

June 2026 ISSUE 29

ABOUT US ADVISORY GROUP NEWS

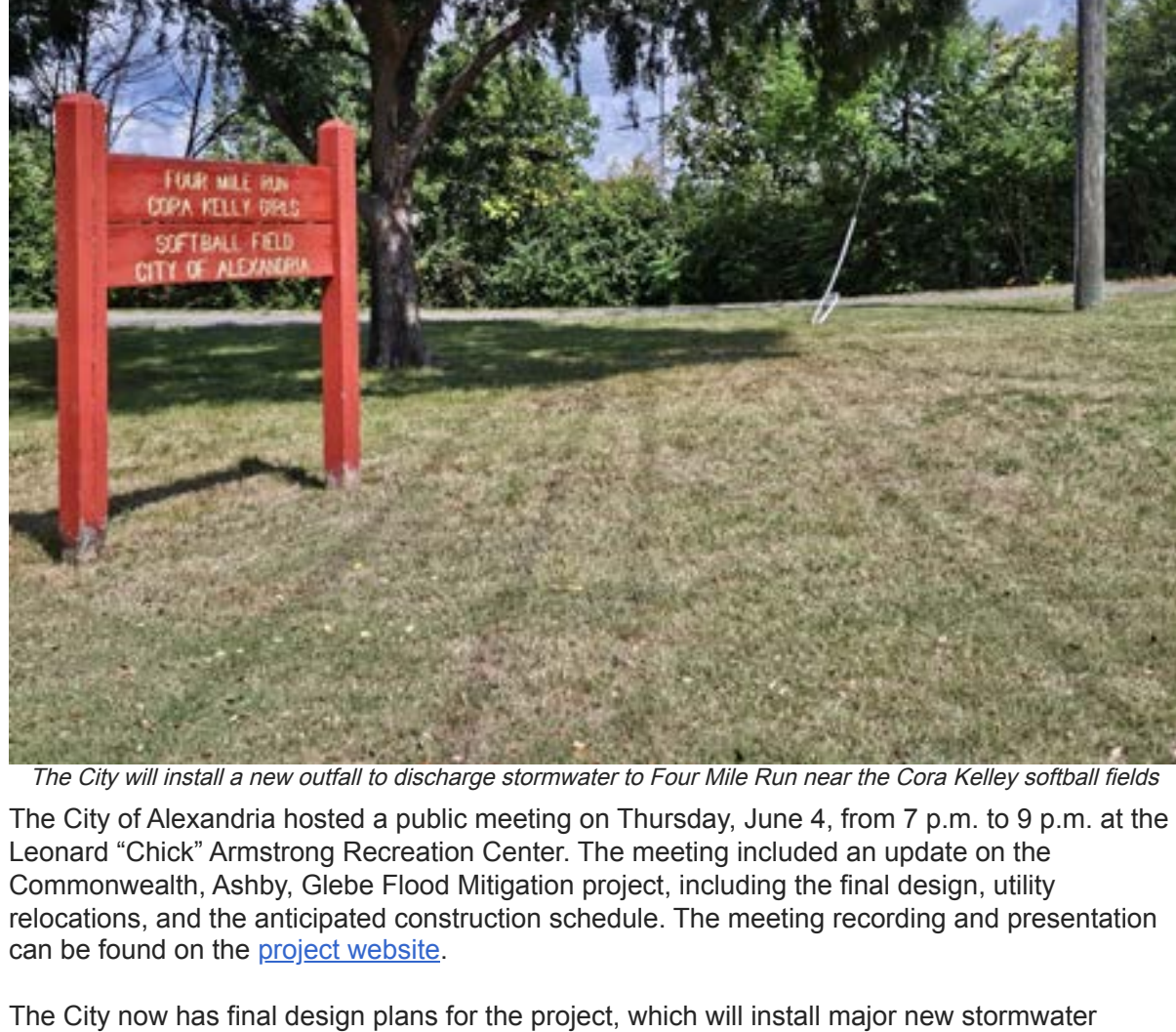
Construction Ahead: Laying the Foundation for a Refreshed Newsletter

The Flood Action Alexandria newsletter is getting a refresh! We're exploring new ways to keep our community informed about flood mitigation efforts in Alexandria and improve how we share updates.

While some changes are still taking shape, our focus remains the same: providing you with information about ongoing projects and the City's work to build a more flood-resilient community. We look forward to sharing more along the way. Thank you for being here!

SPOTLIGHT

Commonwealth, Ashby, Glebe Flood Mitigation Project Advances with Utility Relocation, Final Design Updates and Construction Schedule



The City will install a new culvert to discharge stormwater to Four Mile Run near the Cox-Kelley school fields. The City of Alexandria hosted a public meeting on Thursday, June 4, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center. The meeting included an update on the Commonwealth, Ashby, Glebe Flood Mitigation project, including the final design, utility relocations, and the anticipated construction schedule. The meeting recording and presentation can be found on the [project website](#).

The City now has final design plans for the project, which will install major new stormwater infrastructure to increase runoff conveyance capacity, reduce flooding risks, and incorporate green infrastructure to improve stormwater quality for a portion of the project area.

Virginia American Water has completed waterline installation along Commonwealth Avenue up to the intersection of Ashby Street and E. Glebe Road after beginning earlier this year. Work will continue on waterlines crossing Commonwealth Avenue, and relocation work is expected to be complete by late summer. Additional utility coordination and relocation activities will continue ahead of major storm sewer construction anticipated to begin next year.

The Capital Bikeshare station on Commonwealth Avenue near W. Reed Avenue is expected to remain in its temporary location through completion of the Commonwealth Avenue segment of the culvert construction project, anticipated in mid-2029.

More information about the construction schedule will be shared as plans are finalized. Additional details about the project are available on the [City webpage](#).

To learn about other large capacity projects, visit the [Capital Projects Schedule](#) or check the status of a project through our [interactive map](#).

PROJECT UPDATES

NEIGHBORHOOD SPOT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

City of Alexandria Finalizes Utility Relocation for Edison Cul-de-Sac Drainage Improvement Project and 100 W. Reed Avenue Curb Inlet Improvement Project



The project will reduce flooding in the cul-de-sac near the Betty King Entrance to Four Mile Park.

The City of Alexandria is finalizing utility relocation coordination for two projects to provide flood relief near the Hume Springs neighborhood.

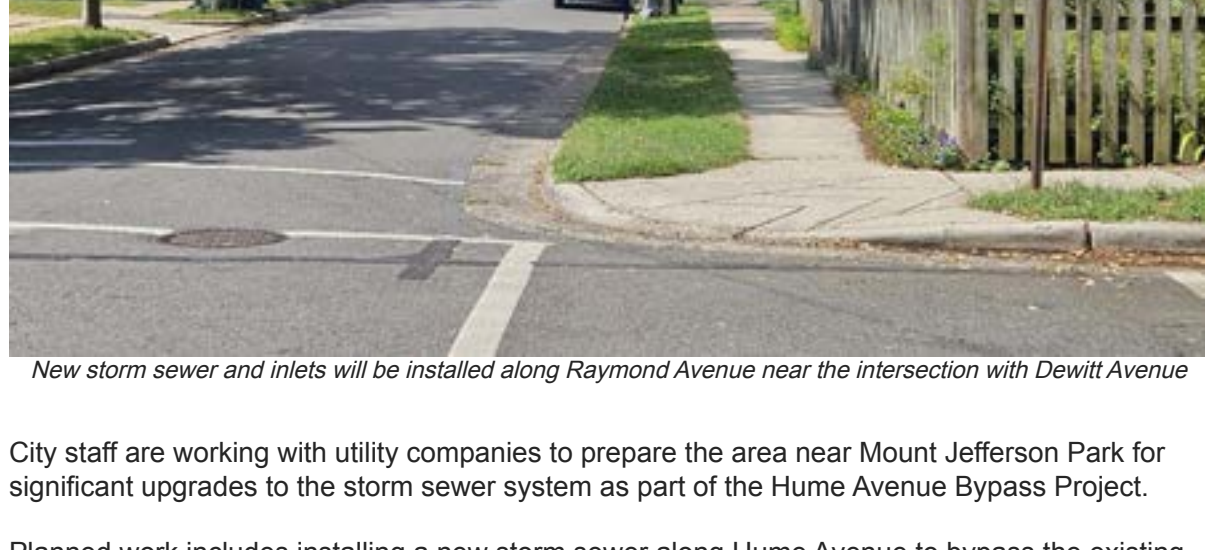
The 100 W. Reed Avenue Curb Inlet Improvement Project includes a new storm sewer and inlets along W. Reed Avenue, larger sewer pipes and drains at Four Mile Run, and improved inlet covers on Dale Street. The improvements are expected to increase stormwater capacity in the area. The [Edison Street Cul-de-Sac Drainage Improvement Project](#) will expand the capture capacity of the nearby storm sewer. The City will add inlets at the intersection of Edison Street and Mark Drive.

City staff have completed technical designs for both projects and received final approval for construction.

Water and gas utilities will need to be relocated before construction can begin to make space for the storm sewer upgrades. City staff anticipate construction will begin in late 2026.

Funding for this project and the related Edison Street Drainage Improvement Project comes in part from a grant from the [Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Community Flood Preparedness Fund](#) to accelerate preparations for the future Edison and Dale Large Capacity Project.

Utility Relocation Coordination Continues on Hume Avenue Bypass Project



New storm sewer and inlets will be installed along Raymond Avenue near the intersection with Dewitt Avenue.

City staff are working with utility companies to prepare the area near Mount Jefferson Park for significant upgrades to the storm sewer system as part of the Hume Avenue Bypass Project.

Planned work includes installing a new storm sewer along Hume Avenue to bypass the existing pipe and provide more capacity to catch flood water, along with new storm sewers and inlets along E. Raymond Avenue to capture additional stormwater. While this project is underway, the City will also upgrade the sanitary sewers along E. Raymond Avenue and resurface Hume Avenue. This project will invest approximately \$5-million to mitigate flooding in the area.

Due to the scale of the improvements, utility relocation is necessary along Hume Avenue, E. Raymond, and Dewitt to make space for the storm sewer upgrades. Underground electric service has already been relocated, and underground fiber work is expected to be completed by the end of June 2026.

The gas main relocation on E. Raymond Avenue is expected to be completed in late July, and site preparation is planned for early September.

To help minimize disruptions, the City has reached an agreement with Trust Bank at 2809 Mt. Vernon Avenue to use a portion of the parking lot next to the bank during construction. The area will be fenced off and used to store construction materials, machinery and equipment.

Using the designated area will allow more on-street parking spaces for residents, improve construction efficiency, and potentially reduce project timeline. The agreement will help mitigate lane closures and improve contractors' ability to mitigate sediment, trash, debris, and noise, resulting in a cleaner, more organized work area.

Design Revisions Under Review for Mt. Vernon Cul-de-Sac Inlet and Storm Sewer Improvement Project



The alley near the Mt. Vernon Avenue cu-de-sac will be improved to mitigate flooding near the adjacent homes.

City staff are advancing revised design plans to reduce flooding near the Mt. Vernon Avenue cul-de-sac.

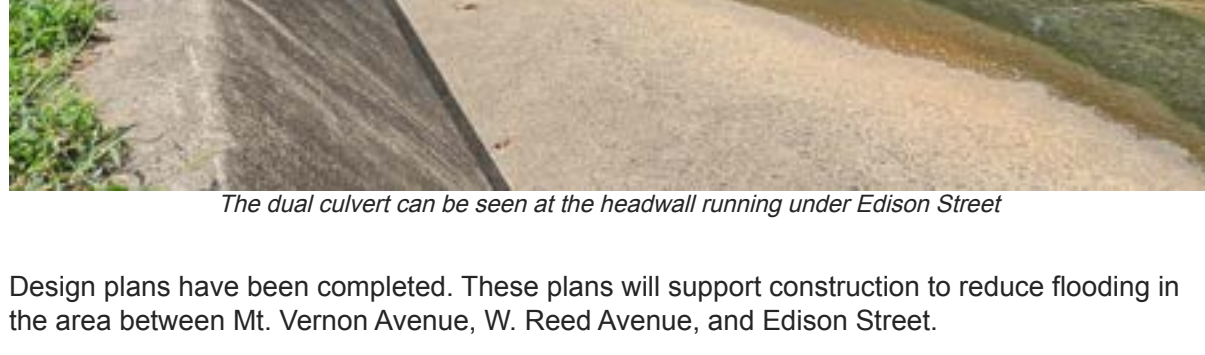
The approximately \$2 million project will include new inlets and underground storage on Mt. Vernon Avenue to capture and convey more stormwater runoff. Improvements will also be made to the parallel alley to improve surface drainage and direct water to a new inlet system at the lower end of the alley.

Water mains and laterals have been relocated along Mt. Vernon Avenue to make room for the new storm sewer as part of a broader project to upgrade the system by Virginia American Water.

City staff developed an alternative design to address concerns raised by the community last year. The updated plans were presented to residents in October 2025 following a review of potential construction impacts. The City will continue to address community concerns about construction impacts while finalizing the revised design and will host additional meetings with residents ahead of the planned start of construction in early 2027.

The City is continuously reviewing the need for additional test pits to resolve potential conflicts between the upgraded storm sewer and existing utilities after the revised plans were completed in March.

Design Plans Completed For Mount Vernon Dual Culvert Replacement Project



The dual culvert can be seen at the headwall running under Edison Street.

Design plans have been completed. These plans will support construction to reduce flooding in the area between Mt. Vernon Avenue, W. Reed Avenue, and Edison Street.

Staff have completed their review of the 100% design plans submitted by the project consultant. The review concluded that the plans are complete and ready for city approval, marking a key milestone in project readiness.

The plans include detailed designs for rehabilitating and replacing existing metal pipe culverts, as well as methods for safely completing the repairs near the apartments. The design is intended to reduce flooding without causing or worsening flooding elsewhere in the system.

The City also progressed coordination with property owners to obtain the easements needed for construction. Discussions were initiated with property owners to secure the access, and the property owners expressed no objection to the planned work within their parcels. These efforts support ensuring that all necessary property rights are in place ahead of construction.

Design Continues on Clifford, Fulton & Manning Storm Sewer Improvements

Design efforts for the proposed storm sewer improvements near Clifford, Fulton, and Manning Streets are nearing completion. The City has finalized the design and expects to receive final approval and signatures this month.

As part of the project, a subsurface investigation was performed to evaluate existing underground conditions. The study concluded that the design revisions planned for implementation will successfully reduce construction risks associated with the existing 54-inch storm sewer located within the alley. The study also includes recommendations for construction methods and procedures that will be provided to the contractor to further mitigate risk during construction.

The City has resolved the fiber utility conflicts within the alley and is currently reviewing the construction schedule to ensure that the extensive paving work begins during a period of favorable weather to allow proper curing of the pavement materials. This approach will help facilitate efficient construction operations and minimize the duration of alley closures and impacts on public access.

Additional public outreach opportunities will be provided prior to the start of construction.

[See More Spot Improvement Projects](#)



NEWS

Public Review Period on the Flood Resilience Plan

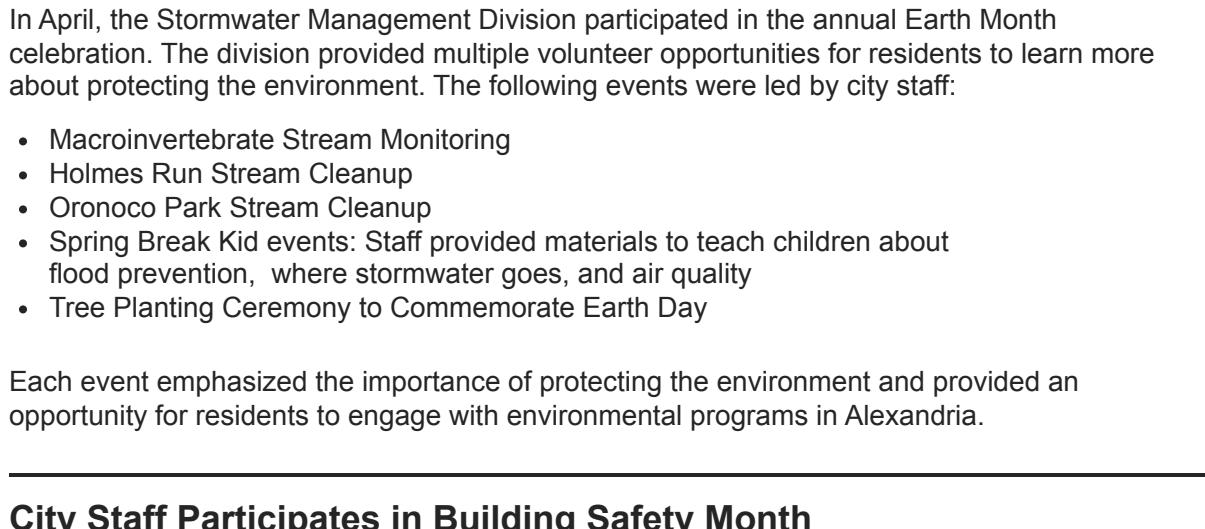
The City of Alexandria continues to advance the [Flood Resilience Plan](#), a key initiative under Flood Action Alexandria that will provide a comprehensive roadmap to reduce current and future flood risks across the city.

The draft Flood Resilience Plan is anticipated to be available for public review in August. Residents are encouraged to stay tuned for upcoming announcements and engagement opportunities. In the meantime, community members can visit the [Flood Resilience Plan website](#) to learn more about the initiative and review materials from previous public meetings.

To support development of the Plan, the City received a \$525,000 Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFFF) grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia. The grant requires a 75:25 funding match, with the City contributing \$175,000 in local funds, bringing the initial total project investment to \$700,000.

To learn more about the Flood Resilience Plan visit the [City project website](#).

Stormwater Management Division has a successful Earth Month

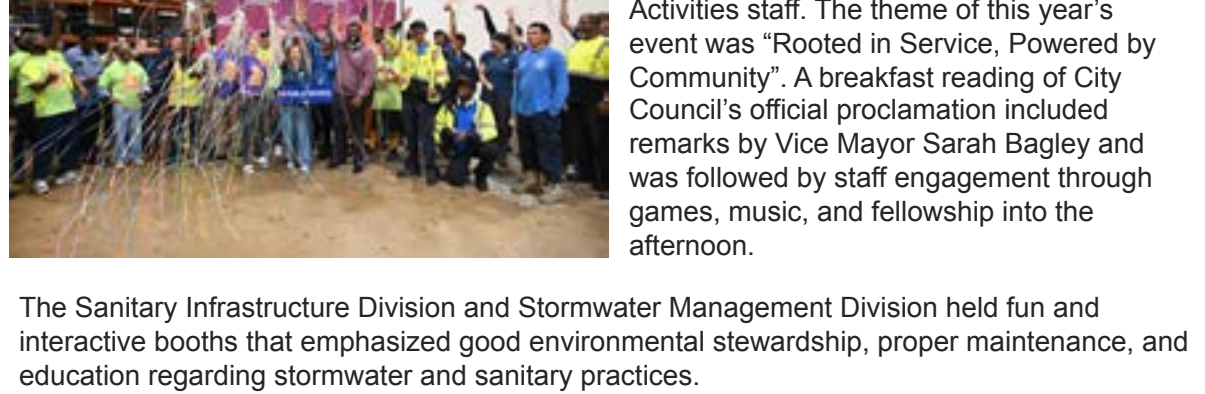


In April, the Stormwater Management Division participated in the annual Earth Month celebration. The division provided multiple volunteer opportunities for residents to learn more about protecting the environment. The following events were led by city staff:

- Macroinvertebrate Stream Monitoring
- Haines Run Stream Cleanup
- Oronoco Park Stream Cleanup
- Spring Break Kid events: Staff provided materials to teach children about flood prevention, where stormwater goes, and air quality
- Tree Planting Ceremony to Commemorate Earth Day

Each event emphasized the importance of protecting the environment and provided an opportunity for residents to engage with environmental programs in Alexandria.

City Staff Participates in Building Safety Month



The Stormwater Management Division took part in the City of Alexandria's annual Building Safety Month event in April to educate the community on flood insurance and the importance of having a flood plan. The event kicked off with words from Mayor Aya Gaskins and City Manager James Parajon about the importance of building safety and acknowledging efforts to make a safer Alexandria. I'm a new paragraph block.

Stormwater Management Division staff engaged with residents about large-capacity and spot projects, as well as ways residents can protect their property during heavy rain and potential flooding. Staff distributed pamphlets, brochures and other materials with information about flood insurance coverage, flood insurance resources, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and Flood Action Alexandria.

City of Alexandria Celebrates National Public Works Week



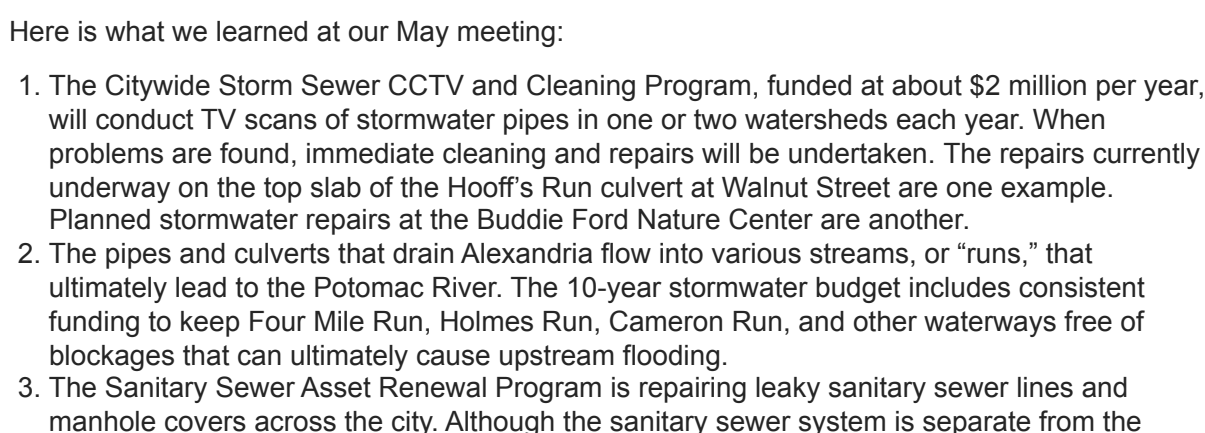
The City commemorated National Public Works Week with the Department of Transportation & Environmental Services and Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities staff. The theme of this year's event was "Rooted in Service, Powered by Community". A breakfast reading of City Council's official proclamation included remarks by Vice Mayor Sarah Bagley and was followed by staff engagement through games, music, and fellowship into the afternoon.

The Sanitary Infrastructure Division and Stormwater Management Division held fun and interactive booths that emphasized good environmental stewardship, proper maintenance, and education regarding stormwater and sanitary practices.

At the annual staff awards, Water Quality Compliance Specialist Anthony Minnick was named Employee of the Year for the department in recognition of his contributions to environmental stewardship and stormwater management over the past year.

Thank you to all public works employees for your service to the Alexandria community!

COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE WORK



FROM THE FLOOD ACTION ADVISORY GROUP

"One ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

That expression is a concise summary of the recent meeting of the Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee. At our May meeting, we were briefed by City staff on the extensive efforts now underway to keep Alexandria's stormwater infrastructure in tip-top shape.

When it comes to moving stormwater out of our neighborhoods, maintenance is as important as new construction. In a crowded city like Alexandria, pipes, inlets, culverts, and streams can quickly become blocked as surges of stormwater carry fallen branches and other debris. The story of the Hooft's Run culvert is a perfect example. Recently, the City removed tons of debris in manholes and other infrastructure, ultimately contributing to basement backups. Making the stormwater Utility Fee, have improved flow so that storms that once flooded nearby neighborhoods can now be handled without the culvert overflowing.

Here is what we learned at our May meeting:

1. The Citywide Storm Sewer CCTV and Cleaning Program, funded at about \$2 million per year, will conduct TV scans of stormwater pipes in one or two watersheds each year. When problems are found, immediate cleaning and repairs will be undertaken. The repairs currently underway on the top slab of the Hooft's Run culvert at Walnut Street are one example. Planned stormwater repairs at the Buddie Ford Nature Center are another.
2. The pipes and culverts that drain Alexandria flow into various streams, or "runs," that ultimately lead to the Potomac River. The 10-year stormwater budget includes consistent funding to keep Four Mile Run, Holmes Run, Cameron Run, and other waterways free of blockages that can ultimately cause upstream flooding.
3. The Sanitary sewer Asset Renewal Program is repairing legacy sanitary sewer lines and manhole covers across the city. Although the sanitary sewer system is separate from the stormwater system in most of Alexandria, the two systems are closely interconnected. When stormwater floods a neighborhood, water can enter the sanitary sewer system through leaks in manholes and other infrastructure, ultimately contributing to basement backups. Making the sanitary sewer system more watertight reduces the public health hazards associated with stormwater flooding. The Asset Renewal Program is the largest component of the sanitary sewer budget and will continue in Oct/Nov, North Ridge, and Broadrock Heights for the next several years.

Of course, maintenance is not as exciting as the groundbreaking of a major new construction project. It is easy to overlook—usually with disastrous consequences years later. The advisory committee monitors maintenance activities to help ensure that Alexandria's stormwater system is ready for the next big storm.

John Hill
Chair, Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee