

COUNCILLOR RUSSELL WALKER
DISTRICT 10 NEWSLETTER
HALIFAX-BEDFORD BASIN WEST



DEAR RESIDENTS



Since this is my first newsletter in 2015, I would like to wish all residents a very happy & prosperous New Year! I extend a warm welcome to residents and businesses that have recently moved to our area. We live in one of the fastest growing and ethnically diverse districts in the Province with easy access to shopping, trails, and recreational facilities.

There is always something to celebrate in the Halifax area. Browse through the list of Halifax events at destinationhalifax.com/experience-halifax/festivals-events to find something you and your family will love!

It continues to be a pleasure to represent you on Regional Council. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or suggestions.

Russell Walker

STAY INFORMED-ELECTRONIC UPDATES

During the last few years, in addition to a hard copy newsletter, I have been sending regular electronic updates to residents on my contact list. This is a great way to keep up to date on what is happening within our District and the Halifax area.

If you would like to receive these electronic updates, visit apps.halifax.ca/subscriptions/subscribe?list=6, input your information and then click submit. Once this information is received, you will be added to the distribution list. I encourage you to stay informed by signing up for the updates. Addresses will not be shared and you can unsubscribe at any time.

If you are aware of a community event or announcement and would like me to include it in an update, you can forward the information to Lucille Walsh at lucille.walsh@halifax.ca and it may be included in a future update.

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FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Fairview Community Association's Events Committee is looking for volunteers to help with several planned events throughout the 2015 year. If you would like to become more involved in your community, make new friends and become part of a team, please contact Kendall O'Connor at 902.237.2491 or email kendall@ns.sympatico.ca.



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LACEWOOD TRANSIT TERMINAL UPDATE

The new Lacewood Transit Terminal located next to the Canada Games Centre is set to open in August 2015. The design for the terminal is complete, the exterior building walls have been erected and much of the site work has taken place.

The new terminal will offer 14 bus bays, bus shelters, a bike shelter and a 2000 square foot LEED Silver passenger waiting building. Passengers will have access to public washrooms, a potential vendor kiosk and modern transit schedule information.

CANADA POST CEASES DOOR TO DOOR DELIVERY

This spring Canada Post will cease door to door delivery. Home delivery will be replaced by community mailboxes.

Despite the fact that the majority of the locations are in the HRM right of way, under the Canada Post Act they have a right to place the community mail boxes where they wish to locate them and Council cannot refuse them. If there are specific safety concerns about a selected location, you can ask Canada Post to review that location.

Canada Post is responsible for year round maintenance, including graffiti, garbage and snow removal, so the mail boxes can be accessed safely and are not unsightly. If you have any concerns about the location, access to, or maintenance of the mail boxes, please contact Canada Post at 1.844.454.3009.

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Halifax Regional Municipality's Community Grants Program is now accepting applications for the 2015-2016 Program. The deadline for applying is March 31, 2015. Application forms and program guidebooks are available through the HRM Corporate Call Centre by dialing 311, on the website www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bccgrants/CommunityGrantsProgram.php or from one of the HRM Customer Contact Centres. For further information including locations of HRM Customer Contact Centres visit the webpage or call 902.490.7310.

2015/16 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

Your voice matters. Halifax Regional Council is currently reviewing the 2015/16 budget through Committee of the Whole meetings. You can have your say by attending one of these meetings or by adding your comments on the Shape Your City website shapeyourcityhalifax.ca

STREET LIGHTS

Many residents have recently expressed concern about burnt-out street lights in the community. In August, the municipality purchased all remaining streetlight fixtures still under Nova Scotia Power ownership. Under the new model, we believe that better service standards can be obtained long-term.

HRM is in the process of catching up with a backlog of repairs and we ask for your patience during this transition. Our goal is to change all standard lights to LED within the next 18 months.

If you are aware of a street light that is out, please report it by calling 311 and provide as much detail as you can about the location. It will then be added to the list of replacements.



OFF-LEASH DOG PARK AT MAINLAND COMMON



The first phase of Halifax's new off-leash dog park officially opened on December 31, 2014 at the Halifax Mainland Common. Crews have constructed a new entry gate, pathway, seating and tables inside the existing fenced portion of the off-leash park.

This new park replaces the off-leash area at Africville Park. Effective January 1, 2015, the Africville Park is no longer an off-leash area. Dogs are still permitted, as long as they are on a leash and accompanied by their owner. The second phase of the park will focus on the wooded area and will include adding shelter space, a water source, trails and changes to the fencing. All Phase 2 work is scheduled to proceed as weather permits over the winter and in the spring of 2015.

Once finished, the park will offer approximately three acres of fenced-in green and wooded space for people and their dogs to enjoy off leash. The park is adjacent to the popular Mainland North Linear Trail, which will continue to be an on-leash area.

For more information on municipal off-leash areas and the Off-Leash Parks Strategy, please visit our website at www.halifax.ca/property/OLPS/index.php.

211 OFFERS MORE INFORMATION FOR SENIORS

The provincial information line 211 is now offering more information about programs for seniors and resources for senior abuse after merging with the Department of Seniors information and referral lines. The 211 program already has information about thousands of services, is available 24-hours a day and has interpretation services for more than 100 languages. In 2013, 1/3 of the inquiries were already about seniors services. Visit their website at www.ns.211.ca/ or call 211 today for more information.

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY HUB & AGM

The Fairview Community Association (FCA) hosted a well-attended Annual General Meeting on November 13th, 2014 to review the past year and discuss some upcoming initiatives.

The Association elected a new board of directors from the neighbourhood and released the final report for the Feasibility Study on a Community Hub for Fairview. The discussion focused on the need for public amenities and a community hub in the neighbourhood. The Association will be working towards promoting the community hub and these goals over the short and long term in partnership with the community. The feasibility study will be available soon.

The FCA will release further information and updates pertaining to the Hub as they arise. If you would like to be notified or be involved, please email Co-chair Abad Khan at abad@abadkhan.ca or visit fairviewcommunityassociation.wordpress.com/

FAIRVIEW FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

The Fairview Family Resource Centre has some great opportunities to socialize and learn from other families in our area every week.

Join them every Monday morning from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. for a free Family Play Group. There is snack time, reading circle, rhymes, games, crafts and more.

Every Tuesday morning from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. join the free New Parent's/Baby Play Group, up to the age of 12 months. Snacks and coffee are included. Socialize and let your little ones explore. Public health nurse available every other Tuesday.

Located at the Fairview Family Resource Centre, 3524 Dutch Village Road (lower level). Parking is free. Call 902.443.9569 or visit their website at www.ffcns.ca/ for more details.



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CROSSWALK SAFETY IN HALIFAX

It is the responsibility of every person on the road to use caution, obey traffic controls and THINK SAFE! Remember these basic tips to crosswalk safety:

- A crosswalk exists at every intersection whether it is painted or not.
- Drivers must yield the right of way to pedestrians who are lawfully within a crosswalk.
- Pedestrians should always make the intent to cross the street known and never enter the crosswalk when a vehicle has already entered the intersection. Pedestrians may have the right of way at a crosswalk, but approaching vehicles need to be given enough time to stop. Always stop, look and listen to ensure vehicles are going to stop before stepping into the street.
- Pedestrians crossing the street at any location other than a crosswalk must yield the right of way to vehicles on the road.
- If a pedestrian signal has a push-button, it should always be pushed before entering the crosswalk.
- Drivers must avoid distractions such as cell phones and hand-held devices when driving.
- It is illegal to pass a vehicle that has stopped at a crosswalk to allow a pedestrian to cross. Always obey the speed limit and look out for pedestrians.

Crosswalk safety is a priority for Regional Council. On Tuesday, February 25, 2014 Regional Council voted to install zebra crosswalk markings at all uncontrolled, marked crosswalks in the city. For more information about crosswalk safety, please visit www.halifax.ca/traffic.

PAY YOUR MUNICIPAL TAX BILL ONLINE WITH EPOST

HRM has teamed up with Canada Post to offer epost – the safe, secure and free way to manage your property tax bill online.

1. Visit epost.ca and sign up for your free digital mailbox
2. Have your bill and account information ready
3. Register your bills by clicking on “Add a NEW bill or Statement.”

Check out epost.ca to learn how you could win \$1,000 by paying your bill online.

WINTER OPERATIONS

Streets are prioritized based on a number of criteria including how often they're used by commuters, access to important infrastructure like hospitals and schools, and whether they're on major bus and traffic routes. The municipality has classified all of the routes and will service them (salt, sand and plow) in order of priority.

The overnight winter parking ban is now in effect until March 31st. The ban is only enforced during declared snow and ice events, from 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Residents have a responsibility to secure off-street parking during the winter months and seek information about when the parking ban is enforced. The easiest way to stay informed is to sign up for notifications by filling out an online registration form at www.halifax.ca/snow/parkingban/, calling 311 or by emailing contact@halifax.ca.

If you signed up last season, you will automatically be included. Residents who subscribe will receive timely messages by phone, email, and/or text message about the status of the ban.

Please check out HRM's Winter Operations webpage at www.halifax.ca/snow/ for more details on snow and ice clearing, priority streets and the winter parking ban.



Due to the delivery routes followed by Canada Post, it is possible that some of these newsletters may appear in other districts. Please accept my apology for any confusion.