

FYI ALEXANDRIA

IN THIS EDITION

Alexandria's Official Resident Newsletter

SUMMER 2008



- Your Alexandria Mayor & City Council
- Statement of the Mayor & City Council on the Norfolk Southern Ethanol Transloading Facility
- New to Alexandria?

PAGE 2

CITY GOVERNMENT



- Braddock East Plan
- Alexandria Spruces Up: Residents & Visitors Benefit
- Traffic & Transit

PAGE 3

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



- Be Ready Alexandria! Be Ready for Summer Storms
- Alexandria Police Program Combats Domestic Violence
- Keeping Alexandria Green
- Stay Informed with eNews

PAGE 4 & 5

CITY PROGRAMS & SERVICES



- Beat the Voting Registration Rush
- Alexandria Archaeology: Uncovering the City's "Buried" Treasures
- Volunteer Opportunities

PAGE 6 & 7

CITY LIFE



- USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration
- Comcast Outdoor Film Festival
- Alexandria Festival of the Arts
- Alexandria Summer Concert Series

PAGE 8

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

City Farmers' Markets

Old Town Farmers' Market

Market Square, 301 King Street.
Saturdays, 5 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. year round. Free parking in the Market Square garage during the hours of the Farmers' Market.

Del Ray Farmers' Market

Corner of East Oxford & Mount Vernon Avenues
Saturdays, 8 a.m. - Noon, through the first Saturday in December.

West End Farmers' Market

Ben Brenman Park,
4800 Brenman Park Drive
Sundays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
through October.

City Launches Fight Against Norfolk Southern Ethanol Transloading Facility

In April, the Norfolk Southern Corporation began operation of an ethanol transloading facility, located at the former Norfolk Southern intermodal terminal in the City's West End. Ethanol, a fuel derived from corn, cannot travel in pipelines similar to those used to transport gasoline because it picks up excess water and impurities; it must be shipped by trucks, trains or barges. Norfolk Southern ships liquid ethanol via rail tank car to the Alexandria transloading facility, where the material is offloaded by a company called RSI Leasing, Inc., into tanker trucks for final delivery to gasoline tank farms in Springfield and in Fairfax City. The Norfolk Southern operation can accommodate up to 50 rail cars, each holding 30,000 gallons of product. The site generates as many as 50 tanker truck trips per day.

From the time Alexandria's officials were first contacted about the facility, the City has objected to Norfolk Southern's unilateral decision to locate this operation in proximity to:

- A high-density residential area, where thousands of City residents live, which includes two condominium complexes.

- Samuel Tucker Elementary School, located approximately 600 feet from the facility; and three other schools located within less than a mile of the facility.
- The Van Dorn Metrorail station, located within less than 1,000 feet of the facility; and the Metrorail Blue Line, which transports thousands of commuters across the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan region.
- The Capital Beltway (located less than one-third of a mile from the facility), which handles hundreds of thousands of vehicles daily, and is part of the major north-south interstate route serving the East Coast.

Norfolk Southern has claimed that the City's zoning laws and authority to permit or regulate this railroad operation are preempted by federal law. The City is seeking a Declaratory Order from the federal Surface Transportation Board to establish the City's authority over this use. In addition, the Mayor has met with members of the City's Congressional Delegation to request their help in obtaining federal assistance to shut down this operation, and, pending closure, ensure that the risk to the

Continued on page 7

Eco-City Summit: A Partnership Achieving Environmental Sustainability

Gray skies and unrelenting rain failed to deter 150 participants who braved the elements to help begin to set a "green vision" for the City's future. On May 10, the Alexandria City Council, the Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission, and Virginia Tech's Department of Urban Affairs and Planning hosted the City's first Eco-City Summit. The Summit, held at the eco-friendly T. C. Williams High School, provided residents and community stakeholders the opportunity to participate in roundtable discussions and to provide feedback on the draft Eco-City Charter developed by the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC). Participants also helped to identify, discuss and prioritize the environmental

actions that the City should take to fulfill the Charter. These environmental actions will be considered in the development of the Environmental Action Plan.

Mayor Robert "Bob" Harvey from Waitakere, New Zealand, a pioneer in the Eco-City movement and an advocate for environmental sustainability, was the Summit's keynote speaker. He described many of the eco-awareness programs Waitakere has implemented, including "Trees for Babies," a program that invites families to celebrate the birth of a new baby by planting a native tree in a public park—and encourages them to make visits tracking the growth of the tree, along with their child's growth.

On May 19, the Environmental Policy Commission adopted a resolution recommending to City Council that they adopt the Charter. City Council approved the Charter on June 14. The EPC, Virginia Tech, and City staff will develop the Environmental Action Plan and forward it to City Council for action early next year.

For more information about Eco-City Alexandria, visit alexandriava.gov/ecocity or call 703.838.4966. To hear a podcast about Eco-City Alexandria and the Eco-City Summit, visit alexandriava.gov/podcasts.



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA | CITY HALL, 301 KING ST. | ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

WWW.ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV

FYI Alexandria is the official publication of the City of Alexandria and is published by the City Manager's Office. For more information, call 703.838.4300 or e-mail fyj@alexandriava.gov.

City Manager: James K. Hartmann **Director of Communications:** Tony Castrilli

Editors: Andrea Blackford, Michele Evans, Jennifer Harris and Steve Mason

Contributors: Mayor William D. Euille, James Bartlett, Kathleen Beeton, Carrie Beach, Amy Bertsch, Jack Browand, Amy Carlini, Bernard Caton, Shane Cochran, Celeste Cox, Pamela Cressey, Craig Fifer, Jennifer Harris, Ray Hazel, Ashley Hildebrandt, Cyndi Lake, Steve Mason, Mike Mackey, Robin Moscati, Laura Overstreet, Luis Santano.

Design and Layout: Justin Thompson



PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Alexandria, VA
Permit No. 6062

City Council Adopts \$542 Million Budget

On May 5, the Alexandria City Council adopted a \$542 million General Fund Operating Budget for FY 2009, a 4.3% increase of \$22.5 million over FY 2008. The FY 2009 budget for basic City operations and capital improvement projects is increasing by 4.1%, with a net increase of 6.6 City positions. Funding for capital projects will increase by 2.2%; and the City transfer to the Schools will increase by 4.8% or \$7.7 million.

The FY 2008 real estate tax rate of 83 cents per \$100 of assessed value was raised by 1.5 cents to 84.5 cents, which now becomes the lowest rate among major jurisdictions in Northern Virginia. Under this revised tax rate, the average homeowner's taxes would decline \$7, or 0.2 percent. This is the second consecutive year that the City's residential real estate tax has decreased. The commercial property real estate tax rate will remain at the same rate as that of the residential property tax, 84.5 cents. This will give the City a distinct business retention and recruitment advantage, when compared with neighboring jurisdictions whose total commercial property tax rates will range from 15% to 22% higher than the City's rate.

City Council faced difficult budgeting decisions this year. A Virginia State Supreme Court ruling declared the Virginia General Assembly's delegation of authority to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTVA) to raise taxes and fees was unconstitutional. The ruling, which came after the proposed budget was introduced, resulted in the loss of \$16 million in annual funding to support the City's FY 2009 transportation projects. This forced the City Council to reprioritize the current budget and make additional reductions to compensate for the lost revenue.

To recoup lost NVTVA revenues that would have funded the new King Street trolley, transportation initiatives, and expanded marketing of Alexandria's retail and restaurants, City Council increased the restaurant meals tax from 3% to 4% and increased the hotel occupancy tax from 5.5% to 6.5%. The City's personal property tax rate remains unchanged, at 4.75%.



City Manager James K. Hartmann; Rick Dorman, chair, National Harbor Collaborative; Mayor William D. Euille; and John Varghese, chair of the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association, cut the ribbon to herald the official opening of the King Street Trolley Service April 1.



Your Alexandria Mayor & City Council

(pictured from left to right)

Mayor William D. Euille. alexvamayor@aol.com

Vice Mayor Redella S. "Del" Pepper delpepper@aol.com

City Councilmembers:

Ludwig P. Gaines councilmangaines@aol.com

Rob Krupicka council@krupicka.com

Timothy B. Lovain timothylovain@aol.com

Paul C. Smedberg paulcsmedberg@aol.com

Justin M. Wilson justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov

Messages for City Council may be left at 703.838.4550. City Council Meetings are shown on Cable Channel 70; for listings, visit alexandriava.gov/cable. Dockets, videos, and podcasts of the meetings are also available at alexandriava.gov/council.

"Alexandria is a vibrant, diverse, historic, and beautiful city with unique neighborhoods and multiple urban villages where we take pride in our great community."

— Alexandria Vision 2015, the City's Strategic Plan

Statement of the Mayor and City Council on the Norfolk Southern Ethanol Transloading Facility

We share the concerns of many Alexandrians about the risks posed by the Norfolk Southern ethanol transloading facility.

We are also extremely disappointed in the inadequate communication provided to the community leading up to and after the opening of the operation.

The residents of Alexandria deserve better.

We have conducted a thorough review of the actions pertaining to the opening of the transloading facility. We have concluded there was a serious breakdown in internal and external communications by City staff.

City Manager Jim Hartmann and City Attorney Ignacio Pessoa have acknowledged and apologized for mistakes made during this process. The City Council is taking swift action to address this situation. We have instructed the City Manager to address deficiencies in his organization to ensure that these failures are never repeated.

We have directed that materials related to this matter be made available to the public.

We also recognize that Norfolk Southern acted irresponsibly in locating this facility in a residential neighborhood near a school, opening the facility without appropriate notification to the City or the community, and operating the facility when the City was unable to adequately respond had there been a serious emergency at the site.

The City is moving forward on two simultaneous fronts—doing everything we can to shut down this facility and to protect the health and safety of our residents from any dangers posed by this facility.

Mayor William D. Euille, Vice Mayor Redella S. "Del" Pepper, Councilman Ludwig P. Gaines, Councilman Rob Krupicka, Councilmember Timothy B. Lovain, Councilman Paul C. Smedberg, and Councilman Justin M. Wilson

NEW TO THE CITY?

Just Moved to Alexandria?

Here's a list of useful web sites and telephone numbers:

- Need to Report a Problem or Contact City Officials? Visit alexandriava.gov/contactus.
- Automobile Registration: alexandriava.gov/finance or 703.838.4560
- Citizen Assistance: 703.838.4800
- Alexandria City Public Schools: www.acps.k12.va.us or 703.824.6600
- Trash Pick-Up and Recycling (Department of Transportation & Environmental Services): alexandriava.gov/tes or 703.519.3486
- Voter Registration: www.alexandriavoter.org or 703.838.4050

A complete listing of services in Alexandria can be found in the *Know Your City* guide available at the Citizen Assistance Office in City Hall and the City's web site at alexandriava.gov.

Want to learn more about how the City can help residents? Listen to an interview with Citizen Assistance Director Rose Boyd at alexandriava.gov/podcasts.

Braddock East Plan

The City's Office of Housing, and the Planning and Zoning Department are preparing the Braddock East Plan, a supplement to the Braddock Metro Neighborhood Plan, approved by City Council on March 15, 2008. The goal of the Braddock East Planning process is to create a small area plan that will guide the future redevelopment of the public housing within the larger Braddock area, including James Bland, Bland Addition, Samuel Madden Uptown, Ramsey Homes and Andrew Adkins. Through a partnership between the City, the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA, which owns the public housing), public housing residents, and other Braddock residents will plan together for the future of these sites. The plan will take the principles outlined in the Braddock Metro Neighborhood Plan and establish guidelines for future redevelopment.

City Council created a 12-member Braddock East Advisory Group, comprising Braddock neighborhood residents and housing and redevelopment professionals, to represent the diverse interests in the Braddock East area, and to help guide the process. Over the past few months, the advisory group met five times to discuss the overall planning process, the characteristics of the Braddock East area, factors to be considered in the redevelopment of public housing, and finance strategies for public and affordable housing.

Advisory group meetings, ARHA resident outreach, and community meetings are planned during the summer. The Planning Commission expects to consider the Plan in the fall.

For more information on the Plan, and a printable schedule of meetings, please visit alexandriava.gov/braddockeast. If you are interested in signing up to receive electronic notices from the City about upcoming meetings, visit enews.alexandriava.gov.

Alexandria Spruces Up: Visitors and Residents Benefit

Since April 1 the signs of the City's revitalization of the Potomac River waterfront and Old Town areas are all around—the sleek lines of the new water taxis gliding across the river, the cheery red and black trolleys that traverse King Street, and the new signage that greets visitors at the waterfront. These improvements, targeted to greet all visitors, including those from National Harbor and the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in Prince George's County, were not just made with visitors in mind. The City's gateway to the Potomac River has a fresh new look and feel, designed to invite all residents to rediscover the City.

The National Harbor Collaborative, a group of City officials and staff, business, and community leaders, developed a series of recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on how to attract visitors from across the river and from all across the region.

The marina improvements have helped to increase foot traffic in the area, which, at its peak, accommodated more than 26,000 visitors in during April 5-11. The City's long-range plans are to continue improvements to the Alexandria waterfront and its visitor corridors. The Collaborative recommended, and City Council funded, improvements to hospitality and visitor reception, historic themes, the overall appearance of the marina and King Street, lighting, seating, the food pavilion, security, noise control, marketing, preparing Alexandria businesses and restaurants, informing and involving Alexandria residents, parking access, and entertainment and activities. Most of those recommended have now been implemented.



The water taxi ferries passengers from National Harbor to Alexandria's waterfront



Waterfront amenities include kiosks that describe Alexandria's history and direct visitors to key attractions.



New furniture and lighting grace the waterfront. [Photo Credit: B. Carton]



TRAFFIC & TRANSIT

Ride Free on Forecast Code Red Days

The Air Quality Action season began on May 1 and the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and the Metrobus and the City's DASH bus systems are offering commuters free rides all day on forecast Code Red Days.

The Ride Free program is part of the region's ongoing effort to reduce air pollution caused by vehicle emissions. Code Red and Code Orange Air Quality Action Days are forecast when ozone levels are high, affecting the air we breathe and becoming a direct health hazard.

Be a part of the solution! Choosing to ride public transportation, rideshare, walk, or bicycle whenever possible is best for the environment. This is critical on Code Orange and Code Red Air Quality Action Days. Riding free on Code Red Days makes public transportation affordable for everyone. Visit alexandriava.gov for air quality forecasts.

Kaiser Foundation Supports Safe Routes to School Program

The Kaiser Foundation has provided a grant to the Safe Routes to School National Partnership to develop innovative programs that encourage more students to walk and bicycle to school. Alexandria's Mount Vernon Elementary School is one of 10 "Local School Project" programs across the country selected to participate in a pilot program supported by this grant. Each "Local School Project" includes \$20,000 for the participating school. City staff will be collaborating with the school community to improve walking and bicycling conditions on the route to school, enabling and encouraging children to walk and bike these routes. The pilot program will officially launch later this summer.

Alexandria's own Safe Routes to School program was established in 2003, when City students participated in the annual International Walk to School Day for the first time. Since that time, the City has been working on several initiatives to encourage students to walk and bicycle to school. Safety improvements include new sidewalks, crosswalk improvements, speed limit reductions, and bicycling parking and bicycle lanes near local schools. The City has also partnered with the Washington Area Bicycle Association, Trips for Kids, and BikeWalk Virginia to provide in-school pedestrian and bicycle safety lessons for students. School walking maps are provided to students and City staff is coordinating with school administrators, parents and PTA groups to promote safety and fitness through walking and bicycling to school. The City is building a comprehensive program that will engage students from both public and private schools, whenever possible, to walk or bicycle to school.

Multi-Space Parking Meters Coming to East Eisenhower-Carlyle Area

The City will be installing multi-space parking meters in the East Eisenhower-Carlyle area throughout July. Meters will be installed to provide short-term parking support to ground and floor retail space. The main difference between multi-space parking meters and traditional meters is that each meter will serve several parking spaces. The new meters will allow customers to use credit cards for quick service and convenience. New meter fees effective July 1 are \$1 per hour, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Be Ready Alexandria! Be Prepared for Summer Storms

As recent storms have proven, tornadoes, nature's most violent storms, can take place anywhere, at nearly any time. Even severe thunderstorms can leave a neighborhood with minor flooding, tree damage, and without power.

Residents can stay informed about severe weather by visiting City Web site and monitoring the local media; emergency information can also be accessed through the City's Cable Channel 70, and by subscribing to eNews (enews.alexandriava.gov) for emergency alerts.



Residents who experience power outages must call Dominion Virginia Power at 1-888-667-3000 to report the outage. Each call is important for providing Dominion with information about the extent of the power outages.

Be prepared by taking a few proactive steps:

- Make a plan for your family; meet with neighbors to talk about how the neighborhood can work together to be prepared.
- Gather a minimum one-week supply of food that does not require refrigeration or cooking (such as canned goods), bottled water, flashlights with extra batteries, a first-aid kit and a battery-powered radio. Make sure you can consolidate these items into a portable "go" kit (like a backpack or duffel bag).
- Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio for National Weather Service reports and severe weather warnings.
- Cut down dead trees and trim limbs that could fall or become projectile objects during a severe storm.
- Visit alexandriava.gov/fire for additional hurricane preparation tips.



The Department of Human Services displays environmentally friendly, recyclable tools as part of its effort to "go green."

"Greening" the Human Services Building

One of many ways Alexandria is "going green" is through the City's "green" buildings initiatives. The City has developed a unique public-private partnership with the owners of its leased property at 2525 Mt. Vernon Avenue, which is currently occupied by the Department of Human Services (DHS). The owners, Mt. Vernon Ave, LLC, approached the City to establish a "Green Team" to work together to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the property. The LEED Green Building Rating System™ encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria. This is an important milestone in the City's efforts to create sustainable buildings and provide an eco-friendly environment.

City LEED projects that are completed or are currently underway for new buildings include the design and development of T.C. Williams High School, Charles Houston Recreation Center, DASH Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility, the Fire Station at Potomac Yard, and the new Police Department Facility on Wheeler Avenue.

Alexandria Police Program Combats Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is more than just a "family problem;" it is a crime. Each year, more than two million women are victims of domestic violence and one million children are physically abused. Victims of domestic violence come from all walks of life, cultures, income groups, ages, and religions. They share feelings of helplessness, isolation, guilt, fear, and shame.

Detective Stacey Herzlinger of the Alexandria Police Department has designed a program to help combat domestic violence in Alexandria. Through the program, Domestic Violence Pamphlets, in English and Spanish, are being dispersed to various apartment complexes throughout the City. In addition, in order to combat these actions, free, 911-only cell phones are being distributed and kept in the leasing offices of participating complexes. The free cell phones are available to residents who wish to report any type of domestic violence.

To have this program provided in your apartment complex or homeowners' association, contact Detective Herzlinger at 703.838.6360, ext. 1645. The Domestic Violence Hotline is also available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at 703.838.4911.

KEEPING ALEXANDRIA GREEN!

Rain Barrels Make Environmental Cents

Are you interested in saving the environment, helping your garden stay green—and keeping a little "green" in your pocket? There is a practical solution: harvesting rainwater in rain barrels. Rain barrels can be placed under your downspouts to capture runoff from the roof during showers and storms.

The rainwater you collect can help you save naturally soft water for use in your yard and garden; reduce flooding in your yard or your basement; and reduce storm water management costs. The use of rain barrels also helps decrease the volume of storm runoff, moderating storm erosion and the resulting pollution that is impairing the Chesapeake Bay.

To learn more about rain barrels and other ways to conserve resources, contact Jesse Maines, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703.519.3400, ext. 166 or jesse.maines@alexandriava.gov. To hear a podcast about the benefits of rain barrels and water conservation, and a tutorial on building your own rain barrel, visit alexandriava.gov/podcasts.



LEED for Existing Buildings addresses the greening of building maintenance and operation procedures and targets certain elements of environmental management plans that encourage sustainable practices. Practices include the use of carpooling, bicycling and mass transit; "green" cleaning products, reduced water consumption with updated bathroom fixtures; increased energy efficiency from updated HVAC systems, installation of efficient lighting; and altered temperature levels. Recycling efforts that include efficient waste collection are also a major component to the success of a "green" building.

"We hope that this project at 2525 Mt. Vernon Avenue will serve as a model for ultimately all of our City buildings," said Mayor William D. Euille. "Thanks to the enthusiasm of LEED professional Suzanne Kelly, the Human Services Green Team, and Building owner Larry Hirsch, I believe that this effort will set the standard for other public-private partnerships throughout the City that enhance our quality of life and protect our environment."

Save Time, Money, and the Environment: City Programs Make it Easy to Live Near Work!

Do you want to live closer to work and help reduce traffic congestion? The City of Alexandria offers a range of homebuyer assistance programs that can help workers employed in the City live near work. Helping employees live near their jobs promotes environmentally friendly community goals—shorter commuting times, reduced air pollution, and reduced gasoline consumption. The City's programs not only make mortgage payments more affordable, but also increase the number of homes affordable to first-time buyers.

The City offers up to \$50,000 in down payment and closing cost assistance through the Homeownership Assistance Program (HAP) and Moderate Income Homeownership Program (MIHP). In addition, below market-rate mortgage financing is available to first-time homebuyers with incomes as high as \$99,000, through the City's SPARC Program. Participants must be first-time homebuyers, work or live in the City of Alexandria, and the home they purchase must be located within the City.

Staff in the City's Office of Housing can help Alexandria employers develop their own homeownership benefit programs to expand the homeownership opportunities for area workers. To learn more, contact Shane Cochran, Office of Housing, at 703.838.4622.

Alexandria Women Saluted at 28th Annual Awards Program

In March, Women's History Month, the City's Commission for Women honored 29 outstanding women nominated by their fellow residents for their enormous contributions to the Alexandria community.

This year, in lieu of a keynote speaker, the Commission for Women invited four Alexandria women to participate in a panel discussion about how Alexandria has been changed for and by women. Former City Manager Vola Lawson began the evening's discussion by recalling her involvement as the Chair of the Alexandria Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report on the Status of Women issued in 1974. This report, which showed significant disparities between women and men in career advancement, pay, recreation, education, housing, and credit, led to the creation of the Commission on the Status of Women by City Council and eventually the Office on Women.

Lillian Patterson, curator of the Alexandria Black History Museum, spoke of the role of African American women in Alexandria who set examples with their commitment to community service and served as role models for many of the women of color that now serve the community. Lois Walker, former City Council member, spoke about how women in Alexandria have always been instrumental in bringing forth change within the City. She issued a call to action for women to continue to be change agents and to speak up about the issues important to them. Kirstin Banks, a T. C. Williams High School student and chair of the Alexandria Youth Council, talked about the negative impact of the media on young women today and basing self-worth on intelligence, education, self-respect and strong beliefs, rather than on beauty and outward appearances.

To view clips of their discussion and to hear more about the Salute to Women Award winners, visit alexandriava.gov/podcasts.



Top (L-R): Kathryn Brown, Gina Lohr, Elizabeth Kuttler, Lavern Chatman, Former City Councilwoman Joyce Woodson, Fay Slotnick
Bottom (L-R): Lucretia Jackson, Eula Miller, Patty Moran, JoAnn Maldonado, Giselle Avalos. Not pictured: Cindy McCartney

Stay Informed with eNews!

Sign up with the City of Alexandria's eNews service to receive information in more than 80 categories, as well as important emergency alerts. Messages, ranging from news releases and department newsletters to public meeting dockets and payment deadline reminders, can be sent directly to your e-mail account, PDA, pager, cell phone, or BlackBerry.

There is no cost to sign up for eNews (although your wireless provider may charge you to receive e-mail or text messages on your mobile device). If you already use e-mail or text messaging, eNews messages will work the same way. Contact your wireless provider if you have any questions about the fees they may charge.

Don't miss out on important news and emergency alerts—Sign up for eNews today!

enews.alexandriava.gov

Wireless Alexandria Service Available

The City's Wireless Alexandria service is perfect for outdoor Web browsing in Old Town and on the waterfront. Any user with a wireless device in the coverage area is able to access the Internet at no charge.

The Wireless Alexandria outdoor coverage area—the largest of its kind in the region—is centered on the King Street corridor in Old Town between Washington Street and the Potomac River waterfront. Coverage also includes Market Square and the City Marina. Depending on building locations and other conditions, the signal is available for some distance around that corridor in each direction. The service is also available in the City's four public libraries.

Wireless Alexandria is optimized for outdoor use. The service is not intended to compete with commercially available Internet service and should not replace existing home or business Internet access. The network is not secured, which means that sensitive personal or financial information sent across the network will not be encrypted. Commercial Internet service is more appropriate for these types of uses.

The service is available to anyone using a "Wi-Fi"-enabled laptop or personal digital assistant (PDA). Wi-Fi devices (also known as 802.11 devices) can connect to the Internet wirelessly, without the need for any cords, cables, or special software. Many new laptops and PDAs come with Wi-Fi capability. Laptops (and some PDAs) without this feature can be upgraded inexpensively.

City Launches New Online Job Search System

The City of Alexandria recently launched CAREER, an online system that provides job seekers with an enhanced application process for City employment.

CAREER (City of Alexandria Reaches Excellence in Employment and Recruitment) is a user-friendly, Web-based system that will benefit both City departments and the public by managing hiring services in a more cost-effective and efficient manner.

CAREER streamlines the online job-seeking process by allowing applicants to create a secured, password-protected profile of their personal data (name, address, and employment history). With this profile, applicants can retrieve their data and apply to multiple vacancies with only a few clicks of the mouse, and frequently check their status in the recruitment process. Another innovative aspect of the system is the unique job interest card, which allows applicants to receive e-mailed notices of new vacancy announcements.

JobLink, the City's one-stop career center, and Alexandria libraries have computer terminals and staff who can assist job seekers with the CAREER online application process. The Personnel Services Department will also have two new kiosks available at its location in City Hall (301 King St., second floor). All that applicants need to begin using CAREER is an e-mail account. "Spring" your job search into action—visit alexandriava.gov/jobs and use CAREER to find your next opportunity with the City of Alexandria!



It's Never Too Soon to Think About Kindergarten Registration!

Register young Alexandrians for their first school experience now. Alexandria City Public Schools kindergarten registration for the 2008-09 school year is underway for children who will be five years old on or before Sept. 30, 2008. Parents are encouraged to register students as soon as possible so the school division can accurately estimate the number of incoming kindergarteners.

Where:

Register at the school in your attendance zone, even if your child will be attending a different school. If your child is not a citizen of the United States, or is not fluent in English, register at the ESL center at 4701 Seminary Road in the Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library building.

Which School:

If you aren't sure which school is in your attendance zone, check the online zone locator at www.acps.k12.va.us/enroll/zonelocator.php or call 703.824.6710.

What to Bring:

(For ESL, visit www.acps.k12.va.us/enroll/esl.php)

- ▶ Child's original birth certificate (a copy will be made in the school office).
- ▶ Proof of an adequate series of immunizations against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, and hepatitis B.
- ▶ Proof of a physical examination given within 12 months of child's first day of school.
- ▶ Written results of a PPD tuberculin skin test given within 12 months of child's first day of school (to include dates received and read) or a negative TB risk assessment done within 12 months of the child's first day of school.
- ▶ Two different documents each proving Alexandria City residency (such as a rent receipt, lease agreement, utility bill, or personal property tax receipt).
- ▶ Child's social security card (a copy will be made in the school office).

For more information, contact your child's school, call 703.824.6680, or visit www.acps.k12.va.us/enroll.

City Partners With Alexandria City Public Schools for School Bus Retrofit Grant Program

The City of Alexandria has partnered with Alexandria City Public Schools to obtain a grant for \$70,000 to retrofit approximately 40 school buses with clean air technology that reduces pollutants emitted by diesel engine school buses. The technology, the Diesel Oxidation Catalyst System, is an Environmental Protection Agency-approved technology that works by breaking down pollutants released into the exhaust stream into less harmful components. The retrofitted buses are expected to achieve approximately 20 percent reduction in particulate matter emissions, 50 percent reduction in hydrocarbon emissions, and 40 percent reduction in carbon monoxide emissions. The program is scheduled to begin later this summer.

Be a Critic! Library Patrons Can Write, Share Reviews of Library Materials

Alexandria Library now offers book lovers a chance to write their own reviews of almost all of the Library holdings on the Alexandria Library web site online catalog. The catalog can now be the place where patrons can go to get recommendations from others on library materials to check out.

To access the online catalog, visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us, click on "Catalog," and begin browsing. To write a review, simply register and type your review for all to read. For more information, contact Mark Schwartz at 703.519.3498, or email mschwartz@alexandria.lib.va.us.

Beat the Voting Registration Rush!



Election officials are predicting a record turnout in the November 4 Election for

President. Unfortunately, a few who show up at the polls on Election Day will be disappointed to learn they didn't keep their registration address current, or thought they registered online (they cannot). Others will face a longer wait in line than expected and be late to work or decide to pass on our most important civic responsibility. Here are a couple of things Alexandria residents can do to avoid problems on Election Day:

Get Registered Now. Check your registration to make sure it is current. Call 703.838.4050 or go to www.alexandriavoter.org to verify that you are registered at your current address. If you need to register or update your registration, you may also download a voter registration application.

Check Absentee Vote Eligibility. Even in low turnout elections, voters occasionally get shut out because they have to work late or they get caught in traffic. If this might happen to you, remove the risk by voting absentee. Voters who are working and commuting 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day can vote absentee by mail, or in person at the Voter Registration Office at 132 North Royal St. in Old Town beginning in late September. Mail applications are available online.

Serve Your Community—Be an Alexandria Precinct Election Officer. Be a part of this historic election by seeking appointment to serve as an election officer at a polling place near your home. More than 500 election officers will be required at the City's polling places on November 4, Presidential Election Day. Election officers, who must be registered to vote, are paid \$100 for serving from 5 a.m. to 9 (or 10) p.m., and are required to attend a three-hour training session before the election. Contact Angie Maniglia at 703.838.4190 ext. 229 or apply online at www.alexandriavoter.org.

Alexandria Digs Archeology: Uncovering the City's "Buried" Treasures

Seen digging at Freedmen's Cemetery, on the grounds of the George Washington Masonic Memorial—and possibly in your neighbor's yard, the City's archaeologists are responsible for far more than artifact excavation.

In addition to studying City sites, Alexandria Archaeology, as part of the Office of Historic Alexandria, reviews development plans to ensure that significant resources are protected as required by City Code. Developers are required to pay for private archaeological work, which is then shared with City staff.

Information about Alexandria's past can be incorporated into new projects and ongoing public interpretation and education. For example, street signs can hint at the past. Roundhouse Lane, Cloude's Mill Court and Luna Park Drive reflect the railroad switching station, water-powered grain mill, and amusement park that once stood nearby.

Archaeology was critical in developing the Alexandria Heritage Trail, which consists of ten segments totaling 17 miles, where walkers and cyclists can explore Alexandria's prehistoric, Colonial, Civil War, industrial and modern history. A map with these sites is now online at alexandriava.gov/localmotion.

Most recently, Archaeology worked with local historians Lee Ness and Lee Perna to develop interpretive signage for the Del Ray community. This spring, signs with historic photos and maps, which tell Del Ray's story—from a racetrack to the railroad—were posted as part of the neighborhood's Town of Potomac Centennial.

This summer, Alexandria Archaeology will resume work near the Masonic Memorial.

Those who wish to try hands-on experience can take part in Family Dig Days by screening excavated soil for artifacts on selected dates this summer. To learn more about Family Dig Days or about volunteering for fieldwork, please e-mail archaeology@alexandriava.gov or call 703.838.4399.

To hear Alexandria Archaeology Museum Director Dr. Pamela Cressey discuss the work of Museum—and the strangest thing ever found on an Alexandria dig—visit alexandrava.gov/podcasts.

Child Health/Pediatric Services Clinic Moves to New Location

All pediatric services have moved from the Casey Clinic to the main Alexandria Health Department Building at 4480 King Street.

- For eligible sick children, walk-in services are available before 9 a.m., Monday through Friday. No appointment is needed.
- For uninsured or Medicaid eligible infants and children (ages newborn to five years), well child exams are only available by making an appointment.

No fee is charged for children who are uninsured or who are eligible for Medicaid. For more information, contact 703.838.4400, ext. 234.

Overnight Visitors Receive a Summertime Boost from ACVA

The Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association (ACVA) has announced a promotion to help offset the high price of gas and encourage overnight stays at Alexandria hotels this summer. Visitors booking a two-night stay at participating ACVA member hotels, Wednesday through Sunday nights through September 1, will receive a \$25 gift card and a value package of coupons redeemable at Alexandria attractions, restaurants and shops.

To qualify for the summer promotional package, visitors must make their hotel reservations online at www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com, using the new Travelocity booking engine now available on the homepage.

Free Trolley Connects River to Rail

The King Street Trolley officially hit the streets of Old Town on April 1, transporting riders between the King Street Metrorail station and the Old Town waterfront. In its first month, the service drew 41,000 riders.

The free trolley is part of the City's continuing efforts to make King Street a more successful retail corridor, to attract tourists, manage congestion and reduce mobile emissions by encouraging residents, workers, and visitors to choose travel options other than driving. The trolley runs seven days per week, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Every 15 minutes, riders can board near the main entrance of the King Street Metrorail station and at any of the flagged stops along King Street, which are approximately two blocks apart.

When planning your trip to Old Town Alexandria, make the King Street Trolley a part of your transportation equation!

Animal Welfare League Debuts New Cable Program

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) and its work are featured in a new cable television show, "Alexandria Animal Matters," on Comcast cable channel 69. The series, shown on Mondays at 6:30 p.m., focuses on animal professionals, animal welfare, and humane education. Episodes will include interviews with the president of the Wildlife Rescue League, and other expert members of the community such as Carlos Mejias of Olde Towne School for Dogs and Kristina Robertson of Barkley Square, speaking about trends in dog foods, toys, and other items. Visit www.alexandriaanimals.org to learn more about AWLA and its programs.

City Fights Transloading Facility

Continued from page 1

public is minimized. The City is also participating in ongoing federal regulatory proceedings which deal with the shipment of hazardous materials by rail. In the interim, the Mayor, on behalf of the entire Council, has written to Norfolk Southern to demand that the company cease operations immediately, but the company has refused.

The City is also taking measures to ensure the health and safety of residents is protected. The City is in discussions with Norfolk Southern, and the company has complied with the City's requests for equipment, supplies, and training for the Fire Department and for physical security upgrades to the facility. Leaders from the Summers Grove and Cameron Station Civic Associations, at the City's invitation, have visited the ethanol transloading facility and have observed the firefighters training on site. The Fire Department has offered Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program information and training to both civic associations. The CERT program trains community members to be better prepared to respond to emergencies in Alexandria.

The City has launched a Web page to document actions and communications made by the City regarding this facility; provide information about the potential risks it poses; and keep the public informed of the City's efforts to close it. The Web page also includes links to contact members of Congress, Norfolk Southern, and the various federal agencies that are responsible for railroad safety and operation. For more information about the Norfolk Southern Ethanol Transloading Facility, visit alexandriava.gov/transloading or call Project Manager Steve Mason, Special Assistant to the City Manager, at 703.838.3861.



Get Involved! Volunteer Opportunities

The Alexandria Mentoring Partnership needs new mentors! An adult volunteering an average of one hour a week to mentor a young person is proven to mitigate the threat of crime, poor school performance, teen pregnancy, gang involvement, and drug abuse. The City of Alexandria has taken an extremely active role in promoting the power of mentoring. Since 2006, community members have responded in force with a 20% increase in the number of mentors. However, there is still a shortage of adults and there are kids waiting in the wings for support. To become a mentor, visit alexandriava.gov/mentoring, or contact Mike Mackey at 703.838.4144 or at mike.mackey@alexandriava.gov.

Community Lodgings is an organization that lifts families from instability and homelessness to independence and self-sufficiency through its Transitional Housing Program, Affordable Housing Program, and Fifer Family Learning Center. The organization is seeking volunteers to serve as *Tutors* for its Learning Center and *Youth and Adult Mentors*.

For more information, contact Emily Barnes at 703.739.5856.

The **Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** is seeking persons who are diplomatic, assertive, and good communicators to serve as volunteer ombudsmen. Volunteers are assigned to a specific local nursing home or assisted-living facility in the City of Alexandria and make weekly visits, meeting one-on-one with residents. The ombudsman will work with the residents, their families and facility staff to ensure that the residents' rights are being protected. Applicants must be available to volunteer four hours per week, primarily during regular business hours, and cannot be currently employed by a long-term care facility. Applicant interviews will be held this summer in preparation for the next annual training, scheduled for September. The initial training will address topics such as the Residents' Bill of Rights, communicating with people with physical or mental impairments, long-term care facility personnel and operation, and handling complaints; professional ombudsman staff will also provide periodic in-service training and support.

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is a public service, funded in part by the City of Alexandria's Area Agency on Aging. For more information, or to obtain an application, call 703.324.5422 (TTY 703.449.1186) or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/LTCOmbudsman.

PETS AROUND TOWN



Arnold, West End



Zoe & Molly, Arlandria



Leonides, visiting Eisenhower Valley



Estrella, Del Ray

Is your pet licensed? For the safety of our residents and our pets, all dogs and cats are required by City Code to be vaccinated against rabies and to be licensed in the City. Licenses are available at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave.

Got a picture of your pet you'd like to share? Send your photo, along with your pet's name and the name of your neighborhood to fyi@alexandriava.gov.

Events & Activities

JULY

Continuing through September 8

Living Legends of Alexandria Exhibition

The Lyceum
201 S. Washington St.
Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.;
Sunday, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

This new photography exhibition celebrates and documents individuals who have made remarkable contributions to the quality of life in Alexandria.

Admission: Free
www.alexandriahistory.org or 703.838.4994

Continuing through December 31

Drawings by William Lydston, Jr. Exhibition

Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site
4301 W. Braddock Rd.
Tuesday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday, Noon – 5 p.m.

Original Civil War drawings by soldier, artist and musician William Lydston, Jr. Fort Ward pairs drawings from Lydston's wartime experiences with musical instruments and related objects from the Museum's collection.

Admission: Free
www.fortward.org or 703.838.4848

Fridays through August 29

Lantern Tours

Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal St.
7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Tour the historic tavern and City Hotel by candlelight with a costumed guide. See how guests experienced the site before the advent of electricity.

Admission: \$5
www.gadsbystavern.org or 703.838.4242

Sunday Afternoons

Historic Alexandria ALIVE!

Waterfront by the Torpedo Factory
Noon to 5 p.m.

On Sunday afternoons, Alexandria's past comes to life with Historic Alexandria ALIVE! See historical performers and costumed interpreters along the waterfront.

Admission: Free
Call 703.838.5445

Thursday, July 10

Second Thursday Art Night: Alive with History

Torpedo Factory Art Center
105 N. Union Street
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Admission: Free

Browse open studios, and interact with the artists, and enjoy refreshments.

www.torpedofactory.org or 703.838.4565

Saturday, July 12

USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration

Oronoco Bay Park
7 N. Lee St.
Raindate: July 13 (fireworks show only)
6 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Come celebrate the 232nd birthday of the USA and the 259th birthday of Alexandria. The event features the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and a Grand Final Fireworks Display at 9:30 p.m.

Admission: Free
703.883.4686

Friday & Saturday, July 18-19

Comcast Outdoor Film Festival

Ben Brenman Park
4800 Brenman Park Drive
8:30 p.m.

Come enjoy cinema under the stars! Proceeds from food sales at the Festival will go to a nonprofit organization in Alexandria that provides education programs and services to economically disadvantaged children. Bring a blanket to sit on while watching the movie.

Admission: Free
703.838.4844

Friday, July 18

Alexandria Citizen's Band

Market Square, 301 King Street
7:30 p.m.

Come hear the City's Oldest Performing Arts Organization play band favorites.

Admission: Free
703.883.4686

July 21 through July 25 & July 28 through August 1

Archaeology Camp for Kids

Alexandria Archaeology Museum
105 N. Union Street, #327
Inside the Torpedo Factory Art Center

Alexandria Archaeology is hosting two archaeology camp sessions for kids this summer. Campers will learn professional excavating, recording, and artifact-processing methods as they assist archaeologists excavating a site at Shuter's Hill. Camp is open to children ages 12 -15.

Fee: \$350 per one-week session
Advance registration required
alexandriarchaeology.org or 703.838.4399

Thursdays, July 24 – August 7

Jane Austen Ball Dance Classes

Gadsby's Tavern Museum
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
134 N. Royal Street

In preparation for the Jane Austen Ball on August 9, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors.

Cost: \$12 per class or \$30 for the series
Reservations are recommended.
www.gadsbystavern.org or 703.838.4242

Saturday, July 26

African Heritage and Culture Festival

Market Square in front of City Hall
301 King Street
1 p.m.-7 p.m.

Celebrate the enduring legacy of African culture, music, food, and entertainment.

alexandriava.gov or 703.883.4686

AUGUST

Saturday, August 2

Irish Festival

Waterfront Park
1A Prince Street
12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Slainte! (Cheers!) This festival features the best of Irish arts and crafts, Irish American food, and entertainment celebrating Irish culture.

Admission: Free
703.838.4844 or 703.838.4686

Saturday, August 2

Friendship Firehouse Festival

107 South Alfred Street
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The Friendship Firehouse Festival celebrates the 234th anniversary of the Friendship Fire Company, founded in 1774. Enjoy birthday cake, craft and food vendors, and a special display of antique and modern firefighting equipment.

Admission: Free
703.838.3891

Saturday, August 9

Jane Austen Ball

Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal Street
8 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Step back to the time of Jane Austen at this late 1790s era ball. The evening will feature a variety of English Country dances in the historic ballroom, live music, and "iced refreshments." Period costume optional, "after-five" attire encouraged.

Admission: \$45 in advance, \$50 at the door.
Reservations are required.
www.gadsbystavern.org or 703.838.4242

Thursday, August 14

Second Thursday Art Night: Sultry Summer Nights

Torpedo Factory Art Center
105 N. Union Street
6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Browse open studios, interact with the artists, and enjoy refreshments.

Admission: Free
www.torpedofactory.org or 703.838.4565

Saturday, August 16

Family Dig Day

Grounds of the George Washington Masonic Memorial
101 Callahan Drive
1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Help City archaeologists and trained volunteers screen excavated soil for artifacts from a real "dig" located on the grounds of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

Admission: \$5 per person. Reservations required.
alexandriarchaeology.org; for reservations call 703.838.4399 or email archaeology@alexandriava.gov

Saturday, August 23

Alexandria 1814 - A City Occupied

Carlyle House Historic Park
121 N. Fairfax Street
10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

See a reenactment of the occupation of The City during the War of 1812, early 19th-century weapon demonstrations, civilian demonstrations, and enjoy a historic house tour.

www.carlylehouse.org or 703.549.2997

Sunday, August 24

Cambodian Community Day Festival

Ben Brenman Park
4800 Brenman Park Drive
Noon – 6:00 p.m.

The festival will feature Cambodian cultural dance troops, a variety of instrumentalists, performing arts groups, and the opportunity to enjoy Cambodian food.

Admission: Free
703.838.4844 or 703.883.4686

August 25 – September 21

Before and After

Scope Gallery, Studio 19
Torpedo Factory Art Center
105 N. Union Street

The Kiln Club shows the process of pottery making, from raw clay to finished pieces using different firing techniques.

Admission: Free
www.torpedofactory.org or 703.838.4565

SEPTEMBER

Thursday, September 4

First Thursdays – Cuisine on the Avenue

Mt. Vernon Avenue
from Bellefonte to Hume Avenues
6 p.m.- 9 p.m.

The Del Ray Business Association sponsors an evening of shopping, food, and fun along Mount Vernon Avenue.

For additional information call Carol Bailey at 703.683.3560.

Monday, September 8

Supper Under the Stars

King Street Gardens Park
5:30 p.m.

The Old Town Professional Business Association and the King Street Gardens Park Foundation sponsors a special evening in the park.

Admission Fee
703.838.4565, ext. 2.

Tuesday, September 9

Citizenship Ceremony

Market Square, 301 King St.

Several residents will take the oath of citizenship and be sworn in as U.S. citizens at this annual ceremony.

Admission: Free
703.838.0709

Saturday & Sunday, September 13-14

Alexandria Festival of the Arts

Old Town from Washington Street to the Unit block of King Street
10 a.m. – 7 p.m. (Saturday)
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Sunday)

More than 200 juried artists display and sell fine art, ranging from paintings, sculpture, prints and photography to pottery, glass, jewelry and ceramics.

Admission: Free
703.838.6348

Friday through Sunday, September 19-21

Cameron Station 10-Year Anniversary

Ben Brenman Park
4800 Brenman Park Drive

Celebrate one of the City's vibrant, growing neighborhoods, located in the West End.

For event information, call Sonia Agosto at 703.751.6455.

Thursday through Saturday, September 25-27

2nd Annual Alexandria Film Festival

Kick-off Event at Market Square,
301 King St., September 25
Lee Center's Kauffman Auditorium,
1108 Jefferson St., September 26-28

This year's Film Festival theme is "Politics in the USA," featuring short films, features, and documentaries. The festival will also include a youth program component featuring junior filmmakers.

alexandriacommissionforthearts.org or 703.838.6348

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA SUMMER CONCERTS

Celebrate summer in the City with free concerts coordinated by the City's Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities Special Events Office. Concerts are cancelled in the event of inclement weather and subject to change without notice. For up-to-date information, call the Special Events Hotline at 703.883.4686.

Market Square Concerts 7:30 p.m. - Market Square, 301 King St.

July 18; August 1 & 8
Alexandria Citizens Band - "City's Oldest Performing Arts Organization"

August 22
Alexandria Harmonizers

Music at Twilight Concerts 7:30 p.m. - Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Rd.

July 17
Hand Painted Swinger (Pop & Rock)

July 24
Alexandria Harmonizers (Barbershop Choral)

July 31
Seth Kibel and Bay Jazz Project (Jazz)

August 7
Dagmar & the Seductones (Roots & Rock)

August 14
All Scottish Night (Traditional Scottish) *

August 21
Little Theatre of Alexandria Presents "1776" (Theatrical Performance) *

* Note: Performances begin at 7 pm

Ben Brenman Park Concerts 7 p.m. - 4800 Brenman Park Dr.

July 16
Boys Night Out (Folk & Bluegrass)

July 30
Blue Book Value (Rockin' Rhythm & Swing Blues)

Canal Center Plaza Concerts Canal Center Plaza, 44 Canal Center Plaza at noon

July 9
dont panic (Rock)

July 23
Cletus Kennelly and Lori Kelley (Folk/Pop)

August 6
Steven Gellman (Folk)

Please note that event times, dates, and locations are subject to change. Please contact the event sponsor to confirm details. For updated and expanded information on events in Alexandria, visit alexandriava.gov, www.visitalexandriava.com, or tune in to Cable Channel 70.