

DECEMBER 2024

Next League Meeting:
WEDNESDAY January 8
7 pm at the hall

THE MCKERNAN MESSENGER

Since
1954

A publication of the McKernan Community League

Circulation 1,100

Holiday potluck brings community together

More than 80 McKernan residents gathered at the hall on Sunday, December 8 to enjoy the annual holiday potluck party. They enjoyed a variety of yummy homemade treats, plus turkey and trimmings from Sunterra Market. Under the direction of BJ Serink, kids made crafts and decorated cookies, plus enjoyed some time with a visitor from the North Pole. Greg Jones and his crew of singers entertained the crowd. Lots of fun was had by all. Thanks to all the volunteers and the board for making this event possible.

Volunteers needed to supervise rink shack

If you have been seeking opportunities to give back to your community, here is an easy job you can do! Tasks are primarily indoors and involve unlocking/locking the rink shack, turning on the lights when it gets dark, keeping the equipment shelves tidy, and assisting children (who ask) with tying skates. The time commitment would be a 3.5 hr evening shift, one or two Fridays per month, from when the ice is ready (likely December) until it melts in February/March.

If we get enough volunteers we can open the rink shack on more evenings.

Responsible groups of shinny players are welcome to volunteer to ensure ice time!



Community Contacts

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

League Memberships

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

MEMBERSHIPS Rob Hamilton memberships@mckernancommunity.org

McKernan Messenger

The McKernan Messenger is published ten times per year.

Advertising deadline: 1st of the month.

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www.mckernancommunity.org

WEB MANAGER Roberta Franchuk info@mckernancommunity.org

City of Edmonton

CITY COUNCILLOR Michael Janz 780-496-8146
(Ward papastew) michael.janz@edmonton.ca
COMMUNITY SERVICES



RENT THE MCKERNAN COMMUNITY CENTRE!

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

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

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

Community event calendar

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

EVENT	Location	Date/Time
Free Swim	Confederation Pool (membership required)	Sundays 4 to 5:30 p.m.
Firepit Fridays	Skating rink (113 St. and 78 Ave.) FREE PUBLIC SKATE. Enjoy some hot chocolate with neighbours around our cozy firepit.	Fri: 5 to 8 p.m. Jan. 10 Feb. 14 Mar. 14
Pub Night	McKernan Hall	Fri. Feb. 21 7 to 11 p.m.

See the latest news at www.mckernancommunity.org,
or follow us on Facebook or Instagram!

Combatting problem properties

An initiative to deal with vacant and problem residential properties in Edmonton is now including McKernan among the neighbourhoods it works closely in, along with other southside communities of Garneau, Queen Alex, Allendale, and Strathcona. This is in addition to the original downtown/central areas the group started working in since 2022.

The Problem Property Initiative coordinates the efforts of multiple city departments, police, Alberta Health, and other provincial departments to present a “united and consistent approach to the complex issues associated with problem properties.”

What is a problem property?

Problem properties include those that

- have a history of repeated or excessive neglect
- are a significant public health risk to residents or neighbours
- are a high risk for fire
- attract ongoing criminal activity
- have a history of noncompliance by owners or tenants

Such properties have certainly been found in McKernan in the past, and some are still being dealt with now. The community has seen vandalized abandoned buildings, fatal fires in vacant garages, criminal activity, and dangerous neglected houses. Having a coordinated team to respond to these problems will improve the community for everyone.

How does the Problem Property Initiative work?

The initiative consists of four specialty team to address different issues:

- a team to proactively identify and address problems and work with communities (with reps from Municipal Enforcement)
- a team to reduce fire risk by securing unsafe vacant properties (with reps from Edmonton Fire Rescue Services) In McKernan, this fire risk team alone worked on files on 14 properties in 2024; 7 of these have since been demolished.
- a team to help vulnerable individuals living in unsafe properties and to ensure minimum housing standard in high-risk properties (with reps from Alberta Health, city and provincial departments, and Edmonton Police)
- a team to ensure demolition of unsafe properties (with reps from Community Standards, Safety Codes, Legal Services and Fire Rescue)



Other tools available

In 2024, the city is now able to assess a significantly higher property tax rate (three times the normal rate) on residential properties classified as derelict. This usually results in the owners demolishing the buildings rather than paying the very high taxes. You may have noticed many boarded up derelict properties along 109th Street being torn down, partly as a result of this policy.

Part of the initiative's approach is increased enforcement and escalating consequences, to make owners comply and deter repeat offences.

What isn't a problem property?

Construction sites are not part of this initiative, but if you see an unsafe construction site (unsafe excavations, trespassers after hours, evidence of fire) you can also report this to 311 for handling by different city departments.

Note that while some properties may be annoying to neighbours, they are not considered problem properties, such as those with occasional bylaw violations (eg poorly-shovelled sidewalks, long grass) or those that you might just think are unattractive. Bylaw infractions can also be reported through 311.

Do you know of a problem property?

You may have know of a residential building that is having a significant harmful impact on the surrounding area, poses a risk to tenants and surrounding residents, and/or has a recurring history of serious violations/complaints or noncompliance. You can report it online at edmonton.ca/problemproperties, using the 311 phone line or the 311 app. You can even report confidentially.

Unsecured (derelict) vacant properties can be reported to 311 or via email to communitypropertysafetyteam@edmonton.ca

Kinds of things to watch for:

- Doors to a house or garage or unsecured and open.
- Windows are broken.
- Evidence of criminal activity, such as drug paraphernalia or seemingly stolen items.
- Evidence of people living in house that you are sure should be vacant.
- Construction or demolition has begun but appears to have been stopped for a long time and the building appears to be unsafe.

CHEAP

Junk Removal

Services Provided:

- ✓ We load up and take away or drop off trailer if you prefer to load
- ✓ Demolition and Cleanup
- ✓ Organic Waste Removal
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Contact Ethan

780-245-3234

The rink will be open soon!
Rink hours and updates:

www.mckernancommunity.org/fun-places

Membership time!

Get your Community League membership now! The membership term is September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025.

Memberships can be purchased ONLINE through the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues website (<https://efcl.org/membership-purchase/>). Note: we will not be giving out skate tags this year except by request.

Benefits of league membership

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

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

Volunteers needed

Rink Shack Volunteerst

See p. 1 for details.

Casino Chair

Our next casino will be in 2026, and we need someone before then to handle the paperwork in a timely way. Once the casino date is announced, the chair is responsible for arranging advisors and organizing volunteers using an online platform.

Social Media Guru

Are you plugged into social media? Are you able to promote community events and local happenings on Facebook and Instagram? Contact Roberta at messenger@mckernancommunity.org to find out how you can help us get the word out.

Newsletter Editor/Writer

We need a new editor! Ideally you would have:

- Experience in graphic design and access to a design program
- Ability to produce monthly issues throughout the year
- Interest in community events and civic happenings

Or, if you'd like to help out with writing or anything else, but don't want to take on the whole editing job, contact Roberta at messenger@mckernancommunity.org and let's talk.

Thoughts from our historian

A thought or two as we grow together in this season of hope, joy, peace, and charity: Being, grateful for all the many more generous dedicated souls that make this a healthy and safe community to live in!!

Looking back at the era of McKernan Lake era: communities had many church socials, picnics, family, friend, community dinners/parties, etc. Today these gatherings make up a very small percent of how people meet, or get together to date, compared to the old way of meeting person to person. How many of you have parents or grandparents that met somehow at McKernan Lake? Skated or picnicked on it for their 'meet ups' or 'events'? Imagine a giant Christmas tree being the star attraction?

Consider the people using our rink or on walks in the neighbourhood. Notice the people — how many of us do this. It's joyful as lights and decor build up into this season.

Our past has stories so rich as we dialogue about it with each other. Today how we meet is not all bad. We still bring one or two historical ways of meeting to the present.

And in the present we do still uniquely picnic, skate, slide, etc. The fun people have together never changes in the sense that 'play' and simple are what are noticed and what touches us. Charm and magic such as Santa Claus. Not with fancy but simple. Santa was like a saint bringing toys to the needy. Jewels are everywhere when those put painted monsters done by McKernan children or homes here are adorned with simple lights, and regular dinners around the table. Stop and notice what is always there.

Extraordinary in Simple can be less which is actually the more and the quality of being together using what is in our hearts, intuition, spontaneous discovery through exploring what playing together brings us. Not just for children but for everyone no matter what ages we are. Discover the magical child within you! That is gold! What better time to get back to traditional stories made anew that shows up with stars, trees and all that glitters that is gold. Everyone is a star!!!

Joys in this Season to you all!

Nancy Corrigan, McKernan Community Historian

A background image showing several glasses of beer on a table, with a focus on a central glass of dark beer with a white head of foam.

McKernan Community League
Pub Night
Friday, February 21
7 to 11 p.m.
At the hall (11341-78 Ave.)
Craft beer, wine, non-alcoholic drinks
Cash bar
Membership required
(available to residents at the event)

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Development Applications

Nov. 1 to Dec. 1, 2024

The list below covers permits that have been applied for in McKernan. Permits are under review unless otherwise noted. Complete information, including permit number and the name of the applicant, is available at the City of Edmonton mapping website maps.edmonton.ca > Development Applications; or in more detail at the Open Data Portal (data.edmonton.ca and search for Development Permits Map view).

Requested and approved planning applications (i.e. for rezoning, not development) are listed at https://www.edmonton.ca/residential_neighbourhoods/neighbourhoods/planning-applications. If you have any questions about a project, contact development@mckernancommunity.org.

11425 - 79 Ave.	To add a dwelling to a residential use building (secondary suite in the basement of a single detached house), to construct a residential use building in the form of a multi-unit backyard house (2 dwelling with garage).
7725 - 111 St.	To demolish a residential use building (single detached house) and accessory building (detached garage).
11455 - 80 Ave.	To demolish a house.
10922 - 77 Ave.	To construct a residential use building in the form of a 3 dwelling row house with basement development (not to be used as an additional dwelling), 2 secondary suites and unenclosed front porch.
11329 University Ave.	To install (1) projecting on-premises sign (University 114)

Edmonton drone photos online

The City of Edmonton's map service includes a time series of drone photos of neighbourhoods. Want to watch your house — or any other part of the city — change from 2007 to now?

- Go to <https://maps.edmonton.ca/map.aspx>
- In the dropdown 'I'm looking for', use Address Lookup and enter the address
- In the top menu select 'Pictometry', and then click on the area you want to see
- When the pictometry window opens, you can select the date of the capture that you want to see.

While the 2007 images lack resolution, the later images are very clear, and they are more detailed than Google Earth. One or two images are available for most years.

THINKING OF SELLING?

Scan here for a no obligation market evaluation of your home with QR Code.



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