

NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS

'Sunflowers' grow in the garden and at City Hall

The "I Can Shine Sunflowers," a group of dedicated young gardeners, kicked off last Tuesday's City Council meeting with their performance of an old garden song favorite, *Inch by Inch, Row by Row, I can make this garden grow*.

The girls put their own spin on the song — with rap, beats, and some dance moves with help from staff at the Ruby Tucker Family Center, Jason Ellis and Gaynelle Bowden-Diaz.

Wearing T-shirts with a face made of vegetables, reading, "Small Changes, Big Results — Grow a Garden," the Sunflowers stole the show.

The *Inch by Inch* song and dance is in celebration of a community gardening project launched this spring in the Tancil and Hopkins Courts of the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority housing.

Residents are growing vegetables in 38 community gardening plots as part of a wide-ranging initiative, ACHIEVE,



COURTESY PHOTO

"The I Can Shine Sunflowers" gardening group performed an old garden song, *Inch by Inch, Row By Row*, for City Council last Tuesday.

led by the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria to increase residents' access to healthy foods and safe places to play. Children at the Ruby Tucker Family Center have their own garden where they're growing watermelons, strawberries, tomatoes and other vegetables.

The gardens are a community collaboration project that involves the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria, ARHA, the Virginia Coopera-

tive Extension and its Master Gardeners, the Neighborhood Restaurant Group and Chef Will Artley, Virginia Commerce Bank, Old Town Ace Hardware, DeCosta Inc., and many more community volunteers.

Master Gardeners offer classes for the children and residents on vegetables and Chef Artley of Evening Star gives cooking demonstrations and nutrition classes twice a month for kids and adults.

OBITUARIES

ROBERT L. ADAMS, of Alexandria, died May 9, 2010.

NICHOLAS GEORGE ANITOLE died May 11, 2010.

MARIE JEAN CERUZZI, of Alexandria, died May 7, 2010.

SHIRLEY E. DANIELS (age 74), of Alexandria, died May 9, 2010.

CLARICE DIKCIUS, of Alexandria, died May 12, 2010.

ROBERT STEWART DONALDSON (age 78), of Alexandria, died May 9, 2010.

NELLIE HERNDON FABER (age 90), of Alexandria, died May 4, 2010.

VERL H. GIBSON died April 30, 2010.

KARL B. HOCH JR., of Alexandria, died May 13, 2010.

JAMES D. MUNSON, formerly of Alexandria, died April 14, 2010.

KURT F. G. SCHMIDT (age 35), of Alexandria, died May 1, 2010.

NAOMI HOPE SPRECHER, of Alexandria, died May 14, 2010.

THOMAS ANTHONY SUMMERS (age 90), Of Alexandria, died May 3, 2010.

ANNIE LATNEY WINFREY (age 80), formerly of Alexandria, died May 13, 2010.



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