Happy New Year! Looking back on 2014, our UniverCity community celebrated a lot of great milestones: our 10-year celebration Block Party in September; the introduction of new public art including the Near as Far as Far as Near street banners; the return of the Cardiac Classic; and welcoming new neighbours into Lift. Be sure to take a stroll down memory lane on page two of this newsletter, where we highlight the exciting year in photographs.

2015 promises more of the same. We’re delighted to be adding to the community’s public art with the unveiling of Matthew Soules’ EcoSoMo later this spring, and we’re excited to be launching a new self-guided public art walk at the same time.

We’re also looking forward to working with University Highlands Elementary School on a celebration of their 5-year anniversary in our community with a time capsule event (stay tuned for more details) and we’ll be celebrating in style with SFU as they turn 50 later this year.

Lastly, we welcome new neighbours this month as Altitude Tower I residents move into the community, bringing our UniverCity population to a little over 3,800 people.

UniverCity Resident Survey 2014: Your Community, Your Opinions

Thank you to those residents who participated in the 2014 UniverCity Resident Survey. This is the fifth time we have conducted the survey and we were pleased to note that one of the things most valued in the community was the sense of community/good for families/friendly atmosphere. This number spiked from ten (10) percent in 2007 to 29 percent in 2012, to 39 percent this past survey. Many indicators remained consistent: the location and natural setting of UniverCity as a definitive “like”; safety as a positive aspect of the community; and more than 90% of respondents would recommend UniverCity to friends and family.

For a full review of the survey results, please visit: www.univercity.ca/reports
Geometry of Knowing

The SFU Gallery's latest exhibit Geometry of Knowing is a group exhibition that investigates approaches to the acquisition of knowledge in the full mind-body-spirit sense of intelligence. Organized in four parts and presented across two galleries, the objective of the project is to investigate in which way artists engage tactics of fieldwork, embodiment and materiality in a manner that reveals or instigates a process of knowing.

Devon Knowles, the artist behind the UniverCity Public Art series of tri-coloured street banners Near As Far As Near displayed throughout the UniverCity community will also have new work included in Part 2 of the exhibition at SFU’s Galleries.

Caring for Your Community

We want to remind all residents that keeping our award-winning community beautiful and safe is everyone’s responsibility. UniverCity is a beautiful place to live, so let’s all work hard to keep it that way.

GARBAGE & DOG WASTE DISPOSAL

The SFU Community Trust recently received complaints from concerned members of our community about household garbage left in public areas. Residents are reminded that garbage must be disposed of in the waste facilities provided in their respective buildings.

In addition to the household waste facilities, the community has three biodegradable plastic bag dispensers for dog waste. The dispensers and bins for depositing waste are located beside the UniverCity Childcare Centre, in Richard Bolton Park, and at the east entrance of University Crescent. Please deposit your dog’s waste in these receptacles rather than leaving the used baggies along the side of walkways.

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

Please remember: outdoor parks and playgrounds within the building property lines are reserved for residents of the particular building.

Areas on Burnaby Mountain that the public are free to enjoy include: Richard Bolton Park, the playground at University Highlands, Elemeraty School, public spaces at the Simon Fraser University (Burnaby Mountain) campus (i.e. Koi pond, Academic Quadrangle), and Burnaby Mountain Conservation area trails.

BE BEAR AWARE

Household garbage disposed of in public areas will lead to the attraction of large animals potentially creating dangerous situations for residents. Please refrain from this practice yourself and remind others you might see to help keep UniverCity a safe and clean community.

If you do see a large animal in the community, please call SFU Campus Security at 778-782-3100. If you see an animal acting in an aggressive manner, please immediately contact the Conservation Office Services at 1-877-952-7277.

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks has produced a guide to coexist with bears. The guide includes information on bear behaviour, tips on avoiding bear run-ins and practical ways to “bear-proof” your home, such as securing your garbage, removing bird feeders during warmer months and sprinkling compost with lime on your property to reduce odours.

To view the guide, please visit: www.metrovancouver.org

FIRE PREVENTION: WINTER SAFETY TIPS

Having a proactive approach helps to protect citizens and firefighters from injury before a fire even starts. Here are some ways to avoid unnecessary winter hazards:

- When cooking, never leave the stove and/or kitchen appliances unattended.
- Never leave lit candles unattended and ensure that they are always out of the reach of children.
- Examine lights, strings, cords, plugs and receptacles before using. Discard any that have frayed cords, cracks in the lamp holders, or loose connections.
- Do not overload electrical circuits or extension cords, and follow instructions on cord labels regarding connecting light strings to extension cords.
- Always unplug the light string before attempting to replace bulbs.
- If you do smoke, ensure that your cigarette is put out properly.

For more information, please visit: www.burnaby.ca/City-Services.html
University Highlands Elementary Students Help Design Holiday Cards

Continuing with our holiday tradition, the SFU Community Trust sent holiday cards electronically in 2014 to reduce paper waste. The money saved from printing and mailing cards was then donated to the Canuck Place Children’s Hospice.

We enlisted the students at University Highlands Elementary (UHE) School to help design our limited edition printed holiday card. With so many fantastic submissions, it was difficult to narrow down one winning design. Congratulations to Felicity and Austin Edwards for their winning submission, which was featured as our holiday cover card design.

Honourable mentions were awarded to Ashley Srdanovic, Bruce Zhong, Eden Richter, Lilla Major, Nicole Shu, and Oliver Thorpe. Thanks to all the students at UHE for their participation and wonderful card designs.

Community Granting Program

Have an idea for a local community event and/or initiative? The SFU Community Association Granting program offers grants to support community events and programs for UniverCity community members. The Granting Committee meets four times per year to determine which funding applications to approve.

Remaining 2015 Deadlines for Applications
- Monday, May 18th, 2015
- Monday, August 17th, 2015
- Monday, October 19th, 2015

For funding applications and more information, please visit: http://univercity.ca/community/for-residents/community-grants-program.

SFU Trottier Observatory Opening

UniverCity residents will be able to gaze at the sky and look 200 million years back in time as the SFU Trottier Observatory on SFU’s Burnaby Mountain campus officially opens on Friday, April 17th, 2015.

The new Observatory and its surrounding Science Courtyard are meant to benefit everyone in the SFU community and greater area.

The Observatory will feature a six-metre-diameter dome housing a 0.7-metre diameter reflector telescope that will also provide a digital feed that can be remotely accessed and deployed by community groups and schools across Canada.

The Science Courtyard will include sundials, star charts, and space for people to set up their own telescopes — when weather permits — to enjoy the sights, and perhaps small classes who opt to learn outdoors from time to time.

The Trottier Observatory and Science Courtyard will be open to all. For more information, please visit: www.sfu.ca/starrynights/observatory.html.