

Infill/Densification Update

by Joel Ruff

The results are in! The results of our community survey on infill/Densification were clear with 244 people responding to the survey. A strong majority of 74% of people are against the proposed City bylaw changes to RF1 zoning that would allow lots 50' or greater to be subdivided and to allow Garage/Garden suites.

Results of individual questions were as follows: 74% of people against subdivision of lots, 54% of people against Garage/Garden Suites, 70% against more row housing in mature neighbourhoods and 81% against relaxing the mature neighbourhood overlay.

With this information in hand, I attended the Public Hearing at City Hall on March 16th to represent our community's position with Council. There were also a number of residents from our community that came to speak against the motion. It was a long day and unfortunately Council was running late in their agenda for the day, so there was only time to hear the people speaking for the motion and the meeting was suspended at 10pm.

The meeting will reconvene on April 13 at 9:30 am at City Hall. Anyone who would like to speak against the motion on April 13th can register to speak with the City. I will be in attendance at the meeting and we will provide an update on the meeting results once the hearing has concluded.

NOTE: If you would like to receive information as it comes available, sign-up for the e-newsletters. Just email communications@aspengardens.ca.



April 2015

ASPEN news

Making the neighbourhood you want to live in!

to get tickets email Shannon @ Jtyson@telus.net

ASPEN GARDENS PRESENTS
SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Masquerade
BALL PARTY

Costume prizes
EVENT HOSTED AT:
THE DERRICK CLUB

DRESS TO IMPRESS | ENTRY: \$25 | CASH BAR | +18 WELCOME

SPRING FLING
Event from 7:30pm-1am

Update on Mailboxes

by Kim Ruff, Civics Director



Thank you to everyone for raising your concerns and contacting Canada Post in regard to the lack of consultation in the transition to community mailboxes.

Through the calls and community league input, we were able to arrange a meeting with Canada Post (CP). A huge thank you to Jack Milk for attending the meeting with me, as Jack knows the ins and outs of Aspen traffic and I am more familiar with the Westbrook traffic flow. During the meeting we were shown a location map of the planned boxes. CP does not want to release this map as more changes might occur during the next phase of consultation. As part of the next step, everyone will get a letter advising where their mailbox will be located. At that point you will have an opportunity to call CP and talk about any concerns you have with the location. Out of the 25 sites in Aspen/Westbrook, 10 have already been relocated due to feedback from residents. A site is 2-3 boxes together on either a green space or a resident's side yard.

Here are some of the questions I have been asked in the hood and some of the questions we asked at the meeting, with some short version answers:

Q: CAN WE USE THE SPACES NEAR THE HIDDEN WALKWAYS THROUGHOUT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

A: No, Canada Post has deemed them too overgrown and unsafe for use.

Q: CAN WE BUILD STRUCTURES AROUND THE BOXES TO HELP THE APPEARANCE OF THE BOXES?

A: You must get a permit from the City. There are a number of structural engineering requirements to ensure the structure can support snow load, etc. CP does not recommend putting anything on the sides of the boxes as this blocks the reflective material. CP's best advice is to use natural greenery behind the boxes. CP has photos of nicely landscaped spaces, so I have asked for copies to include in the next newsletter.

Q: HOW MANY MAILBOXES ARE ON GREEN SPACES?

A: There are only three boxes (same as residential lots) on an entire green space. They do not have multiple sites on each green space.

Q: HOW MANY ARE AT THE COMMERCIAL STRIP MALL?

A: Currently, there are no residential boxes at the strip mall. There is one box to serve the 22 businesses. I asked CP to consider residential boxes at this site, however they are concerned with the bottle neck and said that, historically, it was not a good idea.

Q: ARE THERE STILL CONCERNS WITH THE LOCATION OF BOXES?

A: We have at least 3 potential problems left with the plan as it is, but it will take neighbours calling in once you have received the letter indicating where your mailbox is located. The final locations will be decided on through neighbourhood feedback. We have pointed out the potential traffic issues with U-turns and traffic congestion at Vernon Barford and Fairway Drive as a box is planned for beneath the no u-turn sign. This is a safety concern. I have been in contact with the Manager of Municipal Engagement for Canada and he said he would follow up with that concern. He has been amazing to work with and secured our meeting with CP.

Q: WHERE EXACTLY ARE THE SITES GOING ON GREEN SPACES?

A: I asked if we could get locations of the boxes so we could plan to possibly incorporate a park bench or plan for greenery, but they said they do not know where at this point and the installers select the sites. They do have criteria they try to meet to stay near street lighting, etc. For the most part they had the boxes tucked off to the side of a green space, but I can't be certain that is where they will be.

Q: HOW DO I GET A BOX MOVED?

A: You need a lot of good reasons, hard work on your part and neighbour support. With so many mailboxes already being moved, I think we are very close to finding ideal spots, in combination with obliging beautiful neighbours, that there should only be a couple more that we need to work through together. If you are having a problem, please let me know and I will do what I can to help you out.

***Please remember as we transition to these mailboxes that we must be over cautious to not leave mail or flyers on the ground and help keep our neighbours yards free of debris. They are literally taking one for the team!!**

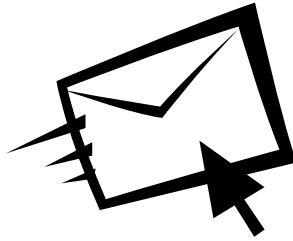
continued on next page >

continued ...

Below is the official follow up and information of how to reach CP once you receive your letter stating where your mailbox location will be.

Update from Canada Post

On March 12, 2014, representatives of the Aspen Gardens Community League met with Canada Post to raise concerns and provide comment on the Community Mailbox site selection process. Also, over the past few weeks, Canada Post has received a great deal of feedback by speaking directly with many residents in Aspen Gardens and other communities in Edmonton. Canada Post has listened to the feedback provided and moved or adjusted a number of proposed locations for the Community Mailbox sites.



In the next few weeks, Canada Post will be sending letters to residents to advise them of the future location of their community mailbox. Any resident with questions, concerns or suggestions regarding their mailbox location, or who feel they may need special accommodation to access their mailbox, may call our toll free number, 1-844-454-3009. We would ask that you do so as soon as possible after receiving your mailbox location letter so we may consider any feedback.

During the spring and summer, Canada Post will begin installing community mailboxes. After the boxes are installed, we will provide you with keys to your new mailbox, and we will notify you when delivery to your community mailbox begins. Your door-to-door service will continue until this transition process is complete. If at any time during this process you have questions or concerns, please call us at 1-844-454-3009.

QUESTION: What should I do with my disposable coffee cup?

by Ellen Sabo

ANSWER: Throw it in the garbage

There are many, many kinds of disposable cups. Paper cups. Plastic cups. Cardboard cups. Styrofoam cups. Biodegradable cups. Cups with wax. Cups with lots of wax. Cups with plastic. All of them should go into the garbage and

they will be composted or sorted out for biofuels.

What about the lid? Easy. Just put it in the garbage too. What about the paper sleeve? Put it in your blue bag, but a sleeve from any other material should go in the garbage.

The best thing you can do is take a reusable mug with you (especially now that the RRRoll Up The Rim contest is over). Many coffee shops offer a discount, and it keeps your coffee even warmer!

Heritage Festival

We've decided to celebrate something new in our neighbourhood—our diverse community! On May 9th from 12-2, come out to the Aspen Gardens park for lunch. We'll have food trucks, a Big Bin, the ReStore and much, much more. **Watch for more details in the May Newsletter.**



Annual General Meeting Extravaganza!

by Sara Flanders-Brown, Programs Director

More than 70 adults attended the Aspen Gardens Community League AGM in Westbrook School library on March 5th, with over 40 children playing crazily in the gym.

- President Joel Ruff presented our year in review and where we hope to grow in the next year.
- Treasurer, Joe Miceli, went over our financial report for 2014.
- Greg Meimar from the New Building Subcommittee was able to inform us of their progress and lead a discussion on the topic.
- One little boy came to the library with a sore head, which resolved after the Program Director gave him three Icy Squares.
- We adopted the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues operating bylaws for Aspen Gardens.
- Two little girls arrived stating that they didn't have any gum when

someone else clearly had gum, but this was settled after receiving several donut holes. Each.

- When it was time to elect new members to this year's board it was discovered that . . . we've all decided to stay on, with the exception of our Treasurer, Joe Miceli (see the note included in this newsletter. . .we will miss you Joe!). And, Sara Pretzlaff was snagged as the In-house Soccer Director.
- It's been a good year; we've done some fun things and learned a bit more about why we like our neighbourhood.
- After the formal meeting we had time for discussion about city-wide concerns involving our neighbourhood, which was facilitated by Councillor Michael Walters. During which, four girls arrived looking for donuts and returned to the gym with the entire container.

- Everything came together with help from others, so thanks are definitely in order.
- Thank you Westbrook School for the use of your space and your helpful custodial staff.
- Thank you Mr. Mills from Vernon Barford for providing us with six junior high students to help watch over the chaos in the gym.
- Thank you City of Edmonton for providing additional equipment and staff to lead the kid's games.
- Thank you Macs, Grub Med and Soho Salon for continuing to support Aspen activities.

And, thank you neighbours for being a part of the evening, for continuing to support us and making our neighbourhood generally awesome. We are looking forward to another great year.



Aspen Treasurer Wanted and NEEDED PLEASE!

With a new baby on the way this summer, our current Treasurer, Joe Miceli, will have his hands quite full and regrettably, will have to step down from his position on AGCL's Board to take on the position of Vice President of his household. His wife Jill, of course, is the President.

Therefore, we are currently looking for a community-minded volunteer who is not afraid of things like writing cheques, making deposits, and handling the financial matters of the community. It's not a necessity to be an accountant to hold this role – just a well-organized person who wants to get involved in his or her community.

If you have any interest or would just like to ask Joe a few questions about what other responsibilities come with the position, please contact him at 780-218-9506 or at treasurer@aspengardens.ca.

THANK YOU!



Community Bulletin Board

Community league members who have a homegrown business, have something to sell, are having a sale, or have a service to offer can post information here. The deadline for submitting information is the 18th of each month, and must be kept to a maximum of 30 words. And, you **MUST** include your community league membership number to have the posting included in the newsletter.

We will also be including thank you notes and announcements and announcements from all residents. Submissions should be sent to communications@aspengardens.ca. There is limited space so posting will be at the discretion of the Communications Director.

Malmo Bazaar School fundraiser in support of the school.

Come out and take part in a global and traditional gift bazaar with goods from many vendors. There will be delicious baking, candy and exotic foods. Plus, a lunchtime concession. Saturday, April 25; 10:30 am to 3 pm; Malmo School 4716 – 115 Street

Annual Garage Sale

Hundreds of items to choose from: household goods, gardening stuff, sporting goods, electronics, small appliance, toys and games, small furniture, books, attic treasures, baked goodies and a women's boutique including clothes, jewelry, handbags, luggage, shoes and much more! Soup and beverages also available. Saturday, May 2; 9 am to 3 pm; Southminster-Steinhauer United Church, 10740 – 19 Avenue

Registered Massage Therapist

Gabriella Rozsa B.A., R.M.T. is accepting new patients weekday mornings and weekends. Professional home-based business; 15 years clinical experience; licensed with RMTA. Information and/or to book an appointment call 780.757.3848 or email grozsa@shaw.ca. 12303 – 39 Avenue

Membership Savings Reminder!

The snow is leaving and we're all getting ready for spring. Be sure to put your membership savings to work. Just show your membership card to receive the benefits!

10% off at Westbrook Drycleaners: for all those spring-cleaning freshen up needs.

10% off at Spartacus Pizza: make dinner easy after all that spring yard cleanup.

10% off at Grub Med: relax over dinner and celebrate the arrival of spring.

10% off Anava Esthetics: take time for yourself, too! Grad is around the corner for many in the hood, so be sure to book your appointments early.



LEAGUE **contacts**

Aspen Gardens Community

Joel Ruff	President	president@aspengardens.ca
Matt Rogerson	Vice President	vicepresident@aspengardens.ca
Joe Miceli	Treasurer	treasurer@aspengardens.ca
Lisa Labbe	Secretary	secretary@aspengardens.ca
Jan Archbold	Communications Director	communications@aspengardens.ca
Sara Flanders-Brown	Programs Director	programs@aspengardens.ca
Harold Bens	Operations Director	operations@aspengardens.ca
Kim Ruff	Civics Director	civics@aspengardens.ca
Sandra Carry	Memberships	membership@aspengardens.ca
Ellen Sabo	Environmental	environment@aspengardens.ca
Shannon Tyson	Social Director	social@aspengardens.ca
Michael Goth	CRC	Michael.goth@edmonton.ca
Jody Nicholson	LAPS Representative	lapsrep@aspengardens.ca
Vacant	Soccer Director	soccer@aspengardens.ca
Krys Holmes	Sign Changer	sign@aspengardens.ca
Kara Dublenko-Walters	Newsletter Distribution	karadwalters@yahoo.com

The deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 20th of each month.
Send submissions to Jan Archbold at **communications@aspengardens.ca**.

In the event of a building emergency at our community hall, please
contact **Harold Bens at 780.434.6073**.