

## In Your Neighbourhood

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### Crystal Pool

In coming weeks, the Crystal Pool Project Team will be gathering information from groups that participated in the engagement process in 2016. Broader engagement will be scheduled in coming months. Please check the [project web page](#), which will be updated to provide timely information regarding the plans for the referendum anticipated for fall 2017. If you have other questions, please email staff at [crystalpool@victoria.ca](mailto:crystalpool@victoria.ca).

### Great Neighbourhood Grants Now Open!

The Great Neighbourhood program is currently open and actively receiving applications for the 2017 program. The City launched the program by hosting the inaugural **Neighbourhoods Ideas Fair** at City Hall April 19. The event included displays and presentations by both community partners and City staff focusing on creative ideas for placemaking and things to consider when planning a project in the public realm. This year's grants include new Activity grants of up to \$1000 with matching in kind funding from the applicant for a variety of themed activities including: social connection, education, diversity, celebration and neighbourhood improvement campaigns. More information can be found held at [My Great Neighbourhood Grants](#).

### Victoria Wayfinding Strategy Adopted

City Council has approved the [Visual Victoria Wayfinding Strategy](#). The strategy includes freestanding pylons with maps and several types of signage that direct visitors to and between destinations and areas of the City based on a four tiered hierarchy of significance. The strategy provides guidance in assessing sign locations and appropriate selection of sign content, format and design.

The wayfinding system is applicable to neighbourhoods in providing direction to and between village centres and destinations within the area. In 2018, wayfinding map pylons and directional signs are anticipated to be installed in three neighbourhoods based on those deemed to have the greatest amount of tourist traffic and other wayfinding considerations.

Unique wayfinding or route markers may be appropriate in some cases (e.g. historical walks) that may use signage that differs from the city-wide system, but consideration should be given to the strategy's principles and guidelines.

### Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

The [Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan](#) will be presented to Council for their approval May 11, 2017. This Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan provides a "...roadmap to guide planning, management and investment over the next 25 years.... It will be used to focus efforts and prioritize resources towards achieving outcomes."

Its guiding principles include "striv(ing) to improve dialogue and communication with neighbourhood organizations and residents through neighbourhood and park planning processes." Of interest to the Fernwood neighbourhood is a stated priority to "identify opportunities to daylight or celebrate culverted streams."

### Nursery Tours and Hanging Basket Classes

Join City Parks staff Thursday, May 11 at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. for a free nursery tour to get a behind the scenes look at how and where the famous hanging baskets are built each year. Get a few tips for your own summer baskets! Please call 250.361.0732 to register for this free tour. You can also book online at [www.victoria.ca/recreation](http://www.victoria.ca/recreation).



## May 2017 Update

# Fernwood

Register for a 'Build Your Own Hanging Basket' class. Get expert instruction by the Parks staff who create 1,400 hanging baskets for the City each year. You will learn how to plant your own 'sun basket.' May 13, 10 a.m.–noon. Registration is required. \$105 (Hardware can be returned after the summer season for a \$25 cash refund.) The course will take place at the Parks Headquarters in Beacon Hill Park. Please call 250.361.0732 to register or visit [www.victoria.ca/recreation](http://www.victoria.ca/recreation).

### **CALUC Support Costs**

In 2016 Council passed a motions to increase Pre-Application Fees for various land uses to better account for mail-out costs associated with community meetings. At their [May 11 meeting](#), Council will be consider a bylaw amendment that would increase the pre-application fees from \$400 to \$750 for Council Rezoning Applications, and from \$800 to \$1,250 for OCP Amendment Applications

### **National Emergency Preparedness Week**

Are you and your family prepared for an emergency? Take the opportunity to attend a FREE Victoria Ready Workshop to learn how to prepare for emergencies such as an earthquake or tsunami, or a power outage or winter storm. Learn about hazards in Victoria, items to include in your emergency kits, things you can do to minimize injury and protect your home and reuniting with loved ones after a disaster. The next workshops will take place at the Victoria City Hall Antechamber on Wednesday, May 24 from 7-9p.m. and Monday, June 5 from 1–3 p.m.

### **Public Engagement Roadmap**

Based on feedback from the public workshop early this year, and consistent with the [International Association of Public Participation \(IAP2\)](#) principles, a draft Public Engagement Roadmap is being developed. While reviewing the feedback, staff recognized a need for a more comprehensive engagement framework that applies to all engagement initiatives. This will be ready for review this spring. In the meantime, you can find more information about community engagement for City projects that would be of interest to North Park residents over the next year on the [website](#).

### **Pandora Protected Bike Lanes**

On May 1, Victoria's first protected bike lanes in the downtown core area and the south edge of North Park were opened. The Pandora Avenue two-way protected bike lane is the first of five corridors that are designed to encourage and support riders of all ages and abilities. City staff and volunteers will be out on Pandora throughout first next two weeks to share information and answer questions from road users.

Key features:

- New traffic signals for bicycles
- Painted green "turn boxes" provide dedicated space at intersections for bicycles to safely turn off Pandora and on to other streets
- No vehicle right-hand turns on red lights – motorists must wait for green arrow signals
- New bus stop locations on medians
- Reconfigured on-street parking - positioning on-road parking in between the bike lane and moving traffic
- New mid-block pedestrian crossings

There is more information, including an introductory video, on the [City website](#).

### Filming

Hard Powder will be filming in Fernwood on Friday, May 12. Film equipment will be staged at the west side of the Vic High property and filming will be mobile on Fernwood Streets throughout the day and evening (see map for route).

### Fernwood Night Market

Britt Buntain, from the Picot Collective, has requested to operate a night market Thursday evenings throughout the summer (July 6 to August 31). The market operated three Thursdays last summer with no significant impacts. If there are any concerns about the market operating this summer, please provide comments to the City staff liaison for the neighbourhood (250.361.0397).

### Fernfest & Fernwood Bites

Cleaning of Fernwood Square and removal of bollards and benches will proceed on Thursday, June 15 prior to the festival from June 16-18.

### Spring Organic Plant Sale

North Park Street to the east of Chambers Street, will be closed for the Victoria Compost and Conservation Education Society's Spring Organic Plant Sale this Saturday, May 13 at 12 16 North Park Street from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole will meet May [4](#), [11](#), 18 and 25 at 9 a.m. and Council will meet May [11](#) and 25 at 6:30 p.m.

