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Subject: Recreation News for April 2009

History:

This message has been forwarded.

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities programs and activities' announcement for the month of April 2009:

Community & Special Events
West End Farmers' Market
Out of School Programs
Nature Programs
Arts in Alexandria
Adult & Youth Sports
Commission Meetings
2009 Park & Recreation Commission CIVIC Awards
Dispatches from the Front

For additional information, visit alexandriava.gov/recreation or call 703.838.4343.

COMMUNITY & SPECIAL EVENTS

April 7

An Afternoon with Skeeter Swift

Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. at 1 pm

Admission is free.

For additional information, call Michael Johnson at 703.898.5115 or Harry Covert at 703.856.0451.

April 18

Annual Citywide Cheerleading Competition

T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. from 11 am-1pm

Sponsor: City of Alexandria ARPCA/Youth Sports Office

For more information, call 703.838.4345 or email mac.slover@alexandriava.gov.

April 21

Days of Remembrance

Market Square, 301 King St. from noon-1 pm

Sponsor: City of Alexandria

For more information, call the Special Events Hotline at 703.883.4686 or the Special Events Office at 703.838.4844.

April 25

Alexandria Earth Day 2009

Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Dr. from 10 am-2pm

Sponsor: City of Alexandria

Annual Earth Day Tree Sale from 8 am-1 pm. For additional information, visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation or call 703.838.4999.

For more information, visit www.alexearthday.org, or call the Special Events Hotline at 703.883.4686 or the Special Events Office at 703.838.4844.

April 25

Project Discovery Walk-a-thon

Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Rd from 8 am-noon

Sponsor: Alexandria Office of Youth Services

For more information, call Ron Frazier at 703.838.0992 or email ron.frazier@alexandriava.gov.

April 26

25th Annual GW Parkway Classic Race

Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. from 6-10 am

Sponsor: Pacers

For more information, call Kathy Dalby at 703.836.1463 or email kathy@runpacers.com.

April 26

Titan Expo

Chinquapin Park, 3210 King St. from noon-6 pm

Sponsor: TC Williams HS SCA & PTA

For more information, call Todd Koren at 703.824.6868 or email todd.koren@acps.k12.va.us.

WEST END FARMERS' MARKET

City Announces the Opening of the West End Farmers' Market

The public is invited to the opening of the West End Farmers' Market at 9 am on Sunday, May 3 at Ben Brenman Park, located at 4800 Brenman Park Drive. The West End Farmers' Market is open to the public on Sundays beginning May 3 through November 22 from 9 am to 1 pm. For additional information, [click here](#).

OUT OF SCHOOL PROGRAMS

"A World of Culture"

Travel the distance through the "A World of Culture" program. This program is designed to help capture the imagination, encourage education, and stimulate learning while having fun.

Communication through the fine and visual arts, coupled with education, help integrate excitement while providing insight and respect for the culture of the world. Celebrations, food workshops, music, dance, visual arts, civic event activities, and eco-systems are planned throughout the calendar year. The activities infuse innovative program ideas, diversified leisure interests and learning to support the idea of exposing participants to events and people that have shaped the culture of our world. Call the recreation center in your neighborhood for additional information.

April

World Eco Systems

This month's activities provide a perfect blend of nature, education and fun. Participants study pond and stream life, wildlife, footprint tracking, habitats, nature journaling, historical farming and more. This month's activities provide participants with memorable experiences. Every day is Earth Day.

Teen Spring Break All Star Activities

April 7: Taste The Flavor

April 8: Teen Cook-Off

April 9: Teen Rat Race @ Six Flags

Register today at any recreation center or the teen program office. For more information about these activities or other Citywide Teen events and opportunities, call the Teen Program Office at 703.838.4345 or email ann.redfearn@alexandriava.gov.

NATURE PROGRAMS

Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center Operating Hours to Change in April

Starting in April, the Nature Center will be open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 am-5pm, and Sundays from 1-5pm. The center will be closed on Monday and Tuesday.

Spring Break Nature Camp

April 6 - 10, 9 am-3:30 pm (drop-off at 8:30am)

A week-long, full-day nature camp for youth, ages 7-10. Activities will include basic biology and ecology exploration, hikes, nature-based arts and crafts, journaling, games and stories.

Walk-in registration for Alexandria residents opens Wednesday, February 11 at the Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center. Nonresidents may sign up beginning Saturday, February 21. Early registration is advised. For additional information and to register, call 703.838.4829.

Fee: \$275 (\$25 additional nonresident fee).

Nature Center Summer Camps

The Nature Center will be holding two camps this summer. The Budding Naturalist Camp, for children entering kindergarten or 1st grade, will be held June 24-26 from 1-3 pm at a cost of \$85.

The Junior Naturalist Camp, for children entering 2nd, 3rd or 4th grades, will be held July 6-10 from 9 am-noon at a cost of \$95. For additional information or to register, call 703.838.4829.

Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center Spring Festival

Join the staff as we participate in crafts, games and activities. Fun for the entire family. Call 703 838-4829, the sign up for this program. For additional information or to register, call 703.838.4829.

Fee: \$2

ARTS IN ALEXANDRIA

Poet Laureate to Make Presentation of Poems to Mayor and City Council

On April 14, Mary McElveen, Alexandria's Poet Laureate, will encourage the Mayor, City Council and the City to participate in the month-long celebration of National Poetry Month, as designated by the Academy of American Poets. She will also be presenting Council members at the City Council Meeting with a small booklet of the poems she has written over her three year tenure as the Poet Laureate. In addition, she is working with the Office of the Arts staff to engage citizens, businesses, civic associations, schools, libraries and recreation centers to participate in "Poem in Your Pocket" Day on April 30.

Alexandria Arts Forum

On April 26 at noon, the Alexandria Arts Forum will hold its monthly meet at the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St. For more information, please email Alan Wile, President, at alan.wile@comcast.net.

April 30 is Poem in Your Pocket Day

In celebration of National Poetry Month, Alexandria's Poet Laureate encourages you to carry a favorite poem (original or copied) in your pocket on April 30. Mary McElveen and the Alexandria Commission for the Arts are planning a series of poetry readings and other activities. Be prepared to be challenged by your fellow Alexandrians to read your favorite poem on April 30. For more information, visit www.AlexandriaCommissionForTheArts.org or call Cheryl Anne Colton at 703.838.6348.

ADULT & YOUTH SPORTS

Coaches Needed

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities is currently seeking volunteers to coach youth Volleyball, Cheerleading, Basketball, Baseball and Softball. Criminal History background checks are required. Interested persons should call the Youth Sports Office at 703.838.4345 or e-mail mac.slover@alexandriava.gov or tamika.coleman@alexandriava.gov.

2008 & 2009 Winter Basketball League Champions

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities held the Winter Basketball League Championship games on Saturday, March 14 at Francis Hammond Middle School. It was a great day for youth basketball and the crowd enjoyed some fun and exciting

games.

10 & Under Girls Division Champion: George Mason #1 – 14 vs Patrick Henry – 11
10 & Under Boys National Division: Patrick Henry #3 – 18 vs George Mason #2 – 15
10 & Under Boys American Division: William Ramsay – 27 vs Patrick Henry – 25
12 & Under Girls Division: MacArthur #2 – 12 vs MacArthur #1 – 11
12 & Under Boys National Division: Patrick Henry #3 – 31 vs Nannie J. Lee – 24
12 & Under Boys American Division: Cora Kelly – 32 vs Patrick Henry – 23
14 & Under Boys Division: Blue Devils – 37 vs Colonials – 32
17 & Under Boys Division: Wizards – 53 vs Rockets – 26

Recreation Games for Healthy Living Awards Ceremony

The Alexandria Recreation Games for Healthy Living is an eight-week fitness program which promotes healthy lifestyle choices for all family members, and encourages Alexandrians to make "being active" a part of their daily lives. The winners of the 2009 Alexandria Recreation Games for Healthy Living Competition are as follows:

1st Place Youth (5-8): William Ramsay Recreation Center
2nd Place Youth (5-8): Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center
1st Place Pre-teens (9-12): William Ramsay Recreation Center
2nd Place Pre-teens (9-12 years): Cora Kelly Recreation Center
1st Place Teens (13-17): Cora Kelly Recreation Center
2nd Place Teens (13-17): Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center
1st Place Adult - Luvis Willis: Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center
1st Place Senior - Anna Coquelin: William Ramsay Recreation Center

COMMISSION MEETINGS

All commission and committee meeting are open to the public.

April 16

Alexandria Beautification Commission, 7:30 pm

Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. For additional information, call 703.838.5041.

April 16

Park and Recreation Commission, 7:30 pm

Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. For additional information, call 703.838.4842.

April 21

Alexandria Waterfront Committee, 7:30 am

Lee Center 1108 Jefferson St. For additional information, call 703.838.4842.

April 21

Commission for the Arts, 7 pm

Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. For additional information call 703.838.6348.

2009 PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION CIVIC AWARDS

The City of Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission announces its 24th annual awards program to select and formally recognize outstanding citizens who have provided a valuable service to our community in meeting recreation, park, or cultural needs. An Alexandria group, club, organization or corporate neighbor may also be nominated for an award for such service. Nominees for the award for citizen, group, club, organization, or corporate neighbor should be volunteers who have contributed time, talent or resources in an exemplary fashion. Youth nominations are encouraged. Whether the volunteer activity involves removing invasive plants, coaching youth, or providing program support at City nature and recreation centers, the CIVIC Awards recognize the special, unsung volunteer efforts of Alexandrians involved in their community. The Park and Recreation Commission invites your help in identifying those who contribute so that they may be recognized. For additional information, visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation.

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT

"Dispatches from the Front" is the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities newsletter reporting on current issues, activities and updates on park projects. The April 2009 issue includes updates on:

Fort Ward Park Community Meetings
Arbor Day in Del Ray
New Forestry Section Cost Center Book
New Lights at Lockett Field
March Comes in Like a Lion

To view the current issue, [click here](#).

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