

Maple Ridge This Month

MID MONTH UPDATE: FEBRUARY 2014

SPOTLIGHT ON: Bright Ideas for Energy Savings

Greg Moore Youth Centre Renovations Include New Lighting

Over the last couple of weeks the Greg Moore Youth Centre has been undergoing a bit of a facelift. When the facility reopened on Family Day, February 10, the young people who use the facility noted that it seemed much brighter. While part of that might be as a result of some of the freshly painted walls and new carpeting, a lot of that 'brightness' comes from above.

As part of the annual maintenance shutdown the lighting in the activity area was upgraded. The new six lamp fluorescent T5 fixtures create a brighter and more even light on the activity space and, compared to the old 400 watt mercury vapour lights they replace, energy consumption for this space will be reduced by approximately 10,000 kilowatt hours per year. This technology will also be used to replace the lighting in the Leisure Centre gym as phase two of this project rolls out.

To put this in context, this is the equivalent of the energy used to power two homes for a whole year and represents an energy savings to the District of between \$1500 and \$2000 annually. As energy prices continue to rise, these annual savings will increase as well.



Left: Old Lights, Right: New Lights

Whenever we have a maintenance or renovation project we look at how we can apply innovative technologies to improve our efficiency and sustainability. In this case the quality of light in both activity areas is much better than before, and it costs less to run the lights. These kinds of technologies are also available to homeowners to help you reduce your energy consumption. We encourage you to look at the information on the BC Hydro website at bchydro.com to see how you can retrofit your home as you do regular maintenance and upgrades in your home. Bright ideas. Big savings.

ENGAGED: Maple Ridge's Housing Action Plan

Housing Action Plan Online Questionnaire Launched

In 2011, the District adopted the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) along with other communities in Metro Vancouver. The RGS identifies the importance and need for affordable housing with a range of options, as being an important part of a complete community. The amended Regional Context Statement (RCS) in the Official Community Plan (OCP) identifies the District's commitment to completing a Housing Action Plan (HAP) to address policies for complete communities in the RGS.

One of the key milestones of this work is to reach out to the community to get our citizens' ideas, comments and suggestions. On Monday, January 27, 2014 an online questionnaire was launched that can be reached by going to the HAP home page on the District website at www.mapleridge.ca/246/Housing-Action-Plan. The questionnaire takes less than five minutes to complete, and when combined with the other outreach programs that are underway, will help create recommendations that will come back before Council later in the year.



In addition to the online questionnaire there are two other outreach programs. You will find interactive posters located in the lobbies of the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre, Ridge Meadows Seniors Centre and Municipal Hall. The colourful posters allow you to make comments and share your views on this important work. The third program is a tool called 'coMap' that allows you to share your ideas about housing types and tenure for specific locations in the community. This tool can be reached on the Housing Action Plan homepage at mapleridge.ca.

INFORMED: Water Cross Connection Seminar

Clean Drinking Water is a Number One Priority

Later in February the District will be hosting an information session on water cross connections to explain the best practices to ensure that our public water system is safe and secure.

Our team, along with some experts, will talk about how backflow protection systems can be used to protect the

quality of drinking water within your building and where your building connects to the District water system.

Look for details of the seminar in this newspaper next week, online at the District website at mapleridge.ca and on Facebook and Twitter. Did you know that leaving a hose in your pool can contaminate your water supply under certain conditions? Learn more at this seminar.

FEEDBACK

Contact us at enquiries@mapleridge.ca

If you have a question about any of the content in this ad, or questions about any programs or services offered by the District of Maple Ridge, please send an email to enquiries@mapleridge.ca and one of our team members will respond to you.

INFORMED

February 2014

Council Meeting Schedule

Mayor and Council encourage everyone to attend these important public meetings. It's your chance to see how public policy is debated and enacted.

Monday, February 17

9:00 am, Workshop - Blaney Room

1:00 pm, Committee of the Whole - Council Chambers

Tuesday, February 18

7:00 pm, Public Hearing - Council Chambers

Tuesday, February 25

7:00 pm, Council Meeting - Council Chambers

Agendas & Minutes

Agendas for these meetings are posted online the Friday before the meeting date. Go to mapleridge.ca, click the link under Your Council on the home page.

Council This Week

Subscribe to the 'Council This Week' eNewsletter that provides a summary of issues discussed at Council Workshop meetings. Go to mapleridge.ca, click the link to 'Notify Me' and sign up today.

Council Meeting Videos

If you are unable to attend a Council Meeting, Public Hearing or Committee of the Whole meeting you can now watch these meetings on your computer 24/7. The entire unedited meetings are posted two to three days after the meeting. The video is indexed to the agenda package so that you can watch them in their entirety or click through by agenda item. Go to mapleridge.ca and click on the video link at the centre of the home page.

INFORMED: My Health. My Community Survey



Fraser Health, Vancouver Coastal Health and UBC are currently conducting a study titled 'My Health My Community' that will help them to learn how our lifestyles, our neighbourhoods and our environment all come together to affect overall health and well-being.

The purpose of the survey is to look at how we are doing as a community and a region when it comes to our health and wellness, and provide all of the stakeholders in our community with important information that will help them shape policies, programs and community services to allow us to achieve our health goals.

You can find the survey online at www.myhealthmycommunity.org. The site explains who is eligible to fill out the survey, provides background information on the program and details how you can enter a draw for a number of prizes including an iPad! Your opinion counts! The survey takes less than 10 minutes to fill out and it allows you to spend a few moments to think about your health and our community. The two are related, so fire up your computer and be part of creating the health care system we all want.



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