



The Blue Grass Rattler

Serving the communities of Blue Quill,
Skyrattler, Blue Quill Estates and Sweet Grass

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

MAR-APR 2015

Blue Quill
Community
League

bqcl.org

11304 25 Ave
Edmonton AB
T6J 5B1

780-438-3366

Office Hours:

Mon—Fri
8:30 am —
1:00 pm

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Still time to enjoy winter!

There's still snow to shovel, and undoubtedly will be more falling for the next several weeks. But when the sun is shining, it's a great time to get outdoors.

Skating

With your community league membership, you can enjoy skating on the rink behind the community hall. It may be time to dust off those skates, turn off the screens and enjoy some family

time in the great outdoors!

Sand

Don't forget, as the snow melts and re-freezes, it can make for treacherous

sand in boxes at most community halls. Bring a bucket to the sand box in front of the Blue Quill hall and spread it on your sidewalk to provide some

traction. If the box is empty, call 311 to report it.

Pot holes & Puddles

There's a new way to report problems to the city—the 311 app allows to report issues as you see them. Search for "Edmonton 311" on the iTunes store or Google Play.



THE BQCL rink attendants keeping the ice clear

sidewalks that become skating rinks themselves! To help out, the city keeps

Community Garage Sale—March 21

Join us at our annual Blue Quill Community Garage Sale, Saturday March 21 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Blue Quill hall, 11304- 25 Ave. We'll have a variety of pre-loved goods for sale. There

is sure to be something for everyone! Spring cleaning? Rent a table for \$30 (\$25 for BQCL members). To book, contact Kathryn or Felice at Blue Quill; 780-438-3366 or bqcladmin@bqcl.org.



BQCL Programs & Events

Budget-friendly Family Meal Cooking Class



Budget family dinners are always a challenge. Here's a delicious menu that's flexible, quick and easy! Join local cookbook authors and former bakery/catering company owners Dagmar Kuehn and Christina Lofthaug, then relax and learn while we prepare this meal with a

kick. We will make: carrot salad, Buffalo chicken casserole with roasted veggies and corn bread, and finish with sweet/tart apple crisp. Enjoy the food, learn tips and tricks, and take the leftovers home to share with family and friends. The class will be held on April 16th, from 6:30-9:00. For more information on the cooking classes please visit the Community League website at www.bqcl.org, or call 780-438-3366.

Mark Your Calendar!

Zumba Open House
Thu Mar 10, 7:00 pm

Community Garage Sale
Mar 21

Public hearing on Garage & Garden Suites, City Hall
Wed Mar 16

Skyrattler AGM & Forum
Thu Apr 9, 6:30 pm

Family Cooking Class
Thu Apr 16 6:30 pm

Party in the Park
Sep 12

Learn Spanish at Blue Quill

A new Spanish Language Program will start on Thursday, March 19 for 12 weeks on Thursdays from 6:30-8:00 pm.

Spanish Introduction (18 hours)

This introduction to Spanish uses group work, exercises, and activities to practice vocabulary and necessary structure in a conversational context. Basic elements include pronunciation, greetings, numbers, time and dates, descriptions, and a basic sentence structure.

Instructor:

Ingrid de la Barra graduated as a

language teacher in Chile. She then completed a Master's degree in Classical Literature at the University of Alberta. She has been an Instructor for the Spanish Language Certificate of the Faculty of Extension at the University of Alberta for 25 years. She is the co-author of "Pronto y Práctico," the textbook used in Spanish Level 1, 2 and 3. Ingrid and her husband Sergio Muñoz also co-produce audio tapes that accompany Spanish textbooks and also produce a Spanish Internet radio program at www.sinfronteras.ca.

A NOTE FROM THE PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

Here at BQCL we are always interested to hear from you on what kind of programs you'd like to see and participate in at the League. We are working on setting up programs that engage our community, so get in touch with Amanda at programs@bqcl.org and let us know what you think!

Zumba & Bender Barre!

The Blue Quill Community League is excited to add three new programs: Zumba Fitness, Zumba and Bender Barre. Come and join us for an open house on Tuesday March 10th from 7pm to 8pm. Take this opportunity get to know instructor Lisa Van Vliet and participate in 25-minute long sample classes of the Zumba and Bender Barre programs.

Weekly classes starting March 24:

**Zumba Fitness (ages 18+)
Tuesdays 9:15-10:15am**

Come and join Lisa for this fun and energizing hour where you let the music move you while toning your body to Zumba Latin rhythms.

No dance experience is necessary—only a heart that

is eager to have fun, and is open to learn.

(All levels welcome)

**Zumba (ages 16 +)
Tuesdays 6:45-7:45pm**

The workout in disguise! You don't even have to know how to dance. Just move your body to the music and follow my lead. It's easy! Come try it, I guarantee you will have a blast! I look forward to meeting you! (All levels welcome)

**Bender Barre (ages 18+)
Tuesdays 8-9 pm**

Bender Barre is a “Barre None” approach to the popular Barre classes infusing ballet, yoga, pilates, and strength conditioning to give you a very effective and safe workout good for all levels of fitness. This is the

perfect fitness class to end your day and leave you feeling lengthened and conditioned. (Please bring a yoga mat or a towel – All levels welcome).

About the instructor:

Lisa Van Vliet is currently a Zumba sub at Spa Lady while



also working on her AFLCA Group Fitness Certification with a designation in Portable Equipment. She's passionate about keeping her body healthy and believes that if you're going to exercise, you need to love it.

Register for any BQCL programs at the office on weekdays from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm, or email bqcladmin@bqcl.org for more information.

Soccer update

If you missed our soccer payment sessions don't worry - We're still accepting registrations until the teams are full. Registration forms and cheques can be dropped off at the BQCL office during office hours or in the BQCL mailbox located at the front door of the hall.

See registration info at bqcl.org or contact the sports director at sports@bqcl.org.

Tennis anyone?

Blue Quill will have a Tennis Coordinator and Coach this Spring and Summer. Ellen Toth is an experienced local tennis player and certified instructor, who will offer lessons and programming.

Anyone interested in volunteering or contributing to Tennis in Blue Quill this spring/summer please contact Ellen at ellentennis2@gmail.com, or Janice Quinn, sports director, at sports@bqcl.org.

We're working on a schedule that will offer some free programming, some inexpensive lessons, some kids programming, and maybe some Pickle! There will be options for all ages and talents.

Dust off that racquet in the basement! Come out and play or donate it! Gently used balls will also be gratefully accepted.

Memberships in the Blue Quill Community League

*Family: \$35
Individual: \$25
Senior: Free!*

Membership includes reduced rental hall rental fees, use of any community league ice rink and free swimming at Confederation Pool Sat & Sun 4:00—5:30 pm

Purchase your membership at the hall, any weekday between 8:30 am and 1:00 pm. Memberships can also be purchased prior to the AGM on Thu Nov 13

Civics Corner by Neil Dunwald

Subdivision Appeal Board Hearing

A proposed development of a 2-storey side-by-side duplex with four front garage stalls at 11511-24 Avenue was objected to by many of the neighbours for a variety of reasons including not meeting the guidelines for such developments. Several neighbours appealed the Development Permit on February 11 with the Community League's support. The appellants prevailed according to the verbal judgement.

Transportation/Development Committee

One resource for the appeal was the experience of this committee. If you are interested in joining other concerned citizens in researching and advocating on such issues as placement of community mailboxes, parking, cycling corridors, vacant school sites and Century Park, we are always looking for new members.

Please contact civics@bqcl.org to learn of meeting schedules.

Party in the Park, September 12

We are looking for volunteers who will form the 2015 Party in the Park Organizing Committee. Please contact musicfestival@bqcl.org if you have an interest in joining the committee, performing, or otherwise volunteering for the event.

Amphitheatre Committee

One of the proposals for providing an amenity in the park as an absolute goal or an alternate vision to the housing vision of the city is an Amphitheatre. If you would like to work on a committee planning this approach, please let us know at civics@bqcl.org.

ACT For Community

ACT for Community (Building better communities through Accountability, Collabora-

tion and Transparency) is a non-profit society formed to oppose the way that these housing developments have been undemocratically forced on Edmonton communities. It is currently raising funds to support its political, publicity, and legal efforts in this regard. A lawyer will be retained this month.

If you would like to support this pro-democracy movement with volunteer time, please contact me and I can steer you forward. If you would like to donate, please send a cheque to ACT for Community % 1758 Haswell Cove, Edmonton T6R 3A9.

You may also give by credit card by going to <https://fundrazr.com/profiles/act-for-community> and click on "Help Us Save Our Green Space."

Skyrattler Future Forum & AGM

The next forum for Skyrattler residents will be held at 7:00 pm, Thursday April 9 at the Blue Quill Community Hall.

This event will build on the momentum and vision expressed by the community at the previous forum November 20. That evening, over 80 Skyrattler residents expressed their ideas of

what they want to see our neighbourhood become, and how it should adapt in the face of development pressures. Many great ideas came forward, and the April 9 forum will go further in developing those ideas and strengthening the community.

The Skyrattler Neighbourhood Association will be holding its first

ever Annual General Meeting before the forum, starting at 6:30 pm. All Skyrattler residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Watch for more information to come in your mailboxes in late March. You can also contact skyrattler2012@gmail.com for more information.

Message from Councillor Michael Walters:

A Compact City is an Affordable City

Edmontonians almost universally agree we need to build a more compact city. We expect a population of 1.4 million in Edmonton by 2044. We need to plan for this today. Since September, I've been engaging with Ward 10 residents regarding infill, the future of our neighbourhoods and their special characteristics.

On November 12th, the City Administration forwarded a proposal to amend zoning bylaws to allow for incremental density increases in all neighbourhoods across the City. This proposal will be discussed at the March 16th public hearing.

Current Regulations

- A lot 78 ft. wide or greater can be subdivided.
- Garage/garden suites can be

on a corner site, abut a service road, or back onto a lane adjacent to an arterial roadway, and must be narrower than the main structure.

- Secondary suites can be built on most lots.
- Semi-detached housing can be built on corner lots as a discretionary use.

Proposed Changes

The proposed changes are within existing RF1 zoning, for which allows for single-detached homes, secondary suites, and semi-detached or duplex homes in limited circumstances. Full scale change from RF1 to RF3 (which includes townhomes, walk-up apartments, and other housing types) is **NOT** being proposed.

1. In the proposal, minimum lot

width is reduced from 39 ft to 25 ft, allowing the subdivision of 50 ft lots into two 25 ft lots, with some exceptions.

2. Garden and garage suites could be constructed on any lot with access to a rear lane.

There are no proposals stemming from these amendments to develop existing green spaces. It is important that only one of a subdivision, secondary suite or garage/garden suite would be permitted on any lot - not in combination. Citizens can register to speak at the public hearing through the City's website.

If you have questions about these topics or others, please get in touch at 780-496-8132 or michael.walters@edmonton.ca.

Note: check out what the EFCL says about this topic on page 9.

Seniors' Corner by Bob Price

As the seniors representative on the Board since 2012, one of my roles is to make seniors in Southwest Edmonton and Blue Quill aware of activities involving the South West Edmonton Seniors Association (SWESA), the Heritage Drop-In Centre, Seniors United Now (SUN) and other seniors organizations within the area.

I was originally approached by SWESA to serve in that capacity on

the BQCL Board in the Fall of 2013. Now is perhaps the time to expand and look at activities that could be initiated by the Blue Quill Community itself.

If you would like further information about some of the senior organizations in the area, want to know more about what's happening for seniors in Southwest Edmonton, or have suggestions about activities that could be developed for seniors in the Blue Quill area, please

contact me at 780-437-9694, and we can discuss possible plans for the future or try to address senior concerns in the area.

Event of the month: The next SUN Edmonton South Chapter Meeting is Tuesday March 24, 1:00 pm at the Whitemud Crossing Library, featuring a presentation on estate planning.

- Bob Price

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Meet your Community League Board - part 2

Last issue we introduced you to half of the current board—here’s the rest! Please contact any board members with program suggestions or offers to volunteer.

Travis Ball President

Travis joined the community league in 2012 after being on one of the committees. He was inspired by how great our neighbourhood is and the many wonderful people in it, and thought he should do what he can to help the Board and the Community League.



Community League, Blue Quill Scouting, the Edmonton Symphony, the Edmonton Opera, and the Telus World of Science as well community initiatives.

Cristian Munoz Facilities Director & Programs co-chair

Cristian is excited to be a new member of the board and will also be coaching the U4 Mighty Mites soccer team. He enjoys playing various sports, recreational activities, traveling, music festivals and spending time with his 3 year old son.



Felice has lived in Blue Quill with her husband and 3 children for 20 years. She has been a member of the board previously, as social and publicity director.

Tim Battle Secretary

Serving his second year as secretary, Tim is also co-founder of the Skyrattler Neighbourhood Association and current editor of this newsletter. He lives with his wife and two teenage children in Skyrattler.



Tammy Senger Memberships

Tammy Senger was born and raised in Edmonton. She works in clerical and medical fields, and also volunteers at the Terwillegar Farmer’s Market. She has two grown sons and lives close to the community league.



Richard Hughes Fund-raising

Richard has always given back to the community participating with the Blue Quill



Felice Bassie Social Director



BQCL Board Members	
POSITION	NAME/EMAIL
President	Travis Ball president@bqcl.org
Vice-President	Jeremiah Silbernagel vicepresident@bqcl.org
Treasurer	Amanda Mochado treasurer@bqcl.org
Secretary	Tim Battle secretary@bqcl.org
Past President	Andrew Happer pastpers@bqcl.org
Civics	Neil Dunwald civics@bqcl.org
Facilities	Cristian Munoz facilities@bqcl.org
Fundraising	Richard Hughes fundraising@bqcl.org
Memberships	Tammy Senger membership@bqcl.org
Programs	Amanda Mochado & Cristian Munoz programs@bqcl.org
Publicity	Ray Bessel publicity@bqcl.org
Social	Felice Bassie social@bqcl.org
Sports	Janice Quinn sports@bqcl.org

Rent our Hall

*Did you know?
Community
League
members get
discounts on
hall rentals*

The Main Hall and Kitchen can be rented for \$425.00 per day, or \$75.00 per hour. **BQCL members receive discounted rates of \$325.00 per day and \$40.00 per hour!**



The upstairs loft at BQCL is an ideal meeting space as it can accommodate up to 60 seated and has tables, chairs, a sink and full A/V services (projector, screen, laptop video/audio hook-

ups, satellite, blu-ray player). This space can be rented on a weekday evening for \$85.00 (non-member) or \$75.00 (member). Weekend rental rates are the same as other rooms in the hall (\$75 per hour for non members and \$40 per hour for members).

The outdoor rink can be rented by BQCL members only. A rental fee of \$50.00 per hour applies for a minimum of 2

hours. An extra \$50 fee applies if the ice needs to be cleaned/flooded beforehand. The flooding will need to be coordinated with the schedule of the rink attendant.

Smaller rooms can be rented for \$75.00 per hour. **BQCL members receive discounted rates of \$40.00 per hour!**

A \$500 Security Deposit applies to all rentals.

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Garage & Garden Suites Public Hearing, March 16

News from the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues

Feb. 9, 2015 - The final version of the proposed amendments to Garage and Garden Suite regulations and the subdivision of RF1 (single detached dwelling) lots are now available for public view. Council will vote on the amendments at the March 16, 2015 Public Hearing.

Garage and Garden Suites

The amendments remove barriers to garage and garden suites. The suites are no longer restricted to specific locations such as corner sites, or sites abutting service roads, arterial roads with a landscaped strip, parks and medium or high density housing.

Garage and garden suites

may be built on sites with a minimum of 400 m² as opposed to the existing 460 m² requirement. **Thus virtually all lots in the city, especially lots in the mature areas, will be able to have a garage or garden suite.**

The proposed minimum site width is the minimum site width of the existing zone, rather than the existing width requirement of 15 m.

Furthermore, garage and garden suites may be 1.5 m higher than the principal residence. To put it into perspective, garage suites may be as high as most semi-bungalows.

Garage and garden suites will continue to be discretionary, that is, the

league and neighbours will have a right to appeal. Nevertheless, there is no guarantee that leagues and neighbours will be able to get any changes made to the plans.

Subdivision of RF1 lots

The proposed bylaw allows for the subdivision of lots for single houses to a 7.6 m width.

There is plenty of opportunity to subdivide RF1 lots into more than 2 lots if it can be justified. Council, Administration and the Subdivision Authority will have flexible decision-making power in this regard.

See the full article at www.efcl.org/newsmedia.

If you're interested in learning more about development permits, zoning issues and other items that impact your neighbourhood, the EFCL website is a great place to start: visit www.efcl.org/newsmedia and browse the news items there.



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Advertise in the Blue Grass Rattler

To advertise in the Blue Grass Rattler, call 780-438-3366 or email bqcladmin@bqcl.org

Deadline for the May/June issue is April 10th

The Blue Grass Rattler is a local community newsletter published five (5) times per year that provides news and details of events, programs and civic issues. It has a circulation of 5000 and is direct delivered to homes in Blue Quill, Blue Quill Estates, Sweet Grass and Skyrattler. Advertisements are accepted according to the rate schedule below with

priority given to local businesses and organizations. The newsletter is published and circulated by the Blue

Quill Community League who maintains editorial control and reserves the right to limit advertising as required.

SIZE	(width x height)	RATE
1/8 page	(3.5" v 2.25")	\$60
¼ page	(3.5" x 4.75")	\$100
½ page	(7.5" x 4.75")	\$180
Full Page	(7.5" x 10")	\$300
Back Page	(7.5" x 10")	\$350

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