

The Riverbend Ragg-Times

A PUBLICATION OF THE RIVERBEND COMMUNITY LEAGUE

SEPTEMBER 2025 | VOL. 43, NO. 1

Your Candidates for Edmonton City Council

Six hopefuls are vying for your vote and a seat in the big chamber on October 20

By Michael Ganley



Your Council candidates from left to right: Mohammad Ali Kamal. Sara Awatta, Michael (Mike) Elliott, Jackie Liu and Rupesh Patel. Missing: Larry Langley.

The Edmonton municipal election is on October 20. It will be the first under new provincial rules that allow donors to contribute up to \$5,000 to a candidate (or a series of candidates) and another \$5,000 to a registered political party. Corporate and union donations have also been reintroduced, which similarly have a \$5,000 aggregate spending limit for individual candidates and parties.

The only party running a candidate in Ward pihêsiwin in the upcoming election is Better Edmonton, which has been put together by its current councillor, Tim Cartmell, who is running for mayor. Six people are vying to replace him as Ward pihêsiwin’s representative.

Mohammad Ali Kamal alikalama.ca

Mohammad Ali Kamal is a longtime volunteer in Edmonton, having served over many years as vice-president and president of the Duggan Community League. He also heads the team that

puts together the annual Duggan Mothers’ Day Soccer Tournament, even though he moved to Windermere in 2021. “Some connections run too deep to break,” he says. “And that tournament has become a celebration of community that brings families together every year.”

Kamal says he will bring his experience as a project manager in construction to city projects. “When you look at any capital project, such as Terwillegar Drive, I don’t know if it’s going to be done by the time I retire,” he says. “They work only nine-to-five for five days a week. Where in the world do you do capital projects five days a week?”

He also says the city needs to clean up its processes, including the way they handle overtime for employees of the Edmonton Transit System. “They’re not hiring extra people or part-time workers so the people working have to work overtime,” he says. “Even a first-year student would know how to do scheduling.”

Sara Awatta saraawatta.com

Sara Awatta moved from Ottawa to Edmonton 12 years ago in search of opportunity. She quickly found a good job and was able to start her new life. “That’s not the reality now for many Edmontonians who want to start a family or move on to the next stage of their life,” she says.

Awatta has run her own consulting business for the last decade, focusing on strategic direction and operational effectiveness for non profits and small businesses. She is a community advocate for small, local businesses, women in business and providing economic opportunities to women and youth. “One of the best ways to help people is to provide economic access,” she says. “How do we create opportunity, and provide the resources and retraining to make the economy more accessible?”

Awatta is critical of the way the city has grown into areas like Windermere and Chappelle,

continued on p.6...

Meet You at the Dog Park!

The Terwillegar Dog Park isn’t just a fabulous place for our furry friends to enjoy — it has a rich human history as well.

By Kathy Trepanier

How often do you find yourself saying to a friend, “I’ll meet you at the dog park”? Do you ever wonder about the history of the Terwillegar Dog Park and what people walked the same paths that you now enjoy?

This naturalized 430-acre park lies on a point of land surrounded on three sides by the North Saskatchewan River. Thousands of years ago, Indigenous Peoples of various Nations were the original inhabitants and first stewards of the river valley. Just across the river from the dog park, near the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant, Indigenous artifacts were found dating back

9,000 years! You can learn more about this part of history at the “Indigenous Peoples Experience” in Fort Edmonton Park.

By 1795, Fort Edmonton was established, followed by the town of Edmonton in 1892 and the city of Edmonton in 1904.

The city’s main source of lumber and coal was the river valley. By the 1900s, most of the river valley was cleared of trees for lumber. Just imagine our beloved dog park without trees. Coal may have also been mined at the Dog Park as it still exists in the bedrock. Over time, the city sought resources from further away and the river



Photo courtesy of Janet Antwright, Carter family descendent. Allegra Carter on the Riverside Farm with her children Don and Margaret.

continued on p.8...

Your Vote, Your Voice

Be sure you vote on or before October 20 to have your say

By Melissa Walker

The Edmonton Election is October 20, 2025 and the September edition of the Riverbend Ragg-Times is your election issue! In this issue, you'll hear from all Councillor candidates that responded to our requests before the print deadline. If you want to learn more about the municipal election, scan the "Edmonton Election" QR code on the right.

In Micheal Ganley's front page story, you'll see a few words from every candidate for Council about what's important to them this election cycle. In addition to Michael's article, as editor, I reached out to all six Council candidates to ask them to write something about their own personal experiences and, whether in their career, as parents or as volunteers, you'll see that many of them had something to say.

I was unfortunately unable to locate all of your school Trustee candidates before the September 5 deadline, so be sure to look

them up using the "Election Candidates" QR code on the right. Nominations closed on September 22.

There are some key dates you should know about this election. The official election period runs from September 22 to October 20, 2025. If you can't vote on election day (October 20), be sure to vote in advance from October 7 to 11. If you are unable to vote during any of the aforementioned dates, you can apply for a special ballot. Requests to receive special ballots by mail must be made by 4:30 p.m. on October 13 and requests to pick up special ballots in-person must be made by 7 p.m. on October 20.

To find out where to vote and at what times as well as what you'll need to vote, scan the "Voting in the Election" QR code on the right.

Whatever you do this election, make sure you get out and vote. Your voice matters and voting is your chance to be heard.



Edmonton Election



Election Candidates



Voting in the Election

Riverbendonline.ca

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President's Message



What is a Community League Anyway?

Unique to Edmonton, community leagues provide an organized way for communities to gather, recreate, and enact change at a local level.

By Mike Lupien

With Community League Day just wrapped up and membership month still underway, it's reasonable to reflect on what community leagues are and the value they provide.

Community leagues are a form of local governance that is unique to Edmonton. While other Canadian cities have relationships with local associations and organizations, none have the same relationship Edmonton has between the community and the municipal government.

It all began in 1917 when a community club was formed in Crestwood for residents to advocate to the city for services and programs they needed. Today, there are 163 community leagues across the city that bring residents together through public engagement, special events or celebrations. They also coordinate recreation opportunities and programs of local interest. Leagues develop and maintain amenities like community halls and outdoor rinks, and they work with local leaders at all levels of government to represent community interests.

The Riverbend Community League is

very busy. It represents the communities of Brookside, Brander Gardens, Ramsay Heights and Rhatigan Ridge. You may have been to our halls in Brookside and Rhatigan Ridge for a social event or for one of many programs held there like Girl Guides, Karate, yoga, daycare or YMCA child care. Maybe you've skated on our rinks at Brookside in the winter or brought your dog to the off-leash park in the summer. We have a community garden beside St. Monica School and host the Green Shack program in our local parks. You may have attended one of our events like the Concert in the Cage, the Family Skate, and Esports, or you've read all about it in *the Riverbend Ragg-Times*. There is a lot going on! And it's incredible that all of this gets done by volunteers.

A nice neighbourhood evolves to a great community to live in when people get involved. Your community league is the catalyst for that. It connects you to your neighbours and encourages relationships that make things happen. What can we do about the tennis courts? Let's get talking. Do you have a skill, talent or idea you'd like to share? We'll be your



It's not hard to gather your neighbours. Terwillegar Park Estates hosted a concert in the park on August 31 featuring a local high school jazz quartet and singer Maria Manna.

partner.

It all starts with a membership. Contact the TRAC office to buy or renew. Then get involved — volunteer, attend a board meeting, join the board, host a program at one of the halls, run an event. Reach out to us for a chat. Friends are always welcome at the community league.

VOLUNTEERS Needed



Are you passionate about your community?
Do you like getting involved?

Share your energy and make a difference. Get involved.
Volunteer now.

To learn how you can help, email
info@riverbendonline.ca

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- All visitors enjoy the park at their own risk.
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- Off-leash is only permitted **INSIDE THE WEST RINK** and always keep the door closed.
- Dogs must have a valid pet licence and display a licence tag issued by the City of Edmonton.
- Your dog's behaviour is your responsibility. Please keep your dog under control at all times.
- Dog defecation must be picked up and put in appropriate waste container.
- Users of this space must carry a leash for each dog in their care.



SEE YOU THERE!

Park will be open until October 31, 2025, weather dependent.

For information or maintenance concerns:
Riverbend Community League
info@riverbendonline.ca
780-437-7108



PLTC Multisport Foundation Marks 13th Annual Terwillegar Trail Run and Walk

Runners and walkers will lace up their shoes to support an organization that brings cycling adaptations to disabled children

By Wayne Callan

For over a decade, the PLTC Multisport Foundation has been providing the opportunity for Edmontonians to lace up their shoes for a good cause. This fall marks the 13th annual Terwillegar Trail Run and Walk (TTRW), a community-driven event that has raised over \$350,000 for local charities since its inception. This year’s run and walk will be held on September 27, beginning at Riverbend Community Centre and winding through the scenic trails of Terwillegar Park.

The 2025 edition brings a new beneficiary: You Can Ride 2 (youcanride2.ca), an Edmonton-based program that for over 20 years has been empowering children of all abilities to experience the freedom and joy of riding a bicycle. The charity specializes in adaptive cycling supports, making it possible for children with disabilities to learn to ride, borrow specialized bikes

and enjoy inclusive, active play. “Each year we look for a local organization making a meaningful impact,” says a representative from the PLTC Multisport Foundation. “You Can Ride 2 embodies the spirit of inclusion, health, and community — values that align perfectly with our vision for the event.”

The Terwillegar Trail Run and Walk offers something for everyone — from experienced runners tackling the run course to families out for a leisurely pet-and-stroller-friendly walk. The route winds through some of Edmonton’s most picturesque river valley trails, showcasing the natural beauty of Terwillegar Park during the vibrant fall season.

Over the past 12 years, the event has become a much-anticipated staple of the local fitness and philanthropy calendar. What began as a modest grassroots effort has evolved into a powerful force



Last year’s participants, photo by Dennis Hennig. This year’s Terwillegar Trail Run and Walk takes place on September 27.

for good, with a loyal group of participants and supporters who return year after year.

Organizers are encouraging early registration and community involvement to help make this year’s fundraiser the most successful yet. Whether you’re walking for fun or challenging the occasionally gnarly

trail run, the TTRW is a chance to get active, connect with neighbors and support a truly inspiring local organization.

For more details on registration or to make a donation, visit the PLTC Multisport Foundation’s event page at terwillegartrailrun.com.

Brookview Community League Update

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower

Casino Success Thanks to our Volunteers!

BCL once again ran a successful casino and wanted to thank our new and longstanding volunteers.

AGM Announcement

We welcome all current and future Brookview Community League members to our AGM on October 2 (6pm) at the Brookview Community Hall. Please visit our website for further details, RSVP link or to sign a proxy.

Brookview Recreation Park Committee Updates

Thank you to all event attendees, supporters and donors to our Community Park Upgrade. We continue to construct needed outdoor recreation facilities in our community. More funds for the completion of our gathering space area and rink construction. Thank you again.

BCL wants to also acknowledge the CLIP grant donors, CFEP donors and private donors for their generous contributions.



Government of Alberta (Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women)



The City of Edmonton



Brookview Community League and private donors



Brookview HOA

More funds are required to build the full scope of our Recreation Park and we invite businesses who want to advertise on our rink boards or sponsor our facilities to please visit our website for corporate sponsorship details.

Paint Night– Fall and Winter 2025

Brookview Community League will be offering paint night events in the coming season for adults and families. We will have more information as event details. Check our website or subscribe to our newsletter for more updates.

BCL Website

For more Brookview news check out www.brookviewcommunityleague.ca Look out for more information on our regular community newsletter! Sign up at our website.



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A Call for Parliamentary Action

Young Canadians are feeling the pinch as youth unemployment rates soar

By Matt Jeneroux, MP, Edmonton Riverbend



My recent community survey asked you what issues you believe Parliament should prioritize.

60 per cent of respondents identified inflation and the cost of living as the top concern of our community.

In the midst of the back-to-school season, Canadian families are feeling the financial strain more than ever. Rising costs for education, school supplies, and even school lunches are making it increasingly difficult for parents to make ends meet.

The situation is especially dire for young Canadians. In July alone, 34,000 youth aged 15 to 24 lost their jobs, pushing the youth

unemployment rate to 14.6 per cent. For students returning to school, the rate is even higher at 17.5 per cent. Most job losses occurred in the private sector, disproportionately affecting young workers.

These numbers represent the lowest youth employment rate in over 25 years, creating a ripple effect that impacts students' ability to save for education and gain valuable work experience. When students earn less, they often rely on their parents to bridge the gap — but parents are also struggling as prices continue to rise faster than their wages.

According to Sun Youth, the cost of school supplies has increased by 17 per cent since last year — on top of soaring grocery bills, rent and other essentials. If we want our youth to succeed, we must create conditions that support

youth employment, provide opportunities for skill-building and ensure access to affordable education.

The federal government has several services and benefits for youth listed at canada.ca/en/services/youth.html. On this website, you can find out more about employment, training, exchange programs, volunteering, youth health issues, student aid and education planning.

Canadians deserve a real plan — one that unleashes our economic potential, restores affordability, creates jobs and secures a better future for the next generation. This fall, Parliament must make this its top priority.

I welcome your feedback as we continue working toward real solutions.

From Vision to Results: How We Build Lasting Change

Success comes from the work of listening, planning and collaboration with a focus on results that make a difference.

By Sara Awatta

I have spent my career helping people turn ideas into reality. Whether it is supporting an entrepreneur opening a first storefront, helping a community organization build programs that reach more participants or creating systems that allow small businesses to grow with confidence, my work has always been about connecting vision to results.

The lesson I have learned repeatedly is that lasting change does not happen by accident. It requires planning, collaboration and systems strong enough to support growth over time. A great idea can spark excitement; however, without a framework to carry it forward, that idea risks fading away before it can make a real difference.

This is why I always start by listening. The most effective solutions are rooted in a

clear understanding of what stands in the way. I have sat with business owners describing the hurdles of permits and complex processes and I have spoken with community groups about the need for mentorship and practical tools. Those conversations have shaped the strategies I build from mentorship programs to streamlined processes that save time and reduce frustration.

Once the problems are understood, the work of aligning people and resources begins. I enjoy this part because it is where strategy becomes action. Bringing together teams, setting a plan and establishing systems that keep things moving are the steps that transform a promising idea into a long-term solution.

For me, success is measured by what happens long after a launch date. A program or business is truly successful when it continues to

grow months and years later, when results are being tracked and when those results show real impact. Quick wins are valuable, but sustainable progress is what strengthens communities.

If there is one message I hope people take from my work, it is this:

1. Change must be built to last. A strong plan and reliable systems turn momentum into measurable results.
2. Listening leads the way. The best strategies come from understanding the people they are meant to serve.
3. Impact is the goal. Work is not complete until it improves lives well into the future.

This is the work I care about most: turning good ideas into something that matters, something that lasts, and something that moves all of us forward.

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outside the Anthony Henday Drive. “It was not built with the current density in mind, and that has ramifications where we’re going back now and fixing the roads, and costing people hours in their day,” she says, referencing the Terwillegar Drive Bridge over the Henday. “We’re not planning with people in mind.”

Michael Elliott votemikeelliott.ca

Michael Elliott is a staff sergeant with Edmonton Police Service, operating out of the Southwest Branch in Windermere. He served two terms as the head of the police officers union, and says Cartmell approached him to run under the Better Edmonton banner in 2024. He was unsure about running at the time, but after further discussions with Cartmell and former police chief Dale McFee, he decided to throw his hat in the ring. “I’m tired of talking about issues and want to try and make a difference on city council,” he says.

Elliott is running under the Better Edmonton banner and says the organization has helped him with his campaign, developing a website and brochures and providing information on how city council works. But he says votes will not be whipped, and as for the criticism that having parties in municipal politics allows for money to have greater influence, he says unions use their influence to support certain candidates, and that provincial parties have long helped certain candidates. “We are open about what we’re doing, whereas other candidates, behind the scenes, are not as open,” he says.

Given his background, Elliott cites public safety as his number one priority, highlighting in particular ongoing problems with public transit. He would like to see EPS members back on

trains as they were until 2018, because the peace officers on the trains now are instructed not to intervene directly but to call EPS. “I don’t think that’s the best mechanism to provide safety to our citizens,” he says. He would also like to have EPS members at each branch dedicated to traffic enforcement. “Now, we have to put in a request to the traffic unit to say there are speeding issues,” he says. “They can either get on it or may have competing priorities.”

Jackie Liu jackieliu.ca

Jackie Liu takes a markedly different approach than Elliott to community safety. As a pharmacist and long-time community health care advocate, Liu has worked with vulnerable populations in both Calgary and Edmonton. “When we talk about community safety, it’s a myriad of things, but if we can get people away from spaces they’re not supposed to be in — if they have housing and are not occupying public spaces like transit and community hubs — many of our issues resolve,” he says.

Edmonton’s Homeward Trust, which coordinates responses to homelessness in the city, says more than 21,000 people have been housed since 2009. “The vast majority are in regular market housing, bachelor suites, basement suites, small apartments all over the city,” says Liu. “They’ve been supported in basic life skills. They’re supported to integrate into their communities.”

He says policing is necessary when there is a risk to safety, but that it’s not an effective use of resources to have police respond to issues of social disorder. “We have many things that work now, but they’re not as successful as they could be because of a lack of investment and follow

through,” he says. “Let’s be clear on the data and the success we’re having, and continue to support those things.”

Rupesh Patel voterupesh.ca

Rupesh Patel worked for the Alberta government for eight years in health, climate and transportation policy. He moved to the City of Edmonton in 2021 to work in traffic safety, and is currently the City’s principal climate strategist.

Patel brings a note of optimism to the discussion, saying Edmonton has a young and talented population on which to build, but he’s not hearing optimism at the doorsteps. “The job prospects are not great, and the pace of change with the growth of our city and changes in policy has been fast, and people haven’t been brought along in a respectful way,” he says. “The tone has been dismissive, and the City has to be better with change management.”

Patel emphasizes the need to keep up funding for core services in a fast-growing city, to attract global investment to boost the economy, and to build resilience into critical infrastructure in response to climate change. He would also like to see more frequent transit services — Ward pihêsiwin currently has the lowest ridership in the city — which he says will increase ridership and therefore safety.

But the married father of two young girls retains his optimism. “Edmonton can seize this moment and that’s the mindset I want to bring to council,” he says.

Larry Langley (votelarrylangley.ca) is also running for Council, but did not respond to a request for comment.

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SouthWest Edmonton
Seniors Association



OCT 7, 2025
12 pm – 4 pm

William Lutsky Family YMCA
1975-111 Street NW

12 PM – \$5 SENIORS LUNCH SPECIAL
SWESA Chatty Cuppa Cafe

12:30 PM – YMCA Tour

1 PM – LIVE MUSIC from the 60's
70's by Musician Dave Pallett

1:30 PM – Seniors Fitness Demo
by YMCA

2 PM – SPEAKER PRESENTATION
“Rest & Relief – Restorative and Pain
Management Strategies for Seniors”

3 PM – YMCA Tour

Visit our website at www.swesa.ca

Jackie Liu

For Ward pihêsiwin

**What do you really
want from your city?**

That’s what we are asking our neighbours
in SW Edmonton during this campaign.
And we hear you.

Edmontonians want a **safer city**, they
want to **get home quicker**, and they want
lower taxes and affordability. They are
looking for a candidate who brings
principled integrity to the table.

I will:

- Fight for municipal service
increases – we can’t take our tax
dollars for granted.
- Disrupt the status quo of how we
schedule construction and prioritize
reducing commute congestion.
- Support safer Edmonton streets
through 20 years of expertise building
solutions from the ground up.

On October 20
Vote for Change
Vote for Progress
Vote for Accountability



Learn more
about Jackie at

jackieliu.ca



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valley ecosystem began to re-establish itself. Fort Edmonton Park features a reconstruction of the fort and depicts this early history.

From 1900 -1950, the area that is now the dog park was agricultural land — part of the newly formed province of Alberta’s quest to raise cattle and grain. Generations of the Robert Carter family lived and farmed here on what was known as the Riverside Farm.

A series of log homes were built and the land was cleared to raise cattle, chickens and grain. Weddings, births and harvests were celebrated as the extended family lived and worked the land until it was sold.

From 1950-1986, the park was a site for gravel extraction. The geometric shaped ponds in the park were once gravel pits and now are home to beavers and muskrats.

As early as 1907, the new City of Edmonton saw the value in protecting the river valley and helping it thrive again as a healthy ecosystem. The City passed bylaws to this effect and began to acquire properties to preserve as parkland.

Since 2003, the River Valley Alliance (RVA) has worked tirelessly with its municipal stakeholders, government partners and volunteers to bring the vision of North America’s longest river valley trail to life. Terwillegar Dog

Park is part of this vision. You can learn more about RVA plans at rivervalley.ab.ca

Work to preserve the park continues through several city departments and the work of volunteers. You may have seen new, native trees being planted. In July, there were volunteers working with the City of Edmonton to pull invasive plants, like the purple scabiosa, and reseed the area with native plants.

How lucky we are to have this beautiful park in our backyard and to know it will be there for generations to come!

All Councillor Candidates Forum in Ward pihêsiwin

You’ll have an opportunity to hear from all of the candidates for City Council at the forum on September 29
By Karin Shott

The Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council (TRAC) will be hosting an All Councillor Candidates Forum for residents of Ward pihêsiwin.

This community event will give voters the chance to directly hear from the candidates running for Edmonton City Council and learn about their priorities.

The forum will take place on Monday, September 29, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Terwillegar Community Church (1751 Towne Centre Blvd. NW).

Questions considered for the

candidates may be sent to the TRAC Community Office at yegtrac@gmail.com, and a selection of questions submitted will be used for the forum. The deadline to submit any questions is Friday, September 26. There will also be an opportunity for a selection of questions to be asked at the event.

Residents are encouraged to attend this event and engage with those seeking to represent Ward pihêsiwin.

Check www.yegtrac.ca for updates.

WARD PIHÊSIWIN CANDIDATE FORUM

COME HEAR FROM YOUR CANDIDATES

Monday September 29 @ 7:00 PM
Terwillegar Community Church
1751 Towne Centre Blvd

PRESENTED BY
TRAC
Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council
& THE SOUTHWEST
COMMUNITY LEAGUES

JACKIE LIU
LARRY LANGLEY
MICHAEL ELLIOTT
MOHAMMAD ALI KAMAL
RUPESH PATEL
SARA AWATTA

Moderated by: Tim Spellacy

The All Councillor Candidates Forum takes place on September 29, from 7-9 p.m. at Terwillegar Community Church.

Continuing a Legacy of Leadership

Public service runs in my family. My late father, Larry Langley Sr., was a broadcaster and three-term City Councillor, known for his approachable style and dedication to residents. I carry those same values forward today.

I’ve called Ward pihêsiwin home since 1988. My wife and I built our home here, raised three children, and built a life rooted in this community. This ward has always been more than an address — it’s where we’ve built friendships, raised our family, and grown deep community ties.

Before retiring, I served over 31 years as a Police Officer, leading initiatives in crime management, traffic safety, and domestic violence prevention. That experience taught me to listen, make fair but tough decisions, and always put the community first. Many residents may also remember me from my “Sgt. LaRrY Says” community safety bulletins.

Scan to learn more about my campaign — including my vision, shared priorities, and how you can get involved. You can also request a yard sign or make a donation to support our team.



VOTE LARRY LANGLEY - EDMONTON CITY COUNCIL ✓

VOTELARRYLANGLEY.CA

A Commitment to Residents

It’s time to get back to basics at City Hall. Safe streets, reliable transit, clear roads in the winter, well-maintained neighbourhoods, and responsible spending should be our priorities. The era of “tax and spend” must end — Council needs to focus on essential services, make informed decisions, and deliver real results for residents.



Be Safe Getting To, From or Through School Zones

As days grow shorter and the weather cools, there are tips you can follow to keep everyone safe around schools

By Staff Sergeant Mike Elliott, Edmonton Police Service

As the summer inches towards fall, it means families have returned to school. From kindergarten to grade 12, it is a suitable time to remind everyone — drivers, parents and students — about the importance of safety.

If you're driving, please be cognizant of all school zones as they are designated as playground zones, with a speed limit of 30 km/hour from 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. every day. Slowing down provides you with more time to react and it reduces your stopping distance if someone happens to appear on the roadway.

School zones are busy places with parents, buses, bikes and pedestrians; thus, your attention is important to ensure everyone is safe. Be cognizant of your time because if you feel rushed, there is a likelihood you may want to speed or your attention might not be focused on what is important, your children and those around you.

If you're a parent of a student, our children learn by example. Show them the safe walking routes, how to use crosswalks, obey the signs and ensure they make eye contact with the driver

when crossing the street. The addition of bright or visible clothing may help, especially as the days slowly change with less and less sunlight.

Additionally, everyone loves to listen to music, podcasts and more; thus, headphones or texting on your cell phone can be a huge distraction, especially when crossing the road. You may not hear a vehicle approaching even if a driver uses their horn. It's a good idea to give the headphones a break when walking on or near a roadway.

Finally, a pet peeve of mine and the Edmonton Police Service is speeding. There is absolutely no reason to be speeding — especially through a school zone. We will be monitoring the school zones as school commences and throughout the year.

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer with travel, family time or relaxing on a beach, park or simply enjoying the comfort of your home. If there is a safety or police matter you would like to know more about in an article, please contact me at Michael.Elliott@edmontonpolice.ca.



School zones are designated as playground zones in Edmonton, with a speed limit of 30 km/hour from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in order to keep kids safe.

Riverbend United Church

Exploring Faith, Engaging Community

This September Welcome Back to Church!

... after summer fun, travel or a long time, come journey with us! Join the vibrant community of Riverbend United Church. No matter what, you're welcome here.

- ♦ In-person or live-streamed on You Tube, Sundays at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Valerie Oden, diverse music and interactive sermons with lay leaders
- ♦ Our Sunday worship service includes programs for children & youth.
- ♦ Our annual Fall Feast is on October 19th, come for a delicious turkey dinner. Call the office for tickets.
- ♦ Don't forget our Evening of Marvelous Music on November 1st at 7:30 p.m., free admission for all.

Riverbend United Church
An Affirming Congregation
14907—45 Avenue NW
Edmonton, Alberta
780.430.7275
www.riverbendunited.org



Our Community, Your Voice

Join me for an upcoming coffee chat!

September 25: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Starbucks, Riverbend Square

October 21: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Tim Horton's, Terwillegar Heights

Rakhi Pancholi

MLA, EDMONTON WHITEMUD

(780) 413-5970

#203 - 596 Riverbend Square

Edmonton.Whitemud@assembly.ab.ca

Reflections and a View to the Future

With the school year off to a tumultuous start in Alberta, it's important to understand roles and responsibilities in education.

By Julie Kusiek, Trustee and Board Chair, Edmonton Public School Board



A Reflection on the Board's Term:
As you may be aware, the term for the current Board of Trustees ends in October. At our final Board meeting on September 9, 2025, administration provided a report highlighting accomplishments over the past four years. From COVID, to new curriculum, to labour action, to unprecedented student enrolment growth and new school announcements, changes to funding and hiring a new Superintendent, it has been a busy term!

I invite you to read the report (Strategic Plan Update: Governance and Engagement) at epsb.ca, under board meetings.

Rather than try to summarize everything in just a few words, let me simply say I'm really proud of our Board's work together, the dedication of our staff and school communities to supporting students, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have contributed.

Looking ahead to the 2025-2026 school year: The start of the new school year brings a lot of questions. As students, teachers, and staff settle in, many people are asking about topics like a potential teacher strike, changes to library resources and new provincial government directives on sensitive topics like sexual health education and student pronouns.

To help clarify some of the confusion, it's important to understand the roles of the various entities involved. The current teacher negotiations are between the Teacher Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) and the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA). Edmonton Public Schools is not at the bargaining table, so like you, we are awaiting an outcome.

Many of the recent changes affecting schools, such as those regarding library materials and student athletics, are the result of Ministerial Orders or Acts of Legislation. The school board and division staff are required to implement these directives. The Board of Trustees, as a policy governance board, focuses on setting policies

that align with these government directives and support the success of all 125,000 students. The Board of Trustees advocates for what we believe is best for students in our division, but just as you must obey laws whether you agree with them or not, so must our school division.

If you have concerns about new legislation, it is most effective to contact your local MLA and the relevant Minister, as they are the legislators who can amend or create laws. I encourage you to inform me as your Trustee as well, as your feedback helps me advocate for what matters most. For specific questions about your child's school, the best resource is often your child's teacher or principal.

As your Trustee, I remain committed to fulfilling the remainder of this term by advocating for our students and a strong public education system, focusing on key priorities identified by the Board like funding, new schools and mental health support.

Do you have questions or comments? Feel free to email me at trustee.julie.kusiek@epsb.ca.

Change That Lasts Means Bringing People Along

Public consultation and communication strategies have made a difference in reactions to change within the City of Edmonton

By Rupesh Patel

Edmonton has grown and changed a lot in recent years. Some of those changes have sparked strong reactions, and how they were introduced has made all the difference.

I've worked for both the City of Edmonton and the Government of Alberta, and one thing I've learned is this: change itself isn't the hardest part. The hardest part is helping people come along with it.

Take the 40 km/hour default speed limit. When City Council approved it in 2021, it was controversial. Many worried traffic would grind to a halt. But the groundwork had been laid years earlier. Pilot projects dating back to 2010 showed safety benefits. Speed reductions were gradually expanded around schools and playgrounds. Researchers at the University of Alberta helped measure the impact. And before the city-wide

rollout, there was a strong campaign to explain why Vision Zero, the goal of eliminating traffic deaths by 2032, mattered.

Even if people didn't agree, they understood the reasoning. Tools helped drivers calculate how much extra time their trips would take (usually just a minute or two). The City used playful circular signs and community outreach to raise awareness. Over time, support grew. What began as a divisive idea is now broadly accepted, because people were engaged, informed and given time to adjust.

Now compare that with the bike plan. Updating the plan itself involved thousands of Edmontonians and dozens of organizations — a strong start. But when it came time to implement the bike plan, the approach changed. In December 2022, Council approved an accelerated build-

out of the network with no additional public engagement.

The result? Confusion and frustration. Unlike a speed limit change, installing bike lanes can mean losing parking, rerouting traffic, or shifting long-standing habits. Without a process to bring residents along, backlash grew. Instead of celebrating progress, many felt blindsided and weren't brought in. When this happens, even good ideas can be undermined.

To be clear, not every change requires lengthy consultations. We rely on technical experts at the City to apply their training and judgment every day. But for big shifts that touch daily routines, public trust matters as much as technical merit. Without awareness and buy-in, even well-designed changes struggle to last.



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Oak Hills Community Hub





A GRAND GRAND OPENING! OHCL COMMUNICATIONS

On June 7, 2025, over 250 people came out to the Grand Opening and Block Party of the **Oak Hills Community Hub**. It's the first time in Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (**EFCL**) history that the Oak Hills Community League (**OHCL**) has collaborated with the Terwillegar Riverbend Soccer Association (**TRSA**) to plan and build Phase 1 of this community building. It's a place where people can assemble and engage, a place to foster neighbourhood connections through recreation and sport, social events, common interest groups and advocacy.

The day began with a great musical production from the **Lillian Osborne Drum Line and Pep Band**.



The days program was emceed by **Rob Agostinis** and included the speeches by: President - Oak Hills Community League - **Brian Boswell**, President - Terwillegar Riverbend Soccer Association - **Greg Loveday**, Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women - **Kim Capstick**, on behalf of Minister Tanya Fir, representing the City of Edmonton, Councillor, Ward Pihesiwini - **Tim Cartmell**, EFCL Executive Director - **Laura Cunningham-Shpeley** and MLA Edmonton Whitemud - **Rakhi Pancholi**.

After the speeches was the Cutting of the Ribbon and Kicking of Soccer Balls by the dignitaries into the hands of young kids lined up at the front.

We then had the cutting of the most spectacular cake (A replica of our Community Hub) and serving of cupcakes.

The final part of the program was the amazing Melisizwe Brothers, who played several songs. Check them online.



There were tours of the new building, lots of food and beverages, bouncing in an adult friendly bouncy castle and lots of community engagement. A great big thank you to **Rob Agostinis**, **Archana Chaudhary**, the **OHCL Board**, the **TRSA Board**, **volunteers**, **videographer**, **photographer**, **stakeholders (above)** and our **amazing sponsors (below)**, for planning and hosting an outstanding grand event. More of the event; the names, the photos, the videos are online at www.oakhillsonline.ca



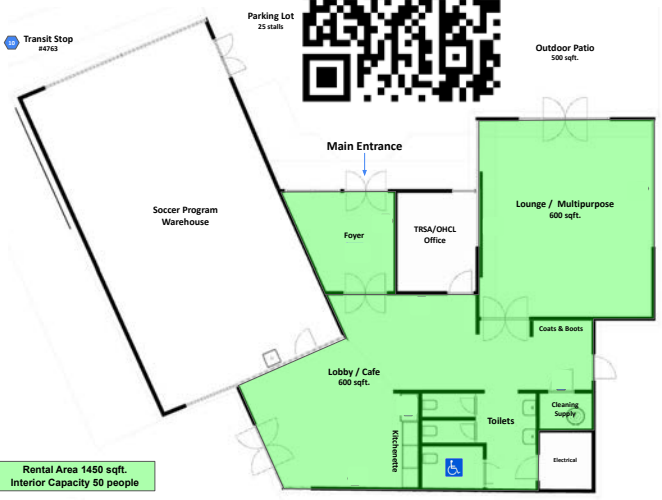
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<https://www.oakhillsonline.ca/community-hub>

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A Neighbourhood in Harmony

Wade McBeth Brings Brander Gardens Residents Together Through Music and Kindness

By Eilish Lemieux

In every community there are people who quietly make life better for everyone around them. In Brander Gardens, Wade McBeth is one of those people. Known for his outgoing nature and tireless efforts to foster community spirit, Wade has become a local fixture — not only for his friendly dog-walking hellos, but for the joy he brings through a unique summer tradition: free outdoor concerts on the green space in front of his house.

Wade’s dedication to community is clear in the small but meaningful things he does – organizing “welcome wagon” gifts for new neighbours (complete with an information sheet about local amenities and neighbour contacts), and always being a kind, helpful and familiar face on the block.

But his most beloved initiative began in 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when social connection was sorely needed. Wade’s wife Lorraine was organizing a 60th birthday celebration for Wade when their band member friends generously offered to play.

Wade invited Brander Gardens residents to come enjoy the local professional band PettyNicks at the inaugural Brander Gardens concert that fittingly coincided with Edmonton’s “Neighbour Day.” That first show, on June 20, 2020, was a hit! Residents of all ages brought lawn chairs, and enjoyed the music in a safe, open-air setting while respecting the physical distancing rules in place at the time. Wade provided power from his house, helped get the word out, and made sure everyone felt welcome. From there, a new neighbourhood tradition was born.

Over the past five years, the green space in

front of Wade’s home has become a summertime stage for local talent — including the band 11 Seconds, featuring Brander Gardens’ own Order of Canada recipient Gary Goulet, on drums, and one-man band retired teacher Maurie Fontaine (ThisPiano.com). There has been a wide range of performances with a relaxed, pay-what-you-can format that draws dozens of residents (sometimes hundreds) who gather to listen, sing along, dance, and reconnect with neighbours.

Organizing these outdoor concerts is a labour of love for Wade. “It’s truly about joy. It makes me happy to not only enjoy the music myself, but also to see others reveling in it,” he says. “The musicians enjoy it too, as every performer has come back to play again.”

Mother Nature hasn’t always cooperated (there have been weather-related cancellations), but these concerts have become a highlight of the community summer calendar. Despite chilly weather, Fontaine’s June 21 concert drew approximately 100 people – where he happily took song requests. The July 12 performance by 11 Seconds brought out even more people and also collected donations in support of the Veterans Food Bank. August 23’s concert featured Crystal Blue and the Persuasions and had kids up on their feet dancing, while others sang long. The fourth and final performance of 2025 will likely coincide with your Ragg-Times arrival.

Since that first performance in 2020, Wade has hosted 11 concerts (providing the electrical power for the bands), with more on the horizon. But for Wade it’s never been about the numbers. It’s about building connections, creating joy and reminding everyone of the value of community — one song at a time.



Top, the band 11 Seconds plays for an audience in Brander Gardens.
Bottom, Left to Right, Wade McBeth and Gary Goulet, both residents of Brander Gardens.



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Connection is Key to a Better Alberta

In a world where misinformation and disinformation spread quickly, talking to your friends and neighbours is a good antidote

By Rakhi Pancholi, MLA, Edmonton-Whitemud



Another beautiful Edmonton summer has drawn to a close! I hope you've had the chance to enjoy our gorgeous river valley and great festivals, explore our province or simply take time with friends or family to connect and recharge.

This summer, I had insightful conversations with many of you when I knocked on your doors or saw you at the Farmer's Market or community events. I also travelled to other parts of Alberta to talk to Albertans in local communities about their priorities and aspirations for our province.

Here's what I heard. Families are feeling the squeeze of rising costs and our economy is facing uncertainty because of massive instability in our trading and economic relationship with the US. Uncertainty has increased significantly because of Danielle Smith's separatist agenda. Whether it's threatening to pull out of the CPP, replace the RCMP or lower the bar for a referendum on

separation, the UCP's reckless choices endanger jobs, investment and the public services Albertans rely on every day.

But I also saw many Canadian flags and pride in our province and country. Alberta's Official Opposition Caucus believes that unity, not division, is the path forward to a stronger, more stable future. That's why we launched our Better Together campaign this summer. We hosted community conversations across the province and heard from Albertans about what a strong future for Canada looks like. Because we believe we're better when we work together. You can find out more at BetterTogetherSummer.ca.

One of the reasons the Better Together tour is so important to me is that it encourages Albertans to talk to each other face-to-face and see the common values that we share.

Perhaps one of the most significant challenges facing democratic nations right now is that people are not operating from the same set of understood facts. The erosion of strong, independent journalism and the proliferation of social media and alternative media sources —

along with the siloing and echo chamber effect they create — mean that we no longer have shared understandings of key facts and events. Misinformation and disinformation spread quickly. It also means we mistrust and disconnect from those who aren't in our circle.

This is a profound challenge we are all struggling to manage. I don't have all the answers, but what seems like the most fundamental response is that we need to talk to each other, especially those who may seem different from us. Face to face. We are not as different as politics and social media would have us believe.

That's why I'll be hosting monthly coffee chats at local businesses, where constituents can come talk to me and one another about what's important to them. Keep a lookout for more information.

We all want safety, security, prosperity and fairness for our families and our neighbours. Let's find solutions to our problems, not scapegoats. We truly are better together.

Please reach out to me anytime at edmonton.whitemud@assembly.ab.ca or (780) 413-5970.



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Women Building Community Through Food, Friendship and Leadership

Women ROCKS is a recent and impactful initiative of Riverbend ROCKS, bringing women together for cooking, connection and more

By Reem Razzouk, Director of Programming and Community Engagement, Riverbend ROCKS

Riverbend Reaching Out to Community and Kids Society (ROCKS) is a local non-profit organization that connects families living in the Brander Gardens Civi complex and surrounding areas to accessible opportunities that promote social inclusion, community connection and an enhanced quality of life.

One of our impactful initiatives is Women ROCKS, a program designed to bring women in the community together through shared experiences, peer support and collective leadership. At our Community Hub, women have created their own space for connection, starting with movie nights, knitting circles and Chai time. Over time, cooking emerged as the most loved and requested activity. Today, our cooking sessions have become the heart of Women ROCKS.

Thanks to funding from Amity House, we were able to expand these cooking sessions into regular, community-led events. This support has not only allowed the program to flourish but also created paid leadership roles for three dedicated women from the group, who now lead sessions and inspire others. These gatherings go far

beyond preparing meals: they have become safe, welcoming spaces where women share stories, support each other and build lasting friendships.

The impact of Women ROCKS is both personal and collective. Participants feel more connected and confident, with a stronger sense of belonging and ownership over the program. These sessions have opened doors to deeper conversations about needs, interests and opportunities, helping women access other programs and resources to support their families. Most importantly, the program has fostered inclusion, mutual support and leadership, while building trust and strengthening the belief that neighbors are there for one another.

We deeply appreciate Amity House for their generous contribution which has sustained and empowered this program through the leadership of participating women. Their support has made a lasting difference in the experiences of those involved.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue growing Women ROCKS, adding new resources, expanding participation and creating even more opportunities for families to connect, grow and thrive together.



Cooking sessions have become the heart of Women ROCKS, thanks to funding from Amity House, and participants not only cook, but also share connection and support.

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Purpose & Passion: Making Your Mark in the Community

Seniors Connection News for those 55+

By Sue Paulson

Different from most people born in 1904, my grandmother, Edna, didn't retire until she was 75. The Highways Department bought her truck stop café near Entwistle. Suddenly, she had time on her hands and no clue about what to do.

Her abiding passion was people. She loved being surrounded by family and friends. She did her best to never lose track of anybody. One year she sent over 300 Christmas cards across North America.

When she moved into a condo with a recreation building, she found a new purpose. The paint on the walls was barely dry when she started visiting the other residents. She cajoled and coaxed her neighbours to attend card parties, knitting groups and potluck dinners. She was 83 when she confessed to me, "Susan, I think I'm finally learning how to have fun!"

As seniors, we're blessed here in Edmonton to have rec centers and organizations to explore our talents and/or put our hard-won skills to

work, especially as volunteers. A plaque beside the gift shop at the Royal Alexandra Hospital showcases the over 14,000 volunteer hours contributed since the early 1900s to support patient and hospital needs, as it grew from a two-storey structure to the size it is today.

Personally, I love to pitch in — especially if it's a cause or a group I believe in. My time investment pays big dividends; the amazing new people I meet, the satisfaction of giving and the fun I have by being involved. I also love to learn something new through classes and workshops.

Now that the lazy days of summer have passed, consider who in your community needs a helping hand or what new thing you'd love to learn, then seek opportunities that match your passions. That just might ignite your new purpose!

Here at SWESA, not only is our fall line-up of classes and activities ready, but we're also having our Open House on Tuesday, Oct.



Seniors in Southwest Edmonton are finding all sorts of great ways to connect and explore their passions.

7 from Noon – 4 p.m. at the William Lutzky YMCA. If you're not yet a member, mark your calendar, bring a friend and check us out!



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Safer Ways to Get Back to School

School commutes are back and, from a parent’s perspective, there are ways that we can make the experience safer for everyone

By Jackie Liu

In so many ways, September truly is the start of the “new” year. There aren’t fireworks and ball-drops in public squares, but these first weeks of back-to-school are every bit as monumental. There are so many festivals and community events during the last beautiful days of summer and fall colours and crisp air are a treat each morning.

For our family, taking our kids to school has always been a joy. Whenever possible, we try to drop the kids off ourselves — those extra few minutes are key bonding moments, whether it is chatting about lessons, debating the news on the radio or allowing some steam to be blown off (school is an emotional place for our little ones). Our preferred method to get to school would be by bike — we live just outside of walking range of our children’s schools, but it is an easy distance to ride. It is a trip that we do all summer long — many playgrounds are visited, and many a slushee has been spilled over the handlebars of our bikes. Unfortunately, that same bike ride becomes just a bit more difficult during the busyness of the school year.

Every family who attends one of the six schools in the Riverbend area, and all of the neighbours, can attest to the traffic volume. This congestion around our schools is a striking example of the growing pains we’re experiencing as a result of Edmonton’s rapid growth. Particularly in the southwest, the expansion of communities south of the Henday (Windermere, Keswick, etc.) has a massive impact on the daily experiences of Riverbend residents. Many commuters access the same Terwillegar Drive corridor to get to other parts of the city, and many of their children attend schools in the Riverbend area due to the lack of available nearby classroom spaces. The

Ragg-Times has talked about Tempo before, but it's not just private schools — it's every school in the area. Imagine the pain of finding the perfect home in the perfect community within walking distance to great schools and then not being able to attend that school due to overcapacity. Now, your morning routine involves driving your child to a school 20-30 minutes (even longer in rush hour) from your home. This is the reality faced by many in our city now.

The City of Edmonton, along with developers and the provincial government, needs to do a better job at planning new communities, ensuring they are fully equipped to deal with the needs of residents when they move in, not a decade later. This must not, however, come at the expense of protecting and improving our established neighbourhoods.

One potential solution is the expansion of a multi-use path all the way along Riverbend Road. The current sidewalks that service the schools in the Riverbend area (as well as numerous daycares and preschools) were built in the 80s. These sidewalks are great for foot traffic, but we need expansion to accommodate bikes, strollers, pets and seniors. That same bike ride that is so easy in the summer is hazardous during the school year — a huge number of people all need access to those same paths and there is just not enough space to pass. We’ve had several near misses swerving around people and pets and have also witnessed unfortunate incidents where bikes or people have been run off the sidewalk and into bushes or fences. If more people are able to bike, walk or otherwise not drive to school, we will not only improve safety for our children and residents, but will alleviate some of the traffic along our streets. Divided bike lanes



As folks walk, ride and bike to and from school while others recreate and walk pets, sidewalks can get a bit tight for all who make use of them.

are a contentious topic in Edmonton, but multi-use paths should not be. They are inexpensive (costing no more than a standard sidewalk), easy for the city to maintain and provide a safe alternative for our kids to bike, scoot, walk, run and arrive at school safely.

The renewal of our sidewalk infrastructure isn’t going to fix everything, but it is an important step in the right direction. The growth of Edmonton is a big city problem, and every small solution helps the whole.

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Community League Day, When All are Welcome

Community Leagues across Edmonton celebrated what it means to be a community on September 20, 2025

By David Berry, EFCL

A neighbourhood might be the place you live, but a community is a place where you belong.

Whether it’s walking down your street and seeing familiar faces, stepping into a park to relax and play with your neighbours, or just finding a place where people know your name and you know your presence matters, community is about the things that make us feel connected, that make us feel at home. This September 20, Edmontonians across the city celebrated Community League Day with a message for everyone, old or new: you’re welcome here.

From pancake breakfasts and outdoor movie nights to block parties and barbecues, every year on Community League Day, Leagues across Edmonton host a variety of events that highlight the energy and diversity of their neighbourhoods. No two Community League Day events are exactly the same, but they all share the same goal: making sure every Edmontonian knows they have a place to belong.

“For over 100 years, Edmontonians have known the best way to get to know your neighbours, the best way to explore what the city has to offer, the way to get the most out of your neighbourhood, is to be a part of their Community League,” said Laura Cunningham-Shpeley, Executive Director of the Edmonton

Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL). “We really want everyone to have that experience. We want to tell them that no matter what you’re here for — whether you want to sit on the board or just share a cold drink with your community — we’re here, and you’re welcome to join us.”

Founded in 1921, the EFCL supports Edmonton’s 163 Community Leagues — the volunteer-run organizations that help make Edmonton’s neighbourhoods such vibrant, connected, inclusive places. This year, the EFCL hoped to underscore the importance of reaching out to Edmontonians who may not yet know about the League in their area, and encouraging them to become card-carrying members of their Community League. Edmonton has welcomed hundreds of thousands of new residents in the past few years, and whether they’ve come from outside the country, the province or just outside of city limits, they might not be familiar with Community Leagues — which are a one-of-a-kind, made-in-Edmonton institution for fostering community.

“Community League Day is our chance to say: ‘This is for you,’ our chance to show them who their neighbours are, what their neighbourhood is like, and how amazing this city can be when we all get together,” says Cunningham-Shpeley. “I think one of the really amazing things about



On and around Community League Day, leagues across Edmonton host a variety of events that highlight the energy and diversity of their neighbourhoods. (Photo provided by EFCL)

Community Leagues is that you shape them as you participate in them: they’re all a reflection of their communities, which means all you need to do is show up, and you’re a part of it.”

Because as Edmonton continues to grow and change, Community Leagues and Community League Day offer a chance to strengthen the roots that hold it together: neighbourliness, participation and the simple joy of feeling welcome.

You can find more information, including a map of Community League Day events and how to find your local League, at CLDay.ca.

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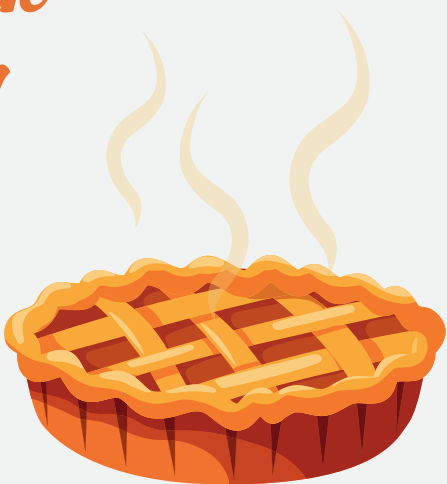
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A Summer Hub of Community and Fresh Finds

As the Southwest Edmonton Farmers’ Market nears the end of its season, it’s important to reflect on the volunteers, vendors, organizers, customers and community that make it all possible

By Lisa Jodoin, Market Manager

As we start to close out our 14th summer and our market season starts to come to a close, we want to share a few updates with you about how this summer has been for this beloved market.

Spanning 22 Wednesdays from May through to early October, the market transforms a simple parking lot into a bustling gathering place where local farmers, bakers, artisans and musicians converge to bring fresh goods — and smiles — to shoppers.

Here are some highlights of the summer market.

Sprouts Program: Growing Healthy Habits

One of the standout features of our market is the Sprouts Program, a free initiative aimed at children aged four to twelve. Each week, kids are invited to the Sprouts Tent, where they receive a wooden token worth two dollars to spend on fruits or vegetables from our amazing vendors and a seasonal, kid-friendly recipe card to help inspire healthy cooking at home. The program is designed to educate and delight, encouraging children to engage with healthy food choices while connecting with local farmers. This program would not be possible without the tremendous support of our Sprouts Sponsors year after year and we thank each of them for everything they do to help promote healthy eating for our young community members.

Young Vendors Program:

This program encourages young entrepreneurs between the ages of ten and seventeen to experience the market from a vendor's point of view. Each young vendor is given a space at no charge to sell their handmade product during our market. By investing in the future of local youth, we can all play a vital role in shaping a brighter, more entrepreneurial community. When you visit the market, make sure to stop by and see what our Young Vendors have to offer.

Local Flavor and Entertainment:

Visitors to SWEFM encounter more than produce — they're immersed in the atmosphere. Local buskers provide live entertainment, setting the tone for those lingering strolls. Meanwhile, the vendor roster boasts food trucks, artisans and hosts from local farms, all under the banner of Alberta Approved Farmers' Market quality. The serene summer evenings are as much about taste as they are about tradition and camaraderie.

Community Tent & Volunteer Spirit:

This all happens thanks to an incredible group of enthusiastic volunteers — from those organizing market setup and teardown to the volunteers staffing the information and Community Tents. Behind the scenes, our Steering Committee meets year-round to coordinate and ensure the market remains vibrant, inclusive and community-focused.



Come down and visit us and enter our free draw for a Thanksgiving basket. We will be drawing for this amazing basket on October 1, 2025, and the basket will be presented to the winner at our final market on October 8. This basket will consist of an entire Thanksgiving dinner for a family of four with everything needed to create the perfect Thanksgiving table.

Our final market will take place on October 8, between 3:30 and 7:00 p.m.

Please join us each Wednesday between 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Booster Juice Recreation Centre parking lot E at 2051 Leger Road. Our hours change to 3:30 - 7:00 p.m. in October owing to lack of daylight.

We would like to send out a sincere thank you to our entire community for your continued support of SWEFM and our vendors.

Hi, I'm Mike Elliott. I'm running for City Council in Ward pihêsiwin.

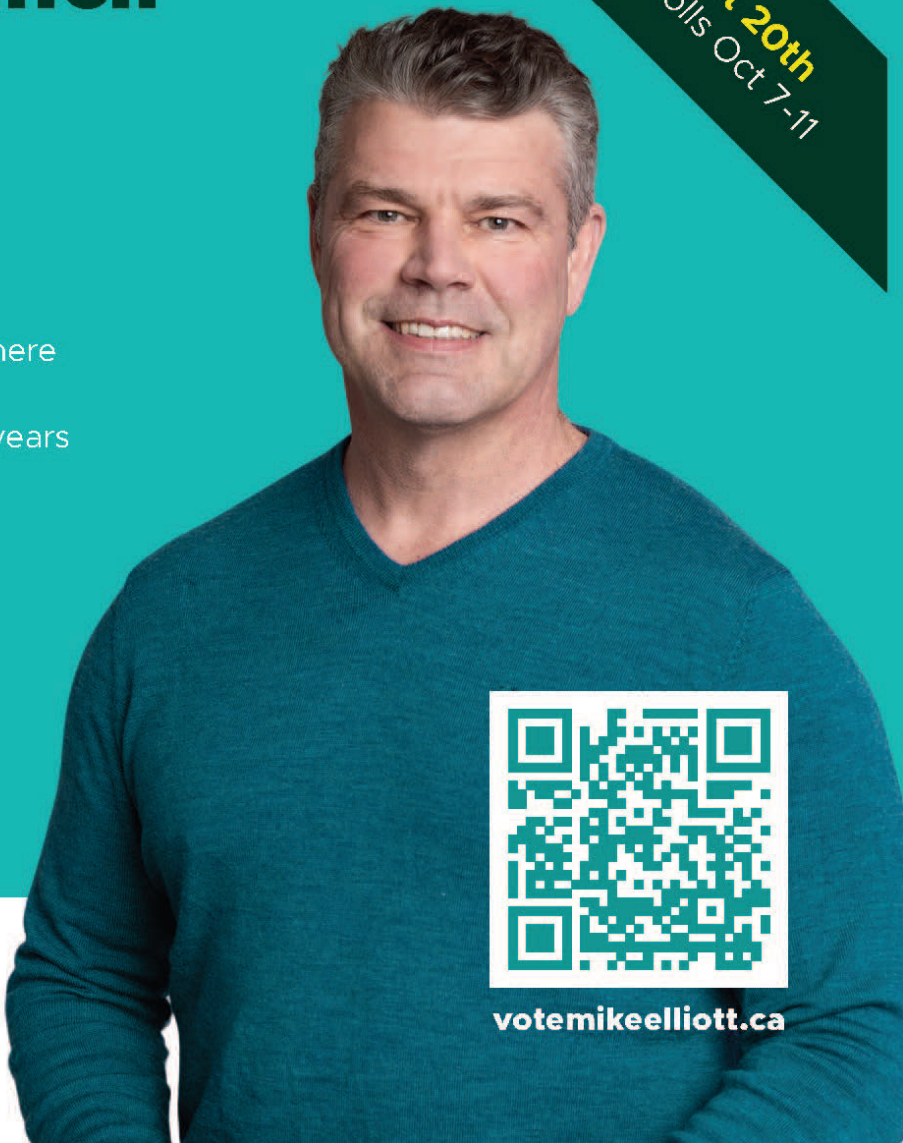
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- Extensive **southwest community engagement** over the years

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Mike Elliott

For City Council

Ward pihêsiwin

Community Leagues — A Uniquely Edmonton Experience

After moving to Edmonton, Mohammad Ali Kamal discovered the opportunity for connection that community leagues provide.

By Mohammad Ali Kamal

In 2004, I made what I consider one of my best decisions — relocating from Calgary to Edmonton. (Sorry, Calgary!) What I did not anticipate was how one innocent question at a community meeting would alter the course of my life.

My kids were participating in community soccer, so I became involved with the Duggan Community League. At my first Annual General Meeting in August 2005, I asked a simple financial question—naively unaware of the impact it would have. Not only did I receive a thoughtful answer, but afterward, the board invited me to meet with them. Twenty-one years later, I am proud to have served as both Vice President and President of that same community league, and I continue to be actively involved with the Duggan Community Soccer Program.

Although I moved to Windermere in 2021, I remain the director of the Duggan Mother's Day Soccer Tournament. The connections I forged in the Duggan community run deep; the community's spirit is impossible to break. The Duggan tournament is a celebration of community — an event that unites families every

year, made possible by hundreds of volunteers working tirelessly to ensure its success. It is one of Canada's largest community-based soccer tournaments and a true testament to the power of people coming together.

Throughout my years of volunteerism, I have been incredibly fortunate to meet many wonderful families. These community connections have transformed my home into a vibrant social hub within this mosaic of cultures and backgrounds that makes Edmonton so special. The diversity of voices and experiences here is what makes this city a truly exceptional place to call home.

Based on my experience, I encourage everyone to become more involved in their community. Stronger, engaged communities are safer, happier and more welcoming. Getting involved can be as simple as attending a Community League meeting or joining your local league. Volunteering and participating in community events are great ways to meet neighbors and build meaningful connections. I honestly believe that community involvement is a choice you will never regret.



Volunteering with your community league is a great way to get out, create connection and make a difference.

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Riverbend Dental Clinic Team

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Dr. Marcus A. Hackman, B.Sc., D.M.D.

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- TV's in Every Room for Your Comfort
- Cosmetic Dentistry Available

Hours of Operation

Monday	1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday & Friday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	1:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Every 2nd Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Suite 200, 5651 Riverbend Road
Edmonton Alberta T6H 5K4

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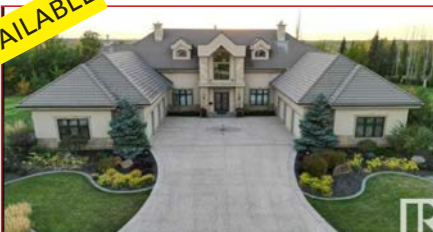
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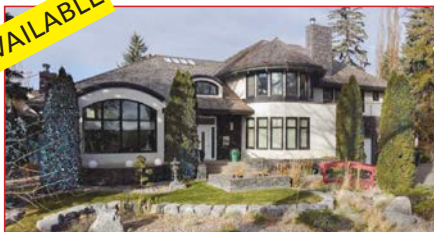
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Timeless retreat with river valley views. 1/2 Acre lot. 7 bed, 5 bath. Over 7,000sqft.
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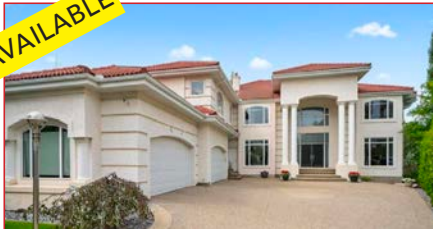
Glenora \$3,200,000
A rare find in Old Glenora with panoramic river and valley views. 7,567sqft. A must see!
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Estate home overlooking Edmonton's premier waterfront oasis. Over 7,000sqft.
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Twin Brooks \$2,950,000
Brookhollow on the Ravine. 6 bed, 5 bath, 4 car garage. 11,245 Sq Ft of luxury Estate.
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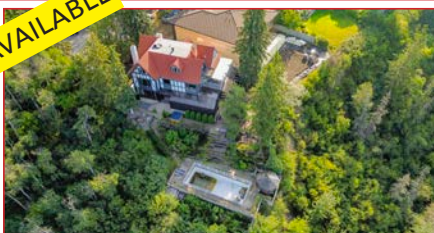
WinterRidge Estates \$2,895,000
4.1 acres backing onto environmental reserve. 5,900sqft of prestigious living space
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AVAILABLE



MacTaggart \$1,998,000
Mediterranean-inspired home. 4,864 sq.ft. 6 beds 7 baths. Beautifully appointed.
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Windsor Park \$1,980,000
Spectacular River Property! 7 bed, 8 bath. 5279 sqft of spacious living. Stunning river views
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Westbrook \$1,780,000
Magnificent 1/2+ acre estate property. Walking trails directly out the back door!
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The Hammock House in Belgravia. 3yr old masterpiece of Norwegian-inspired design!
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Beautifully renovated 2-storey in prestigious Windsor Park. 3,837 sqft living space
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AVAILABLE



Twin Brooks \$1,280,000
Beautifully renovated in Brookhollow. 4 bed, 3/12 bath. In floor heat walk-out basement.
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Keswick \$935,000
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