



Save the Date

Old Town North Small Area Plan

Community Meeting, Location TBD
May 12, 7:00 p.m.

Hear a full review of the Small Area Plan Advisory Group's progress to date. Take the opportunity to comment and ask questions. This meeting, organized by the City, will take the place of the Spring Community Meeting of NOTICE, as we believe this is important information for all of us.

Alexandria Walk for Animals

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria will hold its 2016 Walk for Animals on Sunday, May 1, from 9 a.m. to noon. The event is a fundraiser for the League, which operates the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter and Animal Services. In Alexandria. The League is the main organization helping homeless and abandoned animals in our city. If you and friends or neighbors wish to start up a team (you could represent NOTICE or North Old Town generally, or some other organization) you can raise funds while walking together with your animals. Adult registration is \$25, children \$15, dogs free! Sponsorship opportunities also available. To learn more about the Walk, please go to www.alexandrianimals.org/walk.

Motorcoach Task Force

Alexandria faces the loss of all three of its current short-term motor coach parking locations (15 spaces total), as well as the loss of space used for unloading and loading on the Strand where queuing occurs during the peak season. These losses will occur because of pending development along the Waterfront and within Old Town. The city has reactivated the Ad Hoc Motorcoach Task Force to study this problem, which affects North Old Town. The task force held its first meeting in March and will meet several more times this year. Anne White-Olson represents NOTICE on this task force. Further information on this subject is available on the city's web site: www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/tes/motorcoach/2016-03-10%20Motorcoach%20task%20force%20mtg%201%20pres_FINAL.pdf

Giant/ABC Redevelopment Approved *By Tom Soapes*

The Alexandria City Council and the Planning Commission have approved the proposed redevelopment of the Giant/ABC site as outlined by the property owner, Edens Corporation. The approved plan includes a zoning change from CG (Commercial General) to CDD#25 (Coordinated Development District #25), which allows both commercial and residential use. Edens plans to construct 51,000 square feet of ground floor commercial space and up to 232 residential units. Building heights will range from two stories on the northeast corner to six stories on the southwest corner with two levels of below grade parking. Building heights vary from 25 feet on the northeast corner to 67 feet on the north to 77 feet on the southeast. The design includes a variety of breaks and indentations to vary the massing of the building. Varieties of building materials and fenestration patterns will also break up the massing. Utility rooms, trash storage, and loading and garage access will be near the middle of the structure and off the street. Access to the loading and parking levels will be from First Street with egress onto Pitt Street.

The Virginia ABC store will return to the site, but other specific tenants have not been identified. The developer says they are seeking a variety of uses for the ground floor commercial areas, including specialty grocery, furniture or home goods stores, service businesses, and restaurants. Outdoor dining is planned along Montgomery and St. Asaph Streets.

The residential units, approved as rental, will be mostly one-bedroom units with some studios and two-bedroom units. The residential lobby will be mid-block on Montgomery Street adjacent to a public plaza. There will be four outdoor amenity spaces, including a ground level community green on the northeast portion of the site. Roof-top amenities and, on St. Asaph Street, some second level terraces will be included for residents. The residential plan includes nine units of affordable housing.

Some residents of North Old Town expressed concern about the impact of the project on traffic. Backups at First and North Washington received special attention. Edens will provide \$50,000 to the city to retime the lights at that intersection. The overwhelming sentiment of the Council and Planning Commission was that this project will revitalize an under-used block and bring needed retail and new residents to the area. The proposal is consistent with the existing small area plan and with thinking about the revised small area plan now in progress that designates St. Asaph Street as a commercial focus area. The design for Montgomery Street begins development of a link between that block and blocks to the east ending at the Potomac River.

Other steps remain. The developer must submit a site plan and receive the necessary demolition and construction permits. The City will also schedule community meetings prior to construction regarding construction processes.

New Neighborhood Police Liason Reports to NOTICE

Alexandria Police Sergeant Sean Casey attended the most recent NOTICE Board meeting to introduce himself. Sgt. Casey serves as the police liaison to both our neighborhood and the Old Town area. He also introduced Officer Stephanie Frank, who patrols our North Old Town Neighborhood. Both work 12 hour night shifts. Sgt. Casey has replaced the former North Old Town police liaison, Sgt. Jim Craige, who retired from the APD at the end of last year.

Sgt. Casey said crime overall was down in our neighborhood between Jan. 1 and March 14 this year. The majority of reported crimes were centered on businesses such as Harris Teeter, the hotels, and the Giant site; very few affected residents. A few were related to the Mental Health Center, a few were nuisance crimes like drinking on the waterfront. Ten vehicle larcenies were reported near businesses, 6 of which involved cars left unlocked. No violent crimes or crimes against persons were reported during this winter period. Residents can reach Sgt. Casey at 703-380-6193 or e-mail him at sean.casey@alexandriava.gov to discuss policing issues. The best time to reach him is late afternoon. Officer Frank is at stephanie.frank@alexandriava.gov

Small Area Plan Revision *By Tom Soapes*

The Small Area Plan Advisory Group and its four subcommittees have held multiple meetings over the winter, making substantial progress in identifying potential redevelopment sites and strategies for exploiting those sites for the good of the community. Strategies include affordable housing for a mix of incomes and ages, balance and flexibility of land use, reinforced retail focus areas, active street frontages, improved access and connectivity, and enhanced and expanded open space.

North Old Town includes at least 14 approved, pending, and future sites for redevelopment. We are considering needed zoning, height, floor area, and traffic management changes as well as possible new uses for the sites over the next 20 years. Design parameters for the power plant site include required open spaces, preservation of river views and access, its industrial heritage, street grid, innovative land use, building scale, and site design. City staff continues to analyze the group's ideas in relation to underlying data. The next Advisory Group meetings will be held April 28 and May 26, 7:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. A community meeting on May 12, 7:00 p.m., location TBD, will provide a full review of the Group's progress and the opportunity to comment on all of the issues the group has considered. This meeting will be in lieu of the usual May NOTICE member meeting. In late June the Group will host a set of mini charrettes providing the community with an opportunity to weigh in on the details of the plan. The NOTICE Board urges you to attend these meetings.

Combined Sewer System. Long Term Control Plan

The Ad Hoc Combined Sewer System Plan Stakeholder Group (Stakeholder Group) will hold its next meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 7 p.m. at 301 King Street (City Hall) in City Council Workroom (2nd floor). The Stakeholder Group will provide input to City staff on a recommended Long Term Control Plan Update for the City's combined sewer system.

This plan is required by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) to meet new permit requirements and must be submitted by to VDEQ by August 23, 2016. This meeting is open to the public. In addition, the City will hold a public meeting on April 21, 2016, 7-9 p.m. in the Sister Cities Conference Room (Room 1101) at City Hall to present the proposed framework of the Long Term Control Plan Update. The City is also soliciting feedback on the proposed framework on Long Term Control Plan Update through AlexEngage, an online forum for civic engagement. More information can be found at https://engage.alexandriava.gov/portals/191/Forum_537/Issue_3543. For more information about the Combined Sewer System, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/sewers.

Mount Vernon Trail Temporary Closing (Revised Dates)

The dates given below are updated from the original closing information provided by NRG. For current information on the Potomac River Generating Station see: <http://prgsonline.org/>

NRG Energy will perform maintenance on the Mount Vernon Trail along the Potomac, directly behind the closed former power plant at 1400 Royal Street in Alexandria, in April. The trail will be closed from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tues. April 5-Fri. April 8; Mon. April 11-Fri. April 15; and on Mon. April 18. During these periods, equipment and materials will be moved across the trail. Trail users should walk, bike, or run on the Mount Vernon Trail Alternate from Mile Post 11.0 near the south fork of the Alexandria Water Front Trail/ Mount Vernon Trail to the north fork of the two trails north of Marina Towers at approximately Mile 11.5.



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

Old Colony Redevelopment Meetings before PC and Council

The Old Colony redevelopment project is slated to come before the Alexandria Planning Commission at City Hall on May 3, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. under new business. Find the preliminary docket at: http://legistar.granicus.com/alexandria/meetings/2016/5/1518_A_Planning_Commission_16-05-03_Docket.pdf

The City Council is scheduled to consider the proposal on Saturday, May 14. Both are public meetings. Consult the City's web site, alexandriava.gov, to check for final dockets.

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

703-684-1547

contact@notice-alexandria.org