

FYI ALEXANDRIA

IN THIS EDITION

Alexandria's Official Resident Newsletter

SUMMER 2009



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City Council Adopts Fiscal Year 2010 Budget

On April 27, the Alexandria City Council adopted a \$530 million General Fund Operating Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010, a 2.2% decrease of \$12 million from FY 2009. The FY 2009 real estate tax rate of 84.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value was raised by 5.8 cents to 90.3 cents. The average homeowner's taxes will increase by \$76 annually.

"Alexandria continues to face its most serious fiscal decline in more than 30 years," said Mayor William D. Euille. "However, working together with the City Council and City Manager James K. Hartmann, we have produced a responsible budget that focuses our financial resources on maintaining public safety, building critical infrastructure and protecting the social safety net for our most vulnerable citizens."

Revenue and expenditure changes from the City Manager's proposed budget include:

- > Preservation of \$610,000 in social safety net programs in the Health Department; Human Services Department; and the Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Department.
- > Authorization of a cigarette tax increase of 10 cents per pack, which is expected to generate \$400,000 next year.
- > Investment of \$287,000 for expansion of economic development activities in order to grow the City's tax base.
- > Allocation of funds for additional Capital Improvement Program projects, including the James Polk Elementary School Gymnasium (\$1,400,000); DASH bus replacement (\$600,000); and street and sidewalk repair (\$200,000).

- > Maintenance of current public safety spending levels for the Alexandria Police, Fire, and Sheriff Departments.

The FY 2010 budget includes the following reductions:

- > One hundred seventeen positions were eliminated from the City's budget.
- > City employee salaries have been frozen, with no merit increases.
- > The City transfer to the Schools was decreased by 2%, or \$3.4 million, but still met the revised School Board request for City funds. Thirty-one percent of the General Fund budget is allocated for the Schools.

The current economic forecast is likely to affect the City's budget in FY 2011 and beyond. To begin planning for this possibility, the City Council decided to reduce borrowing for the Capital Improvement Program and allocate \$2 million in additional cash to pay for planned capital expenditures. City Council also set aside \$2.3 million in a reserve fund in case of a possible revenue shortfall in FY 2010, which is a possibility if the economy does not recover.

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FYI Alexandria Enters New Era

For six years, the City's Office of Communications has produced *FYI Alexandria*. We are proud to have brought you the City's official resident newsletter from its beginnings as a simple, two-color newsletter to the full-featured, color publication that it is today. Thanks to your support and feedback, *FYI Alexandria* grew with the times to include podcasts, associated Web content and popular features such as Traffic and Transit, Pets Around Town, and Get Involved: Volunteer Opportunities.

However, as part of the budget reductions made due to the economic challenges facing the City, and as part of the Eco-City Alexandria initiative, *FYI Alexandria* will no longer be printed in bulk and mailed to all residents. Instead, residents can choose to receive *FYI Alexandria* in one of two ways:

- > Visit the City's Web site to get *FYI Alexandria Online*, (alexandriava.gov/fyi) an interactive digest with stories, feature articles, links to podcasts, video, expanded content and other dynamic features (including a downloadable, "printer friendly" version). To receive *FYI Alexandria Online* with links to dynamic content by e-mail, subscribe to the City's eNews service (enews.alexandriava.gov) and sign up for "FYI Alexandria" under "My Alerts."
- > Subscribe to continue receiving printed copies of *FYI Alexandria* by visiting alexandriava.gov/FYIsubscribe or calling 703.838.6333, ext.336.

For more information, or for comments and feedback on *FYI Alexandria*, e-mail fyi@alexandriava.gov.

Newly Elected Alexandria City Council Assumes Office July 1

On May 5, Alexandria voters elected the Mayor and City Council members for the next three-year City Council term, which begins July 1, 2009. Mayor William D. Euille, who ran unopposed, was re-elected. Council Members Rob Krupicka, Redella S. "Del" Pepper, and Paul Smedberg were also re-elected. Three new Council Members will join them: Kerry Donley (who served on Council and as mayor from 1988 to 2003), Frank Fannon, and Alicia Hughes. Leaving the Council are Tim Lovain, Justin Wilson, and Ludwig Gaines.

The community is invited to attend the formal City Council installation ceremony on the evening of Wednesday, July 1, at T. C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. For more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at 703.838.4550.

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

WWW.ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV

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City Manager: James K. Hartmann

Director of Communications: Tony Castrilli

Managing Editor: Andrea Blackford

Editors: Tony Castrilli, Michele Evans and Jennifer Harris

Contributors: Mayor William D. Euille, Erica Bannerman, Andrea Barlow, Carrie Beach, Amy Bertsch, Andrea Blackford, Amy Carlini, Tony Castrilli, Shane Cochran, Lt. Jack Compton, Michele Evans, Carrie Fesperman, Jennifer Harris, Kay Hodges, Anne Janeski, Yon Lambert, Jacqueline Levy, Kathleen Leonard, Capt. Luis Santano, Michael Sherman, Mary Jane Solomon, Suellen Savukas, Frank Ward.

Design and Layout: Michelle Davis and Justin Thompson



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Your Alexandria Mayor & City Council

(pictured from left to right)

Mayor William D. Euille. william.euille@alexandriava.gov

Vice Mayor Redella S. "Del" Pepper delpepper@aol.com

Councilman Ludwig P. Gaines. councilmangaines@aol.com

Councilman Rob Krupicka council@krupicka.com

Councilmember Timothy B. Lovain. timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov

Councilman Paul C. Smedberg. paulcsmedberg@aol.com

Councilman Justin M. Wilson. . justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov

Messages for City Council can be left at the Office of the City Clerk/ City Council: 703.838.4550. For dockets, video, and podcasts of City Council Meetings, go to alexandriava.gov/webcasts.

"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

City Government Phones Begin the Switch to "746"

Over the past 10 months, the City of Alexandria has been upgrading its 20-year-old telephone system to voice over internet protocol (VOIP). VOIP is a modern communications technology that supports improved call handling and intelligent call routing that will help City employees quickly and efficiently respond to callers.

To support a seamless transition to the new platform in the months ahead, most of the current "main" numbers will remain active for at least a year after the new technology is in place. During this time, new numbers with the 746 prefix will be advertised in newspapers and on the City's Web site. Some numbers will retain the last four digits of their original telephone numbers and some will change entirely, incorporating the 746 prefix, but all numbers will retain the 703 area code.

The new system has been installed for the Alexandria Community Services Board (which includes the Mental Health, Mental Retardation & Substance Abuse main office); Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP), Alexandria Criminal Justice Services (ACJS); General Services; Housing; Human Rights; Information Technology Services; Parking Adjudication; Public Defender's Office; Risk Management; Sheriff's Office (including the City Jail); and the Office on Women. All offices in City Hall will be converted to the new system by the end of May. The project is slated for completion by early 2011, with the exception of the Police Department, which will move to a new building in late 2011. For more information, visit alexandriava.gov/Dial746, contact Jacqueline Levy at 703.838.4227 (703.746.3960 after May 28), or e-mail Jacqueline.levy@alexandriava.gov.

Mayor's Corner



You know the old saying, "when the going gets tough, the tough get going." Here in the City of Alexandria, like much of the country, times have gotten tough. The declining housing market and the economic downturn have left the City facing the most challenging budget decline in three decades. Yes, times are tough, but so are Alexandrians. In difficult times, it is easy to become discouraged and feel helpless. However, there are everyday actions that you can do to help the City and your community to weather this storm.

- **Buy Alexandria.** The next time you go shopping, whether for groceries or for big-ticket items, make your dollars count by shopping in the City. By purchasing goods and services from Alexandria's small businesses, you are supporting the backbone of our City's economy, boosting our tax base, and helping those businesses to stay strong and to stay in the City. Visit www.buyalexandria.com.
- **Give Alexandria.** There is an unprecedented need for assistance in the Alexandria community. Many people are suffering and need our help. In response, I've launched Give Alexandria, a program aimed at building a community network that will give Alexandrians a place where they can donate their money, time and resources. Visit alexandriava.gov for more details.
- **Meet Alexandria.** Know anyone who is having a wedding, family reunion, *quinceañera*, or other event? Do you know a meeting planner searching for a location? The Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association, through Meet Alexandria, is encouraging residents to invite friends, colleagues, meeting planners, and others to host their meetings and events in the City. Events like these support the City's bottom line and provide additional revenue to businesses. For more information, call 703.746.3303 or visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/meeting.

Throughout this issue of *FYI Alexandria*, you will learn more about these programs. In the meantime, we all must work together to overcome the obstacles we face, and to meet the challenges--and opportunities--that lie ahead. Together, as One Alexandria, we will work together to overcome these current difficulties, and look forward to the future.

Alexandria and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Like many municipalities, Alexandria will be obtaining funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, otherwise known as the federal economic stimulus package. As of the first week of May, the City has been informed of stimulus allocations, totaling \$3.1 million, from eight formula grants. Formula grants are funds that are distributed based on existing federal formulas and the City's ability to meet federal requirements for the grant programs. The City has also applied for three competitive stimulus grants from the U.S. Department of Justice. The City anticipates applying for additional competitive and formula grants throughout the summer.

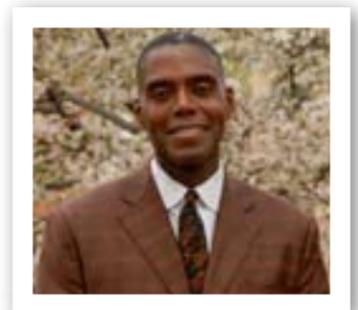
The federal government Web site, recovery.gov, states "This is your money. You have a right to know where it's going and how it's being spent." To support this mission, the City has established alexandriava.gov/recovery to keep the public informed about how much funding the City of Alexandria will receive from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and how it will be used. Like the Federal Web site and the Commonwealth of Virginia's Web site, stimulus.virginia.gov, alexandriava.gov/recovery will be frequently updated to bring you the latest information about the City's stimulus funding and funding for the Alexandria City Public Schools, who will also receive federal stimulus funds.

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Alexandria Names New City Attorney, James L. Banks

After a nationwide search, the Alexandria City Council appointed James L. Banks as City Attorney effective May 4. He replaces Ignacio Pessoa, who left the position in December 2008. As City Attorney, Banks is the legal advisor to the City Council, the City Manager, and all departments, boards, commissions, and agencies of the City. The City Attorney renders opinions, on request; is responsible for drafting ordinances, deeds, affidavits, bonds, leases, and other legal papers; represents the City as counsel in civil cases; and institutes and prosecutes legal proceedings on behalf of the City.

Before joining the City, Banks worked for Seyfarth Shaw LLP, as partner to its labor and employment practice. Previously, he served as partner for McGuire Woods LLP, and served as a substitute judge in Richmond in Virginia's Thirteenth Judicial District from 1998 to 2002. While in Richmond, he served as a member and Vice Mayor of the Richmond City Council and as Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Richmond. Banks currently serves as member of the Virginia Law Foundation Board of Directors, and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Board of Directors.



Enhancing a Citywide Resource – Alexandria’s Waterfront Planning

Alexandria’s Waterfront, which stretches along the Potomac River from Hunting Creek in the south to Daingerfield Island in the north, is one of the City’s most treasured resources. The City has embarked on a planning process to enhance the character of the Waterfront and make it a more attractive, accessible and enticing destination for both residents and visitors. Because the Waterfront is a citywide resource, residents and business throughout the City are encouraged to take an active role in this process.

At the first public forum on April 23, representatives from waterfront, historic, arts, business and civic groups shared their vision for the Waterfront with City staff. There was a degree of commonality in the themes presented, suggesting a strong foundation for an ongoing collaboration within the community to create a dynamic framework for the future planning of the Waterfront. The common sentiment expressed by the attendees was that the Waterfront was a “rough gem” that could be shaped and polished into a “valuable jewel.”

A second public forum, held on April 30, featured a panel of experts who presented best practices from waterfronts around the world, an analysis of competing waterfronts in the region, and discussions on waterfront infrastructure, economic development, public/private partnerships, sustainability, open space and authentic uses for the Waterfront. The forum discussions provided ideas and inspiration for what is likely to work in Alexandria, and revealed the opportunities and obstacles the City may face in planning Waterfront improvements.

The next step in the process involves analysis of the Waterfront’s current conditions by the consultant team, led by Alexandria-based ED&AW. Their findings, which will establish the physical, legal, environmental, and economic constraints and opportunities presented by the City’s Waterfront, will be shared and discussed at a daylong community charrette on June 27. Using this information and information gathered from the first two public forums, the community will engage in a design workshop to map out specific ideas for the Waterfront Plan.

Over the coming months, public forums and activities will help the planning team develop a comprehensive vision and draft plan, which is expected to be forwarded to City Council for consideration by June 2010.

Potomac Yard Planning Group Underway

The Potomac Yard Planning Advisory Group has been meeting since fall 2008 to provide input to the City regarding the redevelopment of the retail center at Landbay F and the southernmost parcel at Landbay L. A public workshop in January resulted in many ideas that are being used to develop conceptual plans for further public review. The Advisory Group also developed a set of plan principles to guide the planning process, and incorporate the public priorities expressed in the workshop. Work is also underway on a transportation study to evaluate the impacts of potential new development at Potomac Yard. All Advisory Group meetings are open to the public. To look at detailed information, or get fact sheets and meeting schedules, visit alexandriava.gov/PotomacYardPlan or call Valerie Peterson at 703.838.3866, extension 338.

TRAFFIC & TRANSIT

Managing Motorcoaches in the City

Alexandria is a welcoming destination for both visitors and tourism. However, the City is working hard to proactively manage motorcoaches and balance their operational needs with measures to limit the intrusive effects on our neighborhoods, environment, quality of life, and traffic and parking issues throughout the City.

Over the last several months, the City of Alexandria’s Ad Hoc Motorcoach Task Force has worked to address motorcoach management issues throughout the City. In March, City Council approved a series of short-term recommendations by the Ad Hoc Motorcoach Task Force, which aim to improve the City’s overall motorcoach management efforts. As a result, the City plans to take immediate action regarding enforcement and outreach to motorcoaches entering and exiting Alexandria. After contacting businesses, operators, and industry associations, the Alexandria Police Department began an active campaign to implement the recommendations by the Ad Hoc Motorcoach Task Force. Since March 30, police began enforcement of City Code regarding the idling, double-parking and unlawful loading/unloading practices of motorcoaches.

For more information about the City’s motorcoach management efforts visit alexandriava.gov/motorcoach. Additionally, residents and business owners are encouraged to subscribe to the Motorcoach eNews group (visit enews.alexandriava.gov) to receive regular updates on the City’s motorcoach management efforts, police reports, and information about future meetings.

Coming Soon! Affordable and Workforce Rental Housing at The Station at Potomac Yard

Construction is progressing on The Station at Potomac Yard (“The Station”), a unique mixed-use building located on Route 1, near the City’s border with Arlington County. The project combines a state-of-the-art City fire station with retail space and four stories of rental housing. Governor Tim Kaine; Susan Dewey, Director of the Virginia Housing Development Authority; and City business and elected leaders toured The Station in March. The Station, with the ground level fire station planned to be LEED Silver certified and the housing component designed in conformance with Earthcraft program guidelines on energy efficiency, is an example of smart growth, and reflects the goals of Alexandria’s Eco-City initiative. These design innovations will also yield enhanced energy efficiencies and savings for tenants.

The Station will feature 64 apartments, including one, two and three bedroom unit options, depending on household size. The residential facility will be EarthCraft certified. Washers, dryers and dishwashers will be installed in every unit, and residents will have access to a large terrace overlooking a park in front of the building. Forty-four units will have rents targeted to serve household at “affordable” income levels (60% or less of area median income); 20 units will be reserved for households earning at a slightly higher “workforce” income level (60% to 80% of area median income).

The Station was built through a unique public-private collaboration that includes the City, the Alexandria Housing Development Corporation, and Potomac Yard Development, LLC (a joint venture comprised of Pulte Homes and Centex Homes). Potomac Yard Development donated the parcel of land for the project, as well as \$6 million for the fire station and \$6 million for affordable housing.

For more information about the project and the anticipated lease/income qualification process, contact Thelma Guerreiro of Equity Management at tguerreiro@equitymgmt.com or 301.953.2366. Equity provides property management services for The Station’s owner, the Alexandria Housing Development Corporation. Individuals interested in apartment rentals who contact Equity will receive regular communications about The Station.



Mayor William D. Euille introduces Governor Tim Kaine during a tour of The Station at Potomac Yard. Looking on (from left to right) are Delegate David Englin; Delegate Bob Brink; Delegate Adam Ebbin; State Senator Patsy Ticer; Delegate Charmiele Herring, and Vice Mayor Redella Pepper.

Take the Green Route Where You Live, Work and Play

The Eco-City Alexandria initiative began in 2007, when the City partnered with Virginia Tech's Department of Urban Affairs and Planning to design and facilitate a new, strategic planning process, Eco-City Alexandria, based on the original Eco-City effort undertaken by a world leader in environmental activism, the City of Waitakere, New Zealand. Over the last 18 months, Alexandria has made progress toward becoming a greener City. City Council adopted the first Eco-City Environmental Charter in the region in June 2008, and adopted the Environmental Action Plan's Phase I in January 2009.

The City's Environmental Policy Commission, City staff, and Virginia Tech are developing Phase II of the Environmental Action Plan. This plan will serve as a long-range road map for guiding the City toward environmental sustainability over the next 10 to 20 years. The public is encouraged to take part in the Eco-City Alexandria initiative by providing the City with public comment and feedback, participating in the City's environmental events, and implementing short-term actions that directly support the environmental goals of the City.

The City supports the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments' goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. To attain these goals, it is important that everyone—residents, City Government, and businesses—get involved. By using eco-friendly, sustainable practices at home, at work, and at play, everyone can contribute to creating a sustainable, healthy Eco-City! To learn more, e-mail Eco-CityAlexandria@alexandriava.gov, visit alexandriava.gov/Eco-City, or subscribe to the City's eNews service (enews.alexandriava.gov) and sign up for Environmental News to receive information about special events, volunteer opportunities, and other Eco-City projects.

Alexandria and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

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While the City does not know how much additional stimulus funding it will be awarded through competitive grant programs in the months ahead, residents can be certain that the City will be submitting grant applications that support the stimulus funding goals. Locally, that means that grants should help jumpstart our economy, save and create jobs, and address long-neglected challenges. While funds cannot be used to fill gaps in the City's current budget, they can help to revive our economy and provide fiscal stability in the long term. Stay tuned for all the latest information at alexandriava.gov/recovery.



City Establishes Multi-Agency Permit Center

On March 5, the Alexandria Fire Department's Building and Fire Code Administration welcomed City officials, employees, residents, and business leaders to the grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting ceremony of its new Multi-Agency Permit Center, located on the fourth floor of City Hall. The grand opening celebration marked the culmination of 16 months of planning by the Multi-Department Permit Center Committee, chaired by Code Administration Deputy Director Jannine Pennell and Customer Services Manager Frank Ward.

The purpose of the Multi-Agency Permit Center (which was recommended by the Mayor's Economic Sustainability Work Group in 2007) is to improve customer service to Alexandria's residents and business owners by offering a central location for same-day processing, plan review, and issuance of City permits and licenses. City departments represented at the center include the Fire Department's Code Administration, Department of Planning and Zoning, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES), and the Department of Finance.

The Permit Center provides a variety of services. Staff from Code Administration, Planning and Zoning, and T&ES review construction and trade plans for compliance with the Uniform State Building Code, the City's Zoning Ordinance and other codes. Many building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, signage and outdoor dining permits can be processed, reviewed and issued in one day. The Permit Center also handles new business license applications and contractor renewals, and processes Fire Prevention and Fire Protection System permits, elevator permits and certificates, stocking permits, modification requests, vacant building registrations and Certificates of Occupancy.

"The Multi-Agency Permit Center is a great example of the collaborative effort among several City departments working together to deliver what our citizens and businesses have desired and deserve – quality customer service combined with code compliance and safety," said Fire Chief Adam Thiel.

For more information on Alexandria's Multi-Agency Permit Center, call 703.838.4360 or visit alexandriava.gov/fire/code

To hear Customer Services Manager Frank Ward talk about the new *Permit Center*, visit alexandriava.gov/podcast.



From left to right: Alexandria Fire Chief Adam Thiel, Vice Mayor Redella Pepper, Councilman Paul Smedberg, Code Administration Director John Catlett, Mayor William D. Euille, Councilman Justin Wilson, City Manager James Hartmann, and IT Coordinator Ken Moss.

H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) Information

The outbreak of H1N1 flu (also known as swine flu) has spread throughout the U.S. and internationally as well. Although the cases in the U.S. have not been severe, it is important for everyone to be well informed about H1N1 flu, its spread, and how to prevent it. In 2006-2007, Mayor William D. Euille chaired a multi-agency, public/private task force on Pandemic Flu that also included Councilman Ludwig Gaines. With the assistance of the Alexandria Health Department, the task force developed a Pandemic Flu plan for the City, which was put into use for the 2009 H1N1 Flu event.

For the most updated information, visit Virginia Department of Health (www.vdh.state.va.us) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu). The City of Alexandria's Web site is alexandriava.gov/flu.

City Council Adopts Fiscal Year 2010 Budget

Continued from page 1

Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Fee Increases

| Type of Fee | FY 2009 | FY 2010 | Other Information |
|--|--|--|---|
| Household Refuse Collection | \$301 | \$331 | |
| Administrative Fee, Unpaid Parking Tickets | n/a | 20% of original parking fine due | New fee |
| Parking Meter Hourly Rates, Eisenhower East | \$1.00 | \$1.25 | |
| Tobacco Tax Rate, per pack | \$0.70 | \$0.80 | |
| Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Out-of-School Program Activity Fee • Fall • Winter/Spring • Summer | n/a | \$25/semester \$25/semester \$25/semester | New fee Total fees for year-round participation are \$75 |
| Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Picnic Area Rental Fee • No shelter • Small shelter • Large shelter | \$50/day \$100/day \$150/day | \$52/for 4 hours \$105/for 4 hours \$157/for 4 hours | Rental time period changes from all day to 4-hour blocks |
| Office of Historic Alexandria Facility Rental: The Lyceum • Meeting • Non-wedding related event • Wedding Reception • Wedding Reception (after 6 hours) | \$60/hour \$300/hour \$1,800 \$200/hour | \$75/hour \$325/hour \$2,000 \$250/hour | |
| Market Square Farmers' Market Stall Fees • Permanent Vendors • Temporary Vendors | \$15/month \$5/week | \$30/month \$10/week | |
| Market Square Parking Garage Fees (Monthly) | \$125/Month | \$135 /month | |

On May 12, City Council voted to increase fees in several City departments. The increases were made in response to the City's current economic challenges, the need to meet Fiscal Year 2010 budget goals, and the increased cost of providing these services to residents and the public. This chart illustrates some of these increases, which will be effective July 1, 2009. This is by no means a comprehensive list; for more information, contact the specific City department.

Partnership Receives Funding for Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiative

In February, the Healthy Lifestyles Work Group of the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria and the Alexandria Health Department received a two-year ACHIEVE grant for \$40,000 from the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) to support an early childhood obesity prevention initiative.

With the grant funds, the Healthy Lifestyles Work Group plans to collaborate with childcare providers, preschools, and other early childhood stakeholders in the community, including the Early Childhood Commission and the Arlington/Alexandria School Readiness Council. Over the next six months, they will create a strategic plan to promote physical activity and healthy eating at a policy and environmental level. The grant then provides funds to begin implementing that plan.

This initiative targets young children to address results of the INOVA Health System's 2007 Healthy Weight Collaborative survey. The survey revealed that 43.5% of Alexandria children, ages 2 to 5, are at risk for being overweight or obese. This is of particular concern when compared with a neighboring jurisdiction like Arlington, where only 28.6% of the same age group is at-risk for being overweight or obese.

This project, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is part of a broader Healthy Communities collaborative with NACCHO, YMCA of the USA, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, and National Recreation and Parks Association. For the CDC's broad collaborative, only 43 communities nationwide were chosen as demonstration sites. Alexandria was the only site chosen in Virginia. For more information, visit: www.alexhealth.org/partnership and www.achievecommunities.org.

Let's Get Healthy for Life, Alexandria!

In May, Mayor William D. Euille launched a new health campaign, called the Mayor's "Get Healthy for Life, Alexandria" in an effort to encourage Alexandrians to eat better, get moving, and get healthy. Through targeted activities for adults and youth, Mayor Euille, in collaboration with the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria and local health and fitness organizations, encourages all residents and their families to participate with their friends and neighbors in fitness and education activities, and to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

As part of the initiative, the City will participate in the "50 Million Pound Challenge," a program developed by diet expert and author Dr. Ian Smith and sponsored by State Farm. Mayor Euille, who took control of his own health by adopting an active lifestyle, losing 60 pounds—and keeping it off—wants others to discover the benefits of healthy living by signing up for the Challenge (www.50millionpounds.com). The program provides free resources and online tools for people to follow their own diet and exercise program. MEC Kids, a health and fitness social network for youth, will provide special activities for young people. For more information about the Mayor's "Get Healthy for Life, Alexandria" initiative, visit www.alexhealth.org/partnership.



Do Your Share for Clean Air!

On May 1, the Air Quality Action season began. Air Quality Action Days are called when air quality in our region is expected to reach unhealthy levels. This happens in summer months when hot, humid, and stagnant weather contributes to the formation of air pollution. Poor air quality affects everyone, particularly children and the elderly, and individuals with respiratory and heart ailments.

From May to September, regional air quality is forecasted for the following day and coded as purple, red, orange, yellow or green (with purple and red being most unhealthy). Look for Air Quality Action Days notifications on local TV and radio news stations, in weather forecasts, or at alexandriava.gov.

When a Code Red day is forecast, take the following actions to improve the region's and Alexandria's air quality.

- Instead of driving, walk, bike, or use mass transit
- Avoid mowing lawns with gas-powered mowers
- Delay painting projects until later in the evening
- Do not use aerosol products
- Refuel cars after 7:00 p.m.

Please note that this year, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission voted to end Northern Virginia's Ride Free (free bus ride) program on Code Red Air Quality Action Days. Despite the cancellation of the program, the City encourages residents to reduce the amount of pollutants entering the environment by using public transit or other transportation options. For more information, contact Erica Bannerman, Office of Environmental Quality, at 703.838.4334 or visit alexandriava.gov/oeg.

Alexandria Earth Day, 2009

During Alexandria's Earth Day celebration on April 25, participants learned how to "Take the Green Route," and about the benefits of leaving their cars at home and walking, cycling or using public transportation. The Earth Day celebration also marked the inaugural presentation of the Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award, named for a tireless champion of Alexandria's environmental resources, the late Ellen Pickering. Winners of this year's Pickering Award were residents Elizabeth Chimento and Poul Hertel, longtime environmental activists who have worked to improve air quality in the City by addressing issues and concerns about the impact of the Mirant Power Plant in North Old Town.

It's Never Too Soon to Think About Kindergarten Registration!

Register young Alexandrians for their first school experience now. Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) kindergarten registration for the 2009-2010 school year is now underway. Virginia law states your child must be five years old on or before September 30 to register for kindergarten. There is no deadline for registration; however, ACPS urges parents to register as soon as possible. For admission, a child must meet all documentation and health requirements. If you decide not to register your child for kindergarten, you must contact the school system in writing.

Where to Register

If your child speaks English and was born in the United States, you must register at your home school, even if your child will attend a different ACPS school. To determine your home school, visit the online Attendance Zone Locator at www.acps.k12.va.us/enroll/zonelocator.php or call 703.824.6710.

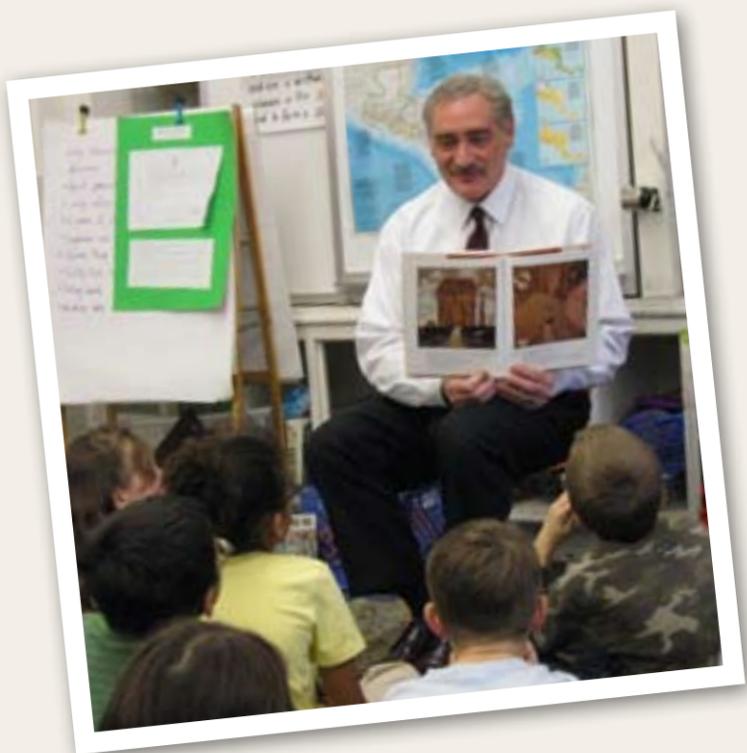
If your child will require English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) services or is not a United States citizen, you must register through the ESL office, located in Alexandria at 4701 Seminary Road in the Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library building.

What to Bring

(For ESL, visit www.acps.k12.va.us/enroll/esl.php or call 703.461.6550.)

- Child's original birth certificate (a copy will be made in the school office).
- Proof that the adult registering the child is the parent or legal guardian (name on birth certificate matches the parent's picture ID or court documents of legal custody).
- Two different documents each proving Alexandria City residency (such as a rent receipt, lease agreement, utility bill, or personal property tax receipt).
- Child's social security number.
- Official school records from another school system or country, if applicable and available.
- Medical information that includes immunization records, as well as a physical examination and a tuberculosis screening done within the 12 months prior to starting school.

For more information, contact your child's school, call 703.824.6680, or visit www.acps.k12.va.us/enroll.



Alexandria City Public Schools Superintendent Morton Sherman reads "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs!" during a stint as "Mystery Reader" in a George Mason Elementary School classroom.
Photo Credit: Mary Jane Solomon



Camp Charles H. Grimm: Serving Generations of Alexandria Youth

Camp Grimm, the Alexandria Police Youth Camp, has a long and proud history. In 1946 Lt. Henry Grimm and Lt. Robert Brenner helped start a summer camp for boys in Alexandria. The Alexandria Police Association (APA) endorsed their plan and appropriated \$2,000 as seed money to purchase a site for the camp.

In June 1946, the 97-acre site was purchased in Kilmarnock, Virginia. The next year, the camp was incorporated as the Alexandria Police Boy's Camp, Inc. The name was later changed to the Alexandria Police Youth Camp when girls were invited to attend.

The camp was named after Charles Herbert Grimm, son of Lt. Grimm, who was killed fighting with the Fourth Marines on Iwo Jima in World War II on D-Day. In 2005, the Alexandria Police Youth Camp formed a partnership with the Peninsula Metropolitan YMCA to operate the camp.

The camp is open to Alexandria youth between the ages of 9 and 15. Camp begins with a bus ride to Kilmarnock on Sunday and ends with a bus ride back on Friday. Activities include arts and crafts, boating, crabbing, fishing, sailing, swimming, and tubing. If kids are unable to afford camp, scholarships are available. Donations and fundraising events, along with support from the City, the Police Department, and the public schools help to fund the camp.

For more information, please visit www.alexpyc.org or contact Lieutenant Jack Compton at 703.838.3830.



City Offers History Day Camps for Kids

This summer, Historic Alexandria museums are registering participants for two history-themed camps, including a new single-day Curator Camp.

Fort Ward Museum is accepting applications for its **Civil War Kids' Camp**, a week of learning and fun for children ages 8 to 12. Explore the lives of Civil War soldiers and civilians with marching, drilling, reenactor guest appearances, games, crafts and other activities! Civil War Kids' Camp runs Monday, June 22, through Friday, June 26, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Fort Ward, 4301 W. Braddock Rd. Registration is limited; applications are accepted on a first-come basis. Registration, including souvenirs and healthy snacks, costs \$250 per child, and there is limited scholarship assistance based on financial need. For more information, or to sign up, contact Fort Ward Museum at 703.838.4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

Older children will have an opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes of a museum at a new one-day **Curator Camp**. During Curator Camp, kids ages 11 through 14 will learn about museums from the inside out! Campers will meet the people who make The Lyceum work, take an exclusive tour, learn about and touch real historic artifacts, and work as a team to create a small exhibit. Campers, their family and friends return to The Lyceum on a later date for their exhibit opening reception. Curator Camp is one day only, Wednesday, August 19, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and costs \$75, including snacks and souvenirs. For more information, or to register, call 703.838.4994 or visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

Shop Locally and Win!

In November, Mayor William D. Euille launched Buy Alexandria, Our Dollars Count, a partnership between the City, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association, the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, and the Alexandria Small Business Development Center. Buy Alexandria is an educational and marketing campaign encouraging residents to buy in Alexandria in an effort to strengthen the economic vitality of the City and its businesses. Residents can participate by simply shopping, dining, entertaining, and purchasing essential goods in Alexandria. Local companies can help as well; business owners are also encouraged to take advantage of local opportunities whenever possible to purchase equipment and supplies in Alexandria.

The initiative was successful in encouraging Alexandrians to do their holiday shopping in the City. Now, to help local businesses thrive and to continue to encourage spending in Alexandria, throughout the spring and summer, residents and businesses are invited to participate in the Our Dollars Count sweepstakes. Through August 31, 2009, each customer who completes a purchase at a participating Our Dollars Count sweepstakes store or restaurant will receive a Buy Alexandria game card.

Shoppers and diners who receive game cards will be eligible to register in the sweepstakes online by entering the access code (found on the reverse of the game card) at www.buyalexandria.com.

On the first day of each month through September, one Buy Alexandria sweepstakes registrant will win a \$100 gift card. Players may enter as many game cards as they are given.

"Participation in the sweepstakes is easy—by doing your shopping, going out to dinner and buying the basics here in Alexandria, you can have a chance at winning \$100," said Mayor Euille. "Keeping your business here helps to sustain our local businesses and encourages spending in Alexandria, directly benefiting the City's tax base. Remember—our dollars count. When you spend here, everyone benefits."

For specific sweepstakes information and participating businesses, please visit www.buyalexandria.com.

Meet Alexandria

Your niece is getting married. Your spouse is on the board of a local association. Your neighbor is organizing his 25th high school reunion, or you have just been assigned to the company party-planning committee. In other words, everyone knows someone who belongs to a group that holds meetings.

The meetings, conferences and social events held in Alexandria every day are important contributions to the City's fiscal soundness. With that in mind, the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association (ACVA) is encouraging residents to contribute to the City's economic health and well-being by inviting the meeting planners in their lives to host meetings and events in Alexandria.

Even in tough economic years, tourism can contribute \$20 million to Alexandria's tax base. Meetings generate revenue for businesses and organizations that the community enjoys such as hotels, restaurants, shops and museums. The City is an ideal destination for small to mid-size meetings, and can provide facilities ranging from budget to luxury that can conveniently accommodate up to 1,000 people.

Support the local economy: tell your niece, your neighbor, your spouse and your boss to contact Lorraine Lloyd (703.746.3303, LLloyd@VisitAlexVa.com) in Group Sales at the ACVA for information on holding meetings in Alexandria, or visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/meeting.

PETS AROUND TOWN



Loiosh
West End



Bella
Fairlington



Mako
Eisenhower Valley



Lexie
Quaker Hill

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. Visit www.alexandrianimals.org for more information.

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 would like to share? Send your photo, along with your pet's name and the name of your neighborhood to fyi@alexandriava.gov.

DASH Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Alexandria Transit Company (ATC) and the City of Alexandria celebrated the 25th anniversary year of operating the City's DASH bus system in March with a week filled with special events and promotions. DASH will continue the celebration throughout this year to thank its customers for their loyal support of the bus system and to attract new riders to its service.

The DASH bus system was born under the leadership of the late Charles Beatley, the Alexandria Mayor who, in the early 1980s, promoted and championed the creation of a local bus system that could be responsive to the City's growing transportation needs. In 1983, City Council approved the establishment of ATC, a non-profit public service company, to provide these services. In 1984, DASH began operations with 17 buses, and in its first full year of service, the bus system carried less than one million passengers. Today, the system operates 64 buses and transports four million passengers a year; in Fiscal Year 2008, an average of 14,000 customers rode DASH each weekday.

DASH has made significant improvements in service levels, added a number of new routes in recent years to keep up with the increased demand for service and the growth of new development, and most recently, has updated and enhanced its Web site. Visit www.dashbus.com for more information about the Alexandria Transit Company, and DASH 25th Anniversary activities.



City Farmers' Markets

Old Town Farmers' Market

Market Square, 301 King Street.
Saturdays, 5 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., year round.
Free parking in the Market Square garage during the hours of the Farmers' Market.

Del Ray Farmers' Market

Corner of East Oxford & Mount Vernon Avenues
Saturdays, 8 a.m. - Noon
Through the first Saturday in December.

Upper King Street Fresh Farmers' Market

King Street Gardens Park, 1806 King St.
Wednesdays, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Open June 3 through October 28.

West End Farmers' Market

Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Drive
Sundays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. through October.

Events & Activities

JUNE

Saturday, June 6

Seventeenth Annual Armenian Festival
Market Square, 301 King Street
Noon- 5 p.m.

Enjoy the culture, music, and food of Armenia.

Admission: Free
703.838.4844

Sunday, June 7

Family Tour Day at Gadsby's Tavern
134 N. Royal St.
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Visitors will experience the Tavern through the guidance of Junior Docents, volunteers from grades 2-5, who will be stationed at each stop on the tour. Family Tours will also be held on June 21.

Admission: \$4 for adults; \$2 for youth ages 11-17
703.838.4242 or www.gadsbystavern.org

Sunday, June 14

9th Annual Arlandria-Chirilagua Festival
3700 Commonwealth Ave.
Noon - 7 p.m.

(Gate Entrance at the intersection of Commonwealth & Reed Ave. and Edison St.)

Celebrate Latino culture, music and food at one of the largest annual Latino community gatherings in Northern Virginia. Entertainment will include live music, food, crafts, health fair, activities for children and much more.

Advance Sales: \$5 Festival Entrance, Kids under 12 Free

Advance Sales: \$15 Combo Festival and Unlimited Carnival Rides, Kids Under 3 Free
Gate Fee: \$10, Kids under 12 Free
Gate Fee: \$20 Combo Festival and Unlimited Carnival Rides, Kids Under 3 Free

For more information and discount ticket sales, call 703.684.5697, ext. 310.

Friday, June 19

The Secret History of Juneteenth
Alexandria Black History Museum
902 Wythe St.
7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Join C.R. Gibbs, author, lecturer and historian. as he shares the powerful and often overlooked stories of courage and struggle behind the original Juneteenth Celebration in Texas.

Admission: Free
703.838.4356 or www.alexblackhistory.org

Saturday, June 20 and

Sunday, June 21

28th Annual Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival
Oronoco Bay Park, Union and Madison Streets
10 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Saturday; 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday

An Alexandria tradition! Enjoy live music, arts and crafts, visiting ships, children's events, and concession stands.

Admission: Adults: advanced ticket sales \$10 or \$15 at the gate
Children (3-12 years): two children free with a paying adult; additional children \$5 each
Children under 3 are FREE
703.549.8300 or www.waterfrontfestival.org

Saturday, June 20

Soldier-Led Walking Tours
Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site
4301 W. Braddock Rd.
10 a.m. - 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

A Union soldier in period uniform will lead two hour-long tours, introducing visitors to the history of the Defenses of Washington, the building and role of Fort Ward, and the stories of troops stationed there during the Civil War.

Admission: Free
703.838.4848 or www.fortward.org

Saturday, June 27

"Their Voices Can Be Heard"
Alexandria Black History Museum
902 Wythe St.
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Join genealogist Char McCargo Bah at a free workshop where she explores unique aspects of urban and rural communities that can help you make key family connections.

Admission: Free, but reservations are requested.
703.838.4356 or www.alexblackhistory.org

Sunday, June 21

Father's Day Open House
Friendship Firehouse
107 S. Alfred St.
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

On Father's Day, Friendship Firehouse will make every dad an honorary chief of the Friendship Fire Company Bucket Brigade. Each dad, with his children, will receive a certificate, a chance to ring the fire bell, and have his picture taken with the Friendship Fire Engine.

Admission: Free for dads; \$4 for all other adults; \$2 for children ages 11 to 17
703.838.38.91 or www.friendshipfirehouse.org

Sunday, June 21

Free Father's Day Tours at Gadsby's Tavern
Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal Street
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Celebrate with dad at the place where the Father of our Country ate, drank, and influenced history.

Admission: Free for dads; \$4 for all other adults; \$2 for children ages 11 to 17
703.838.4242 or oha.alexandriava.gov/gadsby/

JULY

Wednesday, July 1

City Council Installation
T.C. Williams High School
3330 King St.

Alexandria residents are invited to attend the installation ceremony for the City's recently elected Mayor and City Council members. For more information, contact the City Clerk's office at 703.838.4550.

Saturday, July 11

USA and Alexandria Birthday Celebration
Oronoco Bay Park, Union and Madison Streets
Concert: 6 p.m.
Fireworks at dark, approximately 9:30 p.m.

Celebrate the City's 260th Birthday (and the USA's 233rd) with a concert by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, birthday cake, food and fireworks, and the performance of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture."

Admission: Free
703.883.4686

Saturday, July 18

Family Dig Day
Alexandria Archaeology Site at Shuter's Hill
101 Callahan Drive
1:30p.m.-3p.m.

Help City archaeologists and trained volunteers screen excavated soil for artifacts from a real "dig" located on the grounds of the George Washington Masonic Memorial. All necessary equipment will be supplied. Children under 16 must be accompanied by a participating adult.

Admission: \$5 per person; advance reservations required. To make reservations, call 703.838.4399 or e-mail archaeology@alexandriava.gov

Saturday, July 18

Civil War Camp Day and Skirmish
Fort Ward Park
4301 W. Braddock Rd.
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Learn about life in camp during the Civil War and watch soldiers at work.

Admission: \$5 per adult; \$10 for families with children.
703.838.4848 or www.fortward.org

Saturday, July 25

African Heritage Cultural Festival
Market Square, 301 King St.
1 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Enjoy the music, sights, sounds, and food of Africa at this popular festival.

Admission: Free
703.838.4844

AUGUST

Saturday, August 1

Friendship Firehouse Festival
100 block of South Alfred Street
in front of the Friendship Firehouse
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Friendship Firehouse Festival celebrates the 234th anniversary of the Friendship Fire Company, founded in 1774.

Admission: Free
703.838.3891 or www.friendshipfirehouse.org

Saturday, August 1

Tavern Day
Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal St.
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Learn about the tavern and enjoy tours led by costumed guides. Enjoy period music and light refreshments.

Admission: Free
703.838.4242 or oha.alexandriava.gov/gadsby/

Saturday, August 1 and

Sunday, August 2

Railroad Days
The Lyceum
201 S. Washington Street
Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.;
Sunday, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

The Potomac Division of the National Model Railroad Association returns with working HO gauge trains and a digital command system. Learn about miniature trains and Operation Lifesaver, a national railroad safety program headquartered in Alexandria.

Admission: Free
703.838.4994 or oha.alexandriava.gov/lyceum

Saturday, August 8

Irish Festival
Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St.
Noon - 7 p.m.

Enjoy Irish music, step dancers, pipe bands and other cultural activities during this free festival.

Admission: Free
703.883.4686

Sunday, August 23

Cambodian Community Day Festival
Ben Brenman Park,
4800 Brenman Park Drive
Noon - 6 p.m.

Celebrate Cambodian culture with artistic performances, arts and crafts exhibits, folk games, and sports, live music and food.

Admission: Free
571.218.9513

ONGOING EVENTS

Through August 8

The Fine Art of Jazz
Alexandria Black History Museum
902 Wythe St.

View photographer Dan White's exhibit featuring 50 photographs of Kansas City jazz musicians, captured over two decades. The exhibit also features excerpts of interviews with the musicians.

Admission: \$2 (suggested)
703.838.4356 or www.alexblackhistory.org

Through September 20

Living Legends of Alexandria Photo Exhibition
The Lyceum
201 S. Washington St.
Daily, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

This new exhibition, featuring the work of Nina Tisara, celebrates and documents individuals who have made remarkable contributions to the quality of life in Alexandria, and their stories.

Admission: \$2 (suggested)
703.838.4994 or oha.alexandriava.gov/lyceum

Through September 30

Sewn Together: The 18th Century Women of Carlyle House
Carlyle House
121 N. Fairfax St.
Daily, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

See the recreated 1747 wedding dress of Sarah Fairfax Carlyle, learn about its history, and the women who lived at Carlyle House.

Admission: \$4 for adults; \$2 for students; free for children 10 and under
703.549.2997 or www.carlylehouse.org

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, September 12 and

Sunday, September 13

Seventh Annual Alexandria Festival of the Arts
King Street in Old Town Alexandria
Saturday, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Discover spectacular paintings, life-size sculptures, jewelry, ceramics, photography, and more! This festival, rated one of the top 100 art festivals in the country, features the work of artists from California, New York, Maine, Florida, New Mexico, and Virginia.

Admission: Free
For more information, visit www.artsfestival.com

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA SUMMER CONCERTS

Free concerts featuring a variety of musical entertainment.

Canal Plaza, 44 Canal Plaza, at Noon

June 10 - Lying Heart (Country, Classic Rock, & Blues)
June 24 - La Tanya Mari (Jazz Vocal)
July 8 - Mike Cotter (Classic Rock/Folk)
July 22 - 2nd Story Band Duo (World Beat Blues)
August 5 - Chemistry (Jazz)

Music At Twilight Concerts

Fort Ward Park Amphitheater
4301 West Braddock Rd. at 7 pm (unless otherwise indicated)

This free concert series features area artists in performances of music ranging from concert band pieces to soft rock.

June 4 - Alexandria Citizens Band (Concert Band)
June 11 - Alexandria Singers (Pop)
June 18 - Alma Folclorica del Peru (Folk Music of Peru)
June 25 - Annie Sidley duo (Original Pop/R & B)
July 16 - Ebenezer Baptist Church Evangelical Women's Choir (Choral)
July 23 - Alexandria Harmonizers (Barbershop)
July 30 - Irish Breakfast Band (Traditional Irish), 7:30 p.m.
August 6 - All Scottish Night (Traditional Scottish), 7:30 p.m.

Ben Brenman Park Concerts

Ben Brenman Park Amphitheater
4800 Brenman Park Dr. at 7 p.m.

Free concerts featuring a variety of musical entertainment.

July 15 - Wes Tucker & the Skillets (Folk Rock)
July 29 - Flavorshot (Funk/R & B)

Special Performances

Alexandria Citizens Band Concerts
"City's Oldest Performing Arts Organization"

Market Square, 301 King St. at 7:30 p.m.
June 5 & 19; July 17 & 31; & August 7

Fort Ward Park Amphitheater
4301 W. Braddock Rd. at 7:30 p.m.
June 4

Fort Ward Park Amphitheater
4301 W. Braddock Rd. at 7:30 p.m.
July 23

Alexandria Harmonizers

Market Square,
301 King St. 7:30 p.m.
August 14

Alexandria Singers

Fort Ward Park Amphitheater
4301 W. Braddock Rd. at 7:30 p.m.
June 11

For more information, visit alexandriava.gov/recreation

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.