



New Book on African Americans of Alexandria

By Ann Kaupp

African Americans of Alexandria, Virginia: Beacons of Light in the Twentieth Century (The History Press; 160 pp. July 2013) tells the stories of 63 African Americans during the period 1920-1965 who were recognized for their contributions to the arts, business, civic and community activism, justice and law, medicine, the military, religion, science, and sports.

Despite the barriers of segregation, these individuals – some who rose to national prominence and some just ordinary Alexandria citizens – advanced the cause of civil rights and demonstrated vision, compassion, and leadership in the African American community and beyond. Authored by Char McCargo Bah, Christa Watters, Audrey P. Davis, Gwendolyn Brown-Henderson, and James E. Henson Sr., this book includes more than 50 photos. On sale at the Lyceum, the Alexandria Black History Museum, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble. For details, see www.changeagents818.wordpress.com. All author royalties, as well as profits from sales at City shops, will benefit a future Alexandria African American history project.

Development Update

More properties in North Old Town to be sold for redevelopment

By Fran Zorn

It's the Wild West out there — or rather here in North Old Town.

In late May City Council voted down, 6-1 (Paul Smedberg was our lone supporting vote) funding for a revision of the existing 1992 Old Town North Small Area plan in the 2013-14 budget. The small area plan provides a road map for planners and residents, and should reflect the city's vision of what the neighborhood should look like. Color coded zoning maps help reflect the plans. While other areas of town have a sedate two color pattern of residential and commercial zoning, North Old Town's is a rainbow of disconnected colors. Over the years many exceptions to the existing plan helped create that, and NOTICE hoped that a revision would help put some vision and order in place, especially with the closure of the NRG power plant on over 25 acres of river front property.

Why is this important? When large blocks of property are purchased for redevelopment, the owners need to know what's allowed: residential or commercial, high or low density, parking and green space requirements. Zoning affects quality of life, because it impacts traffic, streetscapes, tree canopy, light (tall buildings shade the canyon-like streetscapes they create) and air quality. Citizens need to know the guidelines in order to participate meaningfully in the planning process. The challenge of redevelopment continues. Many blocks in

North Old Town will be up for bid in the near future. They include:

- Metro's Bus Barn Property, the block bounded by Pitt, Wythe, Royal and Pendleton streets, which will be sold as the Bus Barn moves to Fairfax County.
- Three Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) properties:
 - The ARHA headquarters property at Pendleton and Fairfax streets.
 - Ladrey House, 300 Wythe Street, built 1968, current voting site for our precinct.
 - Hopkins-Tancil homes, built 1945, the remaining 2-square block area also known as the Berg.
 - The Giant/ABC property bounded by Montgomery, St. Asaph, Second, and Pitt streets.

That's a lot of area just in North Old Town – besides the power plant site – and ARHA has plans to sell 4 more large properties; most are the remaining public housing projects in the East Braddock Area.

Those projects should be considered in light of surrounding development across Washington Street and also at Potomac Yard. Without a master plan for our area, we must pay close attention to any and every development proposal. NOTICE intends to work closely with the City to be part of the process and keep residents informed right from the start of any new project.

City Must Upgrade Old Town Sewers By Tom Soapes

Alexandria is preparing to upgrade the Old Town sewer system. Much of Old Town, including North Old Town, is served by a system that combines storm water and waste water in a single sewage system. (The rest of Alexandria – 95% of the city – is served by separate storm and waste water systems.) The combined sewer system operates under a permit from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, which has been

City Continues Exploring Metro Station Site Choices

By Sally Ann Greer

Alexandria continues to study potential sites for the construction of a new Metro rail stop in the Potomac Greens area. The proposal under study involves two sites that impact the wetland area between the George Washington Memorial Parkway and Potomac Greens, one behind Target, and the possibility of "no build." The proposal also includes plans for pedestrian bridges over the existing railway and subway tracks in order to create pedestrian access between Potomac Yards and Potomac Greens. The "no build" option is offered to the citizens with the proviso that at least one pedestrian bridge will be built no matter what decision is made regarding the Metro stop.

The Environmental Impact Study requested by the Park Service is currently taking place. Completion was expected by the end of September, but is delayed. Other major factors at issue in the plans include cost, proximity to user population, visual impact from the Parkway, and construction impacts. The plans are the subject of considerable controversy.

NOTICE will present information and discussion of the Metro sites plan at its September 26 Community Meeting (details posted in this newsletter), with speakers including Alexandria Mayor William Euille and Kevin Munroe, the manager of Huntley Meadows Park, a 1500-acre wetlands preserve in Fairfax County. We have also invited Rich Bair, the City's director of Transportation and Environmental Services. To inform yourself about the three site options and other considerations about the Metro Station planning process, go to: www.potomacyardmetro.com.

City Must Upgrade Old Town Sewers *continued*

...renewed for 5 years. However, VDEQ is changing its requirements, and the city must develop and submit plans for a dual system in Old Town within 3 years.

The problem with the combined system is that the system overflows with almost any measurable rain, dumping waste water into the Potomac River at the foot of Pendleton Street and into Hunting Creek. Overflows occur 30-60 times each year.

The goal of the new system is to make Hunting Creek swimmable and fishable by reducing the sewage discharge by 90 percent.

City officials intend to hold community meetings over the next 9 months to discuss strategies for meeting the new standard. The goal can be achieved in a number of ways, but some would be highly disruptive to the community (i.e. torn-up streets and sidewalks). The City estimates the cost for this project as high as \$300 million. The entire length of Pitt and Royal streets plus the Marina Towers area will be affected. A presentation by the city on this topic is available at <http://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/tes/oeq/CSSPermitInfoMeetingandPublicHearingPresentation08052013.pdf>

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.*

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

NOTICE Community Meeting

When:

Thursday, September 26

Social: 7 p.m.

Meeting: 7:30 p.m.

Where:

Old Colony Inn

Conference Center

1101 N. Washington Street

(Use service road access)

Alexandria, VA 22314

Speakers:

William D. Euille,

mayor of Alexandria;

Rich Bair, director of

the City's Department

of Transportation &

Environmental Services;

and **Kevin Munroe,**

manager of Huntley Meadows

Park, a Fairfax County

wetlands preserve.

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

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