



## Oronoco Bay Sewer Outfall *By Clarence Tong*

The newly formed NOTICE Policy Committee has been following legislative efforts in the Virginia General Assembly to bring the Oronoco Bay Combined Sewer Outfall (CSO) in compliance with Virginia and federal law.

While NOTICE has advocated for an aggressive timeline, reporting requirements, and state funding to complete this expensive and technically challenging project, we supported amendments to SB898/HB2383 proposed by Governor McAuliffe and the City of Alexandria to complete the project by 2027 and grant additional extensions as necessary. Unfortunately, on April 5, the Governor's amendments were rejected by the Virginia General Assembly. As a result, the legislation is currently with the Governor to veto or sign into law.

In response, Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg said on April 5, "We regret the legislature's insistence on deadlines that engineers have determined are unreasonable, and we request that the Governor veto the bills. We are fully committed to working with all deliberate speed to getting all four outfalls in Alexandria done, and to getting them done right."

At the next NOTICE membership meeting on May 18, we will have an opportunity to hear from elected officials, City staff, and advocates about what is next for the Oronoco Bay CSO. Please contact Clarence Tong at [Clarence.Tong@gmail.com](mailto:Clarence.Tong@gmail.com) for more information.

## Old Town North Small Area Plan Nears Completion

*By Tom Soapes*

The Old Town North Small Area Plan Advisory Group held meeting #14 on March 30 at City Hall. A large group of interested residents filled the Council Workroom for a discussion of the draft Transportation and Planning, Land Use, and Design chapters.

The Transportation chapter generated the most discussion. The draft outlines a strategy to "maximize the use of transit, pedestrian, and bicycle amenities" that "encourage a shift from private autos to more sustainable modes of transportation..." This draft recommends the extension of the street grid into the power plant site; expanded waterfront parks and trails with pedestrian and bike connections; conversion of the rail corridor to a linear park; street and sidewalk improvements designed to prioritize pedestrians; shared parking strategies that accommodate new technology; and improved connectivity to the GW Parkway, surrounding neighborhoods, and the Braddock Road and Potomac Yards Metrorail stations.

Advisory Group and audience comments challenged the efficacy of the plans for implementing some of these changes. The plan to designate some streets as bicycle corridors or as shared roadways drew criticism in regard to safety on streets with parking on both sides

and high volume in rush hours. Converting Montgomery Street to 2-way was criticized for failing to account for the lack of loading zones near existing businesses and questions about the ability of the street to handle large trucks. Changes in DASH routes eliminating service north of Montgomery Street were challenged as inconsistent with the goal of promoting public transit. The intersection of Slaters Lane and the GW Parkway drew comment focusing on the need to reengineer that intersection as part of the redevelopment of the power plant site. This intersection is already undersized for the volume of traffic it must accommodate. The draft plan does say that before these changes are implemented there must be further discussion with the community.

The Planning, Land Use, and Design chapter focuses on the following strategies: Achieving a balanced mix of land uses to enhance the viability and walkability of the neighborhood; establish retail corridors to support a critical mass of retail; create design standards and guidelines to ensure high quality and context-sensitive redevelopment; establish incentives for art and cultural use; update zoning to achieve plan objectives; improve safety and walkability through pedestrian-oriented streetscapes that activate the street in the day and evening.

This chapter generated more positive responses than the transportation chapter. Most comments noted that the plan charted a path to defining North Old Town as a mixed use... 

## Work Begins on Edens Project

After a ceremonial groundbreaking on March 8, demolition of the former Giant supermarket is nearly complete and on-site digging has begun on the site which is surrounded by protective fencing.

Pictured in the photo are Mayor Allison Silberberg and other officials from the City, Edens developers, and Gables, the company undertaking the residential portion of the project.



## Save The Date

**NOTICE Community Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 18, 2017**

Old Colony Best Western Hotel  
1101 N. Washington Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Free Parking Available  
7 p.m. Sign-in and social  
7:30 Meeting Begins

Featured Speaker:  
State Senator Adam Ebbin

## Old Town North Small Area Plan Nears Completion...CONTINUED

...urban area. This vision is consistent with the findings of a NOTICE survey in 2014 in which most responses pointed to this goal. Successful implementation of this plan will require considerable work and oversight on the part of the community as 17% of the area is designated for possible redevelopment. Aiding this work will be a set of Urban Design Standards and Guidelines that the advisory group discussed at its February meeting. These standards promote high-quality design in the urban context of the community and provide requirements and guidance in written and graphic form for projects in the plan area. Plans for the power plant site are indefinite, although the draft plan lays out standards for height, views of the water, and connections to the community.

The City will hold an open house public meeting on Thursday, April 13, 7-9 p.m. at the Salvation Army USA National Headquarters, 615 Slater's Lane, where all residents can review the entire draft plan and offer their comments and recommendations. This will begin a 45-day public input period on the compiled draft 2017 Old Town North Small Area Plan before the plan goes before the Planning Commission and City Council. City staff and Advisory Group members will be on hand to answer questions. Additional opportunities for providing feedback on the document through May 18, including online options, will be shared during the open house and posted on the project webpage by April 13.

For further information, please visit the Old Town North SAP Update webpage or contact Heba El Gawish, Urban Planner, Department of Planning and Zoning, 703-746-3851.

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## Second Street Green Infrastructure Demonstration Project

Designs for the Green Infrastructure demonstration project on Second Street are scheduled to be 60 percent complete by May 2017. This project will widen sidewalks, add trees, plantings, and other features designed to capture and use rainwater instead of adding it into the storm sewer system. Between May and October 2017, the City will negotiate construction easements with Watergate of Alexandria and Canal Place. By October, the project design should be 90% complete and the City will prepare a request for proposals from contractors. Underground utility lines are scheduled to be relocated in November of this year. Between October 2017 and March 2018, the City will review bids and award a contract. Construction is slated to begin in March 2018, with a goal of completion by October 2018.

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## East Coast Greenway Plaque Dedicated

On March 10, Mayor Allison Silberberg joined members of the Board of Directors of the East Coast Greenway Alliance to dedicate a section of the East Coast Greenway in Alexandria. Alexandria marks the midpoint of the Greenway, a 3,000-mile urban bicycle and walking route that connects hundreds of communities from Calais, Maine, to Key West, Florida. When complete, the East Coast Greenway will be the longest protected biking and walking corridor in the United States.

The ceremony formally designated Alexandria's Mount Vernon Trail, from Four Mile Run to Cameron Run, as part of the East Coast Greenway. This five-mile stretch is the most widely used on the Greenway, and one of the region's premiere walking and biking paths, with more than 500,000 trips on this segment in 2016.

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## 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.*

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## 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

## Farmer's Market Kicks Into High Season

The Old Town North Farmers Market returns to summer hours on April 6. Look for the vendors from 3 to 7 p.m. every Thursday in Montgomery Park, 901 North Royal Street. Twin Springs Farm is returning with seasonal vegetables and fruits; gluten-free vendor Dream of Goodies will be introducing muffins and tea breads; and Declan's Big D staff reprises Irish Batch Bread. Annie Fitzknits returns in mid-April. Other favorite vendors are coming back also now that the weather is moderating and the hours of operation can be longer.

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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](mailto:watrsedge@aol.com)

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## Contact NOTICE

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