

## In Your Neighbourhood

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### **My Place Transitional Home Reopens**

My Place Transitional Home at 1240 Yates Street reopened at the former Boys and Girls Club facility on November 29. Guests will be vetted and referred to My Place from the First Met shelter and will take on responsibilities for assisting with operation of the shelter. Central Middle School has supported the program, which will run until the end of April, 2018.

### **Storage Facility for Homeless**

Our Place is working to establish a storage facility for homeless persons' belongings in the former site of AVI's needle exchange at 714 Cormorant Street. The City established funding to assist with a trial period of operation for such a facility in 2015, but no suitable site was found at that time.

### **Crystal Pool Update**

Council will receive an [update](#) on the Crystal Pool project at their [December 7 Committee of the Whole](#) meeting. Project management and design contracts have now been awarded. Funding from federal and provincial governments will not be known until the latter part of 2018. Gas Tax project funding (\$6 M) was also applied for from the Union of BC Municipalities. Community consultation will continue in 2018.

### **Strategic Plan Grants**

The [Strategic Plan Grant](#) program opened for applications on November 15, 2017. The program provides funding for projects that support the City's [Strategic Plan Objectives](#), which include "engaging and empowering the community" and "facilitating social inclusion and community wellness". The deadline for [applications](#) is January 31, 2018. In 2017, awards ranged from \$1,000 to \$50,000 and \$540,000 is currently budgeted for the program in 2018.

### **Council Provincial Cannabis Consultation**

Council provided [direction](#) to be submitted to the province on cannabis policy, based on a [staff report](#) received on November 9, 2017.

The seven key policy areas include:

- |                        |                          |                 |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Minimum age         | 4. Drug-impaired driving | 7. Retail model |
| 2. Personal possession | 5. Personal cultivation  |                 |
| 3. Public Consumption  | 6. Distribution model    |                 |

### **Short Term Rentals**

Council approved tighter restrictions on public [consultation](#) and [amendments](#) for short term (vacation) rental regulations at their [November 23 meeting](#). Council added a provision to allow short term rental in up to two bedrooms in an occupied dwelling unit of any type and in entire principal residences on occasion when the normal resident is not present.

### **City Budget**

Council is now in the process of finalizing the [City's 2018 budget](#). The draft budget can be viewed on the City website. An ETown Hall was held on November 30, which you can view on the City's website.

### How Do We Snow?

The City of Victoria closely monitors weather forecasts and pavement monitoring equipment to prepare responding to winter storms. City crews first brine roads to prevent icing conditions. When snow starts to accumulate, City trucks begin ploughing roads and crews start to clear “first priority” sidewalks, which include downtown transit stops and wheelchair ramps. Priority first roads include emergency routes, hills, and bridge decks. Learn more about our [snow clearing priorities](#).

### Emergency Planning

Now is also the time to refresh your emergency kit with a working flashlight, radio and new batteries. Make sure you have plenty of food, essential medicine and extra blankets on hand. [Learn more](#) about the supplies residents and businesses need to cope for a minimum of three days in the event of a heavy snowfall or power outage.



Sign up for Vic-Alert, the City of Victoria’s emergency notification service. Receive important information and updates on emergencies in Victoria that may impact you. Signing up for Vic-Alert is easy and can be done from your mobile phone, tablet or computer. Learn more at [www.VictoriaReady.ca](http://www.VictoriaReady.ca)

### Help Keep Sidewalks Clear

There are over 450 kilometres of sidewalks in Victoria, so a community effort is required to make sidewalks safe around our City. Residents and businesses are reminded that they are required to clear snow and ice from sidewalks in front of their property by 10 a.m. each day. Be sure to use environmentally sensitive snow melt products as rock salt is harmful to pets and the environment.

Please lend a hand to those who in need. Many persons in our community may have difficulty clearing snow and ice and need their neighbours help. Check out these helpful information sheets on the roles and responsibilities of [residents](#) and [businesses](#) in Victoria when it snows.

### Great Neighbourhoods

A [report](#) recommending Council support applications for Great Neighbourhoods grants (including the butterfly pollinator gardens supported by the FCA and the road hockey tournament and First Nation mural projects sponsored by FNRG ) will be considered by Council at their December 7 meeting. It also been recommended that the unallocated balance of 2017 funding for grants be used for a neighbourhood grant “show and tell” event in the spring.

### Calling All Musicians, Community Programmers and Food Truck Operators

Each summer, the City of Victoria offers free outdoor concerts and activities at Centennial Square and Beacon Hill Park for the community to enjoy. The City is updating its rosters of pre-qualified, local musicians and community programmers to activate these venues from June to September, as well as other City-programmed events throughout the year. New for 2018 will be the food truck roster, from which vendors will be invited to participate in City-programmed concerts and events in Centennial Square.

To be considered for these rosters, apply online and provide links to samples of work or menus by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 31, 2018. Preference will be given to those based in the Capital Region. For more information visit: [victoria.ca/artsandculture](http://victoria.ca/artsandculture)

### **ParkVictoria App**

Have you tried our free ParkVictoria app? It enables you to pay for on-street parking from the comfort of your vehicle. A definite plus on these rainy, windy days! You also receive alerts when your parking time is running out and can refund unused time. Give it a try at [www.victoria.ca/ParkVictoria](http://www.victoria.ca/ParkVictoria).

### **Try it Free!**

Start off your 2018 with fun and free fitness! Join us Tuesday, January 2 – Sunday, January 14, 2018 for Try it Free: two weeks of free sample classes offered around the City. Activities include yoga, swimming and hand drumming. Participating community centres include the

- Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre,
- Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre,
- Fairfield Community Place,
- James Bay Community School Centre,
- James Bay New Horizons, and
- Oaklands Community Centre.
- Burnside Gorge Community Centre,
- Cook Street Village Activity Centre,

Registration starts December 11, 2017 online at [www.victoria.ca/recreation](http://www.victoria.ca/recreation) or call 250.361.0732.



### **Council Meetings**

Committee of the Whole meets on December [7](#) and 14 at 9 am. Council meets December 14, beginning at 6:30 pm. Residents can attend meetings or view live and recorded videos [here](#).