

# Arlington County 2005 Year-End Report

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER



DECEMBER 2005



## **2005: A Year of Accomplishments**

As we approach the end of 2005, Arlington County has much to be proud of regarding our accomplishments. Although we faced a number of challenges including affordable housing and the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations, 2005 was another banner year for Arlington.

Again this year, the County Board—working with the community, commissions, elected officials and County staff—achieved many successes, both large and small, in making Arlington a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community.

Working toward achieving the Arlington County vision, significant progress was made in numerous areas including economic sustainability, environmental sustainability, transportation, neighborhood conversation, civic involvement, public safety, and administrative and organizational development. Details are listed in the attached Top 10 Accomplishments and 2005 Year-End Report.

Furthermore, Arlington continues to be recognized as a leader through numerous national awards and recognitions received since January 2005.

Much of the acknowledgement and credit goes to our talented and professional staff who worked hard throughout the year. We not only continue to reach for our vision, but we also strive for continuous improvement and excellence in our service delivery and customer service.

We look forward to achieving many other successes together in 2006.

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### **Arlington County Vision**

*“Arlington will be a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community with secure, attractive residential and commercial neighborhoods where people unite to form a caring, learning, participating, sustainable community in which each person is important.”*

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## 1. Unanimous Agreement Reached by Affordable Housing Roundtable

- County Board Chairman Jay Fisette chaired the Affordable Housing Roundtable, one of his key 2005 priorities. Concluding a six-month process, the Roundtable – which included the business community and other stakeholders – reached a unanimous agreement. Developers will partner with Arlington to preserve and create affordable housing throughout the County.
- Developers will contribute to affordable housing and have a choice of four options including 1) provide on-site units, 2) provide off-site units nearby, 3) provide off-site units in Arlington County or 4) make a cash contribution to the County's Affordable Housing fund.
- The new requirements will streamline site plan approvals.

## 2. The BRAC Process: Brains Saved in Arlington

- Arlington convinced the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission to retain primary Defense Department (DoD) research agencies in Arlington – Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Office of Naval Research (ONR), and others – maintaining Arlington's scientific “center of excellence.”
- This was one of very few instances in which the Commission overturned the Pentagon's recommendation.
- Although Arlington will lose 18,000 DoD jobs over six years, the County's top priority was “saving the brains” of DARPA, ONR and the research agencies – and their 2,000 jobs.

## 3. Arlington Public Schools: Rated Top in U.S.

- *Newsweek* magazine ranked all four Arlington public high schools in the top one percent of more than 27,000 high schools nationwide. Nineteen thousand (19,000) students come from 120 countries and speak more than 100 different languages.
- Students consistently scored well above state and national averages on standardized tests, including the SAT – the Arlington average for combined verbal and math SAT scores in 2003-2004 was 1085, compared with 1024 for the state and 1026 in the nation.
- The high school graduation rate is 93 percent. Last year, 88 percent of graduates went on to post-secondary education.

## 4. Arlington Named #1 Walking City in the U.S.

- Arlington is the number one place in America for walking, topping the American Podiatric Medical Association's (APMA) list of the “Top 10 Best U.S. Walking Cities.”
- In selecting Arlington, the APMA noted that 23 percent of workers in the County use public transportation to get around: “Keeping on their feet may be a way of life since 35 percent of Arlingtonians walk for exercise.”
- Over the last five years, Arlington has invested more than \$17 million on 67 pedestrian-safety-related capital improvements, such as neighborhood traffic-calming measures, intersection improvements, and sidewalks. Promoting healthy walking and biking activities was a priority for Chairman Fisette in 2005.

## 5. County Board Launched Homeowner Grant Program

- The new homeowner grant program is an innovative way to provide financial relief to thousands of Arlington households, given the constraints of Virginia's mandated single tax rate for residential and commercial real estate.

- Arlington’s Homeowner Grants effectively freeze or reduce tax bills by providing \$500 to households in Arlington with an income of \$72,000 per year or less (and who have assets within the limit) with an additional \$50 grant for each dependent.
- More than 1,200 households have been approved for the grant, a 2005 priority of Chairman Fiset.

## **6. New Limits Established on “Lot Coverage”**

- In response to residents’ concerns about infill development, the Arlington County Board acted to prevent the “most egregious McMansions” that are out of scale with their neighborhood.
- The new provisions limit the size of the main building, on a sliding scale by zoning district. This action makes it easier for “non-conforming” houses to build additions and does not affect houses with plans underway.

## **7. Unprecedented Regional Response to Hurricane Katrina**

- In an unprecedented effort, Arlington and five other Northern Virginia jurisdictions responded as a region to the emergency needs of the Gulf Coast, deploying 309 over 10 weeks.
- An initial team was deployed to establish the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The four NoVa teams that followed supported the EOC and established an Incident Management Team, including city management, public safety, technology, finance, public health, and others.
- Six deployments of regional firefighters provided all the 911 services for Hancock County, Mississippi, whose fire department was devastated by Hurricane Katrina.
- Following the recommendations of the Arlington Response to Katrina Task Force, established by Chairman Fiset, Arlington – in cooperation with the Arlington Chamber of Commerce and Northern Virginia Habitat for Humanity – is entering into a community rebuilding partnership with Biloxi, Mississippi.
- The Arlington community, including County government, private landlords, the faith communities, and non-profit organizations, served as many as 164 households of Katrina survivors who relocated to Arlington County, providing assistance with housing, income, schooling, and other needs.

## **8. Innovative Land Swap Enhances North Tract Recreational Facility**

- In an innovative land swap, Arlington has enhanced plans for a signature recreational complex – including a world-class aquatic facility – on the North Tract site.
- Through the swap, Arlington will acquire a prime “gateway” site, with spectacular views of Washington’s monuments. Arlington also will receive \$25 million and the park’s size is increased to 30 acres, preserving unparalleled views for future generations.

## **9. \$4.8 Million HUD Grant Awarded**

- Arlington, working with Volunteers of America National (VOA), won a \$4.8-million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide an assisted-living residence for low-income persons over 50 with mental and/or cognitive disabilities.
- It marks a first for the County – a place specifically designed to provide assistance with personal care, meals, housekeeping and transportation. The new residence will be completed by late 2007.
- This grant is the largest in the history of Arlington’s Department of Human Services.

## **10. Bike Arlington: First-Ever Community Bike Day**

- More than 400 participants joined Chairman Fiset in the first-ever Arlington Community Bike Ride for families. Mr. Fiset announced the new event during his New Year’s Day address.
- With 89 miles of designated bikeways available in the County, Arlington was also named a “Bicycle Friendly Community” by the League of American Bicyclists.

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### Arlington County Vision

*“Arlington will be a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community with secure, attractive residential and commercial neighborhoods where people unite to form a caring, learning, participating, sustainable community in which each person is important.”*

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*Arlington had another outstanding year in 2005 as marked by the many successes in programs throughout the County. This can be seen in the County's work in a number of crucial areas including economic sustainability, environmental sustainability, and public safety—all designed to maintain Arlington as a healthy and prosperous community.*

***ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY:***  
*Economic sustainability is critical in order for Arlington to maintain its strong economic base. In 2005, the County continued to collaborate with the private, public and non-profit sectors to enhance Arlington's standing as a world-class and urban community in which businesses and residents prosper.*

**County Takes Steps to Preserve, Create Affordable Housing**

The year saw Arlington making significant progress in working with developers, non-profit organizations and housing activists to preserve and enhance the county's affordable housing stock. An agreement was reached among developers, housing activists, and county officials that will streamline the site plan approval process for new development; over 200 units were designated as affordable housing units, and several site plan projects were approved that will blend affordable and market rate units.

***Accord Reached on Affordable Housing***

In May, the County Board-appointed Affordable Housing Roundtable was formed to review the General Land Use Plan (GLUP) and Zoning Ordinance to clarify possible relationships between

affordable housing and increases in density. The roundtable was composed of developers, housing advocates, elected officials, land use attorneys, business representatives, civic association representatives, and other stakeholders. In October, the Roundtable unanimously approved a landmark compromise plan in which developers will partner with Arlington to preserve and create affordable housing throughout the County. The agreement will provide developers four options for contributing affordable housing: (1) provide on-site units, (2) provide off-site units nearby, (3) provide off-site units in other parts of the county, or (4) make cash contributions to the County's affordable housing fund. Additionally, the new requirements will streamline the site plan approval process. The County Board unanimously adopted the policy at its December meeting.

***Affordable Housing Units under Construction***

Nine developments were under construction in 2005 that will yield 206 committed affordable units:

- The Odyssey (21 apartments as part of 306 condominiums).
- The Hawthorne/Wilson/Pollard Condominiums (11 of 143 condominiums).
- IO Piazza/AlexanShirlington (15 rental units in 244-unit condominium complex).
- The Joule/3409 Wilson Blvd (5 of 87 condominiums).
- Woodbury North (108 rental of 207 total units).
- 1800 Wilson Blvd (5 of 153 condominiums).
- Quincy Plaza (25 of 499 apartments).

- Bromptons at Cherrydale (2 of 46 townhouse/condominiums).
- WRIT/Rosslyn (14 of 224 apartments).

***Bonds Issued to Support Affordable Housing***

The Industrial Development Authority issued \$30 million in revenue bonds for the financing of the AHC Gates of Ballston Project to preserve nearly 350 affordable apartments in the County.

***Affordable Housing Approved in Site Plan Projects***

The County continued to work with for- and non-profit developers to blend affordable rental and ownership units with market rate units. During Fiscal Year 2005, the County Board approved the following five residential developments that will blend affordable and market rate units (206 total affordable units):

- Abingdon Heights (14 of 252 condominium units, 9 of which may be off-site).
- Alexan at South Glebe Road (20 of 251 condominium units).
- Rosslyn Ridge (95 of 238 apartments).
- The Views of Clarendon (70 of 116 apartments).
- VA Square Park (7 of 135 condominiums).

**Arlington Promotes Homeownership**

***Unique Workforce Housing Project Offered***

The IDI Group Companies provided unique affordable homeownership opportunities to County, School and other employees in the County's Employer Assisted Housing Programs

(EAH). IDI converted the 58-unit Dominion Terrace project to condominiums and offered the units exclusively to tenants and EAH participants. The 40 residents served were all low- to moderate-income first-time buyers, 30 of whom were County or School employees.

***More Employers Join EAH Program***

The County continued to market the Employer Assisted Housing (EAH) program by contacting new employers during the year including: AHC, Inc.; the Ethiopian Community Development Corporation, Inc.; Marymount University; the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority; the Nature Conservancy; and SRA. Current EAH participants are Arlington County Government and School Board, George Mason University, and Northern Virginia Hospital Center.

***Live Near Your Work Program Provides Grants to 37 Employees***

The Live Near Your Work Program provided forgivable loans of \$4,500 to 37 County and School Board employees. The Notification list for Limited Equity Home Ownership Opportunities was used to select 10 households to purchase town homes at Sierra Condominiums.

***New 5-Year Plan Articulates Affordable Housing Strategies***

In May, the County Board approved its new Five-Year Consolidated Plan for FY 2006 to 2010. The plan provides the strategic framework for housing, homeless, community development, and economic development activities over the next five-year period. The County's concise Citizen Summary of the plan graphically spotlights the growing

affordable housing crisis and highlights the County's response.

### ***More than 1,200 Homeowner Grants Awarded***

By early December, the County approved more than 1,200 applications for the Homeowners Grant Program. The program provides \$500 to County homeowners with a total combined income of \$72,000 per year or less and assets of less than \$240,000. An additional \$50 is added to the household grant for each dependent living in the home.

### ***Housing Information Center Serves as Needed Resource***

The Housing Information Center fielded over 5,000 calls on housing related issues, including homeownership and landlord and tenant relations in 2005.

### ***Relocation Assistance Continues***

The County provided technical assistance to nine redevelopment and condominium conversion projects and monitored relocation at ten redevelopment and condominium conversion projects.

### ***Online Apartment Guide Unveiled***

In January 2005, the County unveiled its Online Apartment Guide (<http://aptguide.arlingtonva.us/>), allowing for personalized searches to identify apartments in meeting individual pricing, location, unit size, amenities and other preferences. In its first month of operation following initial publicity, 5,700 hits to the site resulted in over 25,000 apartment searches.

### ***Arlington Schools Continue to Shine: All APS High Schools Ranked in Top 1% in Nation***

For the second consecutive time, H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program and Washington-Lee and Yorktown High Schools were named to *Newsweek* Magazine's list of the "100 Top High Schools in America." The schools ranked 5<sup>th</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup>, respectively. Wakefield High School ranked 257<sup>th</sup>, placing four Arlington public schools in the top 1 percent of over 27,000 high schools nationwide. Arlington schools were ranked in the top 2 percent the last time the list was published in 2003.

### ***Diverse School Population Excels***

Nineteen thousand students from over 20 countries continue to consistently score well above state and national averages on standardized tests. The Arlington average for combined verbal and math SAT scores in 2003-2004 was 1085 compared to 1024 for the state and 1026 in the nation. The high school graduation rate is 93 percent. Last year, 88 percent of graduates went on to post-secondary education.

### ***APS Ranked in the Top 101 Best Communities for Music Education***

Arlington Public Schools (APS) was ranked in the top "101 Best Communities for Music Education," according to a nationwide web survey of public and independent school teachers, administrators, parents, and community leaders.

### ***Schools Recognized for Promoting Nutrition and Physical Activity***

In October, the school system was presented a gold medal from the Virginia Action for Healthy Kids task force for its efforts to promote nutrition and/or

physical activity among students. The taskforce is a statewide organization dedicated to improving the health and educational performance of children through better nutrition and physical activity.

### ***Barrett Elementary Joins NASA Explorer Program***

Kate Waller Barrett Elementary School was one of 50 schools in the nation to join the NASA Explorer Schools program in 2005. The program, sponsored by NASA's Education Office and the National Science Teachers Association establishes a three-year partnership between NASA and the selected schools to develop innovative math and science "action plans" for the classroom. The schools also will receive \$17,500 agency grants.

### **Arlington Successfully Fights to Keep DOD Research Facilities**

This past summer, Arlington officials successfully convinced the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission to vote unanimously to keep the Defense Department's major research programs in the County. The commission's vote confirmed Arlington's assertion that Arlington's "scientific center of excellence" should be maintained, thereby retaining 2,000 employees in Arlington. This was one of the very few instances in which the commission overturned the Pentagon's decision. The commission, however, did not vote to keep the DOD's other facilities occupying leased space in the County. The agencies remaining in Arlington are the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the Office of Naval Research (ONR), the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, and the Army Research Office.

### **Arlington Remains Attractive to Employers**

Arlington continued to attract new employers, while existing businesses expanded by bringing nearly 1,500 new jobs to the County. In particular:

- In April 2005, Virginia Tech leased 15,000 square feet of space, bringing 100 employees to Arlington.
- In June 2005, the Department of Homeland Security obtained an additional 54,000 square feet of space in Rosslyn, with the intention of hiring another 250 people.
- In July 2005, BNA (Bureau of National Affairs) signed a lease to occupy 250,000 square feet of space in Crystal City, bringing 900 new jobs to Arlington. BNA is currently located in Washington, D.C.
- In July 2005, Unisys obtained an additional 53,800 square feet of space, adding 200 new jobs to Arlington.

### **County and IDA Sign Agreement to Develop Caps Practice Facility**

The County successfully negotiated the \$37.5 million financing and ownership of the Ballston Skating Facility by the Industrial Development Authority (IDA), which will be built on the eighth level of the Ballston Public Parking Garage. The Skating Facility will be leased to the Washington Capitals hockey team and will house two ice sheets suitable for National Hockey League use, provide recreation facilities for informal and instructional skating opportunities, youth and adult hockey teams and figure skaters, and house the offices of the Washington Capitals. Construction began in March.

### **Arlington's Economic Base Continues to Grow**

Economic Development is an important component of the County's economic sustainability. In 2005, a special planning district was formed, a new gateway site was acquired, work continued on major work plans for the areas surrounding the Clarendon Metro station and Columbia Pike, a number of major site plans were approved, and outreach to the small business community continued.

### **County Acquires Gateway Site in Land Swap for North Tract and \$25 Million in Revenue**

Negotiations were successfully concluded in 2005 to allow Arlington County to acquire the former Twin Bridges Marriott site from Monument Realty, LLC in exchange for a portion of its North Tract property near Crystal City and up to \$25 million. The exchange gave Arlington a prime parcel, (with spectacular views of Washington's monuments), that added two acres to the County's existing property and \$25 million to enhance the planned North Tract recreational complex in Crystal City.

In addition, the County signed two design contracts to complete the North Tract recreational complex. The contracts will provide the County with design services for the new building and park and the relocation of Old Jefferson Davis Highway respectively. The initial design work began reorganizing the 2004 Adopted Master Plan to fit the new site that includes the former Twin Bridges Marriott site. The reorganization of the adopted plan is being done concurrently with the

schematic design for the building and park.

### **Seven New Site Plans Approved**

The County Board approved six major site plan requests during 2005. In total, they represent 971 residential units, 25,035 square feet of retail space and 109,152 square feet of office space. The six projects were the Quality Hotel, the North Tract Lofts, the Petros Site, 3565 Lee Highway, the Easton, and the National Science Teacher Association office building. A chart providing more details on each site plan can be found at the end of this report. In addition, the Board at its December meeting approved a site plan that clears the way for the building of Fire Station Number 3.

The Petros Site, a major form based development project, was approved in the western gateway of Columbia Pike. It will be a 10-story residential condominium building with ground floor retail. This project represents a second major development initiative planned for the Pike and represents continued development and community confidence in the form based code approach as well as the strong market potential of the Columbia Pike corridor.

### **Columbia Pike Revitalization Plan Updated**

*Columbia Pike's Revitalization Plan Update 2005* was published this year. The document completes a major work plan item and provides an accessible summary of the Columbia Pike Initiative to-date. Updates of the Columbia Pike Street Space Plan and the Columbia Pike Form Based Code Document were also finalized and released. These three documents are available in print, on the County's Website and soon to be

available on CD ROM. Together they provide comprehensive information about the County's vision for the Columbia Pike Corridor.

### **Fort Myer Heights Special Planning District Approved**

The County Board adopted the Fort Myer Heights Special Planning District on the General Land Use Plan (GLUP) and deferred action on the Fort Myer Heights North Plan, other GLUP amendments and associated zoning ordinance amendments to the March 14, 2006, County Board meeting. The deferment will help ensure consistency of the guidelines and implementation tools with ongoing policy development related to affordable housing.

### **Work Continues on the Clarendon Sector Plan**

Work continued on the 2005 Clarendon Sector Plan to refine the overall vision for the Clarendon station area and to provide a comprehensive and detailed framework related to land use, public spaces, urban form and character, transportation, and parking that will guide public and private investment in the physical redevelopment of the area. An initial draft plan was released and all comments are being reviewed in response to feedback received. A matrix of key policy issues was also created as well as a revised development forecasts for the "Low" and "High" scenarios as well as a "Form Based" scenario. Draft zoning ordinance concepts were also shaped that would help to implement the plan elements once adopted.

### **Living Wage Policy Implemented**

The County implemented the living wage policy in all custodial cleaning contracts, covering 85 private-sector

employees. The County Board increased the wage rate from \$10.98/hour to \$11.20/hour. At the same time, the turnover rate for the cleaning contractors declined dramatically, and the quality of the cleaning improved.

### **Business Assistance Network Continues Support of Small Business**

BizLaunch is the County's business assistance network designed to encourage the business community to generate jobs and economic growth through the creation of small businesses. In 2005, the program offered a two-day specialized boot camp for entrepreneurs in English and Spanish. The event was a collaborative effort sponsored by the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) and Arlington Economic Development. Arlington County organized the event while NVCC provided instructors who educated attendees on finance, accounting, marketing and business development. The event was the first of its kind for up-and-coming entrepreneurs in the region, providing new business owners the opportunity to learn key skills in a challenging environment to successfully kick-off their business.

### ***Small Business Outreach Increases***

Since January 2005, 35 business events, held in English and Spanish, were coordinated to assist entrepreneurs. On average, 80 entrepreneurs participated in each event with approximately 2,800 total attendees. Approximately 150 entrepreneurs received one-on-one counseling through BizLaunch representatives or SCORE appointments. Finally, participation in BizLaunch events rose 35 percent from 2004 to 2005 and one-on-one counseling

sessions rose almost 5 percent from 2004 to 2005.

***First Networking Event Held for Business Owners***

For existing business owners, BizLaunch also offered its first annual networking event for entrepreneurs in December 2005. It was developed in response to market demand and provided existing business owners the opportunity to network and discuss “best practices” in government contracting, marketing and financing, and more.

***Arlington Hosts Small Business Expo***

This year over 160 attendees participated in the third annual Small Business Expo held at the Arlington Career Center. Entrepreneurs learned key skills to start and expand their business as well as network with the area’s leading service providers.

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY:**

*Supporting a sustainable environment is one of the County's major initiatives in support of its vision. Through various County programs, including recycling green-building initiatives, and the provision of clean, safe water, Arlington continues to place a high priority on our environment.*

**New Public Spaces Master Plan  
Adopted**

The 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan replaces the 1994 Open Space Master Plan as one of eight elements of Arlington County's Comprehensive Plan. It is the primary planning document that identifies the major public space needs of the community. The name reflects its broad scope, which encompasses the full extent of Arlington's parks, natural resources, recreation, arts, cultural and historic facilities, and urban streetscapes. The plan is intended to serve as a tool for future policy decisions related to Arlington's public spaces and includes a vision for public spaces that builds upon the central concepts of the County's vision statement – community health and quality of life, connecting community, and accessibility and inclusion. It focuses on a balance of five near term recommendations as the County's highest public space priorities and longer-term recommendations that will be carried out over the next 10-20 years. The plan was adopted by the County Board at its December meeting.

**Environmental Services**

Several of the County's environmental programs experienced increases in service rates or enhanced performance through the year:

***County's Recycling Rate Increased***

The County's recycling rate achieved a nearly 34 percent usage, up 2 percent from the previous year and 9 percent higher than the State-mandated rate of 25 percent.

***Enough Leaves Collected to Fill MCI Center***

The leaf collection program collected 40,000 cubic yards of leaves—enough to fill the basketball court at the MCI Center with an 18-story pile.

***Household Hazardous Materials Kept Out of Waste Stream***

Providing residents with a place to safely discard household hazardous materials keeps dangerous pollutants out of the waste stream. The Household Hazardous Materials (HHM) Program set all-time records for participation and materials collection, both at the biannual Environmental Collection and Recycling Event (E-Care), and at the drop-off facility at the Water Pollution Control Plant.

***Water Pollution Control Plant Receives Clean Bill of Health***

The Water Pollution Control Plant treated 29 million gallons of sewage daily and successfully operated with 365 consecutive days of no lost-time accidents. There was one wet-weather external bypass and no notices of violation of its Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System operating permit.

### ***County Facilities to Seek LEED Certification***

Seven County facilities, in the planning stage or under construction, are seeking LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council:

- Walter Reed Community Center (under construction)
- PRCR Operations Facility (under construction)
- Shirlington Library (under construction)
- Water Pollution Control Plant (in planning)
- Arlington Mill Community Center (in planning)
- Westover Library (in planning)
- Fire Station 3 (in planning)

### **Capital Projects: Significant Progress Achieved**

In 2005, the County continued its progress at streamlining the capital program and once again substantially increased the number of projects completed. A critical component of the capital program is the infrastructure improvement projects, which while too numerous to list individually, maintain and upgrade County streets and facilities to continue to create a secure and attractive urban community. The County increased infrastructure improvement production over recent years. For instance, 39 projects were built in 2003 compared to 74 in 2004. In 2005, 129 infrastructure improvement projects were completed, a 75 percent increase over 2004 and more than three times the number in 2003. For additional details, see Addendum V for a program level comparison of the increase in completed projects.

In addition to the smaller-scale infrastructure improvement projects, the County also completed several large parks and facilities projects. Addendum IV has more detailed information on the larger projects underway and completed. Highlights include the opening of Barcroft Park, and the renovation of the Fenwick and George Mason centers. Fenwick is now being used by the Department of Human Services and Arlington Community Action Program's Head Start Program is based at George Mason.

The projects currently under construction, with completion expected in 2006, include the new Shirlington Library and Signature Theater, the new Walter Reed Community Center, the new Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Operations building at the Trades Center, and the Donaldson Run Stream restoration project. Also in 2006, design will continue on North Tract, the new Arlington Mill Community Center, the new Fire Station Number 3, and modernization of the Fairlington Community Center.

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY:  
TRANSPORTATION**

*Arlington promotes a multimodal transportation system that encourages walking, biking, and mass transit, all aimed to decrease the dependence on automobiles as the primary form of transportation.*

**Pedestrian Initiatives Focus on Health and Safety**

The WalkArlington Program sponsored five major projects during the year.

- Twenty-five WALKArlington projects were constructed around the County including Phase 1 of the Ballston Pilot Project, elimination of the free right turn lane at Wilson Boulevard and Highland Street, and five Safe Routes to School projects.
- New standards were adopted for sidewalk and crosswalk materials and construction.
- Three Community WalkAbouts were held in October, attracting more than 200 residents.
- The WALKArlington website was updated, including the addition of a new section on the health benefits of walking.

**BikeArlington Program Has Banner Year**

BikeArlington inaugurated the first annual Community Bike Ride Day, which had more than 400 participants and coincided with a professional bike race in Arlington. A new BikeArlington website ([www.bikearlington.com](http://www.bikearlington.com)) was created with comprehensive information about biking in Arlington and the Washington region. An updated Arlington Bicycle Map was also

distributed. Other efforts include constructing improvements to the W & OD Trail-Lee Highway trail intersection and completing striping of new bike lanes on North Harrison Street between 26<sup>th</sup> Street and Yorktown Boulevard and North Barton Street between Fairfax Drive and Clarendon Boulevard. In addition, the County sponsored Arlington's Bike to Work Day in May, which attracted 282 riders to the Rosslyn Pit Stop.

**Steps Taken to Improve Parking in the County**

Almost 3,700 parking meters were maintained, while 350 new meters were installed – more than 180 in the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor. The County Board approved a revised residential permit-parking program intended to provide more flexibility for participants. Finally, a pilot program featuring multi-space parking meters was implemented in the fall, which allows more cars to park per block. The new meters provide drivers the choice of paying by cash or credit card.

**ATP Serves Record Number of Clients**

As the one-stop point of access to all transportation services in the greater Washington region, Arlington Transportation Partners (ATP) make it easy for employers and apartment and hotel managers to offer commuter benefits to employees or community transportation benefits to residents. At the end of 2005, ATP was serving a record number of clients in all categories, including 606 employer clients, representing 143,832 employees or 74 percent of the at-place employment in Arlington. This compares to 504 clients and 129,219 employees at the end

of 2004 – a 20 percent increase in clients. Also at the end of 2005, there were 33 hotel clients out of the 41 major hotels in Arlington. This was an increase of 22 percent over the 27 clients at the end of 2004.

### **“Way to Go Arlington” Campaign Kicked Off**

The “Way to Go Arlington” campaign began this year. The program is a multimedia effort to encourage individuals to use alternate means to single-occupant vehicles. Under the slogan of “There’s more than one way to get where you’re going,” the program includes bus, Metro, bicycle, walking, and carpooling. As part of the campaign, every Arlington household received a free ride coupon good on Metrobus or ART that also entered people in a sweepstakes for a chance to win one of 10 iPod Minis.

### **Traffic Signals Optimized to Improve Traffic Flow**

The County maintained 252 traffic lights. Signal functioning was optimized to improve traffic flow, reduce vehicle emissions, and improve safety and mobility for pedestrians on Lee Highway, Rosslyn-Ballston Corridor, North Glebe Road Corridor, Arlington Boulevard, Pentagon City, South Glebe Road Corridor and Crystal City, for a total of 190 signals. The installation of the traffic incident management control center, which includes Closed Circuit Television for the major intersections in the County, was also completed.

### **Commuter Stores Set All-time Sales Record**

The Commuter Stores and CommuterDirect.com set an all-time record of \$1,087,000 in sales for the month of October. Every outlet set a record and 48 percent of sales were via the Internet. Additionally, the renovated Rosslyn Commuter Store reopened. The redesigned store gives customers a more interactive experience and features a large electronic screen with regional transit system maps, screens displaying news and schedule information, kiosks for customers to access the internet and wi-fi for Internet access while passengers are waiting for a bus.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION:**

*The neighborhoods that make up Arlington County are all unique, each with its own individual identity, adding to Arlington's reputation of being a diverse and inclusive urban community. Given this, several programs were offered to enhance the County's neighborhoods from Neighborhood Conservation efforts to traffic calming projects.*

### **Conservation Program Offers Neighborhood Improvements**

The Neighborhood Conservation Program is currently supporting 25 neighborhoods helping to develop or update Neighborhood Conservation plans. Twenty-five Neighborhood Conservation projects were completed and in closeout in 2005. In June 2005, the County Board approved nine Neighborhood Conservation capital projects presented by staff and the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee for funding. Currently, there are 72 active projects in the Neighborhood Conservation project portfolio affecting 33 neighborhoods.

### **Traffic Calming Projects Protect Pedestrians, Motorists and Bicyclists**

The Neighborhood Traffic Calming program implemented 23 new projects during the year and installed seven multi-way stop signs. The County also completed before-and-after studies on 15 completed traffic-calming projects to determine their effectiveness, and to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the program. The analysis indicated that the average speeds were reduced by five miles per hour, and in some cases, traffic volume was also reduced.

## **Arlington Celebrates its Neighborhood Parks**

Arlington reached several milestones this year in the following parks:

### ***Hayes Park Reopened***

In May 2005, a unique community playground reopened at Hayes Park. This renovation was funded by the Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Program. County staff worked very closely with residents from the Ballston-Virginia Square and Cherrydale Civic Associations to create a park for people of all ages, especially children. The park includes exciting and colorful play equipment, a sandbox, winding paths, drinking fountain, benches and picnic areas. The most popular spot is the "water spray area" with a whimsical solar system theme featuring three dimensional concrete planets "in orbit" around a bright mosaic sun. In addition, to complement the funding by NC, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources funded the replacement of the perimeter fence with an attractive steel ornamental fence, made major upgrades to the restrooms, and completely resurfaced and coated the tennis and basketball courts.

### ***Mosaic Park Offers County's First Climbing Wall***

The newly developed [Mosaic Park](#), located at the corner of North Pollard Street and North 5th Street, is the first park in Arlington to have a climbing wall. This exciting feature takes climbers up and across four dynamic panels rising more than nine feet. For additional fun, park visitors can continue developing their skills on the challenging "space net" with its web of intricate ropes.

### ***Barcroft Park Reopens After 18-Month Renovation***

In July, Arlington celebrated the grand reopening of Barcroft Park. The 65.5-acre community park reopened after an 18-month renovation, which included adding a fourth baseball/softball diamond, a new synthetic-turf field and a three-level parking garage. Located on South Four Mile Run Drive at George Mason Drive, Barcroft Park is one of Arlington's largest and most heavily used recreational areas. Phase one of the park's redevelopment included construction of the following features and amenities:

- a lighted community field with full synthetic grass surfacing
- two lighted youth baseball fields with grass infields
- one lighted youth softball field
- one lighted adult and youth softball field
- batting cages and warm-up areas
- irrigation, drainage, fencing, scoreboards and bleachers, concessions and restroom building
- a handball wall
- a three-level parking garage, walkways, landscaping and site furnishings

### **County Leads Area in Use of Synthetic Grass Fields**

The County's fourth and fifth synthetic grass athletic fields were installed at Barcroft Park and Washington-Lee High School Stadium. The field at Barcroft was completed in the summer of 2005 (part of a major renovation project at the facility) and the field at W-L was completed in the fall of 2005. In the spring of 2005, "dark sky technology" lighting was installed at Virginia Highlands field. Arlington continues to

be the leader in the region in utilizing these playing services and lighting systems as a means for meeting the demand for fields.

### **County Board Takes Action to Prevent Proliferation of McMansions**

On November 15, the County Board adopted new lot coverage regulations designed to prevent the building of houses out of scale with their neighborhoods. The new policy, which applies to both new construction and renovations, replaces the former 56 percent maximum coverage with a sliding scale, based on the residential zoning district in which the lot is located. It also limits the size of the main building and makes it easier for "non-conforming" houses to build additions. The measure does not affect houses with plans underway. The new regulations apply to both new construction and renovations, but houses with permits already filed are not affected. Existing houses are only affected for future additions

### **Progress Made With Nauck Village Center Action Plan**

In partnership with the Nauck Revitalization Organization (NRO), implementation of the Nauck Village Center Action Plan began with a Town Square Charrette and the development of draft guidelines for the Nauck Technical Assistance Loan/Grant Program. The NRO also reviewed three development proposals for projects within the Nauck Village Center.

***PUBLIC SAFETY:***

*Arlington's public safety agencies are well known throughout the country for their effectiveness in fighting crime, responding to emergencies, and handling the day-to-day operations of protecting the health, safety, and well-being of Arlington residents.*

**Crime At Lowest Rate Since 1962**

According to the latest available statistics, Arlington's crime rate is continuing its historic decline. The total number of serious crimes in Arlington dropped by 5.9 percent from 2003 to 2004 and the crime rate is at its lowest point since 1962. The crime rate—the number of index crimes per 100,000 people—was 2,585 in 2004, down from 2,754 in 2003.

In the last decade, Arlington's crime rate fell by 56 percent. In 2004, there were 5,104 "index", or serious, crimes in Arlington, 320 fewer than in 2003. The most significant decreases, however, were in robberies, which dropped by 11.5 percent and vehicle thefts, which fell by 17.7 percent. There were 493 vehicle thefts in Arlington last year (2004), the first time in two decades that fewer than 500 vehicles were stolen.

Index crimes—homicides, forcible rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, arsons, burglaries, larcenies and vehicle thefts—are the eight categories generally used by law enforcement as a standardized measure of the incidence of crime.

**Twenty Residents Graduate from Citizen Police Academy**

In June, 20 residents graduated from the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Arlington Police Department Citizens Academy. All of the graduates were Spanish-speaking residents of the Buckingham Community. The sessions were conducted using simultaneous English to Spanish translation.

**Police Department Joins Local Partners for Operation Falcon**

Working with federal, state and local partners, the Arlington County Police Department's Third District Community Policing team spearheaded the County's participation in Operation Falcon. The program was developed to arrest violent fugitives, with emphasis centered on gang related crimes, homicides, crimes involving use of a weapon, crimes against children and the elderly, crimes involving sexual assaults, organized crime and drug offenses. On April 11, 2005, 119 outstanding warrants from the Police Department and the Sheriff's Department were served. Operation Falcon was conducted during National Crime Victim's Rights Week in honor of the memory of those victimized.

**Fire Department Responds to Citizen Needs**

In 2005, the Fire Department replied to 25,197 Fire, EMS and public service calls, made 265 hazardous materials responses, conducted 1,163 fire prevention inspections, and issued 830 fire prevention code permits. A new WestNet Fire Station Alerting System, a new Access Control System was implemented for all Fire Stations.

## **Sheriff's Office Keeps Arlington Safe**

### ***Nearly 2,000 Visitors to Courthouse Screened Daily***

In fiscal year 2005 a daily average of 1,900 individuals were screened at the Courthouse entrance by Sheriff personnel. A daily average of 24 contraband items and or weapons such as knives was confiscated; most items were returned to the individuals upon their departure from the Courthouse.

In other areas of the Sheriff's Office operations:

- In fiscal year 2005, the Transportation Section conducted over 2,300 transports, totaling over 3,600 individuals being transported.
- During the Sheriff's Office four week "Smooth Operator Campaign" in 2005, over 910 traffic violation notices were issued.
- On April 30, 2005, the first Mongolian Alcohol Education series was implemented. Translated by the Mongolian Embassy using the statewide ASAP curriculum, this is the first Mongolian Intensive Education Series offered within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### ***Nearly 2,300 Criminal Warrants Served***

In fiscal year 2005, the Warrant/Process Section served/attempted service of approximately 36,000 civil papers and served/cleared over 2,300 criminal warrants.

## ***CARING AND PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY:***

*Arlingtonians unite to provide a range of public and non-profit services to preserve and strengthen families and to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of its residents. As part of its civic involvement outreach efforts, Arlington continues to enhance community participation in civic affairs by fostering connections among residents within its diverse and urban community.*

### **Arlington Responds to Katrina Survivors**

In an unprecedented effort, Arlington and the other local jurisdictions in Northern Virginia came together to respond as a region to the emergency needs of the Gulf Coast. An initial team was deployed to help establish the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Four regional teams were deployed to support the EOC and to establish an Incident Management Team in the center, under the National Incident Management System. Regional firefighters were also deployed to provide 911 services to Hancock County, Mississippi.

At home, through the Department of Human Services, (DHS), the County provided a coordinated team response to Katrina evacuees with 154 households receiving social work assessment, eligibility determination, health screening, employment services and other needed services. After the initial assessment, 137 households were provided with case management services including assistance locating housing. The County partnered with local property owners to identify vacant units and provided a list to evacuees seeking housing. Those who did not have

FEMA rent assistance were assisted with other rent assistance. Local faith and community organizations willing to sponsor families with furniture, fellowship or other assistance were solicited and matched with Katrina households needing help.

In addition, following the recommendations of the Arlington Response to Katrina Task Force, established by County Board Chairman Jay Fisette, Arlington – in cooperation with the Arlington Chamber of Commerce and Northern Virginia Habitat for Humanity – is entering into a community rebuilding partnership with Biloxi, Mississippi.

### **County and Non-Profit Awarded \$4.8 Million Supportive Housing Grant**

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded the County and Volunteers of America National Services a \$4.8 million grant for the rehabilitation and expansion of an assisted living facility for low-income persons age 50 and older with mental health and cognitive disabilities.

It marks a first for the County – a place specifically designed to provide assistance with personal care, meals, housekeeping and transportation. The new assisted-living residence is expected to be completed by late 2007. This grant is the largest in the history of Arlington’s Department of Human Services.

### **Community Role Models Program Engaging Young Adults**

In May 2005, Community Role Models (CRM) celebrated the successful completion of its first year. During year one, CRM hosted seven events and

group volunteer activities successfully engaging over 250 young adults (20s and 30s) more actively in the Arlington community. Since September 2005, CRM has actively planned monthly volunteer activities for its growing membership currently at over 500.

Arlingtonians and their families about the new Prescription Benefits Part D of the Medicare program which becomes effective on January 1, 2006. By November 18th the County had reached 1,711 persons.

### **Task Force Coordinates County Response to Gang Activity**

The Arlington Gang Task Force uses intervention and prevention programs to respond to gang activity to achieve its goals by deescalating criminal activity in the community. The Task Force was recently approved a grant for \$246,661. The grant will fund intervention and prevention programs within several County departments. It also reviewed and approved three other grants.

Further, in collaboration with public and private organizations, the Task Force recommended intervention and prevention strategies to respond to issues of gang activity in schools and the community, and continue its participation with the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force, focused on both enforcement and prevention efforts.

### **Outreach Program Offers Path to Citizenship**

The Citizenship classes at Arlington Mill Community Center, coordinated by the Community Outreach Program, have resulted in 75 people receiving their citizenship since January 1, 2005 and almost 500 since 2000.

### **Information Sessions Held on New Medicare Program**

Along with the Commission on Aging, 76 sessions were conducted from July 2005 to the date of this report to provide information to Medicare eligible

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

*The County's administrative agencies provide the backbone for the County's operations dedicated to supporting the operations of those departments that work directly with the public.*

**Arlington AAA Rating Reaffirmed**

As one of the highest-rated communities in the country, Arlington received a triple-AAA/AAA/Aaa bond rating by Standard & Poor's, Fitch Ratings, and Moody's Investor Services. In fact, it is one of just a few counties in the United States to carry a triple-AAA/AAA/Aaa bond rating.

**General Obligation Bonds Sold at Second Lowest Rate in 25 Years**

Arlington successfully sold nearly \$94.5 million of General Obligation Bonds at a true interest cost of 3.84 percent, the second lowest rate in 25 years for County bond issues. In addition, the County refunded \$81 million of General Obligation Bonds for a savings of \$6.239 million in debt service over the life of the bonds, and negotiated the sale of nearly \$60.5 million in Industrial Development Authority Lease Revenue Bonds to finance various County capital projects, including the Emergency Communications Center.

**Delinquent Tax Rate Aggressively Lowered**

Arlington's delinquent tax rate was aggressively lowered by the Treasurer's Office to 1.24 percent, the lowest in Arlington's history. In addition:

- The parking ticket collection rate hit a five-year high of 97.3 percent
- A record number of transactions, over 45,000 representing payments in excess of \$11.2 million, were processed online through the Payment Portal.
- For the first time, the Treasurer's Office held a design competition among Arlington County high school students to design the vehicle decal. Twenty decal designs were submitted by students from the four participating high schools. The entries were narrowed down to four finalists by a citizen review committee and the voting was then opened up to all County residents, who were asked to vote for their favorite design. Over 2,400 votes were cast to choose the winning "Ice Blanket" design – a view of Key Bridge from an ice-covered Potomac River - by Wilson Ward Kemp of Washington Lee High School.

**2005 Tax Season Most Efficient for Commissioner of Revenue Office**

The 2005 tax season was the most efficient for the Commissioner of Revenue Office. Before submitting assessment information to the treasurer, staff adjusted 97,000 records, which included changes of addresses, corrections of assessment, new registrations and sold vehicles. This resulted in increased accuracy of the data submitted to the Treasurer's Office, and a decrease in the number of customers calling or visiting the office. In addition, close cooperation with the Treasurer's Office simplified the process for residents.

Furthermore, the activity level within the Automated Call Distribution system decreased as a direct result of staff adjusting over 97,000 records, which enabled the treasurer to mail bills that were correct. The office also experienced a decrease in the number of abandoned calls from last year, only 4 percent compared to 5 percent. The Commissioner of Revenue also handled 1,296 e-mail messages, an increase of 22 percent over 2004.

### **Personal Property Enforcement Program Revenue Increases**

Last year, under the Personal Property Enforcement Program, between January 1, 2004 and October 31, 2004, the Commissioner of Revenue Office discovered 2,187 vehicles representing \$715,170 in revenue. As of October 31, 2005, the office discovered 3,229 vehicles, which resulted in \$1,042,484 of revenue, a 46 percent increase over last year.

### **Money Refunded to Businesses Decreased**

In 2004, the Commissioner of Revenue Office refunded over \$4.3 million to businesses that in prior tax years overpaid their taxes as a result of erroneous assessments and incorrect classification of their business personal property. In 2005, just over \$1 million was refunded to businesses that overpaid their taxes for tax years prior to 2004.

### **Wireless Internet Zone Established at Courthouse Plaza**

Arlington established its first free, outdoor wireless Internet hotspot at Courthouse Plaza, creating an “electronic town square.” *Wireless@Courthouse* builds on the success of the popular wi-fi hotspot at

the County’s Central Library, which was introduced last year.

### **Arlington and XM Satellite Radio Partner for Emergency Alerts**

Arlington County, an early adopter of public warning technologies, and D.C.-based XM Satellite Radio, with more than 4.4 million subscribers, announced in August a first-in-the-nation partnership to broadcast emergency alerts on XM Satellite Radio. This will enable Arlington to issue emergency messages, via its free Arlington Alert service ([www.ArlingtonAlert.com](http://www.ArlingtonAlert.com)) to XM Satellite Radio subscribers and allow XM to enhance the offerings on its dedicated traffic and weather channel for the Washington D.C., metro area – XM Channel 214.

### **Arlington and Alexandria Link via High-Speed Fiber Optic Connection**

Arlington and the City of Alexandria built a high-speed fiber optic interconnection linking each jurisdiction’s Institutional Network (I-Net). The dedicated, secure fiber link between Arlington and Alexandria will initially be used for voice and video applications for public safety. The fiber link uses existing Comcast cable fiber and is the first step in creating a series of Northern Virginia regional interconnections. This inter-jurisdictional fiber connection has been cited by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as an innovation it would like to see replicated in the Washington, D.C., area, as well as other metropolitan areas in the United States.

### **Technology Puts Volunteers In Touch With Agencies in Need**

Using the *Online Volunteer Connection* technology, 3,344 referrals from 2,010

volunteers were made to 249 agencies (compared to 1,256 referrals from 750 volunteers to 152 agencies at this time last year).

### **Arlington's Virtual Branch Library Reaches New Heights**

Access to the Library homepage, a "virtual branch library" saves time, provides access to basic services and delivers substantial information through its databases. The number of user sessions or "visits" at the virtual branch is 40 percent of the total customer visits (web and facility) made this year. Other significant accomplishments include:

- Remote Library website user sessions increased more than 40 percent.
- More than 89,000 user sessions took advantage of the library's electronic databases.
- Thirty-thousand e-books were "checked out" and "read" online, an increase of 75 percent.
- More than 340,000 materials were renewed electronically – by telephone or by web.
- The County website launched a new customer and information driven architecture and visual identity with a Spanish language portal.
- Close to 4.5 million County website user sessions (up 29 percent from the previous year) and more than 39 million page views (up 86 percent from the previous year) took place on the County website during the year.

### **Pay for Performance Transition Year Implemented**

Many County employees were busy implementing the FY 2006 "Transition Year" compensation plan, as an initial

precursor to a Countywide Pay for Performance/Performance Management system. This included developing policies, forms, and a manual for employees and managers; conducting briefings and training throughout the County; developing payroll codes and processes; and creating intranet resource materials- all completed within an abbreviated timeframe. The new system will streamline and increase efficiencies in these areas.

### **Gap Analysis Tool Offered**

The County developed a new Workforce Planning Tool, which will help organizations perform gap analysis between current and future business needs and employees' skills and competencies.

### **Worker's Compensation Program Undergoes Improvements**

Arlington conducted a review of the Worker's Compensation Program and implemented a number of the suggestions received including developing a consolidated booklet for employees and supervisors; creating an on-line reporting system for job related injuries; and updating the intranet web page with more comprehensive information.

### ***The Citizen* Newsletter Receives A Facelift**

*The Citizen* newsletter was redesigned and the distribution frequency was increased from four to six times per year. The redesign featured larger font, more information, greater accessibility for the visually impaired, and one-half page of Spanish-language content. As part of the process, the community was involved in determining the new design.

**Spanish Web Site Relunched**

The Spanish-language Web site was relaunched, adding robust content and featuring more than 200 pages in Spanish.

**Leader's Edge Introduced**

A new e-newsletter for an audience of 500 managers in the County was introduced to share information on the latest trends and best practices; five issues were distributed in 2005.

## **ADDENDUM I**

### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

During the year, Arlington was honored for its work in a number of areas from technology to facilities and communications.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL**

#### **CoreNet Global Awards - *Major Deals/Projects (finalist)***

Arlington Economic Development was among the 10 finalist organizations from throughout the country for the CoreNet Global “2005 Economic Development Leadership & Accomplishment Award”. CoreNet Global is the world’s leading professional association for corporate real estate executives as well as for economic development organizations, representing national, state, regional and local interests. The award recognizes leadership, best practices and innovations in economic development among the organizations serving communities and corporations throughout the world. Arlington Economic Development was recognized as a finalist in the Major Projects/Deals reflecting successful strategies for the following announcements: Corporate Executive Board, Public Broadcasting Service, Watson Wyatt, BAE Systems and The AES Corporation.

#### **Communications Awards**

The Communications Office received three first place awards in 2005 from the National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC) for the new Arlington logo, Community Role Models press release and lead/water communications.

#### **Certificate of Recognition for Public Health Ready**

In July 2005, the Arlington County Public Health Division received the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Certificate of Recognition for Public Health Ready. NACCHO’s Project Public Health Ready recognizes local governmental public health agencies as ready to respond to any public health emergency. To be recognized as Project Public Health Ready, the Arlington County Public Health Division had to achieve criteria in three key areas: emergency preparedness planning, workforce competency development and demonstration of readiness through exercises/simulations.

#### **2005 “Best New Facility Award” from the Virginia Recreation and Park Society**

Arlington’s Powhatan Springs Park received the 2005 “Best New Facility Award” from the Virginia Recreation and Park Society (VRPS). The park, opened in the summer of 2004, includes a children’s rain garden and the only public concrete skate park in the Washington Metropolitan region. The award recognizes the facility’s innovative design and construction for a facility in a Virginia locality with a population of 150,000 or more.

#### **Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (“GFOA”) awarded a certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Arlington County, Virginia for its CAFR for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004.

### **Distinguished Budget Presentation**

The GFOA presented the Award for Distinguished Budget Presentation to Arlington County, Virginia for its FY 2005 budget. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting.

### **Seventh Annual e-Gov Solutions *Pioneer Award***

The Department of Technology Services was awarded the 7th Annual e-Gov Solutions *Pioneer Award* for development of Arlington County's Payment and Vehicle Registration Portal.

### **Top Ten Digital Counties**

Arlington was named one of the top 10 digital counties in the United States in an annual survey by the Center for Digital Government and National Association of Counties. The County tied for third place, along with Hamilton County, Indiana, for counties with 150,000-249,999 residents.

### **Virginia Green Building Leadership Award**

Arlington was presented the Virginia Green Building Leadership Award on November 30, 2005. The award is sponsored by the James River Green Building Council

### **Tree City Award**

Arlington received its ninth consecutive Tree City USA Award from the National Arbor Day Foundation. The award recognizes localities around the country that have met specific criteria that demonstrate commitment to preserving and enhancing their community forests. Additionally, the County received its third consecutive "Growth Award" from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

This award is reserved for communities that go "above and beyond" the requirements for Tree City USA status.

### **Senior Center Accreditation**

The Langston-Brown Multipurpose Senior Center became the second senior center in Virginia to achieve national accreditation. An accredited center ensures participants that it meets or exceeds standards for the operations of senior centers and programs. The accreditation process culminated the 2004 celebrations, marking the 50th anniversary of Arlington County recreation programs for senior adults. Arlington County was a pioneer in its early attention to the senior adult population.

### **Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association**

The Nauck Village Action Plan won an honorable mention by the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association in the 2005 Master Planning category.

### **The Washington Area Housing Partnership Best Practices Award**

The Washington Area Housing Partnership awarded Arlington its two 2005 Best Practices Awards, one in the innovation category for the County's Creative Affordable Housing Tools, and another in the Outreach category for the Supportive Housing Plan. The County received an Honorable Mention in the Production/Preservation category for the Monterrey/Sierra project.

### **National Award for Housing Planning**

The National Association for County Community and Economic Development (NACCED) conferred its 2005 Award of Excellence in Planning on Arlington for

how it assesses the housing crisis and measures the County's performance in addressing it.

### **County Recognized for Leadership in "Green" Fuel Usage**

Arlington was honored in June by the Virginia Clean Cities for its "pioneering and visionary" leadership in the use of alternative fuels in County fleet vehicles. The County has the largest fleet of bio-diesel-fueled vehicles of any other Virginia municipality.

### **Emergency Management Program Recognized for Innovation**

Arlington's emergency management program was ranked as one of the nation's top 50 "most creative, forward thinking, results-driven government programs" by Harvard School of Government. Specifically, the County was named one of 50 semifinalists for the prestigious Innovations in American Government Awards.

### **Best Walking City**

For the third consecutive year, the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) named Arlington as the best place for walking in the country. The County placed first on the Association's list of "Top 10 Best U.S. Walking Cities." In selecting Arlington, the APMA noted that 35 percent of Arlingtonians walk for exercise.

### **Most Sustainable Community**

Arlington was awarded the 2005 Virginia Green Sustainability Innovation Award for the most sustainable community program by the Virginia Sustainable Building Network. The County was selected because of its overall vision of sustainability and unique sustainable community programs,

including green buildings, WalkArlington, transit programs, progressive land use planning, watershed protection and alternative fueled vehicle fleet.

## **INDIVIDUAL**

### **APS School Superintendent Named Superintendent of the Year**

Dr. Robert G. Smith, Superintendent of the Arlington Public Schools, was named the 2005 Superintendent of the Year for the region. Region IV includes school divisions in Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Shenandoah, and Warren counties, and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Winchester.

### **BizLaunch Coordinator Honored**

In 2005, BizLaunch Coordinator, Tara Miles, received an award from the Arlington Small Business Development Center for her continued support to the small business community through the BizLaunch program.

**ADDENDUM II**

**Calendar Year 2005 Supplemental Appropriations**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>FTEs</b>
Fire	VDH Home Safe Home grant	15,000	15,000	
Fire	Fire Programs grant for equipment	119,194	119,194	
Fire	First Responder Respiratory Protection Program grant for region	11,839,542	11,839,542	
Fire	Fire Marshal services for Pentagon	153,099	153,099	2.0
DHS	Campbell Hoffman Foundation Grant for oral health care & education	10,000	10,000	0.2
DHS	VDMHMRSAS funds for evidenced based initiatives in Mental Health	66,674	66,674	
DHS	VDMHMRSAS funds for residential substance abuse treatment	17,305	17,305	
DHS	VDMHMRSAS funds for MR clients in crisis	17,831	17,831	
DHS	SAPT funds for residential substance abuse clients with co-occurring disorders	40,000	40,000	
DHS	VDH funds for emergency preparedness planning for CSB	8,000	8,000	
DHS	VDMHMRSAS funds for PATH outreach staff	1,676	1,676	
DHS	VDA funds for public education on long-term care awareness (VICAP)	15,880	15,880	0.2
DHS	Additional Part C funding	73,872	73,872	
DHS	Residential substance abuse funding	22,836	22,836	
DHS	Prenatal addiction training and support	700	700	
DHS	System of care model education and training	2,000	2,000	
DHS	Residential mental health services for 2 clients	21,453	21,453	
DHS	Targeted MH residential services	95,735	95,735	
DHS	Medical Reserve Corps grant	13,516	13,516	
DHS	HUD Treatment on Wheels grant	195,640	195,640	2.5
DHS	Child welfare system improvement grant (VDSS)	108,702	108,702	1.5
DHS	Child Advocacy Center grant	62,000	62,000	
DHS	Family Assistance/Reunification Center grant	1,000,000	1,000,000	
DHS	VDA funds for public education	15,880	15,880	0.2
DHS	SAPT funds for residential services, transitional housing	40,000	40,000	
DHS	VDMHMRSAS funds for emergency disaster preparedness planning	6,000	6,000	

**ADDENDUM II****Calendar Year 2005 Supplemental Appropriations**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>FTEs</b>
DHS	BJA congressionally mandated award for gang intervention & prevention	42,400	42,400	
DHS	VDA funds for home delivered meals and public education	59,058	59,058	0.4
DCPHD	COG funding for temporary intern	27,000	27,000	1.0
DCPHD	Va Dept of Historic Resources historic resources survey grant	20,000	20,000	
JDR	Northern Virginia Gang Task Force	73,283	73,283	1.0
JDR	BJA congressionally mandated award for gang intervention & prevention	30,000	30,000	
Sheriff	Pretrial Services Case Manager grant	52,855	52,855	1.0
Sheriff	Combating Gangs in Virginia grant	83,298	83,298	1.0
Sheriff	BJA congressionally mandated award for gang intervention & prevention	30,000	30,000	
Police	Bureau of Justice Assistance Congressionally mandated award	63,786	63,786	
Police	Buffer zone protection plan grant	100,000	100,000	
Police	DMV highway safety project grants	52,500	52,500	
Police	BJA congressionally mandated award for gang intervention & prevention	35,000	35,000	0.5
OEM	MMRS grant	227,592	227,592	
DES	Phase 4 traffic signal optimization project grant	175,000	175,000	
DES	Watershed management funds for Donaldson Run stream restoration	36,311	36,311	
DES	Traffic signal optimization project - phase 5	263,000	263,000	
DES	Commuter Services Program grant - Va. Dept. of Rail & Public Transportation	360,000	360,000	
DES	Outreach grant for Donaldson Run Stream restoration project	8,000	8,000	
DES	Litter prevention and recycling grant	26,887	26,887	
DES	Commuter Services Program grant - Commonwealth Transportation Funds	375,000	375,000	

**ADDENDUM II****Calendar Year 2005 Supplemental Appropriations**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>FTEs</b>
DPRCR	BJA congressionally mandated award for gang intervention & prevention	30,000	30,000	
PAYGo	Watershed Management Funds for Donaldson Run restoration	1,075,762	1,075,762	
PAYGo	Regional Surface Transportation Program grant	500,000	500,000	
PAYGo	National Park Service grant for North Tract study	98,611	98,611	
PAYGo	Columbia Pike streetscape improvement project funding	3,346,400	3,346,400	
PAYGo	Commonwealth Transportation funds for Rosslyn Metro access project	60,000	60,000	

# ADDENDUM III - Summary of Site Plan and Other Projects

Arlington County, Virginia

Approved (Not Under Construction) from 01/01/2005 to 11/29/2005

Project Name	Address	Office (s.f.)	Retail (s.f.)	Other* (s.f.)	Residential Units	Hotel Rooms	Approval Date	Site Plan Number**
<b>COURT HOUSE</b>								
Quality Hotel (Abingdon Heights Major Amendment)	1200 N Courthouse Rd	0	0	0	0	187	04/19/2005	76
Abingdon Heights	1190 N Courthouse Rd	0	0	0	252	0	04/19/2005	75
<b>COURT HOUSE SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>187</b>		
<b>CLARENDON</b>								
Arlington Community Temporary Shelter (Use Permit Amendment)	3127 7th St N	0	0	0	21	0	07/09/2005	B-R
<b>CLARENDON SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>CRYSTAL CITY</b>								
Century Center (Century I and II Site Plan Amendment)	2461 S Clark St	0	8,264	0	0	0	07/09/2005	65
North Tract Lofts	305 10th St S	0	0	0	184	0	07/09/2005	390
<b>CRYSTAL CITY SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>8,264</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>COLUMBIA PIKE</b>								
Petros Site	5444 Columbia Pike	0	8,427	0	272	0	07/09/2005	FBC
<b>COLUMBIA PIKE SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>8,427</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>OUTSIDE METRO</b>								
3565 Lee Highway	3565 Lee Hwy	1,232	8,545	0	49	0	11/15/2005	395
The Easton	2101 N Westmoreland St	0	6,490	0	214	0	11/15/2005	391
NSTA Office Site Plan	1840 Wilson Blvd	107,920	10,000	0	0	0	11/15/2005	382
Washington-Lee High School	1300 N Quincy St	0	0	358,102	0	0	05/31/2005	B-R
Rosslyn Metro Center Major Site Plan Amendment	1800 N Moore St	254,536	12,368	0	0	0	03/12/2005	94
<b>OUTSIDE METRO SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>363,688</b>	<b>37,403</b>	<b>358,102</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>363,688</b>	<b>54,094</b>	<b>358,102</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>187</b>		

Project Name	Address	Office (s.f.)	Retail (s.f.)	Other* (s.f.)	Residential Units	Hotel Rooms	Approval Date	Site Plan Number**
<b>SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSES</b>								
<b>OUTSIDE METRO</b>								
1504 N Johnson St	1504 N Johnson St	0	0	0	3	0	07/09/2005	URD
2244 N Upton St	2244 N Upton St	0	0	0	2	0	05/07/2005	URD
<b>OUTSIDE METRO SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>		
<hr/>								
<b>SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSES SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>		
<hr/>								
<b>ARLINGTON TOTAL</b>		<b>363,688</b>	<b>54,094</b>	<b>358,102</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>187</b>		

\* Includes schools, health care facilities, recreation centers, fire houses, etc.

\*\* Numbers listed refer to the site plan number. Other codes are as follows: B-R = By-right; FBC = Formed Based Code; URD = Unified Residential Development; UCMUD = Unified Commercial Mixed Use Development; and Sp. Ag. = Special Agreement.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PLANNING,  
HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

## **ADDENDUM IV**

Summary of capital project progress during calendar year 2005, focusing on projects with extensive community involvement, multi-year durations, or substantial cost.

### **Court House Plaza Renovation**

Construction was completed on the fourth and fifth floors and approximately 90% of the third floor was also completed. Design for the lobby, atrium and sixth floors was also completed. The construction will occur in 2006.

### **Buckingham Community Center**

Two apartments were converted into a training center that is now open for public use.

### **Fire Station #3**

The Cherrydale Task Force completed its review of the project. Schematic design is 90 percent complete. The project has undergone Site Plan Review Committee review and the final 4.1 submission was completed. The Transportation and Planning Commissions both approved the plan and the site plan was also approved by the Board in December. The required property acquisition is currently being negotiated.

### **Walter Reed Community Center**

The majority of construction was completed this year with substantial completion expected in early 2006.

### **Shirlington Library and Signature Theater**

Construction is ongoing with completion expected in summer 2006.

### **Park Operations Facility**

This two-year construction project reached near completion before the end of the year.

### **Phase II: Trades Center Construction**

The original design was bid and due to cost overruns required value engineering. The project scope was reduced and notice to proceed for construction was awarded in mid-2005.

### **Westover Library**

Construction documents were completed in late 2005.

### **ACAP George Mason**

The renovation was completed in 2005 and the facility is now in use by the Arlington Community Action Program's Head Start Program.

### **Fenwick Center**

The renovation was completed in 2005 and the facility is now in use by the Department of Human Services.

### **Central Library Children's and Young Adult areas**

Construction was completed and the renovated areas are now open to the public.

### **North Tract**

The County negotiated an innovative land swap with the adjacent developer that will swap parcels at the north and south end of the site and add two additional acres and \$25 million to the project. Work was started on the revised master plan of the site and preliminary design. Work was also substantially completed on a municipal marketing plan.

### **Synthetic Turf Field Installed**

Construction of the synthetic turf field was completed in fall 2005 at the Washington-Lee High School stadium.

### **Athletic Field Lights**

The design and construction documents were completed for Barcroft Park Field #6 and the Washington-Lee High School stadium.

### **Fairlington**

The design development phase was started and completed in 2005. Construction document production is 50% complete at the end of 2005 with completion of design forecasted for 2006.

### **Fire Training Academy**

Construction documents were completed in 2005. The County anticipates going to bid in the spring of 2006.

### **Arlington Assisted Living**

Remediation of the existing facility has started along with design development for the rehabilitation and expansion. The County and a non-profit were awarded a \$4.8 million HUD grant for the renovation work.

### **Minor Hill Reservoir**

The design was completed and the construction contract was awarded in 2005. Approximately 20% of construction was completed in 2005.

### **Ethan Allen Pump Station Rehabilitation**

The design was completed and the construction contract was awarded in 2005. Approximately 20% of construction was completed in 2005.

### **Chain Bridge Water Mains**

Installation of 6,000 feet of 20-inch water mains across Chain Bridge was completed in coordination with a Fairfax County project.

### **Barcroft Park**

The construction of Phase I at Barcroft Park was completed and the park re-opened in mid-summer 2005. The new facilities include four baseball/softball diamonds, a synthetic turf community field, three-level parking garage, concession and restroom building and site amenities.

### **Greenbrier Park**

The design and construction documents were completed and a bid was awarded for renovation of a 17.5 acre athletic complex, which includes three lighted diamond fields, a lighted synthetic turf stadium field, running track, bleachers, restrooms, concession stand, parking, site amenities and landscaping.

### **Fort Ethan Allen Community Canine Area**

The design was completed, a bid was awarded, and construction began in the fall of 2005.

### **Playgrounds**

Construction of three playgrounds was completed. Hayes Park features the County's first water playground, Mosaic Park features the County's first climbing play equipment and Penrose Park was upgraded with all new equipment. The design and construction documents were completed for Lyon Village playground, which began construction in fall 2005, and Walter Reed Community Center playground, which will begin construction in the spring of 2006.

### **Fort Scott Park**

Construction was completed and the park was reopened in late spring 2005. Work included lighted tennis courts, a basketball court, and a gazebo.

### **Virginia Highlands Park**

Construction was completed in 2005 for athletic field lighting, pathways and site amenities at the synthetic turf field. Construction was also completed on the restroom.

### **Arlington Mill Community Center**

The program requirements and schematic design were developed. The County is developing an RFQ to seek a public-private partnership to complete the project.

### **Donaldson Run Stream Restoration**

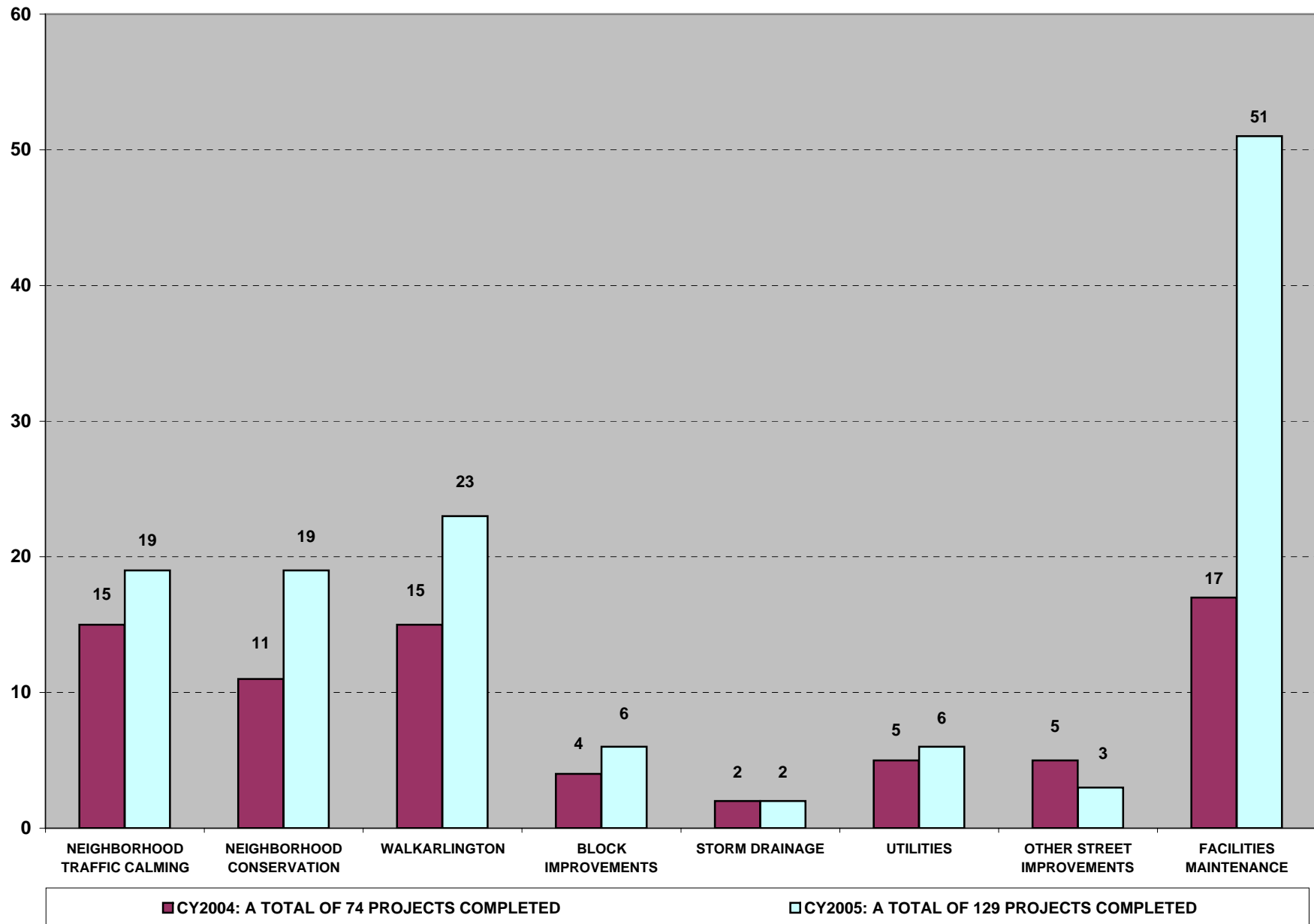
Construction drawings were completed and construction started in late summer with completion anticipated in 2006.

### **4 Mile Run Restoration**

The development of the 4 Mile Run Restoration Master Plan is ongoing with Board consideration anticipated in 2006.

**ADDENDUM V**

**COMPLETED INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS  
COMPARISON of CALENDAR YEARS 2004 and 2005**



This graph captures smaller, County-wide capital programs that install and replace infrastructure on County streets and at County facilities.  
Data as of 12/08/2005.