
Malmö Plains Community News

www.malmoplains.com May 2016



Malmö Plains Community League President Murray Whitby (centre) leads the League's Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, April 19.

Malmö Plains AGM Sets Executive Board

The Malmö Plains Community League had its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on April 19. The meeting was well attended with League members, other Malmö residents, City Community Recreation Coordinator Michael Goth, and the City Councillor for Ward 10, Michael Walters all present. The meeting began with League President Murray Whitby and Treasurer Geoff Davidge each giving their annual reports.

Councillor Walters then provided updates on a number of topics of interest to Malmö residents including city tax rates, city capital plans and infrastructure spending, crime statistics and crime reduction, reporting residential usage violations, and grant funding opportunities for community leagues. Councillor Walters then spent a good deal of time fielding

questions from attendees on a wide variety of topics and concerns.

Executive Board elections came next. After six years of volunteer service to the Malmö Plains Community League, Geoff Davidge announced that he was stepping down from the role of Treasurer. Also stepping down was League Secretary Carrie Patterson.

All other incumbents on the Executive Board stood for election and were re-elected. Malmö resident Michael Whidden threw his hat in the ring and was elected, in a unanimous vote, as the League's new Treasurer. The Secretary role is currently vacant.

Feedback from the attendees was that this year's AGM was productive and an excellent example of engaged citizens coming together for the betterment of their community.

Soccer news

The Malmö Community League will have eight soccer teams again this year. Keep your eyes peeled for our players in the traditional gold and blue. We have a U4 team, two U6 teams, two U8 teams, one U10 boy team, one U12 girl team and a U18 girl team. We also have 17 parents and two university student volunteers who are coaching these kids. Thank you to all the coaches for making community soccer possible. Thank you to the four volunteers who sorted through soccer equipment with Lisa and Marianne to organize equipment for the teams. We hope everyone has a terrific soccer season.

Malmö Secretary

Malmö Plains Community League seeks a resident of Malmö to join its volunteer executive team as the Secretary. It is an important role and provides good operational board experience.

If you would like to learn more about the role, e-mail the League President, Murray Whitby, at president@malmoplains.com.

Preventing Crime

Like all other neighborhoods in the city, Malmö residents often have to deal with instances of crime, like theft from cars. If your car has been broken into, or if you're concerned it might happen, follow these tips from Edmonton Police Services:

Remove all Valuables- Never leave anything on display when you leave your vehicle. Even loose change, cigarettes, cigarette lighters, sunglasses, CD's, cell phones, stereos, cameras, and clothing, if they can see it they will steal it.

Park Safely- If you don't have a garage, try to park in a well-lit, open place, even when parking at work or a mall.

Remove Portable Accessories- Removing stereo face plates and locking them in the trunk or taking them with you, will deter thieves.

Get an Alarm Installed- Alarms can deter thieves not only from stealing items from your vehicle, but also from stealing your vehicle. Even if you have an alarm installed never, never, never leave anything in your vehicle.

Use a Steering Locking Device (The Club)- Use a steering wheel lock every time you leave your vehicle. A steering wheel lock will also deter theft of your vehicle.

Council seeks Neighbourhood Renewal

By Michael Walters, Ward 10 City Councillor

While the provincial budget passed without much fuss, this week our Council had to come face to face with some of the impacts of the provincial budget, specifically how it directly affected Edmonton's municipal property tax rate.

Our Situation

In November of 2015, Council worked hard to bring the property tax rate down to a 3.4% increase for 2016. We later found that we received more revenue from property assessments in 2015 (~\$5.6 million) than we had anticipated, meaning the increase could be brought down to 2.8%. Considering the combined inflation (1.6%) and population growth (1.6%), is 3.2%, which is a reasonable guide for tax increases, I was quite comfortable with the 2.8% figure for the 2016 increase.

In last fall's provincial budget we received a commitment from the province for an extra \$20 million dollars from the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (better known as MSI). Council earmarked these funds for our vital neighbourhood renewal program. This allowed us to give property taxpayers a break.

But last week's provincial budget brought a reversal in that commitment, meaning we have a \$20 million dollar shortfall to tackle.

While I recognize that the provincial government is facing tough times right now, this type of turn-about is not what good intergovernmental relationships are made of. Municipalities need predictability and stability from provincial governments, and shifting commitments with little lead time doesn't provide cities with a solid foundation for budgeting and planning.

Our Decision and Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal

In order to account for this \$20 million dollar hole in the budget, Council

agreed today to make an adjustment to the 2016 tax rate from the 2.8% back to the original 3.4% to maintain necessary funding for the neighbourhood renewal program to maintain the current pace.

I believe that raising the tax rate by 0.6% this year to cover neighbourhood renewal is the responsible thing to do. If we had not done it this year, it could have resulted in even larger increases down the line or a delay in the schedule. Neighbourhood renewal is also a large scale infrastructure project that employs a good number of Edmontonians in construction - if we are looking to keep the economy rolling, infrastructure projects are sorely needed.

Education Tax

Your property tax bill also includes a tax that isn't set by the municipality: the education tax. Last week's provincial budget also revealed that the province has increased the education budget while exempting certain provincially owned buildings from paying education tax, so this will be made up by all other property taxpayers. The province is therefore collecting 8.7% more than they collected from Edmontonians last years for education property tax. This equates to a 1.5% increase for the average homeowner on this year's property tax bill. All in all, that brings the combined rate for the average property owner to 4.9%. This amounts to an additional \$109 per year, based on the 2015 average property value of \$401,000.

The Coming Year

Council is not going to stop looking for efficiencies through a full-scale service and program review just getting underway, while also investing in projects that will keep Edmonton's economy moving and building our city. It's a difficult line to walk, but I'm confident that barring anomalies in the economy, we should be able to make progress on achieving a fair tax rate for 2017 and 2018.

City Stuff for Kids

Bike Safety Programs

The city will be partnering with communities to run bike safety courses again. Aspen Gardens, southwest of Malmo, is hosting the closest program, on Saturday May 14 from 1-4pm. There will be sessions for all ages.

City Summer Daycamps

Registrations for all city summer daycamps are now open. Program guides are available at elementary schools, public libraries, city recreation centres and pools, as well as online at edmonton.ca/daycamps or by calling 311. Malmo is hosting A Taste of Camp over Aug. 8-12. It runs 9am-4pm for ages 6-9.

Year-round Green Shacks

Kids aged 6 to 12 can drop in to the City's new year-round "Green Shack" programs. For the month of March, the closest program to Malmo is in Pleasantview. The programs run Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 to 7:00 pm, and on Saturdays from 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

Need softball gear? We got your bases covered

Are you in need of softball uniforms and equipment, or do you know a family or team who could benefit from a donation? When cleaning out the garage in April we came across some Malmo softball uniforms and equipment. Sizes range from Youth small to Adult extra large. It looks brand new although it has been in the garage at least since 2008. If anyone has use for this or is willing to find out where we can donate it to please contact Marianne at marianne.rankin@interbaun.com



Malmo resident Murray Tenove grooms the sand at the beach volleyball courts during a community cleanup day at the Malmo Community Hall on Saturday, April 23.

Volunteers Make Spring Cleanup a Breeze

On Sat. April 23 the Malmo community grounds clean-up was held. A major clean-up and reorganization of the garage was done. Also the sand volleyball courts and grounds were cleaned up.

Many thanks to Murray Tenove, Richard Fahrion, Murray Whitby, Marianne Rankin, Jon Elliott, Lisa Elliott, Ben Elliott and Jillian Elliott for volunteering their time.

Murray Tenove in particular spent a couple of hours carefully grooming the sand of the beach volleyball courts, and after gardening guru Karen Ashby ran her pruning workshop in the hall, she pruned and tidied up the shrubs in front of the hall.

We will need at least three more volunteers to help with the set up of the volleyball courts next spring. Also watch for an opportunity to help out in the fall when volleyball stuff has to come down.

Classified Ads

Handyman Services

For all your handyman work: Kitchen remodels, flooring install, door install, toilet change-out, closet upgrade, and general repairs. Call Lalith at 780-803-4731 or Lalith_gamage@hotmail.com

Landscaping Services

Bobcat service, grading, topsoil, sod, paving stone & retaining walls, trees & shrubs, post hole augering, dump hauling. Blair: 780-996-2041 info@earthandturf.ca

Carpentry and Drywall

Anything from fixing doors to patching holes. No project is too small. Call Adam at 587-984-4291.

Plumbing and Gas Fitting

Call Brett at 780-668-4788.

Electrical Work

Master electrician. All types of residential electrical work, including service changes. Please call Rob at 780-433-3837.

Automotive Mechanic

Mechanic available in Malmo for all your automotive needs. Very reasonable prices. Please call or text Tyson at 780-341-5958.

Travel Agent

Located here in Malmo. Call Jay at 780-916-0112 jay@swantravel.ca.

Personal Accounting Service

Individual tax filing and bookkeeping services. Please call Nancy at 780-807-1231.

Steeped Tea

Need to replenish your tea supply or want a great gift? Need a new, easy fundraiser? Earn 40%! Call Cheryl @ 780-439-1587 for quality loose leaf tea or go to my website: www.mysteeptea.com/cherylmc.

Classified Ads

Seniors' Services

Lifestyle Helping Hands Seniors Association is a non-profit charitable organization that provides seniors with door-to-door assisted transportation program for a nominal fee and home support services referrals program. For more information visit lhhsa.org.

Seniors' Lunch and Program

Petrolia seniors' group (55+) invites you to come to enjoy lunch and a program (\$15) the third Tuesdays (except July and August) 11:45 a.m. (sharp) to 2:00 p.m. at Greenfield Community Hall 3803 - 114 Street

May 17th - Gary Faulkner from Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital "Rehabilitation of ill and injured patients" TBC

June 21st - Roy Harback on Guitar - Old-time Songs and Sing-a-long

Lawn Mowing Service

In spring, in summer, and in fall, Roman is the guy to call. For lawn mowing and yard-cleaning services call him at 780-707-9697.

League Meeting

The regular meeting of the Malmo Plains Community League Executive will be held on Tuesday, May 17 at 7:00 pm, in the Malmo Hall.

Newsletter Info

Malmo Plains Community News is published by the Malmo Plains Community League and distributed free to all homes in Malmo. Email us: malmoplainsweb@gmail.com.

Follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/groups/MalmoPlains/ and on Twitter at: https://twitter.com/MalmoCL

Printing provided the good folks at:



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