

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE ALIX PUBLIC LIBRARY



# ALIX TELEGRAPH

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1      JANUARY 2016

## NEW YEAR'S DAY, AROUND THE WORLD....

New Year's isn't new. The very first New Year was celebrated over 4000 years ago by the Babylonians.

New York's Time Square New Year's Eve Ball was first dropped in 1907, after a fireworks ban. Back then, it was a 700-pound ball embellished with 25-watt bulbs made of iron and wood. Now, it weighs 11,875 pounds, is 12 feet in diameter and is adorned with 2,668 Waterford crystals.

In Italy, people wear red underwear on New Year's Day to bring good luck all year long.

In Colombia, Cuba and Puerto Rico, families stuff a large doll, called Mr. Old Year, with memories from

the past year. They also dress him in clothes from the outgoing year. At midnight, he is set ablaze, thus burning away the bad memories.

The New Year in Scotland is called Hogmanay. One can find barrels of tar set afire and gradually rolled down the streets. This ritual symbolizes that the old year is burned up and New Year is going to begin.

In Spain, people eat 12 grapes as the clock strikes midnight. This peculiar ritual originated in the 20th century when freak weather conditions resulted in an unseasonable bumper harvest of grapes. Not able to decide what to do about so many grapes at Christmas time, the King of Spain and

the grape growers came up with the idea of the New Year ritual.

In Greece, children leave their shoes by the fireplace on New Year's Day (a.k.a the Festival of Saint Basil) with the hope that the Saint, who was famous for his kindness, will come and fill their shoes with gifts.

In Venezuela, Argentina, Bolivia, and Mexico, those with hopes of traveling in the New Year carry a suitcase around the house at midnight. Some even carry it around the block to ensure traveling at greater distances.

Do you have an interesting or special New Year's tradition? Share it with us at

[alixpublic@prl.ab.ca](mailto:alixpublic@prl.ab.ca)

*Happy New Year 2016*

## ALIX VOLUNTEERS - THANK YOU!

We would like to thank all the wonderful people who volunteer their time to help others and make this community great!

You are the heart of this town and without you we would not have wonderful events like the Senior's Din-

ner and the Pancake Breakfasts, not to mention the benefits of the Village Shoppe which is run completely by volunteers.

Becoming a volunteer is the most selfless and appreciated act a person can do. No matter if it's big or small,

time or money, we all have something to give!



## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



Jan. 1 - Alfred Widmann,  
Vicky Barclay

Jan. 2 - Lyalla Ironside

Jan. 3 - Macklin Wipf, Sven  
Svendsen

Jan. 4 - Ken Tjensvold

Jan. 7 - Norm Stone

Jan. 9 - Greg Kellar, Daphne  
Schultz

Jan. 11 - Ron McIntosh,  
Kendal Guynup

Jan. 12 - Tyson Beebe, Gord  
Stevens, Joanne Schmidt

Jan. 13 - Eunice Matier

Jan. 14 - Jake Van Ringen

Jan. 15 - Lori McKay, Joan  
Fletcher

Jan. 17 - Chloe Wilton

Jan. 18 - Dean Maltais, Seth  
Hackworth

Jan. 19 - Jane Hushagen

Jan. 22 - Shaelee Santee

Jan. 25 - Doug Howitt,  
Keisha Ryan

Jan. 26 - Lana MacDonald

Jan. 29 - Joan Garding, Paul  
Wipf, Carolyn Bryant

Jan. 30 - Shawn Raabis

If we have missed anyone you think should have their birthday announced - Please let us know.



## BOOK CLUB

The Alix Book Club will meet in the New Year on Thursday, January 7th @ 8 PM at the Alix Public Library.

It's never too late to join! Come on out for some munchies and good conversation!

Book club is free. Everyone is welcome.



## MUSEUM NEWS

The Alix Wagon Wheel Museum is looking for tales, stories and memories of Alix as it was growing and developing into the community we know today. If you have a tale to tell, please drop it off at the Library. You are encouraged to ask friends and family. You never know what cool stories are just lying around, untold.

## VILLAGE NEWS

It is the law to license your dog(s). Fees are as follows:

Before January 31st -

\$20 spayed/neutered

\$40 intact

After January 31st -

\$30 spayed/neutered

\$50 intact

You can pick up your dog tags at the Village Office.

Licenses are valid for one year.

## FCSS/ NEWS

FCSS is still collecting for "Coats for Kids", please donate gently used winter wear. Drop off at the FCSS office.

Please drop off any non-perishable food items at the food bank, beside FCSS office. Tues & Thurs. 8:30- 4:30.

## BOOK REVIEW - THE GREAT ZOO OF CHINA - MATTHEW REILLY

First of all, I want to make it clear: I like dragons. I like fantasy. I like the possibility of the unknown.

I did not like this book.

I would not go so far as to label it a *novel* because the story reads like a Jurassic Park fan fiction. If you are able to turn the logical part of your brain off, and I mean completely off, you may be able to somewhat enjoy a few moments of this fantasy fiction.

With no mind to grammar or style, I believe Reilly is nothing more than a mass market writer who cares nothing for sequence or flow as long as the word count can garner him enough pages to go to print.

He can't build a character to save his life. Stale, basic and prejudiced to their nationalities, his characters lack anything that might get you to sympathize with their overdramatic situations and lack of personal backgrounds.

Reilly makes sure to give the

reader lots of diagrams because he can't describe a situation or landscape well enough for a reader to comprehend what they should be picturing.

Awful, unauthentic dialogue reads like a cheap, 1980's sitcom - without the funny one-liners.

I wouldn't be surprised if his research for the book was limited to Google searches, as much of the "action" is physically impossible. No

one with half a brain would be able to believe any of the stunts performed by his bland characters.

As you read on and get deeper into the story, hoping you haven't wasted hours and hours of your life that could have been put to some productive use, you realize that it doesn't get better, but in fact worse, and more and more unbelievable, even keeping in mind, the fantasy aspect of it all.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Library will reopen January 2 @ 10 a.m.

Jan. 27 - "Read for 15" Come out and help Alix record the most people reading on Jan 27 - Family Literacy Day.

Some of the services offered at the library include:

- Books - fiction, non-fiction, adult through to the little ones.
- Audiobooks
- Music CD's
- DVD's - movies and non-

fiction titles

- Computers - Free
- Free WIFI
- Magazines
- e-services for books, magazines, audio books, graphic novels, comics, movies and tv shows.

**A reminder that the Library's Book Sale runs all year long. Come and grab some titles for a donation.**

## NEW & NOTABLE

ARRIVING THIS MONTH:

FICTION:

Ash And Silver - Carol Berg

Devoted In Death - J.D. Robb

Dust And Light - Carol Berg

Love's Awakening - Laura Frantz

Girls She Left Behind - Sarah Graves

Spring at Moss Hill - Carla Neggers

Tales From A Not So Perfect Pet Sitter - Rachel Renee Russell

*"You can't buy happiness, but you can buy books, and that's kind of the same thing."*

## THE AGING FOOT - TAKING CARE OF YOUR FEET

We assume that once we're up on our feet, we'll stay that way. Most of us will go through our childhood, adolescence and young adulthood without ever thinking about foot health, but it can be more important than you think.

Healthy feet contribute greatly to our overall health and well being. It might come as a

surprise that falling is a leading cause of hospitalization and death in Canada. Especially at this icy time of year, we all need to take precautions.

But there are some simple, easy, and quick ways to strengthen your feet.

For instance, if you have a cup and a few marbles, you already have everything you

need to get in a good foot exercise.

While sitting down, place the cup in front of you on the floor. Spread the marbles around close by and, one at a time, use your toes to pick them up and transfer them into the cup. You can even make it fun by challenging your spouse or children to see who can get the most marbles

in their cup in one minute!

If you would like some more foot exercises, come to the library and pick up an information sheet. You can also find some great preventative information at [www.preventfalls.ca](http://www.preventfalls.ca)



## GET A HEADSTART ON YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to get fit, but you hate the idea of traveling to Lacombe, Red Deer or Stettler, you're in luck!

Try Alix's own Fit Body at the AG Centre taught by fitness instructor Mandeja Saragent. You can attend as a drop in (\$10) or you can purchase a 5 class pass (\$45). Classes are Mondays & Wednesdays @ 6:15 AM,

8:45 AM & 1:45 PM. Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:45 PM. Mandeja also offers personal training. You can contact her at 403-877-1107 or [belliesandbabes@hotmail.com](mailto:belliesandbabes@hotmail.com) for more information on either the classes or personal training.

If you're more into Yoga, Alix also has Your Yoga Studio. Hilary Ann Scott can help you out with classes for every level. Mondays has the Prana Flow

(Moderate) @ 9:30 AM and the Yin Yoga by Candle Light (Gentle) @ 6:30 PM. Wednesdays has Yin (Gentle) @ 9:30 AM and Prana Flow (Spicy) @ 6:30 PM. Fridays has Warming Hatha (Moderate) @ 9:30 AM. Drop in for \$15 or get a 10 class pass for \$130. All classes are between 90 -120 minutes. If you have questions contact Hilary Ann Scott @ 403-506-9599 or [scotthilaryann@gmail.com](mailto:scotthilaryann@gmail.com)

In search of weekly, local weight loss support? Join T.O.P.S! Every Thursday, 9-10 AM @ The United Church. Yearly membership of \$36, plus \$5 monthly dues. Call Amie @ 403-505-8771 for more info.

"The Choice Is Yours!"



**Alix Public Library**

## ALIX PUBLIC LIBRARY

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

[alixpublic.prl.ab.ca](http://alixpublic.prl.ab.ca)

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LEARNING,  
ENTERTAINING,  
CREATING,  
DO IT ALL AT THE LIBRARY.

The Alix Public Library would like to thank the Village of Alix Office and Staff for graciously printing this Newsletter. It is very much appreciated.

The Alix Public Library has served the community for 100+ years. We are constantly looking for ways to improve our ability to help our patrons. If you have any ideas, programs or courses you would like to see here at the library please let us know.

You can follow us on Facebook as well at [www.facebook.com/alixlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/alixlibrary).

Hours: Tuesday 10:00 - 4:00

Thursday 2:00 - 8:00

Saturday 10:00 - 4:00

Newsletters are available at:

The Alix Public Library, Village Shoppe, Village Office, Potluck Cafe, The Pantry, Post Office, Alix Hotel, Moonwalkers, Alix Shoppes, Lori's Little Luxuries and Alix Home Hardware.

## ARENA NEWS

November's numbers are in! The Alix Arena's Free Public Skate saw over 100 users and over 40 people attended Shinny. Wow! Great job everyone and thanks for coming out!

Free Public Skate @ Alix Arena  
Fridays @ 3:30 - 4:45 PM      Sun-  
days @ 12 - 2 PM

Free Shinny @ Alix Arena  
Fridays @ 7 - 8:45 PM      Sun-  
days @ 4 - 5:45 PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY - Free Public Skate 12-2, Shinny 2-4. Come and enjoy snacks, drinks and a giveaway basket from Servus.

January's Sponsor is Alix IDA Drugs. Be sure to thank them for their generous support.

Thank you to Decembers sponsor The Village Shoppe.

## FAMILY LITERACY DAY

Family Literacy Day is January 27th. To mark this important day of family connection and literacy, the Alix Public Library is joining with other libraries in Alberta to see which city, town, village or hamlet has the most competitive literary community.

On January 27, we are asking you to "Read For 15". It can be anything from a recipe, story time, quiet time, the newspaper, a magazine, you name it and report your literary effort to the library. You can do so on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/alixlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/alixlibrary)) or by emailing [alixpublic@prl.ab.ca](mailto:alixpublic@prl.ab.ca), or even dropping into the library the next day to personally let us know. If you read to a group, each member of the group is counted. So have fun and let us know that you and yours did "Read For 15"!

## THANK YOU ALIX!

The Alix Senior's Dinner was a huge success! Thank you to the volunteers and everyone who helped make it a great event. The elementary kids did a wonderful job with their sign language poem and songs. Thank you to the Junior Band for their wonderful, festive music!

The Alix Parade of Lights was also a success. Thank you to everyone who decorated their vehicles and came out. It was quite a spectacle!

December 5th was host to many, many wonderful events in Alix. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the town.