

The South Etobicoke News

Web: www.torontonewswire.com Email: thesouthetobicokenews@gmail.com Number 23

Buy local. Live local.

Battle heats up over City's bid for a shelter

By TOM GODFREY

Despite noisy protests, heated feelings and a divided community, City officials are working hard to close a whopping \$14 million deal by next month to purchase two New Toronto properties for use as a 95-bed municipal shelter.

Presentations from interested parties were heard on October 4 by members of a City General Government and Licensing Committee. The matter now goes before full City Council for a vote on November 4.

More than 100 area residents held a noisy protest last month outside the proposed site at 2950 and 2970 Lake Shore Blvd. W., demanding that Council find another spot and not select a prime commercial location.

Members of the Lakeshore Village Business Improvement Area (BIA), which has been leading a charge against the shelter due to concerns of business owners,



NEW TORONTO RESIDENTS held a noisy protest against a proposed homeless shelter (right) being opened at Eighth St. The matter goes for a vote before a full City Council on November 4. Not everyone is happy and welcoming the 95-bed facility. Photos by Tom Godfrey

have been ordered by the City to stop opposing the issue since the City pays a certain amount of their funds. Mirella Martino, of the City's Economic Development & Culture, told Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, Chair of the BIA Board, "a decision on having a shelter in the area has already been made."

She wrote the real estate deal closes on November 4.

"Therefore the BIA Board cannot take a position contrary to any Council-approved policy or decision," Martino wrote.

"Once a site is identified, city staff move forward," she stressed. "City staff have the authority to identify and put forward the purchase of sites that meet the requirements of a municipal shelter."

Kuczynski in a release says "a full consultation with the community must take place before a final decision for a shelter is made."

"The City has failed to provide even the most basic details about the project," he wrote, adding they are still unclear as to the number of beds; type of clients; timeline for construction and opening and plans to mitigate the impact on the surrounding communities.

"We believe we cannot represent the concerns of our Business Improvement Area," he states. Residents are outraged that the City agreed to pay almost \$14 million, or more than 3.5 times more than what the property was purchased for three years ago, documents show.

Cameras may ID or stop New Toronto shooters

Call for security cameras to help curb crime

There is a call for security cameras to be installed along a main commercial strip of New Toronto to help police solve crime and identify and locate suspects.

The cameras, according to a local group, will provide rapid evidence for police following major crimes like last month's shootout by groups, in which 67 bullet casings were found by police following a pre-dawn gunfight.

The cameras, which will have to undergo public consultations for approval, are proposed to be located along Lake Shore Blvd. W., on First Street, Third Street, Fifth Street, Seventh and Tenth Street, according to Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, Chair of the Board of the Lakeshore Village Business Improvement Area (BIA).



MEMBERS OF THE LAKESHORE VILLAGE BIA want security cameras installed along a busy section of Lake Shore Blvd. W., to help police identify trouble makers and solve crime as in last month's wild west shootout between groups in which officers found 67 shell casings when the sun came up.

He says the possible use of the cameras has been pitched to Toronto Police and the office of the local councillor. The cameras will be subject to a round of public consultations, including privacy concerns, if it is even approved. "We believe the use of cameras will help deter crime in the community," says Kuc-

zynski. "I think most people and businesses will support this." He says residents are thankful no lives were lost in the September 8 gunplay after the casings were found in the Lake Shore Blvd. W. and Eighth Street area after a shootout between rival groups attending an alleged afterhours club.

One man was shot in the thigh and about a dozen vehicles were hit by stray bullets during the incident.

Toronto Police have increased their presence in the area and there was a meeting with police, some community members and politicians to discuss safety concerns.

Police said they are looking into a request by the BIA to install security cameras and warn it is a very involved and costly process that requires community engagement. They urged the BIA to have their members install or ensure cameras in and outside their premises are operational since the footage can help police solve crimes.

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More police patrols in area .. Page 2



Cenotaph moving to Sam Smith .. Page 3

More police patrols in New Toronto after running gunfight leaves 67 shell casings

Toronto Police have stepped up patrols in the New Toronto area following a raging gun battle last month that shook up residents and led to the closure of a major thoroughfare.

Investigators say 67 shell casings were recovered by officers in what was likely a 'running gun battle' in which about a dozen parked vehicles were hit by stray bullets that left 'a crime scene covering two city blocks.'

'The shooting occurred outside 2979 Lake Shore Blvd. W., likely a running gun battle that resulted in a wide crime scene running two city blocks,' according to members of 22 Division Community Response Unit, who held a Sept. 24 virtual meeting with members of the Lakeshore Village Business Improvement Area (BIA).

The September 8 early morning shootout resulted in Lake Shore Blvd. W., at Eighth Street being closed for several hours due to the investigation. One man was shot in the thigh.

Officers, who have since inspected the venue, said the incident "centered around

an event at a basement after-hours club at this location."

"There was a dispute inside the location that spilled out into the back alley," according to minutes of the meeting. "Some 67 shell casings were recovered. There was more than one shooter, but it is still unknown how many."

The team's priority was to open Lake Shore Blvd. W., as soon as possible to pedestrians and traffic, which they did, police told the BIA.

Days after the shooting, police, Toronto Fire, Municipal Licencing and Standards, Alcohol Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) and Councillor Mark Grimes paid a visit to inspect the premises.

"The landlord told them that she rents the space out, but did not have any of the proper documents," according to the minutes. "All future private events must be cancelled until they are obtained and a timeline was given for this."

Police said "in the past they had been getting permits but not complying with them so AGCO continued to shut down the events, in turn they stopped getting permits." The investigation continues.

Beware of fake gold scam

Police are warning area residents to be on the alert for unsavoury crooks operating a fake gold scam that is ripping off people in our area.

Police from 22 Division have arrested a "group of individuals on the side of major streets scamming unsuspecting



FAKE GOLD seized by police

victims with false affection or compliments," according to a police Tweet. Officers warn residents to create a physical distance if group members "try to hug you and stop accepting their

fake gold rings or necklaces."

The suspects usually embrace the victims with fake love, according to police. They then offer fake gold rings or necklaces in exchange for cash, which they say they need for an emergency. Call police at 416-808-2200 if approached.

Remembering police and peace officers



The 45th annual Canadian Police and Peace Officers Memorial Service took place virtually on September 27 in Ottawa.

Memorial Service Coordinator Staff Sgt. Steve Boucher said the morning started with a 'solemn reading of the names of officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.'

On September 24, 1998 the Government of Canada proclaimed the last Sunday of September of every year as Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day.

This National Memorial Day gives Canadians an opportunity each year to formally express appreciation for the dedication of police and peace officers, who made the ultimate tragic sacrifice to keep our communities safe.

Some three to five die on duty yearly. In 1978 the first Memorial honoured 14 officers. In 2019 the names of over 870 fallen officers are engraved on the Honour Roll tablets.

Calls for security cameras

There is a call for security cameras to be installed along a busy strip of New Toronto to help police solve crime.

The cameras, according to a local group, will provide evidence for officers following major crimes like last month's shootout by groups, in which 67 bullet casings were found.

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Chair of the Board of the Lakeshore Village Business Improvement Area (BIA). He says the use of the cameras has been pitched to Toronto Police and the local councillor.

The cameras will be subject to public consultations, including privacy concerns, if it is even approved.

Police said they are looking into a BIA request to install cameras and warn it is a 'very involved and costly process that requires community engagement.' They urged BIA members to install, or ensure, cameras in and outside their stores are functioning.



SOME 67 SHELL CASINGS WERE FOUND after a September 8 running gun battle in New Toronto that left a wide swath of evidence for two blocks. A police probe to find the gunmen is underway as well as stepped up patrols in the community. One business that was the scene of a party has been temporarily closed. Courtesy photo.



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Former Mayor Saunders started the Elmer Safety Elephant program

Mayor Grassroots Bob started Elmer the Elephant program

By TOM GODFREY



MAYOR Robert Saunders

Robert Hood Saunders, w the 48th Mayor of Toronto, was best known for helping to start the wildly-popular Elmer the

Safety Elephant program almost 75-years ago.

Saunders was dubbed 'Grassroots Bob' by residents for his down-to-earth style when he served as Mayor from 1945 to 1948.

He was elected alderman for Ward 4 in 1935 and 1936 and served on the Toronto Board of Control. Elected Mayor in January 1945, Saunders was re-elected in

1946, 1947 and '48. Ward 4 now includes large tracts of South Etobicoke.

The people loved him because he was a champion of the Toronto subway and fought to remove slums.

A lawyer, Grassroots Bob was at one time President of the Canadian National Exhibition and Chairman of Ontario Hydro, where he did great things and had a facility named after him. He helped to start the Elmer the Safety Elephant program to teach young children to remain safe after a 1946 trip to Detroit. Grassroots Bob pitched the Elmer idea to an editor at *The Toronto Evening Telegram* newspaper, who agreed to sponsor the program with Toronto Police. They chose an elephant mascot because of the animal's legendary memory.

Elmer the Safety Elephant was born in 1947. That year, his impact was dramatic. Traffic collisions among Toronto children dropped an astonishing 44 per cent, even

though vehicle registrations increased by 10 per cent.

Back then accidental injuries were a leading cause of death and hospitalization for children up to age 19. The role of Elmer the Safety Elephant was to teach young children how to stay safe.

From the day Elmer appeared, he was a hit with kids. Over the years, his image has changed to maintain a positive impact on young children.

As the Safety Elephant's fame grew, other Ontario communities asked for the program. Demand became so strong that the *Telegram*, owner of the copyright, authorized the Ontario Safety League to admin-



ister the program in Ontario outside Toronto. Elmer's fame grew to encompass schools across the province.

By the 1960s, with requests for Elmer pouring in from other provinces, the Canadian Highway Safety Council was asked to assume administration of the program on a national level.

In 1968 that Council amalgamated with two other organizations to become the Canada Safety Council. When *The Telegram* ceased publication in 1971, the Canada Safety Council negotiated the transfer of all rights to the program. The Council still holds the trademark and copyright for Elmer.

After quitting as mayor, Saunders became chairman of Ontario Hydro..

He died in 1955 at the age of 51 He was travelling on Hydro business when the aircraft in which he was a passenger crashed while approaching the London, Ontario airport. He died of his injuries.

Beloved Cenotaph to go to Col. Samuel Smith Park

The developers of a former Royal Canadian Legion Hall property in New Toronto will be responsible for paying for the move and installation of a



NEW CONDO DEVELOPMENT planned for site of the former Royal Canadian Legion Hall on Eighth St.

Cenotaph that has served the community for decades.

The move of the Cenotaph comes as members of Etobicoke York Community Council on September 9 voted to adopt without amendment a plan by a developer to build on 150 Eighth Street, former site of Branch 3.

A six-storey condo containing 90 residential units, 94 parking spaces and a floor area of 9,964-square-meters is planned for the former Legion site.

A five-metre wide strip of land that spans the length of the north property line will also be conveyed to the City of Toronto as parkland to expand the existing Eighth Street Skate Park.

Members of the community have expressed their concerns about the maintenance of a beloved 7.5 metre high-granite Cenotaph that was installed in 1983 and commemorates the Canadian soldiers lost during WWI, WWII and the Korean War.

The Cenotaph and former Legion hall attracted hundreds of residents yearly, who paid their respects to fallen soldiers in Remembrance Day activities until the Hall was shut.

Council agreed the relocation of the Cenotaph to nearby Colonel Samuel Smith Park, at Lake Shore Blvd. W., and Kipling Ave.,

will be part of the development.

"Prior to the issuance of any building permit an, or demolition permit for the subject property, the owner shall, at the owner's sole cost, relocate the Cenotaph from its existing location to Col. Samuel Smith Park," community council members agreed.

Council members ordered the developer to issue a Letter of Credit to the City in the amount of \$360,000 to

guarantee the safe relocation of the Cenotaph to Colonel Samuel Smith Park and to guarantee against any damages to parks property and to the satisfaction of City officials.

They said the move, with final siting and orientation of the Cenotaph will be determined and agreed upon by the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture.

Council also deemed the developer is responsible for the structural design of the new Cenotaph foundation, all utility work, excavation, construction of the new concrete foundation, and the moving



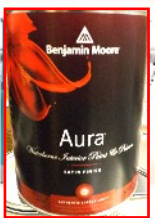
BELoved NEW TORONTO Cenotaph being moved to Col. Samuel Smith Park.

of and installation of the Cenotaph onto its new foundation.

The developer has to provide documentation from a qualified structural engineer certifying that the design and construction of the Cenotaph foundation in the park has been completed as to the owner's design and to the satisfaction of City officials. Residents are hoping the Cenotaph will be placed in a new home, which will be a high-profile and visible section, where it can be seen by as many in the community as possible.

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Civic Centre to go to Westwood Theatre Lands



ARTIST DRAWING OF A NEW ETOBICOKE Civic Centre to be built at the Westwood Theatre Lands and the War Memorial (right) **File photos.**

Plans are underway to move the ailing Etobicoke Civic Centre to the newly-developed

and up-and-coming Westwood Theatre Lands.

The move of the historic centre came up at an Etobicoke York Community Council meeting on September 9. A motion was adopted without any amendments.

Councillor Mark Grimes had requested that City Planning officials 'initiate and bring forward a zoning by-law amendment for the new Etobicoke Civic Centre to facilitate the development that

is emerging on the former Six Points lands.'

"The establishment of this new civic centre will provide much-needed services for a growing West District and act as a catalyst for revitalization of the Etobicoke City Centre," community council was told.

The social, economic and financial benefits of the move includes: a new civic and community infrastructure; including a recreation centre, library, childcare and public square.

The "existing old, functionally obsolete and costly Etobicoke



services at a transit hub will improve access for residents, staff and visitors.

The move will support Modern-TO with efficient municipal office spaces and redistribution of jobs in Etobicoke. The Civic Centre was built in 1958 to replace the single storey

Civic Centre will be replaced,' the positioning of municipal

brick Township of Etobicoke Municipal Hall at 4946 Dundas St. W. The original building also features a clock tower with a non-numeric clock face.

Its history contains the Etobicoke Municipal Centre War Memorial, which was constructed in 1968 in memory of those who gave their lives in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War.

Next to the Cenotaph is a plaque commemorating Corporal Frederick George Topham, recipient of a Victoria Cross and beloved war hero. It was erected in 1980.

More help may be coming to veterans and families

Legislation is in front of the Ontario government that will provide financial assistance to more veterans who need some help in these trying times. The Soldiers Aid Commission Act, 2020, if passed, will ensure veterans of all ages and their families, not just those who served in the Second World War and the Korean War, will be eligible to apply for financial assistance. This aid will help many veterans in the South Etobicoke area who fought in many wars. The government is proposing to increase its investment in the Soldiers'

Aid Commission to more than \$1.5 million yearly. The badly-needed financing will go to veterans who are unable to pay for health-related items such as hearing aids, wheelchairs and glasses, home-related items such as home accessibility modifications and repair costs, and personal items and support services such as clothing and counselling. "Regardless of when and where they served, our veterans face many challenges," said Todd Smith, Minister of Chil-



OUR VETS need help

dren, Community and Social Services. "We're committed to helping more of our heroes in need through the Soldiers' Aid Commission." The help includes everything from post-traumatic stress disorder, physical injury and challenges finding employment," said Colin Rowe, Chair of the Soldiers' Aid Commission. "Our commission has helped thousands of veterans and their families over the years." To be eligible for assistance, a veteran must be in financial need, live in Ontario, and have served with the

Canadian Armed Forces in the Second World War or the Korean War. Veterans who served in the Merchant Navy during the Second World War are also eligible for assistance. Financial help may also extend to spouses and children of veterans. The Lieutenant Governor established the Soldiers' Aid Commission in 1915 through an Order in Council to help returning First World War veterans and their families with problems they faced as they re-entered civilian life. They can call toll free 1-888-207-0939 or email info@on.legion.ca

Winners of Lakeshore Village BIA Kids Art Contest

The top three winners must pick up their prizes from Rattan, at Quick Refund Tax, at 133 Sixth Street. First prize (bottom left wins \$100, Second place, bottom centre, wins \$50 and third place earns \$25.



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The South Etobicoke News is a free, independent hometown monthly newspaper that serves Humber Bay Shores, Mimico, Lake Shore Village, Long Branch and Alderwood areas.

We live in the community and cover local news, amateur sports, business and civic life while honouring those who gave so much of themselves so we can have the lives we enjoy today.

Please feel free to drop us a line if you would like to advertise your business or leave any comments, tips or news of upcoming events.

Publisher: Tom Godfrey

Community Journalist: Bob Summers

Sports: Rejean Cantlon Proofs: Ian Robertson

Circulation-Sales: Veronica Ancavil

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We print 15,000 copies monthly and send out 1,000 e-copies by email to readers. Send us your email address and we will send you a copy of upcoming issue to your mailbox for free.

Call police if you see any of these prized but stolen Second World War medals

Members of South Etobicoke's large veteran community are being asked to keep an eye out for six stolen WWII medals. Toronto Police officers are trying to return the prized war medals to their rightful owner. Officers say the medals were recovered during a drug investigation.

Members of 51 Division Major Crime Unit were conducting a drug probe last September 22 in downtown Toronto when they located the medals "that did not belong to the person they were investigating." Police say the medals were found near a large quantity of crystal meth and other drugs in the Church and Wellesley Streets area. The medals are described as a 1939-1945 Star, Burma Campaign Star, Italy Campaign Star, 1939-1945 Voluntary Service Medal and 1939-1945 War Medal (Merchant Marines). "These medals represent a significant contribution for voluntary service during the Second World War, on three continents spanning the entirety of the war from 1939 to 1945," said Det. Const. Paul Walker.



"Having myself served on two NATO deployments with the British Forces, the sacrifice given to earn these medals is not lost on me," Walker told the *Toronto Star*. "I hope to return these medals, as their loss is almost certainly devastating for the person who earned them." Police say there is a large number of veterans and some Royal Canadian Legion Halls in the community and are hoping someone will recognize the medals. Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 416-808-5100, Crime Stoppers anonymously at 416-222-TIPS (8477), online at www.222tips.com, online on our Facebook Leave a Tip page, or text TOR and your message to CRIMES (274637).

Officers say the Second World War medals may be worth just \$10 each online, but some were engraved with the bravery of their owner, who was honoured for their service in helping to bring an end to the conflicts. Police believe the medals were stolen from a break and enter and traded for drugs. The investigation continues.

Financial aid for hard-hit Black-owned small firms



PM TRUDEAU ANNOUNCES help for Black-owned businesses.

Some local Black business owners are breathing easier after a new program was launched to help them survive COVID-19 and other challenges. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on September 9 announced a Black Entrepreneurship Program that will help Black Canadians get business loans with national banks. The \$221-million program will receive \$93 million from the federal government over the next four years and \$128 million from eight financial institutions, which include the Royal Bank of Canada, BMO Financial Group, Scotiabank, CIBC, National Bank, TD, Vancity and Alterna Savings. The funds will be used to create a Black entrepreneurship loan program that will provide loans to small and medium-sized Black-owned businesses between \$25,000 and \$250,000, according to Ottawa.

Another \$53 million from the feds will go toward helping entrepreneurs access funding, capital, mentorship, financial planning services and business training, while \$6.5 million will go support collecting data on the state of Black entrepreneurship in Canada. "We've heard very clearly from the Black community that economic empowerment is an essential step toward breaking down those barriers and creating true success," Trudeau said. "This is not just for the Black community but for our country." Local South Etobicoke Black merchants welcome the program and will explore it for possible financial needs. "I always say that the biggest challenge Black business owners face is that the owners are Black," stressed Nadine Spencer, president of the Black Business and Professional Association. "Systemic racism is the biggest factor when we walk into a bank. There is something different for Black businesses than for mainstream businesses." Meryl Afrika, president of the Canadian Association of Urban Financial Professionals, said it's reassuring to see a promise come with a price tag. "It's better than what we've had in the past," Afrika said.

Lakeshore Village



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STOP

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Please contact the following to support public consultation immediately:

Councillor Mark Grimes:
councillor_grimes@toronto.ca
416-397-9273

Mayor John Tory:
mayor_tory@toronto.ca
416-397-2489

City Council:
https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/957f-council_offices.pdf



Message from the Lakeshore Village BIA

See Page 4 for the Top 3 winners of the Lakeshore Village BIA - COVID Kids Art Contest to win cash prizes.

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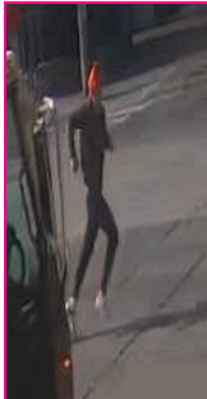
Police seeking suspect in two hated-motivated attacks against South Asian men in our area

Toronto Police have released a blurred photo of a crazed suspect sought for two racially-motivated attacks in New Toronto in which a victim's turban was torn off his head.

Police say the suspect targeted two South Asian men on August 25 and 31 who were going about their business. In the first attack, police said the suspect approached a 21-year-old man in the Lake Shore Blvd. W. and First Street area.

"Without warning the man began striking the victim repeatedly and then tore off his turban," police said in a press release. "The suspect fled on foot eastbound on Lake Shore Boulevard W."

In the second incident, officers say the suspect approached a 23-year-old man in the Dwight Ave. and Birmingham



"Police are actively investigating these incidents as hate-motivated assaults," according to the release. "Officers from the Hate Crime Unit will continue to work with divisional officers to establish the full circumstances."

St. area and "began striking him on his head." The assailant then took off north on Dwight Ave. Members of the force's Hate Crime Unit are probing the attacks and believe the same suspect is responsible for the assaults.

Mayor John Tory said hate-motivated assaults are completely unacceptable in our city.

"I want to assure members of our South Asian community that we stand with them against this violence," he assured.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 416-808-1100 or CrimeStoppers anonymously at 416-222-TIPS or online at www.222tips.com

The suspect is described as white, 20 to 25-years-old, 5-foot-8 and about 180-pounds. In the first attack he was wearing a dark hoodie, bright orange hat and dark pants with white shoes. In the second incident, he was wearing a grey hoodie, with grey sweat pants and a black baseball cap.

Solidarity marking a 40th anniversary



AREA RESIDENTS Chris Korwin-Kuczynski and Danuta Gumienik stand beside a Solidarity poster at a reception at the Polish Consulate on Lake Shore Blvd. W. last month to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Solidarity Movement, whose leader Lech Walesa, was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize and in 1990 elected President of Poland. Korwin-Kuczynski and his father, Zbigniew, a decorated Polish Army officer, kept the flames of Solidarity alive and going strong in Canada during the early days, with protests and vigils outside the Consulate.

OBITUARY

Life of well-known trade unionist celebrated

Friends and family members of well-known trade unionist Megan Tanya Whitfield gathered last month at Meadowvale Conservation Park to celebrate her life.

The celebration took place on September 5 at the 1081 Old Derry Rd. W., park in Mississauga.

Whitfield, who died in May, is well-known as the first Black President of the

Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW,) Toronto Local, which represents thousands or posties' at the Gateway Postal Facility, in Mississauga.

She was a forward-thinking leader who stood up for the rights of female workers and was instrumental in getting Canada's first Black



WHITFIELD

postie, Albert Jackson, commemorated on a Canada Post stamp.

The Jamaica-born mom, grandmother, sister and aunt also played a key role at the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL), where

she was a member of the Executive Board, Executive Committee and the Workers of Colour Committee. At the OFL Convention,

she co-chaired the Convention Resolutions Committee. She was also a board member of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists' Canadian Chapter, who helped to organize the event with The Ontario Federation of Labour.

"Megan was instrumental in the work to end racial discrimination in Ontario," said the OFL's Ahmad Gaied.

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welcomes **Dr. Umbrine Fatima, an Internal Medicine Specialist**, to our team. The Specialist requires a referral from a family doctor to obtain an appointment. See Page 4.

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Go Fund Me for area firefighter Budding New Toronto comic

Dinner is barber with a heart

Family, friends and firefighters are still mourning the loss of 20-year south Etobicoke fireman, Duncan Gibson, who passed away two months ago leaving behind his wife and two young daughters.



DUNCAN WITH WIFE, KATE, and their young daughters in happier times.

Duncan was a son of Etobicoke and one of the youngest firefighter recruits ever called for duty. He followed in his dad Blair's footsteps by working as a firefighter with the City of Toronto. Having reached the rank of Acting Captain, Duncan most recently worked at Station 433D, at 615 Royal York Rd., where he was a valuable part of the crew. He was an upbeat and hardworking firefighter, who respected the role he played in his community, viewing his career as a firefighter, a privilege more than a job; just like his father did before him. He and his wife, Kate, were the parents of two beautiful girls; Willow, 8, and Marigold, 4, who were the love of their lives. Duncan earned his Ontario Fire College Certificate of Achievement completing fireground op-

erations and specialized in firefighter in the community modules by 2002. He earned his Honours Bachelor of Science, Psychology and English in 2005 at the University of Toronto. Suddenly in the summer of 2018, Duncan began experiencing relentless heartburn type sensations and difficulty swallowing. After medical examinations, he was given the shocking news that he had stage-four gastro-esophageal cancer. He began treatment and for two years had been battling the fight of his life. He would pop into the fire hall between treatments to make sure his other "family" knew he was well. Sadly, as Duncan was fighting his own battle, he lost his dad, Blair, a 34-year firefighter, who died of prostate cancer in 2019. Duncan lost his own battle with cancer last July at the age of 40. And even though Duncan dedicated his career to firefighting, he has fallen short of the presumptive cancer legislation for firefighters by five years. The coverage would have ensured his wife and children be taken care of financially when he died. "We can step up when the governing bodies won't and raise funds and let Duncan's family know that his girls' education will be taken care of," fellow firefighters say. "I worked with Duncan a number of times and he was a classy guy," says retired Alderwood firefighter, Paul. "He and his family are genuinely decent people who would do anything to help others." A Go Fund Me page has raised more than \$115,000. If you can help visit www.gofundme.com and search for his name.

New Toronto's newest stylist Andy Dinner says he is a 'barber with a heart.'

The owner of Your Neighbourhood Barbershop, at 2858 Lakeshore Blvd. W., recently purchased \$50 in coupons from his neighbour, Big Guy's Little Coffee Shop, to hand out free to his customers.

A part-time stand-up comic, he is also working with LAMP and St. Margarets' Church, on Sixth Street, to provide free trims for those in need or seeking jobs.

"That's just the type of guy I am," Dinner says. "I am from around here. I like the people and they support me."

The affable stylist makes customers feel welcomed and at home in his shop. The bright and friendly salon has been open for just over a month and customers, or friends, are checking it out.

"Awesome addition to New Toronto," says area resident Jay Schramek. "Had a trim today. Fantastic service and outstanding cut."

The salon provides a \$10 discount for seniors and there are further savings for those seeking cuts who suffer from Down Syndrome and autism. "There are a lot of seniors in need of support in the communi-



BARBER Andy Dinner

ty," Dinner notes. "I want to make people look good and feel good about themselves."

As he says: "I am a bald barber and want to make people appreciate their hair."

When not styling, Dinner (yes, his real name) is busy cracking jokes.

He recently appeared and received good reviews at a comedy show featured at Kitchen On Sixth Restaurant, which is always busy.

"He is funny," one attendee said. "His jokes about growing up were pretty good."

Dinner is involved in different charities or projects in the community where some call him a "barber with a heart."

Your Neighbourhood Barbershop can be reached at 416-919-7463 or by email at info@yourneighbourhoodbarbershop.com



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"Where passion and tradition come out in our dishes!"

Trying Ducky's Roti and Riley the master ribber



'DUCKY' AND HIS WIFE, CHANDRA, started their roti shop in 2002.

Ducky's Roti is a well-known neighbourhood restaurant which for the last 19 years has garnered quite a following for those who love spicy food.

The popular Long Branch restaurant is one on the longest-serving roti shops in the south Etobicoke community.

Boodnarine 'Ducky' Heersingh, and his wife, Chandra, started the eatery in 2002 and customers swear that the food is as good today as it was back then.

"People love our fresh and good-quality food and many have been coming back since Day One," Ducky says. "Our food is consistent since we focus on authentic Trinidad-style dishes."

Everything from the soft rotis, creamy rice, to the curry goat, chicken, beef, shrimp, fish and vegetable dishes are cooked with fresh spices and ingredients daily, Ducky explains. Many residents love a popular island delicacy called 'doubles', which is basically two patties containing a bed of tasty split peas topped with a dash of homemade pepper sauce.

Also popular is their brand of jerk chicken served with rice or on a roti, which is mouth-watering.

The food here has remained unchanged over time and Ducky credits the consistency to his staff, many who have been with him for years.

The couple have been married for 44-years and have grown children. They admit that things weren't always so rosy and it took hard work.

"COVID-19 was the biggest challenge that we have had to face," he shakes his head.

"We were closed for more than four months due to the pandemic."

"Most of our customers returned immediately," Ducky says.

Chandra started the business in 2002 because she loved cooking. Area residents loved her food and the restaurant took off.

"I learned to cook from my mom and all our dishes taste like back home (Trinidad)," she explains. "We stick to fresh foods and everything is cooked fresh daily."

The restaurant also bakes a tasty pastry called currants roll, which is filled with currants, that they supply to West Indian food stores in the City.

Ducky's Roti receives many good reviews on social media from area foodies.

Resident Kevin S: "I decided to go check it (Ducky's) out because it had great reviews.

Thank God I wasn't disappointed! "I love this place and keep on coming back, the vegetarian roti are really tasty, decent portions and flavour," says Irina Y.

Ducky's Roti is located at **3296 Lake Shore Blvd. W., just west of Kipling Ave.** They can be reached by phone at **416-253-5858.**

It has been a long way for Reuben Riley, aka 'Grandpa Ribber,' from Jamaica's Boston Beach to Brickyard BBQ at 120 North Queen

St., in South Etobicoke.

Riley was in charge of cooking for his siblings as a boy and over the years developed his hometown's 'pit slow cooking,' while working to become a master ribber, now with a loyal following.

"Using wood for fuel, we dug deep holes in the sand, and cooked in this manner," the long-time chef recalls. "This was essentially the same approach as the pit barbecue style of the American South."

Fans love their 'Stout Drunken' BBQ sauce dripping over the steaming soft pork side ribs. They also feature smoked jerk riblets on rice, a unique side dish favoured by Riley since his days of cooking for his family.

The secret, many rib-lovers think, is due to their specially-brewed dark stout sauce.

"I originated this sauce style,"

Riley says. "The customers liked it so much that we bottled it and sold it in our retail beer section."

But it wasn't always smooth smoking as he developed his skills and taste for homestyle ribs.



GRANDPA RIBBER Riley

After arriving in Toronto in 1975, Riley held a number of cooking jobs in commercial kitchens before obtaining his chef qualifications at Niagara College in 1986 and began working in Toronto.

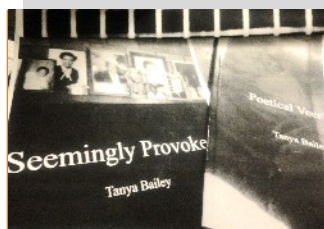
It was while he was a chef at a large restaurant that they began featuring slow-smoked barbecue on the menu. It was such a success that they formed a ribfest team and took part in a number of festivals.

"I was the pit master and head sauce maker for this team and was fortunate to win a few trophies," the chef recalls. He won tributes for best ribs at St. Lawrence Market, the CNE and best sauce at festivals in Etobicoke and Burlington.

"For me there's really nothing like the large-scale production thrill of rib fests," he smiles. "I put together a team from my restaurant employees and did the North Scarborough Rotary Ribfest, Brantford Kinsmen Ribfest as well as a booth at the Caribana festival."

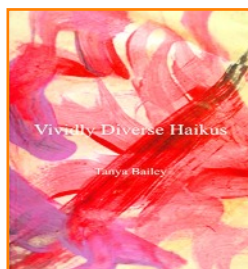
"They (my team) are trained in the ways of ribfesting and have gained such knowledge and the same love for it that I have," he explains.

"My appetite for ribfesting was whetted mightily; after the first event, it felt like I had never left." Visit him at **120 North Queen St., Phone 41-252-5882 or email info@brickyardcatering.ca**



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See Ridley at 100 - Page 9

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Health and Wellness

By ADRIANNE SZABO-PAYNE

Salt therapy is gaining steam and this is how to get through this season with healthy lungs. With everything that's going on in the world, one of the most precious organs in our bodies that we must work hard to protect right now is our lungs. Since breathing and the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide is our number one need for survival, protecting and strengthening our lungs should be pretty high on our list of priorities, especially as we head into cold and flu season.

There are a number of different ways we can protect and strengthen our lungs. There are breathing and twisting exercises that can be done through yoga, or nutritional supplements available to help support lung health.

One of the most effective solutions for cleaning and strengthening your lungs is salt therapy.

If you have ever had the good fortune of spending a week by the ocean you may notice that the air is easier to breathe. You tend to recover from illness quicker, and perhaps your allergies go away, or your asthma doesn't flair up as much, if at all.

Another place where people have enjoyed the benefits of salty air are on the sites of the ancient oceans, now buried deep under the surface of the earth in Eastern Europe. The health benefits of the salt caves were discovered during the height of the Industrial Revolution when a Polish health official visited some of the salt mines and found the workers working in these mines were free from all respiratory ailments. Upon further investigation, it was found that when

spending an extended period of time in a concentrated salt air environment, the lungs were constantly being cleansed and had an opportunity to heal and increase oxygen intake. This was due to the salt ions in the air that help loosen phlegm and mucus stuck to the walls of the respiratory tract, thus making it easier to be released from the body. Once the mines were mined out, the caves were converted into salt sanatoriums for people to come and heal from various ailments. Moving to the ocean side or to the salt caves in Europe is not feasible for most of us, so we must find alternatives that provide similar relief. There are devices that you can get for personal use, such as a Ultrasonic Salinizer that pushes salt ions into the atmosphere, or a salt pipe that you breathe through a few times a day. If you are looking for a more authentic experience, there are salt spas and rooms throughout the GTA where you go and sit in silence and reap the benefits of the salt. Salt therapy is safe for any age, and does not impact the sodium levels in the body. If you would like more information on salt therapy and how to do it, feel free to contact us at the club.

During these challenging times we have to look after ourselves and pay attention to our bodies.

Happy cleansing and Namaste.

Don't miss our Monkey Tree Fitness ad for Shred 2020 on Page 2.

Reach Adrienne @monkeytreefitness on Facebook; #monkeytreefitnesswellness on Instagram or www.monkeytreewellness.com



Money Matters

By RATTAN GANDHI

Hello readers: This month I am covering budgets. So what is a budget: It is the amount of money one has for a specific service or a product. Let us take this to a larger scale in order to create a financial security for a household and/or a business. A good budget is a must.

A budget may be a top down budget or a bottom up budget. A top down budget means one knows the anticipated income and anticipated expenses. With a bottom up budget one knows the expenses and anticipated income is unknown. Generally speaking most budgets take the top down approach. For a good budget to be effective in meeting the goals of a household one has to know the spending history and going forward one builds on that for the future. A good budget going forward will alert the household if a spending is out of control in a specific area and to take any corrective action. This implies that one has to keep track of your income and expenses and compare them to the budget. It is not a easy task but once one gets in the rhythm it helps in bringing financial stability to the household.

Generally speaking a budget is by month for a year. What should be in the budget is one's ability to go down to the lowest level of expenses you want to track. Here is a list of expense items that should be included in no order; bank charges, entertainment, insurance,

internet, rent or mortgage payment, house repair and maintenance, groceries, personal grooming, travel, utilities-heating, electricity and water, property taxes, auto expenses-insurance, repairs and maintenance, gasoline, car loan or lease, license and tolls. One of the expenses that may be overlooked are licence renewal or passport. Last, but not the least, contingencies for anything unforeseen as medical and bills should be included. One can and should also incorporate savings into the process. With the passage of time and tracking, if one is over the budget on expenses, you could focus on reducing controllable expenses and if the expenses are lower than budget, treat yourself and the family or put the monies towards savings or mortgage.

A day to day example of a budget is that one has allocated, let's say \$10 per day to cover coffee etc. and you did not spend it. You could put into the kitty or accumulate it for an upcoming event. I encourage the readers to take this exercise to know where you are coming from and where you are going.

Rattan Gandhi is owner of Quick Refund Tax, 133 Sixth St. His opinions stems from 15 years of experience. If you have questions, he can be reached at 905-616-5253 or rattangandhi@gmail.com.

Ridley Funeral Home mark 100 years in business



October marks the 100th anniversary of Ridley Funeral Home, which prides itself in being one of the oldest businesses operating in South Etobicoke.

Old photographs show

the area around Ridley, at 3080 Lake Shore Blvd. W., was surrounded by large trees and forests, when the company was opened in 1921.

Lake Shore Blvd. W., then Highway 2, was a two-lane road that was travelled by horse and buggy traffic when the company started. Streetcar service was introduced to the area around 1928.

The business was started in the Lake Shore Blvd. W. and Fourteenth Street location by former Beeton, Ont., undertaker William Baycroft and was called W.E. Baycroft and Sons Funeral Home. It was sold in 1947 to Art Ridley, and renamed Ridley Funeral Home.

A long-time client for the home then was the former Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital, which was built in 1888 and operated until 1979. In its prime, it housed 1,391 patients on the south side of Lake Shore Blvd. W., and Kipling Ave., which is now part of Humber College.

Over the decades, Ridley has held services for generations of families in the community, ranging from those with prominent positions to the many working people of every race and nationality.

The home saw busier times during an era when thousands of residents worked at Campbell's Soup, Anaconda Steel, Goodyear Tire, W. & A. Gilbey, George

Williams Shoes, Continental Can and so many other firms that have since disappeared.

"The business has changed a lot over the years," says Brad Jones, who today owns the firm. "We are still a family-owned funeral home and we still live here."

Jones says COVID-19 has led to smaller services in the chapel, with Celebration of Life services being held at a later date and the streaming of services so family and friends can view from at home without a risk of contracting the virus.

He plans to celebrate the company's first century with a big party once the virus subsides.

Ridley is well-known by many families in the area and grief-stricken residents describe their service as a 'one-stop' shop when it comes to handling the funerals of their loved ones.

"We are a full service funeral home that provides one-stop shopping," Jones says. "We love the people and are part of the community."

His staff usually work with the families to help them cope during the mourning process.

"We reach out to the families and help them in their grieving process," Jones explains. "We believe in helping people as they embark on their journey."

He says his staff "pride themselves on making our facility feel like a second home, a true place for peace, comfort and warmth."

"One of the greatest things is that we learn about people and get involved in helping them through their dark times," he vows. "We keep the families involved and regularly follow up with them. Area resident Brian says Ridley staff provided a source of strength and in-



BRAD JONES IS THE OWNER OF Ridley Funeral Home, one of the oldest firms in South Etobicoke. Photo by TOM GODFREY.

spiration when his mom passed and he had to plan her services.

"There are so many things that have to be done when someone passes," Brian recalls. "They were there to help us during the entire process."

Elizabeth Shields thanked Ridley and staff for their 100 years of service in helping the community. "My family has been a part of your family for many years whether it be personal reasons or for the church," Shields wrote on social media. "Enjoy this historic moment."

The Ridley staff is very active in helping many agencies and programs that improve our way of life. The home is a proud supporter of the Franklin Horner Community Centre and is involved in a program to serve hot and ready meals for seniors. Ridley can be reached at 416-259-3705.

Looking after yourself and others in the community

OCT. 6 BOOST YOUR WELLNESS at 2 p.m. on Zoom as LAMP is offering another free virtual wellness workshop to help you during COVID. It includes breath work, strengthening exercises, meditations and encouragement. Wellness specialist **Mary Craig** has been working in the mental health field for more than 20 years and is a certified instructor in Yoga and Qigong. Call or email Jasmin Doo to register jasmind@lampchc.org or 416-252-6471

COACH CORIN IS BACK on Zoom every Wednesday at 3 p.m. with a series of virtual workshops on October 7, 14, 21 & 28. Facilitator **Corin De Sousa** is a graduate of the Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) program and the Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) program from the Toronto Academic Pain Medicine Institute (TAPMI) at Women's College. Call or email Jasmin Doo to register jasmind@lampchc.org 416-252-6471.

EMERGENCY FOOD TAKE OUT meals continue to be offered Monday through Saturday from 9:30 am to 11:30 am through LAMP's adult drop-in program. Group programs are closed. Phone 416-252-6471.

GOOD FOOD MARKET OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY from 4

p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Lakeshore Village Park. Get fresh fruits and vegetables at affordable prices. The Gardens Lakeshore is hosting several workshops. Contact christianaz@lampchc.org

JEAN AUGUSTINE CENTRE FOOD TO TABLE PROJECT for young women in the area experiencing food insecurity due to COVID. You can qualify for a monthly \$50 gift card. Registration opens the first Monday of the month and you will be notified of pick up date. Program runs until December. Email them at info@jeanaugustinecentre.ca or visit at jeanaugustinecentre.ca

HAVEN ON THE QUEENSWAY HAS SHUT MOST of its programs and services due to COVID but will continue to serve its food bank users by appointment and pick up at their 1533 The Queensway office. Call 416-640-2005 to make arrangements to access the Haven food bank.

MOST PROGRAMS AT STOREFRONT HUMBER, at 2445 Lake Shore Blvd. W., are cancelled with only essential services, like personal care, support or respite provided.

Contact them at 416-259-4207 or visit sfh@storefronthumber.ca

OCT. 7 COVID FOOD DRIVES Wednesday only from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., being held for "Youth Without Shelter" and "North York Harvest Food Bank" Please drop off basic foods at Montgomery's Inn or deliver to Dave Crack. Call 416-550-5145 by Oct 6. Details at RotaryTorontoWest.ca

OCT 7, 14, 21, and 28 BOTTLE DRIVES on Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., being held to support our many local charity projects. Please drop off Beer Store or LCBO bottles or cans and deliver to Montgomery's Inn or Dave Crack. Contact 416-550-5145 by Oct 27. Details at RotaryTorontoWest.ca

OCT. 31 HALLOWEEN CORNER from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the corner of Lake Shore Blvd. W., and Sixth Street. Free treats for the kids. Look for the excitement. Sponsored by the Lakeshore Village BIA.

ART WINNERS SEE PAGE 4 in this issue of the South Etobicoke News to find out if your kids won a cash prize in the Lakeshore Village BIA Kids COVID Art Contest.

EMERGENCY FOOD TAKE OUT MEALS continue to be offered Monday through Saturday from 9:30 am to 11:30 am through LAMP's adult drop-in program. Group programs are closed. Located at 185 Fifth Street.

OCT. 26 ETOBICOKE CAMERA CLUB AWARD Salon Winners for Photographers Choice competition will be awarded with presentations and Nature category critique. New guests welcome. See what we're about and enjoy some fabulous photo entertainment. Free admission to this virtual session; to register email info@etobicokecameraclub.org.

FREE BOOKS AT CHRIST CHURCH St. James food pantry on the second Saturday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., or the last two Wednesdays of the month from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Parents can pick up a book and get tips on how to encourage a love of reading at the church at 194 Park Lawn Rd., near The Queensway.

OCT. 31 HALLOWEEN CORNER sponsored by the Lakeshore Village BIA at the corner of Lake Shore Blvd. W., and Sixth Street from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Lots of treats. Treat bags will be pre-packed by volunteers to hand off to children as they walk by due to COVID-19. Kids must be wearing face masks or other protective gear.



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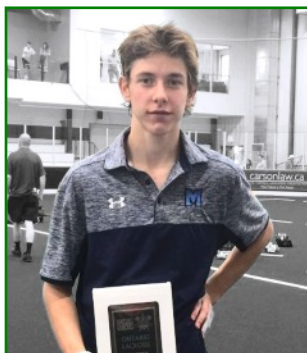
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Lacrosse phenom off to Michigan

By REJEAN CANTLON



MIMICO'S FINLAY THOMSON will be playing lacrosse for the University of Michigan.

If you are a Mimico minor lacrosse fan or have watched the Mimico Jr. A Lacrosse team over the last few years, you know the last name Thomson. Tim and Amanda Thomson raised four boys, all of them have a love for this game that goes beyond passion. All have played for Mimico since they were Tykes. All had great success within the game with older brother Tanner being selected to play in the National Lacrosse League (box lacrosse indoors versus teams like the Toronto Rock) and the Major Lacrosse League,

field lacrosse played outdoors in the U.S. last year. Last month, it was the youngest Thomson's time to shine. Finlay Thomson scored a scholarship to the University of Michigan, one of the most prestigious schools in the U.S. "As coach at various levels I have had the good fortune to be surrounded by some very talented players," said Mimico Junior A Head Coach, D.J. Clevely. "Finlay is without a doubt the most talented lacrosse player I have ever been around and had the opportunity to coach. Truly the sky is the limit for Finlay in whatever he decides to do. I am extremely proud of him on his recent commitment to the University of Michigan." Finn, as his team-mates know him, credits his three older brothers for pushing him to succeed in the sport they all love. "Lacrosse was brought upon my oldest brother and from then on, our family didn't look back. Watching my brothers do great things in the arena and

on the field brought my parents' great joy." The University of Michigan was an obvious choice for Finn, for one, "it's super close for my family and friends to come watch a game. Michigan's also top tier university for academics and historic significance," said Thomson. He added one of the most enticing reasons for choosing Michigan is the "the facilities, staff and vision Michigan has for the lacrosse team. They really invest in their athletes and make sure they are treated properly." Young Finlay is certainly proud of his choice, including the campus and the environment that lies ahead for him. Last season Finn received the Bob McCabe Award for most Outstanding Graduating Box Player and the Barb Cormier Award for Most Outstanding Graduating Field Player. There is a reason Michigan picked him up so early. Mimico and South Etobicoke salutes Finlay and wishes the Thomson family every success. Go Blue!

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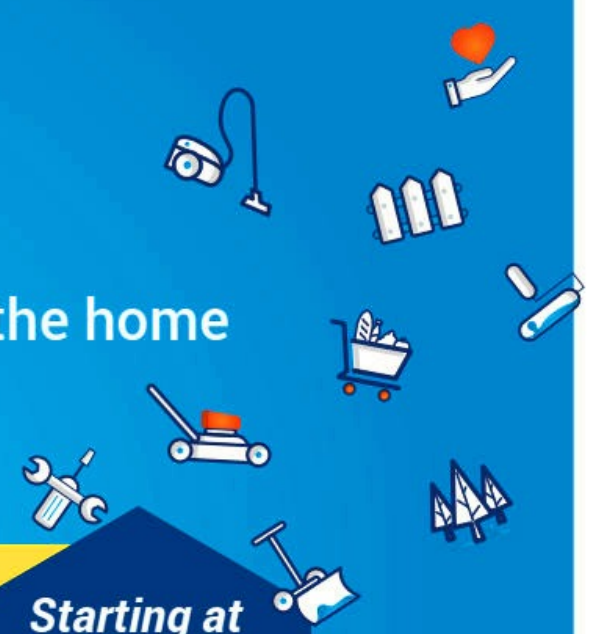
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27	28	29	30	31		

● House Plant Appreciation Day

FEB Snow, Ice & Safety Check

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

● Groundhog Day

MAR Clean Gutters & Windows

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

● International Women's Day

APR Spring Yard Cleanup

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

● April Fools Day

MAY Lawn & Power Wash House

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

● Mother's Day

JUN Lawn & Home Maintenance

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

● Father's Day

JUL Lawn, Weeds & Hedge

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

● Canada Day

AUG Lawn, Weeds & Hedge

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

● Left Handers Day

SEP Lawn & Home Maintenance

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

● Grandparent's Day

OCT Fall & Winter Prep

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

● International Day for the Elderly

NOV Yard Cleanup & Gutters

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

● Caregiver Appreciation Day

DEC Snow & Winter Maintenance

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

● National Fruitcake Day



Free lightbulbs & batteries with all seasonal plans.*

*1. You must be 60 yrs or older 2. \$19 a week plans include bi-weekly lawn maintenance for under 2,000 sq/ft lawn and unlimited snow removal for 2-car driveway. 3. 4-LED Bulbs and 4-AA Batteries are supplied as needed through the season.

We are serving hundreds of seniors in your area, call us today or visit us online.

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