

FYI ALEXANDRIA

IN THIS EDITION

Alexandria's Official Resident Newsletter

MAY 2010



PAGE 2

- VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP
- HEALTHY FOOD ALEXANDRIA
- PETS AROUND TOWN

PAGE 3

- WATERFRONT PLAN UPDATE
- ALL ALEXANDRIA READS 2010
- NEW HOURS FOR ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- MEMORIAL DAY JAZZ FESTIVAL
- LUNCH BUNCH CONCERTS

City Council Adopts FY 2011 Budget

After two months of work sessions, public hearings, public comment, and deliberations, on May 3 the Alexandria City Council voted 5-2 to adopt a \$531.6 million General Fund Operating Budget for the fiscal year (FY) beginning July 1, 2010. The real estate tax rate of 90.3 cents was increased by 7.5 cents to 97.8 cents per \$100 of assessed value. This tax rate, which remains one of the lowest in Northern Virginia, includes 0.5 cents dedicated to stormwater management projects. The average homeowner's taxes will increase by \$125, or 2.9%.

The budget aims to maintain core City services, education, and Metro funding despite challenging economic conditions. Items approved by Council include:

- Two new, peak-time medic units and five medical staff in the Alexandria Fire Department
- Restoration of two Community-Oriented Police positions,
- Reinstatement of \$100,000 to the Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) to retain service on the AT4 route

- A merit step increase in FY 2011 for City employees, to help offset increases to health insurance premiums and help retain a highly skilled workforce.
- A parking meter rate increase to \$1.75 per hour, which generates \$1.15 million
- A \$5 increase for residents who receive City trash and recycling collection services (fees will be used to purchase larger recycling bins to increase recycling rates and improve convenience and service)

The largest increase in the FY 2011 budget is the transfer of funds to the Alexandria City Public Schools. The transfer of funds will rise \$3.3 million, a 2.0% increase over the FY 2010 budget.

The taxpayers' cost to fund the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) continues to go up annually. The FY 2011 budget includes a potential \$1.6 million increase to the transit agency, which is 26% more than in FY 2010.

For more information on the FY 2010 Budget, visit alexandriava.gov/Budget or call 703.746.3737.

\$2.91

Did you know it costs nearly \$3 per issue to produce and mail printed copies of *FYI Alexandria*?

Help our Eco-City save money (and trees!)—subscribe to *FYI Alexandria Online* via eNews. To make the switch from printed copies, visit alexandriava.gov/FYIsubscribe

City to Debut New Recycling Bins

Beginning this fall, the yellow City recycling bins will be replaced as Alexandria "rolls out" its new recycling system and a new receptacle: a blue, wheeled cart. The new carts will make recycling easier and more convenient: they accommodate bulky items, have lids to keep the recyclables secure, and are easier to roll to the curb.

As part of the City's Eco-City Alexandria initiative, the new recycling system is designed to increase the amount of recyclables collected, and increase overall participation in the recycling program. The list of recyclable materials has been expanded and includes hardcover books, rigid plastics (such as buckets, pails, and laundry baskets), and milk and juice cartons.

The carts will also assist the City's recycling outreach efforts through a radio frequency identification (RFID) system. Each cart will have an RFID tag (similar to a barcode) that can be read by the collection truck when placed within about 12 inches of the vehicle. The tags will allow the City to record recycling participation rates and to save money by allocating outreach resources more efficiently. Participation in the recycling cart program is voluntary. The recycling carts will not be tracked by individual names, only by addresses the City serves. Similar systems are used in Arlington and Fairfax counties, and in Frederick, MD.



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

WWW.ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV

FYI Alexandria is the official publication of the City of Alexandria, produced and published by the Office of Communications, City Manager's Office. For more information, call 703.746.3959 or e-mail fyi@alexandriava.gov.

City Manager: James K. Hartmann **Director of Communications:** Tony Castrilli **Managing Editor:** Andrea Blackford **Editors:** Tony Castrilli and Jennifer Harris
Intern: Andrea Summers **Design and Layout:** Michelle Davis **FYI Alexandria Online:** Justin Thompson

Virginia General Assembly Legislative Wrap up

The State budget was the key issue at this year's Virginia General Assembly Session. Like many states, Virginia faced a substantial shortfall due to decreasing state revenues. A number of government programs (including public safety and the courts, K-12 education, and some mental health and social service programs) funded jointly by the State and localities (but operated primarily by localities) faced cuts in funding. Alexandria's goal for the Session was to minimize the cuts to the City's programs. Fortunately, while the City experienced reduced funding for a number of its programs, the total reductions were less than expected.

Other issues important to the City included:

- A bill was passed to change the City Charter in a way that will allow the City to deal more efficiently with appeals of assessments by property owners.
- A bill proposing an increase in the local motor fuel sales tax (which is used to pay for some of the City's transit costs) was defeated.
- A bill proposing that drivers be required to stop for pedestrians in all crosswalks, a long-time request of the City, was also defeated.

To hear more about the Session from City Legislative Director Bernie Caton, tune in to *FYI Alexandria on the Air* at alexandriava.gov/Podcasts.

PETS AROUND TOWN



Grady
North Ridge

Got a photo of your pet you'd like to share? Send it to fyi@alexandriava.gov (JPG files only, please)! Visit our online gallery at alexandriava.gov/PetGallery.

Alexandria City Council Passes Nation's Second "Green Food" Resolution

What does Alexandria have in common with Signal Mountain, Tennessee? Our City joins the small town in being the nation's only jurisdictions that have passed "green food" resolutions. On March 23, City Council unanimously approved the Healthy Food Alexandria resolution. Healthy Food Alexandria establishes the creation of a Citywide, citizen-led initiative to increase Alexandrians' access to locally grown, environmentally sustainable foods by increasing public awareness, encouraging the development of citizen-initiated community gardens and expanded access to farmers' markets, and supporting healthy food choices, especially those involving locally produced food.

The initiative will also

- increase public awareness through educational events and by providing special recognition to restaurants, businesses, and organizations that use local food produced by sustainable methods;

- increase access to healthy, local foods for low-income communities by seeking opportunities to allow food stamps to be accepted at farmers' markets;
- support community education efforts to help children learn more about healthy, local food by expanding locally sourced foods in their school-provided meals;
- facilitate partnerships between the City, community organizations, non-profits, local businesses, faith-based organizations and local farmers to increase residents' access to locally produced foods by offering classes and workshops in gardening, nutrition, and cooking.



Shop at the City's Farmers' Markets

This summer, shop locally and eat healthy!

- Old Town Farmers' Market
Market Square, 301 King St.
Saturdays, 5 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Year round
703.746.4343
- Del Ray Farmers' Market
Corner of East Oxford &
Mount Vernon Avenues
Saturdays, 8 a.m. - Noon
Year round
703.683.2570

- West End Farmers' Market
Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Dr.
Sundays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Through November 21
703.746.4343
- Upper King Street Fresh Farmers' Market
King Street Gardens Park, 1806 King St.
Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Through October 27
703.824.8252

Visit alexandriava.gov/FarmersMarket for more information.

Access Alexandria: Follow the City on Twitter and Facebook!



The City of Alexandria is now on Twitter and Facebook! Connect and share with us to get all the latest information about City news, events, programs, initiatives, projects, emergency information, community issues, and more. Follow us at [alexandriava.gov/Twitter](https://twitter.com/alexandriava) or find us on Facebook at [alexandriava.gov/Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/alexandriava).

Waterfront Plan Update

The Alexandria waterfront is one of the things that makes Alexandria special; a part of the City's history, identity, economy and daily life. It functions as the City's "front yard" for residents and as a tourist attraction.

However, the waterfront is also one of the most complicated areas of any City to plan. Many parcels are subject to legal restrictions; riverfront locations have environmental, navigational, and public safety constraints; the City has a persistent flooding problem; there are traffic and parking issues; and historic preservation is important.

Over the last year, the Department of Planning and Zoning used several tools to solicit public input and build common

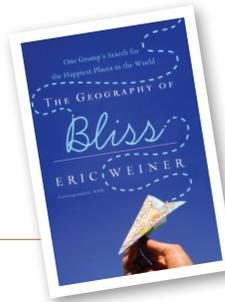
goals for the waterfront, including public workshops, tours to other waterfront sites; and studies on traffic, parking, flood mitigation and retail economics. These efforts helped reveal common goals for the waterfront, ranging from addressing parking and traffic problems to expanding retail, dining and shopping along the Strand. On May 3, a waterfront concept plan incorporating these ideas was presented to the public. The Concept Plan will be made available for review at alexandriava.gov/Waterfront later this month, and public comment is welcome. A draft Waterfront Master Plan will subsequently be released in early summer for public review and comment.

Navigate the *Geography of Bliss*: All Alexandria Reads 2010

This month, the Alexandria Library system invites the community to read the humorous travelogue *The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World* by Eric Weiner. Join Weiner as he explores places such as Qatar, Switzerland, Bhutan, Thailand, and Holland in his search to discover what makes people happy. The program, which also features similar "read-alike" books for younger readers, will host book discussion groups (at library branches

and on the Library's Facebook page), movies, food-related events, and music. For a full list of events scheduled for All Alexandria Reads, please visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703.519.5900.

All Alexandria Reads is made possible through a generous grant from the James M. Duncan, Jr. Library Foundation, Inc.



New Hours for Alexandria Library

Hours of operation for Alexandria's libraries will change effective Tuesday, June 1:

Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St.
Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.;
Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.;
Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.;
Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Barrett Branch, 717 Queen St.
Monday 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.;
Tuesday - Thursday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.;
Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.;
Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Duncan Branch,
2501 Commonwealth Ave.
Monday - Tuesday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.;
Wednesday 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.;
Thursday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.;
Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.;
Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Burke Branch, 4701 Seminary Rd.
Monday - Wednesday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.;
Thurs 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.;
Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.;
Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Local History / Special Collections,
717 Queen St.
Monday 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.;
Tuesday 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.;
Wednesday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.;
Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.;
First Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



For more information, visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703.746.1702.

Eco-City Roundup: Alexandria Turns Green for Spring!

Spring is here and the City seems to be buzzing with spring cleaning and efforts to become more eco-friendly. One of several spring cleaning initiatives the City participated in is the **Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup**, held on April 10 this year. More than 6,000 volunteers came to collect more than 100 tons of trash.

On April 24, despite rain, Alexandrians celebrated **Earth Day** at Ben Brenman Park. The second annual **Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award** was given to **Montie Kust** for her creation of a nature reserve and her longtime efforts to educate and advocate for a more ecologically and healthier world. In keeping with the event theme, "teach (green), learn (green), live (green)," **Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS)** were recognized for efforts to recycle plastic bags. From September 2009 to April 2010, the Schools collected more than 29,000 gallons of plastic bags. The top three schools to collect bags (and to win a contest sponsored by the City and the Trex Company) were **Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy**, followed by **Charles Barrett Elementary School** and **Douglas MacArthur Elementary School**.

The **Spring for Alexandria** weekend, hosted by **ACT for Alexandria**, the City, and **Volunteer Alexandria**, provided more opportunities to spruce up. On April 30, City employees participating in **Community Service Day** helped "green the city" through clean-up projects; on the following day, the **Alexandria Jaycees** hosted Alexandria Gives, a community contributions day that gave residents the opportunity to clean their closets and cupboards and to make donations to charitable organizations.



FYI ALEXANDRIA

Alexandria's Official Resident Newsletter

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

Watch Mayor Euille Today!

This month, Mayor Euille discusses new plans for the Alexandria Waterfront with City Planning and Zoning Director Faroll Hamer and talks with Alexandria City Councilman Rob Krupicka and Carrie Fesperman from the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria about the City's Healthy Food Resolution and other healthy living initiatives.

On Comcast Cable Channel 69: Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

On the Web at alexandriava.gov/Video.

WWW.ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

May 31

33RD ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY JAZZ FESTIVAL
Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Rd.
1 - 7 p.m.
For more information, call the Special Events Hotline at 703.746.5592 or the Special Events Office at 703.746.5418

June 5

"STAR SPANGLED TRAIL" BICYCLE TOUR
Departs at 121 N. Fairfax Street, at 9 a.m.
Sponsored by the Alexandria Archaeology Museum
Admission: Free, but reservations required (Note: helmet & a signed waiver are required)
Contact Ruth Reeder at 703.746.4399 for reservations

Through June 27

"TRAMPING AND TRAILING WITH THE GIRL SCOUTS" EXHIBITION
The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum
10 a.m.- 5 p.m.
201 S. Washington St.
Admission: \$2
For more information, call The Lyceum at 703.746.4994

LUNCH BUNCH CONCERTS

Canal Plaza, 44 Canal Plaza at Noon

Concerts are cosponsored by Tishman Speyer.

June 16
Michael Mulvaney (Blues Americana)

June 30
The Turning Point (Traditional Jazz)

July 14
Gina DeSimone & the Moaners (Swing & Blues)

July 28
Legend of Lummy Halin (Original & Classic Pop Rock)

August 11
Janna Audey (Soulful, Melodic & Fun)

John Carlyle Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Wednesdays at Noon

June 9 & 23; and July 7 & 21
Performers to be announced.

Alexandria Mayor & City Council

Mayor William D. Euille

william.euille@alexandriava.gov

Vice Mayor Kerry J. Donley

kerry.donley@alexandriava.gov

Councilman Frank H. Fannon IV

frank.fannon@alexandriava.gov

Councilwoman Alicia R. Hughes

alicia.hughes@alexandriava.gov

Councilman Rob Krupicka

council@krupicka.com

Councilwoman Redella S. "Del" Pepper

del.pepper@alexandriava.gov

Councilman Paul C. Smedberg

paulcsmedberg@aol.com

Messages for City Council can be left at the Office of the City Clerk/City Council: 703.746.4550. Dockets, video, and podcasts of the City Council meetings are at alexandriava.gov/Webcasts.