



## Volunteer Opportunity

NOTICE needs a volunteer to serve as webmaster. Greg Ogden has given outstanding service in upgrading and redesigning the NOTICE website, but he is leaving the area. Duties will include posting new information, including monthly minutes, newsletters, and updates on issues of interest, and working with the site host, who has been highly cooperative. Please contact any NOTICE board member if you would like to volunteer.

## NOTICE May Membership and Community Meeting

**Thursday, May 16, 2013**  
**Sign-in & social:**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Best Western Old Colony Inn  
1101 N. Washington Street  
(on the access road just off the Parkway) Parking is available.

**Program: 7:30**

### A Vision for North Old Town

Discussion of draft vision statement for North Old Town Small Area Plan

### Special Guests:

**Alexandria City Council members Paul Smedberg and Tim Lovain**

will offer a brief presentation and then take questions.

## Power Plant Update *By Tom Soapes, NOTICE President*

Several areas at the GenOn/NRG power plant are being evaluated for contamination: the coal storage pile area and the soil near where 3 underground storage tanks were located. The tanks were removed, but there was evidence of leakage from those tanks. Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) will determine if and how much clean-up of the site is necessary as well as supervise the remediation. VDEQ estimates this process will take from 6 months to 2 years. In the coal storage pile area, constituent elements and chemicals from the coal leached into the ground during 60 years of use. Contaminated soil has been excavated and removed. NRG will grade and place clean fill soil over the excavated area. NRG has submitted a grading plan permit application to the City. Before any future development can be approved, the applicant will be required to address any contamination issues.

## Printers Row town houses, *at the corner of North Royal and Third Streets*



Change is a constant in North Old Town. Work continues on Printers Row town houses, but several have already sold after a recent open house.

*Photos by C. Watters*

## A Vision for North Old Town *By Tom Soapes, NOTICE President*

The NOTICE member meeting on May 16 will focus on a draft vision statement for North Old Town that will serve as the theme for the upcoming revision of the Old Town North Small Area Plan. We expect the city will begin the small area plan process in January 2014 if the Council agrees to fund it in the FY 2014 budget.

The NOTICE Zoning and Land Use Committee has written the draft statement below over the past 3 months, and the committee welcomes your comments and recommendations. Please come to the member meeting, where you will have an opportunity to contribute your ideas and participate in the discussion.

Joining us at the meeting will be City Council members Paul Smedberg and Tim Lovain. They will take questions on any aspect of city government as well as talk about our vision, and theirs, for future development in our part of the city. If you prefer to submit your comments on the draft statement in writing, you can do so via [www.notice-alexandria.org](http://www.notice-alexandria.org). Click on "Contact NOTICE" and then click on any board member's name or the tab for all 8 members.

### DRAFT

### Vision Statement For Old Town North Small Area Plan

Old Town North is the gateway to historic Alexandria. Future development of this keystone neighborhood between Old Town, the Potomac River, and the George



## ***A Vision for North Old Town, continued...***

Washington Memorial Parkway must foster its connection to those places and to increasingly populated areas such as Northeast, Potomac Greens, and Potomac Yard.

Critical factors in evaluating future uses of this extraordinary location along the northern waterfront of Alexandria include:

- Creating a sense of place with innovative architecture, design, and open spaces.
- Maintaining water views and public access to maritime uses.
- Respecting existing residential neighborhoods.

- Contributing to a cultural milieu hospitable to museum and performance spaces that also serve as community meeting places.
- Preserving walkability and accessibility through multiple transportation modes without creating congestion.

As you review this draft statement, keep in mind that we are considering future development in all of North Old Town, not just the power plant site. Other sites are subject to redevelopment (e.g. Giant/ABC, Bus Barn, Health Department), and we may see changes there before we see them at the power plant site. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the May 16 meeting.

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## **Pickleball, A Fun Sport Named After a Dog.**

*By Ann Kaupp*

Thursday has become my favorite day of the week. It's one of the two days a week (the other is Friday) when the Charles Houston Recreation Center offers pickleball from 9 a.m. to noon. I've played tennis and racquetball, but pickleball now ranks as my favorite court sport. When I arrive at the Charles Houston Center I sign in and then sign up to be part of a pickup team. With two professional courts and one for practice, I usually can play as much as I like, and that is usually for two hours.

Those two hours provide good exercise, a lot of fun, and an opportunity to learn from more skilled players. Pickleball is played on a badminton sized court with a net. Players hit a perforated plastic ball with a wood or composite paddle similar to, but larger than, a ping-pong paddle. It's a fast and challenging game that offers a great workout but less stress on the body than most other court sports.

On April 18th, the Center celebrated one year of offering pickleball. Come on any Thursday or Friday morning and a Center volunteer or one of the regular players will be pleased to introduce you to the sport. You can also learn how this game originated on Bainbridge Island in Washington State, where it was named after the inventor's dog, Pickles.

*(The Charles Houston Recreation Center is at 901 Wythe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, Tel. 703-746-5552. Hours: Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m.)*

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## **NOTICE is for you**

**We Inquire:** *Staying connected with changes and issues that affect North Old Town.*

**We Inform:** *Circulate information to our members through newsletters and circulars, email and our website.*

**We are Open:** *Welcoming varying views of our role in North Old Town.*

**We Discuss:** *Remaining involved in finding alternative solutions and being tolerant of our neighbor's perspectives.*

**We Meet:** *Membership meeting three times a year, and a winter party in February.*

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## **Membership - Join NOTICE**

Single \$15, Family \$25, Sponsor \$50, Angel \$150+

NOTICE is a 501-C3 organization. Dues are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form and payment to:**

NOTICE; P.O. Box 25571; Alexandria, VA 22313

## ***Events***

### **Alexandria House Yard Sale**

**Saturday, May 18, 2013**

8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

700 North Royal Street  
(rain site across the street  
on the plaza of Alexandria  
House)

Something for everyone:  
Art, Housewares, Books  
China, Jewelry, Luggage  
Furniture, Clothes  
Treasures, Sports equipment  
and more...

### **Old Town Farmers Market**

#### **Saturdays 7 a.m.-NOON**

Located in the market  
square at 301 King Street.  
Find them online at:  
[www.farmersmarketoldtown.com](http://www.farmersmarketoldtown.com)

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## **NOTICE Board**

*President:* Tom Soapes

*Vice President:*

Sally Ann Greer

*Secretary:* Ann Kaupp

*Treasurer:* Frances Zorn

*Webmaster:* Greg Ogden

*Newsletter Editor:*

Christa Watters

*At Large:*

Ernest Lehmann

Roger Waud

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## **What did we miss?**

Email us your suggestions on articles, links, or subjects you would find interesting to you.

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

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## **Contact NOTICE**

703-684-1547

[contact@notice-alexandria.org](mailto:contact@notice-alexandria.org)