



Good Things in North Old Town

The Washington Post/Express Best of DC 2016 poll voted The Art League, located in North Old Town's Montgomery Center, **Best Place to Take Classes** in the DC area. Congratulations to the Art League, which teaches painting, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, print making, and many other classes to some 7,000 students annually.

On another front, we hear the apples sold by Twin Springs Farm at the **North Old Town Community Farmer's Market** were voted "Best Apples in DC." It sure is nice to have a Farmer's Market in our part of town! Thanks to Margaret Townsend, the Old Town North Community Partnership, and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities for making it happen.

Intersection Improvements: The city's Department of Transportation & Environmental Services has announced plans to begin construction soon at six intersections in Old Town under a New Freedom Grant Project. Three of those intersections are located in North Old Town, at the intersections of Pendleton & St. Asaph, Pendleton & Columbus, and Washington & Oronoco streets. The purpose of the construction is to improve pedestrian safety and access to transit stops and will include the installation of curb extensions, curb ramps, and countdown pedestrian signals. More information about the project can be viewed here:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/dpi/info/default.aspx?id=85740> and <https://www.alexandriava.gov/localmotion/info/default.aspx?id=93440>.

Small Area Plan Moves Toward Completion *By Tom Soapes*

Work continues on revision of the Old Town North Small Area Plan. The citizens' advisory group met three times in October and November, and city staff hosted a community meeting November 7. Staff released draft chapters on Open Space, Recreation and Cultural Activities; Historic Preservation; Housing; and Economic Development. Goals and objectives in these drafts include:

1. Open Space

GOAL: Expand, enhance, and connect publicly accessible passive and active open space.

OBJECTIVES:

- Use open space to connect neighborhoods to open views and access to the wider viewsheds beyond them.
- Accommodate a variety of recreational and cultural uses.
- Promote Montgomery Park as an anchor of the community.
- Prioritize green/open space on the power plant site.

2. Historic Preservation

GOAL: Identify, protect, and enhance the historic architectural resources of North Old Town.

OBJECTIVES:

- Promote cultural richness and understanding of the history of the neighborhood.
- Enhance the special character of Washington Street.

3. Housing

GOAL: Encourage a variety of housing choices that are affordable for a diverse range of ages and incomes.

OBJECTIVES:

- Explore innovative housing solutions.
- Fully utilize tools available to expand the number of affordable housing units.
- Incorporate community spaces in residential developments.

4. Economic Development

GOAL: Attract unique uses that serve as the economic engine to grow and expand a balanced economy.

OBJECTIVES:

- Reinforce the retail focus area and further strengthen St. Asaph Street as a concentrated retail corridor.
- Strengthen hospitality related economic opportunities.
- Ensure flexibility in land uses to accommodate changing markets.

The next community meeting will be December 15, location TBD. At that meeting we anticipate draft chapters on Infrastructure and Environmental Sustainability and Planning, Land Use, and Design will be released. Transportation and Implementation chapters should be released in January 2017.

To see complete draft chapters that have been released go to: www.alexandriava.gov/86032.

Annual Meeting Draws Full House

The NOTICE Annual Meeting, held at the Old Colony Inn on November 17, featured Congressman Don Beyer as the main speaker. The Congressman spoke about the recent election, problems facing the country and the region, and addressed the Combined Sewer issue as it affects Oronoco Bay. Following his remarks, he took multiple questions from the audience.

The meeting was also the occasion of our civic association's annual board member election. Ten candidates, including eight of the nine incumbents, ran for the board's nine seats. Those elected by written secret ballots are: Agnes Artemel, Matt Hennesy, Howard Middleton, Anne White-Olson, Tom Soapes, Clarence Tong, Christa Watters, Roger Waud, and Frances Zorn. Election of officers for the coming year will take place at the December 12 board meeting.

We also used the occasion to thank and celebrate retiring longtime board member Ernie Lehman, shown receiving a certificate of appreciation naming him a lifetime board member emeritus and gifts including carbon credits in recognition of his role in environmental efforts.



(L-R) Tom Soapes, president;
Frances Zorn, board member, and
Ernie Lehmann, outgoing vice president.

Developer Selected for Tancil-Hopkins Blocks *By Fran Zorn*

The Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority recently selected EYA as the developer for the 2-block project that is now the Tancil-Hopkins public housing project. The property is bounded by Pendleton, Fairfax, Royal, and Princess streets. At a meeting held recently at Alexandria House, ARHA Executive Director Roy Priest indicated that the developer would likely be requesting increased density as they redevelop the site. EYA was the developer for the Oronoco Condominium in North Old Town, and is the developer of the Robinson Terminal South Waterfront property.

Regarding other nearby properties, Mr. Priest said that the Ladrey House elderly and disabled housing will be renovated by ARHA tier by tier, with no residents displaced in the process. The Former ARHA headquarters building at the corner of Pendleton and Fairfax Streets has not yet been sold.

Motor Task Force — Results of the 5th and Final Meeting *By Anne White-Olson*

The Alexandria Motor Coach Task Force met for the final time on November 10, 2016. The City's representatives presented their final recommendations based on the Task Force's work during the year. These recommendations and a complete report of the Task Force's work will be presented to the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee for final approval.

Highlights of the final recommendations follow:

Loading and Unloading of Motor Coaches

1. Staff proposes the addition of loading and unloading at 100 N. Royal Street (east curb), extending the existing location on King Street, and 100 N. Royal Street (west curb) extending the existing location at Gadsby's Tavern. Times will be subject to the discretion of the Director of Transportation and Environmental Services following a pilot program during the peak season in 2017.
2. During future periods where waterfront construction impacts tour bus operations the staff recommends (a) suspending the use of loading and unloading location at the Unit Block of King Street, and (b) encouraging all tour buses with Waterfront destination points to unload at the existing Market Square location, where the additional loading locations will improve capacity.
3. After the implementation of the Waterfront Plan is complete, staff recommends that (a) the 100 block of the Strand be used to support the queuing of buses loading and unloading passengers; (b) that such loading and unloading be restricted to specific times of day; and (c) that designs for the 100 block of the Strand minimize impacts to the pedestrian environment to the extent possible.
4. Create a Traffic Management Plan, which encourages tourism while also minimizing traffic to residential areas.

Parking: For short term parking, the report recommends that (a) all existing locations be maintained for free use until phased out by construction impacts, (b) metered hourly parking be added at the Masonic Memorial to proactively absorb demand for short-term spaces as other short-term parking locations are phased out, and (c) an appropriate percentage of the Masonic Memorial's existing spaces be maintained for reservation-based trips.

For complete reports of the Task Force's work and recommendations during 2016, please visit the website <https://www.alexandriava.gov/MotorcoachTaskForce>.

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: _____

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Mail this form and payment to:

NOTICE; P.O. Box 25571; Alexandria, VA 22313

First Night Alexandria

The Largest Family-Friendly Alexandria New Year's Eve Party in the D.C. Region

First Night Alexandria, the largest family-friendly and alcohol-free New Year's Eve party in the Washington, D.C. region, returns to Old Town December 31, 2016 with family-friendly activities beginning at 2 p.m. and a culminating spectacular fireworks display over the Potomac River at midnight. This annual New Year's Eve bash takes over Old Town Alexandria with more than 150 performances at 24 indoor venues.

<https://www.firstnightalexandria.org>

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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

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