Ragg_Times



RaggTimes



PUBLICATION OF THE RIVERBEND COMMUNITY LEAGUE

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Terwillegar Drive Transformation

The two project proponents - the province and the City of Edmonton - estimate it will take five years and \$222 million to reinvent the major artery

By: Ragg-Times Staff

n July, the provincial government announced \$120 million to go towards the long-awaited expansion of Terwillegar Drive. Combined with \$102 million committed by the City of Edmonton last December, the project will see Terwillegar Drive and its surrounding infrastructure - from the Anthony Henday Ring Road in the southwest to the Rainbow Valley Bridge on Whitemud Drive - completely transformed.

The artery will expand from its current two to four lanes in each direction, one of which will be a dedicated transit lane. The province will build a new bridge over the Henday and the City is responsible for a major reordering of the Whitemud-Terwillegar interchange. The project will see intersection improvements including smart signal technology at 40th Avenue, Rabbit Hill Road, 23rd Avenue & Haddow Road. A biking/walking trail will be added to the east boulevard of Terwillegar Drive, complete with a pedestrian bridge crossing the Whitemud and connecting the communities of Brookview and Brookside.

City Councillor Tim Cartmell, whose Ward 9 includes the entire length of Terwillegar Drive and the communities south of the Henday that it connects to, says the improvements have been discussed, planned and cancelled many times over the decades, and that it's a huge relief for many residents that it's finally getting off the ground. "It's hard to overstate how important this project is for the residents of southwest Edmonton," he says, noting that more than 40,000 vehicles use Terwillegar Drive each weekday.

It took some convincing, however, to get the province to consider the improvements a provincial responsibility. "From the time I moved into Riverbend, I have been lobbying provincial



The intersection of Terwillegar Drive and 40th Ave., seen here (looking North), is one of four intersections that will see the addition of "smart signalling" technology to ease traffic flow

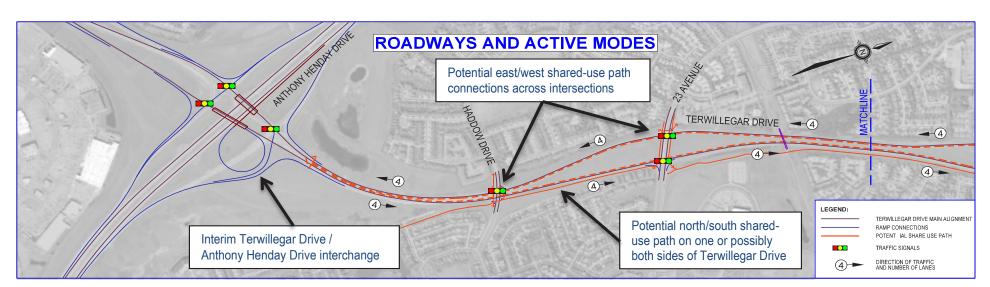
politicians to get involved in this because it is Hill Road to the Whitemud to be completed by not just an arterial road," he says. "It's a regional 2022. The improvements to the interchange and road that ties to the Henday."

In the end, the two levels of government found a way to make it work. "The fact that we're going to get the complete project done in the next few years, because both the city and the province have stepped up to share the responsibility, is fantastic," Cartmell says.

improvements to the Terwillegar-Whitemud Drive interchange and the Rainbow Valley eggs," he says. Bridge. Cartmell expects shovels to hit the ground next spring, with the section from Rabbit

the Rainbow Valley Bridge will follow from 2023-2025. The provincial portion, including the bridge over the Henday, will likely be built between 2021 and 2023. "That bridge will unlock a massive pinch point for the communities south of the Henday," Cartmell says.

As for the chaos to be borne in the meantime, The agreement will see the City build the with lane reductions and traffic bollards as far as project from Rabbit Hill Road north, including the eye can see, Cartmell waxes metaphorical. "To make an omelette you have to break a few



Thanks to Two Great Community Builders!

Sherri Henderson

A fond farewell to The Riverbend Ragg-Times long-serving editor

By: Dave Rumbold

herri Henderson, The Riverbend Ragg-Times Editor for two extended periods since 2009, has 'retired' to just her full time role with the government.

Originally from Calgary, Sherri graduated with a linguistics degree

from the University of Alberta and has lived with her family in the Riverbend-Terwillegar area since 2008. She's been active in our community from that moment on, involved with The Ridge Community League, volunteering with her son's sports team, and at community events such as Art in Our Park, Taste of Riverbend and the TRAC Community Run.



Sherri and her son James

While she was busy raising her two sons, and working as editor of this community paper, she found time to complete a master's degree in

mindfulness. She is now completing her project management certificate and a change management certificate, which she uses regularly in her current employment. In her spare time, you might find her kayaking or hiking anywhere in Alberta and beyond!

Sherri says she has always enjoyed being part of an active, volunteeroriented community, and plans to stay involved. Thank you, Sherri, for your work with The Riverbend Ragg-Times, and for your continued support of community initiatives.

"Sherri has been such a great supporter of so many different community groups. We at SouthWest Edmonton Seniors (SWESA) want to thank her for the opportunity to write a regular seniors column in the Riverbend Ragg-Times. It has been a great way to reach out into the senior community. Thank you Sherri!"

- Kathy Trepanier, Volunteer, SWESA

"Sherri, thank you for sharing your time and talents with our community! You have a magical way of connecting with people and sharing their stories through the Ragg-Times. We are so lucky to have this beautiful archive of our community history. It was a joy to work with you!"

- Mary Lou Sedgwick, Riverbend Community League Board Alumni

"Sherri was a great advocate for the community. What we appreciated about her as well was that for the group Brander Gardens ROCKS, she was supportive and willing to print the articles that were submitted. She will be missed as an editor. All the best in your new endeavors."

- Sharon Gritter, Coordinator, Brander Gardens ROCKS

"Sherri Henderson has always been a champion of the community. Her role as editor of the Riverbend Ragg-Times highlighted her passion for people and keen interest in community initiatives. She has always been willing to share her graphic design expertise and lead the publicity and promotion portfolio of Art in Our Park. Congratulations Sherri, and best wishes in the next stage of your career!"

- Sheryl Bowhay, Community Liaison, Riverbend Community League

"Sherri has been a great contributor and volunteer for our community. She has been an amazing editor, documenting every aspect of community life. I always enjoyed our "scatterbrain sessions," coming up with different ideas and initiatives."

- Rob Agostinis, Oak Hills Community League

Sharon Gritter

Sharon is a consummate community builder, particularly as the force behind Brander Gardens ROCKS

By: Sheryl Bowhay

haron Gritter has been at the helm of Brander Gardens ROCKS for the past eight years, but has decided to step back from the role. With a background in education, she brought a wealth of experience in child development and community engagement to our diverse and dynamic community.

Sharon is an extraordinary planner and organizer. She developed and provided leadership for our afterschool program, oversaw the development of our drumming program, coordinated medical-student tutors and jumped through hoops to ensure that vulnerable kids got to play soccer with the



Photo: Rob Agostinis

Terwillegar Riverbend Soccer Association. She championed the cause of Water for Life, with students at Lillian Osborne High School benefiting from the experience. She initiated the highly successful Brander Gardens ROCKS, which offers after school programs, a music school, community gardens, community meals, Mom and Tot programs, summer programs including camping, academic programs, and adult enrichment programs.

Her ability to coordinate and support community dinners at various times during the year, and weekly during the summer, has resulted in a vibrant sharing of cultures and community. Sharon inspires others to get involved because she leads by example. Sharon is a connector. She has managed a myriad of strategic relationships to enable Brander Gardens Rocks to thrive and grow. Each of these relationships have created opportunities for kids and families living in our community.

Sharon is generous and puts her heart and soul into everything she does. She cares. She listens and provides counsel. She can make you smile and laugh. She is a friend. Her gifts and talents have helped shape Brander

Gardens ROCKS and given us a strong foundation upon which to grow.

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Sharon with her daughters Janessa, Hillary and Alannah. Photo: Rob Agostinis

Sharon, you have worked with all of us: kids and families, youth, community members, partners, funders and agencies to help us become a community where neighbours know one another, diversity is celebrated, and all children and families flourish.

Thank you for being part of our journey. We will miss you and we wish you all the best in your next adventure!

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Community in the Storm

Building on our shared inheritance

By: Michael Ganley

Tell, there's certainly a theme to this issue of the Ragg-Times, though it was not intended. I suppose it's "getting back to normal in utterly abnormal times," or something along those lines. Whether it's the students among us anxious about having to wear masks in school all day (if they're going at all), the parents and grandparents of those same students worrying about them going to school, the business owners trying to figure out a plan to survive or the community losing

some of its favourite things (think Art in Our Park), everybody is dealing with extraordinary circumstances.

Which is when we turn to community more than ever, to our neighbours and friends and to the support systems that have been built up over the generations: the schools, the hospitals, the institutions of our democracy. They're surely being strained now, but so far they're holding up pretty well. By almost any standard, Edmonton, and Alberta in general, is coming through this unprecedented pandemic in reasonable shape.

And it's no wonder, when you read the stories in the Ragg-Times issue after issue. Because

these are stories of the people who build that community, who give of their time and talent to build strong, welcoming, caring communities.

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hey are stories of the people who have created

this inheritance that we have received, and of the people determined to carry it forward. It is a privilege as the editor of the Riverbend Ragg-Times to bring you these stories, and I look forward to telling as many of them as we can.



Report from the Legislature

The safe reopening of schools is the priority issue for many people

By: Rakhi Pancholi, MLA, Edmonton Whitemud



By the time you read this, the new school year will have begun. (However, please note that it was written four weeks before the school year is set to begin.)

In previous years, it was easy to predict what September would look like – busy days as kids excitedly start new classes, reunite with friends, and re-start activities. But 2020 has been different in so many ways because of COVID-19. That means it's difficult to predict what things will look like for the residents of Edmonton-Whitemud just one month from now.

Nearly two-thirds of households in our constituency are families with children, so it's not surprising that the safe reopening of schools is a priority issue for so many. Most parents want schools to reopen and their kids to return to in-person classes. For many – particularly parents of younger children – it's because athome schooling was not the best way for their kids to learn, despite tremendous efforts from teachers and schools. Some worry about their children's social development and mental health. Many parents cannot continue to balance work with athome learning and childcare.

To be sure, some parents are not ready to return their kids to school until COVID-19 is under control, due to the health or special needs of their child or family members. The needs of these families are real and they must be accommodated.

But for the most part parents – and teachers – want schools to reopen. But, and this is the distinction, Albertans want schools to reopen safely. That is why so many Albertans were deeply concerned with the plan to reopen schools introduced by the UCP government in late July.

While other provinces provided funding to hire additional staff for cleaning, purchase PPE and cleaning supplies, and placed caps on class sizes, Alberta did not. Funding for the 2020/21 school year is \$400/ student less than was provided in the 2018/19 school year and this is before the additional pressures of operating

through a pandemic.

My NDP opposition colleagues and I proposed an alternative safe school reopening plan called "Successful Students, Safe Schools." This plan recognizes that to meet key recommendations from the Chief Medical Officer of Health around physical distancing in schools, significant investment from the government is necessary. Our recommendations include a province-wide cap of 15 students per classroom and hiring the staff necessary to accomplish this. A copy of our plan can be found at albertandpeaucus.ca.

The money exists to reopen schools safely; it is simply a matter of choices. We believe investing in a safe return to school and giving parents the confidence to safely rejoin the workforce is a far better investment in economic recovery than the UCP's \$4.7 billion corporate handout that, to date, has created no jobs. The reverse is also true; a poorly planned school reopening poses a serious risk to our economic recovery. The risk of outbreaks, repeated self-isolation when symptoms emerge, and possible return to at-home schooling will force many parents – particularly women – out of the workforce.

In August, the UCP announced that masks are mandatory for Grades

4-12, and that two reusable masks per student would be provided. It's not enough but it wouldn't have happened without so many speaking out. Parents and school staff continue to have concerns about the government's school reopening plan and I remain hopeful that the UCP will respond to those concerns with further changes. But, as a parent, I am stunned that the UCP rolled out such an ill-considered plan in the first place.

We also know that economists, working parents and the childcare sector recognize that childcare needs to be at the forefront of the economic recovery. I recently proposed a childcare strategy which includes releasing previously provincial dollars to support the recovery of the childcare sector, implementing a universal \$25/day affordable childcare program for nonprofit, private centres and family dayhomes; and establish an Early Learning and ChildCare Task Force to guide this work. Safe school reopening and childcare remain critical to Alberta's economic recovery.

As usual, I welcome hearing from you about your concerns and thoughts. Please email me at Edmonton. whitemud@assembly.ab.ca or call 780-413-5970 to set up a time for us to connect.

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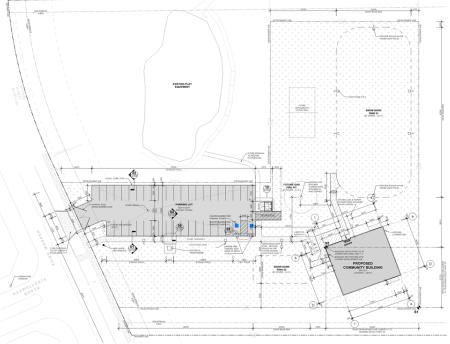


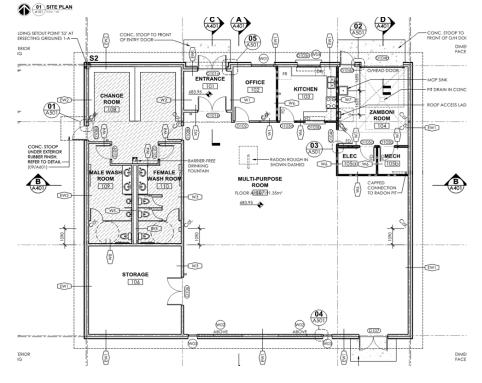


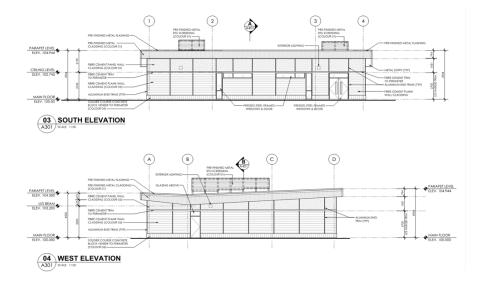
The Ridge Community League

Neighbourhoods of Falconer Heights (Terwillegar Hill Estates), Henderson Estates (River Ridge, Eagle Ridge, Promontory Point), & Haddow (Riverside, College Woods) facebook.com/ridgecommunity info@theridgeonline.ca www.theridgeonline.ca twitter.com/TheRidgeCL flickr.com/groups/1046485@N23/pool/









A Place to Call Home!

The Ridge Community League will now have a place to call home! By the time you read this the foundation should be in place for our new building! Established in 1994, our first priority was to build the parks and playgrounds at Haddow, Henderson Estates and Falconer Heights. A building and permanent skating rink was lower on the priority list. For 26 years we have held our meetings in a variety of locations as we have no schools in our boundaries to offer us the opportunity of meeting at. Offering programs has always been a challenge with no place to warm up or keep dry in. Porta potties have been the typical washroom we could offer.

The first steps were put in place 15 years ago, and the first meetings held 9 years ago. As with most projects, raising sufficient funds is the reality check. Fortunately for us we have a great resource called Charlotte Powell that knows The Ridge CL and is very good at writing grant applications. 9 years of submissions and fund raising and we now have the funds in place and very soon a new building to move into.

The new building will be located between The Haddow Park playground and Haddow Landing, with the skating rink behind the playground. A parking lot will be between the building and Haddow Drive.

The building is rated for up to 150 people under non-Covid 19 standards. A change room and washroom will support the two rinks and playground adjacent to the building. The large common area is the focal point of the building. A small kitchen is primarily intended for serving food and drinks, with limited food preparation. A small office is next to the kitchen. Storage space is always at a premium for community leagues and we can finally clean out my yard and garage of years of stored items from soccer nets to sandwich board signs. A Zamboni room is in the northeast corner. Initially a powered brush and snowblower for ice maintenance will call this room home.

Since the beginning The Ridge has installed and maintained a snow-bank skating rink almost every winter. We may have to contend with one final winter in this manner. A full NHL size rink with boards and lighting will be located north of the building but we likely will not be able to get them installed in time for the 2020-21 winter season. Depending on how tight we can keep the budget we would like to put in a concrete slab within the rink boards for ball courts for the rest of the year. A small snowbank rink for casual skating will be located west of the building.

A rubberized surface will be from the building to the rinks. A gas line will be buried to a future firepit location.

The Ridge CL would like to acknowledge the following firms for their great work on this project:

L7 Architecture Arrow Engineering Stanley Construction Ltd.
Avison Young Design North The City of Edmonton
We would also like to thank the following organizations for their finan-

The City of Edmonton The Province of Alberta

The Federal Government AGLC

cial support of this project:

The site will be an active construction site closed to the public. We will strive to hold an open house part way through the construction phase for a tour of the project. In the meantime, contact: info@theridgeonline.ca if you have any questions or suggestions. Check our Facebook page at facebook.com/ridgecommunity for regular updates.

AGM

Watch for our AGM at the end of October for a chance to be involved or have your say in The Ridge Community League!

Submitted by Jim Bradshaw, President, The Ridge Community League

Seniors Connection News for those 55+

The SouthWest Edmonton Seniors Association is gradually reopening its programming, with all necessary precautions in place

By: Carol Vaage

"Keep calm and carry on." British Government poster in WWII.

"Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else." - Fred Rogers

Te, as Canadians, are so lucky that our collective responsibility has kept us reasonably safe from COVID-19 as compared to other countries. We trust our health experts and we carry on. We hear about possible solutions with vaccines in the future, but that timeline is uncertain. So we are creating something new with our lives.

When thunderstorms disappear, and the sun shines, we go out to enjoy a walk. Not rushing, or counting steps, but strolling, and being outside. It's easy

to step aside when meeting others, and smiles and greetings can still be exchanged. Seeing people, valuing our time with people, has become something we appreciate more than ever. There is a growing gratitude for what others do for us. When we are able to connect with our family, the hugs are more precious than ever. This is the beginning of our new era.

The program staff at the SouthWest Edmonton Seniors Association (SWESA) have worked diligently to provide us with resources to help navigate this past six months. They remain committed to engaging members in multiple ways, e.g. in person, Zoom chats and meetings, and friendly phone calls. Using Zoom enabled three coffee/chats each week, a daily art group meeting,

and a Monday meetup group at Yellowbird. Thursday meetups were held at the YMCA parking lot where people brought their own travel mugs and lawn chairs. Members continue to be phoned as part of the 'Friendly Phone Call' program. The majority of members are doing well, and most have support from family and friends, churches and community leagues. In some cases, members have become even more connected to their community. Feedback showed that people began to feel a little less shut in when the weather warmed but continued to miss routine and exercise. What was missed most of all, however, was, socializing.

SWESA has been restarting slowly at Blue Quill Community Centre with two of the most popular programs - Essentrics and Yoga. To reopen safely, preregistration is by email to allow diligence in contact tracing and safe physical distancing. After registering, members are sent a self-assessment link and information about the proper use of hand sanitizer and non-medical masks. Health and safety rules are posted on location, our website and social media. Questions can be directed to Melissa McCuaig at admin@swesa.ca.

New programs are starting up now, in addition to Yoga and Essentrics, as SWESA moves forward by systematically ensuring that requirements from our limited staff will keep members safe. It is vital that physical distancing rules are followed and masks are mandatory while entering and moving throughout the building. Masks are not required during the fitness classes once checked in and settled in the designated space.

Zumba Gold is a low-impact workout with simple, fun steps. Move your body

to the Latin rhythms of reggaeton, cumbia, and salsa. This fun and supportive class is being led by experienced instructor Tammy Clark.

Latin Grooves with instructor Michelle Mitchell will get you working on mini-step combinations in Latin dance styles like salsa, samba, cha cha, rumba, mambo, meringue, and tango. You'll then progress to full dance routines that exercise the body and mind.

As we move forward, SWESA is transitioning to a new writer for the SWESA columns. This will be my last edition and I must say that I have enjoyed my time to serve our community, and wish you all

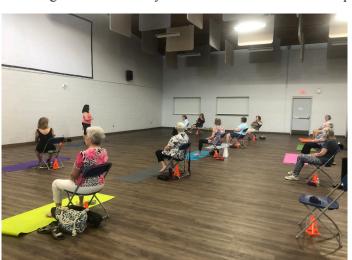
Don't forget that we have a dynamic Home Supports Program operated by Barbara Newell who

is coordinating the services for our community, including snow removal, yard work, housekeeping and minor repairs. Contact her at homesupport@swesa.ca or 780-860-2931.

SWESA Seniors' Centre - Yellowbird East Community Centre (YECC), 10710-19 Avenue

SWESA Seniors' Lounge - Terwillegar Community Recreation Centre (TCRC),

2051 Leger Road Telephone: 587-987-3200 programs@swesa.ca www.swesa.ca



SWESA reopening with Essentrics classes at Blue Quill Community Hall. Photo: Melissa McCuaig



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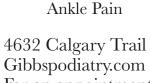
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A Summer to Remember

Brander Gardens ROCKS featured mask-wearing, social distancing and a tonne of fun!

By: Sharon Top-Gritter



The team leaders, staff and volunteers who made sure Brander Gardens rocked this summer. From left to right, Rehima Muhammed, Lillian Ryu, Nosa Amen, Sharon Gritter, Yumna Osman, Tessa Yakimchuk, Frank Gregory and Ali Altaf

rander Gardens ROCKS (Reaching Out to Community Kids) is a growing collaboration of kids and families, neighbours, community organizations, and institutional partners committed to building on community capacities to create a neighbourhood where diversity is celebrated, neighbours know one another, and all kids and families flourish.

Combining the new normal of the pandemic and running an engaging and fun-filled summer program has been a huge challenge, but Brander Gardens ROCKS stepped up! Yes, there was mask-wearing and socialdistancing, and we couldn't share food, go on field trips or meet inside. But we still had a tonne of fun!

Thanks to Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council's administration and to Canada Summer Jobs and a grant from REACH, six summer staff were hired. Two team leaders (Ali and Rehima) helped design

science projects for the kids and English as a Second Language coffee times with adults. They also led a youth group and pre-school class. The other four staff (Lillian, Nosa, Frank and Tessa) each taught their own cohort of students at various grade levels. The four classes were science, math, reading/writing and physical education (soccer, baseball, cricket, track and field, spike ball and badminton). Some awesome teenagers in the community volunteered their time to help the teachers. These four classes, all held outdoors, rotated every hour taking a break for lunch and washroom breaks.

Each day began with the taking of student's temperatures. By the end of the summer, every child knew what their temperature should be, and how to read decimal points. Parents needed to sign a waiver agreeing

that their child would not attend classes if they were sick, and were informed that the whole camp would shut down for 72 hours if anyone contracted COVID-19. Since we couldn't meet inside, the camp was shut down if it rained.

The children enjoyed the friendliness of their cohort and learning some fun and mind-expanding things. Every week the children enjoyed art projects, and different topics such as cats (with a real cat) and floating their boats (built in science class)

One science project saw the kids on the North Saskatchewan River.



make boats and float them down

Fine Arts Friday added a different the North Saskatchewan River dimension. Reckie Lloyd, from Sangea

Academy, would bring his drums, and the children prepared all summer for a concert held with Martin Kerr on August 20th.

For most of the world, summer 2020 was a summer to forget. But, while not the same as previous years, for BG ROCKS, it still made for some fond memories.



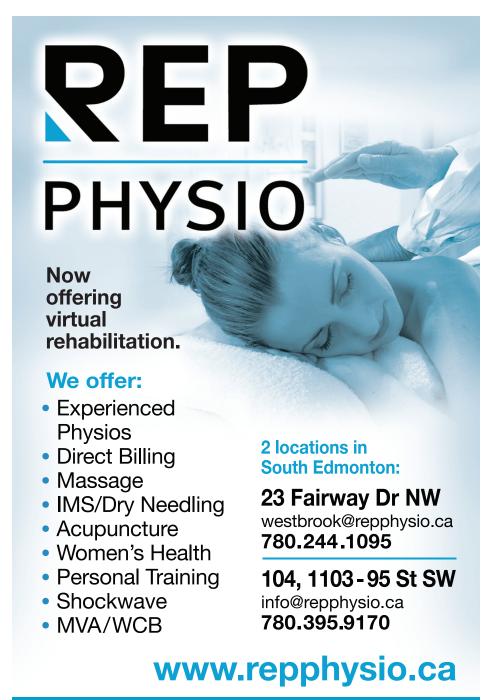
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- Online from the comfort of your home enjoy our recorded services at www.riverbendunited.org
- Live worship resumes September 13th at 10:30 a.m. following all Alberta Health guidelines and enhanced cleaning protocols.

Please visit www.riverbendunited.org for details. We'd love to have you join us!

14907-45 Avenue NW Edmonton

780.430.7275 www.riverbendunited.org



Please Support your Community League! Now, more than ever, they need your help

By Karin Shott

The Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council has been taking a break from regular meetings but is looking forward to having its next meeting sometime mid to late September.

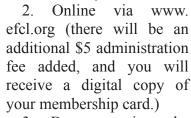


During these unprecedented times, your community league needs your support more than ever.

Community league memberships are available in a variety of ways:

1. By mailing the membership form (which can be found near the back of the paper) and payment to the mailing address on the form. Once received you will receive an email confirmation and your membership card and

requested skate tags will be mailed out to you.



3. By contacting the TRAC Community Office by telephone: 780-439-9394

(messages are checked regularly), or email yegtrac@gmail.com to arrange for a community league membership purchase.

The TRAC Community Office is currently still closed to the public due to limited access in the Terwillegar Recreation Centre. This may change as we go into Phase 4 of re-opening.

The Ridge Vines, which is the latest of the TRAC Community Wines in celebration of the community leagues in Area H, is still available at Vines Wine Merchants (2331 Rabbit Hill Road). Hurry in to pick up a bottle(s) before this limited edition is gone! For your convenience, curbside pickup is also available!



New Playground just in Time for School!

A team effort clinched the long-sought win By: Ragg-Times Staff

t. Mary Catholic School in Rhatigan Ridge opened a brand new playground in time for the school year, replacing an aging structure that had served kids well for a long time but desperately needed replacing.

Kate Faught, the chair of the St. Mary School Advisory Council, says the \$200,000 playground is a big relief for the parent community, especially this year. "Our best chances of containing COVID when kids return to school is for them to be outside, so we're really glad we got it done," she says.

Thanks are due to the playground committee, chaired by Roni Morrison, as well as to the parent community that raised funds, MLA Rakhi Pancholi for her efforts to ensure funding and to the Riverbend Community League. "They're funding put us over the edge to ensure we could maximize our matching grants," Faught says, "so we're very grateful for their support."



The new playground on August 24. Faught is confident the wood fibre will be spread out before the kids arrive!

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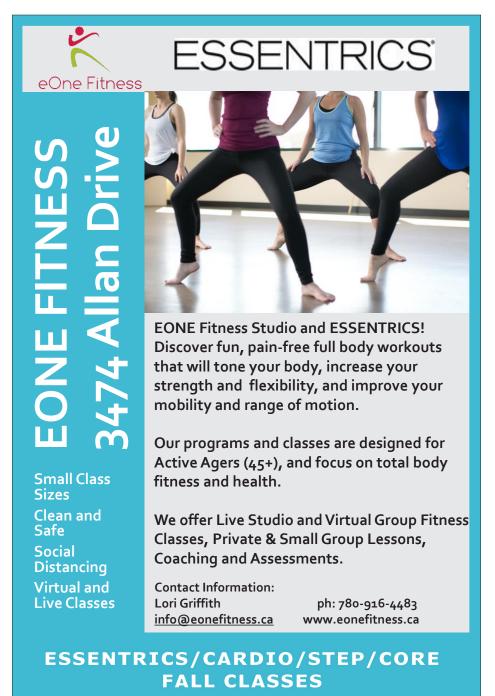
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The New Pandemic Normal

Community League programs such as the Community Garden and our beloved tennis lessons for children were bright lights this summer

By: Miep Raedschelders, President, Riverbend Community League

hese last six months have been a whirlwind for Canadians, and indeed the entire world, and the Riverbend Community League has not been immune to the effect of our new pandemic normal.

We have, however, successfully adapted our League operations according to AHS guidelines, ensuring that we continue serving our community wherever possible. Our community halls continue to serve as program homes for camps, churches, preschool and out of school care, as well as offering space for community groups and members to host meetings

and other adapted activities. Physical distance and enhanced cleaning guidelines dictate the types of events we are able to host at this time, but the board will continue to reassess and adapt on a quarterly basis, ensuring broad service to the Riverbend Community continues.

Some Community League programs such as the Community Garden and our beloved tennis lessons for children were bright lights this summer, and our board is proud to have been able to work together with the Brookview Community League and with the Brander Gardens ROCKS program to offer valuable, affordable and meaningful

affordable and meaningful to the programming for the kids and gardeners in the Riverbend area.

Our tennis program saw skilled instructors teaching an introduction to the sport to 288 children aged 6-12, selling out the program within a week's time. Our long-time instructor Hunter Mailo helped design and adapt the program with COVID-19 protocols in place. Having been such an integral part of the tennis program since its inception, our leagues owe Hunter Mailo a debt of gratitude and applaud him for having contributed to the legacy of tennis in our community.

We were also excited to welcome four-time Junior Tennis Alberta Champion Ethan Oboniye and his brother Joshua to our instruction team. We want to thank the Brookview Community League for dedicating the use of their courts from 9-3 on weekdays for lessons, and appreciate other

members shifting their recreational use to accommodate instructional time for the kids.

I would also like to thank our summer student Ethan Martin for his dedicated support to the Riverbend Community League. From working to create a historical database of league activities to cleaning up our tennis courts, rinks and landscaping, and helping in the community garden, Ethan's contributions were much appreciated this summer!

We are excited to see the opening of the two park projects that the Community League contributed to this year: St. Mary's school has a new

playground, sure to bring smiles to children's faces, and Ronning Street Neighbourhood Park is ready to show off its facelift with play and exercise equipment, a walking trail and landscaping to delight all community residents.

Your Riverbend Community League board will be working to renovate our hall spaces this coming year as we look forward to our 50th anniversary. We are still seeking support for our tennis court renewal committee and are calling for interested parties to seek us out for potential Board of Director positions.

Please consider supporting your league by purchasing a membership. Happy early fall everyone!



The tennis program saw skilled instructors teaching an introduction to the sport to 288 children aged 6-12



Community League Membership Application To verify your League, or purchase a membership online, please visit the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL) website, www.efcl.org		
Adult #1:	Date:	Mail completed form, along with payment, to
Adult #2:	Membership Type:	the address below:
Address:	Seniors/Single/Couple/Family (circle one) May we send you news by email? Y/N (circle)	"The Community League's Name"
Postal code:	Are you willing to volunteer? Y/N	c/o TRAC at Terwilligar Community #5, 2051 Leger Road NW
Phone number:	Fee (visit Community League website):———	Edmonton, Alberta, T6R 0R9
Email:	riverbendonline.ca	
Child/Children's name(s):	Donation: Total Paid:	Forms and payment may also be dropped off at the TRAC office.
	Cash: Cheque: No. of skate tags required:	*Cheque Payable to the Applicable Community League.

Update from Edmonton Riverbend's Member of Parliament

CERB benefit will be phased out; COVID-19 vaccines expected next year

The House of

Commons is scheduled

to begin sitting on

September 21

By: Matt Jeneroux, MP

s we emerge from the first wave of COVID-19, the federal government has made changes to the emergency benefits deployed to help Canadians who suffered economic setbacks as a result of the lockdown.

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit, which gave \$2,000 a month for up to six months to Canadians who lost their employment, will be phased out in the fall. Those who are still

receiving the CERB will be transferred to the Employment Insurance (EI) system. Those who don't qualify for EI benefits, like contract workers, continue to receive assistance in the form of a new benefit that has not yet been announced.

The federal government's wage subsidy program, which helps business owners keep employees on the payroll despite a decrease in revenues, has been extended until at least December.

Two deals were recently signed by the federal government to secure vaccines to protect Canadians against COVID-19. Deals with Pfizer and Moderna, both of which are in the

development stages of a vaccine, were signed in early August and the vaccines are expected to be widely available in 2021, if successful. As Shadow Minister of Health, I've been pushing the government to reveal a detailed plan of the vaccine rollout to ensure Canadians who want the vaccine will receive it in a timely manner.

On August 12, I was in Ottawa to attend the special sitting of the House of Commons.

> I had the opportunity to ask the government questions on its handling of COVID-19, including its plans for a possible second wave.

The House of Commons is scheduled to begin sitting as usual on September 21,

although the parties are working together to find an arrangement that will allow work to continue while respecting physical distancing measures.

Riverbend and Brookview Community Leagues once again joined forces to provide weekly tennis lessons on our courts. The response was overwhelming! Thank you to instructors Hunter and Ethan for sharing their enthusiasm with a whole new generation

of tennis players. And special thanks to all of you members who respected and worked around the 9-3:00 court reservation. Going forward, we are looking at different ways to manage the court bookings, including an online reservation system.

Stay tuned. My office will do everything we can to help you get through this tough time. If you have any questions about the benefits or any other federal matters, please email Matt. Jeneroux.C1@parl.gc.ca or call 780-495-4351.







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It's Downright Smashing!

Thanks to our superstar instructors and volunteers, the 2020 season was a hit

By: Ruma Daulay and Miep Raedschelders

The Brookview and Riverbend Community Leagues are so grateful to have been able to provide tennis lessons for our community kids this summer, even during the COVID-19 pandemic! Modifications to this popular program ensured we met AHS guidelines and we adopted enhanced cleaning and physical distancing protocols to keep the kids and our fantastic instructors safe. 2020 proved to be a successful year for community tennis, as our lessons were completely full, providing more than 280 kids with introductory lessons to this fantastic sport.

Many of our returning students were ecstatic to welcome back their favourite long-time instructor, Hunter Mailo. Hunter was instrumental in helping to adapt the tennis program so that we could make it available this year and we owe him a debt of gratitude for all of his support. Hunter's knowledge of the game and natural rapport with the kids helped shape the tennis program for our Community Leagues and he is an integral part of the tennis legacy in Riverbend. We were thrilled to also welcome four-time Tennis Alberta Provincial Champion, Ethan Oboniye to teach our young ones for the month of August. A few lucky youngsters also had the opportunity to learn from his equally talented brother Joshua Oboniye! Thank you to our team of superstar instructors.

Moving to a 30-minute lesson format meant being able to offer more classes, while keeping groups small for 6-8 year olds. Our 9-12 year-old cohorts also benefited from smaller groups in their 45-minute lesson. We were thrilled to receive such positive feedback from parents and kids alike, grateful to have the opportunity for some guided and safe physical activity outside during this pandemic year:

"With this summer being my daughter's first introduction to tennis, she has learned a great new sport, and is excited to come back next summer."

"We are so grateful to have this community run program, as it keeps children active and outdoors!"

"I just wanted to let you know the girls are really enjoying the lessons and the new instructor. It's funny how COVID makes you do different sports and many other things than you're used to but this has definitely been a positive!"

We want to express our appreciation to the parents and kids in our communities for respecting and adhering to our COVID-19 protocols. Community Leagues strive to provide meaningful recreational opportunities to our members. Co-operation, even in the face of a pandemic, made it possible to offer this well-loved program.

Our heartfelt thanks to Hunter Mailo, Ethan and Joshua Oboniye, Elizabeth Emslie, Ruma Daulay, Peter Farnden, Sheryl Bowhay and the Board of Directors at the Brookview and Riverbend Community Leagues for making the 2020 tennis program a success!



Superstar instructor (and four-time Tennis Alberta Provincial Champion) Ethan Oboniye with four of his charges. Thanks to all the volunteers who made it a great tennis season



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There was much to celebrate, despite COVID and the rest of it!

The completion of Brookview Park, front yards in bloom and the Park-And-Play program were all bright spots

By: The Brookview Community League

Summer 2020 has been a strange one, with COVID-19 changing the way we interact with neighbours and navigate our shared spaces. Add in extreme weather and the fallout from uncertain economic climate, well, it's all been a bit of a challenge! Luckily we are blessed to live in a neighbourhood that provides us a beautiful, safe refuge. Brookview has lots to celebrate this summer:

Brookview Park Completion

The fences are finally down and the park is open! We now have paved trails, perfect for walking, running, biking, blading and skateboarding. The sports fields have all been reconfigured. Sod has been laid and new benches are in place. Imagine how magnificent this green space will be once the 240 trees mature. This space is truly a neighbourhood gem!

Tennis Lessons

Riverbend and Brookview Community Leagues once again joined forces to provide weekly tennis lessons on our courts. The response was overwhelming! Thank you to instructors Hunter and Ethan for sharing their enthusiasm with a whole new generation of tennis players. And special thanks to all of you members who respected and worked around the 9-3:00 court reservation. Going forward, we are looking at different ways to manage the court bookings, including an

Community League Day

This September 19 is Community League day. Check our website for events planned throughout the city.

Brookview AGM

The AGM will take place at the Brookview Hall on September 23/20 at 7:00pm. We are planning to hold this meeting in person rather than online, if it is safe to do so. Please try to attend as we need to fill board positions and value community input.

Front Yards in Bloom Contest

Brookview homeowners out-did themselves this summer! What a pleasure to walk our neighbourhood and take in the beautiful yards, a few of which are pictured below. Thank you to both homeowners and everyone who submitted nominations. Congratulations to the five families that won greenhouse gift certificates.

Brookview Park Grand Opening

Due to the restrictions around mass gatherings, we have had to change plans for the grand opening celebration. This fall, we invite you to use our website to share photos and commentary about the park and why you love living in Brookview. Our in-person celebration has been postponed until next spring. Please go to our website www. brookviewcommunityleague.ca to help us celebrate!

Park-and-Play Program



Edmonton Confederation of Community Leagues stepped up this summer to run the free Park-and-Play program in our park. The program ran four days per week in July and August, providing sports, games, arts and crafts for children 8-12. It was a hugely popular program, providing our children with another opportunity to enjoy the outdoors.

Concrete Repair around Brookview Hall

Due to drainage problems and heaving, the concrete around our hall has been removed. The problem will be remediated and new concrete will be poured in the coming weeks. This is an expensive project but necessary to protect the building integrity. Please use caution around the worksite.



Events That Are On Hold due to Covid 19 Restrictions:

- 1. Community Swim and Facility Access at Terwillegar Community Recreation Centre (TCRC) is not available. Please check our website for updates.
- 2. Family Movie Night will not happen this fall.

- 3. At this point, we will not be renting out the Brookview Hall for evening/weekend programs or forprivate functions. Yoga and ballroom dance may return in the New Year. Updates on programs and rentals will be posted on the website.
- 4. We are looking at offering outdoor yoga and fitness classes in the fall in Brookview Park. We wouldlike your feedback on this. Check our website for information.



The Fall Harvest is Upon us!

The Southwest Edmonton Farmers' Market will run through Wednesday, October 7th

By: Christie Anderson, Market Manager

The 2020 season of the SWEFM is in full swing! So far, our market season has been a success, despite moving to a new location (Lot D at the Terwillegar Rec Centre), happening in the middle of a pandemic (!) and having the NHL move into the arenas across the street. What a year!

For most of our markets, we have been blessed with great weather, and the market has been bustling with happy patrons, vendors, and volunteers, all glad to be outdoors on an Edmonton summer day. We are now at the peak of fresh produce being at the market. Who can resist freestone peaches, nectarines, juicy berries, watermelons, crunchy carrots, rainbow-coloured cauliflower, bushy greens

and SO much more!! There is always a large selection of prepared foods as well, including: Thai, Indian, Eastern European, Cuban, Greek, vegan, & gluten-free, to name a few, as well as carefully selected artists, breweries, bath & body products, bakers, and meat/seafood vendors to ensure there is something for everyone.

We launched a curbside pickup program this year, and business has been booming! Each week we process up to 60 orders for curbside patrons. If you are interested in ordering your delicious market goods this way, please visit www.swefm.ca and click on the "Curbside" tab. You can shop from all participating vendors to create an order, then pay online, book a pickup time through our EventBrite link, and voila! All

you need do is show up the next Wednesday to pick up your order.

As we head into autumn, keep us in mind for your back to school lunches, as well as for Thanksgiving feasts. There is no better place to load up on turkey, potatoes, brussels sprouts, root veggies, homemade butter crust pies, and more for your October long weekend.

Lastly, thank you all for your support in what was a challenging year. We appreciate the loyalty of our community. We would not be here if you didn't show up!

The SWEFM runs every Wednesday until October 7th, from 4:00-7:30pm in Lot D the Terwillegar Rec Centre Parking lot.









The Green & Gold Garden: Veggies doing good!

All money raised from sales of produce supports survivors of the Rwandan genocide and domestic violence By: Patti Hartnagel





The beautiful Green & Gold Garden on the University of Alberta's South Campus is in fall harvest mode and open through Thanksgiving weekend. Join us to stock up on produce for freezing, canning, and veggies for Thanksgiving dinner!

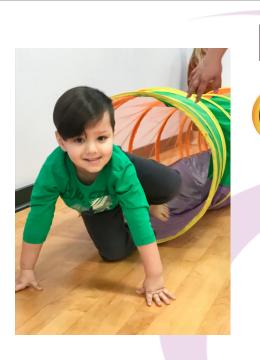
Our sales days are on Tuesday evening. As the days get shorter, sales times will become earlier. Saturday hours remain the same (11a.m.-1 p.m.). Please check our website (greengoldgarden.com) for more information, a map, harvest updates and other news as we wind down our 12th season in the garden.

Because we are volunteer run, ALL money raised from sales of produce at the garden goes directly to the Tubahumurize project for women in Rwanda. Their website - rwandanwomencan.org - describes the range of programs it provides for the survivors of the Rwandan genocide and domestic violence.

Our "garden with a difference" is a prime example of "Think Globally, Act Locally." Thank you for your ongoing support - see you in 2021!







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