



NOTICE Winter party

NOTICE invites you to its
Annual Winter Party

**Friday, February 19,
7-9 p.m.**

Kingsley Party Room
*The Kingsley, 500 Madison
Street, Alexandria, VA 22314*

Spend a cozy evening enjoying
delicious food and drink and
support the silent auction,
our only annual fundraiser.
Mix and mingle with your
neighbors – and we've invited
the mayor and city council and
other local officials. We hope
to see you there!

Presidential Primary March 1

On Super Tuesday, March 1,
2016, Virginia voters will head
to the polls to participate in the
Presidential primary elections.
Voting will be taking place at
your normal polling location
(Ladrey Precinct for North Old
Town residents) or by absentee
ballot.

The deadline for voters to apply
for an absentee ballot and vote
absentee in-person at the City
of Alexandria's Office of Voter
Registrations and Elections
(132 N. Royal St, Suite 100) is
Saturday, February 27.

Please visit <http://www.alexandriava.gov/Elections> or
call (703)746-4050 for more
information.

Work on Old Town North Small Area Plan Update Continues

By Tom Soapes, NOTICE President

Revision of the Old Town North Small Area Plan is progressing. The framework was set in a five-day charrette process in November, in which many North Old Town residents participated. During this intensive process, the advisory committee and city staff, working with input from the public, developed a plan framework built on the following guiding principles:

1. Identify and enhance Old Town North's unique character and sense of place ... and promote an active, balanced community. The objectives of this principle include a variety of building types and heights appropriately scaled for the surrounding community, quality design, active street frontages, and high quality pedestrian oriented streetscapes.
2. Encourage multi-modal transportation using the existing street grid and grid extensions to promote an auto-independent life style.
3. Encourage a variety of housing choices that are affordable for a diverse range of residents.
4. Create an eco-district model with sustainable environmental solutions.
5. Expand publically accessible passive and active open space which would accommodate recreation and cultural activities.
6. Enhance the historic elements and resources of Old Town North, including reinforcing the special character of Washington Street.
7. Attract unique uses that serve as an economic engine to grow and sustain a balanced economy, including reinforcing the retail focus areas on St. Asaph and Montgomery Streets and ensuring flexibility in land use to accommodate changing economic conditions.

(Fuller discussion of these points is available on the city's web site.)

The advisory committee has established subcommittees to delve deeper into these themes. The Planning, Land Use and Design and Housing subcommittee met the morning of January 20 and discussed design opportunities including landscape screening of surface parking, incentives to redo blank walls, the need to carefully use density (Floor Area Ratio [FAR]) to generate the best uses of redeveloped sites, the best ways to activate streets at night, how to attract unique uses to the NRG site, how to make the area attractive to millennials, and the best designs for mixed-income housing.

The subcommittee on Open Space, Recreation and Cultural Activities and Historic Preservation also met on January 20. Its objectives include identifying new open space and enhancing existing space; variety of design; keeping Montgomery Park as the heart of the existing community; creating a linear park, greenways and vistas, as well as more green space in the North, particularly looking ahead on the power plant site; connectivity of spaces and amenities, including to Daingerfield Island and adjacent parts of Alexandria; exploring interior and exterior spaces for activities and community facilities; identifying new public art opportunities; discussing the possibility of establishing a cultural district; preserving existing cultural uses and institutions; and exploring the use or re-use of the existing train tracks.

These and other subcommittees on a) Transportation and Environment and b) Economic Development will continue to meet during the winter and spring to further refine the plan framework concepts and report to the full advisory committee. Staff will test the concepts as they evolve. All meetings are public and are announced on the city web site, www.alexandriava.gov

Environmental Cleanup Progresses At Power Plant Site

By Elizabeth Chimento, PRGS Monitoring Group member

As reported earlier, in preparation for cleaning up the oil from NRG's leaked underground storage tanks, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) put together a Corrective Action Plan. The plan delineated contamination tested sites on the property that require remediation. In order to actuate the cleaning process, permits had to be secured and equipment had to



Environmental Cleanup Progresses At Power Plant Site *Continued*

be installed. The VDEQ reports that all remedial process systems are now in place and decontamination can begin. In February 2016, the agency will provide an overview describing the process.

Prior to VDEQ's submission of the Corrective Action Plan for the NRG property, the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) requested additional testing on the site at the bulwark area, south of the plant. Concerned about possible seepages in the bulwark, DDOE requested NRG to draw up a work plan for testing and remediating that area also. That report is expected by DDOE in the near future.

Development Updates

Work Continues at Old Health Department Site

Brightleaf & Cooper have announced that much of the ongoing work is currently occurring inside the Cooper town houses on Oronoco.

They will also continue with the following exterior and site work in the coming weeks:

- Complete exterior masonry for Oronoco Street town houses
- Complete framing, roofing and begin masonry at the Oronoco town house garages
- Complete concrete retaining wall and add brick veneer near Pendleton Street
- Begin framing of the garages for the Saint Asaph Street town houses
- Final phase of demolition work on the Old Health Department Building

Manager Garrett W. Erdle said he hopes that Dominion Power, Verizon and Comcast will begin their undergrounding work within two weeks. Scheduling this work is out of Brightleaf & Cooper's control; however, they will be notified a day or two in advance of their plan to be onsite. Mr. Erdle is reachable at 703-625-3674 (cell).

Old Colony

The owner of the Old Colony has filed a revised Parkway elevation with the City and expects a public hearing before the Planning Commission at City Hall on April 5 and City Council on April 16th. The NOTICE Board has not yet seen the new elevation.

Edens Giant/ABC Site Development

Edens, the developers of the Giant/ABC site, has filed redevelopment plans with the City of Alexandria. (Notices have been posted on the property.) They will hold a community meeting February 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Colony Best Western Inn, 1101, N. Washington Street. They anticipate a March 1 public hearing Before the Planning Commission and before City Council on March 12. See the City web site for dockets with details.

Report on Governor's Environmental Committee:

Ernie Lehmann, a member of the NOTICE board, is one of the citizen members representing Virginia in this group, which studies environmental issues in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Officials and citizens from all the states in the watershed are addressing such issues as finding creative ways to finance improvements to sewer infrastructure and other ways to better water quality.

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

Report on Airport Noise Committee:

NOTICE board member Clarence Tong is an alternate member of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) community working group focused on addressing aircraft noise in and out of Reagan National Airport. These members representing jurisdictions in Northern Virginia, Washington DC, and Maryland are examining a range of issues including departure and arrival flight patterns, size of aircraft, and hours of operations.

NOTICE Board 2016

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What did we miss?

Email us your suggestions for articles, links, or subjects of interest to Christa Watters at watrsedge@aol.com

Contact NOTICE

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