

Welcome to the City's 2001 Annual Report to the community. Prepared by the City Manager and his staff, this report provides information on important City activities over the past year and issues which will confront us in the future.

The tragic events of September 11 have had profound effects on Alexandria. Our community lost members as a result of the attack on the Pentagon. Our fire, emergency rescue, and police personnel served admirably at the Pentagon, and we shared the pain experienced by Americans throughout the nation. As a result of these events in the months ahead, we will work to better equip and train members of our police and fire departments who are the first to respond to any emergency in the City, to enhance the security in our public facilities, and to improve our emergency preparedness system. In addition, we will make substantial efforts to secure the return of tourists to the City and to strengthen our hotels, restaurants and other retailers that have experienced serious business declines since September 11.

In June, our triple-A ratings were reaffirmed by the New York bond rating agencies. These bond ratings allowed us to issue bonds at low interest rates to cover a number of capital projects. We are expanding our middle schools - Francis C. Hammond and George Washington - to accommodate growing student enrollments and to provide a top-rate education for our youngsters. We also are upgrading our sanitary sewers, are nearing completion of the new Vola Lawson Animal Shelter on Eisenhower Avenue, and will be seeking a site for a new Health Department facility in the West End.

The City is developing a City-wide transportation program focused on moving commuter traffic through the City on our main roadways and off our residential streets. Our traffic calming program will reduce the amount and the speed of traffic in our residential neighborhoods. With the help of a citizen task force, we are working to minimize the impacts of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project on City residents.

Last year the Alexandria Youth Policy Commission, which I chair, conducted a survey of our youngsters to assess their "developmental assets" - the characteristics which young people need to grow into productive, caring adults. Alexandria's young people scored higher than the national average on this survey, but work remains to be done to serve our youth. The Youth Policy Commission and the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy will expand our focus on young people in the coming year in order to enhance services to this age group.



I hope you find the Annual Report informative and



useful. Our community is stronger when we take time to get to know our neighbors and the issues which affect all of us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerry J. Donley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kerry J. Donley