

The Riverbend Ragg-Times

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Brookside Hall Gets a Splash of Colour

New mural features creatures you can find in the river valley

By April Fair (Chair, The Mural Committee) and Michael Ganley

On a beautiful fall afternoon, Dave Thomas dabs light-brown paint on the face of the giant squirrel he's creating on the side of Brookside Hall. "It's the hardest surface I've ever worked on," he says of the hall's extremely uneven concrete walls. "But overall I'm really happy with it and the community response has been great."

The mural wraps all the way around the hall. It features the squirrel on one side, a Canada Goose on another, a coyote on the third and a Blue Jay on the fourth. The design is tied together with a series of images of Alberta roses. "I used sepia tones for the flowers," he says. "If they were to be pink, the animals should also be their true colours and there would be a lot of texture and

colour to try and balance out. It was an aesthetic choice to keep it as clean and simple as possible."

The idea for the mural was conceived shortly after Brookside Hall was severely and extensively vandalized for the second time, on New Year's Eve, 2022. It was just days after the restoration work from the first vandalism had been completed and made for a difficult start to the new year.

In response to the swell of support from the community, the Riverbend Community League (RCL) organized the Spring Fling dinner to raise funds for Brookside Hall expenses. Some of the funds raised covered the cost of a new security system, with the remainder available for other hall initiatives, including the mural.

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Muralist Dave Thomas works on the giant squirrel on the east wall of Brookside Hall. The mural was one response to the damage vandals did to the hall in 2022.

Join us at The Cage!

Brander Community Garden is a beautiful, engaging and welcoming place for all

By Sheryl Bowhay

It has been a productive gardening season at Brander Community Garden (better known as The Cage). We don't rent plots; we grow vegetables and flowers that are shared amongst our gardeners and the community. In addition to taking produce to the weekly Complex Market, more than one passerby has been gifted with a zucchini, beans, Swiss chard or lettuce as they stroll by the garden. And we know that the raspberry patch spilling through the fence is a popular stop on neighbourhood walks!

We are proud of the beautiful and engaging environment that Brander Community Garden creates in our community. Greeting people

and having conversations about our garden is one of my favourite things about being at The Cage. We see many people take advantage of our picnic bench nestled in the shade. It has become an inviting place to stop and rest, visit and have a coffee. Our little library is well-used and has a constant rotation of "new" books. We would love to see more books for children on the bottom shelf. Please consider sharing your favourite kids' books with us!

We initiated a seed library this spring – perhaps a bit too late to be effective. However, we will try to improve on that concept next year.

This year, we invited our neighbours at the YMCA Daycare into

the garden to help water during the week. Who knew watering a garden could be so much fun?! If you are interested in gardening in a collaborative environment, please reach out to us at brandercommunitygarden@gmail.com or through Riverbend Community League at info@riverbendonline.ca.

Brander Community Garden is a program of Riverbend Community League. We do not have a fee, but we do encourage all our gardeners to have a league membership.

As our season begins to wind down, we have one more exciting event to share. Come take a stroll through the garden, bring a blanket or a chair, and join us for Concert



at the Cage on Saturday, September 21, 2024 from 6 – 8 p.m. We will feature local talent and musician-storyteller extraordinaire Ben Sures! We hope you will join us.

Getting your Docs in a Row

Real Property Reports and Title Insurance are crucial for Real Estate Transactions

By Sally Munro

In my 44 years as a real estate agent in Edmonton and surrounding areas, I've noticed a recurring challenge that often surfaces during closing, leaving both sellers and buyers grappling with compliance issues and holdbacks and creating unnecessary stress. It is paramount for both parties to engage in due diligence from the beginning of their transaction to navigate these challenges effectively.

Selling or purchasing a home represents a significant financial undertaking, typically the largest most people will encounter in their lifetimes. For buyers, understanding the property they intend to purchase is crucial, and for sellers, ensuring that the property complies with local regulations is equally important. Two indispensable tools in this process are the Real Property Report (RPR) and Title Insurance, each serving distinct but complementary roles.

Understanding Real Property Reports

An RPR is a legal document prepared by a licensed surveyor that maps out the property's boundaries and all improvements relative to these boundaries. This includes houses, garages, fences, sheds, gazebos, decks, and hot tubs, as well as noting any easements, rights-of-way, or encroachments from adjacent properties. The primary benefit of an RPR is to verify that the property complies with municipal regulations.

For buyers, an RPR offers peace of mind by revealing any potential issues that could impact the property's value or future usability. For instance, if a deck or sunroom was built without the necessary permits, this could lead to significant complications at closing. Resolving such issues before finalizing the purchase helps avoid legal or financial surprises later on.

Homeowners who have made improvements such as adding fences, decks, or gazebos should ensure their RPR is updated



to reflect these changes. Compliance with city permits is crucial, and failing to adhere can bring substantial repercussions.

The Role of Title Insurance

While an RPR focuses on the physical aspects of the property, Title Insurance protects against financial and legal risks associated with the property's title. This includes protection against fraud, forgery, unknown title defects and errors in public records. Title Insurance also covers losses from certain undisclosed encroachments or municipal bylaw violations discovered after purchase.

For example, if a previous owner incurred debts leading to a lien on the property, Title Insurance would potentially cover these costs, ensuring the new owner is not held financially responsible. Additionally, if a property's setbacks were inaccurately reported and require modifications, Title Insurance might cover these expenses. However, it is crucial to note that Title Insurance does not cover known defects.

Together, an RPR and Title Insurance create a comprehensive safety net. This dual approach significantly reduces the risk of costly surprises that can affect property ownership and enjoyment.

Happy selling and buying! For further details, feel free to contact me at your convenience or consult with your lawyer or real estate professional.

Riverbendonline.ca

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RCL Board Note



Falling for Fall

Join us on Community League Day, Sept. 21

By Miep Raedschelders, Past-President, Riverbend Community League

This summer, the Riverbend Community League, in collaboration with Brookside volunteers, transformed the west rink into an off-leash dog park – a new favourite spot for neighbourhood pets and their owners! A heartfelt thank you to John Farmer for his exceptional efforts in bringing this project to life.

Our community halls were buzzing with excitement all summer long! Kids learned to ride their bikes at camps and explored the beautiful river valley. In August, we watched in awe as Brookside Hall was transformed with a stunning mural by the super-talented local artist, David Thomas. This project, in collaboration with the Edmonton Mural Festival Society, has turned our hall into a true work of art! Hats off to April Fair for her passion and tireless dedication to making our community a better place!

As we transition into a beautiful Riverbend fall, we invite everyone to celebrate our furry residents and their humans at our Community League Day on September 21, from 1 - 4 p.m. Join us at RCL's Pets in the Park, where local vendors will offer products and services curated for the best pets in Edmonton. Enjoy food trucks, vendors, neighbours, the cutest fur-balls and plenty of smiles! Later that evening, unwind with live music at the Brander Community Garden's Concert at the Cage. Don't forget to bring your lawn chair!

We wish everyone a smooth back-to-school season and a wonderful



Leo (left) and Ollie playing at the Brookside off-leash dog park.

start to fall activities. Be sure to visit riverbendonline.ca for updates on programs, events and community initiatives. League members, please mark your calendars for the Community League AGM on November 25, 2024. If you're interested in a rewarding volunteer opportunity, consider joining the RCL Executive Committee – it's a great way to help shape your neighbourhood!

Lastly, please support your Community League by purchasing a membership. For more information on membership benefits, visit riverbendonline.ca and follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

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Riverbend Community League PRESENTS

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Help Celebrate Your Community League on Sept. 21!

“Making good neighbours so often starts with just getting out in the community and having an experience together.”

By David Berry, Communications and Engagement Advisor, EFCL

As organizations, Edmonton’s community leagues don’t really draw attention to themselves. Leagues and the people who run them are all about supporting others. Whether it’s maintaining the neighbourhood rink that welcomes everyone with a pair of skates – and has some you can borrow if you need – or giving local greenthumbs a place to swap seeds and stories, leagues fulfill their purpose when they allow people to reach higher, see further and do more than they would alone.

So it shouldn’t be any surprise that Community League Day, which takes place this year on September 21, is less about patting on the back and more about shaking hands and seeing new faces. Though the parties themselves are as diverse as the people that plan them and the neighbourhoods in which they take place, every celebration is ultimately about the one thing that’s at the heart of everything a community league does: bringing people together.

“We always have some amazing and creative people at our leagues who come up with ways to get their community engaged, but whether it’s a sports tournament or celebrating a hall renovation or just eating together, it’s the conversations that happen in between everything that really make the day worthwhile,” says Laura Cunningham-Shpeley, executive director of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL). As the umbrella organization for Edmonton’s 163 leagues, the EFCL helps support the dozens of parties that take place on Community League Day. “Neighbours make neighbourhoods, and making good neighbours so often starts with just getting out in the community and having an experience together.”

Though the community league movement has more than a century of history in Edmonton, the idea of setting aside a day just to celebrate the work of leagues is a relatively recent invention. Organizing city-wide events has long been a function of the EFCL, beginning with amateur



Over the years, the RCL and its members have helped run Art in the Park, community gardening initiatives and, of course, the two rinks by Brookside Hall. (Photos by Robert Bowhay and Michael Ganley)

sports tournaments in the 1930s. The EFCL has organized beauty pageants, soap box races and Community League parades. Over the years, though, much of that had fallen by the wayside, either because the events grew enough to be taken over by dedicated organizations or, as some at the time argued, the community spirit just wasn’t what it used to be.

Enter Community League Day in 2006. Combining the best of the neighbourhood-driven ethos that has made leagues such an integral part of their communities with Edmonton’s well-known love of a city-wide celebration, the day was designed to remind us that even when we’re

in different corners of the city, ultimately we’re all still in this together. As it’s grown into a staple of the city calendar – and the most important day for membership drives – it’s become proof that coming together never really goes out of style.

“We have had mayors come out of the community league movement, councillors, MLAs and a whole lot of community builders of all stripes,” says Cunningham-Shpeley. “There’s so much we can accomplish just by meeting each other and having some fun together.”

You can find out what your league has planned by visiting efcl.org/community-league-day.

Brander Gardens Street Lab Wraps Up

Thanks to all who helped solve our safety challenges

By Deann Stein Hasinoff, Brander Gardens Traffic Committee

The Brander Gardens Traffic Committee worked with the City of Edmonton Street Labs program to improve the safety for students walking, biking or scooting to school. The various steps in the program were completed over an 18-month period, with curb extensions and a narrow median being installed in 2022. The narrow median was made a permanent feature in 2023. Vibrant crosswalks were also part of the plan but were delayed owing to planned street resurfacing.

In June of this year, the designs of students from Brander Gardens

Elementary, Tempo and Riverbend Junior High were painted at four crossing areas in the neighbourhood. This brings the Street Labs project to an end. Many thanks to the residents who provided feedback at various points in the process. The Traffic Committee would also like to thank the City of Edmonton Street Labs Coordinators who facilitated the work and City of Edmonton Safe Mobility Engineers who helped solve our safety challenges. Finally, a special thank you to the traffic committee members who helped bring these improvements to Brander Gardens.



Students from Brander Gardens Elementary, Tempo and Riverbend Junior High gave a splash of colour to the project.

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Volunteers at the RCL felt a mural on the building would symbolize resilience after the attacks, and help the building be viewed positively once again. In addition to the vandalism, the exterior of the building was not inviting, having no windows and bare concrete walls, with graffiti stains on one wall. The RCL learned that murals help deter vandalism as they remove the blank canvas of an unpainted wall and signal that the building is valued in the community.

In the spring of 2023, community members formed a small committee to explore options for beautifying the hall's exterior and outside sources of funding. The RCL approved the committee's motion to move forward with commissioning a mural for the hall, with the cost split between a grant from the City of Edmonton and proceeds from the Spring Fling.

The committee presented preliminary information about the mural project on Community League Day, 2023. It also conducted two surveys of community members to solicit input, and connected with the Edmonton Mural Festival. The EMF helped the RCL manage the project, including assisting with the grant application and with the selection of Thomas, who is an Edmontonian but has worked as a muralist across North America.

Thomas says the EMF painted the walls white to prepare them for his work. Then he started drawing the animals with spray paint and used an airless commercial sprayer to do large fades of colour. For the finishing work, he goes back and forth between spray and brush. "The ledges catch too much overspray," he says. "It's slow going, but it's coming together."



Thomas says the concrete walls of Brookside were the hardest he's ever worked on. "But overall I'm really happy with it and the community response has been great," he said.

The mural will be finished with an anti-graffiti coating which will allow for easier removal of any potential graffiti.

A Summer of Joy and Tragedy

The pleasure drawn from community events is tempered by Jasper's wildfire tragedy

By Rakhi Pancholi, MLA, Edmonton Whitemud



Another busy summer in Edmonton has drawn to a close! We are lucky to live in this beautiful Festival City. There were multiple events in our community like Terwillegar's Canada Day and Summer Carnival, the ground-breaking of the Oak Hills Community Hub, the rink fundraiser for Brookview Community League, the Southwest Edmonton Farmers' Market and – one of my favourites – Simply Supper's Lemonade Stand Day

in support of Stollery Children's Hospital.

While there was much to enjoy, there was also loss. Like many of you, I am reeling from the devastating impact of wildfires in Alberta this summer, particularly in Jasper. My family is not alone in having so many wonderful memories of time in Jasper. While we're grateful the loss was not as widespread as originally feared, we all want to support our neighbours in Jasper who have lost their homes and businesses and work to rebuild. Donations made to the Red Cross in Alberta will be matched by both the provincial and federal governments.

I want to thank our wildland firefighters, first responders and community organizations for their work in this crisis. In particular, it is tragic that one young wildland firefighter lost his life protecting our province. Our hearts go out to his family, colleagues and friends.

I am more determined than ever to work with my colleagues in the legislature for changes that will provide more support for both preventing

and fighting wildfires in the future. This means better collaboration with federal agencies, all orders of government and Indigenous communities.

The need for wildland firefighters now exists year-round and these firefighters deserve access to the same occupational health and safety protections as their municipal counterparts, including presumptive cancer coverage. And we must mitigate the growing implications of climate change which impact the effects of wildfires.

It's a busy time for parents, kids and school staff as we get back into the fall routine. As always, I look forward to my favourite part of my job – talking to students in their classrooms about my role as their MLA and the work of government. I love their questions and, even more, their ideas!

I continue to be concerned about the growing pressure on schools in our community from increasing enrollment and complexity without adequate funding or new schools. And I know many of you remain deeply concerned about the state of Alberta's healthcare system. Seven hundred thousand Albertans do not have a family doctor and there have been some devastating stories of people right in our community who did not get the cancer care they deserved. These priorities are never far from my mind.

The work of connecting and listening will also be central to my new role as Deputy Leader of the Alberta NDP. I am excited to be taking a leading role in the work of the Official Opposition to connect with Albertans in every corner of our province.

As always, I want to hear from you. Please reach out to edmonton.whitemud@assembly.ab.ca if you have any concerns.

Brookview Community League Update

Join us for our fall programs and activities!

Autumn skies and pumpkin pies (spiced lattes too)! Back to school for all the kids, too, so keep an eye out on the roads.

Community League Day, Saturday September 21 An event for the whole family, Community League Day is almost here! There will be food trucks, a bouncy house, face-painting, music and an outdoor movie! Check the BCL website for schedule and details. Bring or renew your membership to receive all perks for the day! Interested volunteers, please contact BCL through the website.

50-50 Raffle – Build the

Rink! BCL is putting on a 50/50 raffle this year to fundraise for our upcoming rink upgrade. We will be selling tickets at Community League Day. You can also check the website for purchasing raffle tickets in advance.

Fall BCL Hall Programs BCL is happy to offer in-person, Restore Your Core yoga classes with Natasha Damascuse Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. Classes start October 3 and end December 5 (no class Oct 31). The cost is \$165 for BCL members and associate members. Please check the BCL website for more details. Sign up to register early to ensure this class

proceeds.

Paint Night Paint Night is being planned. Check the BCL website for more announcements.

Rink Committee Updates Thank you to all attendees, supporters and donors for our Drinks for the Rink event in August. This event raised funds for our upcoming CFEP grant for rink construction.

Gardens Our newly formed Garden Committee is busy planning for possible community garden spaces in 2025. Get your seeds ready!

AGM Announcement We welcome all current and future



BCL members to our AGM at the Brookview Community Hall on October 2 at 7 p.m..

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

Look out for more information on our upcoming community newsletter!



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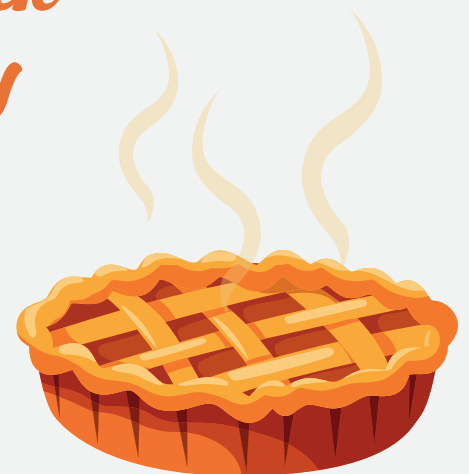
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Getting Back in the Saddle

Critical work includes advocating for new schools and sustainable, adequate and predictable funding

By Julie Kusiek, Chair, Edmonton Public School Board



Heading back to school always feels a bit like the new year to me. It's a time of excitement, anticipation and goal-setting. As a kid, autumn was my favourite season because of back-to-school eagerness and the beautiful changing leaves on the trees. As an adult, it's still one of my favourite times of year.

A huge, hearty welcome to all 121,000 students heading into the classroom with Edmonton Public Schools this year. That's 6,600 additional students from last year at this time. It's a joy and honour to have you learn with us! Thanks to staff for their hard work preparing for what will be a great school year ahead.

The Board of Trustees will continue our strong governance and advocacy to support our

2022-2026 Strategic Plan. Our mission remains clear: Our commitment to high-quality public education serves the community and empowers each student to live a life of dignity, fulfilment, empathy and possibility.

Critical work will be continuing to advocate for new schools and sustainable, adequate and predictable funding that keeps pace with rising operating costs and student enrolment. I've heard from families in the Riverbend area with concerns about large class sizes, which is one way unprecedented growth and lack of space is showing up. Large class sizes are not ideal, but Division staff continue to work diligently and creatively to provide the best possible learning environment for your children. We see evidence of this work through student achievement data, which can be found at epsb.ca.

In early October, trustees will decide how to

distribute an additional \$22 million in funding announced by the province over the summer months so it most effectively supports student learning. While outside of the regular provincial budget cycle, this funding is welcome as it helps to cover some of the gap between actual student enrolment and funding under the weighted moving average formula. Stay tuned for more details by checking the "Trustee" tab on School Zone, signing up for my newsletter at juliekusiek.ca or keeping up to date on board meetings which are live streamed at epsb.ca.

It's an honour to serve as your trustee and I wish everyone a joyful year of learning, friendships and academic success.

If you ever need to get in touch, please feel free to email me at trustee.julie.kusiek@epsb.ca.

Markowski and Serdachny both Drafted into PWHL

The two Riverbenders report to Ottawa camp in November

By Michael Ganley

It's not every day that two Riverbend hockey players get drafted into a professional league, but it happened on June 10.

That day, in Columbus, Ohio, Stephanie Markowski and Danielle Serdachny were drafted into the Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL). Remarkably, considering that the two have been best friends since Grade 7, both went to the newly-named Ottawa Charge.

Markowski, who was drafted 20th overall, was in Columbus with her dad. "It was pretty cool for him to see me get drafted," she says. "A lot of my teammates were there, too, including Dani, so it was really awesome."

Serdachny, who went second in the draft, was there with both her parents. Friends and family of both athletes were able to watch on YouTube. "It was a nerve-wracking and exciting day for me and everyone who was involved in my hockey career," says Serdachny.

The two women have followed remarkably similar paths. Both went to the same preschool (although they don't remember each other from then). They grew up playing on boys teams and against each other. They really got to know each other when they started in Grade 7 at Riverbend Junior High. They quickly became best friends, and made their way through camps, leagues and Hockey Canada programs together.

Their new coach in Ottawa is also their

old coach. Calgary's Carla MacLeod first got to know Markowski and Serdachny in 2017, when she was coaching for Hockey Alberta. She coached Alberta's gold-medal-winning team at the Canada Games in Red Deer in 2019. "Dani and Steph were two really important players for our team," says MacLeod. "I've either coached them or coached against them for years and am well-versed in their game."

She says Steph is a tough competitor who won't get pushed around. "She's a physical player with a real offensive upside," says MacLeod. As for Dani, she's developed into one of the best young hockey players in the world. "She's a consummate professional for such a young player," says MacLeod. "She's a diligent athlete, she pays attention to everything and her game speaks for itself. She's a dominant player in the sport."

Serdachny has signed a three-year contract. Markowski will be looking to play herself into a contract at training camp.

The PWHL is going into its second season, building on a first that saw the league set records for attendance and revenue for a women's league. It's a big step up from previous women's leagues, a point not lost on the newest pros. "We've both been around Hockey Canada camps and heard some of the older women talk about the different leagues and how much more put together this



Riverbenders Stephanie Markowski, left, Brooke Serdachny and Danielle Serdachny at a hockey camp at Kinsmen Arena.

one is," says Sercachny. "It reminds us of how fortunate we are to have this option."

The two women have been training together in the offseason and coaching at girls' hockey camps. They'll head to Ottawa in October to find an apartment – together, of course – and get ready for training camp, which starts in November.

As for when we'll get a PWHL team in Edmonton, nothing to report there. "The appetite for the sport is growing," says MacLeod. "This league has raised the bar to a level we've never seen before, and hopefully with that comes the demand and the opportunity to expand. I can assure you this Alberta girl would love to see teams come out west."

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Dr. Michael Lee is quietly passionate about volunteering and building a better world

By David Rumbold

Dr. Michael Lee has been a big contributor to Edmonton for decades, but has always been happy to stay under the radar. While he chooses to not seek out attention, it's still amazing that he doesn't have a higher profile in Edmonton. He has a long list of achievements and shows no signs of slowing down!

Michael was born and raised in Hong Kong and came to Edmonton to attend the University of Alberta. He studied physiology all the way to the PhD level, but switched to dentistry, which became his vocation. He practiced in the Pleasantview Shopping Centre for almost 50 years! Michael brought in a partner a few years ago, and he's recently stepped back from dentistry practice and is retiring.

Michael and his wife, Helena, are long-term residents of southwest Edmonton, and this is where they raised their daughter and two sons. Two of their children and their families have settled in Edmonton, with the other in California. Helena is a businessperson, owning and running up to three restaurants here in Edmonton for a time, amongst

other ventures.

Michael is quietly passionate about volunteering in the community, describing it as his hobby. He studies history and the many lessons it teaches. He says society doesn't automatically move in the right direction – it takes the involvement of citizens to make good things happen.

He is passionate about supporting the Edmonton and Canadian-Chinese communities and wants to continue to help new immigrants settle here.

The list of organizations Michael has supported is long! He's volunteered with the Edmonton Chinese Benevolent Association since his UofA days, most recently serving as chair (six years) and vice-chair (currently). He is the founding chair of the Greater Edmonton Chinese Community Foundation, which fills an important role as owner and manager of senior's residences and supports community events and celebrations. He is a founding member and treasurer of the Guizhou Rose Charitable Society, which raises money and gathers medical supplies for



Michael says society doesn't automatically move in the right direction – it takes the involvement of citizens to make good things happen.

medical care in remote, underserved communities in China. Over \$1 million dollars has been raised! He has served as a national director with the National Congress of Canadian Chinese and participated in numerous dental missions in South America, Africa and China. He's served on the Province of Alberta's Health Quality Council in the recent past, and currently serves on the Edmonton Police Commission. When I asked Michael

what recognitions he's received in the past he didn't recall what they were. They weren't important to him!

Michael says it's important to participate in community-building activities and not assume that things will be okay or that others will step in. He says it's up to each of us to help improve our society in ways that are important to us, and he has certainly lived these values in his life.



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Happy Birthday to Brookview Montessori

The centre is celebrating 30 years of serving families in Southwest Edmonton

By Sherri Jaillet-Martinez

Since our opening in the spring of 1994, the Brookview Montessori Child Development Centre (BMCDC) has striven to create a nurturing environment in our early learning and afterschool care programs. As with the community we serve, we have evolved and grown in the provision of programs that result in a lifetime of learning success. One thing that always remains constant is our love and dedication to the children and families we serve.

Looking back this week, we recalled fond memories of vibrant family events and interesting and fun field trips and playground crawls that staff, children, parents and extended family have enjoyed over the years. We look forward to continuing these traditions.

A sign of our success is the long tenure of

numerous educators that have served the centre faithfully over the years. These exceptional educators have brought so many valuable skills and teaching styles that have enhanced the diversity of learning experiences over the years. BMCDC continues its tradition to hire the most qualified and certified educators to teach and provide guidance to eager young minds.

It's been our pleasure and honour to be a part of our community and support so many families in their lives. It's always a special occasion when a former family and their grown children come to visit and update us on their busy lives. Children that have moved on from the program are beginning to join the program again, this time with children of their own.

We appreciate your well wishes and will



Brookview Montessori's first summer field trip to the Edmonton Valley Zoo.

continue to work hard to support the community and Brookview family. We can't wait to see what the next 30 years holds!

Building Safer Communities Together

Edmonton Neighbourhood Watch fosters a sense of safety and belonging

By Ade Abiona, Program Coordinator, ENW

At the Edmonton Neighbourhood Watch Program Society (ENW), our vision is for every individual to feel secure in their neighbourhood. Our mission is to build safer communities by providing crime prevention information and supporting neighbourhood-level programs that encourage awareness, education, inclusion, and participation.

ENW is a non-profit organization served by a Board of Directors and staff members. Our work would not be possible without our volunteer board members, community representatives and volunteers.

How can you start a Neighbourhood Watch? An official Neighbourhood Watch Program is established within a community or area with a volunteer serving as an ENW Community Ambassador Representative (ENW Rep). While some Community Leagues have a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator or Safety Coordinator on their Board, it is not mandatory for an ENW Rep to be part of a Community League.

Becoming an ENW Rep is a straightforward process: have a brief meeting with ENW to get

acquainted, complete a membership application and apply for an EPS Police Information Check, and attend an in-person training session at our office. Interested representatives can contact ENW via email at admin@enwatch.ca or by phone at 780-433-7458 to start the free process.

What is expected of an ENW Rep? ENW Reps in each community are encouraged to get to know their neighbours and build strong relationships, implement at least one ENW program in their community, act as a point of contact for community residents and ENW and participate in ENW's Annual General Meetings.

ENW offers a variety of free resources and programs designed to keep our communities safe and vibrant. They include:

Awareness Social media campaigns on crime prevention strategies and cybersecurity workshops for all ages.

Block Party ENW supports block parties with crime prevention resources and fun activities, and invites law enforcement and government representatives.

Door Sticker Stickers for homes and businesses to demonstrate community

commitment to safety and crime prevention awareness.

New Home Development Resources for new homeowners to address construction site-related crimes.

Senior Safety and Fraud Prevention Workshops to help seniors stay safe at home, on the street, in their vehicles and online.

Street Signage Signs at neighbourhood entrances to deter crime and signal community vigilance.

Walk Your Block Encourages residents to familiarize themselves with their surroundings and report suspicious activity.

ENW is continually developing new programs to address rising safety concerns in Edmonton. Stay connected with us to receive the latest updates.

Please note: ENW is not a patrol group and does not promote or support vigilantism. Volunteers who harass or discriminate against others based on ethnicity, age, sexuality, etc., will be removed.

Update from Parliament

Cuts to Labour Market Transfer Agreement hurt Albertans

By Matt Jeneroux, MP, Edmonton Riverbend



As MPs will soon return to Parliament, I'm happy to provide a summary from summer, and insights into what can be expected going back in September.

Looking to the Fall, Parliament will be quite busy as we continue to focus on the cost-of-living increase. This continues to be the top issue raised to our office. Just last month, the Fraser Institute published a study showing that Canadians pay more in taxes, on average, than they do on food, clothing and shelter. At the same time, the federal

government continues to cut back on assistance to Albertans, most recently cutting out some \$70 million from the Labour Market Transfer Agreement (LMTA) that supports job programs in Alberta. Decisions like these are damaging, and something that my colleagues and I will focus on during the weeks ahead.

Each year I also share our annual summary from our office on the number of case files we attend to over the year. This year, we have assisted in nearly 800 cases, from CRA issues to passports to immigration files. Additionally, we continued to support countless community members with other various federal matters. More details on this analysis can be found on my

website.

Each year I sit down with Edmonton's Southwest Police Division in Windermere to gather first-hand accounts of the issues that matter most to our community. With crime being another key issue we often hear about in my office, these interactions are key as we head back to Ottawa.

Parliament is expected to return on September 16 and I look forward to providing further updates on my work as your MP, as well as some updates from the House of Commons. In the meanwhile, should you have any questions on these or any other federal matters, please do not hesitate to contact my office at matt.jeneroux@parl.gc.ca.



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Washday Recollections

Seniors Connection News for those 55+

By Colleen Crozier

Do you remember the first time you did laundry by yourself? I do. What joy! What a challenge! What a wonderful sense of accomplishment when it was done!

My first time was in the basement of our city home. The family had deposited a week's laundry on the floor in the appropriate pile: whites, colours, darks and really dirties. For washing, we had a tub wringer model on wheels, powered by an electric motor. For rinsing, a folding bench that held two large square water tubs. Rinso, Breeze and Lux took turns in our washer, depending on which soap had an existing offer for a free piece of china, stainless steel cutlery or a tea towel.

On my first solo "flight," I pushed the washer close to the water taps and plug-in, and connected the hoses and cable. After filling the two rinse tubs with cold water, I added bluing to one, then filled the washer with hot water and added detergent.

I started with the least-soiled items, the whites. After pushing them under the water, I flipped the agitator lever and watched as the "dolly" stirred and pummeled the clothes. Soon I stopped that action and turned on the wringer. With great trepidation, I held the edge of each piece against the space between the two wringer rollers, watching them "eat" the clothes, and praying that they would not eat my arm. Into the first rinse water, swing the wringer 90°, through the wringer again, into the second rinse, through the wringer once more and into the waiting laundry basket.

Whites done, I repeated it all, moving through the piles of lightly-



SWESA members and the Board of Directors gathered in early summer for SWESA's Annual General Meeting. Smiles, information sharing and food for all.

soiled colours, ending with the darks, and then the very dirty ones.

I recalled thinking about my farm relatives who had real dirt, the kind that earth, animals and machinery create. They had no electricity, so they coped with a gas-powered motor on the washer, hauling pails of water from the well and heating it on the stove.

I was nine years old that first time. Now, considerably older, as I press the buttons on my washer and dryer, I think of the gazillion times I've done laundry. I'm grateful. And I still feel the joy, the new challenges that aging has brought, and that wonderful sense of accomplishment when the laundry is done!

Come join us at South West Edmonton Seniors Association (SWESA). You'll find kindred spirits, fun activities, and learning opportunities. We're housed in the William Lutzky YMCA. The laundry can wait.



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Tough Budget Season Coming

Naming rights to Terwillegar Community Recreation Centre sold to Booster Juice

By Tim Cartmell, Councillor, Ward pihêsiwin



I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and had a chance to relax and recharge.

Once again, the focus at Edmonton City Council will be on budgets and property taxes. On August 14, City Administration

reported that the 2025 property tax increase was forecast at between nine and 13 per cent, pending adjustments this fall.

I share your frustration. Property tax increases have been far too high, and simply cannot continue to rise at this rate.

This discussion was not an approval of a tax increase. It was an initial report on where the City's finances are headed. And while that report has many dark clouds contained within it, the good news (?) is that the discussion is starting

early and all of the Council has been made aware of the need to finally start making some tough decisions.

Actual budget deliberations and final decisions will be made in late December. The 2025 mill rate will be set in March 2025.

As I have said many times previously, for far too long, the City has simply taken the previous year's budget and tweaked it. We need to completely rebuild the budget, and that means starting with a deliberate examination of what services the City should offer, what investments and amenities the City should pay for, and what it should not. From there a new budget should be developed that supports only those critical services.

Ultimately this will not get better until we completely rebuild our budget.

On August 14, the City announced the name sale of Terwillegar Community Recreation

Centre. It will be renamed Booster Juice Recreation Centre. The term of the agreement is for 10 years, and is the first name sale agreement of a city-operated recreational facility. More such sales are anticipated.

I understand Edmontonians may have concerns with this facility name sale. However, the City continues to face financial difficulties and we need to consider other revenue sources. The proceeds from the name sale will be used to offset operating expenses of City-owned and -operated recreational services.

Should you have questions or comments regarding any municipal concerns, please feel free to contact my office at 780-496-8130 or emailing tim.cartmell@edmonton.ca.

Pets in the Park

Join us at Ramsay Park from 1-4 p.m. on Community League Day, Saturday, September 21

By Priya Nelson

Enjoy an event catered towards your pet! Bring your leashed pet for a fun afternoon spending Community League Day (September 21) exploring the amazing pet-centric businesses in, around and servicing the Riverbend area.

We have a variety of businesses participating:

Pet Planet Riverbend Square Pet Planet will be onsite and will have raffle prizes, goodies, samples and offer free pet nail trims for the event.

ViewPoint Photography/Pet Portraits Come meet this local pet photographer!

All Around Hound Does your dog need training? Boarding? Daycare? Grooming? All Around Hound has you covered!

Dog Jogs Come meet them and learn about dog walking, cat sitting and paw-ty break services!

Art Mutch Shop for canvas prints, framed prints, posters, greeting cards and more.

Design by Dodge Handmade crochet plushies for everyone – you and your pet.

Mung Kitchen Hand-made pet treats. Human grade, healthy and pretty!

Oh My Dog spa Boutique pet spa and grooming services!

Woof Wizards Dog Training A certified pet trainer will be on site to

answer all your questions!

Cheery Cat Cafe Edmonton's first cat boutique! Come meet the folks that will dote on your cat.

Cat man Cat furniture With over 25 years in the business, Ron knows how to build lasting pet furniture.

Yeg Mala A creative business that has some great pet charms.

Doody Hunters Unique pet and waste management services.

Superbowls Coated, stainless steel pet bowls and collars that you can personalize.

Grandma's Girls Petwear! Kerchiefs, scrunchies and other handmade items.

Wild Birds A variety of bird food and feeders to bring joy to your outdoor space.

Safeway Riverbend Square On site to provide local dog treats!

DaVinci Cone, Tangents Treats and **The Dog Hotdogs** will also be on site to satisfy hungry pets and humans.

Thank you to the Pets in the Park team (Terra Cook, Gloria Michalchuk and Melissa Walker) for their hard work getting this inaugural event off the ground! We look forward to seeing you all. Come say hi to us at the Riverbend Community League tent!

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