

## **First Place Liaison Update**

Good afternoon Liaison members:

Happy New Year! We have a number of updates to share now that 2015 is well underway:

### Mayor's Blog

For your information, please see Mayor Don Iveson's recent blog post on the important role that surplus school sites play in city building:

<http://doniveson.ca/2014/10/28/the-important-role-of-surplus-school-sites/>

### Signage on Surplus School Sites

Following Council direction, the City is placing signs on all surplus school building sites, including undeveloped 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.

### New Website

In 2015, the City will unveil 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.

### 2014 & 2015 Open Houses

Last year provided the City with the opportunity to meet with residents in the neighbourhoods of Blue Quill, Bulyea Heights, Larkspur and Haddow. The purpose of the open houses was 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. At the Blue Quill and Bulyea Heights open houses, the City also heard from residents on the approved and alternate First Place and seniors' housing building site locations.

This year, the City will work with the Evansdale, Hairsine and Blue Quill community leagues to plan First Place program open houses for the Belle Reve, Kirkness and Blue Quill sites, respectively.

### Reports to City Council

In 2015, City administration will present reports to City Council recommending the approved or alternate building sites for First Place and seniors' housing in Blue Quill, Bulyea Heights and Wedgewood Heights. Community feedback is one important factor the City will take into

consideration when providing a recommendation to City Council. Other factors that City staff use to make recommendations to City Council about the approved versus alternate sites include the costs associated with each site, whether the soil will support the developments and the suitability of each site for the approved use.

### Upcoming Design Engagements

This year, residents in Blue Quill and Haddow will work with the City and builder in designing new First Place townhomes, collaborating on design elements including views and site lines, orientation, materials, landscaping and more.

### Completed Design Engagements

Congratulations to Larkspur and Bearspaw on their successful completion of the design engagement process! The design engagement process is successful because of the passion residents have for their neighbourhoods and their commitment to working together to ensure the homes fit well into their neighbourhood. For more information on the design engagement processes, check out the builders facebook pages:

- For Larkspur visit:  
<https://www.facebook.com/rohitcommunities/posts/826290504081797>
- For Bearspaw visit:  
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.697229543648930.1073741835.124085174296706&type=1>

### 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

2014 was a successful year for sales of First Place homes, which have sold faster than anticipated. A total of 122 homes have sold in Caernarvon, Tawa and Casselman.

### Soil Testing

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

### Construction

This year will see construction begin in Bearspaw, Larkspur and Haddow and continue in Kernohan.

### Transforming Edmonton Blog

Finally, check out how the First Place program in helping first-time home buyers enter the housing market:

<https://transformingedmonton.ca/just-around-the-corner/>

<https://transformingedmonton.ca/a-first-place-for-every-stage/>

We look forward to connecting with you over the coming months. As always, feel free to email us at [felicia.michie@edmonton.ca](mailto:felicia.michie@edmonton.ca) if you have any questions.

Regards,

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