

December 7, 2023



**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 9
2 - 4 PM**

Parksville Community Centre
on Jensen Avenue

FREE EVENT
hosted by the City of Parksville

 City of Parksville parksville.ca

Cookies, Carols and More!

We're excited to host families, friends and neighbours at *Cookies, Carols and More!* on Saturday, December 9 at the Parksville Community Centre on Jensen. Mark your calendars for this free, fun, full of holiday cheer community event. Everyone is welcome! Should you wish, donations of non-perishable items will be accepted for the Salvation Army foodbank.



Here's what we have planned for you!

- Live entertainment, holiday music and a singalong
- Special cookies, coffee and hot chocolate bar.
- Activities for kids, their families and the young at heart with ornament decorating, holiday colouring, letters to Santa, face painters.
- Visit from Santa
- Perfect holiday photo backdrop, mistletoe, and props for your photos. Bring your camera and we'll help you take the pictures.

CITY SERVICES

Parksville's 2024-2028 Financial Plan

Coming up next week on Monday, December 11 is the second open Council meeting to discuss the 2024-2028 financial plan which guides how the City will provide services and infrastructure to residents. The meeting will be held in the Forum, 100 Jensen Avenue East from 10 am to noon and 2 to 4 pm. As part of the process, we are looking for your input and encourage residents to attend. Further meetings will be held in January and posted to our website soon.

The five-year financial plan outlines how resources will be allocated to achieve Council's identified strategic goals and enable City departments to deliver services in a fiscally responsible manner. The City strives to maintain quality programs and services for our residents and keep property taxes and utility fees affordable for businesses and homeowners.



- Here are some of the ways you can be involved and engage in the financial planning process:
- Attend the meeting on December 11, 10 am to noon and 2 to 4 pm.
 - Learn about the financial plan. [Let's Talk Parksville](#) has details such as previous plans and frequently asked questions.
 - Submit comments by email to council@parksville.ca.
 - Residents wishing comments to be considered by Council prior to the meetings, should be received by 4 pm on the working day before the meeting (December 8). Meetings may be viewed live and archived through webstreaming from the City's [website](#).
 - Add your comments, questions, and ideas to [Let's Talk Parksville](#).

More Info

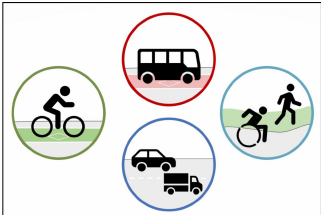
Parksville Community Park Update

We are pleased with the progress of the recent projects in the Parksville Community Park. The gathering plaza and accessible connections project are now substantially complete and open to the public with most fencing removed and some minor finishing to come. Beyond creating a new space in the park for gathering and social events, a core goal of this project was to increase accessibility and pedestrian movement in the heart of the park. A 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 also calming traffic through this busy pedestrian area. As well, the new washroom project is substantially complete; however, the building will remain closed until the urinals arrive in January. More info on [Let's Talk Parksville](#).

Transportation Master Plan Next Steps

The first of three phases of the transportation master plan process is nearing completion. This phase included data collection at major intersections in the City, an open house, online survey, and community group engagement meetings. The final step of phase one will be the *What We Heard* report to be provided in early 2024.

The 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 further community feedback in early 2024 through a second in-person engagement and another online survey. Details about the transportation master plan are posted on [Let's Talk Parksville](#).



More info

Parksville Fire
Recruitment Campaign 2024
VOLUNTEER
FIRE FIGHTER
CONSTRUCTION WORKER
Answer the Call
ParksvilleFireRescue.ca

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 firefighters are highly skilled professionals who value integrity, honesty, selflessness, commitment, courage, and are hardworking and family oriented. We provide an outstanding training program, the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives and the chance to join a dedicated team.

So far this year, Parksville Fire has responded to almost 800 calls - 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.
- Part of a team, your chance to be awesome.
- Great benefits - paid on-call, WorkSafe, additional accidental death and disability insurance (on and off duty), and more.

We are your neighbours, co-workers, family, and friends and we need your help with our recruiting efforts; please encourage those who may be interested to contact us. Finding the right balance between family, work and volunteering is challenging, but also rewarding. We’d love to chat about what we do at Parksville Fire Rescue and if you are ready to *answer the call*. Call us at 250 248-3242 to speak with an officer or arrange a tour. Application deadline is Friday, March 1. More info on our [website](#).



Recruitment Open Practice

Monday, January 22, 7-9 pm

Regular practice on January 22 will be open to those interested in being a firefighter and learning more. Arrive by 6.30 pm, dress for the weather, and stay as long as you wish. This is a perfect chance to observe a practice, see firsthand what’s involved in training, ask questions, and chat with members. The firehall is located at 160 Jensen Avenue West.

2024 Special Events Applications

We are now accepting applications 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 are available on our [website](#). More information at 250 248-5412 or events@parksville.ca.



2024 Business Licence Renewals

Licence renewals for 2024 will be mailed this week. Payment is due January 31 and fees which remain unpaid after January 31 will be subject to fines. Payment options are listed below. Please direct questions to Biz@parksville.ca or 250 954-4650.

- Credit card (Visa or Mastercard) payments from our [website](#)
- By mail (P O Box 1390, Parksville V9P 2H3)
- Dropbox (100 Jensen Avenue East)
- In-person (weekdays, 8 am to 4 pm)

2024 Dog Licence Renewals

2024 dog licence 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). All dogs older than six months must be licensed. Until January 31, the rate is discounted – spayed/neutered dogs \$20 and \$30 for un-spayed or un-neutered dogs. The rate increases to \$25 and \$35 after January 31.

The main benefit of licensing is the quick return of dogs should they become lost. As

well, fees collected help to offset the cost to maintain our off-leash dog park, provide bags and dispensers throughout the City, and provide bylaw enforcement to handle public safety concerns of stray, off-leash and dangerous dogs.



REMINDERS AND THINGS TO KNOW...

- **Winter conditions** - info about monitoring of road and weather conditions by the City is on our website with tips on how residents can prepare and help. More info about how we monitor weather forecasts, clearing of sidewalks, and general info on our [website](#).
- **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 the deadline to claim a retroactive Home Owner Grant for 2022 (subject to qualifications) as well as deadline to defer 2022 property taxes. For information or to apply, contact Province of BC at **1 888 355-2700 (Mon-Fri)** or online at [BC Home Owner Grant](#) or [BC Property Tax Deferment](#).
- **Council meeting dates** for 2024 are listed on [website](#).
- **The Red Dress Project** honours Canada's missing and murdered Indigenous women. As a visual reminder of the more than 1,000 missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls whose cases still remain unsolved, red dresses are now on display in the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre until December 11.

WORKING FOR US!

Employment opportunities at the City of Parksville are posted regularly.

CLICK HERE and check us out!



CITY DATES

December 9	Cookies, Carols and More!
December 11	2024-2028 Financial Plan Meetings
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

COMING UP AT COUNCIL

Monday, December 18 at 1 pm
Regular Council Meeting

[Council Meeting Highlights - December 4](#)

For more information:

Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications
250 954-3073; communications@parksville.ca

parksville.ca | letstalkparksville.ca



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