

**Dear neighbours,**

Happy spring! I want to share a few updates on what's been happening at City Hall so far this year.

Back in February, we passed a City Budget that gets our city back on track. After finding over \$600 million in savings—the most ever found in a single year—City Council supported a Budget that will take action to make housing more affordable, transit more reliable, and our communities safer. Thanks to the New Deal with the Province and the uploading of the Don Valley Parkway and Gardiner, there are also dollars set aside to make fast, visible improvements to our communities: speeding up road repairs, cleaning up parks and public spaces, and enhancing programming in community spaces like libraries.

I want to thank the tens of thousands of residents who shared their vision for Toronto through all of our Budget engagement opportunities. It was your feedback and ideas that shaped and strengthened this Budget. Of course, this is only the beginning. We still have work to

do to strengthen the New Deal for Toronto. As Budget Chief, it's my goal to secure the tools we need to make Toronto financially sustainable and less reliant on your property tax. Looking ahead to the 2025 Budget, I want to continue connecting with you and provide as many opportunities as possible for you to share feedback.

This newsletter has a number of updates on important work underway in our community, including enhancements to local roads, parks, and libraries, updates on development applications in the ward, upcoming events, and more. Be sure to subscribe to my weekly E-Blast to stay up-to-date on everything happening in Don Valley North and across Toronto: shelleycarroll.ca/subscribe.

Sincerely,

Want more information
on anything here?
Call 416-338-2650

**In the Community****Park Enhancements**

I'm excited to share updates on two exciting enhancements coming to local parks here in Don Valley North. First, the final design has been selected for the new-and-improved playground at **Havenbrook Park**, thanks to the input of Henry Farmers. Construction is slated to begin later this year.

City staff have confirmed that the dogs off-leash area in **Parkway Forest Park** is moving forward, with construction planned to begin later this year. This new dog park will include separate areas for small and large dogs, a new path through the park, and new benches and water stations. I appreciate the community's patience with both of these projects and can't wait to see everyone enjoy them soon.

Road Enhancements

There are a number of projects underway across Don Valley North to help make our local roads safer for all. Thank you to everyone who came out to our first event for the **Peanut Neighbourhood Streets Plan** last month. Your ideas will be invaluable as staff start working on a plan to make our local streets safer. Learn more at toronto.ca/PeanutStreets.

To the north, **Steeles Avenue East** is also undergoing a major road resurfacing with construction resuming this month. During this project, traffic will be reduced to one lane in

Library Enhancements

You may have seen that the third floor of **Fairview Library** is currently closed. This will continue until 2025 while state-of-good repair work and new upgrades are completed. Upgrades will include new digital equipment and accessibility improvements. The first floor of the library is now open so that you can continue to browse a reduced collection, pick up holds, and use public computers.

Pleasant View Library will also undergo a major renovation that will expand the library to 10,000 sq. ft. and provide great new amenities. Toronto Public Library has finalized the design thanks to community feedback, with a tentative branch closure planned for this summer.

each direction. This resurfacing will fully repave the road surface, replace damaged curbs and sidewalks, and upgrade traffic signals and bus stops to enhance safety.

Lastly, the major road reconstruction on **Sheppard Avenue East** is scheduled to begin early next year. This is a step further than a resurfacing, and will include widened sidewalks, enhanced crossings, new transit stop features, cycle tracks, and new plantings to beautify the street. Stay up-to-date on the project at toronto.ca/SheppardAvenueEast.

Vacant Home Tax Update

Over the past few weeks, my office has heard from many residents who received **Vacant Home Tax** bills in the mail. There were serious issues with this year's process and I want to assure you that I am taking steps to have these issues rectified for next year.

First, I want to make it clear that if your home was occupied for more than six months in 2023, whether by you, other occupants, or tenants, you do not owe the Vacant Home Tax. Additionally, **no one will have to pay the \$21.24 penalty for late filing.** Mayor Olivia Chow and I

took immediate steps to have this fee waived given the issues with this year's rollout. We are also directing staff to develop a comprehensive communications plan and report on user experience improvements based on the feedback we've heard from residents across Toronto over the past few weeks.

If you received a Vacant Home Tax bill in the mail, you can find the latest information at shelleycarroll.ca/vht. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office.

Planning & Development

Fairview Mall Development Update



City Planning is currently considering Phase 1 of the development proposal at **Fairview Mall**. I have directed Planning staff to work with the applicant to resolve issues including the need for more affordable housing, parkland, and a street network. City Planning will be meeting with Cadillac Fairview and local stakeholders in May to discuss the proposal, and we should have a larger update on the project this summer. Visit shelleycarroll.ca/fairview to learn more.

ReNew Sheppard Planning Study

City Planning staff are developing a plan to guide growth and future development along the Sheppard East corridor. They are currently collecting feedback on built form, transportation, greenspace, and more. Participate in the survey and help shape the vision for future development in Don Valley North at toronto.ca/ReNewSheppardEast.

Long-Term Care Expansion at NYGH



North York General Hospital is creating a new long-term care and seniors' health facility across the street from the hospital, which will be one of the largest in the country. To help get this facility built as soon as possible, City Council is supporting NYGH in requesting an Enhanced Ministerial Zoning Order (EMZO) to expedite the process. NYGH has started to engage the community on this project, and I look forward to this much-needed facility serving our neighbourhood. You can learn more about this exciting project at nygh.on.ca/LTC.

Upcoming Events

APR
20

Compost Days

Saturday, April 20th, 11:00 AM
Cliffwood Park (280 Cliffwood Rd.)

APR
21

Sunday, April 21st, 11:00 AM
Hobart Park (39 Hobart Dr.)

APR
27

Saturday, April 27th, 11:00 AM
Dallington Park (32 Glentworth Rd.)

APR
28

Sunday, April 28th, 11:00 AM
Bestview Park (115 Bestview Dr.)

My office is hosting four Compost Days this month, so be sure to stop by and pick up free compost for your garden! The compost will be loose, so you must bring your own container. We also recommend bringing gloves and a shovel. Compost will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

MAY
25

Environment Day

Saturday, May 25th, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Old Cummer GO Station (5760 Leslie St.)

This is the first of two Community Environment Days my office is hosting this year. Donate old items, safely dispose of household hazardous waste, and pick up free compost.

JULY
13

Summer Celebration!

Saturday, July 13th, 1:00 PM
Oriole Community Centre

Mark your calendars, it's time for another DVN Summer Celebration! We had hundreds of neighbours come out to last year's celebration and I can't wait to celebrate with all of you again. Come enjoy a barbecue and take part in activities for the whole family to enjoy. Be sure to subscribe to my E-Blast for more details.

JULY
22
JULY
29
AUG
23

Movie Nights: Save the Dates!

Monday, July 22nd
Ruddington Park (75 Ruddington Dr.)

Monday, July 29th
Linus Park (125 Seneca Hill Dr.)

Friday, August 23rd
Parkway Forest Park (80 Parkway Forest Dr.)

There's no better way to spend a summer evening than enjoying a free movie in your local park! We're hosting three movie nights this summer, each featuring a different family favourite. The movie nights start after sundown. Exact times will be confirmed closer to the dates, so keep an eye on my social media channels and E-Blast for details.