



## *Adopt an issue*

### **Are you following local Issues?**

NOTICE was founded to follow the issues of interest to North Old Town residents. If you are interested in following a particular issue relating to development, traffic, land use, beautification, or anything else that is relevant to our residents, please contact us. Adopt an issue, and write about it for our newsletter or Web site, report to us at meetings, and generally join the civic discourse. To volunteer or suggest an issue, call or e-mail us at the numbers or addresses below.

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## *Farmers Market*

Year round, rain or shine!  
Make sure you stop by to support our local farmers.

### **Saturdays 5:30-11am**

Located in the market square at 301 King Street.

### **City considers left turn restrictions on Washington Street**

*By Roger Waud*

The City's Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) staff has conducted an accident/safety analysis of the intersections along a 19-block stretch of Washington Street from Green Street on the south end to First Street on the north. Data for the 3-year period 2008-2010 indicate that left-turn failure-to-yield accidents during high occupancy vehicle (HOV) hours (7-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m., M-F) are significantly higher than for similar intersections along the Duke Street and Route 1 corridors. The study concludes that left turn prohibitions during HOV hours at certain intersections would be the most effective way to reduce the accident rate. Such restrictions would, however, change traffic patterns along both Washington Street and adjacent parallel streets, and reduce the accessibility of Old Town and areas adjacent to Washington Street. It would also make Washington Street more of a commuter thruway during HOV hours.

The T&ES staff has studied several alternative patterns for which intersections to restrict, including one permitting left turns only where there are dedicated left turn lanes. Less extreme alternatives would allow left turns at various intersections in between the north and south ends of Washington Street during HOV hours. Drivers wanting to turn left at an intersection where it is prohibited might go a block past the turn prohibition and make a series of three right turns, then crossing Washington Street on the street where they had wanted to turn left. Or they might continue on Washington Street to an intersection allowing left turns, proceed to a street parallel to Washington, and then turn left, continuing back to the street that was their original goal. Such behavior would increase traffic on the side streets adjacent to Washington Street, and the increase would be in proportion to the number of prohibited left-turn intersections on Washington Street. Obviously there are trade-offs to the left turn prohibitions, between the benefits (reducing accident rates at Washington Street intersections) and the costs (reducing accessibility to Old Town and increasing traffic on streets adjacent to Washington Street).

Are there other strategies, besides left-turn prohibitions, that could reduce the accident rate at intersections during HOV hours? Examples of possible alternate strategies might 

### **The President's Corner: Annual Meeting Coming Up – Save the Date**

The NOTICE Annual Meeting, at which we elect our board for the coming year, is coming up in early December. All our board members serve 1-year terms. Make your voice count – come out and vote. Social hour begins at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting itself starting at 7:30 p.m. Details about candidates and planned speakers for the program to follow the election will be sent out soon. Meanwhile, please mark your calendars.

Thanks,

Sally Ann Greer

**NOTICE Annual Meeting**  
Best Western Old Colony Inn  
Corner Second Street & Washington Street  
Thursday, December 8, 2011  
Sign-in and social time: 7 p.m.

Meeting: 7:30 p.m.

## History Notes: The Alexandria Lyceum *By Tom Soapes*

That yellow building on the corner of South Washington and Prince where the Confederate statue stands in the median strip – what is it?

The name of the building is The Lyceum, and it is owned and operated by the city as its local history museum and as the site for meetings and cultural events. It was built in the 1830s with public subscriptions as an educational facility for scientific and philosophical lectures – a part of the lyceum and public education movements of that era.

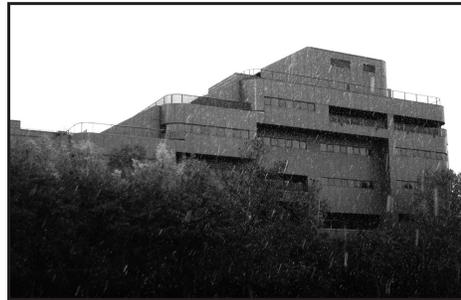
The Lyceum served the city in this cultural role for two decades. In 1861 it was seized by the Union Army and used as a hospital during the Civil War. After the war, it was a fashionable residence; in the mid-20th century it housed offices, eventually becoming so run down that it came close to demolition. Saved by a 4-3 vote in the Alexandria City Council, The Lyceum was renovated in the 1970s to become a state bicentennial welcome center. Today it fills the role for which it was constructed. Most of the lower level serves as museum space for the permanent collection. Temporary exhibitions are mounted in the room at the northwest corner. Lectures, concerts, and other civic and cultural events often take place in the elegant and spacious upstairs room, accessed by a handsome central staircase at the front. The elevator is currently being replaced.

The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St; Mondays-Saturdays and Sunday afternoons; exhibit admission \$2.00.

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## Sheet Metal Workers Union Building Sold *By Greg Ogden*

The Sheet Metal Workers Union building, located on the northeast corner of Fairfax and Pendleton streets, has been sold. The large, brick-fronted building is sheathed in metal on the side facing the river, lending it a battleship-like appearance. Its assessed value was reported as \$25 million. The sale was handled by Cassidy Turley, a commercial real estate services company. The 129,564-square-foot office building was purchased by Eakin, Youngentob Associates. They reportedly plan to convert the building into residential with 67 condos of 2000+ square feet. The building will have a community room and swimming pool.



*Sheet Metal Union Building from Oronoco Bay Park in October snow. Photo: Christa Watters*

The sale price was reported as \$21 million. The east side of the building has an unobstructed view of the Potomac River across Oronoco Bay Park. The building's present use is for commercial office space plus a café open for breakfast and lunch and a large, two-level pay-to-park garage managed by Penn Parking. This garage currently is less than half utilized at peak hours. The office space is partially vacant.

NOTICE will continue to monitor this development and keep its members updated.

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## Left Turn Restrictions...*continued*

be more stringent enforcement of speed limits by increasing police presence at intersections during HOV hours or changes to the timing of traffic lights (for example, the length of the yellow (caution) signal is longer at intersections in Arlington). It would be worth looking at the accident rates of comparable intersections in Arlington to see if this makes a difference.

We expect a community meeting on this subject. NOTICE will try to keep you updated on further developments on this issue, which has significant implications for our area and its residents and businesses.

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**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](mailto:Greg@Notice-Alexandria.org).

## Upcoming Events

### Holiday Tree Lighting

25th November  
Market Square  
301 King Street  
7pm. Free.

### 12th Annual Holiday Boat Parade of Lights

3rd December  
Alexandria Marina by the  
Torpedo Factory.  
4pm - dark. Free

### Christmas at Mount Vernon

25th November - 8 January  
Mount Vernon  
9am-4pm  
\$15 adult, \$7 child

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## NOTICE Board

*Sally Ann Greer, president*  
*Tom Soapes, treasurer*  
*Christa Watters, secretary*  
*Ginny Hines Parry*  
*Ernie Lehmann*  
*Greg Ogden*  
*Roger Waud*

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## Thank you to all 'Take NOTICE' contributors!

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## 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](http://www.notice-alexandria.org)