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. Rockland submitted one Placemaking application:

* Selfhood – Greater Victoria Art Gallery, $5,000

**Bylaw Adoption: Bylaw for Cannabis Retail Store Licensing Consultation Policy and Fee**

Council adopted the Cannabis Retail Store Licensing Consultation Policy and Fee Bylaw, which establishes a process for the City to provide a recommendation to the Provincial Government for a cannabis retail store licence application referral, and to establish fees. The Cannabis-Related Business Regulation Bylaw will be amended to align with the Province of British Columbia’s Cannabis Control and Licensing Act. [Click here to learn more](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpub-victoria.escribemeetings.com%2FMeeting.aspx%3FId%3D641184f5-197c-4caa-bcf9-11530b78c349%26Agenda%3DMerged%26lang%3DEnglish%26Item%3D52&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cd2f08106d1a442b10d1b08d651aa2ad9%7Cd7098116c6e84d2a89eedb15b6c23375%7C0%7C0%7C636786188662533450&sdata=X3YtThiIcB5%2FGMOwHeHbwBO4nQxTYfZtJlfWHf%2FqnmY%3D&reserved=0).

**Improving Governance and Transparency**

Council endorsed several best practices in governance and transparency:

* Council member voting and attendance dashboard, retroactive to the beginning of the Council term
* Publish Council member annual Financial Disclosure Statements online
* Improve proactive disclosure of closed Council meetings, as soon as the need for confidentiality has ceased to exist
* Publish information on Council member expenses on a quarterly basis
* Continue to publish [Council Highlights](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.victoria.ca%2FEN%2Fmain%2Fcity%2Fmayor-council-committees%2Fcouncil-highlights.html&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cd2f08106d1a442b10d1b08d651aa2ad9%7Cd7098116c6e84d2a89eedb15b6c23375%7C0%7C0%7C636786188662523446&sdata=gkiOmoRKFn2izOqamadHCSPzwUO%2F%2FJCB4clJHhFn6SY%3D&reserved=0) following Council meetings to make information on key Council decisions accessible to the general public
* Provide clear and accessible Summaries of Financial Information in the [Annual Report](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.victoria.ca%2FEN%2Fmain%2Fresidents%2Fcommunications%2Fannual-report.html&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cd2f08106d1a442b10d1b08d651aa2ad9%7Cd7098116c6e84d2a89eedb15b6c23375%7C0%7C0%7C636786188662523446&sdata=YoZu7XGjU44WtgCMt4SHN2whpNzLFZ593e%2FGaknmKoc%3D&reserved=0) and in annual financial planning documents and provide links to this information on the City’s website

Council directed staff to report back with recommendations for the timely implementation of each of these items and include information on any financial implications. [Click here to learn more](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpub-victoria.escribemeetings.com%2FMeeting.aspx%3FId%3Dd4d56916-e5ba-4ab7-8e72-e34e1b8ab34e%26Agenda%3DMerged%26lang%3DEnglish%26Item%3D29&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cd2f08106d1a442b10d1b08d651aa2ad9%7Cd7098116c6e84d2a89eedb15b6c23375%7C0%7C0%7C636786188662533450&sdata=EFcL0mzugdp2RPi7wpHdRz%2BHoOtcFrlcpNlm8cBtSMY%3D&reserved=0).

**Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project Update**

The City will move forward with exploring the potential to build a new, larger project on the parking lot of the Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre. Council directed staff to also complete the design development work for the current project, planned for the southwest corner of Central Park. Council reaffirmed their support for replacing the Crystal Pool facility with a modern centre that will meet the needs of all ages and abilities as well as meet climate leadership goals, and to avoid a closure of the existing facility. The new proposed location would result in increased green space in Central Park and offer opportunities to include more community amenities as part of the project. The City will continue to explore all potential funding sources to create a project that will serve the community for generations to come.  Read more on the motion [here](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpub-victoria.escribemeetings.com%2Ffilestream.ashx%3FDocumentId%3D25394&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cd2f08106d1a442b10d1b08d651aa2ad9%7Cd7098116c6e84d2a89eedb15b6c23375%7C0%7C0%7C636786188662483414&sdata=zcexWYzlecoSVDlqf8f4qgMt4EUnLh6XwfU1ZHEWjl4%3D&reserved=0) and visit the project website [here](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.funforlifevictoria.ca%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cd2f08106d1a442b10d1b08d651aa2ad9%7Cd7098116c6e84d2a89eedb15b6c23375%7C0%7C0%7C636786188662483414&sdata=jInIv8pJMp2WFosxMifnBsjXMG51wl1Au5Xq6JrwZx4%3D&reserved=0).

**2018 Holiday Food Drive**

Starting Monday, City of Victoria Public Works crews will be collecting non-perishable food donations from Victoria households to support the Mustard Seed Food Bank. The City’s annual Holiday Food Drive runs from Monday, December 3 until Friday, December 14 this year. Recognizing that the holidays are a time of year during which people depend on food banks the most, residents can share their generosity by

 leaving non-perishable food items labeled “Food Drive” beside their green bins. Crews will also continue to collect cheques made out to the Mustard Seed. These donations allow the food bank to buy $2 worth of food for every $1 donated. The food drive is organized by CUPE Local 50. Thank you for donating what you can this holiday season.

**Interim Inclusionary Housing and Density Bonus Policy Update**

Council provided additional clarification on interim measures for housing affordability until the Inclusionary Housing and Density Bonus Policy is brought back for Council consideration in March 2019. Ahead of final policy adoption, staff have been directed to negotiate with developers for inclusive housing or cash-in-lieu on all residential strata rezoning applications with more than 10 units. [Click here to learn more](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpub-victoria.escribemeetings.com%2FMeeting.aspx%3FId%3D641184f5-197c-4caa-bcf9-11530b78c349%26Agenda%3DMerged%26lang%3DEnglish%26Item%3D70&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cd2f08106d1a442b10d1b08d651aa2ad9%7Cd7098116c6e84d2a89eedb15b6c23375%7C0%7C0%7C636786188662473401&sdata=iwNDErw4DfcXV65mXWd9klx78LJpO3dVAt0imHm79tM%3D&reserved=0).

**Get Crafty this Christmas in Centennial Square!**



Get into the holiday spirit with free crafts for all ages at **Crafty Christmas in the Square!**

Join us for festive wreath-making, gingerbread cookie decorating, and a range of craft activities for children on Saturdays and Sundays in December from noon – 4 p.m. under the archway in Centennial Square!

**Holiday Wreath Crafternoons**

**Saturdays and Sundays (December 1 – 23)
Workshops at 12:30 p.m. and again at 1:45 p.m.
Centennial Square archway**Enjoy a free, hands-on Holiday Wreath Crafternoon workshop to learn how to create a beautiful, fresh holiday wreath. Space is limited so plan to arrive early (25 people per workshop on a first-come basis.) The one-hour workshops will be led by Emma McCormick Creative and Platinum Floral Designs. All supplies will be provided. (Youth and Adults)

**Gingerbread Cookie Decorating**

**Saturdays and Sundays (December 1 – 23)
Drop-in, noon – 4 p.m.
Centennial Square archway**Schur to Please Boutique Cakery will guide you through free gingerbread cookie decorating. Let your creative side shine before eating your artwork or taking it home to share as a gift. All supplies will be provided. (All ages)

**Kids’ Craft Corner**

**Saturdays and Sundays (December 1 – 23)
Drop-in, noon – 4 p.m.
Centennial Square archway**
Drop by Kids’ Craft Corner to participate in crafts designed for little hands and short attention spans. Shannon Emery and Hearten Art Therapy will lead three different crafts over four weekends. All supplies will be provided. (Ages 2 - 10)

**Snow Day in the Square! *(Rescheduled)***

**Saturday, December 8 *(NOT Sunday, December 9)*
noon – 4 p.m. (or as long as snow supply lasts)
Centennial Square**
No matter what the weather forecast predicts, it’s going to be a “Snow Day” in Centennial Square on **Saturday, December 8** from noon – 4 p.m.! Bring your mittens to this free, family event and get ready to play in the snow. “Snow” will be provided by Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre. (All ages)

**Ice Sculpture Demonstrations**

**Sundays, December 16 and 23
1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Centennial Square**
Drop by Centennial Square to watch Cool as Ice transform blocks of ice into creative, holiday sculptures.

**Holiday Donations**

**Saturdays and Sundays (December 1 – 23)
noon – 4 p.m.
Centennial Square**
Help support vulnerable members of our community this holiday season by bringing gently-used clothing, non-perishable food items and spare change for donation to the Cool Aid Society and Our Place.

**Fun and Delicious Gingerbread Workshop for Kids:** Saturday, December 8, 10 a.m. – noon and 12:30 – 2:30 ($20) at Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre. Create & renovate your very own gingerbread house and decorate it any way you want! All of the building materials and goodies will be provided and Santa's elves will be there to help create your delicious masterpiece

**Council Meetings**

Committee of the Whole meets December 12 at 9am. Council meets December 12, beginning at 6:30pm. Residents can attend the meetings or watch them [here](http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/city/mayor-council-committees/council-webcasting.html)