LENDRUM LIVING

Summer 2017



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Lendrum Community League 11335 - 57 Ave. Edmonton T6H 0Z7

www.lendrum.org

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Come One Come All to the Annual Lendrum Summer BBQ!!

Sunday, June 25, 12 – 4pm

Come out to the playground to celebrate the end of the soccer season and the beginning of summertime in Lendrum! Enjoy the barbecue and the bouncy castles, watch the soccer teams square off, and pick up a book or two at our annual book sale.

This is a great event to kick off a summer of fun times in our community. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Volunteers are needed and much appreciated. Please contact ghawkeye@gmail.com



benefitting the Spray Park

June 25 12-4 pm

The Committee is now taking donations of gently used books and DVDs and looking for volunteers on Saturday, June 24 6:30-8:30pm and on Sunday, June 25 noon- 5pm. Contact Carolyn carolynfenrich@gmail.com or (780)695-3272

Greetings

President's Message

Our AGM was held in April and here are some of the details. A report from Councillor Walters indicated that some of the bus service will be restored in September. It won't be as it was, but should be an improvement from what it currently is.

On our executive, Rick Young has resigned as our treasurer. We owe a huge thank you to Rick for his efforts over the last 4 years to keep us on track and we welcome Kevin Nitchke as our new treasurer. I remain in the president position and Laura Sherman continues as our Secretary. The Vice President seat remains vacant. There are a couple of other positions that remain open so please consider if you can give a few hours a month to help the community league function better.

I am happy to discuss these positions or any other issues.

Gary Goulden president@lendrum.org

Next Community League Meetings Monday, June 5, 7pm Monday, Sept. 11, 7pm at the hall



A few of the LCL members on day 2 of our strategic planning session. Clearly we are exciting about future plans for our neighbourhood.

Photo courtesy of Anna Vesala.



Lendrum is seeking donations of park benches

The City's Benchmark program was established to offer individuals and groups the opportunity to honour friends and loved ones, or to celebrate special events through the rebuild of an existing park bench, or the installation of a new bench. A bronze plaque will be placed on the bench to serve as a lasting tribute. Opportunities also exist for park tables.

Type of Bench	Cost	Includes
New Park Bench	\$4000	Installation of new bench on parkland with memorial plaque. Includes 10-year maintenance plan.
Existing Bench	\$4000	Complete rebuild of an exisitng bench with addition of a memorial plaque. Includes a 10-year mainteance plan.

For more details, check out: http://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/tribute_honour/benchmark-program.aspx or contact Harvey Guhl at 780.504.7046.

Civics

The University Farm continues to evolve:

- The new Research and Collection Resource Facility to the south of the Saville Centre should be complete by fall 2017. The library staff will take six months to move all the books in.
- A new and very large storm pond west of the Saville Centre is dug and landscaping will include a small natural amphitheatre on the east side.
- North of the new storm pond, the City and the University continue to work on funding options for a new double ice arena. The arena will have a parkade built after the arena is finished.
- Rogers Communication is going to build a second cell tower next to the existing Telus tower.
- You might notice the dome on Foote Field coming down on May 5 and go back up on October 1.
- Two research projects are applying for permission to use the farmlands - one will test automated cars in winter conditions and the other will be testing drones. These are both still at a preliminary stage, however, the

university will develop community information sheets if these projects go ahead.

The South Campus Neighbourhood Coalition includes Lendrum, Belgravia, McKernan, Lansdowne, Grandview, Malmo, Parkallen and Aspen Gardens. The Coalition will likely meet with the University of Alberta Property Trust Incorporated in May. The University created the Trust hoping to develop a large portion of the University Farm. Prior to that development, the Alberta Government must approve the transfer of the farmland to the Trust. The Government has not yet approved that transfer. If you have questions about the Trust please send them to civics@lendrum.org.

Unrelated to the University, the City continues to promote infill. In the last newsletter, the City offered to hold a workshop on infill if any residents were interested. No interest was shown. However one resident had questions about building compliance and snow shovelling. The City said concerns about construction compliance should be directed to 311, which will prompt an inspector's visit.



We're pleased to be your neighbourhood restaurant and lounge!

Our Beautiful Patio is Open!! Eat & Drink Together... Outside!

y @GlassMonkeyYEG

Located in the Lendrum Shopping Mall. Open daily from 3:30 until 10:00pm. Closed Tuesday.

Community Bulletin Board

HoneyDolt Handyman Services

Renovate / Repair / Maintain Located in Lendrum Special rate for Lendrum Residents Please contact Chris at 780-405-1560 or www.facebook.com/honeydoithandyman





Community League Wellness Program at City of Edmonton Recreation Centres

In 2017, your community league membership will now save you 15% on multi-admission passes and 20% on annual

passes! (Previously, the discount was 10% for community league members.) What a deal!

To get a LCL membership contact Joanne, contact details on page 16.

Icon made by Freepik from www.flaticon.com

PETROLIA SENIORS (55+)

Invites YOU to come to ENJOY

LUNCH and a PROGRAM (\$15 except December)

Every Third Tuesday (except July and August) 11:45 a.m. (sharp) to 2:00 p.m.

at Greenfield Community Hall 3803 – 114th Street

May 25th - Tour of Stars Facility at Airport

June 20th – Petrolia Seniors 30th Anniversary Celebration Paula Simons – Speaker Attendance limited to one hundred (100)

September 19th - Sheree Kwong See - Alberta Seniors Advocate

In addition enjoy another "outing" during the month To CONFIRM your attendance or for more information Call: Nick --780-435-1045 or Betty --780-434-0711

We look forward to your participation.

Bridge-Wednesdays 12 - 3 p.m. for info call Lawrence--780-436-2080



A Lendrum family is looking to renovate/rebuild in Lendrum. If you are interested in selling please email camera5052@ gmail.com or call 780.860.6545.

Advertising in the Lendrum Newsletter: No charge: classified (business card sized or less) ads from Lendrum residents, one ad per year from non-profit organizations benefitting the Lendrum area. Paid ads: all other ads - business card \$15; 1/4 page \$25; 1/3 page \$35; 1/2 page \$50; full page \$95 (sizes are approximate). Contact newsletter@lendrum.org.

Local Pet Grooming

Fur Evolution is accepting new clients for dog and cat grooming. Groomer is a certified pet stylist, a long-time Lendrum resident and has a home-based business.

Call now 780-934-8986 or visit us at www.furevolution.ca







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References available; Affordable rates; I am a Lendrum resident

Call lan for a free quote at 780-237-5155



Moving? Downsizing? Decluttering?

I can help you with that. I will take your unused items and sell them for you on Kijiji on a commission basis.

Please contact Charlene at 780.257.1813 or shesellsyourstuff@gmail.com for details.



FOR SALE: A 3 wheel fortress electric scooter with two 12V cell batteries. Includes charger. \$250 o.b.o. Call 780.434.8165

Park Redevelopment

The tender for our spray equipment is out and the Park Redevelopment Committee will meet with the City in a few weeks to evaluate the proposals and help choose the supplier. The City has changed its process and communities now only have a 15% say in the decision. Once the chosen proposal is finalized a second tender process to hire a contractor for the chosen design will begin, meaning that construction is slated to begin in July and finish at the end of September. Separate tenders for the new park furniture and new shelter will go out soon as well.

There will be another book sale during the Summer BBQ in support of the spray park on Sunday June 25 from noon – 4pm. Volunteers are needed Saturday June 24 from 6:30 – 8:30pm to set up, Sunday June 25 noon-4pm to sell books and freezies and from 4-5pm to clean-up and haul leftover books for donation. To volunteer please contact Carolyn at 780-695-3272 or carolynfenrich@gmail.com

Thank you to all who donated and volunteered for the recent bottle drive. It brought in \$1750 for the spray park!

Allison fundraising@lendrum.org

School News

École Lendrum School

Did you know École Lendrum School is being painted? We encourage all Lendrum alumni to visit us over the next few months to see the changes. While the painting process will most likely stretch into the summer, the fresh paint in the library is an indicator that the school has a "bright" future!

On behalf of École Lendrum School, I would like to thank the Lendrum community for supporting our school fundraisers and family events. We are very fortunate to have surrounding community members like you.



The school is accepting registration for children from Pleasantview, Malmo, and Lendrum communities. The school is projected to have 261 students next year, including Kindergarten to Grade 6 for our English strand, and Kindergarten to Grade 3 for our French Immersion strand. We look forward to welcoming families both new and "experienced" to our school in the fall.

Upcoming events:

Friday, May 26th: Beach Day - let's show we are ready for the beach!

Friday, June 2nd: Light the Night walk (during the afternoon) for Leukemia and Lymphoma featuring

Spider Mable

Friday, June 16th: Division 1 talent show at 14:30 Thursday, June 22nd: Division 2 talent show at 13:30 Wednesday, June 28th: Grade 6 farewell at 9:30 Thursday, June 29th: last day of school for students

We wish you a great Spring and Summer! Jason Ludwar Principal/Directeur

Your local health professionals

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- *Minor surgeries
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- *Vasectomy
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- *Insurances forms
- *Cryotherapy
- *Ear wax removal
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www.lendrumpharmacy.com

Ask about the "Comprehensive Care Plans" & "Medication Reviews" 5720 111 St. NW Edmonton T6H 3G1 (located at Lendrum Plaza)

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Capital Regional Housing Corporation Lendrum Redevelopment

The information boards and feedback form for the final phase of public consultation on the redevelopment of affordable housing in Lendrum can be found at www.itstartswithhome. com. Feedback must be submitted before May 26.



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Lendrum Happenings

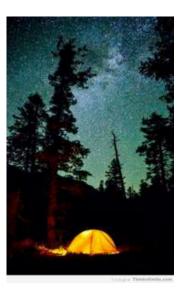
Annual Summer Campout!

Mark your calendars for Friday, August 11

Come camp out in your own community! Bring your tent & sleeping bag and enjoy family games & activities, a craft for the kids, and a hot dog & marshmallow roast for everyone! Please bring a campfire snack to share, and we will provide the rest, including pancake breakfast in the morning. If you're not up for sleeping in a tent, come by with a lawn chair and enjoy the evening around the fire pit with neighbours.

Cost is \$25 per family – all proceeds to Lendrum Park Redevelopment. All children & teens must be supervised by an adult.

A few helpers are needed to make this event a big success! Get in touch with Erin at e.n.sawyer@gmail.com to RSVP (by August 6) and volunteer.



Abundant Community Initiative

"Get To Know Your Neighbours!"

One of the best ways to meet your neighbours is to have a Block Party, a Block Social or a Block Gathering. All it takes is one person to step forward & say, 'Hey, let's make this happen!'

The City has waived any fee to have a street blocked off making it easier than ever to ensure you can gather on the street with kids & be safe. Some areas of Lendrum have a history of a long-standing Block Party while others haven't seen one in years. If you'd like to help get one happening on your block, we, Stew & Anola Carson & team, are happy to help. We're looking to provide a very simple & short 'Block Party Bootcamp' with Anna, our neighbourhood CRC in late May.

We may be able to access some City funds allocated for Block Parties, & we can also have some great equipment & games loaned out to us. As the Abundant Community Connector Coordinators we love to help people move from strangers to acquaintances & on to being great neighbours. If you'd like to help be a contact person on your block, please let us know!

Stew and Anola Carson stewcarson@shaw.ca, 780-604-0388



Who's Who (in the LCL)

At our recent strategic planning session, it was suggested that we share a bit more information about the various roles in the LCL (Lendrum Community League) and the people who currently fill them. This will be a new regular feature in Lendrum Living. This issue will commence with the newsletter editor (because said newsletter editor was tardy in reaching out to anyone else :p)

1. Name: Erin Sawyer

2. What is your role?

I am the newsletter editor. I put together five issues of Lendrum Living a year. This involves reaching out to various people for contributions, creating the document, sending it to the printer, picking it up from the printer, dropping it off for distribution and invoicing for advertisements.

3. How long have you been doing this role?

I have been editing Lendrum Living since May 2014 - Wow! Has it been that long already!?!

4. How long have you lived in Lendrum?

I moved to Lendrum from Vancouver in January 2013.

5. Why did you take on this position?

As I mentioned, my family moved here in January 2013, I had a baby in July, and by the following spring was looking to meet more people and get more involved in my community. The League was looking for a new newsletter editor and having worked in communications in the past I thought it was a good fit.

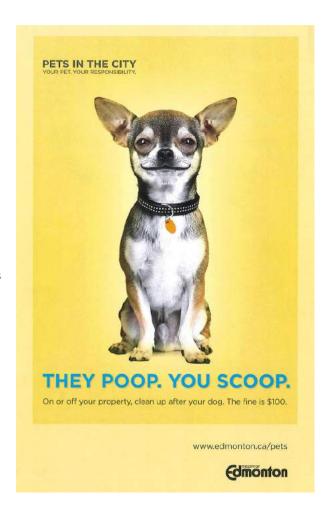
6. How much time does this position take?

Each newsletter takes around 5-7 hours of work. In between issues there are emails that need to be responded to and invoices that need to be sent. I would guess that in an average week I only need to work on LCL items for around 30-45 minutes. With the week between the submission deadline and getting the newsletter to the printer being more intense.

7. What do you like about this role?

I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting and working alongside all the people in the LCL. Through this position I have connected with more people than I could have imagined. I also enjoy the creative aspect. The editorial I write gives me a chance to express my voice. I truly feel that getting involved has made my life much richer.

Watch for more interviews in upcoming issues! Think you might have time to volunteer in the LCL? Let us know and we would be happy to discuss open positions!





FRIDAY JUNE, 16Th 6:30PM - 8:30PM Square I Cafe 15 Fajrway Drive

\$45 PER PERSON

Save your Spot! Contact Annette at Pyjamapatrol. Yeg@gmail.com or at 180-293-2212

PROCEEDS WIll be used to buy New Pyjamas for Children in Need









SUMMER SUMMER GREEN SHACK

LOCATION	DATES	DAYS	TIMES
Lendrum Place 11335 – 57 Ave	July 4 – August 24	Monday-Friday	2:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Our Green Shack program is now running in neighbourhoods all over Edmonton.

Come and join us for games, crafts, sports, outdoor cooking and more!



Energy Committee

Hello Lendrum!

I am Pam Smith, the chair of the Lendrum Energy Committee. I am very interested in alternative energies and how they could transform our world, particularly solar energy, which is the focus of the following article. In mid-February I attended a presentation given jointly by the Solar Energy Society of Alberta (SESA) and the City of Edmonton. For fifteen dollars I got four hours of excellent information, food, and drink. These workshops are repeated often during the year (solaralberta.ca) and are an excellent introduction to the world of solar.

The following points from the workshop (courtesy of Rob Harlan, presenter) amazed me. Things are changing fast:

- "The sun could be the world's largest source of electricity by 2050, ahead of fossil fuels, wind, hydro and nuclear, according to a pair of reports issued by the International Energy Agency (IEA)" (Source: International Energy Agency, 2014)
- Solar will be at grid parity in 80% of the global electricity market by by 2017 (Source: Deutsche Bank 2015)
- 68% of new electrical generation capacity in the US in 2015 was renewable energy (Source: 2015 Bloomberg Report)

To help understand the viability of solar power in Alberta let's take Germany as an example.

Through an ambitious, visionary solar development program instigated in 2000, Germany rapidly became the world leader in installed solar capacity while creating a robust solar industry and radically changing how we view electrical generation and distribution. In 15 years Germany's electricity went from 6% renewables to 31%. This was accomplished with:

- A solar resource which is 60% of Alberta's
- Half the land area of Alberta
- Almost 20X the population as Albert
- Less efficient technology than we now have available
- More expensive technology than we now have available

In 2000 Germany had 4 companies supplying electricity. It now has 1.4 million suppliers. 65% of the total renewable energy capacity is now owned by individuals, farmers, cooperatives

and communities. Germany's once powerful utilities now own only 6.8% of this sector.

How does Edmonton Compare?

Potential kWh per yr./WPV

Germany, Berlin: 0.848

Italy, Rome: 1.283

USA, Washington DC: 1.133

Japan, Tokyo: 0.885China, Beijing: 1.148Edmonton, Alberta: 1.245

*Rob Harlan is a Solar Contractor, General Building & Electrical Contractor, the Executive Director at SESA, an Instructor at Grant MacEwan Institute of Environmental Studies and Northern Alberta Institute of Technologies, and part of the City of Edmonton Renewable Energy Task Force: Alberta Agriculture Growing Forward Solar Program

At the Solar PV 101 presentation, I learned far too much to convey in one article. I was able to see and touch actual solar panels, inverters, and other technology related to solar power use. All in all, an excellent experience. If you would like a copy of the PDF from the presentation, please email me pam@zaw.com, Have a sunshiny day!



How do Lendrum residents view alternative energy?
Would you be willing to take a very brief survey?

Go to Lendrum.org to take the survey, titled **LEO- Lendrum's Energy Opinion**.



Want to get your hands dirty?

The volunteer gardeners at the Green & Gold Community Garden, on the University of Alberta's South Campus, are making plans for our ninth gardening season! The garden, an initiative of the University's Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, is totally volunteer run. Virtually all of the seeds, plants and equipment used are donated.

The vegetables, herbs and flowers are "spray-free" (no pesticides or artificial fertilizers are used). Anyone is welcome to 'purchase' their vegetables at the garden and all of the money raised – that's 100% – goes to the **Tubahumurize Association**, a non-profit organization in Rwanda that provides socially and economically marginalized women with vocational training, counselling, life-skills coaching, health care education, and opportunities for sustainable income generating activities. Most individuals who benefit from Tubahumurize are genocide survivors and many are widows or orphans, HIV infected, and survivors of physical and sexual violence. To date, the garden has raised over \$196,000 for the Tubahumurize project.

We are now gearing up for the 2017 gardening season, and are looking for new volunteers to join us at the garden. Both novice & experienced gardeners are welcome. If you aren't interested in gardening, but would like to help in other ways (distributing produce, promoting the garden, donating seeds or garden tools) please contact us at:

E-mail: gggarden@ualberta.ca

Phone: 780-492-4087

Web site: www.greengoldgarden.com

If you would like to receive garden e-mails when produce from the garden is available this summer please send us an e-mail at the above address with a request to be added to the e-mail list.



Lendrum Bike Race

CANADA DAY CRITERIUM

New route this year!

On July 1st there will be an Alberta Bicycle Association sanctioned bike race on the streets of Lendrum. The amateur race is hosted by the Juventus Cycling Club and the Lendrum Community League for a range of cycling abilities.

There will be a number of activities that Lendrum residents can get involved in – the children's race, a beer garden and bbq in support of the Lendrum Spray Park, and of course, enjoying Canada Day by cheering on the racers. Come out and enjoy the day with your neighbours.

Road Closures: The racecourse is a closed loop and no cars will be allowed on the course. If you want to cross the course during the day a volunteer will allow it when it is safe.

No Parking: There will be no parking on the course and if you have a vehicle on the course it will be towed to the nearest safe place. Please move your vehicle to a place that is easy for you to access off the course. You will get a notice in your mailbox of the race if you are on the course.

Group #	Start Time	Laps	Approximate Event Length	Categories/Group
1	10:15 AM	16	35 Minutes	Cat 5
2	11 AM	20	40 Minutes	Cat 4
3	11:55 AM	16	35 Minutes	Women 3/4/5
4	12:40 PM	24	45 Minutes	Cat 3/Open Women
5	1:35 PM	1	20 Minutes	Kids Race * Not part of ABA Sanction
6	2:10 PM	32	55 Minutes	Cat 1/ 2



If you have questions or require additional information about the race please contact Lance Adamson at adamson@telus.net or 780-438-9168



Dr. Mary Ann Kuharchuk, Dr. Jason Nijjer b.sc., d.d.s

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Lendrum Neighbourhood Safety

Home Security During Summer Vacation

A few tips to help protect your property while you are away:

- Arrange to have your mailbox emptied on a daily basis
- Stop delivery of newspapers
- Arrange to have your lawn cut while you are away
- Use timers on your lights to simulate people being home
- Have a trusted person walk through your house every couple of days to ensure everything
 is as it should be (this may also be required for insurance purposes)

Crime Stats for Lendrum Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Total

http://www.edmontonpolice.ca/CrimeFiles/NeighbourhoodCrimeMapping.aspx



Community Programs

Lendrum Ladies' Coffee Time:

First Monday each month,1:30pm at Sunterra Market. For more info, please call Betty-Anne Stromsmoe at 780.437.7942

Sparks, Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders:

For girls ages 5-18. Call 780.435.5068 for more info. Join anytime, always accepting new girls in all levels!

Lose Weight -TOPS:

(Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Meets Tuesdays from 10-11 am at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, 11460-60 Ave. For support in weight loss related programs contact Betty-Anne at 780.437.7942.

Crafters of Lendrum:

The Lendrum Craft Group welcomes all residents and friends who enjoy doing handicrafts. We 'usually' meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 11:00-4:00 with the exception of holidays and share a potluck lunch at the Community Hall.

Upcoming dates:

May 29; June 12, 26

For more information, call Peggy Folinsbee at 780.436.9322.

Line Dancing:

Every Thursday from 10:00 –11:30 am at Lendrum Community Hall. For info contact Don or Rita at 780.434.5885.

Lendrum Pottery Group:

For more information please call Joy Schlaut at 780.434.1997.

Lendrum Yoga

The community league hosts a power flow yoga class at 8pm on Thursdays at the community hall, if you are interested in joining the next session contact Erin at e.n.sawyer@gmail.com.

Please contact Gary Goulden with any ideas for possible new programs 780.450.0927

Blue Chair Tai Chi:

Mondays 9-10:30am Lendrum Hall Fridays 9-10:30am Lendrum Hall Sorry, we do not offer beginner classes. If you know the 108-move Moy-style set, please join us in practicing at an intermediate level. Call Kathy at 780.435.0738.

Lendrum Parents Meetup

Are you a parent in Lendrum? Are you interested in connecting with other parents in Lendrum for nights out, playdates and meetups? Join our Facebook page - Lendrum Parents.

Rhymes, Songs & Storytime

This interactive group for parents, caregivers and children has a structured and repeated routine which helps children increase their memory and language skills. For children 0-3, (siblings welcome). Tuesdays, April 11-June 20, 10-11am at the Lendrum Community Hall.

Music and Motion

Enjoy songs, parachute play and action games with the staff of the Southwest Family Resource Centre. Mondays, April 10-June 19, 10-11am at the Pleasantview Community Hall. Ages 2-6 (siblings welcome).

Lendrum Men's Night

We host a Lendrum Men's group at the Community Hall the last Friday of each month between 4:30 and 7:00 p.m. There will be beer and snacks. You are welcome to come for a few minutes or the entire time. Drop by with a few dollars to socialize and have a beer. Meet new people and get to know your neighbours or talk about old times with your old neighbourhood friends.

Drop-in Knit and Crochet Group

We (usually) meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, 6:30 pm to 9 pm at the Community Hall. All levels and genders are welcome. Cost is a toonie a time. Phone Heather Jenkins at 780.436.7011 or Joanne Leicht at 780.435.1574 for more information. Upcoming dates: June 6 and 20.

Calendar of Events

June 5 Community League Meeting 7-9pm
June 25 Soccer wrap-up and summer bbq 12-4pm

June 25 Book Sale 12-4pm August 11 Lendrum Campout

September 11 Community League Meeting 7-9pm

^{**}All events at Lendrum Hall unless otherwise noted**





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Call us today!

Susan Janzen, B. Ed.

780-893-7989



Lendrum Community League 2017-2018 Executive & Coordinator Contacts

President Vice-President	Gary Goulden VACANT	780.450.0927	president@lendrum.org
Past President	Bill Fish	780.437.6794	pastpresident@lendrum.org
Treasurer	Kevin Nitchke		treasurer@lendrum.org
Secretary	Laura Sherman	780.425.0993	secretary@lendrum.org
Casino	Catherine Rostron	780.434.3839	casino@lendrum.org
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Membership	Joanne Hamel	780.454.5111	membership@lendrum.org
Social	VACANT		
Soccer	Matthew Hawkeye	780.920.6122	soccer@lendrum.org
Volleyball	Lance Adamson	780.438.9168	volleyball@lendrum.org
Athletic Park	Harvey Guhl	780.504.7046	athleticpark@lendrum.org
Master Gardener	Bonnie Herring-Cooper	780.431.9513	communitygardener@lendrum.org
Master Naturalist	Peggy Folinsbee	780.436.9322	peggy.folinsbee@gmail.com
Fundraising	Allison Nitchke	780.988.0601	fundraising@lendrum.org
Park Redevelopment	Allison Nitchke	780.988.0601	playground@lendrum.org
Hall Rentals	Bonnie Herring-Cooper		hallrentals@lendrum.org
Ice Rink	Ben Willing	587.523.3520	icerink@lendrum.org
Lendrum Sign	Luke Falkenstein	780.431.0752	sign@lendrum.org
Newsletter Editor	Erin Sawyer	587.523.3520	newsletter@lendrum.org
Website	Marlene Konduc		webmaster@lendrum.org
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There are many ways to stay connected to the community!

- 1. Check out the website at www.lendrum.org.
- 2. Follow us on twitter @LendrumYEG
- 3. Join our Facebook page www.facebook.com/lendrumyeg

Spring is here. The parks are full. The days are getting long. The Lily Leaf Beatles are eating my lilies. But I'm onto them. My lovely neighbour told me about them so now my trowel and I are out busily crushing them and their little eggs. I love the summer here but man, I have trouble keeping up with my housework in the winter, and now I have to work in the garden and deal with all the unwanted flora and fauna that crop up in it too!

Our block is having its block party at the start of June. My kids look forward to this event all year long. They love to help deliver the invites and the day of the event they are itching for it to start. There is something cool about being able to take over a portion of the road, even if only for an evening. One of my favourite parts about the block party is getting to meet or see again all the neighbours that you might not run into that often. There is a very nice couple who always bring a piñata for the children and one of my neighbours always makes this amazing rhubarb cake. The block party is a little work for a lot of reward. At our strategic planning sessions in April we were looking at ways to reach out to people who may not come to the many community league events, block parties are a great way to bring together a diverse group of people for the purpose of enjoying good food and some good conversation.

Recently I was made even more cognizant of the importance of neighbour connections. I was having a conversation about strangers with my elder daughter (who now wants to ride her bike around the block on her own). I was asking who she might turn to if she encountered someone who made her feel uncomfortable, and this made the pair of us realize there were so many houses on the block that she could go to! What an awesome feeling to know that there is a community helping to keep an eye on my kids! Until September, enjoy the summer! Erin