

In Your Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood Block Party

On March 14, the City hosted a “neighbourhood block party” at the Da Vince Centre in Vic West. After a keynote address on the importance of getting to know our neighbours, participants sat down together to identify places they love, community gathering space and active streets in their neighbourhoods. The resulting map will be made available for further exploration of ideas for projects in the neighbourhood.

Great Neighbourhood Grants

The program is open only until April 15, 2018. Please review the [guidelines and application form](#) online and contact City staff to finalize your application. There are currently five prospective projects being discussed for North Park!

Arts Hub in Downtown?

On April 5, Council will receive a [report](#) summarizing a Downtown Victoria Business Association (DVBA) initiated discussion about the potential use of the former Provincial Courthouse at 28 Bastion Square. In fall of 2017, the Arts Consultant Group (ACG) was retained to examine the viability of the building as a downtown arts hub. Based on research and data gathered during Create Victoria engagement and additional engagement undertaken by the ACG Group, they recommend moving ahead with a project plan for 28 Bastion Square to become a self-funded, shared arts space for the arts, culture and creative sector.

Garden Micro Grants Awarded

On March 22, Council approved awarding of [Micro Grants](#) (\$500) to all applicants. Micro grants are intended for eligible community groups delivering a service or program for volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens.

New Fire Station Downtown

On March 22, Council also approved allocating \$35.9 million from the City's Debt Reduction Reserve, for inclusion in the 2018 - 2022 Financial Plan, for the procurement of [a new Fire Department](#) Headquarters to be located at a new parcel fronting Johnson Street, near Cook Street.

Parkade Rates Increase

In order to provide incentives to improve parking accessibility, Council has approved an increase to rates for parkades to take effect June 1, 2018. Daily maximums will go to \$16 at all parkades except for the Bastion Square parkade, which will go to \$17.50. The staff report can be viewed [here](#).

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets April [5](#), 12, 19 and 26 at 9am. Council meets April 12 and 26 beginning at 6:30pm. Residents can attend meetings or watch them online.