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Alexandria, Virginia

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In This Edition

[Council Initiatives](#)

[An Affordable Alexandria](#)

[General Assembly Session](#)

[Parking Tickets](#)

[Host a Town Hall](#)

[Upcoming Issues: Eisenhower West, Parks & the Waterfront](#)

Quick Links

[E-Mail Me](#)

[City of Alexandria Website](#)

[Pay City Taxes Online](#)

[Review Real Estate Assessments](#)

[Board & Commission Vacancies](#)

Events/Updates

Ron Kirby Reward Fund

In November we were [shocked by the tragic loss of Ron Kirby](#), our Alexandria neighbor and the Director of Transportation Planning for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

In partnership with the Del Ray Business Foundation, a [reward fund](#) has been

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2014.

It is hard to believe that a year of this Council term has already passed.

During 2013 we made significant progress on so many issues of importance to our City. It has been a thrill to work with residents and my colleagues to make this community a better place.



Sadly last month we lost a pillar of modern Alexandria, our former City Manager, [Vola Lawson](#).

So much of the quality and vitality in our institutions that we take for granted was the result of the hard work and leadership that Vola provided for our City.

She ensured that Alexandrians could expect the highest quality of services performed with integrity. Her legacy was a responsible and fiscally sound government that could consistently provide for its residents.

Like many others, I was proud to call her a friend and draw on her advice and wisdom on many occasions. She will be sorely missed.

As we begin another year, I know that together with my colleagues we will continue to build on Vola's legacy of good governance.

We have a difficult budget ahead of us, and challenges as we work to protect our City's cherished quality of life, ensure the success of our children, and grow our economy.

Our most fitting tribute will be to work together in the new year to continue to make Alexandria a better place.

established to assist our police in solving this murder.

While we cannot bring back Ron, please join me in contributing to bring closure to this sad loss for our community.

Family Fun Night at Chinquapin

With the Chinquapin Recreation Center back open, the City has begun monthly [Family Fun Nights](#).

The next event is scheduled for Friday January 17th and includes events for kids of all ages!

Host an Ace

The [Alexandria Aces](#), Alexandria's own collegiate summer baseball team, plays at Frank Mann Field next to Cora Kelly Elementary School.

This summer, the Aces will be starting their 7th season affiliated with the Cal Ripken League.

As a non-profit organization, the team relies on host families throughout Alexandria to provide a room for players.

If you have a room to spare, sign up to be a [host family this summer](#).

Leaf Bag Collection

[City leaf vacuuming is now complete, but the leaf bags will be collected until January 10th.](#)

The bags will be collected from your curb one business day after your regular trash collection day.

Please let me know how I can be of assistance. [Contact me anytime.](#)

Council Initiatives

Creating Affordable Housing

A year ago, the City Council approved [Jackson Crossing](#), a new development at the corner of East Reed and Route 1, that will create 78 units of affordable housing. This housing will be reserved for families earning 60% or less of the Area Median Income (AMI).

This effort was the result of collaboration between the City and [AHC Inc.](#), a non-profit affordable housing developer based in Arlington.

This summer, the project successfully competed for [Low Income Housing Tax Credits](#) from



Virginia Housing Development Authority. Those tax credits, coupled with public land and a loan from the City, will bring this

project to life.

This project will now [break ground next month](#) with an expected completion 18 months later.

Last month, the City Council approved a private development on [Slaters Lane](#) that utilized a provision of the City's Zoning Code allowing additional density in exchange for affordable housing.

These two efforts are examples of the City employing the full array of tools available to create and preserve affordable housing. These tools are key components of the [City's Housing Master Plan](#), which was approved by the City Council last month, after years of effort.

In approving this plan, the Council also chose to adopt a new 10-year goal for the creation and preservation of 2,000 units of affordable housing.

While we will continue to have [debates](#) about the most effective ways to create and preserve affordable housing, I join with the City Council in my desire to ensure that this is a community that all of our children will one day have a place to live.

Getting a Little Help From Our Friends in Richmond

As I wrote about a few months ago, the City finalized its [Legislative Package for the 2014 General Assembly Session](#).

While the session will not convene until Wednesday January 8th, there have already been developments as we work with Richmond to serve our community.

Governor McDonnell, as the outgoing governor, proposed a biennial budget as well as suggested priorities for the surplus in the existing budget, for consideration by the General Assembly.

Of particular note to Alexandria, the Governor proposed [\\$1 million of new state funding to address the City's Combined Sewer Overflow system](#). While this is just a small fraction of the significant cost required to address the requirements of our recently renewed [permit](#),

it is an important recognition of the unique challenges the City will face in addressing this very aged infrastructure.

I am hopeful that not only will the General Assembly and Governor-Elect support this funding, but that additional resources will be available both in this year and future years to make this important investment in clean water.

The Governor has also proposed additional funding for the Alexandria City Public Schools, our Police Department, and Mental and Behavioral Health programs.

Moreover, the Governor proposed additional funds for the Opportunity Educational Institution. This new state agency, created by the General Assembly during last year's session, is designed to bring struggling schools under state control in an attempt to improve their performance.

The City has passed a resolution opposing the Opportunity Educational Institution as an affront to local control of education, and it is currently being [challenged in the courts](#). I am hopeful the new Governor and the General Assembly come together to pass education reform initiatives that will help improve student achievement.

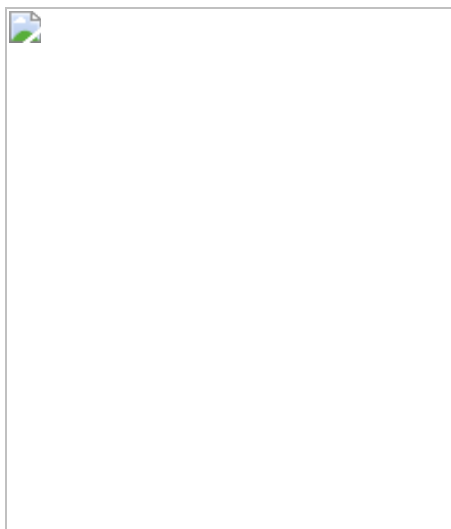
Your Day In Court

One of the unfortunate realities of scarce parking is parking enforcement. City Parking Enforcement is expected to collect \$3.9 million in parking fines across the City during this current budget year.

For a little over a decade, the City has contracted with an outside company to adjudicate the appeals of parking citations.

As a cost-savings measure in the recently approved budget, the Council approved the [elimination of the parking adjudication office](#), which will allow the City's General District Court to begin handling these appeals.

Effective today, any appeals of parking tickets can now be submitted to the [Court for hearing and adjudication](#). This change also allowed the City to extend the amount of time for appeal of a ticket to three years.

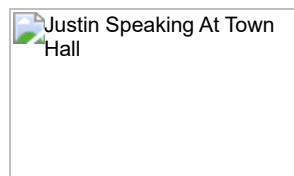


Host a Town Hall in Your Living Room!

My regular series of Town Hall Meetings are back!

You supply the living room and a bunch of your friends and neighbors. I will supply a member of the Alexandria City Council (me) with the answers to any of your questions about our City.

Just [drop us a line](#) and we'll get a Town Hall on the calendar! Thanks for the interest!



Upcoming Issues

Help Write a West Side Story

In May of last year, the City Council voted to commence the [Eisenhower West Small Area](#) planning process.

The adoption of this plan will place the final puzzle piece in a new vision for our City's West End, that has been developing over the past several years. Together with the approved [Beauregard Small Area Plan](#) and [Landmark/Van Dorn Plan](#), adoption of the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan will complete the blueprint for the next 20-30 years of our City.

This planning process represents one of the more unique plans we have done in recent years in that there are far few constraints on the ultimate result than we have seen in other plans.

Transportation will clearly play a central role, as it does in most plans. Yet in Eisenhower West, we will grapple with the role of heavy industrial uses in our City, economic viability, environmental sustainability and open space.

This largely undefined planning process requires good community leadership. The Council voted last month to create a [Steering Committee](#) to guide this process to completion. Applications will be accepted for membership on this Committee [until tomorrow morning at 9AM](#).

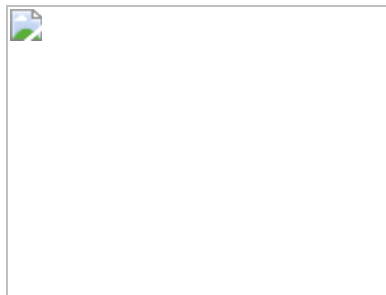
The City Manager will be making the appointments, and I am hopeful we will get a broad representative group of creative thinkers to help shape the future of this important swath of land.

Parks Worth Paying For

Last month, the City Council gathered in Potomac Yard to [open Potomac Yard Park](#). The new 24-acre park was provided by the developer as part of the public amenities from the development occurring in the Yard.

The park includes two playing fields at Simpson Park, a universally accessible playground, an interactive fountain, tennis, basketball and volleyball courts, a stage, a multi-use trail, and additional amenities.

As exciting as it is to open new recreation facilities, it reminds us how far the City needs to go in order to meet the recreation needs of our residents.



The City recently conducted our [2013 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment](#) to better understand the needs of our community. This statistically significant survey helps us gauge the recreation needs of our residents and whether our current offerings fill those needs.

In many ways, the results of the assessment are of no surprise. Trails, passive open spaces, indoor facilities of all kinds, playgrounds and aquatics uses all rank highly. Ultimately, the needs are as varied as our community.

The redevelopment that occurs throughout the City continues to give us opportunities to create new open space, with both active and passive uses.

On The Waterfront

This month, a proposal for the first of the [three waterfront redevelopment sites](#) will come before the Planning Commission and potentially the City Council.

Carr City Centers is proposing the [construction of a new 5-story, 120-room hotel](#) on the Cummings/Turner Block. The Cummings/Turner block is bounded by South Union Street on the east and The Strand on the west, between Duke and Prince Street. A one-story warehouse is currently on the site.

This is a project that has undergone significant changes during the years that it has been before the community.

The Planning Commission will hear public comment on this proposal at its [January 7th Public Hearing](#). You can [sign-up to speak](#) online.

It will then be presented before the City Council at our Public Hearing on Saturday January 25th at 9:30 AM.

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