

## In Your Neighbourhood

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### Participatory Budgeting Pilot

Over the past year the City introduced Participatory Budgeting, a process that empowered the community to invest \$60,000 of the City's budget, to develop the process and allocate funding to projects. After receiving the report regarding the pilot, Council directed staff to focus Participatory Budgeting on specific theme areas over the next three year (2019-Youth; 2020-Newcomers; 2021-Neighbourhood Spaces) and, each year, work with a community organization active in these areas to lead Participatory Budgeting in the community and involve other groups and the public in the process. Read about the Participatory Budgeting pilot and plans for what's next [here](#).

### Bicycle Network - Phase 1 Design and Implementation Update

At the May 24 meeting, Council received a report regarding the next phases of the City's Bicycle Master Plan, Phase 1 corridors. Learn more about the bicycle network design and implementation [here](#).

After discussion, Council approved:

- The 60% design for Wharf Street and the Humboldt Street AAA cycle track, and directed staff to proceed to detailed design and construction tender.
- Deferring the Cook Street project as a part of Phase 1 implementation
- The acceleration of the Vancouver Street AAA cycle track project as a priority (between Park Avenue and Bay Street), in place of the 2016 Cook Street project, and engage with stakeholders on the design as outlined in this report
- That staff report back on options of achieving a traffic volume average of approximately 1000 cars per day on Vancouver Street between Southgate and Fort. Consideration will be given to a calmed, shared use roadway for the portion of Vancouver north of Pandora.
- That there be a temporary installation for the Humboldt Plaza that can be used for future placemaking pilot projects.

### Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre Open House

Join us **Tuesday, June 19, 2018** at Crystal Garden for an Open House event for the [Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project](#).

See what a  
difference  
you've made.



Over the past several months the project team has been refining the plans for the building, based on technical analysis and input received from residents. We look forward to hearing your feedback on the updated designs as we strive to produce a barrier-free, inclusive, high-quality recreation centre for the citizens of Victoria.

For your convenience, two sessions are offered: i) 3:00-5:00 p.m. and ii) 6:00-8:00 p.m. [RSVP here](#) to indicate which of the engagement sessions you plan to attend.

### 2018 Municipal Election Update

The municipal election will be Saturday, October 20, 2018. Council received information and recommendations for the upcoming election process, lessons learned from the 2014 election, an overview of proposed changes to the Election Procedures Bylaw, and voter engagement strategies for the upcoming municipal election. Council appointed the Chief and the Deputy Chief Election Officers, and gave three readings to the Election Procedures Amendment Bylaw. Read more [here](#).

### Direction for the 2019 Financial Plan

Through the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan, Council has provided direction for a maximum tax increase of inflation plus 1%. The Province of BC is introducing a new payroll tax in 2019 which will eventually replace Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums in 2020. The estimated impact of this tax and the MSP premiums to the City for 2019 is \$2.3 million. With this in mind, Council has asked staff to prepare a draft 2019 Financial Plan for Council's consideration that maintains existing services and service levels, and continues the in-progress initiatives within the Strategic Plan, with two options:

- One that keeps the tax increase to no more than inflation plus 1%, including police;
- A second option that keeps the tax increase to no more than inflation plus 1%, including police, plus an additional tax increase to accommodate the impact of the new health tax increase.

These options will be presented to Council in the late fall 2018.

[Read the Committee of the Whole Report](#)

### Market Rental Revitalization Study

As part of the Victoria Housing Strategy, Council is moving forward with three initiatives aimed at protecting Victoria's existing rental stock and providing support for renters. A new Rental Property Standards of Maintenance Bylaw will establish a basic standard of repair for residential rental properties. The bylaw will apply to all rental units on a one-year trial basis. A new Tenant Assistance Policy will provide best practice guidelines for support offered by developers and property owners to renters when rental properties are renovated or rezoned for redevelopment. The policy is intended to complement existing guidelines established under the provincial Residential Tenancy Act. A Rental Energy and Seismic Upgrade incentive program will aim to improve energy performance and seismic upgrades to the City's aging rental apartment buildings while retaining tenants. Council has directed staff to identify pilot projects for testing and further development of this incentive program. [View the report](#)

### Residential Rental Zoning

At the May 24 meeting, Council directed staff to review the Local Government Statutes (Residential Rental Tenure Zoning) Amendment Act, 2018, and report back on a priority basis on next steps for implementing Residential Rental Tenure Zones within the City of Victoria. The Legislative Assembly of British Columbia has recently approved legislation amending the Local Government Act to empower local governments to adopt zoning bylaws that limit the form of tenure to residential rental tenure. Read more [here](#).

### "Rental Supports" from the Housing Trust Fund in Instances of Building Renewal Rezonings

Council directed staff to investigate and report back on the possibility to introduce three-year "Rental Supports" for tenants facing an increased net rent of more than \$200 per month as a result of the renewal of buildings under a rezoning. Read more [here](#).

### Summer Camps in the City

Check out the latest Active Living Guide for summer camps for ages 4-12. Playground camps, sailing, skateboarding, computer, horses, Hogwarts, camping, surfing, pirates, farming, soccer, swimming, claymation movie production, kayaking, martial arts and more. We have a whole summer of fun for different budgets and interests: [Victoria.ca/recreation](http://Victoria.ca/recreation).



### Centennial Square Action Plan

Every great city has a dynamic public square where people of all ages gather for celebrations, play, or quiet contemplation. Centennial Square has been identified as a priority public space for improvement and we are looking to hear from you about what would make the square a more activated space for the community. Input from the community will form a draft Centennial Square Action Plan for Council's consideration to guide a phased approach to future improvements in the square. Watch for upcoming



## June 2018 Update

# South Jubilee

opportunities in July to share your feedback and input on the future of the square. More information will be posted on the [website](#) in the coming weeks.

### **Johnson Street Rail Bridge - Legacy Steel Disposal**

At a meeting on May 24, Council endorsed the idea of using the rail bridge steel currently in storage for public art in the City of Victoria. Council directed staff to report back after having brought this issue to the Art in Public Places Committee with opportunities, implications and a potential budget of holding a design contest to creatively re-use the steel in the public realm. Read the committee report [here](#).

### **Council Meetings**

Committee of the Whole meets June 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 9am. Council meets June 14 and 28, beginning at 6:30pm. Residents can attend both meetings or watch them [here](#).