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JUNE 2015

NEWS » FESTIVAL

Bridge Songs paves way for musicians

Songwriters used EPL's Makerspace to record music for Bridge Songs



Music from the festival is recorded in EPL's Makerspace and is available on CD. » SUPPLIED

STEPHEN STRAND

Music from this year's Bridge Songs festival will soon be available to enjoy at any time following the June 13 festival.

The \$15 festival ticket includes a copy of the album, filled with music written on this year's theme: "perfect", a combination of "fiction" and "perfection." Bridge Songs producer Dave Von Bieker combined those words because achieving perfection through art is fiction.

Recording the music gives local songwriters' original music longevity.

"It's always hard when you play original music, because it's the first time anybody has heard these songs," said Von Bieker. "It puts you at a disadvantage, and you put so much effort into writing these songs, you really want people to hear

them. It's part of the reason why you are writing them." It also acts as a nice take-away memento of the festival.

The album is being recorded in one of the two rooms dedicated as recording studios at the Stanley A. Milner Library's Makerspace.

"When I found out about Makerspace, it just seemed like a bit of a dream for me as a musician to have a really well-treated room," Von Bieker explained. "You are kind of trained to fit music into the cracks of your life. It is really nice to have a room dedicated just to that purpose."

Makerspace is free to use, and is set up with easy-to-use, quality equipment. Von Bieker added, "It would take me less time to get on the LRT and go downtown. I would be recording faster doing that than I would pulling out all of my gear at home."

People can book rooms two weeks in advance and bring any gear they want. Simply plug into the gear provided and hit record.

Ten songwriters are featured on the album. Although submissions for this year's festival are closed, for future festivals, "Really, anybody could submit a song. We ask that they be willing to record the song and be willing to perform the song at the event." The song has to be about the theme and be written in the last six months.

The theme of this year's event was decided upon because, "I think perfection is probably the greatest killer of creativity there is," said Von Bieker. "How does perfection affect our creative process? If you're a songwriter, is it possible to write the perfect song? What would that be? And would you even want it if you could do it?"

Music on the album would

be best classified as "more of a laid back folk vibe." Von Bieker added that, "In the past, we have had everything from really hard rock to EDM dance music. Everything except rap." This year, "the album has more room to breathe."

Artists will sell extra albums at their merchandise tables and after the event for \$10.

BRIDGE SONGS

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Centre for the Arts

9225 118 Ave
\$15 for tickets—includes CD
Extra CDs also available for
sale - \$10
June 13: 7-10 pm
Performance: 7-8:30 pm

After party gala: 8:30-10 pm
at St. Faiths Anglican Church
(11725 93 street)

Visit bridgesongs.ca for more
information and to buy tickets.

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NEWS » FESTIVAL

This festival has heart

For 12 years, Heart of the City has given emerging artists a voice

TALEA MEDYNSKI

Heart of the City Music and Arts Festival, a staple of the inner city for 12 years, is once again taking place in Giovanni Caboto Park on June 6-7.

When the festival began in 2003, it was held at the Sacred Heart Church's soccer field and was a one-day event. It is now two days, includes art and workshops, and continues to evolve. It's free to enter the festival and to attend any of the events, although it costs to purchase any food, drink, or art.

A big attraction of the festival is the opportunity to listen to music from emerging artists. Take a look at this year's line up and you'll see a variety of genres represented, with everything from blues to rock, hip hop to country, or soul to rockabilly.

Mike Siek, president of the festival, said, "We give artists in the inner city an opportunity to share their talents and the population in the inner city to witness that talent."

The idea is to give emerging artists and musicians an opportunity they might otherwise not have.

"It's hard to get into some festivals," said Siek. He explained that although some artists have performed in festivals before, others have limited exposure to a larger crowd. "It's especially important to give artists a chance to perform in front of hundreds of people."

There is a call out for musicians a



Festival goers can look forward to a wide variety of music. » T. ALVARES

month or so before the festival, but musicians usually discover the festival through word of mouth. There are auditions, but "for the most part, the people who want to perform can." Last year, more musicians than normal auditioned. "We managed to squish them all in," said Siek.

The auditions, held at drop-in centres like Bissell and Boyle Street, give musicians a chance to perform on a smaller

stage, ensure they want to perform, and give the audience a chance to hear live music.

A minor change to layout this year will have the stage facing away from the Boys & Girls Club so that people can sit on the hill and enjoy the music. The stage itself is bigger, with one part of it off to the side.

"It's an opportunity to provide non-stop music," said Siek. "As soon as one

performer is off, another can start."

Siek said the arts portion of the festival has been expanding over the past few years. Besides having tents for artists to sell their art and roving artists on festival grounds, there are two-day art projects, like creating a papier mâché dragon. Other workshops include wire sculpting, tie dying, and record painting.

The festival will continue to transform. Siek said the intention is for the festival to become a year-round umbrella organization.

"We'd be working with other organizations to provide our artists with paying gigs, giving them an actual income for their art."

In the meantime, the festival is always looking for volunteers and board members.

HEART OF THE CITY MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL

June 6 from 11 am – 9 pm
June 7 from 11 am – 5 pm
Giovanni Caboto Park

Between 108A-109A Ave & 94-95 St
Free admission and all ages welcome
City bylaws prohibit dogs

NEWS » CONTEST

Snap a selfie on the Ave

Selfies-on-the-Ave contest running July and September

MARI SASANO

The modern phenomenon of selfies — taking photos of yourself on your phone — is actually part of a long history of self-portraiture. There are many reasons why someone would want to depict oneself, but one motivation is to show the subject in a certain time and place as a memento.

In this tradition, the Alberta Avenue Business Association (AABA) is encouraging visitors to our neighbourhood to take selfies to help promote the area.

"It's part of the AABA Pop Up Market," said Tymmarah Zehr, the special events coordinator for AABA. "There will be two of them, July 18 and Sept. 19. It's a contest inviting people to take selfies of themselves on the Ave."

The concept is simple: during one of the pop up markets, take a photo of yourself with AABA's Rising Up or We Believe in 118 logo, or with a business owner, or inside or outside a business. Then post it on AABA's Facebook page or tag a tweet with @AABA5 and the hashtag #SelfiesOnTheAve and #ABAvePopUpMkt

The July market will take place between 86 and 96 Streets, and the September market will be farther east, near NAIT. Once the photos come out, it's hoped that people will see the vibrancy of 118 Avenue businesses.

"It kind of came out of marketing meetings. We wanted to include more social media, and we wanted every business on the Ave to have more of a presence," she said. There'll be plenty of fun photo ops during each event, with businesses setting up on the sidewalks and live entertainment provided. "It's about having a fun time on the

Avenue and seeing what businesses are around, restaurants and ethnic stores."

Winners will receive a basket of goodies and have their photos printed in the *Rat Creek Press* after each event. Seeing neighbourhood businesses in this light should be able to change people's minds, said Zehr, who herself moved back into the area one year ago.

"I used to live near the Italian Centre 26 years ago. It wasn't an uplifting positive area. But come see what's been done — it's friendly and welcoming, fresh and clean. It has a real positive energy."

Volunteers are still needed. Email tymmarah@gmail.com or call 780.850.8966.



Alberta Avenue Business Association's Pop Up Markets will feature a contest. » SUPPLIED

SELFIES-ON-THE-AVE CONTEST

During the July 18 and Sept. 19
AABA Pop Up Markets

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NEWS » EDUCATION

Gardening helps students grow

Inner City High School adds gardening to their education

REBECCA LIPPIATT

On a sunny Friday in May, the students and staff at Inner City High School filled the planters around the school.

Laura Kemp, executive director of Sustainable Food Edmonton, helped the students plant, and several members of the Spruce Avenue Community League were in attendance, working side-by-side with the students.

The event was organised by Dan Scratch, the social studies teacher. The school has had an indoor garden for several years, where they grow peas, beans, carrots, tomatoes, cilantro, kale and onions. Last year, students gave the food to Taste of Edmonton, and this year the school's food class will use the produce.

Scratch's inspiration came from a colleague working with inner city students in New York. Teaching gardening to students is both educational and a public health measure. Gardening is a holistic educational tool, allowing for integration of all learning styles and can complete any curriculum goal. It also teaches students about food sustainability, food security

and healthy eating. School gardens have been shown to improve test scores and promote physical activity.

Scratch reached out to Sustainable Food Edmonton, which operates Urban Ag High, for assistance with this project. Dustin Bajer, coordinator for Urban Ag High, worked with the students to plan and design the garden and helped them obtain funding from Edmonton Community Foundation. The students are planting indigenous plants, including raspberries, saskatoons and cranberries.

In addition to the benefits for students, Scratch also sees bonuses for the community. He wants to use the garden to help break down public perceptions of his students.

"These students are often stereotyped, and this is to show they are not their stereotype." This event gave students a chance to reach out to community members. Scratch knows his students have great potential. "These are great kids and I wanted to show them off for a day."



Laura Kemp, executive director of Sustainable Food Edmonton, works alongside Tanys (middle) and Cheyenne (right) to plant indigenous plants, including raspberries, saskatoons and cranberries. >> REBECCA LIPPIATT

NEWS » THEATRE CAMP

Tread the boards this summer

Theatre camp sparks youth to create and stage a play

TALEA MEDYNSKI

From July 6-18, there is a unique opportunity for youth itching to perform on stage or be a part of the theatre process.

Spark! is a two-week theatre camp for youth ages 8-16 at Alberta Avenue Community League. The two-week camp is an extension of last year's one-day camp, which was the pilot project.

Lianna Makuch, the marketing coordinator, said last year's feedback was positive, particularly with youth who initially didn't think they'd participate. She cited one example of two girls who found their own way to contribute by creating a display.

What makes the camp unique is the integration of everything that goes into creating and staging a play. Before starting camp, students register for one subject: performance, technical theatre, or visual arts. However, students may also participate in workshops exploring other disciplines such as improvisation, movement, writing, or sculpting.

"For two weeks, we explore these specific subjects. One discipline feeds into the other," said Chris dela Cruz, the outreach coordinator and technical theatre instructor.

Makuch will teach performance and playwriting, dela Cruz will teach technical theatre, such as scenery, lighting, and props. Megan Koshka will teach visual arts, instructing students in creating an installation gallery inspired by the play. The gallery helps to create an atmosphere before the audience steps into the theatre.

"There was an incredible amount we were able to accomplish in six hours," said dela Cruz. "I'm excited to see what happens in two weeks."

The broad age range among students creates an interesting dynamic. "There was a cool mentorship going on," explained Makuch of last year's camp.

Although the camp is about the theatrical process, it's also about reaching out to youth in the community and giving them a voice. Sheiny Satanove, the camp manager, said the experience "immerses kids in arts, teaches them leadership, and makes them an active member of the community."

Makuch said the camp "gives [youth] ownership at a vulnerable stage of life. It gives them a creative way to express themselves, either by literally building something or by building a play. We want to give kids an



"Christmas Under the Sea" was the play students created in last year's one-day camp. >> SUPPLIED

opportunity to get involved in the arts and plant the seeds when they're young."

The camp is free, but students must commit to the two-week camp as well as complete an application process.

"You want people who are there because they want to be there," said Satanove. She explained the application process consists of a few questions asking about previous arts experience, area of interest, and goals. "It's nothing too strenuous," said Satanove.

Applications are due by June 15, and students or parents can access the application through albertaave.org/spark.

By the end of the camp, students will create and stage

an original play for family, friends, and community members. It's free to see the play, although donations are accepted.

"Alberta Avenue is a really unique community; this is another unique thing to add to it," said Makuch.

SPARK!
Free youth theatre day camp for ages 8-16
Alberta Avenue Community League
9210 118 Ave
July 6-18

Register at albertaave.org/spark
Registration deadline: June 15
For information: spark.artscamp@gmail.com

NEWS » EDITORIAL

Living on treaty land

Treaty Six and other facts of life

FRANKI HARROGATE

We are all treaty people. What's that? You didn't sign any treaties?

Edmonton is located on land that falls within Treaty Six territory. The treaty was signed in 1876, when commercial hunting and slaughter of the plains buffalo was causing significant food shortages for the First Nations peoples living on the prairies.

First Nation signatories retain their status as sovereign nations to this day. "...granted some of their powers to the Crown in exchange for certain benefits and rights... Indian people entered into a political arrangement with the Crown so that they could live as Indian people forever... By signing the treaties, the Indian nations created an ongoing relationship with the Crown in Indian social and economic development in exchange for lands surrendered (Opekokew, "The First Nations," pp. 10-11)."

This means treaties are living documents that continue to remain relevant and in effect. Non-First Nations person was born here or immigrated here, living in Canada requires us to acknowledge, understand, and

respect our relationship to First Nations, Metis, and Inuit (FNMI) peoples. Edmonton has the second highest urban Aboriginal population in Canada, and is projected to become the highest in the next 15 years.

Our municipalities and provinces also have responsibilities under the treaty. Edmonton passed the Edmonton Urban Aboriginal Accord Initiative in hopes of strengthening historically strained relationships with indigenous people, including an acknowledgement that "we reside on Treaty Six territory." Individual responsibility coupled with governmental responsibility means we must call out unfair treatment and discrimination when we see it happening.

One example is the inadequate and unequal funding provided to FNMI students, on-reserve schools, and Aboriginal education overall. Then there is the grossly underfunded on-reserve child welfare system with more children in care than were ever in the residential school system. Let's not forget how often symptoms of serious illness are dismissed by health-care workers in emergency rooms as "just drunk or high." Lastly, there is the lack of historical information included in social studies programs detailing the genocide that was the residential

school system, and the blind eye turned by successive governments which allowed its continuance until 1996.

It's rare to see FNMI peoples on boards of directors, community organizations, panels, academic or public organizations, outside of those that aren't specifically geared towards providing FNMI services or programs. Systemic discrimination doesn't have to involve shouting slurs at someone to result in the disenfranchisement of a group. It is our collective responsibility to point out lack of representation everywhere we see them, and to demand better of the organization in question.

It's important to remember that FNMI people are not a monolith; different bands have different languages and cultural practices and different demographics have different needs. With adequate representation and histories that acknowledge more than one story of Canada's past, we come closer to meeting those needs in a way that allows for true inclusion.

For more information about the signing of Treaty 6: <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>. Search "treaty six".



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ABOUT US
The *Rat Creek Press* is a non-profit community newspaper in north central Edmonton serving the communities of Alberta Avenue, Delton, Eastwood, Elmwood Park, Parkdale-Cromdale, Spruce Avenue, and Westwood.

COMMUNITY, COMMUNICATION, CAPACITY
The *Rat Creek Press* goals are to help connect residents with what is happening in the community, provide a forum where information and ideas can be exchanged, and help individuals learn new skills, acquire experience and develop leadership.

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EDITORIAL POLICY
The *Rat Creek Press* is a forum for all people. We encourage comments that further discussion on a given article or subject, provide constructive criticism, or offer an idea for community activity. Letters should be no longer than 250 words and must include the full name, location and contact information of the author. Op-Ed columns should be 400-700 words and observe formal rules of spelling and grammar. The RCP reserves the right to edit all material and to remove any electronic comment at any time.

All columns, letters or cartoons submitted are attributed to the author and do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the *Rat Creek Press*. Send submissions to the *Rat Creek Press* Editor via email at editor@ratcreek.org, or 9210-118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5G 0N2. Mail may also be dropped at the address above.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
Space is available to non-profit groups for event and program listings as well as volunteer opportunities on a first-come first-serve basis and will be printed as space permits.

Councillor Tony Caterina

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FAMILY » PARENTING

A place for fathers and men

Father Club brings men together to connect and work with one another

LINDA WILKINSON

With Father's Day just around the corner, it's the perfect time to focus on dads, talk about "guy stuff" and let the men in our lives "do guy things." And what better place to do that than Father Club.

Father Club is a fairly new father-focused group at Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre. Men who are fathers, or who have fathers, meet monthly to connect with

other men in the community. "Norwood originally started Father Club from participant feedback from the fathers of one of our parenting programs," explained facilitator Tristan Ham. "The common question from the participants was 'what's next?' and the group was our answer to this."

Father Club turned out to be a good way to connect and provide support for fathers. It was designed to resemble groups called sheds. The purpose of

these groups is to combat social isolation, provide mentorship and support men going through difficult personal issues. They also have an opportunity to work on projects that use the participants' trades and give back to the community.

"The men control the themes of the groups and the projects they work on," said Ham. "We are currently working on a couple of little free libraries which are newspaper boxes that are repurposed into 24-hour

book boxes where the community can come and take books for themselves and their children."

The meetings are free of charge and include dinner and childcare. Because the mothers get a few hours to themselves, meetings are a win-win for the whole family.

"We have had a fairly consistent group of about 10 dads who have been connected with Norwood in some way, although the group is open to

fathers in the community. Space is limited to about 20 dads per meeting, so it's important that dads are able to phone in and let us know that they are coming."

Ham intends to keep Father Club going on a long-term basis. The men meet on the second Wednesday of every month, including July and August.

If you would like to learn more about this father-focused group, contact Tristan Ham at 780.471.3737.

RESIDENT » PROFILE

Jose Vicente: neighbourhood historian

Alberta Avenue resident makes a point of knowing and caring for his neighbours

STEPHEN STRAND

It is Jose Vicente. Not Josie Vicente. Never Josie. Vicente explains this to those new to his neighbourhood and new to his life.

Vicente offers visitors to his home one of his favourite drinks: a can of A&W Root Beer.

As a long-term resident of Alberta Avenue, living a few blocks north of 118 Avenue, Vicente has both an immense and intimate knowledge of his neighbourhood. His jovial and joking manner leads people to speak openly with him and share their history. He knows how to listen. To learn. To coax the conversation along and have his companions feel as though they, not him, are in charge of the conversation.

A retired teacher, Vicente loves conversation, his neigh-

bourhood, knowing his neighbours, and helping them whenever he can. He also makes a point of keeping fit.

In 1987, Vicente suffered from kidney stones during the early May snowfall. "I do not want to go through that kind of pain again." He added that "the contractions were every three minutes," and asked if he delivered a child.

To help prevent kidney stones from returning, he does a minimum of thirty minutes of exercise daily. "If I make it to Dec. 21, 2015 in health, it will be seven years exercising every day for at least 30 minutes."

In the winter, he shovels snow for his neighbours. Vicente wants to "know the seniors are safe." His daughter lives across the street and he shovels her sidewalk for her as well. In the summer, Vicente walks for exercise.

"It's exhilarating to walk on the sidewalks of our commu-

nity. I get to meet the friendly people on the many streets and avenues." He added, "It's always a pleasure to interact with people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. They easily engage in conversation, especially if they are walking their dogs."



Jose Vicente has been an Alberta Avenue resident since 1975.

>> STEPHEN STRAND

His memory is fantastic. He lists a few of the names of the community dogs. "Bug, Dr. Watson (a beagle), Archer, Miss Daisy, Zoe, Bear (the biggest dog I've ever seen) and George

Clooney, the cat."

If Vicente doesn't remember, he consults his diary, which contains a list of the people and pets he has met throughout his years. He is proud of his diary. It acts as a database of all those who have come and

gone in the neighbourhood. He can remember back through the generations of homeowners, an impressive feat disappearing in our changing world.

But Vicente wasn't always an

Edmontonian. In fact, he was born in Portugal, and in 1960, Vicente and his family followed his father (who immigrated three years prior) to Edmonton. "We came to Edmonton to find a better life, and to be safe from war. If we had gone to the United States, my brother and I would likely have been drafted to the Vietnam War. If we had stayed in Portugal, we would likely have had to fight in Angola or Mozambique," Vicente recalled.

After attending Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Composite High School, Vicente married Cosima in 1975 and moved to Alberta Avenue. His motto is, "if you are not having fun, you are either dead, or too old to care." Hopefully we all can live by his motto and maintain youthfulness in our lives. And to end, as Vicente ends his conversations, "live long and prosper," while making the Vulcan salute.



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CHALLENGES » FEAR

Look down, way down!

Overcoming our fears is a matter of faith and hope

ROB BERNSHAW

We've all been afraid at some point.

There are people out there who may not admit it or say, "I am not afraid of anything." When it comes right down to it, the people that espouse that belief may ultimately be afraid of dying.

Others may say that fear is as tangible as picking up a book like *Frankenstein* or any other horror story. For some people, fear is so strong it can be debilitating.

Fear of heights is one form of fear many people may have. Every year in cities like Edmonton and all across Canada, Easter Seals holds a charitable event called the Drop Zone. This is where people can rappel down the side of a tall building to raise awareness and funds in support of children and adults with mobility and special needs issues.

I've never been afraid of heights. In fact, I have always placed high regard for my ability to enjoy high places. Aug. 29, 2013 was the first time I rappelled over the side of the Edmonton Sutton Place Hotel in support of this great cause.

I talked with many people leading up to the point of no return in the Easter Seals Drop Zone. Some admitted to being afraid of heights and this was

their solution to overcoming their fears. Would they totally overcome their fear of heights? They hoped so but were not sure.

I stepped to the brink of the Sutton Place Hotel roof in my rappelling safety harness and gear. I was facing the top of the roof with my feet on the edge, leaning at a 45 degree angle with my back to the street 29 stories below. Yeah, I was apprehensive and anxious. After all, my life was in the hands of others. It was like closing your eyes and trusting that someone would catch you before you hit the floor. Except 29 stories up is a lot farther than a couple of feet.

At that point, apprehension could have caused me to say, "Stop, I changed my mind." But my fear was momentary. I overcame it. Instead, I smiled for the camera and took my first step into the Easter Seals Drop Zone history books by having faith in something much bigger than myself.

This August, I will participate in the Easter Seals Drop Zone for the third time. Will the apprehension and anxiety still be there? Possibly, but my fear probably won't be as strong as the first time. When fear does appear, have faith and hope, for with understanding fear will soon fade away.



Writer Rob Bernshaw rappelled down 29 stories for charity. >> SPECIAL EVENTS

EDITORIAL » LITERARY

When poetry is easy peasy

The best poetry is when you can see yourself in the poem

RUSTI L LEHAY

Wendy Joy has had poems published in poetry journals and CDs, on Edmonton Transit through *Take the Poetry Route*, and in the Alberta anthology *Writing the Land*. She recently won first prize in the Gettin' Gritty, Inner City poetry contest

during the 2015 Edmonton Poetry Festival. Like most poets, she has a day job, and she often sings off-key as she drives to work.

So maybe you sing on-key but haven't read poetry since school. Joy makes poetry fun. Her writing is accessible with meaning and depth. Even though I am a poet, I confess I buy poetry books that I have yet to read from front to back. I am a more of

a poem a day kind of person. Attending readings are great. Poetry, after all, is spoken art.

Every now and then a poet draws my attention and leaves me eager to have them publish a book. Joy is one of those poets. I will rush to the bookstore to buy her book. I will not wait or worry about passing go, just beeline to the bookstore.

This month, it is my hope you will find something for yourself in these four poems from Joy. While you are waiting for the next Lit Page, write and send a selection of your musings to lit@ratcreek.org. I am eager to showcase someone new from the community.

THE MEASURE - WENDY JOY

how many words
can you fit in your heart

would you hear my red
heart
like a ribbon in the night

what does it whisper
in the dark

running in a sure line
straight to you

do you count the days
do you count the distance

could you find me
if I was forty steps from you
and quiet in the shadows



PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East



A MOTION FOR POLICE BODY WORN CAMERAS AND DASHCAMS

Through my Parliamentary Motion 603, I am urging on all police forces in Canada to use body worn cameras (BWCs) and police dashboard cameras.

I have long been a proponent of BWCs, but the decision to act on this issue by way of a Motion comes at the heels of the still unresolved incident in Bathurst, New Brunswick, where 51 year old Michel Vienneau was fatally shot by police in his vehicle; the 2013 Toronto streetcar shooting of Sammy Yatim by police,

who was shot at nine times; and, most recently, in North Charleston, South Carolina, where Walter Scott was shot at eight times by police. It is noteworthy that North Charleston, with a population of 100,000, has dashboard cameras in its police cruisers, which did help determine the circumstances surrounding Mr. Scott's murder. The city had previously ordered 120 BWCs for its officers, and has now ordered cameras for all police. With a population ten times the size, Edmonton should do the same.

We have the technology readily and economically available to help explain these tragic encounters and many others less tragic. This would provide substantive evidence to protect both the police and the public, as well as save vast amounts of court-time. Police could spend more time policing and less time in the court room.

These recent cases clearly demonstrate the need for BWCs and dashboard cameras. This Motion will garner support for future action throughout the various police jurisdictions, showing the support of the House of Commons for such a cause, and eventually lead to a legislated response.

It is my belief that dashboard cameras in patrol cars be used, and BWCs worn by all police officers, as a measure of public safety and investigative efficiency. These important tools must be made mandatory, especially in our own community.

What do you think?

780-495-3261

www.petergoldring.ca

Westwood Community League
www.westwoodcl.ca 780-474-1979

Seeking volunteers for open positions



Slant Monuments from \$1710

Grass Markers from \$765
Uprights from \$2345
Take an extra 25% off Mahogany Granites!

**SPRING
MEMORIALS**

12459 - 97 Street (two doors up from Hobby Alley)
springmemorials.com

Tributes in stone...

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The community calendar lists FREE events, programs and volunteer opportunities for the neighbourhoods of Alberta Avenue, Delton, Eastwood, Elmwood Park, Parkdale-Cromdale, Spruce Avenue and Westwood. Email your listing to info@ratcreek.org.

EVENTS

COFFEE WITH COPS
Join Cst. Thomsen to chat about neighbourhood concerns. Tuesday June 2, 16, and 30 from 10-11:30 am at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave).

ART & MUSIC

THE CARROT'S POETRY NIGHT
Join us for a poetry open mic hosted by Dhalia Ross. June 25 from 7:30-9 pm.

POETRY WITHIN
Free evening of poetry from 7-9:30 pm, June 2-3 at the Carrot (9351 118 Ave).

JOIN EMCN's GLOBAL SINGERS
Eat a delicious lunch, learn new songs and meet new people. Thursdays from 12-1 pm. Room 2-4, Mennonite Centre (11713 82 St).

FAMILY ART WORKSHOPS
Dive into the wonderful world of art with FREE all-age workshops every Tuesday from 6:30-8 pm at Parkdale (11335 85 St).

COMMUNITY ART NIGHT
Free workshop for adults. Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm at The Nina (9225 118 Ave).

FAMILY ART NIGHT
A variety of free art activities for school age children accompanied by adults. Wednesdays from 6:30-8 pm at The Nina (9225 118 Ave).

SPIRIT ART
Explore your spirit through art. First and third Wednesday of the month from 10 am-12 pm at St. Faith/St. Stephen (11725 93 St).

MUSIC LESSONS BY CREART
Free group music lessons every Saturday from 9 am-12 pm and violin lessons from 12-1 pm at Parkdale (11335 85 St). Contact Sebastian: 780.878.8265.

PROGRAMS

ART LESSON WITH AARON PAQUETTE
Celebrate National Aboriginal Month by joining local artist and writer Aaron Paquette for a unique art-making experience. Participants will have the opportunity to illustrate various indigenous symbols and understand their relevance to indigenous culture. For all ages. June 4 from 3-5 pm at Highlands Library (6516 118 Ave).

STORYTELLING WITH RICHARD VAN CAMP
Join internationally renowned storyteller and author Richard Van Camp for captivating traditional Aboriginal storytelling. Richard, a proud member of the Dogrib (Tlicho) Nation, will also read stories from his books. June 9 from 10-11 am. For all ages. Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St).

FABLES, FAIRY TALES & FUN
Magical stories, crafts, and activities. June 30 from 1:30-2 pm. For pre-schoolers. Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St).

I SPY!
Using our collection of objects, create your own I Spy scene and challenge your friends to find all of the hidden items. For ages 6-8. June 30 from 2:30-3:30 PM. Highlands Library (6516 118 Ave).

POP-UP MAKERSPACE
Robot challenges, Makey Makey hacks, DIY music, art and 3-D design. Thursdays from 7-8 pm at Highlands Library (6516 118 Ave). All ages.

LIVELY LEARNING AT THE LIBRARY!
School-aged programming for homeschoolers. Explore interesting topics with hands-on activities. For grades 1-9. June 17 at 1:30 pm. Drop-in. Highlands Library (6516 118 Ave).

PRAYERWORKS COLLECTIVE KITCHEN
Cook with friends, try new recipes, help your food budget. Second Wednesday of each month, 5:30-8 pm at St. Faith / St. Stephen Anglican Church (11725-93 St). Cost: 4 one serving meals \$3. Trish 780.464.5444.

ADULT READING & WRITING
A new program using mainly Aboriginal

materials. Thursdays from 9:30 am-12 pm at St. Faith/St. Stephen (11725 93 St).

SPORTS & REC

COMMONWEALTH REC CENTRE CLOSED FOR FIFA UNTIL JULY 7

SOCIAL

FATHER CLUB
A place for fathers to talk about guy stuff and do guy things. Supper and childcare included. Wednesday, June 10 from 5:30-7:30pm at Norwood Centre (9516 114 Ave). Register: 780.471.3737 or tristanh@norwoodcentre.com.

NFB FILM CLUB
Animated and documentary film from the National Film Board of Canada. Saturday, June 20 from 1:30-3:30 PM at Highlands Library (6516 118 Ave).

BOARD GAMES NIGHT
Games provided or bring your own games. Tuesday, June 30 from 7-9 pm at the Carrot (9351 118 Ave). Sponsored by NNA.

PRE-SCHOOLERS

DISCOVERY TIME
A 4-week group session which encourages parents and their 3-5 year olds to explore literacy through songs and stories. Enjoy our free indoor play space, snack and meet other parents. Starts Thursday, May 7 from 10-11 am at Norwood Family Centre (9516 114 Ave). Register: 780.471.3737. Siblings welcome.

NORWOOD CENTRE COME AND PLAY
Enjoy our free indoor play space and meet new friends in this unstructured group for parents and children. Snack included. Mondays from 10 am-12 pm (9516 114 Ave).

BABES IN ARMS
A casual parent group every Friday from 10 am-12 pm at the Carrot (9351 118 Ave).

SENIORS

NORWOOD LEGION SENIORS GROUP
Play darts, shuffleboard and pool. Socialize over coffee and desserts. Tuesdays at 10:30 am. Cribbage, Wednesdays at 1 pm. At Norwood Legion (11150 82 St).

PARKDALE-CROMDALE SENIORS SOCIAL
Seniors bingo, coffee and snack. Mondays from 10:30 am-1 pm at Parkdale (11335 85 St).

SENIORS BREAKFAST & SOCIAL (55+)
Join us for breakfast, visit, play cards or billiards or watch a movie! Wednesdays from 11:30 am-12:45 pm at Crystal Kids (8715 118 Ave).

VOLUNTEER

KALEIDO FAMILY ARTS FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER DINNER
June 16 from 6-8 pm at Alberta Avenue Community League (9210 118 Ave); RSVP to kaleidovolunteers@gmail.com.

CALLING GARDENERS
If you have a green thumb or just love to garden, we are looking for a volunteer to help us plant the flower barrels outside of the Carrot. Contact info@artsontheave.org.

EASTWOOD SHARE YOUR INPUT AND SKILLS
The new Eastwood Community League board is still seeking a secretary and board members at large. Help shape the future of your neighbourhood: ewcl@shaw.ca.

PROJECT CHAMPIONS NEEDED FOR KALEIDO
Kaleido Festival is turning 10 this year and is looking for project champions to bring their magic to the Ave! If you have a project idea that you think would be a great addition to Kaleido Festival that fits our theme "Hoopla", let us know! Project champions will receive an honorarium. To submit ideas, please email info@artsontheave.org.

SHARE YOUR ARTISTIC TALENTS
Join CreArt Edmonton, a social movement of free art spaces and education. Call Sebastian at 780.878.8265.

Play and Save
Summer Day Camps for Low Income Families

The following fun filled day camps will be running in the Central-Downtown Area this summer!

- Surviving Summer
- Outdoor Enthusiasts
- On Broadway
- Outbound Adventure
- Quest for Adventure
- Kitchen Kapers
- Around the World in 5 Days
- Arts Galore
- Keep Active
- Creative Carnival
- T-Rex and Friends
- Science Discovery
- Just for the Girls
- Getting Together with your Preschooler
- Camp Sampler
- Tales from the Kitchen

Registration Has Started!
Camps fill up fast.
Call 311*

*Credit only through 311.



	Week 1 June 29 - July 3	Week 2 July 6-10	Week 3 July 13-17
Half Day 9 am - 11:30 am			
Half Day 1:30 - 4pm		Tales from the Kitchen Ages 4-6 \$20 540094 Parkdale-Cromdale	
Full Day 9 am - 4 pm	Surviving Summer Ages 6-9 \$29 540138 Beverly Heights	Arts Galore Ages 7-10 \$40 540145 Jubilee (Beacon Heights)	Surviving Summer Ages 7-10 \$36 540139 Queen Mary
	Camp Sampler Ages 7-10 \$29 540141 Westwood	Around the World in 5 Days Ages 9-12 \$36 540227 Delton	Science Discovery Ages 8-12 \$36 540157 Montrose

BRIAN MASON & TEAM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING THE 2015 PROVINCIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN. YOU DONATED, YOU VOLUNTEERED, YOU TOOK SIGNS -- IT MADE A REAL DIFFERENCE. NOW THE WORK BEGINS TO BUILD A BETTER ALBERTA FOR ALL.



Follow me: Facebook.com/brianmasonNDP | Twitter: @bmasonNDP

Authorized by the Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood Constituency Association



Picnic In the Park

Saturday, June 6

1 - 4 pm Eastwood Park (86 St & 118 Ave)

BBQ. Enjoy the Acoustic Duo: No Dogs Barking! Bring your instruments to jam after the concert.

We are seeking volunteers for the... Pop Up market Street Sale

Contact: Joachim Holtz, P.Mgr, Executive Director
e: director@alberta-avenue.com



ALBERTA AVENUE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
Rising up!
alberta-avenue.com



RACING DINING CASINO



CUTE, CUTER, CUTEST

FAMILY DAY
JUNE 27
POST TIME: 1 P.M.
NORTHLANDSPARK.CA

DON'T MISS WHAT IS SURE TO BE AN EPIC WIENER DOG RACE AT OUR ANNUAL FAMILY DAY CELEBRATION. Take the kids to not only see great live racing (of the canine and equine varieties), but also for face painting, a petting zoo, bouncy castles and other fun activities. Enter to win an Edmonton Attractions Prize Package for five!

Elmwood Park Community League

Elmwood Park online newsletter coming soon! To subscribe, email us at epcl@shawbiz.ca or call 780-479-1035