



Spring 2026 eNewsletter

Dave Pickles, Regional Councillor, Ward 3 · City of Pickering

Spring has sprung! This issue covers community safety initiatives, new park projects, transit updates, upcoming events, and where your tax dollars are invested.

Community Safety



Community Safety Meeting – Feb 25

Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS) met with 68 residents at Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex to discuss theft prevention.

Topics covered:

- **Crime Prevention Resources** – home & auto theft tips.
drps.ca/community-safety-and-support/crime-prevention/
- **CAMSafe Camera Registry** – voluntary registry to help police locate security cameras.
drps.ca/online-services/camsafe-camera-registry/
- **Drone First Responder (DFR) Pilot** – improves response times & situational awareness.
drps.ca/.../drone-first-responder-dfr-pilot-project/

Contacts: DRPS West Division – westdivision@drps.ca | City of Pickering – eknox@pickering.ca

Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS)

Councillors Pickles & Butt meet regularly with DRPS leadership to relay resident concerns and hear updates on trends. Residents are encouraged to contact DRPS directly at www.drps.ca or follow [@drps_officialwest](https://www.instagram.com/drps_officialwest) on Instagram.

Key DRPS Online Resources	
When to Call 911	Guidance on emergency vs. non-emergency calls
Report a Crime	Online reporting & access to registries
Online Services	Monthly crime & traffic dashboard

Investing in Safety – Policing



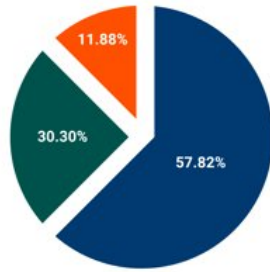
In 2025, Durham Region saw reductions in commercial break-ins, commercial robberies, and auto thefts — but residential break-ins increased. Many crimes (e.g. intimate partner violence, sexual assault) remain under-reported.

The **2026 Regional budget** approves **111 new DRPS positions** (78 uniform officers, 30 frontline).

DRPS has launched a public awareness campaign and door-knock initiative.

Property Tax Relief

- \$ Boards of Education
- \$ Region of Durham
- \$ City of Pickering



Annual grant of **\$600** available to eligible **low-income seniors** and **persons with disabilities** who own and occupy their home. Eligibility is based on a combination of taxpayer and property status. Apply online at pickering.ca

Seniors & Persons with Disabilities Snow Clearing Program – also available; check pickering.ca for details.

Grand Opening – Dorsay Community & Heritage Centre

OPEN THIS SPRING Dorsay Community & Heritage Centre

Register now for our first season of recreation programs.

- Free Program Trials
 - Mini-Sessions
 - Workshops
- Program participants receive a special welcome gift on the first day of class. One welcome gift per participant. pickering.ca/active



Saturday, June 13 - 5:30 – 8:00 pm

- 5:30 pm – Ribbon cutting & ceremonial door opening
- 5:45 pm – Opening ceremonies with Mayor & dignitaries (Banquet Hall stage)
- 7:00 pm – Cake cutting

Official opening of the Dorsay Heritage & Community Centre and the Redman House renovation.

New Parks Projects

Park	Status / Details
Dave Ryan Community Park (Alexander Knox & Mulberry)	Construction starting Spring 2026. Will include: full-size soccer pitch, lit ball diamond, tennis court, pickleball courts, half-court basketball, large playground (junior & senior), water play area, parking lot, and washroom/fieldhouse.
Greenwood Park Master Plan	Community consultation & concept plan to be completed in 2026. Design in Capital Forecast for 2027.
Claremont Park Master Plan	New playground to be completed this spring. Shade structure design & construction in Capital Forecast 2027.

Scenic Drive Park	Community consultation Spring 2026 · Detailed design Fall 2026 · Construction 2027. Adjacent to school on Tillings Rd.
Whitevale Park Playground	Completion: Spring 2026.
Claremont Memorial Park Playground	Completion: Spring 2026.
Forsyth Park – Claremont (Geranium Homes)	Plans being finalized; construction anticipated 2026/2027.
New City Centre Park (Glenanna Rd, across from City Hall)	Schematic design proceeding for Council endorsement 2026. Year-round programming: outdoor skating, water feature, washroom, public art, landscaping.

Your Tax Dollars at Work

Your taxes fund: policing, fire protection, health, social services & housing, schools, recreation centres & parks, infrastructure, roads, and operations.

Durham–Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Update

Segment	Status
Steeple Hill → Merritton	Design 100% complete. Tender expected April 2026; construction Summer 2026.
Dixie → Bainbridge	100% design expected April 2026. Tender May 2026; construction late Summer 2026.
CN Bridge (Merritton → Dixie)	Design led by CN; schedule outside our control. Construction expected 2028.

Out in the Community



Tamil Heritage Month & Thai Pongal

Great celebration with MP Juanita Nathan and team.



Grillies Grand Opening

Welcomed Grillies to Pickering at Brock Rd & Bayley.



WATR Grand Opening

Pickering's new waterfront restaurant is now open!



Eid Celebrations

Joined Pickering Islamic Centre for Eid ul-Fitr. Eid Mubarak!



Holi at Devi Mandir

Wonderful celebration of spring, colour, renewal & love on March 12.



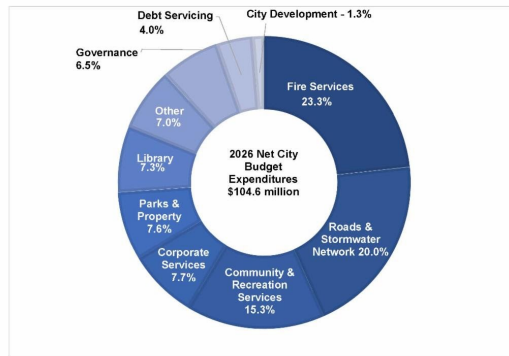
Durham New Lunar Year

Happy Year of the Horse! Thanks to Durham Chinese Canadian Culture Centre.



Reed's Florists – Shops at Pickering City Centre

Support local! Great selection of flowers and gifts.



St. Paul's on the Hill Community Food Bank

Always needs donations & volunteers. City provides support via casino revenue grants and the Mayor's Gala.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location / Notes
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Apr 29, 6:30–8:30 pm	Councillors Open House	Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Centre. Speak with Councillors & City staff on roads, parks, nuclear station refurbishment, BRT, DRPS & more.
May 9	Petapolooza	Esplanade Park
May 23 & 24	Artfest	Esplanade Park
Jun 13, 5:30–8 pm	Dorsay Heritage Centre Grand Opening	See details above
Jun 19–21	Pickering Rotary Ribfest	Esplanade Park
Jul 1	Canada Day	Esplanade Park 12:00–5:00 pm · Kinsmen Park 7:00–10:00 pm
Aug 7–9	Pickering Food Truck Festival	Esplanade Park

Questions or feedback? Contact Councillor Pickles: dpickles@pickering.ca · 905.420.4605

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