



Buena Vista Community Association

www.bvcaskatoon.ca

facebook.com/YourBVCA

2023 Fall Newsletter

BUENA VISTA GARDEN UPDATE

What an amazing summer! Thanks to our amazing volunteers, and a generous donation of topsoil, we expanded the garden to cover nearly half of the boulevard this spring.

Our garden now includes additional native plant beds (we have over 20 native flowers, grasses, and shrubs), a wide variety of vegetables and herbs, raspberries, a sunflower tunnel, and a gathering area. Through an environmental grant from the city and in collaboration with BV school, we added two permanent water taps to supplement our water tanks that made watering this summer a breeze!

We have cultivated a wonderful group of volunteers that contribute ideas, materials, seeds, and time to the project. The garden was buzzing with pollinators all summer and providing fresh veggies for our community. The concept of a communal garden, different from a plot-based garden, is starting to catch on, with community members and passers-by all having enjoyed the produce throughout the summer.

Now that the sidewalks have been completed and with the permanent water sources in place, the plan is to continue the expansion of the garden over the remainder of the boulevard this fall and in the next year or so.

If you are interested in participating, connect by email at buenavistagardencollective@gmail.com Or on social media @buena_vista_garden_group on Facebook and Instagram.



HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF DUTCH ELM DISEASE

In July 2023, the City of Saskatoon confirmed three new positive cases of Dutch elm disease (DED) in Saskatoon. DED is a serious disease caused by a fungus that clogs the elm tree's water and nutrient conducting system, which eventually causes the tree to die. In Saskatoon, elms make up 25% of the public urban forest.

You can help prevent the spread of Dutch elm disease by:

1. Never storing or burning elm wood or branches. Don't buy or take elm wood from anyone.
2. Not pruning elms during the pruning ban (Apr 1-Aug 31).
3. Disposing of elm wood at the Saskatoon Landfill. Do not take elm to the compost depot or put it in your green bin. Dispose of it immediately, even if it is during the provincial ban!

Need help with tree identification? To request a tree inspection, identify elm wood or to learn more about DED and the City's DED Response Plan, visit saskatoon.ca/dutchelmdisease

IMPORTANT DATES

Sep 5—National Cheese Pizza Day
Sep 6—Programming registration night; *see last page for more info.*
Sep 9—Broadway Street Fair
Sep 16—Picnic and movie in the park; *see lower left on this page for more info!*
Sep 22—Autumnal equinox (kind of...)
Sep 26—Technically the equinox for YXE
Sep 30—National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day)
Oct 14-15—Duck and Run for Wetlands; *Rusty McDonald library, \$20, 9am-5pm*
Oct 15—National Grouch Day (harumph!)
Oct 18—BVCA Annual General Mtg, 7pm; *join online, email for a link!*
Nov 11—Remembrance Day
Nov 24—Buy Nothing Day; *save the world!*

BVCA BOARD POSITIONS

President	Sean Sass
Vice-President	Jon Storey
Treasurer	Wendyl Saretzky
Secretary	Warrick Baijous
Members at large	Meghan Mickelson, Mike Winter, Susan Pederson, Jared Madsen

NON-BOARD POSITIONS

City of Saskatoon	Kevin Ariss
Parks and Civics	Mike Winter
Programs	Sean Sass
Volunteer Coordinator	VACANT
Soccer	VACANT
Rink	Jared Madsen
Newsletter	Warrick Baijous
Website	Meghan Mickelson
Facebook	Susan Pederson, Mandy Madsen
Community Garden	Shaun Lalonde, Leisha Grebinski
Pump Track	Jared Madsen

(*) Interim basis

PICNIC & MOVIE IN THE PARK

Join us on September 16 for a picnic and movie night in Buena Vista park, next to the paddling pool building.

Bring food, water, chairs, blankets, and pillows; we will bring some snacks and juice boxes.

Picnic and socializing at 6:30pm; movie at 7:45pm.

We will reschedule if raining or smoky, check Facebook and website for any updates.

Erika **RITCHIE**

NDP MLA for Saskatoon Nutana

Stronger. **Together.**

306-664-6101
saskatoonnutana@ndpcaucus.sk.ca

BUENA VISTA PARK ART SHOW FOR KIDS

Huge thanks to everyone who helped make this year's BV Park Art for Kids so wonderful and a special shout out to all of our talented artists. We are already planning for 2024.

If you have untreated scrap wood of any size to donate, or if you'd like to help lead an art station next year, please email youth.art@bvcasaskatoon.ca.

You can also connect with us on instagram @bvkids_parkart



CLR. CYNTHIA BLOCK - WARD 6 UPDATE

I hope you have been enjoying a wonderful summer, along with some relaxation time.

Council has been busy with special budget meetings to address the projected gap for the upcoming 2024-2025 multi-year budget.

Budget: By the time you read this newsletter I am hoping the projected property tax increase will be well within a normal range, and I remain committed to making the necessary cuts to get us there. My motion to have an independent audit of the staff-to-management ratio at the City of Saskatoon was passed unanimously and will be completed in time for November deliberations where the final budget will be passed.

A reminder that the City of Saskatoon is NOT in a deficit situation, but there are 3 main pressures as we head into the next multi-year budget process:

1. Significantly higher-than-normal inflationary pressures
2. Reduced leisure centre, parking, and transit revenues
3. Removal of one-time Covid funding (\$10 mill.)

Similar situations are impacting municipal budgets across the country. Note that Saskatoon continues to have among the lowest property taxes per capita. You can find more information here: [saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/2024-25 Multi Year Budget Info Guide.pdf](https://saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/2024-25%20Multi%20Year%20Budget%20Info%20Guide.pdf)

Please reach out if you have questions.
cynthia.block@saskatoon.ca

Downtown Event and Entertainment District (DEED):

This project has not been approved, and a reminder that halting it would neither save money, nor reduce property tax. Council has directed NO property tax impact for capital or operating expenses for an event centre and public plaza. Unless or until this is achieved, I don't see how the DEED can move forward.

Council is awaiting a full funding strategy before a decision is made. Partnerships and tools such as Tax Incremental Financing and ticket surcharges are crucial for the plan to work. In my view, DEED is a city-building initiative – not something “nice to have.” Anchors and public realm improvements, similar to River Landing, are part of an overarching plan to drive density to the core where infrastructure and services already exist, helping Saskatoon to become more efficient, less expensive and more sustainable. However, there is another piece that requires some unpacking.

Status of SaskTel Centre Building: Without a plan to re-build SaskTel Centre, the facility will require at least \$100 million in retrofits, renovations, and technical upgrades, according to a 2018 report. I am not aware of any other level of government or private partner willing to support this, and I want to avoid a property tax impact. Note that a renovation of this magnitude would also require the building to be closed, forcing existing tenants such as the Blades and Rush to re-locate for up to two years.

The current SaskTel Centre building is in great shape and well-maintained. However, it lacks the structural, technical and space requirements for a new generation of shows and attendees.

The large concerts and events are what keeps SaskTel Centre profitable. Here are some of the main building issues:

- Building Height – Shows require increasingly higher rigging (not possible in current facility)
- Loading Docks - Not enough; high costs of labour and time
- Concession space - Needs to be tripled to accommodate demand
- Kitchen space – No space to create menu options to meet demand
- Bathrooms – Not enough; porta-potties need to be brought in for big events
- Dressing Rooms – not enough (*many artists require a “green room”)
- No space on concourse to do “meet & greet” events

The next step is to review the options, including a funding strategy for a new facility downtown. I anticipate learning more in early 2024.



Traffic Safety Audit – Wiggins and College Drive: My motions to review the intersection were passed unanimously by Council, following the tragic death of Natasha Fox, who was struck by a vehicle as she tried to cross College Drive on a bicycle. The third-party, independent audit is underway, and our administration is re-visiting the Active Transportation Plan with options for potential new rapid deployment tools. I anticipate more information in the coming months.

Broadway Street Fair: I hope you will stop by my booth at the Broadway Street Fair on Saturday, Sep. 9th. As we head into the busy fall season, I am reminded how fortunate I am to represent you at City Hall. I will continue to do my best to serve.

Warm Regards, Cynthia

WILD ABOUT SASKATOON'S POLLINATOR PARADISE

Grow Beauty. Encourage Biodiversity.



Pollinator Paradise YXE would like to give a big shout out to the Buena Vista folks for having so many native plant gardens. Over 10% of the 100+ gardens are in the Buena Vista neighbourhood! Thank you for adding to the biodiversity of the city and helping our pollinators out.

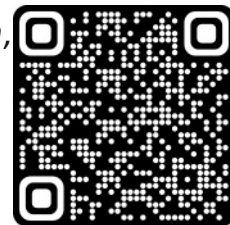
Let's keep the momentum going, consider starting a native plant garden in your own yard. To join, your native plant garden (or schoolyard or park) needs to meet four basic requirements:

- Flowering plants – At least one kind of plant that is an important food for caterpillars, one wildflower species that provides pollen and nectar for pollinating insects, and a succession of blooms through the growing season.
- Nesting and wintering sites – Insects need places to nest and overwinter. Leave the stems of plants, and mulch your garden such as wood chips, leaves or rocks.
- Water – Wild bees and butterflies need a source of water, provide a shallow pan (or upside-down frisbee) with a few stones in it.
- Ongoing care – Weed, water, and tend.

Learn more or register your garden here: wildaboutsaskatoon.org/pollinator-paradise-yxe/

Don't know where to start? Check out our new page which helps guide you through the process with general tips and a step-by-step how-to: wildaboutsaskatoon.org/starting-a-native-plant-garden/. Follow us on facebook & instagram: wildaboutyx

Pollinator Paradise YXE is a project of Wild About Saskatoon, joyfully advocating for nature in Saskatoon, SK



**BVCA IN-PERSON REGISTRATION NIGHT—Wed Sep 6, 2023
BUENA VISTA SCHOOL GYM—6:30-8 PM OR BY EMAIL**

Program (& start date)	Day/Time	Location	Cost (& count)
ADULT FITNESS			
Adult all level Yoga (Sep **18**)	Mon 7-8pm	BV School Gym	\$60 (10 sessions)
Zumba (Sep 12)	Tue 7-8pm	BV School Gym	\$60 (10 sessions) or \$6 drop-in + reg fee
Co-ed Adult Volleyball (Sep 13)	Wed 8-10pm	BV School Gym	\$25 (10 sessions)
Pilates (Sep 14)	Thu 6-7pm	BV School Gym	\$60 (10 sessions)
Boot Camp Cardio (Sep 14)	Thu 7-8pm	BV School Gym	\$60 (10 sessions)
ADULT RECREATION/CRAFT			
Beginner Spanish (Sep 11)	Mon 7-8pm	BV School Library 2nd Floor	\$60 (10 classes)
Intermediate Spanish (Sep 11)	Mon 8-9pm	BV School Library 2nd Floor	\$60 (10 classes)
Book Club (third Thursday/month; Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec 14)	Thu 7-9pm	BV School Library 2nd Floor	\$5 / person
Beginner Social Dance (Sep 15)	Fri 7-8pm	BV School Gym	\$60/couple (8 classes)
Intermediate Social Dance (Sep 15)	Fri 8-9pm	BV School Gym	\$60/couple (8 classes)
CHILDREN/YOUTH/FAMILY			
Kinder/Learn to Play Soccer (Sep 26; ages 4-6; coach provided)	Mon 6-7pm	BV School Gym	\$30 (10 sessions)
Family Gym (Sep 15; includes access to equipment; must be supervised by parent/adult)	Fri 6-7pm	BV School Gym	\$15/family

- Minors are to be supervised by parent/adult guardian while on School property at all times
- **All dates and times are subject to change.** Check bvcasaskatoon.ca for up-to-date info
- Non-refundable \$10/individual or family BVCA membership fee is required. Late registrations are subject to a \$10 surcharge. Classes are run on a not-for-profit basis
- Pay by cash, cheque, debit, e-transfer. **PLEASE EMAIL TO CONFIRM THERE IS SPACE IN THE PROGRAM BEFORE TRANSFERRING:** buenavista1910@gmail.com
- Refund Policy: **Once class begins, No Refunds.** All other refunds at the discretion of the BVCA
- BVCA honours other community association memberships and supports “shared programming”
- KidSport funding available to ensure everyone can participate in programs
- Email buenavista1910@gmail.com with any questions, or for KidSport funding. All inquiries are confidential

BVCA NEWSLETTER ADS

FREE

Free classifieds for members, non-profit groups, preschools and recreation-based organizations within the Buena Vista Neighbourhood shall be published as space permits.
Email for more information: buenavista1910@gmail.com