



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

– Jon Naylor, VVCA President
president@vvcasaskatoon.com

IN THIS ISSUE I AM GOING TO TACKLE THE GOOD, THE SOMETIMES UGLY AND THE BAD.

Park Enhancements (Good)

The good includes several park improvements to our parks, the great community support we give each other, and the many community programs run by our volunteers. The bad is the increased concern about crime which currently seems to weigh more heavily on us than parking and potholes – our favorite worry bones in safer times.

Our latest park improvement is the opening of the reflexology park at Raoul Wallenberg, photo 1 and 2. We held an inaugural barbeque. Mark Bobyn, who I am going to thank again for building the enhancement, came along with his family, photo 3. Strangely his kids have grown considerably since I last saw them in swimming. James, our former president who helped start this improvement, was also present along with his happy new baby! As a fundraiser, the barbeque was a dismal failure. As an opportunity to meet our neighbours, our MLA Eric Olauson, the balloon guy (no, not our MLA), and learn about the Open Door society, it was great. Thanks to all who helped organize – particularly Barb, Ted and Anne. And a special thanks to all who showed up – look out for next Spring's event.

Nutana is heading up the Albert Rec Unit park improvement and we are giving support. Thanks to a very generous donation, construction should start soon.

We are looking for our next park project, so if you have an idea (under \$20,000), please let any member of our board know.



Selfie with Freddy - putting up signs for the spring BBQ
photo 1 by Jon Naylor



The reflexology, photo 2 by Jon



Mark Bobyn demonstrating how the walk should be experienced
photo 3

Programming

Our winter program is long wrapped up, we helped the community enjoy skating (thanks Greg, Luke and Kenton), cross country skiing with trails in our parks (thanks Luke) and soccer (thanks Niran). Indoors basketball (thanks Jason) and badminton flourish along with Taekwondo and several other activities (thanks again Barb and all who instruct a program). Our next registration is this September, the details can be found later in this newsletter.

Community Gardens

VVCA is one of the sponsors of the community garden program at Bishop Murray (thanks to all on the board and all others who volunteer for all the good work you do). I had the privilege of attending the Spring potluck. There are over a hundred plots serving a very diverse group of community members. These range from recent immigrants to well established residents. It also includes those who garden to help those in need. There are many very knowledgeable gardeners. I picked up some helpful tips to prevent blossom end rot in

Continued on page 2

2019-2020

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-

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President's Report continued

tomatoes (water at flowering) and control aphids (hire a ladybug charmer). If you want a plot, put your name on the waiting list, there is a small charge.

VVCA Board Changes

We have a few changes in our board. I would like to welcome Theodora who is our new newsletter editor. Roger has moved to social media and he still very ably runs our website. Dianne is our new secretary and Ted our new Treasurer. After many years of exemplary service, Anne is President-elect. Holly Ann, Luke and Allan are all part of our members at large/civics team. Lisa continues as our Albert Community Centre representative. Many of your representatives can be emailed using the addresses found on our website: www.vvcasaskatoon.com

Civics (Sometimes ugly)

On the civics front there are four notable events. The high rise at College and Clarence received its final approval from the Meewasin Valley Authority – despite my presentation about the visual and environmental undesirability of this project. I also doubt that there is a need for more high rise construction and the word is that this project is currently on hold.

A proposed boarding house in Grosvenor ignited considerable opposition. Thanks Gary for letting me know about this proposal and the incorrect notification. A corrected notice was sent out by the City and news of the project was spread through the VVCA grapevine. There was considerable local opposition and the proposal was dropped.

A proposed 4-unit, 3 storey quadruplex at Clarence and Osler is expected to go to a public meeting in September. Consistent with the City's long held policy of minimal notification, don't expect to get anything in your mailbox unless you live really close by. We will put information on our website about the meeting when we get it. Many

of you will remember the community meeting at Albert Hall where residents overwhelmingly voiced their opposition to quadruplexes on corner lots. This proposal will also add to the demands on our community infrastructure without paying its appropriate share of development levies. You can email our councillor, Cynthia.block@saskatoon.ca and copy me at president@vvcasaskatoon.com with your views.

A Nutana resident took the City to court for an injunction to prevent a garage suite; they lost. However, the judge did not award costs, suggested greater openness by the City about garage suite plans, and cautioned against encroaching on the neighbour's property during directional drilling to install utilities.

We ran another successful back alley clean up this Spring, carting away the usual assortment of fire hazards, mouse motels, and general junk. We did not hit the record this year but we still collected several skips of junk and one of metal. Thanks to all who took part.



Crime (Bad)

An issue worrying many residents is crime and safety. Everyone has their own story, some witness crime, others suffer break-ins while they sleep, pretty much everyone expects their car to be entered or their bike stolen if they leave it outside unlocked (or locked). My interest was stimulated

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by a house search on Cumberland that involved 10 to 20 cops, a swat team with rifles pointed, a command unit, and what looked like an armored car on the front lawn, not to mention a picket line of police officers, photo 4. There was one arrest for possession of a prohibited weapon. Prohibited weapons include machine guns and nasty personal combat items. The arrested man was released on bail the next day. So far, this case has consumed at least 3 court appearances.

For some, the criminal law response seems inadequate. Are suspects on bail more likely to commit offences or do they abide by the law? Who knows? Is policing efficient? I tried to report a ransacking of my vehicle using an online tool, only to be informed I had used the wrong method. I was then asked to please call another number. Why not forward the information to the correct section and then send a follow up email? Many wonder what they should do when the police come calling and they witness someone climb out through a window or make off down the street on a bicycle?

Some believe we have insufficient information to understand the events that play out on our streets. Some blame the drug problem. One addictions counsellor told me that the export of drugs (opioids from the middle east, fentanyl from China) is part of some countries' economic plan. We pay the price; they reap the money.

As a community, we need answers. What should we be doing? How can we help? Will our information be acted on if we provide it? Should we be identifying our stuff – small electronics, money, jewelry, lottery tickets seem popular items. Can the police get our stuff back if we track it down? It's surprising what appears on Kijiji that looks like it fell out of my car. One tool you may not be aware of is the new register your bike program run by the City of Saskatoon police: <https://saskatoonpolice.ca/obr/>

I have contacted our community police officer. Tentatively, a community meeting with our liaison officer will take place in September. I hope we can learn what we can do to protect ourselves and help policing. Watch our website for details www.vvcasaskatoon.com.

Jonathan (Jon) Naylor,
Your President, VVCA




THE SASKATOON POLICE SERVICE would like to remind citizens of the importance of recording serial numbers, specifically bicycles, in order to claim lost or stolen property that has been recovered by Police through an awareness campaign called #GetMyBikeBack.

Through the #GetMyBikeBack awareness campaign, Police are encouraging people to take a picture of the serial number for their records. In the event the bike is stolen and recovered, Police will then be able to return the bicycle to its rightful owner. Police are also working with local cycling businesses to encourage persons purchasing bicycles to take a picture of the serial number before they leave the stores.

The bicycles that are recovered but unclaimed are auctioned off at various times throughout the year. Last year there were over 550 bicycles recovered by Police that went to auction.

Saskatoon Police Service,
76-25th St E., Saskatoon, SK S7K 3R6
Phone: 306-975-8300 | Saskatoonpoliceservice.ca



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INDOOR COORDINATOR'S NEWS



Photograph by Pierre Baminwncck

HANG ON TO YOUR HATS!!!!!! It is that time of year again to start thinking of activities you want to partake in! Some old and some new! I am pleased to say we have **THREE** new programs to add to our selection! They are:

Conversational Italian

This is a beginner class that will get you learning basic Italian phrases to help you have your first interaction in the language. The course is perfect for anyone that dreams about learning Italian or plans to visit the country one day. The course will include a movie night and an optional field trip to an authentic Italian pizzeria and gelateria right here in Saskatoon.

Genealogy

These classes are for people interested in either beginning, continuing, or requiring some assistance with their family history. The workshops focus on going beyond the family tree in order to bring the family history to life.

Painting With Lorraine

The instructor is Lorraine Hamilton. You will be painting with acrylics. There is room for ten participants!

SEE YOU AT REGISTRATION!!!

Barb

In person program sign-up will be held on
Thursday Sept 5, & Tuesday Sept 10, 2019
 from 7:00 – 8:30 PM at
 Brunskill School, 101 Wiggins Ave North

SASKATOON CURBSIDE SWAP



Have clean, usable stuff to give away? Want free stuff? Swap it!

Reduce the amount of garbage ending up in landfill by giving away your stuff to someone or find free stuff of your own. At a curbside swap, place your unwanted items in good condition on your property (next to the side walk or curb) and mark them as free for anyone to pick up or go out on a treasure hunt of your own to find what your neighbors are giving away for free.

Let's SWAP it Saskatoon !!

Plan a curbside swap this summer or join the annual city-wide curbside event on Saturday, September 7, 2019. Contact your Community Association to find out if a Curbside Swap is planned for your neighbourhood. Promote your event online on the Curbside Swap Facebook event page at Saskatoon City News. Check out the Curbside Swap Host Manual for information.

How you can Swap!

- Mark all your items free that you wish to give away.
- Do not put out items with potential safety hazards, for example weapons, chemicals, mattress infested with bedbugs, broken furniture or expired child car seats.
- Do not block traffic, sidewalks or place items on road.
- Do not trespass on other people's property, block other people's driveway or park illegally.
- Be in compliance with the Temporary Sign Bylaw No. 7491.
- Return unclaimed items into your homes by 6:00 p.m.

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/waste-recycling/recycling/saskatoon-curbside-swap>

BABYSITTING COURSE (RED CROSS)

Monday OR Thursday. 6-8pm. \$100 Library

Monday's Nov 4, 7, 14, 18

Thursday's Nov 21, 25, 29, Dec 2

Age 12-14

Minimum 6 participants

Maximum participants 18

CITY OF SASKATOON: COUNCILLOR CYNTHIA BLOCK



Photo submitted by Cynthia Block



Photograph by Theodora Ofosuhima

HELLO VARSITY VIEW AND GROSVENOR, as I write this message, it is the beginning of August and I am so excited to be in our city. Saskatoon's summers have to be some of the best found anywhere. Add in festivals, music and outdoor patios, and it's just a glorious place to call home.

City Council is focused on reducing the proposed tax increase for 2020 and 2021. Initial projections of close to 4% are now closer to 3%. Especially in Ward 6, where our historic neighbourhoods have seen large increases in assessment, we need to find ways to reduce costs. I'm often asked what the city is doing to ensure tax dollars are used efficiently. In 2018, the city realized \$1.8 million dollars in savings. The Service, Savings & Sustainability Report is online at www.saskatoon.ca

This fall, we will receive a report following a review of our Residential Parking Permit program. We need to find better ways to manage the congestion in Varsity View and some areas of Nutana.

At long last, we have a flood mitigation strategy in place to begin to address some of the worst flood-prone areas in the city. To make way for a dry pond in WW Ashley Park, a brand new soccer pitch is being constructed at Aden Bowman Collegiate. Regular soccer programming will continue at the new location, and the dry pond at the park will also be used for sports programming when it is completed in 2020.

Many areas in our ward had to deal with frozen water connections due to the extreme cold last winter. The City is increasing the number of machines to thaw connections, doubling the contractors on standby and creating a new plan to ensure better communication with residents.

I hope to see you at the Broadway Street Fair on September 7th! It's a wonderful day of food, shopping and entertainment in our vibrant cultural hub.

*My booth is usually located close to Extra Foods. And, if you haven't signed up for e-updates yet, please consider it. I try to send out timely information on a monthly basis, to ensure Ward 6 residents are on top of civic issues. Just go to www.cynthiablockward6.com to sign up, and read past blog posts.

Sincerely,

Cynthia

cynthia.block@saskatoon.ca

FB: [cynthiablockward6](https://www.facebook.com/cynthiablockward6)

Twitter: [cynthiablocksk](https://twitter.com/cynthiablocksk)



Have you signed up for City News from Cynthia?
To receive e-updates or read previous updates,
go to www.cynthiablockward6.com

SCHOOL'S BACK - DRIVE SAFELY

DRIVERS ARE REMINDED that reduced speed limits in elementary and secondary school zones will be in effect starting at the beginning of September.

The maximum speed limit in a school zone is 30 kph to give motorists and pedestrians more time to react in an unexpected situation.



- The 30 kph speed limit is in effect from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, September to June (including statutory holidays).
- School zones are marked by reflective, fluorescent yellow-green signs.
- School zones begin at the 30 kph sign.
- School zones end at a posted speed limit sign indicating a greater speed limit (normally 50 kph).
- The penalty for speeding in a school zone is the same as any other speeding offence. You would be fined for the offence and penalized three SGI demerit points.

BROADWAY STREET FAIR

Saturday, September 7th

THE BROADWAY BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (Broadway BID) is pleased to present the 36th Annual Broadway Street Fair on Saturday, September 7th, 2019 from 10am to 5pm.

This is Broadway District's largest event of the year, drawing thousands to the street with an eclectic array of street performers, vendors, artists, musicians, and dancers. Transforming Broadway into a street fair, this event features a sidewalk sale, music and dance stages, silent auction, performers, food and art vendors, and much more.

SENIORS NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB CLUBS (SNHC)

Now in 5 locations!

SENIORS NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB CLUBS are an age-friendly initiative of the Saskatoon Council on Aging (SCOA). The Hub Clubs promote social participation, a key aspect of an age-friendly city.

Open to independent seniors living city wide

Free programs and refreshments

Programs run monthly 1:30 pm – 4 pm

Forever in motion exercises

Blood Pressure Clinics

“Ask a Pharmacist” station

Mayfair Hub Club, 902 33rd Street W.

3rd Thursday of each month (September – April)

1:30 PM – 4:00 pm

Eastview Hub Club, Royal Canadian Legion, 3021 Louise St.

4th Tuesday of each month (September – May)

1:30 PM – 4:00 pm

St. Martin's Hub Club, St. Martin's United Church, 2617 Clarence Ave. S.

3rd Tuesday of each month (September – May)

1:30 PM – 4:00 pm

Silverwood Hub Club, F.G. Community Church, 102 Goerzen Street

2nd Thursday of each month (October – May)

1:30 PM – 4:00 pm

Open Door Hub Club, House for all Nations, 501 Ave. W South

1st Wednesday of each month (September – May)

1:30 PM – 4:00 pm

More details on Saskatoon Council on Aging website:

<http://www.scoa.ca/hubclub.html>

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Upcoming VVCA Events:

VVCA Board Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Brunskill School Library.
 Members of the public are always welcome to attend.

January 2020: Winter program registration
 Spring 2020: Annual VVCA social and fundraiser
 March 2020: Spring program registration
 April 2020: VVCA Annual General Meeting
 May 2020: Annual Community Clean-Up

Watch the website and future newsletters for more details

ANONYMOUS DONATION MAKES BIG PLANS POSSIBLE!



Big Plans for a Little Park:

Albert Recreation Unit park rejuvenation – Summer 2019 update

THANKS TO A VERY GENEROUS ANONYMOUS DONATION in February, the park plans have been steaming full ahead. Some revisions and additions to our plans were incorporated thanks to this new influx of funds, and we know everyone will be thrilled with the new park once completed. A huge THANK YOU to our anonymous donor as well as a thank you to all those in the community who have believed in and supported this park project from the beginning. YOU are making YOUR park a BIG success!

Jim Siemens of Oxbow Architecture has prepared plans for the park, City approvals are underway and the plan is to begin construction this fall, after the summer park programs are done for the season.

Thank you to our supporters Nutana Community Association, Varsity View Community Association, City of Saskatoon, the Community Initiatives Fund, Oxbow Architecture, Strata Development and, of course, YOU!

Keep up to date on Facebook: [facebook.com/BigPlansForaLittlePark/](https://www.facebook.com/BigPlansForaLittlePark/)

<https://nutana.ca/about-our-fundraising-for-the-albert-rec-unit/>

Thank you for making your little park a BIG success!

Get Active this Winter!
 VVCA Registration nights
 Thursday, September 5 & Tuesday, September 10,
 7:00 – 8:30pm in Brunskill School's
 small gym/multi purpose room!

Help Wanted

Interested in making your community a little better? VVCA is always looking for volunteers!

VVCA IS RUN BY VOLUNTEERS who organize and attend meetings, provide programs and activities for youth and adults, work with the City regarding development, parking and other issues, keep the rink in good condition, publish a newsletter and website, raise money for community events and projects, and generally try to make your neighbourhood a little nicer to live in.

Sounds fun, right? If something on that short list fills a need in you, or you have other ideas on how to improve your neighbourhood, come out to a monthly VVCA board meeting and have your say. We'd love to hear your ideas and would be more than happy to find you a spot on our board if you are interested.

Email info@vvcasaskatoon.com for more information, or check out our website vvcasaskatoon.com for information on the dates of our next board meeting.



Albert Community Centre

ALBERT COMMUNITY CENTRE is essentially a cooperative community centre, managed by volunteers who live in the communities surrounding Albert and operated at a low-cost for the benefit of the users, while seeking to maintain high standards regarding cleanliness, maintenance and repairs.

Are you interested in renting room(s) at the Albert Community Centre for a wedding, meetings or other event? Please contact Shirley by phone and leave a message at (306) 653-1737.

****Please include your contact phone number when leaving a message.****

Do you have news or an event that is of interest to the Varsity View and Grosvenor Park communities?
 Email newsletter@vvcasaskatoon.com
 to submit notices
 or articles intended for publication.

Next issue:
 Dec. 2019/Jan. 2020

VVCA Fall 2019 Programs Registration

Thursday Sept 5, & Tuesday Sept 10, 2019

In person program sign-up will be held on Thursday Sept 5, & Tuesday Sept 10, 2019, from 7:00PM – 8:30PM at Brunskill School, 101 Wiggins Ave N. A non-refundable membership fee of \$10 per individual or \$20 per family per year is required to participate in programs. A fee of \$10 will apply to late registrations. VVCA honours other community association memberships. Programs may change – please visit vvasaskatoon.com closer to registration dates for final program details. In an effort to ensure everyone who wants to participate can, cost-as-a-barrier assistance is available for those facing hardships. To inquire please contact Barb (Email: blgiles@sasktel.net) or inquire with any volunteer on registration night. All inquiries are confidential



PROGRAM	LOCATION	TIME	DAY	START & END DATE	COST
ALL AGES					
Tae Kwon Do - Beginner (6 years +)	Brunskill - Gym & MPR	06:30 PM - 07:15 PM	W&F	Sept. 11/13 - Dec. 11/13	\$85
Tae Kwon Do - Intermediate (8 years +)	Brunskill - Gym & MPR	07:15 PM - 08:00 PM	W&F	Sept. 11/13 - Dec. 11/13	\$125
Tae Kwon Do - Advanced (10 years +)	Brunskill - Gym & MPR	08:00 PM - 09:00 PM	W&F	Sept. 11/13 - Dec. 11/13	\$150
ADULT					
Badminton (raquet req'd)	Brunskill - Gym	08:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Tu	Jan. 15 - Mar. 26	\$45
Badminton (raquet req'd)	Brunskill - Gym	08:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Th	Jan. 17 - Mar. 28	\$45
Conversational Italian Beginner	Brunskill - Library	06:30 PM - 07:30 PM	F	Sept. 20 - Dec. 06	\$75
Conversational Spanish Beginner	Brunskill - Library	06:00 PM - 07:00 PM	Tu	Sept 17 - Nov 19	\$110
Conversational Spanish - Intermediate	Brunskill - Library	07:15 PM - 08:15 PM	Tu	Sept 17 - Nov 19	\$110
*Genealogy	Brunskill - Library	07:00 PM - 09:00 PM	Mon & Th	Sept 16 - Oct 10	\$50
*Painting with Lorraine	Brunskill Art Room	06:30 PM - 08:30 PM	Mon	Sept 16 - Dec 16	\$120
Shine Dance Fitness	Brunskill - MPR	06:00 PM - 07:00 PM	Tu	Sept 17 - Nov 19	\$100
Yoga - Multi-level	Brunskill - MPR	06:30 PM - 08:00 PM	M	Sept 16 - Dec 2	\$110
Yoga - Multi-level	Brunskill - MPR	06:30 PM - 08:00 PM	W	Sept 18 - Nov 20	\$110
Yoga - gentle, restorative, beginner	Brunskill - MPR	06:30 PM - 08:00 PM	Th	Sept 19 - Dec 5	\$110
CHILDREN					
Art for Kids (6-9)	Brunskill - Art Room	06:00 PM - 07:00 PM	W	Sept 18 - Nov 20	\$50
PRESCHOOL					
Tae Kwon Do - Pre-Beginner (Age 3-5)	Brunskill - Gym	06:00 PM - 06:30 PM	W	Sept 11 - Nov 30	\$50
Tae Kwon Do - Pre-Beginner (Age 3-5)	Brunskill - MPR	06:00 PM - 06:30 PM	F	Sept 13 - Nov 15	\$50
SOCCER & BASKETBALL					
Soccer U5, U7, U9, U11	<i>ON-LINE ONLY, FALL 2019, TBA - watch newsletter and website vvasaskatoon.com for details</i>				
Basketball (6-14)	<i>ON-LINE ONLY, FALL 2019, TBA - watch newsletter and website vvasaskatoon.com for details</i>				

We must once again stress the importance of safety before and after programming. It is imperative that parents accompany their children to and from their registered programs. If children arrive early they MUST be accompanied by a parent or guardian until the class begins. Unexpected class cancellations could leave children stranded if they are simply dropped off. Children must be picked up promptly after class. Instructors are responsible for teaching participants DURING class only.