

In Your Neighbourhood

Great Neighbourhood Grants

The fall neighbourhood matching grant program has closed. The City received a total of 27 grant applications which are now being reviewed and recommendations will be submitted to Council for approval prior to the end of December. The Burnside Gorge neighbourhood has submitted the following applications:

Cecelia Ravine Community Garden, Burnside Gorge Community Association: \$1,800
Creating Connections Through Health and Wellness, 101-105 Gorge Rd. East: \$1,000

Cannabis Store City Approval Process

At their November 8 meeting, Council approved recommendations in a [staff report](#) providing information about the provincial cannabis retail store licensing process. The report made recommendations for an approval process including an invitation for comment to the neighbourhood association and owners and occupiers of properties within 100 metres of a proposed retail location.

Strengthening Community Participation

A neighbourhood association workshop was held at City Hall on October 13 from 10am to 3pm. The workshop explored understanding the fundamental role of each neighbourhood association, volunteer recruitment, sustaining a strong board and surveying neighbourhoods. Representatives from eight neighbourhoods attended the workshop. Materials from the workshop will be circulated to all neighbourhood associations in coming weeks.

Leaf Pick-Up

Will happen on December 2 and then again on December 31 in the Burnside Gorge neighbourhood! Make sure you're ready for City crews when they arrive on your street by placing your leaves on the boulevard in loose piles, secured by chicken wire mesh rings, or in tied, clear, certified* compostable bags. There is no limit to the number of bags you can put out and they must contain leaves only. To prevent flooding, keep gutters, streets, sidewalks and storm drains clear of leaves. It takes 3 – 4 weeks to complete a neighbourhood. Click here for more information on leaf pick up.

Council Appointments

At their November 15 meeting, Council will receive a [staff report](#) providing information to consider with respect to appointments to Boards, Committees and Neighbourhood Associations. Appointments will be formally adopted at the November 15 Council committee meeting.

City Strategic Plan and Budget

Council has begun the process of developing a new Strategic Plan for the City. Over three consecutive Tuesdays ([November 6](#), 13, 20) Council will be reviewing the current plan and determining which new objectives it will incorporate into its new four-year Strategic Plan. The draft plan will be approved by Council on December 6.

On November 26, 27 and December 7, Council will consider its 2019 budget and approve a draft budget on December 14. Public engagement on the draft Strategic Plan and City budget will occur following that date and final approval is scheduled for the end of January. Updates on the [budget](#) and [strategic plan](#) can be found on the City's website.

Crystal Pool

At their November 15 meeting, Council received a staff [report](#) providing information and recommendations regarding the outcome of an initial review of Council's recently adopted motion concerning Central Park and the Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre project.

Following their discussion, Council:

- Directed staff to carry forward with the plan for the south west corner of Central Park and report back with plans for consideration of the amenities brought forward by the community with regards to affordable housing, child care, etc., to be looked at in place of the Royal Athletic Park (RAP) parking lot including no net loss of parking.
- And (agreed) the Mayor to explore potential funding and partnership opportunities.
- Put forward the RAP parking lot land as a potential site for affordable housing and a possible pocket park.
- And (agreed) the Mayor to have discussion with RG Properties regarding options for redevelopment of the arena parking lot for uses including community recreation and nonmarket housing, and report back to Council on a priority basis

Vancouver Island Intercommunity Business Licensing Proposal

Council directed staff to bring forward a bylaw establishing the City's participation in a Vancouver Island Inter-Community Business Licensing (ICBL) program. Starting in early 2019, the City of Victoria will be one of up to 24 municipalities collaborating in this initiative, which will make obtaining a business license easier and less costly for some types of businesses looking to operate in multiple municipalities on Vancouver Island. [Click here to learn more.](#)



Love Food Hate Waste

Did you know wasted food costs an average Canadian household over \$1,100 per year and that 47% of food wasted in Canada comes from households? The Love Food Hate Waste program offers tips to help keep food fresh longer, recipes to use up items in your fridge and tips on meal planning. The City of Victoria is a

partner in this national program designed to cherish the food we have and reduce our food waste. Learn more: lovefoodhatewaste.ca

Share Your Great Ideas - Committee and Board Recruitment

Share your bright ideas! We're accepting applications from citizens to service on committees to provide advice and expertise on a variety of important topics. Boards and committees that are actively recruiting volunteer members for a two-year term starting on January 1, 2019, include:

- Advisory Design Panel
- Art in Public Places Committee
- Greater Victoria Public Library Board
- Heritage Advisory Panel
- Music Advisory Committee
- Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Advisory committees of Council create meaningful opportunities for public participation and citizen engagement in specific issues in the city.

[Learn more and apply for one of these opportunities.](#)



November 2018 Update

Burnside Gorge

Council Meeting Voting Dashboard

Council approved the implementation of a voting dashboard for Council meetings that will show individual voting and attendance for Council decisions. The new dashboard will be implemented in the first quarter of 2019. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets December 5 and 12 at 9am. Council meets December 12, beginning at 6:30pm. Residents can attend the meetings or watch them [here](#)