

EMPLOYMENT

JobLink offers employment counseling, job training, and adaptive equipment for the physically challenged. Working with older workers, residents with disabilities, refugees, food stamp recipients, youth, and low-income residents, JobLink staff found jobs for 668 persons in CY 2000. The Alexandria Works! teams matched 190 Alexandrians on welfare with training and jobs while providing them with social services.



WORKING POOR STUDY

Last June, the Alexandria Economic Opportunities Commission and the United Way released the results of an 18-month study, "Living Paycheck to Paycheck - A Look at Alexandria's Working Poor." The study found that 82% of the working poor households surveyed had an income of less than \$25,000, although 75% were working full-time.

Did You Know?

* The number of active library card holders exceeded 100,000 - more than 80% of Alexandria's population.



NEW HEAD START PROGRAM

Last fall, at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School, two new Head Start classrooms opened with before, during and after school programs serving 34 low-income children and their families, many of whom are recent immigrants from Pakistan, Africa, India and Middle Eastern countries.

MULTICULTURAL SERVICES INITIATIVE

In September 2000, the City launched a Multicultural Services Initiative to ensure that Alexandria's culturally diverse residents have access to City services and resources and become active participants in government.

ENGLISH-AS-A-SECOND LANGUAGE

Last year, more than 2,000 people received ESL instruction, through day and evening classes at five locations - T.C. Williams High School, Francis Hammond Middle School, the Stonewall Jackson Building, William Ramsay Recreation

* Police patrol cars are equipped with touch screen computers that allow officers fast access to information, including dispatching calls, checking for stolen cars or wanted criminals, reviewing photographs of wanted or missing people and assisting other officers on calls. www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

Center and the Mount Vernon Recreation Center.

RECREATION CENTER RENOVATIONS

In November 2000, the renovated and expanded William Ramsay Recreation Center reopened featuring a full-size gymnasium, computer lab, game/arts and crafts room, dance studio, multi-purpose room, music and fitness room, and an adjacent athletic field and playground. The renovation of the Durant Recreation Center, which will house the therapeutic recreation program, will begin this winter.



YOUTH NIGHTS

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities sponsored a series of Saturday night events at the Chinquapin Recreation Center for City youth in grades 6-8 and 9-12 starting in January. Over 1,000 students attended the Youth Night activities. A year-end party for 150 youth in grades 9-12 was held at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center.

CHILD CARE FEE SYSTEM

In FY 2001, the number of families on the Child Day Care Fee System waiting list was reduced from 1,300 to 400 due to an additional \$1.4 million in state funding. In the FY 2002 budget, City Council set aside an additional \$1,000,000 for the Fee System to eliminate the waiting list and allow families to be served as they apply.



Kiddy Corner - Children can play and read in the library's new "Kiddy Corner," which was donated by the Friends of the Duncan Branch.

BLACK HISTORY RESOURCE CENTER

Plans were finalized for the Alexandria Black History Resource Center's new, permanent exhibition, *Securing the Blessings of Liberty*, which is set to open in 2003. The exhibit, which is the first comprehensive study of slavery and its effects in Alexandria, spotlights the struggle for freedom, the City's role as a slave market, the Civil War era, Jim Crow segregation and desegregation, and the continued seeking of full liberties by African Americans today.

TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED

In January, City Council increased the real estate tax exemption from \$1,900 to \$2,358 for qualified elderly and disabled residents, an amount equal to the City's average residential property tax.

TEEN PREGNANCY

Did You Know?

Using \$100,000 in funding provided by City Council, the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP) began an aggressive advertising and media campaign to promote public awareness about teen pregnancy prevention.

BREAST CANCER WALK

In October, with over 1,000 people participating, the annual Walk to Fight Breast Cancer at Cameron Run Regional Park raised funds to pay for mammograms for uninsured or under insured Alexandria women. Since its inception in 1995, the Walk has funded more than 1,000 such diagnostic procedures.

CAMERON STATION PARKS

At Cameron Station, the 50.4-acre Ben Brenman Park opened in early summer 2001, and the 11.6-acre Armistead L. Boothe Park was dedicated in September 2001. The two new Cameron Station parks will be connected by a multi-use trail along Backlick Run.



Human Services lobby - A new lobby opened at the City Human Services building on Mount Vernon Avenue in June 2001.

* The Barrett Library Branch was the site of a plaque dedication commemorating the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the City's Human Rights Ordinance and what is believed to be the first civil rights sit-in in the country in 1939, when six African American citizens attempted to use the then segregated library.



* Gadsby's Tavern Museum has been re-accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM), one of the highest honors awarded to a museum. Of approximately 8,000 museums nationwide, about 750 are accredited, including the City's Fort Ward, The Lyceum, and Carlyle House Historic Park. www.alexandria.lib.va.us.