

It's *Your* City!

DECEMBER 13, 2023



Parksville Fire Recruitment Campaign 2024



Parksville Fire Rescue volunteer paid-on-call and career firefighters provide fire and emergency response services in the Parksville Fire Protection Area. Our highly skilled professional firefighters value integrity, honesty, selflessness, commitment, courage, and are hardworking and family oriented. We provide an outstanding training program and the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives.

Our department has responded to almost 800 calls this year - structure fires, rescues, motor vehicle incidents, medical assistance, and public service requests. We rely on the commitment of paid on-call volunteer firefighters dedicated to public safety and community service and offer:

- Professional firefighter certification and ongoing training.
- Opportunity to serve your community.
- Personal growth, sense of achievement.
- Great benefits - paid on-call, WorkSafe, additional accidental death and disability insurance (on and off duty), and more.
- Part of a team and your chance to be awesome.

We are your neighbours, co-workers, family, and friends and need your help; please encourage those who may be interested to contact us. Finding the right balance between family, work and volunteering is challenging, but also rewarding. If you are ready to *answer the call*, contact us at 250 248-3242 to speak with an officer or arrange a tour. Application deadline March 1. [parksvillefirerescue.ca]

Recruitment Open Practice Monday, January 22, 7-9 pm

Regular practice on January 22 is open to *those interested in being a firefighter*. Arrive by 6.30 pm, dress for the weather, and stay as long as you wish. See what's involved in training, ask questions, and chat with members. 160 Jensen Avenue West.

Council and staff wish you and yours a most Merry Christmas and wonderful 2024.

THINGS TO KNOW

Holiday office closures - City offices and operations will be closed on Monday, December 25, Tuesday, December 26 and Monday, January 1. For after-hours emergency (weekends and holidays), phone 250 248-6144 to reach our on-call service.

Homeowner grant - December 31, 2023, is deadline to claim retroactive Home Owner Grant for 2022 (subject to qualifications) as well as deadline to defer 2022 property taxes. For info or to apply, contact Province of BC at 1 888 355-2700 or online [gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferral]

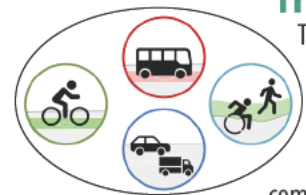
2024 Council meeting dates are listed on website. [[City Hall/Meeting Calendar](#)]

Winter conditions info about how we monitor weather forecasts, clearing of sidewalks, general info, and tips on how residents can prepare is on our website. [[Quicklink/Winter Conditions](#)]

The Red Dress Project is a visual reminder of the more than 1,000 missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited individuals whose cases remain unsolved. Dresses are on display in the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre until December 11. [thereddressproject.org]

Transportation Master Plan Next Steps

The first of three phases of the transportation master plan process nearing completion included data collection at major intersections in the City, open house, online survey, and community group engagement meetings. Final step will be the *What We Heard* report in early 2024. Second phase will focus on presenting and testing different scenarios and options for the future transportation network. Based on the public responses in phase one, these options will be presented for additional feedback from the community through a second in-person engagement and online survey. [[Letstalkparksville.ca](http://letstalkparksville.ca)]



Parksville's 2024-2028 Financial Plan

Two open Council meetings were held to discuss the 2024-2028 financial plan with more meetings in January; dates on our website soon. The financial plan guides how the City provides services and infrastructure to residents, outlines how resources will be allocated to achieve Council's strategic goals and enable City departments to deliver services in a fiscally responsible manner. The City strives to maintain quality programs and services and keep property taxes and utility fees affordable for businesses and homeowners. We are looking for your input and encourage residents to attend meetings, review information on *Let's Talk Parksville* and provide comments.



Parksville Community Park Update

The gathering plaza and accessible connections are now substantially complete with most fencing removed and some minor finishing to come. Beyond creating a new space for gathering and social events, a core goal of this project was to increase accessibility and pedestrian movement in the heart of the park. Key element to achieve better accessibility was the removal of curbing and elevation changes and the new raised speed table on Sandcastle Drive adjacent to the plaza supports a consistent and accessible elevation while calming traffic through a busy pedestrian area. New washroom project is substantially complete; the building will remain closed until urinals arrive in January.

2024 Special Events Applications

Applications are now being accepted from organizations and individuals wishing to hold special events at City-owned venues or on City streets; review process starts January 31. Annual events will be given priority provided the request is received by January 31, after which time applications will be addressed as first-time events on a first-come, first-served basis, based on availability. After January 31, applications must be received at least thirty days prior to the event. Policy and forms on website [[City Hall/Special Events Procedures, events@parksville.ca](#)]



2024 Licence Renewals

Business Licences are due January 31 and may be paid by credit card (Visa or Mastercard) from the City's website; by mail (P O Box 1390, Parksville V9P 2H3); 100 Jensen Avenue East dropbox, or in-person (weekdays, 8 am to 4 pm). Unpaid fees after January 31 will be subject to fines.

Dog Licences - fees are due by January 31. If you own a dog, tags must be purchased in-person from City Hall (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 4 pm) and the BCSPCA (Tuesday to Saturday, noon to 4 pm). Dogs older than six months must be licensed. Until January 31, rate is discounted - spayed/neutered dogs \$20 and \$30 for un-spayed or un-neutered.

The rate increases to \$25 and \$35 after January 31.

City Dates

December 18	Council Meeting
December 25/26	Christmas and Boxing Day (offices closed)
January 1	New Year's Day (offices closed)
January 15	Council Meeting
February 5	Council Meeting
February 19	Family Day (offices closed)
February 21	Council Meeting
March 4	Council Meeting
March 5	Transportation Master Plan Engagement

How to Reach Council

MAYOR		
Doug O'Brien	250 937-1389	council@parksville.ca
COUNCILLORS		
Mary Beil	250 927-4097	100 Jensen Avenue East
Adam Fras	250 228-3727	PO Box 1390
Amit Gaur	250 954-3060	Parksville V9P 2H3
Joel Grenz	250 954-3060	parksville.ca
Sylvia Martin	250 954-3060	Comments welcome
Sean Wood	604 868-7914	250 954-3073
		info@parksville.ca



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