

BURKE LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

In late January, with the opening of the new Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, the Burke Branch Library on Seminary Road was closed. This spring, City Council approved funding to re-open Burke with shared use between the Library and the Alexandria City Public Schools.



CAMERON STATION PARKS

This year two new parks were constructed at Cameron Station. The 50.4-acre Ben Brenman Park was dedicated in June, and the 11.6-acre Armistead L. Boothe Park will be dedicated in the fall. Ben Brenman Park includes soccer, softball and baseball fields, a fenced dog park, trails, picnic areas, restrooms and a concession stand. A multi-use trail along Backlick Run will connect Brenman and Boothe Parks. Armistead L. Boothe Park will include a combined lighted softball field and a youth soccer field, tennis courts and playgrounds for young children.

RAMSAY RECREATION CENTER

Construction of the expanded William Ramsay Recreation Center will be completed this fall. This center, adjacent to the William Ramsay Elementary School on Sanger Avenue, will have a computer lab, gymnasium, dance studio, visual arts room and game room, serving all age levels with many programs for senior citizens.

ATHLETIC FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

Turf improvements have been made to the City's athletic fields during the past few years, with 15 of 27 major athletic fields receiving new and upgraded irrigation systems and improved drainage systems. The City's multi-year program to upgrade all of Alexandria's athletic fields calls for three more fields to be renovated in the fall. Two new athletic fields at Potomac Yard are scheduled for use in the spring of 2001.

DOG EXERCISE AREAS

In June, the Park and Recreation Commission forwarded a master plan for dog exercise areas and fenced dog parks to City Council. The plan, which was developed with extensive

Did You Know?

* As part of the City's recycling efforts, the City will pick up white goods, such as discarded stoves, washers, dryers, dishwashers, hot water heaters and refrigerators at no cost. (Call the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at (703) 751-5130 to arrange for curb-side pick up.)

* A bilingual, interactive, web-based catalog and other resources are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through the Alexandria Library's web site at www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

citizen input, identifies City parks which contain areas where dogs can run and exercise off-leash, and proposes rules for the areas. The plan will be considered by Council in the fall.

BEFORE-AND-AFTER SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YOUTH

In May, the City awarded a contract to Creative Play School, to develop and implement TuckerPLUS, a pilot before-and-after school care program with enhanced activities that support the Virginia Standards of Learning, at the new Tucker Elementary School in Cameron Station. If successful, the program will serve as a future model for possible use elsewhere in the City.

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION

Last spring, the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Reducing Teen Pregnancy and the Interagency Consortium on Adolescent Pregnancy launched a media campaign, including a cable television commercial and a public service message at the Potomac Yard Hoyt's theaters, to emphasize the adverse effects of teen pregnancy. The Youth Council, a part of the City's Youth Policy Commission, co-sponsored a teen pregnancy prevention forum, "Let's Talk About Sex, Baby," which 120 youth attended.

CHILD IMMUNIZATION

As a result of the three year Health Department partnership with community-based organizations, Stop Child Abuse Now and Inova Alexandria Hospital, Alexandria's child immunization rate has increased from 53.3 percent in FY 1996 to 74 percent in FY 2000.

ARLANDIA HEALTH CENTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The Arlandria Health Center for Women and Children provided primary care and other health services to more than 1,832 women and children in the Arlandria community, an area comprised primarily of Latino citizens.

HIV PREVENTION INITIATIVE

The Health Department and Hoyt's Cinemas are sponsoring a 16-week advertising campaign promoting HIV testing that includes a public service message shown at the Potomac Yard Hoyt's theaters. Alexandria's Health Department is the first in Virginia to use this approach to promote HIV testing.

SUPERVISED HOUSING FOR PERSONS WITH SPECIAL



The new 50,000 square foot Charles E. Beatley, Jr., Central Library, designed by noted architect Michael Graves, opened in January, with over 181,000 volumes. It provides a children's reading area, periodical and public meeting rooms, and a braille library, and offers 40 computer terminals that provide access to the library's catalog, the Internet and information resources. In June, City officials dedicated the reading garden at the Beatley Library, a generous gift from the Frank and Betty Wright Foundation. The garden will be used for quiet reading and for public programs.

NEEDS

This year, the Alexandria Community Services Board and Sheltered Homes of Alexandria purchased seven condominium units with federal housing funds to enable Alexandrians with mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse problems to live independently as productive citizens in the community.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS

In June, City Council approved \$500,000 for a transitional housing and services program for an additional 20 formerly homeless persons and persons in danger of becoming homeless.

WELFARE TO WORK

The City's welfare caseload continued to decline, with the average caseload down from 851 cases in FY 1999 to 650 cases in FY 2000. This past year, the average starting hourly wage for Alexandria welfare recipients placed in jobs by the City's JobLink program increased from \$6.82 to \$8.30, the highest average wage at job placement of any Northern Virginia jurisdiction.



Mayor Kerry J. Donley and commission chair Barbara Gilley celebrated with honorees at the Commission for Persons With Disabilities annual awards reception in June.



Vola Lawson, who retired on March 1 after 15 years as City Manager and almost 29 years as a City employee, was honored by the Mayor and City Council at a community reception last spring in recognition of her distinguished service.