

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & EVENTS

Housing

Samuel Madden Homes. Since June 1993, the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) Board of Commissioners has considered various proposals for the redevelopment or rehabilitation of 166 units of aging public housing known as Samuel Madden Homes. Built in 1945, Samuel Madden includes 100 rowhouse units at the north Old Town site and 66 units at the Route 1 site. In 1995, ARHA contracted with EDAW, Inc., to initiate a redevelopment feasibility study. With the EDAW study indicating that market conditions would not support redevelopment of the Route 1 site, the ARHA Board focused on the future of the north Old Town site. The ARHA Board held a series of public hearings and in March voted to proceed with a mixed density redevelopment of the north Old Town site. An 11-member work group that includes Mayor Donley, Councilman Euille, the City Manager and Deputy City Manager, a Samuel Madden resident, a developer, a City resident, two ARHA commissioners and the ARHA Executive Director and the program administrator was formed to discuss implementing the redevelopment option. The EDAW study projects a shortfall of approximately \$5 million to redevelop the four-acre site in north Old Town. ARHA has indicated that redevelopment of the site will require financial assistance from the City and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Before the project can begin, a comprehensive plan must first be approved by the ARHA Board, City Council, and HUD. City Council Resolution 830 binds the City and ARHA to replace all 100 units. The ARHA Board voted to incorporate the majority of the 100 replacement units in the redevelopment project and locate the remaining units throughout the City.

Housing Trust Fund. The City's Affordable Housing Policy, adopted by City Council in January 1993, encourages developers of new residential and commercial development to contribute 50 cents per gross square foot to the City's Housing Trust Fund, or to provide on-site affordable housing. As of May 31, the Housing Trust Fund contained \$7.5 million in pledges, with \$4.2 million on deposit. Additionally, developers of residential and mixed-use developments have pledged a total of 111 on-site affordable housing units, including 32 units pledged in FY 1996. Of this total, 36 units have been provided. Contributions to the Housing Trust Fund have been used to promote homeownership and to support homeless transitional housing and shelter programs.

Homeownership Fair. The City's Second Annual Homeownership Fair in

April drew an estimated 500 persons representing 324 households. Co-sponsored by NationsBank, Riggs Bank, and William D. Euille & Associates, the fair also attracted real estate and mortgage lending companies, non-profit organizations, an insurance agency, and school and government agencies.