

The Council Connection

your connection to City Council by:

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Alexandria, Virginia

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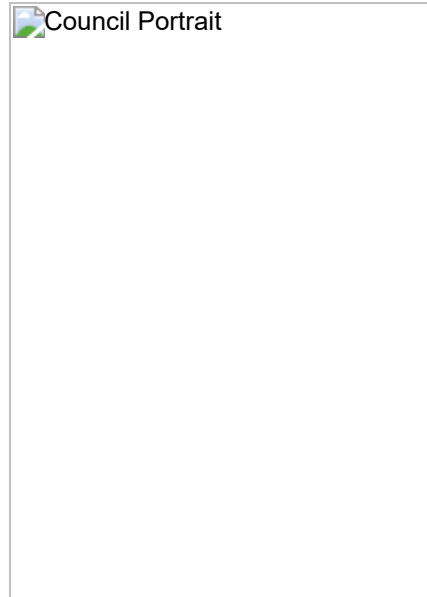
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It's been an action-packed summer so far.

The Council recess continues, as our Staff and the community recharge for another year to begin in September.

The Council will be back addressing many of the same budgetary challenges coupled with some important land use decisions early in the upcoming session.

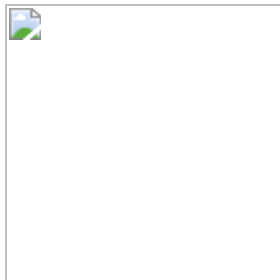
Please let me know how I can be of assistance. [Contact me anytime.](#)



Events/Updates

Friendship Firehouse Festival Tomorrow

The annual [Friendship Firehouse Festival](#) returns this Saturday to 107 S. Alfred Street in front of the Friendship Firehouse Museum.



The Festival is free of charge and runs from 9 AM until 2 PM.

Council Initiatives

Moving Alexandria

While those of us in Alexandria have always felt there is something magical about Four Mile Run and something mythical about crossing the Beltway, most people in this region pay little attention to the borders between jurisdictions.

Very few residents and visitors of this region have much appreciation for the differences between Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax County. This reality makes regional cooperation all the more imperative.

When a resident of Alexandria wishes to go to Crystal City or Shirlington or Tyson's Corner, they don't consider what jurisdiction these areas are in, and neither should our transportation network.

That's why in three weeks the opening of the region's first dedicated transitway is so important.

[On August 24th, the Metroway service will commence on the Route 1 corridor.](#) Utilizing the dedicated transitway from Potomac Avenue to E. Glebe Road, the new Metroway service will provide connection from Braddock Road Metro to Crystal City Metro. The service will run every 6 minutes during the rush-hour, every 12 minutes off-peak, and every 20 minutes on the weekends.

National Night Out-- Tuesday

The City's observance of [National Night Out returns to neighborhoods across the City](#) on Tuesday evening.

Numerous neighborhoods around the City will be holding parties and hosting members of Alexandria's public safety agencies.

[In addition, Warwick, Old Town and Memorial pools will all be open until 8 PM and free from 6 - 8 PM.](#)

I will see you around the City!

Sales Tax Holiday This Weekend

Starting today and continuing through Sunday, the Commonwealth is chipping in to help with back to school shopping.

Qualifying purchases are exempt from sales tax. [Check out the rules and restrictions](#) and find an Alexandria retailer to do your shopping!

Learn More About the City!

The City is now accepting applications for the 19th session of the [Alexandria City Academy](#).

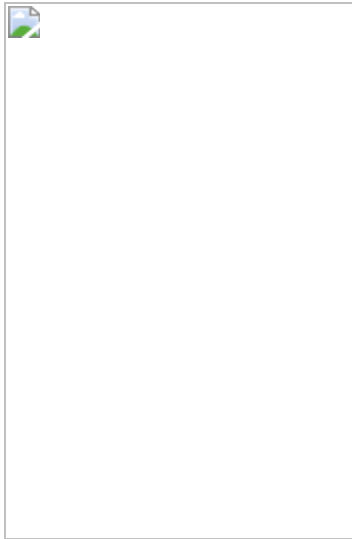
The free nine-week program is designed to build civic leadership in our community and increase engagement.

Applications are due on Thursday August 14th by 5PM.

War of 1812

Two hundred years ago, the War of 1812 came to the shores of Alexandria.

Now, Alexandria recognizes the history of that war and how it shapes our City today.



While the service will connect to Crystal City Metro when it begins operating, further enhancements are underway. Last month, [Arlington began construction of their portion of the transitway](#). Further enhancements are actively being discussed between Arlington and Alexandria.

Yet this is not the only new multi-jurisdictional transit connection we have to celebrate. This past week, DASH launched the [new AT9 service](#), which links the West End of Alexandria with Shrlington and Potomac Yard.

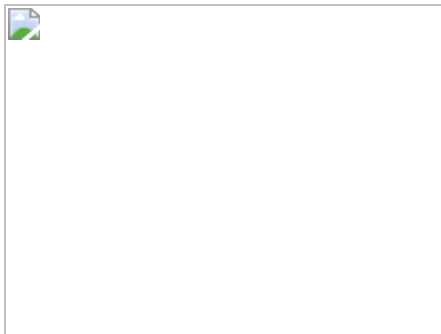
In addition to bringing new transit connections to job centers in Alexandria and Arlington, this new service brings transit to Alexandria neighborhoods that have been historically underserved.

Moving Forward Together

It is now done.

Late last month, the [Old Dominion Boat Club voted to accept the final agreement with the City](#). With 81% of their members voting to support the deal, the Club and the City can now move forward together to implement the vision of a publicly accessible waterfront, safe from the risk of nuisance flooding.

In March, the membership of the [Club voted to accept](#) a negotiated



settlement which provided the entire base of King Street on the water as a new City park, while providing the Club with a brand new boat house on the waterfront nearby.

Incorporated in the approved deal was the City's intended purchase of 204 and 208 Strand

Street. These properties are existing parking lots on the waterfront.

Late in June, the City also executed contracts to purchase both of these properties. The acquisition of these properties allows for expansion of park land, as well as an exchange with the Old Dominion Boat Club as envisioned by the agreement.

This is an exciting time for Alexandria, as we move forward with the vision of bringing new open space, new vitality, and sustainability to our precious waterfront, while incorporating the [history and arts](#) that should never be lost.

With the June approval of the [initial concepts for the public spaces being created](#), we can leave the acrimony of the past behind as we move forward.

Let me know if you have any thoughts.

Host a Town Hall in Your Living Room!

My regular series of Town Hall Meetings continue!

At the end of this month, there will be a [series of observances and events](#) to recognize this history.

In addition to more solemn events, there will be three rematches" with the British, including a yacht race, a cricket match and a tug of war competition.

New Recreation Registration System

The registration system for classes and programs with the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities has been upgraded.

Beginning today, all registrants [must create a new account](#) on the system to register for classes.

Additionally, the [fall program guide](#) is now available online and in mailboxes.

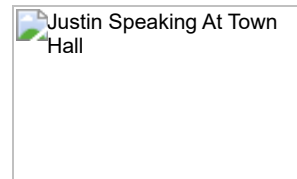
Proposed Transmission Line Working Group

Last month, this newsletter discussed [Dominion Virginia Power's proposal for a new 230-kilovolt underground transmission line through our City](#).

The City Council voted in June to [create a working group](#) from the community to look at this issues and make recommendations.

From now through August 15th, the City is accepting applications to serve on this group. [Please volunteer today!](#)

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

The Trade For Silver

On Saturday, I joined hundreds of officials from across the region in [launching the new Metro Rail Silver Line service](#). With the completion of Phase 1, Metro Rail is now connected to Reston, with a [Phase 2](#) under way which would extend the connection to Loudoun County, including Dulles Airport.

This is a major improvement for our region, unlocking economic growth and easing congestion. However, it has not come without trade-offs, and for Alexandria those trade-offs are significant.

From the early days of the Metro Rail system, the tunnel under the Potomac River, connecting the Rosslyn Metro Station in Arlington with the Foggy Bottom Metro Station in Washington, has been the most significant chokepoint in the system. Today, the tunnel can carry 26 trains per hour in each direction.

As the areas of Fairfax County at the end of the Orange Line have grown, so have the demands on this sole tunnel connection to our nation's capital. With the opening of the Silver Run, the situation reached a breaking point.

In preparation for the opening of the Silver Line, [Metro implemented a series of changes to the Blue Line to free up capacity in the Rosslyn tunnel to allow the Silver Line service to operate](#).

As a result, the Blue Line which previously provided rush-hour service every 6 minutes to Alexandria residents boarding at Van Dorn, Braddock Road, and King Street Metro, now runs every 12 minutes. In the event of a service disruption, this frequency can be much less.

To provide alternatives for these riders, Metro has expanded Yellow Line service. It utilizes the other, above ground, Potomac River crossing between the Pentagon and L'Enfant Plaza. As a Yellow Line commuter myself, this additional service has been a nice improvement. They have also deployed longer eight-car trains during rush hour on the Blue Line, as well as expanded some regional bus service to ease the crunch.

While these alternatives certainly help, they do not address the underlying issue, which is a lack of a capacity in the system, most acutely in the tunnel under the Potomac River.

Overall, Metro's answer to the long-term challenges that ail the system is the [Momentum Plan. The ten year Strategic Plan laying out a significant list of improvements to allow continued growth in the region's flagship transit system](#).

Most significant for Alexandria is the Momentum Plan's vision for [new Blue Line connections](#). These additional connections, coupled with a

future plan to add a new crossing, represent the only concrete ways to relieve the pressure on the Rosslyn tunnel.

However, as with anything of this magnitude, the cost for implementing most of the Momentum Plan is immense. Metro is unique among transit systems around the country in that there is no dedicated funding source. Metro must rely on contributions from the federal, state and local governments that it serves.

In the current fiscal year, [the City will provide \\$31.5 million to Metro to fund our portion of its overall operations](#). Additionally, we provide another \$5.3 million in support of their capital budget.

Many jurisdictions, including the Alexandria City Council earlier in the year, have endorsed the Momentum Plan. However, obtaining funding to implement it will be challenging during this difficult financial time.

Ultimately, it will require new investment to ensure that Alexandrians can continue to use the Blue Line for their commute.

Serving Those Who Have Served

Census data suggests that there are over 11,000 veterans living in Alexandria. With a shrinking active duty force, it is likely that more men and women who have served our nation will be returning to Alexandria. They will be back in our City looking to establish the next stage of their career.

With the experience and leadership capability from their military service, many of our veterans turn to entrepreneurship and form new businesses.

A group of volunteers came together last year to discuss ways to attract and support veterans making these career transitions in our community. The [Alexandria Veterans Business Enterprise Center \(AVBEC\)](#) was born of this effort.



The AVBEC provides an array of career support services, business development support, networking and education for our veterans. All of this is in partnership with the Alexandria Small Business Development Center, the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, non-profits, and federal and state agencies.

This fall, the AVBEC will complete work on a new "accelerator" space to bring this vision to life in a vibrant, supportive environment dedicated to launching the success of our veterans.

Funded primarily from private sources, AVBEC is taking an exciting series of steps to ensure that Alexandria's veterans have the tools they need to succeed long after they leave the uniform behind.

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