



In Your Neighbourhood

Crystal Pool Project

The [Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project](#) is now entering the second phase of design. Project architects will be leading engagement sessions where attendees will be:

- Provided a project update including a presentation on considerations for programming and design, as well as [key outcomes](#) of the project.
- Asked to provide input on preferred activities and priorities that will inform the future building's design.

If you would like to attend, please [RSVP here](#) to indicate which of the two engagement sessions you prefer. Identical sessions are offered from on Tuesday February 27, 2018 from 3-5 pm and from 6-8 pm to enable as many to attend as possible.

1725 Cook Street Rezoning

On February 15, Council will consider a [staff report](#) recommending that Council instruct staff to prepare the necessary Zoning Regulation Bylaw Amendment that would authorize the proposed retail cannabis sales development outlined in Rezoning Application for 1725 Cook Street, that first and second reading of the Zoning Regulation Bylaw Amendment be considered, and that a Public Hearing date be set.



Participatory Budgeting Winners Announced

Winners from the first [Participatory Budgeting](#) process were announced on January 31. The top three projects include an employment preparedness training program for Victoria's most vulnerable citizens, a "pop-up native bee apiary", and an educational learning garden. \$52,500 in funding will be distributed to these community-based projects that all have the common goal of improving life in Victoria.

Great Neighbourhood Grant Spring 2018

The next application intake for the [My Great Neighbourhood Grant](#) program is opening March 1, 2018. Start thinking about ways to bring people together for a fun community-building activity or activate a location in your neighbourhood. Talk to your Neighbourhood Liaison about your thoughts and ideas, and let us help you make a plan.



Neighbourhoods Ideas Block Party

To help kick off the next round of the Great Neighbourhoods Grant program, the Neighbourhood Team is hosting a Great Neighbourhood Block Party at the Da Vinci Centre from 1-5pm on March 14. Please

plan to attend and hear [Paul Born](#), published author and champion for community development, talk about how to deepen community. There will also be a showcase of past projects and some ideas for the future. Residents will participate in a short workshop to begin mapping your neighbourhood cultural assets. All of this will be accompanied by treats, live music and fun activities. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this free event.

Rainwater Rewards Update

Council has extended the [Rainwater Rewards](#) rebate program through 2018. Property owners can save 10-50% on their stormwater bill by installing rainfall detention features such as rain barrels and permeable paving. Staff are also to report to Council in June regarding the implications of removing the street cleaning fee from stormwater utility billing, removing the inequity for owners and occupiers on corner lots and directions for the rainwater rewards program in the future.

Sign Up for Vic-Alert

The recent tsunami warning was a reminder that emergencies can happen at any time. Sign up for Vic-Alert, the City of Victoria's free emergency notification service to receive helpful information and updates by phone, text or email on emergencies that may impact you. For more information, visit www.VictoriaReady.ca.



Cleaning Up the Neighbourhood

Have you ever thought your neighbourhood would benefit from a little more TLC? This year, we would like to encourage residents who are interested in helping keep their neighbourhood attractive by offering a rolling cart to support a clean team.

The carts will be outfitted with basic equipment for picking up litter, painting out graffiti and disposing of syringes. This could be a great way to engage retired residents, involve youth from schools or mobilize other residents. This could be started through a Great Neighbourhood Grant project this spring. Funds may cover additional supplies and support for a neighbourhood clean-up event. Please let us know if you would like to explore this idea!

Archives Digitization Project

Council received a report on the new [Archives Online Search](#) database that launched this week which provides online, searchable access to the City's archival collections. More than 10,000 digitized archival photos and records are now accessible online.

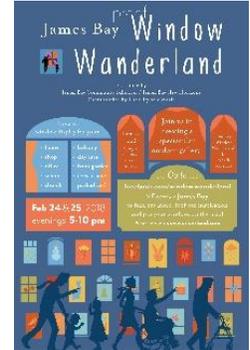
Strategic Plan Amendments

Council has approved amendments to the actions and outcomes of the City's [Strategic Plan](#). These include:

- Accessibility Framework implemented
- Citizen-led Heritage Conservation Areas introduced
- Housing Strategy amended
- Inclusionary policy developed
- Sustainable mobility strategy developed with BC Transit
- Local government procurement plan developed and hub established
- Climate Leadership Plan implemented
- Discussion of amalgamation advanced

Window Wanderland 2018

Speaking of great ideas for a neighbourhood project, come to James Bay on the weekend of February 24-25, and view the first [Window Wanderland](#) event in North America. James Bay residents are creating illuminated displays in their windows at their homes, shops, offices, schools and even their cars. Join residents in this family-friendly evening event to wander the streets and see the amazing outdoor gallery they are creating.



Training Opportunities

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 Volunteer Victoria.

- [Social Media 101](#)

This four part series will help you conquer social media overwhelm by breaking your social media marketing into manageable bite size pieces. You will walk away with a marketing plan and content calendar for the year. 4 weeks beginning February 22nd 2018.

- [BC Societies Act Basics](#)

This workshop focuses on supporting you to not only meet the November 28th transition deadline but to also address aspects related to compliance with the Act. February 28th 2018 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

- [Foundations in Volunteer Management](#)

This course will ground you in recognized best practices, expose you to trends in the field and offer you effective management approaches. This is a 6 week online course that you do at your own pace, beginning with a mandatory 1 day session on March 7th, from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

February 24th | 9:00 am -10:00 am - Live Webinar for questions

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets February [1](#), [8](#), [15](#) and 22 at 9am. Council meets February [8](#) and 22, beginning at 6:30pm. Residents can attend both meetings or watch them [here](#).