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# Boyle McCauley News

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## CO\*LAB Continues to Survive

*Boyle Street venue and community space is still struggling after almost losing City funding.*

**CORINE DEMAS**

On January 24th I attended the Winter Fundraiser for CO\*LAB at the venue located at 9641 102A Avenue. The fundraiser included lantern making and repair, a pop-up station where folks could make their own patches, a silent auction, clothing exchange, and performances by local bands Dancing Auras and Funk Cove. It was well attended, with many folks showing up in Funk Cove t-shirts.

I asked Nicole Bodnaresk, the drummer of Dancing Auras, why she was willing to volunteer to play the fundraiser. "It's such an awesome facility and what is offered here is totally amazing and it really aligns with the values of everyone in Dancing Auras. The venue brings people together and supports so many different cultures and people through art and through creation. Creation is the key to coming together as community and humanity and promotes healing."

Sarah Dotimas, one of the organizers of the fundraiser said, "I love CO\*LAB. I think it's a great arts and community space. I was here when Tee Pee Treats was here and I loved that the venue creates safe space for community members, really for everybody. I have been in this space for music and birthdays. I'm passionate about keeping this space open, activated and animated."



CO\*LAB. Paula E. Kirman

In 2024, CO\*LAB was dangerously close to losing its funding from the City. Many people made calls to their city councillors and the funding was continued. I asked Anne Stevenson, City Councillor for Ward O-day'min, to explain why she went to bat for CO\*LAB. She said, "I always think of CO\*LAB as a beacon in The Quarters. From its bright and beautiful exterior to the incredible arts and community work that happens inside, it represents the kind of city we want to build here and across Edmonton. I'm glad to be able to support this organization and will keep looking for ways to help them and the neighbourhood thrive."

Larissa Poseluzny, the Operating Director of CO\*LAB, talked about how the venue was doing now. "To be honest we are still struggling. We are hopefully going to be having more arts nights like we did in 2022. We would like to have weekly programming whether it be a t-shirt screen printing class or a night where artists can come out and have a space to make art. We are collaborating with Beyond Rainbow for a DJ workshop. We are also going to be collaborating with local downtown galleries with Arts Bus."

The first test workshop with Beyond Rainbow was planned for

March 20th prior to the GLOW Festival on March 22nd. Workshop attendees learned in modules and then had the opportunity to DJ at the GLOW Festival.

Larissa was also excited to say that they have plans to develop community gardens in their courtyard. This is contingent on receiving funding.

I asked Larissa how people can help the venue. She said, "Attend events and workshops and you can donate to our GoFundMe." CO\*LAB's GoFundMe is located at [www.gofundme.com/f/supportyourcommunity](http://www.gofundme.com/f/supportyourcommunity).

*Corine Demas is the President of the McCauley Community League and Executive Director of the Heart of the City Festival.*



Funk Cove performing at the CO\*LAB fundraiser on January 24th. Corine Demas



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### OPINION: PROPER SWINGS FOR CABOTO PARK

“ Having proper swings like that would make our beautiful park even more fun.

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### CULTIVATE MCCAULEY

“ Planting a tree today is a smart investment in your home and community.

■ PAGE 6

### TALKING ABOUT RESILIENCY

“ By working together, we'll navigate these changes and emerge even stronger.

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The MCL is hosting community tea and discussion event with

## Ward O-day'min City Councillor Anne Stevenson

Saturday, July 19th  
and  
Saturday, August 16th  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
McCauley Rink  
10750 96th Street

Tea and cookies will be served and we will have the opportunity to have a casual discussion with Anne.

Please check our Facebook page @mccauleycommunityleague for upcoming announcements of summer programs at the rink.

**MCCAULEYCL.COM**  
league@mccauleycl.com | 780-224-5087

## STEPHEN HAMMERSCHMIDT

FOR WARD O-DAY'MIN COUNCILLOR

- ✓ As your councillor, my primary focus will be on a return of safety and security – that is job #1.
- ✓ As your councillor, it is my duty to ensure a balanced budget that respects the tax revenue available and not to continue to expect the citizens to pay more and more of their hard earned money.
- ✓ As your councillor, I believe in fiscal responsibility and will carefully and thoughtfully review the city's budget (line by line if need be) to ensure that the allocated resources are showing benefit to the people.
- ✓ Within my first 100 days as councillor, I will:
  - Prevent social agencies such as shelters from being located near schools, churches, or playgrounds.
  - Begin the relocation of large shelters from downtown to smaller, more manageable facilities.



stephenhammerschmidt.ca



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We need to send a message loud and clear to our leaders: it's time to rebuild Alberta's public health care system. [RebuildOurHealthcare.ca](http://RebuildOurHealthcare.ca)



OPINION

# We Need Proper Swings in Giovanni Caboto Park

**MICHAEL ALEXANDER**

What is your favourite park in our neighbourhood? Is it Giovanni Caboto Park? If it is - and I bet it is for many people reading this - boy, do I have an interesting idea for you.

Giovanni Caboto Park is the centre of our neighbourhood for many of us. It has beautiful trees and lots of space for activities like soccer, sitting, having a picnic, playing, and just enjoying the outdoors. The statue and the fountain make the park special. In the summer, the splash park makes it really fun. In the winter, it is a good place to play in the snow. It is also right across the street from the Italian Centre, where they sell great doughnuts that many kids like to eat in the park.

The park currently has swings for babies and saucer-type swings for kids and anyone else. Saucer swings are fun but you can't swing properly in them. So, unfortunately, our terrific park lacks

proper swings for anyone who isn't a baby. Proper swings are swings that go high in the air, are wide so that even in the winter when you're all bundled up you can sit comfortably and swing, wide enough for your arms to be comfortable, and high enough off the ground so even a grown-up can swing comfortably.

Having proper swings like that would make our beautiful park even more fun. Do you like to swing? Maybe you like to imagine who-knows-what while you're on a swing, such as that you're an airplane, for example a Spitfire, in battle over the North Sea in the Battle of Britain. Some kids like to swing to think and relax. Imagine being able to soar way up in the air in our beautiful park on a summer's day with the fountain on and trees all green. Wow! Let's get swings for Giovanni Caboto Park.

*Michael Alexander is nine and lives in McCauley. This is his first published article.*



Swings in Giovanni Caboto Park. Paula E. Kirman

# Documenting Change



PAULA E. KIRMAN • BMC News Staff

## MCCAULEY MUSINGS

Boyle Street and McCauley are always experiencing change: road construction, new homes being built, and businesses coming and going, just to name a few examples.

Sometimes change is a cause to celebrate, like the reopening of Zocalo following the tragic fire last year. Sometimes we grieve a loss, like the Italian Bakery closing permanently on 97th Street. We welcome new neighbours and say goodbye to people who decide to move on.

I often speak with long-term residents who describe the many changes in the area over the years. Many of these changes have been documented in the

pages of *Boyle McCauley News*, which is accessible to anyone in the archive at our website ([bmcnews.org](http://bmcnews.org)).

Community newspapers are in a unique position to document hyperlocal history and give people the chance to tell their own stories. One thing that has not changed is how *Boyle McCauley News* focuses on local people, issues, and events from the perspective of people who live in, or who are somehow connected, to the area. Part of our mission is to focus on positive aspects of the area that other media often ignores. Even when people are discussing serious social issues affecting the area, glimmers of light shine through as these issues are approached from a solutions-oriented viewpoint.

Whether we like it or not, change is going to keep happening. Hopefully, *Boyle McCauley News* will always be here to document it.

# 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.

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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.*

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to the April-May 2025 edition of *Boyle McCauley News*. I hope by the time you read this, all of the snow will be gone, temperatures will be warm, and the sun will be shining.

We have more stories and photos at our website ([bmcnews.org](http://bmcnews.org)). We publish content between issues, particularly stories that are time sensitive or that we simply could not fit into print. Our website also has more classifieds, an events calendar, and a searchable archive of all of our available back issues. You can also sign up at our website to receive our free e-newsletter, which is published with each new issue and contains links to exclusive website content.

At our website, you can sign up for a free membership which helps support the paper by building our membership numbers. More information is here: [bmcnews.org/membership](http://bmcnews.org/membership).

If you use social media, we are still on X (formerly Twitter) as @bmcnews and Bluesky at @bmcnews.bsky.social. We're especially trying to build our following at Bluesky, so please follow us over there.

Are you interested in volunteering with the paper? We're always looking for writers and photographers. We also have a few routes available for Block Carriers. Contact me at [editor@bmcnews.org](mailto:editor@bmcnews.org) to learn more.

Thanks, as always, for reading. Enjoy! We'll be back in print in June.

## OUR NEXT ISSUE. . .

Volume 46, Issue 3 (June-July 2025) will be published June 1st, 2025. Articles and photos concerning community news, events, and opinions are welcome for both our print and online editions. We also occasionally accept submissions of poetry and cartoons. Deadline for the print edition: May 12th, 2025. Send submissions to: [editor@bmcnews.org](mailto:editor@bmcnews.org). Articles should be 400 words or less and accompanied by photographs (JPG format, in high resolution) whenever possible.

## 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 and opinions with a Letter to the Editor. Send your letters to [editor@bmcnews.org](mailto: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 May 12th, 2025.

# 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](mailto: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](http://edmonton.ca/problemproperties)

**To report an unsecured vacant property:**

Call 311 or email: [communitypropertysafetyteam@edmonton.ca](mailto: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](http://edmontonpolice.ca)

**EPS Crime Prevention:** Facebook @epscrimeprevention

**Crime Stoppers:** 1-800-222-8477

**Report Gang Activity:** (780) 414-GANG (4264)

**Stay informed & get involved:** [safermccauley.ca](http://safermccauley.ca) and on Facebook @safermccauley

MP UPDATE

# Building Community Together

**BLAKE DESJARLAIS**

When I won the historic election of 2021, it was on the promise of doing two things:

1. Leaving our community better than how we found it.
2. Ensuring positive change is sustained.

When I first decided to get involved in federal politics, I witnessed a community growing more divided, folks becoming less hopeful, and those we loved becoming more isolated. Neighbours found themselves unable to keep up with rent, mortgages, and even grocery costs – all during one of the worst public health crises we have ever faced. During that time, and since, we have also witnessed a tidal wave of greed at the gas pumps, check-out lines, and banks forcing more and more people into despair and precarity, all while those at the very top made record-breaking profits.

This didn't happen overnight. Our community's vulnerability came from decades of underfunding and cuts to critical services like the National Housing Program in the early 1990s by previous governments. This resulted in one of the largest national shortages of affordable homes in Canada's history.

These cuts hurt working people and end up being more expensive to address as time goes on. From housing to health care to support for people with disabilities, Albertans know the cost of cuts.

But it doesn't have to be this way – we can build a Canada for all of us, where no one is left behind. A Canada where quality public health care is guaranteed, where we create good union jobs with fair wages, and where the prices for the things we need are kept within reach by limiting the greed of multinational mega-corporations.

Together with the people of Edmonton Griesbach we have accomplished so much for Canadians because that's just who we are. We take care of each other, and we know we are all better off when we do. But our work and our values are on the line in the next election.

That's why I am here and ready for this fight: for me, for you, for all of us.

It has truly been the honour of my life to work for you and for our community. It is something I have never and will never take for granted. Your faith and belief in a better future for all inspires me every single day. I love the north side, having lived here for many years, and love those who are building it.

My friends, the best years of our country are still ahead of us. Let's build it together.

*Blake Desjarlais*  
*Member of Parliament,*  
*Edmonton Griesbach*  
**Phone: 780-495-3261**  
**Email:**  
[Blake.Desjarlais@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Blake.Desjarlais@parl.gc.ca)

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## 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)  
97 Street & 103 Avenue (by former Farmers Market)

### BUSINESSES

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

<b>Sprucewood Library</b> (11555 95 St.)	<b>Little BonBon Ice Cream</b> (9660 106 Ave.)	<b>Zocalo</b> (10826 95 St.)
<b>Felice Cafe</b> (10930 84 St.)	<b>Tony's Pizza</b> (9605 111 Ave.)	<b>Paper Birch Books</b> (10825 95 St.)
<b>Panini's</b> (8544 Jasper Ave.)	<b>Italian Centre</b> (10878 95 St.)	<b>Van Loc</b> (10648 98 St.)
<b>The Moth</b> (9449 Jasper Ave.)	<b>Lucky Supermarket</b> (10725 97 St.)	<b>Kim Fat Market</b> (9905 107 Ave.)

### VOLUNTEER TO DELIVER THE PAPER

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

Contact [editor@bmcnews.org](mailto:editor@bmcnews.org) for more information.

NEW TO BOYLE STREET OR MCCAULEY?

## Do You Have Your Stadium Parking Permit?

Call 311 or email [RestrictedParkingPermits@edmonton.ca](mailto:RestrictedParkingPermits@edmonton.ca) for annual Stadium parking permits, or [ParkingAssets@edmonton.ca](mailto:ParkingAssets@edmonton.ca) for temporary parking permits. Or, visit [edmonton.ca](http://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.

MLA UPDATE

# Celebrating Dan Glugosh

**JANIS IRWIN**

I'd like to take this time to celebrate a wonderful member of the McCauley community with you. In my role as MLA, I had the opportunity to nominate someone from our Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood constituency for a King Charles III Coronation Medal. While I am extremely proud to say that we have so many incredible community builders in our area that deserve medals and so much more, I was so pleased to present this honour to McCauley's own Dan Glugosh.

Dan is a legend in Edmonton's inner city. He's lived in the McCauley neighbourhood for decades, and has raised his family here.

Dan earned the name Dan the "Ice Man" after taking on the rink duties at the McCauley Rink in 2000. Through his work, thousands of kids have enjoyed the gem that is the ice rink in the heart of our city. Dan has organized the annual McCauley Cup for years, and



From left: McCauley Community League President Corine Demas, Councillor Anne Stevenson, MLA Janis Irwin, and Dan Glugosh at the McCauley Cup on January 25th, where the medal was presented. Paula E. Kirman

has led initiatives for rink upgrades.

And through his efforts, he's garnered financial support for the rink from the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation, and has hosted many Oilers players at the rink, bringing so much

joy to our neighbourhood kids.

Over the years, Dan has also been a soccer coach and hockey coach. He's volunteered for this very paper, *Boyle McCauley News*, and has served on the boards of the McCauley Commu-

nity League and the Boyle McCauley Health Centre (now Radius Health). Overall, Dan is a huge champion of the McCauley and Boyle Street communities, and all of Edmonton.

I knew Dan was the right recipient because a few years ago he had reached out during the last round of medals for Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. He wanted to nominate other people for that award. So as soon as I had a chance to present someone with a King Charles III medal, I knew Dan had to be the recipient. He is always thinking of others, and wanting to acknowledge their efforts, but never wanting the spotlight for himself.

Congratulations, Dan, and thank you for all you do.

As always, friends, please don't hesitate to contact our constituency office if we can offer any support. We love hearing from you!

**Janis Irwin, MLA for  
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood  
Email:  
Edmonton.HighlandsNorwood  
@assembly.ab.ca  
Phone: 780-414-0682**

## Bernadette Iahtail Receives Medal



Bernadette Iahtail, Executive Director and co-founder of Creating Hope Society, received the King Charles III Coronation Medal on February 22nd, presented to her by MP Blake Desjarlais. Bernadette is also a Registered Social Worker and Sixties Scoop survivor. "Bernadette has dedicated her career to supporting Indigenous children and their families, ending the cycle of Indigenous children being separated from their families and communities through the child welfare system, and creating a healing process for those affected, with the central goal of finding an Indigenous home for every Indigenous child in care," MP Desjarlais read at the ceremony. Cody Bondarchuk

## Family Day Transportation



A horse-drawn wagon at the Family Day celebration on February 16th at the McCauley Rink. Paula Kirman

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# Nam Siam: Abundant Flavours and Portions

*New Vietnamese-Thai fusion restaurant offers a large menu with great value.*

## DINING OUT

### Nam Siam

9653 107 Ave. NW  
780-425-6021

**Hours:** Mon.-Sun.: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
(closed Tuesdays)

#### ALAN SCHIETZSCH

Nam Siam opened early in the new year, offering Thai food with a Vietnamese influence. The new place is operated by a friendly gentleman coincidentally named Thai, who has plenty of experience with Asian food: he previously ran an Oodle Noodle location.

If you know Chinatown, you might remember Hoa An, a once-popular Vietnamese noodle house under a green awning just south of Lucky 97. It closed late last year, and now a bright red awning has taken its place. Located right off 97th Street, it's easily accessible by foot or bus, and for those with limited mobility, there's just one step at the entrance.

Step inside, and you'll find a spacious dining area freshly painted in crisp white, complemented by warm wood tables. Along with plenty of smaller tables for one or two, there are a few large round tables perfect for families and groups.

Arriving hungry, our group was eager to dive into the extensive, multi-page menu, which was placed on our table just moments



Red Curry and Tom Yum soups at Nam Siam. Alan Schietzsch

after we sat down. It features a wide selection including stir-fries, rice dishes, stir-fried noodles, vermicelli bowls, and an assortment of curries, soups, appetizers, and drinks like pop and iced coffee.

Thai cuisine highlights lightly prepared dishes infused with aromatic ingredients and a touch of spicy heat. Renowned worldwide, it captivates with its distinctive balance of sweet, sour, salty, and spicy flavours. While Thai dishes are bold and intensely flavoured, Vietnamese cuisine emphasizes freshness and harmony, featuring abundant herbs and delicate broths.

One of the best-known Thai dishes is Pad Thai, a stir-fried noodle dish made with rice noodles, eggs, tofu or shrimp (sometimes both), and a variety of vegetables like bean sprouts and scallions. It's typically seasoned with ingredients like tamarind paste, fish sauce, lime juice, sugar, and chili. Pad Thai is usually garnished with crushed peanuts, fresh lime wedges, and sometimes cilantro, making it a flavourful and well-loved dish worldwide.

After appetizers of tapioca dumpling and spring rolls, we couldn't resist trying Nam Siam's version of

Pad Thai. We were pleasantly surprised by the noodles' perfect texture. The medium spice level was just right, not too intense, and the dish was served with a generous portion of fresh bean sprouts. The tamarind gave the dish a delightful citrusy sweetness.

The hit of the night was the Drunken Noodles, also known as Pad Kee Mao. Despite the name, it doesn't contain alcohol. Broad rice noodles are stir-fried with a combination of vegetables - such as spring onions, broccoli, carrots and Thai basil - along with \$2 protein options like pork, chicken, beef, or shrimp. The dish is flavoured with soy, fish, and oyster sauces, plenty of garlic, and fresh chili for heat. The Thai basil adds a distinct herbal note.

If you prefer bolder flavours, the Tom Yum soup offers a robust, well-balanced spice with mushrooms and tomatoes, while the Red Curry (with beef) packs red chili-powered fiery heat that's mellowed by bamboo shoots and sweet bell peppers. It's best served alongside steamed or coconut rice.

Every dish was consistently good, and prices are very reasonable. The five of us got full for about \$20 per person - and that price included not only the two appetizers, but an order of beef skewers for lunch the next day.

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

# Cultivate McCauley: Growing Community and Saving Money

*A community-led initiative to plant 1,000 trees in McCauley.*

#### DUSTIN BAJER

Imagine walking through McCauley where trees provide shade, cleaner air, and a peaceful place to gather. This vision is becoming a reality through Cultivate McCauley, a community-led effort to plant 1,000 trees in our neighbourhood.

#### The Benefits of Trees

Planting trees isn't just about making our streets look nice - it's about improving our lives. Trees clean the air, lower energy bills, and bring people together. They also make our neighbourhoods safer and more welcoming.

#### Trees Save You Money

Did you know trees can help lower your utility bills? They provide shade in the summer and block cold winds in the winter, reducing heating and cooling costs. Homes



in greener areas also tend to have higher property values. Planting a tree today is a smart investment in your home and community.

#### Trees Improve Our Environment

Trees act as natural air filters, removing pollution and releasing

oxygen. They help cool the air, reducing the impact of hot summer days. Trees also soak up rainwater, helping to prevent flooding on our streets and in our yards.

#### Trees Bring People Together

Green spaces encourage people to spend time outside. Neighbours are more likely to chat on a tree-lined street or meet at a shaded bench. Studies even show that communities with more trees have lower crime rates and stronger connections between people.

#### How You Can Get Involved

Cultivate McCauley makes it easy to take part. Here's how you can help:

- **Plant a Tree:** Choose a tree from a variety of species and plant it in your yard.
- **Host a Nursery:** Provide space

for a small tree nursery (about 4x4 feet) to grow young trees until they are ready to be planted.

- **Attend a Workshop:** Learn about tree care, growing plants, and how urban greenery benefits our community.
- **Volunteer:** Help spread the word, plan events, and care for young trees before planting.

Every tree planted makes a difference. By getting involved, you're helping build a greener, stronger neighbourhood. Visit [CultivateMcCauley.ca](http://CultivateMcCauley.ca) to learn more and take action today. Let's grow a better future - one tree at a time!

*Dustin Bajer is a McCauley resident, educator, and urban farmer who works with people to grow vibrant and resilient communities.*

# Boa and Hare: A New Chinatown Destination

*New café and bar in Pacific Mall is the latest venture from young entrepreneurs.*

**ANITA JENKINS**

Boa and Hare recently opened in Chinatown at 9700 105th Avenue. This ambitious food and drink establishment held a “soft launch” in February, offering coffee and a test menu of sandwiches and salad, including braised pork, edamame, and scrambled eggs and Spam.

Plans are for the location to be a coffee shop and bar. “A place where you can start your day, and a place where you end your night,” says co-owner Wilson Wong.

The fully renovated space features high-end espresso machines, a full kitchen, seating for 34 people, and lovely lantern light fixtures.

The three co-owners – Wilson Wong, William Chen, and William’s sister Winnie Chen (an award-winning chef) – hope to revitalize the Chinatown area by attracting younger diners.

The name Boa and Hare is Wilson and William’s respective Chinese zodiac signs, Snake and Rabbit.

## Young Entrepreneurs Championing Chinatown

William Chen and Wilson Wong met in 2009, in a Japanese class at MacEwan University. They soon became best friends and later business partners. These two young entrepreneurs are now active participants in the movement to revitalize and develop Edmonton’s Chinatown.

Two years ago, Chen and Wong took over the Van Loc sandwich shop after the previous owner retired. Their second business, Boa and Hare, is just now getting established. They employ over 20 young people who speak a range of different languages, and organized the ambitious Van bLoc party on 98th Street last June and are planning a second one on June 7-8, 2025.

Chen was recently named chair of the Edmonton Chinatown Business Improvement Area (BIA), which states on its website, “Welcome to your new Chinatown.” The BIA includes veteran business owners and new ones, all committed to enhancing safety and security, and to encouraging Edmontonians and tourists to visit. One of the BIA’s underlying goals is to change the negative perceptions of Chinatown.



Wilson Wong (left) and William Chen at Boa and Hare. Ayo Erinle

Current activities, Chen says, focus on dialogue with the McCauley community, with related organizations such as the Chinatown Transformation Collaborative Society (CTC), and with non-profit and social agencies such as Hope Mission. By working together, the various groups have created many events and projects. And more are in the plans, Chen

says. He cites, as just some examples, the Chinatown Summer and mid-Autumn Festivals, the Edmonton Dragon Festival, Edmonton Chinatown Dining Week, Chinatown After Dark, Van Loc’s block party, Lunar New Year celebrations, and several beautiful murals.

Wong is a bit of a philosopher about business ventures. “It is never really about money or transactions,” he says. “We have to work for a roof over our head, but that can happen only if you build relationships with the community - with customers and with banks, and with other businesses. You serve without expectations.”

Wong is also inspired by the nearly unlimited and global possibilities that the internet offers. For this ambitious and positive “dude,” as he likes to call himself, the future is bright.

The final word from Wong: “Everyone is in sales.” In other words, business is part of promoting a new Chinatown, but everyone in the broader community also has a role in getting the word out.

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

## MCCAULEY COMMUNITY LEAGUE UPDATE

# Recent Event Recap and Plans for Spring and Summer

**CORINE DEMAS**

For 14 years the McCauley Community League has been hosting the McCauley Cup, an annual hockey game between the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) and the kids who skate at our outdoor rink. This year, the game happened on January 25th. The game was organized in part and refereed by Kelly Hodgson from United Sport and Cycle. The sporting goods store also sponsored the game, providing tents and a dressing trailer, as well as other important things that ensure the game runs smoothly.

We presented Edmonton Oilers alumnus Al Hamilton with a framed jersey to thank him for all the fundraising and awareness he has brought to our outdoor rink.

This year was Chief Dale McFee’s last with EPS. He played in the game and was also presented with a framed jersey. The MCL thanks all the EPS officers who took part in the 2025 McCauley Cup. We also thank our continuing sponsor, Sports Central.



A group shot of participants, organizers, and supporters of the McCauley Cup on January 25th. Paula E. Kirman

MLA Janis Irwin presented our rink manager Dan Glugosh with the King Charles III Coronation Medal for the good work and community outreach he does. Congratulations Dan - the medal is well deserved.

McCauley Community League’s annual Family Day event was held on February 16th. Despite the bitter cold, our community members

came out to celebrate at the rink. The Pagnotta/Mannarino family supplied and served a wonderful meal as they do every year in honour of their parents who raised them in Little Italy and in memory of Albert Pagnotta. We also had horse-drawn wagon rides, a fire pit, games, and prizes. MCL thanks the Pagnotta/Mannarino family and all of the volunteers, in particular Gail, Maia, and Ree.

We are currently in the process of hiring a project manager to oversee the construction of the rink pavilion and help us navigate the process of getting permits from the City. Next is the design phase. If you have any ideas for fundraising or input on what should be included in the design, email us at [league@mccauleycl.com](mailto:league@mccauleycl.com).

**Save the dates:** This summer we will host two tea parties at the rink: July 19th and August 16th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. We will have tea and cookies. Anne Stevenson, Ward O-day’min’s City Councillor, will be there to talk with MCL members and the community at large. We thank Anne for donating our new fire pit and the refreshments for our summer events.

Check our Facebook page (@mccauleycommunityleague) and website ([mccauleycl.com](http://mccauleycl.com)) for information about spring and summer programming.

*Corine Demas is the President of the McCauley Community League and is on the board of Boyle McCauley News.*

### Valentine's Day Memorial March



The annual Valentine's Day Memorial March of Edmonton took place on February 14th at Sacred Heart Church. The march honours and advocates for missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people in Alberta. This year's march was organized and led by youth. Paula E. Kirman

### Together Chinatown Arts Festival



The 2025 Together Chinatown Arts Festival happened on February 1st and 2nd at the Edmonton Chinatown Multi-Cultural Centre. Once again, the event featured a curated selection of community-minded, BIPOC, marginalized, and emerging vendors, artists, micro-businesses, and community organizations. This year there was also a food court and workshops. Paula E. Kirman

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## EDMONTON INTERCULTURAL CENTRE

## Edmonton Multicultural Coalition Association

*Promoting inclusion and opportunity for all.*

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.

The Edmonton Multicultural Coalition Association (EMCA) is a proud member tenant of the Edmonton Intercultural Centre (EIC). EMCA is a non-profit organization established in 2007 and granted charitable status in 2021. The organization supports ethnocultural communities and equity-deserving communities and newcomers, helping them achieve their full potential as they settle in Edmonton.

The EMCA works to foster multiculturalism and socioeconomic integration, building a community strengthened by equity and inclusion. Acknowledging the Indigenous peoples of Treaty 6, including Cree, Dene, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Nakota Sioux, Métis, and Inuit, the EMCA connects Edmonton's diverse communities through community engagement, capacity-building workshops, and outreach programs.

EMCA's key focus is advocating for racial equity with initiatives such as "A Thousand Steps: Anti-Racism and Cross-Cultural Awareness" that addresses barriers faced by newcomers and equity-deserving communities in areas like employment, health care, and the criminal justice system. The EMCA has organized several anti-racism workshops such as "Breaking Racial Barriers" and "Together We Stand" to combat systemic racism.

Looking ahead, the EMCA is excited to announce the Spring

2025 Construction Jobs Information Session and Career Fair on May 15th. Building on the success of last year's event, this year's career fair will aim to engage 300 participants, including newcomers and individuals from ethnocultural and equity-deserving communities in Edmonton.

Beyond workforce integration, the EMCA fosters cultural diversity through events like the Labour Day Youth Soccer Tournament held every August. The tournament unites youth from various backgrounds, celebrates sportsmanship, and promotes intercultural connections, demonstrating how sports can help combat discrimination and unite diverse communities. The EMCA is also dedicated to youth development through programs like the McCauley Youth Basketball and Life Skills Training Program, launched in February 2025. The program runs every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. until May 31 at the Edmonton Intercultural Centre.

With a commitment to diversity, racial equity, and inclusive opportunities, the EMCA is working to create a future where these values are celebrated. Their ongoing programs, funded by the City of Edmonton, Edmonton Community Foundation, United Way, Government of Alberta, and Government of Canada, continue to break barriers and strengthen Edmonton's multicultural community.

For more information: [www.emcoalition.ca](http://www.emcoalition.ca)

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

## Honouring Volunteers and Community at the Heart of the City Festival

**JACQUELINE DUTTENHOFFER**

Heart of the City Music and Arts Festival turns 21 this year, marking more than two decades of bringing the McCauley community and surrounding neighbourhoods together to celebrate local talent and creativity. Even through the challenges of COVID-19 this volunteer-led festival has persevered, a testament to the dedication and passion of everyone involved.

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, and on behalf of the board and executive committee, I want to acknowledge and celebrate every volunteer who has contributed their time and energy to ensure the festival's success. From months of planning to the festival weekend itself, HOTC is powered by volunteers who show up, rain or shine, to make sure the music plays on. As a registered non-profit society, Heart of the City continues to demonstrate how investing in the arts enriches the entire community, supporting artists, boosting local businesses, and fostering lifelong connections.

I first volunteered for HOTC in the summer of 2017. I was a single mom working full time as a cook, and I was hoping to take a weekend off to enjoy one of the city's many festivals. A dear friend, James Jarvis, invited me to volunteer. Little did I know that weekend would change my life. Over the years James encouraged

me to volunteer at various events, and I discovered that volunteering was not only a backstage pass to unforgettable moments, but it was also a gateway to gaining valuable experience. Beyond the perks, I built lifelong friendships, working alongside like-minded people and creating memories I'll cherish forever.

During the summer 2022 festival a survey was conducted. People were asked about their favorite aspect of HOTC, which revealed a common sentiment: "The music. The people." This sentiment inspired this year's theme: "The Music Will Bring The People." This year, Heart of the City Music and Arts Festival will take place on May 31st and June 1st. Attendees can look forward to expanded workshops, from crafts to crafting a joke; more interactive activities for all ages; and, of course, an abundance of performances by local and emerging artists.

As always, HOTC is seeking artists and volunteers for a variety of roles. We have revamped our website, so whether you'd like to volunteer, apply as an artist or vendor, or explore sponsorship and partnership opportunities, visit the "Get Involved" page for applications and more information at [www.heartcityfest.com](http://www.heartcityfest.com).

*Jacqueline Duttenhoffer is the President of the Heart of the City Festival's Board of Directors.*

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## 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

### BISELL CENTRE

780-423-2285 x 111 (General Inquiries)  
**Community Space:** Monday to Friday  
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Intake door closes at 4 p.m.

### 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  
Associate Pastor: Maria Kruszewski  
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:  
salvationarmyedmonton.org

### 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

### NEW DESTINY CHURCH

10605 - 96 St.  
780-424-6422  
www.newdestinychurch.ca  
\*Tuesday - 7:00 p.m. The Alpha Course-Introduction to Christianity and/or General Bible Studies  
\*Wednesday - 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group  
\*Sunday Morning - 10:00 a.m. Worship Service. Also available on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/newdestinychurchedmonton>  
Street Level Outreach - Once a month on Saturday from 12 noon - 2:00 p.m. Sandwiches, clothing personal items, and prayer (front of church).

### 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 Saturday: 9 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples.  
**Sunday Masses:**  
Sunday: 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples. All are welcome.  
For more information, please view our weekly bulletin, our webpage, and our Sacred Heart Facebook.

### ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

10759-96 Street  
Tel: (780) 422-0059  
evjohn@telus.net  
Sunday Services:  
1st Sunday English at 11:00 a.m.  
2nd and 4th Sundays German at 9:30 a.m., English at 11:00 a.m.  
Videos available on YouTube and 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:  
[tlcla.org/get-involved-3/](http://tlcla.org/get-involved-3/)  
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 CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

YMCA Boyle Street Plaza offers Sportball every Saturday! Visit [bit.ly/sportballymca](http://bit.ly/sportballymca) for more information and to register.

### DROP-IN GYM

YMCA Boyle Street Plaza  
9538-103A Avenue  
Drop-In Fee: \$6.50

### Badminton (ages 16+):

Sundays: 1:30-4:30 p.m.  
Fridays: 8:15-11:15 p.m.

### Pickleball (ages 16+):

Sundays: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Wednesdays: 12:30-3 p.m.  
Fridays: 5-8 p.m.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS/ACTIVITIES/SERVICES

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### WECAN

#### Food Co-operative

Purchase inexpensive meat and produce for pickup once per month at McCauley Apartments (9541-108A Ave.). Visit [wecanfood.com](http://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 for information on FREE sessions and groups, open to all.

Contact Mike at the e4c McCauley office at 780-424-2870 or email: [msiek@e4calberta.org](mailto:msiek@e4calberta.org)

## UPDATE FROM CITY COUNCIL

# Talking About Resiliency

ANNE STEVENSON

I hope you're enjoying the warmer weather and the renewed energy returning to our city. It's been a busy few months at City Hall and resiliency has been a key theme in our discussions.

At Council, we've been talking a lot about the impacts of tariffs on Edmonton. We've heard about the robust steps staff are taking to reduce risks for the City, and how we're working with other partners to support businesses and residents in these uncertain times. While tariffs bring challenges, they also highlight the strength of our local economy and the incredible businesses in our region. By working together, we'll navigate these changes and emerge even stronger. One simple way we can all contribute is by shopping local and supporting Edmonton businesses. We are lucky to have so many great ones in the area!

At the Emergency Advisory Committee, we also had a good discussion about the City's emergency preparedness plans. We learned about the City's all-hazards approach to emergency planning that can help us face whatever challenges come our way. I encouraged City staff to connect with community leagues to explore how we can take a more local approach to emergency preparedness. I look forward to more conversations - a resilient city starts

with resilient neighbourhoods!

Council also received an update on bridge construction in the downtown. Thanks to careful phasing by City staff, there will not be full closures of multiple bridges at the same time. The only full closure will be the Wellington Bridge on 102nd Avenue, beginning at the end of this year. We're also working to accelerate LRT construction this year. There will be periods of major disruption - like the closure of the intersection at 124th Street and 104th Avenue for eight weeks - but it will mean road construction is done months ahead of the previous schedule. Staff will also be closely coordinating other construction projects in the core to reduce overlapping disruptions. While not without its short-term frustrations, these important investments will support the long-term resilience of our community.

I hope you all continue to connect with the many City services there to support you. From libraries, to rec centres, to transit, to grant opportunities, we are working to build on the strength of our communities. Please continue to reach out to my office to let us know how we can help, and be sure to say hello if we cross paths!

Anne Stevenson, City Councillor for Ward O-day'min

Email: [anne.stevenson@edmonton.ca](mailto:anne.stevenson@edmonton.ca)

Phone: 780-496-8333

## Lunar New Year in Chinatown



Chinatown welcomed the Year of the Snake on January 26th on 97th Street with a Dragon Dance, Lion Dance, and the lighting of firecrackers. This year, the indoor portion of the celebrations took place at the Royal Alberta Museum. An estimated 3,000 people took in activities and cultural performances. Chinatown's Lunar New Year celebrations were organized by the Chinatown and Area Business Improvement Area (BIA) in partnership with the Chinatown Transformation Collaborative Society, Royal Alberta Museum, and City of Edmonton. Paula E. Kirman

## Celebration at Paper Birch Books



Paper Birch Books celebrated the grand opening of its coffee bar on February 23rd. The bookstore planned a community Lantern Fest to accompany the event, including crafts, a pop-up photo booth, food truck, and Lion Dance. The event was supported by the Viva Italia District Association (VIDA). Paula E. Kirman



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## HEART OF THE CITY FESTIVAL SOCIETY ARTIST PROFILE SERIES

## Dani Zyp: Heart of the City's New Spoken Word Director

"... I would like to give everyone an opportunity to find a way to share their spoken word poem with music."

## CORINE DEMAS

Dani Zyp is Heart of the City's Spoken Word Director for the 2025 season. "I'm very excited to have been appointed," she says about her new role. "I have been going to Heart of the City for years under various people's stewardship. I would like to expand things a little bit to include music with words. Spoken word along with music is an important development in my own life and so I would like to give everyone an opportunity to find a way to share their spoken word poem with music."

Dani told me about her experience the first time she volunteered for Heart of the City. "When I put out my fourth book, *The Book of Women's Mysteries and One Man's Confusion* (which was an anthology of six poets), I brought it with me to my volunteer shift at Heart of the City in the green room giving out packages to musicians. Mike Siek was running the main stage and Mike came back and said, 'So and So can't make it. Can anyone fill in?' My hand shot up before I even thought about it and I said, 'I've got my poetry book here' and



Dani Zyp on the main stage at the Heart of the City Festival in 2015. Paula Kirman

he said, 'get up there!' Paula Kirman got a shot of me, which was so special. It was a big moment for me."

Dani, who plays music under the name "Ladi Harp", is involved in a number of artistic mediums. "My first love was visual art. I started

drawing at a very young age. I am from a very artistic family. I wrote my own short story at five years old. I illustrated it with a white horse, jumping over the fence of a church yard to escape. At five years old!" Dani said, laughing.

"Writing became my priority as time went on. I've done many shows and poetry open stages as well as releasing seven books. Writing is still my number one. Visual art would be my second love and thirdly would be music. I'm very thankful and grateful for those artistic mediums."

Dani also wrote the curriculum for and co-facilitated a course called "Art Around the House" for the Wellness Network, which is headquartered in the Boyle Street neighbourhood. "I work on a contract basis for the Wellness Network. It is a peer supported network that offers courses. All the courses are designed to help with your mental wellness and are run by people with lived experience of mental health challenges. I put in a proposal about art as meditation. It was accepted and we are hoping the class will be coming

back on Zoom," Dani explained about "Art Around the House," which was originally offered in person.

Dani is currently producing and hosting an irregular series from time to time at the Kasbar on Whyte Avenue, where the now-defunct Raving Poets used to hold their open stage. The series is designed for spoken word artists to share their work with a band improvising music behind them, inspired by the Raving Poets. She is also part of a musical duo called Oma's Girls, performing at seniors homes and looking for other gigs. In March she shot a music video for a song called "Beautiful Disaster" with local photographer Rob Swyrd. Dani hopes it will be released in April and will be available to view on her website (danizyp.ca), where you can find her work including her visual art, poetry books, a schedule of events she is producing.

*Corine Demas lives in McCauley where she is the President of the McCauley Community League and the Executive Director of the Heart of the City Festival.*

**Janis Irwin** MLA  
EDMONTON-HIGHLANDS-NORWOOD

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## Zocalo's Greenhouse Reopens



Zocalo's greenhouse reopened in March, following 14 months of construction after a fire in January 2024. Paula E. Kirman