

Connections Newsletter

January 2017

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT:

The Board of Directors would like to wish all the members a very Happy New Year. Thank you for the many ways you participate in your community – as good members and good neighbours! A huge thank you to our incredible staff for all their hard work in 2016 and their ongoing commitment to SMHC. And another huge thank you to the many volunteers who work to make our community all that it is.

Time to think about 2017 – it is a member requirement to attend a minimum of one Member Meeting per year (of course it is a privilege to attend any and all Member Meetings – your Coop, your decisions!) Mark your calendars now to make sure you can participate.



MEMBER MEETINGS FOR 2017:

- Wednesday, January 25, 2017 – 7:00PM
- Thursday, April 13, 2017 – 7:00PM (Tentative)
- Thursday, June 15, 2017 – 7:00PM (Tentative)
- Saturday, October 21, 2017 – 10:00AM (Tentative)

At the upcoming AGM on January 25th, 2017 we will be reviewing the last year, electing new Board Members and learning about our volunteer survey results – so hope to see you all there!

Your SMHC Board of Directors

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

(It's Miller Time!)

Office/Shop

During December, there were approximately 168 work orders completed, 7 meetings, 1 event, 2 holidays', 1 birthday and 4 anniversaries all crammed into the shortened month due to the holidays. There were also a number of cupboards installed, floors done, a few bathrooms repaired/replaced, locks replaced/repared and some grounds work done with tree wells and trees.

Green Dream

Generally speaking Green Dream has just started their winter services and the overall opinion has been positive. Just a reminder, if you see issues or problem areas that need to be corrected please let the Office know. The Green Dream team is very responsive and willing to correct these problems if they are told about them.

Please remember that members are still responsible as always for clearing snow from their own parking stalls. It is very important that you DO NOT push this snow out into the middle of the parking lot as this makes driving through the lots extremely difficult for everyone else. Any snow removed from stalls should be moved to a grassy area or anywhere else other than parking lots or sidewalks. Green Dream will only be clearing the drive paths in the parking lots as time permits, the sidewalks are their priority.

General

There have been a lot of discussions about the changes in Sarcee Meadows. Some positive, and some not so positive. These discussions range from the decision to upgrade our flooring standard to laminate on the main floor, to fire pits being banned. Everyone knows we have a pretty active community with a number of different opinions and when decisions are made not everyone will be happy with the direction taken. Within Sarcee Meadows we always look to making decisions that are best for the community as a whole, which follow the appropriate laws, legal guidelines, mission statement of SMHC, and Cooperative Principles. In the office we always try to communicate the changes to our Members in a way that will provide understanding of why the change was made and when it will take effect.

My concern is that I hear a number of rumors or perceptions of events that are incorrect and causing misunderstanding. If the office has not communicated a change in a way that provides the information and detail you need, I encourage you to contact someone in the office or on the Board for clarification. If you don't agree with a decision, make your opinion known. Feedback delivered in a respectful way is always appreciated, and even if we can't make immediate changes, this feedback is recorded for future reference during the decision making process.

On behalf of the entire staff I'd like to say Thank You to all our members for the beautiful Christmas cards and all the yummy treats and gifts we received over Christmas and New Year's!

In closing as we say goodbye to 2016, may this New Year bring you all a peace filled life, warmth and togetherness in your family and much prosperity! Happy New Year!

Thank you,

Roberta Miller
General Manager



What is it that truly makes a Housing Cooperative special; that sets it apart from any other kind of housing model available today?

This should be fairly easy for any Housing Cooperative Member to answer but the answers may be in many ways different and the same all at once.

Some would say the sense of community that is rare to find in more common models of habitation.

Some would say that we are set apart because of our ability to maintain a housing charge for our Members that is geared to covering expenses and reserve spending for future needs which generally speaking gives Coop Members a comparable or lower charge for the roof over their head that market rents can.

Some would say the chance to be a part of something, to serve as a volunteer and learn and grow with your community.

And some may even say that the chance to decorate your home to suit yourself choosing you own colour schemes and making your personal space truly yours is a wonderful perk of living in the cooperative.

Our Challenge to you all is to respond with your own thoughts about what makes Sarcee Meadows special for you.

SMHC is special to me because:

No need to sign your name, it will be an enlightening and fun experience to see why folks enjoy SMHC and the Co-operative Housing Alternative. We hope to share some of your great responses in a future issue! Happy New Year Folks, may 2017 bring great things to us all!!



Marla Harding

(Dec 5th, 1940 to Dec 22nd, 2016)



- From Kathy Aubichon,

Marla and her husband Don, were one of the first members of Sarcee Meadows, moving in to our Co-op in 1971. Marla was a pillar of our community. She had a wonderful way of making us feel at ease. Marla showed us every day what it meant to be strong and to be a fighter. The most important thing I have learned from Marla and I will never forget are her wise words. “Live every day to its fullest and celebrate each and every occasion. We don’t know what tomorrow is going to bring us so let’s make sure we make the most of today.” All that Marla did around Sarcee Meadows to keep the office garden and the H gardens looking beautiful is a blessing. I think of Marla and all of her hard work and dedication every time I sit in the garden. Marla was the recipient of the 2015 Volunteer of the Year award. She was named Volunteer of the Year first and foremost because of her work in the gardens. Being 75 years of age and having cataract surgery didn’t slow her down one bit. Her passion for beautifying Sarcee Meadows didn’t end there. Marla joined the Women’s Circle and graciously had about 10 of us ladies, who knew very little about gardening, to her home and spent a couple of hours walking thru the H garden educating us on what plants grow best in Sarcee Meadows and teaching us how to properly plant flowers in our yards. At Christmas time she opened her home to us once again and invited us to learn how to make winter planters for outside. She also taught us how to bake apple pies and cinnamon buns. Marla looked out for her neighbors and was always willing to lend a helping hand. Whether it be driving someone to an appointment, bringing food to neighbors that were ill, helping to research scholarships, and educating newcomers to Sarcee Meadows on what it means to not only live in a co-operative community but to take pride in what we have. Her generosity knows no bounds. Marla brought so much to the Women’s Circle. She showered us with special gifts that meant the world to us. Everything from flowers, ornaments, and baking to her wonderful words of wisdom. Her genuine concern for all of us was heartfelt and dearly appreciated. Marla’s wonderful personality shone thru in so many ways. The moment she put on her fabulous heart shaped glasses, the smile hit her face and didn’t leave until she took them off. People passing by couldn’t help but also smile. I was with Marla one day when she was wearing those glasses and a complete stranger stopped us and asked where she found the glasses because she wanted some for herself. She told Marla the glasses very much suited her outgoing personality. Marla loved to travel and shared many great stories of her times traveling with her husband and mom. I will always be proud to call her my neighbor, confidant, mentor and dear friend. Marla was loved by many and will be deeply missed. She was a class act right to the end. Marla didn’t let too many people know how ill she had become as she didn’t want people to fuss over her or treat her differently. For her it was business as usual right till the end. She was still sending out Christmas baking to friends and family less than a week before she passed. All of these words come to my mind when I think about Marla. Joy, Beauty, Happiness, Peace, Family, Hope, Trust, Wisdom, Dream, Patience, Faith, Creativity, Friends, Freedom, Prosperity, Courage, Muse, Success, Purpose, Discovery, Love, Gratitude, Curiosity, Motivation, Compassion, Thoughtfulness, Laughter, Inspiration, Forgiveness, Confidence, Mother. Rest in Peace beautiful lady.

- From Mary Emro,

Marla was a regular and die hard member of our Stitch and Bitch group that used to meet in B50. She brought in some of her painted pieces to show off whenever she had them and she was always working on a cross stitch Christmas stocking that she made for many of the children that she held near and dear. She did an amazing job and some of the patterns she tackled were beautiful pieces of work when she was finished. Marla cared about everyone in the group and always asked about anyone that was missing. We had a great time and she was a wonderful and special addition to our little group. She will be fondly remembered but missed. 😞

- From Musarrat Dadi,

I am honored and blessed to have known Marla. She was a true gem in our community. A lady who genuinely loved each and every one through her words and actions. She taught us how to make cinnamon buns through the Women's Circle and there is never a time when I make them and don't remember her. Marla was someone who cared a great deal about her surroundings also which can be reflected in the H block garden. We had great conversations in the Women's Circle with Marla and she shared her wisdom, we talked to her about everything from compost bins to history. Marla we miss you. Rest in peace.

- From Faria Rabab,

Marla was a great inspiration for us. She taught us so many things. Gardening, baking, flower arrangement are a few of them. But the one thing which I liked best in her was her attitude of never giving up in life. She was always willing to learn new things. She was full of positivity and hope. I will never forget her.

- From Betty Jensen,

When I think of Marla, I remember her most wearing one of her infamous sun hats and sunglasses, crouched in the 'H' garden, working the soil, pulling weeds, spreading wood chips. And always with a friendly cheerful grin on her face.

- From Farha Khan,

Remembering dear Marla. When I first moved into Sarcee Meadows, I was so impressed by the garden in H block that I would envy all who lived nearby. I came to know that a senior member of Sarcee is behind all the beauty there and that she takes care of it. Little did I know that I would meet her and be so close to her and learn from her experiences. Marla was a very loving and caring sweet lady. She always had time for us. She taught us so many things, from making cinnamon buns, apple pie to gardening. She invited us ladies of the Women's Circle to her house many times for gardening lessons and would teach us how to plant planters. She would shower us with gifts. And just sitting and talking to her, she would enlighten us with so much knowledge. Such a wonderful lady. Words cannot express my feelings for her. I will miss her forever.

- From Meraj Fatima,

Marla was a sweet lady with lots of compassion and love. She was always a giver. She loved kids unconditionally. She will be missed. Rest in Peace.

- From Sumera Chachar,

A good neighbor is more than just good. A good neighbor uplifts the neighborhood. She greets you with a smile each day, does kind deeds, and has kind words to say. When your world seems upside down, a good neighbor is there in time of need. She shows her worth with kindly deeds, a kind word, and a helping hand. A good neighbor is a loving friend. Marla was that neighbor. She was a TRUE GEM!! These are a few of the treasures my family received from Marla.



- From Slawa Gruszczynska,

Marla would stop if I was in front of the house gardening or doing any other chores, and she would ask about Saeeda's children. What their ages are and what their interests are. And then she would bring books relevant to their interests and toys. All of it brought so much joy to the children and she was so happy when she would learn that they were put to good use. Marla put soooo many years and hundreds of hours into redesigning and maintaining the Sarcee Meadows Gardens in H. She never asked for help. She carried hundreds of pounds of mulch, dirt and sculptures. And she invested a lot of her personal financial resources into these gardens. Only a portion of the expenses was reimbursed to her, because this was her wish. To contribute to the community. Although I only attended one of Marla's' workshops, the cinnamon bun making one, I am aware that several of the skills she had in seasonal decorations making, baking, gardening contributed to the wellbeing of our community and creating a more inclusive culture of our "village" of Sarcee Meadows. We will keep Marla and memories about her in our hearts for many years.

RUTLAND PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION:

What is happening to start off our calendar year with the RPCA?

- January 21st, 2017 – RPCA Annual Billi and Cheer - We are starting 2017 off with one of our Community's most favourite and longest running events. So break out the recipe books and Crock pots, as we battle for the neighbourhoods best Chilli. Check out the ad on the next page for more details!



- February 25 2017 – Ukrainian Night – Back by popular demand. Dinner and a show. This event will run from 4:30pm – 7:30pm. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for kids 6 and over. Space is limited so please call Isabell at 403-242-6334 to reserve your spot or email social@rutlandparkcommunity.com. Keep a close eye out for more information by reading Connections, The Post, our Facebook page and of course the RPCA website: www.rutlandparkcommunity.com.

- March 18 2017 – St Patrick's Day Name That Tune - Adults only, Babysitting will be provided as well. Come for a night out, enjoy some great trivia, a world class potato bar and so much more. Keep your eyes peeled for more details.



As always if you have questions or if you would like to contact us, please feel free to email myself at: social@rutlandparkcommunity.com



Flyer delivery crew needed! The RPCA is looking for a group of individuals to help get the word out to the greater community. We would only ask for about 2 hours a month of service, and in return hours of community service, a good reference, great exercise, snacks and the eternal gratitude of your friends and neighbours.

If you are interested or if you know someone who might be, please reach out to us for more information: social@rutlandparkcommunity.com

Thank you kindly,

Megan Justason

Director of Social Activity

For the RPCA.

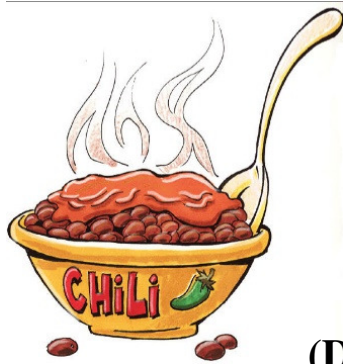
Special Note:

The Café at Knox will resume shortly on January 12, 2017 from 9am – 12pm. Join your neighbours and friends for coffee, refreshments, and great conversation.

Isabell Reznik

For the Café at Knox





**RPCA Billi and Cheer Festival
Annual Chilli Cook Off
Saturday January 21**



4:00 - 6:00

(Doors open at 3:45 for chilli drop off only)

Cost: \$2.00 per person or a donation to the food bank

FREE if you are bringing a Chilli

Come on down and enjoy a Neighbourhood tradition!

Where we battle to the last drop of some of the best chilli in the city.

Here are the categories:

- **Spiciest (this one can be deadly and we like it!)**
- **Best Dressed - get creative, you have about a foot around the chilli to decorate so get creative!**
- ****NEW** Vegetarian - show the world meat is not always needed!**
- **Best Overall - the Chilli with the most!**

There will be a Cash Bar, Door Prizes, Good Tunes and Good Eats. So grab your best guest and enjoy some dinner on the Neighbourhood. If there are any questions or if you would like to volunteer, please email: social@rutlandparkcommunity.com





Jumpstart to Success (JTS)

Quick Facts + Workshop Dates 2016/2017



Jumpstart to Success has 3 interventions GBES, ESWE and WE. GBES is the most basic intervention with the ESWE and WE being increasingly advanced. The ESWE and WE are designed for clients with increasing levels of independence and job readiness. Depending on the needs of the client, they may attend one or two of the interventions.

Group Based Employability Skills (GBES)

This is a 6 week life and essential skills workshop designed to ensure that participants gain the necessary skills, tools, information and support to adapt to Canadian society, integrate into the community, the Canadian workplace and succeed on the job. Participants will receive Alberta's minimum wage, currently \$12.20 per hour, and transit tickets/pass while in the workshop. Assistance with child care costs is available.

Workshop topics include: effective communication, problem solving, decision making, money management, time management, personal management, health and wellness, social and employability skills, and Canadian culture. This workshop includes numerous group speakers and 3-4 field trips to various cultural and historical venues in Calgary.

GBES Workshop Dates

July 18, 2016 – August 26, 2016

September 19, 2016 – October 28, 2016

November 14, 2016 – December 23, 2016

January 23, 2017 – March 3, 2017

April 3, 2017 – May 12, 2017

Employability Skills through Work Experience (ESWE)

This intervention starts with a 2 week workshop that provides the necessary tools to immigrant youth to find and sustain full time permanent employment in Canada. Participants receive Alberta's minimum wage, currently \$11.20 per hour for their attendance, transit tickets to attend the workshop and assistance with child care costs. At any time during the workshop or upon completion of the workshop the participant will begin a 10 week work experience. At the end of the 10 weeks, the participant will be offered permanent employment if the employer is satisfied with their performance. JTS staff will remain in contact with them to assist with any questions or concerns that may arise during their employment.

Workshop topics include: interview skills, resume and cover letter writing, job search strategies, Canadian workplace culture, and how to communicate your skills and knowledge effectively.

ESWE Workshop Dates

September 5- 16, 2016

October 31 – November 11, 2016

January 4- 17, 2017

March 13 -24, 2017

May 22 – June 2, 2017

Work Experience (WE)

This intervention is designed for clients that already have good skills in resume and cover letter writing, interviews, and Canadian culture but require additional support around job search. Clients will be assisted with job search and once they begin their work experience individual support is offered for 12 weeks. Participants can start this intervention at any time. Transit passes may be available to those with financial needs.

Minimum qualifying program requirements

15 – 30 years of age

Permanent Resident, Citizen or Refugee Claimant with a Notice of Decision Letter

Not currently attending school full time

A minimum English Canadian Language Benchmark of 3

Not in receipt of Employment Insurance (EI) or Maternity leave benefits within the last 5 years

Questions? Contact us!

Heather Tompson
Program Coordinator
403-514-8337
htompson@ccisab.ca

Cheryle Guinsatao
Employment Outreach
Developer
403-290-5128
cguinsatao@ccisab.ca

This project is funded by the Government of Canada's Skills Link program



2017 Recycling Schedule

RECYCLING PICK UP DATES

RECYCLING PICKUP DATES: Recycling will be done every week, by sections, on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

A11 to C176	Tuesday	Jan 3, Jan 17, Jan 31, Feb 14, Feb 28, Mar 14, Mar 28, Apr 11, Apr 25, May 9, May 23, June 6, June 20, July 4, July 18, Aug 1, Aug 15, Aug 29, Sept 12, Sept 26, Oct 10, Oct 24, Nov 7, Nov 21, Dec 5, Dec 19
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C181 to E358	Thursday	Jan 5, Jan 19, Feb 2, Feb 16, Mar 2, Mar 16, Mar 30, Apr 13, Apr 27, May 11, May 25, June 8, June 22, July 6, July 20, Aug 3, Aug 17, Aug 31, Sept 14, Sept 28, Oct 12, Oct 26, Nov 9, Nov 23, Dec 7, Dec 21
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E361 to H556	Tuesday	Jan 10, Jan 24, Feb 7, Feb 21, Mar 7, Mar 21, Apr 4, Apr 18, May 2, May 16, May 30, June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25, Aug 8, Aug 22, Sept 5, Sept 19, Oct 3, Oct 17, Oct 31, Nov 14, Nov 28, Dec 12, Dec 27
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Pick-up Dec 27 instead of Dec 26

H561 to L745	Thursday	Jan 12, Jan 26, Feb 9, Feb 23, Mar 9, Mar 23, Apr 6, Apr 20, May 4, May 18, June 1, June 15, June 29, July 13, July 27, Aug 10, Aug 24, Sept 7, Sept 21, Oct 5, Oct 19, Nov 2, Nov 16, Nov 30, Dec 14, Dec 28
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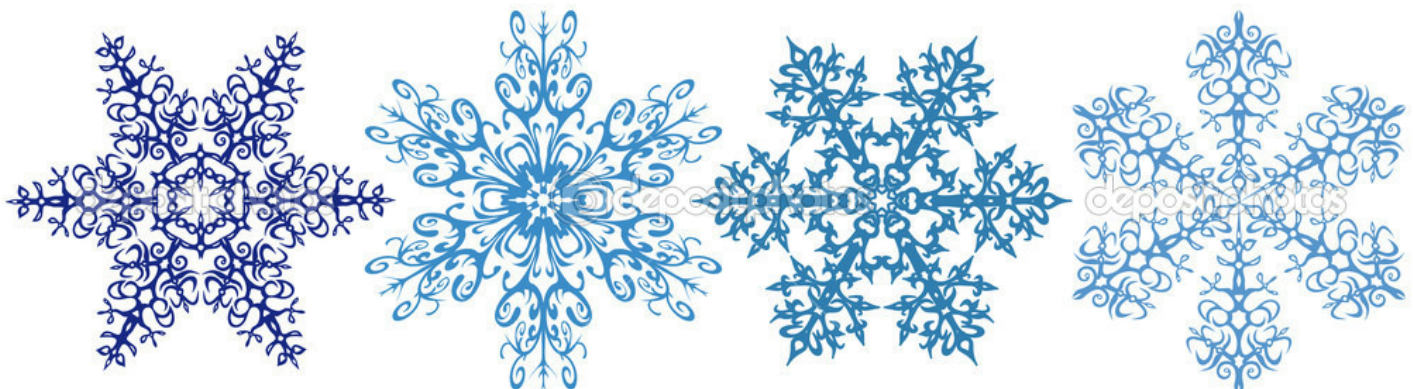
Disclaimer: Any ads placed in this newsletter are not to be considered as an endorsement by Sarcee Meadows Housing Co-operative Ltd. but are for information only.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

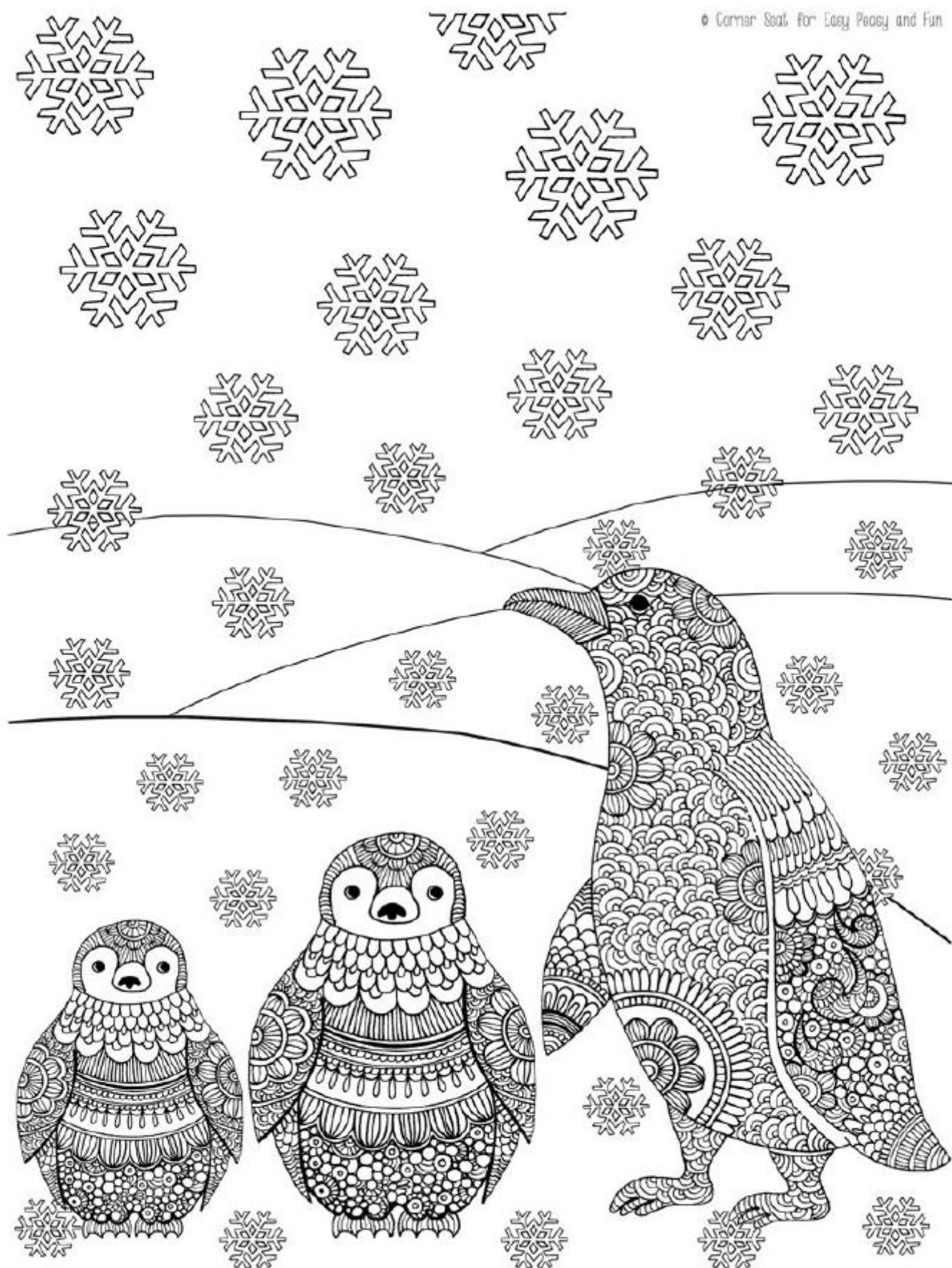
Do you want your parking stall cleared? Call Dean 403-809-6764 the charge is \$30 for the first hour and \$20 for any additional hour.

CALENDAR:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 8	9	10 Parking @ 7:00 Membership @ 7:00	11 Property Enhancement @ 7:00 Environment @ 7:00	12 Security Task Force @ 7:00	13	14
15	10 Finance @ 7:00	17	18 Board Meeting @ 6:45	19 Property Maintenance @ 7:00	20	21
22	23	24	25 AGM @ Grace Lutheran @ 7:00	26	27	28
29	30	31	February 1 Board Reorg Meeting @ 6:45	2 Entertainment @ 7:00	3	4
5	6 Newsletter @ 7:00	7	8	9	10	11







**RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS
NOMINATION FORM**

Do you know someone, an adult, teen or child, who has done a "Random Act of Kindness" for you or someone else? If so, please take the time to acknowledge them and what they have done. Complete this form and submit it to the office to the attention of the Education and Involvement Committee.

At the end of the year a "Random Act of Kindness" winner will be chosen from the entries that are received throughout the year. The winner will be acknowledged at the Annual General Meeting in January.

Let's recognize those special people who extended themselves and make our lives better by simply being kind!



NAME OF THE NOMINEE: _____

NOMINEE'S UNIT #: _____

ACT OF KINDNESS: _____

YOUR NAME AND UNIT #: _____

[Use extra paper if required]

COMMITTEE CONTACTS: 2016 – 2017:

C.S.I. (Co-op Seniors Interests)

Chair: Lucille Ranchuk
Board Liaison: John Hart

Education and Involvement

Chair: Judy Silzer
Board Liaison: Isabel Ciok / Lara Peters

Elections

Chair: Marie Forester

Entertainment and Social Events

Chair: Sandy Christensen
Board Liaison: Jenn Jenkinson

Environment

Chair: Russ Chandler
Board Liaison: Randy Senft

Finance

Chair: Maureen McGinnes
Board Liaison: Tony Yee

Grievance & Resolution

Chair: John Preston

Honours and Awards

Chair: Audrey Templeton
Board Liaison: Isabel Ciok / Lara Peters

Membership

Chair: Kathy Aubichon
Board Liaison: Heather Millar

Newsletter

Chair: Slawa Gruszczynska
Board Liaison: Jenn Jenkinson

Parking

Chair: Dennis Schwaiger
Board Liaison: Randy Senft

Personnel

Chair: Pat Fenlon
Board Liaison: John Hart

Property Maintenance

Chair: Helen Serrurier
Board Liaison: Dean Putman

Property Enhancement

Chair: Marianne Pederson
Board Liaison: Dean Putman

Security Task Force

Chair: Lorene Klippert
Board Liaison: Oliver Hadrys

After Hours Emergency Maintenance:

In the event of an emergency maintenance situation after hours please call the Emergency Maintenance Cell Phone at:

403-813-2783

Committees can be contacted by calling the office at 403-246-2746 Ext. 102 or emailing

janine@sarceemeadows.coop

