

Last week, Jason Murray, a member of the Advantage Alexandria Stewards, gave you an overview of the Advantage Alexandria program and its goal of uniting our region for a vibrant future. For the Advantage Alexandria program, the first step to creating our region's vibrant future is learning from residents what they feel is successful about the region and what can be improved, hearing their concerns, and listening to their ideas on what can be improved.

Here is our challenge to you, the people of the Alexandria Regional Community: Voice your feelings on what you think is important to the continued success of our region and also on what needs improvement. Just go to www.advantagealexandria.com and complete the Community Perception Survey, or contact the Alexandria Area Economic Development Commission for a hard copy survey. (The AAEDC can be contacted at (320) 763-4545 or aaedc@rea-alp.com).

Survey focus areas include: Quality of Life, Growth Related Issues, Education, Public Safety & Crime, Families Youth & the Elderly, Economy, Health & Health Care, Natural Environment, Art Culture & Recreation, and Sense of Community. There are multiple questions per focus area as well as comment areas within each section and at the end of the survey.

So far, the Community Perception Survey has received a number of comments on what is successful and what can be improved throughout the region. Comment subjects have included: Lakes and natural resources, education, cost of living, economic conditions, recreational opportunities, and many others.

The future is coming, and it will be here before we know it. It is our duty, as members of the Alexandria Regional Community, to take an active role in the formation and direction of our region. We encourage you to participate in the Regional Perception Survey and to find out more about the Advantage Alexandria initiative. The region can only be as successful as we want it to be.

Join us in uniting our region for a vibrant future at www.advantagealexandria.com.

Contributed by Patrick Kalina, Alexandria Area Economic Development Commission:
On behalf of Advantage Alexandria