



## NORTH PARK

### Social Housing Security

On February 9, Council considered a motion to submit a letter to the provincial government requesting funding for security provisions at supportive housing facilities where there are known safety and crime issues. While Council considered the underlying purpose of the motion supportable, they deferred approval in favour of continuing to collaborate with the provincial government in addressing homelessness and street disorder more broadly.

### Crystal Pool

On February 9, Council approved [several resolutions](#) proposed by Councillors Hammond and Caradonna recommending that the Crystal Pool replacement project be revisited. The report recommends that "...staff report back to Council on the implications and procedures (for) reviving the process of planning and budgeting..." as well as organizing a referendum for Victoria voters. Further suggestions for proceeding are also incorporated into their resolutions.

### My Great Neighbourhood Grants

Staff presented a report on the grant program to Council on January 5. The City supported [36 Great Neighborhood grants](#) in 2022 bringing the total since the inception of the program to 272. The 2023 intake period will begin on April 1. New for this year will be an increase in available matching funding for the Placemaking and Community Resilience categories to \$7,500, and to \$1,500 for Activity grants. If you are interested in pursuing a project idea through this program, staff are available to assist you with preparing an application.

## From Around the City...

### Random Acts of Kindness

Now more than ever, we need a little kindness in our lives. Random Acts of Kindness Day encourages community members to do something nice for someone and ask for nothing in return, except that they "pay it forward" with another act of kindness. The act doesn't have to be big or expensive; it only needs to spread kindness in your community. This year's theme is "Make Kindness the Norm." There are many ways you can share kindness in the world but if you need some inspiration, check out the [Victoria Foundation RAK Day](#) ideas for adults and kids. You can also follow them on social media for kindness inspiration during the month of February.

FRIDAY  
**FEB 17**  
 2023  
 RANDOM ACTS OF  
 KINDNESS DAY ☺

Let's spread  
 kindness throughout  
 Greater Victoria!



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# MY GREAT Neighbourhood

## Locally Built Accessible Tables

A new kind of picnic table is rolling out across Victoria. So far, you can find them at Songhees Point, Clover Point and Topaz Park, among others. The tables are being built in-house by City carpenters and cost approximately \$6,000. Tables are installed during capital projects, wherever a picnic table should go. The design—now a city standard—has been in use since 2020. There are about 14 now in place, including along Dallas Road. The new picnic tables have already seen creative and flexible uses that weren't possible before with the old designs. Parents with children in strollers fit on the extended bench and also better accommodate those using mobility aids.



## Boulevards and Biodiversity

Boulevards are everywhere in cities and are typically areas of grass or plants lining roadways and sidewalks. Many boulevards and manicured lawns offer little in the way for wildlife like food and habitat. Transforming these areas with native plants, wildflowers, trees, and/or shrubs is low-hanging fruit when it comes to supporting biodiversity. Once plant biodiversity is established along boulevards, many other kinds of wildlife are attracted to this new habitat including pollinators and birds. The City of Victoria has been a leader in supporting [boulevard gardening](#) in North America. Think about what you might want to do with the boulevard fronting your street. Planting a pollinator garden with your neighbours is a great project idea that could be supported through a [My Great Neighbourhood Grant](#). The bees and butterflies will thank you.



## From Further Abroad...

### Developers Seek to Create Solar Neighbourhood

Ann Arbor, Michigan is becoming one of the first 100% solar-powered, carbon-neutral and fossil fuel-free communities in the U.S. Their idea is to create neighborhoods that limit their contribution to climate change. The initial focus is the neighbourhood of a developer considered to be one of the world's net zero energy building leaders. The intention is to motivate other communities to do the same.

Sustainable neighborhoods like Geos Neighborhood in Arvada, Colorado, are growing in the U.S. This project is unusual because it's creating one of the nation's first mixed-



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income sustainable communities. Construction began in early 2022 with people expected to be moving in late this year. Sales prices are expected to be roughly \$800,000 for a one-family home, comparable to similar but more traditionally built new homes that cost about \$1 million in Ann Arbor. Of the 80 planned homes, 50 of them will be townhomes that will rent for roughly \$650 to \$950 a month. Each home will have all-electric appliances powered by solar panels. They will be built with sustainably harvested wood, and the appliances and building materials are to be free of toxic chemicals. ([thrive-collaborative.com](http://thrive-collaborative.com))

## Resources...

### Neighbourhood Associations and the City

The Neighbourhood Team recently hosted a primer on the city's neighbourhood associations and their relationship with the City. You can watch the recording [here](#) and follow these additional links to learn more about [neighbourhood associations](#) and how the [City supports](#) them.



### Placemaking Guidance

The US based **Project for Public Spaces** has updated their [free placemaking booklet](#) to make it easier for more people to learn about placemaking, its benefits, and the principles underlying the process. They have also included some tips on how to get started on your very own placemaking project. Another great resource for placemaking is the City of Victoria's [placemaking toolkit](#) that in addition to great information, provides local guidance.



Project for Public Spaces  
A Placemaking Primer

**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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