

## **NUISANCE CRIMES AND QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES**

The Police Department increased its efforts to address nuisance crimes, such as public drinking and drunkenness, prostitution, vandalism and disorderly conduct that affect the quality of life in the community. The Department targets areas of the City affected by nuisance activity using its community policing, street crimes, patrol and vice narcotics officers to ensure that there is a coordinated police effort to eliminate nuisance crimes. Last year, the City staff's Code Compliance/Nuisance Abatement Task Force, which addresses property maintenance, zoning and other related code enforcement issues, focused on improving property conditions in City neighborhoods.

Last spring, the City Manager's Anti-Drug Committee, an interagency group established in 1987 to address neighborhood drug and nuisance issues, was renamed the Alexandria Quality of Life Committee. It serves as the coordinating body and forum for interagency discussion on issues relating to nuisance abatement, traffic and neighborhood improvement, and controls and monitors the City's effort to work more closely with its neighborhood residents and businesses.



## **SPOT BLIGHT**

Last October, City Council adopted an ordinance establishing a Spot Blight Abatement Program, which enables the City to eliminate or repair seriously deteriorated property when property owners are not responsive to City efforts to address code violations, and to pass the City's cost on to the property owner.

## **VACANT STRUCTURES**

The Code Enforcement Bureau has established a Vacant Structures Registration Program, which requires that properties vacant for more than a year register with the City. City inspectors locate property owners, obtain registration information, require the submission of a rodent abatement program for the property, and inspect it to ensure that it is secured and is not a hazard to the community.

## **ASSISTANCE FOR HOMEOWNERS**

Last year, City Council expanded the Home Rehabilitation Loan Program making it available to income-eligible households City-wide, instead of only to those residing in specific target areas.

### *Did You Know?*

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT FOXCHASE**

Led by Mayor Kerry Donley, in November, the City successfully brokered negotiations between Apartment Investment Management Co. (AIMCO) and the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, so that 423 rental units at the 2,113-unit Foxchase of Alexandria apartment complex will continue to receive federal subsidies for another five years and will be available to low income tenants at reduced rents. Initially, AIMCO had planned to stop participating in the subsidized rent program.



\* The burial ground of the family of John West, Jr., a founder of Alexandria who laid out the original town, was discovered this summer in an archaeological excavation off Mill Road in the Eisenhower Valley.

\* The City has more than 200 restored 18th century homes and buildings still standing and in use.

## **WOODROW WILSON BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION**

In June, City Council created a seven-member task force to monitor the impacts of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge replacement project construction on adjacent neighborhoods. The task force, which will include two members of City Council and representatives of neighborhoods impacted by project construction, will work to mitigate any excessive or unreasonable impacts.

In March, City Council amended the City's noise ordinance to address the very substantial noise pollution created by pile driving, including the pile driving to be undertaken in Jones Point Park as part of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge replacement project. The amendment prohibits pile driving before 9 a.m. and after 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, before 9 a.m. and after 3 p.m. on Saturday and all day on Sunday.

## **PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In April, City Council established a Carlyle/Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) Task Force to work with the owner of the Carlyle site, PTO and the developer of this project on the impacts of the PTO project on the Carlyle neighborhood. The task force, which includes two members of Council and representatives of Carlyle and surrounding neighborhoods, will address the design of the PTO buildings, the mix of retail uses in Carlyle, public use of the PTO parking garages, public use of PTO facilities, pedestrian access across Duke Street, and the movement of traffic on streets internal and adjacent to Carlyle.

City officials also are working with citizen groups and residents adjacent to the Carlyle development to develop a traffic-calming pilot program which will address the adverse affects of traffic generated by the PTO project. The program will look at the feasibility of using physical features such as raised speed tables, narrowed lane widths and highlighted pedestrian crosswalks on roadways to control neighborhood cut-through traffic on

residential streets, and reduce vehicle speeds within neighborhoods. Program design is underway in Rosemont, and implementation should begin in late spring of 2001.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING**

To sustain the quality of life in City neighborhoods, the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services initiated a review of City policies, regulations and procedures in an effort to keep traffic traveling through the City on major roadways and to reduce neighborhood cut-through traffic.

## **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

Last November, City Council, the Alexandria City School Board and the Call to Community Steering Committee sponsored a Student Forum on Race and Culture, with more than 200 local public and private school students participating in a part of a series of programs designed to foster better understanding and communication across racial and cultural lines.

### *Did You Know?*

\* Alexandria has 97 parks and more than 900 acres of park land. Four Mile Run Park is the largest City-owned park consisting of 55.9 acres.