

FEBRUARY - MARCH - APRIL

MAKING OMNECTIONS



SENIORS' NEWSLETTER

INSIDE



- + Treks & Travels
 'One Night With The King'
- + Women's Conference
- + Community Volunteer Income Tax Program
- + National Volunteer Week













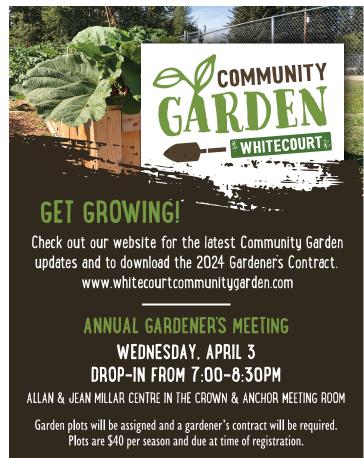
As part of a recent housing study, seniors self-contained affordable housing with supports has been identified as a priority for Whitecourt.

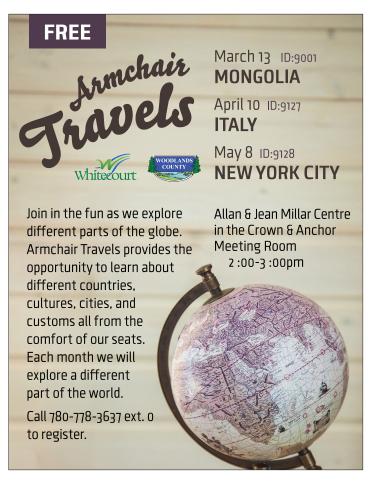
The Government of Alberta recently requested municipalities prepare a Housing Needs Assessment so that it can develop solutions to address unique local needs. Over the last several months, Town of Whitecourt representatives have met with key community stakeholders to develop Whitecourt's assessment and the report has been adopted and submitted to the Province. This information will be utilized by local organizations and for-profit companies to support their grant applications.

Population trends predict that Whitecourt's seniors population will continue to increase as more people move here to be with family, and as more residents choose to retire in this community. Despite already having three local facilities that cater to the senior demographic, this increase will require more housing suitable for older adults.

In addition to continuing to advocate for seniors affordable housing and supports, the Town of Whitecourt is also working to promote the need for new and expanded healthcare services. West Yellowhead MLA Martin Long is the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health, and Whitecourt has been working with him to bring solutions for our local healthcare issues to the Alberta Minister of Health. MLA Long and I had the opportunity to tour Alberta Health Minister Adriana LaGrange around our community and hospital last fall, and will continue to work with key stakeholders to stress the need for expanded services here in Whitecourt.

Tom Pickard, Whitecourt Mayor





Page 2 www.whitecourt.ca



RECHARGE.REVITALIZE. REPLENISH.

2024

Saturday, April 13

It's hard to be your best on empty. Take some time to recharge, revitalize and replenish. This conference offers the opportunity to meet new people, explore new interests, and focus on you!

9:00am - 4:00pm

\$40 for the whole day Includes sessions, lunch, and gift bag.



REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1

Register by calling the Allan & Jean Millar Centre, 780-778-3637 ext. 0.

The conference is a walkable experience within our downtown core supporting local resources and businesses.

Free transportation will be provided for those with mobility issues.

whitecourtwomensconference

Limited child care available at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre. Must be booked separately.

Proudly supported by:







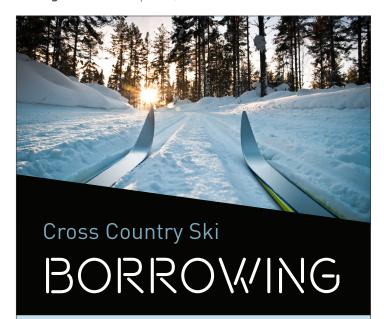








www.whitecourt.ca



Thanks to a grant provided by Communities Choosewell, the Town of Whitecourt is excited to partner with the Whitecourt & District Public Library and the Whitecourt Golf & Country Club to bring free cross country ski rentals to Whitecourt!

Skis, boots and poles can be borrowed from the Library for free with a Library card. Check out the maintained ski trails at the

Whitecourt Golf Course!

Youth and Adult sizes available!

Contact the Library for more information.

780-778-2900









PICKLEBAI

Join us Monday-Friday mornings and Monday and Thursday evenings to try the latest in racquet sports. Pickleball is a low impact game that has the dimensions and layout of a badminton court, and a net and rules similar to tennis, with a few modifications. It's a fun game for players of all levels. Everyone is invited to drop-in and give it a try.

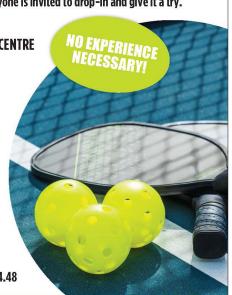
ALLAN & JEAN MILLAR CENTRE

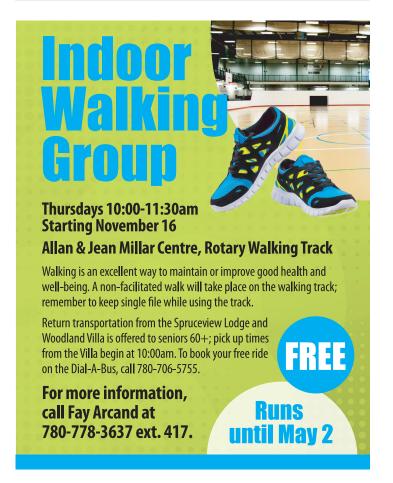
Monday 9:00-11:00am Skill Development **All Ages**

Tuesdays/Wednesdays/ Thursdays/Fridays Time: 9:00-11:00am **All Ages**

Mondays/Thursdays Time: 8:00-10:00pm

Members: FREE Retail: \$4.48







COMPLIMENTARY FITNESS CLASSES

These classes are FREE with a membership or day pass

EARLY BIRD H20 Water

A class for those who want to start their day off right with a full-body workout! This is a fun agua class that focuses on improving muscular strength & endurance by using a variety of equipment. We're usually in the shallow end or the lazy river (but we're not lazy!). No swimming skills required.

Level: All Levels

Days: Mondays, Wednesdays

Time: 6:15-7:00am

GENTLE WATER FITNESS Water

This aquatic exercise class is designed to meet the needs of people who have health conditions resulting in pain and dysfunction when participating in land based fitness activities. This class is a low impact 45-minute class that focuses on enhancing mobility, muscle strengthening, and increased range of motion. The class is ideal for orthopedic, arthritis, hypertension, and joint replacement conditions and for those who have weakness and/or physical limitations and takes place in the Leisure Pool (warmer water).

Level: Beginner

Days: Tuesdays, Thursdays Time: 12:00-12:45pm

WATER WARRIORS Water

This agua class is a full body workout focusing on functional fitness in a supportive environment. The joint friendly exercises help to improve cardio, muscular strength & endurance as well as range of motion. Classes are conducted in both chest-deep and deep water (options will be given for both) and are suitable for all levels of fitness, Max. 20

Level: All Levels

Days: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

Time: 9:00-10:00am (Monday & Wednesday)

.....

9:15-10:00am (Friday)



FREE TO MOVE Land

Using natural body movement, we will develop your strength, flexibility, and mobility; all without the use of any weights. When your body moves properly, you feel better. Improved mobility can not only lessen the risk of injury in everyday life but can also improve strength gains both in and out of the gym.

Level: All Levels **Days:** Mondays

Time: 10:15-11:00am

YOGA & CORE Mind & Body

This class will focus on increasing your core strength as well as

improving your flexibility, balance and strength.

Level: All Levels **Days:** Wednesdays Time: 7:00-7:45pm

MOVEMENT & STRETCH Mind & Body

Take time to relax and rejuvenate with some weekly self care. This class will focus on mobility and flexibility using gentle movements, stretching, basic yoga poses and rolling techniques to increase range of motion and release tight muscles.

Level: All Levels **Days:** Thursdays **Time:** 7:00-7:45pm

Water

No water classses February 18, March 25 - April 1.



PROVIDES:

food
diapers
toiletries
condoms
menstrual products
teen bags
birthday bags
pet food

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday Wednesday Friday 11:00am to 2:00pm Last intake at 1:45pm



EVENING HOURS

Second Thursday of the month 5:00 to 8:00pm Last intake at 7:45pm

LOCATION

www.whitecourt.ca

76 Sunset Blvd in the Carlan Services Community Resource Centre Call 780-778-2341



Practicing proven and effective skills to manage anxiety and feel a sense of calm.

Workshop



FREE IN PERSON WORKSHOP ADULTS (18+)

THURSDAYS FEBRUARY 1 - MARCH 21 1:30-3:30 AT THE MRPCN WHITECOURT OFFICE

VISIT MRPCN.CA
OR CALL 780-779-0079
TO REGISTER







SUPPORT GROUP

Learn more about Parkinson's, share your experiences and connect with peers in a safe environment.

Please contact Parkinson Association of Alberta at 780-425-6400 or aploof@parkinsonassociation.ca with any questions or for information on how to join the group.



AGING WITH PRIDE

Please check out our seniors events page to currently see what is happening on Aging with Pride or contact 587-635-2169 for more information! We are currently offering Aging with Pride on a modified schedule according to participant need. Please reach out to learn/suggest which times would work best for you.

https://pridecentreofedmonton.ca/seniors-programs/

SIGN-UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

Go to pridecentreofedmonton.ca and look for 'Newsletter Signup'.

GET IN TOUCH

Call 780-488-3234 or Email hello@pridecentreofedmonton.ca

Page 6 www.whitecourt.ca



A volunteer run non-profit for cancer patients in the town of Whitecourt

The Whitecourt Cancer & Wellness Society was founded in 2002 with the goal of providing access to funding for community members experiencing financial difficulty due to an illness that is interrupting their work schedule and causing pressure on their family.

Programs



Gas & Grocery Card Package



Parking Reimbursement



Emergency Funds

For more details and a Financial Application, visit our website at wctcancerwellness.com

Phone: 780-778-0932

Email: wctcancerwellness@gmail.com

f WhitecourtCancerAndWellnessSociety





YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Whitecourt Cancer Support Group

SURVIVOR

no matter how long you have been a survivor BATTLING & THEIR CARE GIVERS

currently in treatment and battling cancer

CANCER SCARE

waiting on results and don't know where to turn







SECOND TUESDAY EACH MONTH refreshments & appetizers provided

Noon @ Mountain Steak and Pizza

for more information call 780-268-3376 email Heather at ghanderson@telus.net



"I hope to arrive at my death late, in love and a little drunk." Atticus

Drop In at the Whitecourt & District Public Library 5201 - 49 Street

Monday, March 11

6:00 - 7:30pm

More information at www.deathcafe.com Contact Kim: 780-396-9528







Social prescribing is a holistic approach to healthcare that bridges the gap between medical and social care services. Through this approach, healthcare professionals refer patients to community-based programs to improve their health and enhance their quality of life. Social prescribing promotes health equity by addressing social needs that affect health and well-being, such as access to adequate housing, food, transportation, income and social support. This helps older adults with limited natural supports to thrive.

The Seniors Resource Lead (Link Worker) will receive social prescriptions (referrals) from the health system (doctor's offices, nurses, homecare, Primary Care Network, or hospital discharge). The Seniors Resource Lead will then work with seniors to address their needs related to the social determinants of health by connecting to the variety of programs and services that exist within the community. This program is intended to ensure that seniors can age in their chosen community for as long as possible without needing to transition to higher levels of care.

or email fayarcand@whitecourt.ca.

Memory Care Kil

AVAILABLE AT THE WHITECOURT & DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Memory Care Kits are a new Library resource for seniors created in partnership with Whitecourt & District Public Library. The Memory Care Kit is a carry-bag filled with items and activities centered around a place, time, or theme.

Six different kits in the following themes are available:

- Alberta & Whitecourt: 1940s to present
- School Days & Work-Life: 1950s-1990s
- Growing Memories While Gardening
- Classic Television and Films: 1950s-1990s
- The Joy of Food from Home & Abroad
- Relaxing with Pet Animals

For more information or to borrow a Memory Care Kit, contact the Whitecourt & District Public Library at 780-778-2900.

Website: whitecourtlibrary.ab.ca

f whitecourtlibrary







Page 8 www.whitecourt.ca



Brought to you by:



Light Up Toboggan Party

Wednesday, February 7 5:00-7:00pm

All ages
Dahl Drive
Toboggan Hill
*Bring your own toboggan

Hot Dogs & Hot Chocolate Glow Sticks Helmets Recommended

Winter Skate Party

Thursday, March 7 5:00-7:00pm

All ages
Percy Baxter Rink
101 Mink Creek Rd
*Bring your own skates

Hot Dogs Refreshments Helmets Recommended

Winter Party events will be cancelled if temperatures are below -20.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM

Program begins February 26, forms accepted until April 22 To find out if you are eligible for help, use the income levels shown in the table called "Maximum Income Levels". For each additional dependant you have, add \$2,500 to the family income. Interest income must be less that \$1000.

Volunteers can only complete returns for the current tax year and do not prepare complex returns, such as returns for individuals who:

- have self-employment income;
- · have capital gains or losses;
- · file for bankruptcy;
- have business or rental income and expenses;
- have employment expenses;
- · deceased in the year.

Maximum Income Levels

Taxpayer Status: Family Income:
Single person up to \$30,000
Couple up to \$40,000
One adult with one child up to \$35,000

Bring all tax forms (T-4 slips, Social Insurance Number, yearly prescription print outs, etc.) to the Allan & Jean Millar Centre from 9:00am-12:00pm and 1:00-3:00pm Monday to Friday. A tax information questionnaire must be completed when handing in tax slips.



DROP-IN TAX CLINIC

Whitecourt Seniors Circle

1:00-4:00pm March 12 and 19 DROP-IN TAX CLINIC at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre, 58 Sunset Blvd

Thursdays from 1:00-3:00pm March 7, 14, 21, 28 April 4, 11

www.whitecourt.ca

How to Access Alberta Supports Services

Alberta Supports Services

Alberta Supports helps:

- Seniors
- People with disabilities
- Job seekers
- **Parents**
- **Families**

More than 30 programs and 120 services support Albertans needing help with:

- Income supports
- Seniors supports
- Childcare supports
- Disability supports
- **Emergency supports**
- **Employment and training**



Call the Alberta Supports Contact Centre at 1-877-644-9992



Apply online at alberta.ca/alberta-supports.aspx

Alberta Supports Centres

Alberta Supports Centres are reopening to in-person services on April 4, 2022. Find contact information for local Alberta Supports Centres and AISH offices at: alberta.ca/alberta-supports.aspx and https://www.alberta.ca/contact-aish.aspx.

Apply easily for supports

It's easier than ever to apply for Income Support and AISH programs online and by phone:

Apply for AISH online:

alberta.ca/aish-how-to-apply.aspx

Apply for Income Support online: alberta.ca/income-support-how-to-apply.aspx

Apply for Income Support by phone: 1-877-644-9992

Submit documentation and verification to support applications by:



Email



Text



Fax



Drop-off boxes (some locations)

The Income Support Contact Centre provides emergency benefits to eligible Albertans including assistance with food, medication, temporary shelter or basic emergency dental.

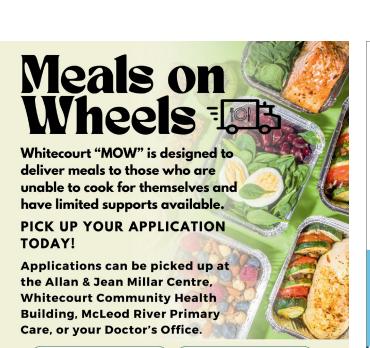


Call the Income Support Contact Centre 24 hours per day, seven days per week: 1-866-644-5135

alberta.ca/alberta-supports.aspx

Government of Alberta | Published: March 14, 2022





USER PAY PROGRAM

FREE DELIVERY

\$90 FOR 10 MEALS

AFFORDABLE & NUTRITIOUS

DELIVERED ONCE OR TWICE WEEKLY ON TUES/THURS

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION TO: ANIS.BOUBAKER@AHS.CA OR IN PERSON AT 4707-50TH AVE | Whitecourt Community Health Office Hours: Mon- Fri 9am-12pm/1pm-4pm Questions? Call: 780-396-2635 or 780-706-3173



Be Supported on Your Journey to Better Health. Right from Home with Zoom!

A variety of classes are available each month and include:

Weight Management Better Choices Better Health® Chronic Pain

Understanding COPD Managing Diabetes

Moving Matters

Heart & Stroke: Managing Blood Pressure & Cholesterol

To register for a Zoom class call 1-877-349-5711

Or you can self register at www.healthylivingprogram.ca





Alberta Health WHITECOURT Services

www.mrpcn.ca

FREE

Addiction Services

Phone-in/Walk-in Wednesday

Every Wednesday 8:30AM-11:30AM Drop in to see a counsellor or call to arrange for a phone-in appointment

780-778-7123

5020 52 Avenue, Whitecourt **Provincial Building**

As a potential client, you can expect:

- 1. A counsellor to hear your concerns
- 2. An assessment by one of our trained consellors
- 3. Exploration of ideas to improve your situation
- 4. A course of action that is decided by YOU.

WHITECOURTTRANSIT

BIKE RACK AVAILABLE • FREE WIF!! 30 MINUTE PICKUPS DURING PEAK HOURS!

TRANSIT FARES

Cash Fares	\$3	
Transit 10-Ticket Pack	\$25	
Adult Monthly Pass	\$70	
Senior/Youth Monthly F	Pass \$40	
Children 6 and Under	Free	
Youth Groups	\$1/passenger	

HOURS

Monday-Thursday 6:30am-8:44pm Friday 6:30am-7:44pm Saturday 9:00am-3:44pm

NO BUS SERVICE ON SUNDAYS & STATUTORY HOLIDAYS

WHERE TO BUY

Passes and ticket packs can be purchased at: Town of Whitecourt Office 5004 52 Avenue Allan & Jean Millar Centre 58 Sunset Boulevard **IGA** 4802 51 Street



INTERIOR, EXTERIOR **AND TRANSIT SHELTER ADVERTISING** Available for rent.

Please contact 780-778-3637 ext. 429 or email transit@whitecourt.ca for more information on advertising rates and options.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call 780-778-3637 ext. 429 | Email transit@whitecourt.ca

TRANSPORTATION GRANT **PROGRAM & DIAL-A-BUS**

A transportation voucher program for seniors 65 years of age and older, individuals approved for AISH, and individuals under the age of 65 years with physical or functional disabilities (doctor assessed).

Discounted monthly Public Transit and Dial-A-Bus passes available. Individual fares for Public Transit and Dial-A-Bus are also accepted.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call 780-778-6300 | Email css@whitecourt.ca

VOUCHERS CAN BE USED FOR TRAVEL ON PUBLIC TRANSIT, THE DIAL-A-BUS AND LOCAL TAXI Qualification information and program applications are available at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre.

DIAL-A-BUS HOURS

Monday-Friday 9:30am-12:00pm 1:00-3:00pm (last pickup at 2:45pm)

WWW.WHITECOURT.CA



Page 12 www.whitecourt.ca

NORTH ZONE HOME CARE

Alberta Health Services

Government of Alberta

KEEPING YOU WELL AND INDEPENDENT

WHAT IS HOME CARE?

Home Care is a health service that supports your wellness and independence. The goal is to help you remain safe and independent in your own home or care setting for as long as possible. Alberta's Home Care Program supports Albertans of all ages and includes an array of services including health promotion and teaching, treatments, care at end of life, rehabilitation, home support and maintenance, assistance to maintain social connections, and support for your family or others who help you out. The Home Care Program organizes health care service delivery with other health services that are available in your community.

WHERE ARE HOME CARE SERVICES DELIVERED?

While Home Care services are most commonly delivered in your home, flexibility exists to deliver services in a variety of other settings.

HOW IS MY NEED FOR HOME CARE SERVICE DETERMINED?

Your care needs will be assessed by a Case Manager with your help. Together with your caregivers, you and your Case Manager will create a plan of care just for you. Your Case Manager has the support of a team of local health-care professionals to assist in your care.

Depending on your needs, the health care team may include your family physician, nurses, physiotherapists, pharmacists, health care aides, and others. Services may be provided in your home or in a clinic setting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON NORTH ZONE HOME CARE SERVICES

Contact your local Home Care Office toll-free:

1-855-371-4122

BE A STAR... A Snow Star

Snow Stars get the satisfaction of knowing that they have made a difference by helping someone to stay in the home they love for a longer period of time.



As the snow falls this winter, we encourage all those able bodies out there to take some time and help a neighbour in need.

This is a volunteer program; assistance is based on availability of volunteers, and is for essential paths to your home. If you need this service, or to register as a Snow Star, please call Community Services to have your name placed on our registry.





Wednesdays at 11:00am SENIORS CIRCLE FREE

Fridays at 11:00am
EVERMORE YOGA by donation

CALLING ALL WRITERS!

We're looking for reader submissions for:

A NOD TO The Past

If you have a bit of local history you'd like to see in an article please contact Doreine directly at 780-268-5397.



National Volunteer Week April 14-20, 2024

Every Moment Matters

Please join the Town of Whitecourt in celebrating those who give selflessly of their time in our community.









Whitecourt's Volunteer Awards Program

Community members are invited to nominate deserving individuals, corporations, and agencies/groups for recognition through this five category volunteer award.

- Community Leader
- Outstanding Youth Volunteer
- Longstanding Achievement
- Corporate Leader
- The Extra Miler

One nominee from each category will be selected. The successful nominee of each category will receive a prize pack in recognition of their volunteering spirit.

For category information and nomination forms, visit www.whitecourt.ca. Nomination packages can also be picked up from Guest Services at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre. The deadline for nominations is Monday, April 8.

Lunch and Learn

A lunch hour session for non-profit organizations featuring a guest speaker from Volunteer Canada to discuss 'Volunteer Recruitment and Retention'.

Date: Thursday, April 18 Time: 11:30am-1:00pm

Cost: \$5.00

Limit 2 people per organization

To register for this event call the Allan & Jean Millar Centre at 780-778-3637 ext.0



SWEET POTATO & BLACK BEAN CHILI Servings: 4 INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 medium-large sweet potato, peeled and diced
- 1 large onion, diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 4 teaspoons ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon ground chipotle chile
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 ½ cups water
- 2 (15 ounce) cans black beans, rinsed
- 1 (14 ounce) can diced tomatoes
- 4 teaspoons lime juice
- ½ cup chopped fresh cilantro

DIRECTIONS

Step 1: Heat oil in a Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add sweet potato and onion and cook, stirring often, until the onion is beginning to soften, about 4 minutes. Add garlic, chili powder, cumin, chipotle and salt and cook, stirring constantly, for 30 seconds. Add water and bring to a simmer. Cover, reduce heat to maintain a gentle simmer and cook until the sweet potato is tender, 10 to 12 minutes.

Step 2: Add beans, tomatoes and lime juice; increase heat to high and return to a simmer, stirring often. Reduce heat and simmer until slightly reduced, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in cilantro.



Search for 'Seniors Services' to access the issue online.

Seniors Services

Q





The Whitecourt Seniors Circle offers a place for seniors to stay connected to their community.

We offer a wide range of activities from free coffee time daily, to potlucks and floor curling. For a full calendar of events please see the events calendar on the back page of this issue.

Register or Renew!

Monday – Friday 9am - 11am Seniors Circle, 5212 50 Street

Existing membership renewal is due by the end of January, after that a 3 month waiting period is in effect.

For memberships or any questions please call: Carol Halverson 780-778-3975 or Olga Roszko 780-268-4254





WHITECOURT 2024 FEB - MAR - APR **SENIORS CIRCLE** S A T S U N M Т Т F R \mathbf{W} **Event Calendar** U E Ε 0 \mathbf{H} N $x \times x \times x$ **COFFEE** | 9AM - 11AM (Monday - Friday) FLOOR CURLING | 9AM - 1PM (Mondays) X **PAINTING** | 9AM (Tuesdays) X **BINGO** | Doors Open 5PM, First Call 6:45PM (Tuesdays) CHAIR YOGA | 11AM-NOON (Wednesdays) \mathbf{X} **POTLUCK** | 6PM (Last Wednesday of the Month) X GAMES NIGHT | 7PM (Thursdays Nights) **CRIB** | 1PM (Second & Third Sunday of the Month)