

Ward 3 Report

Councillor Andrew Stevens



CITY OF REGINA

Councillor - Ward 3

SPRING / SUMMER 2024

Dear Ward 3 Residents:

With summer just around the corner it's a good time to start thinking about the amazing line-up of events our city will host over the next few months. From the Cathedral Village Arts Festival to the Queen City Exhibition, there's no shortage of things to do in Regina. The new Wascana Pool proved to be a hit with adults and kids alike when it first opened in 2023, with over 103,000 visitors! Let's see if we can beat that in 2024. Or maybe you want to take a spin on an e-scooter available for rent at various locations. Check out tourismregina.com for more information.

Summer also brings with it our cherished construction season. Critical investments (\$282 million, in fact) into road and construction work will take place throughout the community over the next four months. That also means disruptions on local streets and important corridors like 11th Ave in our downtown. Go to Regina.ca to get up-to-date information about what's going on in your neighbourhood. Some of the highlights can be found in this newsletter.

I'm happy to see that the City has also been making important contributions to housing and homelessness, like the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) and warming spaces in high-need areas. These initiatives have been made possible because of civic leadership and partnerships with community organizations and other levels of government. Council is also advancing long-overdue changes to our zoning bylaws through the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF), which is accompanied by \$35 million in federal dollars aimed at improving our capacity to build and maintain neighbourhoods.

There's still a lot more work to do, but the City is moving ahead on the Sustainability Framework. Municipalities need to be taking global warming seriously – certainly more so than other levels of government. That's why we're using federal dollars to electrify our transit fleet over the next few years. The Buffalo Pound Water Treatment facility has plans to generate its own renewable energy, in addition to infrastructure improvements that save energy and ensure a sustainable source of clean drinking water for a good part of southern Saskatchewan.

Finally, after eight years on Council I'm looking forward to moving on to other things. This is the promise I made to my family back in 2016. It's been an absolute pleasure serving the community and working with residents. I'm proud of the accomplishments of our City and the changes that we've brought about. Please note that the shape of Ward 3 will be very different in the November 13 municipal election, so pay attention to where your neighbourhood is now located in the ward boundaries. I wish the future Mayor and Council all the very best!

Sincerely,



Andrew

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New Electric Buses Coming

Regina Transit is greening up its fleet with 20 electric buses over the next two years. Seven will arrive in early 2025 and the remaining 13 will be here by the end of that year. The new 40-foot battery electric buses are the first ever in the City's fleet and will replace Transit's diesel-powered buses when they come to the end of their useful life. Reducing emissions supports the City's goal of becoming a 100 per cent renewable city by 2050. The total project cost is \$52.2 million with the federal government covering 50 per cent of the infrastructure and bus costs.

New Transit Fare System

Transit customers will have a new way to pay for rides this fall. Already implemented in other major cities, the new fare system is flexible, easy to use and includes using a mobile payment app, reloadable smart card or cash. A second phase will allow credit and debit cards. The new and old systems will run side by side for at least one month to allow everyone to adjust. The City has chosen this new system because the current one is outdated and no longer supported.

New Transit Fares

The City is lowering youth monthly passes to align with other Canadian transit systems. The City is also introducing a fare capping system that will save transit riders money. The new system will only charge customers for what they use. If customers don't ride enough in a month to make up the cost of a full pass, they will only be charged for what they use. Alternatively, frequent riders will get free rides once they use the bus more than three times a day or over 31 times in a month. The new fare system will also be used on Paratransit. Part of the Regina Transit Master Plan recommendations were to update the current fare system to include fare capping and reduce fare options for customers who purchase non-cash fares.

Expanding Housing Options

The City is updating planning bylaws to remove barriers to housing development and create more housing options for our growing city. This work is part of the city's Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) Action Plan which includes 11 initiatives designed to increase local housing supply.

Currently, work is being done on five of these initiatives which include changes that will:

1. Enable high-density housing development within the City Centre
2. Enable mid- and high-rise development along urban corridors and main transit routes
3. Advance the development of multi-family housing in central neighbourhoods
4. Support more housing diversity in established neighbourhoods
5. Reduce the amount of Council approval required for Discretionary Use housing applications

The changes are part of a Council-directed shift in how the City supports housing development, including removing barriers and speeding up approval processes. These changes will also allow the City to take advantage of \$35 million in federal funding to fast track more than 1,000 housing units over the next three years to address our critical housing shortage. Visit the BeHeard page to find more information about this project, sign up to receive updates, and ask questions:

beheard.regina.ca/housing-accelerator-fund.

Lead Water Service Connections

City and contracted crews are working to identify and remove lead water service connections. The City is committed to providing residents with support to reduce the potential for lead in tap water until all lead connections can be replaced.

Any resident with a lead service connection or who has higher lead levels than Health Canada's maximum acceptable concentration, can qualify for:

- A free water filter annually, or an annual rebate of up to \$100 off the water bill if they purchase a certified lead removal filter or bulk water on their own
- Free water testing
- Replacement of the City-owned lead service connection if the private side is no longer lead
- Residents who have a lead service connection on the private side may request to get the City-owned lead service connection replaced at the same time as their privately-owned side.



Visit Regina.ca/leadservice, call Service Regina at 306-777-7000 or email waterworks@regina.ca to request a free water filter to be delivered to your home, apply for a rebate, request testing or get more information about replacing your lead service connection.

Rapid Housing Initiative Projects

The Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) is a federal funding program administered by Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). It provides funding for rapid construction of new permanent, affordable housing units for vulnerable people and populations.

Through the RHI, the City has supported the following projects:

Horse Dance Lodge



Horse Dance Lodge is in Regina's North East neighbourhood (Ward 7). The site was previously a parking lot and former church building

In 2021, the City received \$7.75 million from RHI 2 to deliver a minimum of 29 new affordable housing units. Also known as misatimosimôwin mîhkwâp in Cree after the Horse Dance ceremony, this 29-unit multi-family building opened its doors to residents in October 2023. Silver Sage Housing led the design and construction and Regina Treaty/Status Indian Services is providing programming and supports for residents. Energy efficiency improvements to the building allow its residents to benefit from reduced utility bills and supports targets set out in the City's Energy & Sustainability Framework.

North Central Family Centre



NCFC opened its doors in November 2023. It believes strongly in our community and is committed to the revitalization of Regina's North Central community.

In 2023, the City of Regina received \$6.6 million from RHI 3 to deliver a minimum of 25 new affordable housing units. North Central Family Centre (NCFC) is in Regina's North Central neighbourhood (Ward 3). The site was previously two vacant residential lots. The NCFC is a registered non-profit, charitable organization that delivers a wide range of structured programs and activities. It also offers Regina's inner-city children, youth, families and seniors a safe place to live and the opportunity to participate in educational, sporting, recreational, social and cultural programs and activities.

Major Infrastructure Projects

Southwest Sewer System Upgrade

- Construction begins in 2024 in A.E. Wilson Park

Dewdney Avenue Corridor Revitalization Project

- This two-year major construction project in the Warehouse District between Albert St and Broad St begins this spring and includes replacing aging underground infrastructure, building a new road, widening sidewalks, improved lighting, multi-purpose outdoor spaces, a tree canopy and landscaping.
- Part of the Railyard Renewal Project 'The Yards,' investment to revitalize Dewdney Ave includes \$22 million from all three levels of government.

- Transit routes along Dewdney Ave will be temporarily relocated to 8th Ave during construction. Check TransitLive for up-to-date information.
- The City received project feedback including public surveys, design workshops, one-on-one landowner meetings and information sessions. Construction is being planned to cause minimize impacts to commuters and business along Dewdney Ave. Visit [Regina.ca/Dewdney](https://regina.ca/Dewdney) for updates on the project.

11th Avenue

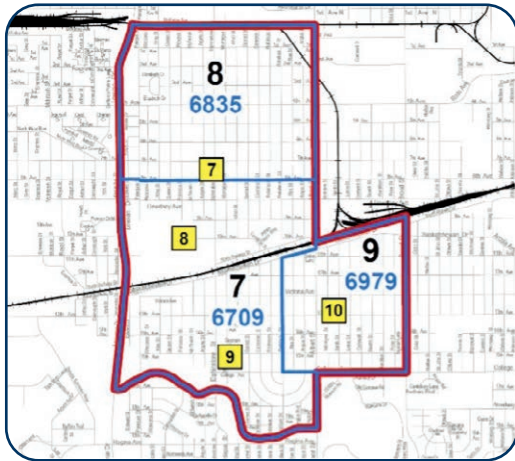
- The City of Regina is working alongside SaskPower and SaskTel to revitalize the City Centre.
- SaskPower and SaskTel will lead most of the construction in 2024. They are upgrading aging underground infrastructure along 11th Ave, between the alley west of Hamilton St. and

the alley west of Lorne St. Visit saskpower.com/reginadowntown for more information.

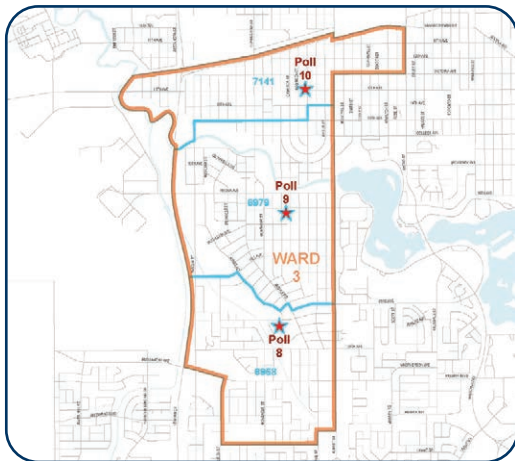
- The City's main work along 11th Ave to upgrade roads, sidewalks, lighting and aging underground infrastructure between Albert St and Broad St will begin again in the 2025 construction season. It is planned to be completed in 2027.
- Visit [Regina.ca/roads](https://regina.ca/roads) to learn more. During the project, you'll want to keep an eye out for traffic restrictions.
- Starting April 14, all bus stops on 11th Ave between Albert St and Broad St are temporarily moving to Victoria Ave, Lorne St, 12th Ave and Albert St.
- Transit riders are encouraged to check [TransitLive.com](https://transitlive.com) for the most up-to-date information on routes, stops and times.

New Ward Boundaries for November 13 Municipal and School Board Election

Did you know that population is distributed evenly amongst each of Regina's 10 city wards? That way every resident's vote has the same value as the next person to allow fair and equal representation from ward councillors. The map shows how boundaries have changed. Go to [Regina.ca](https://regina.ca) to see updated ward boundaries and find out if you are in a different ward. If you are, you may have to go to a different voting station in the fall.



Current Ward 3 Boundary Map



New Ward 3 Boundary Map effective as of the 2024 Election

Recreation in the Summer

Take advantage of our sunshine and summer days. Run, walk, cycle or drive an e-scooter along paved trails through Wascana Park. Enjoy Wascana Pool's waterslides, lazy river, diving pool, hot tub, accessible gender inclusive changerooms, and concession operated by The Bannock House. Attend Market Under the Stars, a farmers' market at night in July and August. Spend the day at one of the City's 16 outdoor spray pads. Check out the City's Summer Leisure Guide for lots of activities including free after school drop-in programs and free drop-in evening youth programs at Mitakuye.

- **June 7-16:** Queen City Pride Festival (parade is June 15)
- **June 13-17:** Jazz Fest
- **June 15:** Bazaar (outside MacKenzie Art Gallery)
- **June 18-20:** Canada's Farm Show
- **June 21:** National Indigenous Peoples Day
- **July 1:** Canada Day Festival
- **July 10-14:** Regina International Fringe Festival
- **July 31-August 4:** Queen City Ex
- **August 30-31:** Dragon Boat Festival



More than 103,000 visitors enjoyed the new Wascana outdoor pool during its 2023 summer opening season. The average attendance was 1,000 visitors per day.

November 13 Municipal and School Board Election

Regina residents will head to the polls on **Wednesday, November 13** for the 2024 Municipal/School Board Election! Citizens will have an opportunity to shape our future by electing a Mayor, Councillor and School Board Trustee(s). Information on when, where and how to vote can be found at [Regina.ca/elections](https://regina.ca/elections).

Did you know? Free transit will be provided to voters heading to the polls on November 13.

