



NOTICE Meeting

NOTICE Community Meeting

Thursday,
September 22,
7 p.m.

Old Colony Best Western
Conference Center
(Corner Second Street and
GW Parkway access road)
Parking is available.

Upcoming Events:

24th September
10 am - 3pm
**70th Annual Historic
Alexandria Tour &
Artisan Show**

Tour of Old Town homes,
call 703-683-5544 for more
details.

30th September - 2 October
**Fall Wine Festival and
Sunset Tour**

Mount Vernon Estate
& Gardens will have 16
local wineries giving wine
tastings and live blues right
on the Potomac river.
703-780-2000. \$35

18th September
3-4:30pm
**Ladies Tea at Gadsby's
Tavern**

Enjoy afternoon tea at the
historic Gadsby's Tavern.
703-746-4242. \$30

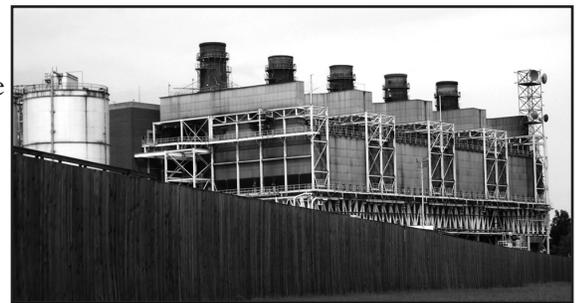
POWER PLANT CLOSING:

New Site Plan on Table *By Sally Anne Greer*

With the August 30 announcement that the GenOn Power Plant is due to close by October 2012, consideration of what will happen next on that site is high on the list of issues for North Old Town residents.

GenOn has agreed to retire the generating station by October 1, 2012, or, if the plant is needed beyond that date for reliability purposes, as soon as it is no longer needed. Under the new agreement with the City, GenOn is getting back the \$32 million that the City has held in escrow for the installation of bag houses to reduce pollution emissions. If the plant is not closed by January 1, 2014, according to the Washington Business Journal, the city gets a payment of \$750,000, but the plant could still be operating without improved emissions controls – the bag houses stipulated in the earlier agreement. In addition, the City will give the company a 5-year tax abatement once the plant shuts down.

The NOTICe Community Meeting on September 22 will feature speaker Gregory C. Staple, CEO of American Clean Skies. He will present the proposed re-purposing concept for the 24-acre site now occupied by the Gen-On power plant (formerly Mirant).



Mr. Staple's presentation will include a detailed, illustrated description of the concept plan, which includes 96 townhomes, 467 multi-family units, a 125-room boutique hotel, 89,000 square feet of office space, and 114,500 of retail and restaurants. The proposal also includes reference to producing electricity using natural gas. The extent and impact of this proposed use on the surrounding area needs further explanation, as does the question of whether

Rebuilding Together Alexandria Seeks Volunteers

Mission Statement: "To bring volunteers, communities, and resources together to improve the homes and lives of Alexandrians in need."

Rebuilding Together is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving affordable homeownership by repairing and revitalizing homes, free of cost, for those in need, including (but not limited to) the elderly, persons with disabilities, military veterans, and low-income families.

Founded in 1986 by Barbara Joseph as Alexandria Christmas in April, the organization held its first 'rebuilding day' in 1987. On that last Saturday in April, 8 homes and 2 shelters were repaired at no cost to the homeowners by 174 volunteers. This past year, over 1,000 volunteers worked on 102 homes

and non-profit agencies—throughout the year and on National Rebuilding Day (the last Saturday in April). Now known as Rebuilding Together Alexandria, we've repaired and rehabilitated over 1,300 Alexandria residents' homes and non-profit agencies with in-kind donations of labor and materials resulting in almost \$5.3 million worth of value.

If you know of a homeowner looking to apply for home assistance free of cost, or if you are an active citizen who would like to volunteer to help a neighbor stay in their home, please contact Rebuilding Together with any questions or to see if you qualify for our services. Call 703-836-1021 or visit www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM *By Tom Soapes*

The Alexandria Archaeology Museum documents Alexandria's 13,000 year history through artifacts, exhibits, tours, and hands-on exhibits.

One item on exhibit is the Wickham Musket that was found cocked and loaded in a back yard privy at 106 S. St. Asaph Street. The musket was manufactured by Marine T. Wickham between 1822 and 1834. Wickham was a master armorer at Harpers Ferry National Armory and produced muskets under government contract in Philadelphia. The weapon was found muzzle down and waterlogged but well preserved. Its metal parts were heavily corroded and frozen in firing position, priming powder was still in the pan, and a .69-caliber musket ball with wadding was in the barrel. The mainspring that snapped the hammer and flint was fractured. Scholars believe the musket was probably discarded during the Civil War.

Modern-day preservation of this musket took 1 1/2 years of careful work. Staff x-rayed the metal parts to assess their condition, which was sound. They removed surface corrosion in successive water baths over 6 weeks. A wax preservation process over 6 months allowed the wood to retain its original shape.

Other items found with the musket included a medicine bottle, a child's mug, a white ware sugar bowl, a porcelain jar, the base of an oil lamp, a wine glass, and children's toys. See these and other items at the museum, owned and operated by the City of Alexandria. It is located at 105 N. Union St., Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 327. Open Tuesday – Sunday, free.

Power Plant Closing...continued

Clean Skies has an agreement to acquire the rights to use this property. Among many other possible uses for the site is a suggestion made some years ago to build a college campus. This use would offer usable open space, meeting rooms and cultural activities.

Closing the power plant represents a victory for the citizens of Alexandria, who have fought for over ten years to clean up or close down the plant. As recently as May 10, 2010, The Washington Post reported that the plant was fined \$275,000 for permit violations by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Alexandrians now have an opportunity to seriously consider the long-term highest and best use for a 24-acre waterfront site on the bluffs overlooking the Potomac.

Come to this important meeting and bring your questions, ideas, and concerns. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. For more information about this and other issues of concern to our neighborhood, visit our website: www.notice-alexandria.org

School System Needs Tutors

Change a child's life forever. Be a tutor in Alexandria elementary schools and help a child read. The effect you can have on his or her life is profound. It will also change YOUR life. For information and to register visit <http://www.alexandriatutors.org/> or call tutor Louise Kenny, 703-717-9138.

Issues of Note from your Editor

By Christa Watters

Many of us who live in North Old Town think our part of town is one of Alexandria's best kept secrets: a great place to live that is close to the river and the bike path, within easy walking distance to great restaurants, a theater, dry cleaners, banks, grocery stores, and even a branch library. But things could be even better. So stay tuned to the issues. Come to our September 22 community meeting, where we'll consider what the future might hold for the GenOn site, and maybe get

updates on the Harris Teeter development, the bus barn site, left turns from North Washington Street, the Sheet Metal Workers Association Building, and a potential Middle-Eastern carryout proposed for the repair bays of a local gas station. Join us to vote on updated bylaws and to educate yourself and let your voice be heard. And let us know what else you think we should focus on: propose a topic for an article for the next newsletter or for discussion at our next general meeting. NOTICE is here to be the voice of North Old Town's residents.

What did we miss? We solicit your suggestions on articles or links (or subjects) you would find useful or other features that would be helpful to you. E-mail them to our webmaster, Greg@Notice-Alexandria.org.

Upcoming Events:

28th September

7:30-8:30pm

Civil War Lecture

The American Historical Society will be giving a civil war lecture at the Lyceum. Free

4th-10th October

Tall Ship Godspeed at Alexandria City Marina

Educational programming available. Hours vary. Free.

Farmers Markets

Old town has two wonderful farmers markets, if you haven't visited yet, make sure you stop by for all your fresh, local goodies:

Wednesdays 3-7pm

Located next to the King Street Metro at 1806 King Street.

Saturdays 5:30-11am

Located in the market square at 301 King Street.

Thank you to all 'Take NOTICE' contributors!

Christa Watters

Tom Soapes

Sally Anne Greer

Contact NOTICE

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Become a member

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