

## CRIME PREVENTION

Alexandria is safer today than it has been in over 33 years. Serious crime in the City, which includes all reported homicides, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies and auto thefts, dropped to a 33-year low, decreasing 6.2% in 1999. This follows 1998's drop of 8.2%, 1997's drop of 7.6% and 1996's drop of 3.7%.

Violent crimes (homicides, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults) declined 20.7% in CY 1999, falling to the lowest point in 38 years. Burglaries declined by 29.6%, the lowest point in 35 years. Robberies declined by 21.8%, the lowest point in 32 years.

## COMMUNITY POLICING

1999 represented the 8th year of the Police Department's community policing program, a partnership between police and citizens to improve the community's quality of life by identifying needs and directing resources to address them. In 1999, the areas of the City in which Community Policing officers are assigned experienced a decline of 11% in serious crimes and 6.4% in nuisance crimes.



## RESIDENTIAL OFFICER PROGRAM

An essential part of Alexandria's community policing program is its Residential Police Officer (RPO) program, in which six RPOs live in the Samuel Madden, Andrew Adkins, James Bland, Arlandria, Hampton Court and South Whiting Street communities, and handle calls for service, assist investigators on major criminal cases and develop specialized programs and solutions to address the needs of residents.

## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

In 1999, the third year of the Police Department's School Resource Officer program, each of the City's middle and high schools was served by a full-time police officer, who promoted open communication and conflict resolution to prevent violence and provide aid to at-risk students.

## FIRE PROTECTION

The Fire Department's emphasis on fire prevention education,

*Did You Know?*

the use of smoke detectors and the installation of sprinklers have kept the number of deaths and property loss from fires low with two fire fatalities in FY 2000, compared with none in FY 1999, one in FY 1998, and none in FY 1997. Injuries resulting from fires numbered 24 in FY 2000, compared with 19 in FY 1999. The value of property lost to fire was \$1.69 million in FY 2000, a decrease of 37.4% from the value of lost property in FY 1999.

\* The City's Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department offers free CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) classes to all interested citizens. Register by calling 703-838-4620.

## **EMERGENCY CALLS**

In FY 2000, the Fire Department responded to about 31 emergency calls a day, receiving a total of 11,442 such calls, a slight increase over the 11,210 calls in FY 1999. Average response time in FY 2000 was 4.4 minutes, compared to 4.8 minutes in FY 1999.