



News from Regional Councillor Lee & Councillor Henry



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Happy New Year! As we look back on 2023 at the new challenges we've encountered as a Town, we're excited to start 2024 with some exciting news that will help modernize the Town:

Housing Accelerator Funding

To help address the ever-growing demand for housing, the Town of Ajax reached an agreement with the Government of Canada to secure \$22 million in funding through the Housing Accelerator Fund. Working in coordination with Ajax's Action Plan, this will help plan for roughly 11,000 new homes over the next decade – in a broad range of styles, including rental properties. This will help us better meet the diverse housing needs of our community.



Hello, Ward 2. Happy New Year and welcome to the first newsletter of 2024.

I would like to take this opportunity to start with addressing some of the concerns you've brought forth in recent months, including:

- traffic calming measures;
- the budget; and
- educational needs in northeast Ajax.

Traffic calming measures and ASE program streets

On January 29, 2024, Council passed a motion regarding Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE). ASE machines are a modern enforcement tool being deployed by the Town of Ajax to improve safety and enforce speed limits in designated Community Safety Zones (CSZ) on Town Roads. The full list of ASE program streets will be made available on the Town's website at ajax.ca/ASE.



Makerspace at McLean Community Centre

To foster creativity and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) development, the Ajax Public Library opened its first Makerspace at the McLean Community Centre (MCC). With 3D printers, VR (virtual reality) headsets and the latest and greatest in robotics and coding, the Makerspace will cultivate innovation by providing a collaborative environment for hands-on creation.

Grandview Kids

Scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2024, Ward 2 will be the home of the new Grandview Children’s Centre headquarters. Located on Harwood Avenue, south of Taunton Road, this state-of-the-art facility will be an inclusive community-based paediatric facility, offering an integrated mix of rehabilitation, medical and clinical services, as well as education research activities.

Ajax Fire and Emergency Services

Ajax Fire and Emergency Services (AFES) plays a critical role in our community by responding to emergencies (fire, accidents, natural disasters, etc.). Their swift and skilled intervention saves lives, protects property and ensures public safety. Over the past few years, the Town has made investments to ensure the safety of our community.

AFES 2023 service highlights:

- Completed the hiring and training of 20 additional firefighters, with a fifth staffed Fire apparatus put in service.
- Expansion of the in-house training programs due to the fire college closure, NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) certification requirements, including in-house proctoring and marking of exams.
- Transitioned a part-time administrative assistant to full-time to alleviate administration pressure on Fire Prevention and increase Fire Prevention Public Safety Inspection resources.
- Following research to reduce traffic congestion on Westney Road in front of Station #1, opticoms were added to fire apparatus to decrease delays in responding to emergency incidents.
- Partnered with Camp Molly Program in the support of and empowerment of young women looking to pursue a career in the Fire Services.



Incident Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Yearly Totals
Alarms	47	57	51	52	66	51	60	37	52	66	47	37	623
Explosions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire/Smoke	18	26	19	42	39	45	30	45	37	36	34	19	390
Hazard	27	26	23	18	30	22	35	23	25	19	19	21	288
Medical	68	52	48	79	98	98	91	68	112	97	87	87	985
Motor Vehicle Collisions	49	50	52	51	60	52	44	49	59	53	44	57	620
Rescue	3	1	2	1	1	3	4	3	3	0	2	0	23
Other	52	57	47	28	37	53	64	47	48	44	38	31	546
TOTALS	264	269	242	271	331	324	328	272	336	315	271	252	3475

Educational needs in northeast Ajax

Over the recent months, your Ward 2 Councillors continue to advocate for educational infrastructure for the students of northeast Ajax and the Castlefields Community. Most recently, a letter was sent to the Durham District School Board to advocate for action in planning for a new school for the area. You can read the full letter under Councillor Henry's profile at ajax.ca/Council.

2024 Capital and Operating Budget

The 2024 Budget was adopted on January 15, 2024. It is the first "Strong Mayor's Budget" in Ajax's history. The budget maintains financial stability, prioritizes service improvements and protects service levels, maintains existing assets, invests in our core infrastructure and keeps the Town in a strong financial position. The impact of these investments on the Town's portion of your tax bill will be 2.47%, or \$11.99 per month based on the average MPAC assessed home in Ajax of \$493,000.

In the community

Mental health

#MentalHealth is health. It's important to help remove the stigma around mental health, so individuals know it's okay not to feel okay and it's okay to seek support.

Councillor Henry was honoured with a recent invitation to share and speak at the Alex Monaghan Queen's Park Mental Health Chat. This was a great opportunity to learn, grow and share, while supporting important resources that are available. Together, we can make a difference.



Bestco

On December 22, 2023, we celebrated and welcomed Bestco Fresh Foods to North Ajax, Ward 2. After having this space sit empty for years, we were thrilled to welcome Bestco Fresh Foods.

We were thrilled to see this wildly respected business, with an amazing selection of diverse food products come to Ajax.

Black History Month

Black History is Canada's History. During the month of February 2024, Ajax Council had the honour and opportunity to attend different Black History Month events located in Ajax and across the Region. Through these experiences it's an opportunity to learn, grow and understand how to proceed to the future, without making the mistakes of the past.



Costco's 30th Anniversary

In December, we celebrated Ajax Costco's 30th anniversary with Manager Jerri-Lee and her team.



Councillors often receive questions about why we have a lot of one type of development versus another, specifically, warehouses. The Town zoning policy can dictate a variety of uses for a parcel of land. New warehousing projects are built on private property and with the required zoning in place.

Meanwhile, the Town's Business Development Team is working to bring new business to Ajax, while supporting existing business. The future is looking bright for Ajax!

Learn about projects under development in the Town's Planning and Development Newsletter: ajax.ca/PlanningNews.

2024 meeting schedule*

Community Affairs & Planning

Tuesday, April 2 | 1 p.m.

General Government Committee

Monday, April 8 | 1 p.m.

Council

Monday, April 15 | 1 p.m.

Community Affairs & Planning

Monday, May 6 | 1 p.m.

General Government Committee

Monday, May 13 | 1 p.m.

Council

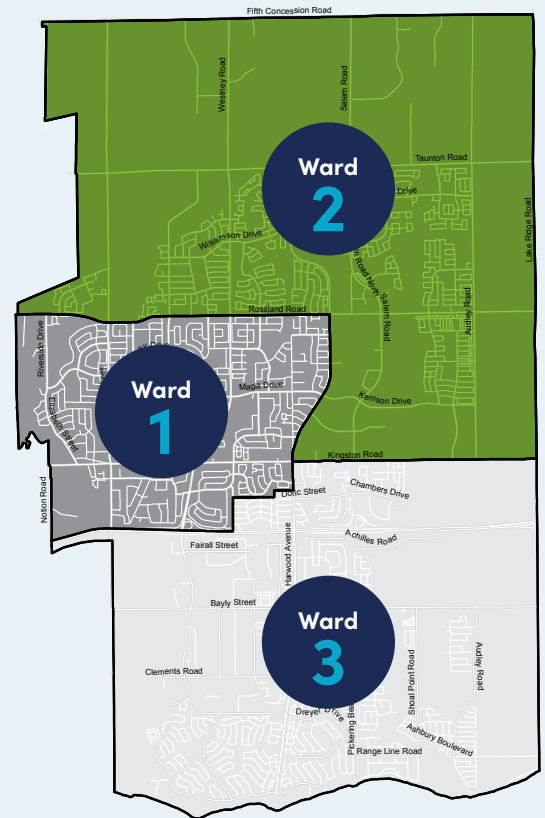
Tuesday, May 21 | 1 p.m.

For more information and to view agendas, visit ajax.ca/Meetings.

*Dates subject to change.

What's my ward?

Find out what ward you live in by using our interactive map at ajax.ca/MyWard.



Mental health supports

Community Care Durham: COPE Mental Health Program

- 905-837-0017, ext. 229
- communitycaredurham.on.ca

Distress Centre Durham Crisis Line

- Call: 1-800-452-0688
- Text: 258258
- distresscentredurham.com

Durham Mental Health Services

- Crisis Line: 1-800-742-1890
- Intake: 905-666-0831
- dmhscentralintake@lh.ca
- dmhs.ca

Lakeridge Health – Ajax Pickering Hospital

- Crisis Line: 905-433-4384
- Intake: 905-683-2320, ext. 13275
- lakeridgehealth.on.ca

Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences – Prompt Clinic

- Crisis Line: 1-800-263-2679
- Intake: 1-877-767-9642
- ontarioshores.ca

Mayor and Council Annual Barbecue

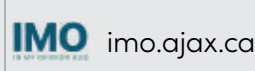
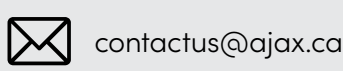
Saturday, June 1, 2024

Audley Recreation Centre

12 - 2 p.m.

Further details, including pre-registration, will be available on the Town's event page ajax.ca/TownEvents closer to the event date. Halal food options will be available.

Stay connected



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