

SPANN

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Serving the communities of Britannia-Youngstown, Canora, Glenwood, Grovenor and West Jasper/Sherwood

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The committee members pictured are (L-R) : Christina Hardie, Rob Houle (Circle Keeper), Roxanne Tootoosis, Lynda Minoose, Noella Steinhauer, Lillian Crier, Terri Suntjens (Circle Keeper), Theresa Strawberry, Edna Elias, Beatrice Morin. Committee members not pictured are Daphne Alexis, Clarice Anderson, Carla Badger, Leona Makokis, Emily Riddle, Marilyn Lizee, Nicholle Weasel Traveller and Jodi Calahoo-Stonehouse.

Photo Credit: City of Edmonton

New Ward Names Celebrate the Indigenous History of Edmonton and Area

Mary-Ann Thurber

The stories of Indigenous people and the lives they have lived in the North Saskatchewan River valley area are an important, but often forgotten, part of the history of Edmonton. In June 2020, when City Council was putting the finishing touches on the new ward boundaries for Edmonton, a group of Indigenous leaders asked the Council to highlight this neglected part of Edmonton's history by giving the newly redrawn wards Indigenous names.

To make this happen, a group of 17 Indigenous women leaders were brought together and given six short weeks to recommend 12 new ward names to the City. The group called itself iyiniw iskwewak wihtwawin, or Indigenous Women's Movement-Action. The members of the committee represent the Anishinaabe, Blackfoot, Cree, Dene, Inuit, Iroquois, Métis and Nakota Sioux Nations who call Alberta home.

This group of women and matriarchs used ceremony, storytelling and consultation with elders to recommend names that

would highlight the history of the many Indigenous nations that have lived in Edmonton for thousands of years. The new ward boundaries and ward names were confirmed by City Council on December 7.

The ward that houses the Stony Plain Road Business Association will carry the name Nakota Isga, a Sioux word meaning "the people." Pronounced NA-KOH-TAH EES-KA, the word highlights the history of the Alexis Nakota Sioux (Nakota Isga, or Stoney in English) people who settled on the shores of Lake Wakamne (Lac St. Anne). A fur

trading people, the Nakota Isga are the most northern speakers of the Siouxian language, and they have proudly retained their cultural identity as a Nakota nation.

There are many fascinating and powerful stories behind each of the 12 ward names that have been gifted to the City of Edmonton. For more information, audio pronunciations and the stories behind each of the names, please visit edmonton.ca/IndigenousWardNames.

Mary-Ann Thurber is a Communications Advisor with the City of Edmonton.

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Stony Plain Road and Area Business Association Update

Todd Janes

Welcome to the first issue of SPANN in 2021! We are excited to take the reigns of SPANN this year and are excited for a number of evolutions in this newspaper.

I would first like to thank Paula Kirman for her work over the past year as Editor. Paula took an idea and moved it forward in our inaugural year creating a strong foundation for this newspaper, with

her care and diligent work we are at a good stage to grow and to create a collective voice for west central Edmonton. In our first year we received money through a project that was funded fully by the Jasper Place Revitalization strategy. This year, the Stony Plain Road Business Association has taken on this project with a grant from Revitalization via the City of Edmonton to help us transition to an autonomous publication. We have done this with

the support of the Board of Directors of the SPR Business Association and matching funds. The BIA is investing in this project because we believe that community development involves residents, businesses and agencies and it truly can only work when we walk together in building better communities. Businesses prosper when communities and neighbourhoods grow and become more sustainable. Shopping local affords neighbours to support community-minded businesses. Jasper Place residents are 27,000 strong, and are supportive to the businesses that surround them.

Jasper Place is a community with deep histories and the surrounding ten communities that intersect with Stony Plain Road are important as an economic driving force today just as much as it was almost 100 years ago. Thinking about Stony Plain Road as a commercial district is something that I ponder a lot. In many ways with the urban spiral of Edmonton and so many new strip malls for householders enjoy, there is a convenience that Jasper Place has had for a long time. Our vision with SPR Business Association is to build better and to help promote and make SPR a stronger destination for Edmonton. I want people to Come to SPR, not just drive through it which has been the trend over the past 15 years. My job and that of our Board is to market, promote and build a renewed confidence in our business improvement area. We are seeing strong trends in new businesses

choosing SPR as a solid investment and as a destination to take a smart, calculated risk to relocate their business or to open new businesses. We are very accessible, we have lots of free, accessible parking, we have fair lease rates, and we are very connected by transit and roadways.

Over the next few years our business association will be hitting the streets to build a business recruitment and retention strategy which is essential as we begin to recover post-pandemic. We are partnering to build resources for businesses to compete online and with shared marketing. We are also starting to create place building projects temporarily and permanently that create more positive street level activities, which will enhance security and entice people to come out and enjoy our mainstreet. There is a lot of hard work to do and if you ever want to chat, please reach out to me - send me a quick email or call and let's talk about SPR- there is much happening and we need you to be part of it.

We are also seeking new contributors for SPANN - it could involve writing, photography, or other special skills. We are looking for individuals to join our editorial committee as well. If you are curious and want to find out more, reach out to our SPANN Editor, Megan Lala at spanneditor@gmail.com to talk.

Todd Janes is Executive Director of Stony Plain Road Business Association and can be reached at stonyplainbrz@gmail.com or by phone at 780-477-5169.

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Contact spanneditor@gmail.com for more information.



Editor's Notes

SPANN's 2021 Outlook

Megan Lala

Thank you for joining us for the second volume of SPANN (Stony Plain Road and Area News Network). The Stony Plain Road Business Association is happy to be continuing SPANN for a second year and to be providing individuals and businesses in the area an outlet to connect and share with one another. In 2021, I hope that through SPANN, the communities of Britannia-Youngstown, Canora, Glenwood, Grovenor, and West Jasper/Sherwood gain a sense of belonging and connection. This last year has proven that a strong community and support for local businesses is more important than ever. I am thrilled that as we move forward with SPANN, we can continue to tell these stories. I would like to take a moment to thank my predecessor, Paula Kirman, who as Editor, helped SPANN become the community-driven publication that it is today!

An exciting development with SPANN for the 2021 year is the implementation of a SPANN committee. We are currently looking for business owners, community members, and more to sit on our committee to provide unique perspectives and ideas that will help

guide SPANN throughout the year. If you are interested in applying to be on the committee, please reach out to me at spanneditor@gmail.com. Additionally, we are always looking for members of the community to contribute to SPANN. Whether you are interested in writing articles, food reviews, or taking photos, we would be happy to have your submissions in the next issue of SPANN. The deadline for the Summer 2021 issue of SPANN is Wednesday, June 2, 2021.

Another change to SPANN to note is that we have retired our previous SPANN website (thespann.ca), and have integrated SPANN onto the new Stony Plain Road Business Association website. You can find the new SPANN page by visiting www.stonyplainroad.com/SPANN. Our social media accounts remain the same, so feel free to check us out on Facebook and Instagram (@spannjasperplace) and Twitter (@thespannjp). If you have feedback on SPANN, questions or if you would like to get involved, please reach out to me at spanneditor@gmail.com. Happy spring and all the best!

Megan Lala is the Communications Coordinator with the Stony Plain Road Business Association and the Editor of SPANN.

Stony Plain Road and Area News Network

FREE

SPANN

Serving the communities of Britannia-Youngstown, Canora, Glenwood, Grovenor, and West Jasper/Sherwood

Volume 2, Number 1 Spring 2021

Editor: Megan Lala

Contributors: Phyllis Bright, Kristy Chaisson, City of Edmonton, Jonathan Cruz, James Cumming, Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, Glenwood Community League, Sarah Hoffman, Todd Janes, Andrew Knack, Megan Lala, Brooke Leifso, Deckla Lindgren, Brian Marriott, Lori Sigurdson, Taproot Edmonton, Mary-Ann Thurber, United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, Westend Seniors Activity Centre, and Leigh Wright.

Proofreader: Phyllis Bright, Jaime Gargas, Heather Gunn and Tristyn Wilm.

Designer: Byron Nilsson.

SPANN is published by the Stony Plain Road Business Association.

It is a print and online communications platform intended to connect communities and enhance a sense of place. It seeks to engage area stakeholders (residents, business owners, and agency representatives) with news and information about the area in a way that positively presents Stony Plain Road/Jasper Place as a location that is desirable to live, work, attend events, dine, and shop.

The opinions expressed in SPANN are those of the people named as the authors of the articles, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Stony Plain Road BA. Any submissions may be subject to editing for length and suitability.



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SPANN

WANTS TO SEE YOUR PHOTOS

SPANN is creating opportunities
for you to contribute to our
community newspaper!

Submit your photos to:
spanneditor@gmail.com



An Influx of Change: A Tribute to Corner Pharmacy

Brooke Leifso

Jasper Place is currently experiencing a major flux of change. Long-standing buildings have come down in the name of progress for the construction of the Valley Line West LRT route. Today, we highlight one of those businesses: the Corner Pharmacy, which has been on the corner of 156 St. and Stony Plain Road since the 1950s.

In our talk with Barrie Touchings, he speaks about his very brief experience as a boy working for the pharmacy, then owned by Mr. Miller.

In the 1950’s, he remembers two pharmacies in Jasper Place: Etherington Pharmacy and Clock Drugs (only later known as Corner Pharmacy). They served the needs of the Jasper Place community by providing essential medicine and over-the-counter medical supplies. Barrie Touchings recalls his time as a delivery boy in the 1950s. From his 10-year-old perspective, it was a big job! Before, he would come into the pharmacy for a chocolate bar, but once hired, his job was to deliver medication by bike, stock shelves, and help as needed. It was a standard pharmacy with aspirin and bandages on the open shelves, and a sectioned-off area in the back where prescriptions were filled. He recalls his deliveries were mostly to elderly clients who were immobile, blurring together in a category of “Old” in his young boy mind. On his very first day delivering, he got a flat tire! No wonder since he noted that there were no paved roads within Jasper Place, and the roads would be, at best, clay-based mud topped with gravel. Barrie painted a picture of Jasper Place as a boy, with a



Corner Pharmacy on the last day at 156St and Stony Plain Road, October 9, 2019, Left to Right Tracey Moulaye, Faye Matchett, Yvette Sheppard, Dropati Chand, Lynn Mottram, Karen Molina, Nola Balfour.

Photo Credit: Don Bouzek

farmer’s field west of Mayfield and a wooded area perfect for forts, and Canora School built upon an old railroad track.

Clock Drugs (Corner Pharmacy) was a mainstay on 156 Street and Stony Plain Road for approximately 70 years. Staff stayed surprisingly consistent, with some employed for more than 30 years, says Lynn Mottram. It delivered medication

to the local residents and provided essential care as Jasper Place evolved and grew. Corner Pharmacy, now owned by pharmacist Amir Ibrahim, is still in the community, having moved to 10118 156 Street in October 2019.

The LRT construction is radically changing the makeup of Stony Plain Road. What will stay the same and what will radically change once the

LRT is complete?

Have a story of the Corner Pharmacy or another business that has moved due to the LRT expansion? Jasper Place Community History Project is looking for your stories of Jasper Place! Please check us out on Facebook or www.jasperplacehistory.org or email us at jasperplacehistory@outlook.com.

Cumming’s Corner: Update From Edmonton Centre



James Cumming, MP
Edmonton Centre

Spring is just around the corner. If you are anything like me, you are excited about warmer days and sunshine. Spring signals the beginning of something new – a sign of hope. Provinces

are administering vaccines and Canadians are beginning to think about the future of Canada. For the business community, the future means addressing the challenges of the past year.

Many local businesses have worked incredibly hard to keep their doors open to support themselves, their families, and their workers.

Once we overcome this health crisis, we must turn our attention to rebuilding the economy, getting businesses back on their feet, and creating jobs.

I recently visited West End Shoe Repair on Stony Plain Road and met with the owner who has been in business for over 50 years! He has kept his business afloat through dedication, hard work, and support from his customers.

Next door to him are signs of the economic damage caused by COVID-19. There is a vacant yoga studio, a closed restaurant, and “For Lease” advertisements on the windows. It has been a challenging year for everyone, and I know people are eagerly waiting for the economy to open safely.

Opening the economy will be incredibly important to support local businesses, but we also need to think about how we can stimulate and

grow the economy. I recently took on a new role as the Shadow Minister for COVID-19 Economic Recovery and have gone across the country (virtually) to listen to the concerns and priorities of Canadians. So far, it is clear to me that we need to create an environment that creates jobs and allows businesses to thrive.

I have full confidence in our innovative spirit to launch us forward into a new economy. I’d love to hear from you and the local business owners working, living, and building our communities. Where do you think our efforts as a country should be focused on as we work towards economic recovery? Edmonton is a place of big ideas, and you have an opportunity to help shape our future.

James Cumming is the Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre, which includes the neighbourhoods of Canora and West Jasper/Sherwood.

Help Us Discover the People’s Agenda

Taproot Edmonton

Taproot Edmonton is on a quest to find out what Edmontonians want candidates to be talking about as they campaign for votes in the next municipal election, which will be held Oct. 18, 2021.

Here’s what we want to know from you: What key issue do you want the candidates to talk about as they compete for votes in the 2021 municipal election, and why? We invite you to submit your response at taprootedmonton.ca/peoples-agenda.

The preliminary version of the People’s Agenda, published in

December 2020, revealed a desire to know where candidates for mayor and city council stand on climate change, homelessness, and the police budget; what they intend to do to improve transportation, infrastructure, and quality of life; and how they will steward the city’s budget with integrity.

Once we gather more answers, we will assign and publish stories that dive deeper into the issues, to provide a further explanation of city council’s power to address them or make decisions pertaining to them. You’ll be able to find those at taprootedmonton.ca.

We will also ask the candidates where they stand on those issues. Between their answers to us and what we glean from other election coverage, we will produce a voters’ guide outlining what the candidates say they’ll do about the issues you say matter. When the election is over, we’ll also have a record of what the mayor and councillors said they’d do, which provides an opportunity to hold them to account over the course of their terms.

Here’s one more way to make your voice heard: Every Thursday



at noon from March 11 to April 29, we’ll be hosting online discussions to dive deeper into the People’s Agenda.

It’s free to attend, and we hope you can join us. Sign up at taprootedmonton.ca/peoples-agenda.

Full Steam Ahead on the Valley Line West LRT

City of Edmonton

It’s been a few months since we last gave you an update on the Valley Line West LRT project. We’ve made some progress since then that we’re excited to share with you.

In case you missed it, late last year we officially welcomed Marigold Infrastructure Partners as the contractor to complete detailed design and build the LRT. The detailed design is all about refining engineering details, and Marigold will be busy this year working behind the scenes to get this done. This also means that we’re all



A rendering of the future Jasper Place Stop located just off of Stony Plain Road and on 156 Street.

set to begin construction on this transformational project this year. You may have already noticed some Marigold crews along the LRT route completing some borehole drilling. This early work helps them to prepare the detailed design for the project by taking samples of ground conditions to verify the information we have on the route.

We know that the construction schedule and its impacts are a hot topic for anyone that lives, works or uses the areas near the LRT route. Marigold is busy planning and preparing for project construction. Once we have details on construction, we’ll share

information with you on what you can expect in terms of timelines and activities.

We’re also continuing with some other early work that’s necessary to get the LRT route ready for full construction. You can expect to see crews completing utility relocations and building removals until the end of this year.

Looking for More?

To learn more about the Valley Line West LRT project visit edmonton.ca/valleylinewest. We’re always available to help with any questions or concerns you may have about the project. Contact the LRT projects information centre by email (LRTprojects@edmonton.ca) or by leaving a voicemail at 780-496-4874. You can also get in touch with Marigold by email (public@marigoldinfra.ca) or by calling 780-412-2183.



An artist’s rendering shows how the roadway near Stony Plain Road and 151 Street will be transformed once construction is complete.

The Really Good Shoe Store: *Kunitz Shoes*



Megan Lala

There is a new addition to the diverse array of businesses on Stony Plain Road this Spring. Kunitz Shoes has opened their most recent location at 10046 167 St. They are very excited to continue serving their long-term customers as well as new shoppers in the community. I spoke with Morgan Kuntiz, Co-Owner of Kunitz Shoes, to find out more about the business.

Morgan and her brother, Everett, run Kuntiz shoes along with their parents and founders of the business, Dwane and Darlene Kunitz. The business is truly a family-run operation as Morgan does most of the buying and day-to-day operations, Everett does a lot of marketing and long-term planning, Dwane is the heart of the business and Darlene keeps things running with accounting.

Kunitz Shoes was not always the shoe store that most Edmontonians know today. The business started as a kids shoe store called Kobber King in Heritage Mall in 1981. After a decade, the store expanded to offer shoes for the whole family and was renamed Kunitz Shoes.

“My dad felt that if you had your name on the store, it was sure to hold you accountable,”

states Kunitz.

Kunitz Shoes has operated a store in the Downtown Edmonton core for nearly 20 years. The business’ run in that location was coming to an end and they looked to what was next in the business cycle. They asked their customers where they would like to see a location and the overwhelming response was the west-end.

“We are in excellent company on all sides here with Pacesetter Ski, Astros Restaurant and other well established businesses,” says Kunitz, “We can feel that this move is the right direction and we know that the combination of really good shoes and really good people is a match made in heaven.”

Over the years, many customers have had a hard time pronouncing the name Kunitz Shoes. The team would hear people calling the store ‘that really good shoe store’ and so, ‘really good shoes’ became the store’s mantra and is infused in everything they do. The store specializes in stylish, comfortable, walkable shoes that are brought in from all over the world for men, women and kids.

“Our customers are such a joy and I feel like seeing them everyday has kept me going. Even during full shutdown, helping people over the phone was the highlight of my day,” states Kunitz,

“The support we have had over the last year has been so incredible and I now really see how what we built in the community matters to people.”

For any businesses wanting to expand or open during these uncertain times, Kunitz had this to offer:

“All of our expansions and growth in our last 40 year history have been during recessions. It’s a time to reflect and reinvest back in yourself. There are opportunities in the market whether it is a great new location or sourcing new products for people, the market is hungry and if you are able to invest now, the return on the other side can be great.”

Kunitz Shoes is a 2nd generation, family-owned and operated business and they are thrilled to be taking the next step in their business with the Stony Plain Road community behind them.

10046 167 St
KunitzShoes.ca
780-443-0115
FB: @Kunitzshoes
Instagram: @kunitz_shoes

Megan Lala is the Communications Coordinator for the Stony Plain Road Business Association and is the Editor of SPANN.

VARIANT EDITION

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Placemaking with Murals

Todd Janes

Stony Plain Road (SPR) is about to begin a process over the next five years which will significantly transform this area like nothing since our annexation from Jasper Place to becoming part of the City of Edmonton. The completion of the Valley Line West will see a street level LRT running from Millwoods to Lewis Estates and through the middle of SPR. It will bring with this a sizable amount of transit-orientated developments (TOD) of over 15,000 new residential suites over the next ten years. A portion of the work that our BIA (Business Improvement Area) is doing is to create opportunities, marketing and promotions from now through construction and moving further forward.

This includes creating spaces and opportunities for more people to come to SPR and not just

drive through our area. Building SPR as a destination through place-making will create opportunities for people to walk through our main street area and spend time gathering with friends, hanging out, shopping and patronizing businesses.

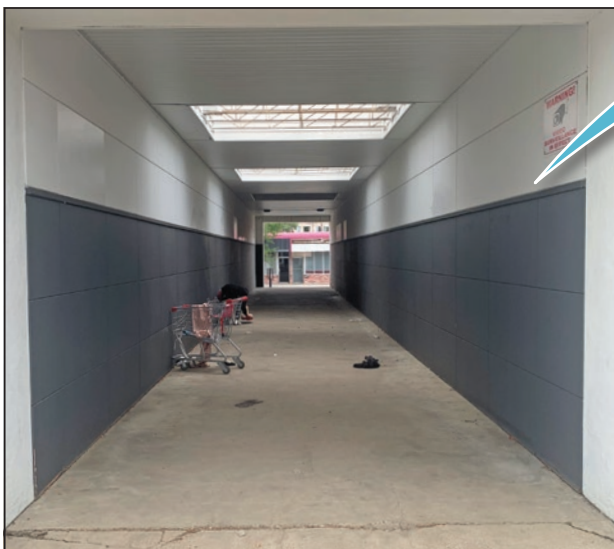
Studies show that streets with greater pedestrian traffic increases the financial success of business, raises the positive interactions of people, creates a greater sense of community and heightens people's sense of safety and security. Your BIA can lead these activities and we need local businesses to help make these ideas and concepts a reality. This summer we are investing in several programs to help build this vision and take the first few steps in a five-year plan to enhance place building along SPR. We know that marketing has changed a great deal and now people are influenced by people that highlight trends and opportunities of

interest. Social Media platforms like Instagram are very influential in piquing people's interest and curiosity. Many of you will remember the painting of a back alleyway in Old Strathcona and how many people posted their selfies in the constructed environment.

SPR Business Association is planning several place building projects this summer including creating three large new murals that will be full of colour and in prominent locations. We will be using these new public art pieces to build positive street vibrancy. We are also excited that the owners of Revolution Square will be working on installing new murals on their buildings over the summer months too. For more info on place making within SPR, please reach out to Todd at 780-477-5169.

Todd Janes is the Executive Director with the Stony Plain Road Business Association.

Instagrammable Walls Coming to Revolution Square!



Leigh Wright

Revolution Square (15117 Stony Plain Rd) is home to many great local businesses and is about to get revitalized with three massive murals! Your input can help shape and inspire two of the walls that will be painted.

Weal Holdings Group, owners of Revolutions Square, in partnership with Vignettes Showcase Inc. and the City of Edmonton are reaching out to the community of Jasper Place to help inspire, create, and participate in conceptualizing these massive murals.

The murals will be added to Revolution Square: the west-facing wall, the 100 foot tunnel

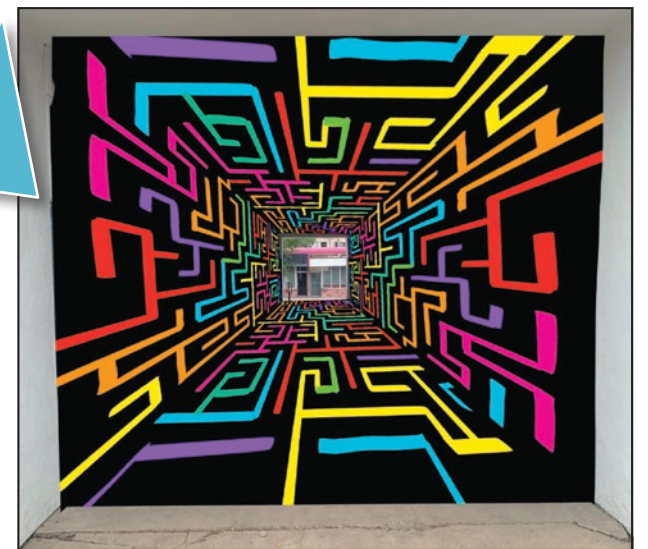
breezeway at the centre of the square, and the southeast corner (located by Neo Juicery). The team at Vignettes has already designed the breezeway mural. It will be an interactive 360 degree, light up experience that is sure to get some major attention from its Pac-Man inspired design. Each mural will be a destination in itself, and have the ability to be fully programmed. We want artist groups, musicians, market collectives, and car enthusiasts to pop-up and utilize the murals as beautiful backdrops for their events and photos.

Vignettes has developed a fun and inclusive way for the community to get involved - an inspirational colouring contest... with a twist! Colouring sheets will be distributed to various schools, community halls, churches, and local businesses for the public to pick-up. Community members can submit what they feel should be reflected in the murals to inspire Vignettes' creative direction.

Don't like to colour, or is drawing a hard way to communicate your ideas?

Vignettes believes in inclusivity and we are not limiting submissions strictly to colouring. Vignettes is accepting all forms of creative expression.

Send us a video of you talking, singing, or even dancing. Feel free to share a song that sets a mood, create a mood board, compile inspiration photos,



tell us in words, in a story, or even just colour the sheet. It doesn't matter what your age is or skill level, the idea is to get people to communicate their ideas through whatever medium they are comfortable using. We want to gather inspiration from the diverse community and turn them into works of art.

Visit any participating Revolution Square business to pick up your colouring sheet. The contest begins March 20th, 2021 and runs to April 20th, 2021. Full contest details and rules are located on the colouring sheets and on vignettesyeg.ca.

Leigh Wright is the CEO and Founder of Vignettes YEG.

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Westend Seniors Activity Centre Shows Seniors Just How Tech-Savvy They Can Be!

Who says that seniors are afraid of technology? The Westend Seniors Activity Centre (WSAC) knows first hand that this is simply not the case.

With the arrival of COVID-19 in the spring of 2020, a remarkable transformation was undertaken and WSAC headed the challenge to deliver their classes and other services virtually and turn their website into a virtual hub for seniors.

The goal was to keep seniors active and engaged. It was a steep hill to climb. The staff immediately saw a challenge as many seniors wanted to continue taking classes but had a lack of technical knowledge. That didn't stop the centre's staff. Within those first weeks of the centre's closure, online classes were scheduled and the first of hundreds of seniors were educated on a variety of devices. Each

person who requested it received one-to-one training completely free of charge and in their own home. As well, much programming was offered during the summer at a very low cost or free to the participants.

"It was a huge success. We heard loud and clear that our members wanted to keep active and they were not at all nervous about learning how to use ZOOM" said Dr. Haidong Liang, Executive Director of the centre. "In the past 10 months, Westend Seniors has facilitated thousands of hours of programming to hundreds of seniors who have participated in our training sessions."

The learning continues today. Seniors have learned how to utilize Zoom, register for programs, and are participating in over 45 online fitness, wellness, yoga, dance,

wellness, technology, French and Spanish classes.

"Our members have told us our online programs have been "a lifeline" during this pandemic but we know that along with keeping seniors physically active, we also need to address their social needs and keep them connected with us and their peers." said Liang. "Our volunteers are amazing. Our friendly phone call/email program was developed by recruiting 29 volunteers who made over 8000 calls for us in 2020. These calls were a way for us to check in on members and other seniors and provide them with vital information about the different resources available to them. We have kept this program going with regular calls by our volunteers every two weeks."

Throughout the pandemic, WSAC

has relied on our volunteers in many different ways and will continue with their support once we reopen. "They have helped with our meal program, outdoor special events, and filled essential positions to ensure the health and safety of anyone entering our centre." said Liang. Spring is right around the corner and Liang hopes to see his centre's doors open soon. "We are following the government's guidelines closely."

If you know an older adult that would benefit from technology training, online classes or would appreciate a "friendly phone call", you can contact the Westend Seniors Activity Centre at 780 483 1209 or visit their website www.weseniors.ca

Article submitted by the Westend Seniors Activity Centre.

Jasper Place Revitalization - Moving forward

Todd Janes

In early December 2020, Edmonton City Council voted to approve a one-time transitional funding for the communities of Jasper Place and Alberta Avenue to transition away from a structured Revitalization program via Neighbour Services with the City. This funding will last for a period of two years. The programming funding will be allocated directly to the communities to utilize at their discretion, most likely by a funding agreement. This funding does not carry any HR support from the City of Edmonton, Revitalization. Since

this time conversations have been happening (socially distanced) to explore what this support could look like as we begin this meaningful transition. In this time Stony Plain Road Business Association has agreed to serve as the fiscal agent to assist in the administration and facilitation of this process.

This conversation is ongoing and evolving however certain themes are reoccurring with a shared vision to build a strong, resilient, and healthy community that is inclusive and collaborative, and builds connections with all citizens, businesses, and agencies throughout

Jasper Place. To this end we are creating a movement, a working group that we are calling Jasper Place Community Development. JPCD is a broad-based, community-driven, volunteer group that works to create meaningful, impactful strategies and actions to build capacity for our collective communities in central-west Edmonton intersected by Stony Plain Road.

Guiding principles: Inclusive practices; anti-racism actions; open actions to ensure accessibility in all areas including physical and cognitive ability, economic diversity, anti poverty, and mobility; openness and

transparency; and kindness. This Working Group aims to be diverse and inclusive and representative of our community. Where possible we look to have community members from diverse experiences and abilities and as a community-based movement we are stronger and better with diversity.

If you are interested in joining this working group or want to talk about our collective community actions, please reach out to Todd at stonyplainbrz@gmail.com.

Todd Janes is the Executive Director of the Stony Plain Road Business Association.



COMMITMENT TO ACTION

HELP US IMPROVE POLICING

EPS is engaging with Black, Indigenous, racialized and underserved communities to improve policing, and reimagine community safety and well-being.

EPS WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

- Join the conversation at an EPS listening session.
- Host your own community event using our toolkit.
- Share your experiences and ideas, or learn more at epsinput.ca.



News From the Ledge:

An update from the area's MLAs



MLA Lori Sigurdson

Alberta's NDP
Official Opposition
780 414 0719
Edmonton.riverview@assembly.ab.ca
9202B – 149 Street
Edmonton,
T5M 0H3

Looking out my window, in my home office (we are still working from home, like many others, due to COVID) I see a bright blue sky. Balmy temperatures are in the plus 8 range. Having lived in northern Alberta since I was 7, I know that spring has not come. There will be more deep freeze days ahead. Yet, it is so lovely to have a reprieve at the moment. Spring is coming...

Spring signals a time of awakenings, rebirth and renewal, as we emerge from

the dark Edmonton winter. Yet there is still darkness here. On February 28th, the UCP Government presented their budget. A budget is like a blueprint for government. It specifies what supports and services it will provide its citizens in the upcoming fiscal year. As, representatives of the official opposition, Sarah and I see a missed

opportunity for renewal in Alberta.

This budget hurts Alberta's prospects for long-term economic recovery by cutting deeply into our kindergarten through grade 12 and post-secondary education systems. We know 20,000 students will enroll in the fall 2021 semester with no additional funding from Alberta Education. The University of Alberta, a world class institution, will receive \$60 million less, meaning many of their programs are being gutted. As we know, Alberta needs to diversify its economy and investing in post-secondary is a key element of diversification. We need investments in training, skills and research to build new sectors and keep young people in Alberta. Sadly, the UCP are not planning for our well-being and are making extremely short-sighted cuts.

Small businesses and entrepreneurs are hardly mentioned in the budget. We know they are struggling. We know they need game-changing investments to survive. The budget has extended the emergency relief to small businesses but they have made these funds more difficult to access. Tech and innovation tax credits are being reintroduced after they were cut in 2019, meaning small businesses didn't have access to these funds during the past, extremely difficult, 2 years.

Another disturbing decision made by the

UCP is their continued willingness to gamble away our money. We know that at least \$2.4 billion has been lost on the KXL Pipeline. Despite President Biden saying that he would cancel that project, when he was a candidate, Premier Kenney threw caution to the wind and spent our money on a doomed project. This is yet more foolish decision making similar to the 2019, \$4.7 corporate handout, that made wealthy shareholders richer and regular Albertans poorer.

As the sun makes our days longer and temperatures warmer, let's all enjoy this while we can. As citizens of this great province, let's continue to advocate for better days, where all Albertans benefit from public services that include them. We would love to hear from you regarding what is important to you. Please go to AlbertasFuture.ca and let us know!



MLA Sarah Hoffman

Alberta's NDP
Official Opposition
780 455 7979
Edmonton.glenora@assembly.ab.ca
#201, 12408 - 108
Avenue, Edmonton,
T5R 1C3

Resilience

Councillor Andrew Knack

A simple "Hello." "How are you?" and "Stay Safe" go a long way these days.

As March marks one year since the COVID-19 pandemic began here in Edmonton, I am constantly uplifted by the resilience of Edmontonians and our local businesses owners. Our local business owners are the backbone of our communities, that bring vibrancy and culture to our everyday streets. Through their dedication to their craft we learn

about new cultures, new traditions and bring a piece of their homes into ours despite not being able to connect together in person.

More than ever we crave connectedness and opportunities to talk to our neighbors. What better way to do that than to pop into your local shop to say hello to a community member while also supporting their business.



Andrew Knack

While this pandemic has not been easy on us, it has brought forward the importance of connecting with community members on the most basic levels in a time where our connections are limited. I hope that the next time you go out on an outing, take the time to visit your favourite local store and take a moment to connect with them.

As their neighbours, community members and friends it is our duty to let them know that their dedication and hard work does not go unnoticed.

Andrew Knack
City Councillor – Ward 1

Website: AndrewKnack.com
Email: Andrew.Knack@edmonton.ca
Phone: 780-496-8122
Facebook: [@AndrewKnackEdmonton](https://www.facebook.com/AndrewKnackEdmonton)
Twitter: [@AndrewKnack](https://twitter.com/AndrewKnack)
Instagram: [@AndrewKnack](https://www.instagram.com/AndrewKnack)

Do you
want to have input on the
next issue of *SPANN*?
Apply to be on our planning committee today!
Reach out to Megan at
spanneditor@gmail.com

Community League Updates

Updates from the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues:

Fund Your Community League Solar Project

One-hour Webinar on Alberta Municipal Solar Program (AMSP)
Join EFCL and Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) to learn about the Alberta Municipal Solar Program (AMSP).
March 10
7-8pm
Register: https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/fund-your-community-league-solar-project-tickets-142730257041?fbclid=IwAR2GpK1jNy4ZNfBXCQy-18vLVN7hYVUFuF8s8z5oLI_LEm5q6x5TbnOQIos

Applying for Infrastructure & Operating Grants

A free webinar to learn about available funding and how to apply for it
Join EFCL and City of Edmonton Social Development Branch for Community Leagues to learn about available funding and how to apply for it.
The free online two-hour session will cover:
• Community League Infrastructure Program (CLIP)
• Community League Operating Grant (CLOG)
It's free.
March 15
7-9pm
Register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/applying-for-infrastructure-operating-grants-tickets-143144285411>

Walking Program

Safe Way to get Outdoors & Connect
This program is available to all Communities interested in starting an Urban Pole Walking (aka Nordic Walking) group.
Three sets of Urban Poles are available for free to Community Leagues with someone willing to lead their neighbours. First come, first serve.
EFCL's Seniors Program Walking Advisor, Kim Mah, leads free training for Urban Pole Walking. She is more than happy to help you get a program up and running in your Community. Poles are available for use during these sessions.
More info: <https://efcl.org/initiatives/league-walking-program/?portfolioCats=16%2C17>

Canora Park Watch Update:

Deckla Lindgren

Canora Park Watch would like to welcome new residents and say hello to long time residents of Canora. Our mission is to create community through people, parks, and programs. We are a volunteer organization that hosts about six events per year from spring to fall. These are to encourage residents to utilize our parks in a positive manner and also to have the opportunity to meet with new residents and to meet up with old friends and neighbours.

As vaccinations are progressing, Canora Park Watch is hoping that we will be able to host some 2021 programs. Unfortunately, the Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be cancelled for 2021. We are not sure about the "Mini Carnival" in May, which is always a huge success, or the June events of Fitness in the Park, or the Seniors Tea in St Anne Park.


Check your mailboxes for colourful flyers indicating that we are able to host these events.

We truly hope we can start planning and organizing the May, June and September events and will keep you posted. In the meantime, remember, "For a better community - help each other throughout the year".

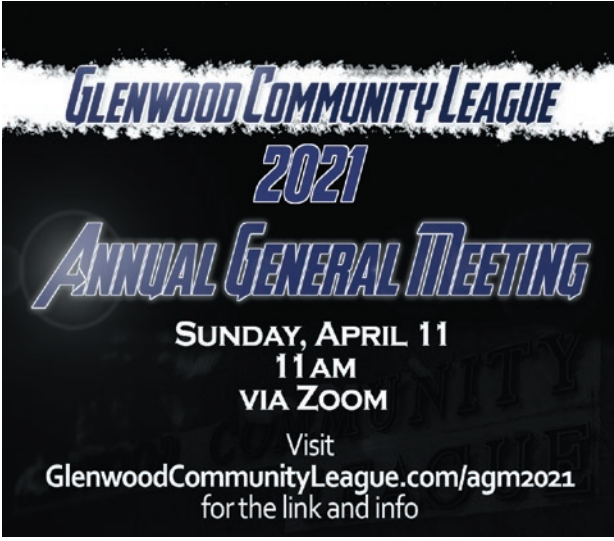
On behalf of Canora Park Watch, Here's to a great 2021. We are looking forward to seeing you again, sooner rather than later.

Deckla is the Canora Park Watch Coordinator.

Glenwood Community League Update:



GLENWOOD COMMUNITY LEAGUE
glenwoodcommunityleague.com - facebook.com/glenwoodcommunity - twitter.com/glenwoodl - 780-489-7571 - glenwoodcommunity@hotmail.com
16430 - 97 Avenue - Edmonton, AB T5P 0E8



GLENWOOD COMMUNITY LEAGUE
2021
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, APRIL 11
11 AM
VIA ZOOM
Visit
GlenwoodCommunityLeague.com/agm2021
for the link and info

The Children and Family Network

Jonathan Cruz

Welcome to the maiden voyage of THE CHILDREN & FAMILY NETWORK COLUMN your number one source of information for Childcare and Family Benefits (Federal and Provincial). This column will provide an opportunity to empower the community to have a strong grasp of information on different benefits available for their children and their families.
We encourage various Childcare Centers, Daycare Operators and Childcare Providers to reach out to us and provide information about their programs and services that they are offering the community.
For months now, the Children and Family Services under Minister Rebecca Schulz introduced in the house an extensive consultation with stakeholders, parents and caregivers that approves the creation of the new Alberta Child Care Licensing Regulation that came into effect February 1, 2021.

You can get a copy of the new regulations at: https://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2008_143.pdf

SOME CHANGES IN THE NEW EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE ACT:
Increased transparency for parents
• Requires licensed programs to notify parents of any issues related to their licence.
• Enables Children's Services to disclose whether any stop orders have been issued against an unlicensed provider within 24 months.
New online resources for parents are being developed so parents can make informed child care decisions, as well as a toolkit for unlicensed home-based providers to help answer questions they may have and outline the support they can access.
Modernize child care
• Allows digital record-keeping so operators and educators can spend less time managing paperwork, and more time supporting children

and families in their communities.
• Changes the name of the Act and regulation to emphasize the importance of early childhood learning and development in licensed child care settings.
• Updates and simplifies language, terminology and best practices to align with current standards and expectations.
Anyone can use the free information service being provided by The Canadian Childcare Resource Center Inc. at www.admissioncenter.ca or you can reach them at director@admissioncenter.ca
Alternatively, here is a list of various sites that families can use for their Family and Child Resources:
24 HOURS FOOD SUPPORT:
<https://www.edmontonsfoodbank.com>
24 HOURS CRISIS LINE:
<https://edmonton.cmha.ca>
24 HOURS WOMEN'S EMERGENCY SHELTER:
<https://e4calberta.org/shelter-housing>

Community Classifieds

Community Classifieds are **FREE** to area residents. Length limit: five lines or less. We reserve the right to edit classifieds based on clarity and suitability. We also reserve the right to refuse classifieds that are not appropriate for the paper. Classifieds may also appear on our website. Email your classified ad to spanneditor@gmail.com.

Kids On Track

Creating Community

Kristy Chaisson

At Kids On Track, we teach the kids that there is a difference between reacting and responding. Reacting is emotionally driven, in the moment, and often leaves individuals with hurt feelings and damaged relationships. Responding, however, allows one to address a situation, even an intensely serious one, with thoughtfulness, resiliency, and determination. That's exactly what happened during the COVID-19 pandemic at Kids On Track.

March 2020 hit the world like a ton of bricks. We were facing a lockdown in society that this generation had never seen before. Businesses crumbled, programs shut down, and schools closed their doors. Though we were bombarded with things we

COULDN'T do, we began to focus on what we COULD do. At KOT we call them "CANs and CANTs." Though many of our programs were cancelled, community was not cancelled. Though we were limited in what we could do, hope was not limited. We knew that more than ever, our families needed to know they were not alone, and that Kids On Track was still creating community in new and creative ways.

The limitation in gatherings propelled our programs into the world wide web. We began to tape Family Fun Night, produce videos for youth to watch, and even created supportive videos for kids on how to deal with anxiety and fear. We stretched our vision and allowed for some very creative program adaptations. Active Families held a



virtual smoothie making class, and ran online Zumba classes. Youth went outside...for EVERYTHING! We even did LITE training outside! Though these times brought along extra challenges and hurdles, we acknowledge and honor the perseverance and grit of our staff who re-did curriculum, memorized COVID screening sheets, and continued to make community connections with children, youth, and families.

As we move forward in this "new normal," we have not lost sight of the vision that has been placed on our hearts to be a hub for community families. We continue to work within guidelines and health orders, and we

have adopted a posture of innovation and resiliency. We continue to seek out opportunities to connect with kids, youth, and families, and we know that at the end of the day, Kids On Track families will feel cared for and a part of a connected community.

Looking to connect? Kids On Track is running bi-monthly Active Families programs and weekly Youth programs. We have Zoom Kids Clubs also operating on a weekly basis. Check out all our programming and ways to connect on our website at kidsontrack.org

Kristy Chaisson is the Program Director with the Kids on Track Association of Edmonton.

United Volunteers are Changing Lives



This year's National Volunteer Week is focused on the Value of One, the Power of Many - the value of one act and the power of many enables us all to thrive together. This week reminds us that through the dedication of individuals, our community can become a better place

for everyone.

United Way is committed to mobilizing collective action to create pathways out of poverty, bringing individuals together to generate positive change in the Edmonton area. That collective action included the support of nearly 800 volunteers in 2020, who contributed close to 7,080 hours to strengthening

our region. Volunteers also heeded the call for help when the pandemic hit our region last year by creating over 1,100 urgently needed supply kits from home. These caring members of our community joined United Way's efforts to create a place where everyone has the chance to reach their full potential.

"Whether they are a member of cabinet and setting the direction for our future efforts or filling backpacks for school children who need supplies, volunteers are an integral part of the work that we do," said Rob Yager, President and CEO of United Way of the Alberta Capital Region. "Our volunteers' dedication to building a better community continues to inspire me and makes me excited about the future of our region."

In addition to those who volunteer directly with United Way, in 2019, when volunteering was more accessible and without restrictions due to COVID-

19, more than 10,500 individuals volunteered close to 400,000 hours to support the 140 partners that receive funding through United Way to provide services to local people in need.

Looking at the big picture, United Way works with community partners to deliver a coordinated network of services and programs to address a range of needs for children and families who are struggling, demonstrating the power of many that starts with one dedicated individual.

Thanks to the support of volunteers, United Way was able to help 257,256 people in 2019 and to support the most vulnerable during the pandemic. United, we are changing local lives and building a brighter path for individuals and families living in poverty.

Article submitted by United Way of the Alberta Capital Region.



Now Open!
10046-167 st.

Snapshots of SPR!



Photo of products at Apache Seeds Limited (10136 149 St NW)

Submitted by the Stony Plain Road Business Association



Photo of new benches in Butler Memorial Park (15715 Stony Plain Road)

Submitted by Brian Marriott

Here are some images taken while out and about on Stony Plain Road! Do you want to see your photography published in the next issue of SPANN? We're looking for community members to send in photos of Stony Plain Road and the surrounding areas. Reach out to spanneditor@gmail.com for more information!



Meet Hibo! He is a three-legged dog that was rescued from Taiwan! He belongs to the owner of The Flag Shop (15507 Stony Plain Road). When Hibo visits his owner at work, he likes to lay on the carpet in front of the window and say hi to people as they walk by!

Submitted by The Flag Shop owner, Phyllis Bright



Photo of interior of Just For Fun Video Games (10066 156 St NW)

Submitted by the Stony Plain Road Business Association



Photo of pipes at Global Cigars (10118 149 St NW)

Submitted by the Stony Plain Road Business Association