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Hi Neighbour!

Happy Father's Day!

Happy Belated Father's Day to all the dads and father figures who play a vital role in building a foundation of love for their children. I hope you felt celebrated by your loved ones this past weekend!

I am grateful to my dad for his long-standing example of sacrifice and humility which have been pivotal to the person I have become. I am also grateful for Alan who is a superhero to my kids. As new parents, he welcomed the opportunity to take several parenting classes with me which have helped us over the years! His humility, willingness to learn, and sacrifice are building a firm foundation for our children as the anchor for our family. I also appreciate the joy he infuses into our everyday!

I'd also like to acknowledge the amazing dads who are solo parenting and do not often get the recognition or support they deserve. Thank you for all that you do!

Help Shape the Future of our Community Centres!

In collaboration with **Parks, Forestry & Recreation**, we are co-hosting 3 Open Houses at Willowdale's 3 Community Centres from **5-8pm** on the following dates and locations:

Mitchell Field Community Centre - Monday, June 24

Goulding Community Centre - Tuesday, June 25

Edithvale Community Centre - Wednesday, June 26

Come out and **SHARE YOUR IDEAS AND FEEDBACK** on how we can make the most of our community centres and to further strengthen their role as hubs in our neighbourhood. Please RSVP: www.lilycheng.ca/events

In addition to **sharing your feedback**, participants can also enjoy:

- Meeting your neighbours
- Open Gym
- Family Zumba
- Arts & Crafts
- Pre-School Drop In
- CampTO Information for Registered Participants
- FREE refreshments

I hope to see you come out for this important opportunity to shape the future of our community centres together. In addition to dropping by, you can also **FILL OUT THIS SURVEY**: www.bit.ly/WillowdaleCCFeedback

Avondale Survey: Nomination for the Neighbourhood Streets Plans

Do you live in Avondale? Are you tired of traffic and concerned about pedestrian safety in the neighbourhood? Submit your feedback on the Avondale NSP Survey: bit.ly/AvondaleNSP2024 by **June 27th, 2024!**

A group of residents is working together on applying for the NSP, a community-guided plan for local traffic, road safety, and active transportation, suited to neighbourhoods facing several complex, interconnected issues that are best addressed as a whole. To learn more, visit: toronto.ca/NSP

*Please note that applying for the program does not guarantee our community will be chosen this year. However, this survey will also help inform future advocacy efforts for neighbourhood improvements.

Participatory Budgeting TTC Pop Up

Last week we set up a booth at Finch Station on June 12th and 13th from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. to build awareness about **Participatory Budgeting** and to give residents the opportunity to share their dream capital projects to enhance our neighbourhood! It was a great opportunity to make TTC riders aware of democracy in action in our neighbourhood! Thanks to everyone who connected with us.

My team engaged with hundreds of Willowdalers, collecting great PB ideas and addressing their general concerns and questions. It was encouraging to see the strong interest shown in the Participatory Budgeting process. Here are a few examples of the ideas collected:

- Public bike pumps
- Fountain or Centrepiece that brings community together.
- Volleyball nets
- Ping Pong tables
- Cigarette disposal bins

You can also participate in the discussion by connecting to our **Community Engagement Portal** at www.willowdaleactionhub.ca. Ideas can be submitted in the **Participatory Budgeting** section. This year we are focusing on **Newtonbrook West** and **Willowdale West** with the remaining neighbourhoods to be covered over the following 2 years.

Stay tuned for more PB Idea Collection events happening throughout the summer. Learn more at www.lilycheng.ca/pb

PH13.14 - The Future of Visitor Parking

Last week my Visitor Parking motion went to the Planning and Housing Committee. I continue to be concerned about visitor parking challenges in Willowdale. Residents struggle to find parking for PSWs, family and friends. My motion asks the city to consider the greater need for visitor parking outside the downtown core.

Outcome: The Planning and Housing Committee adopted my Visitor Parking motion. City staff will now include visitor parking in suburban contexts in their ongoing review of the parking requirements in the Zoning By-law and report back by the end of 2024.

PH13.5 - Modular Housing Initiative Phase 2: Update Report, and Amendments to Purchase Order Numbers 6052027 and 6052881 issued to NRB Inc. for Design-Build Services for Supportive Housing

This report submitted to the Planning and Housing Committee last week provided an update on the modular housing projects at 175 Cummer Ave. and 39 Dundalk Dr. and requested Council authority to enable City Divisions to restart and complete both projects by approving Purchase Order Amendments for each project to ensure funding is in place to complete the required work.

The modular housing project at 39 Dundalk Dr. in Scarborough is nearing completion with only landscaping and a review of cost escalations remaining. The Confidential Attachments prepared included confidential information regarding the pricing for these projects under negotiation with the City's supplier, estimated costs to complete the projects, and confidential information related to delivery of the project at 175 Cummer Ave.

Outcome: The Planning and Housing Committee referred this item to Council to be considered at our upcoming June 26-28 meeting so that Council will have input and an opportunity to ask questions of staff given the significant increase in project costs.

Goulding Community Centre Update

The Goulding Community Centre project continues in the Construction Phase, including work on the interior rooms, washrooms, change rooms, and mechanical and electrical systems.

Phase 1: Construction for the community centre is now completed, including improvements at the multipurpose rooms, classrooms, dance room, gym floors and gym change rooms, front main entrance, mechanical units, and BAS connections.

Phase 2: Construction for the outdoor pool change rooms is completed with minor items to be addressed. The installation of a new outdoor pool deck shade structure is now proceeding, the foundation footings are completed, and the metal shade structure is to be delivered and installed by June 22, before the outdoor pool season commences.

Phase 3: Construction for the ice arena and change rooms was completed in early September, allowing the ice rink programming to proceed as planned. Work resumed in early April and items to be completed include the remaining change rooms and ice rink referee change room and will proceed until August 2024, between the ice rink seasons.

[Click Here](#) for project updates.

City Declares Jun 17-22 Public Market Week

The City has newly proclaimed June 17th to June 22nd as the **City of Toronto Public Market Week**. This is a significant recognition of our collective efforts and a testament to the importance of our community-based public markets. It's wonderful to have farmers' markets at Mel Lastman Square and Peoples Church. A group of local residents, including myself, are dreaming of a future public market in Avondale!

Here are some highlights of this week:

- New MarketcityTO [website and interactive map](#) featuring 120+ public markets
- 5 Food and Markets Neighbourhood Tours that strengthen the connection between the markets, residents and local businesses. [Link to registration here](#)
 - Eglinton Way Farmers' Market & Neighbourhood Walking Tour - SOLD OUT
 - St. Lawrence Market & Old Town
 - Scarborough Farmers' Market & Neighbourhood Culinary Adventure!
 - Wandering to Withrow: History Bites and Tasty Treats
 - Afro-Caribbean Farmers Market & Little Jamaica Freedom Through Food Tour! SOLD OUT

North York Business and Community Engagement Session on the 10-Year Action Plan for Toronto's Economy

I want to extend my thanks to **Pat Tobin** and the **Economic Development and Culture team** for gathering many North York business leaders last week to provide invaluable feedback for the upcoming [Action Plan for Toronto's Economy](#) coming to City Council in September 2024. At 80% design completion, the EDC team is nearing the end of a robust set of 30 consultation events to plan for the next 10 years of economic development.

In breakout groups, North York business leaders discussed what's working and what's not working. Attendees celebrated:

- Access to talent
- Proximity to airport
- Tax incentive programs
- Strength of Toronto's brand
- Location of NY as central
- Access multicultural and diverse businesses
- Office vacancy as an opportunity for great deals and new business growth

They shared concerns about:

- Hospitality sector support
- 30.6% office vacancy rate in NY
- Missed opportunities for networking and mentorship for young people created by hybrid work
- The single hotel and the absence of a large conference centre space in NY
- Housing affordability for employees
- Lack of transportation infrastructure and traffic/transit congestion
- Events struggling to find sponsorship/grants post-COVID

There was a general concern that residents are spending less post-COVID and that the money residents do spend is targeted more to experiences than retail purchases. While residents may still dine out, it may have been reduced from twice a week to once every two weeks, and possibly at a less expensive venue.

Key recommendations from business leaders included the critical need for good leadership and visionary thinking, such as incubators and accelerators in North York. Specifically, there is a need to create these programs and populate the office spaces. It was suggested that businesses could be piloted in the education sector in partnership with post-secondary institutions. There was also a desire for access to open data to strengthen business development.

Finally, business leaders commented on the urgent need for housing and for streamlined planning processes with less red tape. It was suggested that the city get involved in building affordable rental units. Personally, I feel Toronto needs more targeted economic and cultural development plans - in particular for high growth areas to fulfill the goal of building new communities where people can live, play and work. One overarching plan for the entirety of the city can easily lead to a heavy downtown focus and less attention to the outer regions such as ourselves.

Toronto Heat Warning

Environment and Climate Change Canada has issued a Heat Warning for Toronto this week, with dangerously hot and humid conditions expected for the next several days. Make sure you're prepared with these tips to beat the heat:

- Drink plenty of water, even when not feeling thirsty.
- Go to air-conditioned spaces or other [cool places](#).
- Wear loose, light-coloured, breathable clothing.
- Reschedule or plan outdoor activities during the cooler parts of the day.
- Consult a doctor or pharmacist to learn how medications could increase one's risk to heat.
- Check on at-risk family, friends or neighbours, especially seniors living alone.
- Stay up to date on heat warnings and other special weather statements by downloading Environment and Climate Change Canada's [WeatherCAN app](#).

If you work outdoors, become familiar with warning signs and symptoms of heat stress conditions and follow safe work procedures including drinking lots of fluids and taking rest breaks.

More information is available in the City's [Heat Stress Policy](#) and at [toronto.ca/KeepCool](#).

Please take good care and stay cool during this heat wave.

Warmly,

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