



**COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE**  
*DISTRICT 10*  
*HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST*

### **CONSTABLE CLARKE, THE NEW SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER**



Halifax West High School has a new School Liaison Officer. Constable Jenna Clarke will be working at Halifax West at least until the end of the school year. She will also provide support for the Halifax West group of elementary and junior high feeder schools.

School Liaison Officers can be found in most urban high schools in HRM and are part of the municipality's approach to community safety.

Constable Clarke has worked for Halifax Regional Police in the schools and in the community for several years. Previously she worked with youth as a soccer coach and a dance teacher. Constable Clarke says she's looking forward to having a regular presence at Halifax West, getting to know the students and staff, and helping to making the school a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

### **SETON RIDGE GETTING UNDERWAY**

Pre-construction work is beginning for the Seton Ridge development on the former Motherhouse site near Mount Saint Vincent University.

Crews have been doing pre-blast inspections for homes closest to the site in Clayton Park and Rockingham. The developer is planning to build an access road to connect the end of Seton Road to Lacewood Drive (near Briarwood Crescent) this summer or early fall. The access road will be for construction vehicles only, not general traffic.

Seton Ridge project was approved in 2016. It will be a mix of multiunit and single-family housing, with some commercial spaces. Construction is expected to take at least five years. The developer, [Southwest Properties](#), will be mailing out an update to neighbors in the next few weeks. More details about the project can be found [here](#).



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### KESHEN GOODMAN REOPENING LATE SPRING



I'm happy to report the renovations at Keshen Goodman Library are progressing. I had a tour of the building recently along with other members of the Halifax Public Libraries board.

The above photo shows the future teen computer room. Instead of being out in the open as they once were, the teens' computers, often used for lively gaming sessions, will be enclosed behind thick glass walls. This will give teens their own space and keep the peace for other library users.

The enclosed computer area has been built where the staff offices used to be, and the staff workspaces have moved to Keshen's new addition. The children's area is also being redesigned and will have a cozy, 2-storey playhouse in one corner. Several small rooms have been created along the library's west wall, which will provide much-needed meeting spaces for community groups.

Sound muffling ceiling panels have been installed in several locations and the whole building is being refreshed with white paint and new carpeting. The result will be a bigger, brighter, and more flexible library. The addition and renovation have taken longer than originally anticipated.

The main delay involved the installation of an invisible but vital part of the building: the rooftop air handling

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system. It has now been installed, and the target date for reopening is late spring.

### FREE PARENTING PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT

The Fairview Resource Center serves families in Fairview, Clayton Park, Rockingham, Lakeside and Timberlea. The centre offers free "Parenting Journey" programs to families with children from newborn to 19 years old. Or meet one on one with a family support specialist. Virtual, phone and in-home appointments available. To Learn more, you can call 902.443.9569 Ext 106.



### APPLY FOR WELLNESS GRANTS

The provincial Community Health Boards are accepting applications for Wellness Fund grants. These grants are available for qualifying projects led by schools and non-profit community groups. The grants are for a maximum of \$3500 and the deadline to apply is May 6.

Community gardens are one of the most common projects funded, but Wellness Fund grants have also been awarded for training sessions in first aid; active skills such as biking and hiking; food handling courses; and "loose parts" play equipment for young children.

[Click here to apply.](#)

Groups in District 10 may be able to apply for grants through both the Halifax Community Health Board and the Chebucto West Community Health Board.



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## THANKS FOR COMING!



I would like to thank those of you who took time out of your day to attend my recent drop-in session at the Canada Games Centre on Thursday, March 14. It was a pleasure to meet and engage with members of our community, addressing your municipal questions and concerns. Your participation and valuable feedback are instrumental in shaping the future of our district.

As always, I welcome your input and encourage you to reach out to 311 with any further questions, ideas, or suggestions. You can also copy my office on your 311 requests. Your voice matters, and I am here to listen.

## MORE ZEBRA CROSS WALKS!

### Active Transportation Fund



Have you noticed zebra crosswalks popping up at more intersections? Zebra crosswalks are a series of horizontal lines instead of two parallel lines. To improve visibility of pedestrians at signalized intersections, we have added zebra crosswalks to twelve locations as part of pilot projects in 2022 and 2023.

Our most recent project to examine the effectiveness of the markings has been funded through the Federal Active Transportation Fund. (ATF) was launched in 2021

to make travel by active transportation easier, safer, more convenient, and more enjoyable.

Both Joseph Howe Drive & Mumford Road and Main Avenue & Titus Street are amongst the six signalized intersections that were selected to complete before and after analysis of near-miss conflicts. The project results are anticipated to be completed in the Spring of 2024. Visit our [website](#) for more information.

## CLAYTON PARK-FAIRVIEW SCHOOL IN PROVINCIAL BUDGET

This year’s provincial budget is focused on income tax fairness, universal lunch programs for children in public schools, including more resources for healthcare support and additional supports for Nova Scotians to meet their needs. One highlights of these investments that will benefit district 10 is school construction projects – Clayton Park-Fairview junior high. So far, the location has not been determined. You can find more information [here](#).

## RESIDENTIAL RENTAL REGISTRY

Last June, HRM passed R-400 By-law which required property owners to register their residential rental properties. The deadline to register these properties is April 1, 2024. Only rental properties that are located within HRM need to be registered.

Rental properties are required to be registered by April 1, 2024. After this date, unregistered properties are subject to fines.



The Residential Rental Registry will provide a clearer picture of the rental landscape in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Currently, the accuracy and detail of available building information is limited. A complete



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record of rental properties is expected to provide significant benefits for residents occupying these buildings by enhancing the municipality's ability to provide services where needed.

Over time, the registry will help the municipality proactively identify maintenance issues, reduce complaints and non-compliance, and improve the safety and overall living conditions for renters across the region. Click [here](#) for more information.

### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR LONG-TERM SHELTER OPTIONS

The municipality in coordination with the Province of Nova Scotia continues to work with and listen to those experiencing homelessness to identify barriers for those who may not or cannot accept indoor sheltering options. These insights have helped inform considerations outlined in the Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) for a long-term indoor shelter space to provide overnight accommodations for approximately one hundred people experiencing homelessness.

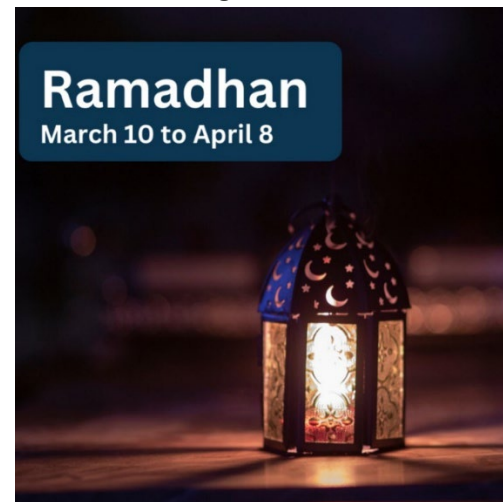
The municipality will assess and provide all viable responses that meet the criteria to the Province of Nova Scotia for consideration as a replacement site for the provincially funded shelter at the Multi-Purpose Centre of the Halifax Forum. As previously stated, this facility is scheduled to return to its intended purpose for the community on August 31, 2024. [The RFEI can be viewed here.](#)

You can contact the broker, Cushman & Wakefield Atlantic, with any inquiries at [charding@cwatlantic.com](mailto:charding@cwatlantic.com) or 902.414.7264.

### RAMADHAN

March 10 marked the beginning of Ramadhan, a month-long observance for Muslims. Ramadhan is a month of fasting, reflection and prayer and charity. Throughout this time, observants will undertake a spiritual journey of prayer and fasting every day from dawn until sunset, ending the evening of April 8.

The celebration of Eid al-Fitr, also referred to as Eid and translates to "Holiday of Breaking to Fast," is one of the most important days of the Islamic year and will start on April 9 and continue for three days. To all those celebrating, Ramadhan Kareem!



### STEP UP TO SPRING

Join our Neighbourhood & Volunteer Services team for their Step up to Leadership course this spring! The course was developed by volunteers, for volunteers and covers a wide range of topics to help participants develop leadership skills and build strong communities. Residents of District 10 interested can contact Kate Moon via email on [kate.moon@halifax.ca](mailto:kate.moon@halifax.ca). To learn more about the spring 2024 sessions click [here](#).





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### MARCH ROAD SAFETY FOCUS



Each Canadian province and territory have their own laws that govern the use of car seats, booster seats, and seat belts according to the child’s age, height, and weight. It is the law in Nova Scotia that children travelling in vehicles must be safely secured in a car seat or booster seat that is appropriate for their age, weight and height and used according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

The driver is responsible to ensure that all passengers under the age of 16 are securely buckled in the right car seat, booster seat, or seat belt.

Drivers should practice safe commuting during the winter months, especially around crosswalks and intersections. Reduce your speed. Scan for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users.

For more information on Nova Scotia Child Passenger legislation, call Child Safety Link at 1.866.288.1388 ext. 1 or 902.470.7036 and to learn more click [here](#).

### SOCIAL VALUE CATERING

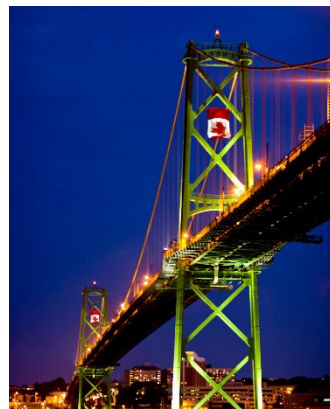
The municipality is currently accepting applications from catering businesses that meet Social Value Guidelines through ownership or operation for potential inclusion on a Social Value Catering List. This initiative aims to

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prioritize businesses owned or operated by women, African Nova Scotians/African Descent individuals, Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities, veterans, recent immigrants, and social enterprises. Visit our [website](#) on how to participate.

### SWAP YOUR MACPASS TRANSPONDER FOR AN ELECTRONIC STICKER

After 25 years, Halifax Harbour Bridges’ (HHB) is no longer giving out the hard-shell MASPASS transponder. Instead,



HHB is offering a new, free, and more effective sticker pass. The sticker MACPASS is smaller, works faster at the toll lanes, and will interact with new electronic tolling technology coming soon to HHB.

In partnership with Halifax Stanfield International

Airport, HHB is making travelling easier with “MACPASSplus”. This feature allows you to use your MACPASS to pay for short- and long-term parking in the parkade at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport. Drivers can reduce wait times with express payment lanes and cashless parking, if your MACPASS is connected to your credit card.

Your MACPASS sticker can also be used at the NS Trans-Canada Hwy 104 Cobequid Pass and the PEI Confederation Bridge.

If you would like to use your MACPASS with the other toll facilities in the Maritimes, simply set up a separate account with the tolling facility and ask to have your MACPASS linked.

New stickers are available [online](#) or by visiting the MACPASS Customer Service Centre on 471 Princess Margaret Boulevard in Dartmouth. You can also call them at 902.436.3100.



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## SPRING 2024 PROGRAM GUIDE IS HERE!

Parks & Recreation offers a variety of innovative, cost-effective programming lead by local, passionate instructors in a judgement-free zone. Programming is offered in a variety of fields – including health, wellness, outdoor and artistic – and is available for residents of all ages and abilities.

Many programs are available at residents’ local community centres, limiting travel time, and the Recreation Affordable Access Program provides discounted recreation opportunities for children, youth and adults in financial need.

You can register at the Canada Games Centre either in-person or online. To apply online you will you’ll need a [MyRec](#) account to register for all CGC programs! To learn more, click [here](#).

## REC FEES CHANGING



I would also like to remind you that the Parks & Recreation fee structure for recreation programs, services, rentals, drop-ins, and membership fees is changing effective April 1, 2024. These changes in

prices are in accordance with the five-year fee structure plan that was announced back in 2022.

The fee changes will benefit residents in several ways, including new user categories based on age group and type of organization, consistent subsidization for fee categories (for example, ensuring all youth programs across the municipality receive the same subsidy), reduced risk of unexpected fee increases, and more.

The new fee structure accounts for inflation, helping to mitigate unexpected and potentially significant fee increases. Additionally, it establishes a predictable five-

year review cycle. Please refer to the full list of changes [here](#).

## HFXGO INSTALLATIONS UNDERWAY!

Last year the municipality launched HFXGO, a free mobile fare payment app for Android and iOS devices that allows you to purchase Halifax Transit tickets and passes directly from your smartphone or



mobile device. Installation of HFXGO validators is underway on #hfxtransit buses! Some validators are already installed but will not be active until installation is complete on the entire fleet. Please continue to show your HFXGO ticket or pass to your Operator when boarding.

## FINAL STAGES OF LATEST ECONOMIC STRATEGY APPROVED

The municipality will continue to work closely with the Halifax Partnership to drive inclusive economic growth in our region. On March 22, 2022, Regional Council approved the action plan for years three-to-five of the Halifax’s Inclusive Economic Strategy 2022-2027; People. Planet. Prosperity.

The strategy is a shared roadmap for economic development and will continue to build on promoting and maximizing sustainable growth, attracting, and retaining talent, and making Halifax a better place to live and work. For more information, read the [staff report](#).



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## VOLUNTARY VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY



The Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry (VVPR) is a self-referral list for residents of the Halifax Regional Municipality who may require support during emergency situations.

The VVPR provides important information to Emergency Management staff, volunteers and, first responders to help appropriately respond to resident needs in situations such as sustained power outages, severe storms, and more.

The Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry is for residents without 24-hour support who experience severe difficulty with any of the following: mobility, vision impairment, hearing impairment, developmental disabilities, cognitive impairment, mental health conditions, or any resident who requires electricity for life-sustaining equipment such as oxygen, dialysis, etc.

Registering for the VVPR is voluntary and easy and starts by completing an intake form. Visit [our website](#) or call 311 to get started.

## HRM TAX BILL DUE APRIL 30

The municipality invoices property tax bills to all property owners twice each year. The tax year covers the fiscal period of April 1 to March 31. By now you have received the first tax bill and is due on the last working day of April. The second and final bill will be sent out in September and is due on the last working day of October 31. If you have any enquiries about your tax bill, please call the HRM Contact Centre at 311 or [online](#).

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## 2024-2025 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

The Community Grants Program provides funding opportunities to support non-profit organizations and volunteers in providing a range of leisure, learning and recreational opportunities for residents and the provision of programs, services and amenities to enhance public safety and the well-being of individuals and families with special needs.

The application deadline is April 1, 2024. Application forms and program guidebooks can be found on our website. The Community Grants Program is one of several programs offered by the Halifax Regional Municipality. If your project does not fit the Community Grants Program mandate, or if you have other projects on the horizon, be sure to explore our other opportunities at: [www.halifax.ca/grants](http://www.halifax.ca/grants).

**2024-2025**

**COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM**

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

This program provides cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities.

**HALIFAX**

## APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, bringing awareness to the urgent issues of sexual assault, to the creation of spaces free of sexual and gender-based violence, and to amplify conversations about consent and support for survivors.





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Sexual Violence occurs when someone forces or manipulates someone else into any unwanted act of sexual nature either physical or non-physical without their consent. Sexual violence includes but is not limited to sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual exploitation.

Sexualized and gender-based violence can happen to anyone, however some women are at a higher-risk because of age, income, ability, race, sexuality and/or gender expression. Sexualized violence can happen anywhere, including at work, online and in public spaces. And it is never okay.

We each have a role to play in creating spaces where everyone feels safe and respected.

### EARTH DAY IS APRIL 22



Did you know that it has been 54 years since April 22 was declared as Earth Day? In 1970, it mobilized millions of citizens to lobby for the protection of the planet. The first Earth Day is credited with launching the modern environmental movement and is now recognized as the planet's largest civic event.

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Across the globe, individuals, organizations, and governments are joining forces to advocate for policies and initiatives that promote a healthier planet. From grassroots clean-up efforts to large-scale conservation projects, people from all walks of life are making a difference in their communities and beyond.

This year's theme, "Planet vs. Plastics," unites diverse stakeholders such as students, parents, businesses, governments, churches, unions, individuals, and NGOs in a resolute commitment. The goal is to advocate for the cessation of plastics production, citing human and planetary health concerns. The campaign calls for a 60% reduction in plastic production by 2040, aiming to create a plastic-free future for future generations.

Additionally, 43 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation sector, largely due to increased car usage.

You can make a positive impact this Earth Day (and every day!) by:

- Choosing active transportation options like walking, cycling, or running.
- Exploring different public transportation modes such as buses, subways, or trains.
- Considering carpooling with others or organizing carpooling arrangements. Together, we can reduce our carbon footprint and help protect the planet.

Organizations can also:

- Organize a sustainable mobility challenge for your employees
- Offer a financial incentive for public transportation and bike-sharing
- Facilitate and encourage your employees to carpool

Celebrating Earth Day provides a unique opportunity to act for the environment. To Explore more suggestions for activities to do at home and within our community and discover events near you through the official Earth Day





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campaign online [calendar!](#) Learn more at [www.earthday.ca](http://www.earthday.ca)

## E-NEWSLETTER/SUBSCRIBE

I send this monthly e-newsletters to community members. If you'd like to keep up to date with District 10 and Regional Council news, please get in touch with my Council Constituency Coordinator [Sarah Edjemudiare](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### March 29

Good Friday

### March 31

International Transgender Day of Visibility

### April 1

Easter Monday

### April 1 to 30

Sexual Assault Awareness Month,

### April 4

Refugee Rights Day

### April 7

World Health Day

### April 8

Ranadhan Ends

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Tuesday, April 2

9:30 a.m.

[Budget Committee](#)

5 p.m.

[Heritage Advisory Committee](#)

### Wednesday, April 3

9:30 a.m.

[Budget Committee - Contingency](#)

### Thursday, April 4

4:30 p.m.

[Women's Advisory Committee](#)

6 p.m.

[Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council](#)

### Tuesday, April 9

10 a.m.

[Halifax Regional Council](#)

### Wednesday, April 10

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9:30 a.m.

[Special Events Advisory Committee](#)

### Thursday, April 11

10 a.m.

[Appeals Standing Committee](#)

5 p.m.

[Regional Watersheds Advisory Board](#)

6 p.m.

[African Descent Advisory Committee](#)

### Monday, April 15

4 p.m.

[Accessibility Advisory Committee](#)

7 p.m.

[North West Community](#)

## FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN DISTRICT 10



[Lena Metlege Diab, Member of Parliament](#)

District government office

401-3845 Joseph Howe Dr

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 4H9

[lenametlege.diab@parl.gc.ca](mailto:lenametlege.diab@parl.gc.ca)

902.426.2217



[Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA for Fairview-Clayton Park](#)

District government office



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### CONTACT INFORMATION

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#### Council Constituency Coordinator:

Sarah Edjemudiare  
Phone: 902.943.1169  
Email: [Sarahagaren.edjemudiare@halifax.ca](mailto:Sarahagaren.edjemudiare@halifax.ca)

### CURRENTLY SERVING ON:

- Regional Council
- Halifax and West Community Council
- Halifax Regional Library Board
- Special Events Advisory Committee
- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
- Canada Games Centre Board
- Centennial Arena Board