

In Your Neighbourhood

Great Neighbourhood Grants

The Great Neighbourhood program has now closed and applicants will be informed of the success of their applications following Council's review of staff recommendations in late July. Two grants were received from South Jubilee, one activity grant focused on building community connections in the neighbourhood and a project to enhance Leighton corridor and walkway through Redfern Park. As the total request for funds did not expend the grant fund, a second intake of applications will be scheduled for the fall.

Pre-Budget Planning with Neighbourhoods

At the June 22 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council directed staff to work with neighbourhoods to help shape the budget for 2018. Staff will be putting together some engagement events for residents to provide early comments. Information about these events will be forthcoming.

Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project – Update

Through ongoing engagement with key stakeholders, the City is working to refine the facility design. Key features include a 50m by 25m, 10-lane main pool; a leisure/therapy pool; universal accessibility; and, green design features. Existing federal and provincial funding programs recognize the positive health, fitness, social and community benefits projects like Crystal Pool provide. The City is working to achieve maximum investment from other levels of government and minimize the amount of external borrowing the City requires for this important community project. In addition to the technical design work, the City is conducting due diligence to identify risks early, and manage their impact. Pre-construction work will also ensure our project is “shovel-ready” for when government funding is available in Spring 2018.

More details about project progress can be found on our [project webpage](#). We will be in the community over the coming months, sharing information about the future of Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre. You can also stay updated on [the Friends of Crystal Pool Facebook page](#) and City's social media @CityofVictoria and [City of Victoria – Local Government on Facebook](#). Or, drop us a line at crystalpool@victoria.ca.

Create Victoria Draft Plan – Make Your Mark!

Based on extensive public input, the City has developed the *Draft Create Victoria Arts and Culture Master Plan*, designed to strengthen conditions for creativity, innovation and artistic excellence to flourish in the Capital City. The draft plan includes a cultural policy and aligns ideas, people and resources around a shared vision and a set of strategies, goals, objectives and actions to guide initiatives and investment over the next five years. The City is now seeking public input on the draft plan. The community is invited to view the draft plan and provide feedback in an online survey at www.victoria.ca/create, by email to culture@victoria.ca or tweet @CityofVictoria #CreateVictoria by July 11, 2017. Join us at the Create Victoria Open House on Saturday, July 8 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. at City Hall during Festival Mexicano in Centennial Square to learn more, participate in hands-on art projects for the whole family and enjoy some complimentary cool treats.

Victoria Housing Strategy – Minimum Unit Size

Minimum housing unit sizes have been reduced in five zones, creating a standard minimum unit size in multi-unit zones across the City. This change stemmed from an action in the Victoria Housing Strategy that originally aimed to remove minimum unit sizes in order to increase housing supply and diversity.

Regulations for Short Term Rentals

At the June 22 Council meeting, Council instructed staff to develop regulations for Short Term Rentals in order to address the rental housing shortage. Included in the regulations will be proactive enforcement of

existing zoning and expanded business regulations for where Short Term Rentals are permitted, such as new license fees, operating rules, and fines for non-compliance.

Affordable Housing and Rental Retention Policy

In an effort to prevent the loss of existing affordable rental housing, Council has placed a six-month moratorium on rental housing demolition permits insofar as the City has legal authority to do so while staff complete a Market Rental Retention Study. The study is an action of the Victoria Housing Strategy that will explore potential policies, regulations, and incentives to upgrade existing rental stock while protecting tenants from displacement. Council has also directed staff to bring forward a budget amendment drawing on the 2017 contingency to fund this work in an expedited manner, including the option to hire a second housing planner on a contract basis.

Public Engagement Roadmap

Council approved the Public Engagement Roadmap report at its meeting on June 8. These documents will provide clarity and transparency to how, when and what we want community feedback on. The Road Map graphically shares and provides details on which projects the City is working on in the coming year, what season to expect engagement and what level of involvement the community can expect to have. The framework explains why, when and how we engage. It shows the guiding principles and spectrum that the City follows for informing and developing our projects and engagements. It outlines the roles and offers some examples of tools that may be used in our engagement initiatives. We are excited to share and implement this information. Regular updates can be found on our website under Have Your Say. Please find the meeting agenda for the recent Committee of the Whole, and link to the two documents [here](#). (item number 10).

Johnson Street Bridge Update

The project schedule has been revised to be open to traffic in March of 2018. The vertical fit-up process – putting the fabricated steel bridge pieces together before painting – took longer than expected. For more updates on the project visit: <http://www.johnsonstreetbridge.com/new-bridge/construction-updates-2/>

LED Lights Replacement Project

The City is replacing the current high-pressure sodium (HSP) streetlights with new energy efficient and cost-saving LED lights. Our streetlights currently consume 30% of our municipal electrical use and conversion to LED will result in a 45-55% energy savings. HSPs need replacing every 4 years; LEDs will last 20 years without replacement. LED lights provide a bright and clear light, which can help improve visibility and help create safe, well-lit streets. City crews are completing the replacement in the downtown core and will be out in the neighbourhoods mid to late July. For more information visit our [website](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact engage@victoria.ca or call 250.361.0400.

Did You Know? You Can Own Your Block!

Vandals tag where they live. Chances are if you have lots of tags on your block, a tagger lives nearby. Police need your help identifying vandals and remediating tags. The VTAG Paint out kit program aims to recruit more members of the public to take responsibility for their communities and paint out graffiti on their block. The goal is to empower residents to make a positive, tangible impact right where they live. If you would like to get some exercise, show civic pride and own your block, contact VTAG at vtag.paintover@gmail.com to get started. The paint and supplies you require will be provided including a carrying kit, paint, gloves, brush, stir stick and can opener. VTAG kits can be picked up at your local Community Centre or via the City Graffiti Coordinator at 250.361.0548.

Free Summer Activities and Concerts in Centennial Square and Beacon Hill Park

This summer, take the opportunity to enjoy free outdoor activities and concerts with family and friends at



July 2017 Update

South Jubilee

Centennial Square and the Cameron Bandshell in Beacon Hill Park. For more information check out [City Vibe](#).

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets July 6, 13, 20 and 27 beginning at 9 a.m. Council meets July 13 and 27, beginning at 6:30. You can watch the live broadcast and find agendas [here](#).

Comments on Neighbourhood Updates?

Is there something you would like to see in the neighbourhood updates that is currently missing? Do you have any comments on presentation or content? Please let me know at kstratford@victoria.ca. Thanks!