



February 2019 Update

North Park

In Your Neighbourhood

City Strategic Plan and Budget

The City recently hosted a Budget Town Hall, held a workshop on the four year [Strategic Plan](#) and completed a public survey on these topics. Council considered the [input received through public engagement](#) and from [staff](#) on February [4](#), [5](#) and [6](#). Council discussions are continuing through the [11](#), [12](#), [14](#) and 21 after which the final Strategic Plan and 2019 Budget will be approved by Council.

Traffic Calming in Neighbourhoods

As part of their budget and strategic plan discussions, Council resolved to approve \$250,000 in (one time) 2019 funding and two full time Transportation staff to consider traffic calming in neighbourhoods and support neighbourhood residents in providing input into neighbourhood transportation priorities.

Youth Participatory Budgeting

After a community-wide call for Steering Committee members, a diverse team has begun work on planning the City's second [Participatory Budgeting](#) process. This community-led, City supported initiative will result in over \$50,000 allocated to initiatives with a focus on youth in Victoria. It's a great time to start thinking about youth needs in your neighbourhood! A call for proposals will be issued this spring with community voting on the short-listed proposals occurring this summer.

BC Good Citizenship Awards

Do you know someone whose extraordinary achievements have contributed to the quality of life in BC? Nominations are being accepted for the [Order of British Columbia](#) until March 1. You can nominate individuals for the province's [Medal of Good Citizenship](#) at any time. This medal recognizes citizens for their exceptional long-term service and contributions to their communities without expectation of reward.

Housing Reserve Fund

The City has updated the [Victoria Housing Reserve Fund](#) Guidelines, including prioritizing projects, having two application deadlines annually and only funding projects within the City of Victoria. The guidelines now also require projects to adhere to the Tenant Assistance Policy and prioritizes projects with low income housing units or that provide housing for persons with disabilities, individuals and families who are either experiencing homelessness or are at risk.

Heritage Conservation Areas

On January 24, Council will consider a [staff report](#) recommending adoption of the [Citizen-Led Heritage Conservation Area Policy](#). Council also directed staff to report back on the policy's effectiveness after two years, and to form a working group comprised of Community Association Land Use Committee (CALUC)



| NORTH PARK

Neighbourhood Councillor: Marianne Alto malto@victoria.ca
Neighbourhood Councillor: Sharmarke Dubow sdubow@victoria.ca
Neighbourhood Staff Contact: Michael Hill mhill@victoria.ca



February 2019 Update

North Park

members, citizen representatives and heritage advocates to develop recommendations for improvements to the City's heritage program.

Rental Advisory Committee

Recruitment for the committee is now underway. In a [report](#) to Council refined the terms of reference to provide clearer focus to the activities of the group.

Crystal Pool Free Swim

Family day is coming up on February 18. You can enjoy a free swimming session at Crystal Pool from 1- 4pm. There will also be free fitness orientations. You can register for your free spot at 250.361.0732

New Poet Laureates at City

The City of Victoria and the Greater Victoria Public Library are pleased to announce John Barton as Victoria's new Poet Laureate and Aziza Moqia Sealey-Qaylow (pronounced *Ah-zee-zah Moe-kia See-lee Kay-low*) as Victoria's Youth Poet Laureate.

Selected by nomination, the Poet Laureate serves as Victoria's literary and cultural ambassador for a four-year term. The Youth Poet Laureate seeks to inspire and engage local youth to share their stories through both the written and spoken word and serves a one-year term. Both are honorary positions that celebrate the contribution of literature and poetry in the capital city. Find more information [here](#).

Emergency Preparation Workshop

Make emergency preparedness your family's New Year's Resolution and attend a free workshop offered by Emergency Management Victoria. Learn about the hazards that can affect Victoria, what to include in your emergency kits, what you can do to protect your home from an earthquake, and how to reunite with your loved ones after a disaster.

Register for the workshops on Tuesday, February 19 and April 16 from 7-8:30 pm at Fernwood Community Centre (1240 Gladstone Avenue) or look for other dates on our [website](#). You can also request a free workshop by sending a note to emvic@victoria.ca.

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets on February [7](#), [14](#), 21 and 28 at 9am. Council meets on February [14](#) and 28 beginning at 6:30pm. Residents can watch recordings of the meetings [here](#).



| NORTH PARK

Neighbourhood Councillor: Marianne Alto malto@victoria.ca
Neighbourhood Councillor: Sharmarke Dubow sdubow@victoria.ca
Neighbourhood Staff Contact: Michael Hill mhill@victoria.ca