



In Your Neighbourhood

Emergency Shelter Program

Many residents have heard about emergency shelters, but are not clear how it works. The shelter system began in response to a weather event in 2004. There are now a total of 435 beds provided. Some are available all year (215), some are available during winter months (110) and the remaining beds (110) are activated when there is significant wind, rain/snow and/or where temperatures drop below -1 degrees. You can find a [chart](#) showing how this works on the Emergency Weather Protocol [website](#).

Vote to Fund a Project

The [participatory budgeting](#) process is at the stage where 29 project ideas have been submitted by the community and now is the time to vote for your choice(s). Residents in the CRD can vote until January 20. The project winners will be selected shortly after that. You can find all the details on the City [website](#).

2018 Budget

At their January 4 Committee of the Whole [meeting](#), Council received staff reports regarding: community feedback on the 2018 Financial Plan; responses to Council motions for funding additional expenditures; and recommendations for refinements to the budget that reflect public feedback. The 2018 budget will be finalized in coming weeks.

Arts and Culture Master Plan

At their [December 14 meeting](#), Council approved the proposed Arts and Culture Master Plan and Implementation Framework. The term for the Create Victoria Advisory Group was also extended from March 2018 to December 2018, in order to advise staff and Council on the first year of implementation.

Doing Something about Climate Change!

Did you know that residential buildings account for 17% of Victoria's Greenhouse Gas Emissions?! The City of Victoria has just released its draft [Climate Leadership Plan](#). The plan includes a series of targets, goals, strategies and actions for each of us to help create a 100% renewable energy city. Please send any comments you have on the document to engage@victoria.ca. There are many easy upgrades that you can do that will improve energy efficiency and save you money (e.g. insulation). You can visit [BC Home Energy Coach](#), for energy saving ideas and programs offering incentives.

Great Neighbourhoods

Applications for Great Neighbourhoods grants were approved by Council at their December 7 meeting. This included matching support for a road hockey tournament in Fernwood (\$900), a Coast Salish mural in the community centre gymnasium (\$3,250) and Butterfly Pollinator

features for several community gardens (\$3,500). Council also approved allocation of balance of 2017 funding for grants not allocated to be used for a neighbourhood grant “show and tell” event in the spring.

Training for Not-for-Profits

Volunteer Victoria is offering the following [courses](#) that may be of interest to neighbourhood organizations. Costs vary depending on whether you are a member of VV.

- [Building Blocks of Budgets](#)
Learn to use budget templates, manage multiple projects, integrate staff and board roles and explore best practices
January 18, 5-7:30pm (\$69-89)
- [Foundations of Financial Management](#)
A five week course where you will cover budgets, risk management, tax responsibilities, payroll, board roles and creating a policy and procedures framework for your organization
Starts January 27, 9:30-12-30pm (\$119-139)
- [BC Societies Act Compliance](#)
By November 28 2018, your organization must comply with new provincial regulations. Get an understanding of the requirements and consider your strategy for compliance.
January 30, 1-4pm (\$69-89)
- [Developing Your Not-for-Profit Leadership](#)
An intensive course to gain understanding and develop your leadership skills.
February 5 to March 19 (\$299-399)

Johnson Bridge Public Realm

On December 14, Council supported a [staff report](#) to approve the revised concept designs for the triangular island and Northern Junk plaza in accordance with the Johnson Street Bridge Public Realm - Revised Design Concept dated December 1, 2017. Council also asked staff to investigate the use of future Development Cost Charges to fund the development of a park (\$3 million) in the “S Curve lands” at the west end of the bridge.

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets January [4](#), 11, 18 and 25 at 9am. Council meets January 11 and 25, beginning at 6:30pm. Residents can attend both meetings or watch them [here](#).