



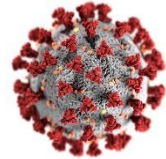
In Your Neighbourhood

COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, City Hall is closed to the public. Services and staff workplans are being adapted on a daily basis. Please refer to the [city website](#) for information on changes in service.

City Council Meetings

At their March 19 meeting, Council will be considering a [resolution](#) to defer all public hearings and community attendance at meetings in City Hall. Also for consideration is a Council [resolution](#) that would direct staff to assess ways that support can be provided for the Arts, Culture and Tourism sectors in the community. A further Councillor-initiated [report](#) includes a proposal that staff create an action plan to respond to impacts to homeless, renters and those owing fees to the City caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Coronavirus and Neighbourhoods

During these difficult times we are going through as a City, you may be wondering about how you can help other residents who may be most vulnerable to COVID-19. Residents in other cities have responded by beginning to set up neighbourhood networks for providing mutual support.

If you are assisting your neighbours or anyone else, please ensure that you are informed of the best practices for keeping yourself and others safe. For most recent news and information on COVID-19, refer to the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#), [Healthlink BC](#) and [Island Health](#) websites. This is indeed a stressful time. Here is some information from the [Centre of Disease Control](#) on coping with the emotional impacts of the pandemic.

If you are interested in setting up a neighbourhood network, you may find the resources below of value.

- Some of you may already have heard of [Care Mongering](#) (Guelph example), which now has a [local page](#). It's a Facebook-based campaign to connect volunteer neighbours with others in need.
- Another community has developed instructions for creating a [Neighbour Pod](#) network for mutual support.
- A Washington DC [neighbourhood](#) has surveyed their neighbourhood to track and assist high risk neighbours.
- Baltimore has set up [volunteer sign-up sheets](#) by [neighbourhood](#) for those willing to help support neighbours, and [another form for those in need](#).
- Here is an example of a volunteer support [protocol](#) that includes some important considerations for those involved in assisting other residents.

Please contact us with any suggestions or comments you may have. As groups form and as any more neighbourhood information becomes available, we will post it on the [City website](#).

Municipal By-Election Deferred

The by-election planned for April 4 has been deferred. Voters in Victoria will elect one Councillor in 2020 to replace Councillor Laurel Collins who is now member of parliament. Information on the rescheduled date will be made available on the City [website](#) once the COVID-19 pandemic situation is under control.

CITY OF VICTORIA | NORTH PARK

Neighbourhood Councillor: Marianne Alto malto@victoria.ca

Neighbourhood Councillor: Sharmarke Dubow sdubow@victoria.ca

Neighbourhood Staff Contact: Michael Hill mhill@victoria.ca





Harm Reduction Service

On February 13, Council approved a [recommendation](#) from Councillors Potts, Alto and Loveday that the City endorse a project application to take advantage of a Provincial funding opportunity (Community Action Initiative Grant) to bring stakeholders together to envision a multi-partner, effective, comprehensive, wrap-around harm reduction service for Victoria. Its envisioned that the City would partner with AVI and SOLID to define specific elements of contract for a project manager who would lead the project. The initiative not expected to involve City funding contributions.

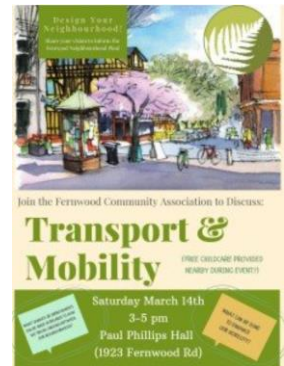
Economic Development Plan for Victoria

At their March 19 meeting, Council will consider a [report](#) from the Mayor recommending that Council adopt “Victoria 3.0 – Pivoting to a Higher Value Economy”, as well as to forward proposed 2021 actions to staff for consideration as part of the 2021 budget process

Neighbourhood Planning

The process has begun for a new neighbourhood plan for village centres and transportation corridors in the Fernwood, North Park and Hillside Quadra neighbourhoods. Watch for opportunities to participate in discussions around the future of the neighbourhood. From 3-5pm this Saturday (March 14) there will be a community [discussion on transportation and mobility](#) at the Paul Phillips Hall.

While the OCP sets out the overarching vision for how Victoria should develop over time, neighbourhood and local area plans speak to how smaller areas will help achieve that city-wide vision, while considering the specific needs and desires of the neighbourhood. Neighbourhood (local area) plans guide locations for new housing and businesses, as well as identifying needed services and amenities. They can be used by citizens and property owners can use the plans to better understand community desires and refer to it to guide new developments. The City also uses neighbourhood plans to evaluate proposals and prioritize projects.



Neighbourhood Association Insurance

At their March 12 Committee meeting, Council [approved an expenditure](#) of up to \$7,500, funded from the 2020 contingency, to cover the cost of Group Accident Insurance Coverage for neighbourhood associations that do not have city-funded community centres. Recommendations are finalized at the March 12 Council meeting.

Our Place Operating Hours Support

At their March 12 Committee meeting, Council approved a [motion](#) to provide \$50,000 to help fund operating hours for Our Place, which will enable them to retain their winter hours of 7am-9pm weekdays and 9am – 6pm weekends. Each year Our Place is funded to open from November 1 - March 31 from 7:00am-9:00pm 7 days a week and 9 - 6 on stat holidays. Hours would otherwise be cut to 6pm weekdays and opening at 10am on weekends.



Improving Neighbourhood Transportation

On March 12, Council approved [recommendations](#) from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee, including consideration in the 2021 budget planning for:

- Increased spending on bus shelters
- Completion of the Douglas Street Priority Bus Lane to Belleville Street
- Improved development of greenways across the community
- Increased spending on traffic calming
- Pedestrian wayfinding
- Pedestrian and place-making features complementing the bicycle network

A North Park presentation and discussion hosted by the City's new neighbourhood transportation team has been deferred from the March meeting due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Equity

On March 12, Council received a [report](#) and [presentation](#) from the new Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion informing them of the new positions that are being put in place to achieve Council's objectives on equity.

My Great Neighbourhood Grants Open

Have a great idea for a project or activity that would bring neighbours together? [My Great Neighbourhood Grants](#) were introduced to provide support for community-led initiatives that help strengthen community connections in neighbourhoods. The City provides up to \$5,000 for placemaking projects and up to \$1,000 for activities, which must be matched by equivalent contributions from applicants (e.g. volunteer time and in-kind donations). The Spring application period is open now until April 15. A mandatory meeting with your neighbourhood advisor must take place prior to April 9.

This spring we will be introducing an opportunity to focus on the City's [Trees in the City Challenge](#) goal to plant 5,000 trees in the City before the end of the year. Let us know if you would like more information on support for this project.



Active Living Guide Programs

The [Active Living Guide](#) is available online and at Crystal Pool, City Hall and community centres. Registration is now open! This year's guide is full of opportunities to support your health and wellness goals. Check out offerings in sports, recreation, workshops, learning, creativity, community, and of course, summer camps. Try something new, healthy and fun – we have programs for everyone.

Youth Focus Group with Kathryn Calder

Our [Artist in Residence Kathryn Calder](#) is launching a Youth Focus Group. This is a great opportunity for youth to gain leadership experience and offer input on local arts programming. The Youth Focus Group will provide



March 2020 Update North Park



advice to Kathryn during her term as Artist in Residence and help develop three major projects including: a youth busking space, song writing workshops and a music and arts space for youth.

To be considered for this group, youth ages 14-24 are encouraged to apply online by 8am Monday, March 16. Members must live in the Capital Regional District and attend regular monthly meetings. Successful applicants will be accepted based on their interest in empowering youth through music. Some musical ability is recommended but not necessary.

Call to Artists

The **Commercial Alley Gallery's** is located on the side of the alley leading from Yates Street to lower Bastions Square. This will be its 8th season with four 4x8' panels displayed on the east side of the alley. The gallery is intended for street art and will be displayed for one year commencing in August 2020. The selected artist will receive an honorarium of \$2,500. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, April 14 at 4pm.

The **"Commuter" Bus Shelter** program will feature twelve artworks showcased on six bus shelters in Victoria from June through December 2020. The competition is open to emerging artists, craftspeople and artisans residing in the Capital Region, including the Gulf Islands. Artists may submit up to five original existing or new artworks for consideration. Selected artists will receive \$500 for each image selected. The deadline for submissions is Monday, April 6 at 4pm.

North Park
Neighbourhood
Association's
\$500 Garden
Microgrant was
approved!

Submissions for each Call to Artists will be juried by a selection committee comprised of artists, design professionals, community members, and a representative of the City's Art in Public Places Committee.

Proposals must be submitted online and selected artists will be contacted in April. For submission guidelines and more information, visit: www.victoria.ca/publicart.

Victoria Reconciliation Dialogues

The Victoria Reconciliation Dialogues is a six-part series of conversations that enable the community to explore Reconciliation together in Lekwungen territory. Each event is webcast live and past conversations can be viewed [here](#). The final two Dialogues will take place May 4 and July 6.

City Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets on March [5](#), [12](#), [19](#), 26 at 9:00am. Council meets on March [12](#) and 26 beginning at 6:30pm.

You can also find out more about Council meetings by:

- Watching recordings of the meetings [here](#)
- Tuning into [bi-weekly videos](#) for what's coming up for discussion at City Council
- Reviewing the decisions made at Council on our [Council Highlights](#) page
- Finding out how Councillors voted on the City [Council Meeting Dashboard](#)

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