



Upcoming Events:

May 5 onward

FARMERS MARKETS

- Market Square (301 King Street) Saturdays 5-10am
- King Street Metro Wednesdays 3-7pm

May 14 - 16

Mount Vernon Wine Festival & Sunset Tour

www.MountVernon.org

May 15

Officers, Gentlemen and Brawling Frontiersmen.

Fencing and martial arts in Colonial times demonstrations. Bladed weapons of the period exhibit. Carlyle House. \$10.

May 20

NOTICE community/membership meeting.

Crowne Plaza, 901 North Fairfax Street. 7-9pm
Social 7-7:30pm
Business meeting 7:30-8pm
Featured Speakers 8-9pm

Continued...

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City's Waterfront Plan Moving Forward

by Roger Waud

The City's Waterfront Development Plan is well underway and a series of public meetings have been held, with more to come, presenting recommendations and soliciting public input. Suggestions for enlivening festive and artistic activity on the Waterfront include: having a performing arts venue with outdoor festivals featuring celebratory/signature events; designing an art walk and bike path with signage to mark historical places; placing a three-masted clipper ship at the foot of King Street as a draw and symbol of the Waterfront's rich maritime history.

There are several overall guidelines that have been put forward. Among these are the following. Marina improvements shall be compatible with the historic character of the waterfront and surrounding neighborhoods,

and preserve the scale of the current waterfront area. Marina improvements shall apply environmentally friendly design and construction, and meet the objectives of the City's Environmental Action Plan. Transportation and parking are required to promote commerce and access recreation at the Marina, but should not impinge on the Waterfront experience. In addition, access to the Marina shall be facilitated by a variety of transportation modes, including transit, bicycle, boat, and foot.

According to the City's Waterfront Flood Mitigation Study an elevated pedestrian walkway would provide the most benefit to the city, serving as a floodwall. The walkway would extend from Duke Street to King Street and the additional section extends from Queen Street to Thompsons Alley.

For further information about upcoming public meetings and development plans for the Waterfront go to alexandriava.gov/Waterfront.

Stardust Restaurant Closes

by Christa Watters

Stardust Restaurant on Montgomery Street closed April 3 after a 12-year run in North Old Town. I still remember the neighborhood's excitement when it opened in the space formerly belonging to a dark, gloomy, and tired old steak house. I think I wrote the first review for our neighborhood newsletter of the time.



Owner Avery Kinkaid focused on making the space bright and airy and "fabulous" at all times, and the food prepared by Chef Pat Phatiphong was equally beautiful and interesting. A Thai trained in French cuisine, he was a Washington area pioneer of Thai and fusion cooking with a fresh, modern flair.

The décor started with the star theme and over time branched out into fabulous 40s and 50s "antiques," including several department store mannequins, sometimes dressed in leopard skin fashions or feather boas, sometimes in seasonal costumes. An array of old toasters and blenders, cocktail shakers and fancy bar accessories lined the walls. The bar featured fabulous cocktails as well as wines and beers that complemented the food, and was a popular weekend meeting spot.

Staff at Stardust always treated us like royalty. Avery and the staff were always generous to area nonprofits, including providing food for the Taste of Old Town North in Montgomery Park for many summers. We will miss them all, and miss having Stardust as one of the dining options (and a great place to celebrate birthdays) within walking distance for so many of us.

On a more upbeat note: Chef Pat is now available as a private chef for small and large functions alike. For more information, please e-mail Pat at stardust@mindspring.com



Monumental Find

by *Tania Leach*

I have crossed the intersection of Prince and Washington so many times in the years I've lived here and still I have never known what this statue was dedicated to. So in case I was not the only one, it seemed like the perfect Old Town monument to highlight in our first newsletter.

The standing male figure faces south with arms folded, representing a Confederate soldier viewing the battlefields after Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox. Inscribed:



“Erected to the memory of the confederate dead of Alexandria VA, by their surviving comrades. May 24th 1889.”

“This monument marks the spot from which the Alexandria troops left to join the confederate forces, May 24 1861.”

New Human Origins Hall at NMNH

by *Ann Kaupp*

On March 17, 2010 – the 100th anniversary of the National Museum of Natural History on the National Mall – the David H. Koch Hall of Human Origins opened. This long-awaited exhibition addresses one of the most profound questions humans have asked for thousands of years: What Does It Mean to Be Human? The exhibition is an epic journey of the human species and explains how the characteristics that define human beings today evolved over the past six million years. It is a collaboration of more than 60 national and international institutions – including the National Academy of Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Several original archaeological artifacts are featured including the only original fossil Neanderthal skeleton in the U.S. and the original fossil skulls of Cro-Magnon and the La Ferrassie Neanderthal. More information at: <http://humanorigins.si.edu/> including videos, interactive displays and content from the exhibition.

Recent State Legislation and Our Air Quality

by *Roger Waud*

The State legislature has passed two bills, Senate Bill 128 and House Bill 1300, which allow industries in Virginia (like the Mirant Plant in North Old Town) to buy credits so they can emit more pollutants into the air.

Earlier versions of the Bills had been amended to not allow such trading in Northern Virginia because it is a non-attainment area, i.e., air quality in our area does not meet Environmental Protection Agency standards. However Governor McDonnell used his power to further amend the legislation to strike the language that would at least protect air in Northern Virginia. The legislation as amended by the Governor was passed by the State legislature on April 21st. The danger for air quality in our area is that Mirant may challenge its State permit limits, arguing that the newly passed legislation allows it to buy credits to increase its emission levels.

A Mirant Community Monitoring Group meeting will address this issue. It is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 7:00-9:00 PM in the Sister Cities conference room 1101, City Hall. You can double check on this schedule by calling 703-746-4065.

AHA! “It Takes a Village...”

by *Ann Kaupp*

Since we met with NOTICE last September, At Home in Alexandria (AHA!) was invited to be a liaison to the City's Commission on Aging, became a 501C-3 charitable organization and a Virginia charitable fund-raising organization. If you would like a presentation given to your home owner's association, please contact board member Dick Moose at mooser2@verizon.net. <http://www.athomeinalexandria.org>.

Dog Daze

by *Tania Leach*

Don't forget the doggie happy hour at the Hotel Monaco on King Street. Tuesdays and Thursdays 5-8pm.



Penny: Ready for July 4th!

Animal Welfare League of Alexandria has Summer Camps in July and August for animal loving 3rd-8th grade children. Visit www.alexandriaanimals.org for details

Upcoming Events:

May 22

Library Book Sale and presentation by Chef James Parker “Fashion for Food”

Barrett Library
www.alexandria.lib.va.us

June 5

Spangled Banner Trail Bicycle Tour

10-mile bike tour through history. 703-746-4399 for details. Free.

June 5

Historic Alexandria Museum Gala

Cocktails, dinner and dancing to benefit Alexandria's museums and historic sites. 703-838-4554. \$150

June 19

Paint Alexandria 2010

Join Art League instructors as they 'paint' Old Town. Sessions with instructors throughout day. Painting, drawing and photography. 703-683-2323. Free.

July 10

USA & Alexandria Birthday Celebration

Music, activities, fireworks at Oronoco Bay Park. 4pm-10pm. Free.

Thank you to all “Take Notice” contributors!

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Become a member

Keep up-to-date on what's going on in the neighborhood!
www.notice-alexandria.org