## SAFE program helping north Winnipeg



## Devi Sharma

OLD KILDONAN CITY Councillor Ward Report

I want to wish a happy spring to all of you!

This season is the perfect time to renew our commitment to safety. As we continue to cultivate safety in our homes and neighbourhoods, I am pleased to share details about the City of Winnipeg's SAFE Family (Smoke Alarm For Every Family) Program.

This residential smoke alarm installation program seeks to ensure every home is equipped with a functional smoke alarm, and our community is the first area to benefit from this city-wide initiative. The SAFE Family program is running in North Winnipeg until the end of June this year. Smoke alarms are installed by appointment between 10 a.m. to noon and 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

A working smoke alarm is a basic, fundamental requirement for home fire safety. We are most vulnerable to the threat posed by fire when we sleep. In the event of fire, a properly installed and maintained smoke alarm will provide an early warning alarm to your household.

Realizing the importance of this warning system, the SAFE Family program will supply and install smoke alarms in owner-occupied households that are not yet equipped with a functioning alarm. Homeowners who, for any reason, do not have the resources to supply and install a smoke alarm can apply to have one provided by the program free of charge.

This program is open to owner-occupied households in which a smoke alarm is

missing, defective, or more than 10 years old. The application and more information can be found at winnipeg.ca/FPS/ CommunityRelations/SafeFamily.stm or by calling 311.

Please note that if you live in a rental property, fire prevention bylaws require the property to be equipped with functional smoke alarms by the owners.

Along with crime prevention and other safety initiatives in our community, fire safety is a very high priority of mine. I would encourage each of you to take advantage of the opportunity the SAFE Family program presents to ensure your home is fire-safe.

As always, my office at 646 Leila Ave. is accessible for residents to reach out to with any safety concerns or ideas. You can also reach me by phone at 204-986-5264 or email devi@ winnipeg.ca