

Hi Neighbour!

acknowledgement to all the single moms who go the extra mile to solo parent in our expensive city. I think all single moms in Toronto are heroes! Special thanks to NeighbourLink North York for carrying on with its tradition of celebrating single moms for Mother's Day by providing an afternoon tea while providing free childcare! Please consider supporting their efforts with a donation. They are still short of their \$5000 goal. This would be a great way to pay tribute to your own mom! <u>Click Here</u> for more information.

Happy Mother's Day to all the moms in our community. I want to give a special

For some, Mother's Day can be difficult, for those struggling with fertility or those who have lost their moms. I want to acknowledge that the day will not be flowers and fun for many. Having lost my own mom before becoming a mom myself, Mother's Day does bring moments of grief for missing my mom's beautiful smile and courageous spirit. The foundation of love she built in my life has helped me weather difficult storms and become the person I am today.

Encampments at Goulding Community Centre

Last week, our office was made aware of encampments set up at Goulding Community Centre, on the SE corner of the site. Earlier this week, another tent was reported on the SW corner. With their proximity to a space that many families and children use throughout the spring and summer, we understand the heightened concern of this issue and are actively working to share your concerns.

Following the report, we promptly communicated the issue to the City's Encampment office, who has since been alerting and working with many stakeholders, such as Toronto Police Services, Toronto Fire Services, Parks Forestry and Recreation, and Street Outreach Team. Multiple site visits were made to the encampment sites collectively by the divisions involved to form a relationship, educate, and help them work towards a permanent housing solution such as Rent-Geared to Income Housing Applications.

As much as we love spring weather, as the City warms up it also experiences a rise in encampments, and Willowdale is one of many wards in Toronto feeling the impact. With very limited to no available shelter space and winter shelter programs ending, there is currently high pressure on the shelter system and unfortunately, none to offer to unhoused individuals immediately. An encampment cannot be removed/relocated without an alternate shelter secured for the unhoused, and the City is under the scrutiny of the Ombudsman's 2023 report: https://www.ombudsmantoronto.ca/investigativereport/investigation-into-the-citys-clearing-of-encampments-in-summer-

2021/ In Waterloo/Kitchener, the Supreme Court ruled that clearing encampments

without sufficient shelter beds violates charter rights: https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/region-waterlookitchener-encampment-court-decision-charter-1.6731000 It is also important to consider that other issues such as mental health and

addiction may compound the difficulty when it comes to working with unhoused individuals, and outreach staff are trained to take the necessary time required to provide the immediate supports they need as well as to build rapport so that they can be transitioned out of the location. This is not to say that community members' right to security, safety and free use

of community space and amenities are disregarded. While working under

guidelines, the encampment office actively works to provide support for the unhoused and prioritizes the safety and well-being of the unhoused and the community. They continue to pursue a solution that will not further harm vulnerable people who are sleeping at the park, while offering indoor spaces when they become available. With the rising number of unhoused individuals across the city and limited resources available, encampments are prioritized for action, and transition into

such as aggressive behaviour, proximity to children's spaces and the presence of aggressive animals. The encampments at Goulding CC are being prioritized based on their level of risk, and we continue to advise residents to make reports to 311 to escalate their concerns. The more specific your reports are, the better informed the

encampment office will be to involve the correct city divisions and address the

issue at hand. Please report any threats to safety to 911, suspicious or

shelters is based on the imminent risk posed to the public and the unhoused -

otherwise unsafe behaviour to Police non-emergency at 416-808-2222, and any fire hazards to Fire Prevention – North Office at 416-338-9150. If you see someone in need of mental health support, you can call 211. Our office is planning a visit to the Cummer Drop-Inn with city staff to see how we can better support the program and its many clients. We will keep the

community apprised of any upcoming opportunities to volunteer or donate to this important work. Unfortunately, this Drop-Inn is the ONLY local service for the

The city is already spending tremendous resources on these challenges. As an example, there are several shelter hotels that cost us \$96,000 per room per year. We have not closed these shelters which were meant to be temporary because the need is still there and we do not have sufficient alternative spaces available. The city is trying to determine how many shelters we need to build, at what scale and in which locations. Please let us know if you have any ideas for

solving this growing challenge. Our office will continue to amplify your concerns sent in by email and phone to the encampment office. I plan to meet with the general manager of Toronto Shelter & Support Services to discuss shelter capacity and address rising homelessness in our city. I am also planning on co-organizing a roundtable with faith communities on how they can replicate refugee transitional housing as hosted by the Peoples Church. We all need to pitch in to alleviate the pressure on our shelter system and work towards community-based solutions at scales

where communities can participate in meaningful ways. When homelessness first started becoming visible in Willowdale, prior to my election, I hosted a webinar for our community on how to engage with our unhoused neighbours. I know many people still aren't sure what is safe and how they can interact with these neighbours. I think it is time to host another webinar on this topic, as I do not think we can fix this quickly and we want to be a kind and compassionate community. If anyone is interested in helping to lead such a workshop, please let my office know and we can work together!

Lily Cheny 陳伶俐

Warm regards,

Click On The Links Below or Scroll Down To Learn More About:

Councillor Lily Cheng

unhoused in Willowdale.

~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Ward 18 Willowdale / Councillor Cheng@toronto.ca / 416-392-0210

Willowdale Community Events Print Out Neighbourhood Watch Webinar Call for Volunteers

- ~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES
- - 172 & 202 Drewry Ave. Community Consultation New Bike Share Station at Glendora Avenue
 - 2024 Grass Cutting Guide
 - New BOLO Program Initiative • ReNew Sheppard Avenue East Update!
 - Neighbourhood Climate Action Grants City of Toronto Garden Contest
- ~ COMMUNITY UPDATES
 - Sól Multicultural Music Festival • Kindred Spirits Orchestra: Per Aspera Ad Astra
 - Salon Series Concert at Gibson House • Willowdale Group of Artists' Spring Art Show Toronto Chinese Orchestra Ensemble Concert
 - Caregiver Binder Workshop
 - 32 Division Community BBQ Willowdale West Neighbourhood Association Annual General Meeting

- Asian Heritage Month Cultural Festival Book Launch for the Laundryman's Boy
- Newcomers Welcome Tea
- Taiwan Tapestry at North York Central Library
- <u>Luminato Festival</u>
- <u>Iranian Culture and Art Series</u>

COUNCILLOR UPDATES



WILLOWDALE COMMUNITY EVENTS PRINT OUT

Get ready for a summer of excitement in Willowdale! Looking for fun in the sun? Look no further! We've got all the hottest events lined up for you this summer. From fun fairs to outdoor movie nights, there's something for everyone.

Print out our flyer to stay in the loop with all the can't-miss events happening in Willowdale this summer!

LEARN HOW TO INCREASE COMMUNITY SAFETY!

NEIGHDAHBHAAR

FROM 7 - 8 PM Learn how to set up



LILY CHENG



councillor_cheng@toronto.ca

CITY COUNCILLOR WARD 18, WILLOWDALE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEBINAR

crime prevention through collective action.

LILYCHENG.CA/EVENTS

RSVP AT

Are you concerned about rising crime rates in Willowdale? Do you want to take action against crime and improve community safety? Consider forming a

Neighbourhood Watch with neighbours in your building or block! On May 27 from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM, a safety webinar will be hosted by our office and Didi, a community leader and starter of several Neighbourhood

Watches across the city! Her largest group is in the Yonge-Lawrence area, where she went door to door to form a neighbourhood watch group following a stabbing incident on her block. Watch the following news footage for her story: https://globalnews.ca/video/4344474/torontos-yonge-and-lawrence-communityforms-online-neighbourhood-watch-program A Neighbourhood Watch Group allows for quick responses and reporting of incidents, increased awareness of suspicious events and enhanced

If you are interested in starting a Neighbourhood Watch for your area, please register for the Webinar at bit.ly/neighbourhoodwatchrsvp, and fill out the registration form for a chance to win a \$100 giftcard towards a Block/Building Party to launch your Neighbourhood Watch!

Register Now!



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

individuals to join our Volunteer Team!

Passionate about making a difference? We are looking for dedicated

Help foster a Connected Community in Willowdale. Contribute to making meaningful change and earn volunteer hours.

Let's work together to make Willowdale a better place for all!

New volunteers, sign up here: www.lilycheng.ca/volunteer Existing volunteers, sign up here: bit.ly/existingvolunteers

CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

172 & 202 DREWRY AVE. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

I attended a community consultation on Wed May 1st, 2024 to discuss a development application at 172 & 202 Drewry Ave. The applicant proposes to build 45 three-storey townhouse units. The site will be serviced by a new private road and a 6,759 sq ft public park at the southeast corner of the site (Drewry Ave & Hilda Ave).

<u>Click here</u> to learn more about the application. Please email City Planner Diana Steinberg (<u>Diana.Steinberg@toronto.ca</u>) to request the recorded video of the community consultation in case you missed it.

Here are some of the key items discussed:

Timeline of project & pricing:

Residents wanted to understand the construction timeline for this project and whether the proposed housing will be affordable.

• It's difficult to predict, however, the developer suspects they are 6 months away from completing the planning application process (i.e. zoning amendment, site plan control approval) and ideally a year away from construction.

Traffic congestion on Drewry Ave:

Residents expressed concern about the existing traffic congestion on Drewry Ave and whether the proposed application will exacerbate it. They also inquired about whether bike lanes will be built on Drewry in the near future?

- The developer submitted a traffic impact study which measures multiple variables to gauge how a proposed project will impact an area. These variables include:
 - Existing traffic conditions in the wider context of the area.
 - Projected traffic conditions in the wider context of the area. - Measuring peak AM and PM hours (busiest hours).
- The results showed that there would be a negligible impact from this project.
 - 15 two-way trips generated or 1 car every 4 minutes (peak AM hrs).
 - 21 two-way trips generated or 1 car every 3 minutes (peak PM hrs).

Bike Lanes on Drewry Ave:

Residents heard that Drewry might get bike lanes in the future and wanted to find out if this information was accurate.

Master Plan. See here: Yonge Street North Transportation Master Plan, **City of Toronto**

The Yonge Street North secondary plan study included a Transportation

• This study outlined Hilda Ave as a street where bike lanes could be put in the future (not on Drewry Ave).

Stormwater Management:

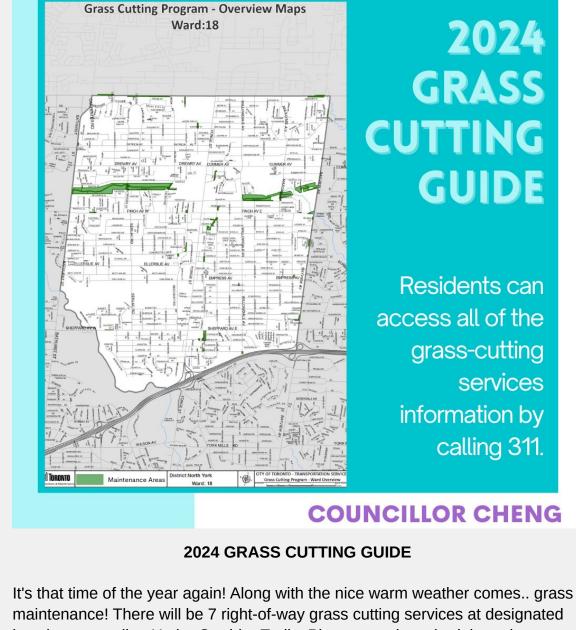
Residents asked about the stormwater impact of this proposed traffic as there have been a few incidents of flooding on Drewry Ave.

 The developer submitted a stormwater management plan. Results showed that the quantity & quality of water leaving the site would be improved compared to the existing condition (going from a large surface parking lot to a park, front/rear yard landscaping, etc.).



We welcome the newly deployed Bike Share E-Station which is the first estation in Toronto to be deployed in conjunction with an on-street EV charger.

This is also the first e-station deployed in Willowdale and north of the 401! **Learn More**



locations as well at Hydro Corridor Trails. Please see the schedule and map below. The service includes mowing, trimming debris and litter pick-up and disposal, and trimming of weeds on medians and islands. Residents can access all of

You can read about the bylaws pertaining to boulevard grass cutting here: https://www.toronto.ca/home/311-toronto-at-your-service/find-serviceinformation/article/?kb=kA06g000001cvVICAY

the grass cutting services information by calling 311.

Learn More

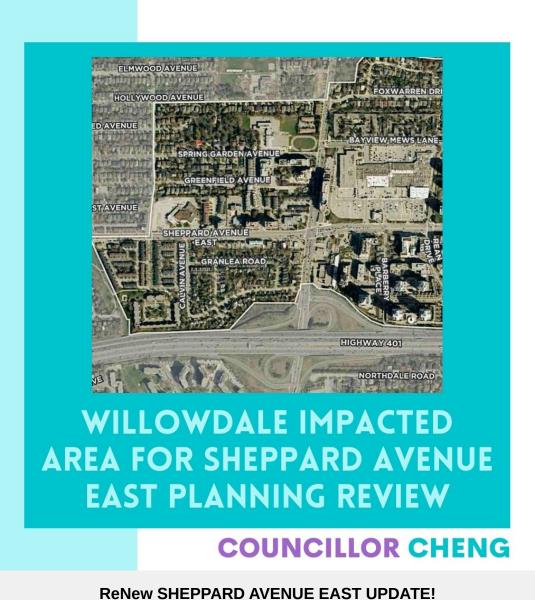


NEW BOLO PROGRAM INITIATIVE Be On The Look Out (BOLO) is a new campaign to help catch Canada's Most

Wanted! There is \$1 Million in rewards available. You can also join the BOLO LINEUP CONTEST. Participate for a chance to win a CAD \$10,000 travel voucher and one of 99 instant prizes, including laptops, gaming consoles, tablets, and gift cards.

Thanks to a tip from the public provided through the BOLO Program,

authorities have successfully arrested Michael Bebee, who held the title of Canada's #1 Most Wanted Man. **Learn More**



The ReNew Sheppard survey has been extended to May 31! The City is

developing a vision and plan to guide growth and future development within the Sheppard Avenue East corridor between Bayview Avenue and Leslie Street. This impacts the eastern tip of Willowdale on Sheppard. The ReNew Sheppard East Planning Study (Sheppard Avenue East Planning Review) will provide recommendations to clarify, refine, and/or strengthen the

existing policy framework, which could include official plan changes, and areaspecific planning tools and policies. Visit the interactive map and survey to provide your thoughts on key components of the study.

Learn More



and engagement on climate action at the local level by funding resident-led projects, activities and events that:

 Reduce the emissions that contribute to climate change • Educate and engage the public on climate change and climate action Advance the principles, priorities and actions of <u>TransformTO Net Zero</u> Strategy and the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy

Climate Action Grants program. Groups will be matched with a local community organization to trustee the funds. Apply by June 12, 2024 at 12:00 PM.

Learn More

Grants of up to \$7,500 per group are available through the Neighbourhood



edition of the Toronto Garden Contest. Nominations will be accepted across various categories spanning residential gardens, pollinator gardens, community gardens and

commercial gardens until Monday, July 8. Residents can submit their own garden or nominate one in their community.

Excellence in the areas of design, landscaping, use of plant material and overall condition/maintenance contribute to the winner's being selected. Winners will be notified by mail and recognized at an award ceremony in fall 2024.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Residents can dig deeper into the contest and submit nominations on the City's Garden Contest webpage: toronto.ca/gardencontest



- Prizes from sponsors
- Versatile music
- Family event One-of-a-kind art sale
- Light show
- Live painting
- Baking sale













Visit Prosserman JCC in North York for an incredible day of music and cultural

SÓL MULTICULTURAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

celebration! Get ready to groove to the beats of talented musicians from diverse backgrounds. This in-person event promises to be a memorable experience filled with vibrant melodies and energetic performances. Don't miss out on this opportunity to immerse yourself in a multicultural musical extravaganza.

When: Saturday, May 11. Artisan Fair 3 PM, Concert 6 PM - 8 PM Where: Prosserman JCC, 4588 Bathurst St, North York

Buy Tickets Now



KINDRED SPIRITS ORCHESTRA: PER ASPERA AD ASTRA

Experience a night of musical wonders! Delve into the vibrant rhythms of Manuel de Falla's The Three-cornered Hat suite, journey through the virtuosic brilliance of Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2, and feel the emotional depth of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5. Don't miss out on an unforgettable evening filled with enchantment and joy!

Kristian Alexander | Conductor

Featuring:

Ludmil Angelov | Pianist Daniel Vnukowski | Host When: Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 8 PM

Where: Meridian Arts Centre - George Weston Recital Hall 5060 Yonge St., **Toronto**

Buy Tickets



award-winning Carnatic violinist Subhadra Vijaykumar, accompanied by Bala Subramanian Ganesh on the mrdangam.

When: Sunday, May 12, from 2 PM - 3 PM **Where: Gibson House Museum, 5172 Yonge Street Buy Tickets Now**



5100 Yonge St. WILLOWDALE GROUP OF ARTISTS' ANNUAL SPRING ART SHOW The Willowdale Group of Artists is holding its **Annual Spring Art Show** at the

North York Civic Centre from May 6 - May 17! You're invited to visit the display of beautiful art work by the talented members of WGA, who will be in attendance during show hours.

education and opportunities for members.

Formed in 1947, WGA is one of the oldest Art Groups in Toronto, providing art

Where: 5100 Yonge Street, North York When: May 6 - May 17, 11:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Learn More



NORTH YORK OPEN MIC WEDNESDAYS

Calling all Willowdale music lovers! Visit John McKenzie House every Wednesday starting April 28 through June 19 for a brand-new Open Mic series!

Mic, PA, and even a digital piano will be provided. Just bring your talent and vibes!



TORONTO CHINESE ORCHESTRA ENSEMBLE CONCERT

The Toronto Chinese Orchestra (TCO) Ensemble will be performing an exquisite mix of traditional and contemporary works at the North York Central Library Concourse, TPL's new premiere event space for cultural and heritage programming.

program features a range of songs as well as an introduction to the instruments and stories behind the music.

Highlighting the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Chinese music, this

Reserve Your Tickets

When: Wednesday, May 15, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM **Where: North York Central Library Concourse**



Seniors Centre provides an innovative solution to streamline caregiving. Designed to simplify the often overwhelming task of organizing essential

information, the binder serves as a comprehensive resource for caregivers. From medication schedules to documenting daily observations and medical

history, this workshop will guide you through the optimal utilization of our caregiver binder. Don't miss out on the opportunity to get your hands on this invaluable tool and learn how to manage caregiving responsibilities with ease. When: Thursday, May 16, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Where: 21 Hendon Ave., Cafe To register, contact Stacy Hilliman at (416) 733-4111. Registration is free!



Community Police Liaison Committee for an unforgettable evening at the annual 32 Division Police Week Community BBQ!

Come together on Saturday, May 18th, from 4-8 PM at 30 Ellerslie Ave. Join

your neighbors for delicious BBQ and good times. Don't miss out on this

fantastic community event!

Calling all community members! You're cordially invited to join the 32 Division





We Invite You To Join Us For Our

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Tuesday, May 21st from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the North York Central Library in Meeting Room 2/3.

(5120 YONGE STREET)

AGM AGENDA

Your board members are eager to hear and address your concerns, so bring your ideas and enthusiasm for our community. If you're interested in joining the board, please send an email expressing your interest by May 14th. Let's make this meeting a lively and productive one together, ensuring that every voice is heard and valued! The agenda for the upcoming meeting will be as follows:

- Agenda Review
- Previous AGM Minutes
- Election of Board of Directors
- Annual Reports Councillor Lily Cheng Community Updates
- Open Discussion

neighbours to attend virtually. Contact us for updates. westwillowdale@gmail.com

www.westwillowdale.com

While this is an in-person event, we are looking into the possibility of having an option for

JOIN US

TUESDAY MAY

21ST 2024

WILLOWDALE WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION ANNUAL **GENERAL MEETING**

Your Willowdale West Neighbourhood Association board members are eager to

hear and address your concerns, so bring your ideas and enthusiasm for our community at the annual general meeting! If you're interested in joining the board, please send an email expressing your

When: Tuesday, May 21 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

interest by May 14th to westwillowdale@gmail.com.



Join in on a celebration of the vibrancy and diversity of Asian cultures at the 2024 AHM Cultural Festival, a signature event of the Asian Heritage Month

ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH CULTURAL FESTIVAL

hosted by the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto (CCCGT). This event brings together communities from various Asian backgrounds to share and celebrate their unique cultural heritage. This festival is a dynamic

showcase of rich traditions and contemporary innovations from across Asia,

featuring spectacular performances and exquisite culinary experiences. Mark your calendars for a full day of excitement and cultural immersion at Mel Lastman Square on Saturday, May 25th, from 12 PM to 10 PM. Experience the unity and beauty of Asia through a tapestry of artistic expressions and

flavors, right in the heart of Toronto.

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE LAUNCH OF

Learn More



Ed is a fellow Willowdaler and this is his debut novel! He will be reading from

and speaking about The Laundryman's Boy. An audience Q&A will follow.

I am excited and honoured to be hosting the welcome and introduction for this event!

When: Sunday, May 26, 2 PM - 3 PM **Where: North York Central Library, Room 101**

Register Here!

NEWCOMERS



4:00 PM - 6:00 PM TIME: **LOCATION: Spring Garden Church,** 112 Spring Garden Avenue



tea, light refreshments and community connection!



NEWCOMERS WELCOME TEA Connect with fellow newcomers and friendly Canadians who want to help at a Newcomer Welcome Tea on Sunday, May 26th from 4 - 6 PM at Spring Garden Church (112 Spring Garden Ave). This is a FREE family-friendly event hosted by local charity NeighbourLink North York. There will be activities,

Register Here



TAIWAN TAPESTRY AT NORTH YORK CENTRAL LIBRARY

Join the Young Taiwanese Merchants Association of Toronto on Sunday May 26 at 11:30 AM at the North York Central Library for a day filled with Taiwanese culture and heritage. Dive into the rich tapestry of Taiwan through compelling storytelling, fun activities, and delicious food! Don't miss out on this unique blend of culture, heritage, and cuisine. Reserve your spot today!

Reserve Your Ticket



LUMINATO FESTIVAL

This June, Luminato Festival Toronto, the city's multi-arts festival, returns to kick off the summer with memorable arts experiences.

From June 5 to June 16, 2024, Luminato will present a vibrant programming lineup featuring exceptional Canadian and international artists who will illuminate the city with a unique blend of music, dance, theatre, performance art, and more.

SPACED, curated by Banded Purple, celebrates the notion that art can be

found in every corner and can permeate every aspect of our lives. The artists behind SPACED aim to take up space and affirm their own presence in the world, and to inspire people to recognize the beauty that exists in the world even in the most unlikely of spaces. Check out their exhibit at Finch Station from June 5 to June 16!

Learn More



Join Fariba Cultural and Art Studies Centre on June 12, 2024, from 6-9 pm at Fairview Library Auditorium for the inaugural program of the forthcoming

Iranian Culture and Art Series! This event aims to celebrate the diverse regions of Iran through their unique themes in song, music, and dance. Tickets are \$35.

For more information and reservations, please contact 647-862-4056.

LET'S CONNECT ON SOCIAL

You can <u>Unsubscribe</u> or <u>Update your preferences</u>

You are receiving this email as you signed up for our newsletters.

Want to change how you receive these emails?