

# The Riverbend Ragg-Times

A PUBLICATION OF THE RIVERBEND COMMUNITY LEAGUE

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# Kihcihkaw Askî Ready to Go

“Sacred Land” is a place for Indigenous culture and ceremony, and an ongoing act of reconciliation

By Michael Ganley

Nestled in Whitemud Creek ravine, just across the creek from the Alfred J. Savage Centre, kihcihkaw askî is taking shape and almost ready for a September opening.

The 4.5-hectare site, formerly part of Fox Farm, has been in the works since 2006. It has been developed with the guidance of Elders from many Indigenous communities and with the City of Edmonton as a partner. “We finally had enough momentum, enough political support and vision to make it happen,” says project manager Lewis Cardinal, an Edmonton-based artist and communicator.

Kihcihkaw askî (Cree for “this place is sacred,” and pronounced kitchekao askey) is an urban Indigenous ceremonial site. It is a space for Indigenous people to gather and celebrate culture and community, as well as an act of reconciliation, welcoming all people to contemplate and learn. The site was chosen because of its historical and cultural significance, having served for centuries as a ceremonial site and as a place to gather medicines.

There are two small, solar-panelled buildings on the property,



Project manager Lewis Cardinal stands by a fire pit that will be used to heat stones for sweat lodges. The doors around the fire-department-required enclosures are designed so participants can face whichever direction the ceremony requires.

one with classroom space for 40 people, another for storing teepees, tools for sweat lodges and a birch bark canoe made in the traditional Cree manner. Cardinal says the Elders wanted the space to have a small environmental footprint. “They wanted to be on the land,” he

says, “not stuck inside a building.” To that end, the site features an amphitheatre for talks and performances. The amphitheatre overlooks a massive teepee circle – big enough to fit 16 large teepees, Cardinal says – with a fire pit at its centre. It is surrounded by

native trees and plants, including chokecherries, raspberries and gooseberries, and a wide ring of rust-coloured flagstones. Cardinal says the stones echo the natural spring and ochre deposit that can be found on the other side of Whitemud Creek. “Springs are sacred sites,”

continued on page 2...

## First Open House for Soaring Property

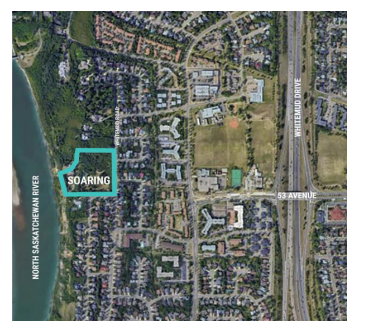
More than 100 people turn out to have their say

By Deann Stein Hasinoff

On Thursday, June 1st, more than 100 residents participated in the first community engagement for the Soaring property, put on by the University of Alberta Properties Trust (UAPT) and Dialog Design. Information was gathered about preferences of built form, how people use the river valley, and what they do and do not want to see in the development of this Brander

Gardens property. This, along with the Brander Gardens Development Vision document, will help inform planning for the site.

The next community engagement will occur in the fall, where draft design concepts will be presented. If you would like to stay informed about this project, you can sign up for the UAPT newsletter at [uapt.ca](http://uapt.ca).





...continued

he says, “because clean water comes straight from Mother Earth.” He says Indigenous people from southern Alberta, coming north to trade furs at Fort Edmonton, would stop in this valley bottom to gather ochre, a rare mineral that was used in spiritual and traditional ceremonies.

Cardinal says 60 different Indigenous nations are represented in Edmonton, with a variety of cultural and ceremonial traditions. That means, for instance, differences in the way sweat lodges are conducted, including the direction participants face. Next to the main ceremonial circle, two other fire pits are surrounded by large metal enclosures for safety. Some doors of the enclosures open on an east-west axis, others north-south. “We want all Indigenous people to know this is for them,” Cardinal says. “This is not a Cree location. It’s a place where Indigenous youth can experience the transference of culture, traditional knowledge and connection to Mother Earth.” He says a loss of community and tradition has contributed to the social and economic disparity suffered by many Indigenous Canadians. “You don’t have to go very far to find the research that explains why, if you’re not connected and grounded in something, you become unbalanced.”

But kihcihkaw aski is also a place to practice reconciliation, a place to share and teach non-Indigenous people about cultural traditions, history, knowledge and ceremony.



The copper-coloured stones echo a nearby deposit of ochre.

Already, the Belgravia and Brookview communities have reached out about programming for their leagues, and the site has already hosted corporate groups. “We’re not evangelical,” says Cardinal, who grew up in the Catholic faith. “Just explaining.”

It has also resonated nationally and internationally, with communities as far away as Australia asking for guidance on building urban ceremonial sites. “Indigenous people in all urban centres have these issues,” Cardinal says.

The Indigenous Knowledge and Wisdom Centre will operate kihcihkaw aski. The grand opening is scheduled for September 23.



A view from the amphitheatre.

Riverbendonline.ca

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## Want to Write for the Ragg-Times?

Are you interested in telling a story about the people, places or things of Riverbend?

The Ragg-Times is always seeking volunteer writers with great ideas. Email raggtimes@riverbendonline with your idea.





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RCL Board Note



# Riverbend Gears up for Summer

Community League Day, gardening and flag football all on the agenda

By Miep Raedschelders, President, Riverbend Community League

I'm excited to report that Brookside Hall has been restored and is once again serving the needs of our community! We look forward to welcoming league members, neighbours and friends to tour this great space on Community League Day, September 16, 2023.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all those who supported the fundraising efforts that made the restoration and security upgrades of Brookside Hall possible. Thank you to the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues and the South West Area Council leagues for your generosity and dedication to furthering the community league movement.

RCL will present flag football at Brookside Rinks this fall. Please check [edmontonflag.com](http://edmontonflag.com) for registration info for children and youth ages 4-17.

Visit the Brookside pop-up garden and the Brander Community Garden to marvel and learn about the food you can grow! There are opportunities to get involved, so please stop by the Brander Community Garden on Saturday mornings or email us for more info! Speaking of healthy lifestyles, registration for summer Hatha Yoga with Bev, at the Riverbend Community Centre, is now open. All levels of experience are welcome!

RCL is pleased to provide portable washroom access at each of the four main neighbourhood parks this summer. We are thrilled that Green Shacks are back to keep our kiddos entertained and energized! Schedules for the Green Shack are posted on our website.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram and check out [riverbendonline.ca](http://riverbendonline.ca) to keep on top of what is happening in our community! Music, food, Canada Day celebrations, summer events



The Brander Community Garden is set to bloom.

and Community League Day info will be updated regularly so your family can be in the know about all there is to do in our neighbourhood and great city!

We are looking for volunteers to help plan social events for the community. If you are interested in meeting other community-minded people, engaging and having fun, please reach out to [info@riverbendonline.ca](mailto:info@riverbendonline.ca)!



## HALL RENTALS

Looking for a great hall facility in our community?

### FACILITY 01

The Riverbend Community Centre at 258 Rhatigan Road East is ideally suited for family and community gatherings. This facility includes a kitchen, dance floor, outdoor patio, large washrooms, lots of free parking, and is wheelchair-accessible.

### FACILITY 02

Brookside Hall, located at 5320 143 Street, is great for birthday parties, smaller family functions or meetings. Two skating rinks and a playground are adjacent to this venue.

To learn more about these wonderful spaces, visit [www.riverbendonline.ca/hall-rentals/](http://www.riverbendonline.ca/hall-rentals/) or email [rentals@riverbendonline.ca](mailto:rentals@riverbendonline.ca)



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## CLASS DATES:

Mon, July 3 to Mon, July 24

Wed, July 5 to Wed, July 26





# Back to the Legislature

“I am grateful for the confidence you have shown in me.”

By Rakhi Pancholi, MLA, Edmonton-Whitemud



I want to thank the people of Edmonton-Whitemud for electing me to serve as your representative for four more years. It has been the greatest honour of my life to serve as your MLA and I am grateful for the confidence you have shown in me.

I will continue to support the great work of our community leagues in building and maintaining the recreational infrastructure that makes southwest Edmonton such a great place to raise a family and build a life.

I will continue to work with small business owners in our communities, to promote what you have to offer to people in southwest Edmonton and across the city, and to ensure you have every opportunity to grow and thrive.

Most of all, I will continue to speak for the families of Edmonton-Whitemud.

I will be a voice for parents who are struggling to make ends meet in the face of rising grocery prices, high electricity and car insurance rates and the continued lack of support for affordable before-school and after-school child care.

I will be a voice for seniors who deserve a secure retirement and to see their pensions protected in law; for health care reform that makes it easier for everyone who needs care to get it when and where they need it; for parents who want a K-12 curriculum that equips children for the future; and for young people who want affordable quality post-secondary education.

I will be a voice for creating opportunities for young Albertans by diversifying our economy and for people who are rightly proud of how hard they have worked to support their loved ones and now worry about how to navigate economic

change.

I will be a voice for fiscal responsibility, where your government focuses on things that matter to you like health care, education and infrastructure instead of spending billions to pay oil and gas companies to do cleanup work that they are already legally required to do.

And I will be a voice for protecting our parks and mountains that make this province the envy of the world.

But most of all, I will listen. I will be out in the community, meeting you at community league summer events, on your doorsteps, at the Southwest Edmonton Farmers' Market or Stollery Lemonade Stand Day. Please say hello when you see me, and please feel free to reach out to me if you have any thoughts or concerns. I can be reached at [Edmonton.whitemud@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Edmonton.whitemud@assembly.ab.ca).

## Brookview Community League Update

Come to the park and see what's going on!

**Greenshack Program** The Greenshack is back for Summer 2023! BCL's Greenshack will be running from July 4 – August 24, 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. from Monday to Friday. This is a free drop-in program for children ages six to 12 years old, run in our park by the City of Edmonton. Children accompanied by an adult are welcome to attend. The program includes a variety of crafts, games, sports and free play!

**Pop-up Garden** Our community pop-up garden has arrived! Watch all the vegetables and flowers grow over the summer. If you are interested in helping out, contact Lauren at [programs@brookviewcommunityleague.ca](mailto:programs@brookviewcommunityleague.ca). A big thank you to all the volunteers and supporters who are taking care of our community garden project!

**Pop-up Dog Park** Wondering what the fencing in the park at the corner of Bulyea Road and Buchanan Road is for? It's a pop-up off-leash dog park! A safe and convenient way to exercise and socialize your pups. Garbage cans and waste bags are provided, and don't forget to follow the etiquette rules posted.

**Rink Upgrade Project** Your BCL Rink Upgrade Committee has been working hard and progress is being made! Thanks to the 155 rink survey respondents. Your input has provided valuable feedback and support for the project. The committee is now working with the city on developing the business case and so far two grants have been applied for. However, there is still work to be done. If you would like to help in any way, contact the



committee through the BCL website.

**Brookview Community Event** Watch the BCL website for an event in September. Want to get to know your neighbors? Come out and enjoy the family fun! Plans include food, movies and crafts.

**Volunteers** It's never too early to plan! BCL will need volunteers to help with our community event in September, our casino fundraiser in Q1 of 2024 and for assistance on the Board. If you are interested in helping your community, contact our hard-working board members through the BCL website.

**BCL Website** For more Brookview news and to provide feedback on our programs, check out [brookviewcommunityleague.ca](http://brookviewcommunityleague.ca).



## Pollinator Week Celebrates Bees, Birds and Other Pollinators

By Harvey Voogd, North Saskatchewan River Valley Conservation Society

Pollinator Week Canada, June 19-25, is an annual event in support of pollinator health. It is a time to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what we can do to protect them. The week has grown into an international celebration, promoting the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats, beetles, moths, wasps and flies.

Between 75 and 95 per cent of flowering plants on earth need help with pollination. Pollinators provide services to over 180,000 different plant species and more than 1,200 crops. In addition to the food that we eat, pollinators support healthy ecosystems that clean the air, stabilize soils, protect from severe weather and support other wildlife.

This year, the emphasis is on the connections between climate and pollinators. Pollinators are dying because their food and homes are disappearing, diseases have increased, and rising temperatures and natural disasters are affecting their ability to survive, all of which are related to climate change. The conservation of pollinators and their habitats can help combat climate change by supporting healthy ecosystems, air, soil, water and plants.



# Fitness and Fun at the TRAC Annual Community Run

Thanks to all the sponsors and volunteers, and of course to everyone who came out to celebrate community!

By Sue Trigg and Karin Shott

The TRAC Community Run/Walk was held Sunday, May 28 in partnership with The Running Room. We were thankful that the smoke from the wildfires had subsided as it was a beautiful morning for the community to come together for the event!

Huge thanks to Councillor Tim Cartmell for emceeding the event and assisting with medal presentations, and to Stephanie King for leading the warm-up.

Thanks to Justin Ng, event coordinator from The Running Room, and Kyle LaFontaine from Results Canada for taking care of the timing. Remax provided the festival tents and bouncy castle that were enjoyed by the younger crowd. Reckie Lloyd and band members, with Sangea Academy, provided the musical entertainment with some African drumming! The A&W Root Bear was also on site and had many photos taken with him.

We were very happy to have well over 100 children under the age of 12 participate in the run, with a group of 75 children from the Start2Finish Running and Reading program. This program addresses the need for enhanced literacy and physical activity among children experiencing poverty or deprivation in their communities. The R&R Club uses physical activity to empower

children to build a lasting cycle of health and success. It is based on research that shows exercise positively impacts children's cognitive and social skills and reduces the "stressors" they face.

Thanks to our incredible sponsors! We couldn't have made the event happen without your continued support.

**Platinum Level Sponsors** Miller Thomson LLP, Servus Credit Union, Brookview Dental, AMB Wealth Management Group of RBC Dominion Securities, Richardson Wealth, Better Player Inc. and Booster Juice.

**Silver Level Sponsors** Panago Pizza Riverbend-Terwillegar, Pri-Med Medical Products, A&W, COBS Bread Riverbend Square.

**Bronze Level Sponsors** Freson Bros., Save-on-Foods Magrath, Simply Supper and Brookview Montessori.

The nutrition station included coffee and hot chocolate courtesy of Second Cup-TCRC, fresh fruit and juice courtesy of Freson Bros. and Save-on-Foods Magrath, delicious baked goods courtesy of COBS Bread-Riverbend and tasty pizza provided by Panago Pizza-Riverbend/Terwillegar!

New this year were veggie baskets for the children provided by S4Greenhouses, a Sprouts



Vendor Participant at the Southwest Edmonton Farmers' Market. For more information on the Sprouts Program, please check swefm.ca.

Of course, an event such as this could not be possible without the help of our dedicated volunteers! Thanks to Jonathon Balascak, Reid Barber, Ryan Barber, Sky Barber, Jim Bradshaw, Cathy Cartmell, Tim Cartmell, Matt Chapman, Tariq Chaudary, Elizabeth Emslie, April Fair, Alexander Farries, David Gummer, Katrin Head, Jamie Henderson, Sherri Hodgson, Megan Lange, Leslie and David Leeworthy, Don Lore, Blair Morling, Marc Raedschelders, Miep Raedschelders, Dr. Brian Ritchie, Debbie Rowley, Denis Rowley, Dave Rumbold, Jackie Stewart, Karin Shott, Sue Trigg, Gary Trigg, Blair and Eddie Trigg, Luka van Manen, Monte Weber, Nancy Wendt and students from Lillian Osborne High School – Fatima and Vitalia.

We hope everyone had a great time, and we look forward to seeing you next year!







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# The Beauty of Biking

Urban design that encourages cycling can make us happier, healthier, safer and more connected, all while being kinder to our shared home.

Words and photo by April Fair, Sustainability Director, Riverbend Community League



Have you ever noticed that North Americans typically choose to vacation in walkable, bikeable, vibrant places and yet, after returning home, many of us advocate against (or at least fail to advocate for) policies that have the potential to transform our own cities into these same types of places? Making excuses for why various initiatives could never work in our own cities, we seem skeptical that our cities are able to be, or are even worthy of being, anything other than places to tolerate until we've saved enough for our next escape abroad.

I've recently become a bit of an evangelist about a phenomenal YouTube channel called NotJustBikes. Having skyrocketed to over a million subscribers in just a few years, NotJustBikes is produced by a Canadian who moved from Toronto to Amsterdam to improve his young family's quality of life. With a biting wit and passionate disdain for bad city design, he articulates everything that – often subconsciously – disturbs people about the urban landscape. He highlights how smart city design in the Netherlands (and other forward thinking places) have contributed to making the Dutch some of the happiest people on the planet. It's inspiring to learn about how previously car-centric cities like Amsterdam were able to radically improve

traffic safety and efficiency for their citizens within just a few decades.

Amongst NotJustBikes fans, it's commonly acknowledged that once you've seen enough of the channel's content, you can never see your city the same way again. You'll find yourself shaking your head at issues you'd never noticed previously (wait until you learn what a "stroad" is!), but also newly excited about your city's potential.

Of course, urban planning policies are not a one-size-fits-all, and there are meaningful differences between Edmonton and places like Amsterdam. But there's no reason we couldn't learn from the Finnish town of Oulu where, despite having a climate similar to Edmonton, most people – including children – cycle all year round (eliminating the hassle of sitting in traffic for school pickup and dropoff, to name one benefit). This isn't a happy accident, but rather has been enabled by strategic investments in biking infrastructure and initiatives.

The City of Edmonton is enacting some meaningful changes including zoning reform, removing mandatory parking minimums and



More and more people in Edmonton are riding year-round, using bikes for fun, fitness and to run errands. Here, cargo bike enthusiasts have a meetup in Garneau.

investing in bike infrastructure. I believe NotJustBikes and the ecosystem of like-minded urban planners will be key to informing citizens about how changes like these can make us happier, healthier, safer and more connected, all while being kinder to our shared home.

I recommend starting with NotJustBikes' "Strong Towns" playlist to learn how smart urban planning makes us better off financially at the individual, commercial and city level. And once you're hooked, help spread the word!

## SWEFM Celebrates Indigenous Peoples Day

Enjoy lively performances and Indigenous artisans at the Southwest Edmonton Farmers' Market

By Kristin Heimbecker, Market Manager

You are invited to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day with SWEFM on June 21st! On this market day, in honour of the first peoples of this land, we have invited some incredibly talented Indigenous artisans to join us alongside your regular market favourites.

This market is a celebration of the creativity, talent and diversity of Indigenous artisans. You will have the opportunity to browse through a wide selection of traditional and contemporary art, including jewellery, textiles and traditional foods.

In addition to artisans, we will offer a chance to experience traditional singers, drummers and dancers. These performances showcase the vibrancy and strength of Indigenous culture, and are a testament to the resilience and

perseverance of Indigenous peoples in the face of adversity.

In the spirit of truth and reconciliation, we ask that you mark June 21 in your calendar as a "must visit" market date, as it's not just an opportunity to witness beautiful art and enjoy lively performances, but also a chance to support Indigenous artists and artisans. By purchasing their work, you are helping to ensure that these traditions and skills are passed down to future generations.

If you are looking for a unique and enriching cultural experience, then we encourage you to attend! You will be inspired by the beauty and creativity of Indigenous art, and will leave with a deeper appreciation for the rich and diverse talent of Indigenous peoples whose stories, languages and cultures continue to influence our community today.



**SWEFM**  
Celebrates  
National Indigenous  
History Month



# Calling all Parents!

This summer, give yourself the gift of knowing you are doing just fine

By Laurel, Becky, and Lita, teachers at Riverbend Playschool

It is often said that there will be a “last time” you carry your child or they say “Callapider” or they grin proudly as they put their shoes on the wrong feet, but you won’t know it at the moment. Parents hear it all the time. In the exhausting days of parenting small children, it can feel like just one more thing to worry about. All the well-meaning advice, like “they grow up so fast” and “cherish every moment,” can weigh like a stone in your belly. But it’s still true.

It has also been said that raising a child is like folding a fitted sheet; no one really knows how to do it. And that is probably the truest thing of all. We put an enormous amount of thought and energy into telling ourselves that we’re doing it wrong.

In our teaching profession we see a lot of parents. We see you trying so hard. We see you struggling. We see you worrying. We see you tired. We see you trying to find the balance between expecting too much and expecting too little. We see your fear when we share a concern and your doubt when there are challenges. We see the pressure you put on yourselves. We see the stones in your bellies.

But your kids don’t. They don’t see your

doubts and tiredness and hard days. Not really. They see your love. Oh sure, sometimes they see you’re mad or sad or distracted, but what they know is that you love them. That’s why they save their falling apart for you, why sometimes it’s hard to leave you, and why their faces light up when they see you coming.

We have some unsolicited advice to add to the pile: This summer, put down those stones. Endeavour to see yourself through your child’s eyes. Try to see your life the way they do. Their happiness isn’t dependent on how clean the house is, or how extravagant your holidays are. They don’t care if you’re late getting home from work, or if you don’t have the energy for one more story. They remember the playing, the adventures, the places you do go and the stories you do read. Let your smiles radiate, let your laughs be big, dance with abandon, ignore a mess to make a moment, and don’t let stones outweigh all those perfectly imperfect moments. Just love them. They are perfectly happy with whatever you can do. If it’s with you then it’s always enough. You are enough.

So dear parents, this summer, give yourself the gift of knowing you are doing just fine.



Parenting is tough, and nobody has the perfect solutions. Instead, see yourself through your child’s eyes.



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- **Tue** - Taco Tuesday @ Creekside Eats
- **Tue** - Sounds From The Valley: Music & Poetry FREE event (in partnership with EPL)
- **Wed** - Whacky Wednesdays @ Target Golf
- **Thu** - Thirsty Thursday @ Aerial Park Tower
- **Fri** - Food Bank Friday @ Target Golf



**Sounds From The Valley: Music & Poetry** (above) is a free event produced along with the Edmonton Public Library. Join us for live music and poetry every Tuesday in July & August starting at 7:00pm! Details online.

Snow Valley Ski Club is proud to be a not-for-profit organization and we are delighted to be a part of your community. We look forward to seeing you this summer!



Find us just off Whitemud Drive & 119 St. www.snowvalley.ca





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## Brander Gardens

	<u>Single Family</u>	<u>Condo</u>
Active	2 listings AV LP \$650,000	9 listings AV LP \$202,399
Sold (last 60 days)	5 listings AV SP \$885,422	8 listings AV SP \$199,062

## Ramsay Heights

	<u>Single Family</u>	<u>Condo</u>
Active	3 listings AV LP \$596,833	5 listings AV LP \$236,250
Sold (last 60 days)	13 listings AV SP \$804,861	6 listings AV SP \$283,783

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AV LP= Average List Price  
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## Brookside

	<u>Single Family</u>	<u>Condo</u>
Active	9 listings AV LP \$819,944	N/A
Sold (last 60 days)	10 listings AV SP \$631,200	N/A

## Rhatigan Ridge

	<u>Single Family</u>	<u>Condo</u>
Active	8 listings AV LP \$715,362	1 listing AV LP \$359,900
Sold (last 60 days)	4 listings AV SP \$662,500	2 listings AV SP \$312,000

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# Ragg-Times Bridge Corner

Contract bridge is the king of the trick-taking card games

By Allan Terplawy

North Deals  
N-S Vul

♠ 9 4 3	♠ K Q 10 8	♠ 7 5
♥ 10 9 8 4	♥ K 5	♥ A J 7 6 2
♦ A 9 2	♦ K 6 3	♦ 10 8 5
♣ 8 5 2	♣ A Q 4 3	♣ K 9 7

	♠ A J 6 2	
	♥ Q 3	
	♦ Q J 7 4	
	♣ J 10 6	



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

**This deal illustrates the value of finding a 4-4 major fit, using the Stayman convention, after a 1 NT opening bid.**

### The Bidding

North deals and, with a balanced 15-17 HCP, opens 1 NT. East passes, and South, with 11 HCP knows their side belongs in a game contract. South tries to find a 4-4 major fit by inquiring with 2C, the Stayman convention, asking partner if she has a 4-card major suit. North dutifully responds 2 ♠ and South needs to hear no more and bids game in ♠'s.

### The Play

East is on lead and has a difficult choice. East does not want to lead away from an Ace or a King into the 1 NT bidder, so the choice is between a ♠ or a ♦. If East leads a ♦, West should win and fire back the ♥ 10. East can see that it is best to play the Ace and lead another ♥. North wins and draws trump in 3 rounds, ending in dummy. Now, with the opponent's trumps drawn, North can lead the ♣ J for a finesse of the K. This loses to East's K, but that is the last trick for the defense. 4 ♠ bid and made.

Note that, without the use of the Stayman convention to explore for a 4-4 major suit fit, N-S will likely end up in 3 NT. East will lead a 4th best ♥, creating 4 ♥ winners for E-W. With only 6 top tricks North cannot make 3 NT without potentially giving up the lead. The ♣ finesse offers the best hope. This loses to East's K and the opponents can now cash their good ♥'s and A of ♦'s. Whereas 4 ♠ makes 4, 3 NT will likely go down 2.

Submitted on behalf of the Edmonton Bridge Centre. The EBC is open 6 days a week with both afternoon and evening games. Visit our website: [www.edmontonbridge.ca](http://www.edmontonbridge.ca)

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# Pirate Theatre, Anyone?

The EPL's summer program is chock full of reading, learning and creating

By Rianne Rayment, Community Librarian, Riverbend

Summer Starts at EPL engages children in reading, learning and creating at Edmonton Public Libraries to prevent a slide in student learning over the summer months. At all EPL branches, children will have opportunities – all FREE – to track their summer reading, make their own buttons, play games and participate in fun events in which they explore concepts in science, technology, engineering and art.

Meet our performers: Enjoy balloon twisting with Demmi Dupri, watch a magic show with

Kent Wong or head to the circus with the Great Balanzo!

West Edmonton Mall is back with a reptile meet-and-greet. You can take a yoga class, attend a pirate theatre performance or listen to the musical stylings of Beth Portman and Zach Willier!

Check out our great classes: Bust out some moves at our Old MacDonald dance party, code a video game, learn embroidery or paint your own pet rock! Learn about extremely gross animals, make bubbles or craft your own musical instrument at the library.



Children can visit any library location on or after June 24 to pick up their registration package and begin reading for a chance to win exciting prizes.

Riverbend branch will be getting our summer excitement started on

Saturday, June 24.

Drop in between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. for some good old-fashioned fun!

Visit [epl.ca/summer-starts](http://epl.ca/summer-starts) for more details.

# Hello from City Hall!

City Council has some important conversations ahead of summer

By Tim Cartmell, Councillor, Ward pihêsiwin



In early July, Edmonton City Council is scheduled to discuss the Edmonton Police Service funding formula. The first EPS funding formula was approved in June 2018. Prior to that, police funding debates often included some amount of hyperbole and emotion. Adoption of the funding formula allowed the EPS to develop long-term operating and investment plans, and served to eliminate annual funding debates. It was clear to all that Council expected EPS to work within the bounds of the formula.

In 2021, Council suspended the funding formula and reduced the projected 2022 EPS budget by \$11 million. In 2022, Council again

reduced the projected 2023 EPS budget by \$10 million (although the 2023 budget was \$1 million higher than 2022). Subsequent motions by Council added approximately \$10 million back into the EPS budget for 2023.

The funding formula sought to eliminate this constant change in budgets and the accompanying debates. The question currently before Council is if a funding formula should be reinstated, and if so, what criteria should be considered.

Ahead of the conversation in July, I am requesting your feedback. I encourage you to visit my website at [timcartmell.ca](http://timcartmell.ca) in the coming weeks to complete a survey regarding the formula. Your feedback is greatly appreciated ahead of the important conversation at Council.

On the topic of safe communities, I understand that everyone should feel secure and confident to walk down city streets, ride public transit or visit

attractions around the city. This matter continues to be top of mind. City Council continues to receive regular updates on the work that is being done to make our streets and communities safer.

However, public spaces are safer when they are energized with people and events. This summer we will see many exciting events happening within our city. I encourage you to visit [exploredmonton.com/event-calendar](http://exploredmonton.com/event-calendar) to learn more. If you see me at one of the events, be sure to say hello!

I wish you a wonderful summer. If you have any municipal questions or concerns please feel free to contact my office at [tim.cartmell@edmonton.ca](mailto:tim.cartmell@edmonton.ca) or 780-496-8130. In addition, stay up to date on City matters by signing up for my newsletter at [timcartmell.ca](http://timcartmell.ca).

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# I'll Be Ba-a-a-a-c-c-c-k-k-k-k!

Seniors Connection News for those 55+

By Colleen Crozier

Now, THAT is a phrase that has been around for a while. In the first *Terminator* movie, way back in 1984, actor Arnold Schwarzenegger makes this promise, and keeps it. We heard the phrase over and over, and now it is in popular use.

We seniors have witnessed many other things “come back.” For example, a 1947 film captured hearts and gave us the assurance that, “Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.” When *Miracle on 34th Street* was remade in 1994, it captured the hearts of another generation, setting to rest the minds of those who questioned why a modernized version was even necessary.

Here are some other things that have come b-a-a-a-c-k in recent years:

**The skort:** In the 1960s and 1970s, this combo of a short skirt and same-fabric attached shorts was a fashion declaration of independence, and the heart’s desire of many a teen; especially so the ones with permanent-pleat skirts. The style didn’t really last a long time, except on the tennis court. But now they are back!

**Macramé:** Was there a home in North America in the 1970s that did not have at least

one potted plant in a macramé hanger? Unlikely. The art of knotting cordage to create decorative and/or useful articles is said to have originated with the Babylonians in the 18th century BCE. Whether you call it beautiful or not, its popularity has risen and fallen, and is back up again.

**Paper straws:** How frustrated we were when our straws got soggy in our drinks back in the day! We embraced plastic ones wholeheartedly, delighted with their ability to survive long soaks in our beverage glasses. We did crafts with them, and used the big ones to perfect our spit-ball aims. We had no idea how harmful to the environment they would become. And now that we know, we welcome the paper straws back (but still complain about the sogginess)!

You can add to the list bell-bottom pants, paper shopping bags, box-shaped cars and more. What can *you* add to this list?

Some of us seniors greet newly-introduced objects and ideas with comments such as, “Well, isn’t that new and wonderful?” Or, conversely, “There’s nothing new under the sun. We used to have those when we were kids.” Regardless of our attitude to new things, those we really hold



Was there a home in North America in the 1970s that did not have at least one potted plant in a macramé hanger?

dear are timeless, like caring relationships, the satisfaction of a job well done, kindness and safety.

At South West Edmonton Seniors Association, that’s what we focus on. Come join us. Former members, you’ll be welcomed with, “They’re b-a-a-a-a-c-c-c-k-k-k-k!”



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## Collaboration with the Province is Key to Success

We must work together to find a sustainable, adequate, predictable funding model for growing school divisions

By Julie Kusiek, Edmonton Public School Board Trustee, Ward F



As many of you are aware, Trustees with the Edmonton Public School Board put together advocacy materials to support conversations around public education in the recent provincial election. The focus areas were: choice within public education at Edmonton Public Schools; funding, including the need to address gaps in the current funding formula; infrastructure, including new school construction and rising deferred maintenance; and mental health supports for students

Thank you, to all parents and community members who viewed these documents, spoke with candidates and who considered these issues in support of public education as you went to the ballot box.

Under the Education Act, school boards are a partner in education with the Province of Alberta. This Act details the responsibilities of a board in this partnership. A few examples of

these responsibilities include: deliver appropriate programming to meet the needs of all students and enable their success; provide a continuum of supports and services to students consistent with the principles of inclusive education; collaborate with municipalities, other boards and community-based service organizations to address student needs and the effective use of public resources; collaborate with post-secondary institutions for smooth transition for students; and provide a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging.

It will be my job as one Trustee, and our collective job as a board, to build a strong, collaborative relationship with individual MLAs elected to the legislature, cabinet ministers and the premier. It also includes fostering respectful dialogue with the province and all MLAs, be they in government or in opposition. We are in this together, as partners. I believe our board’s advocacy points during the election are key items to find collaborative solutions, in partnership with

the Province, to carry out shared responsibilities.

In my mind, this means working together to figure out a sustainable, adequate, predictable funding model for growing school divisions like Edmonton Public Schools—a solution that works for us, for the kids we serve, and for the government. We also need to accelerate new school construction so that every one of the 4,500 additional new students enrolled in our division this year and the 5,000 plus we expect next year can feel confident we will have the schools, programming and classes available to meet their needs and support their success.

As a board, we are working through other exciting opportunities and potential solutions, which we will need to partner with the Province to make a reality. With that, I encourage you to also think about what collaboration and positive relationship building looks like in public education. Please get in touch anytime. You can email me at trustee.julie.kusiek@epsb.ca.




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# What the Heck is “Sep-Ted” and Why Should I Care About it?!

How we build our environment can help keep people safe

By Eilish Lemieux, Neighbourhood Watch Representative, Riverbend Community League

If you’ve ever heard people use the word “sep-ted” and been at a loss as to what it is, you’re not alone. Though it’s pronounced as its shortened acronym, it stands for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

According to CPTED Canada, it’s a theory (and practice) that is based on the belief that “the proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime, and an improvement in the quality of life.”

While the practice is typically used collaboratively by municipalities (and its police services), architects, planners, developers, security agencies and others, there are tactics that can certainly be used at the local level here in our homes in the Riverbend communities.

In fact, I’d bet many of you have been using them all along without even knowing what CPTED is! One CPTED strategy is natural surveillance – that’s the idea of designing your own environment in a way that increases visibility of people and activities. Think clear windows, camera doorbells, motion-activated lighting, trimmed landscaping where people can’t hide, and well-placed doors and windows.

Natural access control is another CPTED strategy. This is a fancy way of saying you use fences, gates, locks, doors, signs and landscaping to ensure people go in and out via (or are kept out of) designated areas.

Even maintenance is considered a CPTED tactic. This is the idea that when we remove graffiti, pick up trash and take care of our landscapes and buildings, crime is reduced. It sends a message that the people living in those areas care about their environment and makes it easier to notice when something isn’t quite right.

Another CPTED tactic is territorial reinforcement; designing an environment that creates a sense of ownership and responsibility among legitimate users. This could include specific safe curb and crosswalk design, signage, landscaping, fences, even art. It’s meant to define boundaries and deter potential offenders from intruding. Though this tactic often requires action at an organizational level, there are certainly things we can do at a local level, including raising awareness, lobbying elected officials and volunteering in the community.

The point of CPTED is to create a place that feels welcoming, builds a sense of community and helps keep us safe. If you want to learn more about CPTED, there are experts trained in this field (a quick google search will yield some local results). In the meantime, if you are already using some of these ideas, keep up the excellent work. If you haven’t thought about it yet, look around your home and neighbourhood and see if there are some easy and low-cost changes you can make.

## A New Beginning for Brookside Hall

The hall is once again open for bookings, and will host a grand opening on Sept. 16

By Dave Rumbold

After two terrible vandalism incidents late last year, Riverbend Community League is pleased to announce that Brookside Hall is open for business again!

The hall & kitchen have been entirely refurbished from top to bottom and a state-of-the-art security system has been added. Solar panels will also be added later this summer, continuing the rejuvenation of this community hub, which dates from the mid-1970s. Community members are once again able to rent the hall for all types of meetings, functions and family events.

Great community programs such as Girl Guides, Pedalheads and the Peanut Butter & Jam Playgroup are already moving back into the building.

Check out the rental information for Brookside Hall at [riverbendonline.ca](http://riverbendonline.ca) or contact our rentals manager, Rod at [rentals@riverbendonline.ca](mailto:rentals@riverbendonline.ca).

RCL Vice-president Nancy Wendt led the efforts to rebuild Brookside, with significant support from league President Miep Raedschelders, Secretary Gina Thede and long-time Board member Sue Trigg. Their tireless work over the last five months has brought Brookside Hall back to life.

Watch for further details on the grand opening party, which will be held at Brookside Hall on Edmonton Community League Day, Saturday, September 16.

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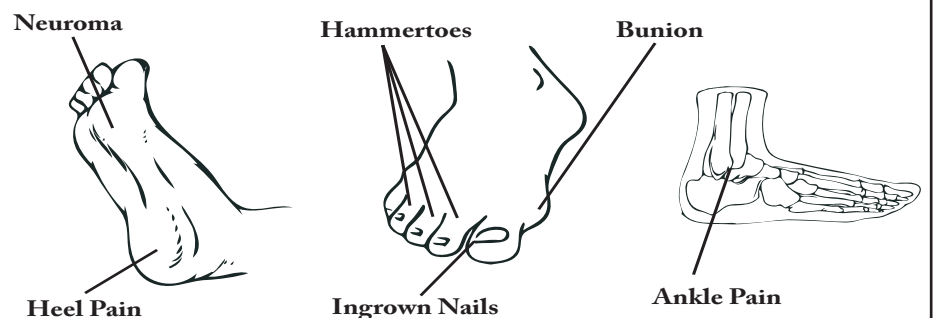
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# The Dirty Hands Diary, Vol. 1

Just like the life forms below the surface, volunteers work in symbiotic harmony

By Margaret Milner

It's planting season at the Green & Gold Garden and the first Tuesday-evening volunteer shift of the year. I've been planting onion seedlings and bulbs with a new volunteer. As the sun begins to dip below the horizon, she comes over to say goodbye. "Thank you for tonight. It feels so good to get my hands dirty again!"

I ponder that as I look at my own hands, blackened with soil from separating onion seedlings soaked in a worm casing solution we use to support growth. I wave goodbye as my three-year-old grandchild, who is sitting beside me in a brightly flowered sun hat pushing a small wheelbarrow full of onion bulbs, says, "That's how I know I am a gardener. I have dirty hands too!" He holds his soiled hands up for inspection (his face is almost as dirty).

I contemplate this idea of getting my hands "dirty" in the garden. I reach out and bury my hands in the garden soil – it feels cool and damp and I am reminded of the millions of life forms living in its depths. These dirty

## Green & Gold Community Garden

hands are my connection to the land and I feel my spirits lift another notch as I contemplate what it means to be part of something bigger than myself. It feels good to be back working within a vibrant community whose collective efforts support Tubahumarize, an organization that supports women and children in Rwanda.

As I look around, I can hear my grandchildren pattering alongside each other and my daughter and son-in-law chatting while they plant onion bulbs. We are the last ones in the garden tonight (as is often the case). We always have so much trouble leaving here. It is such a peaceful place. I can hear a pair of geese honking as they fly overhead and am reminded of the flocks of sandhill cranes that flew overhead last Saturday afternoon. I gaze out to the garden plots with their raised beds and joining pathways that shape the landscape of the garden.



Inside the hoop house at the Green & Gold Garden.

We are realizing the fruits of last year's labour as we worked to reengineer this beautiful space. I can see the hoop house in the orchard, the permanent pathways creating a mosaic that gives the garden structure, and the sprayer heads of our underground irrigation system. Lying here and there are the amazing tools that help us grow such healthy

food – spring rakes and wire weeders, our homemade dibbler, and the carts we use for hauling things out to the garden plots. Just like the life forms below the surface, our volunteers work in symbiotic harmony, feeding the land and our gardening souls.

We are a small but mighty team out here at the Green & Gold Community

Garden. Come check us out. We are out Tuesday mornings (10 a.m. -12 p.m.), Tuesday evenings (6 - 8 p.m.) and Saturdays (11 a.m. - 1 p.m.). Who knows – you might even get your hands dirty! To see where we are located, visit greengoldgarden.com.

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