

The Council Connection

your connection to City Council by:

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Alexandria, Virginia

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Events/Updates

Alexandria/USA Birthday Party

Fireworks! Birthday cake!
The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra! The United States Marine Corps making things go boom!

It doesn't get better than this.

[Join us at Oronoco Bay Park starting at 7 PM on Saturday July 12th to celebrate the birthday of our nation and our City.](#)

I will see you there!

June is typically a time when we celebrate achievements and transitions.

I was pleased to participate at TC Williams as the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria awarded scholarships to the best of Alexandria's future.

Only a few weeks later some of those very same students helped the boy's soccer team achieve a [state championship](#).

On the 14th, 661 seniors took home a diploma from TC Williams. This represents 90% of the enrolled senior class. Of those graduates 87% are headed to college. Congratulations to all of those families celebrating these achievements.

With somewhat less fanfare, the City Council concluded its term, adjourning for the summer and recharging for the year ahead.

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

Council Initiatives

Nearing the Finish Line

No issue has dominated this City Council term more than our efforts concluding decades of litigation and rancor over the future of our waterfront. Central in those discussions has been the negotiation and ultimate settlement with the Old Dominion Boat Club.

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.

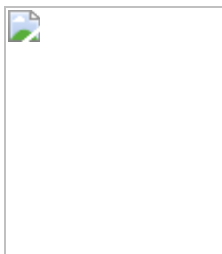
 Council Portrait

King Street Trolley Expands

[On Sunday, the King Street Trolley expanded its hours and now runs from 10 AM until 10:15 PM Sunday through Wednesday.](#)

Thursday through Saturday, the Trolley will now run from 10 AM through midnight.

The best way to get to Old Town has now become even better!

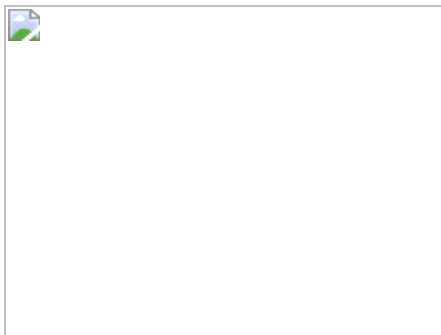


DASH Links Mark Center and Potomac Yard

On July 28th, DASH inaugurates the new [AT9 bus service](#).

This new route will connect Mark Center with Potomac Yard, by way of Southern Towers, Northern Virginia Community College, Bradlee Shopping Center, Parkfairfax and Shirlington.

This new service expansion was funded by the City's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).



The deal was also contingent on the negotiation of final terms and conditions. Late last month, the City Council approved the [final agreement](#) between the two parties. Later this month, the Old Dominion Boat Club will also hold a vote to accept this very same agreement.

With this agreement nearly completed, the City has moved quickly to engage the community and design the future of these new public spaces.

At our June Public Hearing the City Council accepted public testimony on [early plans for spaces](#) that will be the central focus of our waterfront. Ultimately, the Council unanimously endorsed the early concepts and directed our Staff to continue efforts to bring this vision to reality.

Yard Waste Collection

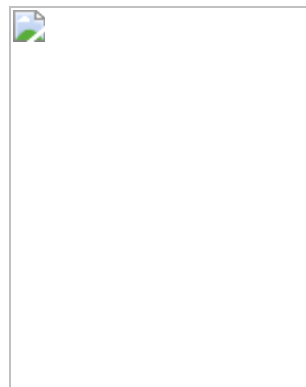
A pilot effort around the City has now become a new service.

Alexandria now joins other communities around the country in offering [separate yard waste collection](#).

While residents still have the option of disposing of yard waste with their regular trash, this effort will divert this waste from the City's trash supply and allow it to become compost or mulch.

Upon request, the City will provide an adhesive label to turn any appropriate can into a yard waste collection container.

Please let me know your thoughts on this new service.



Youth Master Plan

After years of effort involving hundreds of residents from throughout our community, the City adopted the [Children & Youth Master Plan](#).

While most of the City's master plans carefully define an infrastructure improvement or development plan, the *Children & Youth Master Plan* provides for a more lasting investment; investment in the success of our children.

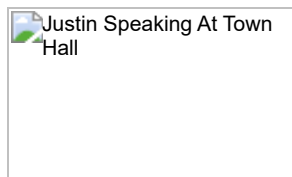
The adopted plan defines a series of goals and action steps designed to place all of our City's children on the path to success.

Central to this vision is the realization that good intentions and even ample financial resources are not enough. Without a clear governance structure, accountability and a willingness to fearlessly approach trade-offs, the considerable investment we make in children across numerous agencies will be squandered.

To assist the deliberations, I provided a series of [specific suggestions](#) for refinements and enhancement of the plan. As we move forward to implement the plan, I'm hopeful we can use these concepts and others to achieve the vision that our community now shares.

Host a Town Hall in Your Living Room!

My regular series of Town Hall Meetings continue!



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 Electric Slide

One of the challenges of living in a growing region is the constant struggle to match infrastructure to the needs of residents. Throughout our region this challenge has played out repeatedly as electric utilities have sought to expand transmission facilities.

In Alexandria, we now face a similar quandary as Dominion Virginia Power has approached the [City seeking to build a new 230 kilo volt underground transmission line](#).

The proposal is to connect an existing substation on the Arlington/Alexandria border on South Glebe Road with the substation next to the now-decommissioned Mirant/GenOn/NRG power plant on the Potomac River.

While the power plant is closed permanently and will eventually be redeveloped, the substation would be expanded and will remain indefinitely.

Dominion Virginia Power brought this proposal to [PJM](#), the administrator of the electric grid, and they [now seek approval from the State Corporation Commission](#) in order to proceed with construction in Alexandria.

This is an area that state law gives very little authority to local governments to regulate. While Dominion Virginia Power is required to initiate some cursory community engagement, it is not a requirement to have the approval of the City.

Dominion Virginia Power is considering a number of routes within the City. Some of those routes may have significant impact on existing roads and properties. If the necessity for this transmission line is affirmed, it will be important to work to find the least disruptive route between those two locations. With several disruptive infrastructure projects either recently completed or underway, our residents have endured more than enough inconvenience.

Alexandria currently has [two 230 kilo volt transmission lines](#) in the City, totaling 6.2 miles. These lines run in a similar vicinity as is proposed for this new line.

To ensure broad community input as we work through the next steps, the [Council voted last week to form a new committee](#) representing the affected neighborhoods. Once the committee is constituted there will be a series of community meetings to discuss.

Potomac Yard Metro: Down to 2 Options

Last month I wrote about the continuing progress in bringing a new Metro Rail station to Potomac Yard. The City is approaching an important milestone as we near the release of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the fall.

Following that release, the Council will select from the ["build" options](#) or "no-build" option and then finalize the EIS process.

Up until this point, the EIS process had been evaluating three "build" options: Alternative A, Alternative B and Alternative D.



Alternative A is on the site of the original "reservation" for Metro.

Alternative B is the location that had been agreed upon with the land owner when the [North Potomac Yard Plan](#) was approved in 2010.

Alternative D was an option utilizing an aerial station.

Alternative B presented some challenges to the National Park Service due to potential impacts on the scenic easements of the George Washington

Memorial Parkway, as well as the requirement that a small portion of National Park Service land be acquired.

On the suggestion of our Federal partners, a new option, Alternative B-CSX was added to the mix. Alternative B-CSX required the movement of existing CSX railroad track to allow Alternative B to be constructed without impacting National Park Service property.

This past month, in discussions with the Federal Transit Administration, the City agreed to take alternatives B-CSX and D off of the table completely. Both were deemed too costly and cause too much delay to be viable.

That now leaves the City evaluating Alternative A and B as well as the "no-build" option for the construction of the new Metro station. In the fall there will be several public hearings to solicit feedback on the Draft EIS.

Rolling Down the River

In a region often choked with traffic congestion, policy makers have often gazed at the Potomac River, hopeful that its untapped capacity might provide the answer. Studies have been conducted, but very little action has occurred.

That appears to be changing. Early last month, the US Department of Transportation [announced the award of \\$123 million of grants to public entities around the country](#) who either planned or currently administered water transportation services.

Included on that list was [\\$3.8 million for the Virginia Department of Transportation in partnership with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission](#). The grant is to purchase two ferry vessels to operate commuter ferry service from Old Town Alexandria to Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, DC.



Many details remain to be decided, including operating funds, exact locations, and access. However, this progress

represents an exciting step forward for the potential that our region will join the ranks of regions that successfully use their water to support commuter traffic.

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