

## In Your Neighbourhood

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### 2018 Budget



Council has given preliminary approval to the 2018 Draft Financial Plan and is looking for input from the public before finalizing in early January. Please [fill out the survey](#) before December 8.

Join us for a [Town Hall on November 30](#) to have your say. The Town Hall will be interactive and webcast live. Comments to the Town Hall can be provided in person, online, through social media, or by telephone.

Learn more at [www.victoria.ca/budget](http://www.victoria.ca/budget); view the full financial plan, or review the shorter Budget Summary or four page Budget at a Glance.

### Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project:

Check out the key outcomes for the project, new facility features, project timeline and conceptual designs for the new facility on the [dedicated project website](#). This fall we concentrated efforts on seeking funding opportunities and meeting with officials from both Federal and Provincial governments. These meetings have been encouraging as government funding programs recognize how community projects like the new pool facility break down barriers to access, keep people healthy and fit, and provide the wellness benefits of social inclusion. While external borrowing remains a potential part of the overall funding strategy, it may be possible to eliminate or significantly reduce the amount of external borrowing required. The City will know more about potential funding in 2018. If you would like to receive direct email updates on the Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project please send your email to [crystalpool@victoria.ca](mailto:crystalpool@victoria.ca) requesting to be added to the email list. A project update to City Council is planned for December.



### Bikes Lanes – Next Phase

City staff have spent the past five months working with agency partners, commercial service providers, and other community stakeholders to explore transportation needs and develop emerging design concepts for Cook, Humboldt and Wharf Streets. These emerging designs and considerations are now out for public input. In addition to some open houses which took place in the last week of November, there are still options for providing feedback over the coming weeks including:

**Online:** Visit our new digital story map on our [website](#) to view the emerging concepts and provide feedback through the on-line survey

**Public Open House** December 7, 4:30 – 8:30 p.m. Victoria Conference Centre – Oak Bay Room

**Walking Tour:** To sign up for a scheduled walking tour along one of the corridors between December 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup> email: [engage@victoria.ca](mailto:engage@victoria.ca).

There will be additional opportunities in 2018 to stay connected with these projects and provide continued feedback.



### Create Victoria

Informed by community input, City staff will present the draft Create Victoria Arts and Culture Master Plan and draft Implementation Framework to Victoria City Council for consideration on December 14. Check out a new video that provides a glimpse of Victoria's vibrant arts and culture scene at [www.victoria.ca/create](http://www.victoria.ca/create).

### Try it Free!

Start off your 2018 with fun and free fitness! Join us Tuesday, January 2 – Sunday, January 14, 2018 for *Try it Free*: two weeks of free sample classes offered at the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre, Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre and at participating community centres. Take the opportunity to sample some popular activities for FREE such as yoga, swimming, Zumba or hand drumming. Participating community centres include the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre, Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre, Burnside Gorge Community Centre, Cook Street Village Activity Centre, Fairfield Community Place, James Bay Community School Centre, James Bay New Horizons, and Oaklands Community Centre. **Registration opens December 11, 2017.** See the complete list and register online at [www.victoria.ca/recreation](http://www.victoria.ca/recreation) or call 250.361.0732.



### Johnson Street Bridge Update

The next visible stage of the building of the Johnson Street Bridge will take place in early December. A massive crane, known as a Dynamic Beast crane barge, will move into place under the existing bridge on December 8 for approximately five days. It will be used to install the steel rings which make up part of the main superstructure as well as the lower counterweight. Dates are weather dependent and subject to change as the steel pieces cannot be lifted during high winds. The bridge will be closed intermittently to all traffic as this work takes place. The marine channel under the bridge will also be closed while the crane is in place. These closures could be several hours in length and are necessary to ensure public safety. Drivers, cyclists and pedestrians should plan to use the Bay Street Bridge.

In January, the bridge deck span, currently on a barge being worked on in Victoria's Upper Harbour, will be attached to the rings.

For the latest information on the project or to view the webcam, visit [www.JohnsonStreetBridge.com](http://www.JohnsonStreetBridge.com)

### Strategic Plan Grants

The [Strategic Plan Grant](#) program opened for applications on November 15, 2017. The program provides funding for projects that support the City's [Strategic Plan Objectives](#), which include "engaging and empowering the community" and "facilitating social inclusion and community wellness". The deadline for [applications](#) is January 31, 2018. In 2017, awards ranged from \$1,000 to \$50,000 and \$540,000 is currently budgeted for the program in 2018.

### Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets December 7 and 14 at 9 a.m. Council meets December 14, beginning at 6:30. Residents can attend both meetings or watch them [here](#)