



NORTH PARK

Municipal Election

The local election is coming up on Saturday, October 15 from 8am to 8pm. Voters will be electing 1 Mayor, 8 Councillors, 9 School Trustees (School District 61) and 3 CRD Directors. Electors can vote anywhere on Election Day, though Downtown residents have several nearby voting places including Central Baptist Church - 833 Pandora Avenue and Central Middle School - 1280 Fort Street. Advance polling is available at City Hall on October 5 and 11 from 8am-8pm and on October 12 from 9am-6pm.

Voters must be 18 years old, Canadian citizens, BC residents for 6 months and current Victoria city residents. Nominations closed on Friday, September 9 and the full list of candidates as well as other information on the election can be found on the [City website](#).

Truth and Reconciliation Day

This Friday is a national day for Canadians to consider truth and reconciliation with our indigenous community. The Songhees Nation will be hosting the [South Island Powwow](#) at Royal Athletic Park in North Park. You can also wear orange and join in for [Xe Xe Smun' Eem-Victoria Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters Ceremony](#) from 10am -12:30pm in Centennial Square. Every Child Matters orange shirts and hoodies will be available to purchase starting at 9am.



Missing Middle Housing

After receiving public input on the Missing Middle Housing initiative, Council has decided to "...refer (the) matter to a Committee of the Whole meeting in the last quarter of 2022 to consider in the context of new provincial legislation with respect to increasing housing supply that has been signaled by the Province and other considerations of concern to the new Council." It was clear to Council that the initiative would be defeated and referral to a new Council was preferred rather than abandoning the work completed on the initiative to date. The initiative would have effectively rezoned properties zoned for single family residences to allow smaller multi-family dwellings without an individual rezoning requirement.

Fast Chargers

The City of Victoria has opened its first neighbourhood electric vehicle (EV) fast charging station in the Bay Street parking lot by Vic West Park as part of a program to expand EV infrastructure across the city. These are the first of the chargers to be installed in neighbourhoods across Victoria.



Governance Review

Note that at the [September 29 meeting](#), Council will also be discussing their thoughts on the recent Governance Review report.



Your Neighbourhood Liaison
Michael Hill mhill@victoria.ca

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From Around the City...

Community Celebrations Season

Annual community festivals can be a signature event for neighbourhood associations. It's a great opportunity to show residents how creative you are when putting on a fun, engaging event.

And if you are going to go to all the effort and expense, make sure you are getting everything you can out of your event! What is your goal with the event? What assets does the neighbourhood have that can contribute to its interest and success? Are you getting your association's message out now that you have the community's attention? At the end of your event, you could conduct an evaluation to assess your success. Maybe a survey during the event would help inform any changes you want to make for next year!

Richmond Hill put together a [Community Festivals and Events Planning Guide](#) that includes the fundamental ingredients of successful event planning.



Humans of Your Neighborhood

What better way to capture the diversity in your neighbourhood than to go out and photograph it? North Park has recently completed the first stage of a [project](#) modelled after the Humans of New York. Professional photos were taken at their spring multicultural festival. The subjects received a digital copy of their photograph, and the community association is permitted to use the photos for promoting diversity and inclusion in the neighbourhood. Contact the [North Park Neighborhood Association](#) if you would like to know more (photos courtesy of NPNA).



Street Murals Make Great Community Art

A new street mural is complete in Vic West. The garden-themed mural was painted by community members during a paint-in guided by mural designer Kay Gallivan in collaboration with the [Greater Victoria Placemaking Network](#). The mural and crosswalk enhancements are part of the City's Greenway Enhancement Program. Check it out on the William Street Greenway at the Langford Street crosswalk, next to Vic West Elementary. Further down the greenway you can explore playground stencils installed by Vic West Elementary students.



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MY GREAT
Neighbourhood

Burnside Gorge Graffiti Fighters

Graffiti isn't just ugly. Left unaddressed, it invites more graffiti until eventually the neighbourhood looks uncared for and residents in the area can begin to have a negative impression of their block. The Burnside Gorge Graffiti Fighters are a small team of neighbours working to make the neighbourhood a better place by removing graffiti from the neighbourhood. In just a few weeks, a remarkable change on the streets has taken place. They are currently looking for new recruits!

Residents removing graffiti are enjoy making the streets look better! If you would like to join them, contact the group graffitifighters@burnsidegorge.ca and they will provide you with the kit, a partner and the information you need to get your block graffiti free. If you would like to start your own neighbourhood clean-up, reach out to the Neighbourhood Team at the City and we'll get you set up.



From Further Abroad...

Little Free Rock Library

Here's a fun take on the Little Free Library trend. To redress social bias and elite preference for books over rocks, Pierre Jardin has added the first Little Free Library to his neighborhood in Los Angeles dedicated to the sharing of pebbles. Every rock tells a story; it hides nothing of its history, leaving it traced on its surface. Library patrons have a rich array of rocks to choose from, and instructions for selection are provided. Click [here](#) for the full story and details.



Umbrella Alleys

What a way to make a statement out of a traditionally negative space in most cities. Umbrellas draw people into your placemaking space and offer shade as well. [Louisville OH](#) lays claim to the original umbrella alley and makes theirs a multi-purpose, multi-use space, all year long with different décor, music, murals, vendors, food, and festivals. They've even got a line of merchandise. Many umbrella alleys have been popping up around North America in the last few years. Take a trip out to Sidney (off Beacon Ave) to see one up close and personal!



And...



The My Great Neighbourhood Grant program is still accepting applications until October. If you have an idea, reach out and talk to us about how to proceed. We've got lots of helpful information on our [webpage](#). Your idea + City funding = great projects!

Looking for more ways to stay in touch? Sign up for our [City e-newsletter](#) for monthly updates on City programs and initiatives. Find the latest issue of [Connect](#) here or check out recent new items [here](#).

Looking to stay engaged? Register with our [Have Your Say Engagement Portal](#). You'll get a monthly update about current engagement opportunities to participate in surveys and other online engagement opportunities.



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