

Volunteer Edmonton

This is a word worth spreading

Special to the Examiner

It might be time to attend volunteer showcase event.

How can you go wrong?

Volunteer Edmonton is spreading the word about volunteering through a new presentation series called Showcases.

"The Showcase is a great introduction to volunteering," says Nana Thaver, Volunteer Edmonton co-ordinator.

"We talk about what volunteering is, the ways you can help out and how to find a volunteer opportunity that suits you."

The Showcases were developed to provide people who want to volunteer, but aren't sure how, with the support and information they need.

"We simply want to get people who are not currently volunteering involved in the community. And sometimes they just need some help getting started," Thaver explains.

The Showcases are free and open to the public. That means families, students, youth and seniors – anyone interested in volunteering – is welcome to attend.

During the hour, there will be a brief presentation, along with a guest speaker to share their personal volunteer experience.

Guests will also be provided with a kit that includes step-by-step information on how to find a volunteer opportunity.

"We know that about 48 per cent of Edmontonians volunteer. While that's a

pretty decent number, that also means we have 52 per cent of Edmontonians who don't volunteer," Thaver notes.

Studies show that the top cited reason for not volunteering is lack of time, followed by the inability to make a long-term commitment and not knowing how to become involved.

The hope is that the Showcase helps break down those barriers by providing guests with the tools, resources and easy-to-understand information on how to become a volunteer.

"If you don't know what to do or where to go, it's unlikely you're going to go out of your way and spend a lot of time looking for a place where you can volunteer," says Thaver.

The Showcases are held on a monthly basis.

To RSVP for the June 15 Showcase, e-mail Nana Thaver at voled@volunteeredmonton.com or call 780-732-6649.

Each Volunteer Edmonton Showcase is limited to a maximum of 20 people, so registrations are being accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

If you can't attend the June Showcase, visit www.volunteeredmonton.com to view future dates.

Look to this space to see the work that the city's volunteers and non-profit organizations are carrying out.

For more information or to suggest a story idea, please contact Evelyn Pham, communications co-ordinator at epham@volunteeredmonton.com or call 780-732-6655.

Tails will wag on Alberta Ave.

Kevin Maimann
Examiner Staff

If your furry best friend is looking for some summer fun, Eastwood Hall is the place to go this weekend.

Located at 11803 86 Street, the hall will host the annual Avenue Goes to the Dogs festival Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dogs can try out flyball, agility events, musical mats and bobbing for hot dogs, while owners can check out a canine

market.

"There are so many people who own dogs in the area. So it's just a really neat day for the community to come out and bring their dogs," says Judy Allan, the city's Alberta Avenue initiative project co-ordinator.

There will also be children's activities, including a dunk tank, if you want to bring the family along.

Allan says people come from all over the city for the festival.

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