

## First Quarter 2015 Update First Place Program

Good afternoon,

Here is the first quarterly 2015 update from the surplus school sites team at the City of Edmonton:

### Role of Liaisons

If you are receiving this email it is because you have volunteered to be a liaison for First Place, Seniors or Remaining sites. This is a friendly reminder of the important role liaisons play as conduits of information between the City and residents in your respective communities including annual and quarterly liaison updates which contain important information on school site sign placement, new showhome openings, soil testing, upcoming open houses and more.

If you are no longer able to be a liaison please email me at [felicia.michie@edmonton.ca](mailto:felicia.michie@edmonton.ca) and you will be removed from the list.

### Website Update

In May 2015, the City will launch new web pages for the surplus school sites. We've redesigned the pages for easier access to information that is specific to each site. The web pages will provide residents with updates on upcoming open houses, opportunities for public engagement and more.

### Signage on Surplus School Sites

At Council's direction, the City has been finalizing the placement of large signs on all surplus school building sites, to create better understanding and awareness of areas approved as building sites, open space, and the future development that will occur on school building sites. Sign placement is scheduled to be complete by end of April. Blue Quill, Bulyea Heights and Wedgewood Heights sign placement will occur after building location reports have been reviewed by Council.

### Belle Rive & Kirkness

The City is preparing for First Place open houses in Kirkness and Belle Rive in April. The purpose of the open houses is to share information, answer questions about the First Place program, and to collect names of volunteers for the design engagement groups who will participate with the City and builders in designing the new townhomes.

**Kirkness Open House**

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Kirkness School, 610 Kirkness Road NW

**Belle Rive Open House**

Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Florence Hallock School, 16437 87 Street NW

Haddow Design Engagement

The City, Rohit Communities and volunteer residents from Haddow are currently working together in the design engagement process. The latest information on the progress made by the Haddow design engagement group can be viewed [here](#) and [here](#).

Kirkness and Belle Rive Design Engagements

Starting in May, the City and builders will work with volunteer residents from Kirkness and Belle Rive on the design of the new townhomes. The builders are Landmark Homes for the Kirkness site and Rohit Communities for the Belle Rive site.

Larkspur Brochure

In March, residents in Larkspur received a [brochure](#) in the mail about the successful completion of the design engagement process in Larkspur. The brochure shows a draft conceptual plan for First Place homes in Larkspur developed by resident volunteers, the City and Rohit Communities including landscaping, lighting, roof lines, entry features and more to ensure a harmonious “fit” with the surrounding community.

Twin Brooks Community League

On March 2, 2015, the City attended a Twin Brooks community league meeting to share information and answer questions about the First Place program. In 2017, the City will host a First Place open house for all Twin Brooks residents. Visit our website to view the [information shared](#) with the Twin Brooks community league.

First Place Showhomes

Please visit the First Place showhomes in:

- Casselman Landing: 5203 149 Avenue, built by Rohit Communities
- Kernohan: 311 Clairview Road, built by Landmark Homes (opening spring 2015)

### Sales Activity

First Place homes continue to sell faster than anticipated. A total of 160 homes have sold in Caernarvon, Tawa and Casselman.

### Soil Testing

This year, the City conducted soil tests in Kirkness and Belle Reve to ensure suitability for First Place construction. Advanced notice was provided to residents immediately surrounding the site. Soil testing will also occur for 2016 engagement sites, in Dunluce and Sifton Park.

### Construction

Construction will begin in Bearspaw in April or May, and in Larkspur in June. Construction in Haddow will occur later this year. Kernohan remains under construction.

### Reports To Council

This spring/summer, administration will present recommendations to City Council regarding First Place and seniors' housing building locations in Blue Quill and Bulyea Heights and the seniors' building location in Wedgewood Heights. The recommendations take community input into account. Additionally, on April 13, 2015, City Council approved a report to rezone the areas surrounding the First Place building site in Kernohan to a public park.

### Edmonton Journal Article

Here is a recent [Edmonton Journal opinion piece](#) on the important role infill housing plays in creating sustainable neighbourhoods.

Please be in touch if you have questions.

Regards,

Felicia Michie

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City of Edmonton