

WINDROW REMOVAL

If all residents in your household are 60+ years old, or younger than 12 years, you may be eligible for the Snow Windrow Removal Assistance Program. The City will clear one car width of your driveway only following 7.5 cm of snow fall. The program is for the windrow at the bottom of the driveway. Windrows remaining from sidewalk clearing are not included.

For more information please email customerservice@markham.ca or call 905.477.5530.

Note: During a heavy snow fall remember that your windrow may not be cleared in time for any appointments that you may have scheduled. Please be patient while the city cleans all of our transportation network system.



SKATING –

The city has started to build our outdoor ice rinks for residents to enjoy this winter. A friendly reminder to stay off ponds and waterways as the ice can be unsafe and is not maintained for recreation purposes. Ponds may contain salt from nearby roads and other debris, which can speed up thawing. Ice may appear thick but it is unpredictable. Stay safe and use one of the city or community maintained ice rinks.

E-SCOOTERS AND E-BIKES

The Ministry of Transportation regulations do not permit the use of e-scooters within public spaces unless a municipality has opted in to the Provincial 5-year e-scooter pilot project. The City of Markham has **not** opted in to this pilot.

E-bikes that do not require pedaling are defined under the Highway Traffic Act as a “motorcycle” and are only permitted on public roads.

E-scooters and e-bikes are not allowed on sidewalks, pathways or trails.

Pedal-assisted e-bikes are regulated the same as conventional bicycles in terms of their use on sidewalks and trails.



Scooter-style e-bike



OFF LEASH DOGS

Many of us have dogs and like to let them off leash to get more exercise. However, some residents and children are afraid and uncomfortable with having a dog off leash. In order to ensure that our public spaces are available for all to use, the city has built an off leash dog park in each ward. With the increase of dog parks, the city has zero tolerance for anyone having their dog off leash and it could cost you \$430.00.



As we head into the winter months please remember that parking on city streets is prohibited during snow clearing

operations. Interfering with snow removal or obstructing any portion of the sidewalk or road could result in you receiving a \$150.00 ticket. Significant snowfall can narrow roads and sidewalks. Please make sure that your vehicle does not overhang any portion of the sidewalk or roadway so we can keep sidewalks and roads as clear and accessible as possible.

CANADA POST – Canada Post is responsible for snow clearing of all community mailboxes and the immediate surrounding area. Please report any related issues directly to Canada Post at 1.800.267.1177.



ROAD WATCH

Aggressive driving continues to be an issue across the GTA. Road Watch is a community driven program that provides residents with a means to report aggressive or unlawful driver behavior.

General community traffic concerns in your neighbourhood (without a licence plate) can also be reported at:

<https://onlinereporting.yrp.ca/communityconcerns.html>

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Fall/Winter 2023–2024

Ward 4 NEWS



www.karenrea.ca

Update from your Markham Council Representative Karen Rea

Dear Residents,

It's hard to believe 2023 is drawing to a close and winter will be upon us soon! It has been a busy year for municipalities with looking after our own city affairs and also trying to understand all the changes that are being implemented by the Province, and I am happy to say some reversals, most notably the greenbelt developments.

As part of my commitment to try and keep residents informed about local planning issues and items of interest, I send out a monthly e-newsletter. Please visit my website at www.karenrea.ca to sign up for these updates.

We have some “hot topic” items that Council will need to make a decision on in the near future.

The Mount Joy Secondary Plan will add a minimum of 33,000 residents to the area and the Cadillac Fairview (Markville) re-development plan. Our meetings are more accessible as we have adopted a hybrid format, allowing you to participate in person or virtually from the comfort of your home.

Residents input is invaluable in guiding decisions that shape the policies and direction of our community. **Your perspective matters!** Please try and join us for these and other important meetings.

I would like to extend my heartfelt wishes for a restful and relaxing holiday season and best wishes for a prosperous 2024!

Karen Rea

Karen Rea Ward 4 Councillor

“Have your say”... participate in on-line surveys that work for you – www.karenrea.ca

Nobody chooses homelessness. Everyone deserves a safe home.

Help 360°kids prevent and support youth facing homelessness.

Donate to our Gifts That Matter Campaign



Get involved, learn about the 360° Experience



www.360kids.ca

DID YOU KNOW...

...that on any given night approximately **300 youth** find themselves sleeping on the streets of York Region.

This holiday season 360°kids embarks on their annual **Gifts That Matter campaign**. Explore the catalogue which is filled with practical and meaningful gifts designed to help our community youth. There are plenty of options to choose from such as hot meals to presto cards.

To find out how you can help please visit:

<https://www.360kids.ca/gifts-that-matter/>

Karen Rea, Ward 4 Councillor, 101 Town Centre Blvd, Markham ON L3R 9W3
krea@markham.ca or 905.479.7751





COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

If you are a business owner in Markham, please be aware of the following to ensure you are in compliance with all City regulations.

- Check the Zoning By-law to determine if your particular business use is permitted at the location.
- Obtain a building permit when you are changing the use of the unit or making changes to the existing unit.
- Obtain a sign permit for any wall or ground signs.
- Obtain a business license which is a legal requirement to operate in Markham.

If you are a tenant or an owner of a commercial building or a residential home in one of the City's four Heritage Conservation Districts (Markham Village, Buttonville, Thornhill and Unionville) you **must** also obtain a heritage permit to approve non-structural changes to the exterior of the building such as painting, replacing windows or doors, exterior lighting and signage etc. A building permit may also be required.

If you are unsure about what you need for either a residential or commercial property, reach out to our Heritage Planning staff for guidance prior to any changes or installation being made.



Lions 80th Anniversary celebration

Visiting Heritage homes within Rouge National Urban Park

DEVELOPMENTS

Markville Secondary Plan –

An interim report will be on our Development Services agenda Dec 11th at 10:00 am.

CF - Markville Mall – An application has been submitted for 4340 residential units, 3 public parks, privately owned public spaces, above grade and underground parking. The public statutory meeting for this application will be held on Dec 5th at 7pm. Councillor McAlpine and I will be hosting a community meeting tentatively scheduled for Jan 25th 2024 to provide an additional opportunity for comments on the Cadillac Fairview - Markville Mall application.



Mount Joy Secondary Plan –

The Mount Joy Secondary plan final study report is now available and you can find it under:

yourvoicemarkham.ca/yourmarkhamroadmountjoy

Comprehensive Zoning By-law – staff are aiming to bring the report forward in January, though no date has been confirmed at this time.

Citywide safety update and parking strategy project – A city-wide safety update and parking strategy is ongoing.

For further information please reach out to my office.



HOUSING

The housing crisis will not be resolved by just building more market priced houses. What we are in desperate need of is purpose built rental, social housing and supportive housing. York Region (YR) has close to **15,000 people** on a wait list for public housing, with the list growing longer every month.

Government alone cannot resolve this issue nor do they have the funds to build all of the public housing that is needed. My estimate is that YR alone would need between 5-7 billion dollars. I have been advocating with every high-rise development application that approximately 30 units in each tower should be sold to YR or a not-for-profit organization at “below market value” but at an amount to cover the hard cost of the units that would be built and sold to YR. These units would then be used towards public housing for both market and subsidized rental.

There are multiple ideas that we all need to look at if we want to make positive change. We need to recognize that short-term rentals reduce the availability of long-term rental units, which can contribute to higher rent and make it more difficult for local residents to afford and find housing. We need to look at everything possible to curb the financialization of the housing market, and there should be a province wide vacant house tax. Everyone regardless of their income level or life circumstances should have a safe place to call home.



The City does not allow short term accommodation or rooming houses as-of-right anywhere in Markham.

Short term accommodation is defined as occupying a unit by a tenant for a period of less than 30 consecutive days.

The city permits residential property owners to rent up to two bedrooms in a house provided the individual lodging rooms do not contain separate bathroom and cooking facilities for the exclusive use of individual occupants. This type of rental must be for periods of 30 days or more by way of a rental agreement, lease or similar arrangement. Please be aware that when a tenant is occupying a dwelling unit for more than 30 days they would be subject to the Residential Tenancies Act, and the occupancy can only be terminated in accordance with that Act.



Basement suite gutted by fire.

SECOND SUITES

All property owners are allowed to have a second suite in their home. However, the unit must comply with Building Code and Fire Code. Safety is of utmost importance, as we have seen fires that have started in basements. Please reach out to our building department at buildingstandards@markham.ca or call **905.475.4858** for information on how to make a second suite safe and legal. Legalizing a basement apartment can create a more stable and positive landlord-tenant relationship and will positively impact your property value. Renting out an illegal second suite could lead to fines and charges being laid.

SAVING OUR TREE CANOPY

Trees play a crucial role in our environmental health by absorbing carbon dioxide, producing oxygen, providing habitat for wildlife, and contributing to overall biodiversity. Tree bylaws help ensure the preservation and protection of local ecosystems.

The City of Markham requires a Tree Permit to be obtained before removing or injuring any tree on private property that is 20cm DBH (diameter at breast height) or greater. If you are making plans to enhance your landscaping and doing any type of construction in your front or rear yards, you may need to apply for a Tree Permit. Tree protection zone barriers may need to be installed prior to any work being started to protect tree roots. This includes work related to any construction activities such as: demolition, excavation, trenching and boring, grade disturbances, machinery use, material storage, fencing and major landscaping. Apply for a permit to avoid fines and charges being laid.

