

SPANN



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

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Women Unite on International Women's Day

Christie Hutchinson

Though Alberta is considered one of the wealthiest provinces in Canada, many Albertans are slipping into poverty — especially women. Nearly two-thirds of low wage earners in the Edmonton region are women.

This growing issue is what drew a group of passionate United Way supporters to the local Women United initiative, which focuses on ensuring all female-identifying individuals have full and equal access to resources and opportunities.

"Women you see every day are facing systemic barriers to income stability for themselves and their children," says Danisha Bhaloo-Shivji, co-chair of Women United, Alberta Capital Region. "Whether they're encountering food insecurity, racism in their job search, a lack of affordable childcare, domestic violence, or a gendered wage gap, there are multiple factors affecting their economic stability and preventing them from reaching their full potential. We want to do something about that."

An international movement of more than 70,000 women and allies, Women United works to support and empower marginalized and vulnerable female-identifying neighbours through mentorship, mental wellness advocacy, and programs provided by United Way's partner frontline community agencies.

"By combining our collective power — financial resources, talents, and connections — with United Way's network, not only are we building authentic relationships with like-minded women and allies," says co-chair Regina Davis, "We're also actively working to break the cycle of poverty affecting women and families in our region. When women thrive, the community thrives."

Female philanthropists launch Women United initiative with United Way of the Alberta Capital Region



United Way supports many programs and initiatives in the Edmonton area that are helping women at risk of falling into or currently experiencing poverty. Here are just four examples.

Empower U

An initiative led by United Way of the Alberta Capital Region and 16 community partners

Empower U is a financial empowerment initiative promoting education, asset building, and coaching to address complex financial barriers affecting people living in poverty. Primarily geared toward women who are living in low-income situations, participants may also have experienced domestic violence, been affected by sexual exploitation, or been in contact with the criminal justice system. Through Empower U, women build their confidence and financial literacy, and they connect with and gain support from others to meet their financial goals.

The Family Violence Prevention Program

Fort Saskatchewan Families First Society

The Family Violence Prevention Program provides support services to

families impacted by family violence in the Fort Saskatchewan area. The program provides a wide range of support including sourcing affordable housing, accessing emergency funding, and getting basic needs like food, furniture, and clothing. Other services include individual and group support, risk assessment and safety planning, advocacy, court support, referral, education, and awareness. This wrap around approach helps women reclaim power and control in their lives, find healthy ways to manage stress, and teaches them how to cope with trauma even while they are still experiencing it. "Personally, I could see how this program can save lives," says one woman fleeing an abusive relationship. "From preventing ongoing violent domestic situations to prevention of suicide. I'm extremely grateful."

Transitions to Success

Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society

Transitions to Success is an employment program that supports women living in poverty by teaching the skills needed to secure sustainable employment and achieve their career

goals. Over 16 weeks, participants develop life and employment skills through workshops. For one mother experiencing addiction, Transitions to Success taught her skills in stress management, boundaries, communication, and how to find work-life balance. Most of all it helped to keep her sober and connect with other Indigenous women experiencing similar situations. Today she is building a better life for herself and her children.

Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre (WEAC) Transformation

WEAC Transformation provides a consultation team to bring housing-focus supports to women who are in crisis and experiencing homelessness at the 24/7 emergency shelter. The multi-disciplinary team supports each woman to develop an individualized shelter exit strategy to move into her own home. These strategies include stabilizing health and setting up supports to live in housing long-term. The shelter represents a safe space where women have access to resources and tools to manage their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health. It is an environment where participants experience support and validation of their traumatic experiences in a person-centred, harm-reduced, and inclusive way. And for a woman who feels she is at her lowest point, having access to these supports help her feel seen, valued, and find hope for the future.

The Women United initiative is actively recruiting women and allies to join them in creating meaningful social change for female-identifying people in the Edmonton area. Visit myunitedway.ca/WomenUnited to learn how you can get involved.

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Editor's Notes

Todd Janes

Welcome to this issue of SPANN. It is exciting that we are starting our third year with this publication and with this comes some changes. Megan Lala who served as Editor for the past year is no longer with Stony Plain Road Business Association and correspondingly has left the position of Editor of SPANN. I want to thank Megan for her work on this publication over the past two years and wish her well in her next endeavor.

This issue offers us some glimpses into many of the activities taking place within Jasper Place and west-central Edmonton. Jonathan Cruz provides some updates on \$10/day care and offers great inexpensive ideas to entertain and challenge your children; Sim Senol shares with us simple acts that connect communities and build capacity and strength; and Christie Hutchinson tells us about some great initiatives from the United Way. Updates from Marigold Infrastructures regarding the Valley Line West LRT and information from your various politicians as well as news from your community leagues gives you rounded information to be connected and aware and in the know within our communities.

I would like to thank the various writers and contributors for this issue. For Stony Plain Road Business Association it is vital that this publication illustrates the plurality

and diversity our our collective community and reflects the richness and strength of our people. I encourage you to consider contributing to SPANN in whatever way you think would be helpful. This could be by writing an article about your passion or community. It may be through photography or illustration to share with us how you see your community; or it could be through engaging with your community by profiling various people, organizations, or businesses by creating a regular column. Please reach out to spanneditor@gmail.com to pitch something and engage with us.

I also want to thank our advertisers for this issue and for their support with community media and for being great community builders.

In addition to a new Editor joining our newspaper we are also looking for an individual to help grow our advertising and circulation. This is a contracted position and it would be ideal for someone who loves people and is looking for a little energy sharing to build this community newspaper. If you know someone or are interested in the role yourself, please reach out and share with me how amazing you are.

Finally, a big THANKS for our wonderful designer Byron for his continued great eyes and talent.

Enjoy the read and when you are done, please pass this issue on to another person to explore and discover great things about the Jasper Place district.

Stony Plain Road and Area News Network

FREE

SPANN

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

Volume 3, Number 1 Spring 2022

Editor: Todd Janes (Interim)

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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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Instagram @spannjasperplace
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SPANN – The Stony Plain Area News network is expanding in year three and we are looking for someone who loves people and wants to help build our community within west central Edmonton.

SPANN is published four times a year and serves the Jasper Place District of Edmonton and includes the neighbourhoods of Canora, Britannia Youngstown, Glenwood, West Jasper /Sherwood, and Grovenor. Published by the Stony Plain Road Business Association with support from the Jasper Place Revitalization Strategy this community newspaper published 10,000 copies with a expanded readership and distribution of over 9,300 copies delivered via Canada Post to businesses and residents in central west Edmonton.

We are looking for a dynamic and engaging person to become our **Advertising and Circulation Activator**. This is a contract position with approximately ten hours a month with a compensation of \$20/hour.

This position reports to the Marketing and Communication Coordinator of Stony

Plain Road Business Association and can work from home or remotely. Duties and Responsibilities include growing advertising revenue and customers; client relations and working with the Editor of SPANN to manage deadline schedules, accounts invoicing and answering questions related to production and advertising growth. This position also includes developing opportunities for on-site circulations throughout physical locations throughout Jasper Place and maintaining newspaper tracking and maintenance.

Ideally the ideal candidate will have a valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle, a genuine care of communities and a keen interest in people. Kindness is Always a great asset too.

Deadline for Applicants: 25 April 2022

Please send resume and cover letter to: Todd Janes, Executive Director
Stony Plain Road Business Association
#336, 10045 – 156 Street,
Edmonton, AB T5P 2P7
Email: stonyplainbrz@gmail.com

Community Resources for You



Michael Goth

Community League Infrastructure Program (CLIP)

The deadline to apply for all 2022 Community League Infrastructure Program (CLIP) grants is Wednesday, March 30, 2022. The Community League Infrastructure Program provides funding assistance to community leagues for capital costs to preserve and enhance existing facilities that provide an overall benefit to the community and value to the citizens of Edmonton.

Community Clean-up Grant Program

Each spring, dozens of Edmonton community groups apply for help to get rid of any large, bulky items cluttering up the back alleys, streets or other areas in their neighbourhoods. Under the Community Clean-Up Grant Program, formerly known as the Community Bin Grant Program, the City offers funds on a first-come, first-served basis that can be used for bin and truck rentals, disposal costs, litter removal projects, and other initiatives that promote community cleanliness. Applications will be accepted starting April 1, 2022. Please contact capitalcitycleanup@edmonton.ca with any questions.

Temporary Off Leash Dog Parks

Starting March 1, 2022, community leagues can

apply to have their fully enclosed outdoor spaces designated as temporary off-leash areas. For more information about the program, visit edmonton.ca/offleashrink or contact offleash@edmonton.ca

Sustainable Food Edmonton Community Garden Funding

Sustainable Food Edmonton provides over \$30,000 in grants annually to Community Gardens within the City of Edmonton limits. Whether you are just starting a new garden, looking to expand, renovate, or renew an existing community garden, Sustainable Food Edmonton can help with funding, resources and support. Sustainable Food Edmonton’s garden project funding is now open for 2022 applications. The intake deadline is May 31, 2022.

Neighbourhood Services Funding

Updated funding contribution program names and funding levels:

- Neighbourhood(s) Micro-Grant (up to \$350) - previously Revitalization Small Sparks and Community Incentive, available to all neighbourhoods in Edmonton
- Neighbourhood(s) Connections Grant (\$351-\$2500) - previously Neighbourhood Engagement Grants, available to all neighbourhoods in Edmonton except neighbourhoods in Revitalization areas

If you have any questions, feedback or concerns, please contact your Neighbourhood Resource Coordinator. Apply online at www.edmonton.ca/grants

Community Recreation Facilities Green Shack

Green Shack, one of our city’s traditional summer experiences that started more than 100 years ago will start back up again on July 4th 2022. We are very excited to see all the smiling faces attend the program.

Summer Camps

Summer Camps for 2022 will be held at Recreation Centres and in River Valley parks starting on July 4th. Registration dates will be Tuesday, March 29th for members and Wednesday, March 30th for non members. You are welcome to view the variety of camps offered on March 26th through Move Learn Play.

Recreation Centre Memberships

Recreation Centre memberships can be purchased using this link: <https://movelearnplay.edmonton.ca/COE/public/category/browse/member>. All EFCL members are eligible for a 20% discount on memberships. Please see front counter staff at any Recreation Centre for details.

Michael Goth is the Neighbourhood Resource Coordinator ward Nakota Isga and the neighbourhoods of Canora, Jasper Park, High Park, Mayfield, West Jasper Sherwood, Britannia-Youngstown, Glenwood, Crestwood, Parkview, Meadowlark, and West Meadowlark. You can connect with him at 587-986-5755 or e-mail: michael.goth@edmonton.ca

Major Changes are Coming for Stony Plain Road

Todd Janes

We have been expecting this for several years and it is happening. This spring will start a whole new level of development within Jasper Place and especially along Stony Plain Road (SPR). Marigold Infrastructures Partners who is the company contracted to build the Valley Line West has been a strong partner and involved Stony Plain Road BIA since the start, and has been working on ensuring that the construction will be safe, efficient and in communications with residents and businesses throughout the process. If you have not signed up for their LRT updates, I would strongly encourage you to do so right away at www.Marigoldinfra.ca. You can receive updates on various social media or via email.

You have probably seen some of the pre-construction work being done downtown and along 104 Avenue with EPCOR and the work being done along WEM and the Misericordia Hospital and much of the larger projects where the Valley Line is elevated will be done earlier. Starting in probably May the area between 156 Street - 149 Street (or just west of 148 Street) will be reduced to one lane of traffic in each direction to begin demolition and utility relocations. This will probably begin this summer and into the Fall on the southside of SPR. This will mean that all parking on both

sides of SPR between 156 to 149 street will be stopped. There will be no loading zones and no drop off zones on SPR. The City of Edmonton, Marigold Infrastructures Partners and Stony Plain Road Business Association will be working to communicate to all businesses in advance with as much clear communication and timelines of impact as they begin to materialize and to ensure there is signage and wayfinding to businesses to plan and communicate to your customers and clients to help minimize these impacts of construction.

Another project happening will be the demolition of the parking structure connected with the Orange Hub (the former MacEwan College building between 155 and 156 street directly south of SPR). This older two level parking structure has reached the end of its run and will be replaced by a three story parkade. Demolition will commence in early April and it is expected to take about two years to be completed. The new parkade will have 180 stalls - some for motorcycles and barrier free stalls and some electric vehicle charging stalls and will be separated from the building in the same location as the current parking structure. This means that there could be some additional demands or pressure on street parking over the next two years. Administration with the Orange Hub is working on alternative parking sites for tenants

and visitors to the Orange Hub to reduce impact to surrounding streets.

I know this seems like lots of construction and changes and your Business Association has been working with the various partners including The City of Edmonton to ensure that planning and communications with businesses and residents are flowing. For a good overview of construction projects planned to 2030 please visit www.edmonton.ca/businessimprovementareas and click on Stony Plain Road and Brochure. This also includes neighborhood renewal and alley reconstruction.

The Valley Line West will have lasting impacts on our neighborhoods and Stony Plain Road BIA will be doing everything we can to support businesses to get through these construction periods. This will truly build a different area for residents and businesses and transform SPR. We want people to come to Stony Plain Road and gather, shop, walk, visit, and also be a place that *you* want to share with visiting family and friends. People will *come to* SPR and not just drive through; we will become a thriving Mainstreet. To find out how to get involved and become a lover of SPR, reach out to me.

Todd Janes is the Executive Director of the Stony Plain Road Business Association and can be reached at stonyplainbrz@gmail.com.

News From the Ledge:

An update from the area's MLAs



MLA Lori Sigurdson
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We know this winter has been long and we look forward to seeing many of you around the neighbourhood this spring. We also know that things have been really tough for Alberta families over the last few years.

The most recent budget was presented, and it's clear that the UCP cares more about large corporation profits than they do family budgets. Everywhere we go people tell us that life is getting more and more expensive. Education property taxes, fees and personal income taxes are all going up but the government refuses to inflation-proof funding for seniors or disabled Albertans living on AISH.

We all know how important strong public health care is and that became extra clear over the last two years. Instead of investing in additional staffing, long-term care and a desperately needed new hospital for south Edmonton, the UCP has

continued to put it all at risk by attacking doctors and nurses when we needed them most. We do not need American-style health care.

As your NDP MLAs we are proud to fight for the services you and your families rely on and we know the government can do more to make life more affordable. First, the UCP government can reinstate electricity and insurance rate caps. Many of us have power bills that are more than double what they were this time last year.

The UCP government has an opportunity to partner with the federal and municipal governments to build affordable and supportive housing but they refuse to invest the matching funds. Instead, they are selling public affordable housing to the private sector. They seem set to privatize everything they can.

One problem everyone in Alberta is facing, is a major increase in the cost of living. The cost of groceries, electricity and gas have skyrocketed. The UCP's decision to remove price caps on energy rates has had a particularly harsh effect, with many Alberta households seeing an increase in their bills of hundreds of dollars per month. We understand the pressure on families and will continue to advocate for the reinstatement of price caps and other policy tools to address the rising cost of living because paying more for less is not fair for Alberta families.

We are continually grateful to have such a

robust small business community in the area. Thank you to everyone who works together to make the Stony Plain Road and Area BIA a great place to shop and hang out.

We are here to serve you. Please reach out if you need support with provincial services or want to let us know how you feel about a government policy. We can offer guidance if you have issues with a provincial program like WCB, AISH or Alberta Works.

Most importantly, we always want to know when you think the government needs to change course on something. Navigating a path for Alberta where everyone succeeds requires your feedback and support. We also love helping you celebrate the special occasions in your life. So, if you are celebrating a milestone birthday, anniversary or other major accomplishment please reach out so we can honour you.



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Exciting Updates on Capital Projects Coming to the West End

Councillor Andrew Knack

Hello SPANN readers! It truly is an exciting time in our city, the snow and ice is thawing, the weather is getting warmer and in true spring fashion we are at a stage of transition and growth. For the west end of our city, we are seeing three major capital projects that were just approved coming our way:

1. The Coronation Recreation Centre
2. The Lewis Farms Recreation Centre and Library
3. Edmonton Valley Zoo, Nature's Wild Backyard Phase 2

Exciting things are on the way for the Coronation Recreation Centre. The Coronation Centre, at 114th Avenue and 142 Street, that has serviced the west end, northwest and central communities alike, was approved for a budget of \$153M. This major investment will

see a velodrome project in partnership between HCMA, Dub Architects and FaulknerBrowns Architects. A velodrome is a track for cycling, an indoor track such as this could see world class events coming to our very own city. This will connect to the Peter Hemingway Fitness and Leisure Centre, which will give a range of complementary programs. On Monday March 14th, council passed a third reading of the borrowing bylaw for the Lewis Farms Recreation Centre and Library. For those asking what that means, it means that City staff now have the approval to borrow the necessary funds to build this critical community hub. With this step now approved, council has completed



Andrew Knack

all the necessary steps so once the contract is signed with the company that will build it, work on that site can begin. Lastly, the Edmonton Valley Zoo is moving forward with Nature's Wild Backyard Phase 2 which sees the construction of the Above, Between and Under zones and the Yard. The Above Zone lifts visitors into elevated boardwalks that provide views into mesh enclosed aviaries featuring gibbons, tamarins, anteaters and a variety of birds. The boardwalk will also be a connection to the observation tower. The Between Zone, celebrated the unique adaptations of animals who live both on land and water which

will submerge visitors into active wetland and aquatic environments. The Under Zone focuses on the relationship between animals that live below the earth and predators that prowl above which will also feature an underground climbing structure. Finally, The Yard is a central free play space. It's southern half is dedicated to unstructured play and offers a space to stop and picnic or play tag. In the winter months, the lawn is converted to a backyard skating rink. Highlights include a water play area, original 1950s carousel and warming shelters.

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stonyplainroad.com

JAHSENA: Preserving Alberta's Jewish History

Paula E. Kirman

The Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta (JAHSENA) was established as a non-profit society in 1996 and located in Jasper Place in 2012. Its original location was the former Jewish Community Centre, housed in the one-time Hillcrest Country Club. The building also hosted a gym, the Reform Jewish congregation Temple Beth Ora, and offices for numerous other Jewish organizations.

When the JCC sold the Hillcrest building, the organizations required new homes. JAHSENA joined the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, Canadian Hadassah WIZO, Jewish National Fund, Camp BB Riback, and the Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee (CJPAC) in choosing the former Jasper Place Legion building at 10220 156 Street. The Legion offered generous space, a reasonable price, and available parking.

JAHSENA was founded by the late Uri Rozenzweig, who planned to write a history of the Edmonton Jewish Community to celebrate its centennial in 1993. He envisioned JAHSENA as supporting the writing of the book and then housing materials collected in that process. JAHSENA published *The First Century of Jewish Life in Edmonton and Northern Alberta, 1893-1993* in 2000. In 2016 the Society published another book, *From Generation to Generation: Jewish Edmontonians as Heritage Builders*.

JAHSENA has also produced two documentary

films: *From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered*, about the Edmonton Jewish community, and *Bittersweet Memories: the War Years*, about Jewish Edmontonians during World War II.

JAHSENA's holdings have grown significantly over the years. "Our collection includes photographs, textual records such as oral and written histories, documents, newspapers, newsletters, books audio visuals, periodicals,

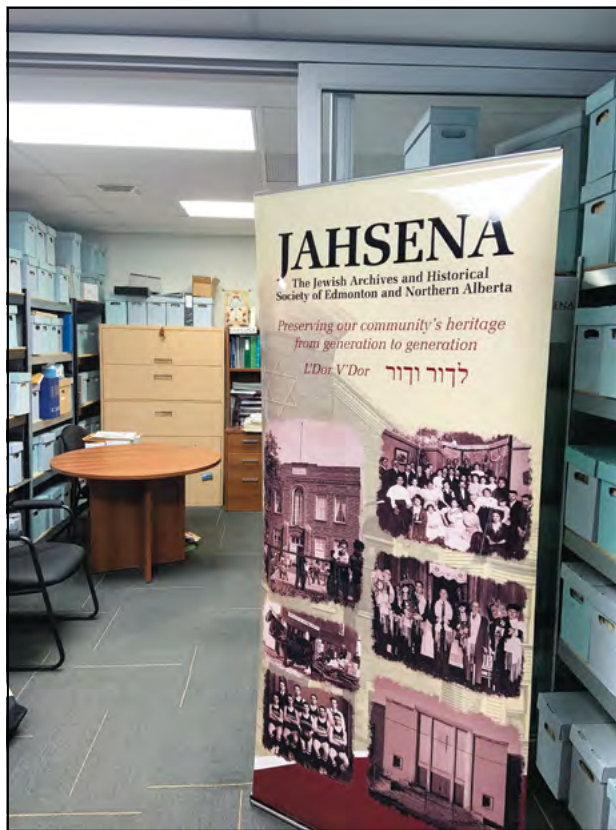
of community members, and a collection of Edmonton Jewish newspapers. In addition, they have recordings and videos of accounts of Holocaust survivors and second-generation community members. JAHSENA also publishes a triannual newsletter called *Heritage (Yerusha)* and maintains a website at jahsena.ca.

Currently, JAHSENA is working towards the cataloguing of its library collection, which is available to the public by appointment. "We are actively looking at ways to widen our profile so that we become better known within the Jewish and Edmonton communities," says Paull. "We are discussing several projects/programs/exhibits that will be presented to the public with hopes of creating a better knowledge of Jews in general, and about the Jewish community contributions made to the growth of Edmonton. We hope that becoming a bigger presence will better educate and build better relationships with all communities in Edmonton."

Do you have a

connection to the Jewish community in the Jasper Place area, and would like to share your story? Get in touch with us: jasperplacehistory.org, jasperplacehistory@outlook.com.

Paula E. Kirman is a freelance writer who grew up, and still lives, near the Jasper Place area. A member of Edmonton's Jewish community, she is a former regular contributor to JAHSENA's newsletter, and part of the project *Jewish Edmonton Stories Online (JESO)*, supported by JAHSENA, at jewishedmontonstories.com.



The JAHSENA office (left) and the workspace and storage area.



Photo by Colleen Paull

and more," says Colleen Paull, JAHSENA's archivist since 2017. "We also have a collection of miscellaneous, non-archival materials relating to the history of the Jewish communities of Edmonton and Northern Alberta, such as plaques, memorabilia, awards, statues, perhaps for the creation of a museum branch of the society."

The Alberta on Record (AOR) database lists about 200 of JAHSENA's most important fonds. The organization also has over 800 digitized images, about 170 oral history interviews

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Update on Canada’s Response to Russia’s Unprovoked Attack on Ukraine



Randy Boissonnault

Randy Boissonnault, MP

Dear Neighbours,

Over the past several weeks, we’ve all watched in shock and dismay as the war in Ukraine continues to unfold. I know many of us want to help, especially for those who have family and friends in Ukraine.

I wanted to provide the community with an update about Canada’s response to Russia’s egregious and unprovoked attack on Ukraine.

This attack by Russia on Ukraine is a violation of the borders of a sovereign nation and has shattered the peace that has existed in Europe for over 60 years. This is a direct affront to democracies around the world. It threatens the international rules-based order that also helped Russia to emerge from the end of the Soviet Union. Along with our allies, we will take every step possible to prevent regional escalation of the conflict while remaining in steadfast support with Ukrainians and the government of Ukraine.

First, to sanctions. In coordination with our allies, Canada has imposed the strongest sanctions ever imposed against another country. The steps that we have taken against Russia will severely damage both its economy and its ability to fund this war. These sanctions include penalties against Russia’s banks, financial institutions, and on the architects of this invasion. Specifically, the Russian Central Bank, the Russian Security council, politicians, oligarchs, and Russian President Vladimir Putin have been singled out. The freeze on access to Russia’s Central Bank has prevented it from accessing \$640B that it has placed in countries

around the world.

On imports, Canada has banned all crude oil shipments and any existing export permits have also been cancelled, amounting to a total of \$700 million in trade. We are removing Russian banks from the international payment system SWIFT, which would disconnect them from the international financial system.

Canada’s airspace is closed to all Russian aircraft operators, and Canadian waters and ports have been closed to Russian-owned or registered ships and fishing vessels.

Through Operation UNIFIER, Canada’s training mission to support the Security Forces of Ukraine, Canada has trained more than 33,000 soldiers. We also renewed Operation REASSURANCE to continue supporting NATO in Central and Eastern Europe.

We are also providing \$25 million in non-lethal military aid, which includes night-vision goggles, body armor, gas masks, and helmets. Canada has donated \$10 million in weapons and has sent rockets and anti-tank weapons systems. Most recently, we have supplied Ukraine with an additional \$50 million in both lethal and non-lethal aid.

In addition to an already committed \$15 million dollars in humanitarian aid and \$35 million in development assistance, Canada has committed an additional \$100 million towards humanitarian assistance that will supply emergency health services, water, food, and shelter to Ukrainians. Any donations made to the Canadian Red Cross’s Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis Appeal, the Government of Canada will match donations of up to \$30 million. You can visit redcross.ca to donate.

For Ukrainian visitors, students, and workers who are currently in Canada, they will receive an extended temporary status and be issued open

work permits. Fees will be waived for passports, permanent resident documents, proofs of citizenship, visitor visas, and work and study permits for Ukrainians in Canada.

On the immigration front, any Ukrainian national wishing to relocate to Canada temporarily can do so through the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel, which is now open. The Government is investing \$117 million to accelerate refugee applications for Ukrainians fleeing conflict, to arrive quickly and safely to Canada.

Canada is prioritizing and urgently processing travel documents for Canadians, permanent residents, and their immediate family members. Any immigration enquiries for those in Canada and Ukraine can contact 613-321-4243.

Canada has, and will, remain steadfast in our resolve to punish Russia for this senseless and unprovoked violation of Ukraine’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence. Russia and Vladimir Putin will feel the consequences of violating international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and the international rule-based order that has been in place since the end of the Second World War.

Our office is in close contact with officials from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta, to support them in their interactions with our government. My office team and I will continue to be there to support Ukrainian Canadians here in Edmonton as they endure this heartbreaking moment in history. We stand with Ukraine.

Slava Ukraini
Слава Україні !

Randy Boissonnault, MP
780-442-1888
randy.boissonnault@parl.gc.ca

*We have been on
Stony Plain road since 1990.
We are happy to be staying in the SPR BIA area
as we feel this is a great area to shop and live in.*

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lots of visits from the neighbourhood!

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Edmonton Valley Line West LRT

Upcoming Work in 2022

In 2022, Marigold Infrastructure Partners (MIP) will ramp up construction activity along the alignment of the Edmonton Valley Line West LRT. Spanning 14 km, this urban-style line will be operating between downtown and Lewis Farms in west Edmonton.

Our focus is to reduce potential disruption to people and businesses along the route. We are coordinating with local utilities and the City of Edmonton to get preparatory work done in advance. This helps us reduce the risk of unexpected events causing delays. Our design teams are creating well-defined construction plans to decrease our on-site working time.

To mitigate inconveniences, such as night work or lane closures, MIP considers:

- Local factors
- Feedback from community in those areas to date
- Liaising with community organizations and businesses directly.

Lane closures are expected in 2022, but our

team is coordinating efforts to maintain vehicle access to businesses along the route. To reduce local impact as much as possible, MIP will also work with the BIA on signage to inform Edmontonians about businesses remaining open during construction.

To stay informed on our upcoming work,

please check out our website, follow our social media, or sign-up for email updates. Got questions or concerns? Please don't hesitate to reach out either through the BIA or to us directly. Thank you for your patience and input as we work together to build this important project for our community.

Works Planned for 2022:

- Preliminary utility relocation work continues
- Some trees will be removed or pruned between 138 St & 102 Ave. Every effort is made to save trees; we are working with professional arborists to replace trees with native species that will enhance Edmonton's urban canopy.
- Local drainage will be relocated and improved with better use of vegetation to handle extreme weather and surface runoff.
- Landscaping and streetscaping will start, focusing on making the area inviting for visitors.
- To power the LRT, we will be starting work on utility complexes that will blend into local surroundings.
- Road construction to support the LRT and local traffic - this will involve lane closures through the construction season, but work will be staged to maintain vehicle access to businesses along the route.
- Stops at Grovenor/142 St, Stony Plain Rd/149 St, and Jasper Place will begin to take shape with early construction preparation including excavation, drainage, and conduits.



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West Edmonton Community League Updates

Canora Park Watch

Spring is right around the corner (according to the Calendar), however it just doesn't feel that way with all the snow we have recently received. It is a new year and Canora Park Watch is in the midst of planning the 2022 events.

The year will kick off April 16, 2022 with our Annual Easter Egg Hunt, followed in May with our Mini Carnival, Fitness in the Park and Senior Tea scheduled for early summer. Keep a look out for the flyers which will be delivered prior to each event.

We look forward to reconnecting with the residents of Canora and if you are new to the community, welcome and we look forward to meeting you this year.

St. Anne Park is located in Canora at 10208 153 Street NW.

For more info contact Deckla at jatec2002@telus.net

CANORA Community League

www.mycanora.com
Join our Board

We are looking for some people from our community to join our Board of Directors. If you are interested in sitting on the board and making a difference in your community, please email info@mycanora.com and have your say on how Canora Community League interacts with the community.

Britannia Youngstown Community League

www.bycl.ca

Learn to play soccer or ball hockey with the Start to Play program this April with Free Play for Kids Inc. Space is limited.

Registration is open for Britannia Youngstown Community League, Calder Community League, Strathcona Community League, Fraser Community League and Aspen Gardens Community League.

For info: Freeplayforkids.com/start-to-play

Glenwood Community League

glenwoodcommunityleague.com

The 2022
**GLENWOOD
COMMUNITY LEAGUE
AGM**

Sunday, April 10 | 11:30 AM

Meeting will be through Zoom
Please email glenwoodcommunity@hotmail.com for the link

GlenwoodCommunityLeague.com | Facebook.com/glenwoodcommunity

Governor Community League

<http://www.grovenor.ca>

Casino Volunteers needed for 01 and 02 April 2022. Contact grovenorsoccer@gmail.com to volunteer.

The Walking Group meets on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at 14802 SPR. Open to all walkers.

West Jasper Sherwood

westjaspersherwood.ca

The Community League Annual General meeting is happening on 28 April, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at West Jasper Sherwood league Hall at 9620 - 152 Street. For more information, to join the Board or to get involved please email WestJasperSherwood@gmail.com.

Glenora Community League

www.glenoracl.com

“Fore” Glenora Community Annual Golf Tournament on 10 June at The Ranch Golf Course, Tickets \$200 each and A Foursome \$800. fundraising@glenoracl.com for registration and info.

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.

SPANN Wants to SEE YOUR PHOTOS



Send your community photos in to spanneditor@gmail.com for your chance to be featured in the next issue!



March 2022 is Proclaimed Fraud Prevention Month in Edmonton

Dami Osunro

In recognition of the increased spate of fraudulent activities globally and specifically in Canada, the mayor of Edmonton in conjunction with the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) Edmonton chapter has proclaimed March 2022 as a fraud prevention month in Edmonton.

There has especially been a huge

rise in COVID-19 related scams with over \$7 million lost so far to COVID-19 related scams in Canada.

The City of Edmonton lit the High-level bridge blue and white on March 6th to raise awareness on the devastating effects of fraud.



Dami Osunro

The ACFE would also be hosting a number of awareness programs and trainings. The highlight will be a fraud conference to be held in conjunction with the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA). These programs would be creating awareness both to ACFE members

and the general public about fraud prevention mechanisms, what to look out for and how not to be a victim.

For more information on the best ways to protect yourself against fraud, please visit <https://www.acfe-edmonton.com/2022-edmonton-fraud-conference/>

Let's all fight fraud!

Dami Osunro is a community member in west Edmonton.

Win-Win Partnership Brings Seniors Programming to Community Leagues

“When was the last time you went to an event at your local community league?” asked Dr. Haidong Liang, Executive Director of the Westend Seniors Activity Centre (WSAC).

“For many seniors who grew up here in Edmonton, community league activities like hockey and baseball, girl guides and beavers, bingo and bridge; bring back fond memories. Now, many of those seniors have no ties to their community league anymore. We hope to bring that back to some of the communities here in the west end” said Liang.

Census statistics show that in 2016, there were 213,442 seniors (age 55+) living in Edmonton and yet combined membership of the 16 seniors centres in Edmonton is less than 20,000.

“Let me tell you a story about a lady we call Mary,” said Lorena Smalley, Community Engagement Manager at WSAC. “We all know a Mary. She is your grandmother, your mother, your auntie, your neighbour. Mary and her husband Joe are long-time residents in a neighbourhood here in the west end. They bought their home there, had their kids there. When the children were little, Mary helped at the playschool and was a girl guide leader. Her husband Joe coached the kid’s hockey teams and both Mary and Joe helped start the community league board. But things changed over time. The kids got older and community league sports left the community for the larger rinks and soccer centres. Then community leagues started having a hard time finding volunteers and over time the leagues were no longer the hubs they once had been. Now seniors, Mary and Joe have no connection to their community league. But how wonderful would it be if we could find a way to connect Mary and Joe back with their community!”

Social isolation happens when a senior’s social participation or social contact decreases. An estimated 30 percent of Canadian seniors are at risk of becoming socially isolated. According to a needs assessment of older adults in the City of Edmonton, 32% indicated there were things that make it difficult to pursue social interactions.

- 29% indicated that they would like more acquaintances – given the opportunity
- 18% mentioned poor health or general poor health reasons, and
- 3% indicated they do not socialize with anyone over an average week

“In a 2016 national study, seniors said the biggest roadblocks they face is that they have a lack of awareness, a lack of access to community services and programs, and a lack of accessible and affordable transportation options. Add in a loss of sense of community, and you can understand why seniors are at risk,” said Liang.

“We are very excited about the partnerships we have created with community leagues here in the west end. We will be offering drop-in activities and fitness/yoga programs at La Perle Community League and Trinity United Church this September. The goal of our partnerships is to remove these roadblocks by reaching out to seniors in their own communities.” said Liang.

“How wonderful would it be if “Mary” is reading her community newsletter, she sees that a fitness class is being offered at her community league and the first thing she thinks is “that might be fun and it’s right down the street!” said Smalley.

“We feel it can be a lot to ask an older adult to come to our centre. They have to drive somewhere they have never been before, find a spot in our busy parking lot, walk into a busy hub of activity, and then try and figure out what kind of activity they want to do. If we can provide programs in

their neighbourhood so that transportation isn’t an issue, in a building that they are very familiar with, it’s just an easier way for them to get engaged. And how great would it be if they ran into an old friend from the neighbourhood!

“Our seniors enjoy activities like cards and games. Holding weekly drop-in activities like Bridge, Scrabble and Whist is another way for them to connect with their peers.” said Liang. Our experience is that older adults love to volunteer. If we can get seniors re-engaged with their community, we hope they will also lend a helping hand. Many seniors spent years volunteering when their kids were young. It isn’t too hard to believe they won’t be willing to help out again.”

“We have started talks with three other community leagues about partnering with us in September so I am really happy about where things are headed,” said Smalley. We will have lots of options for seniors here in the west end in the fall!

Questions about the programs being offered at La Perle Community League and Trinity United Church (located in Meadowlark)? Contact the Westend Seniors Activity Centre, 780-483-1209 or visit their website: <https://weseniors.ca/community-league-programs/>



Participants moving to the music.

Photo supplied by West End Seniors

The Childcare Network



Jonathan Cruz

Spring is here. Everybody wants to go back to our old lives and enjoy what we’ve been missing. We have endured many changes and restrictions over the past two years to keep ourselves and our loved

ones, and our communities safe and healthy. Children are amazingly adaptable and at times far better at accepting changes and new concepts than adults are, perhaps part of that is because as a child there are new experiences every day.

Below are ten healthy and safe ideas that will keep your children occupied and happy all day long in this time of adjustment after this global pandemic.

Things to do with Children

- Blow bubbles. Whether it’s with a bubble machine for \$5 or a single set of bubbles to blow out of, bubbles lighten the mood and do wonders for entertainment. Younger kids will enjoy running through them or blowing them!
- Bean bag toss. Using a sewing machine, you can sew fabric and buy beans to make the bags. Kids will feel accomplished and appreciate the game more when they create it. Toss the bags in your backyard or in buckets.
- Paper plate horseshoes. Cutting off the outside of paper plates, have your kids paint them and toss them around a grounded paper towel roll! This is a great kids’ summer activity or game for a rainy day.

- Plant flowers or vegetables. Use the summer to teach your kids how to plant! Plant flowers or vegetables in your flower bed or in a pot by your home. They can water it every day and watch them bloom!
 - Meet friends at the local playground. Call up your friends and let the kids hang out together at a local playground, where they can play on swing sets, merry go rounds, and more.
 - Paint rocks. Are you one with rocks everywhere in your yard or nearby? Have fun painting faces or designs on rocks with your kids. You could use these as door stoppers or paper weights!
 - Visit your local library. The library has more than just books for children. Many of them have other activities and toys designed for each age. They also offer audiobooks and educational computer games! *EPL.ca* and Jasper Place is located at 9010 156 Street
 - Build a fort or tent. Take an afternoon and push your couches close together. Drape them with blankets or sheets and eat a snack or play a game under your fort or tent!
 - Sidewalk chalk murals. Get some fun colored chalk for your kids and you can create some really fun chalk murals and designs. It is also a great way to brighten others day when they see these creative drawings and they will wash away after the rain.
 - DIY bird feeder. This kid friendly bird feeder takes toilet paper rolls spread with peanut butter and rolled in bird seed. After hanging it on a branch, your kids can watch as the birds come and get something to eat!
- After a long struggle of challenges and uncertainty the \$10.00 a day daycare is now in

full swing. **International Center of Early Learners and Development Inc.** (fully licensed and accredited worldwide) and the **Pioneer Monday-Sunday Childcare Center** advocated for the Quality \$10.00 a day daycare for Edmontonians.

This means that the International Center will be releasing three Childcare Spaces starting May 1, 2022 for all the Childcare Programs for Newborn, Babies, Toddlers, Pre-School and Kindergarten Programs and OSC in their Center in Edmonton. The Daily Childcare Fees will be \$10.00 a day (Fixed Rate) based on occupancy and availability using the Alberta Childcare Subsidy Guidelines. To find out if you qualify for this service, please visit <https://www.alberta.ca/child-care-subsidy.aspx>

In addition, Saturday and Sunday childcare is now open for the general public. Please visit our website at www.internationalcenter.ca or call their admission office at 780-660-7408 or email them at admissions@internationalcenter.ca

International Center of Early Learners and Development Inc. is now classified as An Integrated Preparatory School by CEI a worldwide International Organization for over 130 years.

Jonathan Cruz came from a family of Academicians and Doctors and a retired licensed oncologist and teacher and former columnist of Drayton Valley Western Review and News Director of Canada News Now and the founder of **24-7 Childcare Canada Inc.** and **The Canadian Childcare Resource Centers** the first 24 hours Childcare Center in Canada and the visionary and innovator of \$10 a day Daycare in Alberta in support of The Prime Minister’s Office. He is also the co-founder of **International Center of Early Learners and Development Inc.**

Summer Activities in SPR BIA

Todd Janes

There will be much happening this summer along Stony Plain Road and we very much believe that economic development cannot happen without community development going hand in hand. We believe this so very much and it has been reinforced over the past two years as we tried to navigate through the pandemic.

Last summer the Board of Directors spent some time developing some strategic pillars in which we are navigating this community development with care and thoughtfulness.

These Strategies and Goals are:

- Safety, Security, and Cleanliness;
- Placemaking and Gathering Spaces;
- Fostering a healthy and connected community of Business owners; and
- Business retention and Recruitment.

Focusing on Safety and Cleanliness; as community members you perhaps think about THESE from a community perspective around what makes your neighborhood a better place to live and most business owners also think in similar ways. You probably think that cleaner, safer and better maintained areas are important. A well kept area is important to all of us and there should be a noticeable standard within our community. It should involve businesses, like residents shoveling and sweeping those sidewalks and helping keep our areas clean. This summer we will be working with a social enterprise program to keep our public sidewalks and gutters clean, please help us keep our community litter free.

We are also working in our BIA to ensure public infrastructure is repaired and maintained, if you see areas that need repair and

attention, we would encourage you to report this to 311 by phoning or reporting on the 311 app. While sometimes it may take time to get this work done reporting this is very important as it is all tagged and tracked by the City.

Creating safer spaces for everyone is vital to a healthier community. We are working to ensure all visitors, residents and customers feel welcomed and included. If we are building a Mainstreet for everyone that means that we all take a role in being present and aware of ourselves and others around us. There is security in walkable streets with pedestrians and positive human-scale positive activity, that is why we will be doing SPR Goes to The Dogs again this summer and other art and storefront activation projects. This also includes working with our social agencies and supporting

and advocating for additional social services to help marginalized populations and maintaining and enhancing our relationships with EPS to develop and communicate crime reduction strategies and partnerships at community levels. By improving walkability we also enhance pedestrian safety. We have an additional level of crime prevention through community policing supported through our Community Beat Officers that are visible and present on our street. They offer a different level of community presence and relationship building to all people along SPR.

This summer as we start moving forward there will be lots of different activities and projects. I hope you will engage with us with SPR BIA and share your thoughts - both good and bad and encouraging and hopeful. Please follow us on social media @StonyPlainRoad.



Trio (2015) by Bella Totino-Busby & Verne Busby
Bright, accessible, and whimsical, *Trio* provides a colourful and human-scale counterpoint to the hustle and bustle of Stony Plain Road. The design lends a sense of vitality to its site yearround – animating sunny summer afternoons, and enlivening the grey and rainy weekends. The musicians symbolize the connective power of music – a common language throughout the world – and portray the sense of community fostered within the neighbourhoods surrounding this busy artery.



A new business coming to 100 Avenue and 169 Street. This new build will be a destination business for many including large trucks and RVs.



Some of the new Businesses opening within Stony Plain Road BIA. Our Business District has seen an increase in new businesses since the beginning of the pandemic.

Snapshots of SPR!

Photos by
Todd Janes

Send in photos to spanneditor@gmail.com. All ages and skill levels are welcome! Have your snapshots featured in the next issue of **SPANN!**



Above: The old Orange Hub parking structure. (See “Major Changes Coming” p.3)
Below: Property redevelopment on SPR and 160 Street. This old property has been rejuvenated for new businesses.



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Old Canora School Building Further Energized by Sharing

Sim Senol

Turkish Canadian Society of Edmonton (TCS), the non-profit organization that owns the old Canora School Building, located on 15450 105 Avenue welcomed another smaller cultural community to their building in early 2022. With the support of a Federal grant for projects to improve Black-led organizations’ which offered funding for renovations and retrofits of existing workspaces or community spaces. This support enabled two small cultural communities in Edmonton to improve their functionality and a great partnership between, TCS was able to create office space in its building for the Burundian Community of Canada Alberta (BCCA).

In this partnership, TCS had unused space in the building, in an area that had suffered water and humidity damage when some old pipes burst. BCCA needed office and cultural activity space to run their

activities and through the grant much needed renovations were completed and BCCA moved into the building in early 2022. It’s a win-win situation with the renovated office space gained and the many future intercultural exchanges bound to happen between these two newcomer communities. Earlier in March, while the Burundian Canadians were preparing savoury treats for an upcoming Women’s Day Celebration, TCS Vice-President Sim Senol taught Turkish games to the Burundian Children. Community members living in or passing by the Canora neighbourhood have probably witnessed some of the other changes happening in the block where the Turkish Canadian Society of Edmonton is located. TCS has raised more than \$630,000 during the pandemic and completed about 50% of the construction of a small mosque on the west side of its property. Earlier in



Children discovering in the new classroom.

Photo by Sim Senol

2018, TCS undertook \$250,000 worth of renovations to reopen its Gymnasium. Thanks to the renovations which were partly funded by a \$125,000 provincial grant, TCS was able to open its doors to two different youth basketball groups during the pandemic when they lost their usual practice sites at active school buildings. These groups continued to hold youth basketball courses while adhering to relevant Covid-19 restrictions. TCS regularly holds its weekend Turkish school in its community centre and offers Turkish as a Second Language classes to Edmontonians.

Following the removal of most pandemic restrictions in March, TCS is getting ready to host other events in its building. During the month of Ramadan (between April 2nd and May 1st) Turkish Canadian

community members will be sponsoring “iftar gatherings” at its facility where community members will break their fast together and share homemade dinners. On April 23rd, the International Children’s Day Celebration will commence after a two-year hiatus. TCS will be inviting children from Edmonton’s Ukranian community to celebrate their Children’s Day together and hopes to raise funds to donate to the Red Cross campaign for Ukraine. TCS President Ahmet Topal extended an invitation to all community members living in and around Stony Plain Road and the Canora neighbourhood for all these upcoming events.

Sim Senol is the Vice President of the Turkish Canadian Society of Edmonton and if you ask nicely she might teach you a Turkish game as well.



Community members planning.

Photo by Sim Senol

YOU'RE INVITED TO

CELEBRATE

CHILDREN'S DAY WITH THE

TURKISH COMMUNITY

4-8 pm on Saturday, April 23

Turkish Canadian Cultural Centre Gym

15450 105 Ave. NW Edmonton

ADMISSION: \$10

All proceeds will be donated to the Canadian Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Relief Fund

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