

December
2020



Light 'em up! No Chevy Chase, but a pretty darn good imitation in West St. Paul

It was reminiscent of a Griswold family Christmas when West St. Paul Coun. Giorgio Busceti wrestled with miles of tangled extension cords to plug in the Municipal Hall's holiday lights on Nov. 25.

They finally flashed on and the rest of council – Mayor Cheryl Christian and Couns. Eleanor Link, Dorothy Kleiber and Stan Parag

– offered celebratory cheers. All members wore masks and when they were removed they were socially distanced. The RM office and trees are now officially lit. Happy Holidays everyone. Stay safe and healthy. To view a video of the lighting ceremony, go to <https://youtu.be/LJPapn77vYA>

Check out the RM of West St. Paul's rendition of a Griswold lighting reveal! Happy Holidays everyone, stay safe and stay healthy. <https://youtu.be/LJPapn77vYA>



Greetings from the Mayor - Cheryl Christian



It is my pleasure to bring greetings to our residents for this, our final newsletter of 2020. It has certainly been quite a year. We have faced some challenging times, adapting to an unprecedented global pandemic and Provincial COVID-19 restrictions. I want to thank all our West St. Paul residents and families for following the public health orders. I'm proud of our community members for being so diligent. Let's not forget why these restrictions are in place and that following the public health orders is an act of love for our families, friends and neighbours.

Despite the challenges created by COVID, I'm very proud of our municipal council and staff for working to ensure municipal business continues for our community and our residents. We have so many exciting projects in West St. Paul, like two new bridges over the Grassmere Drain. Thank you to Minister Ron Schuler and our MLA, Shannon Martin, for the special ribbon cutting event in October to officially open the new vehicle and pedestrian bridges over the Grassmere Drain. We are so excited to see these projects complete. The new bridges will improve traffic safety, connect our trails in West St. Paul for walking and biking and help prevent flooding with improved drainage in our community and other communities along the Grassmere Drain. These are great projects for the safety and well being of our community and our residents. I'm so proud of the positive partnership we have with the Provincial government.

As you will see in this newsletter, all members of council were able to tour a newly created path through a treed area near River Springs Drive. It was wonderful to meet with the developer and all members of council for questions. An area that was previously not accessible to the public, on private land, will soon be open for all West St. Paul residents to enjoy. Residents will be able to walk between River Springs Drive and Masters Avenue along a beautiful, preserved treed area. Well planned development in our community can not

only preserve green space but can also bring safety improvements to existing neighborhoods, like fire hydrants and speed humps, at no cost to current residents. Nine fire hydrants were installed along River Springs Drive in November and will provide added safety to the current 43 homes.

Another wonderful community project is the Seven Oaks Agricultural Learning Centre. I want to extend a special thank you to Alexis, program coordinator at the Aki Centre, for the guided tour on Nov. 6th. Stan Parag, Councillor for the area, and myself were able to see first hand the work that has been completed on-site as per the development agreement with our municipality. In November, 364 trees have been planted. This is above and beyond the initial trees planted on-site and the large tree nursery. In recent months, over 180 shrubs have also been planted along with the seeds from various prairie grasses and a vegetable garden. For West St. Paul residents, the trail system on this property is open to the public. A site to explore anytime of the year!

In October, I was pleased to welcome the new RCMP Sargent of the Red River North Detachment in East St. Paul, Sargent Joe Duncan. Councillor Parag and I had another opportunity to meet with Sargent Duncan in December to share the concerns of our local residents around rural crime, speeding, police presence, our COPP program and various other issues. Sargent Duncan will be meeting with our West St. Paul Council quarterly to share local crime statistics. That information will be available for all community members to review in our meeting agendas, reflecting our commitment to open and transparent governance. I'm looking forward to working with Sargent Duncan to ensure a safe community for all.

On behalf of West St. Paul Council, administration and staff, I want to extend best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season. I know that Christmas will be much different for many of our residents this year, with Covid restrictions in place. It is my hope that each one of you will find happiness this season by creating new traditions and new ways to celebrate.

Thank you
Cheryl Christian, Mayor

Standby generator keeps Sunova going 24/7

The Sunova Centre is now equipped with an emergency standby generator.

The Sunova Centre is the municipality's recreation site and the home of West St. Paul Nursery School and the standby generator will keep the lights and heat on in the event of a power failure.

The Centre is also rented out hundreds of times a year for everything from craft sales to wedding socials, so the generator will make sure those events can continue to run if there is a power failure while they're taking place.

West St. Paul has an Emergency Preparedness Plan and the Sunova Centre is the RM's Emergency Operations Centre.

"In the case of an emergency the Sunova Centre is where we would coordinate out of and if there was a scenario where residents had to be evacuated that's where we would be

housing them," said Mayor Cheryl Christian.

"It's essential that the Sunova Centre has power at all times and the standby generator ensures that."

Ken Azaransky, Municipal Emergency Coordinator, worked with council and administration in building the emergency plan and having a standby generator is crucial to its success.

"The Sunova Centre plays a crucial role in all our emergency planning so it cannot be susceptible to a power failure at a time when we need it most," Azaransky said.

"The standby generator is one of the most crucial items in our emergency planning."

The 2020 Capital Reserve Budget

included \$236,000 for the purchase and install of the generator; it came in well under budget and the RM paid \$102,713.35 for the unit and installation, which is \$133,286.65 below the budgeted amount. ●●●



From West St. Paul to Augusta, Derek Ingram is living the golf dream

If you know anything at all about golf it might be that the Masters is a pretty big deal. And if you live and breathe golf, you know the Masters is the biggest deal there is.

West St. Paul resident Derek Ingram knows it better than most.

"It's the pinnacle of golf, it's like going to heaven," says Ingram, who this year coached Canadian Corey Connors to an impressive 10th place finish at the COVID-delayed and altered event.

"It's the best golf tournament in the world and as a coach, to be there with a player, is really a dream come true.

"It's so perfect it's hard to believe it's even real, you have to bend down and touch the grass, it's in such perfect shape. There's not a leaf or a pine needle out of position. It's magical, that's all I can say."

For Ingram, it's the third time he's lived the Masters' dream at Augusta National in Georgia, and it really doesn't get any less thrilling. He's coached Connors twice and Mackenzie Hughes twice as well, but on one occasion with Hughes he was there for practice rounds about a month ahead of time instead of at the actual tournament.

"Even though it's my third time there it's still the best place to be as a golf professional and as a golf coach. It's really where you want to be."

He's actually been to Augusta eight or nine times, but he, like the rest of us, hasn't been able to drive, chip or putt on the iconic course.

"No unfortunately, I wish I golfed the course. As a coach, I'm just supporting the player," he says.

And he's supporting from a distance. While at other courses coaches have "pretty much unlimited access to pretty much everything," rules at Augusta are so strict the only close contact coaches have with their players is on the driving range and putting and short game practice areas.

"You can't actually walk inside the ropes during practice rounds."

Still, Ingram took advantage of some of the irregularities COVID presented and sunk his cleats into forbidden fairways, or more likely, forbidden rough.

"I'd break the rules and sneak inside," he laughed.

"They didn't have ropes they only painted lines this year because there was no fans, but as soon as I got in there inside those painted

lines they would come over and remind me to stay outside of them, so it was kinda funny."

The reverence afforded to Augusta – typically held in April each year but a November event in 2020 due to COVID – is deserved, Ingram said.



Coach and player with caddy Kyle Petters.

Everything from the green jacket presented to each year's winner to the near Herculean effort needed to get there, the tournament earns its respect.

It's the hardest tournament to qualify for because while most feature a field of around 150 competitors, The Masters has less than 100. And your route to getting there is limited, you have to be a winner on the PGA Tour the

previous year or be Top 50 in the world.

Once you've been there, there are a couple paths back to the Masters – if you win, you're in for life, and if you finish in the Top 12, you're invited back for the next year.

And so while most of us are thinking that 2020 didn't have much going for it, coach Ingram will forever remember 2020 as the year Connors played his way to the 10th spot at nine-under and earned his way back again next year. The winner was Dustin Johnson at 20-under.

"It ended up being such a great week for Corey," Ingram said.

"It was really nice for him to play well and have a great tournament and earn his way back into next year's Augusta."

Ingram and his wife Kim and their two sons, Brent and Adam, have lived in West St. Paul for about 11 years. Before that, they were in Riverbend and Garden City.

"It was always our dream to live in West St. Paul, that's a little bit weird, I hate to say that," he laughed.

"But we always wanted to be in West St. Paul, I guess that was the north end dream back then."

He said he initially didn't consider a career as a golf professional, even though he started off at a college in the States. After one year he returned home, went to the U of M and had his eye on a career as a pharmacist.

Then he took a run at golf, spent a couple years on the Canadian tour, and here we are. Ingram is the Canadian National Team Coach and he laughed thinking about the fact that our country's national golf coach is a guy from Winnipeg who lives in West St. Paul.

"I'm pretty sure that no one in the world

would think that Canada's national team coach would be from Winnipeg," he laughed.

He travels a lot – saying he's on the road about 200 days a year – and he thinks those who live in close proximity to him might think he's gone even more.

"If you ask my neighbours they'd say I'm never home," he laughed.

"Consistently the worst lawn in the neighbourhood."

And he's fond of saying he's paid to travel, he does his job for free.

Life on the road "sounds a lot sexier than it is," Ingram said, but he's not complaining. When he's away, he's working, albeit at a job he loves.

At Augusta, he said they were starting a 4:15am and finishing up at dark, so it's a cycle of golf course and hotel and not much else.

Ingram was in Tokyo preparing for the Olympics last February when COVID shuttered the games and the rest of the world. He hopped a plane and headed home.

He said it turns out he needed the break.

"For me the first two months I was extremely burnt out and thankful, obviously I didn't want people to be sick, but I was happy for the downtime."

He started working again in about mid-June. When he did this interview he was on his fourth quarantine at home after returning from the U.S. He said the first trip back to the States was nerve wracking, but he quickly realized that by following the rules, he could earn a living safely.

"I would say most people in North America, like 95 per cent, are obeying all the rules, they're social distancing, they're wearing a mask, washing their hands. I found people really, really obeying the rules in the U.S. and Canada, so I felt very comfortable," he said.

"For me it's not really an option, either keep your job or you don't get to work... After a day or two, I realized everyone's at least as concerned about this as I am."

Among all his highlights, he said coming home is always one of them.

"I'm fortunate to love my job and to love to coach golf and to coach the players I do, so it's a lot of fun." ●●●



Ingram and Connors at the Masters this past Nov. 12-15.

Grassmere Bridge award winning

The new Grassmere Bridge has received a 2020 Construction Award from the Province of Manitoba.

The award was announced at the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association's virtual annual general meeting on Nov. 20.

The bridge, by M.D. Steele Construction Ltd., was the winner in the Major Structures category.

Company President Richard Wilson said it was great to win the award for a project in West St. Paul, where they relocated to about a year-and-a-half ago.

"We're happy, it's not often you get an opportunity to build something in our back yard and we consider this our back yard now," Wilson said.

"It's nice to be able to contribute. That bridge was an old structure with an old box culvert underneath. Having that transportation path there is great and being able to tie it in across the drain is fantastic."

The company is well known for its bridge construction and you can drive over their work throughout the province, from the new Winnipeg River bridge in Lac du Bonnet to the Provencher Bridges, both traffic and pedestrian.

M.D. Steele Construction has been in business since 1993 and is a multiple winner of the province's construction awards.

"The annual construction awards are a 30-year tradition that was established to provide the industry with formal recognition for its fantastic work," said Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler.

"It's important to recognize the hard-working people that keep

our infrastructure going even during these difficult times. Their work ensures that our trucks keep moving goods on our highways, that road works are maintained for essential workers to get to their jobs, and that our communities have access to safe and sustainable infrastructure."

Mayor Cheryl Christian said the RM was proud to support the province on the \$7.2 million project, which includes the east-side pedestrian bridge and the upcoming matching pedestrian bridge, further to the west at 572 Grassmere Road.

"The new bridge improves safety for our residents, both those driving in vehicles and those riding bikes or walking along the municipality's active transportation trails," Christian said.

"Safety and community beautification were identified as top priorities for West St. Paul citizens and we're proud to work with the province on this major project for the community."

Projects are submitted for seven different construction categories and evaluated on a number of different criteria including quality of work, adherence to contract specifications and design criteria, complexity of project, and being on time and on budget. ●●●



We're just guessing, but there's probably snow on the ground now

At the time this newsletter went to the printer in early December, there was barely a skiff of snow on the ground.

The temperatures were the stuff of dreams, often hovering above 0C in the daytime and barely crossing below at night.

We couldn't predict what would transpire between the newsletter's arrival at the printer and its delivery to your doorstep, but since most of us weren't born yesterday our educated guess is that snow has fallen and so too have the temperatures.

Hello winter, what took ya so long?

The inevitable arrival of snow and cold is a Manitoba guarantee, and with snow comes the need for plows to hit the streets and clear it off. The RM has a six-person crew that is responsible for clearing the entire municipality and they do their best to get the job done quickly and safely.

We ask that you exercise caution when you see them out on the roads. We want everyone to have a safe winter.

West St. Paul snow clearing policy

Snow clearing is categorized into three conditions – a major storm event (10 cm or more of snow, due to snow fall or wind); storm event (6-10 cm of snow, due to snowfall or wind); and routine maintenance (less than 6 cm of snowfall or accumulation).

In a Major Storm Event or a Storm Event, snow clearing will start at 5 a.m. In a Major Storm event, streets will be cleared within 72 hours from the conclusion of event; in a Storm Event, streets will be cleared within 48 hours from the conclusion. Snow clearing will be carried out in areas not having garbage or recycling pickup that day, if at all possible.

For General Maintenance, snow clearing will start at 8 a.m.

Priorities for clearing snow are:

- 1 Fire Hall, Emergency Medical Services Building (Paramedic Station), Evelyn and Balderstone Avenues, Municipal Office
- 2 Grassmere Road, Kapelus Drive and Holland Road
- 3 Municipal Streets, Sunova Centre
- 4 Intersections, trails, bus shacks and skating rink

The RM does snow clearing on provincial highways located with the RM boundaries only when emergency conditions arise.

The RM clears snow in all paved and non-paved back lanes.

Private driveways will have windrows, created by municipal equipment, cleared. However, driveways adjacent to an intersection will only have windrows cleared when the accumulation is greater than 30 cm.

To see the complete snow clearing policy, please go to:

<https://weststpaul.com/Home/DownloadDocument?docId=dc02b56-36dd-47a4-b2c1-d2f03ee31800>



WSP ambassadors to educate residents on health care order compliance

The RM of West St. Paul is using funding it received from the provincial government's Safe Start Agreement for By-Law enforcement to educate the public about the need to continue to adhere to public health orders relating to COVID-19.

"We will use this opportunity for our WSP ambassadors to educate people and inform them about the need to not gather in groups, to practice social distancing and wash their hands and do their part to contain this virus," Mayor Cheryl Christian said.

"We know people are tired of the lockdown and their tired of not being able to see loved ones and we know this because we are all tired of it. But, we're so close to a vaccine and it's really important

to stay vigilant and everyone do their part to make it to the finish line, because for the first time we can actually see the finish line."

The RM has two ambassadors that began work this fall, welcoming newcomers to the municipality and providing them with information ranging from how to get on the voter list and what By-Laws might be important to them.

The ambassadors' focus isn't handing out tickets, rather it's educating the public about the importance of following the health orders.

They will also continue to let people know about municipal By-Laws and for those who are in contravention they will offer ways they can comply.

During the Strategic Planning process residents said By-Law enforcement was a top priority and this funding helps give the ambassadors more experience working with the community.



Get your HO HO happening with Holiday Yards of the Season

With COVID-19 making indoor gatherings a no-no during the season that's usually so full of Ho Ho, the best thing we can all do is get outdoors and a fun contest will allow us all to do just that.

The Red River North Holiday Yards of the Season contest challenged everyone to decorate their yard for fun and prizes and see how others in neighbouring communities are joining in on the fun as well.

"It's a good morale booster at this time of year," says Damara Geddes, Recreation Director with the RM of West St. Paul.

"We know that indoor gatherings can't take place right now so having a little fun outdoors and even taking a drive to look at the lights and decorations throughout the communities taking part in the contest is fun and a safe way to enjoy the season."

A map of the competing yards is available so you can take a drive and take in all the fantastic yards, plus there is a Bingo competition and you can vote for your favourite yard!

Red River North Holiday Yards of the Season Map of Homes

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1L4EEqar4B-52PkOoimBj8mKjn4GnZcuE&ll=50.13749472277571%2C-97.01211264999999&z=11>

Plan your trip throughout the region to view all of the light displays at the home or business participating in the contest!

Red River North Holiday Yards of the Season Bingo!

BLACK OUT your Bingo Card for a chance to win a Prize Pack! Visit participating locations on the Map of Homes to view the light displays in each community and cover all the spaces on your card

Red River North Holiday Yards of the Season PEOPLE'S CHOICE

We want to know what display YOU liked the best! VOTE for the display you want to win the People's Choice Award.

Visit weststpaul.com to get your Bingo card and learn how to vote for your favourite!

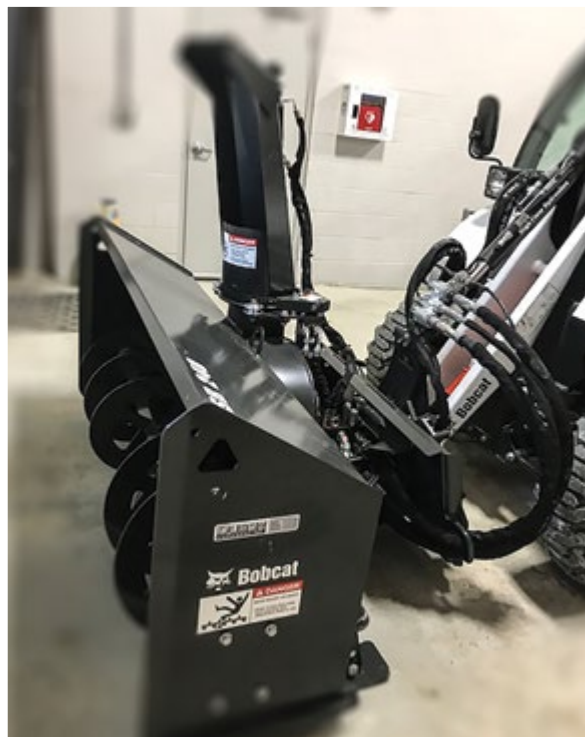
Judges will pick winners in the following categories – Best Overall Light Display and Best Overall Theme, as well as Best Decorated in each community, which will be chosen by local representatives. ●●●

Snow blower improves winter trails maintenance

The RM's new Bobcat Utility Vehicle was used this summer to maintain West St. Paul's trail system and it will be in use this winter as well.

A six-foot wide snow blower will be used for clearing snow from the trails.

The Bobcat UV will also be used in numerous scenarios and can work with various attachments, which will improve maintenance and service to several parts of the municipality. ●●●



The 2019 West St. Paul holiday lights contest winner



222 Moore Road

THE 2019 WEST ST. PAUL HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST
HONORABLE MENTION - 439 Moore Rd



River Springs Drive taking shape

As River Springs Drive begins to take shape, Matt Glavin is confident the community will be recognized for the same attention to detail and high quality as previous Terracon Developments.

“When we do a development we like to say that we put our stamp on it by adding an extensive amount of landscaping and that’s sort of our signature, we go above and beyond the minimum requirements when it comes to pathways, when it comes to benches and play structures and trees and all of those elements that really help build a community,” said Glavin, Development Manager with Terracon.

“It’s certainly something that we look forward to doing for River Springs and the future phases. We want to be able to put our stamp on that and make it have the same elements and features as the Trails of West St. Paul, if not more – that’s something we’re committed to doing.”

Indeed, Terracon is the company behind the Trails of West St. Paul, and Glavin was thrilled in September when a dual purpose ceremony took place to open the new play structure and at the same time welcome the new residents to the community.

Around 75 people turned out that day, and the feeling of community enveloped everything, from the ribbon cutting to the hot dogs and pop that folks chowed down on.

Mayor Cheryl Christian said Glavin and all at Terracon did a stellar job with the Trails of West St. Paul, and she’s pleased with River Springs Drive as well.

“We know Terracon’s good reputation and we’ve seen it in the Trails. They don’t just build houses, they build communities and we’re really proud of that,” Christian said.

“I’m impressed with how they’ve listened to community concerns and responded to them. It’s exciting.”

With River Springs Drive, the attention to detail began before any shovels ever went into the ground. Open houses invited the public in to exchange ideas and Glavin said the Terracon team listened.

Trees were of great concern – existing residents didn’t want to lose them – and Glavin said they made that a priority.

“That was our biggest hurdle from the very get go here and understanding how sensitive it was for the residents, as they certainly voiced their concerns at the hearings,” Glavin said.

“It really was something that we committed to, that we would do our best to protect as many as we could.”

Driveway locations were tweaked in an effort to preserve trees and in the end only 36 boulevard trees were lost, and Glavin said they will be replaced.

“We were very strategic on how the driveways had to be cut and you’ll notice on the west side we’ve saved a good number of the boulevard trees,” Glavin said.

“On the east side there’s a clump of trees that remains and when someone drives down they’ll see a clump of trees, a driveway, another driveway and a clump of trees. It will still have that treed effect in the front.”

It wasn’t an easy task, as it required directional drilling for the services – water and sewer – that go under the ground and strategic locations for hydrants and manholes.

Terracon also changed its original plans that called for connecting to the existing sewer line on the other side of the street. That however, would have required disruption to the boulevard in front of many homes. They spent an additional \$100,000 to install a second sewer line on the south side of the street to avoid what would have amounted to a significant inconvenience for residents.

“As you sort of look at things and look at engineering designs, sometimes they don’t make sense when you start moving forward with boots on the ground,” Glavin said.

“In our original plans we had envisioned connecting to the sewer line that’s existing on the other side of the street and then realizing that would have resulted in 20-plus boulevard excavations, that’s rather disruptive and certainly would have not gone over well with the residents.”

There was only one excavation done on the other side of the street to connect to the land drainage system and that will be topsoiled and sodded next year.

Terracon has put in a new gravel pathway that connects to the existing one through the trees to join River Springs to Masters Avenue. There’s a temporary woodchip pathway that will eventually be

upgraded and more pathways will emerge as future development occurs.

Christian said that connection was planned to occur in a future phase, but at the RM’s request, Glavin included it in this first phase.

“Some may see it as a small gesture but it gives people access through that wooded area, it connects River Springs to Masters and it adds to our existing trail system, so it’s quite significant,” Christian said.

“It’s another example of Matt and Terracon being willing to work with us, work with the

With River Springs Drive, the attention to detail began before any shovels ever went into the ground. Open houses invited the public in to exchange ideas and Glavin said the Terracon team listened.



Mayor Cheryl Christian, Couns. Eleanor Link and Stan Parag and Terracon’s Matt Glavin on the pathway in the treed area between River Springs and Masters Avenue.



Glavin with Couns. Giorgio Busceti and Dorothy Kleiber and CAO Brent Olynyk on the temporary woodchip path leading to the treed area.



Sgt. Joe Duncan - NCO Red River North Detachment Supervisor

Sgt. Joe Duncan has been the Operations NCO Red River North Detachment Supervisor since September and in this strangest of times, his new posting includes some work that is a little off the beaten path.

And that is, of course, thanks to COVID-19.

“COVID-19 is a complete anomaly for everyone but it’s had a tremendous impact on our detachment,” Duncan said.

“We have to do a lot of COVID compliance checks for travellers that are coming back to Canada or people that are travelling within North America, we have to ensure that they’re isolating for their 14 days. We’re heavily tasked with that.”

Duncan joined the RCMP in 2006 and worked his first few years on the force in southeastern Saskatchewan, in a small community that he likened to Red River North.

“I worked there for three and half years in a rural community with a lot of the challenges that we have here, so I got a bit of an exposure to that,” he said.

From there, he spent time in northern Saskatchewan, then transferred to Cross Lake in northern Manitoba where his wife was working as a nurse.

Next was a stint in Moose Lake, outside of The Pas, where he was promoted to Detachment Commander and spent two years.

D Division in Winnipeg was Duncan’s next stop where he worked in Criminal Operations as the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the RCMP in Manitoba. He transferred within the unit and became a division policy analyst before his current post in Red River North.

Since arriving, Duncan said one of the most prevalent issues he sees is with motorists on the road.

“There’s a lot of driving distractions, cell phones and speed in certain areas,” Duncan said.

And he noted it’s not just young people using their cell phones while driving, it’s everyone.

“It’s a very big concern,” he said.

“It’s comparable to impaired driving, the severity of it”

And, he said, property crime is definitely on the rise.

He said a new Crime Reduction Unit based out of the East District – located in the Selkirk RCMP Detachment – was formed recently.

“Their focus is on prolific offenders, fire arms, drugs, all this kind of ties into each other with the property crimes,” Duncan said.

Members are delegated to the unit to work specifically on things they can’t work on at the detachment level, he said, adding the same type of unit has existed in Thompson for about eight years and additional funding was provided to start the East District unit.

community because they want good things for the community.”

Glavin said along with the pathways, they’re obligated to preserve a minimum of three acres of the central treed area, but he hopes to do more.

“We will make every effort to try and exceed this number. Through our public consultation process for the future phases, we aim to seek valuable input from residents on establishing a permanent north-south connection between River Springs Drive and Master Avenue,” he said.

The berms at the back of the new lots represent the finished grades of the lots and Glavin said they’re cautious when bringing fill in or using what’s dug out for basements, ensuring proper placement so drainage runs from back to front.

“The lots do have to drain and they drain from rear to front and we have to be cognizant of that,” he said.

“We’re very careful with where fill is placed, so all the work that was done was done very carefully so as to not damage the trees and we were sensitive to the existing roads, we made sure that streets were cleaned on a weekly basis and any disruption and activity that was done in the area was done to adhere to the noise By-Laws.”

Terracon has engaged a public consulting expert to run a series of workshops and open houses in the community to facilitate moving forward with future phases of the development.

He said he recognizes that people aren’t always happy when something new comes to the neighbourhood, and at Terracon, they want to work with people to make progress something everyone can be proud of.

“Change is never an easy thing and in this case it’s change with what has been seen across the street for many years,” he said.

“We appreciate that and when we had open houses we made modifications to our lot sizes. We started with lot sizes that were 50 feet and even a lot shallower and we bumped them up to 60 feet by 144 and even adjusted our set backs so that we could compliment the lots across the street.

“Whenever we have open houses and workshops it’s important to receive feedback because that helps shape the ultimate design.”

Glavin said he’s spoken with some residents who have been impressed with the adjustments Terracon has made.

“I have talked with a couple of residents on the street who have just happened to be out for a walk and they said ‘you know, this really looks good,’ they were somewhat surprised how many trees we were able to save,” he said.

The first phase contains 36 homes and construction is expected to begin this month or next. ●●●



Mayor Christian with Sgt. Joe Duncan.

Parkview Pointe taking shape

West St. Paul's newest neighbourhood, Parkview Pointe, is taking shape just north of the Perimeter Highway next to the Sunova Centre and developer Waterside Development is working hard to make sure it lives up to its tag-line – Love Where You Live.

Parkview Pointe is a whole community designed for families and extended families and its homes will be attractive to 'first time home buyers or empty nesters looking to downsize.' The 331-lot development includes a range of housing options including single-family homes, attached dwellings, bungalow side by sides and apartment units. There will be a lake and a playground for the kids.

Mayor Cheryl Christian said she had a conversation with Donna Thordarson from Waterside Development and suggested a pergola might be a nice touch for the development. Christian was blown away when the company planned a spectacular timber frame pergola for the community.

"They went above and beyond and designed a feature that I'm sure will become a destination for people out walking the trails and enjoying nature in our community," Christian said.

"It'll be water front and an excellent place for gathering, and I can envision people taking wedding photos there. It's just an impressive design that people are really going to enjoy."

Thordarson said the goal is always to exceed expectations and the pergola will add to all the features the development offers.

"We truly do want people to love where they live, and having the pergola as a centrepiece of the community certainly helps that," Thordarson said.

"It's a really nice touch and I'm excited for people to see it and enjoy it."

CAO Brent Olynyk said he can see the pergola becoming West St. Paul's signature landmark.

"There are go-to places in the province that people talk about and recognize and I can see this being one of them," Olynyk said.

"It's such an impressive design and it fits perfectly with the trails and park-like features Waterside has built into the community."

Besides providing homes for new families or long-time residents looking to perhaps move off their acreage, the new development benefits the municipality in several ways. The lots are fully serviced and the Sunova Centre, West St. Paul's Recreation Centre, now has municipal wastewater service thanks to the development, which also paid for the expansion of paved surfacing on Kapelus Drive.

Parkview Pointe will feature about 2.5 kms of trails and sidewalks that will connect to the Sunova Centre and the developers will contribute to the construction of a trail from Parkview Pointe to a planned pedestrian bridge across the Grassmere Drain. The Province will also contribute financially to the bridge.

Christian said the trails and the bridge will connect the rest of the municipality with the Sunova Centre.

"The bridge and the trails will allow everyone, no matter where you live in the municipality, to get to the Sunova Centre safely while walking or on your bike," Christian said.

Parkview Pointe will generate well over \$3 million in development fees for the RM. This money will be used for improvements to the fire department, safety measures and playgrounds.

The development will also bring in an estimated \$750,000 in taxes annually.

Construction has started on 13 homes already, and 33 additional building permits have been applied for. ●●●



Teachings endless at Aki Centre

Students in the 7Oaks School Division have a unique learning opportunity here in West St. Paul at the 49-acre Ozhaawashkwaa Animikii-Bineshi Aki Onji Kinimaagae' Inun, Blue Thunderbird Land-based Teachings Learning Centre. And though COVID-19 presented its challenges, that learning continued safely throughout the pandemic.

Alexis Nazeravich, Program Coordinator at the Centre, also known as the Aki Centre, said this is year three of “stewarding and learning”.

“This is a place where we come to learn from and care for the land, for each other, and for ourselves. A place that provokes our senses and helps us to connect to the ways the land sustains us all,” Nazeravich said.

“This is a place where the curriculum is living and breathing.”

There was plenty of activity at the Aki Centre in 2020, including planting of trees and an eco buffer, prairie restoration and conservation and the construction of a passive solar greenhouse.

Though students couldn't take place in all activities, they did when possible.

A spring tree planting of 160 tree and shrub seedlings had to be done with the support of Educational Assistants rather than the students themselves due to remote learning at the time. Still, Nazeravich said, the planting was in response to the students' request for medicines and berries to be planted close to the Centre's Sweat Lodge.

Grades 9 and 10 youth were able to take part in plantings in July and August as part of the Wayfinder's Summer School Program and earned credits through this land-based, experiential learning opportunity.

“As part of course completion, youth planted 181 Indigenous shrubs near the sweat lodge and tipi and adjacent to the model prairie, while learning about the relationships between soil, plants, wildlife, air, and water,” Nazeravich said.

In the fall, 338 trees and shrubs were planted in an eco-buffer design, which Nazeravich described as having a slight modification from a typical shelterbelt and being “more densely planted and including a higher diversity of Indigenous trees and shrubs, mixing fast growing nurse trees, tall shrubs, and slower growing trees in a naturalized arrangement”. East Interlake Watershed District assisted in creating the eco-buffer design and species selection.



“In addition to providing shelter and a privacy screen, they provide superior habitat for wildlife and pollinators, increase biodiversity, and require less maintenance – by allowing for fewer weeds – than traditional shelterbelts,” Nazeravich said.

Twenty-six more trees were planted along eastern pathways and berms, including flowering crab apple, weeping willow and Brandon elms.

Nazeravich said in June, their two-year effort to harvest and procure local grasses and forbs seeds that originated and genetically evolved in close proximity to, and under similar environmental conditions, as the centre’s site, came to fruition.

“We had a high diversity mix of Indigenous, tallgrass prairie seeds for our restoration. In May and June we experienced perfect conditions for seeding our 30 acre, prairie restoration areas.”

The Conservation Trust and The Winnipeg Foundation are two partners in the stewardship process that looks to re-build relationships between people and the land and which help the Aki Centre to steward the land to improve water quality, enhance carbon sequestration, improve soil health, enhance biodiversity, and create habitat.

A ditch takes on a whole new, and important, role when you’re conserving the prairie landscape and Nazeravich said they are continually monitoring the ditches on the property, learning from them and using them to restore the habitat.

“We continue to monitor and survey the roadside ditch along our property, which is a relatively healthy fragment of the original tallgrass prairie. We call this a ‘remnant prairie,’ she said.

“We look for invasive weeds, which we remove before they set seed. We do species counts to learn about our current biodiversity and how it responds to our stewardship, and submit data to scientific data repositories like iNaturalist and eBird. We also harvest Indigenous grass and flower seed from this area, which we clean, store, and use to grow live plants plugs in spring, or to re-seed onto our restoration acres.”

Cooperative Vocational Building Trades instructor Jason Camphuis led a team of students through a June to November build of a passive solar greenhouse, which is used to support the growing of Indigenous plants for ecological and cultural restoration and food crops for local consumption.

Cargill Cares joined this project a year ago, providing monetary support for the project and connections to experts in the field of agronomy and food production.

Students started the build in June and some continued over the summer as Green Team staff. When school resumed in September, the students returned to work on the job, learning as they go. ●●●



Important Information and Frequently Called Numbers in West St. Paul

WEST ST. PAUL COUNCIL MEETINGS:

- The second Tuesday of the month (COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE) at 3:30pm
- The second Thursday of the month (REGULAR PLANNING MEETING) at 6:00pm
- The fourth Thursday of the month (REGULAR MEETING) at 6:00pm
- All council meetings will be live streamed to the Municipal YouTube channel - visit our website for the link

Meetings subject to change please check website or contact the RM.

Council Contacts	Phone	Email
Mayor Cheryl Christian	204-338-4339	mayorcheryl@weststpaul.com
Councillor Eleanor Link Ward 1	204-996-5426	eleanor@1045.ca
Councillor Giorgio Busceti Ward 2	204-228-4216	giorgioward2@gmail.com
Councillor Dorothy Kleiber Ward 3	204-334-9506	klybr1@gmail.com
Councillor Stan Parag Ward 4	204-803-0389	stanparag@gmail.com

STAFF:

Chief Administrative Officer – Brent Olynyk	204-338-0306
Municipal Legislative Officer – Lainie Shaw	204-338-0306
Acting Director of Finance – Carol Rempel	204-338-0306
Acting Director of Infrastructure – Dave Romanow.....	204-338-0306
Acting Director of Planning, Property & Community Services – Pam Elias	204-338-0306
Sunova Centre	204-336-0294
WSP Municipal By-Law Enforcement Department.....	204-338-0306
Animal Control (24-hour answering machine)	204-223-5521

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

BFI Prairie Green Facility	204-694-7615
Environment Canada (Toll Free)	1-800-667-8676
Middlechurch Home	204-339-1947
Emterra Environmental (Recycling & Garbage)	204-772-0770
RCMP East St. Paul Non-emergency	204-668-8322
Red River Planning District	204-482-3717 or 1-800-876-5831
West St. Paul Nursery School.....	204-334-9669
West St. Paul School	204-339-1964
Raquel Dancho - MP Kildonan-St. Paul	204-984-6322
Shannon Martin - MLA for St. Paul.....	204-945-3709
Evelyn Myskiw - School Trustee Seven Oaks School Division	204-339-1242
Request for Services – Link on Website.....	204-338-0306
Hydro – Link on Website	
To report traffic signal outage	204-941-3444
To report street light outage	204-480-5900
Assessment Services District Office.....	1-866-262-9786

dial 911

State that you are
outside city limits and
need the Provincial
Communication Centre
**for Police, Fire
or Ambulance
Emergency
Services**

Mailing Address:

RM of West St. Paul
3550 Main Street
West St. Paul MB, R4A 5A3
Telephone No. 204-338-0306
Fax No. 204-334-9362
Website: www.weststpaul.com



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