



NOTICE Annual Meeting

**Thursday,
November 21, 2013**

7:30 p.m.
*(Registration and social time
begin at 7:00)*

Best Western
Old Colony Inn
1101 N. Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
Parking available

At this meeting, members will elect the NOTICE board of directors for 2014. Up to nine directors may be elected, and the nominees are: Sally Ann Greer, Ann Kaupp, Ernest Lehmann, Howard Middleton, Tom Soapes, Christa Watters, Roger Waud, and Frances Zorn. Others may be nominated from the floor. If you cannot attend, a proxy form is available at www.notice-alexandria.org. Non-members welcome but may not vote. After the brief business meeting, the program includes:

Guest speaker:
Faroll Hamer
*Director, Alexandria
Department of Planning and
Zoning.*

Street Closings Notice

A US National Road Race championship will cause intermittent road closings in our part of town from 7 to 11 a.m. on Sunday, November 17. For details: www.nationalroadracingchampionships.us

The Mount Vernon Cotton Factory Building At 515 N. Washington Street *By Christa Watters*

The old Mount Vernon Cotton Factory building at 515 N. Washington Street was built in 1847.

It produced cotton sheeting using 4,000 spindles and 124 looms, and employed more than 150 people, mostly women who earned \$12 to \$17 a month.

During the Civil War, it was used as a prison for more than 700 rebel prisoners, who were housed there over the objections of the factory's owner. A report of the Committee of Military Affairs of the United States House of Representatives, 37th Congress, third session, found after the war that The Mount Vernon Cotton Company was entitled to payment of actual damages of upwards of \$5,000 resulting from the presence of the prisoners. Owner John Rozenkrantz reported mud footprints tracked onto valuable machinery, major water damage from the "rash and reckless turning on of water" from a street hydrant into a tank on the third floor, resulting in overflows that damaged the floors below. "The whole building is filthy with vermin," he added.

After the war, the building became a bottling works for the Portner brewing company. Closed by Prohibition, the property was sold to the Express Spark Plug Company, which operated a factory there from 1918 to 1928 or 1930. In 1935 the structure was remodeled, adding the columns, and converted to an apartment house. In 1981 a group of attorneys

purchased the building and turned it into office space, which is how it is still configured. In 1992 it was purchased by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, who used it as their headquarters until recently. Attentive viewers will see a figure in the glass cupola. It is a plaster dummy of a watchman murdered on the premises. Legend has it that the police hoped to lure the murderer back – but the mystery remains unsolved to this day.

Sources: A Seaport Saga, Portrait of Old Alexandria, Virginia, by William Francis Smith and T. Michael Miller; Building History of 515 N. Washington Street, IACP Web site; Congressional Report of the Committee of Military Affairs, House of Representatives, 37th Congress, third session, online document.



President's Report: This Year in NOTICE *By Tom Soapes*

This has been a busy year for NOTICE. We began the year working with city planners, hoping they would begin revising the Old Town North Small Area Plan, which dates back to 1993. We organized a walk through the neighborhood for the NOTICE Board and our Zoning and Land Use Committee, city planners, and elected officials to see our part of town from the ground up, including the now closed power plant and other sites slated for development in the near future. The Planning Department recommended

Council fund the Old Town North Plan next. Unfortunately, the city council directed the planning department to delay our plan and fund the Eisenhower West Small Area plan instead. Such plans are critical in setting rules for future development.

Anticipating the planning process, NOTICe developed a five-point vision statement for the revised small area plan:

1. Creating a sense of place with innovative architecture, design, and open spaces.
2. Maintaining water views and public access to maritime uses.
3. Respecting existing residential neighborhoods.
4. Contributing to a cultural milieu hospitable to museum and performance spaces that also serve as community meeting places.
5. Preserving walkability and accessibility through multiple transportation modes without creating congestion.

We presented this vision statement at the May NOTICe member meeting and received a favorable response. The NOTICe Zoning and Land Use Committee has since further defined these five points. When completed, we will use this expanded vision statement to evaluate proposals from developers.

Recently, we reviewed plans for redevelopment of 700 N. Washington Street. This location, occupied by a commercial building and a motel, will become residential apartments with commercial space on the ground floor. The developer has not decided whether the residences will be rental or condo.

Members of the NOTICe board toured several newly developed parks in the District, looking for ideas applicable to open spaces in North Old Town. Georgetown Waterfront Park is a 9.5-acre urban national park along the Potomac in DC between Key Bridge and the Washington Harbor. It contains several overlooks with views of the Potomac, a bike trail, trees, fountain plaza, benches, walking paths, a labyrinth, art, history, and other features focusing on the waterside setting. The park was funded through a public-private partnership with the National Park Service, National Park Foundation, local citizens' associations, Friends of Georgetown Waterfront Park, and a federal matching grant. It is well used by joggers, parents and nannies with children, picnickers, bicyclists, and folks basking in the sun on nice days.

We also visited Yards Park, located just east of Nationals Ballpark. It consists of open grass areas, water features, an elevated overlook, performance areas, and a riverfront boardwalk, financed by a public-private partnership.

Our November 21 member meeting will focus on future development in Old Town North. We have invited Faroll Hamer, Director of Planning and Zoning for Alexandria, to speak on how NOTICe and its members can best monitor and influence future development in this area. This will also be the "Annual Meeting" of NOTICe at which we will elect NOTICe board members for 2014. I hope to see you there.

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

Events

TC Williams Band Concert

December 4th, 2013
7:00 p.m.

The T.C. Williams High School Winter Concert features TC's own Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Bands, the Jefferson Houston Middle School Band, and the George Mason Elementary School Band.

Please come and enjoy the music.

Location: TC Williams Auditorium

Parking and admission are free!

NOTICe Board

President: Tom Soapes

Vice President:

Sally Ann Greer

Secretary: Ann Kaupp

Treasurer: Frances Zorn

Newsletter Editor:

Christa Watters

At Large:

Ernest Lehmann

Roger Waud

What did we miss?

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

christa@notice.org

Contact NOTICe

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contact@notice-alexandria.org