



NOTICE Invites You to Candidates Night

NOTICE would like to invite you to our Candidates Night on Thursday, May 17. It will be held at the Old Colony Inn (1101 N. Washington St) with doors opening at 5:30 pm. The program will start promptly at 6:00 pm. We will be joined by Mayor Allison Silberberg and Vice Mayor Justin Wilson, the two candidates running for mayor of Alexandria in the June 12 primary, for some remarks and Q&A from the audience. A Meet and Greet with city council candidates will follow from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Hope you can join us!

Around Town

Have you tried Café 44 at Canal Center Plaza? Located on the fourth floor of Building 44, inside Coggins International's office space, Café 44 opened to the public in October of last year with a breakfast and lunch menu, a happy hour including signature cocktails, and expansive views of the Potomac. Visit Café 44's website to learn more about this latest restaurant opening in Old Town North.

Old Town North Farmers Market

Remember to check out the Old Town North Farmers Market, operating spring hours from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, every Thursday, in Montgomery Park, 901 N. Royal Street. Additional information is available at <https://oldtownnorth.org/farmers-market/>.

North Old Town Residents and Businesses Band Together on Montgomery Street Conversion

On Saint Patrick's Day, March 17, North Old Town banded together to ensure that City Council and staff would carry out commitments made during the adoption of the small area plan last year. NOTICE, the Old Town North Community Partnership, and representatives from local homeowners associations addressed the Mayor and City Council at its public hearing on setting development contributions to city infrastructure as part of current and future development projects.

When the City passed the North Old Town Small Area Plan (SAP) last year, it agreed to do a traffic study of the feasibility of converting Montgomery Street from one-way to two-way after the Edens development at the Giant/ABC site was in place for a period of time. The agreement came as part of the SAP process after numerous North Old Town residents and businesses raised concerns about a potential Montgomery Street conversion creating traffic bottlenecks and public safety hazards.

In early March, NOTICE became aware that City Council would be considering a financial contribution offered by developers if tied to approval of the Montgomery Street conversion. The decision was going to be made prior to any community outreach or the promised traffic study. For many, the City seemed to be putting the cart before the horse. Concerned about pending Council decisions, NOTICE worked in close coordination with

the Old Town North Community Partnership (OTNCP), which represents neighborhood businesses, and residents of Alexandria House and the Rivergate Community to organize a petition drive (signed by 148 neighbors) and speakers at the March 17 Council Hearing. The neighborhood speakers included NOTICE president Clarence Tong, Alexandria House president and NOTICE vice president Frances Zorn, Wheel Nuts owner Ron Taylor, and Claire Tamburro representing the Old Town North Community Partnership (OTNCP). Based on the speakers' presentations, Mayor Silberberg, Vice Mayor Wilson, and other council members also raised concerns about the City staff's approach to developer contributions.

The City staff, ultimately, pledged to continue community outreach and committed to completing the traffic study of Montgomery Street, while Council adopted a developer contribution guidance to the City of \$9.00 per square foot - approximately an additional \$1 million, regardless of whether Montgomery Street is ultimately converted. While the Montgomery Street conversion is still pending, the strong organizing efforts by neighborhood residents and businesses were critical to a productive outcome on the developer contribution issue. NOTICE will continue to keep neighbors informed about opportunities to weigh in on the Montgomery Street Conversion.

Raw Sewage? Fixing Alexandria's Sewers Is Important for Health and the Environment *by Erik D. Olson*

During heavy rainfalls, raw sewage mixes with storm water in Old Town's combined sewers and overflows untreated at four locations; the biggest discharge is into Oronoco Bay (at the foot of Pendleton Street) in North Old Town. This can pose public health risks to anyone who touches the sewage-contaminated water, and causes environmental harm.

The good news is that the City of Alexandria, which prides itself as an "Eco-City," is finally taking the issue seriously. A 2017 Virginia law has prodded the City into action, requiring Alexandria to clean up its "combined sewer overflows" by 2025.



Raw Sewage Continued...

Alexandria convened six meetings of a Stakeholder Group of 14 local citizens, including NOTICe, to give advice as the City devised its plan. On March 23, 2018, the draft plan was published for public comment; the Stakeholder Group provided extensive recommendations in early April [More information is available on the NOTICe website at <http://notice-alexandria.org/>]

The final plan developed by the City and supported by the Stakeholder Group will use a giant U-shaped tunnel about 10 feet in diameter, running 100 feet below the surface from near the current outfall at Oronoco Bay, south to the AlexRenew wastewater treatment plant, and back north from there. It will also rejigger the AlexRenew's plant. Ultimately, it will capture 96 percent of the volume of the city's sewer overflows and cut the number of overflow events from about 80 per year down to two or three annually. This option will cost about \$355 million, paid for mostly through bonds and increased sewer bills (an increase of about \$22 to \$40 per month). State and federal funds will also be sought.

There was also discussion about how much the City should use "green Infrastructure"—that is, solutions like rain gardens, tree plantings, and green roofs (grass and vegetation on flat roofs) that can help reduce storm water flowing into sewers. The City's analysis, however, concluded that while green infrastructure could help, not enough could be done by the 2025 deadline to significantly reduce the need for a tunnel.

However, the Stakeholder Group and the City agreed that green infrastructure will be important to the city's upcoming citywide storm water management permit, and may be needed to meet the City's obligations to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. Many in the Group, including NOTICe, urged that the City's plan for combined sewers should include a specific commitment for including green infrastructure.

The Stakeholder Group also recommended that Alexandria should:

- Develop a plan to help low-income people with higher water rates.
- Create local jobs; every \$1 million dollars spent on water infrastructure creates 15 jobs. These should be Alexandrians, to the extent the law and available expertise allows.
- Contemplate the impacts of climate change, using green infrastructure and adaptable plans.
- Consider extending the discharge point beyond Oronoco Bay into the main channel of the Potomac (and consider a similar extension near Jones Point where another discharge occurs).

When the Ospreys Come Back to Old Town North

They're back! Soaring above the Potomac, our local osprey families are gathering branches to rebuild their summer homes on the River and atop the high trees and stacks of the NRG Power Plant. Guided by hours of daylight, they rejoin our community each April and leave us again in October for points south, always returning to the same nesting spots. Osprey mate for life and come to Alexandria each spring to raise their young. Birds of prey, they hunt and eat fish, calling out to each other in screechy high-pitched whistles. What joy! Spring!

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

Thursday, May 17

Candidates Night

Guests: Mayoral and city council candidates

5:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

Old Colony Inn (1101 N. Washington St)

Tuesday, September 20

Fall Member Meeting

Tuesday, November 15

Annual Member Meeting

NOTICe Board 2018

President

Clarence Tong

Vice President

Frances Zorn

Treasurer

Matthew Hennesey

Secretary

Anne White-Olson

At Large

Agnès Artemel

Mary Harris

Penny Laporte

Howard Middleton

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<http://notice-alexandria.org/>

Find us

Twitter: @NOTICeOldTown
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/noticealex

Contact NOTICe

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