



Inside...

Planning Alexandria's Future 2

Alexandria Celebrates 60 Years of Historic Preservation 3

City Council Invites Bids for Citywide Wireless Network 4

Planning for Pandemic Influenza 5

Curbside Recycling Program 5

ACPS Updates 6

New Exhibit Opens at the Alexandria Black History Museum 7

Alexandria Festival of the Arts 7

Calendar of Events 8

Newly Elected Alexandria City Council Assumes Office on July 1

Formal Installation Ceremony and Reception Set for July 5

On May 2, Alexandria voters elected the Mayor and City Council members for the next three year City Council term which begins on July 1, 2006. Mayor William D. Euille, who ran unopposed, was re-elected as the City's mayor. Council Members Ludwig Gaines, Rob Krupicka, Andrew Macdonald, Redella "Del" Pepper, and Paul Smedberg were re-elected to City Council. Tim Lovain was elected to fill the City Council seat held by Councilwoman Joyce Woodson, who did not run again.

The community is invited to attend the formal City Council installation ceremony and reception on Wednesday, July 5, 7:30 pm, at Episcopal High School, 1200 North Quaker Lane. For further information, contact the City Clerk's Office at 703.838.4550.

Copias en español del FYI en Alexandria están disponibles en las Bibliotecas de la Ciudad, el Departamento de Servicios Humanos, el Centro de Recreación Lee y la Municipalidad.

City Council Adopts Fiscal Year 2007 Operating Budget with a 10¢ Cut in the Real Estate Tax Rate

On April 24, the Alexandria City Council adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2007 (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007). The budget includes \$3.3 million for affordable housing programs, and an 8 percent increase in funding for City schools. The City's new property tax rate, which took effect immediately after budget adoption, is 81.5 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, and is the lowest property tax rate in Alexandria in more than 50 years. The adopted tax rate reduces the real estate tax by 10 cents. The City Manager's initial proposal included \$5.9 million in reduction options for Council to consider, to meet an alternative lower budget target set by Council. Council chose to make a net total of \$4.4 million in additional reductions for a total of \$10.3 million in cost reductions.

The resulting average increase in real estate taxes for the average residence valued at \$527,000, is \$259 or 6.4%. Taxes for the average single family residence would increase by about \$268 or 5.2%. Taxes for the average condominium would increase by about \$250 or 9.2% (prior to the application of household income-targeted tax relief). The new tax rate of



81.5 cents is the second lowest among major Northern Virginia jurisdictions. There will be no increase in FY 2007 in the City's personal property tax rate.

The Council also significantly increased the benefits and income threshold for real estate tax relief for low and moderate income homeowners, and increased the income threshold to \$72,000 for senior citizens and the permanently and totally disabled.

Continued on Page 4

City Council Expands Affordable Homeownership Preservation Grant Program

Applications Due by September 1

In April, City Council substantially increased the grant amounts and the income qualifications to include more homeowners in the Affordable Homeownership Preservation (AHOP) Grant Program. Council more than doubled the amount of grants available to low and moderate income Alexandria homeowners.

The City's homeownership grant program provides a grant to qualifying homeowners in the form of a credit on the homeowner's real estate bill. The City will apply the grant to the homeowner's second half real estate tax bill due November 15. The amount of the grant for 2006 ranges from \$200 to \$1,200 based on the criteria in the chart to the right.

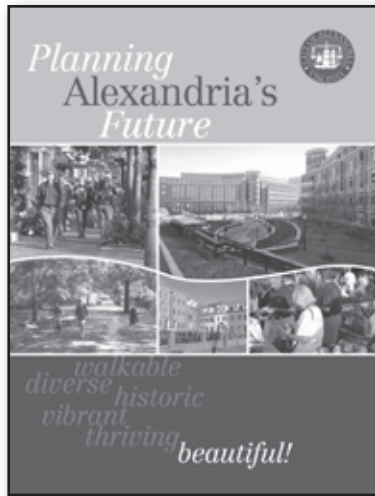
Applications are due on Sept. 1, 2006, and are available from the Finance Department, Taxpayer Services Branch, P.O. Box 178, Alexandria, VA 22313, by calling 703.838.4570, or by e-mail at ahop@alexandriava.gov.

2005 Household Income Ceilings	Grant Amount	Qualifying Household Size
\$0 - \$40,000	\$1,200	One or More Residents
\$40,001 - \$55,000	\$875	One or More Residents
\$55,001 - \$72,000	\$375	One or More Residents
\$72,001 - \$87,000	\$200	Two or More Residents
\$87,001 - \$100,000	\$200	Three or More Residents
Home Value Ceiling 2006 Property Assessment cannot exceed \$527,000		
Household Asset Ceiling 2006 Household Assets cannot exceed \$50,000		
(Excluding house and land, vehicles and retirement plan assets)		

PUBLIC FORUM

Tune In and Speak Up! Help Us Plan for Alexandria's Future

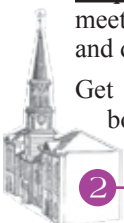
Two years ago, City Council created a Vision for Alexandria 2015, defining our future City as a community with a "sense of place," usable open spaces, a safe and walkable environment, thriving neighborhoods, connection to communities by transit, affordable housing, and a mix of residential, retail and office uses. The City will involve the community in a joint effort to make the Vision a reality, working together with the City's Interagency Planning Team, led by the Department of Planning and Zoning (P&Z).



Here's how community members can learn more about what we do and become involved in the planning process:

- **Subscribe to the City's online eNews service** to receive free e-mail updates about planning issues and meetings in your neighborhood. You'll receive regular e-mails on topics of interest to you.
- **Visit the P&Z web site,** alexandriava.gov/planningandzoning. The site was just ranked one of the Top 10 planning sites in the nation, and is packed with information about current planning initiatives, development activity, and zoning information.
- **Review the newly-published Community Outreach Brochure**, available online. It describes City Council's planning themes, how P&Z is implementing the themes, and your role in the process. Please let us know if you'd like additional copies for distribution at your civic association meetings.
- **Provide your input at P&Z community meetings** on new planning initiatives, Small Area Plans, and new development applications. A calendar of community meetings is available on the web site.
- **Get involved in your local community group** and let P&Z, the Planning Commission, or the City Council know what you think about particular planning issues via e-mail, a phone call, a letter, or at a public hearing.
- **Request a P&Z presentation** at your civic association meeting to learn more about current planning initiatives and development in your own community.

Get involved in the decisions that shape your neighborhood's future.



2006: A Big Year for Alexandria Historic Preservation Events

October Forum Planned

In April, the City Council hosted the first in a series of 2006 Alexandria Historic Preservation events. Charleston, SC Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr., a prominent spokesperson on issues of urban design, livability, and historic preservation, spoke to over 200 forum attendees. Mayor Riley's presentation described preservation as an opportunity rather than a challenge, and he discussed how preservation can go hand in hand with affordable housing, economic development, and creating a truly beautiful and livable city.

An October 2006 Alexandria Preservation Summit is being planned as a collaborative effort between the City and local preservation groups including the Historic Alexandria Foundation, the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission, the Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission, the Alexandria Archaeological Commission, the Boards of Architectural Review, and the Old Town Civic Association. The summit will provide a forum for participants to discuss how to build on past successes, strategize about ways to overcome challenges, and establish a preservation blueprint for the future.

For details, date and location of the October summit, visit the Planning & Zoning web site at alexandriava.gov/planningandzoning or call 703.838.4666.



FYI ALEXANDRIA

Is the official publication of the City of Alexandria and is published bi-monthly by the City Manager's Office. For more information, call 703.838.4300.

City Manager: James Hartmann

Chief Editor: Michele Evans

Design and Layout: Justin Thompson

Chief Writers and Contributors: Emily Baker, Carrie Beach, Jack Browand, Val Moore Brown, Amy Carlini, Bridget Dean, Eileen Fogarty, Shareen Garner, Jennifer Harris, Steve Mason, Laura Overstreet, Raynard Owens, Laura Rod, and Lee Webb.

IN FOCUS



Alexandria Celebrates 60 Years of Historic Preservation

This year marks the 60th anniversary of preservation in Alexandria, one of America's most historic communities. Throughout Alexandria, authentic 18th, 19th, and early 20th century buildings and historic districts are preserved by committed citizens, the Old and Historic Board of Architectural Review, and the Parker-Gray Board of Architectural Review.

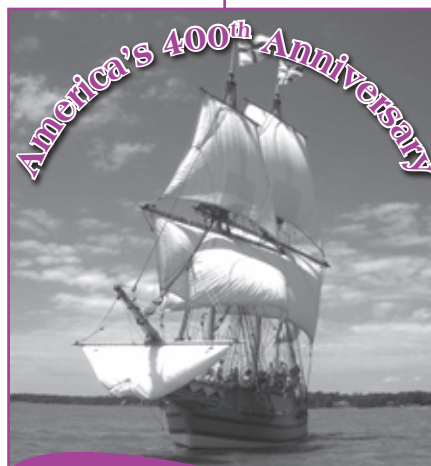
Alexandria's preservation efforts began as early as 1903, when the Society for the Restoration of Historic Alexandria was formed to save and make use of the Carlyle House as a museum. Other early efforts focused on the City's close association with George Washington, and on the restoration of properties connected to his life, with the goal of opening them for public educational purposes. Gadsby's Tavern was purchased by American Legion Post 24 in 1929, and operated as a museum beginning in 1932, the bicentennial of Washington's birth. The Alexandria Landmark Society was formed in 1934, to preserve the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum.

City Council passed an ordinance in 1946, to form Alexandria's first historic district. Organizations including the two Boards of Architectural Review, the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission, the Historic Alexandria Foundation, the Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission, the Alexandria Archaeological Commission, the Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, the Office of Historic Alexandria and others, provide the organizational structure for sustainable historic preservation in Alexandria. Challenges include balancing preservation with new development and economic growth, as well as preserving the historic character of neighborhoods.

Since 1961, the City government has sponsored archaeology work to support local historic preservation. In 1975, Alexandria became the first city in America to establish an archaeology program that works with the community to study, preserve, and share heritage with residents and visitors. Today, the Alexandria Heritage Trail covers 23 miles of Alexandria and 10,000 years of history based on archaeological research.

A large portion of Old Town Alexandria was added to the National Register of Historic Places as one of the nation's first historic districts in 1966. The Parker-Gray District was created by City Council in 1984 to preserve the 19th and early 20th century structures in the district. Alexandria has over 35 individual places on the Register, including five historic districts: Old and Historic, Rosemont, Town of Potomac, Parkfairfax, and Fairlington Village.

For more information, contact the Office of Historic Alexandria at 703.838.4554 or www.historicalexandria.org.



Alexandria was the first port-of-call in late May, when the newly commissioned replica Godspeed visited Alexandria's Waterfront. The City hosted a Landing Party Festival and Godspeed tours for the public as part of the launching of America's 400th Anniversary and commemoration of the founding of Jamestown.

The Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association partnered with the City to promote the events in the City. The Office of Historic Alexandria is sponsoring a lecture series, exhibits and related activities through 2007.

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 by the City by January 31 each year.

Licenses are available at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Avenue. For more information, call 703.838.4774 or visit www.alexandriaanimals.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.



Juried Art Exhibit Continues in City Hall through July 21

"Art in City Hall," a juried exhibition co-sponsored by the City of Alexandria, The Art League, and the Del Ray Artisans, is currently on display through July 21, on the second floor of City Hall at 301 King St. The exhibit is open to the public from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday, and the art is available for purchase.

The exhibit was juried by M. V. Clark, founder and co-director of the Museum of Contemporary Arts in Washington, DC. Top awards were:

- Best in Show - Cheryl Dwyer "Moon Party," Oil
- Second Place - Courtney Stevens "Gigi," Mixed Media Sculpture
- Third Place - Donna Carter "City Squared," Acrylic
- Honorable Mentions - Awarded to 12 local artists

Programs for "Art in City Hall" are available in rooms 1900 and 2300 of City Hall. For more information on the juried exhibition, or how to become involved with the "Art in City Hall" program, call The Art League Gallery at 703.683.1780, or visit theartleague.org; call the Del Ray Artisans at 703.838.4827, or visit thedelrayartisans.org.

To learn more about programs and services of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, call the City's Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities at 703.838.6348 or visit www.alexandriacommissionforthearts.org.



GOVERNMENT UPDATES

City's Double Triple-A Bond Ratings Reaffirmed

Moody's Investor Services, Inc. and Standard & Poor's credit rating agencies have reaffirmed the City of Alexandria's double triple-A bond ratings, the highest ratings possible, as part of the City's planned issuance in mid-June of \$71 million in General Obligation Bonds. The bonds will be used to finance capital projects, City parks, and building projects, and to lend to local non-profit organizations that will, in turn, acquire or construct multi-family affordable/workforce housing properties.

These double triple-A bond ratings allow the City to borrow money at very low tax-exempt rates. Alexandria is one of only 45 cities and towns in the United States with perfect bond ratings from the nation's two leading municipal credit rating agencies. The City received its first triple-A rating from Moody's in 1986, and from Standard and Poor's in 1992. The ratings have been maintained at the triple-A level since then.

City Council Invites Bids to Create Citywide Wireless Network

The City of Alexandria, which since April 2005, has provided the D.C. region's first free, outdoor, wireless Internet zone, is seeking bids from private firms on June 23rd to construct a Citywide wireless network.

This fall, City Council will grant a franchise to the successful bidder to install and operate the network at the firm's expense. Construction will begin six to nine months later. To provide a return on its investment, the company will be able to sell retail wireless Internet access to residential and business customers, and wholesale network access to other providers for resale. The wireless network will give consumers an additional choice for broadband Internet access.

The City will negotiate a franchise with the provider, which in exchange for permission to install its equipment in public rights-of-way and on other public property (small radio units attached to traffic signals, street lights and other similar structures) might include such services as free access to the network for City government use; free public wireless Internet access in certain public facilities; free or reduced-price Internet access for low-income residents; and access for public high school and ninth grade center students.

Wireless Alexandria is available at all Alexandria public libraries, in Old Town along the King Street pedestrian corridor, Market Square, the City Marina, and the Potomac River waterfront. For more information, visit www.wirelessalexandria.com, or contact City E-Government Manager Craig Fifer, at craig.fifer@alexandriava.gov or 703.519.EGOV.

City of Alexandria and Arlington County Adopt Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan

The Alexandria City Council and the Arlington County Board have adopted a Master Plan for the Restoration of Four Mile Run. This collaborative effort will involve a multi-year environmental restoration of the channel portion of Four Mile Run with enhancement of aquatic and riparian habitats and the establishment of Four Mile Run as a focal point, reflecting its value as a community resource. Others involved in the planning effort are the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Congressman Jim Moran, and a joint citizens group.

For more information, call Aimee Vosper, Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities, at 703.838.5041.



FY 2007 Budget Adopted

Continued from page 1

The adopted General Fund Operating Budget for FY 2007 totals \$493.7 million, which is a 4.9% increase over FY 2006. City staffing in total will remain level for FY 2007.

The major elements of the FY 2007 General Fund budget include additional funding for:

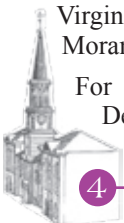
- Emergency medical services
- Office of the Sheriff
- Fall leaf collection program improvements
- Youth gang prevention initiatives
- National Historic Register surveys of Old and Historic, and Parker-Gray districts
- Parent leadership training
- Before and after school program coordination
- Psychiatric nursing services
- Public health nurse for an enhanced tuberculosis prevention program

Major capital projects being funded include:

- \$1.5 million for a new E-911 emergency call-taking system
- \$19.5 million for the next phase of continued construction of T.C. Williams High School as previously planned
- \$5.4 million for sewer system improvements
- \$6.4 million for the City's share of Metrobus and Metrorail capital improvements
- \$0.8 million for preservation of City historic properties and museums
- \$3.7 million for parks and recreation improvements

The budget dedicates 1 percent of the 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 \$3.3 million annually.

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



PROGRAMS & SERVICES



City Opens New Child Assessment And Treatment Center for Health

The Alexandria Community Services Board, the Alexandria Health Department, and the Department of Human Services have opened a Child Assessment and Treatment Center for Health (CATCH). The center will provide services to children - newborn to 5 years old - who are victims of, or at risk for child abuse and neglect.

CATCH will offer a collaborative integration of services that will address the mental health, medical, dental, developmental, and social service needs as an additional component in the continuum of care for abused and neglected children in the community. The CATCH Program is located at 4480 King Street. For more information, call Peggy Stypula, CATCH Coordinator, at 703.838.4708, ext. 339.

Controlling the Mosquito Population

With the summer here, the Alexandria Health Department asks residents and businesses to help reduce the mosquito population by getting rid of places where mosquitoes breed. It is possible to reduce mosquito annoyance from 5 percent to 50 percent, by eliminating sites around the outside of the home that serve as habitats for mosquito larvae.

Scientists have discovered that mosquitoes can transmit a variety of diseases to both animals and humans, such as West Nile virus, an illness that can range from mild flu-like symptoms to encephalitis and death.

People can protect against mosquito bites by avoiding outdoor activities in the early morning and at dusk.

For more information, visit the Alexandria Health Department web site at www.alexhealth.org/environmental, or the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/.

Recycle More Curbside!

Alexandria's curbside recycling program accepts more items for collection including office paper and corrugated cardboard. Office paper is a broad category that includes all colors of office and computer paper, junk mail (including envelopes with windows), writing paper, and paperboard (cereal boxes, tissue boxes, etc.).

To recycle these additional items, office paper may be mixed together with newspapers and magazines, and set out in bags next to the yellow recycle bin. Corrugated cardboard boxes should be flattened and set under the yellow recycle bin. Large appliance boxes should be further cut down to 3' x 3', for easier handling by the recycling crews. For more information about recycling in Alexandria, visit alexrecycles.org or call 703.751.5872.



Brehan Miller and Kim Frank examine mosquito traps at Jones Point Park - Photo by Patricia Ruble

Preparing for Hurricane Season

The 2006 Atlantic Ocean hurricane season is expected to bring a higher than normal number of hurricanes to the East Coast, and the Alexandria Office of Emergency Management, along with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, encourages residents to prepare for hurricane season, which extends from June 1 through Nov. 30. It is important to stay tuned to weather reports even if it seems a hurricane will make landfall somewhere else.

For more information on Emergency Preparedness in the City of Alexandria, or to volunteer to participate in the ongoing readiness campaign "*Be Ready, Alexandria!*," contact Patsieann Misiti at 703.838.4600, ext. 222.

City of Alexandria Planning For Pandemic Influenza

Last November, Alexandria Mayor William D. Euille established the Mayor's Pandemic Influenza Working Group which includes representatives of City government, the Alexandria Health Department, local organizations, and the community. The Working Group is charged with creating a pandemic flu response plan that will supplement the City's emergency operations plans.

The Working Group is addressing issues such as the capacity of the health care system to handle an increase in patients, the possible limited use of quarantine or closings, the emotional impact of a pandemic on our residents, the effective management of fatalities, and the best way to ensure a continuity of government services. For more information on pandemic flu or to locate additional resources, visit the Virginia Department of Health's web site at vdh.virginia.gov/pandemicflu, or call the Alexandria Health Department at 703.838.4400, ext. 275.

Serious Crime Down for the Fourth Year in a Row

The recently released 2005 Police Department Annual Report highlights the fourth consecutive year in which serious crime (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated, assault, burglary, larceny and vehicle larceny) is down. Violent crime decreased slightly, down 1.8% from 433 offenses in 2004 to 425 in 2005. Homicides rose from two in 2004 to 4 in 2005, and commercial robberies contributed to an increase of 5.3% or 10 additional offenses in 2005.

Police calls for service decreased 6% down from 65,471 calls in 2004 to 61,547 in 2005. Quality of life crimes remain a priority for the Department, and these offenses fell 7.9% from 2004 to 2005. The accident rate fell 3.8% from 2004 to 2005 from 2,274 to 2,188. There were two fatal accidents in 2005, compared to three in 2004. In both cases, the victims were pedestrians.

The Police Department encourages Alexandrians to get involved with the department's community activities. Three upcoming events include National Night Out on August 1, the Youth Citizens Police Academy, August 7-11, and the Citizens Police Academy September 6 - November 15. For further information, call 703.838.4520 or visit alexandriava.gov/police.

CITY LIFE

An Early High School Start This Year Means a Long Summer Next Year

Because the final phase of the T.C. Williams High School construction involves demolition and other activities that could pose a danger to students and staff, most of this work needs to be done over the summer prior to the opening of school. To provide as much time as possible for this transition, ACPS has sought legislation in Richmond to allow high school students (grades 9-12) to begin the 2006-07 school year two weeks early on Aug. 21, 2006. This would result in completion of the school year in late May 2007. This will ensure the new building is ready for students the following fall, and it makes for a long summer in 2007. Grades K-8 will begin school after Labor Day. The 2006-07 calendars for grades 9-12 and K-8 are posted on the ACPS web site at www.acps.k12.va.us/calendar.php.



T.C. Williams High School construction



T.C. Williams Literary Magazine Wins Top Honors

"Labyrinth," the T.C. Williams High School literary magazine, received the Highest Award in the 2005 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines. Only 11 of the 486 competing schools received this top honor, a special award presented to "Superior"-ranked magazines with student staffs exhibiting exceptional skill in handling all aspects of writing, production and promotion.

Other honors - all top awards - bestowed upon the 2005 edition of "Labyrinth" include a Gold Medal from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, Trophy Class designation from the Virginia High School League, All-Southern designation from the Southern Interscholastic Press Association, First Place with Marks of Distinction from the National Scholastic Press Association and First Place with Special Merit from the American Scholastic Press Association. For more information about the magazine, contact the school at 703.824.6800.

New T.C. Williams High School Principal Selected

Dr. Mel Riddile has been selected as the new principal for T.C. Williams High School beginning July 1, 2006. Dr. Riddile, was named National High School Principal of the Year for 2006 by MetLife and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), and retired as principal of JEB Stuart High School in Fairfax County, where he was the principal since 1997.

Dr. Riddile will replace current T.C. Williams Principal John Porter, when Porter assumes the position of Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services and Public Relations on July 1.

Stay in the Loop, Sign up for ACPS E-mail Information

Alexandrians can select the specific ACPS information that they want to receive by e-mail. Choose emergency announcements, general information, sports information, or "New T.C." information by visiting www.acps.k12.va.us/lists.

When schools are closed due to inclement weather, the Schools information hotline will be updated immediately. Information is available in both English and Spanish by calling 703.866.5300.

During the first snow day this winter, more than 2,600 people called for information in English and more than 900 people chose to hear it in Spanish.

Closing announcements will also be posted on the ACPS web site at www.acps.k12.va.us/emergann.php and will be sent to the ACPS Emergency Announcements e-mail distribution list. In Alexandria, cable subscribers can view closing announcements on ACPS-TV, Channel 71. ACPS will continue to contact local radio and television stations as well.

ACPS Welcomes New School Board Members

As a result of the May 2006 elections, new school board members take office July 1, 2006 and their terms expire June 30, 2009.

District A

Sheryl Gorsuch
Scott Newsham
Eileen Cassidy Rivera

District B

Claire Eberwein
Yvonne Folkerts
Arthur Peabody

District C

Ronnie Campbell
Blanche Maness
Charles Wilson



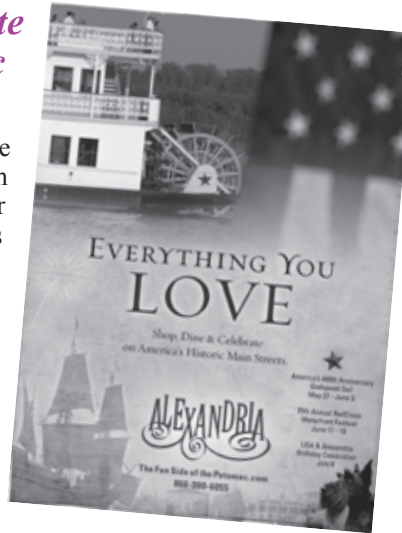
CITY LIFE



Alexandria is Everything You Love...

Shop, Dine & Celebrate on America's Historic Main Streets

Think about what you love about summer... Is it warm breezes along the waterfront? Or enjoying an ice cream cone as you stroll a picturesque street, hearing laughter from couples lingering at an outdoor café? Maybe its shopping for fresh vegetables from a local farmers market, or experiencing America's history on a guided walking tour. Whatever it may be, Alexandria is "Everything You Love" this summer, says the ACVA's creative summer marketing program. The program will include direct mail, advertising, and a seasonal E-blast, directing people to www.TheFunSideofthePotomac.com and inviting them to "Shop, Dine & Celebrate on America's Historic Main Streets." For more information, contact Laura Rod at lrod@funside.com.



First Span of WW Bridge Opens

Federal, state and local officials and community members from Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia celebrated the dedication of the first of two new Woodrow Wilson Bridge spans on May 18. Six lanes of traffic will be shifted to the new bridge span in June and July, and the old bridge will be demolished. Traffic flow and safety are expected to be improved on the new bridge span, which has shoulders for disabled vehicles and increased clearance over the navigation channel in the Potomac river reducing the number of required bridge openings. Contact the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project at 1.877.463.6992 or www.wilsonbridge.com.

New Exhibit Opens at the Alexandria Black History Museum

"Securing the Blessings of Liberty: Freedoms Taken & Liberties Lost," is a new exhibit opening in June at the Black History Museum, that tells the story of the African-American experience in Alexandria. The exhibit documents how local blacks survived slavery, helped to destroy it, and went on to shape the community that exists today. Much of the built environment and the agriculture of the Commonwealth of Virginia was created and maintained by black slaves. A brutal institution with old and deep roots in Virginia, slavery still haunts the American consciousness, and affects attitudes about race, class and equality in the United States.

This first phase of "Securing the Blessings of Liberty" is "Freedoms Taken & Liberties Lost," which covers the establishment and development of African cultures in Virginia and Alexandria to about 1810. The exhibit explores early African cultural traditions, the devastation wrought by the transatlantic slave trade, and the harsh life of slaves in colonial Virginia. This is a story without a truly happy ending, but is a story of perseverance, rebellion, and faith.

Phase II of the exhibit will explore how local blacks continued to build families, businesses, and institutions in Antebellum Alexandria, which became one of the busiest slave-trading centers in America by the 1840's. Even as the community was torn apart by the Civil War, it became a new home for hundreds of "contrabands" - recently freed slaves who streamed into Alexandria and surrounding areas from other parts of Virginia and further south. These new arrivals and the growing native population helped to build a new post-war Alexandria of industries, social and service organizations, and new vibrant neighborhoods.

Phase III of the exhibit will bring the story up to the present day, as Alexandria battled discrimination during the eras of Jim Crow and "massive resistance," and black residents served in foreign wars, and began to exercise political power in local government.

The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe Street. Phase I of the exhibit opens in late June, and can be viewed during museum hours, Tue. - Sat., 10 am - 4 pm. For further information, call 703.838.4356.

Alexandria Festival of the Arts Set for September 16 & 17

City of Alexandria Seeks Volunteers

The Festival of the Arts returns to Old Town on Saturday and Sunday, September 16 and 17. The two day festival features a wide array of artwork displayed on King Street, from Union Street to Washington Street.

The City of Alexandria is seeking volunteers to help support the 2006 Alexandria Festival of the Arts. Volunteers will serve as set-up assistants, festival greeters, and information assistants. For additional information, call Jack Browand of the City's Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities at 703.838.4343.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, June 22
Women Mean Business Wine & Cheese Fundraiser and Silent Auction to Benefit the Walk to Fight Breast Cancer

5:30 to 7:30 pm
 228 S. Washington St.
 Tickets are \$25 per person.
 703.838.5030



Tuesday, June 27
Summer Quest Kickoff of the Summer Reading Initiative for Kids

3:30 pm
 James Duncan Branch Library
 2501 Commonwealth Ave.
 Free
 703.838.4566

Wednesday, June 28
Summer Quest Kickoff of the Summer Reading Initiative for Kids

4 pm
 Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library
 5005 Duke St.
 Free
 703.519.5900

Fridays, June - Aug.
Lantern Tours of Gadsby's Tavern

7 to 10 pm
 Gadsby's Tavern Museum
 134 N. Royal St.
 \$5 per person, ages 5 and up
 703.838.4242



Wednesday, July 5
Alexandria City Council Installation

7:30 pm
 Episcopal High School
 1200 N. Quaker Lane
 703.838.4550

Saturday, July 8
Soldier-Led Tours of Fort Ward

10 am to 2 pm
 Fort Ward Museum
 4301 W. Braddock Road
 Free
 703.838.4848

Saturday, July 8
 (Rain date for fireworks only is July 9.)
City of Alexandria Annual USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration

4 to 10 pm
 Oronoco Bay Park
 7 N. Lee St.
 Free
 703.883.4686 or 703.838.4844

Wednesdays, July 12-26
The Alexandria Library's Stories in the Park

11 am
 Fort Ward Park
 4301 W. Braddock Road
 Free
 703.838.4555



Saturday, July 22
African-American Heritage and Cultural Festival

1 to 6 pm
 Market Square
 301 King St.
 Free
 703.883.4686 or 703.838.4844

Friday, July 28 through Sunday, July 30
2006 Comcast/ City of Alexandria Outdoor Film Festival

8:30 pm
 Ben Brenman Park
 5000 Duke St.
 Free
 703.883.4686 or 703.838.4844



Saturday, Aug. 5
Friendship Firehouse Festival

9 am to 2 pm
 Friendship Firehouse
 107 S. Alfred St.
 Free
 703.838.4994

Saturday, Aug. 5

Irish Festival
 Noon to 7 pm
 Waterfront Park
 1A Prince St.
 Free
 703.883.4686 or 703.838.4844



Sunday, Aug. 27
Cambodian Festival

10 am - 6 pm
 Ben Brenman Park
 5000 Duke St.
 Free
 703.883.4686 or 703.838.4844

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 9-10

Alexandria Festival of the Arts
 10 am to 7 pm on Saturday and 10 am to 5 pm on Sunday
 Along King Street in Old Town
 Free
 Visit funsided.com or call 888.738.2764



Saturday, Oct. 7
Art on the Avenue

10 am to 6 pm.
 Held along Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray
 Free
 703.683.3100

Continuing exhibits at the Lyceum

Exhibits looking at various aspects of the Jamestown 400th Anniversary commemoration will be shown through the latter part of 2006 and all of 2007 at The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. Open 10 am - 5 pm Mon. - Sat., 1-5 pm Sun. Free! www.alexandriahistory.org or 703.838.4994



FYI ALEXANDRIA

The City of Alexandria's Official Resident Newsletter

FYI ALEXANDRIA

City Hall ♦ 301 King Street ♦ Alexandria, VA 22314

www.alexandriava.gov

City Council 703.838.4550

- 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)
- Councilman Andrew H. Macdonald (macdonaldcouncil@msn.com)
- Councilman Paul C. Smedberg (paulcsmedberg@aol.com)
- Councilwoman Joyce Woodson (council@joycewoodson.net)



PRSRST STD
 US POSTAGE
PAID
 Alexandria, VA
 Permit No. 6062

