

In Your Neighbourhood

Crystal Pool Update

The [Crystal Pool website page](#) has been updated with new information on key outcomes new facility conceptual designs and features and a project. This fall, we are meeting with senior government to seek funding opportunities. The City will know more about potential funding in early 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 requesting to be added to the email list.

Neighbourhood Grants

The Great Neighbourhood grant fall intake has closed and nineteen applications were received. One application was received from the North Park neighbourhood for the support of the village centre mural program. Applications are now being reviewed by staff and recommendations for funding will be prepared for Council meeting. The next intake will be in the spring, so start thinking about projects you would like to do next summer.



Downtown Public Realm Plan

The Downtown Public Realm Plan was approved by Council at its [October 26 meeting](#). Council made particular mention to maintain ceramic tile names throughout the downtown and to retain the iconic cluster lamps on Douglas Street during future planning and design work for the redevelopment of Douglas Street.

1625 Quadra

Council supported recommendations in a [staff report](#) to reject an application for rezoning for the marijuana dispensary at 1625 Quadra Street due to proximity to other approved rezonings for dispensaries in the area.

Johnson Street Bridge Update

A progress report for the Johnson Street Bridge was presented to Council on [October 19](#). Work is currently underway to determine the public realm plans. Commissioning and testing of the new bridge is planned to run from February through March, 2018.

Stormy Weather

In preparation for winter storms, City crews will be out clearing streets of leaves. Please help keep sidewalks, gutters and drains clear of leaves to prevent storm drains from clogging and flooding. If you have an obstructed storm drain in front of your property, please clear it of any leaves. If you see water pooling in your street during heavy rain and cannot unblock the drain, please call **250.361.0400** for assistance from City crews **at any time**.

Call to Young Poets

The City of Victoria in partnership with the Greater Victoria Public Library is seeking nominations for the position of Youth Poet Laureate. The Youth Poet Laureate is tasked with reaching out to vulnerable youth-populations and encouraging peer to peer education and inspiration through new works and by

developing a community youth poetry event. It is an honorary one-year term position from January 1 to December 31, 2018. The position will receive a \$1,750 honorarium and \$1,000 of project funding.

Applicants must be 14 to 24 years of age, reside in the Capital Region, and can submit their own application or be nominated by someone else. The application must include three original poems in any format including written, audio or video; a letter of intent outlining the applicant's vision for the Youth Poet Laureate position; three sample project ideas; and a resume noting their community engagement experience.

For submission guidelines, visit the [City webpage](#). The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, October 31, 2017 at 4 p.m. For more information, contact Connor Tice - Arts, Culture, and Events Liaison at 250.361.0308.

Short-Term Rentals

The community is invited to attend an open house at **City Hall on October 30 from 5:30-8:00 pm** to learn more about the changes and to provide feedback on the proposed short term rental business regulations.

Off-Street Parking Regulations

Council welcomes comments from neighbourhood associations on the proposed changes to off-street parking regulations, which will be incorporated in to the Zoning Regulation Bylaw (see [October 5 staff report](#) to Council). The purpose of the changes is to modernize parking requirements – including the reduction of the number required and considering needs for bicycle and electric vehicles.

You can learn more about the regulations at an Open House on Monday, November 20, 2017 from 4 to 7 pm at City Hall.

Single-use Shopping Bags

On October 26, Victoria City Council approved a motion to consider a new single-use checkout bag bylaw, prohibiting businesses from selling and distributing plastic bags to customers. The draft bylaw proposes that businesses may provide a checkout bag to customers only if:

- The customer is first asked whether they need a bag
- The business provides a paper or reusable bag
- A fee no less than 12 cents per paper bag; and minimum two dollars per reusable bag is charged

You can find the [Council Report](#) and read the [draft bylaw](#) online. Please email feedback to engage@victoria.ca by November 30.

Parks Regulation Bylaw Changes

At their [September 21 meeting](#), Council approved changes to the Parks Regulation Bylaw. The intent is to better regulate the use and operation of parks. The draft bylaw amendments will go to Council on October 26 and can be viewed in Section J.4a of the [meeting agenda](#).

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets on November 2, 9, 16 and 23 at 9 am. Council meets November 9 and 23, beginning at 6:30 pm. Residents can attend meetings or view live and recorded videos [here](#).