



Your City eNews!

December 21, 2020



Holiday Message from Mayor and Council

On behalf of City Council, we wish a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy Holidays to all.

For many, 2020 has brought many challenges and worries, a year like no other. However; 2020 has also shown we are a caring and supportive community. By pulling together, our residents have helped to keep each other safe which will contribute to a quicker recovery. The holiday season is also a time to give thanks to all who make our community such a great place to live, work and play. Thank you.

We recognize the tremendous sacrifices we are being asked to make this holiday season. Safe choices include interactions within our immediate household only, staying close to home and avoiding non-essential travel. We urge residents to continue to follow the rules set by the Provincial Health Officer to protect yourselves and your families. Please stay vigilant and take the precautions necessary to stop the spread of COVID-19. As we have throughout the year, we must once again find imaginative ways to have fun together while staying connected virtually.



This has been a difficult year for local businesses, so as you finish up your holiday shopping and if possible, think about staying local and supporting those who help to build our local economy.

During this holiday season, Council's wish for our residents is to stay healthy, to be safe and celebrate your moments of joy. We look forward to the new year ahead and hope 2021 brings good health and restored prosperity to all.

COVID-19 Update

Pandemic restrictions which prohibit gatherings and events as well as meeting with people outside of your immediate household, have been extended until midnight, January 8. These restrictions will help to keep our businesses and schools open and our hospitals and communities safe. Thank you for continuing to do your part to reduce the spread of COVID-19.



Province-wide restrictions:

- Masks are required in British Columbia in all public indoor settings and workplaces.
- Spend time with those in your household or core bubble only.
- Explore close to home and avoid non-essential travel.
- Enjoy a walk or hike with a friend, but do not gather outdoors.

Questions about COVID-19 such as symptoms or exposure should be addressed directly to Island Health (not your local government). Island Health is positioned to answer questions and is doing the necessary trace contacting and identifying those who should self-isolate. Please refer to the Island Health [website](#).

Council Meeting Participation Affected by COVID-19 Restrictions

The December 2 Public Health Order related to gatherings and events, prevents in-person attendance by the public at Council meetings, hearings, committee meetings, open houses, and other in-person meetings. Due to these restrictions, as with other municipalities, the City is not currently able to offer in-person public participation at Council meetings and public hearings.

Should restrictions remain in place for the next Council meeting on January 18, we will provide opportunities for residents to participate in meetings, such as online, telephone or written submissions. The agenda for the January 18 meeting will be posted to the City's website on January 14 at which time we will advise how members of the public can best participate. Ensuring meetings are accessible to the public continues to be an important principle we are working to provide in these challenging times.

Council meetings are webstreamed from the City's website and may be viewed live or archived for viewing at another time. Minutes and meeting highlights may be viewed on our website with notice provided on our social media channels. Council encourages residents to reach out via email or phone and to stay informed through virtual means until we can safely resume in-person activities. In the meantime, should citizens wish to contact Council, please email council@parksville.ca.

Spend an hour with EMO Emergency Preparedness Coordinators



The pandemic has changed so much about the way we live and work and for Parksville and Qualicum Beach emergency program coordinators, engaging the community is no exception. Without pandemic restrictions in place, our EPCs would be working in the community, meeting with residents and neighbourhood groups to

talk about emergency preparedness.

So, we'd like to reach out virtually and hope you will consider spending an hour or so on Zoom with Aaron and Rob who promise to have a smile on their faces to help with those January blahs. We will be hosting a series of Zoom meetings to chat about emergency preparedness and also answer your questions.

Our first session on January 13 is now full and we will offer two more sessions:

Thursday, January 21 at 10 am

Wednesday, January 27 at 2 pm

Please email info@emergencyoceanside.ca if you wish to participate, letting us know which date is preferred. We will confirm your participation and then a few days before the meeting, you will receive the Zoom instructions by email. Please be advised, the meeting is a closed event; however, your screen name will be visible to the other participants.



To join, you will need a computer with an internet connection and can join the meeting in the following ways:

- Computer with camera and microphone – click the link provided.
- Computer with camera and no microphone – click link and call the phone number provided.
- Computer with no camera or no microphone – call the phone number provided.

If you have specific subjects for discussion or questions you would like answered, please send those along as well (info@emergencyoceanside.ca) and we will do our best to provide the information. We look forward to connecting with you, virtually!

City Services

2021 Licence Renewals

Business licence and dog licence renewals will be mailed to residents and businesses on January 4 and will be due January 31, 2021. Should there be no additional provincial COVID-19 orders, dog licences can be paid in-person at City Hall after January 4 (no payments in December). Due by January 31, business licences may be paid by mail, drop box at City Hall, in-person or by credit card (VISA or Mastercard). Details will be included with the renewal invoices.

Opening for Advisory Design Panel Member

The City is inviting interested individuals to apply for consideration of appointment to the Advisory Design Panel. The purpose of the Panel is to advise Council on design matters associated with specific development applications. Applications should be directed to the City of Parksville, PO Box 1390, Parksville V9P 2H3 or by email to planning@parksville.ca. Please include relevant background information.

Members are expected to have design experience and qualifications. Some members must be architects, landscape architects or individuals with a design-related degree or experience in universal design. Preference may be given to residents; however, all interested individuals are encouraged to apply. This community service work does not receive remuneration.

Property Taxes

The deadline to claim a retroactive homeowner grant for 2019 (subject to qualifications) as well as the deadline to defer 2020 property taxes is December 31, 2020. For more information, contact the finance department at 250 248-6144.

Being Winter Prepared

We've seen our share of rain and wind in November and December and will no doubt see more severe weather over the coming winter months. This [link](#) provides a home preparedness checklist for severe weather, ideas on how to develop an emergency plan and emergency kit as well as suggestions on how you can connect with your neighbours.



Important Dates

December 25 & 28	City offices closed
January 1	City offices closed
January 7	Parks and Open Spaces
January 18	Council Meeting

City in-person services during the COVID-19 pandemic are limited to payments of tickets/licence fees and the purchase of bus passes, with all other City business by appointment and no walk-in services. To book an appointment, call 250 248-6144 or refer to website contact [info](#). Finance is open **Monday to Friday, 9 am to noon and 1 pm to 3 pm**. Please note, all entry is from Jensen Avenue East. Masks are mandatory when at City Hall and visitors will be asked to provide contact information for contact tracing.

For more information:

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