



Old Town North Farmers Market

Remember to check out the Old Town North Farmers Market, operating winter hours from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM, every Thursday, in Montgomery Park, 901 N. Royal Street. Additional information is available at <https://oldtownnorth.org/farmers-market/>.

What's up at the NRG Power Plant?

On January 11, Dominion Virginia Power met with a City Work Group to present a route under Potomac Avenue (along the Potomac Yards development) for a 230-kilovolt underground transmission line to the NRG site. PEPCO, who owns the transmission substation on the property, and Dominion, have been planning to connect an electric line onsite since 2014 to improve electric reliability.

City Council previously deleted the Potomac Avenue route from its acceptable options. Now, Dominion is requesting reconsideration from the Work Group, citing escalating costs for a preferred route along the CSX rail line. The City Work Group voted to request more information from Dominion before making a recommendation to Council. Dominion plans to present 2 options to the State Corporation Commission to increase its reliability - one option would connect to the NRG site, and the other would strengthen power lines under Route 1 and in Fairfax County. Once approved, work could begin in 2019. Elizabeth Chimento represents North Old Town on the Work Group. Stay tuned!

Message from Clarence Tong, President of NOTICE

Happy New Year, and thank you for your support of NOTICE!

It is an honor to serve as the new President of NOTICE. I have big shoes to fill, taking over from Tom Soapes who served our community so well. The NOTICE Board is composed of volunteers who are passionate about serving our neighborhood. Some have lived here for a long time, while others are relatively new. I am pleased to welcome to the board long-time community advocate Mary Harris and new newsletter editor Penny Laporte.

As we saw through the Small Area Plan process, North Old Town is undergoing transformative change. But we also have a rich history in the City. Our theme for 2018 is "Get to know your neighborhood". We invite you to join us this year at our meetings and programs.

Our first event is the NOTICE Winter Party & Silent Auction on Thursday, February 15, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at The Kingsley (500 Madison St.). Hope to see you there!

Addressing Alexandria's Dirty Little (Sewer) Secret: Is "Green Infrastructure" Part of the Answer? *by Erik D. Olson*

Alexandria has a problem with its sewage.

Nearly every time it rains, millions of gallons of untreated or under-treated sewage, including human waste mixed with storm water, are discharged into the Potomac River. Our sewage system just cannot ensure adequate treatment of all of our wastewater before it is dumped into the Potomac and smaller streams.

One of the four "outfalls" for our waste flows into the Potomac at Oronoco Park, at the foot of Pendleton Street. Because of the health and environmental threats this poses, a new Virginia law requires the city to correct the problem by 2025. Some say it could cost as much as \$385 million to fix.

The city is developing a plan and has established a Stakeholder Group of local citizens, including NOTICE, to provide advice.



The draft plan relies on "gray infrastructure"—concrete and engineered solutions. This includes deep tunnels to store excess water until it can be treated. Tunnels about 10 feet around would be drilled about 50 to 100 feet underground. The plan may also include large storage tanks, one potentially under the park at Oronoco Bay or under the end of Pendleton Street.

NOTICE has been encouraging the city to also include "green infrastructure" in its plans. Green infrastructure would help reduce storm water runoff and address the more severe storms expected due to climate change. Green infrastructure includes rain gardens, green streets/alleys, tree plantings, and green roofs (grass and vegetation on flat roofs). These projects have multiple added benefits including improving urban quality of life, beautifying neighborhoods, increasing property values, cooling and cleansing the air, reducing heat-related illnesses and asthma, lowering heating and cooling energy costs, spurring economic revitalization, and creating green jobs.

The Stakeholder Group will submit its recommendations to the city soon. The City will then submit its plan to the state in June 2018. More information is available on the NOTICE website at <http://notice-alexandria.org/>

NOTICE Supports ARHA Resolution 830 Working Group *by Mary Harris*

As Alexandria home values climb, the City's social contract with those needing low income housing is under serious threat. The City has lost almost 90% of its market rate affordable housing units since 2000, and applications for public housing have reached record levels.

In November of last year, the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) formed a Working Group to help develop a plan to implement Alexandria's "Resolution 830".

Resolution 830 dates back to 1981, superseding an earlier resolution adopted in 1971. It is a joint resolution, adopted by the City and ARHA, which ensures that 1,150 units of public housing are maintained or replaced onsite, or within the City, whenever redevelopment occurs. The ARHA Working Group will develop a plan to implement and expand the Resolution over the next decade.

NOTICE was invited to appoint a member to the Working Group because ARHA's headquarters and over 300 elderly and low income housing units, including the Ladrey Senior Housing and Hopkins-Tancil, are located in North Old Town. NOTICE Board member, Mary Harris, will serve on the Working Group.

The Working Group will meet in public sessions between January 10 and March 14. Detailed information can be found on the City website at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Housing> or ARHA website at www.arha.us. North Old Town residents are invited to attend or send comments and questions to Mary Harris at maryharris@verizon.net. A full copy of Resolution 830 can be viewed at <http://www.vhdlc.us/resolution-830.html>

Once Upon a Time...

... there was a storied estate known as Bellevue. *By Mary Harris*

Bellevue, one of the most famous "lost" historic homes of Alexandria, encompassed the northern end of North Old Town. The elegant country estate overlooked the Potomac River at what is now 501 Slaters Lane (Marina Towers Condominiums).

Built before 1802, Bellevue was home to the vivacious and sophisticated Portia Lee Hodgson (1777-1840), of the famed Lee clan in Alexandria. Portia partied with the Washingtons (George and Martha, that is) at Bellevue and Mount Vernon, and entertained the Lee family (including "Light Horse Harry" Lee and wife, Anna) and other guests there during the early 1800's.

Portia Lee Hodgson died in 1840 and is buried at Christ Church in Alexandria. Her tombstone can be seen there today. In 1841, John Slater bought Bellevue and beautified its grounds, turning Bellevue into what was described as "a paradise of vegetables and beauty". Slater's flowers and produce were found in fine Washington and Alexandria homes and hotels. During the Civil War, Slater donated boxes of his strawberries to the Mansion House Hospital, the hospital featured in the PBS Civil War series *Mercy Street*.

Bellevue remained rural and in the Slater family until after World War II when it was subdivided. In 1969, Marina Towers was built. In a nod to Bellevue's history, Marina Towers has a green roof and expansive gardens. As of 2018, Slater family descendants still own a Marina Towers condo on their historic home site.

See: Robert, William Jay. Illustrated by Christine Youngbluth. *Lost Alexandria: An Illustrated History of Sixteen Destroyed Historic Homes in and Around Alexandria*. 2016. (self-published)

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

NOTICE Calendar

Winter Party and Silent Auction

Thursday,
February 15, 2018

Guest Speaker:
Audrey Davis
*Director of the
Alexandria Black
History Museum*

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
The Kingsley
500 Madison Street

NOTICE Board 2017

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