

NEWS & VIEWS

CSL councillors decry MMC payment

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

Côte St. Luc council members decried the fact their city is required to pay the annual fee of \$477,388.83 to the Montreal Metropolitan Community, in two installments.

Mayor Anthony Housefather pointed out that his city has to be a member of the MMC and pay its proportionate share to that community, "regardless of whether we think it's a good or bad community. We have absolutely no option but to adopt this, otherwise the recourse is to pay fines and penalties for not paying them on time."

Traditionally, a few councillors cast a sym-

bolic vote against the payment — this time, they were Councillors Ruth Kovac, Allan Levine and Glenn Nashen.

The mover of the resolution, Councillor Steven Erdelyi, said he introduced it at the February meeting "reluctantly, grudgingly and with regret."

"The MMC produces very nice documents," he said. "Do I think those documents are worth \$477,000? No, but it's something we must do."

Levine, who voted against, said the MMC's booklet has "thick coloured pages, gorgeous stuff, and it costs an absolute fortune to produce. They could offer this thing online or ask who wants it."

"But they don't. They spend all this money

producing this booklet. This booklet alone is an example of abuse by people not elected by the public."

Housefather pointed out that the MMC is "governed by a board of elected officials nominated from all of the different regions making up the MMC, so they are actually elected. I understand your disapproval of the way they spend money."

Told about the comments from Côte St. Luc council, François Desrochers of the MMC had no comment.

According to its website, the MMC is "a planning, coordinating and funding body serving 82 municipalities, and has jurisdiction over land planning, economic development, pro-

motion of arts and culture, social and affordable housing.

Its goals are to "provide the Montreal metropolitan area with a common, shared vision, which will be followed by a consistent economic development plan and a metropolitan land use and development plan to make the region internationally competitive; ensure harmonious, equitable development throughout the MMC's territory while providing a quality living environment for the region's citizens; and establish a truly metropolitan financing system based on diversified revenue sources to finance metropolitan activities and municipal activities in specific sectors," amongst other goals. ■

Sign up for Code Red service, MoWest councillor urges residents

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

Montreal West Councillor Maria Torres urged residents who have not already done so to sign up to be part of the Code Red notification service for emergencies.

At a previous council meeting, Councillor Julie Tasker-Brown asked residents with unlisted phone numbers to sign up

for the service.

Torres, in charge of the public works portfolio on council, made the plea late last month in light of four water main breaks in the town in January, including one at Westminster and Northview, another on Avon, a third on Ballantyne South and a fourth on the day of the council meeting, on Crestwood.

"This break happened around 2 a.m.,

and water for the area had to be shut down so it would not cause any damage to surrounding areas," Torres explained. "Code Red went out around 6:30 a.m."

The councillor said not all residents are on Code Red's list of phone numbers.

"A lot of people are not notified and then they call town hall and say they didn't know, that they're not on Code Red," Torres pointed out. "So I would like to remind

all residents who are not yet registered with the Code Red system to do so. It only takes a couple of minutes, and in case of emergencies such as water shutdowns, you will be notified first thing in the morning or as soon as it happens during the day."

For more information, check Montreal West's website at www.montreal-west.ca, and click on Code Red under Public Security, Fire and Police. ■

New St. Laurent library receives international award

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

St. Laurent's new library, the Bibliothèque du Boisé, received an international award for management leadership from the Project Management Institute.

The PMI Award for Project Excellence award was presented Oct. 25 during a ceremony in Phoenix, Arizona. PMI is a non-profit organization, and the "world's biggest professional association of project management practitioners," according to the borough announcement.

"This award serves to distinguish, at the international level, projects valued under \$100 million that are outstanding due to exceptional production quality and a top-notch project team," the announcement adds.

Mayor Alan DeSousa and library project manager Marie-Claude Le Sauteur were on hand for the ceremony.

"The construction of the Bibliothèque du Boisé is a success from every angle," DeSousa said. "The bar was set high because we aimed for nothing short of excellence for this building, especially with respect to sustain-

able development. We take even more pride in this accomplishment because it underscores the outstanding competence of the team that completed this complex project. It is in fact the biggest municipal building ever erected in St. Laurent. I would like to

commend Marie-Claude Le Sauteur and her entire team for this tremendous professional distinction."

Borough director Véronique Doucet and financial manager Edith Tremblay were also on hand. ■

10 • THE SUBURBAN, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015

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