

FYI ALEXANDRIA

IN THIS EDITION

Alexandria's Official Resident Newsletter

FALL 2008



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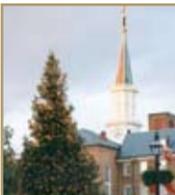
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City Faces Major Budget Challenges in Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010

The City of Alexandria is not isolated from the unprecedented economic conditions facing the nation and our region. Like many of our neighboring jurisdictions, Alexandria faces financial difficulties due to the current national economic crisis, the downturn in the housing market, and cuts in state aid. While the City closed out Fiscal Year 2008 with a slight surplus, these outside economic forces present challenges for the City's budget in Fiscal Year 2009 and beyond.

Projections for the current Fiscal Year 2009 budget indicate that the City is facing a potential \$8 million shortfall, primarily due to the decline in the regional housing market, which means that real estate tax revenues will be lower than previously estimated. Due to the extreme volatility of the economic times, this projection could change. Consequently, City Manager James K. Hartmann made immediate budget reductions in all City departments, and City departments developed budget reductions to meet new, lower spending targets. The adjustments will result in a total reduction of about 1.5% of the City's \$542 million General Fund budget for the current fiscal year.

The City also plans to slow down previously planned capital spending to help close projected budget gaps. City Council plans to seek input at a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2010 operating budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) on October 30; the following week, on November 6, the City will host a CIP Community Meeting to inform the public about proposed CIP projects, and to allow residents to tell the City their top capital budget priorities. Budget adjustments and departmental reduction plans were presented to Council at its annual retreat on October 25.

While the City is taking immediate measures to manage this shortfall, Alexandria's overall long-term financial picture is strong. In July, the bond rating agencies reaffirmed the City's top AAA/Aaa ratings. The City Council adopted a conservative Fiscal Year 2009 budget, which should limit its exposure to the economy's downturn. The City expects that the current financial situation will extend beyond Fiscal Year 2009 into Fiscal Year 2010. The City Manager, City staff, and City Council are working together to address these budget challenges and are committed to keeping residents informed. For more information on the City's budget, visit alexandriava.gov/budget.

Capital Improvement Program Community Meeting

The City invites Alexandrians to participate in a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Community Meeting on Thursday, November 6, at 6 p.m. The meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the City's CIP, and will help them to inform City Council about community priorities.

The evening's activities include a Capital Project Fair and small group meetings to express opinions and to gather public comment, followed by a voting session where residents can provide their input on CIP priorities and funding. Participants can register at the meeting, or register in advance by calling 703.838.4780.

Thursday, November 6, 6:00 p.m.
Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St.
Exhibit Hall
alexandriava.gov/budget

City Seeks 2008 Holiday Tree

The City is seeking the donation of a Colorado Blue Spruce, Leyland Cypress, or other well-formed 25- to 35-foot evergreen tree. The City will remove the tree from the donor's property in mid-November and grind the stump at no cost. The Holiday Tree will be decorated and displayed throughout the holiday season. It will be lighted during the City's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, November 28, at 7 p.m., in Market Square.

Interested donors in the Washington metropolitan area should contact John Noelle, City Arborist, at 703.838.4999 or john.noelle@alexandriava.gov.

Election Day is Coming! Are You Ready?

November 4 Presidential Election, Polls Open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Based on rising numbers of new voter registrations, and record participation in the presidential primaries, election officials expect turnout on Tuesday, November 4 to be of historic proportions. The standing record of 61,000 voters in 2004 will be eclipsed by as many as 10,000. Alexandria election officials and city departments (including police, transportation, schools and recreation) will be prepared. However, lines of voters will still be long, especially during morning and evening rush hours. Here is what you can do to make Election Day easier.

Confirm your polling place.

Some polling places have changed since 2004. Virginia election law requires voters to vote in their home

precincts, so confirm your voting location.

You can do this by checking your voter card, which lists your polling place and address (You do not need to show your card to vote, although using some form of government identification will save you time). You can also visit www.alexandriavoter.org and click on "Am I Registered and Where do I Vote?" or call the Alexandria Office of Voter Registration and Elections at 703.838.4050.



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CITY OF ALEXANDRIA | CITY HALL, 301 KING ST. | ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

WWW.ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV

FYI Alexandria is an official publication of the City of Alexandria and is produced by the City's Office of Communications. For more information, call 703.838.6333, ext.336 or e-mail fyi@alexandriava.gov.

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Your Alexandria Mayor & City Council

(pictured from left to right)

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Messages for City Council may be left at 703.838.4550. City Council Meetings are shown on Cable Channel 70; for listings, visit alexandriava.gov/cable. Dockets, videos, and podcasts of the meetings are also available at alexandriava.gov/council.

"Alexandria is a vibrant, diverse, historic, and beautiful city with unique neighborhoods and multiple urban villages where we take pride in our great community."

— Alexandria Vision 2015, the City's Strategic Plan



Mayor's Corner

This fall, I have a challenge for you. I'd like to ask you to consider giving your time and talent to some of the City's youngest residents—and help give them the jumpstart they need to achieve academically—by volunteering for the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium.

Last year, parents of 264 children in Alexandria reported that their kids had not participated in a preschool experience before entering kindergarten. If this year is like last year, this means there will be many first and second graders in Alexandria City Public Schools who will need extra help from teachers—and volunteer tutoring support from the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium (ATC)—to help them read at or above grade level.

ATC supports the Schools Primary Initiative to ensure students can read at or above grade level by the end of second grade. To achieve that goal, ATC conducts one-on-one tutoring sessions at 10 Alexandria public schools. Most of the students that receive tutoring do not read at grade level at the beginning of the school year, but tutoring results in about 80% reading at or above grade level at the end of the school year.

In June, City Council approved \$300,000 for the City's early care and education programs. This funding will help ensure that all families in need have access to childcare, and that all preschool children can receive a quality early education that adequately prepares them for kindergarten.

Please join us in this important partnership. Volunteer for the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium and join City employees, community groups, and your friends and neighbors in ensuring that every child in Alexandria has an equal opportunity to achieve and succeed.

Are you willing to take the challenge?

For additional information about the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium, and to submit an application to tutor, please call 703.549.6670 ext. 119, or visit www.alexandriatutors.org.

November Council Meeting Rescheduled for November 19

The first Alexandria City Council Legislative Meeting in November, has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, at 7:00 p.m., to avoid a conflict with the Veterans Day Holiday on Tuesday, November 11. City Council meetings are held in Alexandria City Hall Council Chamber, 301 King Street. For more information, call 703.838.4550 or visit the City's Web site at alexandriava.gov/council.

City Launches Improved Web Site

The City's Office of Communications has recently upgraded the City's Web site, alexandriava.gov, with a new look, feel, and features, in an attempt to provide information to residents, visitors and businesses in a more user-friendly manner.

Some of the new upgrades include:

- Improved navigation
- Specialized information tabs for residents, visitors, and businesses
- A new "Special Features" section dedicated to "hot topics" in the City
- RSS feeds for all City departments and agencies
- An improved "How Do I?" section reflecting popular search topics
- A "News & Media" section that includes news releases, eNews alerts, and the City's ever-growing selection of audio and video programming



The Alexandria Fire Department paid tribute to the heroes of September 11 during a remembrance ceremony held in Market Square. This year's ceremony, which featured tributes to first responders, included honor guards and personnel from the Police Department, Fire Department, and Sheriff's Office.

NEW TO THE CITY?

Just Moved to Alexandria?

Here's a list of useful Web sites and telephone numbers:

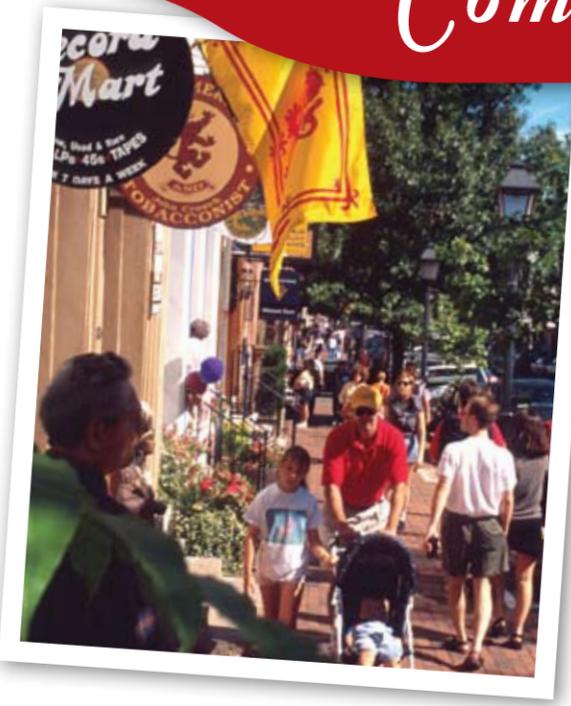
- Automobile Registration: alexandriava.gov/finance or 703.838.4560
- Citizen Assistance: 703.838.4800
- Alexandria City Public Schools: www.acps.k12.va.us or 703.824.6600
- Trash Pick-Up and Recycling (Department of Transportation & Environmental Services): alexandriava.gov/tes or 703.519.3486
- Voter Registration: www.alexandriavoter.org or 703.838.4050

A complete listing of services in Alexandria can be found in the *Know Your City* guide available at the Citizen Assistance Office in City Hall and the City's Web site at alexandriava.gov.

Want to learn more about how the City can help residents? Listen to an interview with Citizen Assistance Director Rose Boyd at alexandriava.gov/podcasts.

City Launches Study of King Street Commercial Corridor

From the Metro Station to the Potomac River, King Street is a historic and vibrant commercial corridor that offers an interesting and inviting mix of retail shops, restaurants and cultural activities serving local residents and visitors. Protecting the historic character of the City's "Main Street," while sustaining its economic vitality, requires vigilance in assessing and responding to evolving issues and opportunities. In 2005, the King Street Retail Strategy was approved with a number of governmental, economic and management strategy recommendations to respond to the decline in business activity that resulted after September 11, 2001, and to increasing competition from new retail and entertainment complexes in Shirlington, Clarendon, Ballston and Pentagon City.



Currently, there are great opportunities for business growth on King Street: the development of National Harbor and development activity along the Anacostia Waterfront; new transportation services, such as the City's free King Street trolley from the waterfront to the Metro Station and the water taxi to National Harbor; and the new, thriving hotel and restaurant operations on King Street. On the other hand, the loss of some longtime businesses also presents new challenges for economic development on King Street.

These trends have prompted the City to initiate a study to analyze business activity in the King Street corridor and develop recommendations on how to best respond to recent changes. Bob Gibbs, an expert in urban retail markets and traditional town planning, is currently working on the project. He previously worked in Charleston and other similar historic, mixed-use environments. Gibbs will present his findings and recommendations at a public forum this winter. For more information about the study, contact Valerie Peterson at the Department of Planning and Zoning at 703.838.4666.

Landmark/Van Dorn Area Plan Update

Alexandria's West End is ready for a new vision, according to a plan under development over the past year by a team that includes City staff; an Advisory Group comprising Alexandria residents, property owners and businesses; and professional planners, engineers and economists. The Advisory Group, established by City Council, has been meeting since December 2007 to 1) identify and evaluate issues, challenges, and opportunities for the future of the Landmark/Van Dorn area; 2) bring community values, knowledge, and ideas into the process of creating a plan that takes advantage of the opportunities to improve the area in ways that provide lasting benefit to the local community and the City; and 3) keep the public informed about the development of the plan.

The Landmark/Van Dorn Plan, formally introduced in September at public meetings with the Advisory Group, engages new ideas from Landmark Mall's core owners, General Growth Properties, who are proponents of its revitalization through a major reconstruction project. Over time, the mall could potentially be the center of more than five million square feet of new development, incorporating a regional retail center built in a pattern of urban blocks along with new office, residential, and hotel uses.

The draft Plan incorporates the City's Transportation Master Plan recommendation for a citywide system of dedicated transit lanes by proposing major lanes, which would include new transit routes on Duke Street and Van Dorn Street. It also calls for a major transit center at Landmark Mall, where the new transit system would interchange with local and regional buses and a shuttle to the Van Dorn Metro Station. Mixed-use development with office, residential and retail uses would be integrated into a more downtown-like environment with tree-lined streets and regular blocks with on-street parking at Landmark Mall and along the Van Dorn Street corridor to Pickett Street.

The draft Plan calls for an ambitious program of public amenities in the planning area, including new parks and plazas, a network of new, pedestrian-friendly streets in redeveloped areas, and the greening of Van Dorn Street and Duke Street with improved sidewalks, trees, and project landscaping.

Increasing connectivity within the newly developed area is a major goal of the plan. The Advisory Group has considered ways to improve pedestrian and vehicular access and circulation along Duke Street and Van Dorn Street. Suggested improvements include a multi-modal bridge linking the Van Dorn Street Metro to Pickett Street, and a bridge connecting the BJ's block to Landmark Mall.

It is proposed that these improvements be paid for through a combination of developer contributions and citywide investments in new transit, potentially supplemented by state and federal transit funding. A portion of the increased tax revenues that come from increased property values and retail sales could also be reinvested back into the planning area.

A complete draft Plan is expected to be released to the public this fall, with public hearings by the Planning Commission and City Council tentatively scheduled for December 2008. For further information, visit alexandriava.gov/landmarkvandorn or call Pat Mann in Planning and Zoning at 703.838.4666.

TRAFFIC & TRANSIT

'HAWK' Signal Helps City Take "Next Step" in Pedestrian Safety

Watch for a new traffic signal to be prominently displayed at the intersection of North Van Dorn Street and Maris Avenue, as the City of Alexandria takes another important step to address pedestrian safety. The signal, which uses state-of-the-art HAWK (High-intensity Activated crossWalk) traffic signal technology, is the first of its kind in the Washington metropolitan area.

The HAWK signal allows pedestrians to cross a high-traffic intersection safely and gain direct access to Metrobus and DASH bus stops by using traditional traffic and pedestrian signaling in a new and updated way. The HAWK signal is activated by a pedestrian push button. The overhead signal begins flashing yellow and then solid yellow, advising drivers to prepare to stop. The signal then appears in solid red and shows the pedestrian a "Walk" indication signal. Finally, an alternating flashing red signal indicates that motorists may proceed when safe, after coming to a full stop and pedestrians have cleared the crosswalk.

For more information about the HAWK pedestrian signal, visit alexandriava.gov/localmotion.

Motor Scooter & Moped Safety

An increasing number of drivers are using mopeds and motor scooters as an alternative mode of transportation. The Alexandria Police Department is educating residents about the rules of the road for these vehicles.

As of July 1, 2008, a new state law requires that any moped that can be driven more than 35 miles an hour be considered a motorcycle. A moped or motor scooter that has 50CC or more is also considered a motorcycle. A motorcycle designation for a moped or motor scooter means that the operator must have additional driver's certifications and a motorcycle license. The moped will also need license plates, proper registration, and insurance. If the moped cannot be driven more than 35 miles an hour, the operator does not need a license (but he or she must carry identification) and the vehicle does not need license plates or insurance.

Some safety tips for drivers of mopeds and motor scooters:

- Drivers must be at least 16 years old to operate a moped/motor scooter.
- Bright or reflective clothing should be worn.
- A Department of Transportation-approved helmet, not a bicycle helmet, must be worn.
- Safety glasses should be worn or the moped/motor scooter must be equipped with a windshield.
- Mopeds/motor scooters may not operate on sidewalks.
- Mopeds/motor scooters must obey all traffic laws.

“Greening” City Streets

Alexandria is “going green,” and making its neighborhood streets a cleaner, greener place, by using vegetative filter boxes to treat and clean roadway runoff. The City is among the first municipalities in the region to implement this “second generation” of traffic calming technology, designed to create more livable and vibrant neighborhoods, and improve water quality.

The vegetative filters consist of concrete boxes that hold a mixture of soil. The soil mix is designed to trap and sometimes break down water pollutants such as phosphorous, bacteria, hydrocarbons and heavy metals—all of which are present in runoff from our busy roadways. Drains are located underneath the boxes that catch leftover water and return it to the stormwater system after it has been filtered and cleaned. Each vegetative filter box is topped with an attractive metal grate, accompanied by a vibrant shrub or small tree. This type of vegetation project adds character to the City’s neighborhoods and Alexandria’s roadways in an environmentally sustainable manner.



Household Hazardous Waste Facility Expands Hours

Disposing of leftover paint, cleaning solvent, and other household hazardous waste is not as simple as tossing the items in the trash. Improper disposal of these items can be dangerous and harmful to you, the environment, and to others.

Alexandria residents may dispose of household hazardous waste (leftover paint, cleaning solvent, etc.) safely, conveniently, and at no cost through the City’s Household Waste Facility, 3600 Wheeler Ave. For the convenience of residents, the facility has expanded its hours and is now open on Mondays and Saturdays, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The facility is available to City residents only; photo identification will be required to prove residence at time of drop off. For more information about the facility and examples of acceptable items for drop off, visit alexandriava.gov/tes or call 703.519.3486.

Autumn Leaf Collection

Each year, the City’s Department of Transportation and Environmental Services provides vacuum leaf collection service to single-family residential homeowners. From October through December, crews drive through City neighborhoods with specialized vacuum-equipped trucks to collect leaves that have been raked into the curb and gutter line. The City grinds the leaves into mulch that is made available to City residents in the spring. For the 2008 leaf collection schedule and information on distribution of leaf bags, visit alexandriava.gov/leafcollection.



City residents can help our crews by:

- Removing stones, litter, branches or other items that can possibly damage City equipment and could hurt City workers.
- Keeping leaves from blocking the front of storm drains or water meter covers, and moving parked cars from leaf piles.
- Raking leaves into a pile at the curb, which enables crews to move quickly and collect leaves more efficiently.
- Ensuring that leaves are visible at the curb of the street, not in alleys or service roads.

Biodegradable leaf collection bags are also available free of charge from the City. The bags are collected one business day after your regular refuse collection day. Collection will begin October 28 and will finish January 3. Residents can pick up the bags at the following locations beginning October 11:

- **City Hall, 301 King Street**
Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- **Solid Waste Division, 2900 A Business Center Drive**
Monday - Saturday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- **Charles Barrett Recreation Center, 1115 Martha Custis Drive**
Monday - Friday, 2 p.m. – 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- **Chinquapin Park Recreation Center, 3210 King Street**
Monday - Thursday, 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Friday, 6 a.m. – 10 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Weatherize Your Home Now to Save Money Later

Weatherizing your home can be a simple, inexpensive way to reduce monthly energy bills. A variety of weatherization assistance programs are available to help low- and moderate-income City residents prepare for the cool winter months ahead. These include:

- **Rebuilding Together Alexandria (RTA)** is a local non-profit providing free home repairs and safety modifications to homeowners (primarily elderly and disabled residents) in need and is currently looking for eligible clients needing home repair and weatherization services. Last fall, RTA volunteers weatherized over 30 homes of low-income homeowners in Alexandria. RTA recently received a grant for energy-efficient home modifications and weatherization efforts to be implemented this fall. For more information, contact RTA at 703.836.1021 or at rebuildingtogetheralex.org.
- **Community Housing Partners Corporation (CHPC)** can perform diagnostic tests to evaluate areas of heat loss, repair or install attic and wall insulation, weatherstrip doors and complete other measures to prevent heat loss. CHPC can also complete indoor air quality checks, such as testing for carbon monoxide and conducting inspections of heating equipment to ensure safe and efficient operation. All services are free to eligible homeowners and renters. For more information, contact Connie England at 540.636.8079.
- **City of Alexandria Home Rehabilitation Loan Program (HRLP)** can provide a range of home improvements and is not limited to weatherization. The loan program provides zero interest, deferred payment loans of up to \$90,000 to lower income City homeowners to address code violations and to complete other needed repairs, including accessibility improvements. Higher loan limits can be approved when lead-based painted surfaces must be addressed. To learn more, contact the Office of Housing at 703.838.4622 or visit alexandriava.gov/housing.

Households needing help with the cost of heating their homes this winter may also qualify for the Virginia Energy Assistance Program administered by the Department of Human Services. **Applications will be accepted through Friday, November 14.** This program helps with home heating costs, but can also be used for furnace re-starts, late charges, delivery charges, installation charges, and connection or re-connection fees. For more information on program benefits and eligibility, contact Ward Pivec at 703.838.0901.

October is "Let's Talk" Month!

Parents, did you know that your child wants to learn about love, sex, and relationships from you? Teens continue to say that parents most influence their decisions about sex. Eighty-seven percent of teens say it would be easier for them to postpone sexual activity and avoid teen pregnancy if they were able to have more open, honest conversations with their parents.

As part of "Let's Talk" Month, the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP) encourages parents to have conversations with their children about sexual health early and often. If you have concerns about having these conversations with your child, you are not alone! Ninety percent of parents of teens believe they should talk to their kids about sex often, but do not know what to say, how to say it, or when to start.

One resource is www.alexgetreal.com, where parents and caregivers can find tips on how to talk to their children and read up-to-date information on sexual health. Check out the new "Interact with Us" box to take different quizzes, including "How Would I Respond?," "Talking to my Child: Myths & Facts," and "Am I an Askable Parent?"

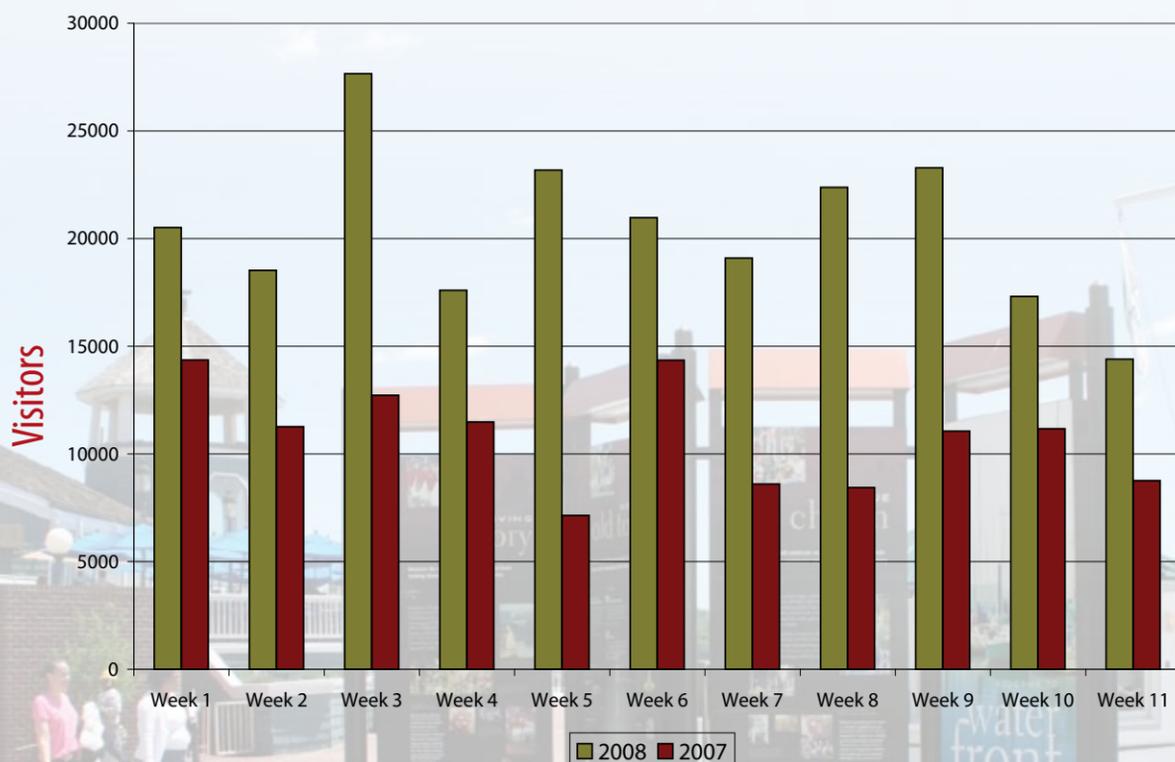
For more information on ACAP, visit www.alexgetreal.com or contact Becky Griesse, ACAP coordinator, at rebecca.griesse@alexandriava.gov or 703.838.5030.

City Uses Infrared Scanning Technology to Manage Parks, Improve Level of Service

At different sites around the City, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) counts park visitors using infrared technology. Infrared scanners count people as they pass certain points in the park, providing RPCA with raw data that can be used to determine activity in parks. Scanner counts are downloaded with a wireless handheld device and exported to a program, which can be analyzed by the staff. RPCA staff can view information by the half hour, hour, day or week, allowing them to determine peak visitation times and days. The Department uses the information to maximize staffing resources, schedule maintenance to avoid conflicts with public use, to improve service, and to determine the effectiveness of park improvements, upgrades, and new equipment.

This technology helped City staff determine if there had been an increase in foot traffic to the City's Marina area since the implementation of waterfront improvements. For example, the graphs below show pedestrian foot traffic to the City's Marina this summer. The total number of visitors recorded for 2008 was 224,943, which shows an increase of more than 105,000 visitors, in comparison with 2007 totals.

City Marina Pedestrian Foot Traffic: June - August, 2007 & 2008



How Big is YOUR Footprint?

A carbon footprint is a measure of the impact our activities have on the environment and on climate change. It relates to the amount of greenhouse gases produced in our day-to-day lives through burning fossil fuels for electricity, heating and transportation, and other uses. By reducing your carbon footprint, you can help the City in making your community a greener place to live and work.

Ways to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

-  Calculate your carbon footprint at www.carbonfootprint.com
-  Purchase a fuel-efficient car and drive less
-  Bike or walk to your destination
-  Buy products with the "Energy Star" label
-  Heat and cool wisely by using programmable thermostats
-  Replace ordinary bulbs with compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs
-  Turn off unused appliances and electronic devices
-  Plant a tree
-  Reduce, reuse, and recycle
-  Use water wisely

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle—and Save!

-  Buy regionally/locally grown and produced food items (locally grown foods are available at the City's farmers' markets and at local stores).
-  Donate your used goods through charities such as Goodwill, Salvation Army, and Habitat for Humanity, or use Web sites such as www.freecycle.org, or dc.craigslist.org to donate items for reuse.
-  Save paper by maximizing the space you use on your documents: reduce your margins to 1 inch or less.
-  Save on mulch and fertilizer by composting and "grasscycling" (the natural recycling of grass by leaving clippings on the lawn when mowing).
-  Use online banking and online payment services to reduce paper and save on stamps.
-  Use reusable items such as travel mugs and grocery bags.

To learn more about recycling in the City, visit www.alexrecycles.org.



Getting to Know Morton Sherman, New ACPS Superintendent

Morton Sherman, the new Superintendent of Schools for Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), arrived in mid-August and spent his first weeks on the job visiting classrooms, meeting staff members and with community members. *FYI Alexandria* caught up with Dr. Sherman to learn more about him and his plans for the school division.

What attracted you most to working for ACPS?

From my very first visit to ACPS to this moment, what has been compelling to me are the passion, the energy, the commitment to each student and the professionalism of our staff. There are few places in America with as much tradition and as great a potential as we have here.

What are your top goals for this school year?

My initial goal is to be the anthropologist who learns about our school division and is able to make respectful decisions based upon good information, research and data. My longer-term goals include the creation of a long-range plan, including financial, programmatic and accountability goals.

What are you enjoying most about the job so far?

I love my visits to the schools! I've crawled on the floor with kindergartners, discussed politics with AP students at the high school, had students sing to me and had terrific conversations with teachers and principals.

What role does the Alexandria community play in the success of ACPS?

Parents and the community are essential partners in our success. These are public schools, and our responsibility is to include as many members of our community as we can in working with us on behalf of students.

How do you interact with community members?

Constantly, with candor, transparency and respect! I'm also pleased that so many people have responded to the online survey (posted on the ACPS Web site at www.acps.k12.va.us/surveys) and I look forward to being part of citywide town hall meetings in October.

What is your motto?

Always ask what's best for children.

What or whom most inspires you?

All students inspire me. I turn to kindergarten classrooms when I want to be reminded about the work we do and its importance.

How can people best contact you with questions or concerns?

E-mail (superintendent@acps.k12.va.us) is the best way to reach me.

Do you have any parting thoughts?

I believe that if there is a place in America where the issues and challenges can be solved, it's right here in Alexandria. I am honored to be able to serve as ACPS Superintendent and look forward to spending many years in Alexandria as a superintendent and as a resident.

To see Alexandria Mayor William D. Euille interview Superintendent Sherman and School Board Chairman Yvonne A. Folkerts, visit alexandriava.gov/podcasts.

Photo Above: ACPS Superintendent of Schools Morton Sherman with John Adams Elementary School fifth-graders Jennifer Armaza Viscarra and Chanise Stroble.

Be Ready, Alexandria! "Fall Back," Change Your Smoke Alarm Batteries

The Alexandria Fire Department wants you to know that the earlier you are alerted to a fire, the more likely you are to get out in time. A working home smoke alarm can give you the time you need to safely escape a fire in your home. Replacing batteries in your smoke alarms is an essential part of emergency preparedness.

With the end of daylight savings time approaching on November 2, now is a perfect time to conduct the twice-yearly ritual of checking the batteries in your smoke alarm. However, if smoke alarms in your home are more than 10 years old, the National Fire Protection Association recommends replacing them with new alarms. For more information on fire safety, visit www.nfpa.org.

Holiday Season in the City

There's no place like Alexandria for the holidays. From the lighting of the City's Holiday Tree in Market Square, to the fantastic fireworks of First Night, 'tis the season for fun and frolic in the City! Enjoy candlelight tours, ornament workshops, concerts, arts and historic exhibits, and so much more. Here is just a sampling of events:

- ▶ **Holiday Tree Lighting:** Set the season aglow with the City's annual tree lighting, held in Market Square, on Friday, November 28.
- ▶ **Thirty-Eighth Annual Campagna Center Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend:** From December 4-6, marvel at the sound of bagpipes and the sight of colorful tartans during the Saturday morning parade in Old Town, and enjoy many other events.
- ▶ **First Night Alexandria:** Celebrate New Year's Eve with a festive, family-friendly evening of music, drama, and fireworks!

For more information about these and other events, go to the Events and Activities Calendar on page 8 or go to visitalexandriava.com.



Presidential Election Approaches

Continued from page 1

Educate yourself.

Alexandrians will be voting for candidates for four offices this fall: President, Vice President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives. There are no other races or questions on the ballot. A sample ballot is posted at www.alexandriavoter.org.

Vote mid-day if possible.

Lines at rush hour will be long. Some voters may wait two hours or more. To reduce wait time, vote between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Don't be late!

Promptly at 7 p.m., a sworn election officer will be stationed at the end of the voting line to close the polls. If you are in line at that time, you will be permitted to vote. If not, you will not be allowed to vote. It is the law, and precinct election officers take an oath to uphold it.

GET INVOLVED!

Be Prepared—Be Empowered

Join the Alexandria Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and receive free preparedness training and participate in drills and exercises. MRC offers training on a variety of topics, including public health, emergency management, CPR, First Aid, and more. The initial time commitment is a two-hour orientation. After that, it is up to you to decide how much time you want to devote. Orientation sessions are held monthly, usually on a weeknight or a Saturday morning. For more information, please contact Cyndi Lake, Alexandria MRC Coordinator, at 703.838.4400 ext. 283, e-mail Cyndi.Lake@vdh.virginia.gov, or visit alexandriava.gov/health and click "Medical Reserve Corps."

Got 30 Minutes? Be a Lifesaver!

The Alexandria Health Department and the Arlington Public Health Division need volunteers to help them test their ability to deliver medications to residents during a public health emergency. Volunteering takes about 30 minutes on Saturday, November 8. Just walk into one of five exercise sites listed below between 9 a.m. and noon to pick up simulated medications for yourself, your family, and any neighbors you would assist in the event of a real emergency. Alexandria sites are at NOVA Community College, 3001 N. Beauregard St. (Tyler Building); Charles Barrett Elementary, 1115 Martha Custis Dr.; and Cora Kelly Recreation Center, 25 W. Reed Avenue. For more information, or to register, call 703.838.4400.

Male Volunteer Needed for Project Manhood

The City's Office on Women is looking for a male volunteer to lead Project Manhood at Hammond Middle School. The program is an hour-long, after-school/mentoring program for boys at George Washington and Hammond Middle Schools. The goal of Project Manhood is to provide a supportive environment to increase young men's awareness and prevent the occurrence of teen pregnancy, sexual assault/harassment, domestic violence and other risky behaviors. The program uses research-based curricula, including Wise Guys, Making Proud Choices, and Becoming a Responsible Teen. The volunteer commitment is once a week for 10 weeks. For more information, contact Kim Hurley at 703.838.5030.

Parent Volunteers Needed for the Let's Talk Parent Newsletter

The Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy is seeking parent volunteers to join the editorial board of the *Let's Talk* newsletter, and to help write and edit content. *Let's Talk* is a quarterly newsletter written by and for parents/caregivers to provide information on talking to children about sex, and other related topics. For more information, contact Becky Griesse at rebecca.griesse@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.5030. To view the current edition, visit alexgetreal.com and check out the New Features box.

Seeking Resource Parents and Families

Alexandria Child Welfare Services is always seeking Resource Parents and Families. If you are interested in fostering or adopting a child, contact Chrissy Levine, the Resource Home Recruiter, at 703.838.0803. Information sessions are held quarterly or on an individual basis.



A mural outside the legendary Birchmere; and the Alexandria Roller Rink, a rock venue during the 60s and 70s.

Alexandria ROCKS!

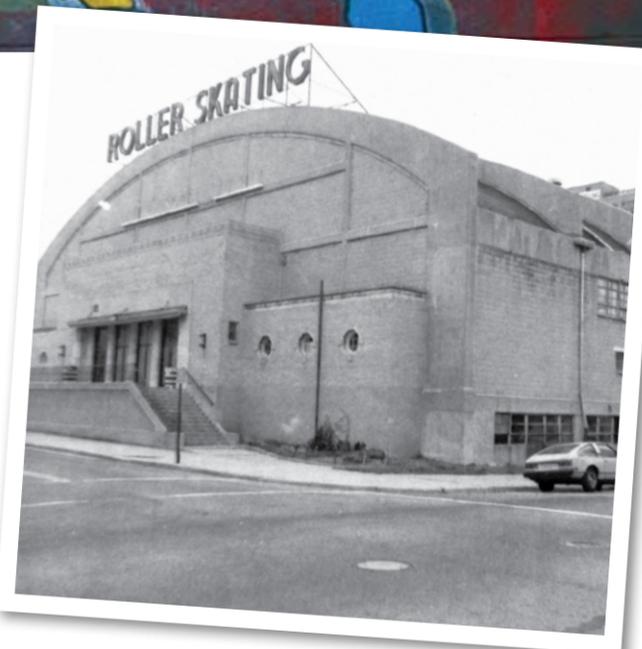
Could Alexandria's place in history reach as far as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame? Well, not yet, but the City does have some bona fide homegrown rock stars and a few rockin' venues to its credit.

Three Hall of Fame rockers attended George Washington in the 1950s and 1960s when it was still a high school. Before hitting it big with the Mamas and the Papas, both John Phillips and Cass Elliot went to GW. John lived with his parents on East Oxford Avenue before marrying and moving to Belle Haven. Before changing her name to Cass, Ellen Naomi Cohen lived with her family on Crestwood Drive. Jim Morrison came to Alexandria as a teenager when his father, a Naval officer, was transferred to the Pentagon. The future lead singer of the Doors lived on Woodland Terrace and graduated from GW in 1961.

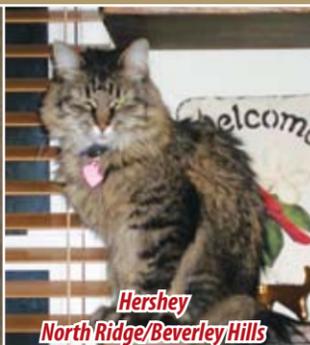
Jim returned to Alexandria in 1967 when the Doors played a gig at the Alexandria Roller Rink, a large arena formerly located at Montgomery and North St. Asaph Street that was a regular stop for rock bands in the late 1960s into the mid-1970s. Jethro Tull, Blue Oyster Cult, Alice Cooper, Janis Joplin and the Steve Miller Band all played the roller rink where fans could catch the biggest stars (and more cowbell) for \$4 or \$5.

In 1993, rock legend Mick Fleetwood of Fleetwood Mac chose Alexandria as the site for his upscale blues club. Fleetwood's opened at Canal Center Plaza in 1994 but faced financial difficulties and closed shortly after filing for bankruptcy in 1996.

And, while not officially a rock venue, the legendary Birchmere has hosted dozens of folk rock, rock-a-billy, and other acts since it moved from Arlington into Alexandria in 1981. The Birchmere moved a couple of blocks down Mount Vernon Avenue in 1997 and never skipped a beat. Known around the world for attracting top talent, including Todd Rundgren, Dave Matthews and Emmylou Harris, the Birchmere quite simply rocks!

**PETS AROUND TOWN**

Callie
Fairlington



Hershey
North Ridge/Beverly Hills



Bailey & Peanut
Wakefield/Tarleton



Ebonie
Cameron Station

Is your pet licensed? For the safety of our residents and our pets, all dogs and cats are required by City Code to be vaccinated against rabies and to be licensed in the City. Licenses are available at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave.

The City also reminds dog owners that there are specific rules to remember when romping with Rover. Dogs must remain on a leash, unless the area is marked as an off-leash Dog Exercise Area, and owners must clean up after their dogs. Violations of this code may result in fines. For a list of the City's 17 dog parks, visit alexandriava.gov/recreation, or call 703.838.4340.

Got a picture of your pet you'd like to share? Send your photo, along with your pet's name and the name of your neighborhood to fyi@alexandriava.gov.

Events & Activities

OCTOBER

Through November 2

Death Comes to Carlyle House: An 18th-Century Virginia Home in Mourning
Carlyle House Historic Park
121 N. Fairfax Street
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

An exhibit on the mourning practices of 18th-century Virginia through the experience of the Carlyle household.

Admission: call 703.549.2997
www.carlylehouse.org or 703.549.2997

Thursday, October 30 & Friday, October 31

Poe in Alexandria
The Lyceum
201 South Washington Street
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Actor David Keltz portrays Edgar Allen Poe and recreates his visit to Virginia in 1849.

Admission: Fee required
www.alexandriahistory.org or 703.838.4994

Thursday, October 30

Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget
Alexandria City Hall
Council Chamber
301 King Street
7:00 p.m.

Be a part of the City's budget process. For more information, visit "City Council Dockets, Video & Podcasts" at alexandriava.gov/webcasts.

Free and open to the public

NOVEMBER

Thursday, November 6

Capital Improvement Program Community Meeting
Lee Center Exhibit Hall
1108 Jefferson St.
6:00 p.m.

Learn more about—and provide input on—the City's capital projects.

alexandriava.gov/budget or 703.838.4780

Thursday, November 6, 13, & 20

18th-Century Dance Lessons
Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal St.
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

In preparation for the Governor's Ball on November 22, learn 18-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors.

Admission: \$12 per class;
\$30 for the three-class series
www.gadsbystavern.org or 703.838.4242

Saturday, November 8

Got 30 Minutes? Save A Life! Be Ready Alexandria/ Arlington Medication Dispensing Exercise
NOVA Community College, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Tyler Building
Charles Bartlett Elementary School, 1115 Martha Custis Drive
Cora Kelly Recreation Center, 25 Reed Avenue
9:00 a.m. – Noon

Be part of a Public health emergency exercise! Help the City test its ability to deliver medications to residents during a public health emergency.

Admission: Free
alexandriava.gov/health or 703.226.5580

Saturday, November 8

Swordsmen's Rendezvous
Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal St.
11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This program includes re-enactment of 18th-century swordplay and a display of 18th-century weapons.

Admission: \$5 per person, ages 5 and up, reservations are required.
www.gadsbystavern.org or 703.838.4242

Tuesday, November 11

Veterans Day Program
Alexandria Black History Museum
902 Wythe St.
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Celebrate the African American men and women who fought for our country with this annual program featuring speakers, music, and dramatic presentations.

Admission: Free
www.alexblackhistory.org or 703.838.4356

Thursday, November 13

Second Thursday Art Night: Naked November Nights
Torpedo Factory Art Center
105 N. Union Street
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Browse open studios, interact with the artists, and enjoy refreshments.

Admission: Free
www.torpedofactory.org or 703.838.4565

Saturday, November 15

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra: "O Thankful Voice"
Rachel M. Schlesinger
Concert Hall and Arts Center
3001 N. Beauregard St.
8:00 p.m.

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra presents a concert featuring Mozart's "Piano Concerto #21" and Wilder's "Suite for Horn and Strings."

Admission: Tickets, \$20-\$80
www.alexsym.org or 703.548.0885

Saturday, November 22

Governor's Ball with Patrick Henry
Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal St.
8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

The evening will feature a special visit from Governor Patrick Henry and a variety of English country dances, live music, dessert collation, gaming, and a cash bar.

Admission: \$45 in advance, \$50 at the door; reservations are required.
www.gadsbystavern.org or 703.838.4242

Friday, November 28

City of Alexandria Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony
Market Square in front of King Street
301 King St.
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Kick off the season with musical entertainment, a welcome from the Mayor, and a visit from Santa Claus!

Admission: Free
alexandriava.gov/recreation



Saturday, November 29

Scottish Heritage Preview
The Lyceum
201 S. Washington St.
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Come celebrate Alexandria's Scottish heritage, meet Scottish Tartan Day leaders and learn about Scottish breed dogs while enjoying bagpipes, highland dancing, and historical re-enactors.

Admission: Free
www.alexandriahistory.org or 703.838.4994

DECEMBER

Thursday, December 4 through Saturday, December 6

38th Annual Campagna Center's Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend
Events held throughout Old Town
Scottish Walk Parade: Saturday, December 6 at 11:00 a.m.

An Alexandria holiday tradition! The weekend features a Children's Tea Party, a Designer Tour of Homes, Concerts, and "A Taste of Scotland."

www.scottishchristmaswalk.com or 703.549.0111

Saturday, December 6

Ornament Decorating Workshop for Families
Alexandria Archaeology Museum
105 N. Union St., #327
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Decorate take-home, artifact-shaped dough ornaments based on colors and patterns from the Museum's collection of excavated artifacts

Admission: Free
www.alexandriarchaeology.org or 703.838.4399

Saturday, December 13

Kwanzaa Craft Workshop
Alexandria Black History Museum
902 Wythe St.
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

This fun, interactive program guides you through a review of this unique African American holiday and provides instruction on inexpensive Kwanzaa gifts.

Admission: Free
www.alexblackhistory.org or 703.838.4356

Saturday, December 13

Christmas in Camp Open House
Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site
4301 W. Braddock Rd.
Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Holiday event interprets how Christmas was observed during the Civil War.

Admission: Suggested donation of \$2 per adult, \$1 per child
www.fortward.org or 703.838.4848

Saturday, December 13

31st Annual Citywide Cheerleading Competition
T.C. Williams High School
3330 King St.
11:00 a.m.

The exhibition will feature cheerleading squads from Charles Barrett, Charles Houston, Cora Kelly, Mt. Vernon, Nannie J. Lee, Patrick Henry and William Ramsay.

Admission: \$6 ages 13 & older; \$3 ages 6-12; and free ages 5 and under
alexandriava.gov/recreation or 703.838.4345

Saturday, December 13

Annual Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours
Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal St.
5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tour Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall House, and Old Presbyterian Meeting House by candlelight and enjoy seasonal decorations, entertainment, and light refreshments.

Admission: \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors (65 and up), and \$5 for children (6-17)
www.historicalexandria.org or 703.838.4242

Sunday, December 21

Holiday Favorites with the Colonial Handbell Ringers
The Lyceum
201 S. Washington St.
3:00 p.m.

Enjoy your favorite holiday music with the Colonial Handbell Ringers as they play more than sixty bronze bells.

Admission: Free
www.alexandriahistory.org or 703.838.4994

Monday, December 31

First Night Alexandria
In Old Town and Del Ray
Ring in the New Year with performances, music, and fireworks!
Admission: \$15 ages 13 and up; children 12 and under are free
www.firstnightalexandria.org

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA HOLIDAY CONCERTS

Celebrate the holiday season with free concerts coordinated by the City's Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities Special Events Office.

Concerts are cancelled in the event of inclement weather and are subject to change without notice. For up-to-date information, call the Special Events Office (703.838.4844) or the Hotline 703.883.4686.

Market Square Concerts

Market Square, 301 King St.

November 29

1 p.m. - Alexandria Klezmet
(Traditional & Innovative Jewish Music)

2 p.m. - Michael Mulvaney
(Holiday & Blues Americana)

November 30

2 p.m. - Doris Justis
(Folk/Acoustic Holiday)

3 p.m. - Lisa Taylor
(Acoustic Holiday)

December 7

2 p.m. - Shir Tze'ir
(Jewish a cappella)

3 p.m. - The Family Choir of Beth El Hebrew Congregation
(Hanukah Favorites)

December 13

1 p.m. - Bell's Angels, St. John's Lutheran Church Handbell Choir
(Holiday)

2 p.m. - Alexandria Singers
(Choral Holiday)

December 14

2 p.m. - Alexandria Harmonizers
(Barbershop Holiday)

3 p.m. - St. Matthew's United Methodist Church Youth Handbell Choir
(Holiday)

Sundays—Historic Alexandria ALIVE

Join us on the streets of Alexandria as history comes to life! Each Sunday, learn, participate, engage, and enjoy with performers and costumed interpreters from noon to 5 p.m. Find performers at Market Square, along King Street between Market Square and the waterfront, and on the waterfront behind the Torpedo Factory. Admission is free. For more information, visit oha.alexandriava.gov.

Please note that event times, dates, and locations are subject to change. Please contact the event sponsor to confirm details. For updated and expanded information on events in Alexandria, visit alexandriava.gov, www.visitalexandriava.com, or tune in to Comcast Cable Channel 70.