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Boyle McCauley News



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CIRCULATION 5000 • FEBRUARY-MARCH 2024

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VOL. 45 NO. 1

VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1979

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FREE

Zocalo Damaged by Fire in January

Popular café and greenhouse forced to temporarily close.

PAULA E. KIRMAN • BMC News Staff

In the early morning hours of January 4th, a fire that was started behind Zocalo spread to vehicles and the business.

"While the direct fire damage was limited to the vehicles, back storage area, back yard, and back of [the] greenhouse, there is substantial smoke damage throughout all three buildings," says Miranda Ringma, co-owner of Zocalo.

Zocalo, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in the fall of 2023, is located at 10826 95th Street. However, it is now closed until further notice. As of press time, Ringma did not know how long the closure would last, saying that "it looks like it will be at least two months and likely quite a bit longer."

The costs of the clean-up and renovations were also not yet known. "Adjusters and insurance folks are busy sorting that out. While we have decent insurance, there are always a lot of extraneous costs to be considered, and we are still absorbing this," Ringma said.

Neighbouring businesses Love Object, Violets, and the Venetian Barber Shop were also affected by the fire and were temporarily closed.

When the news about the fire reached the public, the community immediately began expressing its support. For example, on social me-



Zocalo is a popular meeting and shopping destination in McCauley. Right (top): A handwritten sign in Zocalo's front door posted in the days following the fire. Right (bottom): The back of Zocalo as seen in the afternoon of January 4th. Paula E. Kirman



dia posts pertaining to the fire, people in McCauley and beyond shared their love of Zocalo and memories of time spent there.

"We are amazed and overwhelmed by the outpouring of community support and care," says Ringma. "We have literally hundreds of messages and so many kind words. We really are awash in the love shared by our customers, friends, and com-

munity. We truly thank them all for their care."

There have been several other fires in the immediate area in the recent past. A fire broke out at the rooming house just north of Zocalo in November of 2023, which also caused some damage to the outside wall of the Italian Centre's warehouse. As well, numerous fires behind the Italian Centre Shop have occurred in the past few months.

To stay connected and to learn about ways people may be able to help, follow Zocalo on social media (@Zocalo.ca on Facebook and @ZocaloEdm on Instagram) or visit Zocalo's website: zocalo.ca. Readers can also follow the online version of this story at **Boyle McCauley News'** website (bmcnews.org) for updates.

Paula E. Kirman is the Editor of Boyle McCauley News.



Dining Out: Stadium Mini Mart

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“As we begin our 45th volume of publication, the role the paper has in building community and giving it a voice is more important than ever.

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“Public communication is an essential part of the PPI's long-term strategy to address problem properties.

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BEING A VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY

“Accessibility is collaborative and should include the voice of those it affects.

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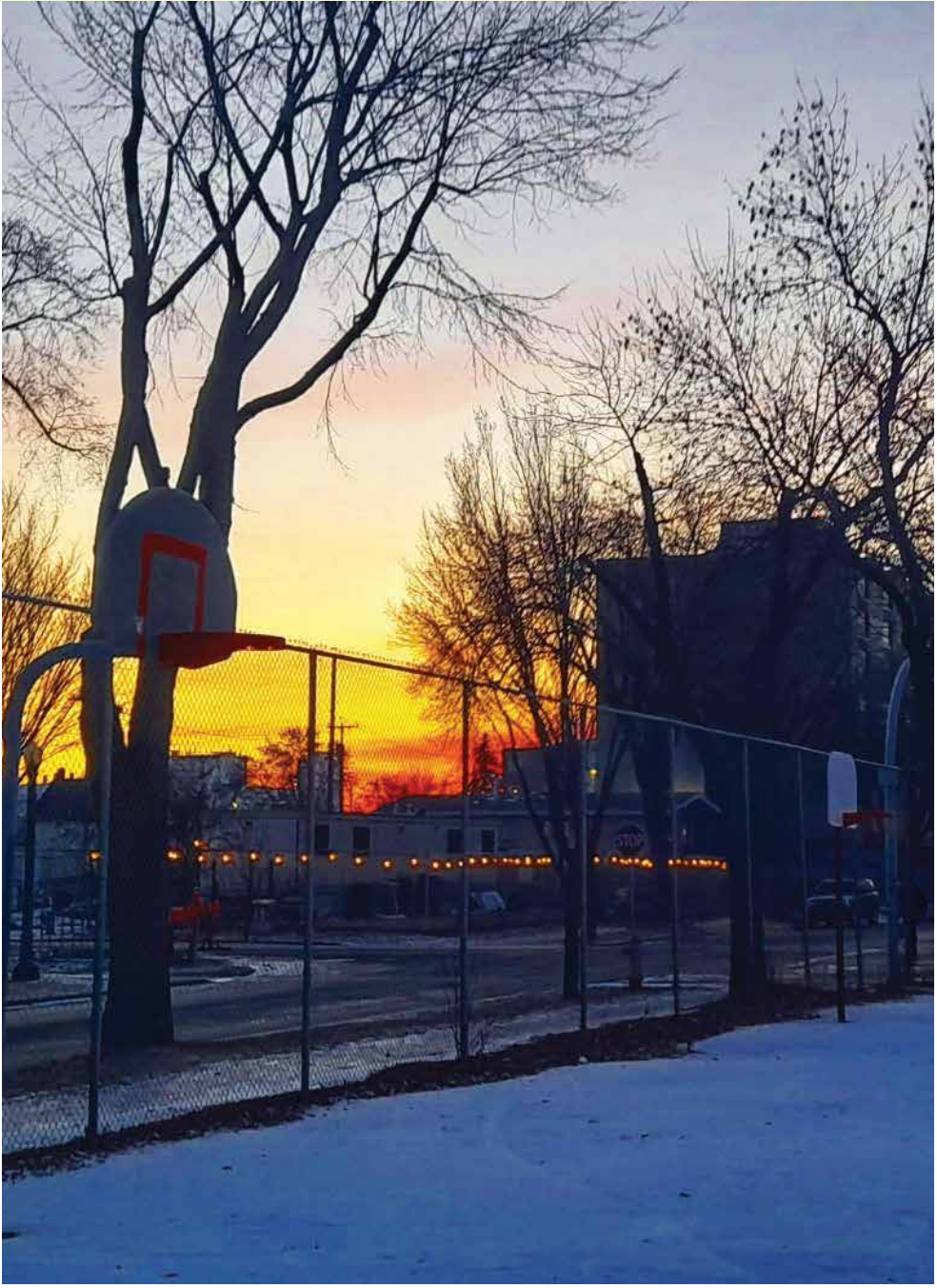


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the price of a cup of coffee!

Sunset on the Shortest Day




The sunset on December 21st, 2023 - winter solstice - as seen from the McCauley Rink. Winter solstice is the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. Leif Gregersen

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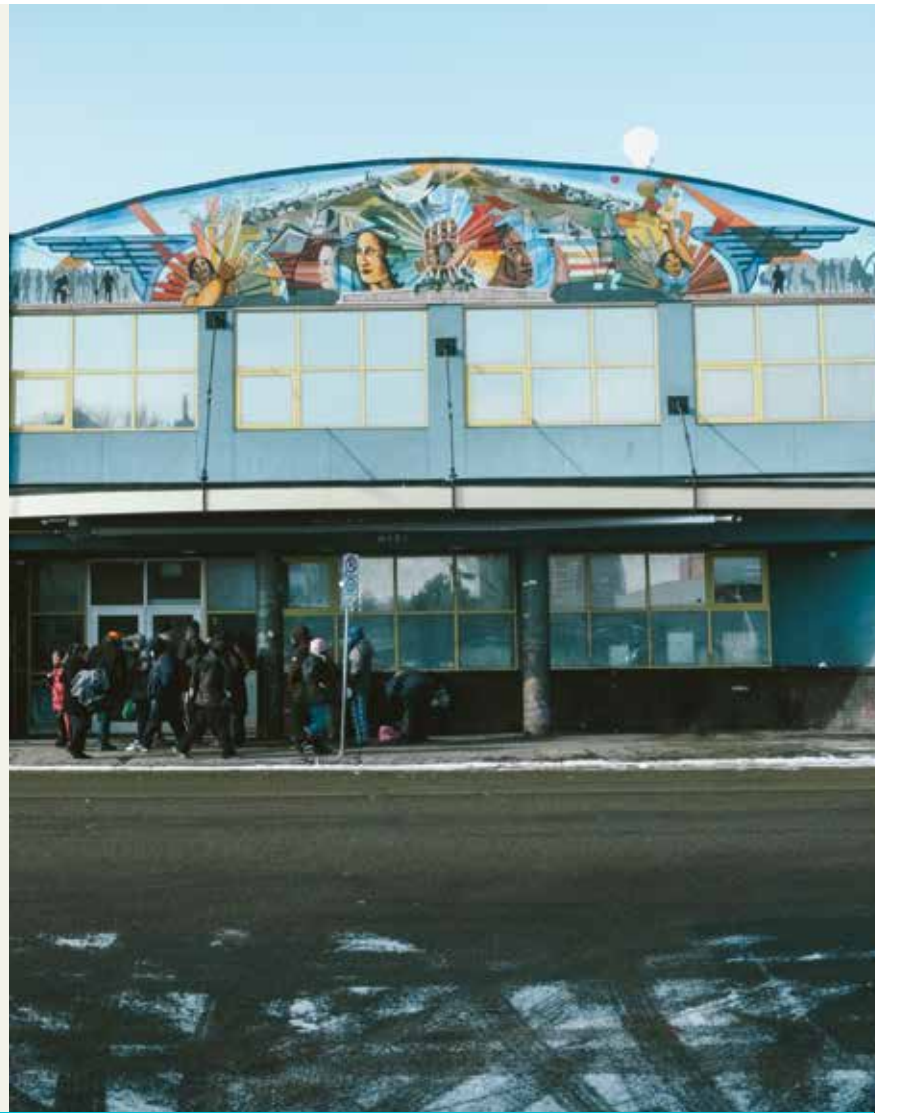
Our Community Space is a fundamental part of our operations and presence in downtown Edmonton.

This is where we offer basic necessities like meals, fresh clothes, and showers. In addition, individuals experiencing houselessness can get connected to more supports like mental health services, housing support, financial services, and more.

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Spreading the News



PAULA E. KIRMAN • BMC News Staff

MCCAULEY MUSINGS

I recently had the opportunity to introduce **Boyle McCauley News** to people who had either never heard of the paper (if you can believe it!) or had perhaps seen a copy in print or online, but were not overly familiar with the publication.

In every case, I emphasize the fact that **Boyle McCauley News** exists because of the dedication of its volunteers who write, photograph, proof-read, deliver, sit on the board, and so much more.

I have the chance to explain how the paper helps to build community by getting news and information out there that is often overlooked by other media, such as many of the

great events that happen here and local folks making a difference in the community.

I also talk about how the paper presents a different perspective in general about the neighbourhoods of McCauley and Boyle Street. While there are important social issues in the area that need to be addressed, the positive aspects of life here should not be ignored. I can't recall how many times someone has told me they had no idea about all of the cool things that happen here until they started following the paper.

Boyle McCauley News gives people the chance to discuss issues and concerns from a first-person point of view. Many of these people would otherwise not have the opportunity to access a media platform.

As we begin our 45th volume of publication, the role the paper has in building community and giving it a voice is more important than ever. We're doing our part in keeping independent, community-based journalism alive.

Boyle McCauley News

Boyle McCauley News is a non-profit newspaper published six times yearly by the Boyle Street McCauley Community Newspaper Society. The Society is made up of the people who live and work in the Boyle Street and McCauley neighbourhoods.

Opinions expressed in the newspaper are not necessarily those of the Board of Directors. Any submissions may be subject to editing for length and suitability.

Advertisements from political parties and politicians are paid for. **Boyle McCauley News** does not support or endorse any political party or viewpoint.

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Our goal is to report issues fairly and provide a variety of perspectives on issues affecting this community. The opinions expressed in Boyle McCauley News are those of the people named as the authors of the articles, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Board, staff, or Editorial Committee of the paper.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

PROOFREADERS

Glen Argan, Rosalie Gelderman,
Colleen Chapman

EDITOR'S NOTES

Happy new year! Welcome to our February-March 2024 edition, which marks the first issue of Volume 45 of the paper. A lot has changed in Boyle Street and McCauley - and in the world of publishing - since 1979. The print edition is still here, along with a robust website, and a presence on a much newer phenomenon called social media.

Speaking of our web and socials, you can find exclusive news and content published regularly at bmcnews.org. We are always publishing new content between print editions. If history is what you're into, there is also a full, searchable archive of all of our past editions.

OUR NEXT ISSUE. . .

Volume 45, Issue 2 will be published April 1st, 2024. Articles and photos concerning community news, events, and opinions are welcome. We also accept submissions of poetry and cartoons. Deadline: March 12th, 2024. Send submissions to: editor@bmcnews.org. Articles should be 400 words or less and accompanied by photographs (JPG, in high resolution) whenever possible.

At our website you can also subscribe to our free e-newsletter which is published to announce the new issue. We occasionally also publish an extra edition if we have a lot of new stories and photos on our website.

On the social media side of things, our content is still unfortunately blocked to Canadian users at our Facebook and Instagram. However, we're still posting on X (formerly Twitter) at [@bmcnews](https://twitter.com/bmcnews).

If you have any questions or comments, or would like to find out about current volunteer opportunities, my email inbox is always open: editor@bmcnews.org. Enjoy the issue - see you in the spring!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do you want to respond to something that you read in these pages or that is going on in the community? Share your thoughts with a Letter to the Editor. Send your letters to editor@bmcnews.org. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and may be edited for length or clarity. Publication is not guaranteed. The deadline for letters for our next print issue is March 12th, 2024.

BOYLE STREET AND MCCAULEY CRIME & SAFETY RESOURCES

- **24/7 Crisis Diversion:** Call #211 + press 3 when you see a person in distress
- **Needle Debris:** public property: 311
- **Needle Debris:** free clean-up on private and public property:
Boyle Street Ventures: (780) 426-0500
- **Sharps Containers:** free sharps containers:
Radius 780-422-7333 or Streetworks 780-424-4106
- **Litter/Graffiti:** 311 or capitalcitycleanup@edmonton.ca
- **Problem Properties:** To report a problem property call 311, contact 311 online or use the confidential reporting form at edmonton.ca/problemproperties
- **To report an unsecured vacant property:**
Call 311 or email: communitypropertysafetyteam@edmonton.ca
- **EPS Healthy Streets Operation Centre (HSOC)** teams are regularly and proactively patrolling several downtown neighbourhoods to combat crime and disorder. Citizens are encouraged to speak with officers in person when they are available.
- **EPS Non-Emergency:** (780) 423-4567
- **EPS Non-Emergency mobile access:** #377
- **EPS Emergency:** 911
- **EPS Website:** edmontonpolice.ca
- **EPS Crime Prevention:** Facebook [@epscrimeprevention](https://www.facebook.com/epscrimeprevention)
- **Crime Stoppers:** 1-800-222-8477
- **Report Gang Activity:** (780) 414-GANG (4264)
- **Stay informed & get involved:** safermccauley.ca and on Facebook [@safermccauley](https://www.facebook.com/safermccauley)

MLA UPDATE

Affordable Housing for All

JANIS IRWIN

Dear friends,

At the time of writing this, temperatures here in Edmonton and across Alberta are plummeting and nearing record lows. I hope you're all doing your best to stay safe and warm.

I've been hearing from so many of you lately that as times get tougher and temperatures drop, the safety and well-being of our unhoused neighbours are at the top of your minds. I want you to know that this is true for me too. And I know that we have a long way to go and a lot of work to do to meet the needs of everyone in our community. We must ensure that we are all able to live safely, that we are all treated with dignity and respect, and that we all have access to community care and support.

When I wrote to you back in December, I noted that I would be introducing a private member's bill in support of affordable housing. I'm proud to share that at the beginning of December, I did get to introduce this bill: Bill 205, the Housing Statutes (Housing Security) Amendment Act 2023. This bill includes a proposed four-year cap on rent increases in Alberta, and a requirement for the provincial government to report to Albertans on how much affordable housing is being built each year. I know that this bill, if passed, won't solve the housing crisis in our province - this will take a multi-pronged, truly cooperative and collaborative approach. But

I am confident that it will offer relief as we work towards permanent solutions.

This is hard work, but it's work that we must do - and we'll do it together. We'll keep pushing to build the just, safe, and forward-thinking society that we all deserve. As I said in my last letter, it's knowing that we're together in this that makes me prouder than ever to be your MLA.

In addition to fighting for affordable housing for all, we'll keep fighting for everything we need to build a strong, resilient province. We'll keep fighting to protect your hard-earned pensions, to support renewable energy, to rebuild and strengthen our public healthcare system, and to ensure that our kids receive the education that they need and deserve.

I know that we have lots more work to do together and, as always, I want to hear from you. Please reach out, and know that I'm here to listen and to work alongside you as we build a better province for folks in Boyle Street, McCauley, and in communities all across Alberta.

Take good care of yourselves and each other.

*Janis Irwin, MLA for
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood*

*Email:
Edmonton.Highlands
Norwood@assembly.ab.ca*

Phone: 780-414-0682

HOTC AGM Invitation

Welcome to the new year, friends! Heart of the City's 20th anniversary year has finally arrived!

We will be hosting our Annual General Meeting at Culina McCauley (10821 95th Street) on Monday, February 26th at 6 p.m.

This will be a family-friendly event with refreshments provided. We are so excited to share with you all of our

updates and plans for the upcoming festival.

We will be updating our socials with more information regarding the AGM as the day approaches. You can follow us at @heartcityfest on Facebook and Instagram.

In the meantime, stay warm!

Information provided by Heart of the City.

NEW TO BOYLE STREET OR MCCAULEY?

Do You Have Your Stadium Parking Permit?

Call 311 or email RestrictedParkingPermits@edmonton.ca for annual Stadium parking permits, or ParkingAssets@edmonton.ca for temporary parking permits. Or, visit edmonton.ca and search "parking permits" to apply online. Save yourself, and your guests, the pain of a very expensive parking ticket and possibility of being towed.

Get the paper...in your email!

Sign up to our email newsletter and get the latest on your community in your inbox.

bmcnews.org/newsletter

Where to Find Boyle McCauley News

Boyle McCauley News is delivered by our volunteer Block Carriers (in McCauley) and Apartment Ambassadors/Condo Connectors (in Boyle Street) to approximately 2500 homes in the area.

If you do not receive the paper at your home, there are numerous places where you can pick up a copy:

NEWSPAPER BOX LOCATIONS

10844 95 Street (near Sorrentino's)
86 Street & Jasper Avenue (by Riverside Towers)
Boyle Street Plaza (by main entrance)
97 Street & 103 Avenue (near Farmers Market)
97 Street & 107 Avenue (near Lucky Supermarket)

BUSINESSES

We also drop off copies at a number of businesses in and around the area, including:

Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St.)	Tony's Pizza (9605 111 Ave.)
Felice Cafe (10930 84 St.)	Italian Centre (10878 95 St.)
Panini's (8544 Jasper Ave.)	Zocalo (10826 95 St.)
The Moth (9449 Jasper Ave.)	Paper Birch Books (10825 95 St.)
Lucky Supermarket (10725 97 St.)	Van Loc (10648 98 St.)

VOLUNTEER TO DELIVER THE PAPER

Would you like to volunteer to help deliver the paper to your block or building?

Contact editor@bmcnews.org for more information.

The Mustard Seed Central Opens in McCauley

KATE QUINN

The Mustard Seed and Radius Community Health and Healing received a provincial grant in March of 2023 to provide a unique 24/7 program in a provincially-owned building at 9526 106 Avenue, previously operated by Operation Friendship Seniors Society.

The Mustard Seed Central, which opened in December, is intended to be a stepping stone to bring those who are unhoused into appropriate housing. A ratio of 1 staff per 8 guests increases successful transitions. Individuals experiencing health issues are supported by nurses and social workers through the main floor's "Respite to Recovery Program."

This required a rezoning application. City Council met on November 6, 2023. Six people spoke against the rezoning application, including McCauley residents and representatives from Chinatown associations. After a lengthy, emotional discussion, Councillor Anne Stevenson crafted a motion that passed: "Any Development Permit for Supportive Housing for the purpose of providing temporary accommodation for persons requiring immediate shelter and assistance shall be temporary and



The Mustard Seed Central. Paula E. Kirman

shall expire on July 1, 2025."

McCauley resident Phil O'Hara spoke against the rezoning. I invited him to comment. He said, "With the opening of the Centre, 88 percent of all the permanent emergency shelter beds in Edmonton are in McCauley. That's clearly unfair to the residents and

businesses in McCauley as well as to the people who use the shelters. In 2019, former *Edmonton Journal* columnist Elise Stolte characterized the concentration of emergency shelters in McCauley as a 'shelter ghetto'."

He continued, "Given our experience with encampments and the increas-

ing need for affordable housing, we desperately need to rethink the operation and location of emergency shelters. Of course, the best solution is to ensure that everyone has access to safe and affordable housing that doesn't involve staying in an emergency shelter."

I met with Megan Schuring, the Community Engagement Specialist for The Mustard Seed, to learn how things are unfolding since The Mustard Seed Central opened in December.

The 40-year-old building came with challenges. There is no elevator, so people with mobility limitations cannot easily access the second and third floors.

The third floor is for women and has a secure entrance. The narrow rooms have built-in bunk beds. Although a best practice is for women to have a room of their own, this isn't possible.

It's encouraging that couples feel comfortable accessing the 2nd floor cots, removing one barrier for those who don't want to be separated. People who use drugs walk to the safe consumption site at Radius.

It's early days for this new program. Megan said, "Our commitment is to provide quarterly updates to business and community associations."

Kate lives in McCauley.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Positive Look at Transit

Ian, I loved your article about the Valley Line in the December 2023-January 2024 issue of *Boyle McCauley News* ["Accessibility on the Valley Line"].

Public transit has been beaten up so badly in the news lately, and I don't think most of the reports are all that accurate. (Well, the more-than-a-few hiccups in the Valley Line construction were a bit much, but I have read that similar things happened around

the world when cities were establishing train lines.) Does the Valley Line have a station near the place where you live? Hope so.

-Anita Jenkins

Ian Young responds:

Yes, I do have the Quarters stop near me. It is so convenient and accessible. The ride is very smooth and quiet. It opens a lot of options for me to access things.

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Happy New Year from the McCauley Community League!

With the new year comes brand new opportunities.

• HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING FOR A VALUABLE WAY TO SHARE YOUR TIME AND TALENTS WITH THE COMMUNITY?

Do you own a business or live in McCauley? The McCauley Community League is looking for a few people to join our volunteer board of directors. No experience is necessary. We hold meetings on the third Thursday of every month and host four events throughout the year.

• IF YOU DON'T LIVE IN MCCAULEY, BUT WOULD LIKE TO SHARE YOUR SKILLS AND TALENTS:

Please consider joining our building committee as we strive to break ground on a new pavilion located at the McCauley Rink.

The building committee is made up of residents, board members, and other interested parties.

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league@mccauleycl.com

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DINING OUT

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ALAN SCHIETZSCH

For the last 10 years, Boyle Street and McCauley residents have been used to grabbing quick snacks, lottery tickets, and drinks from the Mini Mart on the southeast corner of 107A Avenue and 95th Street.

Things changed in June, when owner Sammy Teki opened the new food counter inside his family's convenience store. They had the vision to leverage what had been a storage space into a brand new kitchen, with a take-out counter in front serving pizza, donairs, fried chicken, poutine, samosas, and ice cream.

When they opened in summer, the first thing I went there for was the ice cream. There are many flavours of hard ice cream, as well as soft serve. When the heat ended in fall, I enjoyed the fried chicken, which was well cooked and quite crispy. So I asked about it and found that they marinate the chicken overnight in eight dif-



Stadium Mini Mart owner Sammy Teki (right) with Teklu Alazar, who staffs the food counter most evenings. Alan Schietzsch

ferent spices before preparing it fresh each day.

More recently my partner and I returned to try the samosas and the chicken shawarma and beef (combo) donair. The large mixed donair contained both chicken shawarma and spiced beef, as well as your choice of sweet or garlic sauce. We chose the garlic sauce which thankfully was mild instead of overpowering as many are.

The massive donair roll was made before my eyes as they sliced homemade marinated chicken shawarma from the grilling skewer, placing the meat on the

hot grill until slightly crispy on the edges, with a candied Turkish spice flavour. I enjoyed the caramelized BBQ-like grilled texture, while my partner prefers more rare meats, so next time she might ask to have it grilled a little less. The beef was nicely spiced, and with the onion and tomato it definitely overflowed the pita bread - the one large donair was enough for two of us!

Next we had the samosas, which were beautifully seasoned, and full of carrots, potato, peas, and corn. The vegetable filling is wrapped in pastry, then deep fried into a warm triangular snack.

There are usually three kinds of pizza, with pepperoni, Hawaiian, and donair meat being the most popular flavours. They're the regular crust, not thin or light as the Italian style, or as thick or heavy as the deep dish style.

I often see visitors enjoying a hot, cheesy poutine as a nice meal to warm up while sitting along the window counter, as it's perfect in the cold weather.

Over the 10 years the Tekis have operated this unique space, I've seen the family grow to include six children, with ages up to thirteen. The Teki family keeps the space safe by having cameras inside and outside that are continuously monitored, and because of a mutually respectful relationship with unhoused neighbours, there's never a problem.

The store is a neighbourhood icon, as the Teki family takes pride in serving everyone in the community, from rich to poor, young to old. For anyone who hasn't dropped by, owner Sammy Teki says to come in and try it. He would be happy to know the preferences of and receive input from community members. Says Sammy, everyone is welcome here and "it's part of our humanity to contribute to society."

Alan lives in McCauley. He is the Chair of the paper's Board of Directors.

Wagon Ride at Winter in Little Italy



A horse-drawn wagon makes its way out of Giovanni Caboto Park during Winter in Little Italy on December 10th. Winter in Little Italy also took place on December 17th. In addition to wagon rides, the event featured free hot chocolate (at Culina McCauley on December 10th, and on December 17th at Zocalo) and roasted chestnuts for sale by Amici Italiani as a fundraiser towards their summer festival. Winter in Little Italy was organized by the Viva Italia District Association (VIDA). Paula E. Kirman

A Visit From Santa at Hull Block



Christmas at Hull Block on December 16th featured food, crafts, window art, and a visit from Santa, seen here with Sandy Pon of the Chinatown Transformation Collaborative Society (CTC). As well, volunteers filled and distributed 1,000 bagged lunches to seniors, families with kids, and social agencies in the Chinatown area. The event was organized by the CTC. Paula E. Kirman

John Gee: 2023 Spotowski Award Recipient

A supporter of the paper since 1993.

ANITA JENKINS

John Gee received the Garry Spotowski Volunteer Appreciation Award at the annual general meeting of the Boyle Street McCauley Community Newspaper Society on November 13th, 2023. The Spotowski Award recognizes and honours long-term volunteers who have made invaluable contributions to the paper and the community.

In presenting the award, *Boyle McCauley News*' Editor Paula Kirman said, "John Gee has volunteered for the paper much longer than any staff members have been around," noting that John has been a block carrier for over 20 years, and for the past six years served as the paper's treasurer.

John has lived in McCauley since 1993, and he began volunteering for the paper then. "Doing paste-up," he says, "which was a step in producing a newspaper in those days. Before that I had spent a number of years working for *Alberta Report* magazine doing several different jobs including production, so I had applicable skills."

John was the bookkeeper and/or



John Gee (left) accepts the Garry Spotowski Volunteer Appreciation Award from Alan Schietzsch, chair of the Board of Directors of the Boyle Street McCauley Community Newspaper Society. Paula E. Kirman

treasurer for the paper in the 1990s and was treasurer again in 2011-2013 before taking on the most recent six-year term. "I enjoy accounting/bookkeeping," he says, "which I also do for the McCauley Community League, Inn Roads

Housing Co-operative, the Greater Edmonton Alliance, and the Alberta Party, as well as in my day job." (John is ordained as a deacon in the Anglican Church and is the secretary-treasurer of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton.)

The current bookkeeper for *Boyle McCauley News*, Rosalie Gelderman, really appreciates working with someone with such excellent accounting skills. "His attention to detail makes my job easy," she says.

John adds, "It was especially rewarding that I was able to play a role in the survival of the paper during COVID, when finances were precarious. I think it is a special institution that is the envy of other communities in the city. I also enjoy doing delivery for the exercise and to see what is happening in the neighbourhood."

The Spotowski Award is presented to volunteers who have given exceptional service to the *Boyle McCauley News*. It is not awarded every year. The first recipients have been volunteers since nearly the beginning of the paper: Kate Quinn, Rosalie Gelderman, Bob McKeon, Larry Brockman, John Kolkman, Garry Garrison, and Phil O'Hara. For details, go to the Awards section of the *Boyle McCauley News* website (bmcnews.org).

Anita Jenkins is a retired writer and editor who lives in Boyle Street.

Keep in Touch with Edmonton's Problem Property Initiative

Edmontonians can now access several resources to stay informed about how the City's Problem Property Initiative (PPI) and its partners are addressing problem properties.

An electronic newsletter - *The Problem Property Initiative News* - has been launched and is available for anyone interested to subscribe to get news delivered directly to their email inbox. Residents can sign up by visiting edmonton.ca/ProblemProperties.

The PPI has also developed a data dashboard that uses charts, graphs, and maps to display details about the initiative's performance. The PPI dashboard will provide residents with such information as the numbers of problem property files opened, inspections conducted, and days to close a file. This resource will also soon be found at edmonton.ca/ProblemProperties.

These new resources add to several that already exist, including an increasingly informative and user-friendly web page, a confidential problem property

reporting form, a PPI booklet, and a printable one sheet.

Through regular public communication, the PPI aims to build awareness of its work and strengthen relationships with residents affected by problem properties. These two new communication resources increase the ways that Edmontonians can keep in touch with the PPI.

Public communication is an essential part of the PPI's long-term strategy to address problem properties. Since beginning to implement the strategy in late 2022, the PPI has:

- interacted with 4,891 people from 225 neighbourhoods and 62 stakeholder groups
- participated in 28 stakeholder meetings or neighbourhood events
- hosted 3 Meet & Greets with 157 community members from 26 neighbourhoods
- delivered 17 presentations
- surveyed 3,994 community members

- sent 8 newsletters
- published 18 news articles or blogs
- activated 20 social media posts, with over 72,000 views
- received 12,329 web page visits
- mailed information to 32,464 addresses
- and distributed 600 PPI booklets

Resources and Contacts

- To learn more about the Problem Property Initiative, visit edmonton.ca/ProblemProperties.
- To report a problem property call 311, contact 311 online or use the confidential reporting form at edmonton.ca/ProblemProperties.
- To report an unsecured vacant property call 311 or email communitypropertiesafetyteam@edmonton.ca.
- For general inquiries or to engage directly with the Problem Property Initiative, email problemproperties@edmonton.ca.


Information provided by the City of Edmonton.

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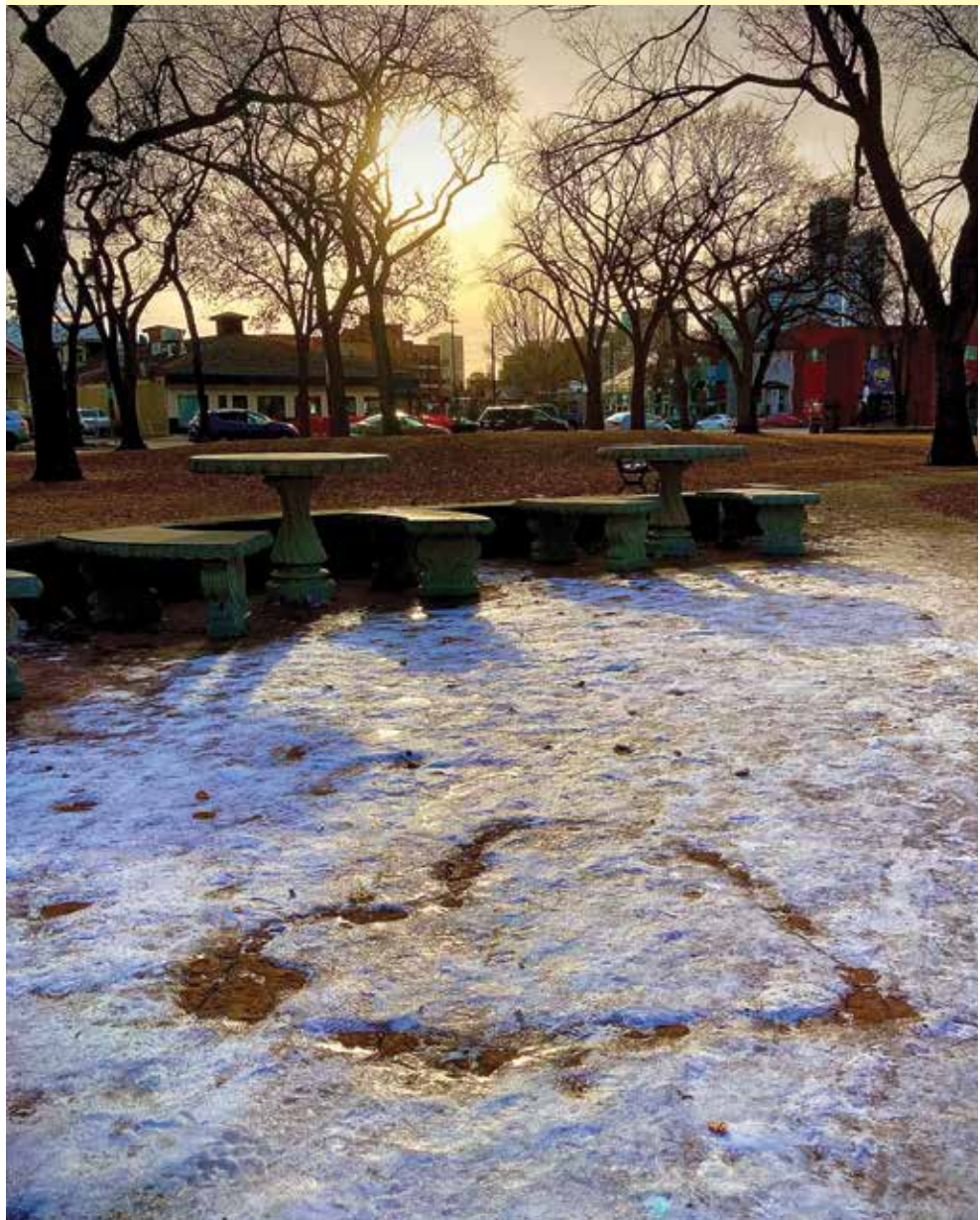
ANNE STEVENSON

Serving Ward O-day'min

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780-496-8333

  @edmontonanne
  /edmontonanne

A Heart in the Heart of the City



A heart in the snow at Giovanni Caboto Park in late December of 2023. Alan Schietzsch



Boyle Street Neighbourhood Renewal

Construction is coming to Boyle Street's sidewalks and public spaces this spring!

FEB 07

Preparing for Construction | Information Event
Wednesday, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. (Drop-in)
St. Teresa of Calcutta School, 9008 105A Avenue



ADVISE

McCauley Neighbourhood Renewal

Neighbourhood Renewal construction in McCauley is set to resume this spring. Watch your mailboxes for information on timing or visit edmonton.ca/BuildingBoyleStreetandMcCauley to sign up for project updates.

Learn more at edmonton.ca/BuildingBoyleStreetandMcCauley or call 311.



**SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY**



EDMONTON INTERCULTURAL CENTRE

Izwi Lethu Arts Society

Harmonizing cultures and fostering growth in Edmonton.

The Edmonton Intercultural Centre (EIC) is a community full of love, caring, and support. In this and future articles, we will inform readers of the non-profit organizations operating in the EIC facility in order to bring light to their many good deeds.

In a vibrant initiative aimed at addressing the unique needs and challenges faced by the youth community in Edmonton, the Izwi Lethu Arts Society has emerged as a powerful force for cultural exploration and skill development. The name "Izwi Lethu," meaning "our voice" in Zulu, aptly captures the essence of this community-driven project that resonates with diverse voices.

The project responds directly to the pressing need for educational opportunities that empower those members of the McCauley community who come from a variety of cultural backgrounds. Izwi Lethu Arts Society invites children and individuals from all walks of life to immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of African music, theatre, and visual arts. This inclusive approach not only hones participants' artistic abilities, but also fosters cross-cultural understanding, creating a melting pot of creativity and diversity.

Guiding this cultural exploration is Clayton Pasi Gunguwo,

originally from Zimbabwe and a Canadian resident for over two decades. Alongside him are local associate artists from around the globe, forming a collective that transcends borders and barriers. This dynamic team provides participants with a comprehensive learning experience. Participants in the project will develop a wide range of skills which will foster their personal and professional growth.

The Izwi Lethu Arts Society is more than a creative space: it is a community hub where voices from different cultures harmonize to create something beautiful. Through this initiative the youth in Edmonton are not just learning about traditional rhythms and arts, but also gain a deeper understanding of one another. The Society's commitment to cultural exchange and skill development makes it a beacon of unity and growth in the heart of Edmonton. Izwi Lethu: where diverse voices come together to create a symphony of shared experiences.

Classes are every Friday from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. For more information email pasigunguwo@gmail.com or call 780-802-2289.

Information provided by the Edmonton Intercultural Centre, which is located at 9538 107 Avenue.

Being a Voice for the Community

IAN YOUNG

ABILITY AND COMMUNITY

"Believe you can and you're halfway there." - Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), 26th president of the United States.

Greetings for 2024 and welcome to my first article of the year. My column is titled "Ability and Community" for a reason. I enjoy my community and want everyone to enjoy it to their ability.

Accessibility is collaborative and should include the voice of those it affects. Statistics Canada's most recently released public data from 2022 showed that 27% of Canadians aged 15 years and over (8 million people) have one or more disabilities that limit their daily life activities. So, chances are we all know someone in this category, or are in the category ourselves.

Awareness is relevant, and action is key. Some disabilities are recognizable and some are not. Some are born with a disability and some acquire it.

Disability understanding and knowledge is a community, civic, provincial, and federal concern and issue. Thankfully, our community has great support from all levels.

We have an agency near the area called Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD). You can look VAD up online at vadsociety.ca. VAD is located at the Hys Centre (11010 101 Street) and is a great source of information on many issues concerning the disability community. You can subscribe free to VAD's monthly publication The Voice via the website. To access VAD's services, visit the website, or call or e-mail to arrange an appointment: 780-488-9088 or vad@vadsociety.ca.

VAD often looks for volunteers of any ability to be involved in fundraising, be a board member, or to serve in other roles. If you would like further information on anything, contact VAD or me at ianyoung.ca. And remember: together we hold the power!

Ian is a columnist with the paper. He lives in the area.



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Community Classifieds

NEIGHBOURHOOD RESIDENTS GET FREE CLASSIFIED ADS! EMAIL FIVE LINES OR LESS TO EDITOR@BMCNEWS.ORG
WE FIT AS MANY ADS HERE AS WE CAN. FOR MORE CLASSIFIEDS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT BMCNEWS.ORG

CHURCH AND AGENCY SERVICES

ANSGAR DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
9554 - 108A Avenue
Pastor Lasse Hultberg
Sunday Service in English: 10:30 a.M.
Join us for worship and fellowship. Pastoral services available on request.
Tel: 780-422-8777

BISSELL CENTRE
780-423-2285 x 111 (General Inquiries)
Community Space: Closed to support operations at the Edmonton Convention Centre.
Bissell Centre Early Childhood Development Program
9331-105 Avenue Edmonton Alberta T5H 4E4
780-429-4126
Operating Hours: Monday to Friday full-time care 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Lunch provided by parents; centre provides a.m. and p.m. snacks
FREE Drop-in/respite spaces available Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Spaces are limited, please call ahead to reserve a space for your child.

RADIUS COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HEALING (Formerly Boyle McCauley Health Centre)
10628 – 96 Street
Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Dental: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Streetworks during clinic hours.

INNER CITY PASTORAL MINISTRY
10527-96 St. NW
(780) 424-7652
Pastor Quinn Strikwerda
Pastoral Assistant: Jim Gurnett
Sunday Service: 9:15 a.m.
Take-away snack bags Sunday at 10 a.m.
Visits and other pastoral services on request.
Contact us for information about conversation groups, Bible study, and individual support at
info@icpmedmonton.ca or (780) 424-7652

THE ROCK OUTREACH
11004 – 96 Street NW
Phone (780) 426-1122
Breakfasts: Tuesday to Thursday 7-9 a.m.
Kids Club: Fourth Monday of the Month

THE SALVATION ARMY
Edmonton Centre of Hope
12520 140 Avenue
(780) 244-2962
Transitional Housing, Addictions Recovery, Stabilization, and Supported Housing.
Transitional Housing for Downtown
9304 103A Avenue
(780) 428-4405
For more information: www.salvationarmyedmonton.org

THE MUSTARD SEED
10635 – 96 Street
(780) 426-5600
The Mustard Seed Church Food Bank Depot is open Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The drop-in is permanently closed. For more information, call The Mustard Seed at (780) 426-5600 or visit: www.theseed.ca

HOPE MISSION
9908 106 Avenue
(780) 422-2018
HOPE MISSION MEALS:
Monday - Friday
Breakfast 7:30 - 8:15 a.m.
Lunch 12:00 - 12:45 p.m.

Supper 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.
Weekends & Holidays
Brunch 10:45 am - 11:30 a.m.
Supper 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.

HOPE MISSION SHELTER:
Men, Women, Youth
Doors open 8:30 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

HOPE MISSION COMMUNITY CHURCH:
Sunday: 2:00 p.m. Hope Mission Centre - 9908 106 Avenue
7:00 p.m. Herb Jamieson Centre - 10014 105A Avenue

HOPE MISSION HEALTH CLINIC:
Hope Mission Health Centre
Family Doctor Monday to Friday
Walk-in: 9:00-3:00 p.m.
Psychiatrist Monday to Friday
by Appointment only - call 780-422-2018 Ext. 278

NICOTINE ANONYMOUS
RICK (780) 474-5593
GWYNN (780) 443-3020
Support for smokers who are trying to quit.
Call Nicotine Anonymous.

SACRED HEART CHURCH OF THE FIRST PEOPLES
Address: 10821-96 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 2J8, and Tel: (780) 422-3052.
Daily Mass:
Monday to Thursday and Saturday: 9 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples.
Friday evening at 7 p.m. Holy Mass and Adoration
Sunday Masses:
Sunday: 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples. All are welcome.
Monthly Baptism preparation class is available to prepare parents for their child's Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmations. Please call the office to register their names. For more information, please view our weekly bulletin, our webpage, and our Sacred Heart Facebook.

THE LEARNING CENTRE LITERACY ASSOCIATION is seeking volunteer tutors to help adults develop reading, writing and/or math skills. Volunteers participate in group learning, tutor one-to-one, or assist drop-in learners. Skills and Experience: High school level reading, writing, and/or math skills. Openness to tutor and learn with adults with various life experiences, including living with homelessness. For more information: <https://tlcla.org/get-involved-3/>
Call: 780-429-0675

NETWORKS ACTIVITY CENTRE
780-474-3363, EXT. 302. Volunteer! JOIN OUR TEAM! Networks Activity Centre provides adults with brain injury a program that promotes an active lifestyle through opportunities for social interaction, physical activity, and community involvement. Volunteering with Networks Activity Centre is a wonderful way to enrich your life and touch the lives of those we serve. If you are interested in joining our volunteer team please call 780-474-3363 ext. 302.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME TO JOIN MCCAULEY CLUB.
Kids from age 6 to 17 are invited to join after-school programs that run from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri., & from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Thurs. Programs include arts & culture, physical activity, health & nutrition, academic support, life skills, and leadership. Drop in at 9425 109A Ave. or call (780) 822-2549 for details. Offered free of charge .

P.A.L.S. PROJECT ADULT LITERACY SOCIETY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS
Work with adult students in the ESL - English as a Second Language program. Training, materials, and supplies provided. Call (780) 424-5514 for more information.

BUILDING BRIDGES
Building Bridges All Nations First Nations Fusion Church Services Sundays, 3 to 6 p.m. at St. Faith's Anglican Church, 11725-93 Street.

BOYLE STREET PLAZA/YMCA FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE WEEKLY COLLECTIVE KITCHEN CLASSES
Tues. 1-3 p.m.
Wed. 10 a.m.-noon
Thurs. 10 a.m.-noon
Fri.: 10 a.m.-noon
Cost \$4/portion
U/G Parking \$1/hr up to a maximum of four hours - access on 104 Avenue between 95 Street and 96 Street
For information and registration call 780-426-9265

CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAMS
YMCA Boyle Street Plaza offers Sportball every Saturday! Visit bit.ly/sportballymca for more information and to register.

DROP-IN GYM
YMCA Boyle Street Plaza
9538-103A Avenue
Drop-In Fee: \$6
Badminton (ages 16+): Sundays: 1:30-4:30 p.m.
Fridays: 8:15-11:15 p.m.
Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.
Pickleball (ages 16+):
Sundays: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Wednesdays: 1-3 p.m.
Fridays: 5-8 p.m.
For information call: 780-426-9265

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

FREE GUITAR LESSONS
Tuesdays at 8 p.m. with Steven Johnson. Location: Boys and Girls Club (9425 109A Avenue). Bring your own guitar. Sponsored by the McCauley Community League.

DIRTY CARS NO MORE
Dirty car or filthy work truck? NINJATEC DETAILING is my small business and I can detail your vehicles either at home in the Boyle Street/McCauley area or out of my garage in the west end. Prices are about half of what you'd pay at those "other" shops, and I'm a lot more picky and thorough than they are because I do it the old fashioned hotrod way...BY HAND! (780) 566-2871
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Fortitude Plumbing can attend to your plumbing needs. We offer a furnace and hot water tank maintenance program. Contact us at 780-200-8546 or 780-914-1381. Visit us at www.fortplumb.com. Email us at fortplumb@gmail.com.

BOYLE STREET AND MCCAULEY RESIDENTS GET FREE CLASSIFIED ADS!

Email five lines or less to editor@bmcnews.org



Drop-In Soccer
Thursdays 1-3 p.m.
YMCA Boyle Plaza (9538 103A Ave.)
Have some fun playing soccer with your neighbours! We warm up with some stretches, do a few foot-control drills, then we set up a scrimmage game or two. It's all for fun, friends, and exercise! All experience levels welcome. Snacks and cold drinks provided.

Neighbourhood Asset Mapping
Stay tuned for your opportunity to participate in a neighbourhood asset mapping process. Details are still being ironed out. Check the Boyle McCauley News website and look for posters in local businesses for further information!

WE CAN Food Co-operative
Purchase inexpensive meat and produce for pickup once per month at McCauley Apartments (9541-108A Ave.). Visit wecanfood.com or call the e4c McCauley Office at 780-903-9661 if you are not able to use the website to order for any reason.

Please visit our Facebook page [@e4cwellness](https://www.facebook.com/e4cwellness) for information on FREE sessions and groups, open to all. Contact Kathryn or Mike at the e4c McCauley office at 780-424-2870, or email krambow@e4calberta.org or msiek@e4calberta.org

Life at O-day'min Village

The ups and downs of living in affordable housing.

CATHY AND AHMED

What's it like living in an affordable housing apartment building in the inner city? We'd like to share with you the mix of experiences, emotions and challenges from the point of view of two people who are relatively new arrivals at O-day'min Village on 95th Street and 103rd Avenue.

First, some background. O-day'min Village, once known as Melcor YMCA Village and now operated by Cvida, has 148 apartment units spread over six stories with more than 200 people living here. It's an interesting mix of Indigenous people, newcomers, single mothers, and formerly unhoused folks - all surviving on low incomes.

In such a diverse and large group, it's a real challenge to make this place feel like a home. But with the help of a City of Edmonton grant (and a part-time coordinator), many residents are working together to create a sense of belonging in this large apartment building.

It started with creating a space on



O-day'min Village. Supplied by Cvida

our main floor where residents gather for coffee, a chat, a game of cards, or doing one of those impossible puzzles. We have talked about physical health, shared the pain of abuse as youngsters, and how it feels to be Two-Spirit. But we also laugh and help each other too.

We have tapped into weekly deliveries of best-before dated food from the Italian Centre through the Leftovers program, hold the occasional bingo with the help of Mike from E4C, have an exercise class especially for people with mobility issues, and listen to cultural lessons

and practice Indigenous crafts with Bent Arrow.

One of our long-time residents dips into his own funds to put on barbecues in the summer and group meals in our lobby. We meet once a month with Cvida to discuss maintenance issues and ideas to build a stronger community, and to share concerns about safety.

We live in a challenging neighbourhood in a challenging time. There is a lot of drug use on the streets. We are hoping the City will take effective steps in the future to work with the people in a nearby encampment to help them transition to safer spaces.

It's all part of turning a building into a community. It takes time to bring more residents into the circle, help residents feel comfortable with each other, and pursue new ideas to create stronger bonds and trust. We are just starting, but by creating a sense of community we aim to redefine the idea of home.

Cathy and Ahmed are residents of O-day'min Village.

UPDATE FROM CITY COUNCIL

A Rocky Start to 2024

ANNE STEVENSON

Greetings everyone!

As I'm writing this article in early January, the new year is off to a rocky start. We experienced a big loss with the fire that impacted Zocalo and other businesses in the area. This is a hub of our community and it's hard to see the damage that was caused. I'm grateful that only the physical building was hurt, and I know that the true heart of this space is the people who created it and gathered in it. The fire hasn't changed this, and I know our community will make it through this setback more resilient than ever.

The other challenge that has defined the beginning days of this year is encampments. I've heard from many of you highlighting the very real and unacceptable risks that encampments create for everyone in our community. This includes those living in encampments, as well as the people and businesses surrounding them.

I hear universal agreement that encampments are not what we want in our community. What we need are durable solutions, including housing, supportive services, and health care options for all Edmontonians. This is something I remain committed to, both with the City's own resources and

through advocacy with the Provincial and Federal governments. In the meantime, the City continues to try to manage the symptoms of the housing and drug poisoning crises as best as possible. This involves a lot of uncomfortable balances as we look to manage the risk to those living in and around encampments.

Recent weeks suggest that we need better checks and balances to manage all risks. We also need action from all levels of government. I'm hopeful that with everyone working together, we'll be able to provide the safe and supported housing that will make encampments a thing of the past.

Despite the difficult start, I believe 2024 will be a turning point for our ward and our city. We have a choice about how we respond to challenging times, and I know we will collectively choose to turn towards community and strength-based solutions. My confidence in saying this comes from knowing the incredible people like you who make up O-day'min.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to reach out or say hello in recent months. Please never hesitate to call 311 or connect with my office if we can help. Thank you for reading!

Email: anne.stevenson@edmonton.ca
Phone: 780-496-8333

Edmonton Intercultural Centre (EIC) Newcomers Network

When newcomers connect directly to people in their new communities they have an easier time understanding English, making new friends, and learning more about Canadian culture. Therefore, they are able to have a smoother transition to life in Canada.

Getting settled in a new country is hard, but our Newcomer to Newcomer group will provide the chance to meet older and experienced newcomers who un-

derstand, and have been through, the transition of settling in Canada.

Our goal is to give newcomers the chance to learn about Canada and their new community from a personal viewpoint, one where they can also ask questions from other members who have been through the transition from their home country to life in Canada. Newcomers are welcome to join us every last Sunday of the month. We look

forward to seeing you! Come meet experienced newcomers who will share information that might help you simplify settling here in Canada.

For more information, please call the EIC at (780) 756-2655 or email EventsAtEIC@gmail.com.

Information provided by the Edmonton Intercultural Centre, which is located at 9538 107 Avenue.

HEART OF THE CITY FESTIVAL SOCIETY ARTIST PROFILE SERIES

Steven Johnson: “In life, music makes the storms go away.”

CORINE DEMAS

Steven Johnson was five years old when he started playing guitar. “My parents signed me up for guitar lessons and I played this beat up guitar with rusty strings and my fingers were actually bleeding from that old guitar. I’m surprised I didn’t get tetanus,” he recalls. “Then, on my sixth birthday, I woke up in the morning and I saw a brand new electric guitar. It was way better after getting that guitar. I didn’t put it down for many years after that.”

Steven wasn’t sure if he actually played the first year of the Heart of the City Festival or if the music lured him over to Giovanni Caboto Park to listen. He said that he’s pretty sure he had to apply to play and that he played the next 10 years consecutively.

“When the sun was out, [Heart of the City] was beautiful and busy. When it rained, the crew still did their jobs and the performers would play to no one,” Steven says, also noting that back then performers volunteered their time.

Speaking of volunteers, Steven adds: “A bunch of volunteers came out every year diligently. I saw the same people every year. The new faces on the team were ambitious and forthright and made sure [the



Steven Johnson (left) performing with daughter Stella. Supplied

festival] grew and it’s still going strong.”

Those of you who know Steven can’t help but remember watching his daughter Stella grow up alongside him at Heart of the City, starting from when she was a baby. As time went by, Stella began performing with her dad but later became a solo performer. “I got her playing harmonica initially and then she got over her stage fright doing that. She decided to sing, and she

decided she was going to teach herself to play guitar and write her own songs. She started with the ukulele and wrote some wonderful songs. She began playing at the Heart of the City on her own.”

When I asked Steven what keeps him playing, he replied, “I sometimes have no idea what I’m doing. I have no idea why a guy works so hard. Well, it’s those times that you can make the sun come out, make the

storm go away, if you play properly. In life, music makes the storms go away.”

Steven, who lives in McCauley, started teaching guitar lessons at the Boys and Girls Club 22 years ago after Dan Glugosh told him he needed to be teaching. Dan arranged for the McCauley Community League to sponsor the lessons. “There were some wonderful people that I met and the music changed their lives I believe,” he said. “It’s funny watching people get a guitar and a few weeks later, a month later, they start making headway and then they show up [with] a black leather jacket on and a different attitude.”

Steven is still doing the singer-songwriter thing and has a “psychedelic” solo project. As well, he has been playing with a band called Circle the Wolves for the last two years. The band’s music is on Spotify and Bandcamp. He continues to teach guitar lessons with the support of the McCauley Community League at 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Boys and Girls Club here in McCauley. The lessons are free, open to anyone, and offered on a drop-in basis.

Corine Demas lives in McCauley where she is the President of the McCauley Community League and a board member with Heart of the City.

Blake Desjarlais

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Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood

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Skating into 2024 at the McCauley Rink

The McCauley Rink filled with skaters during the McCauley Community League’s annual New Year’s Eve skating party on December 31st. Folks who attended enjoyed hot dogs, hot chocolate, snacks, marshmallows roasted over the fire pit, and prizes for the children. Paula E. Kirman

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