

Newsletter

2020 Fall/Winter



A Message to our Members

This has been a year like no other for our members and I want to thank every one of our businesses for the tremendous effort you have made in these difficult times. The West End BIZ has been working hard to provide the needed assistance, keep the neighbourhood safe and inviting and to continue to bring customers to the West End. **We are here to support our members** every year, but we know that this year that role has been more important than any other.

Beginning at the end of March, we pivoted our customer-oriented efforts to align with new realities. We launched Distant Dinner Parties in April where Winnipeggers could sign up for a restaurant-prepared meal to be delivered and participate in a group tour of the West End via Zoom. We also began monitoring the condition of the neighbourhood, speaking to business owners and compiling reports to advocate for support.

Throughout the spring we ran contests encouraging

folks to snap photos of themselves in the West End to win gift certificates to any West End business. In the summer months we launched our mural tours, our moveable mural contest and the Central Winnipeg Bike Loop all to bring more folks into the West End.

Going into the fall we knew the second wave would bring even greater challenges than the first and that is why we are now providing direct assistance accessing grants and services available from all levels of government. Additionally, we have specialized grants available to support businesses that have to make COVID-19-related upgrades to their facilities and customer areas. We invite you to contact us even if you are not exactly sure what you need at this time. Our dedicated team can help walk you through what is available and how to apply.

This is just a small sampling of the projects we are working on. We will continue to develop innovative new ways to bring consumers to the neighbourhood and support our members. We know businesses are problem-solvers and experts at overcoming challenges big and small, but mandatory shut downs and uncertainty can make it especially difficult to confront what we are facing today. Please call us or email us today.

Joe Kornelsen, Executive Director, West End BIZ

West End Businesses Adapting to COVID-19

Through this unprecedented time, businesses have had to adapt and adjust to the ever-changing environment. West End businesses were quick to make any necessary changes to keep on pushing through the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure everyone was able to support their business safely. Our members took the initiative to implement new delivery systems, create an online presence and even start creating new products.

Tam's Custom Tailor is one of many businesses in the West End who was heavily impacted during the pandemic. In March, business slowed right down for Tam and he was facing layoffs. Tam says that "while everyone was on lockdown I was bored and was looking for ways to keep busy" so he began sewing masks to donate to the community. Tam has continued to create masks for donation but has also begun creating a range of masks for every occasion. Tam's newest creation is a high-end hand-painted mask for special occasions. Tam is a perfect example of how our members have continued to step up to any challenge and are working hard to get through this pandemic.



Tam Nguyen,
Tam Custom Tailor

So far, the West End BIZ has installed 20 bike racks in the West End. Thank you to Cindy Gilroy for your support for this program.

Winnipeg Central Bike Loop

This year we needed to come up with some outdoor ways to celebrate Winnipeg and invite Winnipeggers to the West End. You may have seen new green signage put up throughout the West End called the 'Winnipeg Central Loop'. The West End BIZ partnered with six other Winnipeg BIZ's to create a bike route throughout Winnipeg Centre.

Folks will now be able to ride along the bike path that takes you through seven different Winnipeg neighbourhoods and encourages folks to explore our city. This collaboration was a great way to bring folks from all different areas throughout Winnipeg to discover new shops and businesses throughout the different neighbourhoods. On September 15th, we had the pleasure of showing off the new bike loop to Mayor Brian Bowman, Councillor Vivian Santos and Councillor Matt Allard, who all biked the loop with us and found out a bit more about our neighbourhood.

West End Moveable Mural



Photo: Moveable Mural Contest entries

This summer was all about getting creative and finding safe ways for folks to explore our neighbourhood. One of those ways was through our Moveable Mural. The BIZ worked with artist Mandy van Leeuwen to create a Moveable Mural that folks would be encouraged to go find in the neighbourhood and take a photo with. Mandy created a piece called 'Circles' that has an oversized wooden frame around it. Because the mural is able to be moved around, we decided to not disclose the location of the mural to folks but rather have them get out and find it on their own. We also had a contest that went with the Moveable Mural. People could enter the contest if they found the mural and shared a photo with it on Facebook and Instagram. The two winners received a \$100 gift card to a West End business of their choice. We heard very positive feedback from the community about this project and we hope to be able to bring it back next summer.

Belgian-Alliance Credit Union

Throughout the unprecedented pandemic that is COVID-19, Belgian-Alliance Credit Union (BACU) has remained open and available to serve our members and community for both personal memberships and business alike. BACU implemented various protocols in an effort to keep member and staff safety a top priority. BACU has worked tirelessly to support our members through the use of various government and internal interest and payment relief programs in this time of need. We are committed to our members' best interests and work one-on-one with them to achieve the best possible outcome during this challenging time.

What is important to you, matters to us!

Contact us for all of your business needs, we are here for YOU.

Lending
Commercial Mortgages
Rental and Income Property
Term Financing

Deposits & Banking
Business Chequing
Business Savings Accounts
Term Deposits (cashable and fixed)

1177 Portage Ave 204.927.0460
belgianalliancecu.mb.ca

Call the West End BIZ if...

If you need assistance with any COVID-19 relief programs

- We are now providing direct assistance over the phone or via email to help our members understand what is available, how to apply and to answer any questions..

You have graffiti that needs to be removed

- We offer free graffiti removal services to all businesses, non-profit organizations and residents in the West End. Let us know if you have been tagged and we will send our Graffiti Team over to help!

If you would like a safety patrol to provide a safe walk

- Our Safety Patrol Program offers safe walks to anyone in the West End area. If you would like a patrol walk with you please call them directly at (204) 229-2502.

If you would like to learn about grant opportunities for your business

- We offer a variety of grants including our Storefront, Safety, and Business Development grants. If you are looking to improve your business storefront or if you would like assistance with business safety, give us a call and we can help!

If you have an event or fundraiser you would like us to help promote

- The West End BIZ enjoys sharing all of the exciting events and activities taking place throughout the neighbourhood. If you have an upcoming event or news and you would like some help getting the word out, give us a call or email aurora@westendbiz.ca.

Connect with us!

In person:
581 Portage Ave, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Call us:
204-954-7900

Follow us:
Twitter: @wpgwestendbiz
Instagram: @westendbiz
Facebook: @Winnipeg West End BIZ



Newest Businesses in the West End

Pho Five Star

555 Balmoral

Ellice Auto Repair

593 Ellice

Habesha Restaurant

594 Ellice

Warkentin Business Solutions

598 Ellice

Lily Hair Design

612 Ellice

Data Wiring Solutions

621 Erin

POS Systems

814 Erin

36D Building & Design

1037 Erin

Peak Ventilation

1440 Erin

West Textiles

803 Erin

All Natural Meats

628 Notre Dame

Pitza Witza

636 Notre Dame

Bistro on Notre Dame

784 Notre Dame

Fresh Start Thrift

887 Notre Dame

RH Variety

643 Portage

Right Ride Auto

712 Portage

Garden House East Indian Cuisine

789 Portage

Fusion Wok

899 Portage

Amber KHK Restaurant

937 Portage

Cozmic Wolfe Café

941 Portage

Flint & Ember

1065 Portage

The Tobacco Store

1065 Portage

Caplan Debt Solutions

1151 Portage

Meaza Medical Spa & Salon

510 Sargent

Chef on Demand

510 Sargent

Banh Ngon

690 Sargent

Marwa Store

695 Sargent

Sea Level 100

806 Sargent

M28 Travel and Tours

871 Sargent

No Fun Club

576 Wall

Straight Arrow Automotive

1250 Wall

Prairie Automotive Financing

1079 Wellington

Glitter & Glue

1079 Wellington