

SPANN



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

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Jasper Place Transit Centre Reopens

The Jasper Place Transit Centre officially reopened on April 20, 2020 after a rehabilitation that included:

- Accessible public washrooms
- Bike racks
- Heated shelter
- Amenity building for Transit Operators
- Renewed bus lanes

The City of Edmonton would like to thank the residents of Jasper Place for their patience while we completed this important work. Enjoy your new Jasper Place Transit Centre!

Information submitted by the City of Edmonton.



The new Jasper Place Transit Centre.

Photo Credit: City of Edmonton

A Mixed Reaction to Alberta's New Relaunch

Megan Lala

On May 14, 2020, the Government of Alberta entered phase one of their relaunch plan in hopes of helping the province return to a sense of normalcy. Stage one allows for some businesses and services to reopen and resume operations with two-metre physical distancing requirements still in effect and other public health guidelines in place. These businesses include:

- Some retail, such as clothing, furniture, and bookstores.
- Some personal services, such as hair salons and barber shops.
- Museums and art galleries.
- Daycares with limited occupancy.
- Cafes and restaurants with 50 percent capacity.

With businesses beginning to open back up, the relaunch has been met with both praise and skepticism from Edmontonians. One argument is that many are happy that Albertans are able to work again, and that the economy will be getting a jump start. Another view-

point is that others are worried that it is too soon for Edmonton to reopen, and are afraid that it might cause a jump in cases if people aren't careful. But, how can the public ensure people and businesses are following the proper guidelines?

The Government of Alberta has launched a website for businesses to inform them of guidelines for the relaunch called BizConnect (alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx). BizConnect acts as a hub for a variety of sectors including: hair salons, daycares, retail, restaurants, general workplace guidance, and more. These resources are not only important for businesses to be aware of, but also the general public. The only way for people to know if a business is following procedures, is to know the procedures themselves.

Another way to have peace of mind while visiting establishments in stage one of Alberta's relaunch is to protect oneself. Take precautions, wear a mask, and keep a two-metre distance from those you don't live with. In order to stop

the spread of the virus, everyone has a responsibility to do their part, including the general public. If a person is exhibiting symptoms such as a sore throat, runny nose, cough, or chest pain, they are strongly encouraged to get tested for the virus.

As stage one of the relaunch plays out, many people may find themselves wondering which of their favourite businesses are open, as there are some right now that have chosen to continue with delivery and curbside pickup. One of the best ways to find out this information is to check out your local business association's business directory online. The Stony Plain Road & Area BIA has contact information listed for businesses in the area, where a person can find out how a business is currently operating. There are also a variety of directories online that let customers know if a business is open or not, like thingsthatareopen.com.

After only a short time to adjust to the relaunch, some businesses have decided to reopen and let a few customers inside at a time. Others have opted to remain

closed to the public for the time being.

For Celebrate, Gluten-Free located at 15213 Stony Plain Road, owner Lee-Ann Neufeld tells us, "We're still doing curbside pickup and delivery. It mostly has to do with whether or not we'd be busy enough to do more than that, and because we're really busy doing deliveries there aren't enough staff to cover bases right now."

While the gluten-free bakery is busy with curbside and delivery orders, Neufeld tells us that there is a demand for them to reopen, but that it's ultimately about if that crowd is big enough to be sustainable yet.

As stage one of Alberta's relaunch runs its course, it is unclear how comfortable people will be to go back to what they knew before the pandemic. It may take some time, but by taking precautions, both Edmontonians and businesses may just see their lives progress to a new normal.

Megan Lala is the Communications Coordinator for the Stony Plain Road & Area BIA.

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Editor's Notes

Paula E. Kirman, Editor



Paula E. Kirman

Thank you for joining us for the second issue of SPANN. We received a lot of positive feedback about our April issue.

Publishing that first issue was an interesting experience. Edmonton went into lockdown mode just as we were ready to head to the printer. As a result, the COVID-19 pandemic wasn't really addressed, other than our note to readers on the front page.

What we said then still holds true. We want SPANN to be a way of connecting the community in a time when we are forced to isolate and be physically distant from each other. We hope that these pages will help us all feel a little closer, which is why this issue we have a loose theme of Connecting.

Even though all community events are cancelled, we still have a wide range of news and information about things happening the community, as well as updates from our organizations, community leagues, and elected officials.

Have you checked out our website? At thespann.ca you can sign up for our e-newsletter. Please also join us on social media, where we post current information relevant to the area the paper serves. We're @spannjasperplace on Facebook and Instagram, and @thespannjip on Twitter.

For questions and comments, as well as information on how to contribute, contact me at spanneditor@gmail.com.

Our next editorial deadline is August 12th. Stay safe and well, and see you in September!

Please Note: Government guidelines for COVID-19 are constantly evolving, and readers are advised to consult the relevant AHS websites for up-to-date information as to whether any activity is deemed safe and lawful.



Editor: Paula E. Kirman

Contributors: Ashley Bouchard, Britannia-Youngstown Community League, Canora Community League, Kristy Chaisson, City of Edmonton, James Cumming, Edmonton Arts Council, Glenwood Community League, Sarah Hoffman, Todd Janes, Jasper Place Wellness Centre, Paula E. Kirman, Jason Klinck, Andrew Knack, Megan Lala, Danica LeBlanc, Brooke Leifso, Deckla Lindgren, Kelly McCauley, Sim Senol, Lori Sigurdson, United Way of Alberta Capital Region, West Jasper Place/Sherwood Community League, Westend Seniors Activity Centre

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SPANN is published by the Stony Plain Road and Area 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 BIA. Any submissions may be subject to editing for length and suitability.



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Stony Plain Road and Area Business Association Update

Todd Janes

Thank you for picking up this second issue of SPANN. I hope you enjoy reading through the issue. Originally, we had planned to do a reduced run of each issue in our four-issue volume. With the circumstances brought forth with COVID-19, we made a decision to continue with a full print run of 10,000 for this second issue primarily because we are all trying to do what we can to limit and reduce the spread of this coronavirus and to protect vulnerable people through social and physical distancing. Also, as we continue to help build a growing community publication we thought receiving this paper through Canada Post would be another way of connecting each of us.

For me, and probably for many of us, this pandemic has allowed us to refocus on things and people that are

important to all of us. As your business improvement area, it has also afforded our team opportunities to focus on how we support businesses in the Stony Plain Road corridor and west Edmonton. As still a fairly new Executive Director, I have valued the conversations that I have had with numerous business owners, and have been moved by the honesty and concern shared with me. I am very honoured by the care and deep concern by businesses about their customers and staff. This situation is unprecedented for them and their clients. The majority of businesses in our area have struggled with large decreases in revenues, and some of them will not survive. Some have already chosen to close permanently. I can share with you that as a business district, our closures will not be as drastic as some BIAs in Alberta. A fairly active and larger number of residents living close by, lower lease

rates, free parking, and solid transit access are considerable positives for Stony Plain Road. As well, the innovation and tenacity of our businesses will add to our collective resilience. We are working with businesses and governments to provide clear, vetted, and verified information to our members, and to continually advocate on their behalf.

Moving forward, there will be some things that will change, but certainly every business in our area is committed to offering you safe and secure experiences for their customers and workers. Reaching out to customers in our neighbourhoods is also paramount, and shopping local and supporting neighbour economies, will become a growing movement. We will be working towards marketing and communicating about the importance of shopping local. When you shop local, the majority of your dollars stay in your commun-

ity and also supports a richer and more vibrant local economy. We are fortunate that Stony Plain Road has pretty much everything you need within the 30 blocks of our business area. We have a solid diversity of services and retail experiences. I would love to hear from you about what you think would make our area even better, and if you are interested in opening a new business or another location in or around Stony Plain Road.

We are all in this together. Staying local and spending local money creates healthier economies and can contribute to healthier outcomes for all of us who live, work, and play in our area.

Stay Kind. Be Safe.

Todd Janes is the Executive Director with the Stony Plain Road and Area Business Association. He can be reached at 780-477-5169 or by email at stonyplainroadbrz@gmail.com.

Jasper Place Revitalization Update

Jason Klinck

Hello Jasper Place.

Due to the effects of COVID-19 on City of Edmonton finances and operations, I regret to inform you that my temporary assignment as the Jasper Place Revitalization Coordinator has ended prematurely. I will miss each of you with whom I have had the opportunity to connect and work with over the last year and a half.

I am proud of the work you have done to renew your community newspaper for the neighbourhoods participating in the Jasper Place Revitalization. The COVID-19 pandemic was not part of our conversations when we were planning for the relaunch of this newspaper. At the time of writing, we have been self-isolating for eight weeks. Schools and businesses remain closed, and many of the planned community projects that were outlined in the last issue have been put on hold.

The impact on individuals, families, and local organizations is significant, including job loss, housing shifts, and health impacts. The cancellation of social and recreational activities and reduced social services can cause fear, anxiety, boredom, and loneliness. Jasper Place communities are responding with compassion and creativity, as well as simple acts of kindness. I have heard stories of people buying groceries for one another, of impromptu online dance parties, and even outdoor Monopoly games. They have been reaching out in new online ways, and using apps such as Nextdoor to connect with neighbours from a distance.

There are also many organizations that are continuing to work to support people in the community. For example, with some of the food depots closing, the Jasper Place Wellness Centre, The Mustard Seed, and Fresh Routes have all continued to get food to community members that need it. If you would like to help, please reach out as volunteers are needed.

At the end of the day, community is no more

than a nice idea unless we use it as such. Each one of us taking ownership to reach out to even just one person can make the difference between someone struggling in isolation, or finding a contact, a bit of key information, or a person to talk to when they may have had none.

While some revitalization projects are now on hold, there are others that can be adjusted to adhere to Alberta Health Services (AHS) public health orders and the City of Edmonton require-

ments to keep ourselves and our neighbours safe. If you have an idea and want to connect regarding Jasper Place Revitalization, please contact Serena De Souza (serena.desouza@edmonton.ca)

It has been a real privilege for me to work in Jasper Place over the past year, and I've met many motivated, thoughtful, and caring people. You should all be proud of what you are creating in Jasper Place!

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thespann.ca**

Cumming's Corner: Updates From Edmonton Centre



**James Cumming, MP
Edmonton Centre**

When I was elected last fall, I could never have imagined that we would find ourselves in a pandemic two seasons later. I hope you have all been able to follow the public health measures in place in our

province. I have been working from home, as I am sure many of you have as well, and have become very familiar with platforms like Zoom, Google Hangouts, and Skype, both for professional and personal purposes.

Part of my job as an MP during the quarantine has included virtual sittings of the Standing Committee on Finance, which you can find online either on my Facebook page or via the Parliament website. I have also tried to keep track of all the announcements made by the federal government in the past 8+ weeks. I have been speaking with many interest groups

and stakeholders and learning how they have been affected by the pandemic measures, and I have been advocating for them with the federal government in Ottawa. Whether emphasizing commercial rent relief as an important issue, or including the non-profit sector in the measures in place, these are important issues to stand up for and speak out on.

Please use my website (www.jamescumming.ca) as a reference point for government programs (the information on it is taken from government websites and referenced accordingly). If you have experienced any issues applying for the federal programs in place, whether as an individual applicant or a business owner, please feel free to email me about it. While we are not taking walk-ins at my constituency office, my staff and I remain available to you by phone/email (780-442-1888 and james.cumming@parl.gc.ca).

If you are a business owner and think that you might be able to reopen whenever the province considers it safe to do so, please let me know as I would like to be there to support you. Similarly, if as an entrepreneur you don't think you'll be

able to carry on, I would like to hear from you and pass on your concerns and specific issues to the federal government.

I want to express my personal gratitude for all the frontline workers who have kept the rest of us going over the past months – from the doctors and nurses in our healthcare, to all maintenance staff everywhere, grocery store staff, truckers, farmers, social workers, all first responders, small business owners who have been able to keep their doors open, the public servants who have been delivering much-needed financial help for those who found themselves without a salary since mid-March, and anyone else I am forgetting to mention here. We would not have been able to carry on without you, so thank you for everything that you've done for us.

I hope you have been staying safe and healthy, and thanks to everyone's efforts we are slowly on the way to flatten the curve. See you on the other side, in the community.

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

From Your MP: Update from Edmonton West



**Kelly McCauley, MP
Edmonton West**

I hope that you and your family are well during these trying times.

For many weeks now, we have been patiently waiting for good news on a return to a new normal. Over 7 mil-

lion Canadians are on the Canada Emergency Response Benefit with the devastation continuing from the government enforced shutdown of the economy.

We know that the months ahead will test the spirit and mettle of Albertans. The re-opening of the economy must happen in stages, and I am heartened to see the province making plans for this, with a focus on safety and allowing

Albertans to return to work.

I am working closely with my colleagues in Ottawa to make sure your voice, the views of proud Albertans, continue to be raised in Parliament. We are heavily focused on putting forward constructive solutions and working collaboratively with the government to ensure that Canadians get the support that they need and so that our economy can safely begin to reopen.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the extraordinary health care providers in our riding, as well as the emergency services personnel who are doing exceptional work to keep us all healthy and safe. I would also like to recognize the work of our grocery store clerks, pharmacy staff, farmers, and other essential services who are doing extremely important work in these times of uncertainty.

I also want to personally thank the many who are providing care for our seniors in the homes around our riding and province.

As your federal government representative for Edmonton West, I am here to help you navigate through the support that is available to you during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have any questions about the programs are available, or if you need help with any federal departments such as CRA, Immigration Canada, or Veterans' Affairs, please call my office at 780-392-2515.

Though this situation may create a lot of fear, it is important that we respond not in fear, but with the caring sense of community that being the City of Champions is all about. No one person is responsible, but we can all be a part of the solution. By doing your part to lower the curve, you are lowering the burden on our healthcare system and keeping others safe.

Be safe. Be healthy.

Kelly McCauley is the Member of Parliament for Edmonton West, which includes the neighbourhoods of Britannia-Youngstown and Glenwood.

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Stony Plain Road and Area News Network
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Jasper Place Transit Centre Reopens
The Jasper Place Transit Centre officially reopened on April 20, 2020 after a rehabilitation project that included:
• Accessible public washrooms
• Blue racks
• Handicap parking
• Amenity building for Transit Operators
• Renewed bus lanes

A Mixed Reaction to Alberta's New Relaunch
Maggie Lally
On May 14, 2020, the Government of Alberta entered phase one of its relaunch plan in hopes of helping the province return to a sense of normalcy. Stage one allows for some businesses and services to reopen and requires operations with necessary physical distancing requirements and in effect, other public health guidelines in place. These businesses include:
• Retail stores, such as clothing, furniture, and bookstores
• Some personal services, such as hair salons and barber shops
• Museums and art galleries
• Restaurants with limited occupancy
• Cafes and restaurants with 50 percent capacity
With businesses beginning to open back up, the relaunch has been met with both praise and skepticism from Edmontonians. One argument is that many are happy that Albertans are able to work again, and that the economy will be getting a jump start. Another viewpoint is that others are worried that it is too soon for Edmonton to reopen, and are afraid that it might cause a jump in cases if people aren't careful. But how can the public ensure people and businesses are following the proper guidelines?
The Government of Alberta has launched a website for businesses to where there is guidance for the relaunch called the *Alberta's Relaunch* website. The website acts as a hub for a variety of sectors including hair salons, daycare, retail, restaurants, general workplace guidance, and more. These resources are not only important for businesses to be aware of, but also the general public. The only way people to know if a business is following the guidelines, is to know the provisions themselves.
Another way to have peace of mind while visiting establishments is to stage one of the relaunch is to prevent "zoom" Take precautions, wear a mask, and keep a safe distance from those you don't live with. In order to stop the spread of the virus, everyone has a responsibility to do their part, including the general public. If a person is visiting businesses such as a new threat, retail store, cafe, or their pet, they are strongly encouraged to get tested for the virus.
At stage one of the relaunch plans, one, many people may find themselves wondering which of their favorite businesses are open, as there are some right now that have chosen to continue with different and outside policies. One of the best ways to find out this information is to check out your local business owner's business directory online. The *Stony Plain Road & Area News Network* has compiled information listed for businesses in the area, where a person can find out if a business is currently operating. There are also a variety of directories online that customers know if a business is open or not, like *Google Maps* or *Yelp*.
After only a short time to adjust to the relaunch, some businesses have decided to reopen and in a few customers would be a site. Others have opted to remain closed to the public for the time being.
For Glenwood, Glenwood Press located at 15222 Stony Plain Road, owner Lee Ann Woodfield tells us, "We're still doing our best to do with what we have. It's mostly been enough to be open, but that's all we can do to move forward. It's mostly been enough to be open, but that's all we can do to move forward. It's mostly been enough to be open, but that's all we can do to move forward."
While the phase one relaunch is busy with curbside and delivery orders, Woodfield tells us that there is a demand for them to reopen, but that it is ultimately a matter of if that need is big enough to be sustainable.
At stage one of Alberta's relaunch plan, it is unclear how confident people will be to go back to what they know before the pandemic. It may take some time, but by taking precautions, both Edmontonians and businesses may just see their lives progress to a new normal.
Maggie Lally is the Communications Coordinator for the *Stony Plain Road & Area News Network*.

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News From the Ledge:

An update from the area's MLAs.

In the last issue of SPANN, the world was in a different place. The beginnings of spring were evident, although it wasn't yet time to put away those winter boots. Today, the boots are long away in their non-seasonal items resting place, and we're staying home to stop the spread. Schools are closed, university classes are no longer, and many work places are shut down. Sadly, even our beloved Edmonton Valley Zoo is closed. The world carries on virtually with students studying at home, employees working from home, and much of our mundane life changed. On behalf of Sarah Hoffman, MLA for Glenora, and myself, Lori Sigurdson, MLA for Riverview, we say a big thank you to our constituents for respecting the orders of Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health. This has truly made a difference in stopping the spread of COVID-19 by keeping infections low in Edmonton.

The University of Alberta Hospital and the Misericordia Hospital serve Albertans living in our constituencies. Our deep gratitude goes out to all the health professionals who are working on the front lines. As a cancer survivor myself, I know first hand the tremendous work of these professionals in regular times. Today, the

demands and stress are much greater! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Another important thank you is to those working in seniors' housing. From McQueen Place, Villa Marguerite, to Canterbury – thank



MLA Lori Sigurdson

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Lori Sigurdson (right) at St. Andrew's United Church, with Meals on Wheels Executive Director Liz Tondou.

Photo Credit: Supplied

you to all the staff at these facilities who are compassionately caring for seniors. Your work is essential and appreciated.



MLA Sarah Hoffman

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Edmonton, T5M 0H3

We know that the many changes in our lives have caused stress. You are not alone. Alberta's Mental Health Helpline is available 24/7, seven days a week at 1-877-303-2642. The Kids Help Phone is avail-

able 24/7 and offers professional counselling, information and referrals, and volunteer-led, text-based support to young people by texting CONNECT to 686868. And last, but not least, Alberta's Addiction Helpline is available 24/7 toll-free and offers confidential support for alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and problem gambling: 1-866-332-2322.

Many organizations are experiencing increased demand for their services. Meals on Wheels is one of them. Along with the generous support of St. Andrew's United Church and Edmontonians, care packages are being created for seniors and delivered along with their regular meals. Thank you to everyone who is contributing to this important work.

In closing, please know that both Sarah and I are here to assist you with provincial programs, along with our staff. Feel free to reach out to our offices. We'd be happy to help.

The Impact of COVID-19 on Local Businesses



Councillor Andrew Knack

Like many of you, I've been staying home as much as possible, including working from home. For those of you not able to do this as your job is deemed an essential service, my sincere appreciation for the work you are doing

to keep our city safe and functioning.

We've all been impacted by COVID-19 in some form or another. I thought I'd take this opportunity to speak about the impact this has had on the business community here in Edmonton, and Stony Plain Road and area in particular.

City council voted to reduce this year's planned property tax increase, which was initially set to

increase by 2.08% in 2020. The average residential taxpayer will experience no increase (0%) and the average non-residential taxpayer will experience a 2% decrease. We recognize the importance of our business community and understand the incredible challenges they face as we progress through this pandemic.

While we continue to work on ways we can support local businesses here in Edmonton, I'd encourage you to also find ways that can support the businesses in your community. You can find a list of businesses on the Stony Plain Road and Area Business Association website which include shops, services, and restaurants. If we all do what we can to choose local, this goes a long way to supporting our neighbours in the business community who are struggling to survive the pandemic. I have seen numerous examples of businesses finding solutions and innovative ways to continue offering their services at this time. I am

continually inspired by the entrepreneurial spirit of Edmontonians.

I know many people have experienced a loss in some way due to the global pandemic. People have had to cancel or postpone important events and plans with family and friends, businesses have had to close - some permanently - families have had to adjust to learning and working from home, and others have lost their employment. I know this is a very difficult time, and I will work as best I can to ensure we're taking care of each other and our most vulnerable during this time. If you would like to contact me about this or any other topic, feel free to reach out to me any time.

Andrew Knack

City Councillor - Ward 1

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Website: AndrewKnack.com

Business Profile: Variant Edition

Paula E. Kirman

Variant Edition first opened its doors on May 2, 2015. In fact, by the time many of you read this, the store will have celebrated its fifth anniversary.

Co-owned by Danica LeBlanc and Brandon Schatz, Variant Edition carries a wide variety of comics and graphic novels, including mainstream titles, independently published and alternative selections, and work from local authors. The duo’s hard work and attention to customer service and their community is paying off. In fact, the shop won the Harry Kramer Award for Outstanding Comic Book Retailer in Canada, at the 2019 Shuster Awards (Canada’s national award recognizing outstanding achievement in the creation of comic books, graphic novels, and webcomics).

However, Variant Edition was not always located in the Stony Plain Road Area as it is today (10132 151 Street, to be precise). “For the first year and a half, we were located in the 124th Street area with a third partner who did gaming. At that point, due to differing business philosophies, we split the business, and moved our comics and graphic novels operation to the Stony Plain Road area,” LeBlanc explains.

Why did the duo choose Stony Plain Road? “We did this for a couple of reasons - the first was the fact that the LRT was coming through. Many saw this as a hinderance, but we saw it as a boon, and we still do. Increased access to the area can only be a good thing in the long term, despite shorter term pains,” says LeBlanc. “The



Variant Edition carries a wide variety of comics and graphic novels for a variety of interests and tastes.

Photo Credit: Danica LeBlanc

second was the fact that the west end had lost its comic shop when another store closed in West Edmonton Mall, and we could see a need.”

LeBlanc explains that business practises were already in place that are helping Variant Edition keep doing business during COVID-19.

“Due to our general business philosophy, we didn’t have to change much in order to deal with the current COVID-19 crisis. Late last year, we launched an online store that people could use to order items through, and we’ve been providing in city delivery to low mobility customers

(and folks without the time or means to get to the store) for over two years now,” she says.

“We also spent the time building a strong, supportive community around the business through all sorts of outreach, including twice-yearly community clothing swaps, reading nights for introverts, hosting podcast meet ups, among various other initiatives. While these didn’t make us money in the moment, they helped us build something unshakable that has seen our business continue to cover all our fixed costs and then some, during this crisis.”

LeBlanc cites the “the unshakable sense of community” as the best part about doing business in the Stony Plain Road area. “The people who live and shop in the area are fiercely loyal, and often take offence to the area’s so-called ‘bad reputation.’ Almost because of this, there is a great hunger to see the area develop and bloom into Edmonton’s next great hub of local businesses. We feel that from members of this community,” she says.

“The Stony Plain Road area is probably one of Edmonton’s best-kept secrets, but the time has come to share that secret with more people - and we can do that by building our community. We’re hoping that more businesses can reach out to one another and find common goals and events that will help build even more pride among our customers and everyone living in the area. We intend to be a part of that for many, many years to come.”

Learn more about Variant Edition, and order online at: variantedmonton.com

New Public Art for Butler Memorial Park

Throughout our city, Edmontonians experience public art as part of our day-to-day lives, whether going to the library, the pool, or riding the bus. The City of Edmonton’s public art collection is integrated into our neighbourhoods as a result of the Percent for Art Policy, which is administered on behalf of the City by the Edmonton Arts Council (EAC).

In late 2019, the EAC received submissions of interest from artists across Canada in response to a call to create an artwork for Butler Memorial Park. This opportunity comes as a result of the redevelopment and enhancement of the area.

Calgary-based artists Caitlind r.c. Brown & Wayne Garrett have been selected for the project by a committee of artists, City staff, and community members. Brown and Garrett have already begun their work, a period of research and engagement prior to creating their concept. This focused time to learn and connect represents a shift in the EAC’s approach to public art calls.

“We’re adjusting our process to allow the artists time to be immersed in the project before they generate a concept,” says David Turnbull, Director



Artists Caitlind r.c. Brown & Wayne Garrett

Photo Credit: Supplied

of Public Art for the EAC. “In the past, artists have done a lot of the creative work just to apply to a call. This approach invests in the artists’ time and will lead to work that is site-based and grounded in the community.”

For Butler Park, the vision is to have artwork that is discoverable and playful, an obvious strength of Brown and Garrett’s. Their project in Edmonton’s Brewery District, CARBON COPY,

was voted People’s Choice at the Edmonton Urban Design Awards in 2019, with jurors noting their innovative and playful approach.

“We’re excited to be developing a new public artwork for Butler Memorial Park,” says Brown. “As the neighbourhood changes, this public park takes on a more important role as a place between things: between transit lines, walking routes, neighbourhoods, homes, and destinations.”

Garrett notes that this time of increased isolation during the pandemic also shaped their process. “We’ve continued to think about the importance of public space to connection and community identity.”

“The new design of the Park will help make it a better place for resting, reflecting, waiting, playing, and being,” Brown adds. “We look forward to learning more about West Jasper Place as we continue developing a public artwork for your community.”

For updates about this project, and to learn more about the City of Edmonton’s Public Art Collection, visit edmontonpublicart.ca.

Article submitted by the Edmonton Arts Council.

Delicious delivery from P.M. Lounge

Bringing the Pub Home

Paula E. Kirman

P.M. Lounge

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587-521-9991
www.pmloungeedmonton.com

I avoided doing take out or delivery after self-isolation and social distancing began, until early May. It was my own choice. However, I was hearing reports that pick-up and take-out was safe, and many people I know were continuing to enjoy food from their favourite restaurants.

My desire for pizza eventually got the best of me, but I didn't want anything from a chain. I wanted something local and different. In scouring listings for restaurants in the Jasper Place/Stony Plain Road area offering delivery on SkipTheDishes, I came upon P.M. Lounge, a pub in the area.

I ordered a 12-inch (medium) veggie pizza. I was going to order only a 10 inch, but I was sharing with another person and didn't think it would be enough. How wrong I was. Three people could have eaten from what arrived. Thick, with a doughy crust and piled high with toppings, this pizza really satisfied. Not only was it overloaded with gooey mozza-



Medium veggie pizza from P.M. Lounge.

Photo Credit: Paula E. Kirman

rella cheese, but with generous amounts of mushrooms, black olives, fresh tomatoes, green pepper, pineapple, and onion. I usually don't like onion on pizza because I find the flavour dominates. In this case, the proportion was just enough for it to make its presence

known without taking over. The pizza sauce had a distinctively sweet taste (which I enjoyed), and the crust was chewy and could mostly withstand the mountain of toppings.

The fries were excellent. Truth be told, it was so long since I had fries (other

than the kind you heat up at home yourself), that the act of putting the first one into my mouth sent me hurtling towards ecstasy. The portion was generous for the \$5.95 they cost (I see a theme here of goodly portions), and they were crispy, not greasy, and with just enough salt.

Both of the boxes that arrived on my doorstep were sealed with tape, something needed and welcome as an extra measure during our current situation.

P.M. Lounge has a menu of many foods one would expect from a pub: wings (including boneless), burgers, chicken fingers, and fish and chips (which seems to be frequently sold out – I take that as a good sign), but also a donair, lasagna, steak sandwich, clubhouse sandwich, and, of course, many different kinds of pizza.

Overall, I was very impressed with the food I had from P.M. Lounge. I would definitely place an order again, and am looking forward to checking the place out in person.

Local Students are Leading Efforts to Help Others

"It makes me feel happy that other kids are getting books to read from us," shared Adam Timmons.

Adam and his classmates recently completed a school project to provide books to kids who have limited access to reading materials. Students in his class picked out some of their favourite books and wrapped them to be delivered to local kids in need.

This was just one of 19 student-led projects from schools across our region that were made possible by the United Way initiative, Dentons Make Your Mark on Poverty. This initiative provides an opportunity for schools to access grants to complete student-led projects that take action against local poverty.

"It's a project designed to empower students and to teach them a little about poverty along the way," explained Adam Rurka, Assistant Principal at Keenooshayo Elementary.

Projects ranged from holding a fundraiser with student-designed t-shirts, to creating a bedtime storybook for individuals experiencing homelessness, to creating in-school food banks.

In light of the current situation, United Way took the initiative's annual event online on May 13th to help celebrate the inspirational work of students and teachers. Hosted by Sarah Chan, United Way Chair of Dentons Make Your Mark on Poverty, the event was the first truly live event in Edmonton during the pandemic and provided a platform for



Students from Keenooshayo Elementary School show off wrapped books which they donated to help promote literacy as part of their project with the United Way initiative, Dentons Make Your Mark on Poverty. (Adam Timmons is pictured on the far left.)

Photo Credit: United Way of Alberta Capital Region

students and community members to connect, dance, and have some fun.

Salisbury Composite and NextStep High School were voted winners of the People's Choice Award by event attendees for their PoverTEES project. Students at these schools worked together to learn about addiction and poverty from a speaker with lived experience which then inspired t-shirt designs that were sold as a fundraiser for local food banks.

Article submitted by the United Way of Alberta.



A Dentons Make Your Mark on Poverty student participant works on her PoverTEES t-shirt design. This project was a joint effort by students from Salisbury Composite and NextStep High School, and was voted the winner of the People's Choice Award at United Way's celebration event on May 13th.

Photo Credit: United Way of Alberta Capital Region

WESTEND SENIORS ACTIVITY CENTRE

WHAT WE OFFER

STILL SERVING EDMONTON & AREA SENIORS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ON-LINE CLASSES

- Art
- Cards & Games
- Computer
- Dance & Music
- Fitness
- Life long learning
- Yoga & Wellness

TECHNOLOGY CLASSES focusing on teaching seniors:

- social media
- email basics
- phone basics
- ipad basics and
- more!

FRESHLY MADE FROZEN MEALS AVAILABLE:

- Variety of soups,
- Shepard's pie,
- Chicken & rice,
- and more!



8 WEEK AT- HOME FITNESS PROGRAM

- An easy to follow exercise program you can do at home!
- Weekly videos you can follow OR
- Print the 20 page booklet with photos and easy instructions!

DO YOU NEED HELP?

You are not alone, help is just a phone call away.



WE Seniors

Westend Seniors Activity Centre

9629 176 Street NW
Edmonton, AB
780 483 1209

weseniors.ca
facebook.com/WESeniors

During this COVID19 pandemic Outreach Services are available to seniors 55+

Call 780 454-2465 and leave a message OR
shirley@weseniors.ca.

A New Normal for Kids On Track

Kristy Chaisson

“A new normal” is a phrase you can hear being tossed around regularly. Schooling at home, social isolation, and the cancelling or changing of extra curricular activities have been a stress on the families in the west Edmonton community. Parents are pulling their hair out, and kids are climbing the walls. While the COVID-19 situation is no laughing matter, we certainly don’t want a lot of patchy-headed parents wandering around. So, at Kids On Track, we took a long, hard look at how we can continue to create community while gatherings are limited because more than ever, people need community.

Our Shift Youth team has been busier than ever, creating a “new normal” for youth online, with content including movie watch parties, leader videos, online scavenger hunts, hang outs, and more. We want to make sure that all youth have the ability to remain connected with their peers and trusted men-



Youth playing life-sized Hungry Hungry Hippos.

Photo Credit: Supplied

tors. We are confident that we can create community with the youth, even with social distancing at the front of everyone’s mind. The mental health of our youth is of utmost concern, and we know that every chance to connect is worth the time and effort.

The guidelines for recreational programming have now come out, and we are excited to announce that Kids

On Track Summer Shift Youth program will be a “go” this summer. Our games may change, our activities may be modified, but we are thrilled we can help create connections with friends and mentors and make memories with the youth of West Edmonton.

We are going to be doing “pop ups” for family programming, as we know more than ever kids and parents

need community. Social isolation cannot mean community isolation, so stay tuned for our creative team as they come up with Active Family events throughout the summer.

Kids On Track continues to navigate the recommendations from our health authorities, and we will be working within the “new normal” that has been mandated. Things may look a little different, and we are remaining flexible as things unfold this summer. Registration will be announced through our website and e-mail updates to our participant families, which you can sign up for on our website (www.kidsontrack.org). You can also keep tabs on what Kids On Track is up to on our various social media platforms: Twitter (@kidsontrack, @SHIFT_YOUTH), Instagram (@kidsontrackedmonton, @kotshiftyouth), and Facebook (@kidsontrackedmonton).

Kristy Chaisson is the Program Director, Kids On Track Association of Edmonton.

Jasper Place Wellness Centre: *Serving the Community*

The Jasper Place Wellness Centre has been serving West Edmonton since 2006. In the beginning, we worked mainly as an emergency service provider for individuals experiencing homelessness. However, as you know, communities and neighbourhoods change as time goes on, and the same has been true with the work we do.

Today, we work with west Edmonton community members and other community-focused organizations to provide programs and services that help make the neighbourhoods we serve healthier places to live. Currently, our main focuses are primary health care, employment,

food security, and affordable housing.

Through these focuses, we hope to build a sense of community and find solutions issues that impact neighbourhoods like ours.

Because of COVID-19, much of what we do has been on hold to ensure that we do our part in keeping community members safe and healthy. We have had to work swiftly to convert programs like Food4Good, that typically host low-cost fruit and veggie markets, to providing emergency food hampers to individuals and families needing a little extra help to get through the pandemic.

If you know of someone who could benefit

from this program, please have them register at www.jpwc.ca

Our Community Health Centre’s medical clinic located at 15626 100A Avenue is still open, and many appointments are completed by phone for ease of our patients. Our clinic has a focus on complex care that addresses primary health needs, along with behavioural and social challenges. To learn more or to register for our clinic, please visit our website mentioned above.

Follow us on social media: @jpwcycyeg on all platforms.

Information submitted by the Jasper Place Wellness Centre.

Canora Park Watch

Deckla Lindgren
Canora Park Watch Coordinator

Canora Park Watch is a volunteer, community-driven organization that began over 12 years ago. It began as a collaborative response with the City of Edmonton Police Department, Parks and Recreation, and Social Services together with members of the community to create safe, welcoming park spaces in our neighbourhood. Our mission statement is “To Create Community Through People, Parks and Programs.”

With our neighbourhood parks being a great community asset for all, the aim of our committee is to animate our parks with positive events and to discourage the negative activity that was taking place in them. Canora Park Watch has successfully hosted annual events every year that are always well-attended and enjoyed by not only the residents of Canora, but also those in surrounding areas. The events are all family friendly and free. As a result, these events have encouraged residents to come out and enjoy our parks throughout

the year, creating a stronger sense of community.

Given the protective response to COVID-19, our annual Easter Egg Hunt (April 11) and Mini Carnival (May 24) were cancelled. Depending on when AHS protocols are lifted, there is a great possibility that Fitness in the Park (June 20) may also be cancelled. It is our hope we will be through this pandemic soon and our annual events will resume with a Scavenger (September 5) and our “Meet the Police Night” at the Canora Community Hall later in September (TBD).

As a committee, moving forward, we will be exploring options to offer events in our parks once the AHS protocols are lifted, in response to those events that were cancelled. Watch for the signs! Come out and join us. We are always looking for new ideas, suggestions, and volunteers to get involved in helping carry on this great project. If you have any questions, or would like to get involved, please feel free to contact me at jatec2002@telus.net.

Deckla Lindgren is the Canora Park Watch Coordinator.

Community Classifieds

Are you a resident of Britannia-Youngstown,

Canora, Glenwood, or West Jasper/

Sherwood? Do you have an event coming

up you would like to promote? A service

to provide to the community? 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.

Community League Updates

Britannia-Youngstown

The Britannia-Youngstown Community League has a website at <https://www.bycl.ca/>, and a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BYCL.EDMONTON>

There are also Facebook groups for:
Soccer: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/429001993903470/>
Skating Rink: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/327497630613180/>

Canora

Today, I sit in front of my computer to write a piece for the SPANN and think of the last couple of months. What a change with COVID-19. We went from not really having a care in the world, where we didn't have to really plan or think of where we were going or doing, to having to stop and think of what we are doing, when, and why. It has affected many people in many different ways. Some have lost love ones and our prayers go out to you. Some have lost your jobs or have had your hours reduced. And some have had to communicate with loved ones at a distance. It makes us ask, "What is really important?"

At the community hall we are doing lots of cleaning and small repairs. We will be ready for the opening of the hall when AHS tell us that we can.

Summer Playground Program ("Green Shack")

The playground program (Green Shack) is suspended for this coming summer. The city will be refunding the community contribution that we so graciously offered - that support was much appreciated. We look forward to having the Green Shack next summer.

Outward Bound Day Camp

The day camp planned at Canora Community League will not be offered this summer. They are looking at day camp options at City facilities to determine whether they can operate

safely within provincial guidelines. A thank you was sent to the leagues that were providing their community halls to support their day camp programming.

Please check the City's MoveLearnPlay.ca site which relaunches on Monday, May 11th, for facility and program updates.

We have the clean-up kits from the City that we can lend out to people who wish to help Canora keep its streets and walks clean of litter. Email info@mycanora.com to book one.

This year's unique set of circumstances with COVID-19 has made it necessary for us to communicate the postponing and changing of our AGM. The AGM will be held on June 28, 2020. If permitted, it will be held in our community hall in person, with what provisions that AHS provides. If not, it will be a virtual meeting using a program you can sign in to, or by telephone with a number that we provide you with. If you would like to attend this meeting, please email tony@mycanora.com providing your name and email address.

On behalf of the Canora Community League Board we wish everyone a very safe summer.

Be Safe and protect yourself and others.
Tony, President



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

We've missed being able to offer board games night, euchre nights, and all the regular programming at our hall these past few months. The building is quiet, though not entirely without activity. This pause in programming and rentals has given us some time to complete minor maintenance which will brighten and make our community hall an even more welcoming place when life begins returning to normal. For the time being, the hall office remains closed, but please reach out by phone or email if you have any questions or comments.

Glenwood is Active on NextDoor App

Another great way to stay virtually connected with your neighbours is the NextDoor app. Glenwood is active here. Visit <https://ca.nextdoor.com/> to get started.

To connect with the Glenwood Community League:

glenwoodcommunityleague.com
facebook.com/glenwoodcommunity
twitter.com/glenwoodcl
glenwoofdcommunity@hotmail.com
780-489-7571



On sidewalks and in windows across the neighbourhood, there's hope to be found that will lift your spirits. Thank you to everyone who's left an inspirational message for the community to enjoy.

West Jasper/Sherwood

For news, events, and programs, please visit our website: westjaspersherwood.ca

Can you lend a helping hand to your neighbours in need?

Cut out this form, fill it out, and drop it in their mailbox.

Hello, if you are in isolation, quarantine, or are experiencing any challenges due to the coronavirus, I would like to offer my help.

My name is:

I live in (neighbourhood):

My phone number is:

I am able to:

☐ Pick-up & deliver shopping

☐ Have a friendly conversation

☐ Provide urgent supplies

☐ Translate info into:

☐ Please don't hesitate to call or text. I will do my best to help you.

Did you know there used to be a winter festival that started in Jasper Place?



The dog-sled races at Muk-Luk Mardi Gras.

Photo Credit: Provincial Archives of Alberta 1806.1

Brooke Leifso

Every February in the 1960s people looked forward to the Muk-Luk Mardi Gras, the city's winter festival. Gathering in Laurier Park and later Borden Park, they competed in dog-sled racing, ice-carving, tobogganing, moose calling, and junior hockey games.

Dog-sled racers came from Yellowknife and The Pas to race for the \$1200 purse.

Joanne Lethbridge Pompana remembers it as a kid, growing up on 149 Street. "Muk-Luk Mardi Gras was a way of breaking up all that winter, because winters were long. You were bundled up. I used to wear my brother's long underwear because they didn't have female long underwear then. There were ice carvings of sea lions and igloos. There were neighbours from Yellowknife who were in these races."

Joanne has Sioux heritage and, as a child, saw many of her neighbours who were Métis, Inuit, or First Nations. For her growing up, Muk-Luk was the most notable representation of Indigenous culture. Some aspects of the festival look like racial stereotypes now, but this was the time of mandatory Residential Schools, which stripped children of their traditional culture and knowledge. As Joanne says, "Because of all the things that were going on, it was shameful to be Native. If you could somehow hide it, you did." So, seeing yourself represented positively in any way helped, and for a week every year that happened.

Although the Muk-Luk Mardi Gras originated in Jasper Place and had its roots in Indigenous culture, it was organized by the Edmonton Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Jaycees. Throughout the 60s it shifted away from Jasper Place. By 1967, the events had mostly moved to Borden

Park and the Exhibition Grounds, and the next year it ceased operation.

If it were to happen now, what would we do differently? As an adult, Joanne studied her Sioux heritage. She says, "I'd want to see a collective understanding of all peoples, so that we have reconciliation with the earth, the sky and what we are doing every day as earth people."

Did you enter the jiggling events? Watch the dog-sled races? We would love to hear any stories from Muk-Luk Mardi Gras! To share, please email us at jasperplacehistory@outlook.com.

Jasper Place History Project is connecting community through sharing the stories of Jasper Place! For more information on the project, please go to: jasperplacehistory.org.

Brooke Leifso is a community-based artist working on the Jasper Place Community History Project.

Food4Good: Emergency Food Support

Ashley Bouchard

To support the needs arising from COVID-19, Jasper Place Wellness Centre (JPWC) and its Food4Good division have shifted to providing emergency food support for our community. Many families and individuals have been affected by the pandemic through the closure of community meals, school food initiatives, senior's programming, and other social supports.

We have partnered with Edmonton's Food Bank to become one of their registered pickup sites on Thursdays, as most other Food Bank depots in the west end have closed temporarily.

JPWC has also launched a "Good Food Hamper" program, available to anyone in the community who self-identifies as being in need. Hampers are meant to provide 4-6 days of food. They contain nutritious food including fresh fruit, vegetables, dairy, bread, eggs, meat, and grains. The hampers also include recipes to accompany the ingredients, food skills activities to practice while folks are staying at home, and other educational materials.

Our hampers are available by pickup on a first-come-first-served basis on Tuesdays from 12 p.m.-1 p.m. at Jasper Place Wellness Centre (15626-100A Avenue). No sign up or ID is required. We are also offering

a hamper delivery for those living in T5M, T5P, and T5R postal codes, if needed. We have also partnered with Fresh Routes to offer emergency food box delivery to community members living outside of our delivery boundaries. If you or any of your neighbours could benefit from additional food support during this time, please visit our website at www.food4good.ca to complete a hamper delivery request.

Please also consider registering with Edmonton's Food Bank by calling 780-425-4190. If you live in the west end, you can pick up your Food Bank box at JPWC. It's important to note that you may access Edmonton's Food Bank a maximum

of once per month and you must provide ID and proof of address for each person in your household.

Jasper Place Wellness Centre is still operating our medical clinic as an essential service, and we continue to serve the community in many practical ways such as being a mailing address and providing harm reduction supplies. We hope that the public safety situation will continue to improve over the summer and that we can welcome you all to our normal programs in the near future. Learn more about what we do at www.jpwc.ca and www.food4good.ca.

Ashley Bouchard is the Food4Good Manager.

The Old Canora School Finds a Fresh Breath of Life with Turkish Canadian Society

Sim Senol

Older residents of Britannia-Youngstown, Canora, Glenwood, and West Jasper/Sherwood might remember the days when the the old Canora School served the community as an elementary school from 1949 to 1972. The school was closed at the end of the 1972 school year, but has had a daycare facility operate in it since its closure. Turkish Canadian Society (TCS), a cultural organization established to serve a relatively new and small immigrant community, purchased the building in 1999. Like many non-profit organizations relying on volunteers, TCS had its ups and downs when it comes to using the building effectively, but thanks to a new batch of volunteers who have been working hard to revitalize the society, the building has been utilized far more than usual in the last four years.

In addition to the Whitehall Day Care and Out of School Care operating out of the building, a martial arts school led by Sifu Michael offers classes to adults and children at the building. Azerbaijani Cultural Society uses the space to hold their cultural band and folk dance rehearsals regularly. Over the years, smaller cultural groups from the Kyrgyz, Uzbek, Uyghur, and Afghan communities with even smaller budgets than the Turkish Canadian Society have also utilized the facility to hold cultural celebrations.

Maintaining a large, old building poses a significant challenge to Turkish Canadian Society, and there is still a lot of maintenance work needed in the building. However, the Society was able to secure a CFIP grant from the Alberta Provincial



A children's play performed on the TCS stage.

Photo Credit: Sim Senol

Government in 2017. Thanks to the \$125,000 grant received from the provincial government, and a matching sum allocated by TCS, major renovations of the roofs of both the gym and the main building were repaired in the last three years. As well, the gym floor was leveled and refinished. Before the COVID-19 pandemic halted TCS activities in mid-March, a Somali soccer team had started renting the space for soccer once a week, and three different groups were using the space to play volleyball. The newly-renovated gym even served as a venue for a Christmas Round Dance organized by the Red Road Healing Society. Organizers of the Round Dance were gracious to welcome and share their gifts with some members from the Turkish Canadian community who also attended the celebration.

TCS itself uses the building for several activities, classes, and events. A weekend Turkish school

for children, adult Turkish as a Second Language classes, daily Iftar dinners during the whole month of Ramadan, basketball and volleyball classes for children, a Turkish drama club, and annual Turkic and children's festival celebrations are just a few of the regular activities happening in the building. These events and classes are open to general public, and with the exception of classes which might have a nominal fee they are mostly free of charge.

Although TCS will not be able to host large events and celebrations in the building for the foreseeable future due to COVID-19 restrictions, the TCS Board is open to supporting any group who needs a safe space to hold gatherings of less than 15 people at this time. Both the gym and the main hall on the third floor will allow ample social distancing for any non-profit group in the community, should they require a space to hold a training session or a meeting during our province's transition to normalcy. Inquiries about space rentals can be directed to turkishcanadians.edmonton@gmail.com. Details about upcoming events and activities can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TCSEdmonton>.

Sim Senol is the Treasurer/External Relations Coordinator with TCS.

**Editor's Note:* The mosque discussed in the previous issue of SPANN that is being built on the Canora School site, is being built as a separate, independent building on the northeast end of the property, next to the baseball field. The main school building and the gym will still remain intact.



A backgammon tournament.

Photo Credit: Sim Senol

VARIANT EDITION



COMICS & CULTURE

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