

# Adam Giambrone e-Newsletter — 2 April 2008

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## **New Blue Bins Arrive in Ward 18 — City Works Toward 70% Diversion from Landfill:**

The City of Toronto is currently rolling out a new blue bin program in Ward 18 and across the city. This program, called Target 70 is aimed at getting more residents to maximize their recycling efforts, which in turn will help the city meet its goal of 70% diversion from landfills by 2010. The larger bins have a greater capacity than the blue boxes and come in a variety of sizes. It is important to the future of our waste disposal strategy to encourage more intensive recycling because landfill space is expensive and the city is running out of options as to where our garbage will go.

In early February, residents in Ward 18 received a brochure and Blue Bin order card. Residents who did not respond by the deadline (February 22, 2008) will receive the large sized Blue Bin as a default. Residents who decide they need a different bin size than what they receive will also be entitled to one free bin exchange later this year after the initial deliveries have been completed. Blue Bin deliveries in our area began in late March 2008.

As noted at the Blue Bin Open Houses and in the literature, there is no charge to residents for the new Blue Bins.

For more information on the new Blue Bin program, residents can visit: [www.toronto.ca/target70](http://www.toronto.ca/target70) or call 416-392-BINS (2467) to speak with a trained representative.

The new blue bins will help the city achieve its 70% diversion goal, but more importantly, lead to a cleaner and greener Toronto.

### **Alternate Side Parking Program Expands on April 1<sup>st</sup>:**

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, the alternate side parking program will be expanded to cover additional streets in Ward 18, as well as resuming on streets where it has already been established.

Alternate side parking allows the City to ensure that the side where cars normally park is much cleaner. This program also improves the efficiency and effectiveness of our mechanical street sweeping operations, allowing the City to deliver this service at a lower cost to taxpayers.

This program takes effect April 1<sup>st</sup> and runs until Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. Watch for the new signs to avoid getting a ticket! Alternate side parking does not occur during the winter because it can lead to large snow banks building up on both sides of the street.

To help make changeovers as convenient for residents as possible, Parking Enforcement's policy is to not issue tickets between 9:00 pm and 9:00 am on changeover nights. Please try to change sides during these times.

The City is asking for your cooperation to help make this program a success! For more information, please email [councillor\\_giambrone@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_giambrone@toronto.ca) or call 416-392-7012.

### **Complete list of streets being added to the Alternate Side Parking program on April 1<sup>st</sup>:**

#### **Two-week alternate side parking:**

- Bank Street
- Bartlett Ave, from Dupont to Hallam
- Florence Street
- Gladstone Ave, from Bloor to Dufferin Park
- Havelock St, from Bloor to College
- Margueretta St, from College to Dundas
- Moutray St, from Dufferin to Sheridan
- Rusholme Drive
- Salem Ave, from Dupont to Fernbank
- Sheridan Ave, from College to Dundas
- St. Annes Road
- Westmoreland Ave, from Dupont to Hallam

#### **Thursday-changeover alternate side parking:**

- Bartlett Ave, from Hallam to Shanly
- Gladstone Ave, from Lindsey to Dufferin Grove Park
- Lisgar St, from Queen to Sudbury
- Rusholme Park Crescent
- Rusholme Rd, from Dundas to Heydon Park
- Salem Ave, from Bloor to Southview
- Westmoreland Ave, from Hallam to Shanly

### **West Toronto Railpath Park Begins Construction this Spring:**

The City of Toronto has approved the construction of a railpath park trail which is approximately 2.1 kilometres long, running from the Cariboo Avenue in the north (Cariboo is one block north of Dupont) to Dundas Street in the south.

The design consists of a lit, asphalt trail which winds through the site with concrete paved plazas at street intersections. Planting will consist of native tree species. Where possible, existing trees

along the site will be protected and incorporated into the design. Native grasses and wildflower seeds from the site were collected in the fall of 2006 and will be replanted in 2009. Planting adjacent to the path and under the trees will consist of low grasses and wildflowers. This will maintain the 'wild' character of the existing site while providing habitat for birds, insects and small mammals. The low heights of new plants will provide open sight lines through the site for a safe and comfortable experience for all trail users.

The tender for the project has closed and by the end of April the contract will have been awarded to the winning bidder. Construction should start early in May, although the timing of construction north of Dupont Street is still to be sorted out. Negotiations with Go Transit are ongoing regarding coordinating access to these lands due to their ongoing rail grade separation project in the same area. Our work will start this spring regardless. Anticipated completion of the project is June 2009.

The City also plans to construct a second phase of this trail, running from Dundas St. to King St, in future years. Negotiations with CN Rail are ongoing to purchase the land needed for phase two of the project, and provisions are being made for the trail in current planning processes, such as leaving space for the trail in the Dufferin Jog Tunnel project set to begin construction later this year.

For more information about the West Toronto Railpath Park, please contact my office or visit [www.railpath.ca](http://www.railpath.ca).

#### **Dufferin Grove Park Wading Pool Renovation Postponed until Fall 2008:**

The City will be renovating the wading pool at Dufferin Grove Park this fall. Work is scheduled to start shortly after Labour Day, and the project should be completed by the beginning of winter, although there may be some work left to be completed in spring of 2009.

This project was initiated last year as part of the Parks Department's state-of-good-repair program and it is budgeted to cost approximately \$200,000. The wading pool in Dufferin Grove is one of the oldest in the City and was identified in a 2005 wading pool audit as being one of the top priorities for repairs. The plumbing in particular needs to be completely replaced.

The project was originally scheduled for construction in fall of 2007, but was delayed to allow for extensive public consultations on the design for the new pool that the community had requested. As a result of these consultations, the design for the pool has been greatly improved. Beyond replacing aging equipment, the project now also features several improvements to the wading pool area that the community requested, including a new drinking fountain, asphalt paths to improve accessibility, improved lighting, a natural stone seat wall, new benches, a footwashing station, improved drainage and additional tree planting.

The City looked at beginning construction this spring, but decided it would be best to stick to the original plan of starting construction in the fall in order to ensure there are no disruptions to the busy summer season at the wading pool. City staff are in the process of issuing the tender for the project and will be awarding the contract shortly to the winning bidder. The tender includes strict tree protection measures the contractor will have to follow, including hiring an arborist who will be on site during the construction to ensure there is no damage to the existing trees.

#### **Development application: 1155 Queen Street West — Community Council Notice:**

On **TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2008**, Community Council will consider a proposal by the owner for a development at 1155 Queen Street West (currently the car wash.) The Toronto Planning Department is recommending approval of the proposal.

A previous public meeting was held about this application on November 13, 2007, at the Parkdale Library.

You are welcome to attend and make your views about this proposal known to Community Council and Councillor Adam Giambrone. If you wish to do so, you should register in advance by calling 416-392-6992 or emailing [teycc@toronto.ca](mailto:teycc@toronto.ca). Deputations can also be made in writing.

The proposal is for an 8-storey (26 metre) mixed use building with retail on the ground floor, non-residential space on the second floor, and 40 residential units above. Steppbacks from Queen Street at the 5th and 7th floors are proposed. 55 parking spaces will be provided underground and all loading, garbage and access is shared with the proposal at 1171 Queen Street West (the future Bohemian Embassy). Community benefits have been secured towards the park, artist work studios and the alteration of the Carnegie Library into an arts hub.

This proposal is one of several in the West Queen West Triangle, four of which have been settled, and several of which are still in the application process.

### **City's New Lobbyist Registry is Now in Effect:**

The purpose of the City's new Lobbyist Registry is to enhance public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the City's decision-making processes by making lobbying activities open and accessible to the public. Lobbying activities are to be carried out ethically and with the highest standards.

The Lobbyist Registry keeps track of who talks to whom about what, and makes that information available to the public on the internet.

### **The Lobbyist Registry is based on the following principles:**

- The City government's duty to make decisions in the public interest should not be impeded.
- Open and unfettered access to City government is a vital aspect of local democracy.
- Lobbying public office holders is a legitimate business activity.
- Public office holders and the public should be able to know who is attempting to influence City government.
- Public disclosure of lobbying activity and standards of conduct for lobbyists are important to the integrity of City government decision-making.
- A system for the registration of lobbying activity and the regulation of the conduct of lobbyists should not impede access to the City government.

### **The registry includes:**

- Information about the lobbyist and the client, business or organization for which the lobbying is taking place
- Subject matter of the lobbying activity to be undertaken
- Name of the division or program of the City or local board the lobbyist expects to lobby
- Name of the Member of Council or local board member or person on the member's staff the lobbyist expects to lobby
- Communication methods that the lobbyist expects to use
- Information about any elected, appointed or other senior City or local board position previously held by the lobbyist.

Lobbying without registering is a by-law offence liable, upon conviction, for a fine of up to \$25,000 in the case of the first offence and \$100,000 for subsequent offences.

### **How does the registry affect Councillors' relationship with constituents?**

Registration is not required for a person to communicate with their Member of Council on a typical constituency basis, unless it concerns a proposal or decision for the specific benefit of that individual, business or organization.

If a constituent has a business or commercial interest in a matter, registration is required if their communication with a Member of Council attempts to materially advance decision-making to favour their own interests.

A consultant lobbyist must register when communicating with the City on behalf of a constituent, unless another exemption applies.

For more information on the new Lobbyist Registry, visit [www.toronto.ca/lobbying](http://www.toronto.ca/lobbying).

### **Art Lives Here! — A New Storefront Community Arts Centre on Dundas St:**

Art Lives Here! is a new storefront community arts centre which has just opened at 1593 Dundas Street West. The centre's purpose is to facilitate arts experiences for residents throughout Ward 18, harnessing the potential of art to be a transformative process for not only the makers and viewers of art, but for the entire neighbourhood as well. This storefront arts centre will be used as a meeting place, organizing hub and gallery space for the arts, as well as developing art programming for kids and adults in community parks and other public spaces. Art Lives Here! is funded and supported by the Ontario Arts Council, the Dundas West BIA, Lula Lounge, and Councillor Giambrone's office.

Art Lives Here! is looking for more participants and volunteers. For more information contact [artliveshere.toronto@gmail.com](mailto:artliveshere.toronto@gmail.com).

### **Keeping Toronto Clean and Beautiful — Upcoming Community Clean-Up Events:**

**20-Minute Makeover – Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.**  
**Mayor Miller's Community Clean-Up Day – Saturday, April 19th**

A community is not just a place where groups of people live; a community is groups of people with a common interest. In Toronto, the common community interest is keeping our City clean and beautiful.

It doesn't take long to revamp a park littered with garbage, or pick up waste to prepare our beautiful beaches for summer. If we all come together, we can rejuvenate Toronto after a long winter. Here are two events, in celebration of Earth Day (April 22), where you can get involved.

On Friday, April 18 at 2:00 p.m., 20-Minute Makeover participants go outside for 20 minutes and clean around their workplace, school or another public area. The City provides all supplies. Group can pick up their bags and gloves at any Toronto Pizza Pizza outlet or Toronto Community Centres (while supplies last).

You're also invited to participate in Mayor David Miller's Community Clean-up Day on Saturday, April 19. It's easy! You can do it by yourself or get a group of friends and neighbours together.

Just pick a public area and clean up the litter. Glad and Pitch-In Canada supply free bags for the City to distribute (while supplies last).

To register for either event or for more information, go to [www.toronto.ca/litter](http://www.toronto.ca/litter). If the Internet isn't an option, call 416-392-7899. Group registration for both events is required to ensure City collection crews know where to pick up litter bags. Registration starts late March until April 11.

Keeping Toronto clean and beautiful is up to all of us!

**City to host Tsunami Relief Forum to showcase rebuilding efforts in tsunami-stricken communities:**

Mayor David Miller and Councillor Pam McConnell will host a Tsunami Relief Forum to showcase the involvement of Toronto and other Canadian municipalities in rebuilding tsunami-stricken communities in Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Organized jointly by the City of Toronto and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the forum will include presentations by City of Toronto staff, as well as staff from other Canadian cities who participated in assistance missions in the affected regions. A short film will also be screened describing the various relief projects that are part of FCM's post-tsunami reconstruction programs.

**Date:** Thursday, April 3  
**Time:** 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
**Location:** City Hall in the Council Chambers

The Indian Ocean tsunami of December 26, 2004 caused massive devastation and destroyed or disrupted the ability of local governments to deliver basic services to their residents. As a result, staff from the City of Toronto participated in FCM's assistance missions to rebuild and rehabilitate communities in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka and Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

**City of Toronto 2008 Operating Budget Highlights:**

On March 31st, City Council approved the \$8.2 billion operating budget for 2008. Property taxes (\$3.315 billion) fund 41 per cent of the City's operating budget. User fees and charges (\$1.273 billion) and Provincial and Federal grants and subsidies (\$1.973 billion) fund the balance.

For your information, the budget calls for a 2.3% overall tax increase which is essentially broken down into the following categories: 3.75% for residential houses; 1.25% for non-residential (e.g. commercial, industrial, multi-residential) and; an actual decrease for retail stores assessed at \$1 million or less on commercial retail strips (e.g. Queen Street West, Dundas Street West, and Bloor Street West in our area).

These rates reflect the fact that City of Toronto businesses are over-taxed (compared to those outside the City of Toronto such as Mississauga, Brampton, Vaughan) with the result that Toronto is losing jobs and not acquiring our share of new ones, which is a real problem on a number of levels. Furthermore, residential houses in Toronto are paying less than those in cities around Toronto for municipal services (please note that the figures do not include education taxes that are collected by the City of Toronto but are passed on to the Province of Ontario to fund the public school system).

The comparable municipal taxes on the average household are:

Toronto:	\$2,701
Mississauga:	\$2,956
Oshawa:	\$3,170
Markham:	\$3,383

Oakville:	\$3,385
Vaughan:	\$3,556
Richmond Hill:	\$3,556
Pickering:	\$3,571

**Some highlights of this year's budget are:**

**Climate Change:**

- Provide tree maintenance on 2,300 trees annually on Arterial / Main Streets and Commercial Areas (\$0.700 million gross, \$0 net and 1 position)
- Remove tree hazards on pathways, picnic areas and park entrances (\$0.705 million gross and net and 3 positions)
- Provide incentives to achieve, through demand response measures, 90 MW of energy savings, in partnership with Ontario Power Authority (\$3.220 million gross and \$0 net)
- Live Green Toronto - Establish a social marketing and local food campaign to assist Toronto's neighbourhoods and communities to take action on climate change (\$0.800 million gross and net)
- Provide funding for the Smart Commute Initiative to implement workplace-based transportation demand management strategies within Metrolinx (\$0.280 million gross and \$0.150 million net)
- Establish dedicated financial portfolio management for the Sustainable Energy Plan initiatives (\$0.238 million gross and \$0 net)
- Establish Green Economic Sector Development Initiatives for the Toronto Discovery District - District Energy Assessment, the Municipal Green Vendors Trade Fare and the Green Manufacturing Action Team/Plan (\$0.075 million gross and net)
- Purchase Green Power to meet the electricity requirements of City Hall (\$0.500 million gross and net)

**Public Spaces:**

- Increase Neighbourhood Beautification project funding to \$20,000 per ward (\$0.220 million gross and \$0 net), that will provide \$3,000 per ward for a neighbourhood based community project and \$17,000 per ward for demonstration Projects that will transform and enhance neighbourhoods
- Establish Public Realm unit to improve public spaces including the deployment of over 3,500 new street furniture elements in 2008 (\$3.598 million gross and \$0 net)
- Open new Waterfront parkland and facilities (\$0.799 million gross and net)
- Orphan Spaces Clean-Up - implement final phase of maintenance of 360 landscaped orphaned areas on City streets and boulevards (\$0.400 million gross and \$0 net)
- Improve service delivery in Community Planning, Heritage Preservation Services, Urban Design and Transportation Planning (\$0.500 million gross and net, and 12 positions)
- Establish Unit to begin implementing the Union Station Revitalization project (\$0.410 million and \$0 net)

**Waste Collection:**

To achieve the 70% Diversion Target by 2010, (\$16.500 million and \$0 net), Solid Waste Management Services will:

- Expand the Green Bin program to include apartments & condominiums
- Expand the range of recyclable materials in the blue box to include: polystyrene, plastic film, ceramics/plate glass, and plastic milk jugs, which could divert 3500 tonnes annually
- Establish a reusable goods drop-off centre to provide residents with a one-stop location for reusable goods
- Implement Collection of Usable and Durable Goods for all residents for reuse and recycling (once every two weeks)

- Provide single unit residences with larger recycling carts that will increase their ability to recycle. Multi-unit residences will also be provided with on-floor recycling carts
- Develop, maintain and support a new billing system to integrate the solid waste billing system with the current water billing system to produce one utility bill (\$1.110 million gross and \$0 net)
- Honour City's stewardship of the environment by contributing to the Perpetual Care of Landfills Reserve Fund (\$3.500 million gross and \$0 net)

#### **Community Health and Wellness:**

- Enhance funding for the Community Partnership Investment Program to address inflationary pressures and increasing service needs in emerging communities and priority neighbourhoods (\$0.467 million gross and net)
- Enhance Nutritional and Support Services to ensure compliance with the new Long Term Care Act within Homes for the Aged (\$0.670 million gross and \$0 net)
- Increase support for the Streets to Homes Initiative to help people living on the streets find and keep housing (\$0.116 million gross, \$0 net)
- Provide necessary training and supports to Ontario Work clients to find permanent employment through the Woodbine Entertainment Redevelopment project (\$0.491 million gross and \$0 net)
- Meet safety requirements as recommended by the SARS Commission Report in Homes for Aged for infection prevention and control demands (\$0.544 million gross and \$0 net)

#### **Building a Creative City:**

- Meet the Mayor's commitment to support Toronto's growing arts community by completing our 5-year strategy to increase arts funding -- over the past five years, funding has increased by over \$3.7M, including an additional \$1.082M in 2008
- Expand Nuit Blanche to more venues across the City (\$0.505 million gross and net)
- Enhance funding for the Toronto Arts Council, major arts organizations, local arts services organizations, and the Glenn Gould Protégé Award within the Community Partnership & Investment Program mainly to support the Culture Plan established in 2003 (\$1.097 million gross and net)

#### **Public Transit:**

- Run all City bus routes from 6 am to 1 am on weekdays effective November 2008 (\$2.616 million gross and net)
- Operate 100 new Ridership Growth Strategy buses to relieve peak overcrowding effective November 2008 (\$1.000 million gross and net)
- Open new bus garage to house 100 new Ridership Growth Strategy buses (\$1.996 million)
- Invest in improving the cleanliness and appearance of subway stations (\$1.250 million gross and net)
- Reduce occupational injury rates by instilling safety as a culture in the TTC (\$2.644 million gross and net)
- Establish Health and Wellness Program - to reduce absenteeism due to sickness and to improve the general physical well-being of TTC staff (\$0.673 million gross and net)

#### **Public Safety and Security**

- Increase reception relief coverage hours at Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre to ensure security is maintained during weekend and evenings (\$0.016 million gross and net)

- Enhance Central Ambulance Communication Centre contingency and disaster recovery planning at EMS (\$0.160 million gross and \$0 net)
- Establish Fleet Safety and Standards to ensure safe operation of City vehicles and equipment (\$0.063 million gross and \$0 net)
- Provide funding to the Native Child and Family Services Toronto to develop two aboriginal child care centres that will create an additional 66 child care spaces (\$2.928 million gross and net)
- Create new child care centres in three elementary schools that will provide up to 69 additional child care spaces for preschool children and school age children in each site (\$2.0 million gross and net)

### **Improving the Business Climate**

- Introduce Financial Services Sector Strategic Initiatives to support the development of an International Centre for Financial Services Training and the Financial Services Information Technology Innovation Initiative (\$0.100 million gross and net)

For more information on Toronto's Operating Budget, visit [www.toronto.ca/budget2008](http://www.toronto.ca/budget2008).

### **Council Highlights — City Council Meeting of March 3, 4 & 5, 2008:**

#### **City supports climate change goals by greening its vehicle fleet:**

Council unanimously approved the Green Fleet Plan 2008-2011, which will see the City purchase more environmentally friendly vehicles. These vehicles will help the City Fleet meet or surpass its emission reduction targets adopted by Council: it will reduce locally produced smog emissions by 20 per cent by 2012, and meet Kyoto greenhouse gas reduction targets. The City Fleet will add a minimum: 80 vehicles in 2008, 100 vehicles in 2009, 140 vehicles in 2010 and 200 vehicles in 2011. The City will test electric and hydrogen powered vehicles. Also, the City's street sweepers will be replaced with dustless models that will trap the swept particles, preventing them from becoming airborne. The Fleet Services Division will work with other City divisions to reduce the overall number of vehicles used and kilometres travelled, and to use vehicles more efficiently.

#### **Council adopts bylaw to allow property owners to generate and sell electricity:**

Council unanimously approved a new bylaw that allows for the production of energy from renewable energy sources and cogeneration sources city-wide, and for the distribution of the energy off-site, such as the electrical system or to a district energy system. The new bylaw brings clarity to the current situation where the 43 zoning bylaws are silent on the issue, mainly because they were written at a time where options, including solar panels or windmills, were not available. The integration of 'green energy' into the electrical system or district energy systems will help reduce greenhouse gases and air pollution in the city. Use of such power sources will help the City reach its climate change goals.

#### **Retail holiday shopping locations and hours remain unchanged:**

A report outlining new options for holiday shopping was received for information only by Council, which means the status quo remains. Most stores in the City must continue to close on New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Chapter 510 of the Municipal Code lists 15 categories of exempt store types that are permitted to remain open. In addition, stores in the Eaton Centre, Distillery District, Queen's Quay Terminal, Downtown Yonge BIA and the Bloor Yorkville BIA are permitted to remain open on certain designated holidays.

### **Support for Toronto's film and television industry:**

City Council approved a motion to oppose the Federal government's Bill C10, which would allow tax credits to be denied to productions deemed to have "offensive content." Canadian law and the current tax credit system already require Canadian productions to meet high standards of quality and decency. Under the new bill, productions approved for tax credits would have to return the funds if their final product did not meet with government approval, making it even more difficult to attract financial backers. Council also voted in favour of asking the Federal government to conduct a nationwide consultation with industry stakeholders on the implications of the proposal prior to implementing any change to the tax credit system. In 2006, production companies spent more than \$704 million filming on location in Toronto, and more than 35,000 people are employed in the city's film and television industry.

### **City endorses plan to build a creative city:**

Council adopted the Creative City Planning Framework, a plan to increase economic competitiveness and long-term prosperity by adopting a Cultural Planning model and developing "Creative Toronto." Cultural Planning seeks to leverage the connections between place, culture and the economy. "Creative Toronto," one of the four pillars outlined in the Agenda for Prosperity: a Prospectus for a Great City, states that Toronto can compete in sectors that add value, increase productivity and grow the economy through research, development and the commercialization of ideas. The Creative City Planning Framework was developed in conjunction with The Agenda for Prosperity and supports its priority actions. City Council adopted the Agenda for Prosperity at its January 2008 meeting. The report will be used to guide major strategic policies having an impact on Toronto's economic competitiveness and growth.

### **Ratification of the Toronto-Ontario Agreement on Cooperation and Consultation:**

Council ratified the Agreement on Cooperation and Consultation between the City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario, signed on January 15, 2008. Under the agreement, the two governments will consult with each other on proposed changes to legislation, regulations, bylaws and resolutions, and on policy matters of mutual interest, as provided in the City of Toronto Act, 2006. The Act, which came into force on January 1, 2007, gives the City new tools and flexibility to better respond to residents' needs.

### **Leaf and yard waste collection and Christmas tree pick-up extended:**

Council voted to extend the current leaf and yard waste, as well as Christmas tree collection schedules starting in September 2008. Given that religious holiday celebrations now extend into the second and third weeks of January, and that changing climate conditions have altered seasonal weather patterns, the extended spring and fall leaf and yard waste collection, and extended Christmas tree collection will provide better service to residents. Under the new schedule, bi-weekly collection of leaf and yard waste will occur from March 16 through to December 31, and Christmas tree pick-up will take place bi-weekly from January 5 to 23. Currently, the City provides single-family residences with curbside collection of leaf and yard waste beginning the first full week of April and continuing through until the first week of December, on an alternating weekly/bi-weekly schedule. Christmas trees are currently collected from single-family residences weekly during the first two weeks of January.