

In Your Neighbourhood

1040 North Park Cannabis Retail Sales

On February 15 Council authorized the issuance of a temporary use permit to allow for retail sales of cannabis. At the [May 24 Council](#) meeting, a public hearing was held with regards to the application.

1725 Cook Street Cannabis Retail Sales

Also at the May 24 Council meeting, a public hearing was held with regards to the application for rezoning to allow for the retail sales of marijuana at this location.

Call for Artists: Concrete Canvas Rock Bay Murals



Concrete Canvas - Rock Bay Murals is a new, one-time art project for emerging muralists and mid-career artists wanting to try their hand at making murals! The project seeks to transform an industrial part of Victoria into an outdoor gallery for street art and creative expression.

This project will see the creation of 10+ murals within the Rock Bay community on private or public property this summer. The call is open to emerging and mid-career artists in the Capital Region.

Murals will enhance the identity and character of Rock Bay and support cultural tourism and economic development strategies. The project is funded by the City's Public Art Reserve Fund for the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year. View the [application guidelines here](#). Submission Deadline: Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 4 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

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.

- Direct staff to accelerate 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.

Neighbour Day

On May 3, the Neighbourhood Team visited four neighbourhood villages. The team asked people whether they were aware of Neighbour Day on Sunday, May 6 and encouraged them to acknowledge their neighbours in some way. Packets of local pollinator flower seeds were handed out for people to share with their neighbours. Almost all of the 53 people interviewed responded that they knew the names of their neighbours, regularly greeted them and helped or received help from them from time to time. It was an amazingly positive response from Victoria's residents!



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](#).

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](#)

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](#).

Mayors' Joint Report on Citizens' Assembly on Amalgamation

On January 22, the Mayors of Victoria and Saanich wrote to the Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, requesting a meeting to seek the Province's assistance to begin dialogue on establishing and funding a Citizens' Assembly to study amalgamation of the two municipalities. Following that meeting, Council last night unanimously passed a motion that Victoria and Saanich hold a joint Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss what question both local governments will place on the October 20, 2018 municipal election ballot to ask voters if they want the municipalities to explore amalgamation through a Citizens' Assembly and other studies. In its discussion of the motion, Council emphasized that this process is about gathering information, and does not presume any outcome. The date for the joint Committee meeting is still to be set. You can read more [here](#).

Market Rental Study

At their Committee of the Whole [May 10](#) meeting, Council received a [Market Rental Revitalization Study](#), a report providing information and recommendations regarding the results of a Market Rental Revitalization Study that was designed to achieve four supporting actions outlined in the Victoria Housing Strategy under the action of "Protect Existing Rental Stock".

Council accepted the report and made several recommendations including:

- Incorporate the market rental building inventory into City systems such as VicMap for public access
- Continue the Development Monitoring project to provide better tracking and upkeep of the rental building inventory
- Bring forward a bylaw to implement the Rental Property Standards of Maintenance elements
- Report back to Council with a Rental Property Standards of Maintenance Bylaw resourcing and implementation plan for budgetary approval
- Adopt the Tenant Assistance Policy

- Refer consideration of a grant program to provide support to organizations that provide information, education and support to tenants on residential tenancy matters to the 2019 financial planning process.

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.



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 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 14 and 28 beginning at 6:30pm. Residents can attend both meetings or watch them [here](#).