

In Your Neighbourhood

Fernwood Night Market

The Fernwood Sunset Market is operating in Fernwood Square from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday night in September. The market is a partnership between Fernwood NRG and the Oaklands Community Association. It provides residents with access to local food and an opportunity for local farmers and food producers to sell their products in the neighbourhood.

Cook Street Project

The North Park Village project is now mostly complete. Trees will be planted when the weather gets cool and moist. The banner poles are going through a purchasing process and will be installed once they are received. Similarly, the crosswalks will be stamped once the contract has been awarded and work scheduled.

Crystal Pool Temporarily Closed

Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre is currently closed for maintenance and will re-open at 5:30 a.m. on Monday, September 25, 2016. During the pool closures, your Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre passes, and your Regional Recreation Pass are honoured at most other municipal facilities in the capital region.

Creative Proposals Wanted

How would you or your organization invest up to \$50,000 to improve life in Victoria? This is the first year the City of Victoria has empowered the community to decide what to do with a portion of the City budget. If you have an idea for a project, initiative or event, now is the time to submit it to the Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee. Proposals are due by September 28, 2017.

Later this year, Victoria residents will be invited to vote on which ideas they like the most. Proposals can be for some, or all, of the \$50,000. The winning project or projects will be funded in 2018. Learn more and download an application form [here](#).

Neighbourhood Walkshops

The City is now offering “walkshops” in your neighbourhood. Walkshops are an opportunity to bring City staff and residents together to share information about the City’s role and activities in your neighbourhoods. The discussion is meant to be positive and constructive, and create opportunities for both the City and the community to discuss any concerns and questions. Walkshops typically happen in the early evening or on a weekend and the route is determined by the community members.

For neighbourhoods embarking on a neighbourhood plan process, opportunities to walk around your neighbourhoods will be incorporated into your planning process. For other neighbourhoods, please let your Neighbourhood Advisor know if you are interested in a walkshop and we will schedule a date that works for everyone. Staff availability is limited to one walkshop every two months, so some flexibility in scheduling is appreciated.

Traffic Calming

Children have now returned to school. Please take precautionary steps when driving through residential areas and school zones. The posted speed limit in school zones is 30 km/h and it is applicable on school days between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. unless a street sign states otherwise. The posted speed limit in playground zones is also 30 km/h from dawn to dusk every day of the year, not just on school days. If you are concerned about traffic speeding through your neighbourhood, please report it online [here](#) and an officer will be assigned to investigate your complaint.

Understanding City Spending

At the request of Council, the Neighbourhood Team is preparing a presentation on the City Budget for Neighbourhood Associations this fall. Details on when and where this will take place will be sent out in September. All residents are welcome to come learn about the city budget, as well as discuss the draft Capital Works plan for your neighbourhood for 2018.

City Hall Lunch Time Lectures

Join us this fall for a series of lunchtime lectures at City Hall. Each month between September and December Mayor Lisa Helps and City Manager Jason Johnson host the [Lunchtime Lecture Series](#). The lectures explore city development ideas and how they may apply to Victoria. The next lecture is at noon on October 2 when UVIC professor David Dunne will be talking about Design Thinking as an approach to tackling “wicked” societal problems, such as crime.

My Great Neighbourhood Grants

The next intake of applications for My Great Neighbourhood Grants begins September 11 and will be open for 5 weeks. The City has approximately \$51,000 available in the 2017 grant program for residents and non-profit organizations to create projects and activities that will improve the community. Think about something you might like to do and contact the Neighbourhood Team to explore your idea.



The deadline for this application period is Sunday, October 15. Pre-application meetings must be completed no later than Friday, October 6. More information can be found on the City's [website](#).

Gaga Ball Courts?

As part of the Great Neighbourhood Grant program this fall, we are asking resident groups if there is a project to do collectively. A suggested project is to build [gaga ball courts](#), which is reported to be an extremely [fun game](#) for all ages! We would prepare the materials and get them ready for a “weekend of construction” at your neighbourhood sites. Your group would creatively paint them up and assemble them... and of course we would share photos of all of your amazing designs amongst the neighbourhoods. Let us know if you are interested in learning more.

Block Connections

Part of our neighbourhood team's role is to help strengthen neighbourhood social connections. We often find that neighbours don't know the folks that live nearby, and when they



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do get to know them, it's a positive experience for them and it improves the quality of life on the block. In other parts of the country, residents have started "block connection" projects that have been successful in helping neighbours get to know each other. This involves neighbours knocking on doors of neighbours to introduce themselves and learn more about them. It usually includes a block social event. This information from [Edmonton](#) will provide you with more information.

We are hoping to find residents who would like to try a block connection project through our Great Neighbourhood program activity grants. We will provide you with more information about block connection programs and be there to work with you through the project.

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole (COTW) meets September [7](#), [14](#) and 21 at 9 a.m. Council will meet September [7](#) and 21 at 6:30 p.m. You can watch the live broadcast and find agendas [here](#).