



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 where temperatures drop below -1 degrees. You can find a [chart](#) showing how this works on the Emergency Weather Protocol [website](#).

Bicycle Master Plan

On December 7, Council approved recommendations in a [staff report](#) that the draft 2018 financial plan include a \$3 million increase for the budget to complete the Wharf, Humboldt, and Cook Street Phase 1 corridors of the project. Work on the Fairfield section of Cook Street (from Fort to Pakington) is anticipated to start in late summer.

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.

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.

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.



January 2018 Update

Fairfield Gonzales

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.

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)
- **Developing Your Not-for-Profit Leadership**
An intensive course to gain understanding and develop your leadership skills.
February 5 to March 19 (\$299-399)
- **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)

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Great Neighbourhoods

Applications for Great Neighbourhoods grants were approved by Council at their December 7 meeting. Council also approved allocation of balance of 2017 funding for grants not allocated be used for a neighbourhood grant “show and tell” event in the spring. Grants approved in Fairfield Gonzales neighbourhoods include:

Birds on Parade	Theatre Inconnu	\$1,000
Block Emergency Supply Bench	FGCA	\$5,000
Cook St Boulevard Garden	FGCA	\$3,750
Safe Street Project	FGCA	\$5,000
Celebrating Indigenous Stories	FGCA	\$1,000

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](#).