



WINTER 2022-23



News for the Varsity View and Grosvenor Park Neighbourhoods

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*–Jon Naylor, President, VVCA*

Well, hello again. This message is in three parts: civics, the environment, and all the great things that are happening in our neighborhood. If you want to keep that feel good Christmas feeling, skip the later parts of the civics section.

### Civics

I am going to get this out of the way first. There are four major civic events in our neighborhood. First the Varsity View residential parking plan (RPP) has been extended, mainly along 14th Street (see cross hatched area on map).

This is a resident led initiative, the VVCA board was generally supportive but took no active role. Residents in the RPP can purchase up to 3 permits per residence which allows them to park anywhere in the RPP and a visitor's permit which is restricted to the area near their house. The major downsides to RPPs are the costs and the added difficulty in getting to work. This applies particularly to hospital workers who have insufficient access to workplace parking.



### College & Main

The City has flagged Clarence and Main as a high collision risk intersection and is proposing to make the intersection a right turn only option for those travelling on Main. Consultation happened over the summer, when many were away, and consequently the public hearing on this has been delayed. There is going to be another community information night in January to allow for additional feedback. The VVCA board recognizes that the possible approaches at this intersection – traffic lights, a roundabout, and only allowing right hand turns all have their drawbacks. Overall, however, we prioritize safety.

### College Drive

The summary of public realm discussions on College Drive is in. Surprisingly, this reinforces ideas that City planners bought to the discussion. Noteworthy takeaways are that almost all the added open space is supposed to come from University lands. The City and the University are currently in discussion and reallocating University land may be a thorny issue.

The other problem is that these parks will be on the other side of College drive, a major highway, that parents will be very cautious in wanting children to cross.

The idea of backlane improvements received an honorable mention along with a wish for greater density, of the two I would put money on greater height allowances. At the public meetings residents expressed a desire to limit building height to around 3 stories. This has been translated in the City's summary to "human scale" which gives considerable latitude.

Good ideas include signage about the Moose Woods to Batoche trail (Broadway Avenue/University Drive), separation of cyclists and pedestrians on College, and improved cross walks on College. There is a survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/college-openspace> where you can vote for picnic tables etc. Ludicrously you can vote for the removal of Memorial Gates, presumably a ruse to distract us from more meaningful issues

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**2021-2022****President**

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**Coordinators**Albert Community Centre  
Lisa KirkhamBasketball  
Tammy Harkema  
tammyharkema@sasktel.netNewsletter Editor  
Theresa Kirkpatrick  
newsletter@vvcasaskatoon.comCommunity Garden  
James Perkins  
vvbmccg@gmail.comCivics Committee  
Allan Woo,  
Holly Ann Knott,  
Jon Naylor  
civics@vvcasaskatoon.comSocial Media  
Roger WilliamsonWebsite  
Roger Williamson  
info@vvcasaskatoon.comEquipment  
Quinton Friesen  
Andrea AlbertIndoor Programs  
Barb Giles  
blgiles@sasktel.netSocial Coordinator  
Ted StensrudRink  
Kenton Shynkaruk  
Luke Rempel  
Fredy McDougall  
Chris CozacSoccer  
Farzin Samaee  
soccer@vvcasaskatoon.caCity of Saskatoon  
Liaison  
Kevin Ariss  
Kevin.Ariss@saskatoon.caMembers at Large  
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Sheena Beatty,  
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Mary Anne Rubin,  
Allan Woo  
Darrell Zakreski

and expects the site to cost up to \$2 million. Being fixated on a single location left our Councillors with no room to negotiate on price.

**Sidewalk replacement**

Sidewalk replacement and road remediation is underway (hurray). One varsity view sidewalk (photo to the right) has been replaced to modern standards with a sloped curb, a flat walk surface and no driveway cuts. This is how modern subdivisions are built, much safer for pedestrians in winter but still car friendly. I would like to see all sidewalk replacements with an even walking surface, this would be particularly helpful for those afraid to walk in winter.

**The Environment**

Our family decided to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 25%. I see my friends (Ted and Trent) coalescing around a hybrid as their next vehicle choice. Someone described a hybrid as a regular car with an oversized starter motor. The obvious advantages are ready refueling options and the ability to use 'waste' heat to keep you warm in winter. Many get over 100 mpg. I have one on my wish list.

In the Spring we got a home energy audit. I highly recommend this, particularly as you may be able to enroll in a Canada green home energy grant program and get much of the cost back. Ours revealed a leaky (air wise) house. I have completed a house air sealing program, perhaps a little obsessively, and there are noticeable reductions in energy consumption. We have just installed powered heating vents to suck more heating air into the basement. The plan is to remove our inefficient gas basement fireplace and rely on the high efficiency central furnace. Combined with an extensive insulation program, we expect that our 1950's house will exceed the energy efficiency of the average new build. I am a great admirer of those of you who

have already gone this route, or have net zero homes.

**Great Neighborhood Events**

Hasn't it been great to get out and about this summer and fall? VVCA supported Sum Theater and Art in the Park at President Murray Park. Our Fall indoor programs are going strong. I walked through the large Brunskill gym the other day; it was full of happy Tae Kwon Do students. There are many other great programs enriching the lives of Varsity View and Grosvenor Park residents. Thanks to Barb, Tammy and all her helpers and instructors who make these programs possible.

The new hockey rink is a great success but needed a facelift this summer. Expansion and contraction of the plastic sheathing sheared the support screws. Fredy, ably assisted by a group of nursing students, Xueting, Mahdi, Renee, myself and Fredy (he did the work of two) fixed the problem just in time for icing to begin. We were hoping to have two ski trails groomed this winter but changes to City staffing (they groom, VVCA pays) mean that only Grosvenor can be groomed. I know that Kinsmen Park is operational and by the time you read this, Grosvenor should be too.

**President's message**

...continued from page 1

A new arena, as everyone will be aware, is to be built on the Midtown Mall parking lot and cost overruns have begun. Site purchase (\$25 million) and replacement parking commitments will add over \$67.5 million in costs. For comparison, Regina is also considering a downtown arena

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## CHEP GOOD FOOD SEEDY SATURDAY RETURNS IN MARCH

CHEP Good Food is gearing up to leap Saskatoon into Spring! We are planning the first in-person Saskatoon Seedy Saturday event in three years. This will mark the 25th year for this iconic family event in Saskatoon!

Join us on March 11, 2023, from 10 AM to 3 PM at St Mary's Wellness and Education Centre – 327 Avenue N South. Featuring Seed Exchange Booth, over 40 exhibitors and vendors including eco-conscious local businesses, organizations, crafters, and farmers - Speakers' Series Line-up - Live Musical Entertainment, Children's Activities, Raffle and more!

All are welcome. Seeds are available to gardeners whether or not they have seeds to swap. Admission \$5 or pay what you can (cash only). Children 12 and under are free.



## EVENTS

EVENT	DATE & TIME	DESCRIPTION
VVCA Program Registration Night Brunskill School small gym	7-8:30 PM Tuesday January 10th 7-8:30 PM Thursday January 12th	Registration for adult and children's programs for Winter 2023. More info on page 6
VVCA monthly board meeting	7 PM, Wednesday Jan. 18th, Feb. 15th, March 15th, Brunskill Library	Want to know more about the VVCA? Have an issue you think the Board should know about? Interested in volunteering? Come to one of our regular meetings held on the third Wednesday of every month or email <a href="mailto:info@vvcasaskatoon.com">info@vvcasaskatoon.com</a> .

## President's message cont'd from page 2: Season's Greetings

On behalf of the VVCA I would like to wish all our residents in Varsity View and Grosvenor best wishes for the New Year and a very Happy Festive Season. Personally, I would like to thank all who volunteer for the association, some I have already named, others include Holly Ann, Anne, Ted, Roger, Luke, Angela, Andrea, Quinton, Mary Anne, Greg, Kenton, James, Carlos and, of course, our newsletter editor Theresa and all who help our community in any way.

*Jonathan (Jon) Naylor  
President, VVCA*



## NEXT NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2023

The SPRING 2023 issue will be distributed to the Varsity View and Grosvenor Park neighbourhoods in March. To submit news/events or to book an ad, email [newsletter@vvcasaskatoon.com](mailto:newsletter@vvcasaskatoon.com). Ad booking deadline is March 9, 2023.





**COREY TOCHOR**  
MP | SASKATOON—UNIVERSITY

[corey.tochor@parl.gc.ca](mailto:corey.tochor@parl.gc.ca)  
306-975-6133





## CITY UPDATE: WARD 6 COUNCILLOR CYNTHIA BLOCK



Councillor Block and friends love to walk the Meewasin Trail in all seasons

*Hello Ward 6 - Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!*

The City's focus is always on snow and ice this time of year, and here are a few handy tips to remember:

- Priority streets get cleaned first (Circle Drive, College Drive etc)
- Collector streets & transit routes are next (8th Street, Clarence, Preston etc)
- Cleaning your sidewalks is part of the bylaw (helping your neighbours is just awesome)
- Deep residential snow ridges are bladed when warranted, and windrows will be removed once they reach capacity.

For more information on snow and ice, go to: [www.saskatoon.ca/snow](http://www.saskatoon.ca/snow) and for questions on any operational issues, call 306-975-2476 or email: [customercare@saskatoon.ca](mailto:customercare@saskatoon.ca)

And here is a huge shout out to all of the volunteer rink coordinators, who are invaluable to our neighbourhoods in the winter. Thank you!

In 2023 Council will be making a number of important decisions to determine the viability and scope of the Downtown Event and Entertainment District, planned for the Midtown Plaza north parking lot. The district is expected to include a new event centre, a larger TCU Place and a public plaza. Council has committed to a goal of little to no impact on property taxes, a model that has been achieved in other cities. Learn more: [www.saskatoon.ca/downtown](http://www.saskatoon.ca/downtown)  
A major contribution of \$10 million from the Frank and Ellen Remail Foundation will allow admission to the Remail Modern Art Gallery by donation for the next 20 years! What a gift for our city, and huge thanks to our steadfast benefactor, Mrs. Ellen Remail.

*Sincerely, Cynthia*

*[www.cynthiablockward6.ca](http://www.cynthiablockward6.ca)*

*Email: [cynthia.block@saskatoon.ca](mailto:cynthia.block@saskatoon.ca)*

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### Rink Volunteers

Do you have a few hours to help the VVCA look after our new rink at Brunskill School. We need help with routine maintenance, rink cleaning and the odd special project. If interested contact Fredy McDougall at [fredy@sasktel.net](mailto:fredy@sasktel.net)

### Newsletter Coordinator

Your community association is actively recruiting for a Newsletter Coordinator. Duties include arranging pick up/drop off of the newsletters and coordinating delivery with newsletter volunteers.

### Join the Newspaper Delivery Team

We are looking for families/individuals who have a few hours to deliver this newsletter in your community. There are five areas available and each area requires a 4-5 hour time commitment three times per year.

It's a great way to get some exercise. The honorarium provided means it can also be a fundraising opportunity for community groups.

For more information [tammyharkema@sasktel.net](mailto:tammyharkema@sasktel.net)

## INDOOR COORDINATOR'S NEWS

by Barb Giles

Welcome back everyone! Cant believe it is that time again!

Mark January 10th & 12th from 7-8:30 PM in the small gym at Brunskill School on your calendars! It is winter registration!

We are offering two new programs – Fibre Explorations and Going Within. For all who want to try something different come and check it out! The instructor is a juried member of the Saskatchewan Craft Council and has extensive teaching experience.

**FIBRE EXPLORATIONS-** A new project will be started most weeks, some will take two classes. All are suitable for beginners. Needle felting, Spiderweb weaving- using paper plates, Amish Knot Coaster- use old t-shirt, Botanical Printing- silk or paper, Embroidered Bookmark, Decorated Sewing kit- using wool blanket.

**GOING WITHIN-** a series of meditative activities. All are suitable for beginners. Vision Board/Treasure map, Rattles- pottery, Rattles – leather and wood/bone/antler handle with option to embellish with simple beading, Soul Stones- clay “stones” with impressed words such as peace, love solace, Mandalas- using natural materials pencil crayons, ink etc. , Neurographica- off loom weaving, faceless doll/ red dress/orange shirt, embroidered item- book mark.

Looking to get busy? Try yoga or badminton! Planning a trip? Brush up on your Spanish! If stick men are your artistic capabilities broaden your capability by taking an art class! Want something to do with the whole family? Come on out and give Tae Kwon Do a try! How about learning a new skill? Try skating on our new rink! Note, though, we need some workers to step up or this will not be a possibility.

These are a few options to consider! Full listing on page 6.



Play  
Learn  
Grow

### Varsity View COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

Go to  
[wcp.ca](http://wcp.ca) for  
more  
information  
and to  
register

Places still  
available for  
the current  
school year

Contact: [wcpregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:wcpregistrar@gmail.com)

Jennifer  
Bowes  
People First



Your NDP MLA for Saskatoon University  
[saskatoonuniversity@ndpcaucus.sk.ca](mailto:saskatoonuniversity@ndpcaucus.sk.ca) | 306-956-0224

## VVCA WINTER 2023 Programs In-Person Registration

7-8:30 PM on Tuesday January 10th and Thursday January 12th at Brunskill School Small Gym.

Full program descriptions available at [vvcasaskatoon.com](http://vvcasaskatoon.com)

If you cannot make the registration nights, you may contact indoor coordinator Barb Giles at [blgiles@sasktel.net](mailto:blgiles@sasktel.net) and she will do her best to assist.

Please remember that a membership fee of \$10/individual OR \$20/family per year is required to participate in programs and must be presented at the time of registration.

Varsity View Community Association honours other community association memberships.

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 [blgiles@sasktel.net](mailto:blgiles@sasktel.net) or ask at registration night. All inquiries are confidential.

PROGRAM	AGE	LOCATION	TIME	DAY	START & END DATE	COST
CHILDREN						
Tae Kwon Do - Pre-beginner	3-5	Brunskill Main Gym	6:00-6:30	M	Jan. 16-March 27	\$50
Tae Kwon Do - Pre-beginner	3-5	Brunskill Main Gym	6:00-6:30	W	Jan. 18-March 15	\$50
Tae Kwon Do - Beginner	6+	Brunskill Main Gym	6:30-7:15 PM	M&W	Jan. 16-March 29	\$85
Tae Kwon Do - Intermediate	8+	Brunskill Main Gym	7:15-8:30 PM	M&W	Jan. 16-March 29	\$125
Tae Kwon Do - Advanced	10+	Brunskill Main Gym	7:15-9:15 PM	M&W	Jan. 16-March 29	\$150
Art for Children	5-8	Brunskill Art Room	6:30-7:30 PM	TH	Jan. 19-March 30	\$50
ADULT						
Fibre Explorations (NEW)	Adult	Brunskill Art Room	6:30-8:30 PM	M	Jan. 16-March 27	\$100
Going Within (NEW)	Adult	Brunskill Art Room	6:30-8:30 PM	T	Jan. 17-March 28	\$100
Learn to Skate		Brunskill Rink	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Art for Adults		Brunskill Art Room	6:30-7:30	W	Jan. 18-March 29	\$75
Badminton (racquet required)	Adult	Brunskill Main Gym & Multi-Purpose Room	8:00-10:00 PM	TU	Jan. 17-March 28	\$45
Badminton (racquet required)	Adult	Brunskill Main Gym & Multi-Purpose Room	8:00-10:00 PM	TH	Jan. 19-March 30	\$45
Conversational Spanish - beginner	Adult	Brunskill Library	6:00-7:00 PM	TU	Jan. 17-March 28	\$110
Conversational Spanish - intermediate	Adult	Brunskill Library	7:05-8:05 PM	TU	Jan. 17-March 28	\$110
Yoga multi-level	Adult	Brunskill Multi-Purpose Room	6:30-8 PM	M	Jan. 16-March 27	\$90

Programs and startup dates subject to change. Please confirm dates, times and programs at registration night.

Full program descriptions available on the VVCA website programs page - <http://vvcasaskatoon.com/programs/>