

## In Your Neighbourhood

---

### Neighbourhood Plan Updates

The early plan directions of the Fairfield and Gonzales Neighbourhood Plans were workshopped with Council September 21. Directions for growth in Fairfield have been approved in principle for preparing the draft Fairfield Neighbourhood Plan. Proposed Heritage Conservation Areas will be explored in the future, but not through the Fairfield Neighbourhood Plan process. The draft plan will be released to the neighbourhood for feedback starting in November. A brochure will be sent to every household with the big moves of the plan, as well as all the ways that people can provide feedback, including a list of in-person events as well as an online survey.

The Neighbourhood Plan for Gonzales is currently being revised to reflect what was heard from the community. There will be one more opportunity for the neighbourhood to provide feedback on the revisions to the plan and amendments to the Official Community Plan to bring it into alignment with the neighbourhood plan. The public can provide feedback at an open house on October 14 and through an online survey. Council directed staff to consult with the neighbourhood on changes to the Official Community Plan to align with the proposed draft neighbourhood plan.

### Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters

A grassroots event that recognizes the survivors of residential schools – and acknowledges those who did not – is growing in support across Canada and will take place in Victoria on Saturday, September 30 from noon – 4 p.m. in Centennial Square. This event grew out of Phyllis Webstad's account of having her sparkly new orange shirt taken away on her first day of St. Joseph Mission residential school. She shared her story during a community commemoration in Williams Lake, BC in 2013. Since then, *Orange Shirt Day* has become an annual opportunity to keep the discussion happening on all aspects of residential schools. *Orange Shirt Day* T-shirts will be available for \$20 at Big Wheel Burger's three locations: Westside Village at 172 Wilson Street, Cook Street Village at 341 Cook Street, and Gateway Village at 703-711 Vernon Avenue.



### Participatory Budgeting

Have an idea for how to spend up to \$50,000 to improve life in the City of Victoria? The deadline for proposals has been **extended until Saturday, October 7**.

Any individual or organization in the CRD can submit a proposal. The project or initiative must take place within the City of Victoria. A shortlist of projects will be voted on by the community this December and the winning project or projects will be funded in 2018. Visit our [website](#) for the application form and more details.



### Protected Bike Lane Construction to begin on Fort Street

The City of Victoria will break ground September 25 on Fort Street, the second of five all ages and abilities (AAA) bicycle lanes that will be installed before the end of 2018. The new two-way protected bike lane will be built on the north side of Fort Street from Wharf Street to Cook Street. As a part of the work, the City of Victoria will be enhancing crosswalks and sidewalks, adding new street trees and benches, introducing accessibility enhancements and undertaking important underground utility upgrades. The new bike network will increase safety for cyclists, pedestrians, motorists and transit riders and will connect the downtown core to neighbourhoods and regional trails. The first phase of Fort Street construction will begin with City utility upgrades including water main upgrades, improvements to underground sanitary sewer and storm drains and manhole replacements. Construction of the new protected bike lanes is expected to be completed by May 2018 and there will be limited work in November and December to accommodate the holiday shopping season. For more information visit:

[www.victoria.ca/cycling](http://www.victoria.ca/cycling)

### ShakeOut Victoria October 19

On October 19, thousands of British Columbians will *Drop, Cover, and Hold On!* at 10:19 a.m. for two minutes in the *Great British Columbia ShakeOut (ShakeOut BC)* province-wide earthquake drill. The City of Victoria encourages Victoria households, schools, businesses, organizations, and media to sign up online to participate at [ShakeOutBC.ca](http://ShakeOutBC.ca). The ShakeZone magnitude 8.0 earthquake simulator that visited Centennial Square last week is a reminder that Victoria has a one-in-three probability of a damaging earthquake in the next 50 years – and we need to be prepared. Emergency



Management Victoria is offering free emergency preparedness workshops this fall. Learn what families and businesses need to have on hand to cope up to seven days without outside assistance. Sign-up for *Vic-Alert*, the City of Victoria's emergency notification service to receive updates by text, phone or email on emergencies and major disasters that may impact you. For more information: [VictoriaReady.ca](http://VictoriaReady.ca).

### Increased Accessibility in City Hall

Over the summer, the City installed a new hearing loop in Council Chambers. This feature improves accessibility for citizens attending meetings in Council Chambers who have a hearing deficiency. The hearing loop is simple for visitors to utilize; those with hearing aids who have the telecom feature enabled will automatically experience the enhanced service when entering the room.



### The Sharing Economy – Free Little Libraries

You may have noticed, in your walks about your neighbourhood and the city, an abundance of little free libraries sprouting up everywhere. Not only are these a great place to find or give new reading material, they are also great places to bump into your neighbours. Greater Victoria has over 135 little free libraries (interested in knowing where they are? Check out this [map](#) set up by the Greater Victoria Placemaking Network). These little libraries are not only great for book exchanges, but residents are using them for toys and food pantries as well, like this one in Vic West. Want to build and install your own library? Contact the Placemaking Network. They have some workshops coming up this fall to not only help with the libraries, but also can help you create a little pocket place to enhance your little library site.

<http://victoriaplacemaking.ca/>

### My Great Neighbourhood Grants – Fall Intake

Just a reminder the deadline for the Fall intake of our Neighbourhood grant program is **October 15**. The City has approximately \$51,000 left in the 2017 grant program that is open to residents and non-profit organizations to

create projects and activities that will improve areas in your neighbourhood and create community. Think about something you might like to do and then contact the Neighbourhood Team to explore your idea. Pre-application meetings must be completed no later than **Friday, October 6**. More information can be found on the City's [website](#).



### Short-Term Rentals

Following a Public Hearing, City Council approved a zoning bylaw change that removed entire unit short-term rentals as a permitted use where they were previously allowed. Council approved a proposed regulatory framework for short-term rentals, which outlined how and where they will be permitted across the City as well as an enforcement strategy for how to enforce these changes. Council directed staff to consult stakeholders on the proposed regulations.

The City will also be requesting the Province to make changes to legislation and regulations to ensure that properties used substantially for short term vacation rentals are classified as commercial properties for the purposes of municipal property taxes, and reconsider legal non-conforming uses in strata properties. More information is available at [www.victoria.ca/shorttermrentals](http://www.victoria.ca/shorttermrentals).

### Proposed Amendments to Parks Regulations Bylaw

Council directed staff to prepare and bring forward for Council's consideration amendments to the Parks Regulations Bylaw intended to better manage parks. The amendments are:

- Ability to temporarily close a park or part of a park
- Prohibition on interference with City workers engaged in clean-up, maintenance or other work in a park



## October 2017 Update

# Fairfield Gonzales

- Authority to impound property unlawfully left in a park and waive the fee to return impounded property
  - Ability to apply for permits to carry out protests and other expressive activities in a park;
- You can [read the staff report](#) here.

### **Council Meetings**

Committee of the Whole meets Oct 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 9 a.m. Councils meets October 12 and 26<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:30. Residents can attend both meetings or view them [here](#).