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District 15
Fairview-Clayton Park



HRM Tables the 2012/13 Budget

On Tuesday, March 27, 2012 the proposed 2012/13 budget for the Halifax Regional Municipality was tabled. The proposed budget recommends a tax rate reduction for residential and commercial property owners and emphasizes Council's priority area of increased transit service in the region.

The recommendations outlined in this budget clearly address Council's direction to set the general tax rates and transit tax rates so that the average tax bill per single-family home does not increase. The rates actually decline slightly for both residential and commercial property owners.

A \$788 million gross Operating Budget and a gross Capital Budget of \$132 million is being proposed.

The presentation focused attention on what the proposed budget would mean for HRM citizens. If approved, residents would see a 311 call centre implemented, appropriate funding for snow and ice removal, transit service extended to Porter's Lake and the airport and improvements to infrastructure.

Significant and necessary service-delivery enhancements have been addressed through these recommendations and what's notable here is that HRM has continued to respect the need to find efficiencies without compromising citizen needs and wants.

As per Council's direction, HRM will continue to make a significant investment in transit. Over the last couple of years there has been a growing focus on transit throughout the region to support the regional plan. This budget would see the number of transit routes, buses and services rise dramatically.

Council has made it clear that a more effective, efficient transit service for residents is essential. That direction has put the budget focus on providing additional transit services while continuing to improve cost efficiencies.

The proposed budget also takes into account service expansions which include a new Bedford-Hammonds Plains Community Centre, Phase 2 of the Emera Oval and the Central Library construction.

Halifax Regional Council is scheduled to debate the proposed budget starting on April 2, 2012.

For more information on the proposed 2012/13 budget please visit: www.halifax.ca/budget

HRM Preparing Sport Fields for Summer Season

Spring has arrived and HRM is busy getting sport fields in shape for the busy playing season ahead.

Municipal crews have maintenance work to do before the fields can open. Using the ball diamonds and sport fields too early can cause damage to turf that can delay season start-up. As the fields have not been maintained over the winter months, they can also pose risks to users.

Starting April 10, infrastructure inspections will begin and outdoor facilities will be cleaned up.

With the early spring-like weather conditions, staff will also start inspecting and cleaning sport courts, and installing tennis nets on non-school sites between April 16 -30.

Both All-Weather turf facilities (Halifax/Mainland Common and Dartmouth/Burnside) are now open and available to be scheduled.

For scheduling information for the 2012 season, please contact the appropriate scheduling office by calling 490-7100 or visit our website at halifax.ca/recBookingsandRentals

To report misuse of fields or to advise of safety concerns, vandalism, etc., contact our Corporate Call Centre at 490-4000.

Pothole Maintenance to Begin

HRM would like to advise residents that contingent on weather, Municipal Operations crews are working to patch potholes based on set priorities.

Potholes are formed by weather cycles such as snow, rain, freezing rain and freeze-thaw cycles, which cause road surfaces to expand and contract resulting in asphalt breaking up and potholes forming.

Weather permitting, Municipal Operations will be assigning asphalt crews on two shifts to work at patching potholes in identified locations. Crews will be working from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. and from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the next couple of weeks.

Priority will be placed on arterials and other streets with significant potholes. Municipal Operations asks that motorists exercise caution and reduced speed when driving through these work sites. Safety for all is HRM's number one priority.

Residents are encouraged to report potholes by calling 490-4000. To view our standards for pothole maintenance, please visit: <http://www.halifax.ca/Works/potholes.html>



Residents are encouraged to show support for world-wide initiatives to counter climate change by participating in this weekend's Earth Hour Event. By switching off non-essential lights for one hour that evening, our community can help promote action on global warming in a positive way.

Contact

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