



## What's Happening

### What happened to July?

The **July and August** DCHS eNEWS were combined. Monthly issues resume in September.

### Her View

**MaryAnn Griffin**, director of the office on Aging and Adult Services, has assumed a new role in championing the causes of senior citizens in the City: She is now writing a column for the Alexandria Times. The debut column appeared in the August 25 issue. A link to the column follows: <http://www.alextimes.com/news/2011/aug/23/my-view-alexandria-is-getting-older-he/>

### New Commission

The newly created **Alexandria Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission**, established by the City Council and the Alexandria School Board, is seeking members. Contact Ron Frazier, [ron.frazier@alexandriava.gov](mailto:ron.frazier@alexandriava.gov).

### Rock and Stroll

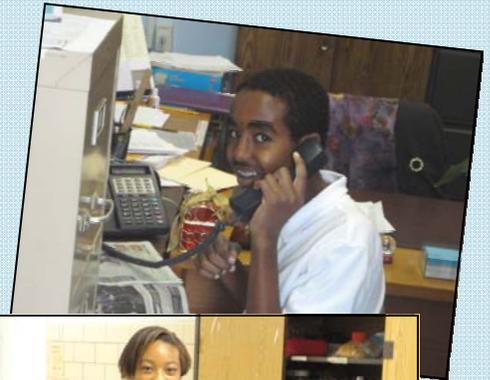
Lace up your walking shoes and join the crowd for a walk to end homelessness Saturday, September 10 at Cameron Run Park from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

See flyer and registration form on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter.



# Summer in the City

Summertime usually evokes thoughts of lazy days at the swimming pool or hanging out with friends. But summertime for some Alexandria teens means learning new skills, meeting new people and earning a paycheck. Read about DCHS programs that provided opportunities for Alexandria's youth.



Teen workers (clockwise from top left) La'Nasia Fleming, Derrick Mitchell, Yafeit Gojales, Kendra Knight, Kaleob Ferede



Youth Mappers prepare to canvas the community at a kick-off ceremony at Mt. Vernon Recreation Center.

# Youth Mappers Seek Out Services, Poll Opinions

Alexandria's second run of Community Youth Mapping (CYM) kicked off Wednesday July 13, with an opening ceremony at Mount Vernon Recreation Center in Del Ray. The summer project, focusing on the City's East End, identifies resources and services for children, youth and families in the City.

A team of 16 teens supervised by adult leaders conducted more than 450 interviews with managers of businesses, non-profits, faith-based organizations, City sites and schools. The teens asked about existing programs and services, as well as explored perceptions about issues such as youth substance abuse, teen pregnancy and gang activity.

Mappers developed presentations that showcased the preliminary findings of their research as well as their recommendations. They will be able to highlight existing resources as well as service gaps, street by street, in Alexandria's East End.

Mapping provided an opportunity for youth to build skills in interviewing, data collection, data management, geography, team building, communication and conflict resolution. It was also a way for youth to become more knowledgeable about their community and its services. Moreover, Mapping provides valuable information to public officials and policymakers about gaps in City programs and services for youth.



Darwin Hernandez conducts an interview at a Del Ray business.

The Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) will issue a final report and present the findings and recommendations to City Council and other stakeholders in the City. The information will be available on SAPCA's website, [www.preventitalexandria.org](http://www.preventitalexandria.org).

CYM was a special project of the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) and its partners: Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy; Alexandria City Public Schools; Alexandria Fire

Department; Alexandria Health Department; Alexandria Police Department; Alexandria Recreation Department; Alexandria Sheriff's Department; Department of Community and Human Services, JobLink; and the Partnership for Healthier Alexandria.



Left to right, Alexa Manful, Andria Smith (adult supervisor), Kalebe Tariku, and Diamond Harris.



Youth Mappers Timothy Lewis at microphone and Darwin Hernandez assisting present their findings at the TeensWork closing ceremony at Minnie Howard School.

# TeensWork! Helps First-Time Job Seekers Get Hired

With the economy sagging and competition for summer jobs fierce, where can first-time job seekers get a foot in the door?

For more than 20 years, the Summer Youth Employment Program, now part of TeensWork!, has been solving that problem. Teens ages 14 through 21 who receive free or reduced lunches at school or who have a documented disability can enroll in the public employment program which secures them a position for six weeks in a City agency or private non-profit. The salaries are paid by the program.

This summer youth from G.W. and Hammond Middle Schools, Minnie Howard Campus and T.C. Williams High School spent 20 hours a week at recreation centers, libraries, schools, and offices doing all manner of work. At the end of the program, many teens were honored at the closing ceremony with an award for being an outstanding worker, or showing exceptional initiative or being most improved.

"These experiences," said Youth Employment Counselor Tiffany Gray, "not only encourage young people to set realistic goals for their



**Youth Counselor Tiffany Gray, right, with one of her outstanding workers, DaShawn Eubanks.**

lives but also give them specific actions they can do to achieve those goals."

In addition to the public program, which is the only one of its kind in Virginia, TeensWork! offers a private program designed for youth ages 16 to 21. This program runs year round and helps youth obtain jobs at local businesses. An annual teen job fair held in April helps City teens get a head start on other job seekers by completing applications and meeting with employers.



**Nelson Smith, former director of the Office of Community Services, attends the closing ceremony to support his daughter, Shannon.**

Finally, a WIA (Workforce Investment Act) Youth Program offers educational opportunities, vocational training and employment options to teens and young adults who meet federal guidelines.

All groups benefit from job readiness workshops, taught by TeensWork! Counselors, that teach job search and interview skills and proper workplace behavior.

This summer 247 earned a paycheck and got a lesson in how to achieve future success.



**Youth Counselors (left to right) Deborah Dawit, Farjana Akhter and Shannon Smith greet guests at the closing ceremony. All were summer hires. Deborah and Shannon are heading to graduate school in public policy; Farjana will begin a permanent full-time position at JobLink in September.**



**Eugene Boakye, directing students (above), worked as a summer intern in the TeensWork! Program. Now a junior at Old Dominion University, Eugene was a TeensWork! participant in 2007.**



**Chasity Caughman receives an award from Youth Counselor Octavius Fulton.**

## Know Something? Share it

We're looking for your stories, announcements, photos, ideas, accomplishments, and tips.

Send to [jan.schrader@alexandriava.gov](mailto:jan.schrader@alexandriava.gov). Next newsletter date is Sept. 15.

All materials needed by Sept. 10.



Theodore "Teddy" Jones, left, and James "Chucky" Moore, right, with the 2011-2012 Peer Advisors.

## Teen Role Models Spend Summer Teaching Others

What better way to spend your summer than being a role model. Apparently that's what the 10 teens in the Peer Advisor Program thought.

Five boys and five girls dedicated their summer to learning lessons about anger management, avoiding drugs and alcohol and peer pressure and eating healthy. Then when they knew the material, they went in groups of three to the City recreation centers as well as Community Lodgings Learning Center and Brent Place Apartments where KAT (Kids Are Terrific) Camps were held and presented the information to the children.

While the children learned about doing the right thing, the Peer Advisors learned that teaching can be challenging.

Deronté, 17, learned that "you have to approach different recs differently because some recs have younger groups than others. You have to find different ways to interact with the kids.

"Teaching elementary school children requires a lot of energy. You have to have 120 percent energy. They like the books and like to laugh. You have to treat the older children like they're more mature."

Celina, 16, discovered that "teaching the kids is a lot of fun. I've never worked with kids as closely as in KAT camp and it's teaching me a lot of responsibility and a lot of patience.

"We were talking with the kids at Community Lodgings and one of the kids said 'I want to be like Celina.' That meant a lot to me."

Vikaya, 16, liked the program because it helped her overcome her

shyness and it was fun teaching the children what to do and what not to do.

KAT Camp provides activities and adventures for children 8 through 12. The Peer Advisors assisted recreation staff with activities and with chaperoning the children on field trips to the zoo, wave pool, Natural History Museum and Six Flags.

Although KAT Camp has concluded, the work of the Peer Advisors is not done. During the school year, they mentor and tutor children at the Charles Houston Recreation Center and Brent Place Apartments.

The Peer Advisor program has been around since 1986 when James "Chucky" Moore and Theodore "Teddy" Jones, both DCHS Youth Development Counselors, decided to create a program that taught children and teens to avoid drugs and alcohol rather than a program that tried to get them clean once they had become addicted.

But the program is about more than prevention. It's also about setting goals and planning for your future, about studying and getting into college. Peer Advisors are youth representatives on various Citywide workgroups, attend leadership conferences, travel to various college campuses, and learn about the college application process.

The Peer Advisor office in the Charles Houston Recreation Center is decorated with large group photos of previous Peer Advisor groups. The young people in the photos have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, teachers, business owners and one is now a City firefighter. That makes Jones and Moore feel proud.

**This is not a home.**



**[ But for too many families, it's the only place they have. ]**

## **On Service Saturday, YOU can make a difference.**



*service saturday*  
September 10, 2011

**Acacia Federal**  
**Rock & Stroll**  
to end homelessness

**Mini-Walk  
Music  
BBQ Lunch  
Games  
Fun!**

**September 10**

**Cameron Run Park  
in Alexandria**

**12:30 - 3:00 PM**

**Benefitting six local non-  
profit service providers.**

[www.wesleyhousing.org/RockStroll.htm](http://www.wesleyhousing.org/RockStroll.htm)



Sponsored by



Alive!, The Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless (AACH), Carpenter's Shelter, Community Lodgings, New Hope Housing, and Wesley Housing

Thank you to event sponsors:

**Haded Carpet, Alexandria Cupcake, Alexandria Times, MobileSignz, Whole Foods**



**New Hope Housing Rock and Stroll Mini Walk  
(Acacia Federal Rock and Stroll)  
Saturday, September 10, 2011, 12:30 p.m.  
Cameron Run Park**

**General Mini-Walk Walker Registration Form**

To register as a walker in a Help the Homeless Mini-Walk, please complete this form in its entirety and submit it along with the required registration fee. The signature of each walker-or a qualified parent or guardian for walkers less than 18 years old- is required.

\*Required fields

WALKER REGISTRATION INFORMATION	
*Participant Name:	*Age:
*Name of Hosting Organization:	New Hope Housing/Alexandria Community Shelter

HELP THE HOMELESS T-SHIRT INFORMATION	
*Do you want a Help the Homeless T-shirt?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If you want a T-shirt, please indicate size:	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Small <input type="checkbox"/> Adult XL

REGISTRATION FEE	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 YOUTH (ages 25 and younger)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30 ADULT
Donation Amount: \$	*Total Amount Due: \$

PAYMENT METHOD (CASH IS NOT ACCEPTED)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check/money order	(Make checks/money orders payable to: Help the Homeless/CFNCR) Total Amount of check: \$
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> American Express	
Credit Card number:	Expiration Date:
I authorize the amount of _____ to be charged to my credit card.	
Cardholder Name:	Signature:

SIGNATURE OF WALKER (PARENT/GUARDIAN IF UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE)	
<i>I have full knowledge of the risks involved with, and understand that I could be injured during, the Help the Homeless event (the "Event"). I agree to assume all risks of such injury. I unconditionally release and discharge Fannie Mae and all other persons and entities involved with this Event from any and all claims, damages, and expenses that may arise directly or indirectly from my participation in this Event. I understand that neither Fannie Mae nor any of the other sponsors, individuals, or groups involved in the coordination of this Event makes any representations or warranties about the fitness or condition of the public parks, streets, or trails that will be used for the Event, and I agree that none of those parties is responsible for the maintenance or condition of those parks, streets, or trails, or for the public safety thereon. I hereby certify that I am able to participate in this Event without harm to myself or others. I hereby grant Fannie Mae and its licensees, the irrevocable right to use and publish, for any purpose whatsoever and without compensation, any photographs, video recordings, or motion pictures of my likeness, voice, portrait, testimonial statement, if any, and to refer to me and my name, title, city, and state of residence in relation thereto, in all media and promotion of Fannie Mae in connection with my participation in the Event.</i>	
Signature:	Date:

Fannie Mae works with the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region (CFNCR), who assists Fannie Mae in the administration of the Help the Homeless Program. CFNCR is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization (Tax ID# 23-7343119). Donations are tax-deductible as a charitable contribution to the fullest extent of the law.