

Councillor Russell Walker

District 10

Halifax - Bedford Basin West



Shape Your Budget – Shape Your City

As Vice-Chair of HRM's Audit and Finance Standing Committee, I am pleased to advise that HRM is seeking input from residents as part of the 2014 budget consultation. HRM residents are invited to contribute to the 2014 Budget Consultation process by attending an upcoming Community Council session and participating in online engagement. Citizens are encouraged to share their thoughts on service priorities and how they would like to see municipal tax dollars allocated.

The next session will be a Halifax & West Community Council session on Monday, December 2nd at 7 p.m. at the Canada Games Centre. For more information on the Community Council sessions and agendas visit:

www.Halifax.ca/commcoun/index.html

HRM has also launched a new online tool, the Budget Allocator, via the municipality's web-based engagement portal. Visit

www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca to find out more about municipal finances/budget allocation. By using the Budget Allocator, you can select your

preferred budget and service delivery levels from each of the key Council budget areas listed. As in your personal budget calculations, to add to one area you may have to take from another. The Budget Allocator will show you how the allocations and any changes to them will impact the budget. I encourage you to visit the website, get informed, and help plan your municipal budget.

Northcliffe Site

On Tuesday, November 26th, Regional Council approved a sale agreement of a portion of the Northcliffe site for a church. The zoning is parks and institutional and zoning will remain unchanged. The trees as well as the basketball and tennis courts will remain.

Open 7 days a week from
7:00 am to 11:00 pm except
Christmas Day and New
Year's Day



HRM Volunteer Awards

Do you know an outstanding individual or group making a difference in your community?

Shine a Light on a Volunteer

Nominate someone now for the 2014 HRM Volunteer Awards.

Three award categories:

- adult
- youth (ages 13-19)
- community group

Deadline for nominations:

Friday, December 13, 2013

For the nomination application visit...
www.halifax.ca/volunteerservices
 490-6577

HALIFAX
 REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

Winter Hours at Public Gardens

On November 30th, the Public Gardens will close to daily visits for the winter season, and will remain closed until mid-April. However, staff will make an effort to allow limited daytime visits as weather permits. The Gardens will be open by chance Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 2:00 pm during the winter. If the gates are open, you are welcome to enter.



In 1991, Transit Operator Jim Bartlett's son came home from school and pointed out to his father that

he noticed children there were hungry and he thought they should help. That year, Jim organized the first Stuff-A-Bus with support from his union

(ATU 508) and Metro Transit. He operated one bus that went around and collected food items for FEED NOVA SCOTIA with a handful of volunteers.



Today, with the help of newer partners like Scotiabank and C100 FM, Stuff-A-Bus has grown and now on the first Friday of every December, seven buses and almost 50 volunteers dedicate a day to gathering food items for those in need.

For those who have participated in Stuff-A-Bus in the past, we are asking you to register again online and, for those that are new to Stuff-A-Bus, if you'd like to have Santa Claus come and visit your location on Friday, December 6, sign up online and collect food for the benefit of those in need.



To register for Stuff-A-Bus visit

<http://www.halifax.ca/metrotransit/news/Stuff-A-Bus.html>



Holiday Shopping Tips

With a month to go until Christmas, the holiday shopping season is in full swing. HRM Partners in Policing encourage citizens to take precautions to make their holiday shopping trips “merry and bright.”

For most of us, the holiday season is a time of giving but for thieves, it’s a time for stealing. They look for an easy opportunity and a vehicle full of holiday purchases is a temptation they can’t resist. Stay one step ahead of thieves by following these simple tips:

- Always lock your vehicle.
- Park in well-lit, well-travelled areas.
- Keep valuables out of sight. Thieves will notice valuables left in plain sight or look for people storing valuables in their vehicles. Lock valuables in the trunk and move your vehicle to another location.
- Don’t leave high-end purchases in your vehicle. Thieves will watch shoppers exiting a store, especially if they’re carrying a high-end item. Shop strategically; wait until the end of your shopping trip to make high-end purchases, or make a special trip to take high-end items home and then return to continue shopping.
- Don’t leave laptops, cameras, cellular phones or other electronics in your vehicle.
- Report suspicious activity to police by calling 490-5020. Provide the time, location and a detailed description of the individuals. This information will help police identify suspects.

- Report thefts from vehicles, even if the item stolen is inexpensive. Knowing where, when and how a theft occurred gives investigators valuable clues and helps predict if shopping areas are becoming “hotspots” for certain types of crimes.

At this time of year you also see an increase in debit card skimming. Protect your bank account from card skimmers:

- Never share your PIN with anyone. Your PIN is considered confidential and should be treated that way.
- Examine bank statements frequently and note any unusual or unaccounted activity. Notify your bank or financial institution if you suspect someone has tampered with your account. Change your PIN if you suspect someone has accessed your account.
- Protect your PIN when using bank machines. Cover the keypad to prevent someone from observing your key strokes or from recording your PIN. It’s also a good idea to change your PIN frequently.
- Notify the bank or police if you suspect a bank machine or point of sale device has been tampered with, or if you notice any suspicious activity near bank machines.

Practicing these easy crime prevention tips will help reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime this holiday shopping season.

Visit

<http://www.halifax.ca/police/PublicSafety/HolidayHomeSafety.html> for more holiday safety tips

Contact

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Gingerbread Sunday at the Art Gallery



The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia's Gingerbread Sunday has become a tradition for many families. This year, on December 8th, from 12:00 noon to

4:00 pm, families can construct and decorate their houses using materials provided by the gallery. Regular admission rates apply for non-members. For a list of all other family events hosted by the gallery, please visit:

www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca/en/AGNS_Halifax/

Saturday 'Open Gym' Program in HRM Schools

Winter is no fun if you hibernate! The Halifax Regional School Board, with the provincial Department of Health and Wellness and HRM Recreation, is offering families the opportunity to come and play, **free of charge**, in five school gymnasiums across the municipality. I am pleased to say that Fairview Junior High is one of the five schools and that from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm every Saturday, beginning October 19, 2013 until May 31, 2014, school-aged children and youth, along with their parents are welcome to come and play tag, kick-ball, or anything else that might seem fun, to keep active during the cold winter months.

HRM Recreation staff will be onsite, but parents are encouraged to join the children for a game of tag! Gymnasiums will not be available during the month of December 2013, January 4, and March 15, 2014.

Christmas Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 1st 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Location: 3671 Dutch Village Rd
(in front of Freeman's L'il New Yorker)

Hot Chocolate ☒ Coffee ☒ Tea ☒ Sandwiches ☒ Sweets ☒ Cookies



Continue your life-long learning at the Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia, a registered non-profit organization dedicated to providing non-credit academic courses to people age 50+. There

are no assignments or exams – just listen, learn, discuss & enjoy. For more information on SCANS and their classes, you can attend their Information and Registration Session on Friday, January 3rd at 2 pm at the Bloomfield Centre, 2786 Agricola Street in Halifax. Contacts: www.thescans.ca, info@thescans.ca or call Halifax Office at 902-444-7588.



With winter – comes snow! Though snow and ice operations take priority during winter months, Municipal Operations continues with priority activities that are necessary in maintaining safe infrastructure and year-round municipal services.

During the 2013/14 winter season, HRM's Traffic Authority will continue with the trial of an amended winter parking ban. The changes offer some flexibility to those who are most affected by the ban, such as shift workers, residents without a driveway and business owners, without compromising HRM's snow and ice clearing operations.

The overnight parking regulations will be in effect from December 15 until March 31, and will be enforced during declared snow and ice operations only. When in effect, the parking ban runs from 1:00 a.m. until 6:00 a.m.

If you require on-street parking during the winter months, please plan ahead and find alternate parking in the event of a snow storm.

CityWatch phone and email notifications on the parking ban.

HRM offers residents the option to subscribe to notifications letting them know when the overnight winter parking ban would be enforced. Residents can subscribe to our CityWatch program to receive phone and email messages by emailing citywatch@halifax.ca or by calling 490-7403 with the following information:

- Please indicate that you are requesting to sign up for notifications about the overnight winter parking ban
- You have the option to provide up to two phone numbers and up to two email addresses or a combination of both

Residents are asked to please not rely on notifications alone and to please also check our website, twitter feed "@hfxgov" or call our citizen contact centre by dialing 311.



Wondering?

When your ROAD will be cleared after a snow storm?

HRM asks that residents please allow 12 hours after the end of the snowfall for crews to plow main roads and bus routes.

HRM asks that residents please allow 24 hours after the end of the snowfall for crews to plow residential and rural streets.

When your SIDEWALK will be cleared after a snow storm?

HRM asks that residents please allow 12 hours after the end of the snowfall for crews to plow sidewalks on main arterials.

HRM asks that residents please allow 18 hours after the end of the snowfall for crews to plow sidewalks on school routes and bus routes.

HRM asks that residents please allow 36 hours after the end of a snowfall for crews to plow sidewalks on residential and rural streets.

For more information on snow operations including snow standards and snow safety tips visit:

<http://www.halifax.ca/snow/>