



Your Community

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

December 2017

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.

Community Christmas Hamper Drive in gear

'Tis the season, as they say, and the volunteers at the Community Christmas Hamper Drive certainly hope everyone is in a giving mood.

The hamper drive is coordinated by Abundant Life Lutheran Church members and this is the seventh year they've collected food, toys and cash for the less fortunate.

Randy Loeb is a volunteer with the hamper drive and he said every year they strive to make more local people

aware that a hamper drive exists in East St. Paul.

"There's a need for a hamper program here because we kind of fall into a gap between Selkirk and Winnipeg," Loeb said.

"Both those communities have hamper programs, but people living in our area and others around us don't qualify, so the need here is very real."

The Community Christmas Hamper Drive distributed about 70 hampers last year to people in East St. Paul,

West St. Paul, St. Clements and parts of Springfield.

Jennifer Jantz is this year's hamper coordinator and she said they've sent letters to businesses encouraging them to participate and the response has been very good.

The East St. Paul Craft Show is going to collect non-perishable food items for the drive and schools in East St. Paul and East Selkirk will as well.

Local businesses, service organiza-

tions and schools will be accepting donations for the hamper drive, so watch for signs at participating merchants.

If you're in need of a hamper, need more information or would like to donate or volunteer, call 204-390-1396.

Deadline for donations is Tuesday, Dec. 12. Hampers will be distributed Dec. 16.

If you have time on Dec. 15 between 1 and 4 pm, consider going to Abundant Life Lutheran to help prepare hampers. The more the merrier.

Season's Greetings

East St. Paul Mayor Shelley Hart, along with Couns. Mike Wasylin, Orest Horchko, Brian Duval and Charles Posthumus, would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hope everyone is able to take time to enjoy the holiday season with family and friends. The year 2017 has been an exciting one in East St. Paul, and we're looking forward to an even better 2018. As the year comes to a close and you reflect on the blessings it has brought you, please remember those who are less fortunate. Your Mayor and Council wish you and your loved ones a safe and healthy holiday season.



Inaugural Performance



**East St. Paul
Community
Band
Christmas
Concert**

**Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 7 pm
Albright Church 3400 De Vries Ave.
Treats,
hot chocolate and fellowship
time to follow!**

Silver Ridge condos a community within a community

Marion Desilets had a quick answer when asked what she would have done if there were no Silver Ridge Condos.

"Cry," she laughed, before admitting tears likely would have flowed if the new building hadn't gone up at the corner of Birds Hill Road and Agar Street.

"But I didn't have to think about it too long because I met Carla far enough in advance of me selling my house that the decision was kind of taken away from me."

Carla is Carla Devlin of Carrington Property Developments and she'd already been given the green light by East St. Paul council to build the eight-unit condo/apartment building when she ran into Desilets.

Their meeting came at the perfect time for Desilets.

"I sold my house a year ago, and by the grace of karma or whatever I met Carla and she knew I was selling, but I didn't know she was building," Desilets said.

"She let me know what she was building and even at that time a year ago I said 'I want a spot here.'"

Desilets, who's lived in East St. Paul since 1995 and raised her two kids here, moved into a main floor unit as soon as it opened.

She lives below her long-time friends, Janet and Wes Wilgosh, who were looking to downsize at the same time and were not looking forward to leaving the community.



Left to right, Janet and Wes Wilgosh, Marion Desilets and Carla Devlin in the Wilgosh condo.

They were talking to Devlin about renting at one of her complexes in Winnipeg when she dropped a bombshell.

"She said 'well, I'm actually building in Birds Hill'. I went 'in Birds Hill'? Really?" Janet said.

"She didn't know that we were from out here. I said 'oh my, this is perfect.'"

The old friends are now part of a community within their home community. Silver Ridge features tenants who range in age from 28 to mid-80s, and

they're all connected, either by blood, or hockey or from "making perogies at church," Desilets laughed.

And Devlin said she noticed right away that life at Silver Ridge wasn't like life in any of the other properties she handles.

"I think the greatest thing is when I come here to do something, they're all sharing wine, they're on each others patios, it's like a community environment. My other buildings, yes, a few say hi and talk outside, but they

don't share that atmosphere together," Devlin said.

"Here it feels like a community amongst the building. It's really nice. When I saw them sharing wine, I put the fire pit in so they'd have a place to gather. It's nice."

For Desilets, who rented one of Devlin's properties in Winnipeg until the condos were ready, she couldn't believe her good fortune.

"I kept texting her and saying 'are you sure this is gonna happen,'" she laughed, adding she loves her place, where everything is new. "I've never had everything new."

Janet and Wes house sat for a friend after they sold their home and then travelled, and put their trust in Devlin's word that their new home was taking shape in their absence.

"Carla said when you get back it will be ready. And it was," Janet said.

Silver Ridge is the first multi-family building ever built in Birds Hill, and Desilets and the Wilgoshs hope for other people's sake, it's not the last.

"There's so many other people we talk to that envy our situation," Wes said.

"I don't think anybody really wants to leave here, if they've been here for all those years."

**Cell phones and batteries can be dropped off at the RM office for recycling.
Take care of the environment - recycle.**