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The private patrol in Elmwood Park

CARISSA MORRISSEY

The struggle to keep Elmwood Park crime-free keeps Elmwood Community League President Glenn Tarkowski busy.

"We've caught people breaking into vehicles, vagrants smoking drugs along the Yellowhead belt, prostitution by the community league building," explains Tarkowski. "We've caught drug deals in the park. Just vagrants all over the place and we've had police come and arrest people."

The park (123 Ave and 79th street) is relatively new and well looked after. When it's not covered in two feet of snow, its play structures are surrounded by greenery, and there are sand and picnic tables where families can gather and children can play.

But it's also a gathering place for drug deals and prostitution.

To combat the crime, Tarkowski took a 6 week course called 'Citizens' On Patrol', and has taken to the streets looking for suspicious behaviour in the community of Elmwood.

It's a strategy that Tarkowski admits that isn't easy to implement. He was involved in a recent car accident requiring multiple surgeries, and even though he's a large man, his solitary evening patrols aren't without significant danger in his condition. At one time, he carried a baseball bat for extra protection, but after being told by the police he couldn't carry a weapon, he began to carry a stick or cane.

Tarkowski says there are a few neighbours who will patrol with him and some residents are active with the crime watch, but he's had difficulties getting full support from Elmwood Park residents.

"A lot of seniors have put their time in and rightfully so. I don't see them wanting to come help, but many of the young families that have moved in haven't helped. It's been



ELMWOOD COMMUNITY LEAGUE PRESIDENT GLENN TARKOWSKI AND THE PARK HE LOVES.

horrible. You knock on doors and people slam them in your face."

Tarkowski thinks the police should be patrolling the park more often, but acknowledges that their response times for calls have been good and wants to coordinate joint police-citizen patrols.

The new Community Liaison Constable for the area Paul Pilon was unaware of the citizen's patrols in the area saying, "I am new to my position so there's a lot of things that I'm learning. And that's one of them. I'm going to have to work on it and start sitting down and listening and getting people to educate me on what it is exactly they're

looking for. Because I'm not too sure what's going on and who's involved."

To keep the park safe, Officer Pilon suggests that "patrol, beat members and the CLC should all sit together and talk. It's up to the community to take ownership of the issues there and try to fix the problem if need be."

While the Edmonton Police encourage community involvement, Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (NET) member Constable Steve Sharpe admits there are barriers to citizen activity and the toll on those dealing with crime on a weekly basis. "If you have individual needs, the last thing on your plate is 'ah, I think I'll take on the community's needs, too.'"

"You knock on doors and people slam them in your face"

Despite these barriers, Constable Sharpe stresses human relations and connections in strengthening communities against crime. "Until that human relations stuff happens in a neighbourhood," says Sharpe. "The rest of the issues can't be resolved."

Tarkowski understands the need for wider community involvement, but claims political support for Elmwood Park has been nonexistent in recent years, "Our representation for this area, with the city of Edmonton, we have no representation," says Tarkowski. "We've asked political parties to come out to our AGMs and there has been no response. We've had meetings, BBQ's, community league events, no response. Tony Caterina, his office has never returned a phone call to us."

A charge Councillor Tony Caterina denies, but couldn't

provide any details about his recent involvement. "I have not received any correspondence or any invitations from Elmwood Park. I welcome Elmwood Park residents to contact me personally at anytime in the future."

While Tarkowski struggles to overcome communication problems with the police and elicit engagement from local politicians, he relies heavily on the limited support he's been getting from friends and neighbours. "We try our best to have our BBQs and it is slowly starting to change. I think people are starting to notice that we really care about our community."

So Tarkowski willingly trudges on. "It's a long process. It's just going around and putting your nose to the ground. Doing what you believe in. If you believe in making the world a better place, you start with your own little community and things spread out from there."

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Steven Michos




PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

Edmonton East Residents Say "Scrap Long-Gun Registry"

Edmonton East residents agree that the long-gun registry introduced by the former Liberal government is wasteful, ineffective and should be scrapped.

Our Conservative Government is committed to eliminating the registry which does nothing to make Canadians safer. We have focused on implementing strong, effective laws to combat gangs and individuals who use firearms unlawfully. The comprehensive Tackling Crime legislation that our Government passed in 2008 includes measures to impose mandatory jail time for serious gun crimes and enforce tougher bail rules when a gun is used to commit a crime.

The types of firearms such as long guns, typically used by hunters, farmers, and sportsmen, exist and circulate in larger numbers than handguns; however, since they are significantly less likely to be used during the commission of a crime, it is impractical and expensive to attempt to register them all.

I asked Edmonton East residents whether the long-gun registry should be scrapped: 79% said yes, 18% want to keep it and 3% have no opinion. So much for media claims that urban residents want to keep the Liberal-created registry that has cost taxpayers more than \$1 billion.

When the registry is scrapped, which will only happen under a Conservative majority government, firearm owners or those wishing to acquire a firearm or ammunition will still have to hold a valid firearms license and comply with all safe storage requirements. Registration of prohibited and restricted firearms, such as handguns, will continue to be in effect.

Police will continue to know if an individual is in possession of a firearm on their premises because anyone who is in possession of any type of firearm must be licensed, and that information will continue to appear on police information systems.

I think the long-gun registry is wasteful, ineffective and should be scrapped. What do you think?

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Parkdale School - looking to the future

Parkdale-Cromdale Community League and the Edmonton Public School Board invite all residents to share and discuss possible future uses for the Parkdale School building. Stop by the Parkdale-Cromdale community hall (11335 85 St.) on March 16 from 7-9p.m. and be a part of the process!



Did you know that it's illegal in Indiana, USA to open a can of food with a gun?

Putting the 'e' into eBooks

SPRUCEWORDS

SHANNON CLARKE

Ten years ago, putting an entire personal music collection onto a machine smaller than a Tic Tac box seemed inconceivable. Today, this is a perfectly normal thing to do.

Is it possible that the past decade's digital shift in the music industry could happen in the literary world? With electronic book readers like the Kindle and Kobo gaining popularity, the futuristic idea of a two hundred gram library may become reality.

Many books published in paper are now simultaneously released electronically. eBooks are sold online at stores like Amazon and Chapters to customers who read them from computers or portable readers. This concept may seem complex at first, but buying and borrowing eBooks has become very popular. In July 2009, Steig Larsson's Millennium series (beginning with *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*) made history as the first to sell over a million eBooks on Amazon.

Edmonton Public Library (like most urban public libraries

in Canada and the US) is supporting the eBook revolution and subscribes to digital content providers (like Overdrive and NetLibrary) in order to lend eBooks to the growing number of library members requesting this format. After the three-week loan period expires on a borrowed eBook, it is automatically returned to the virtual library and made available to another member.

EBooks that are not protected by copyright (either because copyright expired or never existed) can also be found for free on sites like Project Gutenberg and Google eBooks.

A list of free eBook sites is available at www.epl.ca/digital-content/ebooks. Even Amazon and Chapters have some free eBooks alongside their for sale titles.

The question of how electronic books compare to paper books can be hotly debated. Some may think that the paper format is more stable. Amazon customers who purchased George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* probably felt this way when in 2009, without any warning, the eBook vanished from all Kindles.

Nineteen Eighty-Four is protected by copyright in the US, and since the publisher of the version for sale in the Kindle Store did not have the rights to publish it, Amazon remotely deleted all unauthorized copies. As a consequence, many readers were justifiably baffled when a book they paid for disappeared into thin air. Although an authorized version is back on the Kindle Store's 'shelves,' this incident evoked a sense of uncertainty about who really owns eBooks. Your paper copy of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* may deteriorate over time or a friend may borrow it indefinitely, but it won't simply disappear.

To satisfy my own curiosity, I searched for *Nineteen Eighty-Four* in eBook format to compare price and availability. The least expensive copy I found was free to borrow from Overdrive (downloaded through epl.ca) and the most expensive was on Amazon for \$9.70. Chapters has it on Kobo for \$8.49. As more books become available electronically, one may wonder about the future contents of physical shelves in our bookstores, homes, and public libraries. The next decade will be an interesting one.



Eastwood Community League is seeking a part-time facility manager/programmer

Job duties include: managing event bookings at Eastwood Community Hall, coordinating cleaning of the space, and taking an active role in programming.

Working an average of 10 hours a week, in our office space or from home, you must be available to show the hall as needed, so some evening and weekend work will be required.

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WEB www.ratcreek.org

PUBLISHER

Karen Mykietka
info@ratcreek.org

EDITOR

Darren Boisvert
editor@ratcreek.org

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Leanne McBean
design@ratcreek.org

ADVERTISING

Laurie Tod
ads@ratcreek.org

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 600-800 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 editor@ratcreek.org, regular mail (PO Box 39024 Norwood, Edmonton, AB T5G 4T8), or drop in the AAAL mailbox at 9210 118 Avenue.

Brownfield Bull%\$#&

It's easy to see politicians deliberately kicking an issue down the road. To hide their desire to delay, they use Silly Putty words to confuse the public.

Case in point is the City of Edmonton's task force on 'brownfields'. No urgency here, their words suggest, we just need to plant a few flowers to make everything green again.

This debate would be much different if the issue was tackled directly with both language and action.

Brownfields aren't brown and they aren't fields. They are the dozens of Edmonton neighborhood lots where the land is soaked with years of diesel and gasoline spills from old gas stations. The pollution is deemed so severe that the land is unfit for human living and building redevelopment. In real terms, these are toxic hydrocarbon dumps in our neighborhoods.

At the intersection of 97th street and 118th avenue lies our own innocuous brownfield. A gas station operated by Imperial oil sat on the land until the late 1970's and Alberta Environment has ordered a

clean-up before any redevelopment. Edmonton's Chinatown has a beautiful gate to welcome visitors to their neighborhood. We have a dump.

The City is hard at work on this issue. After more than a year of meetings and policy discussions, they are almost ready to hold a 'Brownfield Breakfast' on June 23, 2011, to "provide an interactive environment for stakeholders". Who are these mysterious stakeholders? They are the oil companies legally required to clean up their chemical messes so the community can re-use the land. Why the delay? Money.

It's not that these companies haven't been offered buckets of cash (in addition to swanky breakfasts) to clean up their messes. Grants of public money worth \$200,000 were offered to subsidize the clean-up of polluted soil and buried gas tanks. Not a single company applied for the grant. It wasn't worth enough to them.

The ugly truth is that these lands are worth more polluted and derelict to the private company than they are rehabilitated and sold to the community.

Derelict land is deemed of less worth so taxes are significantly lower. This write-off land is valuable to reducing their tax burden, and coupled with the clean-up costs and environmental assessments, it's small wonder these properties sit unused for years.

While City Council is reviewing tax amendment policies and delays the decision on whether or not to appropriate derelict lands, the province has had no legal problems appropriating private land for the proposed high-voltage transmission lines between Edmonton and Sherwood Park. The land is seized for private companies in the name of 'public interest', and the private landowner is left without legal recourse. So why can't the city seize derelict buildings (such as the asbestos-polluted Cromdale Hotel) from irresponsible developers and reclaim toxic lots from derelict oil companies? How is cleaning up abandoned wastelands in urban neighborhoods not in the 'public interest'?

It hurts to see other municipalities address this issue with honesty and direction,

while our leaders hide behind their plastic words. The City of Winnipeg has punishing tax penalties for derelict property owners, requires them to pay a stiff fee to register their abandoned buildings, and has seized land and property without getting sued in court. Winnipeg City Council realized that local communities can be dragged down by derelict buildings and land, and if individuals refuse to accept inducements to clean up their act, they will have their buildings torn down and their land cleaned-up.

It's working in Winnipeg, and this model could be easily adapted in Edmonton without the need for years of study and task-force double-speak. City Council needs to cancel the breakfast and draft bylaws based on the Winnipeg model. Our councillor Tony Caterina has been outspoken on this issue and is ideally placed to push even harder to revitalize our neighborhoods. We encourage him to fight the 'brownfield' bull%\$# discussion in council and speak clearly about the need for clean lots and renovated buildings.

Letters to the Editor

Daring Diner No More

After great deliberation, I have decided I will no longer write for the Rat Creek Press.

I have taken great pride over the past 5 years to supply the paper with amusing, insightful and factual articles that are full of levity. It is the one thing I do not put aside. I do this for the pleasure of it and because I was asked to. In the 5 years I have been providing articles, never once has any editor seen fit to butcher my words in the way you have. I don't think writing for you will be any fun, and will only be a source of stress for me. I won't get stressed for free.

Good luck with your new paper.

Angie Klein

Speak Up impressed

re: An oily upgrade for downtown

Your editorial was fantastic. We are a group of citizens who have come together to express many of the concerns you outlined in your editorial. We have launched a website that addresses similar issues. Congratulations on a great piece.

Mimi Williams

Communications Coordinator www.speakupedmonton.ca

Bus Driver Moved Me

re: A chauffeur for thousands

I was very pleased to read your front page article on Vern Potter this month. For some time, I rode the 143 bus daily. Mr. Potter was one of the friendliest, safest, and most skilled drivers with whom I have had the pleasure of riding. I haven't been on the 143 for a while, but I am happy to finally learn Mr. Potter's name and to know he'll be enjoying a happy retirement. Please pass on my best wishes to Mr. Potter in his retirement.

Brian Jackson

CORRECTION

We incorrectly stated (Grazing the virtual farmer's market, Feb 2011) that "...organic bananas, potatoes, and onions... are heavily sprayed". In fact, to be certified as an organic farm, regular inspections are conducted to prove that the produce is not exposed to any direct or indirect chemical sprays.

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What's happening to our young people? They disrespect their elders, they disobey their parents. They ignore the law. They riot in the streets inflamed with wild notions. What is to become of them? - Plato, 400 BC

Speaker's Corner

Have opinions? Great- let's hear them! Submissions: editor@ratcreek.org

Welcoming the 'enormous challenge'

PAUL PILON
Community Liaison Officer
Downtown District 1

Although I started this new and exciting job in December, I haven't had the opportunity to introduce myself to the community. I'll start by saying that when I was asked to take over the position I knew right away that it would be an enormous challenge, especially since I was relieving Cst. Reid Nichol who did an amazing job.

I want to let you know a bit about myself. My name is Cst. Paul Pilon, and I took over as your Community Liaison Constable role for Downtown District 1 in early December. My job is to listen to the community members (as well as the Beat and Patrol

members) in identifying problems and then directing our resources into the hot spots you have identified.

Our Downtown Division management team has put great emphasis on growing our Beats program. We currently have five beat officers designated for District 1: Sgt. Darda, Cst. Zielie, Cst. Larson, Cst. Offin, and Cst. Bates.

I am very impressed at the resolve that the members of the community have shown in changing the perception of the area you live in. The revitalization projects in your area have shown that this community is committed to making this neighbourhood a better place to live and have lots of fun. A great example was the successful Deep Freeze

Festival in January.

I encourage you to take part in your community as much as you can. I feel everyone in the community should accept the challenge of coming forward with new ideas to improve our neighbourhood. Remember, we are strong when all members of the community work towards the same goal.

If you want any information or you have any concerns, please visit a community station or Police Headquarters, and we can provide you with the proper information you require.

If you see a police officer, take the time to stop and say 'hello'. We work hard in your community to make it a safer place to be 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Ease the ER by opening our clinic

BRIAN MASON, MLA
Edmonton Highlands-Norwood

We are just beginning the spring sitting of the Alberta Legislature and the PC government is still struggling to find solutions to Alberta's health care problems. For two and a half years this government has known that there is a dangerous crisis in health care, and it has been hiding this from Albertans. In February 2008 the Premier promised



emergency department doctors that his government would take action to end the ER crisis. Two and a half years have passed, and people have

continued to suffer and even die in emergency rooms.

Meanwhile, in our community, the brand new urgent care and family medicine sections of the East Edmonton Health Centre on 112th Avenue remain unopened. They were built to take pressure off the emergency room at the Royal Alexandra hospital. Alberta

Health Services estimates

that every year 34,000 people from northeast Edmonton, including Alberta Avenue, Delton, Eastwood, Elmwood Park, and Parkdale, that currently go to the Royal Alex emergency room will use the urgent care facility in the East Edmonton Health Centre instead. Opening these much-needed facilities is a simple solution that will provide vital services to our part of the city and will also address the dire emergency room crisis.

In the fall, I kicked off a petition campaign to urge the government to immediately open the East Edmonton Health Centre. I will be tabling the petition in the Legislature during the upcoming spring session. I thank you for your support in this campaign and urge you to continue to fight with me until the facilities are opened. Together, we can make a difference in our community.

What's The BIG Idea?

Waking the Avenue undead

HEATHER SYREN

Do you hear the call of the undead? Does brain-soup appeal to your palette? Can dead people really dance?

A couple of months ago I came across the website www.thrilltheworld.com that encourages groups from around the world to

learn Michael Jackson's Thriller dance and then perform it in their own communities on the same day at the same time. What a great idea, I thought, and planned on registering for the event this October. Then the maggot eating through my brain spoke up, "Well, if we already have a group of zombies doing Thriller, why not perform it at the Kaleido Festival in September?"

So I had a meeting with Christy Morin (Arts on the Ave) and Darren

Boisvert (Rat Creek Press) to see what they thought. They loved the idea and were very supportive. Encouraged by their enthusiasm and convinced I might be onto something, I decided to take a leap of faith - just like the zombie who walks unaware into a hail of bullets.

I am looking for a few undead people who would like to help make this event a reality. I need people willing to learn the dance and then help teach it, and someone with computer skills to help post it on You Tube to show the world what an amazing community we have here. I also need a dead-hand at the video camera to film the event.

Above all, I hope everyone will get involved with this. What makes a neighbourhood a community? People. What makes a neighbourhood a great community? Dead people.

During the festival, there will be an opportunity for everyone to be part of the video as our 'cast of hundreds'. Got an undead pet, undead family, or undead friend who would like to shine under the full moon dancing to Thriller? We got space in our graveyard for you.

If have a few hours each month between now and September and want to help out, you can contact me, Heather by email at thrilltheave@gmail.com or by phone (780) 454-9296. Those who would like to be part of the event are invited to come learn the dance. Free classes will begin in April at the Alberta Avenue Community League located at 92 street and 118 Ave.

They say it takes a village to raise a child, it also takes a community to raise a group of zombies - you in?



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GEOFF BERNER with KRIS DEMEANOR
Geoff Berner's debut, "Victory Party", emerges March 8 and he kicks off his tour with Wayne Adams and Diona Davies.
Doors at 8pm. Advance tickets \$12 at theartery.ca. \$15 at the door.

SATURDAY
MARCH
5

Light Travels
Join Light Travels and special guests as they officially launch their new 5-song EP "Signals From Tomorrow!"
Doors at 8pm. \$10 at the door. "Signals From Tomorrow" EP \$5.

THURSDAY
MARCH
24

RAE SPOON
with guests

FRIDAY
MARCH
25

Scott Cook
Corin Raymond &
Jonathan Bird

A man isn't honest simply because he's never had a chance to steal - Yiddish proverbial

Filling the cracks one student at a time

Inner City High School moves into new building

DARREN BOISVERT

"For a lot of kids, this is the last stop," says Linda Coffin as she watches a group of students work on art projects in the gymnasium of the new home of the Inner City High School. Standing on the un-renovated third floor of the old Native Friendship Centre (112 ave and 101 street), she sees nothing but promise in both the students and the new building.

She's a woman who understand renovations. Once a student at the school, Coffin is now a quiet and respectful 30 year old, and has transformed herself into a youth support worker at the school. She assists the kids with their assignments, organizes the school's clothing bank, and helps them find jobs. She has plans to go to Grant MacEwan to get a Bachelor of Youth and Childcare, and hopes to continue her work at the school.

"It's been full circle for me, coming back here. I'm a completely different person compared to when I first came here," she says.

Circumspect about her past, she laughs ruefully when she recalls her start at the school as a student. "You'll have to ask Joe about all the trouble I caused."

She's referring to Joe Cloutier, the seemingly unflappable Principal and founder of the school. He's proud of the new building - more proud of his students - and with his easy-going manner, it's easy to see why the kids respond to his gentle instruction.

An educator at heart, he feels that the new building will allow them to provide a better home for the kids.

"The transition was surprisingly smooth," says Cloutier. "The kids were nervous when we announced the move, but they've settled in really well now that we're here."

The impetus for the move was the Boyle Street Renaissance Project being built around their old home of 17 years in the local community building. According to Cloutier, they had concerns that their the school would be too cramped on the site, with housing for 150 people being built, other agencies moving in, and possible conflicts with the school's youth.

To solve these problems, the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation stepped in. Heather Minckler, Executive Director, says that the Foundation has been actively supporting the school



FORMERLY THE NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE, THE BUILDING IS NOW HOME TO 100 STUDENTS, 10 TEACHERS, AND SEVEN SUPPORT WORKERS.

for the past five years, and it was a good time to deepen their involvement.

"We were looking for a legacy project, to build something of significance, for a community that has supported the Oilers for over 30 years."

Through money raised from the Winner's Choice Lottery, they purchased the vacant Native Friendship Centre, and began a furious six weeks of renovations in order to prepare the building for the January 3, 2011 move-in deadline.

With contractors working overtime, including construction on New Year's Day, the site was finally prepared for the students. A smudge ceremony conducted by three First Nations elders prepared the staff and students for their new home.

"This school is unique and requires special attention," says Minckler, who stressed that the partnership with

the Oilers will be ongoing to include all renovation costs, assisting with the utility bills, and providing a rental contract that will be sustainable for the school.

With their financial house in order, the next step was making sure the school would adjust to their new neighbourhood. "We had questions about fitting into the larger community," says Alexina Dalgetty, Artistic/Program Director at the school. "We were concerned about plunking 70 teenagers into this area."

While she says they haven't had any complaints from neighbours, the staff realize that trying integrate dozens of youth who don't always fit into society requires some attention. They plan on holding an open-house in late spring as a way of introducing themselves to the neighbourhood and showcasing the work being done inside the school.

Back in the early 1990's, this school and building would have all been just a dream. According to Cloutier, it began

with an inner city drama project to encourage kids to be reflective, explore issues that were blocking them personally, and give them a sense of power to change their lives. They held drama classes in a house at 108 Ave and 105 Street, and were so strapped for cash, they used the front seat of a Buick as their office couch.

The idea of a more formal school, says Cloutier, seemed the next logical step. "If we were responsible for opening the kids up emotionally about family violence and other issues, then we felt we had a responsibility to serve that need."

He registered as a private school in 1993, and opened the doors to 9 students. They have grown into their success. Today, they have 100 registered students, 10 teachers, and 7 youth support workers. They provide regular classes for credits to help students graduate, and they entice the kids into the school with an array of creative instruction.

They provide assistance and computers for learning dig-



STUDENTS WORKING HARD AT MIXING A TUNE IN THE BASEMENT RECORDING STUDIO



Us, too...

Community matters. Your community league is where good people meet and great things happen, through events, programming and outreach. It's the avenue for small voices to influence big issues like school closures, housing, speed limits and neighbourhood renewal. Become a part of yours today.

Parkdale-Cromdale Community League

Annual General Meeting and board election.

Light refreshments provided.

March 31, 2011, 7-9 p.m. at 11335 85 st

Hope is definitely not the same thing as optimism. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out. - Vaclav Havel

ital arts, photography, and silk screening. There's a music jamming room, and a recording studio with guitars and mixing board where the kids can collaborate on spoken word, hip hop and dance projects. In several months time, they will be unveiling a 3-D graphic design program for the kids.

Outside of the 5 main classrooms, they help the students get through life. There's free breakfast and hot lunch everyday, supper three times a week, a clothing bank with diapers and shoes, and assistance in finding work. Some students get paid for working at the school, such as washing dishes in the cafeteria.

While the staff is clearly proud of their new environment, their biggest source of pride is the 5 former students, like Linda Coffin, who now work at the school to return the commitment and care they received.

"The school works because it's informal," says Coffin. "The kids respond to it. It's a different environment from regular schools. They can come at any time, they can make mistakes here and it's not the end of the world."

This sense of forgiveness



Darren Boisvert

ASPIRING PHOTOGRAPHER DEVON OLIVER, 23, AND FELLOW STUDENT COURTNEY HEARN, 25, SHARE SOME COMPUTER TIME TOGETHER.

enmeshes the entire school. Coffin says that for kids who live on the street, or in group homes, or have difficult domestic situations, the need for understanding is paramount.

"It's hard to get support in a formal high school with so many students. These kids are the ones who fell through the cracks. Even here I didn't suc-

ceed at first," she says. "I made so many bad choices, but they always let me come back."

It's a situation Devon Oliver, 23, is familiar with. A former student at Victoria Composite High School, he never found a home until coming here. He's working on his last credits for a diploma and plans to apply this summer to the prestigious Emily Carr Art school in British Columbia. He's considering a Bachelor's in Photography or Punk Rock.

"At Vic Comp I just dicked around, until later in life I decided what I wanted to do," he admits, "I heard this place was great for music and art and they encourage you to use your style and individuality."

Like the other students, he says the new building is great and he's happy to be there.

"It's roomy, has proper classrooms, and it's totally our space. The previous school was pretty small, we had to have classes in the lunchroom, and it was infested with mice."

He grimaces. "It wasn't a good place."



Darren Boisvert

PROUD OF THEIR WORK, HAPPY WITH THEIR NEW SCHOOL, STUDENTS ATTEND THE TEMPORARY CLASS SET UP IN THE GYMNASIUM. IN THE SUMMER, RENOVATIONS BEGIN ON THE THIRD FLOOR CLASSROOMS TO PERMANENTLY HOUSE THE STUDENTS.

East Park Little League

2011 Registration Dates

Bonnie Doon Mall 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Monday, February 21

United Cycle from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 5 Saturday, March 12
Saturday, March 26

Ottewell Community Hall 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 19

Some dates are subject to change

Please visit our website: www.edmontonlittleleague.org for more details or to find a league in your area.

Happy New Year!

I am continuing to call on the Alberta government to open the urgent care and family medicine sections of the East Edmonton Health Centre. I urge you to join me in the fight by contacting my office and requesting copies of my petition pressuring the government to do so, and circulating them to your friends, neighbours, and families. Together, we can make a difference in our community.

Your MLA, Brian Mason
Edmonton Highlands-Norwood
6519 - 112 Avenue
www.brianmason.ca ph: 780.414.0682

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*Restrictions apply. Contact me for complete details.

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www.karenmarshall.bodybyvi.com • (780) 240-0750

THE CARROT IN MARCH

Name That Tune FREE!
Thursday March 24, 7:30-9:00pm
Bring a team or yourself for a great night. Music from all eras.

Interested in a Young Emerging Art Sale?
Contact info@artsontheave.org

Boomers with Zip & Open Mic for 55+
Thursdays 1pm - 4pm
Pop in and join the fun- comedy, music readings

Looking for volunteers to keep the Carrot growing!
Please come by or call Irene 780.471.1580

Rent the Carrot
An intimate space for gatherings, and meetings.
Call Irene 780.471.1580

Renowned Author: PETER OLIVA
March 17 at the Carrot 7pm, Free event
Reads from his collection
www.peteroliva.com

Alberta Avenue Community Choir
world music . . . Interested . . .
info@artsontheave.org

9351-118 ave www.thecarrot.ca

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- KARAOKE WITH CRUD
- NICE NEIGHBOUR AWARDS
- PROBLEM PROPERTIES
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www.crudedmonton.org

All mankind is divided into three classes: those that are immovable, those that are movable, and those that move.
- Benjamin Franklin

Obviously: honesty is the best policy

BEYOND THE OBVIOUS
MARIE FLANAGAN

Humans lie. We lie to ourselves and we lie to each other. We lie by omission, by exaggeration, and we lie out of habit. We lie to escape things we don't want, and then lie again to get the things we do want. Dishonesty has encompassed every part of our culture, a thin veneer of frosting on reality's cupcakes. We would be naked without our lies, and much less sweet.

There are exaggerations and misleading ideas in the foundations of nearly every relationship, hiding in every crevice and whispering behind every mouth. We soften the uncompromising corners of ourselves with lies, we paint over the unpleasant parts of ourselves with lies. We use dishonesty to escape conflict, or at least to push it away for one more day.

We are expected to lie. Truth-telling is a guaranteed way to lose a job, lose friends, lose status. People have a hard time trusting people who tell the truth. We just aren't orga-

nized to favour the honest. Tell your boss about that sick day. Tell your children about...well, about all of it. Admit to experimenting once with cannabis at customs. Try it, and see what happens. Understand that you are pressured into telling lies.

The interesting thing is this: under the lies is a funny truth about the truth. The truth is elusive. It is not just hard to say, it is hard to find. Some of our lies are a twisted attempt to tell the truth, and are even closer to the truth than our primate fumbling with literal truth can ever get.

This is not to say that we should continue to allow lies to be the duct tape of our lives. Not at all. Rather, we need to take a look at the lies that we tell and the reasons underneath them. Graph them into categories: lazy lies, conflict-avoidance lies, lies that you feel forced into creating, and lies that tell a truth. Know your lies. It is a movement towards truth, a beginning point for self-awareness.

MICHELLE EARL

It's not Fall yet, but with all the ice out there it's really tough for people to travel by foot. The roads are often safer than the sidewalks and that's scary. So, here are some pointers for navigating the ice rinks out our front doors.

For the traveller, your best friend is a pair of shoes with all rubber treads that tend to grip onto anything rough in the vicinity. This doesn't help for the smooth ice, so an investment in cleats might help. Also, in that vein, you might want to consider a cane.

You might ask, "What? A cane? That's for Victorian gentlemen and old ladies"

As old fashioned as it might be, it could cut down your risk of falling by 75 percent. Make sure it has a pick on the end.

Your safety may all rest in the way you walk. If you shuffle around and keep your legs and body tight, you will fall and most likely hurt yourself. The firmer you plant your foot, the less likely you are to fall. If you do find yourself slipping, use some of the techniques used in skating. It really works.

It's not Fall...yet Tips for pedestrians and home owners



Learnie McBean

Prevention is another key element in avoiding a face-plant on the ice. Shovel regularly when there is snow. If you can't, check with different churches, other organizations, or call 311.

When there is ice, use an icepick to at least 'rough it up.' If you don't have time to remove it completely, nor the energy due to disability, then use a shovel or pick to give the top of the ice a bit of texture. That will help people as they tread on your walks...and hey, your mailman will love you for it.

You can also apply a mixture of rock salt and sand to your walks. Avoid using only sand as it polishes the surface and creates the 'black ice' conditions often seen on our city streets. Rock salt melts the ice and provides a greater texture than just sand. I know it's hard on the concrete, but it gets the job done.

These tips can keep you and others from falling, and when the season of Fall comes, you may keep your feet secure and your head safe.

Interested in advertising?

Check out our ad rates and information
at www.ratcreek.org

avenue initiative revitalization

The Avenue Initiative is a community based revitalization of 118th Ave from Nait to Northlands. The community has come together to work with the City to develop a council approved strategy that will create a safe, walkable community for everyone.

2nd Annual
Idea Shindig!
March 21, 6:30 - 9:00pm
at The Carrot, 9351 - 118ave
Light supper provided. RSVP 780-496-1913
www.avenueinitiative.ca for more info!



that **Bloomin'**
garden show
& art sale

Saturday May 7, 2011

Have speaker ideas, want to volunteer
or know more? avenueinitiative@edmonton.ca

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PUBLIC SEMINAR SERIES 2011

Are you the owner of an historic home, full of character, charm and in need of tender loving care? If so, you'll be interested in this series of public seminars about owning, maintaining and restoring a historic home. An expert in the field will lead each seminar. Come prepared with your problems and questions, and leave with some solutions and answers.

City of Edmonton
Historic Resource
Management Program



Historic Interiors Tour
Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Foundations
Monday, March 7, 2011

Millwork and Floors
Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Windows and Doors
Monday, March 14, 2011

How to Research Your
Historic Home
Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Wall Treatments
Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mechanical and
Electrical Systems
Monday, March 21, 2011

Roofs and Exteriors
Monday, March 28, 2011

Greening Your House
Wednesday, March 30, 2011

House Doctor
Saturday, April 9, 2011

Plastering Walls
Monday, April 18, 2011

For more information,
go to www.edmonton.ca
and type "this old
edmonton house" in the
search window

Please contact:
David Holdsworth at
780-496-5281 or
david.holdsworth@edmonton.ca

Join the Planning Academy - 2011!

The City of Edmonton's Planning Academy offers a series of courses to help Edmontonians:

- better understand and participate in the planning process
- better understand the roles, rights and interests of all parties involved in the planning and development process.

Play a part in planning Edmonton's growth and change -
Courses begin March 30, 2011

For more information: http://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/planning_development/planning-academy.aspx



For information
avenueinitiative@edmonton.ca
or call 780-496-1913



If it's natural to kill, how come men have to go into training to learn how? - Joan Baez

Exploring The Emotion Of Love

Story by Gina L. Bolton

Love, is not for the faint of heart, rather it is for those of us who are strong willed and set on determination, for love is above anything else- really hard work.

When I first met my husband at a Halloween party, it was literally love at first sight. I don't know what possessed me to entertain a bunch of employees at a local restaurant but I found myself agreeing to sing and dance for their Halloween party. My Husband was the chef there, and as I spotted him across the room, drinking a pint of beer with his long legs in grey jeans, my heart fluttered. When I noticed his smile, copper coloured hair and burning red beard, I knew I was in love, for he was in my eyes the most beautiful man I had ever seen.

Foolishness sets on you fast when you are young and in love, although my husband and I knew the odds of a successful marriage, we were engaged after only dating two weeks. We were that sure.

We were putting away groceries in the kitchen, and my husband smiled at me as I took off my shoes.

"I can do this, everyday with you", he smiled brightly.

"What buy groceries?". I answered dumbly.

"Just the ordinary little every day things, will you marry me?"

Of course I answered yes and we were married in a hall filled with relatives nine months later.

I think that is what real love is, not the Hollywood hype of Romanism, not something we fantasize in novels, but the real ordinary every day things we take for granted.

Like putting his clothes in the hamper, cleaning the house, getting a meal ready on the table, washing clothes, and

raising his children. In return you get shelter, protection, and a shoulder to cry on when you really need someone.

Of course there are times when we argue, that is also a part of marriage. True love never runs smooth, and it never should. After all you may be united by marriage but you are still two separate individuals. Frankly I would rather have a husband that challenges me and encourages me to explore thought rather than a mindless drone that sits on the sofa reading the newspaper that answers, "Yes dear", to everything I say.

My Husband is my best friend, he gets all my jokes, he loves to laugh with me, he shares his popcorn with me at the movies and he likes the same music I do. I simply could not imagine my life without him.

Writers have been exploring the concept of love for thousands of years. Dating back to Adam and Eve, Zeus and Hera, Cleopatra and Mark Anthony, Romeo and Juliet, Rex and Scarlet, Jane Eyre and Mr. Rochester, Bonnie and Clyde, even comic book super heroes and villains have fallen in love, Superman and Lois Lane, Spiderman and Mary Jane Watson, Joker and Harlequin, and The Incredible Hulk and Betty Ross.

In William Shakespeare's rendition of Romeo and Juliet love met a tragic fate and had a permanent and dire result. Superman fell in love with Lois Lane and has been the target of every super villain for over 50 years. Even poets such as Elizabeth Browning, How do I love thee? Let me count the ways, has touched the heart leaving the reader spiralling and breathless dizzy in the poet's powerful words of her overwhelming feeling of passion.

My Grandma Katie, was in



an arranged marriage with my Grandfather. She told me she knew it was going to be a good marriage because my Grandpa Blasko bought her three dresses. Two for doing the chores around the farm and one which was made of white lace cotton for her wedding dress and for going to church with.

Grandpa died when I was only 5. I remember him having the whitest hair, bluest eyes and always smiling. I also remember my Grandma Katie loving him very much. Grandma was only 47 when Grandpa passed away, she never dated, had a boyfriend or re-married. She said her life was tied to one man and always would be and so it was until her death in 1987.

My Uncle Alec is one of those stories that could make it into history. My Aunt Nancy died when she was only 43 of Multiple Sclerosis. My Uncle said that the day they were married he had a dream that she was in a field of flowers running towards him and the night she died he said he had

that same dream only this time she was running away. My Uncle, although still a young man, never dated or re-married. He married my Aunt for life and through death as well.

For over 40 years my Uncle Alec has gone to her grave, which is forty minutes away from where he lives, every Sunday to place flowers at her feet. My Uncle told his family, "No woman would ever be his Nancy."

No one would ever make him smile like she did or love like she did." His devotion and dedication is as solid as a steel wall. My Uncle is 83 and he tells me he prays every day to die – just so he can be with her again. He says he doesn't understand why God keeps him alive and the both of them parted. I often think that if there were hieroglyphics of today, my Uncle's story would be on the wall. I have never known a man so devoted to one woman. I probably will never see it again. His story is a story of legends.

These two people made

a profound impact in my life and how I perceive love. It is not a Hollywood romp, it is a commitment for life. It is the stuff stories are made of and are retold generation after generation.

We have been torched by love, betrayed by love, passionate, jealous, boastful, sympathetic, empathetic, and lustful. It has been found in every writing genre such as Westerns, Dramas, Comedies, Mysteries, and even the darkest bowels of Horror. This emotion has been created over and over again in millions of books and always it plays a dual role in our stories, it either saves us from impending doom or we fall to meet tragedy. We are a victim to love and its overwhelming need to be attached to human emotion.

No, love is not for the faint of heart rather, Love is kind, it is never boastful or proud. It is never jealous or envious, it is just the thing you live with every day for twenty years when you put away the groceries.

Nutty and Witty

By Wei-Ching Chang

If you are nutty
Be also witty
Because
You will draw applause
Without any pause
Get it?
Act like a nitwit
Will lift one's spirit
Why not?
Being witty is hot
Shows what you have got
That's gutty!

Learn. Write. Publish....in a night.

Don't have time to write? Do you dread putting together 100,000 words? Can't figure out how to get your work published?

We've got the solution. Jocelyn Brown, writer-in-residence at the Nina Haggerty Arts Centre, will be holding a 250 word (max.) 'Postcard Story' writing workshop at the Carrot Cafe. She'll provide instruction and guidance, and then you'll have two hours to write a short, short story.

The Rat Creek Press will then take all the stories and publish them in our We 'Ave Words literary section in the newspaper.

Everyone welcome. Admission is free. Complimentary drinks will be provided by the Avenue Initiative Social Arts Experience Fund.

Bring your computers and notepads. Bring your friends. Bring your ideas.

For more information contact lit@ratcreek.org.

7:00 - 9:30 pm
Tuesday, March 8
Carrot Cafe
9351 - 118 Ave

Postcard Story

Aunt Mel's Basement

by Jocelyn Brown

They make their way slowly, very slowly down the stairs of Aunt Mel's old house. They have never been down here, never wanted to, but three times Aunt Mel shouted, "go get the flashlight, it's in the basement." What could they do? The power was out, the storm was getting louder, and Aunt Mel is old and in bed.

Sophie feels a slimy bump on the damp concrete wall, lurches into Frances, Frances then bashing into the other wall. "No way, Jose," she says when Sophie tells her to sit and wait on the step. Around them, soggy branches slap the outside walls and the rain clatters against the windows. Frances whimpers. Sophie's ankles prickle with cold.

The stairs curve slightly then open into massive darkness. Sophie holds Frances by the shoulders and orders her to for God's sake stop sucking on her hair. "But where is it?" says Frances. Sophie feels a scream in her throat, clamps her jaw shut, and closes her eyes. They will freeze or drown or be murdered and the last thing she will hear is Frances chewing her damn hair. Her mouth falls open and out comes a deep low sound, a sound that fills the room and makes it finite. The echo is what Sophie needs to hear. Frances answers her, and in a while, they know where the walls are even though they can't see them. Sophie pulls Frances towards the back wall. "It's over here," she says.

Did you know? Before the year 1000 AD, 'She' didn't exist in the English language.

kid's korney

Forget the fridge. Post your artwork here!

Do you like to draw? Take photos? Got a short story or poem you have written? Do you tickle your friend's funny bone's with your cartoons and jokes? If you got the time, we've got the space for you.

The Kid's Korner is hoping to receive and publishing work by our younger readers. Everyone is encouraged to submit. All creative ideas will be warmly welcomed.

So send us your best work. We want your stuff!

Email us at editor@ratcreek.org.
 Mail us at PO Box 39024 RPO Norwood, Edmonton, T5B-4T8
 Drop it off at the Alberta Avenue Community League building at 9210-118th Ave.

COLOR ME!

Michael Germann

HUMPTY DUMPTY

by Bernice Caligiuri

Humpty Dumpty was a great big egg and full of yoke inside.
 Humpty would love to sit on a big high wall,
 And smell the air and watch all the people go by.
 Until one day a strange fox came slithering by.
 The fox was hungry as hungry could be.
 He smacked his lips and wondered how he could get that
 Big egg off the wall.
 A great idea came to him. He put on a top hat and gown,
 He jiggled and wiggled, dance and pranced around.
 When Humpty Dumpty saw this silly fox,
 A grin began on his face and he started to laugh.
 He laughed so hard that he began to wobble and shake.
 He shook so much that he tipped over and fell on the ground,
 With millions of pieces scattered around.
 The fox was as happy as could be,
 For he had a great meal, for at least a couple of days you see.

EDMONTON

Sizzling Winter Chefs Kitchen Kapers

Mix, measure, cook and eat. You will make special treats and get to munch on them with your new found friends. Children will take part in making healthy snacks, in playing active games and in creating their own personal recipe book to take home.

Who: Children 6-10 years of age
Date: Monday, March 28 to Friday, April 1, 2011
Times: 9:00 am -12:00 pm
 Early drop of 8:30 am and late pick up to 12:30pm
Location: Alberta Avenue Community League
 9210-118 Avenue
Cost: \$25.00 Registration Code 395814 (Call 311)

Two amazing camps at one great location.

Sign up for one ½ day camp or come to both. The choice is up to you!
 \$25 for ½ day
 \$50 for all day

Mini Multi Mania Winter Adventures

It's a new adventure everyday! Filled with activities ranging from indoor soccer and snowshoeing in the park, inspiring art experiences, dramatic play and adventures in the outdoors.

Who: Children 6-10 years of age
Date: Monday, March 28 to Friday, April 1, 2011
Times: 1:00-4:00 pm
 Early drop of 12:30pm and late pick up to 4:30pm
Location: Alberta Avenue Community League
 9210-118 Avenue
Cost: \$25.00 Registration Code 395813 (Call 311)
To Register or if you have questions Call 311

Edmonton

CREATIVE A FORM ATIONS

Construct a sentence using every letter of the word. Figure out what the vertical word means to you, and find other words that begin with each letter. There are no right or wrong words.

Try these five games. Feel free to make your own versions. Be positive. Have fun.

L _____	C _____	J _____	F _____	K _____
O _____	A _____	O _____	A _____	I _____
V _____	R _____	Y _____	I _____	N _____
I _____	E _____	O _____	T _____	D _____
N _____	F _____	U _____	H _____	N _____
G _____	U _____	S _____	F _____	E _____
	L _____		U _____	S _____
			L _____	S _____

Example:
 Being
 Energetic
 Loving
 Options
 Now
 Growing

*Original hand-crafted board games available at E-Town Games.
 Jonathon Robert figtree79@hotmail.com*

PENNY CARNIVAL

Come one, come all! An afternoon of fun and games awaits! Bring your pennies and loose change and get ready to play games for all ages and abilities. Old-fashioned fun at an old fashioned price, with prizes and food too.

Admission is free

**Saturday, April 9
 1pm to 4pm
 Alberta Ave Hall
 9210 118 Avenue**

Sponsored by Avenue Vineyard Community Church
www.avenuevineyard.com
 For more info call 780-716-6823

Q: What time of day was Adam born? A: A little before Eve.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

for the neighbourhoods of Alberta Avenue, Delton, Eastwood, Elmwood Park, Parkdale-Cromdale, Spruce Avenue and Westwood

Listings for free events and programs as well as volunteer opportunities. Submit online at ratcreek.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

TEEN GAMING

Come to the library to play some great games! Hone your Guitar Hero or Dance Dance Revolution skills, or choose from plenty of other Wii and Playstation games. Thursdays from 4-5pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

BUILD-A-MONSTER

Have you been looking for a chance to show off your LEGO skills? This is it! Build the scariest monster of them all. Thursday, March 31 from 2:30-4pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

KARAOKE WITH CRUD

Tune up your vocal cords and join us down Green Frog's Pub (9349 118 Ave) for another hopp'n good time of socializing and singing. Friday, March 25 at 8:30pm.

OPEN MIC

Zoomers (Boomers with Zip!) Thursdays, 1-4pm. Music, spoken word, comedy. Saturdays 7:30-9:30pm. The Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse (9351 118 Ave).

EVENTS

PROGRAM / CLASS

DROP-IN WRITERS' GROUP

This is a peer group of writers at all levels of writing experience. The timid and beginning writer is encouraged to attend. Bring your ideas, writing instruments and any current projects. Sundays from 2-4pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St).

PRAYERFUL ART

An in-house artist offers opportunity and assistance to express yourself in prayer through ART. Supplies provided. Saturdays from 12-3pm at Salvation Army Crossroads Community Church (11661 95 St). More info: 780-474-4324.

ART CLASSES

Art making ranging from clay building to printmaking and everything in between. Community Night: Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30pm and Family Night: Thursdays from 6:30-8:30pm at Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts (9225 118 Ave). Limited space, call 780-474-7611 to register.

ABORIGINAL FAMILY STORYTIME

Bring your little ones and join us for an hour of Aboriginal songs and stories presented by Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society. Fridays from 1-2pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

DADDY AND BABY TIME

Enjoy a special bonding time for babies and their male caregivers. Learn songs and rhymes that help support your baby's development in a relax environment. Drop-in Thursdays (Feb 3 - Apr 7) from 6:30-7pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St).

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CAFE

For those who need to practice their new found English language skills. Every Saturday 10-11:30am at Bethel Gospel Chapel (95 St & 117 Ave). Free child care provided.

GIRL GUIDES AND BROWNIES

Fun, friendships and new challenges: Sparks (K-Gr 1), Brownies (Gr 2-3), Girl Guides (Gr 4-6). Mondays at 6:30pm at St. Andrew's Church (8715 118 Ave). More info: Jean 780-469-4487 or Angel 780-642-0879.

SOCIAL

MAKE MELODY

Are you a singer, songwriter musician who wants to perform and share your ideas? Join the Edmonton Melody Makers at the Carrot Saturday nights at 6pm. Contact Mj at mjn_mjn@hotmail.com for more info

FRIDAY NIGHT DROP-IN

Open-house, free coffee and snacks - games and conversation with friends. A safe place to hang out on a Friday night from 7-9pm at Salvation Army Crossroads Community Church (11661 95 St). More info: 780-474-4324.

SENIORS LUNCH

Wednesdays from 11:30am-12:45pm at Crystal Kids Youth Centre (8715 118 Ave).

LI'L SPROUTS PLAYGROUP

Bring your kids, snacks and ideas and make friends while sharing in activities, adventure and fun! Fridays from 10am-12pm at Parkdale-Cromdale hall (11335 85 St). www.parkdalecromdale.org

CRUD DINNER CLUB

Discover new flavours and restaurants while you explore a variety of wonderful cuisine along Alberta Avenue with friends & neighbours. Check the calendar at www.crudedmonton.org for time and location of this months feast.

VOLUNTEER

HANG AT A GALLERY

Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts is looking for individuals willing to share 2-4 hours a week as gallery attendants. Gain experience working in a gallery setting, while supporting your neighborhood arts scene! For more

info, contact Anna at volunteer@nina-haggertyart.ca

BE A COFFEE BARTENDER

Learn how to be a barista and make lattes and other coffees, then hang out at a cool coffee shop for 3 or 4 hours and visit with the interesting people who stop in. Drop by: The Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse at 9351 118 Ave, call 780-471-1580 or visit www.thecarrot.ca.

DRIVE A SENIOR

Be a volunteer driver who spends 3-4 hours once a month to drive an elderly senior to medical appointments, banking and/or shopping. Gas reimbursed. Call 780-732-1221.

SPORTS & REC

MOVEMENT THERAPY

A professional movement therapist offers a one hour class of stretching. Mondays & Wednesdays from 1-2pm at the Salvation Army Crossroads Community Church (11661 95 St). More info: 780-474-4324.

COMMUNITY SWIM

Free swim for Alberta Avenue Community League members. Sundays from 12pm to 2pm at Eastglen Pool (11410 64 St).

CRUD DOG WALKING GROUP

Meet neighbours and their canine companions while walking around the community. Mondays evenings: 6:30pm in front of St. Alphonsus Church (11828-85 St). The walk is cancelled if below -15C.

OUTDOOR COMMUNITY RINKS

Buy a community league membership and receive skate tags which allow you to skate for free at any community league rink. Alberta Ave (9210 118 Ave): Mon-Fri 4-8pm; Sat-Sun 1-6pm. Delton (12325 88 St): Eastwood (11803 86 St): Parkdale (11335 85 St): Mon-Fri 4-8pm; Sat-Sun 12-8pm. Sheriff Robertson (82 St & 111 Ave): snowbank; anytime. Spruce Ave (10240 115 Ave): Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 6:30-9pm; Sat 2-8pm; Sun 1:30-4pm.

INDOOR PUBLIC SKATING

No sticks or pucks allowed. Grand Truck (13024 112 St) on Sundays 1-2pm. Oliver (10335 119 St) on Tuesdays 6:15-7:15pm. Russ Barnes (6725 121 Ave) on Wednesdays 6-7pm. Westwood (12040 97 St) on Saturdays 3:15-4:15pm

NOTICES

FRAUD PREVENTION SEMINAR

Join CRUD for a FREE Fraud Prevention Seminar on Saturday, March 12th. Seating is limited. Please contact CRUD at 780-996-4728 for more information and registration. Saturday, March 12 from 9am to 4:30pm at Alberta Avenue Community Hall (9210 118 Ave).

FREE SAND

All Edmonton Community Leagues should have a green box of sand near their building. This sand is provided by the City of Edmonton for the public. Please sand your slippery walks! If a box is empty, call 311 and report it. Leagues & addresses can be found at efcl.org.

WRITING HELP & FEEDBACK

Do you have writerly impulses but don't know where to start? Would you like feedback on your creative writing? Drop in or make an appointment with Jocelyn Brown, writer-in-residence for the Canadian Authors' Association. Jocelyn will be "in residence" at the Nina Haggerty gallery every Tuesday and Wednesday from 11am-2pm. To submit your work online or make an appointment, go to: <http://www.canauthorsalberta.ca/writers-in-residence>

COPS AT THE CARROT

Join EPS members every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 11 am for open and direct access to the EPS members working in your community. Bring your questions and comments or come in for a visit and coffee.

CLASSIFIEDS

OUTDOOR SOCCER REGISTRATION & SOCCER REFEREE POSITIONS

For the communities of Alberta Avenue, Delton, Eastwood, Elmwood Park, Spruce Avenue, Parkdale-Cromdale & Westwood. Bring: league membership card (or purchase at registration), birth certificate, a number of cheques for fees & volunteer commitments. Referee Courses begin in April and are 1 or 2 days or evenings depending on course level. You will be reimbursed the course fee after refereeing 10 games. Earn some income while you determine the nights you work (usually two games per night). Must be over 15 years.

Soccer & Referee registration: Friday, March 11 from 6-8pm and Saturday, March 12 10am-12pm at Delton Hall 123 Ave & 88 St. More info: Sue Nozack, Delton Soccer Director, 780-474-3491.

FUTURE OF PARKDALE SCHOOL

Wonder what will happen with the Parkdale School building? The Edmonton Public School Board will be at the Parkdale-Cromdale community hall (11335 85 St) on March 16 from 7-9pm to discuss the future of the building and potential occupants.

PARKDALE-CROMDALE AGM

At Parkdale-Cromdale's annual general meeting, the community will be electing a new board, approving the new bylaws and 2011 budget, and discussing events and programming for the new year. Volunteers are needed. March 31 from 7-9pm at 11335 85 St.

DEVELOPMENT BLOG

The Parkdale Cromdale Community League has started a blog about development happening in and around our community. For information about what is going on and to join the conversation, visit www.parkdalecromdale.org.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

The Spruce Avenue Community League will be holding it's 16th annual community garage sale on Friday April 29 and Saturday April 30. We have tables available at \$10/table for the 2 days. We are also accepting donations of gently used items with proceeds to the Spruce Avenue Community Park Re-development Project. Please call Verna @780-479-8019 for further details.

Church services



Avenue Vineyard Church
A friendly, informal, non-judgmental and safe place to grow spiritually. Traditional Christian values in a non-traditional way.
8718 118 Ave (Crystal Kids building)
Sundays at 10:30 am
www.avenuevineyard.com

Bethel Gospel Chapel
A Bible-based, multi-ethnic fellowship
11461 95 St. 780-477-3341
Sunday meetings:
9:30 AM – Lord's Supper
11:00 AM – Family Bible Hour
Saturdays – Free English Conversation Café for immigrants

Advertise your church here for only \$120/year.
Contact ads@ratcreek.org

Promote your event or program!

Calendar Guidelines

Our community calendar listings are for FREE events and programs happening in the seven neighbourhoods covered by the Rat Creek Press as well as volunteer opportunities. Submit online at ratcreek.org under the calendar tab.

- Events must be submitted by the 18th to get printed in the next month's paper. Events are also published online.
- Limit of 5 event listings per organization/group.
- Reoccurring events need to be confirmed every three months.
- If your event or program is not free or you have a notice, job ad or business advertising, please refer to our classifieds or display ads.

Advertise in the Classifieds!

- 1 classified \$25.
- 6 classified credits \$120.
- 12 classified credits \$180.
- 25 character title in BOLD CAPS + 200 characters (approximately 35 words).
- Submit classified to the website at www.ratcreek.org by the 18th for the next month's print issue.
- Payment due in advance.

HOME GROWN • HOME MADE



ALBERTA AVENUE FARMERS' MARKET

Thursdays 5pm - 8pm

93 Street & 118 Avenue
www.albertaave.org/market.html
More info contact: Kerrie 780-477-2773 market@albertaave.org






"No job worth doing was ever done on time or under budget." Pharaoh Khufu, builder of the Great Pyramid, 2560 BC



the RCP connect awards

Recognizing contributions that support the growth of a strong, vibrant and well-connected community

The Rat Creek Press Association seeks nominations in each of the following award categories:

<p>Building Community</p> <p><i>An individual, organization or business that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates networks for individuals and groups to connect within the community • Supports local businesses • Promotes what is happening in the community 	<p>Encouraging Communication</p> <p><i>An individual, organization or business that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts as an advocate for the community and all its citizens • Shares information with residents and non-residents of the community • Provides opportunities to exchange ideas for the betterment of the community 	<p>Increasing Capacity</p> <p><i>An individual, organization or business that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps individuals learn new skills or acquire experience • Encourages participation in the community from residents and non-residents • Fosters leadership development
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Deadline for nominations: April 5, 2011

Download details at www.ratcreek.org
 or contact the Rat Creek Press at
board@ratcreek.org or 780-479-6285

THE TRAVELER'S EYE

A NIGHT OF PHOTOGRAPHY FROM AROUND THE WORLD
 APRIL 11, 2011

Join us for a gallery evening of amazing travel photography.

All amateur and professional photographers are encouraged to submit up to three images for consideration. The top ten photographs will be selected for our gallery showing, and all others will be included in our slide presentation and discussion..

Join our PHOTOGRAPH SWAP. Everyone attending can bring in their favorite 8' X10' image, and at the end of the evening, we'll draw lots to exchange photos. Take a great photo home from someplace you've never been.

This event is the kick-off for the Edmonton Travel Meetup group (www.meetup.com). A chance for local photographers to share experiences, organize trips, and to discuss collaboration ideas.

All travel photographs and subject matter are welcome.

Send your inquiries and submissions by March 10th to laura@lauramcglone.com.

Free drinks supplied by the Avenue Initiative Social Art Experience Fund.

Hospitality provided by Irene and the Fabulous Barista Boys at the Carrot Cafe.

Monday, April 11
7:00-9:30 PM
Carrot Cafe
9351-118th Avenue

