

June
2021



THE McKernan Messenger

Since 1954 A publication of the McKernan Community League Circulation 1100

The Messenger is
back in September.
Have a great
summer!

Fall league board meeting

September
Watch the website for date
and time!

**Green Shack
returns July 12!
Details p. 2**



BokBrass and Music Fest!

The McKernan Music Fest will be returning in late August to Gowan Park, by the rink.

Also, the BokBrass are returning for a community show on Tuesday, June 22 at 7 p.m. Led by Edmonton trumpeter Joel Gray, the quintet played a lively mix of jazz standards and pop tunes on 73 Ave in June 2020.

Keep an eye on Facebook or the website for details about both events!

Latest updates on 114 St. apartment proposal

Public consultation expected this summer

The boards of the McKernan Community League and the Belgravia Community League heard updates recently from Pinto Developments regarding their proposed Metro 78 apartment building project at 114 St. and 78 Ave. next to the LRT station.

The proposal shows some changes from late 2020/early 2021, but the six-storey height remains unchanged, as does the approximate number of units (140 total in two buildings). The upper two floors are stepped back from the bottom storeys on the sides facing the community.

Some of the changes come in response to requests made by community neighbours, especially the BelMac group of residents. Changes include:

- The number of two and three-bedroom units has been increased to 25% of the total units.
- The south building has been configured to allow the ground-floor unit on the northeast corner to be used as a day home, for care of up to six children. This is contingent on an operator being found to run such a space. The ground-floor unit on the southeast corner of the north building will be suitable for a coffee shop, including outdoor seating on the plaza between the two buildings. The coffee shop and the day home are designed to bring more activity to the plaza.
- In response to requests for cargo bike accommodations, the developers will offer two cargo bikes on loan to residents, as well as parking that fits the longer bikes. There will also be a bike repair stand in the plaza, accessible to the public.
- The west facades of the buildings will have balconies, to break up the building face and offer amenity space to tenants.

continued on page 4

League notes June

Plant exchange

The first McKernan Perennial Exchange took place May 16 at the Pocket Park. Community members donated a variety of plants - raspberries, lilies, anemones, rhubarb, veronica and more - and people picked up new plants for their gardens. Despite the short notice for the event, it was fun and garnered interest from gardeners both novice and keen. We hope to do it again next spring (with more notice!) Thanks to Pocket Park volunteers and plant donors, including Agnieszka Matejko, Laura Querengesser, Susan Neuman, Rekha Shepherd, Paige Ethridge and Evan, Catherine Roche, Roberta Franchuk and Michelle Jones.

Fall BBQ on the agenda???

As we all get vaccinated, and hopefully beat back COVID-19, it may be possible in September to have our annual BBQ at the hall.

Watch the website for updates if we're able to go ahead with this.

Notes of thanks

A note of thanks goes to Ed Toy, who lives near the hall and who mows the rink in the summer. He also picks up the "leftovers" from people who use the rink as a dog run. Thanks for taking care of this space, Ed!

Another note of thanks goes to Ray Pallard, who brings water to people working or attending events at the Gowan Park, near the hall. Thanks for keeping us cool, Ray!

Do you know someone who is making their corner of the community a better place? Someone who shovels your driveway, runs errands, picks up litter, or does something special for the people around them? Send their name (or just a description, if you don't know their name!) to us and we'll thank them here.

Speed limits drop this summer

Traffic Edmonton neighbourhoods will be a little slower starting this summer, as new speed limit changes take effect. Starting this August, the city-wide default speed limit will be 40 km/h. Arterial and other busier roads will be explicitly signed to their regular (higher) limits - but if you don't see a speed limit sign on a residential road, the default speed limit of 40 km/h will apply.

The City notes that "Reducing speed limits on residential streets and in downtown and high pedestrian areas will make our streets safer, calmer, and quieter for everyone. Slowing down gives people more time to react to the unexpected to prevent crashes and reduce the severity of collisions that do happen." With more pedestrians, cyclists, scooters and other road users on the streets, safety is a consideration for everyone.

Kids and Youth Programs

Green Shack returns!

McKernan Park will host a Green Shack after all this summer!

The FREE City of Edmonton drop-in program for kids ages 6-12 will run at McKernan Park Mondays to Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. starting July 12 (subject to current AHS guidelines).



Park leaders will be on hand as kids experience a variety of crafts, games, sports, and free play. It's a great way to get active and make new friends in the community.

Children under 6 may also participate, but must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

More info is available at edmonton.ca/Greenshacks. Programs will also run in Belgravia (11540 73 Ave., weekdays 2:30-5:30 p.m.); Parkallen (11104 - 65 Ave, weekdays 2:30-5:30 p.m.) and Queen Alexandra (10722 - 73 Ave; weekdays 2:30-5:30 p.m.)

Green Shack programs are allotted across communities based on attendance, so the more kids that come out, the more likely it is that the program will continue in future years. McKernan was originally denied a program for 2021, but was approved at the last minute, possibly because construction in Garneau will reduce access to their site.

Community centre opening slowly

Our community centre will be open for limited rentals this summer as allowed under Alberta Health Services guidelines.

Please contact hallrentalmckernancommunity@gmail.com with questions.



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League Memberships

Memberships in your community league support programs, socials, hall activities, newsletters, and more; PLUS the League is looking out for your interests in housing, transportation, services and more. Memberships are ZERO dollars for 2020/2021! See the membership form at www.mckernancommunity.org.

MEMBERSHIPS	Lance Stevenson	780-904-5577
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McKernan Messenger

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Events in the community



Canada Day ice cream social, Thurs. July 1, 2 to 3 p.m. next to the McKernan Community League building. Join our MP for an ice cream treat! Heather McPherson, Member of Parliament for Edmonton Strathcona, will be hosting an ice cream social on Canada Day. Drop by for a tasty treat! Strict COVID protocols will be followed and will the event is subject to updated AHS restrictions.



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Community briefs



Green and Gold Gardening

Looking for super-fresh, pesticide and artificial fertilizer-free vegetables and herbs, available at a garden close enough to bike to? The Green & Gold Community Garden on the U of A South Campus is gearing up for another season of providing produce. Proceeds from the volunteer-run garden go to support Tubahumurize, an organization to help victims of the genocide in Rwanda. The Garden is also looking for volunteers; both novice and experienced gardeners are welcome. See <https://www.greengoldgarden.com/> to find out more, to volunteer, or to sign up for garden e-mails to learn what produce is available.

Rollie Miles rec centre update

A compact rec centre at Rollie Miles park (next to Strathcona High School) is one small step closer to reality after city council approved design funding for the project.

South side residents have been fighting for years to keep facilities at the park (including Scona Pool and the George S. Hughes area) funded and eventually upgraded.

Recreation opportunities in central communities are a key part of the new City Plan. Residents will have an opportunity to provide input on the design of the project.

Block party!

As COVID restrictions slowly lift, consider visiting with your neighbours by hosting a block party on your street. Visit Edmonton.ca/blockparties to find out the latest health regulations and get hints about planning. There's also info about applying for a temporary street closure to make your party safe, or getting a parkland permit to use one of our parks — to be opened when conditions allow.

Free family caregiver workshops

Many family caregivers often feel isolated and overburdened, and the COVID-19 pandemic has added even more complications. NorQuest College's Family Caregiver Wellness workshops are designed to help families acquire the skills and knowledge to effectively and safely care for their loved ones. Topics include supporting a person with dementia, palliative and end-of-life care, and navigating the healthcare system.

Workshops are free until the end of June 2021. More information and registration at continuingeducation.norquest.ca.

Development news

Development applications (May 1 to June 13)

The list below covers permits that have been applied for in McKernan last month. Permits are under review unless otherwise noted. Complete information, including permit number and the name of the applicant, is available at the City of Edmonton mapping website [maps.edmonton.ca](https://www.edmonton.ca/residential_neighbourhoods/maps.edmonton.ca) > Development Applications. Requested and approved planning applications (i.e. for rezoning, not development) are listed at https://www.edmonton.ca/residential_neighbourhoods/neighbourhoods/mckernan-planning-applications.aspx. If you have any questions about a project, contact housingdevelopments@mckernancommunity.org.

11226-72 Ave.	To demolish a single detached house and detached garage.
11219-73 Ave.	To erect a fence/wall/gate @ 2.5(m) in height in the side and / or rear yard.
7318-109 St.	To operate a minor home based business - short term rental - shared accommodations - 2 units - (AirBnB).
10945-73 Ave.	To construct a semi-detached house with unenclosed front porches, rear uncovered decks, fireplaces and secondary suites in the basements. To construct an accessory building (mutual detached garage (5.08m x 6.09m)).
11124-75 Ave.	To construct a side uncovered deck with privacy screen to single detached house (deck 2.74m x 2.13m @ 1.22m in height; privacy screen @ 1.83m in height). (Issued)
7724-110 St.	To construct an accessory building (detached garage (7.31m x 7.31m)) and to demolish a detached garage.
11240-77 Ave.	To operate a major home based business (Second hand sales-Donnys Deals)
11508-80 Ave.	To construct a rear uncovered deck.

Full gravel yards not acceptable

Houses at 11532 and 11534-78 Ave. have been cited for not meeting requirements for landscaping their yards. According to the city, "each site is required to plant one deciduous tree, one coniferous tree, and four shrubs," and in front and side yards visible from a public street, only a driveway and a walkway to the door can be covered with continuous asphalt or concrete. Landscaping needs to be provided within 18 months of the occupancy of a development. These houses had gravel installed throughout the whole yard, which does not meet these specification.

Other new infills in McKernan have also applied to have hard landscaping (gravel, concrete or pavers) throughout the whole yard. These have been rejected by city planning, but the owners may still appeal.

Extensive hard surfaces are not supported for landscaping because they contribute to excessive water runoff during rainfall. Lawns and shrub areas absorb water instead, reducing the strain on drainage infrastructure and protecting the house and neighbouring houses from potential flooding. Shrubs and trees also provide shelter and wildlife habitat, and reduce the heat island effect in the city.

Metro 78 update (con't from page 1)

Pinto is also offering to contribute \$100,000 towards the Charles Simmonds Park renewal project as part of their community amenity contribution.

In response to community questions, Pinto outlined some of their strategies to attract residents to a car-free building, which include marketing to people who want to be active. They also promised to work with the community and the city to look at parking mitigation if parking pressure increased on nearby streets because of the buildings.

The proposal still does not meet the McKernan-Belgravia Area Redevelopment plan, which calls for maximum four storeys along 114 St., and would require a plan amendment.

Neighbours and the leagues are still working with the Pinto on further details, including increased screening for adjacent properties, potential traffic impacts, and if a Good Neighbour Agreement can be signed with the communities.

Full updated documentation, including the latest DC2 rezoning application, plaza redesign and traffic impact assessment, had not yet been posted to the project page at the City of Edmonton website, www.edmonton.ca/residential_neighbourhoods/neighbourhoods/metro-78-development.aspx as of June 15, but it should be available before public consultation takes place.

A date for the public consultation has not yet been set but it will likely be in late June or early July. Watch the McKernan website or the Metro 78 page for information. Immediate neighbours will be notified directly via postcard.

A date for the public hearing with City Council, where the rezoning will be approved or rejected, will be set after consultation is concluded..

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Spotlight on McKernan 'hip'

by *Belgravia community*

Residents sometimes wonder why a large area to the west of the LRT tracks between University Ave and 76 Ave is officially part of McKernan rather than Belgravia. This article reviews the history of the area, known as the McKernan Hip, and the implications of its status.

The Hip has always been part of McKernan. This appears odd today because of the presence of the LRT tracks and 114 St, a busy arterial road. However, in the early days of the McKernan and Belgravia neighbourhoods 114 St was just another two-lane road with parking on either side and would not have been considered a distinctive barrier. The tracks, completed with the LRT in 2008-2009, are a prominent physical feature that separates the Hip from the rest of McKernan. It could have been worse, however; transportation plans in the early 1990s called for a significant upgrade to 114 St. to 6-8 lanes along its length along with other features that would have increased vehicle traffic along the route. A determined coalition of residents from Belgravia and McKernan fought for years to reduce through traffic and increase public transit access, while minimizing impact on the communities. One of their arguments was that the increased buildup along 114 St. would split the McKernan community — which did end up being the case.

The 114 St. barrier results in the residents of the Hip having more shared interests with Belgravians on issues such as traffic and development. Residents of the Hip occasionally remark to the BCL that they consider themselves to be Belgravians. (Many have volunteered with the BCL over the years, including several who have served on the board.) They are unhappy that they cannot be full members of the BCL with voting privileges, and, if they wish to participate in BCL programs, must purchase a BCL associate membership after purchasing a McKernan Community League (MCL) membership.

To address the concerns of some Hip residents, the BCL has (most recently in 2018) explored options for change with the MCL, Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, and City of Edmonton. The City distinguishes between neighbourhood boundaries and community league boundaries. Neighbourhood boundaries cannot be changed, in part to maintain the integrity of neighbourhood census data over time. However, in response to a BCL request, the City implemented a policy of sending development notices for properties in the Hip to both the MCL and BCL. This has enabled the BCL to better represent the interests of Belgravians in discussions with developers.

Community league boundaries can be changed if both leagues involved agree to it. A transfer of the Hip is, understandably, not appealing to the MCL. The Hip forms about one quarter of the land area of McKernan. Redrawing the boundaries would result in a reduction in potential memberships and the league operating grant from the City.

The Hip is an active area for development, with many houses being replaced by multifamily buildings. This transition is expected to continue for years to come, as the land along both University Ave and 114 St is zoned for higher density. The Hip also contains Charles Simmonds Park, which a group of Belgravia and McKernan residents are hoping to upgrade, although funding and grants to do the work will come via McKernan. The BCL and MCL work together on a frequent basis to engage developers and the City on these important issues.

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