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**Deadlines for May** Editorial/Ads: April 19 Delivery week of May 6

# The Riverbend Times Ragg-Imes

A PUBLICATION OF THE RIVERBEND COMMUNITY LEAGUE

MARCH 2024 | VOL. 41, NO. 4

# Family Skate Fest 2024



Mary Lou Sedgwick

Thanks to the many volunteers who came out and helped with the Family Skate Fest at the Brookside Rinks on Family Day, February 19.

The weather was fabulous and about 275 people came out to enjoy skating, shinny hockey, a fire pit, activities, music, beverages and cookies.

League volunteers offered free hot chocolate

and cookies, facilitated games and even organized a skate marathon. Board members enjoyed time with friends and neighbours, lured outside on a perfect warm winter day. "It warmed our hearts to hear the comments and positive feedback about how much these rinks mean to the community," said Miep Raedschelders, president of the

Riverbend Community League.

Thanks to Jason Lamoureux and Gina Thede for leading a volunteer team who built and maintained our ice all season and made this event possible, and thanks to Mary Lou Sedgwick for the wonderful photos (more of which can be found on page 5).

continued on p5...

# Real Estate Market Remains Sluggish

High interest rates, stress tests keeping people in their homes

By Michael Ganley

ally Munro is a real estate agent with Century 21 Masters and has bought and sold homes in Edmonton for 43 years. So when I wanted to learn a bit more about the current state of the market, I gave her a call (full disclosure: she's also a regular advertiser in the *Ragg-Times*).

I set the table: The Bank of Canada recently held its overnight rate at five per cent, although predictions are that it will start to come down; The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation says \$675 billion in mortgages is up for renewal nationwide in 2024 and 2025, and most of those mortgagees face higher interest rates; a recent report from the Conference Board of Canada said nearly 50,000 people moved to Edmonton last year, and predicts another 90,000 by the end of 2025; The Realtors Association of Edmonton predicts modest price and demand growth this year; and Edmonton remains the most affordable major city in Canada.

come down; The Canada Mortgage Munro's first instinct is to back and Housing Corporation says away from discussion of rates continued on p16...



**Editor's Note** 

# On Their Marks

Edmonton-Whitemud MLA Rakhi Pancholi joins crowded leadership race

By Michael Ganley



he leadership contest is underway for the Alberta NDP and, sure enough, Edmonton-Whitemud MLA Rakhi Pancholi is in the thick of it. Pancholi has joined

a crowded field that includes fellow MLAs Kathleen Ganley, Sarah Hoffman and Jodi Calahoo Stonehouse, Alberta Federation of Labour leader Gil McGowan and former Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi in the race to succeed former premier Rachel Notley.

Pancholi announced her candidacy with a video featuring her at various spots in the province, spreading a message of hope, optimism and opportunity. "The story the current government tells us about Alberta is too small for such a big place," she says. "We see it in the choices they make, the fears they exploit and the fights that they pick."

I agree. The current government has an anaemic view of what this province can be. Alberta still has a young, well-educated population, expansive natural resources — including solar and wind power—and a bright future should we choose it. team bond under Notley. At the same time, he brings some bona fides after a successful period as mayor of Calgary.

If Pancholi were to make it all the way to the premier's chair, she would be the third representative of Edmonton-Whitemud to do

Pancholi has followed up with some serious policy statements, including a climate transition plan that includes pledges to set emissions-reduction targets, reform the Alberta Energy Regulator, decarbonize the grid and ban coal mines on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

One climate policy she says she's not interested in is a broadly based carbon tax on consumers. I wrote a defence of such a policy in the last issue of this newspaper, so clearly we disagree on that particular point.

But that's fine. I don't have to agree with a person on every matter to know that she is a leader I can get behind, someone who sees the strengths and opportunities in this province.

Pancholi would be a formidable leader for the Alberta NDP leading into the next provincial election, scheduled for May of 2027. If, as I suspect, the other leadership candidates fall back into support roles, she would lead a formidable team.

Nenshi remains the wild card. He's never been affiliated with a party, taking quite a bit of pride in that position. So he's an outsider to a party that has built up a pretty strong team bond under Notley. At the same time, he brings some bona fides after a successful period as mayor of Calgary.

If Pancholi were to make it all the way to the premier's chair, she would be the third representative of Edmonton-Whitemud to do so, following in the footsteps of Don Getty and Dave Hancock. I haven't done a full survey, but that seems to be a pretty good record for a single riding.

# Ragg-Times

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**RCL Board Note** 

# Community League Connect with Your Community Connect with Your Community

Reach out and get involved with the RCL

By Miep Raedschelders, President, Riverbend Community League

ring is on its way! For me, and warm, fresh air shared with family and friends in our beautiful community! I look forward to sending my kids off to school on bikes or by foot once again, and cannot wait to share smiles with the friendly faces out and about in our safe and walkable neighbourhood! If you're a new neighbour, welcome to your new and amazing community. Pop by and check out what your Riverbend Community League has to offer at riverbendonline.ca and follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

RCL held a wonderful Family Skate Fest on February 19 at the Brookside Rinks. Thank you to Jason Lamoureux and Gina Thede for leading a volunteer team who built and maintained our ice all season and made this event possible. League volunteers offered free hot chocolate and cookies, facilitated games and

even organized a skate marathon. nothing feels quite like the Board members enjoyed time promise of renewal, growth with friends and neighbours lured outside on a perfect warm winter day and our MLA, Rakhi Pancholi, joined in the fun and connected with constituents. It warmed our hearts to hear the comments and positive feedback about how much these rinks mean to the community.

Brookside residents have noticed the addition of solar panels to the hall beside the rinks. Riverbend Community League's commitment to sustainability will save money to reinvest in our programs and events! Thank you to April Fair, RCL Sustainability Director, for your hard work guiding this project. Brookside Hall continues to evolve and meet the needs of the Community!

Are you interested in what's going on in your community and in providing insight on an advisory committee? Do you want to help out with projects at your



April Fair

An 11.6 kW solar array has been added to the roof of Brookside Hall.

community hall? Do you have a knack for finding funds to invest in your community? Do you want to be part of an events team, and share ideas for bettering our community? We would appreciate your help! Please reach out to community league by purchasing volunteer for your league!

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the area? Welcome! Consider advertising in the *Ragg-Times* and say hello to the 10,000 residents and fellow businesses we reach with each issue of our newspaper!

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# A Few of My Favourite Things

Making this list always gives me a feeling of gratitude

By Colleen Crozier

In 1959, music-theatre audiences were delighted with, "raindrops Lon roses, and whiskers on kittens" and more from The Sound of Music. The lilting melody and long list of lovely things distracted and calmed the fears of seven children as they took refuge in their governess Maria's room during a raging thunderstorm. Later, in 1965, Hollywood released a film version of the musical, starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer. That made Rodgers and Hammerstein's magical portrayal of the Von Trapp family available to millions, and the song one of the most popular and recognizable ever.

Just as counting your blessings can transform despair into gratitude, a list of your favourite things can have the same uplifting effect. One of the best things about making a list is that it opens the door to limitless possibilities. A list of favourite things made today is a journey down memory lane, while at the same time you savour the present.

With apologies to Rodgers and Hammerstein (it's probably not a good idea to try humming the tune as you read), here's a list of a few of my favourite things: pink cotton candy; Jack Frost art on my windows; roast beef and gravy; robin's spring song; family posts on Facebook; relief when the moving truck is emptied; smell of the earth after the first few raindrops; newborns' smiles; my children's numbers displayed when my phone rings; hand-written letters or cards in my mailbox; hearing French spoken; watching YouTube videos;



SWESA members celebrate Chinese New Year with some favourite things; great food and great company.

singing hymns of faith and '60s pop songs; misty views on the B.C. coast; kitty head bumps and purrs; Nicholas Sparks stories; wild geese flying over; that distinctive green of new leaves in the spring.

Now it's your turn. What's Lutzky Family YMCA.

on your list? We hope it's a long one. And we hope that SouthWest Edmonton Seniors Association activities are some of your favourites! Come, join us! We're in our new location in the William



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### **Brookview Community League Update**

## Farewell Winter, Hello Spring

Plus, remembering past president Peter Farnden

rookview Community out at brookviewpreschool. Committee Interested in creating a community garden? Join us Monday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m. Hall (280 Bulyea Road). We are looking for residents who love making new connections, being of community over a love of growing.

For information, more please contact Jacquelynn Radomske at 780-996-9299 or rrreduce@gmail.com, or join us at our next meeting.

**Community Brookview Preschool Registration** is now open for the 2024-2025 school year! Get your little learners ready for kindergarten with our programming for three- and fouryear-old children. With more than 10 years of experience, we offer play-based learning, STEM-focused learning and flexible scheduling. Check us

com or contact us at info@ brookviewpreschool.com. See you in September!

**Tribute to Past President** at the Brookview Community Peter Farnden (1951-2024) It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of BCL past-president Peter Farnden. outside and deepening a sense Peter was president of BCL from 2018 to 2020, and will be remembered for his joyful commitment to community service. He was an accomplished leader in the nonprofit industry and enjoyed traveling with his family locally and abroad. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Vesna, and his family.

> **BCL** Website For more Brookview news, check out brookviewcommunityleague.ca.





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Family Skate Fest...continued from p1



Mary Lou Sedgwick

# Working Together for Community Safety

The Neighbourhood Empowerment Team works collaboratively to create safe and vibrant communities

hancy Black Water is a member of the Blood Tribe, an Indigenous community in Southern Alberta that shares membership in the Blackfoot Confederacy in Treaty 7 territory.

For the past two-and-a-half years, Black Water has been a Community Safety Liaison with the City of Edmonton's Neighborhood Empowerment Team. She recently accepted a position as an Indigenous Relations Consultant at the City.

For this article, questions were posed by Eilish Lemieux, Edmonton-Riverbend Neighbourhood Watch Representative.

Tell me about yourself Working in community development is a passion of mine because relationships and trust are important. It feels great to pass on knowledge that empowers communities to work together to find solutions best suited to their unique needs and circumstances.

Tell me about the Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (NET) NET is a partnership between the City of Edmonton, Edmonton Police Service, The Family Centre and United Way that works with residents, communities, businesses and organizations to create safe and vibrant neighbourhoods and communities. NET responds to repeated or significant incidents that may impact the security and safety of Edmontonians.

How can neighbourhoods and community leagues benefit from the work NET does? Neighbourhoods, community leagues and residents can access resources that focus on business safety, property security and safety and human interactions. NET has an array of free safety resources that are translated into nine different languages to meet the needs of Edmonton's diverse community.

Neighbourhoods can benefit from the work NET does through resource distribution, tailored community safety presentations and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design audits. NET can also assist in liaising with internal city teams to ensure the safety needs of the community are being addressed.

Can you give me an example of how NET has helped communities? In March 2022, some members of the Spruce Avenue community noticed an increase in crime and disorder at the footbridge at 97 Street and 115 Avenue. Over the next few months, the Alberta Avenue Beats Team worked with the community and the City of Edmonton to address these concerns. As a result, there was less crime and disorder in the neighbourhood.

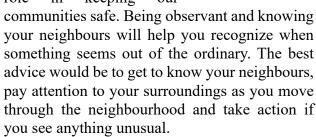
What advice do you have for residents/neighbourhoods/community leagues?

Reporting your concerns is important because even the smallest piece of information

can help reduce crime and disorder. The data helps the team determine the areas where resources should be deployed.

What's the best piece of advice you can offer to residents/community leagues/neighbourhoods?

We all play an important role in keeping our



Anything you'd like to add? I want to thank you for inviting me to contribute to the *Riverbend Ragg-Times*. The inclusion of different voices in your newsletter helps foster safe and healthy communities. I appreciate all the work that goes into keeping the community informed and aware of all the great resources in the city, NET being one of them. It takes a community to make a positive impact!

# **Spring and Summer Yard Services**

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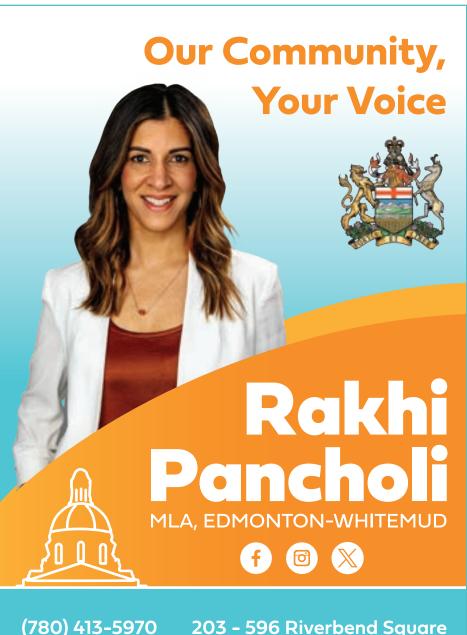
Registration is OPEN for Spring 2024 Wednesday and Thursday mornings at **Brookside Hall** 



Do you love PB&J Playgroup and want to see it continue? Are you looking to add to your résumé?

The group needs a new volunteer Program Coordinator for 2024-2025! Please email info@riverbendonline.ca for details.

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# A Growing Community!

The Brander Community Garden promotes personal, neighbourhood and environmental well-being

By Sheryl Bowhay

Brander Community Garden Lis about: we grow vegetables, we laugh, we grow friendships and we grow community. All of us involved in the garden have an interest in gardening and cultivating community spirit in Riverbend. We work communally to make our garden the best it can be!

is in the old batting cage at 14710 53 Avenue, next to St. Monica Elementary School. We had our first growing season in 2015, and since then our activities and impact have grown. No one owns or rents a plot; everyone volunteers their time to make the garden a success. Produce season! Once spring has sprung, is harvested and shared among gardeners and our community. We welcome everyone to our gardening community, regardless of age or ability. Even our four-year-old members know how to wield a watering can and pull a weed!

The garden is more than a place to garden and there are many ways to get involved. We have a dedicated crew of volunteers that help with

In case you do not know what infrastructure projects and water acquisition. We even have a painter on board this season! We are seeking expertise in graphic design, and could also use technical support on our membership committee.

As a program of the Riverbend Community League, we strive to create and foster a gardening community in our neighbourhoods Brander Community Garden to promote personal, neighbourhood and environmental well-being. We partner and volunteer with other community gardens and are proud of our connections with the Complex Community Garden and Prairie Urban Farm.

> We hope you will join us this we will be in the garden on Saturday mornings from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon. For more information about events and activities, get in touch by searching "Brander Community Garden" on Facebook, contact Riverbend Community League or email us at brandercommunitygarden@gmail.



We welcome everyone to our gardening community, regardless of age or ability. Produce is harvested and shared among gardeners and our community.

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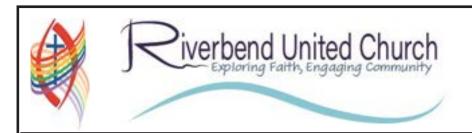


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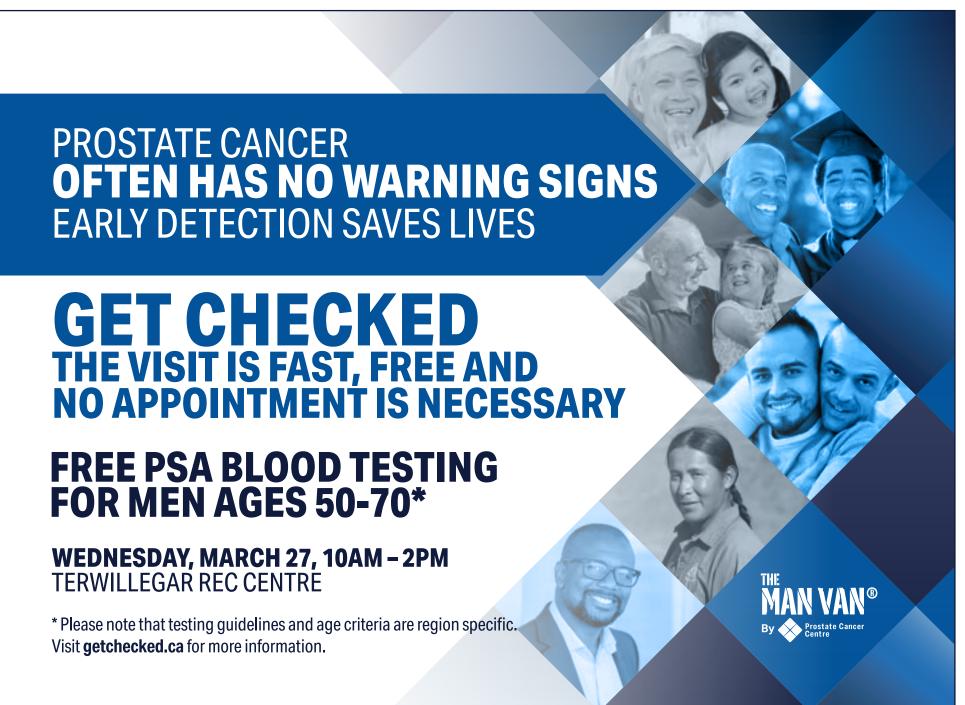
Our Holy Week services:

- Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> 10:30 a.m.
   Worship Service
- Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- Easter Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

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## **Ragg-Times**

# Pulling Together to Address Mental Health

Motion designed to improve online access to services

By Matt Jeneroux, MP, Edmonton Riverbend



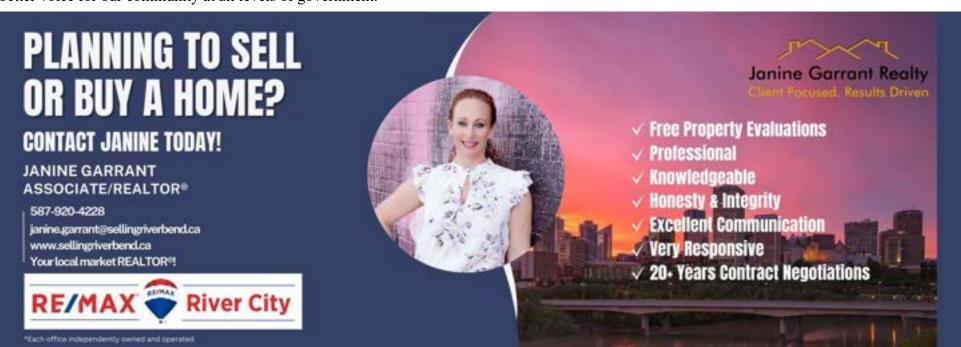
Tebruary has been a busy month in Ottawa as Parliamentarians have been back in action. I wanted to provide an update on some of my work, and how it affects our community.

As a Member of Parliament, the issues we debate are often national in their focus. However, local matters and the community continue to be the first priority in my work. That's why I am always so pleased to sit

down with municipal and provincial officials at our annual Southwest Edmonton Elected Officials Meeting. By coordinating with the different representatives of our area, we are all better positioned to meet the needs of residents and understand the challenges they face. In my years in office, it has always been a team approach on the south side which provides a better voice for our community at all levels of government.

I am also pleased to discuss a motion I will be putting forward regarding an increase in access to mental health services. It's no secret both within our community and across the country that Canadians are suffering from a mental health crisis. According to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, mental health concerns affect more than 6.7 million Canadians. In fact, one in two Canadians have had – or will have had – a mental illness by the time they reach 40 years of age.

Many Canadians are simply not receiving the care they need, and many do not know where to turn when they need support. My motion will call on the government to address this shortcoming by improving access to online mental health services, all in the hope of making access to these lifesaving services easier. As the process towards this motion pans out, I look forward to providing further updates.







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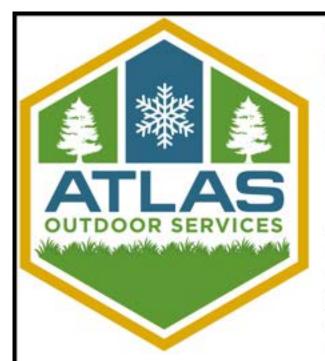
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# Learn the Art of Métis Finger Weaving

Session to be held at Riverbend library on March 26

e an Investi-gator this Spring Break at the Riverbend Branch of the Edmonton Public Library! Join us from Saturday, March 23 to Saturday, March 30 for free family-friendly classes, fun and activities.

On Tuesday, March 26 at 2 p.m., Métis artist Krista Leddy will lead a session on the art of finger weaving. Krista has roots in the historical Métis communities of St. Albert and Lac St. Anne. Currently calling amiskwaciywâskahikan (Edmonton) home, Krista is not only a renowned



artist on the international stage but also a passionate advocate for sharing her culture through storytelling and hands-on art. Join us for an engaging session as Krista guides you through the art of finger weaving, offering insights into the cultural significance of the Métis sash.

All materials for this hands-on experience will be provided. Learn more at epl.ca/spring-break.

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# Happy Spring, Everyone!

Or should I say, 'Happy budget season!'

By Tim Cartmell, Councillor, Ward pehêsiwin



he recent provincial budget was a good news/bad news budget for Ward pehêsiwin and southwest Edmonton.

The bad news is that the south Edmonton hospital was put on indefinite hold. This is a significant setback for our part of the city and for Edmonton generally. The last hospital built in Edmonton, in 1988, was the Grey Nuns Community Hospital. At the time, the city's

population was 583,000.

It's more than double that now, and the Conference Board of Canada projects that Metro Edmonton's population will grow to 1.74 million in 2027. It has grown by 100,000 people – the population of Red Deer – since 2021 alone.

How do we expect to provide a reasonable level of health care in 2027 for a system built for 1988? If we don't get started soon, when will we? It's not like this hospital will get less expensive to build five or 10 years from now. This is a profoundly disappointing and shortsighted decision.

In the good new department, Southwest Edmonton will see a new K-9 school in Cavanagh, a new K-9 school in Hays Ridge and a new 7-12

school in Glenridding Heights. It is my hope that we can see a small community centre added to that high school, something about which City Administration has been in discussions. Design dollars for a new K-6 school in Glenridding was also approved.

The provincial government also announced a top-up in funding for Terwillegar Drive Phase 3, which allows the overall project to be completed. Phase 3 consists of a second overpass and a pedestrian bridge over Anthony Henday Drive, resulting in a multi-modal corridor that includes dedicated transit lanes, three vehicle lanes in each direction, turn bays at each intersection and a multi-use trail from Windermere Boulevard to Whitemud Drive.

Work continues to finalize the City of Edmonton's budget for 2024-2026, and final deliberations on property tax increases will be complete by the end of March. The City's budget is heavily influenced by the provincial budget. Please refer to my blog at timeartmell.ca for more analysis and current updates.

As always, please feel free to contact me at 780-496-8130 or at tim. cartmell@edmonton.ca with any of your city related concerns.



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# A Profoundly Disappointing Provincial Budget

Spending does not keep up with inflation and population growth, and much needed hospitals and schools go unfunded

By Rakhi Pancholi, MLA, Edmonton-Whitemud



he story of Alberta has always been a story of opportunity. It is what has drawn people to our province for decades. A strong economy, affordable living, world-class public education and access to public health care have always been the true Alberta advantage.

Provincial budgets demonstrate the priorities of government and offer an opportunity to expand and build upon the strengths of our province. With

so many complex challenges facing us – from health care and education to climate change and energy transition to affordability and housing – we need to seize upon those opportunities now and not defer them to a later date and later generations.

The recently-tabled provincial budget chooses to hold us back as a province. Despite rapid population growth and already-strained health care and education systems, overall spending does not keep up with inflation and population growth. Health care spending is reduced by six per cent per Albertan. Education funding — already the lowest per-student rate in Canada — is reduced by another seven per cent per Albertan. This does not meet the challenges of Alberta or growing communities like Edmonton-Whitemud.

Like many of you, I was greatly disappointed to hear that the province is not moving forward with the South Edmonton hospital. It has been almost 40 years since a new hospital has been opened in our city and Edmonton will be 1,500 hospital beds short in the next two years. Delaying this critically important project once again is delaying an opportunity to make

real progress in improving access to health care.

I am pleased to see planning advance on a new, stand-alone Stollery Children's Hospital. I have long been proud to support this project and the work of the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation, including the many families and Junior Lemon Squeezers who set up lemonade stands every summer throughout our neighbourhoods. The people of Edmonton-Whitemud clearly support the Stollery and so do I.

But the fact is that we desperately need *both* of these critical hospitals. Pitting the projects against each other is unnecessary and does not meet the needs of our community. As your MLA, I will continue to call for both projects to move ahead. Similarly, the announcement of construction funding for a new high school in southwest Edmonton is a long overdue, but welcome, announcement. This is particularly the case given the incredibly full classes at all high schools in Edmonton, including Lillian Osborne High School, which has once again had to move to a lottery for next school Year.

But this budget funds just a fraction of the new schools that our province so desperately needs. I will continue to advocate for more new schools to be built in growing communities like ours.

I was hoping to see plans to address the affordability crisis Alberta families are facing, but this budget contains no plan to address housing or utility costs, and a promised cut in personal income tax has also been postponed.

As always, I welcome your thoughts. You can reach out to me anytime at Edmonton.whitemud@assembly.ab.ca.



# Join the Green & Gold

#### Two information sessions coming in April

ant to get your hands dirty? The Green & Gold Community Garden is always looking for new volunteers interested in being part of a vibrant, land-based learning community that is passionate about growing food. The garden is on the University of Alberta farm, near the Saville Centre. We welcome folks of all ages and abilities. No gardening experience is necessary!

Our market garden raises funds for Tubahumurize, an organization that supports socioeconomically

rant to get your hands dirty? The Green & Gold Community Garden is oking for new volunteers in being part of a vibrant, dlearning community that many local organizations that support our efforts to grow food using sustainable and regenerative organic gardening methods.

If you are interested in volunteering with us, we have two upcoming orientation sessions for new and returning volunteers:

- Sat, April 13, 12:30 2:00 pm
- Sat, April 20, 12:30 2:00 pm

These orientation sessions will be held at the Green & Gold Community Garden, (on 118 St. just

# Green&Gold Community Garden

south of 60 Ave. All are welcome to attend, and pre-registration is not needed. To attend the orientation, simply send an email to gggarden@ ualberta.ca and indicate which day you would prefer to attend.

For additional information about the garden or to join our



produce email list, please visit our website, greengoldgarden.com or email us at gggarden@ualberta.ca.





# The Current Market



...continued from p1

anything, really, that treats a house as an asset. She says homeownership is a long-term plan focused on where and how you want to live, not a get-rich-quick scheme. "Things can change rapidly," she says. "You can't hope to break even in the first five years, unless you're lucky."

Her second bit of advice is to ask yourself, when you're thinking about buying a house, whether you really need to move. "You'll have real estate fees, legal fees, property taxes, utility fees," she says. "If you qualified for \$400,000 three years ago and your income hasn't gone up, you won't be able to move without requalifying," she says, referring to federal rules that say for uninsured mortgages, borrowers must pass a "stress test." They need to qualify for a mortgage two percentage points above the actual mortgage contract rate (or at 5.25 per cent, whichever is higher). "And if you only put five or 10 per cent down on your current home, you'll have to requalify to port your own mortgage." Those factors, plus high interest rates, are keeping people in their current homes.

Munro says every segment of the market is struggling. She points out that the lower end of the market

and terms and down payments; of is actually integral to the operation of the whole. "If we can't move the \$400,000 to \$600,000 home, then the more expensive ones won't go," she says. And right now, the target demographic can't afford those

> She points out that falling interest rates – if that does happen – are a double-edged sword. When rates go lower, sellers raise the price. "If rates fall, and you're going to keep your house, that's great," she says. "But you can't sell high and buy low in the same market."

> Speaking of the Riverbend-Terwillegar neighbourhoods specifically, Munro points out that most homes are single-family detached, and that there's a large concentration of "executive" homes. She says the target demographic for most of Riverbend is the same as it was when Brander Gardens was first being developed in the 1960s: professional people, like lawyers, doctors and professors.

> She says their part of the market may be struggling the most. "I know one guy who paid \$2.2 million for a house less than five years ago and just sold for \$1.7 million," she says. "There's a big disconnect when you get to those levels."

# Sally's Advice for Mortgage Renewals

end of your mortgage term approaches, think about the next steps in your homeownership plan. Mortgage renewals present an opportunity reassess your financial situation, explore new options and secure favourable terms for the future.

**Understand** Renewals In Canada, most mortgages have a term length of up to five years, after which they must be renewed or paid off in full. When your mortgage term is nearing its end, your lender will provide you with a mortgage renewal agreement, outlining terms and conditions. Carefully consider your options and don't simply sign the offer.

Assess your Financial **Situation** Take the time to assess your current financial situation and future goals. Consider factors such as changes in income, fluctuations in interest rates and any upcoming major expenses. Understanding your financial situation will prepare you to negotiate favourable terms with your lender or seek out a new mortgage provider that aligns with your needs. Remember you do not have to requalify for

**Proactive** As the a renewal if you stay in your current home. You will need to requalify to change lender or port your mortgage to a new property.

**Explore Your Options** This includes negotiating a lower interest rate, adjusting the length of your mortgage term or even switching to a different type of mortgage product.

Timing Is Key Begin considering your mortgage renewal options four-to-six months before expiration of the term. This allows you time to explore different lenders, negotiate terms and make a well-informed decision without feeling rushed or pressured to sign.

Seek Professional Advice Navigating renewals be complex, and seeking professional advice can provide valuable insights. Consult with a mortgage broker, financial advisor, real estate lawyer or a realtor to ensure that you fully understand the implications of your renewal and to explore all available options.

Credit Counselling If you are struggling to make payments, there are options. Do not suffer in silence, pick the phone, make the

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# Provincial Budget a Story with Two Plotlines

Some progress made, but much to be done to address infrastructure backlog

By Julie Kusiek, Board Chair, EPSB



he provincial Budget 2024 was announced on February 29 and was quickly followed by metro school announcements on March 1. As Board Chair, I was able to provide remarks at the school infrastructure announcement in Calgary. For me, the infrastructure announcement is a tale of two stories: On one hand, we celebrate the progress that has been made both on new school construction and the modernization

and replacement of existing schools; on the other hand, we recognize the critical need for additional resources to address the backlog of infrastructure projects.

We welcome construction funding for the new Grades 7-12 school in Glenridding. It will bring 2,400 much-needed student spaces to an area of the city that is growing rapidly. It will help to take some pressure off several schools, including Lillian Osborne High School.

Three more community schools (McConachie 7-9, Rosenthal K-6 and Glenridding K-6) received design funding. Two mature neighbourhood schools – Delton and Spruce Avenue – were added to the provincial list with planning funding. Those schools have been on our capital planning list for 15 and 17 years, respectively, so I know these communities will welcome

this announcement. It is encouraging to see the provincial government recognize the need for both new school construction and modernization/replacement of existing infrastructure.

This leads to the second part of the story. In the next 10 years, our Division expects to grow by 60,000 students. We will need 50 new schools to accommodate this growth. Every project outlined in our three-year capital plan is critical to meeting this demand we are seeing today and ensuring that every student has access to a high-quality learning environment.

The Board of Trustees will be considering an updated Three-Year Capital Plan and 10-Year Facilities Plan this month. We are committed to working with the provincial government to find ways to address our critical need for new school space.

Given this springtime issue of the *Ragg-Times*, I would be remiss not to mention that Metro Continuing Education, through Edmonton Public Schools, offers summer programming. For example, is your teen looking to complete CALM or Physical Education 10 this summer? There are program offerings for students in elementary, junior high and high school, as well as programming for adults. Registration for summer will open on April 4. Learn more at metrocontinuingeducation.ca.

# Join us for the Community Run/Walk!

Meet neighbours, get some fresh air and enjoy treats from our sponsors

By Karin Shott

**Solution** of Save the Edmonton Federation of Community League's \$5 administration fee on a community league membership? Purchase your membership through the TRAC Community Office, located in the Terwillegar Recreation Centre. The office hours are Mondays and Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Thursdays 4-8 p.m., and the first and third Saturdays of the month from noon -4 p.m. To contact the office, please email yegtrac@gmail. com or call 780-439-9394.

Community League memberships always have an August 31 expiry date "When you purchase a Community League membership, you help your Community League bring residents together, improve community amenities, and enhance the quality of life for you and your neighbours." – efcl.org

TRAC Community Run/Walk 2024 We are excited to announce that this year's TRAC Community Run/Walk will be held on Sunday, May 26 at Mother Margaret Mary School (2021 Leger Road NW) at 9 a.m. Register at runningroom.ca. We are always in need of sponsorship and volunteers to make this event happen. Please contact the TRAC Community Office if you are able to help or if you have any questions.

## Save the Date for these Upcoming TRAC Events:

- TRAC AGM: Tuesday, April 23 (Lillian Osborne High School Library, 7 p.m.)
- Southwest Edmonton Farmers' Market Opening Day is Wednesday, May 15
- TRAC Community Run/Walk Sunday, May 26



The TRAC Community Run/Walk will be on Sunday, May 26 this year.





#### Brander Gardens

	Single Family	Condo	
Active	listings AV LP \$	6 listings AV LP \$164,383	
Sold (last 60 days)	1 listing AV SP \$650,000	2 listings AV SP \$242,750	

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#### Rhatigan Ridge

Active	Single Family 2 listings AV LP \$1,096,000	Condo 0 listing AV LP \$
Sold	5 listings	1 listing
(last 60	AV SP	AV SP
days)	\$711,000	\$354,500

#### Ramsay Heights

Active	Single Family 3 listings AV LP \$1,632,666	Condo 8 listings AV LP \$244,325
Sold (last 60 days)	6 listings AV SP \$573,316	0 listings AV SP \$265,100

#### **Brookside**

Active	Single Family 1 listing AV LP \$1,150,000	<u>Condo</u> N/A
Sold (last 60 days)	4 listing AV SP \$494,275	N/A



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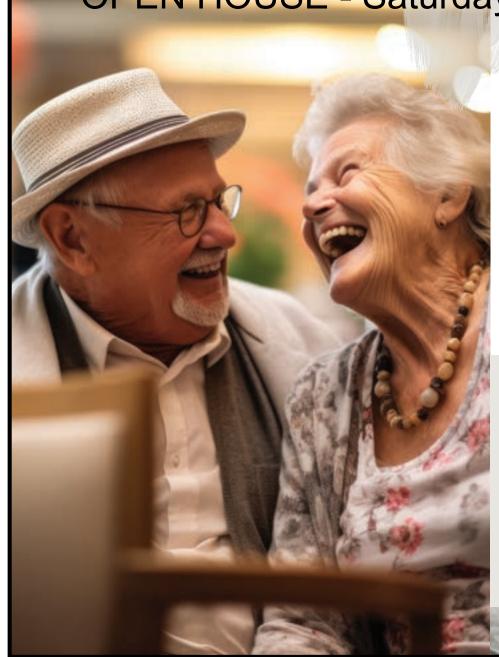
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# Do you value local food, sustainability and a connected community?

The farmers' market is seeking Community Partners

Edmonton Farmers' Market (SWEFM) has been a fixture in this community since 2011. You'll find us every Wednesday afternoon in the parking lot of the Terwillegar Community Rec Centre, from May 15 until Thanksgiving weekend (October 9th).

Why Support The Market? SWEFM is not just about local commerce; SWEFM was started and is still organized by community volunteers who are passionate about creating a welcoming gathering place that promotes sustainable, healthy living and fosters a sense of belonging.

We look to partner with likeminded neighbours, businesses and organizations that value local food, sustainability and a healthy, connected community. Our Community Partners provide much-needed support that helps pay for rising operational expenses, keeps vendor fees low, and supports us provide opportunities for community connection.

Here are just some of the ways that your support can help

- The non-profit Southwest Young Vendor Program Aims to inspire young entrepreneurs by providing them with a free platform to showcase and sell their products. By investing in the future of local youth, you can play a vital role in shaping a brighter, more entrepreneurial community.
  - Sprouts for Kids Designed to empower children to choose healthy foods and lifestyles. Each week, kids aged 4-12 receive a wooden token worth \$2 to spend at our fruit and vegetable vendors. They also receive a kid-friendly recipe made with seasonal ingredients to learn valuable cooking skills. Last year, over \$10,000 of local produce was provided to local kids!
  - Community Tent Supports local non-profits, charities and community groups by providing a dedicated platform to share their mission and initiatives. Help us foster community engagement and awareness about important local causes.
  - Support Economic Growth Many vendors at SWEFM are small businesses who face



numerous challenges in competitive food industry and rely on local markets as a primary source of income. We need your help to keep up with rising operational costs so we can ensure accessibility.

• Community Events We pride ourselves on thoughtfullyplanned events that celebrate cultural diversity and facilitate social connections which foster a stronger, more connected and resilient community.

value your support and recognize our Community Partners in many ways including social media, signage and in-



attendance! person Partnering with SWEFM demonstrates your commitment to community, local agriculture and the building of a sustainable local food system.

To learn more about our Community Partners Program, visit swefm.ca or email our market manager at manager. swefm@gmail.com!







**Elias Alwan has joined** SALLY MUNRO, bringing his skills to contribute to our continued growth and success!



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**Riverview Area** \$1,699,000 Scott Arthur brick 4,900 sqft 2 storey with 1124 sqft guest house on 1 acre treed ravine lot. ML# E4368605



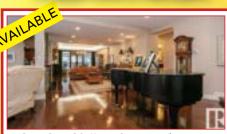
**Rural Parkland County \$2,198,000** 

On the North Sask. River. 4.87 7acres. 5,570 sq ft, 4 Bed, 4 Bath. Indoor pool. Must See! ML# E4347834

Lots in Donsdale starting at \$1,500,000 Dream opportunity to choose your own builder. 73 ft Frontage on Donsdale Drive. Fully serviced ML# E4366445



**Parkview** \$995,000 2,303 sf 2 storey + 850 sf finished basement. 3 bedrms 3.1 baths. Architecturally designed ML# E4367074



The Churchhill Exchange \$898,000 New York Style Loft Penthouse. 2366 sqft. 2 bed, 2 bath + den. 2 u/g stalls. ML# E4370089



Jagare Ridge \$614,900 Ridge. No Condo Fees! 2 Bed, 3 Bath. ML# E4366793



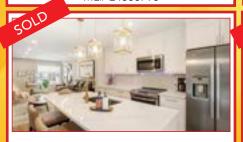
Carlton \$599,000 3 full bath. 2288 Sq Ft. 1/2 Duplex ML# E4371281



**EXCELSIOR in Ice District** \$499,900 corner SE unit. 1bed 1.5 bath. Must See! ML# E4362710



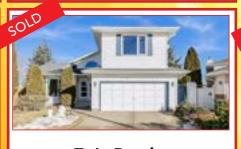
The Pearl \$449,900 sqft open concept condo. 2 u/g stalls. ML#<sup>'</sup>E4362469



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