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Buena Vista Community Association

2026 Winter Newsletter



BUENA VISTA GARDEN UPDATE

We had another wonderful and busy growing season!

Many thanks to Trees for Life and Green Communities Canada for a \$2,000 grant, which we used to buy and plant some crabapple trees, a mountain ash, and some highbush cranberry and saskatoon bushes. Nearly 200 people attended our market garden celebration in early September, where people made bouquets, listened to youth fiddlers, heard storytime with the library, and enjoyed the garden site.

Many thanks as well to the family that donated our new Little Seed Library—shaped like a grain elevator. Collect your native and non-native seeds in small envelopes, add a label, and share them with others in this free-to-take seed collection!

Our Little Libraries are filled with books and continue to be well used. Any help with shoveling snow up to the libraries would be appreciated so that they can be used year-round.

We also were thrilled that SaskTel allowed us to have a local artist Allie Kell paint the utility box with paint donated by Saskatoon Co-op's Communities in Full Colour program. Take a walk by to see the beautiful work.

This year marked our 3rd annual Pumpkins on Parade, with close to 100 Jack O'Lanterns lit up and then composted. Thanks to the BVCA for providing the funds to make this event possible, and the city for providing with compost bins.

We are lucky to have strong community support at the garden but we are always looking for more volunteers who are willing to get their hands dirty throughout the growing season. Please feel free to reach out if you'd like to join us! All are welcome.

Follow our social media for updates at

@buena_vista_garden_collective.



IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 1—Ice Soiree; *see details inside.*
Jan 7—Winter registration in-person
Jan 8—Winter registration on-line;
see back page for more details.
Jan 28—Int'l Day of Peaceful
Coexistence; *let's get along!*
Feb 2—World Wetlands Day;
splish splash quack quack.
Feb 13—World Radio Day; *tune in
before streaming kills the radio star*
Feb 16—Family Day; *No family? No
problem! Pets and plants count too.*
Mar 3—World Wildlife Day; *get wild.*
Apr 22—Int'l Mother Earth Day;
be nice to mom, poor ol' mudder!
May 3—World Press Freedom Day;
speaking truth to power

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 YXE	Lindsay Cockrum
Parks and Civics	Mike Winter
Programs	*Sean Sass
Volunteer Coordinator	VACANT Could be you!
Soccer	Miranda Buchinski
Rink	Mitch Beckett Jared Madsen
Newsletter	Warrick Baijous
Website	Meghan Mickelson
Facebook	Mandy Madsen, Susan Pederson
Community Garden	Leisha Grebinski, Amy Nixon
Pump Track	Jared Madsen

(*) Interim basis

BUENA VISTA CIVICS UPDATE

BV LOSES HISTORIC STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND RELATED STATUES

For decades, Buena Vista residents have been able to enjoy a quasi-public green space and overlook above Gabriel Dumont Park behind the Queen's House of Retreat on the corner of Taylor and Saskatchewan Crescent. The park featured a Stations of the Cross statuary installation placed around a small circular walkway, and other related statues including 'Our Lady of the Prairies' by Edward Gibney, featuring the Virgin Mary holding a sheaf of wheat.

Unfortunately, with the closure of the Queen's House and its transition to a residential addiction treatment facility, the statues have been mostly relocated to a youth camp at Blackstrap, while the Gibney statue is being moved to St. Paul's hospital. The park still features a small bench with a beautiful view of the river but it's unclear if access to the area will be as open to the public as it was under its previous management.

Photo by Tim Yaworksi of Inside Catholic News



KALEIDOSCOPE: YOUNG ARTISTS IN BUENA VISTA

Plans are underway for Kaleidoscope 2026: our annual neighbourhood art celebration.

Wood will be available for kids to create a piece of art.

Pick up will begin March 1st, return April 1st, party in the park May 3.

Please watch our instagram for more details: @kaleidoscope_bv.

We are also looking for volunteers to help make this special event a success.

Email leishagrebinski@gmail.com



4th Annual Ice Skating Soirée

Join us for music, games, and delicious treats!
Hot chocolate & cookies by donation. Please
bring your own mug.

January 1st 2026
2:00 - 4:00 PM
Buena Vista Skating Rink

Money raised goes towards
beautifying the boulevard
behind Buena Vista School



Send question to buonavistagardencollective@gmail.com

BVCA NEWSLETTER ADS

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
buonavista1910@gmail.com

FREE

DUTCH ELM DISEASE HITS SASKATOON

The City's Parks Department confirms a record number of positive cases of Dutch elm disease (DED) across the City. In Buena Vista, most of our streets are lined with elm trees. As a community, we need to act together to protect the health of our urban canopy.

WHAT IS IT AND HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

DED is caused by a fungus that clogs the tree's water and nutrient system, eventually killing the tree. Fungal spores spread by contaminated pruning tools or by attaching to elm bark beetles, which do not travel far. The DED-causing fungus can spread over long distances if transported as firewood.

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF DUTCH ELM DISEASE

- Never store elm wood or branches, don't buy or take any from anyone, do not burn it.
- Do not prune elms during the provincial ban (Apr 1 to Aug 31). The beetles are most active then and are attracted to fresh cut wood or tree wounds. Sanitize tools after working on elm trees.
- Do not build treehouses or use nails or screws to attach anything to elm trees; this can attract elm bark beetles.
- Dispose of elm at the City landfill immediately—it's free—even if during the provincial pruning ban. **Do not put it in your green bin or take it to the compost depot.**

HOW DO I KNOW IF IT'S AN UNHEALTHY ELM?

Symptoms include wilting and yellowing leaves that curl and turn brown. This can happen as soon as June.

If you suspect an unhealthy elm or are unsure about what kind of firewood you have, take a photo and use the form at saskatoon.ca/dutchelmdisease or call Urban Forestry at 306-975-2890.



Learn More



How to ID an Elm Tree

WALKING SASKATOON: BUENA VISTA AND BEYOND

Believe it or not, cool nights and slippery sidewalks have not deterred my partner and me from our evening walks. As we walk our way towards stepping on each bit of sidewalk in the neighbourhood, we keep finding little gems that make us go "hmmm". For this newsletter, we are showcasing this fine example of a sidewalk to nowhere. The abrupt end to the sidewalk is marked by some utility boxes and a hydrant. A short walk down the road, the sidewalk magically reappears. Think you know where this is? Send us your guess! No prizes, except knowing you are right.

Did you know that pedestrians are relatively well-represented in the 2026-27 City budget? Many items, such as new and repaired sidewalks or crossing devices, are included in budget lines that will likely go forward with funding. We agree with Ward 9 Councillor Dubois' statement that sidewalks are a 'core service.'

In other news, we have a new post on improvements to 22nd St pedestrian infrastructure. Check it out: walkingsaskatoon.org | @walkingsaskatoon

Erika
RITCHIE

MLA for Saskatoon Nutana



Focused on the **Future.**

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



**BVCA IN-PERSON REGISTRATION NIGHT—Wed Jan 7, 2026
BUENA VISTA SCHOOL GYM—6:30-8 PM (or ONLINE Jan 8 9AM)**

Program (& start date; details)	Day/Time	Location	Cost (& count)
ADULT FITNESS			
Adult All Level Yoga (Jan 12)	Mon 7-8pm	BV School Gym	\$60 (10 sessions)
Adult Pickleball (Jan 12; self-led, equipment provided)	Mon 8-9:30pm	BV School Gym	\$25 (10+ sessions)
Co-ed Adult Volleyball (Jan 14)	Wed 8-10pm	BV School Gym	\$25 (11+ sessions)
Pilates (Jan 15)	Thu 6-7pm	BV School Gym	\$60 (10 sessions)
Boot Camp Cardio (Jan 15)	Thu 7-8pm	BV School Gym	\$60 (10 sessions)
ADULT RECREATION/CRAFT			
Beginner Adult Spanish L1 (Jan 12)	Mon 7-8pm	BV School Library 2nd Floor	\$60 (10 classes)
Beginner Adult Spanish L2 (Jan 12)	Mon 8-9pm		\$60 (10 classes)
Book Club (third Thurs/month; Jan 29, Feb 26, Mar 19, TBD)	Thu 7-9pm	BV School Library 2nd Floor	\$5 / person plus BVCA membership
Beginner Social Dance (Jan 16)	Fri 7-8pm	BV School Gym	\$60/couple (8 classes)
Intermediate Social Dance (Jan 16)	Fri 8-9pm	BV School Gym	\$60/couple (8 classes)
CHILDREN/YOUTH/FAMILY			
Kinder soccer (Jan 12; ages 3-5; experienced, certified coach)	Mon 6-7pm	BV School Gym	\$30 (10 sessions; no teams/leagues)
Learn to Skate (Jan 22; ages 4-8; outdoor; rink shack, no bathrooms; some weeks 2x week)	Thurs/Wed 6-7pm	BV Outdoor Rink	\$40 (8 sessions; weather permitting; cancelled if below -20C)
Family Gym (Jan 16; 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. Memberships are valid Sept-August. If you have a fall membership you do not need a winter one. Late registrations are subject to a \$10 surcharge. Classes are run on a not-for-profit basis
- **In person:** pay by cash, cheque, debit, or **register online** from January 8. No more e-transfers for online registration please!
- 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