

FYI ALEXANDRIA

IN THIS EDITION

Alexandria's Official Resident Newsletter

OCTOBER 2007



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Help Wanted!

Strong, statuesque beauty, 25 to 35 feet tall. Must be fresh, shapely and extroverted; must enjoy children and reveling in the holiday spirit.

The City is searching for the donation of a Colorado Blue Spruce, Leyland Cypress or other well-formed evergreen tree, approximately 25 to 35 feet tall, to serve as the official 2007 Holiday Tree. The tree will be decorated and displayed at Market Square throughout the holiday season. The City will remove the tree from the donor's property in mid-November and grind the stump at no cost.

The Holiday Tree will be lighted during the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, November 23, at 7 p.m., in Market Square.

Persons in the Washington metropolitan area who are interested in donating a tree should contact John Noelle, City Arborist, at 703.838.4999 or e-mail john.noelle@alexandriava.gov.

Charting the Course for Alexandria's Economic Future

On Saturday, September 20, more than 150 Alexandria residents and business owners participated in the Alexandria City Council's Town Meeting on Economic Sustainability. The town meeting featured a presentation by Alexandria Economic Sustainability Work Group Chairman and Alexandria resident Nigel Morris, and small group discussions on the Work Group's Report to City Council.

The Work Group's Report represents an almost two-year effort that began with the City Council's Economic Summit in January 2006. City Council established the Work Group in June 2006, charging them to review the City's economic condition and develop recommendations to help sustain the City's long-term economy and revenues. Their recommendations will provide guidance for City Council decisions on issues affecting the City's economic future. The Council received the Work Group's initial recommendations in June 2007.

The Work Group concluded that the City needs to restore the 50/50 balance of commercial and residential property in its tax base to sustain future budget needs. Work Group proposals include expanding commercial development around Metro stations, enhancing waterfront development to accommodate visitors from National Harbor, and making Landmark Mall a major economic center. The Work Group recommended that the City expand its business retention and recruitment efforts, restructure its economic development efforts, increase the economic benefits generated by the City's visitor industry, and establish a positive reputation in the regional business community.

The Work Group will review the input from the Town Meeting and present a final report to City Council. The Council will discuss the Report at its October 27 retreat.

Nigel Morris, Work Group chair, is cofounder and former President and Chief Operating Officer of Capital One, the financial services and credit card company. Other Work Group members include Alexandrians with extensive

business experience and civic involvement: James Butler, Budget and Fiscal Affairs Commission member and Co chair of the Federation of Civic Associations; Lavern Chatman, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Northern Virginia Urban League; Stephen Fuller, Regional Economist and Director of George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis; Dennis Garcia, CEO of the Potomac Management Group; Charlotte Hall, President of the Potomac Riverboat Company; Mark Kington, founding member of Columbia Capital, LLC; Greg Leisch, CEO of Delta Associates, Inc.; John Meagher, former Deputy Undersecretary, U. S. Treasury; and Lonnie Rich, former City Council Member and Partner in the law firm of Rich, Greenberg, Rosenthal and Costle, LLP.

A full copy of the report can be found on the City's web site, alexandriava.gov.



Be Ready, Alexandria!

With the changing of the seasons and the bustle of oncoming holidays, it can be easy to forget that the potential for emergencies and disasters exists. The best defense is to be prepared. *Be Ready, Alexandria!* a program of the Alexandria Citizen Corps, provides important information to help City residents be prepared for emergencies and disasters.

If an emergency or disaster should affect our community, the City's local responders and relief workers stand ready to aid residents in preparation, clean up, and recovery. Residents can obtain emergency alerts and school closures through the City's web site (alexandriava.gov) and the local media (Alexandria's first source of information during an emergency is radio station WTOP, 103.5 FM and 820 AM); emergency information is also available through Cable Channel 70, and by subscribing to eNews (enews.alexandriava.gov).

However, knowing what to do in an emergency is the best protection. For resources on preparedness, including a checklist and toolkits for families and businesses, visit alexandriava.gov/citizencorps.

FY 2009 City Budget Update

The City Council held two work sessions on September 18 and 19, to discuss available funding for planned capital projects for fiscal years 2009 and 2010. The six-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) approved last May, contains \$101 million in planned projects in fiscal year 2009, and \$100 million in fiscal year 2010; but only \$56 million and \$60 million in planned funding. Council discussed options to manage the shortfall of approximately \$85 million over two years, including prioritizing current projects, maximizing other sources of financing, borrowing through the issuance of general obligation debt, or increasing pay-as-you-go cash funding from the operating budget. The outlook for the FY 2009 Operating Budget and the CIP will be on the agenda at City Council's retreat on Saturday, October 27. The retreat will be held at the IDA Building, 4850 Mark Center Drive, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Budget discussions will continue into 2008. The City Manager presents the FY 2009 budget to Council at its legislative meeting on February 12, 2008. The Council will hold a series of public work sessions on the budget this spring with budget adoption scheduled for May 5, 2008.

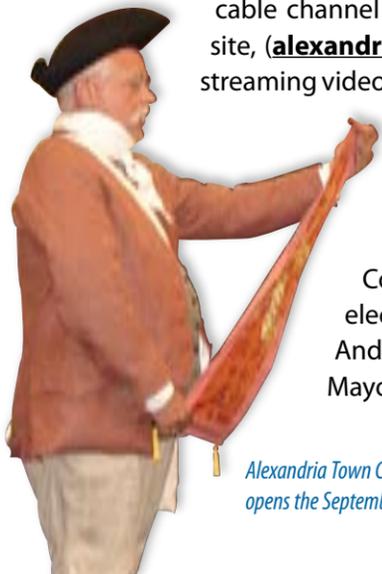
City Council Resumes Regular Meeting Schedule, Welcomes New Member

"Hear ye, hear ye! All present, gather nigh and attend these words..."

With this proclamation the City's Town Crier, William North-Rudin, opened the second half of the Alexandria City Council's legislative sessions. In the coming year, the Council will be considering a full range of issues, including economic sustainability, capital improvement projects, public safety, and emergency management. The September 11 meeting was the first after the Council's summer recess, following two moving ceremonies in Market Square: one in which 25 new citizens of the United States took the oath of citizenship, and the other, a remembrance of the events and the heroes of September 11, 2001.

Legislative meetings of City Council are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month (from September until June) at 7 p.m. in City Hall, 301 King Street. Public hearings are generally held on the Saturday following the first Tuesday legislative meeting. The Council's legislative meetings and public hearings can be viewed live on Alexandria cable channel 70; dockets and meetings are available on the City's web site, (alexandriava.gov); and live and archived meetings are available as streaming video and podcasts. Council meeting information is also available to eNews subscribers (enews.alexandriava.gov). Copies of Council agendas are also available at the City Clerk's Office, Room 2300, City Hall.

At the meeting, the Council warmly welcomed new Councilman Justin Wilson, who was elected in a special election on July 17 following the resignation of Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald. Redella S. "Del" Pepper is now the Vice Mayor.



Alexandria Town Crier William North-Rudin officially opens the September 11 City Council meeting.



Pictured from left to right: Councilman Justin Wilson, Councilman Rob Krupicka, Vice Mayor Del Pepper, Mayor William D. Euille, Councilman Ludwig Gaines, Councilman Paul Smedberg, Councilmember Timothy Lovain, Park & Recreation Commission Chair Judy Guse-Noritake, and City Manager Jim Hartmann, break ground for the new Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St., on September 15. The new center, which will boast environmentally friendly features such as a vegetated green roof, and energy efficient heating and cooling systems, will be completed in winter 2009.

NEW TO THE CITY?

Just Moved to Alexandria?

Here's a list of useful web sites and telephone numbers:

- ▶ Automobile Registration: alexandriava.gov/finance or 703.838.4560
- ▶ Citizen Assistance: 703.838.4800
- ▶ Alexandria City Public Schools: www.acps.k12.va.us or 703.824.6600
- ▶ Trash Pick-Up and Recycling (Division of Transportation & Environmental Services): alexandriava.gov/tes or 703.519.3486
- ▶ Voter Registration: www.alexandriavoter.org or 703.838.4050

A complete listing of services in Alexandria can be found in the *Know Your City Guide* available at the Citizen Assistance Office in City Hall and the City's web site at alexandriava.gov.



Your Alexandria Mayor & City Council

(pictured from left to right)

Mayor William D. Euille
alexvamayor@aol.com

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

Councilman Ludwig P. Gaines
councilmangaines@aol.com

Councilman Rob Krupicka
council@krupicka.com

Councilmember Timothy Lovain
timothylovain@aol.com

Councilman Paul C. Smedberg
paulcsmedberg@aol.com

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

Messages for City Council may be left at the Office of the City Clerk and City Council, 703.838.4550.

"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

Mayor's Corner

October 2007

As an Alexandria resident and business owner, I am acutely aware of the need for our businesses to be prepared for emergencies. Businesses are the lifeline of our community, and their viability becomes even more crucial in an emergency, when residents need goods and services. Following an emergency, the quick recovery and availability of the business community is essential for the City's economic recovery.



The events of September 11, Hurricane Katrina, and the recent Midwestern floods are just three examples of the types of disasters that could devastate the commercial sector if business owners are not prepared for them. In the event of a man-made or natural disaster, an emergency plan can save lives, company assets, and critical records. Although the threats are complex, emergency preparations are quite simple to implement, and can actually contribute to improved daily management.

In September, the City recognized National Preparedness Month, which provides education to residents on how to prepare for potential terrorism, disease, or weather-related disasters. For our business community, the Citizen Corps Council has teamed with the Alexandria Small Business Development Center and Dominion Power to offer "Open for Business," a disaster planning toolkit for small and mid-sized business owners. The toolkit contains easy-to-use templates and checklists to assist you in completing important business continuity forms and help you to develop and implement strategies so that your business is prepared for whatever emergencies may occur. This free toolkit can be downloaded from the Alexandria SBDC web site at www.alexandriasbdc.org.

Every business, no matter how large or small, needs a plan. I urge Alexandria's business leaders to take the steps they need now to be prepared.



TRAFFIC & TRANSIT

The Alexandria Side of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project: An Update

Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project, Virginia Portion. The \$2.5 billion Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project, one of the nation's largest public works projects of its kind, is demonstrating that much-needed large infrastructure projects can be managed on-schedule and within budget while limiting impacts to the natural environment and neighboring communities.

The Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project is approximately 75 percent complete, and the Virginia portion of the project is scheduled to open the new inner loop bridge in July 2008. The last girder of the Virginia approach spans was put in place this past July. As a result, no more long bridge girders will be hauled through southeast Alexandria. The remaining work on the bridge includes placing the concrete deck, sidewalks, guardrails, noise barrier and other appurtenances above the girders.

Route 1 Interchange. The Route 1 Interchange is scheduled to fully open to traffic in September 2008 and will be substantially completed by 2009. The new northbound lanes of the Route 1 interchange over the Capital Beltway have been completed, and are carrying two lanes of traffic in both the northbound and southbound directions. The old Route 1 overpass has been demolished, and the southbound portion of the new overpass is under construction. When completed, the Route 1 overpass will be upgraded from four to six lanes of traffic, to improve the flow of cars through the area.

Telegraph Road Interchange. This interchange is the last major contract to be completed for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project in Virginia. The contract was advertised for bid on August 28, 2007, with bids scheduled to be opened on December 5, 2007. Work is expected to begin in March 2008, with a scheduled completion date of June 2013.

Route 1 and Monroe Avenue Bridge Update

If you regularly travel along Route 1, it is hard to miss the major construction currently underway near the Monroe Avenue bridge. Route 1 is being reconfigured to construct a straight path which will allow Route 1 to cross over Monroe Avenue, increase safety for motorists and pedestrians on the roadway, and enhance the visual character of the Potomac Yard area.

The new bridge design, based on local building architecture, was the result of many community meetings over the past decade. The bridge will feature a new bicycle and pedestrian-shared trail on its east side and a pedestrian sidewalk on the west side; this trail system will connect with a trail and park system designed to be a part of the Potomac Yard development. Monroe Avenue will extend beneath the bridge and connect onto the roadway network within the Potomac Yard development. Potomac Yard Development, LLC is providing 100 percent of the funding needed for the bridge and roadway construction.

Initial work on the future northbound travel lanes of Route 1 is nearing completion.

Once utility and road work are completed this fall, traffic will be routed onto the Stage 1 Bridge. To accomplish the "switch" from the current Route 1 configuration to the new roadway and bridge, there will be several transitional Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) phases. After the transition is complete, the three lanes on the new bridge will utilize the middle lane for incoming and outgoing traffic at specific times of the day. Residents can get updates on the expected changes to traffic patterns at www.potomacyardalexandria.com.

There has also been a lot of work at Slater's Lane. When this work is finished, the turn from northbound Route 1 onto Slater's Lane will be safer for traffic and the slip ramp under the bridge will feature a pedestrian path along with the vehicular path. The newly-configured Route 1 bridge and roadway should be fully completed by the fall of 2008.

Old Town, New Happenings

New happenings are in the works for Old Town Alexandria. From water transit to new accommodations, Old Town will offer more to both residents and visitors alike, yet it will retain its historic ambiance and architecture. With the inaugural opening of the National Harbor project, slated for April 2008, and new transit linkages between Old Town and the National Harbor, visitors to both venues will be treated to a unique experience, blending elements of the past, present, and future.

"These changes will bolster Old Town as a first class destination for visitors, and enhance amenities for our residents, while retaining the historic, 'small town' charm beloved by all," said Mayor William D. Euille.

Upcoming editions of *FYI Alexandria* will feature articles that highlight these enhancements, including:

- Street cleaning and infrastructure improvements
- River transit connections to National Harbor and elsewhere
- New businesses complementing our commercial district
- Events and festivals—how we celebrate Old Town, and life throughout our City!

"The future for Old Town is exciting," said Mayor Euille, "but we realize it is important for us to maintain the history and charm that sets us apart—and ahead of the competition. These improvements will enhance the Old Town we know and love, while further heightening our presence as a desirable travel, business, and residential location."

Braddock Metro Neighborhood Plan Update

Over the course of the summer, a Listening Tour was conducted among stakeholders in the Braddock planning process to gain insight into the issues and expectations the community has for the Braddock Plan. The report found that despite some areas of disagreement, there are many areas of consensus that the community can support to develop a plan for the future. There was widespread community interest in getting the process back on track and completing the Plan within a reasonable period of time.

As a result, the Braddock Plan has restarted with two main goals: increased participation and input from the community through work sessions and an interactive educational process; and improved communication between and within the City and the community. The process will include at least two community sessions per month and public hearings in 2008. The initial phase of the planning process will include educational workshops featuring nationally renowned experts speaking on the opportunities and challenges in the Braddock area. These workshops will be followed by a charrette or forum, during which community members can establish a common vision and goals to serve as the Plan's framework.

The process will also include community work sessions, during which community members, City staff, and consultants will delve into the details of topics such as housing, retail, safety, transportation, historic preservation, and open space. Plan objectives will emerge from community discussions and tradeoffs.

For additional details on the Listening Tour report or the planning process, including a schedule of work sessions, workshops, and the Community Charrette, please visit alexandriava.gov/planningandzoning.

Infill Task Force

The Infill Task Force held its kick-off meeting on August 28 to begin the study of the impact of new single-family homes and large additions that are out of scale or character with existing residential neighborhoods (mansionization). The Task Force will analyze existing City regulations that pertain to limiting infill impacts and make recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council for any regulatory changes by Summer 2008. The Task Force meetings will be held generally on a monthly basis. The public is invited and welcome to participate through attendance at the meetings, during which there will be opportunity for public comment. For more information about the Infill Task Force, including a list of its members and topics of future meetings, please visit alexandriava.gov/planningandzoning.

City of Alexandria Receives \$19.75 Million to Assist First-Time Homebuyers

The Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) recently awarded the City of Alexandria funds totaling \$19.75 million to help make homeownership more affordable for people who live or work in the City. This funding is being provided through three programs administered by VHDA: the Sponsoring Partnerships and Revitalizing Communities (SPARC) Program, HomeStride, and the FlexSPARC Program.

Residents can apply for homeownership funding assistance through either the City's Homeownership Assistance Program (HAP) or Moderate Income Homeownership Program (MIHP). The HAP Program assists lower-income households with annual incomes of up to \$60,000 for a family of four, while the MIHP Program provides assistance to households with incomes of up to \$94,500 for households of 3 or more persons. FlexSPARC funding is also available for higher income households (up to \$135,400 annually) that do not qualify for assistance through the HAP or MIHP programs.

To qualify for assistance, participants must be first-time homebuyers and the home they purchase must be located within the City of Alexandria. They must also have lived or worked in the City for the past six months. All funds are limited and anyone interested is encouraged to inquire immediately. For more information, call the City of Alexandria's Office of Housing at 703.838.4622 or TDD at 703.838.5056.



A Partnership for Preparedness: The Alexandria Medical Reserve Corps

The Alexandria Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)—a group of more than 300 medical and non-medical professionals who volunteer to support public health in an emergency or in day-to-day public health activities—is a nationwide program that emerged from USA Freedom, an initiative introduced in 2002, which provided several outlets for citizens to volunteer and support their communities. These programs included VIPS (Volunteers in Police), Neighborhood Watch, and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), all of which are active in Alexandria.

The MRC is unique because these volunteers are an essential component to fulfilling the mission of public health: protecting and promoting health in our population. Simply put, the role of MRC volunteers is fundamental to the Alexandria Health Department's response to a large-scale disaster. If, for example, the Health Department had to vaccinate the entire population of the City over several days, it would require the establishment of numerous dispensing sites with several shifts per site. Accomplishing this task would require an estimated 530 to 750 trained employees and volunteers.

MRC volunteers are required to attend a two-hour orientation session in which they learn about the MRC, its role in an emergency, and the types of training and opportunities available.

For more information about the MRC, please contact Cyndi Lake, MRC Program Coordinator, at 703.838.4400, x283; e-mail cyndi.lake@vdh.virginia.gov; or visit www.alexhealth.com/mrc.

Police Department Implements Strategic Response System

The Alexandria Police Department is pleased to announce the implementation of its Strategic Response System (SRS), which analyzes crime trends, series, and patterns in real time to rapidly deploy police resources where they are most needed in the community. SRS not only examines crime data to address immediate concerns, but can also be utilized to determine solutions for solving long-term crime and disorder problems in Alexandria. SRS will help to facilitate dialogue among police commanders about how to most effectively respond to crime, to target neighborhoods most affected by crime, and to develop strategies for dealing with it. Commanders are held accountable to implement plans that address crime issues and study the effectiveness of various approaches to resolving them. SRS facilitates improved coordination and teamwork among officers, increased communication among various operational and investigative units, targeted ownership of problems and personal accountability for results.

Weather Woes—Be Prepared!

The transition of autumn to winter brings with it a mixed bag of weather woes. Tropical storms bring torrential rains, flooding and erosion, and snowstorms wreak havoc for drivers and pedestrians alike on icy streets and sidewalks. Here's what you can do to help yourself and your community be prepared to deal with inclement weather:

Heavy Rains, Flooding, and Hurricanes. The City's geographic location makes it a prime candidate for flooding, particularly in areas near the Potomac River. Heavy rains can turn streets into small creeks; tropical storms can bring high winds, torrential rains, and severe inland flooding. Many Alexandrians remember the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel in 2003, which cost residents more than \$2 million in damage. The hurricane season ends November 30. Visit alexandriava.gov/fire for hurricane preparation tips.

Snow and Ice. Annually, Alexandria averages 20 inches of snow and ice. After these storms, City crews clear snow from more than 134 miles of roadway, numerous municipal parking lots, and more than 20 miles of City sidewalks, walkways, and pathways. For snow accumulation of less than four inches, the goal is to have city streets cleared within 12 hours of the storm's end; between four and eight inches, within 24 hours; for amounts greater than eight inches, within 72 hours.



In the event of a storm, residents are advised to stay off roads, avoid parking along snow emergency routes, and should listen to WTOP, 103.5 FM and 820 AM for information on school closings and road conditions; emergency information is also available through Cable Channel 70. The City also needs your help in clearing sidewalks and walkways so that pedestrians, postal carriers, and emergency personnel can safely reach their destinations. It is also the law: City Code requires residents and business owners to clear snow from all paved sidewalks abutting their property within 24 hours of the end of the snowfall. Failure to do so may result in the City performing the work and charging the cost to the property owner, or fining the property owner \$50. For more information on snow removal, visit alexandriava.gov/snowremoval.



Autumn Leaf Collection

Each year, the City's Department of Transportation & Environmental Services provides vacuum leaf collection service. From October through December, crews drive through City neighborhoods with specialized vacuum equipped trucks to collect leaves that have been raked into the curb and gutter line. Each neighborhood receives a minimum of three passes on their street. For the 2007 leaf collection schedule and information on distribution of leaf bags, visit alexandriava.gov/leafcollection.

City residents can help our crews by:

- ▶ Removing stones, litter, branches or other items that can possibly damage our equipment and could hurt City workers.
- ▶ Keeping leaves away from in front of storm drains or water meter covers and moving parked cars off of leaf piles.
- ▶ Raking leaves into a pile at the curb, which enables crews to move quickly and collect leaves more efficiently.
- ▶ Ensuring that leaves are visible at the curb of the street, not in alleys or service roads.



Smoke Alarms Save Lives!

The Alexandria Fire Department wants you to know that the earlier you are alerted to a fire, the more likely you are to get out in time. A working smoke alarm can give you the time you need to safely escape a fire in your home.

The City of Alexandria was one of 38 Virginia jurisdictions chosen as a recipient of the "Be Fire Safe, Virginia!" Smoke Alarm Installation and Education Program grant sponsored by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and the Virginia Fire Services Board. A limited number of smoke alarms were distributed to Virginia fire departments free of charge and designated for older adults or residents who may not have the physical ability to purchase and install smoke alarms themselves. The goals of the program were to increase the number of homes with working smoke alarms; increase the number of residents who plan and practice fire escape plans, and increase the number of residents who test their smoke alarms monthly. Thanks to partnerships between Rebuilding Together Alexandria, Meals on Wheels, and the Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department, nearly 200 smoke alarms have been installed in households of City residents.

Residents who are interested in this program should contact the Fire Department to schedule an appointment. In addition to receiving smoke alarms, residents will be given educational materials on basic fire safety and will also be asked to complete a basic fire safety survey. For more information, contact the Fire Department's Fire and Life Safety Educator, Patsieann Misiti at 703.706.3940, x222.

REMEMBER: Smoke alarms are an important part of every home's basic fire escape plan.

Replacing batteries in home smoke alarms has been a common ritual practiced twice each year. With the end of daylight savings time approaching on November 4, many people will continue the habit of replacing batteries as daylight savings time ends. However, if smoke alarms in your home are more than 10 years old, the National Fire Protection Association recommends replacing them with new alarms, as well. For more information on fire safety for older adults, visit www.nfpa.org.

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. 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 and emergency alerts—Sign up for eNews today!

enews.alexandriava.gov

City Renovates Historic Fire Station

A Del Ray fire station—with links to a "lost" Virginia town—will be undergoing renovation in late 2007. Fire Station 202, located at 213 East Windsor Avenue, was built as the town hall for Potomac, Virginia. The Town of Potomac encompassed the communities of Del Ray and St. Elmo, and was incorporated in 1908. When the Town of Potomac was annexed by the City of Alexandria in 1930—and thus, ceased to exist—the building became Alexandria's Fire Station 2.

Signs of the building's past are revealed in some unusual features, which include a large safe and a jail cell. Currently, the station houses an engine company, a medic unit, and a hazardous materials unit. The renovations, which include the installation of private sleeping quarters and separate bathrooms for men and women, will modernize facilities throughout the two-story building and will bring the station into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

During the renovation, the firefighters and paramedics staffing Station 202 will be relocated to a residential trailer adjacent to the structure. It is expected that construction will be completed in late summer 2008; a rededication will be held to mark the renewal of a building that has long been an integral part of the Del Ray community and its history.

The Alexandria Sheriff's Office: A Community Partner

Are you or your neighborhood group planning a community clean-up or beautification project? Alexandria Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and his staff are committed to working with neighborhoods and civic associations to enhance the quality of life in the City. In addition to its judicial and law enforcement responsibilities, part of the mission of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office is to provide residents with valuable services and inform them about the many benefits that are provided. The Sheriff's Office also seeks feedback on its performance and how it can provide the best possible service. This is the first of a series of articles about the different ways that the Sheriff's Office can help Alexandria residents.

The Sheriff's Office Cleans Up

One way of strengthening the quality of life for Alexandrians is to make sure that our neighborhoods are clean and safe. The Sheriff's Office does this through two programs. On weekdays, Sheriff's Office's Work Detail inspects neighborhoods and public thoroughfares to remove refuse and debris, and beautify areas of the City.

On weekends, the Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with the City's Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Activities Department and the Transportation & Environmental Services Department, provides additional cleaning and support services to special events such as the Waterfront Festival and Del Ray's First Thursdays. This work is provided by individuals participating in the Sheriff's Office's Modified Work Release community services program.

If your neighborhood group is interested in having the Sheriff's Office support your clean up event, contact the Work Detail Supervisor at the Sheriff's Office at 703.838.4111.



KEEPING ALEXANDRIA GREEN

Sort No More—Single Stream is at Your Door!

The City of Alexandria's Office of Recycling initiated a single-stream recycling program in September. Single-stream recycling allows residents to put all recyclable materials into their yellow recycling bins, eliminating the need to separate paper from other recyclable materials placed at the curb for collection.

In the past, residents were required to separate recyclables because facilities that handle recyclables were not able to sort them for additional processing and reuse. However, new technologies have emerged that allow all recyclables to be collected together and sorted at recycling processor facilities, so now residents will no longer be required to sort materials at the curb.

For more information on the City's updated recycling program, visit www.alexrecycles.org or call 703.519.3486.



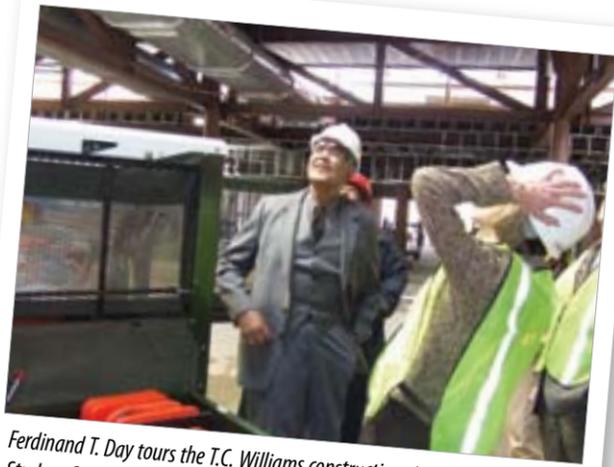
T.C. Holds Grand Opening Celebration

The new, state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly T.C. Williams High School building is a proud testament to the value of education and responsible environmental stewardship in Alexandria. Opening day on September 4 was very exciting for students and staff as they began the year in a modern, light-filled, "green" school. On Sunday, October 14, the entire Alexandria community was invited to tour T.C. Williams, enjoy performances by students in grades K-12, and witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication of the Ferdinand T. Day Student Commons. The Commons is named after native Alexandrian Ferdinand T. Day, who was instrumental in the integration of Alexandria schools. To see photos and video of the new T.C. Williams High School, visit www.acps.k12.va.us/videos

Be a Part of the New T.C. Williams High School!

Be a part of the new 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 seats in the new John C. Albohm Auditorium.

To select your seat, your plaque, and the name to be engraved, visit www.acps.k12.va.us. For more information, call 703.824.6635.



Ferdinand T. Day tours the T.C. Williams construction site. The T.C. Williams Student Commons was named in honor of Mr. Day, who was the first African American to chair the Alexandria School Board and one of its first African American members.

ACPS Welcomes New Principals at Four Elementary Schools

Kathy Taylor, William Ramsay Elementary School

Taylor, a former associate principal at Francis Hammond Middle School, has served as a classroom teacher, grade level principal and administrative director for special education. During the 2005-2006 school year, she helped to design and coordinate a variety of opportunities for teachers to excel using differentiated instruction. Taylor has a proven track record of improving programs and services for students by modeling data-driven decision-making and collaboration among students, teachers, parents, reading coaches, psychologists and others.

Loretta Scott, Samuel Tucker Elementary School

Scott was assistant principal at Tucker prior to becoming principal. She was instrumental in the implementation of the first modified school calendar program in Alexandria and is experienced in using student test data to assist teachers with instruction. In the past five years as assistant principal, Scott has worked closely with the current principal to supervise licensed staff, establish and implement high standards of student behavior, sustain a positive school culture, and encourage parent and community participation in school activities. Tucker Elementary School was recently named a Title I Distinguished School by the Virginia Department of Education and Scott played an integral role in this achievement.

Dawn Feltman, George Mason Elementary School

Feltman, former assistant principal at Mount Vernon Community School, served as acting principal for several months during Dr. Lulu Lopez's absence. Feltman has demonstrated her abilities as an acting principal, summer school principal, Performance Evaluation Program specialist, staff development provider, evaluator and teacher. She is viewed by her colleagues as an instructional leader and has extensive knowledge on inclusive classrooms, modified calendar, dual language, English as a Second Language programs, Instructional Support Teams, and shared decision-making.

Scott Coleman, Mount Vernon Community School

Coleman has been a school administrator in Fulton County, Ga., and most recently served as principal of White Center Heights Elementary School in Seattle, Wash. Over his 16-year tenure in public education, Coleman has been a high school Spanish teacher, summer school principal, and elementary principal in two different Title I schools. He is fluent in Spanish and enthusiastic about Mount Vernon's dual language program. In Washington, Coleman established a bilingual preschool program to address kindergarten readiness. He also brings a high level of technical expertise to Alexandria, having participated in several technology initiatives.

GET INVOLVED!

Volunteer Opportunities in the City

The Alexandria Black History Museum needs volunteers who have an interest in history, and in particular, Alexandria's African-American history and culture. Museum volunteers staff the reception desk, greet visitors, handle phone calls and help with special projects. Volunteers are asked to commit to one 3-hour shift every other week. The museum, located at 902 Wythe Street, is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Lillian Patterson at 703.838.4356 or e-mail lillian.patterson@alexandriava.gov.

The Alexandria Community Services Board is in need of volunteers to serve as representative payees to receive Social Security checks and pay bills for persons with mental retardation or mental illness. A separate bank account is opened with automatic deposit and there are few monthly transactions. The duties require two hours per month, per account. *Friendly Visitors* are also needed to plan one-on-one outings and activities with residents of Alexandria group homes for adults with mental retardation. This volunteer activity requires approximately two hours per week.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, call 703.838.4455, x165, or e-mail jennifer.cohen-cordero@alexandriava.gov.

Gadsby's Tavern Museum in Old Town is looking for Volunteer Tour Guides who love history and enjoy working with the public. No experience is necessary! Volunteers should be able to contribute one morning or afternoon a month. Tours are offered weekdays, some weekday nights, and on weekends. Volunteer benefits include free admission to more than 30 historic house museums, a shop discount, free garage parking (while on duty), discounted admission to museum lectures, a subscription to the museum newsletter, and invitations to annual volunteer parties, field trips and exhibit openings. Gadsby's Tavern Museum is located at 134 North Royal Street. To learn more about volunteer opportunities at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, call 703.838.4242.

The Alexandria Office on Women. If you are looking for a dynamic volunteer experience with the chance to make a difference, the **Sexual Assault Response and Awareness (SARA) program** is the volunteer opportunity for you. The SARA program is looking for compassionate listeners, both English speaking and bilingual, who would be comfortable talking to sexual assault survivors and their families. SARA requires volunteers to complete 40 hours of training to become a hotline companion. While the initial training commitment is intensive, the commitment following training is just two hotline shifts per month. Volunteers take evening or weekend shifts from home or anywhere accessible by phone. For more information, contact Stacey Calhoun McCullough at 703.838.5030 or e-mail stacey.mccullough@alexandriava.gov.

The Office on Women's **Domestic Violence Program** is conducting a one-day retreat to kick off its volunteer training program. The retreat will be held on October 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., for individuals interested in assisting with the program. Pre-registration and RSVP is required. For more information on training and other domestic violence volunteer programs, contact Lacie Hughes, Volunteer Coordinator, at 703.838.4911, or e-mail lacie.hughes@alexandriava.gov.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, which has been granted a timeslot on local cable TV, is looking for volunteers who might be interested in helping out with the television project. The League is currently seeking a film editor to assist with the project, but other opportunities are also available. Please contact Delores Murray, Manager of Volunteer Services, at 703.838.4774, ext. 225, or e-mail dmurray@alexandrianimals.org.

“Fall” in Love with Alexandria!

During the fall season, Alexandria bursts with color and excitement. Cooling temperatures and crisp leaves make it a perfect time to host friends and relatives, to savor a cup of warm cider in a neighborhood café, to sample the fruits of the harvest at a farmers’ market, or to enjoy the sights and sounds of your own hometown. A sample of autumn’s events includes the following:

Sundays throughout October: The new West End Farmers’ Market at Ben Brenman Park (4800 Brenman Park Drive), open to the public on Sundays through October from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., features locally grown organic produce and home-baked goods.

October 27: Throughout October, the historic home of John Carlyle, member of one of the most prestigious families in colonial Virginia, explores 18th century mourning practices in “Death Comes to Carlyle House.” On October 27, Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 North Fairfax Street, hosts a reenactment of Carlyle’s funeral. For more information, visit www.nvrpa.org, or call 703.549.2297.

November 3: The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra presents “Exuberance,” a concert featuring the music of Beethoven and Brahms. The concert begins at 8 p.m. in the Schlesinger Concert Hall, Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard Street. For ticket information, visit www.alexsym.org.



November 8: During the Torpedo Factory’s Second Thursday Art Night, galleries, shops and the Torpedo Factory Art Center (105 N. Union Street) stay open late—from 6 to 9 p.m. Browse open studios, interact with artists, and enjoy refreshments, demonstrations, and special performances. Free.

November 23: Kick off the holiday season at the City’s Holiday Tree Lighting, from 7-9 p.m. (rain or shine) in Market Square. Enjoy an evening of musical entertainment, with greetings from the Mayor—and a visit from a very special guest.

For a detailed listing of fall and early winter events around town, see the Calendar of Events on page 8 of this issue, and visit www.funside.com.

Raising Awareness, Saving Lives

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and raising awareness about the importance of early detection and routine screening is crucial to successful treatment. However, with the average charge for a mammography ranging between \$90 and \$130, many Alexandria residents cannot afford to regularly obtain one.

In August of 1994, then Alexandria City Manager Vola Lawson, a breast cancer survivor, convened a committee of community representatives from the public, private and non-profit sectors to investigate methods for increasing early detection and treatment of breast cancer. The committee’s efforts have been directed at increasing public awareness of the importance of regular mammography screening and raising money to cover the costs of mammography and other diagnostic procedures for inadequately insured Alexandria residents.

Lawson initiated the annual Walk to Fight Breast Cancer, now in its 14th year, to raise money for this need. All proceeds from the event are designated for the Alexandria Breast Cancer Fund. The Fund, administered by Inova Alexandria Hospital, has collected more than \$1 million and served more than 4,000 residents since its inception. For more information, please contact Ellen Passel, Walk Health Educator, at 703.838.5030 x102, or visit alexcancerwalk.com.



History Reclaimed: Freedmen’s Cemetery

More than 140 years after Freedmen’s Cemetery was abandoned, the City reclaimed the sacred burial ground this summer and began the process of restoring its place in Alexandria history.

The site where approximately 1,800 African Americans were buried in the late 1860’s was abandoned and forgotten, and in the mid-20th century, a gas station and office building were built on top of it. In recent years, local historians re-discovered the cemetery through historical documents, and in the 1990’s, community members established the Friends of Freedmen’s Cemetery to ensure it would not be forgotten.

The City acquired the property with funding from the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project, removed the modern structures, and at a ceremony in May, City officials re-dedicated the site as a cemetery. Since then, a team of City archaeologists has been carefully excavating the property, identifying grave shafts without disturbing any burials or remains. The goal of the archaeological work is to find the burial locations so that a memorial park honoring the freedmen can be designed and built without disturbing any graves.

Scraping through layers of soil, archaeologists monitor changes in its color and consistency to identify disturbances that might indicate a grave shaft. Grave shafts are numbered, photographed, and mapped by a City survey team so that when the archaeological work is complete, the information can be used in the design process for Alexandria’s Freedmen’s Cemetery Memorial Park due to open in 2010.

One exciting archaeological discovery provided concrete proof of human presence in Alexandria 4,000 years earlier than previously known. A broken stone tool was identified in August as a reworked Clovis point, dating to about 13,000 years ago.

Excavation is scheduled to continue at Freedmen’s Cemetery into October 2007, and once that work is complete, a report of the archaeological findings will be compiled. For more information about the project, including a downloadable brochure, please visit oha.alexandriava.gov/archaeology.

PETS AROUND TOWN

Is your Dog or Cat Licensed?

Alexandria is a pet-friendly community. 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. For more information, call 703.838.4774 or visit www.alexandrianimals.org.

Got a Picture of Your Pet You’d Like to Share?

Send your photo, along with your pet’s name, and the name of your neighborhood to fyi@alexandriava.gov, and you may see your “best friend” in the next issue of *FYI Alexandria!*



“Willie” lives in Hoffman Town Center.

Events & Activities

OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 24

Reading the Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee through His Private Letters

The Lyceum Museum
201 S. Washington St.
7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

A close and personal look at the Confederacy's most celebrated general.

Admission: Free
www.alexandriahistorical.org or 703.838.4994

Saturday, October 27

Rediscovering Alexandria's Historic Free African Americans

Alexandria Archaeology Museum
The Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio #327
105 N. Union St.
10:00 a.m. – Noon

A two-hour guided walk, led by City archaeologist Pamela Cressey, of sites associated with early free black neighborhoods and Civil War refugees seeking freedom.

Admission: Free
For reservations, call 703.838.4399

Sunday, October 28

Cultivate Your Taste for Art: A Collectors Evening

Torpedo Factory Art Center
105 N. Union St.
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Learn about assessing and purchasing art, browse affordable pieces, and enjoy light fare, including wine and champagne.

Admission: \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door
Call 703.838.4565, ext. 2, or e-mail events@torpedofactory.org

Monday, October 29

Family Story Night

Beatley Central Library
5005 Duke St.
7:00 p.m.

An evening of stories and fun for all ages.

Admission: Free
www.alexandria.lib.va.us or 703.519.5900

Tuesday, October 30

"Poe in Alexandria"

The Lyceum Museum
201 S. Washington St.
8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Actor David Keltz portrays Edgar Allan Poe, author of "The Raven," and master of macabre; runs through October 31.

Admission: \$12
www.alexandriahistory.org or 703.838.4994

NOVEMBER

Thursday, November 1

Homeschool Day

Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal St.
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Tours and stories about life in the 18th century.

Admission: \$5; reservations required
For more information, call 703.838.4242

18th Century Dance Classes

Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal St.
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Learn period dances in preparation for the Late Harvest Ball.

Admission: \$12 per class; \$30 for series of three (November 1, 8, and 13)
For more information, call 703.838.4242

T.C. Williams Orchestra Concert

T.C. Williams High School
3330 King St.
7:30 p.m.

The T.C. Williams High School and Minnie Howard School Orchestras perform works by Haydn, Vivaldi, and others in the new John C. Albohm Auditorium.

Admission: Free
For more information, call 703.624.6800

Saturday, November 3

Swordsmen's Rendezvous

Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal St.
11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

An interactive living history program about weapons and swordplay.

Admission: \$5 per person
www.gadsbystavern.org or 703.838.4242

Fall Bus Tour to Gettysburg

Friends of Fort Ward Museum
4301 W. Braddock Road
7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

A day-long tour of the Civil War's most significant battleground.

Admission: \$110 (members); \$120 (nonmembers)
www.fortward.org or 703.838.4848

Saturday, November 10

Veteran's Day Soldier-Led Walking Tours

Fort Ward Museum
4301 W. Braddock Road
10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Learn about the life of soldiers during the Civil War.

Admission: Free
www.fortward.org or 703.838.4848

Sunday, November 11

Veterans' Day Program

Alexandria Black History Museum
902 Wythe St.
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate the contributions of African American veterans.

Admission: Free
www.alexblackhistory.org or 703.838/4356

Monday, November 19

Late Harvest Ball

Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal St.
8:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Celebrate the harvest! Period costume optional; evening attire encouraged

Admission: \$45, adults; \$10, children (ages 13-17); in advance
www.gadsbystavern.org or 703.838.4242

Tavern Toddlers—Baby and Me Yoga

Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal St.
11:00 a.m.

An exciting new program for children ages 1 to 3.

Admission: \$15 per family group (1 adult and 2 children); \$3 for each additional adult/child
www.gadsbystavern.org or 703.838.4242

Friday, November 23

City of Alexandria Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

Market Square in front of King Street
301 King St.
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Kick off the season with musical entertainment, a welcome from the Mayor, and a visit from Santa Claus!

Admission: Free

Saturday, November 24

Scottish Preview

The Lyceum Museum
201 S. Washington St.
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate Alexandria's Scottish heritage in a day of activities and performances

Admission: Free
www.alexandriahistory.org or 703.838.4994

Thursday, November 29

Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Open House

Torpedo Factory Art Center
105 N. Union St.
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Enjoy live music, refreshments, and find "artful" gifts this holiday season!

Admission: Free
www.torpedofactory.org or 703.838.4565

Thursday, November 29 through

Saturday, December 1

37th Annual Campagna Center's Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend

418 S. Washington St., and throughout Old Town
Scottish Walk Parade: Saturday, Dec. 1 at 11:00 a.m.

An Alexandria holiday tradition! The Weekend features a Children's Tea Party, a Designer Tour of Homes, Concerts, and "A Taste of Scotland."

www.scottishchristmaswalk.com or 703.549.0111

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 1

Ornament Decorating Workshop

Alexandria Archaeology Museum
The Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio #327
105 N. Union St.
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Make ornaments inspired by the patterns and colors of the City's collection of artifacts.

Admission: Free
www.alexandriaarchaeology.org or 703.838.4399

Sunday, December 2

"God Has Made a Way in Leesburg"

Photography Exhibition
Alexandria Black History Museum
902 Wythe St.
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

This inspiring exhibition by artist Big Al Carter showcases his family members and their community; runs Tuesdays through Saturdays, through Dec. 3.

Admission: Free
www.alexblackhistory.org or 703.838.4356

Saturday, December 8

Kwanzaa Craft and Game Workshop

Alexandria Black History Museum
902 Wythe St.
10:30 a.m. – Noon

Learn about this unique African American holiday and make zawadi (gifts).

Admission: Free
www.alexblackhistory.org or 703.838.4356

Annual Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours

Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal St.
5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Tour the City's historic houses by candlelight.

Admission: \$20; \$15 for seniors 65 and older; \$5 for children 6-17; Reservations recommended.

www.historicalalexandria.org or 703.838.4242

Christmas in Camp Open House

Fort Ward Museum
4301 W. Braddock Road
Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Learn how Christmas was observed during the Civil War.

Admission (suggested donation): \$2, adults; \$1, children
www.fortward.org or 703.838.4848

Sunday, December 9

The Colonial Handbell Ringers

The Lyceum Museum
201 S. Washington St.
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Hear the Colonial Handbell Ringers play your holiday favorites.

Admission: Free
www.alexandriahistory.org or 703.838.4994

Monday, December 17

Tavern Toddlers—Shapes

Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal St.
11:00 a.m.

Children ages 1-3 learn about shapes—and history, too!

Admission: \$15 per family group
www.gadsbystavern.org or 703.838.4242

Monday, December 31

First Night Alexandria

In Old Town and Del Ray

Ring in the New Year with performances, music, and fireworks!

Admission: \$10 before Christmas, \$15 after
www.firstnightalexandria.org

JANUARY

January 12

Tavern Toddlers—Colors

Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal Street
11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Learn about the world of color in the 18th century and the different colors at the tavern.

Admission: \$15 per family group (1 adult and up to 2 kids); \$3 for each additional adult/child.
www.gadsbystavern.org or 703.838.4242

Thursday, January 17 through

Thursday, February 7

Birthnight Ball Dance Classes

Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal St.
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Learn 18th century English country dances from expert dance instructors in preparation for the Birthnight Ball on February 16.

Admission: \$12 per class; \$30 for the series (January 17, 24 and February 7)
Reservations recommended.
www.gadsbystavern.org or 703.838.4242

FYI ALEXANDRIA

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