



**COUNCILLOR/CONSEILLER
RILEY BROCKINGTON**



**Riverside Park Community Association
March 13, 2024**

Dear Members of the Riverside Park Community Association,

Spring officially arrives in a few more days, but it certainly feels like we have a head start.

March is a busy with March Break for school children, St Patrick's Day (March 17), Good Friday (March 29) and Easter Sunday (March 31). I am pleased to be hosting our Spring Community Breakfast on March 30 details may be found below.

March is Francophonie Month — a time to celebrate Francophone culture, language and heritage which have deep roots in Ottawa. To celebrate, the City will be hosting the 17th annual Mayor's Francophone RendezVous on Thursday, March 21, 2024. The RendezVous is an opportunity for members of Ottawa's francophone community to come together, network, share ideas and strengthen connections. This year we will welcome representatives from Ottawa's Francophone and bilingual post-secondary educational institutions and celebrate the role they have played in supporting our city as a destination to live, learn and work.

My office has recently released two surveys within the ward, both related to on-street parking, one for Lepage Avenue residents and the other for Mooney's Bay neighbourhood residents about seasonal restrictions in place during the busy beach and festival months. Another survey will be released soon regarding dogs in Owl Park and I plan to deliver an As we Heard it Report to residents in the vicinity of Ledbury Park, following consultations I hosted in late 2023.

Save your electronics waste, I will co-host the annual Earth Day e-waste depot on April 20, details to follow next month, but this is a special day which will include a guided walk through the McCarthy Woods with a focus on spring flowers.

Enjoy the sunshine. River Ward is absolutely beautiful, try and get outside and have fun.

Sincerely,
Riley

River Ward Spring Community Breakfast

I am hosting our second annual Community Breakfast at Alexander Community Centre. Bring your family and friends and enjoy pancakes, sausages, fruit tea and coffee! The City of Ottawa Saturday morning Programming is providing kids indoor Playground Bouncing Castles.

When: March 30, 9am

Where: Alexander Community Centre, 960 Silver St

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

729 Ridgewood Avenue

Brigil Developments has submitted its final plans to the city with respect to the site plan agreement proposal for its property on 729 Ridgewood Avenue. Majority of commercial tenants have been relocated, those remaining will leave the property on April 1, 2024. Brigil expects to receive clearance from Hydro, Enbridge and the City to be able to proceed with demolition at the beginning of May and excavation by the beginning of early summer.

My office will host a construction mitigation meeting with the community and the developer to ensure greater understanding of the impacts to our community.

Construction Meeting: Tentatively Booked for April 18

Time: 7 pm

CITY OF OTTAWA

Parking Motion – St Elias Centre

City Council will consider a motion at the next City Council meeting to permit the St Elias Centre to use Parking at Mooney's Bay during Orthodox Easter Events. The motion asks that the City permit use of the parking lot on a first come first serve basis, but that St. Elias Centre be permitted to use the parking at the following times:

Sunday, April 28th: 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Friday, May 3rd: 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 4th: 9:30 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 5 and Sunday, May 5: 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m

City grants available to non-profit groups for environmental projects

The City of Ottawa is now accepting applications for the 2024 Community Environmental Projects Grant Program (CEPGP). CEPGP provides funding to non-profit organizations interested in undertaking small-scale, community-based initiatives that support an environmentally sustainable Ottawa. Past funds have been awarded to a wide range of projects including:

Community workshops

Education campaigns
Environmental rehabilitation
Greening initiatives, such as planting native species
School projects, such as pollinator gardens

The application deadline is Friday, April 5 at 4pm.

Successful CEPGP grant recipients must complete their projects by June 30, 2025. For details on eligibility criteria, the application process, profiles of past projects, and to complete an application form, please visit ottawa.ca/cepgp. For more information on CEPGP, please contact Tara Redpath, CEPGP Coordinator, at 613-580-2424 x 16822 or at cepgp@ottawa.ca.

Deadline for interim property taxes is March 21

Residents are reminded of the deadline for interim property tax payments and Vacant Unit Tax declarations on **Thursday, March 21**.

There are many convenient options to pay your interim property tax bill:

Financial institutions – including online or telephone banking

City of Ottawa Client Service Centres

Online by payment card: ottawa.ca/PayTax

By sending a cheque to the City of Ottawa

Pre-authorized debit plan (future billings)

It's important to note that a penalty charge of 1.25 per cent for late payment is added the day following the due date and the first day of each month thereafter.

For more property tax information:

Check the property tax brochure included with your bill

Call Revenue Services at 613-580-2444 (TTY: 613-580-2401)

Email revenue@ottawa.ca

Visit the City's website at ottawa.ca/taxes

Vacant Unit Tax (VUT)

Ottawa homeowners must complete their online Vacant Unit Tax (VUT) forms at <https://vut-ilv.ottawa.ca/en-US/vutdeclaration/> for each residential property they own **before the March 21 deadline**. A \$250 late fee will be applied to all declarations filed after the deadline.

If you are experiencing difficulties filing your Vacant Unit Tax forms, please reach out to my office for support.

Brookfield Community Food Cupboard

Planning is underway to open a community food cupboard at Brookfield High School. The cupboard will be opening this spring and will be available on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 8pm. This program will supplement other available food security programs for the Riverside Park-Hunt Club neighbourhoods and will seek to offer food for one day per week.

As the planning continues, volunteers will be needed for various roles. Donations of non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the main office of Brookfield High School or at Riverside United Church (3191 Riverside Dr). More information will be available soon through the website - BrookfieldCFC.ca.

Who Defends the Experimental Farm

Recent development applications on Carling Avenue and Baseline Road have placed great attention on the value of the Experimental Farm lands, particularly those used for agricultural research. The premise of long shadows from these new high-rises has reinforced how critical research lands are, the need for protections and by whom. In short, the Experimental Farm has no protection, just a symbolic historic designation.

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EVENTS

2023 Tax Return Assistance

Students studying taxation at the Sprott School of Business at Carleton University will be hosting a **FREE tax clinic** at the **Riverside United Church** on **Friday, April 5 from 6:30-9pm**.

Students will be supervised by professors and tax professionals from local accounting firms – so don't worry – your return is in good hands!

If you are interested in having your return filed with us, please fill out this [intake form](#) to ensure you are eligible (overly complicated returns will not be accepted, given the experience level of the preparers), and to indicate your availability the night of.

Riley Brockington
March 13, 2024

Riverward Upcoming Events			
Event	Date	Location	Link
Community Breakfast 9 am	March 30	Alexander Community Centre 960 Silver Street	
Earth Day Event, E-Waste Depot, Guided Walk 10 am	April 20	Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre 3320 Paul Anka Dr	
Mother's Day High Tea, Two Seatings	May 11	Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre 3320 Paul Anka Dr	
Strawberry Social 1pm	June 6	Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre 3320 Paul Anka Dr	
Father's Day GGFG Brass Concert Band 1 pm	June 15	Alexander Community Centre 960 Silver Street	
Canada Day, Cake, Concert and BBQ 12 pm	June 29	Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre 3320 Paul Anka Dr	