



Mark Your Calendar

Friday, March 15

7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

20th Birthday Winter Bash and Annual

Auction at the Crowne Plaza, with guest speaker Mayor Justin Wilson. Tickets can be purchased at the event: NOTICE members \$15 Single, \$25 Couple; Members signing up at the party (includes annual membership) \$25 Single, \$45 Couple; Non-members \$20. Come one, come all. Help support NOTICE to support you.

Kudos to our members

The following NOTICE members have been appointed to Alexandria Committees for 2019:

Engin Artemel - Urban Design Advisory Committee

Janet Macidull - Alexandria Commission on Aging

Erik Olson - AlexReNew Stakeholder Advisory Group

Anne White-Olson - Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations

Eleanor Quigley - Beautification Commission

Tom Soapes - Urban Design Advisory Committee

Christa Watters - Alexandria Waterfront Commission

Thank you for representing our community and sharing your expertise.

Message from Mary Harris, President of NOTICE HAPPY BIRTHDAY NOTICE!

Twenty years ago this April, NOTICE was founded around dining room tables at Canal Way to help neighbors take an active role in the betterment of their neighborhood. NOTICE grew quickly, and 20 years later, continued community involvement has paid enormous dividends: "Mirant" Power Plant was closed; WMATA Bus Barn was closed and redevelopment is in the planning stages; Sheet Metal Workers Building transitioned to the fashionable Oronoco Condominiums; NOTICE community survey led to the adopted Vision Statement; an updated Old Town North Small Area Plan was adopted; NOTICE members have been appointed to City Boards and Commissions; and the list goes on.

In that tradition, NOTICE looks forward this year to continuing to support our neighbors through its engagement in the transformative changes underway in Old Town North. Our theme for 2019 is "Know Your Neighborhood", and we invite you to join us at our meetings, attend our programs, follow us on the NOTICE website (<http://notice-alexandria.org/>) and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/noticealx), share your ideas, and get involved.

The Birthday Bash: Of course, what's a birthday without a birthday celebration? On Friday, March 15, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., NOTICE is throwing its 20th Birthday Winter Bash and Annual Auction at the Crowne Plaza, 901 North Fairfax Street. We hope to see you there.

Development Update for Old Town North

The 1201 N. ROYAL STREET Carr Company project was approved in January by the Alexandria Planning Commission and City Council. The project will contain 90 one and two bedroom residential units, and a 5,700 square foot arts and cultural anchor. In order to provide the arts space, the project used the new density bonus for arts-related uses in Old Town North, including a height increase of 12 feet. Project benefits to the community include on-site public art, a \$486,000 contribution to the Old Town North Streetscape Fund, an affordable housing contribution of \$470,000, and pedestrian and trail improvements. Mary Harris, President of NOTICE, submitted comments at the public hearings on behalf of NOTICE and the community, highlighting some concerns with height of buildings and asking assurances that the arts use proposed was actually going to happen and remain permanent. The buildings are expected to be completed in about 2.5 years. Bastille and Abaca Imports, former occupants of the site, have already moved, and MetroStage will relocate to 901 N. Fairfax Street (the present

Crowne Plaza).

THE GABLES OLD TOWN NORTH at 525 Montgomery Street is nearing completion, with a planned opening in March 2019. This mixed-use project will include 232 rental studio, junior one bedroom, one bedroom, two bedroom, and townhouse apartments above 50,000 square feet of retail. Residential rents will range from about \$1,900 up to around \$5,000. The retail, ground floor will be occupied by restaurants and casual coffee shops, a West Elm furniture store, the returning ABC store, and a number of smaller retail and service businesses.

THE "BUS BARN" PROJECT at 600 N. Royal Street had public hearings in February. The proposed use is entirely residential, multifamily, with a density bonus for affordable housing. The application and proposed site plan can be accessed through this link to the Planning Commission docket: http://legistar.granicus.com/alexandria/meetings/2019/2/1999_A_Planning_Commission_19-02-07_Docket.pdf

Get to Know Your Neighborhood

It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood, so take a stroll past Rivergate in Old Town North. Head out along the Potomac River east of Fairfax Street, between Oronoco Bay Park and Canal Center, to discover this beautiful 58 Federal style townhouse community.

From 1942 until the late 1970s, this waterfront site was home to the infamously odiferous Norton Rendering Plant, one of many railroad dependent industrial companies in Old Town North. With increasing competition from Midwest plants, however, Norton and Co. eventually went out of business; but the Norton family went into a more 'fragrant' business called Great American Restaurants Group, which today includes Carlyle Grand in Shirlington and Mike's in Springfield.

An office project had also been planned for the site, but the site was eventually bought by EYA (then known as Eakin Youngentob Associates). Rivergate was an early EYA community. Built between 1994-1995, each brick townhouse is four stories, many with walkout lower levels.

In the early years of Rivergate, the coal train and paper trains still operated. The coal train would pull up to Madison Street and maneuver so it could unload coal at the power plant to the north. The paper train picked up paper rolls from the Robinson North warehouse and took them to the Washington Post plant by the Beltway.

The original parcel of land went all the way to the river. As a condition of development, Rivergate Park was created between the eastern row of townhouses and the river. Today, Rivergate is still home to some of the original owners who enjoy the proximity to the Potomac River, the parks, and all that Old Town offers.



Around Town: Yunnan by Potomac

On February 2, Old Town North's newest restaurant, located at 814 North Fairfax Street, opened its doors. Specializing in rice noodle dishes from China's Yunnan Province, Yunnan by Potomac is the first restaurant in the Greater Washington Area to specialize in Yunnan dishes. Owner and manager Zongmin Li grew up in Yunnan and knows a thing or two about Mixian, the noodle based "soul food" of Yunnan and center of Yunnanese cuisine for over 1,500 years. Yunnan by Potomac is open for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday, and for brunch on Sunday.



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.*

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

Meet the NOTICE Board

At our November Annual Meeting, NOTICE members and neighbors braved a pre-winter blast to fill the Old Colony Inn and elect the 2019 Board of Directors.

Welcome to our newest board members - Bill Jacobs, Mike Kenny, and Eleanor Quigley- and our continuing members - Agnès Artemel, Mary Harris, Penny Laporte, and Anne White-Olson.

To the outgoing board members - Clarence Tong, Fran Zorn, Howard Middleton, and Matt Hennesey - we extend our thanks for your years of service and dedicated volunteerism.

NOTICE Board 2019

President

Mary Harris

Vice President

Agnès Artemel

Treasurer

Mike Kenny

Secretary

Anne White-Olson

At Large

Bill Jacobs

Penny Laporte

Eleanor Quigley

Visit our website

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

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www.facebook.com/noticealex

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