



SPRING/SUMMER 2021



News for the Varsity View and Grosvenor Park Neighbourhoods

FREE

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

– Jon Naylor,

Your community association has been active on three fronts, the restarting of community classes using zoom, fund raising for the ice rink and civics. Civics may be my favorite and by far the most frustrating but I will leave it till last.

Zooming Along

With a little help from the City, we now have zoom accounts which we use for meetings and program delivery. First off the mark are yoga and Spanish, thanks Miranda and Bessie for taking the plunges. Like all things new, there was a learning curve but these are now up and running. Difficult to predict the future but I expect us to deliver more zoom programming giving you more choices for activities, socialization, and self actualization (way to go Maslow). Check out this newsletter and our website for details.

Winter Activities

The rink has brand new lights! Way to go Luke, Angela, and Fredy. They are bright, they are energy efficient, and they extended skating times into the early morning and evening. They have been very



much appreciated and skating has been a widely used and highly appreciated outlet for many this winter.

Many appreciated the cross-country ski trails laid around President Murray and Grosvenor parks. The feedback was both very encouraging and a request for more grooming. This is partly the result of following city guidelines. VVCA-Grosvenor will look into this and hopefully we can have even better ski trails in the future.

Rink Fundraising in Overdrive

This has surpassed my wildest dreams. A team led by Angela, motivated by Angela and with very able help from Luke, Fredy, Diane, Kenton, Jody and many others has raised thousands of dollars for our rink which suffers from broken boards amongst many other problems. The project has grown from simple repair to a let's rebuild the whole rink approach. Given that it is a very long time since the rink received serious help, the heavy use of the rink, our current COVID driven needs for outdoor



Photos by Angela Jones

activities to drive physical and mental health, this seems like a very good time to take this on. The project enjoys 150% support from all board members. The major fly in the ointment is the price of lumber. As people flee apartments and look for safe space to live and work, there has been a surge in demand for single family homes. Today, select studs are 4 times the price in happier times and lumber prices are driving up the cost of a full rink replacement. We will have to make some difficult decisions on scope, timing and fundraising for this project.

Civics

My passion, my frustration. You may remember from the last newsletter that I thought that it was impossible to deflect council in its relentless drive for developer led infill. Nothing has changed. The latest victims of spot rezoning are the residents on the 1400 block of Cumberland. Following a well tested pattern, a developer purchased several adjacent lots on a street corner and then applied for spot rezoning from residential to multi-unit to allow for a 4 storey condo. The proposal was supported by city planners.

continues on p. 2

VVCA Annual General Meeting
Wednesday April 21st, 2020
7:00 PM
online via Zoom

The public is welcome to attend.
Come and get involved in your
community! (more info on p. 3)

2020-2021**President**
vacantSocial Media Coordinators
Roger Williamson**President Elect**
Anne HardyWebsite
Roger Williamson
info@vvcasaskatoon.com**Secretary**
vacant**Treasurer**
Ted StensrudEquipment
Robb Larmer**Coordinators**Albert Community Centre
Lisa KirkhamIndoor Programs
Barb Giles
blgiles@sasktel.netSocial Coordinator
Ted StensrudBasketball
Tammy HarkemaRink
Kenton Shynkaruk
Luke RempelNewsletter Editor
Theodora Ireson
newsletter@vvcasaskatoon.comSoccer
Niran Harrison
soccer@vvcasaskatoon.caCommunity Garden
James Perkins
vbmccg@gmail.comCity of Saskatoon
Liaison
Kevin Ariss
Kevin.Ariss@saskatoon.caCivics Committee
Allan Woo,
Holly Ann Knott,
Jon Naylor
civics@vvcasaskatoon.comMembers at Large
Kenton Beatty,
Sheena Beatty,
Holly Ann Knott,
Lucy Schindler,
Allan Woo

The project was opposed by the neighbors who gathered a record 300 plus signature opposing petition. The Varsity View-Grosvenor Community Association was asked to get involved and came down very firmly in favor of our residents. One reason is that this is seen as a test for what will be allowed in the 250 m wide corridors either side of BRT routes (College, Preston, 8th).

I represented the Community Association at the Public Meeting at City Hall. First off, this was a tele-, as in telephone, conference! I waited around 3 hours to speak wondering if my battery would expire!. It would have been quicker to send a carrier pigeon or wait for a bus and travel downtown to the meeting. There was a video feed, but it was delayed, so you couldn't watch and speak.

The first order of business was the rezoning of Knox Church to allow for a 19 storey tower. Council refused to follow the recommendation of its own heritage committee and took the option that allows most rapid approval.

Okay, back to our infill problem. The objective arguments in favor were density will (may?) put more people on buses and more residents in walking distance of shops. Arguments against were respect for the local area plan and certainty in zoning i.e. residents should know what the future holds so that they can make appropriate investment decisions for their home. away from buses and onto zoom for more convenient, rapid, and environmentally friendly service.

I have to say, our Councillors are a very sympathetic group. Sympathetic, but not swayed by presentation or the largest petition I have seen on an infill project. One of Council's main concerns was that residents were concerned/misguided because of a lack of communication about plans for corridor density. Notably, Council thinks these are the Planning Department problems, planners think Councillors make the rules.

It will be interesting to see if our Councilor takes the opportunity to give us specifics about her plans for Corridor Growth in her column in this newsletter.

Save the Date

Our AGM is 21 April, all welcome (membership is \$10).

The Future

As Spring draws near, I believe we can look forwards to a drop in COVID as we move outdoors and vaccines start getting put in arms. It will be great to have some socially responsible outdoor gatherings and see each other around a barbeque.

Jonathan (Jon) Naylor,
Past President, WVCA

**BOARD MEMBER OPEN POSITIONS:**

President and Secretary

Email info@vvcasaskatoon.com for more information.

Jennifer Bowes
People First



Your NDP MLA for Saskatoon University
saskatoonuniversity@ndpcampus.sk.ca | 306-956-0224

CITY GARDENS
Living and Landscaping in Varsity View for 10 Years

Landscaping / Paving Stones / Irrigation / Lighting
Retaining Walls & Stairs / Concrete / Mulch

citygardens@city-gardens.ca / 306.280.6609
www.city-gardens.ca

INDOOR COORDINATOR'S NEWS



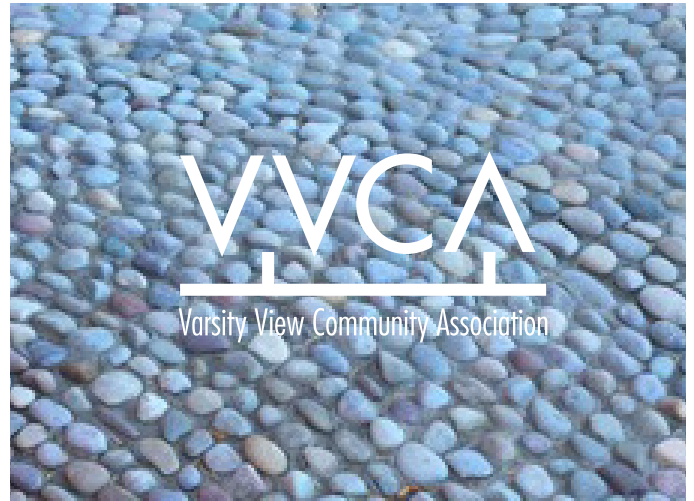
WELCOME BACK!

Wow! We (well not me) did it! We were successful in offering a yoga program and conversational Spanish class via ZOOM! A big thank you goes out to Jon the guru of all gurus to guide my instructors through the process!

We are going ahead and offering some spring classes! Registration will take place online (<http://vvcasaskatoon.com/programs/program-registration/>) or by email (programs@vvcasaskatoon.com) from Monday, April 12 until Friday April 16, 2021. No payment will be required at registration. If registration numbers allow the class to proceed, you will be contacted by the VVCA for payment prior to class.

See the VVCA website at vvcasaskatoon.com for details. Please check the timetable at the end of the newsletter.

April 12-16 2021: Spring program online or email registration



SAVE THE DATE

— FOR THE —

VARSITY VIEW COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM

The AGM is Wednesday April 21, 7:00 PM, Virtual Meeting!
Send an email to info@vvcasaskatoon.com to get the link

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 maintain a 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 the AGM or 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. Or if you just want to tackle a short-term job at a specific event, let us know and we can sign you up!



DENTAL HOUSE

619 8th St E, Unit 210
Saskatoon, SK
S7H 0R1

Dr. Ibrahim Muradi
Dr. Zekria Muradi

306-954-7801

Saskatoondentalhouse.ca
saskatoondentalhouse@gmail.com



We lost the battle over rezoning on Main Street & Cumberland but wanted to thank the VVCA for its support and the 306 people who signed our petition. You reminded us why we love this community. In your honour, we are donating \$500 to the community rink for Varsity View.

Scott Matheson and Theresa Kirkpatrick

CITY OF SASKATOON: COUNCILLOR CYNTHIA BLOCK



Photo submitted by Cynthia Block

HELLO GROSVERNOR PARK AND VARSITY VIEW - SPRING IS JUST around the corner and hopefully so, too, is the pandemic.

I look forward to representing you for another four years on City Council, and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Stay in touch with all City news by visiting my website, where you can also sign up for e-updates: cynthiablockward6.com

Saskatoon property owners are receiving assessment notices, as is done every four years in Saskatchewan, and you can learn more here: saskatoon.ca/assessment In light of the challenges during the pandemic, Council readjusted the municipal budget to lower the tax increase to 2.83 per cent.

The spring construction season will soon be underway, and there are several projects planned for our ward. The City is completing Phase 4 (sections of Temperance Street, Munroe Avenue and Wiggins near the Luther Tower) of the Clarence Avenue Water Main Replacement Project. Find out more about the 2021 construction season here: saskatoon.ca/construction . We are making progress on basic infrastructure improvements in our historic neighbourhoods, though I acknowledge there is a need to accelerate watermain work. The Building Better Roads program is starting to reflect a much better maintained city. Council has also directed Covid Recovery funding to improve sidewalks, ramps and multi-use pathways in 2021.

As Saskatoon's Growth Plan takes shape, multi-residential development applications are coming forward in areas in and around the core. Building density in the heart of the city is designed to improve efficiency and land use, reduce urban sprawl and support a modern public transportation system. While infill growth is necessary, it is important that multi-residential projects are done respectfully and in consideration of both adjacent properties and the overall neighbourhood. Learn more: saskatoon.ca/growth It is also critical that residents feel

informed and able to provide meaningful feedback when change is happening. Council has directed a review to improve awareness and strengthen engagement. There is a lot happening in our city, and I encourage you to check out saskatoon.ca/engage.

Council has cleared the way to create our first Home Energy Loan Program (HELP), and applications will be available later this year. saskatoon.ca/HELP . Note the Leisure Guide is now fully online and hard copies available at leisure centres and libraries. saskatoon.ca/leisureguide

One final note on staying in touch. I will continue to provide updates about City Council decisions and upcoming engagement opportunities on my website and through social media, so again, I encourage you to sign up and/or follow me to ensure you are informed. Also, if you need help with anything from garbage pickup to potholes, here is the 24- hour customer service line: 306-975-2476.

Last, but not least, I want to give a huge shout out to your community association, and a few other residents who are going above and beyond to raise money for a modern community ice rink at Brunskill School. As a strong advocate for outdoor physical activity and community-based, informal public gathering places, I am pleased to support this project and I hope you will, too. It's hard to overstate how important these community rinks are to the neighbourhoods they serve, providing countless hours of physical activity and community engagement for all ages, abilities and socio-economic backgrounds.

Stay well, Cynthia

Email: cynthia.block@saskatoon.ca

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

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

Instagram: [cynthia_blocksk](https://www.instagram.com/cynthia_blocksk)

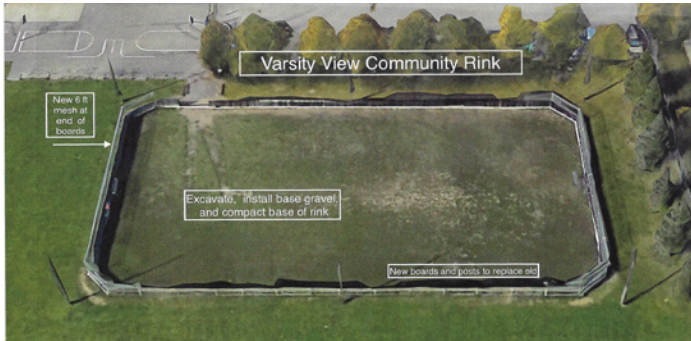
Have you signed up for City News from Cynthia?
To receive e-updates or read previous updates,
go to www.cynthiablockward6.com

NOTICE

Ward 6 Virtual Town Hall on Community Safety
Saskatoon Police Service in attendance
Tuesday, March 30th, 2021 7pm

*Click link at: www.cynthiablockward6.com

BRUNSKILL RINK RENOVATION UPDATE



Donations for the rink so far: \$10,224

Net proceeds from raffle : \$16,828 (expenses were for posters, ticket printing and cash prizes)

Total: \$27,052 net

The goal is approximately \$70,000, but this depends on the volatile price of lumber, so we are close to half-way there!

The scope of the project: groundwork to even and smooth the land under the rink boards, new 6 foot fencing, new posts and hardware, new wooden boards, surrounding puckboard, as well as the demolition, waste disposal and the labour to do the deconstruction and the construction.

We are applying for the Co-Op Community Spaces grant (application completed), as well as the City of Saskatoon Rink Improvement Grant (application completed). We should get the SLGA grant (application completed).

February 15, 2021

Dear community supporter,

I grew up understanding that *home is where your rink is*, and decades later, that is as true as ever. As a strong advocate for outdoor physical activity and community-based, informal public gathering places, I am pleased to support the efforts to bring a modern community ice rink to Varsity View.

Our kids went to Brunerall School where the rink has been well-used by students, families and rec teams for generations. I recall fondly the family skating nights where we could enjoy a healthy activity, and also visit with other parents and neighbours. It's hard to overstate how important these community rinks are to the neighbourhoods they serve. They provide countless hours of physical activity and community engagement for all ages, abilities and socio-economic backgrounds. In a world of home-to-work-and-back-again, the local ice rink is more than exercise as it builds community relationships, breaks down social barriers and boosts both physical and mental well-being.

Volunteers do so much to ensure these spaces are safe and well-maintained, and I am so grateful to all of them, but the capital expenses require some help from the rest of us. I sincerely hope you will choose to make a financial contribution to the Varsity View community rink.

Sincerely,

Amade

Cynthia Block

We have commitments from several businesses for puckboard sponsorship so far. Details are being finalized for the contract for this opportunity.

The ultimate goal is within reach with some further community support. Please consider purchasing a puckboard advertisement for \$2,000 for 3 years or making a donation. Any donation over \$250 will be recognized on the outdoor donor board.

Thank you so much for your support of the rink raffle! It was a huge success and got us well on our way to funding a new outdoor rink for Varsity View!

RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

- 1: Louisa Keat-Smith \$1500 cash
- 2: Ann Coxworth, \$200 cash and \$225 Crew Rowhouse pass
- 3: Bill Garnett \$200 cash and \$175 All in the Wild Gift certificate
- 4: Sheena Beatty, Dlish card, \$50
- 5: Bryn Rawlyk, Dlish \$50
- 6: Emily Bersheid, Dlish \$50
- 7: Jen Potter, Dlish \$50

VVCA COMMUNITY RINK RENOVATION

We are raising money to re-fence, re-board and re-grade our community (Brunskill) rink. Your support by donation or sponsorship will not only make a big difference in our neighbourhood, it can also create a positive view of your business by knowing the importance it places on the Varsity View and Grosvenor Park communities and its residents.

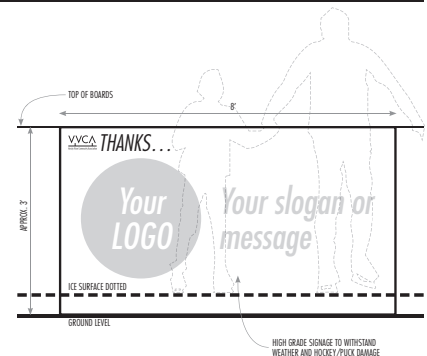
DONATIONS

- Donor board is approximately 4' x 8'.
- Weather-proof engraved signage.
- Installed near rink entrance after rink renovation completed.
- Donations NOT eligible for tax receipts.
- **Donation levels**
 - \$250-499
 - \$500-999
 - \$1000-4,999
 - \$5,000+
 - \$10,000+



RINK BOARD SPONSORSHIP

- Sponsorship boards are 3' x 8'.
 - Can be full-colour printed.
 - Please supply PDF, EPS (vector) or high-res JPG or TIFF version of your logo for best quality printing. Proof will be supplied before printing and installation.
 - School board needs to approve all advertisers and design.
 - Printed on 1/4" puchboard using similar techniques as commercial rinks.
 - Boards will be installed on old rink until new rink is renovated, and then transferred over.
- PRICING:**
\$2000 for 3 year installation



CONTACT: Luke at rink@vvcasaskatoon.com

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

VVCA Spring 2021 Programs Registration

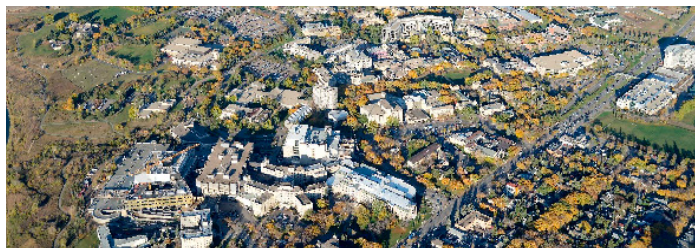
April 12-16, 2021 online or email

PROGRAM	LOCATION	TIME	DAY	START & END DATE	COST
ALL AGES					
Conversational Italian	Zoom	06:30 PM - 07:30 PM	F	Apr. 23 – Jun. 25	\$75
Conversational Spanish	Zoom	06:00 PM - 07:00 PM	T	Apr. 20 – Jun. 22	\$110
ADULT					
Yoga - Gentle	Zoom	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	M	Apr. 19 – Jun. 14	\$90

Remember that vvca is sensitive to the needs of families facing financial hardships, and may partially fund, or fully fund participation fees in various activities. Subsidization is only to cover the cost of programs and will not include membership in vvca. Please contact one of us at registration night. We are more than willing to be of assistance in a very confidential manner. In addition, assistance may be available through kidsport. To inquire, please contact Barb Giles (email: blgiles@sasktel.net) or inquire during registration week. All inquiries are confidential.

UNIVERSITY SECTOR PLAN

Have your say in the future of University Sector Plan



The University of Saskatchewan has nearly 1,000 acres of endowment land located within five kilometers of downtown Saskatoon. These important lands provide critical resources that strategically support the university's teaching, learning and research mission.

In 2008 a land-use task force was formed, bringing together the University of Saskatchewan, the City of Saskatoon, Meewasin Valley Authority and the Province of Saskatchewan, to create 'Vision 2057: Vision 2057', in alignment with the City of Saskatoon's growth plan and strategic infill initiatives, identifies university endowment lands that are suitable for commercial and residential development opportunities, along with the creation of multi-use community facilities, parks and open spaces, and also preserves abundant space for learning and research activities.

Recognizing the importance of developing these lands in a sustainable way that benefits everyone in Saskatoon, the City and University entered a Memorandum of Understanding to develop a Sector Plan for the area. Developing the Plan involved consultation with community partners and stakeholders, and it provides the framework within which the area will be planned and developed.

The result of this partnership and outreach, the University Sector Plan, is a shared vision of land use and development that will have a positive impact for the city, its residents and the University community.

You can find out more about the University Sector Plan, including a Plan Summary and a short video, by visiting the Engage page at saskatoon.ca/engage/university-sector-plan. You can also visit our website <http://vvcasaskatoon.com/2021/02/university-sector-plan/> or facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/vvcasaskatoon> for more information and updates.

Other VVCA Events:

VVCA Board Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM., Virtual Meetings! Members of the public are always welcome to attend. Check the website for meeting date confirmation. Send an email to info@vvcasaskatoon.com to get the link

Wednesday, April 21 2021: VVCA Annual General Meeting
Visit the website for more details

Next issue - AUG/SEPT 2021

The FALL 2021 issue will be printed and distributed to the Varsity View and Grosvenor Park neighbourhoods mid to late August. Do you have news or an event that is of interest to the community? Submit it to newsletter@vvcasaskatoon.com before July 25, 2021. Do you want to advertise in the newsletter and let the neighbourhood know about your business?

Send it to newsletter@vvcasaskatoon.com.
Ad booking deadline is July 18, 2021.