

AILEEN-WILLOWBROOK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (AWRA)

(An officially registered ratepayers' group within the City of Markham)

awra.thornhill@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2021

(Published 3x per year)



1/ YOU MAY NOT RECOGNIZE US BUT WE'RE YOUR NEIGHBOURS !

The vaccination rate is up and Covid19 cases are coming down... good news for a change... but what a long haul it's been!

AWRA is still here! **AWRA** concerns **YOU** and **WHERE YOU LIVE** and was set up to represent the best interests of our neighbourhood.

This includes keeping members informed of issues and betterment programs that will impact them, and the meetings and lobbying with the various levels of Government to make changes and improvements. We are your **volunteer** Neighbourhood Voice to Markham City Council... Covid19 or not!

2/ **AWRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: - ONLINE -**

Scheduled for **Thursday NOVEMBER 18** at 7:00pm. **REGISTER PLEASE** at the following link...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlcOyrrj8tHt0OmDADcKCEalQe2mhZBcrR>

you will then be sent a Zoom meeting link by email.

On the agenda will be a brief review of what's happened in our community for the past year, and what's ahead in the coming year.

As well, we will have our elections for the positions of **PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, and TREASURER**. **Directors** are appointed as appropriate to work on various projects.

We need more neighbours to participate on the AWRA executive team... please consider volunteering to help us make decisions and get action on neighbourhood issues.

NOTE: As the Annual General Meeting also signifies a new operating year, **annual dues of \$20 are now due**. Payment can be by cheque, made out to AWRA, dropped off or mailed to AWRA at 94 Breckonwood Cres., Thornhill, ON L3T 5E8 – OR – eTransferred to awra.thornhill@gmail.com

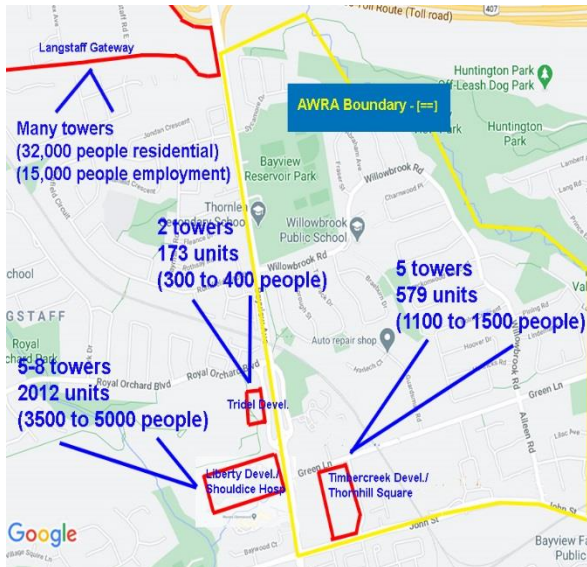


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3/ ACTION PENDING: DEVELOPMENTS, DEVELOPMENTS, DEVELOPMENTS



2021 has seen an overwhelming pressure and demand placed on AWRA and also other Ward 1 Ratepayers groups! We few volunteers are forced to focus 98% of our efforts on politicking the issues surrounding the following inappropriate massive developments proposed for our area...

- Liberty Developments - the Shouldice Hospital property
- Timercreek Developments – Thornhill Square property
- Tridel Developments – on Royal Orchard and Bayview
- Langstaff Gateway Developments – on Langstaff between Yonge & Bayview

We won't elaborate on the status quo for those developments in this newsletter, as there are many... **come to the Annual General Meeting on Nov. 18 at 7:00pm for a more in-depth update...** REGISTER in ADVANCE please.

Because these projects will have overlapping **severe** impacts on the unarguable traffic congestion, overuse of the Thornhill Community Centre, the loss of green space, etc., etc., we've been studying the development applications, making deputations, attending lots of meetings, and communicating with city staff and Councilors to get the following...

- **Markham needs to pass an interim control bylaw to halt further planning work on these developments for up to 12 months, while...**
- **Markham needs to create a Thornhill Village Sub-Committee with all major stakeholders represented, including the impacted ratepayers' groups, developers, planners, etc., who will...**
- **Help create a new Thornhill Secondary Plan, replacing the one created in 1987 (partly revised in 1995)... to better reflect the realities of Ward 1.**

Come to the Annual Meeting to let your voices be heard by our Ward 1 Councilor Keith Irish and other Councilors that may be in attendance.

REGISTER in ADVANCE please.

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4/ DELAYED: MAPLE VALLEY TRAIL SYSTEM ACCESS

The formal Maple Valley access point has been delayed pending the rebuild of the Huntington Trail ramp over the culvert system for the German Mills Creek north of Evergreen Cres. With a \$1 million price tag, the ramp repair won't occur 'till the 2022 timeframe.



5/ CRIME IN OUR AREA: CITY PROTECT



CityProtect issues daily, weekly or monthly reports of crimes happening in our area... it's free, and sign-up at ...

<https://www.cityprotect.com/> You will have to select various filters to allow you to specify your area.

Aside from a few general thefts, assaults, etc., vehicle theft is on the rise. The safest place to park your vehicle overnight is in your garage. If you have to park on your driveway, think

about purchasing an anti-theft device that is very visible through the windshield. To a thief, an anti-theft device means too much time to break in to your vehicle to defeat the device, so most likely, they will pass by your vehicle.

6/ COMMUNICATIONS within the COMMUNITY: CA.NEXTDOOR.COM

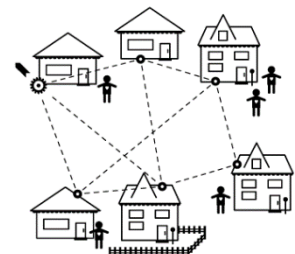
Aside from email communications AWRA sends to you which is more specific to our area, there is a website

https://ca.nextdoor.com/news_feed which gives you reporting of a broader spectrum of community activity in more than just AWRA's area. AWRA uses this on occasion to broadcast more urgent information to a broader reach within Markham.

To prevent being swamped with notifications, under Settings Newsfeed Preferences, choose the '**top reports**' category.

To stay tuned to what's happening with our local developments, join the Aileen Willowbrook and Thornhill Center Amazing Developments GROUP within Nextdoor...

https://ca.nextdoor.com/g/ng0765o8q/?is=groups_section_rhr



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7/ MOSTLY DONE: SPEED HUMP RE-CONDITIONING on Willowbrook



The humps have been replaced. There is still one hump near Henricks on Willowbrook which is still a bit too high... we are working with the City to get that adjusted.

With the traffic congestion on Bayview increasing, so is the use of Willowbrook as a short cut/ bypass to John St... and ***the speed humps are there to deter the speed of non-residents*** as well as residents.

Aside from the locals who are slowing down for the humps, there are still others who are taking the humps at high speed... and the gouges in the asphalt near the hump show how the offending cars are being thumped for their excess speed.

8/ ONGOING: DO YOU STILL GET FLOODING AFTER A MAJOR RAIN STORM?

There are 2 types of flooding... from stormwater drain backup or sanitary (sewer) drain backup, or both.

The **Markham Private Plumbing Protection Rebate Program has been extended to the end of April 2022** as approved by City Council. The program eligibility and application process are updated too!

Details and rebates can be found at...

<https://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/home/neighbourhood-services/water-sewer/projects-and-programs/01-private-plumbing-protection-rebate-program#:~:text=Markham%20has%20invested%20millions%20of%20dollars%20to%20improve,making%20certain%20improvements%20on%20their%20private%20plumbing%20system.>

Many residents have taken advantage of the discounted remediation program offered by the City of Markham and a designated local plumber.

If you have a flooding issue, **email Eric Casper, the AWRA Director for flood problems, at AWRA.THORNHILL@GMAIL.COM**



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9/ **HELP** Can someone help AWRA develop a website?

AWRA (Aileen-Willowbrook Residents Assn) needs a website to allow us to extend our reach to more residents.

Please reach out to us at
AWRA.THORNHILL@GMAIL.COM



10/ **YOUNG VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME!**

High school, college and university students are welcome as well.



For those seeking volunteer hours, they can be earned easily through participating in the AWRA committees.

If you are interested, please email awra.thornhill@gmail.com with your name and contact information, & we will get right back to you.

PLEASE JOIN US

We are your **volunteer** Neighbourhood Voice to Markham City Council. The City doesn't provide us funding, nor are we salaried.

Your **\$20.00 annual fee helps** immensely in offsetting the administration costs.
(This fee covers the period from Sept. 1 of one year to Aug. 31 of the next year.)

We accept Interac e-Transfers through online banking.... sent to
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or send a cheque to AWRA at 94 Breckonwood Cres., Thornhill, On L3T 5E8

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