



WELCOME JANUARY!



Happy New Year!

I heard a great comment recently about the New Year: *"Welcome the New Year with gratitude for the*

past and hope for the future." What a great message for us to action!

I also heard: *"Dear New Year: Please don't be weird."* Also a great message. I hope 2026 brings you gratitude, hope and nothing weird!

Keep reading for more information on 2026/27 budget dates, career opportunities with the Halifax Regional Police and Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency Services, Online Property Tax management, Snow Clearing standards, an update on the Glendale/Riverside Drive intersection and much more!

If you wish to discuss a municipal program or service, please contact me at Billy.Gillis@halifax.ca or call me at 902.471.6906.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME JANUARY!	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
JANUARY MEETING DATES	2
DID YOU KNOW	2
NEW YEAR'S DAY LEVEE	2
NEW YEAR'S DAY LEVEE – ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION	2
VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATIONS	3
2026–2030 STRATEGIC PLAN	3
KEY DATES - 2026/27 MUNICIPAL BUDGET	3
WINTER GARBAGE COLLECTION	4
PARKING BAN	5
SNOW CLEARING	5
JOIN HRP 2027 CADET CLASS	5
HALIFAX REGIONAL FIRE & EMERGENCY RECRUITMENT	6
OPEN DATA - NEW SETS AVAILABLE	6
2025/26 STREET TREE PRUNING	7
ONLINE PROPERTY TAX MANAGEMENT	7
MUNICIPALITY SUPPORTS AFFORDABLE HOUSING	7
GLENDALE & RIVERSIDE DRIVE DELAYS	8
BEAVER BANK KINSAC - COMMUNITY SERIOUS EVENT MANAGEMENT TEAM	8
SACKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY JANUARY EVENTS	9
IN THE COMMUNITY	9
COMMUNITY & REC CENTRES DISTRICT 15 & AREA	11
PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPS	11
HALIFAX WATER	12
NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	13
HRM'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	13
COUNCILLOR BILLY GILLIS	13



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JANUARY MEETING DATES

Regional Council, Northwest Community Council and Standing Committee meetings will be held on:

Regional Council:

Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 10 a.m.

Budget Committee:

Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 30 at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency)

North West Community Council: Monday,

- Monday, Jan. 12 at 6 p.m.

Standing Committees:

Appeals Standing Committee

- Thursday, Jan. 15 at 10 a.m.

Audit & Finance Standing Committee

- Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 10 a.m.

Special Events Advisory Committee

- Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 10 a.m.

DID YOU KNOW....

January is Tamil Heritage month, Alzheimer's Awareness month and National Hobby month.

January 1 is New Year's Day

January 1 is World Day of Peace

January 1 is Polar Bear Plunge

January 4 is World Braille Day

January 6 is Epiphany

January 11 is Sir John A. MacDonald Day

January 21 is National Hugging Day

January 24 is International Day of Education

January 27 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day

NEW YEAR'S DAY LEVEE



Mayor Andy Fillmore and members of Regional Council invite you to join them in celebrating the arrival of 2026 at the New Year's Levee. Light refreshments will be provided.

Page
| 2



NEW YEAR'S DAY LEVEE – ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION



The [Royal Canadian Legion](#) usually hosts New

Year's Day Levees at local branches. The branch in Lower Sackville is [Calais Branch 162](#), 45 Sackville Cross Road. Email: rcl.calais162@ns.aliantzinc.ca for information on plans for the New Year.



VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATIONS



Each year the Mayor and Halifax Regional Council recognize the warmth and generosity of volunteers with an awards ceremony celebrating the invaluable contributions of these individuals, who give their time and skills in our community.

Please consider nominating an outstanding youth or adult volunteer or a community group in your community for a volunteer award. Selected award recipients will receive their award from the Mayor and their Councillor during a ceremony and reception during April 2026.

This is your chance to nominate exceptional volunteers by filling out a nomination form at [Volunteer Awards | Volunteering | Halifax](#) to recognize an adult, youth or group.

Award [nominations](#) close Jan. 8.

2026–2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Halifax Regional Municipality is pleased to introduce the [2026–2030 Strategic Plan](#). This plan is the municipality's overarching guide for everything we do. It defines our purpose, articulates our vision, mission and values, and sets priorities that will shape projects, initiatives and service delivery over the next four years.

The Strategic Plan establishes five priority areas:

- **Enabling Prosperity** focuses on building inclusive, sustainable communities and a resilient economy.

- **Strengthening Communities** focuses on the quality of life of residents, and promoting safety, belonging and the protection of the natural environment.
- **Moving Better** focuses on creating a transportation system that safely, reliably, and efficiently connects residents throughout the region.
- **Responsible Administration** focuses on delivering quality services through a commitment to fiscal responsibility, environmental sustainability, and community engagement.
- **Our People** focuses on making the organization a place where employees feel engaged, safe, and proud of their work.

Accompanying the Strategic Plan is the [Action Plan](#) that outlines the major projects and initiatives the municipality will undertake to achieve the goals identified in the Strategic Plan.

The plan was developed by Regional Council, municipal employees and strategic partners, and was informed by the 2024 Resident Survey and existing municipal plans and strategies.

To learn more and access resources, including the Strategic Plan video, full document and summary, click [here](#).

KEY DATES - 2026/27 MUNICIPAL BUDGET



The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents of key dates for the 2026/27 municipal budget process. The municipal budget funds all costs associated



with servicing a growing municipality. This includes day-to-day municipal operations, priority initiatives approved by Regional Council and capital investments to purchase, construct, rehabilitate and replace assets.

There are several key dates in the annual municipal budget process. Residents will have the opportunity to speak directly to the Budget Committee during the budget process. During each week of meetings, time will be set aside for the public to provide comments and feedback. Below are the key dates for the 2026/27 municipal budget process:

- Jan. 27, 2026 – Special evening public participation session (6 p.m., following Regional Council)
- Jan. 28 and 30, 2026 – Capital Plan Recommendation (Reserve Withdrawals, Multi-Year Projects)
- Feb. 4 to 6, 2026 – Operations Budget Presentations
 - Major Projects Office
 - Parks & Recreation
 - Planning & Development
 - Public Works
 - Strategic Infrastructure & Transportation Planning
 - Halifax Transit
 - Property, Fleet & Environment
- Feb. 11 to 13, 2026 – Public Safety Budget Presentations
 - Community Safety
 - Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency
 - Halifax Regional Police
 - RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment
- Feb. 18 and 19, 2026 – Corporate Services & Other Budget Presentations
 - CAO's Office

- Finance & Asset Management
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Legal Services
- Auditor General
- Halifax Public Library
- Fiscal Services
- Mayor's Office

- Mar. 4 and 6, 2026 – Budget Adjustment List debate
- Mar. 31, 2026 – 2026/27 Municipal Budget and Business Plan approval

Please note that these dates are subject to change.

Residents will have the opportunity to speak directly to the Budget Committee during the process. Pre-registration is required by 4:30 p.m. on the business day prior to the meeting. Virtual participation will also be available. For meeting details and agendas, visit halifax.ca/city-hall.

For more information on the 2026/27 municipal budget process, visit halifax.ca/budget.

WINTER GARBAGE COLLECTION



As the snow season approaches, please remember to place [waste for curbside collection](#) in a spot that won't interfere with sidewalk or road clearing. To help our crews keep

pathways safe and accessible, place waste at the edge of your driveway, not on the sidewalk or road.



PARKING BAN



The overnight winter parking ban is in effect every year from Dec. 15 until Mar. 31; however, it is enforced only during declared weather events and clearing

operations. When the ban is enforced, it restricts any on-street parking between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. Vehicles in violation of the ban will be ticketed and/or towed.

Remember to [stay informed about the status of the parking ban](#) and please think before you park.

SNOW CLEARING



Snow clearing in our municipality is a big job and if stretched into a straight line, it would reach from Halifax to Winnipeg. Streets and sidewalks are

prioritized based on commuter usage and access to key infrastructure.

The [Winter - Street and Sidewalk](#) Information maps and the overnight winter parking ban zone map are web-based, interactive maps allowing users to view street information pertaining to Winter Operations; for example, snow priority levels, street ownership, street maintenance and overnight winter parking ban zones.

For more information, click [here](#).

NOTE: Some roads in District 15 are owned and maintained by the provincial Department of Public Works. For issues with provincially owned and maintained roads, please email: DPW-OCC@novascotia.ca or call 1-844-696-7737. You may also contact your local MLA's office: [MLA Paul Wozney](#) for Lower Sackville or [MLA Brian Wong](#) for Beaver Bank.

Page
| 5

JOIN HRP 2027 CADET CLASS



Join the Halifax Regional Municipality as a Cadet with the Training division of Halifax Regional Police. There are full-time student positions

available.

The Halifax Police Program teaches the knowledge, skills and discipline needed to serve and protect communities with integrity. Cadets will be trained in law, ethics, communication, defensive tactics and crisis management. Training also emphasizes teamwork, resilience and community engagement. All the tools necessary to prepare you as an Officer who upholds justice, maintains public safety and builds trust with the people you serve.

Apply by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 9, 2026.

For more information or to apply, click [here](#).



HALIFAX REGIONAL FIRE & EMERGENCY RECRUITMENT



Creating a safe community
through protection of life,
property and environment.

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) will accept applications for career firefighters from Jan. 6 to Jan. 20, 2026. Career firefighters protect life, property and the environment through emergency response and preparedness.

The recruitment process includes multiple phases: an application, aptitude testing, physical abilities testing and a panel interview. Each phase assesses skills and competencies required for the role. Becoming a firefighter requires dedication, preparation and a strong commitment to meeting the physical and mental demands of the profession. Careers with HRFE offer competitive salaries and a flexible work schedule.

For more information, click [here](#).

OPEN DATA - NEW SETS AVAILABLE

HALIFAX DATA, MAPPING & ANALYTICS HUB

The Halifax Regional Municipality has released six new datasets on [Open Data](#), as part of an ongoing commitment to provide public access to data created and managed by the municipality.

The new datasets include:

[Active Transportation Area Rates](#)
[Civic Address Changes](#)
[HRM Tax Bill Info Archived](#)
[Municipal Facilities Snow Contract Areas](#)
[Regional Centre and Suburban Plan Study Area](#)
[Special Planning Areas](#)

The addition of these datasets brings the total number of Open Data datasets to 279.

The following datasets have been updated or modified:

[HRCE School Boundary - Early French Immersion Elementary](#)
[HRCE School Boundary - Early French Immersion High](#)
[HRCE School Boundary - Early French Immersion Junior High](#)
[HRCE School Boundary - English Program Elementary](#)
[HRCE School Boundary - English Program High](#)
[HRCE School Boundary - English Program Junior High](#)
[HRCE School Boundary - Late French Immersion High](#)
[HRCE School Boundary - Late French Immersion Junior High](#)
[HRM Tax Bill Info](#)
[Tax Rates](#)
[Traffic Calming Assessments](#)

A wide range of data can be sourced for free through the catalogue, such as transit routes and schedule data, solid waste collection



schedules, and area rates. New data releases occur several times throughout the year, with the most recent release on Sept. 10, 2025.

The Open Data program was formalized by Regional Council through the adoption of [Administrative Order 2014-006-ADM Respecting Open Data](#).

For more information on the municipality's Open Data program, and to access all the datasets, click [here](#).

2025/26 STREET TREE PRUNING



The Halifax Regional Municipality's cyclical street tree pruning program runs from Dec. 2025 to March 2026. This year, pruning efforts will focus on trees in areas of Eastern

Passage, Dartmouth, and the Halifax peninsula.

This proactive program is guided by industry best practices and the [Urban Forest Management Plan](#) to promote a healthy, safe and climate-resilient urban forest. Crews will prune municipally owned trees to improve canopy health, maintain infrastructure clearances (e.g. roads, sidewalks, signage, and overhead power lines), and help guide tree growth safely around overhead power infrastructure.

Residents are advised to use caution around crews and obey posted signage while work is underway. Temporary street and sidewalk closures may be required. Work schedules are approximate and weather dependent.

At any time of the year, whether a tree is part of planned annual tree pruning or not, residents may report a municipally owned tree of concern that might need pruning. To report a tree of concern, email contactus@311.halifax.ca or call 311.

For details about tree pruning, including where to expect pruning crews this season, click [here](#).

ONLINE PROPERTY TAX MANAGEMENT



Did you know that you can manage your property taxes easily online with e-billing and pre-authorized payments? Opt-in for email notifications for a copy of your latest tax bill, overdue notices, charges against your property, by-law infraction bills or other charges or text notifications for pre-authorized payments and overdue tax bills.

If you opt to receive a copy of your tax bill via email, you will not receive a copy in the mail.

To learn more and sign-up online, click [here](#).

MUNICIPALITY SUPPORTS AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Regional Council has approved a one-time grant of \$150,000 through the [Housing Accelerator Fund \(HAF\)](#) to support the purchase of a six-unit building to be used for affordable housing.



[Dartmouth Non-Profit Housing Society](#), under the business name [Rooted: Community Development Partners](#) a registered nonprofit, is planning to acquire a six-unit building in Spryfield for use as affordable housing.

For more information, read the [staff report](#).

GLENDALE DRIVE & RIVERSIDE DRIVE DELAYS



Thank you to everyone who reached out to me regarding the intersection of Glendale Drive and Riverside Drive concerning the delays experienced at the west bound entry onto Glendale which, in turn, caused an inability for residents to exit their driveways due to vehicles queued waiting to enter Glendale.

The Traffic Services Maintenance team assessed the situation on site and determined that the vehicle detection sensors on Glendale Drive were not working properly. A work order has been initiated to determine the exact cause and to make the necessary repairs.

No timeline is available as to when the work will be completed, however; I am hopeful it will be soon.



BEAVER BANK KINSAC - COMMUNITY SERIOUS EVENT MANAGEMENT TEAM



Page
| 8

In collaboration with the Beaver Bank Volunteer Fire Department and the Beaver Bank Awareness Association, the Beaver Bank Kinsac Community Centre would like to expand their community support by calling on the community to join forces and create a [Community Serious Event Management Team](#).

What do we need from you? Do you have a resource you think might be helpful after a serious event like a weather storm, infrastructure failure etc.? Please let us know! We are looking for everything from heavy equipment like back hoes and excavators right to chainsaws, ATV's, snow mobiles and more. We are also looking to create a list of qualified specialists in our community in areas such as small engine repairs, tree removal services etc. You can fill out the form [here](#) or you can call us at 902-865-5114.

What do we do with this info? The BBKCC and BBCAA will compile a list of resources available in our community for emergency response. Your information will be kept private but you may be called or contacted in the event of an emergency where one of the resources you have available is required.

What if I need help? As always in the event of an emergency in your home such as fire, medical emergency etc. please call 911. The BBKCC may open as a comfort station after major weather events or community



COUNCILLOR BILLY GILLIS

LOWER SACKVILLE - BEAVER BANK

emergencies. You will then be able to come and charge devices, get clean water, coffee, snacks and warm up/ cool down.

Are you or someone you know living alone, aging or vulnerable? We will also create a phone tree and offer wellness checks in the event of a large weather event or community emergency. You can add yourself, or your loved ones, to the Voluntary Vulnerable Persons List [here](#) or by calling 902-865-5114.

Large weather events and localized emergencies are becoming more common and we want to make sure our community is prepared! If you have any questions please contact us: 902-865-5114, bbkcc@eastlink.ca, or [click here](#) to access the website.

SACKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY JANUARY EVENTS



Friday, Jan. 2
Coffee Corner 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 6
Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group
6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 7
Housing Support at the Library
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 7
Stitch Niche Knitting Group
6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 8
Teen Night 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For details on more events throughout the month of January, [click here](#).

IN THE COMMUNITY ...



Had a great time at the Beaver Bank Parade of Lights with Mayor Fillmore and residents.



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LOWER SACKVILLE - BEAVER BANK



So much fun at the annual Sackville Tree Lighting at Acadia Park with Mayor Andy Fillmore, MP Braedon Clark and friends. Thank you [Sackville Business Association](#) and all the volunteers for putting this amazing event together for our community.



I was pleased to be one of the invited guests to bring greetings to the Cobequid Community Health Centre Foundation's 17th Annual Gift of Light Tree Lighting Ceremony with MC Lisa Blackburn Paterson. Thank you to all who participated.



Always a great time at the monthly Sackville Business Association's Meet 'n Greet! This month we met at the TAPestry Beer Bar.



It was an honour to have a conversation with all the Municipal representatives for Lower Sackville since amalgamation in 1996. I am grateful to be included with the Councillors who built the foundation and paved the way for Sackville to be what it is today.

Bob Harvey 1996-2012

Steve Craig 2012 - 2019

Paul Russell 2019 - 2024

Billy Gillis 2024- present



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Such fun at the Sackville Business Association Board's year end lunch at one of our many great local Sackville business's **Casa di Stefano HFX.**

COMMUNITY & REC CENTRES DISTRICT 15 & AREA

[Acadia Park & Community Centre](#)

[Beaver Bank Kinsac Community Centre](#)

[The Brown Hall](#)

[Kinsmen Community Centre](#)

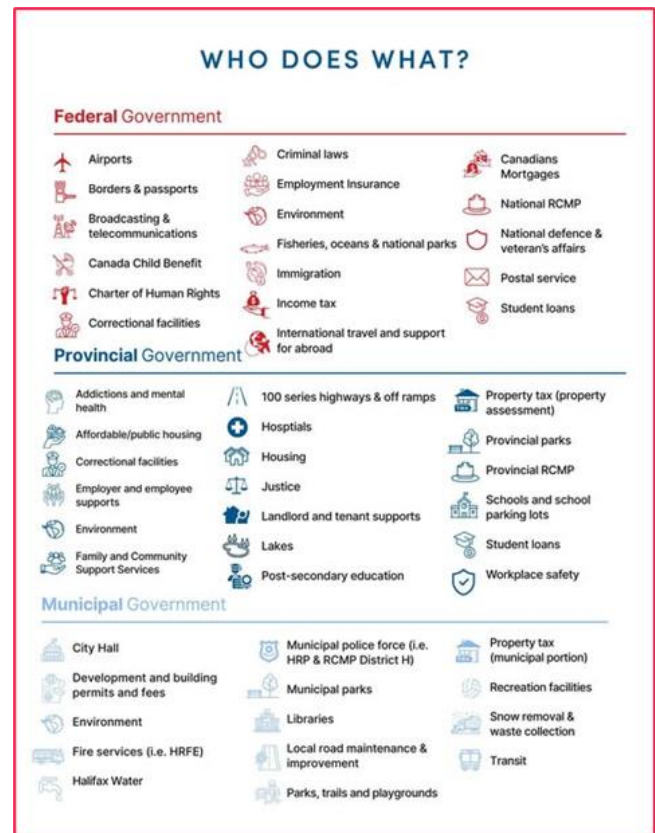
[Sackville Arena \(LDRA\)](#)

[Sackville Heights Community Centre](#)

[Sackville Sports Stadium](#)

PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPS

Not sure what level of government does what?
See the chart below to help determine which
level you need to contact for assistance.



Provincial Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) representing the Lower Sackville – Beaver Bank area are:



Paul Wozney
Sackville-Cobequid

Unit 104, 445 Sackville Drive
Lower Sackville NS B4C 2S1

Phone: 902-864-6271

Email: paulwozneymla@gmail.com



Brian Wong
Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank

1265 Fall River Road
Suite 101
Fall River, NS B2T 1E6



COUNCILLOR BILLY GILLIS

LOWER SACKVILLE - BEAVER BANK

Phone: 902-576-3411

E-mail: brianwongmla@gmail.com

Federal Members of Parliament (MPs)
representing the Lower Sackville-Beaver Bank
area are:



Braedon Clarke
Sackville-Bedford-Preston

Suite 201
2900 Hwy 2
Fall River

Email: info@parl.gc.ca

Toll-free (Canada): 1-866-599-4999
Telephone: 613-992-4793
TTY: 613-995-2266

HALIFAX WATER



**STRAIGHT from
the SOURCE**

Between 2019 and 2049, Halifax Water plans to invest about \$4 billion to upgrade infrastructure to ensure the continued delivery of high-quality water, wastewater and stormwater services to benefit customers and the environment.

To see a list of major Halifax Water projects, click [here](#).

24-Hour Emergency Service

Call 902-420-9287 for water, sewer, and flooding emergencies.

Customer Care Centre

902-420-9287

Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Email: customercare@halifaxwater.ca
(please allow up to three business days for a reply)

Head Office Address

450 Cowie Hill Road
Halifax, NS

Mailing Address

Halifax Water
PO Box 8388, RPO CSC
Halifax, NS
B3K 5M1

Head Office Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

As a regulated public utility, [Halifax Water](#) must conduct business in accordance with the Halifax Water Regulations as approved by the [Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board](#) – now the [Nova Scotia Energy and Regulatory Boards Tribunal](#). These can be used to help you determine if we have applied an approved practice. Halifax Water will respond to concerns and complaints about:

- Billing
- Metering and meter reading
- Application of standard charges
- Misuse of water resources, sanitary, or stormwater systems
- Halifax Water staff or service delivery

Formal complaints can be sent to:

Halifax Water
Complaints Department
P.O. Box 8388, RPO CSC
Halifax, NS B3K 5M1

Email: customercare@halifaxwater.ca.

If you are not happy with Halifax Water's response, you may make an appeal to the [Dispute Resolution Officer](#) (DRO).

The Dispute Resolution Officer is an independent officer (not an employee of Halifax Water or the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board) who manages regulation-based customer issues.



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NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Some roads in District 15 are owned and maintained by the provincial Department of Public Works. To make a Public Works complaint so it is logged properly please email: DPW-OCC@novascotia.ca or call 1-844-696-7737.

HRM'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Land Acknowledgement

The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

Halifax is committed to strengthening its relationship with Indigenous communities and honouring the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples. Another way the municipality has demonstrated this is by formalizing the official Land Acknowledgement.

In Nova Scotia, we are all Treaty People; with that comes roles and responsibilities.

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Councillor Billy Gillis

District 15
Lower Sackville – Beaver Bank

902-471-6906
billy.gillis@halifax.ca

Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749 | Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

HALIFAX

halifax.ca | 311

I am a member of Halifax Regional Council and the North West Community Council and serve on the following boards and committees:

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Audit & Finance Standing Committee
- Special Events Advisory Committee

Page
| 13

HAPPY NEW YEAR

EVERY YEAR YOU
MAKE A RESOLUTION
TO CHANGE
YOURSELF. THIS YEAR,
MAKE A RESOLUTION
TO BE YOURSELF.

