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Happy New Year to one and all – I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season.

WARD BOUNDARY CHANGES TO TAKE EFFECT ON ELECTION DAY 2010

The drawing of Ward boundaries has been a hot issue in Council for over a year now. On 2009 October 5th, Council adopted the new Ward Boundary Bylaw and effective Election Day (October 18th), 2010, Evanston and Creekside will become part of Ward 2. We of course will continue to work with the Evanston Creekside Community Association and all the residents of Evanston and Creekside right up until Election Day.

I do not believe individual Aldermen should have any say in determining Ward boundaries; rather the decision should be made by an independent body with simply an approval motion by Council.

CITY OF CALGARY CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING PICK-UP PROGRAM

The City of Calgary is introducing house-to-house pickup of Christmas trees for recycling. The City's annual Christmas tree recycling tree program has operated since 1992 with multiple temporary drop-off depots. The new service is expected to increase the number of trees recycled and enhance customer service at no additional cost. Trees are mulched and used to improve city green spaces and parks.

Over two weekends in January 2010, collectors will pick up Christmas trees from Calgary households that currently receive City residential garbage collection. The dates are:

Saturday, January 9, 2010 to Monday, January 11, 2010
Saturday, January 16, 2010 to Monday, January 18, 2010

Eight depot locations (two in each quadrant) will also be open from December 26 to January 18, 2010.

As always, I welcome your calls and emails so if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

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