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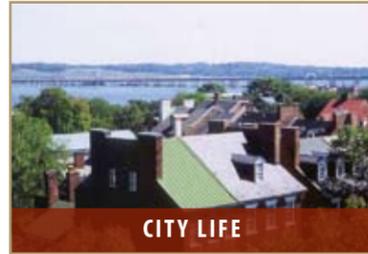
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Alexandria Farmers' Market

The Alexandria Farmers' Market is a tradition that has been hosted in City Hall, Market Square for more than 240 years. It is the oldest market in the country which has been meeting continuously at the same site.

The Alexandria Farmers' Market is held weekly every Saturday morning from 5:00 to 11:00 a.m.



Del Ray Farmers' Market

The Del Ray Farmers' Market, located at the intersection of Mount Vernon and Oxford Avenues, offers flowers, plants, fresh produce and baked goods.

The Del Ray Farmers' Market is open every Saturday through December, from 8 a.m. until noon.

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FYI ALEXANDRIA

Alexandria's Official Resident Newsletter

JUNE 2007

Alexandria City Council Adopts General Fund Operating Budget of \$519.5 Million For Fiscal Year 2008

On May 7, the Alexandria City Council adopted a \$519.5 million General Fund Operating Budget for FY 2008, a 4.4 percent increase of \$21.8 million over FY 2007. The All Funds Operating Budget for FY 2008 increased by 2.9 percent or \$17.7 million.

Although the Council raised the real estate tax rate of 81.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value by 1.5 cents to 83.0 cents, the tax rate remains the 2nd lowest among major jurisdictions in Northern Virginia. Under the new tax rate, the average homeowner's taxes would decline \$48 or 1.1 percent. The personal property tax rate remains unchanged at \$4.75 per \$100 of assessed value.

Major changes to the budget include:

- An additional \$2.65 million above the Schools target for its other operating expenses and an employee COLA – approximately \$1.4 million less than requested by the School Board. The total Schools operating budget would increase by 3.9% including State and federal revenue, and fund balances from prior year surpluses;
- an additional \$0.9 million for transportation capital improvements as a result of raising vehicle registration fees up to \$10 a year as provided by legislation recently passed by the Virginia General Assembly;
- a 1.5 percent COLA for both City and Schools employees (\$2.8 million for City employees and \$2.1 million for Schools employees);

- an additional \$2.15 million for City operating programs including \$877,000 for eliminating the waiting list for child day care fee subsidies and meeting other Department of Human Services budget needs, \$305,000 for the Sheriff's Office, \$124,000 for environmental studies, and action plans, \$780,000 for re-instituting red light cameras, and \$80,000 for surveying 100 year-old buildings; and
- additional amounts in fund balances from prior year surpluses: \$400,000 more for possible National Harbor related initiatives, \$850,000 to build an additional artificial turf playing field, \$500,000 for possible increases in mandated foster care and special education costs, and \$300,000 for street lights and new street refuse cans.

This year a new budget format presented more information about 500 City government activities with measures of cost, performance and results. City Council held 14 work sessions and two public hearings on the FY 2008 budget before adoption.

The City's operations budget is up by only 1.9% with a net decrease of 11 City positions. Transit subsidies increased 7.7%, one of the highest rates of growth in the budget, primarily to fund Alexandria's share of regional METRO operations. Funding for capital projects through debt service and pay-as-you go financing increased by 13.3%, primarily to maintain existing infrastructure.

The City transfer to the Schools increased by \$160.2 million with 31 percent of the General Fund budget allocated to the Schools.

The budget includes new initiatives or increases such as:

- City subsidy for Metrobus and Metrorail;
- emergency medical services staffing;
- child welfare programs;
- improved pedestrian and other pavement markings;
- grants to social service non-profits providing support to Alexandria's most needy;
- early childhood programs; and
- energy conservation.

The Council approved budget savings such as closing the vehicle impound lot, and printing services, implementing results of a best practices

Continued on Page 2





ALEXANDRIA - NATIONAL HARBOR WATER TAXI

New Water Taxi Service in Alexandria

Representatives from Alexandria, The Peterson Companies, the Potomac Riverboat Company, and Prince George's County announced the start of a new water taxi service that will link Old Town Alexandria with National Harbor. Two new 99-passenger boats will initially run on the half hour between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m., providing 50 one-way daily trips between the Alexandria City Marina and the Commercial North Pier at National Harbor. The water taxi service will begin operation when National Harbor opens in April of 2008.

Alexandria Vice Mayor Resigns, Special Election Will Fill Council Vacancy



Vice Mayor Andrew H. Macdonald announced his resignation on May 8, after serving on the Alexandria City Council for four years. Macdonald, a native of Alexandria and an environmentalist, was elected to the City Council in May 2003, and re-elected in 2006.

During its May 8 legislative session, City Council announced it expects to request that a special election

be held to fill the vacant Council seat on Tuesday, July 17. For more information on the election process visit alexandriavoter.org.



More than 165 community members attended a historic preservation conference at First Baptist Church on May 4th and 5th sponsored by the City and local historic preservation groups.

Transportation Experts Meet with Community to Discuss Local and Regional Transportation Initiatives

The Alexandria City Council sponsored a community transportation forum with local, state, and regional transportation representatives on April 19 to discuss local and regional transportation initiatives. Steve Eldridge, the *Examiner's* "Sprawl and Crawl" columnist served as moderator of the forum.

Guest panelists included Robert E. Griffiths, Director of Technical Services for the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board; Rick Canizales, Manager of TransAction 2030, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority; Nat Bottigheimer, Acting Assistant General Manager of Planning and Joint Development, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; Dennis Morrison, District Administrator for the Virginia Department of Transportation; J. Lawrence Robinson, Chairman of the City of Alexandria's Transportation Task Force; Justin Wilson, Chairman of the Alexandria Transit Company; and Richard J. Baier, P.E., Director of Transportation and Environmental Services, City of Alexandria.

Approximately 150 individuals attended the forum, which featured panelist presentations and questions and answers on local and regional transportation issues.

Adopted Budget Represents Increase of 4.4% Increase Above FY 2007

Continued from Page 1

audit, eliminating certain vacant City positions, and increased employee cost sharing of health insurance costs.

The fiscal year 2008 proposed budget provides \$8.9 million in pay-as-you go financing from the General Fund for capital projects, which along with the bond and other capital funds will finance \$64.9 million in capital projects.

The budget dedicates 1 percent of real estate tax for open space acquisition equal to \$2.7 million. The budget also dedicates 1 cent of the real estate tax for affordable housing equal to \$3.4 million annually.

For further information on the budget, visit the City's Web site at alexandriava.gov/budget, or contact the Office of Management and Budget at 703.838.4780.

Alexandria Names Poet Laureate



Alexandria City Council has designated Mary McElveen, a former chemistry teacher, as the City's first official poet laureate. In her new position, she will help to promote an appreciation of poetry as an art form, encourage the creative writing and reading of literature, and promote literacy through poetry. She will serve a three-year term and receive a modest honorarium.

City of Songs

Mary McElveen — March 25, 2007

History wrote refrains here--
The rattle of carts, the chime of churchbells,
The muffled drum of famed footsteps
Reverberating on our cobbled streets;
Old rhymes writ with images
Glimpsed through a rippled mirror--
Songs of remembrance.

Today is an unwritten poem
Crackling in the nighttime air.
Rhythms ride the streets on Harleys
Staccato beat on 'high',
And couplets crowd the corners
With their conversations
In raucous bar-time voices.

Monuments punctuate the traffic
That flows in measured time,
Crawling in iambic meter
(Stop, start. Stop, start.)
Toward the beltway's perpetual rondo
That repeats, repeats, repeats
Each day and night.

But the river remembers a slower song
Flowing like an eecummings poem
Unhindered and peaceful
Past lordly houses stacked
Like syllables in haiku formation,
Shouldering for space along its banks.

We are tomorrow's unwritten poems:
Homeless and builder,
Tourist and truck driver,
Lawyer and artist-- all of us
Speaking our souls to cellphones
And singing to the empty air.

Who listens for our voices?
Who speaks the soul of the city?
Who is history's troubadour, the future's oracle?
Alexandria is an unwritten poem:
Pick up your pen.
It's our turn now.



Alexandria City Council

Pictured from left to right: Councilmember Timothy B. Lovain, Councilman Paul C. Smedberg, Mayor William D. Euille, Councilwoman Redella S. "Del" Pepper, Councilman Ludwig P. Gaines and Councilman Rob Krupicka.

Small Area Plan Updates

Landmark/Van Dorn Area Plan

The Plan was initiated to analyze the potential effects of Landmark Mall redevelopment and to create a vision for the future of the Landmark/Van Dorn area.

Following a series of community meetings and citizen involvement over the course of the past two years, the Department of Planning and Zoning released a draft Landmark/Van Dorn Plan for public review. Planning Commission and City Council hearings are anticipated in the fall.

The Landmark/Van Dorn Plan envisions redevelopment of the Landmark Mall creating a mixed-use town center for the West End and an attractive gateway to Alexandria, with complementary development along Van Dorn Street from the Landmark Mall to Pickett Street. The Plan anticipates that the area could grow by as many as 6,000 additional dwelling units and up to 1.5 million square feet of retail, office and hotel space by 2030. Other key planning principles are:

- A "community of neighborhoods" with a new walkable grid of streets connecting residential areas to mixed-use centers; and
- a multi-modal transportation system with the creation of a transit boulevard on Van Dorn Street.

Braddock Metro Neighborhood Plan

The City began the Braddock Metro neighborhood planning effort in April 2005 to establish a vision for the future of the Metro Station area that is expected to undergo significant redevelopment.

The Department of Planning and Zoning held a series of community meetings, a community charrette and worksessions with Planning Commission and City Council, and in September 2006, the Department of Planning and Zoning produced a draft plan for public review. City Council has asked staff to refine and reexamine particular aspects of the Plan.

Planning and Zoning staff are developing a revised schedule and public participation plan. Planning Commission and City Council public hearings will be scheduled this fall.



Update on New Plans

Waterfront Plan

This summer, City staff is developing background information for the Alexandria Waterfront Plan. The Plan will focus on appropriate land use, open space, access and connectivity, the potential future uses of the Mirant Plant, Robinson Terminals, and recently acquired open space.

Some of the elements of the plan will include:

- How to tie the entire waterfront together, from Jones Point Park to the northern edge of the City, with continuous bike and pedestrian access;
- How to improve the connections from the waterfront to adjoining neighborhoods and commercial areas; and
- What is the appropriate mix of land uses along the waterfront.

The Planning and Zoning staff will schedule a community workshop to begin work the plan this fall.

Eisenhower West Plan

This fall, the City's Planning and Zoning staff will begin a comprehensive study of the future land uses of the western portion of the Eisenhower Valley. The Eisenhower West Plan will focus on the area from Telegraph Road, west to the City/Fairfax County border, which includes many industrial and service uses. The study also will examine open space, streetscape, and transportation issues.

The City will seek input from the community as well as those who live or work in or near the Eisenhower Valley and surrounding areas to develop a vision for the future to guide policy decisions for Eisenhower West.

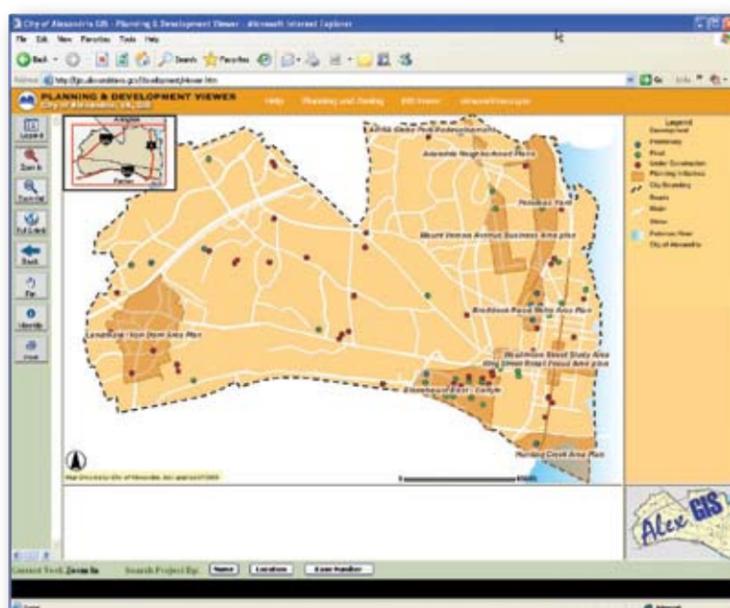
Department of Planning and Zoning Unveils New Interactive Map

Alexandrians can view the location of citywide development projects and planning studies with a new interactive map available on the Department of Planning and Zoning's Web site. The planning and development viewer is a dynamic map viewer updated daily via the Department's Geographic Information System (GIS) and permitting systems. The map shows a macro view of all current development applications in the City with the ability to zoom in to a specific development site to retrieve basic information such as type of use, address, and phase of approval.

The map also illustrates the scope of planning studies and enables viewers to visualize the relationship between planning and development through the integrated link to the planning initiatives page.

This summer, the next release of the interactive map will include additional details on development projects such as number of units, square footage, height, and a staff contact.

Try the new map at gis.alexandriava.gov/development/viewer.htm



Want More Info? Want to Get Involved?

To keep up with the latest news about planning studies, development projects, upcoming community meetings, historic preservation, or zoning, sign up for the City's eNews service at enews.alexandriava.gov, contact us at 703-838-4666, or visit the Web site at alexandriava.gov/planningandzoning.

Landmark/Van Dorn Plan:

pat.mann@alexandriava.gov
703-838-4666 x-303

Waterfront Plan:

kathleen.beeton@alexandriava.gov
703-838-4666 x-333

Braddock Metro Neighborhood Plan & Eisenhower West Plan:

kathleen.beeton@alexandriava.gov
703-838-4666 x-333

GIS/Mapping:

steven.chozick@alexandriava.gov
703-838-4666 x-327



The Hokie Nation and its many supporters turned out in force on April 18 for a candlelight vigil on Market Square to honor the victims of the tragic events on April 16 at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg.

Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria

In 2004, the Alexandria Health Department initiated the first Alexandria *Community Health Assessment* to identify and prioritize health issues in Alexandria. In response to the health assessment, the City created a *Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria* in 2006 to address select health issues through coalition building, collaborative planning and community action. The *Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria* Steering Committee has identified two priority areas of focus and created two work groups, the **Healthy Lifestyles Work Group** and the **Mental Health/Substance Abuse Work Group**. Each group has identified activities to focus their efforts and developed strategies to promote healthier lifestyles in Alexandria.



For additional information or to get involved, visit alexhealth.org/partnership.

Is Your Dog or Cat Licensed?

Alexandria is a pet friendly community. For the safety of our community members 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 Avenue. For more information, call 703.838.4774 or visit www.alexandrianimals.org.

Pet Owner Reminders

Please comply with the City Code:

- Clean up after your pet.
- Keep pets off of your neighbor's lawn and out of their garden.
- All dogs must be leashed except in City dog exercise areas or in your fenced yard.



Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities Receives "Step Up Award"

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities received the "Step Up Award" from the Old Town Business and Professional Association for its support of the business community through events and activities. The award was presented to Deputy Director Janet Barnett, on January 30, 2007 by Charlotte Hall, outgoing president of the Old Town Business and Professional Association.

Potomac Watershed Cleanup

Despite a chilly morning on Saturday March 31, 2007, volunteers helped to make the City of Alexandria and the Potomac Watershed a cleaner place during the 19th Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation. In less than three hours, 91 volunteers removed approximately 300 bags of trash in addition to larger items (tires, construction debris, furniture, shopping carts) from sites along Four Mile Run, Cameron Run, Holmes Run, Backlick Run and the Potomac River in Alexandria. The total amount of debris removed weighed an estimated 14,000 pounds or 7 tons.



Air Quality Action Days

The City of Alexandria and other municipalities recently began their Air Quality Action Days program to increase awareness about the dangers of ground-level ozone, or smog and fine particulate matter (PM2.5). Ozone in the upper atmosphere protects the earth from the sun's ultraviolet rays; however, it is considered a harmful air pollutant when present at ground level. Ground-level ozone is formed when pollution reacts with sunlight. PM2.5 are tiny drops of liquid or small particles of dust, metals and other materials that remain suspended in the air. Some particles are emitted directly, while others are formed in the atmosphere when pollutants react. Prolonged exposure to ozone and PM2.5 can cause inflammation and irritation of the respiratory tract, lower resistance to colds and pneumonia, damage lung tissue and intensify heart and lung disease. The most susceptible are children, seniors, and individuals with respiratory ailments; however individuals of any age can be affected. From May through September, air quality is forecasted for the following day on a region wide basis and is coded as purple, red, orange, yellow or green—purple and red being most unhealthy.

Watch for Air Quality Action Days notifications on local TV news stations, weather forecasts, or visit the City of Alexandria, T&ES Web site at alexandriava.gov/tes to view the air quality forecast and real time ozone levels, from the City's Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station. When a Code Orange or Code Red day is forecasted, take voluntary action to improve the region's and Alexandria's air quality. Instead of driving, walk, bike, or take advantage of the FREE BUS RIDE offered by DASH and other bus companies in the Northern Virginia region. Avoid mowing lawns with gas-powered mowers. Postpone painting. Don't use aerosol products. Refuel cars after 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact the City's Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) at 703-838-4334.



Stay Informed with Enews!

Sign up with the City of Alexandria's *eNews* service to receive information in more than 80 categories, as well as important emergency alerts. The messages, ranging from news releases and department newsletters to public meeting dockets and payment deadline reminders, can be sent directly to your e-mail account, PDA, pager, cell phone, or BlackBerry.

There is no cost to sign up for *eNews*, although your wireless provider may charge you to receive e-mail or text messages on your mobile device. If you already use e-mail or text messaging, *eNews* messages will work the same way. Contact your wireless provider if you have any questions about the fees they may charge.

Don't miss out on important news & emergency alerts, sign up for *eNews* today at enews.alexandriava.gov





Multi-Agency Child Assessment Center Helps City Children

Frequently the children of families involved in the child welfare system have medical, emotional, or developmental issues that have not been diagnosed or addressed. To meet these needs, several City agencies created the Alexandria Child Assessment and Treatment Center for Health (CATCH).

This comprehensive health screening service provides a safe, child-friendly environment where pediatric specialists from City agencies work together to assess physical and emotional health. The assessments provide a baseline for medical care, early identification of developmental issues and ongoing mental health services. Staff members work with social workers and families to access available resources, ensuring the healthy development of each child.

Staff at CATCH include a full-time child and family therapist from the Alexandria Mental Health Center and support from the City's Parent Infant Education Program (PIE) to connect families with appropriate services.

The Alexandria Health Department provides a part-time pediatrician and pediatric nurse. The clinic operated by these specialists also provides dental screenings and referrals for services through the department's dental clinic.

The Alexandria Department of Human Services provides the full-time program coordinator and administrative personnel for the CATCH program. CATCH has served 75 children since it opened its doors in April 2006. The program is located at 4480 King Street, 4th floor. For more information, call 703-838-4708.



Alexandria Mentoring Partnership

In recognition of the importance of responsible adult mentors in the lives of City youth, the Alexandria City Council has joined communities across the country in supporting mentoring programs led by the newly formed Alexandria Mentoring Partnership.

The Alexandria Mentoring Partnership, a collaborative of 14 mentoring programs and City of Alexandria staff, is working to increase the number of mentors for youth in the City. The Partnership was formed as a result of feedback received from the community through initiatives of the Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force, the Alexandria Community Services Board, and community outreach. The Alexandria Mentoring Partnership is a central clearinghouse of mentoring information available to enhance mentor recruitment, screening, training and support to ensure that quality mentoring programs reach Alexandria youth.

"My success in life has a lot to do with the fact that I had the benefit of strong mentors and role models as I grew up in this City," said Alexandria Mayor William D. Euille. "We all can play a part in helping young people who lack the resources to raise their sights and dream of doing great things, as I did."

"Mentoring is proven to help to prevent crime, youth violence, gang involvement, teenage pregnancy and poor school performance. We have kids waiting to be mentored and need adults to help," said City of Alexandria Gang Prevention Coordinator Mike Mackey. "No prior experience or training is necessary; just a willingness and desire to help kids. We will train you."

For more information on mentoring and how you can help, visit alexandriava.gov/mentoring or contact Mike Mackey, City of Alexandria Gang Prevention & Intervention Coordinator at 703-838-4180, ext. 242, or via email at mentoring@alexandriava.gov.

Department of Human Services Creates Cookbook to Benefit Elderly

The Office of Aging and Adult Services has published **Cooking with Friends**, a compendium of the best recipes of the Department of Human Services staff. The \$10 purchase price will benefit the Eleanor Ager Host Fund, which is used to purchase food, medicine, clothing and other essentials for needy seniors citizens.

In addition to the 175 recipes, **Cooking with Friends** includes quick facts on spices, tips on how to clean and prepare various vegetables, a calorie counter, nutrition information and more.

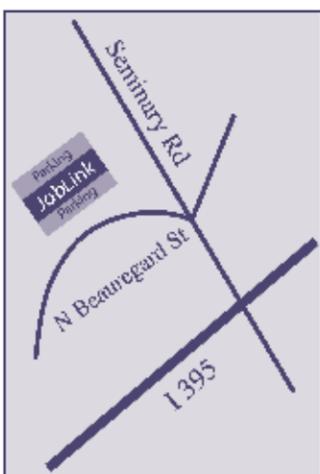
The cookbook may be purchased at the Department of Human Services or by mail by sending a check for \$12.50 per copy, which includes postage, payable to the City of Alexandria, to OAAS, 2525 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301. For more information, bulk orders, and how to pick up **Cooking with Friends** directly from DHS, call 703-838-0920.



Alexandria's One-Stop Career Center Relocates to Beauregard Street

JobLink, Alexandria's one-stop career center, has moved to 1900 N. Beauregard St., Suite 300, in the Mark Center office complex near Seminary Road.

JobLink offers employment services to any job seeker and provides special employment training programs to diverse groups including persons transitioning from welfare; ex-offenders; persons who lost their jobs due to layoffs or downsizing; refugees; economically disadvantaged adults who have few employment skills; youth ages 14 through 21; and persons with disabilities.



For more information about JobLink, call 703-838-4316 or visit alexandriava.gov/joblink.

The new JobLink office is served by the DASH #AT2 bus and Metrobus 28B. For DASH schedule information, call 703-370-DASH or visit www.dashbus.com. For Metrobus schedule information, call 202-637-7000, or visit www.wmata.com.

Alexandria Curbside Recycling Made Easy...

Yes, PLEASE Recycle!

In the YELLOW BIN

- Glass bottles & jars
- Aluminum & steel cans
- All plastic bottles & jugs (Don't forget to "Check for the Neck")

In EXTRA BIN or BAG

- Junk mail, magazines, mixed paper & catalogs
- Cardboard, flattened (No larger than 3' x 3' & placed under BIN)
- Newspapers
- Phone books
- Cereal & cracker boxes

No, DO NOT Recycle!

- Lids, caps and tops
- Buckets & Tubs (butter, yogurt, etc. tubs)
- Plastic Bags
- Take out containers, pizza boxes, & trays
- Aluminum foil & trays
- Paper plates & napkins
- Prescription vials
- Styrofoam packing materials
- Ceramics
- Hard back books
- Pots & pans

Please visit www.alexrecycles.org to download a complete *Recycling Yes/No* flyer.



Our City Schools: An Urban Success!

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) is one of the most diverse school systems in the country. City students come from more than 80 different countries, speak over 60 languages, and represent a rainbow of ethnic and cultural groups. ACPS has an economically diverse student body and Alexandrians help to ensure that each student achieves success.

The children of Alexandria are fortunate to have had the strong support of City Council, the Alexandria School Board, and the Alexandria community over the years. Tremendous gains have been made in student achievement. Five years ago, only two schools were fully accredited by the state. Currently, 14 Alexandria public schools are fully accredited. Last year, more schools made Annual Yearly Progress under No Child Left Behind than ever before, even as the required pass scores increased. And while scores for the new SAT generally decreased throughout the nation, the average SAT scores of members of the T.C. Williams High School class of 2006 rose 30 points higher in reading and 28 points higher in math compared with the previous year's average scores. The graduates of 2007 will attend nearly 150 colleges, including Cornell, MIT, Dartmouth, Princeton, Stanford, and Yale. More than 300 students received scholarships.

ACPS continues to be in the forefront of technology integration with all students in grades 9-12 using laptop computers. Of surrounding school districts surveyed in 2004, 87 percent did not have a one-to-one computing program. The Minnie Howard laptop computer launch three years ago meant that ACPS was one of only 13 percent of school districts in the nation that were in this vanguard.

The new T.C. Williams High School opening this fall will be on the cutting edge both inside and out. The construction project continues to be on-time and on-budget and planning is underway for a grand opening celebration for the entire community on October 14.

The T.C. Williams school community is updating its education program. The new school will feature smaller learning communities that will focus on increased educational and personal success for all students.

The City of Alexandria was recently named one of the Top 100 Communities for Young People by America's Promise, partly because of the quality of our schools and programs. A recent City survey indicates that the number of people who made the decision to live in Alexandria based on the quality of the schools has increased since 2004.

Sponsor a Seat in the New T.C. Williams Auditorium

Now the Best Seat in the House Can Have Your Name On It!

The community is invited to be a part of the new, state of the art T.C. Williams High School by sponsoring a seat in the auditorium. For a \$200 donation, an engraved plaque will be placed on the back of one of the new auditorium seats. Sponsors can select their seats by making a secure online transaction using the City's eChecks system. Sponsoring a seat is a great way to show Titan Pride or honor a recent or future graduate.

Visit www.acps.k12.va.us/btf/seats today for details, or call 703-824-6635.



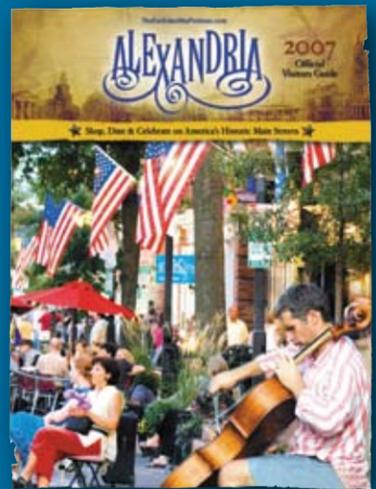
Construction of the new T.C. Williams High School will be completed in time for the opening of school in September. The grand opening celebration is scheduled for October 14, 2007.

Discover Your Inner Tour Guide with Helpful Tools for Experiencing Alexandria

The Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association invites you to discover your inner tour guide or become a tourist in your hometown by taking advantage of the many products and services that the association provides for visitors coming to our City.

Visit www.FunSide.com and you'll see a fresh, new look—a Web site that is easy to navigate and filled with everything you need for planning a day, evening – or weekend of fun. Users will find suggestions for shopping, dining, hotel accommodations, visitor attractions, and more. Looking for suggestions for visiting relatives and friends? The hotel section offers themed packages and last-minute good deals. There's a drop-down interactive map that the user can customize for specific needs. An interactive version of the *2007 Official Visitors Guide* presents great ideas for experiencing the ambiance of Alexandria's historic neighborhoods and the amenities of its commercial districts. Transportation and parking information is easy to access and a calendar of events list is updated regularly so that planning at the last minute is just as easy as planning ahead. The new [FunSide.com](http://www.FunSide.com) also offers a community and member section that offers news, events, and opportunities related to Alexandria's tourism industry.

Visit the Ramsay House Visitors Center in Old Town Alexandria and you will find informational brochures and courteous, knowledgeable staff who provide personal service. While there, you can pick up a free copy of *2007 Official Visitors Guide of Alexandria*, your number one printed resource for information on historic attractions, walking tours, shops, restaurants, outdoor activities and more. The Center is located at 221 King Street and is open to the public seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except Christmas and New Year's Day. For more information on services available at the Visitors Center, call 703-388-9119.



Monroe Avenue Bridge Replacement

Contractors have completed a substantial amount of construction of the Monroe Avenue replacement bridge. The \$40 million bridge and Route 1 widening have been funded by Potomac Yard Development, LLC as part of the Potomac Yard development project to increase the safety and efficiency of the City's transportation network. The new bridge, over 100 feet wide, is divided into two-sections. Workers are currently placing the concrete deck for the first section of the 840 foot long bridge. This fall, the new bridge section will open to two-way traffic as demolition of the existing bridge begins.

Contractors are installing the underground utilities under future roadways, and many utilities located on the underside of the bridge have already been installed. Soon work will begin to re-align the existing Route 1 roadway.

A Busy May & June for Alexandria Bicyclists

Spin City

Representatives from the League of American Bicyclists will be in town for a luncheon and bicycle ride on **Friday, June 1**. They will meet with City staff and residents to review progress toward earning the Spin City 2009 designation as a bicycle-friendly community.

Visit www.AlexRide.org for more information and to find out how to get involved.



Arlington & Alexandria Community Bike Ride

For the first time, a popular bicycle tour is being expanded to include portions of Alexandria. The Arlington & Alexandria Community Bike Ride, on **Sunday, June 3**, is a non-competitive, family-oriented tour of roads and trails. This year's event is a loop that begins and ends in Shirlington.

The goal of the Community Bike Ride is to demonstrate how easy it is to get around Arlington and Alexandria by bicycle. (If you don't have a bicycle, visit www.AlexRide.org to learn how you can rent one for the event.)

The Community Bike Ride will offer two route options:

- A 25 mile tour of Arlington and Alexandria, mostly on trails and bike lanes; or
- The Family Ride: a 9 mile ride on trails.

Registration opens at 7 a.m., the tour begins at 8 a.m., and the Family Ride begins at 8:30 a.m.

Pre-registration for the ride is available at the Washington Area Bicyclist Association Web site at www.waba.org/cbr. The cost is \$15 per person, with children 13 and under free to encourage family participation.

Ride participants will receive refreshments at a series of rest stops every few miles, a bicycle bell, and a chance to win a new bike!

After the ride, enjoy live music, exhibits and activities in Shirlington, where the ride starts and finishes. Children may also participate in a free Bike Safety Rodeo to learn and practice safe riding skills and experience a series of obstacle courses.



Riders rolling across the start line in Shirlington at the 2006 Arlington Community Bike Ride. This year's ride takes place on Sunday, June 3, and includes Alexandria for the first time.

photo by Paul De Maio/Arlington County

Serious Crime Falls in Alexandria

This spring Chief of Police David P. Baker announced that serious crime in Alexandria was a 40-year low and had dropped 7% in the past year. Violent crime (homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) fell 4% from 2005 to 2006 while property offenses (burglary, larceny and auto theft) fell 7.7% during the same period. "This means that the chance of a person in Alexandria being the victim of a serious crime has been cut by two-thirds in the past 25 years," said Chief Baker.

Serious crime is down more than 56% in the last 25 years, falling from 8,550 offenses in 1982 to 3,714 incidents last year. At the same time, the City's population has increased by about 30%, making the drop in per capita crime even more dramatic. In calculating offenses per 1,000 residents, the rate fell by 66% from approximately 83 in 1982 to 28 in 2006.

Serious Crime in Alexandria by Year (1982-2006)

Number of Crimes

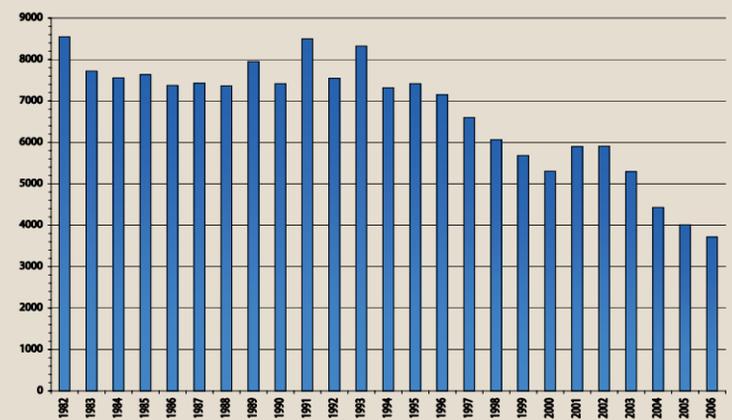


photo by Officer Judy Taylor

Alexandria's police cruisers are getting a completely new look this spring. The 2007 Ford Crown Victorias feature "POLICE" prominently within wide navy stripes along the sides and "CITY OF ALEXANDRIA" just below. A stylized badge appears on the front quarter panels across the stripe.

Recreation Department Partners with Alexandria Chapter of the Red Cross to Promote Measles and Malaria Initiative

The City's Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities is collaborating with the Alexandria Chapter of the American Red Cross on the Measles and Malaria Initiative which aims to eliminate measles and malaria as the major cause of death for children in Africa and Asia. The City has many residents who have immigrated from these countries. Youth in the City's After School Centers and Power-Up Programs have spent time learning how they can make a difference in the world for children by taking part in the "Beat Down Measles and Malaria" programs at their centers. In the last two years City youth raised approximately \$2,900 resulting in more than 2,900 youth in Africa and Asia receiving vaccines. For more information visit the Measles Initiative Web site at www.measlesinitiative.org or call the Recreation Services Division office at 703.838.4345 or the Alexandria Chapter of the American Red Cross at 703.549.8300.

Sheriff's Cruisers Outfitted with Laptop Computers

The Alexandria Office of the Sheriff outfitted 16 Deputies' cruisers with Mobile Data Browsers (MDB's) providing the Sheriff's Office with state of the art law enforcement technology. The Mobile Data Browsers give Deputy Sheriffs instant access to information and communications crucial to their law enforcement function.

Deputies can access criminal records information from law enforcement databases and Division of Motor Vehicle records from their cruisers. They can obtain photographs of wanted persons and access vital law enforcement information. The communications provided by the MDB laptops provides secure and quick access to information about particular neighborhoods, and identifies ownership of suspect vehicles.

Alexandria Fire Department Boat Aids in Water Rescues

The Fire and EMS Department purchased the fire boat "Vigilant" in 2004 as the anchor to the Fire Department's Marine Operations Team (MOT) based out of fire stations 201 and 204. The "Vigilant" is equipped with an electronic navigation system and has a draft of just 18 inches, which allows it to get into shallow waters near the banks of the Potomac. These features help in making rescues from the river, including the rescue of the sole survivor of a medical helicopter crash in January 2005.



Monday, May 28
30th Annual Memorial Day Jazz Festival
1 p.m.
Fort Ward Park
4301 W. Braddock Road — FREE
703-883-4686



Wednesday, June 13
Stories in the Park: Summer 2007
11 a.m.
Fort Ward Park
4301 W. Braddock Road — FREE
703-838-4555, ext. 217

Saturday, June 16
Juneteenth Celebration
1 to 6 p.m.
Alexandria Black History Museum
900 Wythe St. — FREE
703-838-4356

Saturday, June 16 & Sunday, June 17
26th Annual Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival
Saturday 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. & Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Oronoco Bay Park, 7 Lee St.
\$10 for adult, \$5 for children (ages 2-12), FREE for children under 2
703-549-8300

Monday, June 25 through Friday, June 29
Civil War Kids' Camp
Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site
4301 W. Braddock Road
\$200 fee (ages 8-12)
703-838-4848

Wednesday, June 27
Stories in the Park: Summer 2007
11 a.m.
Fort Ward Park
4301 W. Braddock Road — FREE
703-838-4555, ext. 217

Wednesday, July 11
Stories in the Park: Summer 2007
11 a.m.
Fort Ward Park
4301 W. Braddock Road — FREE
703-838-4555, ext. 217



Saturday, July 7



USA — Alexandria Birthday Celebration

4 to 10 p.m. — Oronoco Bay Park, 7 Lee Street

Wednesday, July 18
Stories in the Park: Summer 2007
11 a.m.
Fort Ward Park
4301 W. Braddock Road — FREE
703-838-4555, ext. 217

Thursday, July 19
Washington Balaika Society (Russian Folk Orchestra)
7:30 p.m.
Fort Ward Park
4301 W. Braddock Road — FREE
703-883-4686

Friday, July 20
Alexandria Citizen's Band
7:30 p.m.
Market Square, 301 King St. — FREE
703-883-4686

Saturday, July 21
African-American Heritage and Cultural Festival
1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Market Square, 301 King St. — FREE
703-883-4686

Wednesday, July 25
Stories in the Park: Summer 2007
11 a.m.
Fort Ward Park
4301 W. Braddock Road — FREE
703-838-4555, ext. 217

Thursday, July 26
Alexandria Harmonizers
7:30 p.m.
Fort Ward Park
4301 W. Braddock Road — FREE
703-883-4686

Friday July 27 through Sunday, July 29
Comcast/Alexandria Outdoor Film Festival
8:30 p.m.
Ben Brenman Park
4800 Duke St. — FREE
703-883-4686



Saturday, August 4
Annual Friendship Firehouse Festival
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
107 S. Alfred St. — FREE
703-838-4994

Irish Festival
Noon to 7 p.m.
Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. — FREE
703-883-4686

Tavern Day
1 to 5 p.m.
Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal St. — FREE
703-838-4242

Saturday, August 4 & Sunday, August 5
Railroad Days
Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
The Lyceum
201 S. Washington St. — FREE
703-838-4994

Tuesday, August 7
Alexandria Scottish Heritage Fair
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Fort Ward Park
4301 W. Braddock Road — FREE
703-883-4686

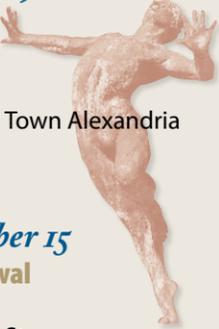


Friday, August 10
Alexandria Harmonizers
7:30 p.m.
Market Square, 301 King St. — FREE
703-883-4686

Saturday, August 11
Interpretative Site Tour: Freedman's Cemetery
1:30 p.m.
Corner of S. Washington and Church streets
FREE — reservations required
703-838-4554

Sunday, August 26
Cambodian Festival
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Ben Brenman Park
4800 Duke St. — FREE
703-883-4686

Saturday, September 8 & Sunday, September 9
5th Annual Alexandria Festival of the Arts
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Along King Street in Old Town Alexandria
FREE
888-738-2764



Saturday, September 15
Gulf Coast 5K Run Festival
8 a.m. to noon
Oronoco Bay Park, 7 Lee St.
703-836-1463

Italian Festival
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Ben Brenman Park
4800 Duke St. — FREE
703-883-4686

Saturday, October 6
Art on the Avenue
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Mt. Vernon Avenue — FREE
703-683-3100

Save the Date!
Saturday, October 20
The Walk TO FIGHT BREAST CANCER
8:00 a.m.
Cameron Run Regional Park
703-838-5030



Wednesday, May 30
Stigma and the System: Roadblocks to Recovery
A Mental Health Month Community Event Featuring Pete Earley
6:45 p.m.
Minnie Howard School
3801 W. Braddock Road — FREE
703.838.4455, ext.165



Friday Evenings June 1 through August 31
Lantern Tours
7 to 10 p.m.
Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.
\$5 per person (ages 5 and up)
703-838-4242



Saturday, June 2
Civil War Camp Day
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site
4301 W. Braddock Road
Suggested donation of \$2 for adults, \$1 for children
703-838-4848

15th Annual Armenia Day Festival
Noon to 6 p.m.
Market Square, 301 King St. — FREE
703-883-4686

Jamestown Celebration Ball
8 to 11 p.m.
Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.
\$30 per person in advance, \$40 at the door
Reservations required
703-838-4242

Sunday, June 3
Arlington/Alexandria Community Bike Ride
8 a.m. to noon
City Streets
(beginning in Arlington and ending in Alexandria; meeting in Shirlington)
\$15 per adult, FREE for children (ages 13 & under)
703-838-4966, ext. 183

Wednesday, June 6
Stories in the Park: Summer 2007
11 a.m.
Fort Ward Park
4301 W. Braddock Road — FREE
703-838-4555, ext. 217

Sunday, June 10
Arlandria-Chirilagua Festival
Noon to 7 p.m.
Mt. Vernon Village Shopping Center
3600 - 3800 block of Mt. Vernon Ave.
FREE
703-684-5697

