

OCTOBER 2025

Next League Meeting

Wed. Nov. 5

6:30 pm at the hall

Welcome to fall!

THE MCKERNAN MESSENGER

Since
1954

A publication of the McKernan Community League

Circulation 1,100

VOTE October 20

Edmonton elects a mayor, city council and school board trustees on Monday, Oct. 20. Bring valid ID with your address, and find your voting location at edmonton.ca/election

Not sure who to vote for? Try the Taproot Edmonton voter survey to see which candidates have similar positions to yours: edmonton.taproot.vote/2025/surveys/taproot-survey

Great day for burgers

Another fine September day saw the league's annual fall BBQ with over 100 people coming to the hall for free burgers, smokies and other treats. This year's big improvement was the new large BBQ grill, ably run as usual by Phil Kloc and Dietmar Kennepohl. Also special thanks to Rob Hamilton, Asma Mir and family, Chris Germain, Mark Stephens, Yashita Singh, and Laura and Dallin Serink, along with board members Bj Serink, Alison Stephens, Shawn Parchoma, Rita Bakshi, Ingrid Poulin and Roberta Franchuk.

Extra big thanks to Surf & Turf Seafood and Meat Market for supplying the very tasty meat products again this year.



McKernan Community League Pub Night

Saturday, October 18
7 to 11 p.m.

At the hall (11341-78 Ave.)

Craft beer, wine, non-alcoholic drinks
Membership required
(available to residents at the event)

Casino chair needed

Our next casino will be in 2026, and we need someone before then to handle the paperwork in a timely way. Once the casino date is announced, the chair is responsible for arranging advisors and organizing volunteers using an online platform. Contact Alison, president@mckernancommunity.org if you can help.

TERROR AT THE HAUNTED SHACK Sat. Oct. 25 and Sun. Oct. 26

McKernan Rink Shack in Gowan Park (113 St. and 78 Ave.)

5 p.m. Little ones (Tame option only)

5:30 to 9 p.m. General admission (Tame option available for meek, terror for the brave!)

Free admission! Residents of McKernan with an active membership (available free at the door) can use our new "members express" lineup for a shorter wait! Afterwards, enjoy free s'mores at our campfire and share your favorite ghost stories.

Community Contacts

PRESIDENT	Alison Stephens	president@mckernancommunity.org
VICE-PRESIDENT	Shawn Parchoma	vicepresident@mckernancommunity.org
SECRETARY	Ingrid Poulin	secretary@mckernancommunity.org
TREASURER	Rita Bakshi	treasurer@mckernancommunity.org
DIRECTORS	Rolinda Graham	director1@mckernancommunity.org
	Milap Petigara	director2@mckernancommunity.org
	BJ Serink	director3@mckernancommunity.org
	Roberta Franchuk	director4@mckernancommunity.org
PAST PRESIDENT	Phil Kloc	pastpresident@mckernancommunity.org
TRANSPORTATION	Ingrid and Tom Poulin	
HOUSING ISSUES	Housing committee	development@mckernancommunity.org
PLAYGROUP	---vacant---	
SCHOOL LIAISON	---vacant---	
SOCCER - Adult	Brad Odsen	bodsen@telusplanet.net
SOCCER - Youth	Mike Blennerhassett	belmac@belgraviaedmonton.ca
	emsasouthwest.com	
CRICKET	C. Marathalingam	780-438-0460
	www.ascacricknet.com	
SKATING RINK	---vacant---	
CASINO CHAIR	---vacant---	
HISTORIAN	Nancy Corrigan	nancycorrigan96@gmail.com
POCKET PARK	Laura Querengesser	pocketpark@mckernancommunity.org
SOUTH CAMPUS	---vacant---	

League Memberships (FREE in 2025-26)

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 link at www.mckernancommunity.org. The membership term is September 1, 2024 to August 31.

MEMBERSHIPS	Rob Hamilton	memberships@mckernancommunity.org
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McKernan Messenger

The McKernan Messenger is published ten times per year.
Advertising deadline: 1st of the month.

NEWSLETTER	Roberta Franchuk-
CONTENT	messenger@mckernancommunity.org
DISTRIBUTION	Cherie Hoyles

www.mckernancommunity.org

WEB MANAGER	Roberta Franchuk	info@mckernancommunity.org
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City of Edmonton

CITY COUNCILLOR	Michael Janz	780-496-8146
(Ward papastew)	Michael.janz@edmonton.ca	
COMMUNITY	Scott Grevlund	scott.grevlund@edmonton.ca
SERVICES		



RENT THE MCKERNAN COMMUNITY CENTRE!

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

	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.

Community event calendar

Presented by the McKernan Community League and/or other community partners.

EVENT	Location	Date/Time
Pub Night	McKernan Hall (11341-78 Ave.) (members and guests)	Sat. Oct. 18 7 to 11 p.m.
Haunted Shack	McKernan Rink Shack Gowan Park (113 St. and 78 Ave.)	Sat. Oct. 25 and Sun. Oct. 26 5 to 9 p.m.
Free Swim	Confederation Pool (11204-43 Ave.) (league membership required)	Sundays 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Looking for a new activity? Check out what's happening at the hall:
www.mckernancommunity.org/current-hall-schedule

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St. Peter's Catholic School, 74 Ave & 112 St, established in 1950. Once run with the Catholic Brotherhood, then Sisterhood, then occupied by administrative services - all gone now. A soccer field is planned and a larger housing unit on the 114th side.

Imagine a period 30 some years ago when there was no internet. Saying hello to neighbors. This neighborhood has always consisted of students, families, doctors, lawyers, accountants, tradespeople, artists, where access to the University of Alberta, Mackenzie, Mazankowski Hospitals, Kaye Clinic, etc. and the Cross Cancer Hospital, are within several blocks. Many residents and family members walked and biked to the university for many years. It's part of our 'hood'. Senior residents have been here for up to 60 or more years!

Residents are who make McKernan. It's still a beautiful day when we rise with it!

Nancy Corrigan, McKernan historian



Vacant houses attracting problems

Four vacant and poorly secured properties on University Ave. are causing headaches and concerns for residents, while the city tries to get the owner to step up and handle the issue.

The houses at 11225, 11231, 11235 and 11237 University Ave. have been vacant for months or longer, and have become significant problem properties over the summer. Squatters have broken into them, sometimes multiple times and for extended periods. In one house, a trespasser appears to have tampered with the gas line, causing a major gas leak that forced a response from multiple fire services and other emergency crews. In another of the houses, a trespasser started a fire that consumed most of the back half of the building, leaving it open to the elements and unable to be secured. Either of these events could have had tragic consequences for the people involved, or for residents nearby.

A spike in crime nearby may also be attributable to some of the people who are using the houses as a base, and some residents have reported threatening or dangerous behaviour by people entering or leaving the houses.

The city's problem property service has been working hard to try to reduce the issues. They have attempted to secure the buildings but people quickly returned to pry off the boards and access the houses again. The city may soon be forced to escalate to installing fencing or even demolishing the buildings (at a cost that will be billed back to the owner) if the owner is unwilling to ensure they are safe. Bylaws require that owners be given time to respond to problems, but this delay is extending the headache for neighbours (and presumably for city staff, police and firefighters as well).

Meanwhile, community residents are encouraged to keep an eye out for issues on the site, including trespassers. If you spot any issues, contact 311 for non-emergency issues or 911 for emergencies. Any problem property can be reported via communitypropertiesafetyteam@edmonton.ca.

See the latest news at

www.mckernancommunity.org,

or follow us on Facebook or Instagram!

Development Applications

Aug. 25 to Sept. 28, 2025

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; or in more detail at the Open Data Portal (data.edmonton.ca and search for Development Permits Map view). If you have any questions about a project, contact development@mckernancommunity.org.

11130-72 Ave.	To construct a residential use building in the form of a multi-unit backyard house (2 dwellings with garage).
11170-73 Ave.	To construct an accessory building (mutual detached garage, 11.58m x 6.10m).
11238-73 Ave.	To construct an accessory building (detached garage).
11128-75 Ave.	To construct a residential use building in the form of a 3-storey 8 dwelling multi-unit housing development.
11436-78 Ave.	To construct a residential use building in the form of a 3 dwelling row house with unenclosed front porches, basement development (NOT to be used as an additional dwelling), 2 secondary suites and balconies.

Rezoning Applications

Requested and approved planning applications (i.e. for rezoning, not development) are summarized here, along with the developer name, file number, comment on whether the application appears to comply with the District Policy (as amended on June 30, 2025) and Scona District Plan, and public hearing date, if set. These are listed at https://www.edmonton.ca/residential_neighbourhoods/neighbourhoods/planning-applications. The community league will oppose rezonings that do not meet the city's criteria.

7411 - 113 St.	Everfor Studio	DENIED Sept. 15, 2025
11204 - 75 Ave.	Everfor Studio	WITHDRAWN
11307 - 75 Ave.	Everfor Studio	WITHDRAWN
11135 - 77 Ave.	Everfor Studio	WITHDRAWN
11237 - 77 Ave.		May not comply (abuts an alley)
11255 - 78 Ave.	Everfor Studio	WITHDRAWN
11310 - 78 Ave.	Everfor Studio	WITHDRAWN
11314 - 78 Ave.	BM Homes	WITHDRAWN
11540 - 78 Ave.	Everfor Studio	WITHDRAWN
11424 - 79 Ave.	BM Homes	WITHDRAWN
11435 - 79 Ave.	Everfor Studio	Does not comply (not a corner lot) - status unclear
11539 - 80 Ave.	Everfor Studio	May not comply (abuts an alley)
11439 - 80 Ave.	Everfor Studio Ltd	WITHDRAWN

Mid-block rezonings down dramatically

As noted last month, a June 30 public hearing amended the Development Policy to remove support for mid-block rezonings to RSM. As a result, multiple rezoning requests in McKernan have now been withdrawn by their developers, according to the city's Land Development Applications Map. See the list below for a list of current rezoning applications. Hopefully this will restrict upzonings to more suitable sites: lots directly on nodes or corridors, or on corners close to transit stations or nodes/corridors.

Developer loses rezoning, councillors unimpressed

The attitude of city councillors seems to have shifted somewhat to be more discerning about rezoning applications, thanks to pushback from citizens over infill issues, and the behaviour of some developers is now finally receiving opposition. This was highlighted at a public hearing on Sept. 15, where committee members, administration and community residents who came to speak were stunned to hear that the developer, Everfor, was requesting a rezoning not to add a garage (as expected) but instead to allow for an extra suite in the building — which had already been built without permit. The building at 7411-113 St. was constructed with an extra basement unit — and the rezoning to RSM h 12.0 was asked for to “allow” this illegal unit to be retained.

This attempt to ask for forgiveness instead of permission went over poorly, with a speaker calling this a “clear violation” of the social contract with residents. Committee members asked why Everfor, who is one of the most-active developers in this part of Edmonton, hadn't asked for a rezoning before building. They also noted that they need to enforce the spirit of the process and not just the letter of the zoning bylaw, or they risk losing trust and goodwill of Edmontonians.

After discussion, the proposal was defeated 0-12 in a rare show of unity on such issues.

The developer's representative at the council hearing appeared to have been somewhat contrite about some of the other issues that they have been very unpopular with neighbours, such as turning multiunit buildings into lodging houses or aggressively pursuing midblock rezonings. He claimed that the developer “does not do microsuits” or midblock rezonings anymore, although this remains to be proven.

For an interesting glimpse into the workings of a public hearing, go to the council and committee meetings calendar at www.edmonton.ca/city_government/council-committee-meetings and click on the Sept. 15 public hearing to see the video of the meeting. This item appears at about the 8-hour mark.



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Congestion-fighting ideas needed

The Mobility Strategies unit of the City of Edmonton has been tasked to address the motion advanced by City Council on April 8, 2025 for Administration to identify interventions that will reduce or eliminate shortcutting through the Belgravia neighbourhood. This project kicked off in early September and is anticipated to continue through June 2026.

Traffic in the area was video recorded in the third week of September. Once the video is processed and traffic surveys are complete, the project team will schedule an engagement session to share a summary of the existing traffic conditions directly with neighbourhood residents and to learn more about people's experiences and concerns on neighbourhood streets.

What we need from you

It would be helpful for the Project Team to hear directly from neighbourhood residents on how they would address this challenge. These discussions will help the Project Team better understand the nuances of the neighbourhood road network and traffic patterns. So please, brainstorm and bring your ideas with you!

This engagement event is likely to occur in November. Once details are confirmed, the project team will work to share and advertise them with neighbourhood residents (through the Belgravia and McKernan Community Leagues and other channels, such as a project newsletter and website, which are currently being developed and should be rolled out in late October).

Mobility Strategies looks forward to working with the Belgravia / McKernan Communities to better understand residents' concerns and experiences, and to develop an approach to reduce shortcutting through the neighbourhood.

*Dallas Karhut, Senior Transportation Engineer
Mobility Strategies, City of Edmonton*



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FREE Membership time!

Get your Community League membership now — FREE for the membership term of September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026.

Memberships can be purchased ONLINE through the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues website (<https://efcl.org/membership-purchase/>), or contact our membership coordinator Rob Hamilton at Memberships@mckernancommunity.org.

Benefits of league membership

McKernan Community League members get a 15% discount on event rentals at McKernan Hall (see page 2)! You also get reduced rates to city recreational facilities through the Community League Wellness Program, participation in organized sports, use of skating rinks (at all leagues!), free Sunday swimming at Confederation Pool, and discounts at business such as Cloverdale Paints, House of Wheels, Yardly, Orbis Sports, and U of A Bookstore.

And most importantly, membership gives you a voice in the shaping of your community!

Free swimming

McKernan Community League members can enjoy a free swim every Sunday from 4 to 5:30 pm at Confederation Leisure Centre (11204 - 43 Avenue)! Bring your league membership card!



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