



# THE VIEW

NEWS FOR VARSITY VIEW & GROSVENOR PARK NEIGHBORHOODS

## PRESIDENT MESSAGE

### Best wishes for the New Year!

First of all, I would like to thank all members of the VVCA board for their dedicated work on behalf of our community. It has been a pleasure working with you all. There are also many non board members who do excellent work to keep our community safe, strong, and vibrant. Thank you.

I hope everyone has had an excellent holiday season and best wishes for a wonderful New Year.

### Programming

Your community association is doing well. Under Barb's excellent direction we have numerous indoor programs with excellent enrollment. While the Tai Kwan Do and badminton are perennial favorites we also have excellent enrollment in yoga. Our soccer program is running, again with excellent enrollment, thanks to all who have worked so hard to make this happen. We have active basketball programs. This is thanks to Tammy who has stepped into the breach and filled the gaps in community basketball programs across the City. A new addition is Learn to Skate program starting January 15th. Thanks to everyone who makes all our programs possible.

### The Rink

The rink crew are working hard on getting our rink up and running. Public skating is available thanks to a dedicated rink crew - Chris, Fredy, Greg, Luke, Nahdi, and Rene.

We are also looking for new community projects to sponsor. Currently under consideration is a tree planting initiative alongside the multiuse trail on 14th. If you have other initiatives that you think have merit, please let me know.

### Civics

The big news is that the tentative corridor plan for College is published. In a nutshell this calls for buildings up to 27 m. along the south side of College. The proposal calls for density extensions down Cumberland, the East side of Bottomley, Wiggins and Clarence. VVCA currently has concerns about crossing College and how the cycle path will connect with North-South cycle lanes in Varsity View. Within Varsity View no decisions about North-South cycle paths have been made. City administration seems somewhat reluctant to engage on these matters. Ideas that have been floated include:

- Making Munroe one way for cars with a cycle path
- Using the back alley along Bottomley for a cycle path

## VVCA VOLUNTEERS

**President**  
Jon Naylor

**President Elect**  
Anne Hardy

**Secretary**  
Holly Ann Knott

**Treasurer**  
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kevin.ariss@saskatoon.ca

**Members at Large**  
Luke Rempel  
Mary Anne Rubin  
Allan Woo  
Matthew Wiens



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## President message continued...

### Parking Concerns

The new buildings will be allowed reduced parking requirements. Although residents of these buildings are not eligible for parking passes under the residential permit (RPP) scheme, many will own cars and have visitors who come by car. These cars will park on our streets and add to congestion. We already have an example of a multi-residence building being given a parking exemption, only to see the owner tout Cumberland as a street parking opportunity.

Another big change is coming. The city has applied for Housing Accelerator funding. This requires removal of on site parking for new buildings increasing housing density.

This will allow duplexes to have secondary suites, and 4 story multi units within 800 meters of a bus rapid transit (BRT) route. Consultations to begin shortly.

The shared use car-bike road on 14th from Cumberland to Clarence is approved for 30 kph speed limit.

### The Environment

The City administration has succeeded in reducing emissions created by municipal services by 3% since 2014. In comparison, City residents and businesses have together managed a 9% decrease. Some Civic decisions are difficult to understand. For example, electrifying the bus network is positive. However, a much cheaper solar panel project would be more cost effective but is currently unfunded. Electric buses would cost around \$50M in 2024/25) for an anticipated reduction in Greenhouse Gases of 894 tonnes of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e)/year. Whereas installing solar panels on municipal buildings would cost of around \$2.6M for a potential reduction of 467 (tCO2e)/year.

The views expressed within this message do not necessarily reflect those of the board.

***Jonathan (Jon) Naylor President***

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## CITY OF SASKATOON: COUNCILLOR CYNTHIA BLOCK

### Hello Ward 6!

I hope you are enjoying the festive season. All the best to you and your family in 2024.

Council has had a very busy fall and here are a few highlights:

### Budget:

Council reduced projected costs for 2024 by nearly \$40million resulting in holding property tax increases to roughly 6%. This equates to \$10 per month increase in taxes for the average household. You can read more details on my website.

### Vehicle Noise

Noise on city streets should start to decrease in the new year, as City Council has approved changes to its noise bylaw to align with a new strategic direction laid out by SGI. New technology will help to effectively identify noise violations from vehicles and thereby strengthen enforcement.

**Please reach out if you have  
questions or comments  
[www.cynthiablockward6.com](http://www.cynthiablockward6.com)**



*Have a wonderful holiday season  
and all the best to you and your  
family in 2024  
Warm Regards, Cynthia*





### Green Bin

While the company hired by the City to process green cart material has defaulted on its contract, green cart organics collection will continue.

In the short-term, Loraas will continue to assist the City in processing organics materials while City officials explore cost reduction options by processing the organics in-house.

To date, more than 15,000 tonnes of organic waste have successfully been diverted from the landfill since collections began in May. No disruptions to the curbside organics program are expected.

### Black Bin

Our black bin program will switch to the utility model on January 1st, and options to swap your large bin for a medium or small bin at a lower cost will be available in the spring. This change was made to give residents more choices and divert as much waste as possible away from our landfill to avoid a very costly replacement.

### Active Transportation

City Council received an update on our AT plan, as our administration moves to adapt and adjust direction to align with best practices. Things such as “rapid deployment” to create safe cycling have been successful in other cities, and allows for quick installation and removal, making it easier to determine suitability.

### Material Recovery Centre

The opening of the Material Recovery Centre (MRC), formerly the Recovery Park Landfill Expansion, marks a major achievement for the City of Saskatoon as it works towards its 70% waste diversion goal. The MRC, located on Valley Road at the entrance to the City Landfill, is now open to the public and offers residents free drop-off for many recyclable items as well as a new access point for scaled waste. The MRC will provide free drop-off at Sort & Go for recycling small appliances, batteries, oil and anti-freeze, electronics, metals, rimless tires, bicycles and appliances, with a \$20 fee for appliances with refrigerant. For more information go to: [www.saskatoon.ca/mrc](http://www.saskatoon.ca/mrc)



### Homelessness

The provincial government is moving to a new delivery model for shelter services in our city, de-densifying accommodations and adding wrap-around supports for those who need it. The City of Saskatoon has been asked to determine the sites where the shelters could be created. At the time of writing this newsletter, no location decisions have been. Public open houses will be held once locations have been identified for temporary and permanent emergency shelters.



## City councillor message continued...

### Home Energy

The City of Saskatoon has released a new tool for homeowners to better understand their home's energy use and make improvements. The map uses artificial intelligence (AI) to produce a digital energy score that can be used to compare against other homes of similar size, age, and type and help users understand how much energy their home consumes. The map also provides each homeowner with a customized "retrofit roadmap" to see what actions they can take to reduce their energy consumption. This is the fourth home energy-focused initiative the City has launched in 2023 (links below); all programs were funded by the Green Municipal Fund, administered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

- [Saskatoon.ca/EnergyMap](https://saskatoon.ca/EnergyMap)
- [Saskatoon.ca/EnergyCoaches](https://saskatoon.ca/EnergyCoaches)
- [Solar.myheat.ca/saskatoon](https://solar.myheat.ca/saskatoon)
- [Saskatoon.ca/RenoResources](https://saskatoon.ca/RenoResources)



### Zoning

Council has passed recommendation to increase density though-out residential neighborhoods, including up to 4 stories with in 800 meters of the future Bus Rapid Transit line, I did not support the recommendations. I have been a staunch supporter of focused growth inward and upward to help Saskatoon become more efficient, less expensive and sustainable. However, I have concerns about the large change which speaks to pushing density to the outskirts of neighborhoods along transportation corridors and protecting the character of the interior. The recommendations came about due to new conditions for the Federal Housing Acceleration Fund which could provide \$46 million dollars for affordable housing in our city. With a lack of process, rushed deadlines and no opportunity to discuss heritage neighborhoods, I could not support the recommendations. I will be posting public engagement opportunities to my website with hearings expected in March and June of 2024.

### The Organ

The pipe organ will stay in place at Third Avenue United Church downtown. The building has been designated as a Municipal Heritage Property, inclusive of the building's rafters and pipe organ. The current owner requested City Council to de-register the organ as part of the heritage designation. City Council unanimously rejected that request.

**LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED**  
NEW AND EMERGENCY PATIENTS WELCOME

201 – 1414 8th Street East, Saskatoon, SK  
Corner of 8th St. & Cumberland Ave.



**306-665-2400**  
[www.varsitydentalsaskatoon.ca](http://www.varsitydentalsaskatoon.ca)



**RICHARD RINK**

Associate Broker

**306-222-6464**

[RichardRink.com](http://RichardRink.com)



*You'll Like The Way I Sell Homes*

**VVCA Winter 2024 Programs In-Person Registration**  
**Tuesday January 9th and Thursday January 11**  
**7 - 8:30 PM**  
**Brunskill School Small Gym**

Welcome back everyone. Hope your holiday season was filled with a ton of wonderful memories! Let's get back to some routines or start some!!! If for any reason you can not make these two nights you may email me at [blgiles@sasktel.net](mailto:blgiles@sasktel.net) and I will help you out!

i would like to remind everyone, parents, siblings and participants, you must stay in location of your program. The rental is for that location only. No free roam of the school.

**Barb Giles**  
**Program Coordinator**

PROGRAM	AGE	LOCATION	TIME	DAY	START & END DATE	COST
Tae Kwon Do - Beginner	4 to 6	Brunskill Gym	6:00-6:30 PM	M&W	Jan 15-March 27	\$85
Tae Kwon Do - Beginner	7-Adult	Brunskill Gym	6:30-7:15 PM	M&W	Jan 15-March 27	\$85
Tae Kwon Do Intermediate	8-Adult	Brunskill Gym	7:15-8:00 PM	M&W	Jan 15-March 27	\$125
Tae Kwon Do Advanced	10-Adult	Brunskill Gym	7:15-9:30 PM	M&W	Jan 15-March 27	\$150
Art for Children	5 to 8	Art Room	6:30-7:00 PM	Thursday	Jan 18-March 28	\$50
Art for Adults	Adult	Art Room	7-9 PM	Wednesday	Jan 17-March 27	\$150
Badminton	Adult	Brunskill Gym	8:00-10:00 PM	Tuesday	Jan 16-March 26	\$45
Badminton	Adult	Brunskill Gym	8:00-10:00 PM	Thursday	Jan 18-March 28	\$45
Conversational Spanish Beginner	Adult	Library	6:00-7:00 PM	Tuesday	Jan 16-March 26	\$110
Conversational Spanish Intermediate	Adult	Library	7:05-8:00 PM	Tuesday	Jan 16-March 26	\$110
Yoga	Adult	Small Gym	6:30-8:00 PM	Wednesday	Jan 17-March 27	\$110
Learn to Skate	5 to 9	Brunskill Rink	1:30-2:30 PM	Sunday	Jan 15-March 25	\$10/person or \$20/family
Learn to Skate	Adult	Brunskill Rink	2:30-3:30 PM	Sunday	Jan 15-March 25	\$10/person or \$20/family

### Learn to Dance: Dances from around the World

International Folkdance Club

Thursdays at 6:15 to 7 pm

**Albert Community Centre Room 13** (main floor)

8 weeks January 18 to March 7th

Child/Beginner Folk dance Sessions

Cost: \$20/child (accompanying adults are free)

For more info call Dorothy- 306-220-0087

**Register on line at [www.saskatoonfolkdance.ca](http://www.saskatoonfolkdance.ca)**

**Your next newsletter Spring 2024  
will be distributed in mid March**

**To submit news/events or to book an ad  
email [newsletter@vvcasaskatoon.com](mailto:newsletter@vvcasaskatoon.com)  
Ad booking deadline is March 01 2024**





Happy Holidays