



Happy
New Year

Your Community

The official newsletter of the R.M. of East St. Paul

January 2024

For more information, call: 204-668-8112

Online: www.eaststpaul.com

Email: info@eaststpaul.com

Office: 1 - 3021 Birds Hill Rd. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A truck didn't crash, a fire didn't start, but what if it did?

The first thing you need to know as you begin reading this, is it's not true.

A fire at a residential complex on Hoddinott Road did not get struck by a pickup truck, the impact did not start a fire that forced the evacuation of all residents, a hydrant did not get hit and spray uncontrolled water in the lot and onto the roadway and residents did not get hurt.

But if all of this had happened, the RM of East St. Paul Mayor and Council and all staff would be prepared for it because of an emergency exercise they took part in on Dec. 8.

The RM office was turned into a command centre and Emergency Coordinator Dennis Wiwcharyk and his team conducted a mock exercise of the above scenario.

The Province mandates all municipalities to conduct an emergency exercise each year so they are prepared in case of an emergency.

Mayor Carla Devlin said the three-hour long session was valuable.

"The exercise went well. I think it prepared us well," Devlin said.

"I was intimidated going into it and now I feel much more confident."

Wiwcharyk said that's what they hope for. By taking Mayor and Council and administration through a 40-input process where they deal with every potential problem, they're training them for a real event.

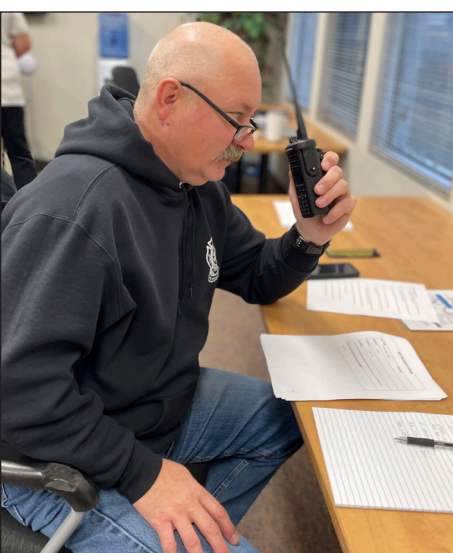
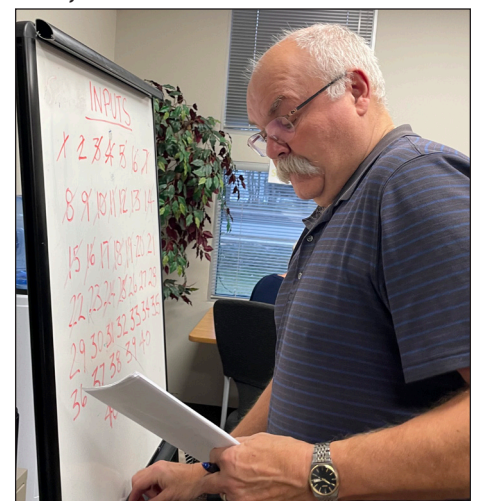
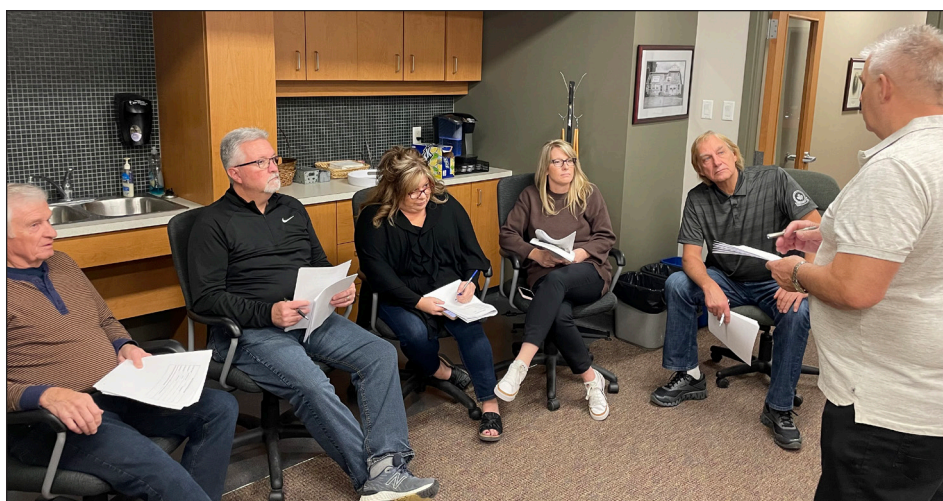
"The exercise introduces them to everything, from dealing with worried relatives, media with questions and residents with questions so they are better prepared in a real situation," Wiwcharyk said.

"During the course of the exercise, there are questions that come up that we didn't think of, so it makes you better prepared."

As the Coordinator, Wiw-



Clockwise from above, Wiwcharyk, standing, goes over the mock emergency with Public Works' Andrew Toews; ESP Fire Department Captain Jernej Anderlic marks another input off the board; Couns. Orest Horechko and Charles Posthumus share a light moment; Deputy Fire Chief Don Harrison mans the radio; and Wiwcharyk gives instruction to Mayor Carla Devlin and Council members Brian Duval, Brian Imhoff, CAO Suzanne Ward and Charles Posthumus.



charyk is required to have a municipal emergency plan in place.

"The job is to ensure the municipality has an emergency plan that they utilize in the event of a major emergency or disaster. The plan is basically a manual of what is required of the municipality set out by Province," he said.

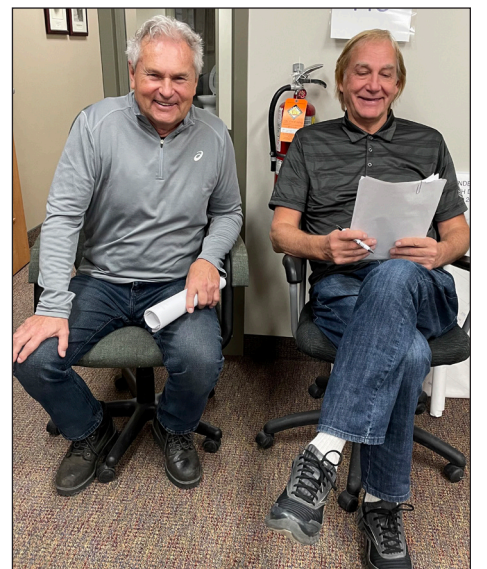
"It's not a step-by-step direction, but it gives an overview of the requirements, what powers the municipality has, what powers they can institute in an emergency or disaster."

For last month's exercise, Pat-

rick Fillion, Regional Emergency Manager with Manitoba Emergency Management Organization, Jason Mushaluk, Regional Coordinator and Jay Ferens, Regional Manager with of Disaster Management with Interlake-Eastern Health Authority, attended and participated.

Fillion said the RM has a "robust plan", and there are benefits to figuring things out during a training exercise.

"You don't learn from things going right, you learn from things going wrong," Fillion said.



Looking back on a busy, and productive, 2023

Dear Residents of East St. Paul, As we embark on a new year filled with promise and opportunities, I want to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable achievements and milestones that our community, Council, and RM staff have accomplished in 2023. It has been an incredible year of progress and growth, and I am excited to share our accomplishments and highlight some exciting initiatives to look forward to in 2024.

Pilot Projects for Retention Ponds and a Treatment Plan for 2024: In 2023, our dedicated RM staff along with our Ponds Committee implemented pilot projects aimed at improving our retention ponds, crucial components of our local infrastructure. The favorable results of these initiatives have paved the way for significant improvements to our water treatment systems. We are pleased to announce that the RM has adopted a comprehensive treatment plan for 2024.

Pilot Project in Swistun Family Heritage Park: Due to the challenging body of water in Swistun Family Heritage Park, the committee will be holding an open house in March, to review the efforts and due diligence for a pilot project. This initiative aims to address the unique features of the park and ensure that it remains a safe and enjoyable space for all. More information will be forthcoming, and we encourage all residents to participate in the open house to provide their valuable input.

Listening to Our Residents: In response to overwhelming requests from dog owners in East St. Paul, we have taken action by creating a dedicated dog park. This project not only caters to our furry friends but also promotes a sense of community and outdoor enjoyment. In 2024, we are planning to enhance safety and visibility by introducing LED lighting to the dog park, further improving the experience for

both pets and their owners.

Exciting Projects on the Horizon: I am thrilled to announce a significant development in partnership with MLA Jeff Wharton. We have secured funding to construct the "Splash Pad," an exciting aquatic facility that will bring joy and recreation to our community. The Splash Pad project, slated for construction in 2024, promises to be a hub of activity for residents of all ages, providing a refreshing escape during our warm summer months.

In addition to the Splash Pad, we are introducing a brand-new community event to the calendar: "East St. Paul Day." Set to debut in June 2024, this event will be a celebration of our vibrant community spirit, offering activities, entertainment, and opportunities for neighbors to come together in fellowship.

Investing in Our Infrastructure: We understand the importance of maintaining and enhancing our infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing community. To ensure the reliable distribution of water, we have allocated \$1.5 million to the water twinning line project. This investment will guarantee that our residents continue to have access to clean and safe water for their daily needs.

Furthermore, our Council has secured funding from the Provincial government to conduct a Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant study. This forward-thinking initiative will help us develop a sustainable and environmentally friendly solution for wastewater treatment, further contributing to the long-term well-being of our community.

Improving Connectivity and Safety: Infrastructure isn't limited to water and wastewater systems; it also extends to our roadways and public spaces. In 2023, we initiated the Tartan Way reconstruction of the culvert, ensuring the safety and accessibility of this essential route for our residents.



We've also made Swistun Family Heritage Park more accessible with the introduction of a new pathway into the park, enabling more residents to enjoy this cherished green space. To enhance safety at the West bank of Swistun Family Heritage Park, which is heavily used for tobogganing during the winter months, LED lights have been installed. This important addition will ensure that families can enjoy this popular winter activity in a well-lit and safe environment.

Additionally, our commitment to safety led to the installation of streetlights on Mowat Road in Southlands, making nighttime walks safer for our community members.

Enhancing Disaster Preparedness: In 2021, East St. Paul faced challenges due to unforeseen flooding. We are grateful to announce that we received financial assistance of \$80,000.00 through Disaster Financial Assistance. These funds will be put to good use in the development of a comprehensive Watershed/Drainage Master Plan. This plan will help us better prepare and respond to future disasters, ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents.

Promoting Active Lifestyles: As part of our commitment to promoting active and healthy lifestyles, we are excited to announce the addition of new Pickleball courts behind the senior center. These courts will utilize one of the outdoor skating rinks and provide our residents, especially our seniors, with a fantastic opportunity to stay active and engaged in the community. Pickleball is a fun and accessible sport that people of all ages can enjoy, and we are delighted to bring this amenity to East St. Paul.

Enhancing Accessibility: I am also pleased to share that we are taking significant steps to enhance accessibility within our community. Hugh MacDonald Park and the Arena play structures will be the first of many parks to have new equipment installed for accessibility. This initiative underscores our commitment to ensuring that all residents, regardless of their physical abilities, can fully participate in and enjoy our community's recreational spaces.

Road Opening Ceremony at the Raleigh Underpass: Af-

ter much debate and countless lobbying efforts, Council was successful in their effort to take down the barricades to connect our community at the Raleigh underpass. The RM signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Dec 15, 2023, to start the process of lands to be transferred to the RM, which include The Raleigh Underpass, MacGregor Farm RD., Ross Farm RD, DeVries Ave, Norris RD. Council will be holding a road opening ceremony at the Raleigh Underpass in the very near future. Please watch for the date to attend and join us in celebrating this important milestone that will enhance connectivity and convenience for our residents.

New Pumper Rescue Truck: In addition to all these initiatives, I am thrilled to announce that the RM has ordered a new Pumper Rescue Truck, which will make its debut in 27 months. This state-of-the-art vehicle will enhance our emergency response capabilities and ensure the safety of our residents in times of need. We are committed to providing the best possible services to our community, and this new addition is a testament to that commitment.

Community Safety Officer Program: Furthermore, the RM is actively working with Manitoba Justice and the RCMP to implement the Community Safety Officer (CSO) program. CSOs are Provincial Peace Officers with an appointment under The Police Services Act through an Operating Agreement between the RM, the RCMP, and MB Justice. They are sworn Provincial Peace Officers tasked with the enforcement of numerous provincial laws such as the Highway Traffic Act, Liquor, Gaming, and Cannabis Control Act, The Trespass Act, and numerous others. Stay tuned for further information on this important program that will contribute to the safety and security of our community.

As we reflect on these accomplishments and look forward to 2024, it is evident that East St. Paul is a vibrant and thriving community that continually evolves to meet the needs and desires of our residents. We are proud of what we have achieved together and remain dedicated to improving the quality of life for all who call East St. Paul home.

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated Council members, RM staff, and all our residents for their unwavering support and commitment to our community. Together, we will continue to make East St. Paul an even better place to live, work, and play.

I wish each and every one of you a joyful and prosperous New Year. May 2024 bring health, happiness, and success to your lives and our beloved East St. Paul.

Sincerely,
Mayor Carla Devlin

RM OF EAST ST. PAUL

YOU ARE INVITED TO

MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY JANUARY 19, 2024

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM &
MOVIE START AT 6:30PM

SNACKS PROVIDED \$5/PERSON
REGISTER AT EASTSTPAUL.COM

SIGN UP FOR e-blasts at eaststpaul.com

Snow flies and brings Santa to ESP

It was no coincidence that Mother Nature provided just enough snow for Santa to make his way to East St. Paul's annual winter celebration, 'Holiday at the Plaza'!

The Jolly fella arrived and young and old alike enjoyed visiting with him, playing games and taking in the lighting of the tree.

A fire to stay warm beside, and hot beverages to keep the insides toasty made for a perfect evening.

East St. Paul's Fire Department

was on hand too, making sure the young ones got an up close look at the equipment.

A great big thank you goes out to the RM of East St. Paul Community Services staff who once again did a terrific job planning and organizing the event.

Mayor Carla Devlin, along with Couns. Brian Imhoff, Orest Horechko, Brian Duval and Charles Posthumus, hope that everyone had a happy and safe holiday season, and happy new year to all!



Mayor Carla Devlin, centre, with Aliyah Lewis, and members of council, left to right, Charles Posthumus, Brian Duval, Brian Imhoff and Orest Horechko. At right is special guest Santa Claus.



Got E.R.I.K?

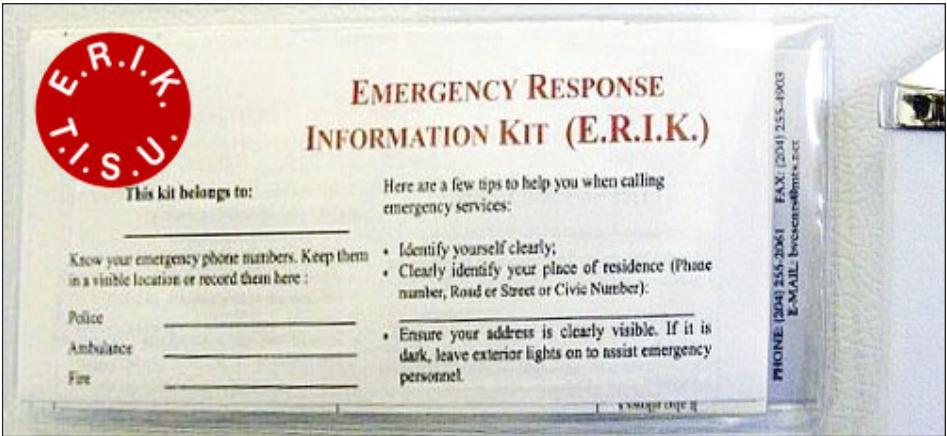
The East St. Paul Fire Department responds to approximately 400 calls every year. The bulk of the calls are medically related. Your fire department would like to make our residents aware of an excellent program that can assist the fire department and ambulance services during a medical incident.

The program is called E.R.I.K. which stands for Emergency Response Information Kit. The E.R.I.K. provides important medical information about you should first responders arrive at

your home during an emergency. The kit was first developed by Manitoba paramedics and seniors resource coordinators.

This bilingual kit is ideal for seniors, people living with chronic illnesses, those who live alone or who have caregivers, and others who have difficulty communicating. Once completed, the kit should be placed on your fridge door, where emergency crews have been trained to look for it, ensuring it is readily available if needed.

A number of kits have been



Place your E.R.I.K. kit on your fridge; first responders will know to look there for it.

obtained and are available to our residents free of charge. The kit can be picked up in the new year at the administration offices during regular business hours.

If you have any questions regarding this initiative, contact the administration office at 204-668-8112 or email info@eaststpaul.com.

Councillor Corner

Ward 3 - Brian Duval

Recently I had the privilege of attending several events at the Henderson Legion 215, including a very fitting and poignant Remembrance Day ceremony on Nov. 11, 2023. We are very fortunate to have this organization in our community and thank them for their contributions, including their organizing of our Canada Day festivities, but particularly for reminding us of the many who sacrificed so much so that we have the freedom that we enjoy today.

The long running debate over the Raleigh underpass at the north Perimeter is finally nearing a mutual resolution. There should be an announcement early in the new year.

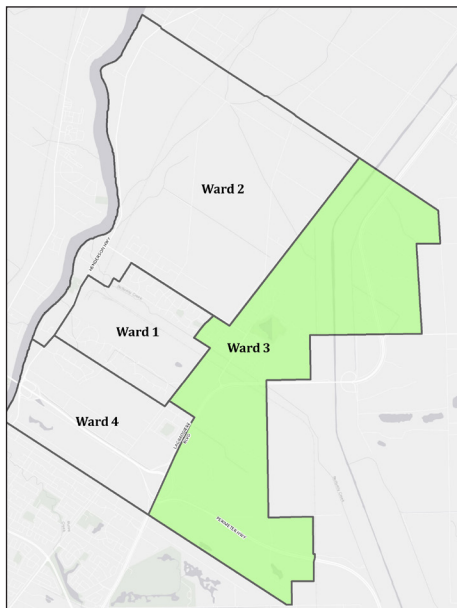
The new mobility accessible path into Swistun Park off Garven Ave., is now complete with a paved surface and solar pathway lighting. Final landscaping along the path will be done next summer. This marks a major improvement to the park, and continuing improvements will be made annually to add to the beauty and functionality of the facility. I encourage all residents who may be unfamiliar with the park to make a point to check it out, even in the winter time.

The late fall and early winter weather has been unusually mild with temperatures much warmer than normal and very little snowfall. While this is much more comfortable for our daily lives we must take precautions. In particular we must be aware of the ice conditions on our many ponds. A light layer of snow could easily hide a dangerous thin ice situation so please be careful and stay off until you are certain it is safe; and please advise your children accordingly.

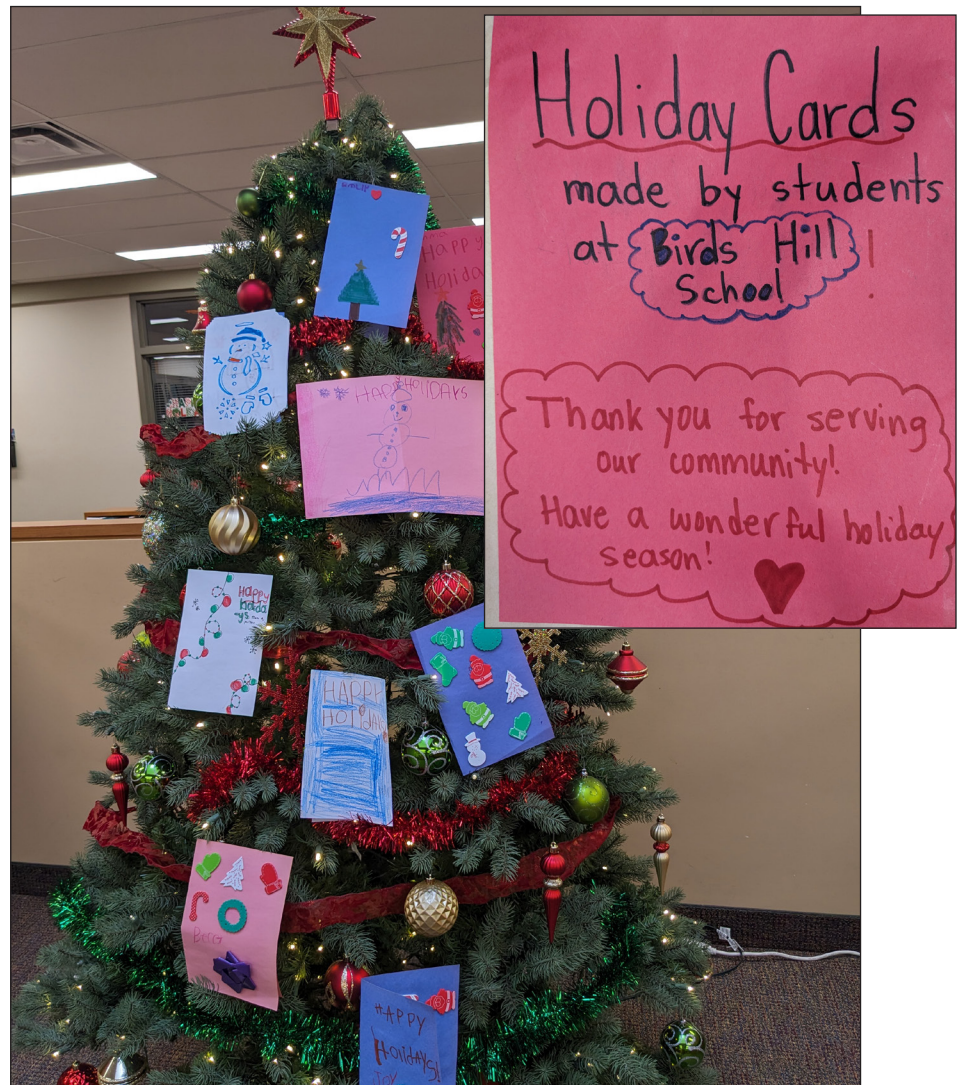


We had a very enjoyable luncheon with all of our staff in recognition of all their good work throughout the year. These are the people who make the Municipality such a great place to live. Much of their work is behind the scenes and goes unnoticed, but is always appreciated.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous 2024.



Students spread smiles



A huge thank you to students from Birds Hill School, who made cards for RM staff and members of the Red River North RCMP Detachment. The cards were dropped off by a student teacher who requested the cards be distributed throughout the building shared by the municipality and the RCMP. We thank the students for the joy, and really big smiles, they brought to us all!

Outdoor rinks open!

The outdoor rinks are now open! Grab your skates and head out to the ice located outside the Arena at 266 Hoddinott Rd.

The outdoor dressing rooms are also open from 10am - 10pm daily, and the outdoor lights will be on from 4pm - 10pm.



ESP Fire Department members participate in electric vehicle training

Four members of the East St. Paul Fire Department attended a training session on electric vehicles, hosted by the West St. Paul department last November.

The members who attended are Kyle Schmidt, Jorden Wiwcharyk, Dylan Bellmore and Tillman Unrau.

West St. Paul Chief Ryan Yackel says electric vehicles are built differently and present different challenges for responders than traditional gas and diesel engine cars and trucks.

"Electric cars are the new trend and we're starting to see more and more of them on the road so obviously that means we're going to see more and more of them involved in motor vehicle collisions and potential fire situations," Yackel said.

"They have a couple unique characteristics, especially the battery power packs and their

locations. We learned how to disconnect them to make it safe for passengers and responders. The risks or uniqueness of the battery packs, potentially, if they catch on fire. They're large, they're isolated under the vehicle for the most part, so we've got to be able to deal with that."

The training was done by Kevin Paterson, training officer with the Banff Fire Department, who gave tips on how to deal with the various situations that electric vehicles may present.

The vehicles are heavier, especially the battery packs, which has its good and bad. The extra weight helps reduce the likelihood of a rollover, but if they do end up rolling it's more difficult to deal with and to remove passengers.

The electric vehicles are made with stronger materials as well, which can make extracting occu-



Four members of the East St. Paul Fire Department took part in electric vehicle training in November.

pants more challenging because some of the department's standard equipment, such as drills,

won't cut through, forcing firefighters to take a different approach.

Have a story idea? Email info@eaststpaul.com