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A League Of Its Own

From Prohibition Forum to Jumpin' Jive Joint—A Community Spirit Lives On By Kim Green

What we know today as the Parkallen Community League was founded in February, 1920, and was originally called the Calgary Trail Community League. The League was one of the founding members of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues. Early meetings were held at the Allendale Baptist Mission.

In its early years the League was, on several occasions, the venue where south-siders could make their opinions known on both sides of the once-raging prohibition debate in the province where a plebiscite on the issue took place on July 21, 1915. The vote was 58,295 to 37,509 in favour of the abolition of the sale of all liquor (with the exception of liquor for medicinal, sacramental and scientific use, and the two percent "temperance" beer).

In fact, in Canada, as in America, the movement to ban the sale of alcohol—mostly spearheaded by women in an attempt to control its debilitating effects on their menfolk—had been underway for some time. That movement culminating in an 1898 national referendum that ended in a narrow margin of victory for the prohibitionists with 51.3 percent voting in support of the ban.

However, 81.2 percent of Quebecers didn't see eye-to-eye with the rest of the country—no surprise there. This difference of opinion forced then-Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier's government to, in that most Canadian of ways, opt for the mosaic approach that allowed the provinces to choose their own courses of action.

Prince Edward Island was the

first province to vote to go dry in 1901. Alberta didn't jump on the bandwagon until 14 years later when 61 percent of the all-male electorate voted to support prohibition (women may have been instrumental in getting out the vote out, but they couldn't, as yet, cast their own ballots). The taps were turned off on a Friday night, July 1, 1916—just in time for Dominion Day celebrations.

The nascent Parkallen Community League's (not, as yet, named such) role in all this was as a venue for the rival camps to voice their opinions on the matter. At one such forum in September 1923, League members came out to hear A. L. Marks of the Prohibition Party and University of Alberta founding Professor W.H. Alexander of the Moderation Party. Both speakers were (or would become) community league

presidents: Marks at Garneau in 1921 and Alexander at McKernan in 1932.

The atmosphere that evening was highly charged. Ever since the 1915 vote, there had been no peace on the issue. After a slight altercation about who should speak first, Marks began by commenting that the order of speaking was a minor issue as "truth would prevail." He went on to say that the consumption of alcoholic beverages was not simply a local issue, but one with worldwide implications. He further argued that the creation of a multitude of new bank accounts in Edmonton after the 1915 vote was proof that prohibition had salutary effects.

Professor Alexander replied: "There should be moderation in all things." He glanced at his sparring partner before continuing. "Even in the length of speeches."

Alexander proceeded to quote extracts from Alberta Provincial Police Commissioner Willoughby Charles (Teddy) Bryan's reports for 1920-23 which showed, he claimed, that prohibition could never be enforced. "While illegal buying and selling was decreasing... home-brewing was on the increase."

In the end, Alberta would only remain dry for seven years as a province-wide plebiscite put an end to prohibition in November, 1923, with nearly 58 percent of the voters opting in favour of allowing alcohol sales, although communities could hold their own vote as to whether or not they should prohibit sales of liquor in their towns. And that's why, to this day, you can't buy alcohol in the predominantly Mormon town of Cardston. That's also why, to this day, Pub Night is a legal affair held semi-regularly at the Parkallen Community Hall.

After the Second World War, the

divisive issue of prohibition long since left behind, the name of Parkallen was attached to the Community League. Kenneth Sivertsen became the League's first president. Probably the biggest physical manifestation of that era was the building of the Parkallen Community Fountain that was erected at 112th Street and 65th Avenue and has, sadly, long since passed from memory.

Halloween parties, talent shows, and the still extant Winter Carnival were standard Community League fare during the fifties and sixties. Local dances also provided good times, featuring such acts as Caller Bill Coulter and the Buttons and Bows Dance Club. For those who liked more exotic rhythms, there were the get-togethers of Parkallen's Latin American Dance Club.

In 1960 the League boundaries were defined as extending from 72nd Avenue on the north to 61st Avenue on the south, and from 109th Street on the east to 113th Street on the west. Neil Crawford became the first president of what are still the official Parkallen Community League parameters.

The social events remained active and, in addition, Parkallen began building strong community sports programs for children of all age groups, including hockey, baseball, basketball and soccer. Today, the only active community sports league takes to the field in short pants with the soccer league.

In the early sixties, the original Parkallen Community Hall was built and provided skate change rooms for the rink as well as a concession stand. In the early 1980s, the hall underwent extensive renovations and a parking lot was added at a cost of around \$150,000, the money raised by the community through casinos, raffles, bazaars and league memberships. That money was complemented with a city grant of \$79,000. Then-Attorney

General Neil Crawford officiated at the opening ceremony in the winter of 1982.

As of this writing, the Community Hall is undergoing a further renovations that are budgeted to cost around \$40,000, the money once again coming from Parkallen's once-every-two-years running of a weekend-long casino at West Edmonton Mall, as well as a city grant to facilitate such necessary upgrades as a new floor, a fire alarm system, new locks, repairs to the walls, ceilings and washrooms, and a fresh coat of interior paint to spruce the place up.

Acting as general contractor to facilitate these repairs and upgrades is community member Rob Hafer who's doing it all on a volunteer basis and deserves a hearty thank you for putting up with the endless stream of "suggestions" that kept coming his way.

Likewise, all the Community league volunteers deserve accolades for giving up their time and effort to help make this a great community to live in. In this vein, the Parkallen Community League Casino is a big event and much-needed financial shot in the arm for our community, so anyone who'd like to contribute to making this event a success is more than welcome to come aboard. To offer your assistance go to social@parkallen.ca.

As for the feisty arguments the Community League once hosted where proponents on different sides of the prohibition question battled to have their voices heard, a bit of that still goes on during the Parkallen Community League Pub Nights—although the winners of this once acrimonious debate are now a foregone conclusion.

A Lot to Consider

The Cost Builds To Buy A Teardown

By Kim Green



In February of this year another story of Vancouver real estate run amok made the rounds on the internet. The house in question was located in the West Point Grey neighbourhood of that city where the average home lists for \$3.5 million. The asking price for this property was \$2.4 million. A bargain, you might say.

But the word "house" is used liberally because the property being offered for sale was more of a shack, really. The kind of place you may have rented as a college student that hadn't seen any tender loving care for decades. The value was not in the house, but in the property the house sat on.

How is this germane to Edmonton in general and Parkallen specifically? Well, we may not breath the same stratospheric real estate air as Vancouver—where a house in Kitsilano recently sold for \$735,000 over the asking price of almost \$3.5 million—but in Edmonton the average price of a house that's bought in a mature neighbourhood by a developer purely for the sake of tearing it down and putting another detached single family dwelling in its stead has reached \$420,000.

Thinking about that number, one can see why the mature neighbour-hood infill issue has become such a flashpoint in the City as the cost of buying into these new dwellings in old neighbourhoods has slipping beyond the reach of all but the

most financially fertile amongst us.

Writing in the Edmonton Journal, local real estate watchdog Elise Stolte noted that infill housing was "originally positioned, in part, as a way to revitalize aging neighbourhoods and save community schools, it appears most infill is still replacing single-family homes with single-family homes and at a cost that puts them far outside most family budgets."

"It's unaffordable because of the land costs," Stolte auoted Kevin Cooper as saying. A Strathconaraised urban planner turned independent consultant, Cooper used tax assessment data for older homes with approved development permits to come up with his dollar figures while also discovering that teardowns slated to be rebuilt as semi-detached or duplex homes average \$300,000. "These houses are in great locations," Cooper said. "But the minimum is almost \$300,000, and it just goes up from there."

Stolte also noted that, according to developers, the cost of teardowns jumped about two years ago, increasing 25 percent around the time city council allowed homeowners in specific infill-oriented neighbourhoods to subdivide 50-foot lots.

Council recently voted to allow that type of subdivision in all neighbourhoods, purportedly to help make infill more affordable and to increase density to make the city more efficient, reducing the number of new neighbourhoods needing city amenities.

However, on the upside, the infills that are being built rely on the same city services as before and put no discernable extra pressure on resources, but on the downside, they do nothing to promote urban density and often end up irritating local residents who have to put up with the construction and their own localized version of urban sprawl as the houses being built dwarf the footprint of what they're replacing.

Cooper, for his part, told the Journal that he's advocating empathy for community leagues dealing with a new developer each time. "It's really hard to build trust because there's no consistency," he said. "It's like if someone came in and rearranged your furniture while you were out. Would it still feel like home? If you start changing the neighbourhood without them, they feel disconnected and start to get confrontational."

Neighbourhoods with the highest number of infill applications in 2014 (excluding secondary suites)

Bonnie Doon, 36

Westmount, 31

Ritchie, 30

King Edward Park, 27

Inglewood, 22

Old Strathcona, 19

Alberta Avenue, 16

Glenora, 16

McKernan, 16

Belgravia, 15

Crestwood, 15

Number of applications by housing type

Single Detached, 293

Semi Detached, 139

Skinny Homes, 40

Garage Suite, 25

Apartment Housing, 21

Row Housing, 20

Stacked Row Housing, 5

Duplex, 2

New Kid In Town

From Chinese Restaurant to Children's Daycare — The Rebirth of a Parkallen Landmark

By Niall Mckenna



Little Learners Daycare director Carolyn Yake already has the first two clients for her new facility: her 10-month-old son, Dominic (pictured), and three-year-old son Tony.

It's Sunday afternoon and Carolyn Yake is watching her dream come true. Forget that this dream has no walls, no flooring, old wiring and plumbing, and perhaps just the slightest whiff of Chinese food.

"I'm so excited right now. I'm just itching to paint," Carolyn says in the vast, now-demolished space the Happy Garden restaurant once occupied at 652-111 Street, part of the original cluster of business space in Parkallen just across the street from Ellingson Park.

The former restaurant is under renovation to become Parkallen's newest daycare—Little Learners Daycare. It will be the only one in the neighbourhood to accommodate children from 12 months old up. (The YMCA Child Care at Parkallen School, according to its website, is licensed for children 19 months and older, while Green Circle is for children three years old and up.)

While new parents will be thrilled, the arrival of a new business—any business—will be welcome to many in Parkallen and other mature neighbourhoods in the area. When Happy Garden's closure was announced last August, a wave of sadness overcame many in the City. The legendary establishment,

widely considered the birthplace of the famed Edmonton version of the green onion cake, had been a fixture in Parkallen for 35 years.

For Parkallenites, the closure stung even more, as two other businesses in the same complex—the Beauty Salon de Paris and The Quirky Art Café— had also recently closed. Although neither of those businesses saw near the amount of customers as Happy Garden.

In the midst of this, Carolyn had embarked on a grueling, citywide search to house a daycare. After nine months and visits to 15 locations, she found nothing that could fulfill the extensive licensing requirements for such an establishment. Then one day in December, she received a Kijiji alert for the old Happy Garden location. Within days, she and her mom made a visit.

"It was a beautiful winter day when we arrived," Carolyn says. "The sun was shining. It was warm, quiet, peaceful and serene. When I got out of the car and I had that experience, me and my mom both turned around and looked at each other and went, 'Oh my gosh, this would be a perfect location for a daycare.'

Carolyn says the landlords have

been great to work with and have already upgraded the furnace and hot water heater, with the plumbing and electrical next on the list. By law, a fenced-off, outdoor play area must also be built—that will be placed behind the building. Carolyn hopes the daycare will be licensed and open for business as early as May, and most certainly by June. She is already adding names to a waiting list of clients anticipating the opening of the facility.

Her dream job as daycare director is now within her grasp, but the bumpy road to get here is fresh in her mind.

Carolyn graduated with a bachelor of education from the University of Alberta in 2010. She enjoyed her studies and working with students, but hit a major bump upon graduation—finding stable work was virtually impossible, and her motivation sagged. She was so desperate for work that she got baptized as a Catholic (she was raised in a Christian household) to try and break into the separate school system—but without luck.

A couple of years and the birth of her second son later, Carolyn started to realize her heart was no longer in grade school education. "I realized," she says, "my passion was working with younger children."

Her education degree allowed her to get accredited as a child development supervisor, formerly known as a level three early childhood educator. Even though she had never worked formerly with young children, she got a job in 2014 as director of an after-school program at a daycare in Sherwood Park.

"It was scary," she remembers. "I felt like I didn't know what I was doing."

Carolyn quickly got the hang of working with the children and when

a higher-level assistant director went on maternity leave two weeks later, she was offered the job. Six months after that, the daycare director quit and Carolyn was appointed as acting director—pulling her off the front lines and into the office. Her past experience as a manager kicked in and she found she loved the mix of staff training, billing and working with parents.

"I was in heaven," she says. "I absolutely loved my job."

One day, her husband—an entrepreneur—issued a challenge. "He said, 'You should open your own daycare.' " At first, she laughed off the idea. But as the demands of having to meet strict financial targets with her company built up, she saw the appeal of working for herself.

"I wanted to have more control over things like that," she says. "I thought to myself, I could create a program. I could create the policies and procedures. I could hire the staff."

Carolyn has already developed a parent handbook and policies man-

ual, and has several eager daycare workers ready to join the team at Little Learners Daycare. And instead of setting learning outcomes for the children—an increasingly popular approach at daycares—Carolyn says she will return to a learning through play approach.

"When kids get old enough and into kindergarten, Grade One, Grade Two, they're gonna get that for the next 12 years as they follow the grade-school system," she says.

"They're kids. Just let them be kids."

Contributions

Letters to the editor, profile suggestions, comments, complaints, story ideas, opinions, tired old aphorisms that you just have to bring up again and things your mother told you that you now know to be true, send them all and, with space allowing and possible editing for clarity and content, we'll see if we can't squeeze them into the Parkallen Newsletter. Send to newsletter@parkallen.ca.

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Kudos Corner

As always, many thanks are in order for the Parkallen community members who freely give of their time and resources to help make this neighbourhood what it is. Apologies beforehand to anyone who was inadvertently left off the following list of local volunteers who helped make a difference.

The recent SnowFest, held on a beautiful Sunday in February, wouldn't have been the success it was without the hard work of Leanne Kohn, Allison Chevrette and family, Sal Blair and his rink team, Angie Miller, Christine Gue, Meghan Dunnigan, Shara Wajii, Leanne Lyon, Sonya and Peter Choy, The Roy-Brennies family, Michelle and Dave Phillips, Noah and Julie Phillips, Julie Beschell, Elaine Jeong, Cynthia Puddu, Anne Pratt, Alexa Myashita, and Alexa's friend Chiara.

Thanks are also due to the Green Circle Preschool, The City of Edmonton for the use of their SnowFest equipment, Ethan Kohn for his sound equipment, the Paralympic Sports Association for the sledge hockey equipment, Dick Laurin from Dick Laurin's Hay and Sleigh Ride, Snow Valley Ski Resort, Red Bike, Whole Family Health, as well as Councillor Michael Walters for attending SnowFest and for his generous donation to the Parkallen Community League, and MLA Lori Sigurdson for likewise attending and for her generous door prize gift.

For other events, a big shout out is in order to Old Strathcona Panago Pizza for the delicious pies the kids chowed down on during the February 19th Movie Night at the Community Centre. Panago owner Steve Onyshko went above and beyond the call of duty by providing the unprompted, no-strings-attached double round of free pizza. A huge thank you to Parkallen Restaurant who provided the amazing food at our Volunteer Appreciation Night.

Your neighbourhood says thanks so much to each and every one of you.

Vehicular Vigilantism

Someone May Be Taking Traffic Calming Into Their Own Hands

By Kim Green

Is someone trying to personally take the air out of neighbourhood traffic? That's what it looks like to one of your neighbours who's been picking up nails and screws seemingly purposely strewn on the road for cars to run over.

The first batch of tire-puncturing roofing nails and slag screws were found around 65th Avenue and 112A Street in early October of last year. The most recent occurrence was in February 2016.

Screws were also found in the tire treads of two separate cars near

an infill site on 63rd Ave. The slim possibility exists that somehow the nails and screws scattered on the road happened accidentally. But their continued recurrence and the specific locations of their dispersal makes this highly unlikely.

As pointed out in the last Newsletter, the traffic situation in Parkallen will have to be addressed in one way or another at some time in the future, particularly in light of the neighbourhood being used as a cross-transit route between 109 Street and 113 Street as well as a

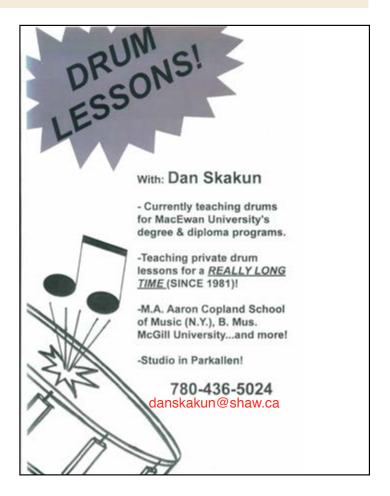
parking lot for users of the South Campus LRT. However, that still doesn't justify spiking area roads with tire-puncturing debris that could just as easily lead to a costly and time-consuming fix for one of your neighbours as it could for an anyone else using the public roadways in our neighbourhood.

While it's not the sort of thing to warrant a 911 call, any further incidents of this sort could be reported to the Edmonton Police non-emergency line at 780-423-4567.

We Got Mail

We just received our newsletter today. Thank you for putting out a great, informative newsletter! – Michele and Bill Hehir





Politics in Action

Municipal, Provincial and Federal Motions in Edmonton and Alberta

Municipal: Edmonton City Council moved forward on a motion made during the last municipal elections to incorporate an Aboriginal component into the City landscape. As such, the portion of 23rd Avenue between 215 Street and Anthony Henday Drive that links Edmonton with the Enoch Cree First Nation has been renamed Maskekosihk Trail, a word most often translated as "people of the land of medicine" and pronounced Muss-Kay-Go-See.

Provincial: The NDP government created the job Creation Incentive Program that offers grants of up to \$5,000 for each new net job

created in Alberta. Non-profits, charitable organizations and businesses are all eligible to apply for the grant. Lori Sigurdson, Edmonton-Riverview MLA and Minister of innovation, advanced education, jobs, skills training and labour, said, "it's really about job creators and entrepreneurs who are creating (the jobs)....I'm looking forward to see what they create." The program began in 2016 and promises \$178 million in grants over two years.

Federal: Finance Minister Bill Morneau announced in February that a rarely used program will be used to funnel \$251.4 million in a "fiscal sta-

bilization" payment Alberta's way. A release on the federal finance department's website said, "It was determined that Alberta qualified for the maximum amount of \$60 per person, for a total amount of \$251.4 million." The Alberta NDP had pressed Ottawa for relief under the program in light of the recent collapse of world oil prices and the effect that has had on Alberta's ability to provide needed public services. Premier Rachel Notley called the payment, "a good start," but "unfortunately not enough," with a predicted provincial deficit for 2016-17 that could top \$10 billion.

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Run... Or Walk

There's A New Race In Town



The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues is excited to announce a new race in Edmonton—The Great Neighbour Race. The inaugural event, a fundraising event for the EFCL 100th Anniversary Project, takes place April 30th at Hawrelak Park and features a 10K, 5K and a 3K run (or walk), and tons of other fun activities for the whole family.

All proceeds from the event are slated to help build the new Community League Plaza in Hawrelak Park to honour Edmonton's 157 community leagues and the dedication to community

building by their many volunteers over the past 100 years.

Early Bird fee ends March 18, 2016. Regular fee ends April 12, 2016. Late fee ends April 28, 2016.

For more information about the event and how to register or volunteer, go to http://efcl.org and scroll down on Events & Projects to "The Great Neighbour Race."



Want to be more involved in the community? Parkallen Community League needs you!

Parkallen Community League is in need of dedicated volunteers to fill the following positions:

Vice President, Parks and Recreation Director, Hall Maintenance Coordinator, Transportation Coordinator, Canvas Drive Coordinator and volunteers for our April 14 and April 15 fundraising casino.

We also have an urgent need for some soon to be vacated positions:

Membership Coordinator and Treasurer.

Please consider joining The Executive. We would love to hear from you and welcome your unique talents and expertise! Email president@parkallen.ca for more details or to volunteer.







Dome Sweet Dome

A New Practice Facility May Soon Rise Over South Campus

Although the University of Alberta's Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation is not confirming anything as of this writing, the word is out that there may be a new winter home for sports rising on South Campus during November or December of this year. "Rising" being the operative word as the plan is to have an air-supported dome covering Foote Field on the U of A's South Campus

Eric Upton, the U of A's Director of Advancement for the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, is on record as telling Dan Barnes from the *Edmonton Journal* that "it will be the very first, full-sized covered field in northern Alberta that I know of. It may be the first one in Alberta. I don't know of anyone else that has it. And we're going to try to keep it up for a minimum of 22 weeks or so. We're going to cover the full field."

Anyone who's ever had the pleasure of, for example, playing softball or hitting golf balls under an air-inflated covered dome in the middle of winter will know what a delight it is to keep the weather at bay while going about your play. Although those two sports are not slated to be included under the new dome, the facility will see plenty of use from varsity football, soccer and rugby teams, as well as other sports such as lacrosse and,

perhaps, ultimate Frisbee.

Upton, who has spent more than three years shepherding this project into what promises to be reality, told the Journal that the project is expected to cost around \$3 million, money provided by corporate and individual donations, as well as a grant of \$300,000 from the Edmonton 2001 Athletics Legacy Fund. And, he says, the dome will be huge, both structurally and figuratively, for the University and its athletes, as well as a local sports community in desperate need of full-year facilities.

"From a practice facility pointof-view," says Upton, "it will be spectacular."

Parkallen Easter Egg Hunt 9:00 am, March 27, 2016

Kids 11 & under are invited to meet at the basketball courts for a morning of Easter fun. Don't forget to bring a basket or bag!





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Classified

Homebody

Parkallen resident since 1990 and pet/house sitter for 12 years. Will shovel walks, bring in mail, water plants, and take care of pets while you're away. References available. Michele @ 780-434-7871.

Mais Oui

French Instructor and Educational Assistant Offering Tutoring Services for all students. Specialty: working with French Immersion Grade School children. Marie-Claire @ 780-434-2213 or mcdeom@gmail.com.

Baby-Sitters Club

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Speak Out

Registered Speech Language Pathologist (MSc-SLP, R.SLP) and Parkallen resident Stephanie Trussel offers in-home support in the following areas: Speech Therapy (articulation, motor speech), Stuttering, Preschool and School-age Language Skills, Phonological Awareness (early reading/spelling). Contact for a free 15-minute consultation. 780-504-3768. www.stephanie. trussell.ca.

Key Notes

Piano teacher accepting new students of all ages and ability levels. MMus/BMus/BEd, 10-years teaching experience, enjoyable and engaging lessons. Erica at 780-913-4719 or esorense@ualberta.ca.

Flex Time

Hatha Yoga is offering classes on 111th Street across from The Community Hall. Classes for the beginners and advanced are offered as early as 6:30 a.m. or commence as late as 9:30 p.m. For more information or to book a session go to www. hathayogaedmonton.com.

Knit Picks

Calling all knitters—Please join us in the Parkallen Community Hall Wednesday's from 12:30-3:30 for an afternoon of knitting. Everyone welcome. Coffee and snacks included. For more info contact Helena at 780-435-1423 or Beth @ 780-434-2211

Your Parkallen Community League Executive:

President: Rahil Verma

Vice President: VACANT

Treasurer: Julie Beschell
Casino: VACANT

Membership Coordinator: Shara Wajih

Canvas Drive Coordinator: VACANT

Secretary: Matt Larouche

Past President: Leanne Kohn

Parks & Recreation Director: VACANT

Soccer Coordinator: Meghan Dunnigan

Rink: Sal Blair

Hall Coordinator: Angela Blades
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Programs & Social Co-Chair: Allison Chevrette
Community Garden Director: Marlene Wurfel
Sustainability Coordinator: Marlene Wurfel

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Graphics and Layout: Lindsay Erickson

Development Co-Chair: Gerry Montgomery
Housing Co-Chair: Karen Marlin

Infill Co-Chair: Jan Hardstaff

SCNC Representative: Edward Hudson

UACC Representative: Edward Hudson Civics: VACANT

Transportation: VACANT

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