

## Become a Volunteer Firefighter

Do you have what it takes to be a firefighter?  
If you think you do, the Parksville Fire Department needs you.



There are many reasons to consider becoming a firefighter. For starters, it's a great way to contribute to your community. You will learn new skills, from firefighting and first aid to communications and technical rescue. And, you will make new friends that you're likely to have for the rest of your life. The PVFD is made up of people from all walks of life, men and women of all ages and professions.

The PVFD relies on volunteer firefighters and is now recruiting for 2016. You need to live in the Parksville fire protection area (ideally Parksville), be reasonably fit,

available for weekly fire practices, have a good driving record and between the ages of 19 and 60 for regular members. Volunteer, paid on-call firefighters respond to emergencies 365 days a year. You will be trained, challenged and your life will change. The department also offers a junior program for those under the age of 19, providing a great introduction to life as a PVFD member.

If you would like to learn more about being an on-call firefighter, we encourage you to drop by the fire hall at 160 Jensen Avenue West to speak with one of our officers – Monday to Friday, 8 am to 4 pm or by phone 250 248-3242. More details as well as applications are available from the fire hall and from the PVFD website [[pvfd.ca/recruiting](http://pvfd.ca/recruiting)]. Application deadline is Friday, March 4 at 4pm.



Pride • Courage • Passion • Teamwork

## City Services

### Residential Family Water Rates

Large families with five or more immediate family members consisting of parents and dependent children less than eighteen years of age may qualify for modified water rates. Application deadline is February 26 at 4 pm. Information and application forms may be obtained from City Hall and from the City's website [*Residents/Utility Billing*].

### Spring Grant-in-Aid Applications

Subject to the provisions of the City's grant-in-aid applications policy, the City may provide financial assistance to community groups and organizations for events which benefit our citizens and visitors. Community non-profit organizations in the arts, cultural, recreational or social services fields are eligible applicants. Deadline is 4 pm, March 1. Information on this program, the policy, application and instructions may be obtained at City Hall or from the website [*Mayor and Council/Grant-in-Aid Applications*].

### Delinquent Property Taxes

Property owners with delinquent taxes (property taxes owing from 2014) will be subject to their property being offered for sale by public auction at a tax sale on September 26, 2016, pursuant to Section 403 of the Local Government Act should the taxes plus applicable interest and penalties not be paid by this date. Property owners who have delinquent property taxes should call the City's finance department at 250 954-4653 for assistance to determine available options.

## Things to Know

### Advisory Planning Commission Seeking New Members

The term of office for several members of the Advisory Planning Commission recently ended and we are now seeking new members for the two-year term, 2016 -2017. Commission members are appointed pursuant to Section 461 of the Local Government Act and serve without remuneration.

The function of the APC is to advise Council on matters respecting land use and community planning referred to the APC by Council or staff. Applicants with experience in land use planning, architectural design or related fields would be an asset, although not a prerequisite.

Applications will be accepted until March 11 and then referred to Council for consideration. Those interested in serving should submit an application to Blaine Russell, Director of Community Planning:

Email: [planning@parksville.ca](mailto:planning@parksville.ca)  
In person: 100 Jensen Avenue East  
Mail: PO Box 1390, Parksville V9P 2H3

### "No Dogs" Beach Closures

Our beaches are popular spots for migrating Brant geese, vulnerable to disturbances and for this reason, beaches will be closed to dogs. Please note Parksville beaches within the Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area will be closed to dogs, both on-leash and off-leash as follows:

February 1 to April 15 - Rathrevor Beach  
March 1 to April 30 - Parksville Beach



## City Services

### 2016 Budget Approved

The 2016 budget approved by Council in December will be formally adopted in February. Council established the tax rate for 2016 at 4.5% and the tax rate for subsequent years is projected to be 4% for 2017 through 2020. Council also approved the 2016-2020 financial plan which sets out the financial requirements to enable departments to carry out projects for 2016. The budget and financial plan may be viewed on the City's website [*Quicklinks/Reports/Financial Plans*].

### Special Events Application Procedures

Every year, we receive applications from community organizations and individuals wishing to hold special events at City-owned facilities. Venues were well used in 2015; streets and parks accommodated many events and thousands of residents and visitors enjoyed an energetic year of festivals, sporting events and celebrations in the Community Park and Foster Park. 2016 event applications are now being accepted with the review process starting January 29. Special events policy and relevant application forms may be obtained from the operations department (1116 Herring Gull Way), from City Hall or from the website [*City Hall/Special Events Procedures*]. Phone 250 248-5412 for more information.

### Notice to Businesses

Existing business licence renewals were due January 8 and may be mailed or paid at City Hall. Bylaw 1483 requires that all businesses obtain a valid licence if carrying on business in the City. Please see the City's website for more information [*Business/Licences*].

### Notice to Dog Owners in Parksville

Dog licence fees are due by January 29. Current dog licences will receive a reminder notice; if you do not receive a notice and/or currently own a dog, licences may be purchased from City Hall and also from the Parksville-Qualicum Beach SPCA (1565 Alberni Highway).

- By January 29 Spayed/neutered \$20, not spayed/neutered \$30
- After January 29 Spayed/neutered \$25, not spayed/neutered \$35

## City Dates

January 21	Coffee with Council
January 28	Coffee with Council
February 1	Council Meeting
February 4	Coffee with Council
February 8	Family Day Statutory Holiday
February 11	Coffee with Council
February 15	Council Meeting
February 18	Coffee with Council
February 25	Coffee with Council
March 3	Coffee with Council
March 7	Council Meeting

The public is encouraged to attend Council meetings held on the first and third Mondays of the month and may observe advisory committee meetings. Refer to the website for agendas and meeting highlights and minutes.

## How To Reach Council

### MAYOR

Marc Lefebvre ..... 250 954-4661

### COUNCILLORS

Mary Beil..... 250 927-4097  
Al Greir ..... 250 248-1285  
Kirk Oates ..... 250 802-2059  
Teresa Patterson ..... 250 954-9488  
Sue Powell..... 250 954-3070  
Leanne Salter..... 250 248-8097

[citycouncil@parksville.ca](mailto:citycouncil@parksville.ca)  
City Hall, 100 Jensen Avenue East  
P O Box 1390, Parksville V9P 2H3  
[facebook.com/cityparksville](https://www.facebook.com/cityparksville)  
[twitter.com/city\\_parksville](https://twitter.com/city_parksville)  
[pinterest.com/cityparksville](https://www.pinterest.com/cityparksville)

It's Your City is published in the PQB News on the second Tuesday of the month with a copy on the City's website. We are committed to improving communications with our residents and you can help by providing your comments and suggestions to 250 954-3073 or [communications@parksville.ca](mailto:communications@parksville.ca).