



Events

Alexandria/USA Birthday Celebration

July 9, 6-10 p.m., Admission: Free, Fireworks, Alexandria Symphony, food.

Oronoco Bay Park
100 Madison Street.
www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/alex-bday

9th Annual Del Ray Music Festival

July 23, 3-8 p.m. Admission: Free; pets welcome

Mt. Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301
www.DelRayMusicFestival.com

Summer Concerts at Carlyle House

Saturdays June 11, July 23 and August 20, 7-9 pm.

Admission: Free; \$5 donation suggested

Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax Street
703-549-2997
www.carlylehouse.org

The Old Town Arts and Crafts Fair

June 11, 2016 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Admission: Free

Market Square, 301 King Street
703-836-2176
www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/summer

More than 80 arts and crafts vendors. Visitors can browse artisan stalls and purchase handmade pieces in the heart of Old Town.

Small Area Plan Process Moves Forward *By Tom Soapes*

At a May 12 Community Meeting, Alexandria City staff led by Planning and Zoning Senior Planner Nancy Williams briefed a large group of residents on the revision of the Old Town North Small Area Plan. In 1974, the city slated this area for transition from an industrial area to a mixed-use neighborhood. The 1992 Small Area Plan strengthened that mixed-use character through zoning and other urban design strategies. The revision underway takes account of pending and planned redevelopment as well as changes in the makeup of the community over the intervening years.

Since 1990, the population of North Old Town has increased from 2,087 to 3,118; the number of housing units increased from 1,413 to 2,280; the number of households increased from 1,349 to 2,101. Interestingly, the average household size declined from 1.54 to 1.48, suggesting an increase in the number of single-member households. Since 1992 residential land use acreage increased 58.9% while office/warehouse space declined 27.5%. Other commercial space increased 5.9%. Another big change in North Old Town since 1992 was the closing of the power plant located at the end of North Royal Street, something the 1992 plan did not anticipate. These changes and demographic trends in the area, including relatively high income and education levels, are major considerations for the advisory group working on plan revisions.

The citizen advisory group and city staff are working through many proposals and themes for land use and design, housing, open space and recreation, transportation, infrastructure and environmental sustainability, historic preservation, and economic development. Among the major themes are developing an urban village; enhancing the walkable character of the neighborhood; designating retail corridors; identifying sites for redevelopment and rezoning; examining the potential for an arts corridor; preserving and increasing open spaces, green areas, and tree canopy and making the area more environmentally sustainable. Changing demography is making this area more hospitable to neighborhood retail through the increase in both the number of people who work here and in adjacent neighborhoods during the day, and those living here and in growth areas nearby.

Future work on this plan will include a mini-charrette, at which residents can provide additional feedback. The charrette is planned for late June, with a specific time and place to be announced soon. Over the summer, City staff will be conducting studies of parking, streetscape improvements, transportation, sewer and storm water treatment, development and marketing strategies, and potential innovative uses of various spaces. We urge all residents to stay involved in this process.

You may look at the most current information on the plan's process and progress, including the presentation on the May 12 Community Meeting, on the City's Web site: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/planning/info/default.aspx?id=86032>

New Farmer's Market at Montgomery Park

The Old Town North Canal District Farmers Market opened in early May. The market, sponsored by the Old Town North Community Partnership, is open Thursday afternoons from 3 to 7 p.m. on the small parking lot at the western side of the tennis courts in Montgomery Park (901 North Royal Street). Vendors include Twin Springs Fruit Farm, Cascade, Montoya's Farm, Grace's Pastries, Bread & Water company, and relayfoods.com. Come and explore this new venture, enjoy fresh produce and baked goods, and meet and greet neighbors – all right here in the neighborhood, without having to walk or drive downtown.

Development Update *By Tom Soapes*

Changes are occurring in North Old Town. As previously reported, City Council approved the plan to redevelop the Giant/ABC site. This project by Edens developers includes 55,000 square feet of ground floor retail and 232 apartments. Expect construction activity to begin later this year.

At the Council's May 14 meeting, they unanimously approved the redevelopment of the Best Western/Old Colony Inn. This project will approximately double the number of rooms and add a full-service restaurant. The footprint of the building will stay the same, but the height will double to four stories. The latter change generated intense opposition from the neighboring residential units. Neighbors also expressed concern about the potential impact on parking in this area. The Council approved a parking reduction at the site despite studies showing that at certain times the parking provided by the hotel would be inadequate. The National Park Service expressed concern about the visual impact of the larger building from the George Washington Memorial Parkway, but later dropped its opposition without endorsing the project. The Council made a few small changes in the proposal with regard to landscaping and restaurant hours. NOTICe joined the opposition to the project before the Board of Architectural Review, the Planning Commission, and the City Council.

Construction has begun on North Washington Street at the site of the old Travel Lodge. The motel and commercial building have been demolished. A residential/commercial development is planned.

With regard to development on the east side of Washington Street, a site plan for the addition of new structures to the old Cotton Factory building on North Washington (now known as The Mill @ 515) has been released, and that project is ready to begin construction.

Crosswalk Art Consideration

The Department of Transportation and Environmental Services is investigating the feasibility of an artistic crosswalk in this area as part of the Public Art program. The project would be sponsored by the Alexandria's Office for the Arts as an OTN Temporary Public Art program at a cost of approximately \$25,000. The designs by artists are transferred to decals on the crosswalks. If feasible, it would be a pilot element of the potential Old Town North Arts Corridor. More information will be provided for the Advisory Group and community about the process during the upcoming SAP Charrette.

To see a crosswalk art project using the 12 animal symbols of the Chinese Zodiac, recently installed in Washington, DC at the intersection of Seventh and H streets, go to:

<http://www.popville.com/2016/05/chinatown-crosswalkbarnes-dance-bonanza/>

<http://www.charlesbergenstudios.com/blog/2015/7/14/chinatown-dc-barnes-dance-artwork>

As always, your comments are invited.

Small Business Zoning Presentations for June

The Department of Planning and Zoning will present draft Small Business Zoning Text Amendments to the Planning Commission at its second June public hearing on Thursday, June 9, at 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 2nd floor of City Hall, 301 King Street. Please note the new date – This item was previously advertised for the Planning Commission's public hearing on Tuesday, June 7.

Planning staff also will present a Zoning Text Amendment Report to City Council on Saturday, June 18. These meetings are open to the public and members of the community are encouraged to attend and participate. Visit the Small Business Zoning webpage for background on the zoning revision process, including previous iterations completed by City staff. For additional information, contact Sara Brandt-Vorel or Taryn Toyama at pczoning@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4666.

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

Doggy Happy Hour

Starting Tuesday 28 June
Recurring weekly
on Tuesdays until 6
September.

5-8pm

Jackson 20 + Hotel Monaco
Cocktail specials, treats and
water for doggies.
Free, drinks sold separately

Fathers Day Tours

June 19

- **Friendship Firehouse.**
Free for fathers and their families.
- **Gadsby's Tavern.** Free tours for Dads from 1-5pm.
- **The Apothecary** Free tours for Dads every half hour from 1:15-4:45

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What did we miss?

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

Contact NOTICe

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