

In Your Neighbourhood

Hot in the 'Hood

The extended hot weather we are having in the area can be of concern for residents' health. Seniors are particularly vulnerable because as we age, we lose our ability to regulate our body temperature and have a delayed sense of thirst. Avoiding strenuous activity, seeking shelter from heat and drinking water are key measures for seniors to stay healthy. If you are aware of seniors living in your neighbourhood who are living alone and may be vulnerable, you may want to check up on them and see if they need assistance.

Great Neighbourhood Grants

The Spring 2017 Great Neighbourhood Grants were approved at Committee of the Whole on August 3. The decision needs to be ratified at the August 10 Council meeting, after which staff will be able to issue the grants. Council also approved a second intake in the fall; there is almost \$51,000 left to be allocated. If you have any great ideas or want to discuss possible projects or activities, please contact me by email and we will set up a time to meet and talk kstratford@victoria.ca

Councillor Liaisons

At the Committee of the Whole meeting on August 3, Council approved terms of reference for their continuing role as liaisons to neighbourhood associations. This document will provide some clarity both for neighbourhoods and Councillors with regards to their expectations of the relationship between Council and neighbourhood associations. These Terms of Reference will be included in a larger policy document that will also encompass the Neighbourhood Association Terms of Reference once they are completed. Councillors will remain with their current neighbourhoods until the November 2018 elections.

Council Workshop – Draft Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan

At the July 13, 2017 Council meeting, Council referred the draft Gonzales Neighbourhood Plan and draft Design Guidelines to the Advisory Design Panel and Heritage Advisory Panel for comment. Staff will create specific guidelines or exemptions for the proposed Heritage Conservation Areas that address feedback from homeowners, the community and the Heritage Advisory Panel. Staff will also seek further public comment on the next iteration of the draft plan. [View the report.](#)

Public Engagement Roadmap

On July 27, Council approved the [Engagement Framework](#), which describes how the City will conduct its engagement activities in the future. The framework responds to requests from residents for greater clarity, consistency and improvement to the City's public consultation process. The report included a Public Engagement Road Map that highlights major consultation to occur over 2017 and 2018.

Supervised Consumption Site

Council received an [update](#) on the construction of a supervised consumption site at 941 Pandora Avenue, next to Our Place. A request for proposals for operating the service will be posted in September and federal government approval for the facility is still being processed. Pending these, the facility is scheduled to be open following construction in early 2018.

Growing in the City – Fruit and Nut Trees

Did you know that residents, through a community organization, can apply to plant and maintain up to **five** fruit and nut trees on City greenspaces? Trees must be planted from October to November. If you want to become a Food Tree Steward, email parks@victoria.ca or call (250) 361-0600.

Urban gardening and food production help create healthy and diverse ecosystems while building community and our food security. Victoria has a number of programs to encourage community gardening and commercial food production in the City. For information on community gardens, rooftop greenhouses, boulevard gardens, food trees on City land, and growing food to sell, see www.victoria.ca/growinginthecity.

Playbox in the Park

The City recently installed a Playbox in Central Park. This box is filled with all sorts of play equipment including soccer balls, basketballs, badminton racquets, skipping ropes, chalk, tennis racquets and more! Anyone can access the Playbox for free anytime they want, you just have to sign up to get your lock access code. Children, teens, parents, grandparents, families of all kinds can use the Playbox equipment. Want to put a playbox in a park near you? Consider applying for a [My Great Neighbourhood grant](#). We will be accepting applications for the 2017 Fall Intake very soon.



Got an idea for how to spend \$50,000?

How would you spend up to \$50,000 to improve life in the City of Victoria?! If you have an idea for a project, initiative or event, now is the time to submit it to the Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee. A shortlist of proposals will be voted on by the public later this year. Proposals can be for some, or all, of the \$50,000.

The Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee, a citizen-based group of volunteers, will be accepting proposals starting in mid August. Proposal forms and information will soon be available at victoria.ca/pbvic. Proposals can be submitted by individuals, groups, or community organizations and will be accepted until the end of September.

This is the first year the City of Victoria has empowered the community to decide what to do with a portion of the City budget. The Steering Committee was brought together in May and has been developing a model to empower community members in budget decision-making.

Want to learn more? Join us for a “How to Prepare a Proposal” Information Session at City Hall on Tuesday, August 29 from 6- 8 p.m. Keep an eye on victoria.ca/pbvic and social media for further details and updates, or email pb@victoria.ca with any questions!

Johnson Street Bridge Project Update

The Johnson Street Bridge quarterly update was presented to Council on July 27. The report included updates on the ongoing steel fabrication in China, work onsite in Victoria and the status of the first shipment of steel that has left China on a ship and is expected to arrive in Victoria in late August. The anticipated opening date for the new bridge to vehicle traffic is March 2018.

Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project

The City is committed to continuous engagement with citizens and stakeholders through project phases via outreach activities planned at the pool facility and across the larger community. The prospect for support by all levels of government toward this valued community facility is an exciting one, and may remove the requirement for the City to hold a referendum in order to borrow additional funds. Pending funding confirmation, our current schedule anticipates the new facility opening in late 2020. We established a web page with information about the project which is regularly updated www.victoria.ca/poolfuture. If you would like to receive direct email updates on the Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project please send your email to crystalpool@victoria.ca requesting to be added to the email list.

Storefront Cannabis Retailer Rezoning Policy

Within the Storefront Cannabis Retailer Rezoning Policy, Council changed the distance from 200 metres to 400 metres that a storefront cannabis retailer can be from another lot where a storefront cannabis retailer is permitted. Council reserves the right to consider variances to the separation distances noted in the Policy based on circumstances related to a specific application. [View the report.](#)

Land Use in Fairfield/Gonzales

Draft Motions Aug 3, 2017

1457 Clifford St Development Variance Permit-

Motion:

That Council after giving notice and allowing an opportunity for public comment at a meeting of Council, consider the following motion:

"That Council authorize the issuance of Development Permit Application No. 00188 for 1457 Clifford, in accordance with:

1. Plans date stamped July 13, 2017.
2. Development meeting all *Zoning Regulation Bylaw* requirements, except for the following variances:
 - Lot 1
 - i. reduce the minimum lot width from 15m to 13.46m;
 - ii. reduce the minimum side yard setback from 3.0m to 2.49m;
 - iii. reduce the minimum combined side yard setback from 4.5m to 3.99m.
 - Lot 2
 - i. reduce the minimum average lot width from 15m to 13.46m;
 - ii. reduce the minimum side yard setback from 3.0m to 2.59m;
 - iii. reduce the minimum combined side yard setback from 4.5m to 4.09m.
3. The Development Permit lapsing two years from the date of this resolution."

304 Cook Street Rezoning Application

Motion:

That Council instruct staff to prepare the necessary Zoning Regulation Bylaw Amendment that would authorize the proposed development outlined in Rezoning Application No. 00586 for 304 Cook Street, that first and second reading of the Zoning Regulation Bylaw Amendment be considered by Council and a Public Hearing date be set once the following conditions are met:

1. Preparation of a legal agreement to secure the decorative paving along Cook Street and Suttlej Street, executed by the applicant to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor.

1068 Chamberlain Street

Motion;

That Council instruct staff to prepare the necessary Zoning Regulation Bylaw Amendment(s) that would authorize the proposed development outlined in Rezoning Application No. 00541 for 1068 Chamberlain Street, that first and second reading of the Zoning Regulation Bylaw Amendment(s) be considered by Council and a Public Hearing date be set, and

That Council after giving notice and allowing an opportunity for public comment at a meeting of Council and after the Public Hearing for Rezoning Application No. 00541, if it is approved, consider the following motion:

"That Council authorize the issuance of Development Permit with Variances Application No. 000488 for 1068 Chamberlain Street, in accordance with:

1. Plans date stamped July 14, 2017.
2. Development meeting all *Zoning Regulation Bylaw* requirements, except for the following variances:
 - i. allow parking in the front yard
 - ii. increase the maximum combined floor area on the first and second floor 280m² to 359.8m²
 - iii. reduce the minimum rear yard setback 12.78m to 10.26m
3. The Development Permit lapsing two years from the date of this resolution.

1002 Vancouver Street

A rezoning application for 1002 Vancouver Street has been moved forward to public hearing. The application would allow for conversion of the existing building into a multiple dwelling consisting of approximately 79 supportive housing units and 15 affordable rental units. This application will be considered concurrently with heritage designation and development variance permit for parking. Before this application will be considered at a public hearing Council has requested answers to a series of questions related to the operation of the facility. The public hearing is tentatively scheduled for September 21, pending receipt of those answers and subject to legal documents with criteria outlined in the report found here: [Committee of the Whole agenda](#). See details on the Development Tracker [here](#)

Tree Maintenance - Gonzales

Ten trees have been identified for removal in the Gonzales neighbourhood. The specific trees, their conditions and their locations are as follows:

- 1733 Fairfield Rd (Beechwood Ave frontage), Purple Leaf Plum 54cm DBH, the tree has internal rot and there is movement at the root plate.
- 1823 Gonzales Ave (Richmond Ave frontage), Lindsay Plum 71cm DBH, the tree has Ganoderma conks with internal decay and crown dieback.
- 1823 Gonzales Ave (Richmond Ave frontage), Tree #2 Lindsay Plum 71cm DBH, the tree has Ganoderma conks with internal decay and crown dieback.
- 371 Irving Rd Sweedish Whitebeam 25cm DBH, the tree has a 70% canopy loss with decay in the central stem.
- 1855 Richardson St, Lawson Cypress 92cm DBH, the tree is dead.
- 1855 Richardson St, Bitter Cherry 14cm DBH, Dead.
- 601 Richmond Ave, Lindsay Plum 65cm DBH, There are Ganoderma conks at the root crown and resistograph readings show extensive decay in the base.
- 627 Richmond Ave, Lindsay Plum, 71cm DBH, Ganoderma fruiting bodies on the base and trunk with internal decay and poor structure due to hydro pruning.
- 137 Robertson St, Mountain Ash, 19cm DBH, Excessive lean with very poor structure.
- 125 Wildwood Ave, Japanese Cherry, 61cm DBH, The tree has extensive decay in the root crown with a fruiting body at the base



August 2017 Update

Fairfield Gonzales

These tree removals will take place between August 18th and October 1st 2017. New trees will be selected and plantings will begin in 2018.

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole (COTW) met August 3 and will meet again Aug 10 at 9 a.m. Council will meet August 10 at 6:30 p.m. You can watch the live broadcast and find agendas [here](#).

Comments on Neighbourhood Updates?

Is there something you would like to see in the neighbourhood updates that is currently missing? Do you have any comments on presentation or content? Please let me know at kstratford@victoria.ca. Thanks!