need to heed this phrase  
"Be good at home and in the park  
Although it's been said many times, many ways  
Don't bite or needlessly bark".*

Interlude

*Pleasant dreams to all the doggies near and far  
High hopes for Santa Paws to come  
Four paws crossed that he has a sturdy sleigh  
To bring treats on Christmas day.*

## Homemade Bikkies

For those who love to make dog treats, here are a couple of biscuit recipes found online at [Allrecipes](#) that received pawsome reviews. Thought it best to include a savoury and sweet choice. Can't decide? Heck, you can make both!

[Peanut Butter and Banana Dog Biscuits](#)

[Cheesy Dog Treats](#)



## \* a note of Thanks \*

A heartfelt thank you to everyone (including those shown below) who came out to clean up leftover dog poop in River Park on Saturday, November 27. You rock!



## Wanted: Feedback

In case you missed signs in the area, The City of Calgary announced another Sandy Beach project that includes the upgrading of park and recreation infrastructure to improve conditions for people who use the area in various ways.

**City Council recently approved \$30M for this new project** stating they are responding to "increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic, increases in population and the diversity of users, the needs change and we need to respond to these needs. The proposed project will provide the neighbourhood, local businesses, and visitors with an improved public realm for safe, easy, and accessible travel".

## City Council encourages engagement and feedback options:

1. Attend a virtual info session on Dec 8 from 6 to 7:15pm
2. Provide online feedback from Nov 27 to Dec 15

## Offer your opinion on three topics:

- design of the entry area
- programming and recreational amenities
- sidewalk/pathway improvements

More info and design concepts are available on [The City of Calgary website](#).

Many of us may remember a similar effort when the area received extensive upgrades through a \$14M development plan done in 2011.

If you also use Sandy Beach, please take time to review plans and provide feedback.

