

MAR 2024

Next League Meeting:
Tuesday, April 23 - 7pm

THE MCKERNAN MESSENGER

Since
1954

A publication of the McKernan Community League

Circulation 1,100

CASINO FUNDRAISER: Volunteers Needed

Our biennial casino fundraiser has been set for August 4 and 5, 2024, at PURE Casino on Argyll Road. This is a major fundraising event, the proceeds of which should retire the debt from our hall construction! We need volunteers for shifts over the two days, both daytime and evening. Anyone over 18 years of age is eligible. The work is easy and you will get time to meet other community members. Sign up using the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COB4EAAA72AA3F8C43-48010915-mclcasino>

BIG BIN EVENT

The next "Big Bin" event will be Sunday, April 28, from 10am to 3pm in the community hall parking lot. Community members will be able to bring residential waste including furniture and yard waste (no mattresses or household hazardous items, please).

The League is looking for a few volunteers to help direct traffic and keep the site tidy. Stay tuned for more information about this event, including the possibility of creating a "Re-Use Spot".

SOCCER REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Registration for the 2024 season of the Edmonton Minor Soccer Association (EMSA) opened February 1.

Visit emsasoccerportal.com to register your child. McKernan is within the South West zone of the league.

And remember that you must purchase a community League membership to register! League memberships are available at EFCL.



All winter in a day. After an exceptionally dry and mild few months, 30 cm of snow fell in a single day at the end of February 2024.

McKernan Community League AGM

The McKernan Community League Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on **Tuesday, April 23, 2024** at the Community Hall.

Are you interested in getting more involved with our community? We will be looking for some new board members and executives at this AGM.

General board responsibilities include:

- attending a monthly board meeting (usually held the second Tuesday of the month)
- helping oversee the current activities and responsibilities of the league (hall operation, budget, events, et c)
- taking on projects based on your own interests and what needs to be done (ideas we would love to pursue include increasing student involvement, community garden, artwork in the community, sustainability initiatives - or perhaps you have a great idea of your own!)

Positions up for election in April are: president and vice-president (1 year term); secretary and treasurer (2-year terms); 2 directors-at-large (2 year terms).

Not quite ready for a board position? There are still lots of places you can help out.

If you are interested and want to know more, contact president Phil Kloc at philipgkloc@gmail.com.

Community Contacts

PRESIDENT	Phil Kloc	780-965-0773 president@mckernancommunity.org
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Ross	
SECRETARY	Ingrid Poulin	ingrid2323@gmail.com
TREASURER	Jennifer Branch-Mueller	
DIRECTORS	Rolinda Graham	
	Milap Petigara	
	BJ Serink	
PAST PRESIDENT	Roberta Franchuk	780-431-4924
TRANSPORTATION	Ingrid and Tom Poulin	ingrid2323@gmail.com
HOUSING ISSUES	Housing committee	housingdevelopments@mckernancommunity.org
PLAYGROUP	---vacant---	
SCHOOL LIAISON	Michelle Jones	780-436-4134
SOCCER - Adult	Brad Odsen	bodsen@telusplanet.net
SOCCER - Youth	Mike Blennerhassett	belmac@belgraviaedmonton.ca https://emsasouthwest.com/
CRICKET	C. Marathalingam	780-438-0460 www.ascacricicket.com
SKATING RINK	Greg Jones	780-222-2096
CASINO CHAR	Vishal Sharma	
HISTORIAN	Angela Espejo	angela.s.espejo@gmail.com
POCKET PARK	Michelle Jones	780-289-0635 4ourpocketpark@gmail.com
SOUTH CAMPUS LIAISON	Wiggert Hessels	780-432-6379

League Memberships

Memberships in your community league support programs, socials, hall activities, newsletters, and more; PLUS the League is looking out for your interests in housing, transportation, services and more. See the membership form at www.mckernancommunity.org.

MEMBERSHIPS	Alison Stephens mckernanmembership@gmail.com
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McKernan Messenger

The McKernan Messenger is published ten times per year. Advertising deadline: 5th of the month.

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Heather McPherson

Member of Parliament
Edmonton Strathcona

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10045 81 Ave T6E1W7


heather.mcpherson@parl.gc.ca
Follow on   

Visit my website at www.heathermcpherson.ndp.ca



RENT THE McKERNAN COMMUNITY CENTRE!

The community centre, located at 11341-78 Avenue, is open again! Our newly renovated facility includes smaller meeting spaces along with a refurbished hall complete with danceable wooden floor and air conditioning. For bookings, contact hallrentalmckernancommunity@gmail.com. More information about the hall and how to rent it is available at www.mckernancommunity.org.

Capacity & Rates

	Main Hall	Meeting Room
Capacity	150	60
Hourly Rate (GST will be added)		
Weekend (Fri evening, Sat, Sun)	\$65/hr	\$55/hr
Weekday (day and evening)	\$45/hr	\$35/hr
Long-Term Rentals (multi-week, with contract)	\$40/hr	\$30/hr

Residents of McKernan who are members of the community league receive a 15% discount on one-time hall rentals. GST will also be charged on rentals. Damage deposit will also be required, and renters must obtain their own event insurance.

Charles Simmonds Park Update

McKernan's Charles Simmonds Park Renewal is scheduled to begin this summer with the construction of the pathway, benches, picnic tables, gazebo, and playground. The Park Renewal team has worked diligently on fundraising and has had good support from community members (\$8,850 worth) - plus contributions of \$7,500 each from the McKernan and Belgravia Community Leagues, and a further contribution from a large-scale developer building in the community.

The old playground will be replaced and will complement the existing playgrounds in Belgravia and McKernan. The playground will be suitable for preschool, elementary, and older children to enjoy all year round and provide accessibility into the park for all community members to enjoy the open spaces. Benches and picnic tables will be placed inside the park and an open natural space will allow for unstructured activities. (Text from the City of Edmonton Building Edmonton Capital Projects Map)

Sponsor a Commemorative Bench

The City of Edmonton Benchmark Program was established to offer individuals and groups the opportunity to honour loved ones or to celebrate special occasions through the placement of a commemorative plaque on a bench in City parks and open spaces.

You can have a commemorative plaque on one of the four new benches in Charles Simmonds Park. Your donation of \$2500 includes the cost of the bench, individualized bronze plaque, and related maintenance over a 10-year period.

Contact Gail Fraser-Steffler at gfs@shaw.ca if you are interested in purchasing a bench.

University Language Study

A U of A research group is conducting a study to learn more about how children produce sentences and how their language experiences help them to learn language. They are looking for children who are 5 and 6 years old, with and without language concerns, and who are exposed to English on a regular basis. Children who speak additional languages are also invited to participate. More information about the study is also available at <https://tinyurl.com/mryck5uu>

Waste-Wise App

WasteWise is the City of Edmonton's waste management app for residents. It helps residents with sorting instructions, collection schedules, customizable notifications, and more.

Use WasteWise to find your collection schedule, look up waste items and find sorting instructions, set up helpful reminders, and more.

You can download Waste-Wise at edmonton.ca



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UNIQUE SANDWICHES AT NHON HOA

by Allan Suddaby

On Whyte Avenue, east of 102 Street, there is a round sign projecting over the sidewalk, picturing a tiny cartoon chef hoisting a huge sandwich over his shoulder. This is Nhon Hoa, south Edmonton's preeminent spot for banh mi, Vietnamese submarine sandwiches.

Banh mi are served on long rolls called baguettes, though they are not really the same thing as the Parisienne baguettes they make (for instance) down the street at Boulangerie Bonjour. Banh mi baguettes have been smartly re-worked into a more user-friendly sandwich bread: they are shorter, narrower, more tender, and more delicately crisp than their French progenitors. While the fillings are limitless, the bread is invariably smeared with mayonnaise and packed with lightly pickled vegetables (always carrots, sometimes also daikon), a generous bouquet of cilantro, and rounds of sliced jalapeño.

Nhon Hoa is a small, homey place, the counters charmingly cluttered with trays of glowing green pandan jelly, packets of Goldfish crackers, and hand-written placards advertising the week's specials. Underneath the main counter, on the floor, is one of the small altars customary in Vietnamese homes and businesses.

The house specialty at most banh mi shops is a cold-cut combo. At Nhon Hoa this is the



The cold-cut combo from Nhon Hoa Sandwich Bar

modestly titled “#3 Combo”, a pleasantly approachable nose-to-tail pork experience. It contains a mild liver pâté spread; Vietnamese sausage that looks like a greyish version of baloney, subtly flavoured with anise and punctuated with black peppercorns; bacon roll that seems to be thin lardons of un-rendered pork belly; and a lovely pressed headcheese made with rosy cured pork and aspic. The exotically spiced charcuterie, the forceful cilantro, and the undulating heat of the jalapeño work together to make a sandwich that is simultaneously punchy, complex, and comforting.

Besides the cold-cuts there are scads of hot sandwich fillings to explore: grilled pork,

ochre-stained chicken satay, and shredded tofu, to name a few. “Juicy meatballs”, if not exactly as advertised, are certainly moist and tender. All sandwiches come lightly toasted, gently steaming in their tight plastic wrapping.

For a self-described sandwich bar, Nhon Hoa's offerings are expansive. There are fried items like spring rolls and green onion cakes, a variety of soups, noodle bowls, blended drinks, and bubble tea. In the pop fridge you can also find homemade sweets like corn pudding, potted flan, and a layered concoction of coconut cream and chewy green squiggles.

Nhon Hoa has another location downtown, on 106 Avenue. There is also a business called “Nhon Hoa 2” on 97 Street which, despite its similar name, is almost certainly unrelated: the menu and the sandwiches are noticeably different, and there is no heroic cartoon chef on the signage.

Allan Suddaby is a Red Seal Chef, Certified Chef de Cuisine, and Culinary Arts Instructor at NAIT Polytechnic. He lives in McKernan

Nhon Hoa Sandwich Bar

10154 - 82 St NW

RIDE THE VALLEY LINE LRT

If you haven't taken a ride, what are you waiting for? I strongly encourage you to take a moment this month, and be a tourist in your own city. I'm so confident as to wager that if you ride the train and aren't impressed, contact my office and I'll offer you a 100% refund on your ticket.

I have a small repertoire of activities that I treat out-of-town guests to. If it's summer, we'll take the High Level Street Car and a visit to the Farmer's Market. If it's winter, we might skate and explore Victoria Park. Now, with the opening of the Valley Line LRT, we treat guests to some of the most beautiful

views of the river valley and a smooth, hour-long round trip scenic ride. As a father of two train-crazed boys, since opening I think we've rode the line a half-dozen times and we notice new features each trip.

For McKernan residents it is a quick ride from our McKernan-Belgravia LRT station and a quick walk upstairs to board the Valley Line at the Churchill Square/Milner Library street-level platform. Heading south east, you'll enjoy incredible views of the river valley and downtown. I'll spare you the play-by-play but one feature that stands out in the cars is that the driver's compartment is

by Michael Janz

glass, so you enjoy the same unique front and rear views of the journey as they do. The artwork around the stations is a treat as well.

This LRT isn't merely a buried subway, sending riders down stairs and through a dark, dull dreary tunnel. Rather, riders are treated to a taste of “public luxury”- a chance to experience beauty in our city. Like public art or historic architecture, these features make us feel a sense of pride in our community and open our eyes to the

Continued on Page 6

Development Applications

February 1 to March 10, 2024

The list below covers permits that have been applied for in McKernan. Permits are under review unless otherwise noted. Complete information, including permit number and the name of the applicant, is available at the City of Edmonton mapping website maps.edmonton.ca > Development Applications. If you have any questions about a project, contact housingdevelopments@mckernancommunity.org.

11106 - 73 Avenue	To construct a single detached house.
11255 - 75 Avenue	To construct a four dwelling row house
11106 - 73 Avenue	To construct a single detached house.
10989 - 74 Avenue	To construct a backyard house with balcony.
11536 - 80 Avenue	To install 8 solar photovoltaic panels on roof.
11310 - 72 Avenue	To demolish a single detached house and detached garage.
11314 - 75 Avenue	To add a secondary suite in the basement of a semi-detached house.
11314 - 75 Avenue	To add a secondary suite in the basement of a semi-detached house.
7701 - 111 Street	To demolish a single detached house.
10957 - 75 Avenue	To install 36 solar photovoltaic panels on the roof.

Proposed Higher-Density Developments in McKernan

by Roberta Franchuk

Project Location: 112 St. and 75 Ave.

Developer Name: Leen Holdings

Address: 11203-75 Ave

Requested Rezoning: To the new RM h16.0 medium-scale residential zone.

Details of Development: A four storey residential building up to a height of 16.0 metres. No details around units, parking or design are available at this time. No details around units, parking or design are available at this time.

The site is located outside the 76 Ave. Secondary corridor, although the developer argues that it is close enough to serve as a transition to lower-density and smaller buildings deeper into the community.



Perfect snowman conditions in McKernan Park! Photo by Lisa Zieminek.

SEEKING HALL MANAGER!

The McKernan Community League is currently seeking a Hall Manager, responsible for liaising with long- and short-term renters and reporting to the League Board on hall activities.

This is a paid position estimated to require 20 hours per week.

Resumes or inquiries can be emailed to hallrentalmckernancommunity@gmail.com.

Project Location: 76 Ave. and 114 St.

Developer Name(s): Anonymous; proposal prepared by GSA Consulting Inc.

Address: 11343-76 Avenue

Requested Rezoning: DC2 (Direct Control)

Details of Development: A 23.0-metre mid-rise development (up to six storeys), with 71 residential units ranging from studios to two bedrooms. Commercial premises on the northwest corner of the building; underground parkade accessed from the south laneway; a publicly accessible bicycle maintenance facility, and “\$85,311 to the creation of, or improvement to, an off-Site Public Amenity such as parks, gardens or open spaces within the boundaries of the McKernan neighbourhood.”

A DC2 rezoning is requested to allow this height, with the rationale that the City Plan designates 114 Street and the portion of 76 Avenue east of 114 Street as Secondary Corridors where mid-rise buildings would be allowed.

Spring Bird Watching in McKernan

by Allan Suddaby

One of the charms of living in a neighbourhood with large, established trees is the variety of birds we see daily. In McKernan we enjoy the same ubiquitous magpies, crows, and sparrows that are present everywhere in the city, but our large elms and Manitoba maples are also frequented by nuthatches and downy woodpeckers, and occasionally get visits from larger birds like pileated woodpeckers and flickers.

Though it is still winter, there are a few seasonal bird events happening right now that you can look for.

In February and March, droves of waxwings invade the city to gorge on ornamental fruit like mountain ash berries and crabapples. Some of these flocks are massive, and to see one attack a large tree is quite exciting: hundreds of birds flitting between branches, eating, tittering and calling to each other. (They have a lovely, joyful, descending trill.) Some years, during the spring thaw, fruit hanging on our trees actually ferments, and then you might see clumsy behaviour from the drunken birds.

Another thing to watch for this spring is the sandhill crane migration. In April vast flocks of cranes fly over Edmonton on their way to their breeding grounds in the north. They typically fly at very high



A Bohemian waxwing eating mountain ash berries. Photo by Andy Grabia.

altitudes, but they are such large birds, travelling in such long v formations, they are easy to spot. They are also noisy! I often hear their distinct, rattling bugle before I actually see them. Last year several flocks paused their journey directly over McKernan, circling in tall columns, waiting for their lagging friends to catch up. The spectacle lasted more than an hour.

And of course soon we will see the return of robins, the red-breasted harbingers of spring.

Keep an eye out for our local birds!

Valley Line LRT Cont'd from Page 4

same child-like wonder my boys experience as we crest the hill from Strathern and gaze across the river valley to our Legislature.

While for you and I, the line may be a novelty, I don't want to downplay the critical transportation function and catalytic urban development transformation opportunity for the future of our city. For hundreds of thousands of our neighbours, this line unlocks new opportunities for work, education, and housing, in a previously underserved quadrant of our city. Judging by the rapid ridership adoption since opening, thousands more cars will be left in their garages as drivers trade their expensive gas bills and traffic jams for a much more affordable and relaxing commute.

While the sticker-shock of LRT construction is certainly not insignificant, rarely do we hold up a true cost accounting of the alternative. The cost of adding lanes in urban areas is not only prohibitively expensive but ineffective. The well-documented traffic principle of "induced demand" with new lanes ensures that traffic reprieves are short-lived.

Ultimately, as our city grows, public transit offers an exciting opportunity and investments in public transit today offer more choices for our children tomorrow. The next stage of the LRT is well on its way to West Edmonton Mall.

In order to grow ridership, public transit must be safe, frequent, and reliable. The Valley Line South East offers this and more. See you on the platform!

Michael Janz is the Councillor for ward papastew

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