



COUNCILLOR/CONSEILLER RILEY BROCKINGTON

Riverside Park Community Association

April 7, 2021



COVID VACCINATION UPDATE

Vaccines

- The City of Ottawa launched the start of its Phase 2 vaccination program today, Wednesday, April 7, permitting all eligible Ottawa residents 60 and older to book their first vaccine dose at the City's community clinics. Those can be booked through the provincial booking website at [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine) or by calling 1-833-943-3900 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. seven days a week. Appointments are being added until April 30. More appointments will become available after that date as the City receives more vaccines.
- Just last week Ottawa residents 55 and older could begin booking an appointment at participating pharmacies across the city to receive their AstraZeneca vaccine. They have to book directly with participating pharmacies. This program is separate from the City of Ottawa and Ottawa Public Health's vaccination program. Here is that link, which includes a link to the list of pharmacies: www.ottawapublichealth.ca/en/public-health-topics/covid-19-vaccine.aspx#AstraZeneca-vaccine-in-select-pharmacies-for-adults-55-years-of-age-or-older
- Additional COVID-related resources are available on Page 4 of this report.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

770 Brookfield Road (The Revalie Ottawa)

On March 15, I met with The Revalie Ottawa construction, accommodation, development and

ownership representatives for an onsite meeting and tour of the construction site at 770 Brookfield Road. They are currently on schedule with a target to have occupancy by September 2021. Phase 1 of the development, which is going up on the west side of the property, includes two luxury rental apartment buildings with 426 residential units and amenity space plus 19,000 square feet of retail space. The company's site plan application for Phase 2 on the east side of the site has not yet been submitted to the City. The goal is to begin construction in 2022 and open the second phase for the 2023 school year. The total build-out will include two apartment residences with a mix of three, six and nine floors for a total of 824 contemporary furnished suites, from studios to four-bedroom units, marketed to post-secondary students. I have requested that the community be invited to attend an open house to tour the premises before the official opening.

Brigil - 729 Ridgewood Avenue

Brigil plans to submit their zoning bylaw amendment application and development plans to the City of Ottawa in mid-May. The company says its 4th design incorporates public comments that have been heard loud and clear. As such, building heights have been significantly reduced throughout the site and now includes a 6-storey building at the front, two 4-storey buildings to the east and a 6-storey podium with a 15-storey building at the north end. They have moved the main entrance to the complex further east. The density has been reduced overall by almost 300 units. The plan now features 383 units instead of 679 units and includes up to 10,000 square feet of potential retail space. The proposed design includes four different buildings with their own

unique architecture and dedicated public space, one with a semi-public courtyard connected to amenity spaces and a shared garden, and one with a front and back yard for larger units and families. I will host a public consultation session this spring.

2660 Norberry Crescent (Norberry Residences Expansion)

I am planning to meet with Norberry representatives later this month to prepare a public consultation session regarding their plans to construct three low-rise apartment buildings. The property's representatives have been making arrangements for those tenants who use the parking garage, which will be impacted during construction.

3071 Riverside Drive - Canoe Bay Seniors' Village

The Canoe Bay development has stalled. During my March 9 meeting with Canoe Bay's CEO and CFO, they indicated their financial situation changed due to the fallout from the pandemic. Since then, they have been contemplating some design changes and alternate financing arrangements. A redesign is also coming to the retail space fronting Riverside Drive. They are considering reducing the retail component, replacing it at the front with townhouses or condos and moving professional services to the front of the building in the centre of the village. That redesign may prompt a site plan amendment. The other layout redesigns of the retirement apartment suites may be dealt with through the building permit process. Beyond that, additional delays are not anticipated. If approvals go through as expected, work at the site may begin this autumn, beginning with two to three months' worth of site servicing, including interior roads, sewers and water. The retirement residence and seniors' apartments would be the first to go up, closely followed by the townhomes and bungalows.

Mooney's Bay Childcare Centre

Thomas Fuller Construction, which is building the new Mooney's Bay Childcare Centre, will be

operating a bulldozer at the construction site for about 3 to 4 hours total over the coming week. It will be used to level the ground where it has been torn up due to the rain and moisture. The uneven ground poses a safety risk for workers on the site and they want to resolve it as quickly and as efficiently as possible. Every attempt will be made to keep the noise at a minimum. The company's site supervisor plans to let the neighbours know they will be operating the bulldozer for a short period. I also received an update today from the Project Manager that the Riverside Drive entrance has become unusable due to the spring thaw. They need to use their track loader to help restore this access point. Crews will need to use Springland for a few weeks until the ground fully thaws and the groundwater has somewhere to go. Right now, the only equipment that can operate in the field is track equipment. They do not anticipate that there will be blockages on Springland due to construction traffic.

3930 & 3960 Riverside Drive

Taggart Realty Management's proposed development for 3930 and 3960 Riverside Drive at Hunt Club Road is on hold and the company does not anticipate advancing in the next 12 months.

LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Bank Street Renewal (Riverside Drive to Ledbury Avenue)

A virtual public information session will be held on Thursday, April 22 at 6:30 pm. If you wish to participate, please go to the project website at ottawa.ca/bankstreet where there is a link to register for the session. Participants are encouraged to submit their questions to the project contacts in advance of the session.

A virtual meeting with businesses along the Bank Street corridor is slated for Tuesday, April 13 to form a Business Advisory Committee. I have been assured that businesses will be consulted throughout the detailed design stage, and that feedback from businesses and property owners

will be taken into consideration prior to finalizing the detailed design.

Airport Parkway Expansion

City staff are currently finalizing the project charter for the first phase of the widening, from Brookfield to Hunt Club Road. A consultant will be hired by this fall or winter to do the preliminary and detailed designs. Funding for construction will be sought in the 2023-24 budget and construction could begin in 2024 and finish in 2025 depending on several factors.

As part of the widening project, an off-ramp to Walkley Road and a roundabout will be built. Modifications to Walkley Road between the off-ramp and McCarthy Road are included. When the off-ramp at Walkley opens, there is a proposal to shrink the number of travel lanes from 4 to 2 between the Parkway and McCarthy Road. Separate from the Parkway widening, there is also a bike lane proposal for the entire stretch from Bank to Riverside that is ambitious with its plan. A possible autumn public meeting this year may shed more light on the proposal.

PARKS & GREENSPACES

Pauline Vanier Park

City staff are planning to have the two swing sets and the engineered wood fibre underneath them replaced this year. The work will likely take place by the end of this summer or by the beginning of this fall. If funds allow, new wood fibre will be installed in the remaining play areas. A City park planner will be assigned to the project and will keep my office updated.

TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC UPDATES

Potholes and Catch Basins

Please call 311 or submit a report at bit.ly/3w49P4k concerning potholes on your street, especially if they pose an immediate hazard. You can also call 311 or visit bit.ly/3tY9Wwg to advise the City of a blocked,

sunken, raised or broken catch basin or a drain where the cover is broken or missing. You can also let my office know of pothole and/or catch basin issues and a service request will be made on your behalf.

Street Sweeping

In some parts of the city, street sweeping operations have already begun – an early start this year due to the exceptionally warm weather we experienced last week. Suburban street sweeping begins as early as the weather will allow in the spring. Signage will be posted to alert residents to our concentrated street sweeping operations. The phased work includes sidewalks, bus stop pads and medians, followed by roadways. If vehicles are parked on the street, the unswept area is noted and crews will return to sweep that portion at a later date. Residents are reminded to not rake or blow leaves, lawn clippings or other debris onto roadways in violation of the City's Use and Care of Roads Bylaw. Residents are also reminded to observe all posted signage and to remove their vehicles in designated areas to allow street sweeping teams to complete their work.

CITY UPDATES & CONSULTATIONS

OC Transpo Service Adjustments

The Transit Commission, of which I am a member, received an update on March 31 about service adjustments that will go into effect on June 20. We heard that the adjustments will result in a reduction in OC Transpo operations by approximately 2,170 service hours per week and a cost saving of approximately \$5.5 million this year in addition to the already approved \$30 million in savings in the 2021 budget. If the effects of the pandemic continue into the full year of 2022, OC Transpo will see a cost savings of approximately \$11 million. By the end of 2021, there will be approximately 70 fewer staff members funded from the transit operating budget than there are currently. Workforce reductions will be achieved by attrition and reassignment. There are no layoffs associated with this workforce reduction plan.

Through 2020 and continuing into 2021, staff have been reducing operating expenses and capital spending while still maintaining service across the entire transit network. The service adjustments coming into effect in June are required to better reflect current ridership and help decrease costs.

These adjustments include:

1. The temporary suspension of select peak-period routes with very low ridership and where there are other nearby transit service options available.
2. Frequency reductions on certain routes to better match actual current ridership levels.
3. Routes being shortened where parallel service is available.
4. Service improvements on several routes, including those serving hospitals, shopping districts, and growing employment areas, to respond to current travel needs.

No routes in Riverside Park will be impacted.

The intent is for the Transit Commission to receive quarterly updates if routes need to be drastically changed. At the recent special Transit Commission meeting, I stated that going forward better public engagement is needed in advance of our meetings.

Later this month, the Transit Commission will receive a presentation about the criteria used to decide future service reductions that are a response to a very challenged budget situation.

Official Plan

The City of Ottawa's Planning Department hosted a New Official Plan question-and-answer session for the public on March 24, from 6 to 8 p.m. Just prior to that on Monday, March 22, I organized a virtual meeting for all community association representatives to join City staff so they could ask specific questions about their neighbourhoods in the context of the first draft of the Official Plan.

There has been an unprecedented level of public engagement on the draft plan, far surpassing anything projected and what occurred during the last Official Plan update. The highest concentration of comments focused on a few specific areas, including the new transect approach and intensification.

Further public consultation on the next version continues and will include a Public Open House followed by a Joint Planning and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meeting Sept. 13, 14, and 15. Stakeholders can also present at that meeting. More details can be found here: engage.ottawa.ca/the-new-official-plan.

Paint it Up! Mural Program

The Council-approved Paint it Up! Mural program launched in 2010 as a partnership between the City and Crime Prevention Ottawa to empower youth through the creation of murals to deter graffiti vandalism. To date, approximately 2,700 youth and young adults, ages 12 to 25, have been involved in almost 85 murals across Ottawa, for which grants are distributed. The program was delivered in 2020 with Ottawa Public Health guidelines in place. Paint it Up! launched again this year March 9 and applications will be accepted until **April 23**. For details, visit Crime Prevention Ottawa at bit.ly/3fi5QLy.

OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH COVID-19 UPDATES

Vaccines

- **Second dose appointments:** Ottawa Public Health is currently only booking second doses for First Nations, Inuit and Métis community members. All other individuals who received their first dose at an Ottawa Public Health clinic and are waiting for their second dose, are encouraged to sign up for the City's COVID-19 Vaccine e-subscription at app06.ottawa.ca/esubscriptions/signup-form-en.html and to follow local new sources for details. When second dose appointments are

available, the City will communicate this to the public. Individuals who use the provincial booking system are asked to schedule their first and second doses when they make appointments. Please note, you will receive your appointment for a second dose when you book your first dose through the provincial booking system.

- The St. Laurent Complex community clinic at 526 Coté Street is offering vaccines to First Nation, Inuit and Métis, aged 40 and older by appointment only. Call 613-691-5505 to book an appointment. Walk-ins are not accepted, and proof of Indigenous identity is required.
- If you are Inuit and live in the Ottawa area, the Akausivik Inuit Family Health Team is offering COVID-19 vaccines at their clinic at 300-24 Selkirk Street. To book an appointment, call 613-740-0999, Monday to Friday, 9 am to 4 pm.

Extended weekend hours at testing sites

To meet growing demand in recent weeks, a number of assessment centres in Ottawa have extended their weekend hours until further notice, including the CHEO Assessment Centre, Brewer Assessment Centre for Adults, and the Moodie and Ray Friel testing sites. Over the coming weeks, the Taskforce and its partners will continue to evaluate and respond to assessment centre volumes in an effort to maintain accessible COVID-19 testing for Ottawa residents. The Howard Darwin Centennial Arena at 1765 Merivale Road opened on Monday, April 5 as an additional COVID-19 assessment site for residents age 4 and older to meet rising demand. Appointments can be booked for this site by calling 1-877-232-8828 and selecting 2 for 'test booking' seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The online booking link is available at: www.ottawapublichealth.ca/en/shared-content/assessment-centres.aspx.

Vaccine Information in Sign Language

OPH now has a webpage that provides COVID-19 resources to Ottawa's deaf and hard of hearing community. Visit bit.ly/3lWTb1V.

Mental Health Supports

It's so important to check in with ourselves and our loved ones to see how things are going and to make sure we are using good coping skills to support our mental health. For some, this can mean getting back to good habits like getting enough sleep, being more active and eating well, or developing new habits such as mindfulness to add to your coping tool kit. For others, this can mean checking in with some of the many local supports and professionals to talk about our mental health and ways to manage through these challenges. I would like to remind everyone that there are resources available to help.

- **The Walk-in Counselling Clinic** at (613) 755-2277 offers free in person sessions as well as video or phone counselling sessions in English, French, Arabic, Somali, Spanish, Mandarin, and Cantonese at a variety of locations.
- **The Counselling Connect** service in Ottawa offers free access to a same-day or next-day phone or video counselling session.
- If you need immediate help, call the **Distress Centre Ottawa and Region** 24/7 at (613) 238-3311 in English or Tel-Aide Outaouais at (613) 741-6433 in French.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Income Tax Clinics

South-East Ottawa Community Health Centre is again offering Free Tax Clinics to residents of low income with simple tax situations in their catchment area. To book an appointment please call 613-737-7195 ext. 6009.

www.seochc.on.ca

April Break Library Programming

The Ottawa Public Library has prepared some special free programming. There will be a variety

of children's programs and concerts online. Join in for yoga and dance, arts and crafts workshops, writing and reading, and a family performance every day from April 12 to 17 at 3:30 p.m. It will be a creative April break where children, ages 4 to 12, can let their imaginations run wild.

For all the details, visit

bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/blogs/imagine-your-april-break.

April Break programs for teens are all about creative expressions; there is a virtual program each afternoon April 12 to 16. Space is limited to allow for plenty of communication and interaction between the presenter and participants. For all the details, visit

bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/blogs/april-break-teens.

Registration is now open. To register, customers will need a valid OPL card; not all programs will require registration.

Spring Cleaning the Capital Program

The 28th year of Cleaning the Capital, a popular City of Ottawa campaign that leverages corporate sponsorship and resident engagement to help keep our city clean and green, is on hold given the recent Ontario-wide shutdown. Almost 700 cleaning projects are registered, but the City is pressing pause on the spring campaign until further notice in keeping with the shutdown and to be in line with public health measures and safety guidance. Registration remains open until May 15, however, registrants who already received clean-up kits are asked to wait before scheduling clean-ups. As well, kits won't be available for pick-up until City facilities can safely accommodate their distribution.

Summer Camp Programming

The City of Ottawa's summer program information will be posted on Ottawa.ca on April 19. Online registrations will open on May 3 at 9pm for summer swimming lessons, and on May 5 at 9pm for camps and all other summer offerings. Visit Ottawa.ca/Recreation for more info.

Council on Aging in Ottawa

The Council on Aging offers ongoing online social and fitness events as well as classes and workshops for older adults. Upcoming topics in April include online chair fitness, funeral planning, virtual book club, retirement living, fit minds, virtual coffee mornings, virtual cooking classes, online trivia and a sweet treat drive-through event. If you need access to technology to be able to participate in these programs, please contact Stephanie Cadieux at 613-789-3577 ext. 4 or s.cadieux@coaottawa.ca. Register at coaottawa.ca/cat/coa-events.

RIVER WARD SAFETY

Due to some recent thefts of catalytic converters in Riverside Park and in speaking with the Riverside Park Community Association, we have obtained the following safety message from Ottawa Police:

Ottawa Police have seen an increase in the theft of catalytic converters across the city this year. Vehicle makes and models predominantly being targeted are the Hyundai Tucson, Ford F150 and Honda CRVs. Call police immediately if you see or hear anything suspicious.

The RCMP has some tips to prevent this crime of opportunity:

- Park in well lit areas and close to building entrances, when possible.
- Park your vehicle inside your garage, and keep all garage doors shut and locked.
- Business owners should secure their vehicles behind locked fences or inside a locked building.
- Set your vehicle alarm to go off when it detects vibration.

Insurance companies also have preventative strategies to protect your vehicle:

- Park in a way that makes it harder to access the vehicle's underside, such as against a wall or by other vehicles.

- Install vehicle alarms and security cameras.
- Use devices that are designed to deter and prevent these types of theft: install a wire cage around the converter or a Kevlar fabric trap with steel cables, for example.
- If your catalytic converter is bolted on, you can ask for your local garage to weld the bolts to make it more difficult to remove.
- Ask your mechanic to etch a licence plate number or your vehicle identification number (VIN) as a deterrent. This may alert a scrap metal dealer that it was stolen and this will also make it easier to identify the owner.

RIVER WARD WOMEN'S DAY

Women's Day Speaker Series

On Wednesday, March 10 I hosted my annual River Ward Women's Day Speaker Series. My special guests provided great insight into their personal and professional challenges and successes. They included City Councillor Theresa Kavanagh, my co-host and the City's Liaison on Women and Gender Equity; Suzanne Obiorah, Director of Gender and Race Equality, Inclusion, Indigenous Relations, and Social Development Services, City of Ottawa; Her Excellency Natasha Smith, High Commissioner, Australian High Commission in Canada; and Kathleen Wynne, MPP Don Valley West and former Premier of Ontario.

RIVER WARD COMING EVENTS

River Ward Earth Day E-Waste Depot

River Ward's Earth Day Celebration E-Waste Depot takes place at the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre parking lot at 3320 Paul Anka Drive on **Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** COVID-safety protocols will be in place. The Junk That Funk crew will be wearing masks and gloves. Customers must stay with their vehicle and follow directions once on site for where to park. Items will be removed from the vehicles. E-waste Items can include everything from televisions and computers to cameras, copiers and cellphones. They will not accept cardboard, plastics, garbage, lightbulbs or hazardous material, such as solvents and paint.

RIVER WARD OFFICE IS STILL OPEN!

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, my office has continued to work and I have been in the office each and every day to assist residents with their concerns. Please reach out if you need my assistance. You can call 613-580-2486 or email me at Riley.Brockington@Ottawa.ca.