

In Your Neighbourhood

Bus Shelters and Crosswalk Signals

The two new bus shelters and LED Pedestrian Countdown Signals at Bay Street near Fernwood Road have now been installed.

Improvements to Pembroke Street

Sidewalk construction between Forbes and Belmont Streets is now 60% complete and will be finished by early December.

2035 Stanley Development Application

At the November 10 Committee of the Whole meeting, staff will be making recommendations on a staff [report](#) recommending that the Development Permit and Variances application be declined for this property.

New Web App for Accessing the City

On November 4, the City launched ConnectVictoria, a new smartphone app. ConnectVictoria will allow residents to search for jobs, latest news, media releases, events, contact information and submit a service request through their mobile device. The service request function will also allow residents to report potholes, street light outages and other issues right from the app. Residents can take a picture of the issue, pinpoint it on a map, and submit directly to staff from their phone.

The app is available for both [iOS](#) and [Android](#).

Community and Seniors Centre Annual Report

At the November 10 meeting, Council will receive the 2015 Community and Seniors Centre Annual Report. The data presented in the report is intended to provide Council with a sense of how the contributions of each local community centre, together with City financial support, combine to provide a wide range of programs and services to residents.

Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

Neighbourhoods have been invited to a workshop on Saturday, November 19 from 1 - 3 p.m. at McPherson Playhouse. The purpose will be to engage with fellow residents, City staff and the consulting team to explore topics such as social spaces, play spaces, health and fitness amenities and natural areas in Victoria's parks. This will be an important opportunity to explore the draft actions in more detail and help us determine what should be prioritized.

Neighbourhood associations are asked to RSVP to engage@victoria.ca and indicate whether representatives will be attending. Some other options for participating in the process are to:

- [Take the online survey](#) before Monday, December 5.
- Spend your lunch hour in the POP-UP PARK! on Friday, November 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. have some fun on your lunch in Centennial Square
- Stop by the Open House and POP-UP PARK! on Saturday, November 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Centennial Square and McPherson Playhouse. Bring the whole family to share your feedback and play in the POP-UP PARK.

For more information, including the draft Vision, Goals, Objectives and Actions please visit www.victoria.ca/parks.

New Urban Food Tree Pilot Program

Residents, through a community organization, can now apply to plant and maintain up to five fruit and nut trees in a local green space. The City will work with the community organization to find suitable locations.



November 2016 Update

Fernwood

Trees must be planted from October to November. Learn more and apply to be a Tree Steward at www.victoria.ca/growinginthecity.

2017 Budget

Public input into the 2017 Budget begins November 4 after the draft plan is approved by Council, and will continue through November. The proposed budget totals approximately \$224.5 million and the draft capital budget is roughly \$51 million, resulting in an anticipated 2.91% increase for property tax and utilities combined. Citizens will be able to provide feedback via online survey, and the consultation period will culminate in a Town Hall / E-Town Hall on December 1. For more information, please check out the webpage [here](#).

City Aims to Add More Garden Suites

Residents interested in building a garden suite (carriage houses and laneway suites) on their property will no longer need to apply for a rezoning. While a development permit will still be required, it will no longer require Council approval. Simplifying the approval process for garden suites is an action of the Victoria Housing Strategy which aims to provide more affordable housing in the city. The City will seek feedback from the Community Association Land Use Committees, members of the Mayor's Task Force on Housing Affordability, and groups that provided input into the Task Force work before presenting the updated bylaws to Council. Read the report [here](#).

Spirit of 150 Victoria-First Night Celebration Receives Canada 150 Funding

Downtown Victoria will be the place to be on New Year's Eve for *Spirit of 150 Victoria – First Night*, a major kick-off event to launch Canada's 150th anniversary year in 2017. Event planning is now underway for the City of Victoria to host a family-friendly, multicultural, live stage show, complete with food vendors and spectacular fireworks on the eve of Canada's 150th anniversary year.

Spirit of 150 Victoria – First Night will take place on Saturday, December 31, 2016 from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Victoria's Inner Harbour, the traditional territory of the Esquimalt and Songhees People. Fireworks will be timed with those across the country, with large screens simulcasting Canada 150 First Night festivities, creating a true coast-to-coast celebration. More details will be available in December.

Visual Victoria: Downtown Public Realm and Wayfinding Strategy

The first phase of this planning process, where the community contributed their interests, issues and ideas, is now complete. The project team is currently in the process of developing directions for the plan based on this input. The next public session will be held on November 30 from 6p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the McPherson Theatre. Invitations have been sent to neighbourhood associations and updated website information has been posted. Residents can also learn more about the project at City Studio at 742 Johnson Street from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursdays by appointment.

Comments can also be posted through social media using #VISUALYYJ. For more information, please visit the [Visual Victoria](#) 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 east 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. The project is expected to be completed by Spring, 2017.

Short Term Vacation Rentals

The City is considering options for the regulation of short-term vacation rentals in Victoria as a means to increase residential rental stock. Currently there are thought to be approximately 300 AirBnB units in the city. An external study concluded that adding these 300 units back into regular rental stock might increase vacancy rates to some degree, but would not likely improve affordability. To allow for further discussion on the topic, staff will facilitate a workshop on short term vacation rentals with Council in January 2017 prior to any future policy considerations. Read the report [here](#).

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole will meet November [10](#), 17 and 24, beginning at 9 a.m. Regular Council meetings are scheduled for November [10](#) and 24 and a Special Council meeting will be held on November [3](#).