

Rat Creek Press

Alberta Avenue • Delton • Eastwood • Elmwood Park • Parkdale-Cromdale • Spruce Avenue • Westwood



BY THE COMMUNITY - FOR THE COMMUNITY

MAY 2022

Samosas and mimosas for your mom

Celebrate Mother's Day at Parkdale-Cromdale Community League



Preparations are in progress for Parkdale-Cromdale Community League's Mother's Day event. Pictured is a three-generation family. From left to right: Robin McOrmond, Shana Noone, Trish McOrmond, & Isadora McOrmond. | Supplied

- STEPHEN STRAND -

Mothers aren't always appreciated for the work they truly do for their family. This year, though, with restrictions being lifted, Mother's Day events and brunches are happening once again. But no need to look much further than Parkdale-Cromdale Community League to treat your mother.

Last year, the league made the best of Mother's Day without hosting an event.

"We had a giveaway of some chalk and a little instruction manual of how to do some flowers in chalk art. And then we asked people in the community to document what they drew on their sidewalk for their mom," says Sarah DeLano, the league's programs director. "It was weird last year in terms of gathering."

But this year, the league is hosting a Mother's Day brunch. When this article was written, organizers were still working out the finer details. "What we do have

in the works is Samosas and Mimosas," explains DeLano. "Because it rhymes, and both of them are great, and they're good brunch menu things."

Mama Asha Café will be providing the samosas for the event. "The restaurant is great. We have ordered their food before for our league functions. They make the best samosas," explains DeLano. "We are probably just going to do a low-key, sort-of, brunchy thing. We might have a little gift for moms. And then we usually have a place that people can take pictures with their mom as well."

The Mother's Day event will be right on Mother's Day: Sunday, May 8. "Depending on how the weather is, we might take it outside to our back patio space. Or we might just have it inside. We will see how the weather is," DeLano explains.

The event will be free to attend, but the mimosas (or MOMosas, as DeLano wants them to be called) will have a small price

tag of \$3 each. There are no capacity limits or tickets for the event, but it will be a first come, first serve basis. This is enticing, because the samosas will be free as long as they last.

Why samosas and mimosas? "The MOMosas, we were pretty big into that, because it's just a clever play on words and, as a mom, I love mimosas. Nothing better than a brunch. I believe the samosas were our president Kevin Wong's idea," explains DeLano. The entire league is huge fans of Mama Asha's samosas, and they loved the play on words. Not only do samosas create minimal cleanup, but it also helps out a local business. And it's also a nice way to show mothers some love.

"We super appreciate the moms in our neighbourhood. Especially as a community league, moms are often the heart blood of the community. And we've got lots of moms volunteering. And lots of kids coming to programming and the moms are

always there. It's just a way to appreciate all of the things that they do for their families and for the larger community as well," DeLano explains.

Everyone from the surrounding neighbourhoods is welcome to attend. Visit parkdalecromdale.org for more information about this event.

SAMOSAS AND MIMOSAS
Sunday, May 8
10 am to 2 pm
Parkdale-Cromdale
Community League
11335 85 St

Stephen works in broadcasting and writes for fun.

Strawberry Tea

MAY 15TH • 2 PM

ALBERTA AVENUE

TICKETS \$10

EVENTBRITE

Made by Brad assembles furniture

Local man uses unique talents to build things

- MIKE ENDERS -

A Parkdale resident with autism has the unique ability to understand any diagram or blueprint and he transfers that skill into assembling furniture.

When Brad Fremmerlid was 15 years old, he and his parents moved from Wabasca to Edmonton, where he was placed in a residential home. He can't read or speak and has trouble with comprehension, but Brad excelled in using simple sign language as a form of communication. It was also discovered around this time his talent for constructing LEGO by looking at the image on the box.

Mark, Brad's father, would gradually make the LEGO constructions more complicated, introducing diagrams or instructions for assembly. Eventually, Mark was able to get Brad to assemble furniture after doing 1,000 piece LEGO projects. Brad was able to adapt to this very quickly and can now assemble furniture within hours.

Lisa Chambers, a customer of Brad's, shares on her Facebook page that he "Put together my new pantry in less than ninety minutes from start to finish. He was super organized and meticulous and the finished product looks great!"

Mark thought assembling furniture would be a great way to keep Brad occupied. A day program allowed him to be hired by the hour to keep him busy.

According to the Made by Brad website, "Brad's dad, Mark, started this business so that Brad could do what he's best at, feel a sense of accomplishment, and be an active part of the community."



Brad Fremmerlid assembling a desk. | Supplied

Brad ended up getting busier and more active in assembling furniture in his business, Made by Brad, when his story went viral because of a news feature and social media.

"He is pretty efficient and costs less than a handyman," says Mark. He adds that customers should keep in mind that because he has autism, his behaviour may be unusual at times.

"Brad may inspect your fridge as he sees what he might get for a snack, as he was

given many in the past," explains Mark.

Brad is now 33 years old, and since the pandemic started, the day program has shut down. The day program used to take him to jobs, but now Lina, his residential program supervisor, takes him. Mark occasionally takes Brad.

Brad needs people around, but is getting to be more independent daily.

Communication can be a challenge for Brad, but he picks up on what his father will say, especially if it is something concrete. This allows Brad to comprehend what is being said. He

does use some sign language, though it is still a work in progress. However, further progress would involve having a workable program available to him.

Mark reflects on his son and says, "I basically look at Brad as a good guy, a cool guy, and he likes people."

Brad works for \$15 per hour, doing roughly 150 jobs in a year. For more information, visit madebybrad.com.

Mike is a director-at-large on the Rat Creek Press board and also loves to volunteer in the area, especially in his community of Parkdale. When he has time, Mike loves to go for long mountain bike rides and meet up with friends or family.

Brad's dad, Mark, started this business so that Brad could do what he's best at, feel a sense of accomplishment, and be an active part of the community.

Hey Elmwood Park!!!

We want to make this the best summer possible!

Here is a sneak peek of our upcoming events, make sure to register via email or phone so that you can be included!!!

May	June	July	August
*Big Bin Event	*Summer Concert	*Muttstock	*Summer Concert
*Crib Tournament	*Adult Sip & Paint Class	*Summer Concert	*Community Garage Sale/Market
*Mothers Day Art Class			

Our Green Shack Program will be running again 10:30 am -1:30 pm

EPCL 780-479-1035--epcl.info@shaw.ca



RAT CREEK PRESS ASSOC. 9210 118 AVE, EDMONTON, AB T5G 0N2 T: 780.479.6285

ABOUT US

We are a non-profit community newspaper serving Alberta Avenue, Delton, Eastwood, Elmwood Park, Parkdale-Cromdale, Spruce Avenue, and Westwood. Published on Treaty 6 Territory. The opinions expressed in the paper are those of the people named as authors of the articles and do not necessarily reflect those of the board or staff.

GOALS

Build Community, Encourage Communication, Increase Capacity.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mariam Masud, Sarah Melli, Joe Wong, Victoria Stevens, Mike Enders, Tekla Luchenski and Virginia Potkins
The board may be contacted at board@ratcreek.org.

PRODUCTION STAFF

PUBLISHER Karen Mykietka info@ratcreek.org
EDITOR Talea Medynski editor@ratcreek.org
DESIGNER Brenda Fortin design@ratcreek.org
ADVERTISING ads@ratcreek.org

CONTRIBUTORS

Our writers vary from trained journalists to community residents with varying backgrounds. We strive to be a place where individuals can learn new skills and acquire experience—whether in writing, editing, photography, or illustration. We welcome letters, unsolicited submissions, and story ideas.

COPYRIGHT

Copyright of articles, letters, photographs, and other online materials submitted and published by the Rat Creek Press in print or online remains with the author, but the Rat Creek Press may freely reproduce them in print, electronic and other forms.

CIRCULATION

Serving 12,500 community members.

DELIVERY

The paper is delivered by Canada Post to all houses, apartments, and businesses in the seven neighbourhoods listed above including those with no unaddressed mail notices. For the most part, delivery begins on the last Wednesday of the month.

VOL. 24, ISSUE 4 MAY 2022 E:INFO@RATCREEK.ORG W:RATCREEK.ORG

MAY 26, 2022
6:30-9:00PM
Parkdale Cromdale Community League
AGM

PARDALECROMDALE.ORG

An insider's update on City Hall

Join Ward Métis Coun. Ashley Salvador for a community conversation

- **CONSTANCE BRISSENDEN** -

I could almost feel the tension in the air as Coun. Ashley Salvador began her monthly online update on April 6 about City of Edmonton business. At the back of everyone's mind, I was sure, was the "big mosquito question." My quotation marks, for sure, but enough to have everyone itching for answers. After all, no one wants their summer fun marred by swarms of mosquitoes. City spraying has been our first line of defence.

Strategically, perhaps, Salvador began with other issues. Progress on the 50 Street grade separation is ongoing. This project, originally planned in 2010, is progressing. There will eventually be an overpass over the rail and LRT lines, easing the long waits for the 35,000 vehicles that pass that way daily. The original estimate of \$86 million has jumped to \$179 million due to the pandemic, supply chain issues, the rising cost of transporting materials, and many more issues.

Salvador was disturbed by the increase but pragmatic. If this major issue, affecting local industry as well as everyday drivers, is not solved soon, who knows how much more it will cost? There is a blog on the topic on ashleysalvador.com.

I heartily encourage Ward Métis neighbours to join the monthly community conversation. It was enlightening and encouraging to learn about the many programs being undertaken by the City.

On June 27, the City will review a report on expanding the Leisure Access Pass & Bus Pass program. Council will discuss rolling out a third income tier for higher-income families who still find it hard to pay for access to recreation facilities.

Finally, we made it to mosquitoes. The City won't be doing aerial sprays, but there will still be on-the-ground

workers spraying ponds and puddles. "We are trying to find equilibrium to controlling and managing pests and mosquitoes," Salvador said. "I felt that targeted ground spraying was preferable to indiscriminate aerial dispersal."

The City has suggestions on how to do our part to minimize mosquitoes on edmonton.ca/mosquitoes.

Much more followed. I heartily encourage Ward Métis neighbours to join the monthly community conversation. It was enlightening and encouraging to learn about the many programs being undertaken

by the City.

For example, there is the 25-year strategy to become an environmentally conscious city. A single-use item reduction strategy is coming soon, designed to create 90 per cent waste diversion within the next few decades. To understand what this means, Salvador shared that Edmonton uses 450 million single-use items annually, creating 10,000 tons of garbage. Say goodbye to plastic shopping bags, food accessories such as plastic cutlery and foam food containers, plus other types of disposable cups.

Several other issues were raised, such as the Edmonton to Strathcona County footbridge and the Spring Sweep program. Referring briefly to problem properties, Salvador advised to stay tuned for plans to speed up redevelopment of these properties.

I have saved the pleasantest news for last: neighbourhood boulevardening. Coun. Aaron Paquette invented this cute term. The City will soon release guidelines for residents who want to enhance their boulevards by planting flowers and grasses, or even fruits and vegetables. Some residents are already doing this.

Salvador's next community conversation is May 3 at 7 pm. Visit ashleysalvador.com/conversations for information on how to join. You will also find a recording of her April 6 community conversation.

Constance's writing and editing career spans more than 40 years. She lives in Parkdale-Cromdale.



The City will soon release guidelines for neighbourhood boulevardening. | Supplied

alberta avenue
COMMUNITY GARDEN
albertaave.org

COMPOST SALE



Compost from the
City of Edmonton

1 for \$10
3 for \$25
5 for \$40

CURB SIDE SALES Saturday, May 14
cash, debit, credit 10 am to 4 pm
no pre-orders
92 St just north Thursday, May 19
of 118 Ave 5 pm to 7 pm

BULK COMPOST
pre-ordered
& delivered
May 2-19



DELIVERY ONLY
AVAILABLE TO
ALBERTA AVENUE
DISTRICTS
NEIGHBOURHOODS.

ORDER: <https://square.link/u/g6b6aAlp>



Jane's
walk

7 P.M. ON MONDAY

MAY 9

10240 115 AVENUE

Hear about highlights of our community's past from pre-settlement to today. This 1 hour 15 minute, 1.2 km long walk will include learning stops to share key milestones and features of community history. We will also showcase some homes participating in our house history placard program.

REGISTER

spruceavewalk2022.eventbrite.ca

Leagues have plenty planned

May and the summer months are full of activities

- TALEA MEDYNSKI -

With spring here, leagues are planning their programming for May and the coming summer.

Alberta Avenue Community League is offering fundraising events for its 100th anniversary as well as a few programs.

Ali Hammington, league president, says, "We shut down HUB Night because it was too demanding on volunteers. We turned it into Community Drop-in Night."

Community Drop-In Night is on Thursdays from 7 to 9 pm. Activities include a knitting circle, art classes, lectures and presentations, and gym time for children and youth. Coffee and snacks are included.

"We would love people to come knit. We have a master knitter and crocheter," Hammington says.

The league continues to offer free nal-

three workshops will be Afro-fusion, Soca, and Bhangra."

The free workshops will be at Eastwood's outdoor rink and are appropriate for all ages and fitness levels. Pre-register on the website when it's available or at the event.

Morgan Wolf, president of Elmwood Park Community League, says, "We're doing our Big Bin event on May 28 at the league hall."

The league is also holding a free Mother's Day Art Class on May 5 from 4 to 5:45 pm at the hall. Participants will use provided art supplies to create a Mother's Day card. Email jenniferostopovich@gmail.com to register. Also in June is an Adult Sip and Paint Class.

Area children and youth can look forward to some summer activities. "The Greenshock will be starting up in June from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm."

The league is organizing outdoor bands once a month during the summer (June 25 is

"The class will be pretty beginner. I'm hoping people sign up and come regularly." People can drop in if they already have an understanding of Spanish. "It's an actual language class." Reading, writing, speaking, and listening are included, along with music, games, and cultural topics.

"We'll have a [Mexican] meal with that class," says DeLano. The class is free, but the meal is not. The cost of the meal will depend on the caterer.

CreArt programming is back at the league for in-person classes on Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm. "There's free music classes, guitar lessons, and singing."

The league also has ongoing Pub Nights on the third Saturday of every month, starting at 7 pm.

All programs are at the league and are free with an annual \$5 membership fee.

Spruce Avenue Community League's pro-

of people."

He adds, "Our garage sale is coming back. We're hoping people will come to us and rent a table [for \$10]."

Pending COVID-19 health restrictions, the garage sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 28 from 9 am until 4 pm.

"We might have a barbecue and drinks," says Spagnuolo.

On May 14, Westwood Community League is holding a Spring Paint Night for people 18 years and older at the league hall. Tickets are \$40 and the event runs from 7 to 9 pm. Buy tickets on Eventbrite, or RSVP and pay for tickets at the door. RSVP to engage@westwoodcl.ca.

"A complimentary glass of wine and snacks are included," says Katie Hayes, a league board member. "Additional glasses of wine are \$4."

On June 24, the league is holding its



Left: Knitting is offered at Alberta Avenue's Community Drop-in Night. **Middle:** Capoeira is another program (not mentioned in the article) that Parkdale-Cromdale Community League offers. **Right:** Elmwood Park's art from the Spring Break Art Class held at the league. An upcoming event is the Mother's Day Art Class. | Supplied images

oxone training. "We've been training 80-90 people a month. We now have a handful of trainers."

An upcoming fundraiser event is the Car Show and Shine in June. Pub Nights will be returning starting in June or July.

Eastwood Community League has programming in June. Kate Wilson, facilities manager, says, "June 11 is our dance workshop, as our version of the ParticipACTION Community Better Challenge. We had one last summer, to great success. This year, the

the first one) as well as a cribbage tournament.

Parkdale-Cromdale Community League is offering three programs. Yoga will be offered on Tuesdays from 7 to 8 pm, and Meditation and Conversation group on Tuesdays from 8 to 9 pm.

"[Yoga is taught by Jesse], who's done yoga at our hall before," says Sarah DeLano, program director. "We're hoping everyone will feel welcome. The classes are for all levels."

On the first three Thursdays of the month from 6 to 8 pm is Working Class Spanish.

programming will focus primarily on fundraising activities for their community garden. Sabino Spagnuolo, the league's communications director, says the community garden may be ready in early summer. Their biggest fundraiser continues to be with thegudbox. ca/products/the-spruce-avenue-gud-box.

"The annual Jane's Walk on May 9 is going ahead rain or shine," adds Spagnuolo. The walk will start at 7 pm in front of the league. "There will be a sign-up process. We're prepared to organize smaller groups

Summer Barbecue and Sidewalk Sale in the evening. It's \$10 for league members to rent a table, and \$20 for non-members. If interested, email engage@westwoodcl.ca. The event will be held outdoors at the league. A free barbecue is included for league members, while non-members pay \$2 for a hotdog and pop.

Talea is the Rat Creek Press editor. She loves sharing the stories of our diverse neighbourhoods.



AGC
Plumbing and Heating Ltd.
Andrew G. Cook
780 920 2731
agcplumbingandheating@gmail.com
Call or Email for a free quote.

I am a neighbourhood plumber that cares about craftsmanship and am proud to help my community with their plumbing and heating needs.





EAT LOCAL



SHOP LOCAL



SUPPORT LOCAL



ALBERTA AVENUE
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

alberta-avenue.com

Eventful weekend in Alberta Avenue

Local league hosts Bloomin' and Strawberry Tea May 14-15



Bloomin' Garden Sale will be held on May 14, and it is the perfect opportunity to get some gardening advice, pick up a few annuals and perennials, and visit with your neighbours. | Supplied

- MYA COLWELL -

Alberta Avenue Community League is hosting two highly anticipated events in May: the Bloomin' Garden Sale and Strawberry Tea.

Bloomin' Garden Sale takes place on May 14 at Alberta Ave Community League from 10 am until 4 pm. The event will feature plenty of plant vendors, including the Edmonton Horticultural Society, Prairie Gardens, and more.

Alberta Ave's compost sale fundraiser will run during the same time, and it's the perfect way to support your community league and help your garden thrive.

This is the first time in two years that Bloomin' Garden Sale will be held, and the event is a great opportunity to learn more about gardening, meet up with your neighbours, and come home with a few additions for your garden.

"I really love seeing all the people from... our neighbourhood really enjoying our neighbourly vibes," says Kelsey Boychuk,

the league's program director. "Come support your local community league and local artisans!"

Strawberry Tea will take place at the league on May 15 at 2 pm.

This is the first time that this fundraiser is being run, and Ali Hammington, league president, is optimistic about its success. "If it goes over well, then we may well make it an annual thing."

The event is a celebration of the league's 100-year anniversary, and it is being modelled after strawberry tea events held in the 1920s, notes Valda Roberts, league vice president.

"It's an afternoon to meet your neighbours and to honour our history as a community league in this city," says Roberts. The event will especially honour women and the impact that women have had in

Alberta Avenue, since Alberta Ave was one of the first community leagues to accept women as members.

The event has an old-fashioned theme, where guests can put on their afternoon finery, bring their friends, family, and neighbours, and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with refreshments. Ward Métis Coun. Ashley Salvador and MLA Janis Irwin will also attend.

While there is no dress code per se, Hammington says, "I'm going to wear a very nice dress and I might even, you know, put on a hat just because, why not?"

Gordon Ritchie, a harpist, will perform. Tickets for Strawberry Tea are available on the league website albertaave.org for \$10.

While the city is currently not mandating any COVID protocols for the two events, Hammington says, "We encourage people

to wear masks if they wish, and we will provide masks and [hand] sanitizer on site." Hammington adds, "We like to make sure that our neighbours are safe."

These events are an opportunity to help the league recover from financial struggles. "All these events are being done because the league has a financial shortfall due to the pandemic," says Hammington.

"We are certainly hoping that people will come out to these events and support our community league so that we can thrive and do programming for another 100 years," adds Roberts.

"I have tremendous faith in my neighbours," Hammington continues.

If you have the time and the means, support the league through their events this spring and summer.

Mya is a student working toward a career in journalism and communications. Writing is one of her passions, besides baking and playing trombone.

The event is a celebration of the league's 100-year anniversary, and it is being modelled after strawberry tea events held in the 1920s.

Bloomin' Garden SALE

SATURDAY
MAY 14
2022

10 AM - 4 PM

Plants Gifts

Alberta Avenue
Community Centre
93 St & 118 Ave

The art of good communication

Effective communication can lead to personal and professional growth

- SHAREE ALUKO -

Communication seems so simple yet so many of us struggle with it. Most people use some basic level of communication skills everyday to get through their daily routine. In the workplace, effective communication skills are crucial. However, the reality is that a lot of the communication exchange that takes place is ineffective.

According to John Thill et al in the book *Excellence in Business Communication*, "Communication is the process of transferring information from a sender to a receiver. Communication is a dynamic, transactional, or two-way, process."

In order to ensure that the message is interpreted in the way it is intended, it is crucial to formulate it in a way that the receiver will understand. An excellent way to do this is to be clear, relatable, factual, and succinct. And of course, the message still needs to be understood. Feedback is important in understanding whether or not the message was received correctly.

According to *Excellence in Business Communication*, some common barriers to communication tend to obscure the intended message of the sender. These include distractions which may be due to multitasking, the environment of the receiver, as well as their thoughts and emotions. You may also be competing with other messages that are trying to reach your audience at the same time.

Perceptual and language differences are key contributing factors of misunderstandings because we may sometimes extract a different meaning from messages that are in alignment with our life experiences and cultural background.

According to *Excellence in Business Communication*, in large companies with tall hierarchies, there is often a significant loss of message quality between the various organizational



Communication can easily turn into miscommunication. | Pixabay

levels. The original message that was sent from bottom to top or vice versa may be a completely different version from what was delivered.

The lack of effective communication is a major source of conflict. According to an article titled *Workplace Conflicts? 5 Tips to Improve Communication* published on the website *Business News Daily*, "Workplace conflict is often the result of poor communication."

It is very easy to have a conflict-ridden environment when the communicating parties are being misunderstood. Such challenges can be tackled by improving your

basic communication skills, reducing distractions, and giving only constructive criticism.

Another article titled *Lack of communication is the main source of conflict* published on the website *Motive* also emphasizes how easily conflicts arise from lack of communication. The author writes about a scenario where a company was in the process of implementing a team-based organization. However, a lack of trust had led to a lack of communication. In this particular case, the manager wasn't communicating with the CEO. Because the manager and the

CEO didn't have understanding or trust, management initiatives were in jeopardy. Eventually, the issue was resolved when the manager opened up and trust was built between the two of them.

As the author says, "Communication is not only words. Our body language and tone of voice work as amplifiers for our words. Even when you're not saying anything you're not silent. But if you're wearing armor, you don't give others much chance to understand you. And if they fail to understand you, how can they trust you?"

Good communication is necessary to progress in your professional life. You can have healthier professional relationships as the levels of misunderstanding and destructive conflicts are being drastically reduced.

Sharee has a Masters in Business Administration and is passionate about sharing information.

Communication is not only words. Our body language and tone of voice work as amplifiers for our words. Even when you're not saying anything you're not silent. But if you're wearing armor, you don't give others much chance to understand you. And if they fail to understand you, how can they trust you?

"We'll Keep You Happy for Life"



XL Furniture
FAMILY BUSINESS SINCE 1952

11349 - 95 st.
780 - 477 - 2213

info@xlfurniture.com
www.xlfurniture.com

FLEXSTEEL GALLERY · LA-Z-BOY · SIMMONS BEAUTYREST

STERLING REAL ESTATE

WANTED!
I HAVE CLIENTS LOOKING FOR 2 OR 3 BEDROOM HOMES IN THE AREA, ANY SIZE, ANY CONDITION.

YOUR neighbourhood realtor



Selling homes since 1990!
ROXANNE LITWYN
780-907-7589

11155 - 65 ST.
EDMONTON, AB
T5W 4K2

STERLING REAL ESTATE

Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, YouTube icons

ROXANNEHOMES.COM



EASTWOOD COMMUNITY GARDEN

We still have plots in our community garden waiting for a gardener!

- Within a secure fenced space
- 11903 86 St at our rink space
- Email info@eastwoodhub.org to secure your garden plot

Eastwood Community League · 780-477-2354



Janis Irwin, MLA
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood

Follow Janis on social media

780.414.0682 ~ 6519 112 Avenue
Edmonton.HighlandsNorwood@assembly.ab.ca

Area to get problem properties pilot

City council and residents hope pilot will have more results

- **STEPHEN STRAND** -

An April 11 Edmonton City Council meeting about the Problem Properties Initiative Update report resulted in a pilot project, along with other promising motions to deal with problem properties.

The report was to provide updated information on the efforts to address residential and commercial problem properties, the prevalence of these properties, enforcement tools, options to expedite redevelopment, advocacy opportunities, and ways to increase federal resources.

A group of community members attended the meeting. Community resident Nicola Dakers shares her thoughts.

“This is not a new fight that the community has had. People in the community have been fighting this battle for about 25 years,” Dakers says. But responses from the City had not been promising, first claiming that there were no clauses that allowed them to do something about problem properties. Then in 2018, the provincial government changed the Municipal Government Act to add the clause that allowed the City to address problem properties by demolishing buildings that are detrimental to health, safety, the environment, and the community.

“But they haven’t. So, they put in the clause and it just sat there. There was no will to move forward to demolish these properties. It was just the continuation of sending fines to the owners,” Dakers says.

Dakers explains the increase of arson and violence in the last few years has made it tough to stay in the community. But then she became encouraged by Ward Métis Coun. Ashley Salvador. “And I thought, OK, maybe I can try one last time and see if we can get some movement.”

At the meeting, Christy Morin, executive director of Arts on the Ave, spoke to council.

“What we are talking about today with problem properties, the word ‘problem’ seems very, very light, compared to

what the community of the Alberta Ave district and many different inner-city core communities are experiencing, and also other communities in Edmonton,” explains Morin. She explains incidences of needles, fights, fires, weapons, and shootings at problem properties are not light problems. “These are absolutely horrific problems that a community is living in,” says Morin.

Morin says neighbours are exhausted and don’t know what to do anymore. She doesn’t know what to tell them.

“This is not a problem. This is an illness in our city.” She adds, “What we need tonight and today is actual teeth to go after them.”

The report outlines a 90 day pilot project called the Community Property Safety Team Administration to be operational by the end of April. The team will

escalate enforcement measures, with the goal of obtaining immediate compliance. They will hold the landowners accountable for vacant and unsecured buildings that pose a fire risk to the community, and if the property owners are not compliant, the Administration will remediate the property and make the property safe at the owner’s cost.

Several speakers were concerned that 90 days isn’t enough time to properly enforce property owners to take action.

Mayor Amarjeet Sohi presented a motion to extend the pilot project from 90 days to 18 months.

“I am hopeful that we are going to be coming out of this with some solid action,” says Salvador. She adds that commercial problem properties are

just as destructive as residential problem properties.

Sohi put forward two motions in regards to the report.

The first motion was to increase the operating budget of the Fire Rescue Services Branch by up to \$850,000 on a one-time basis in order to extend the pilot project up to 18 months.

Sohi also suggested increasing the operating budget of the Community Standards and Neighbourhoods Branch by \$915,000 on a one-time basis to enhance resources for problem properties. Funding for both would come from the previous police budget, pending full council approval.

“I think one of the most important pieces of this work is, not only directly addressing the problem properties and creating a safer community, but removing that burden from the communities,” says Ward O-day’mín Coun. Anne Stevenson.

This motion was carried 4 to 0.

The second motion was that Administration provide a report outlining options for definitions of derelict residential and non-residential properties to create tax subclasses. This would include a tax subclass for derelict properties, a grant program to redevelop derelict properties, and methodology for monitoring and proving that non-residential derelict properties are unoccupied for at least one year. The motion also included ways to increase the demolition and/or disposition of problem properties, as well as acquisition of properties through tax forfeiture.

This motion was carried 5 to 0.

“We should have a zero tolerance for problem properties and we should have zero tolerance for slum landlords. And they should know that [the] City will come after them with all means available to the City if they don’t clean up their properties,” says Sohi.

Stephen works in broadcasting and writes for fun.

The report outlines a 90 day pilot project called the Community Property Safety Team Administration to be operational by the end of April. The team will escalate enforcement measures, with the goal of obtaining immediate compliance.



Problem properties were on the agenda on April 11 at city council. | City of Edmonton

Blake Desjarlais
 Member of Parliament
 Edmonton Griesbach

Constituency Office
 10212 - 127th Avenue NW,
 Suite 102
 780-495-3261

BlakeDesjarlais.ndp.ca
 Blake.Desjarlais@parl.gc.ca
 @BlakeDesjarlaisNDP
 @DesjarlaisBlake



SERVING THIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1976

Norwest
 INSURANCE AGENCIES LTD

Auto | Home | Business | Life
 RRSP | Travel Insurance | Real Estate

11734 - 95 Street
 780-477-9191

Priscilla's
 Pet Emporium & Parlour

IT'S PRISCILLA'S PET EMPORIUM & PARLOUR'S BIRTHDAY!

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 5, 2022 12PM TO 3PM
 8207 127 AVE NW, EDMONTON, AB

- *Raffle Prizes
- *VIP Cards
- *Swag Bags
- *Free Stuff!!!



AB Realty

Peter Leveille
 Broker/Owner & Realtor
 780-487-4040
 www.abrealtylistings.com

Your Local Eastwood Neighborhood Realtor!

Seniors Real Estate Specialist, SRES® & Real Estate Negotiation Expert, RENE®
 Over 16 years Real Estate Experience!!



Pub Night Series
Every 3rd Saturday of the Month \$5 Drinks
Members Only membership available at the door

Meditation
WITH TRISH
TUESDAYS
Starting April 19
8-9pm
8 Sessions
bring cozy clothes



**STARTING MAY 5TH,
EVERY THURSDAY**
(EXCEPT LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH)
6:00-8:00 PM
FREE CLASS
LOW COST MEAL

**SUMMER
YOGA SERIES**
WITH JESSE

-  Starting May 3rd Every Tuesday
-  7 pm - 8 pm
-  Free



PARKDALE CROMDALE.ORG



Garage Sale
Saturday May 28th • 9am to 4pm
Spruce Avenue Community League
10240 115 Avenue NW
Call Verna 780-479-8019 to discuss what your requirements and needs are.




"I was pleasantly surprised and even shocked by the amount of fruits and vegetables that were in the box for \$30!" - Happy Gud Box customer

thegudbox.ca/spruceavenue





LEARNING CENTRE & OSC

FREE CHILDCARE* & FREE REGISTRATION

Daycare Open

9540-111 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5G 0A7

(780) 474-4972

✉ littlebunnieslearningcentre@gmail.com  littlebunnieslearningcenterandosc.com

*Free parents portion for one month