

## What is Happening in Your Neighbourhood?

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### **Fernwood Tree Removal Notice**

Due to disease issues, the following four trees will be removed this fall.

- Two Red Maples at 1180 Fort Street and 1240 Gladstone Avenue
- Purple Leaf Plum at 2260 Victor Street
- Flowering Cherry at 1224 Pembroke Street

New trees will be selected and replanted where site conditions and space allows. Stump grinding and tree planting will begin in the spring of 2017.

Removal of any tree is always a last resort. Pruning and other options to mitigate the risks of the unhealthy tree are always considered first. City practice with each removal is for a replacement tree to be planted with consideration for the species that will have the best chance for success given a particular location.

Contact the Parks office at 250.361.0600 or [parks@victoria.ca](mailto:parks@victoria.ca) if you have any questions.

### **Begbie Green**

Council had referred consideration for the renaming of Begbie Green to the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. The First Nations have indicated that the site has no cultural significance to them and they therefore have no interest in its renaming. Council will be considering a staff recommendation to retain the current name (as previously recommended) at their [October 13 Committee of the Whole meeting](#).

### **Leaf Mulch**

Council will also be considering a requested [report](#) on the implications for the City of providing leaf mulch to the 13 community gardens in the City.

### **Improvements to Pembroke Street**

Sidewalk construction between Forbes and Belmont Streets will begin on October 11 and proceed until complete in December. Improvements to the section between Stanley and Fernwood Road will be undertaken in the latter phase of the project. Affected residents have been notified in advance of construction.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Brian Green (Senior Planner, Community Planning) spoke at the North Park Neighbourhood Association AGM on October 5. He discussed the neighbourhood planning process and how it has evolved with the neighbourhoods currently developing plans.

Brian will also attend the November 16 meeting of VCAN to provide a similar presentation.

### **Visual Victoria: Downtown Public Realm and Wayfinding Strategy**

The City has been working with the community to address how best to improve public spaces downtown and identify how to improve city-wide wayfinding to help people find their way around. Neighbourhoods may have routes or destinations that residents have an interest in promoting (e.g. historic walking tour routes). There may be wayfinding elements that don't work well or improvements that could be made. For example, neighbourhood associations may want to improve ways to direct people to the community centre and other amenities, or enhance the signage within neighbourhood village centres.



## October 2016 Update

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To ensure that there is sufficient opportunity for providing input, neighbourhood associations have been invited to a meeting specifically for neighbourhoods. The time, date and location will be confirmed this week.

Residents can also attend the ongoing drop-in hours at CityStudio (742 Johnson Street) from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoons. Comments can also be posted through social media using [#VISUALYYJ](#).

For more information, please visit the [Visual Victoria](#) website.

### **Storm Water Utility**

Victoria has moved to a storm water utility billing process, similar to billing for water and sewer. The first annual bill be mailed in early October.

The storm water system helps to manage the rain and runoff in Victoria. It will reduce flooding by moving excess storm water away from properties and separate some of the oil, metals, sand and soil that would otherwise flow into our waterways and ocean. Previously, storm water charges were included in property taxes. The new storm water utility will reflect property characteristics that are associated with storm water runoff (e.g. area of hard surface). Separation of the charges will not result in an increase in revenue to the City.

The City is also offering financial incentives through the Rainwater Rewards program for property owners who are considering yard improvements to introduce methods for managing rainwater more sustainably. More information can be found at [victoria.ca/storm-water](http://victoria.ca/storm-water)

### **Leaf Pickup**

Victoria residents have two options for leaf collection - scheduled neighbourhood leaf collection and bagged leaves "call for pick-up" service.

For neighbourhood collection, City trucks will make one pass down each street after each deadline. For North Park, the deadlines are November 28 and December 26. The schedule is based on the expected leaf drop of the most common tree species, as well as consideration for neighbourhoods prone to flooding. Leaves can be placed in loose piles, secured by wire mesh rings, or in clear, 100% compostable bags. Do not use other plastic bags, boxes or containers.

The "call for pick-up" service will be in operation from October 17 to December 16. Victoria residents can contact the City's Parks office at [parks@victoria.ca](mailto:parks@victoria.ca) or 250.361.0600 to arrange for their bagged leaves to be picked up on the boulevard for free, within five working days. Leaves must be bagged in clear, 100% compostable bags.

Please consider the following:

- Do not rake or blow leaves onto the sidewalk or into the street. Place leaves in clear, 100% compostable bags to prevent them from blowing into the street.
- Help us keep grates clear by sweeping away leaves and tree needles to allow rain water to enter freely and avoid water backups on streets and into properties. To report a blocked grate, please call our 24-hour line at 250.361.0400.
- Set out leaves only please, as this is composted into leaf mulch for use in garden beds across the City. Other yard material will not be accepted.
- Put leaf piles or bags on the boulevard and make sure they are visible and accessible from the street.
- Please follow the No Parking signs placed out ahead of crews.

The 2016 program details will be mailed to residents the first week of October. To view the 2016 brochure, visit the City [website](#).

### **Pandora Avenue Protected Bike Lanes**

Construction on the Pandora bike lane began October 3. The project includes more than one kilometer of two-way, physically protected bike lanes with new bicycle traffic signals at each intersection.

The bike lane construction started in the 500 block of Pandora near Wharf Street and will progress eastward toward Cook Street. There will be several tree removals and replacements, temporary bus stop relocations and periodic travel lane reductions. There will be no construction taking place on the frontage of any retail business during the holiday season and the project is expected to be completed by spring, 2017.

### **Short Term Vacation Rentals**

A staff report requested by Council to provide policy options for short term vacation rentals will be discussed at their October 27 Committee of the Whole meeting. There are currently no regulations specifically pertaining to short term vacation rentals outside of zoning and business licensing requirements.

### **Great Neighbourhoods Grants**

On September 22, 2016, Council approved the first round of My Great Neighbourhood Grants. Of the \$120,000 available, \$97,630 was approved for 22 applicants across the city based on the applicants meeting the conditions outlined. Applicants have one year to complete their project. Most requests were for community gathering spaces, art and ornamental lighting, signage and additions to community gardens.

Grant projects in Fernwood include the Rock Bay Creek Revival, Welcoming Watershed (Spring Ridge Common), Naturalized Playspace (Central Middle School), Welcome Pole (George Jay School) and Gladstone Mall Overhead Lighting projects.

The full report can be viewed [here](#). The next intake for Great Neighbourhood grants will be in the spring of 2017.

### **Medical Cannabis**

At the September 22 meeting, Council approved a new bylaw which includes rezoning and business license requirements for medical cannabis businesses in Victoria. The new regulations are designed to reduce impacts on the community while maintaining access to medical cannabis. Under the new bylaw, all storefront cannabis retailers are now required to be rezoned for this use and obtain a business licence. Some of the rezoning requirements include a 200 metre distance between retailers, and between retailers and schools. Information about the new regulations is available on the City's website [here](#).

### **Small Scale Commercial Urban Food Production Bylaws**

Residents will now be able to grow and sell food throughout the city, provided there are no negative impacts to neighbours with unreasonable levels of odour, noise or artificial lighting. Bylaw changes were intended to allow the community to grow, harvest, package, store and sell a range of food anywhere in Victoria, while limiting any negative impacts on neighbours. This will include unprocessed food such as fruits, nuts, seeds, eggs and honey. For more information, visit [victoria.ca/growinginthecity](http://victoria.ca/growinginthecity)



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### **Work without Permits**

At their October 13 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council will receive two [recommendations](#) from staff to file reports on two properties where there has been work without permits – 1349 Grant Street and 1142 Caledonia Street.

### **Council Meetings**

Committee of the Whole meetings are scheduled for [October 6](#), [13](#), 20 and 27 at 9 a.m. and of Council on October 13 and 27 at 6:30 p.m. Links to meeting agendas are forwarded to neighbourhood associations as they become available.

### **Events**

- Fernwood Lights – Fernwood NRG Fundraiser on November 27 4:00-6:30 p.m. in Gladstone Mall