



Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, May 16

Spring Members Meeting at Alexandria House(400 Madison Street) in the View Room

All are welcome!

7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Meet and greet

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Panel Discussion

“Enhancing our Potomac Waterfront: Ecology, History, and Future Vision”

Insights on Sites

Old Town North is renewing itself everywhere you look: new buildings, new shops, new art. The newest space and art display in the neighborhood is at the **Gables**, located on the former Giant site on Montgomery between North St. Asaph and North Pitt Streets. The Gables apartments are officially open and renters have begun to move in. On the ground floor, West Elm home furnishings has opened. Other retail will be opening soon, including Oak Steakhouse, My Eye Doctor optometrist, Sisters Thai restaurant, Sparkle and Pop Nails, Row House workout studio, Smart Press cleaners, and the ABC liquor store.

The Montgomery Center on North Fairfax welcomed **Yunnan by Potomac** (814 North Fairfax),...

 to other side

Message from Mary Harris, President of NOTICE WELCOME SPRINGTIME IN OLD TOWN NORTH!

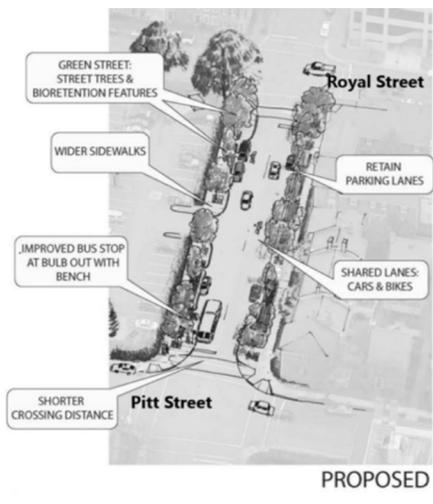
Adios, Winter! But first, thank you NOTICE members, new and old, for making our Winter Party the largest ever! 85 people joined us on the Ides of March to celebrate our 20th birthday. It was a hot room, but a very cool talk by Mayor Justin Wilson. We also welcomed Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, Councilwoman Del Pepper, State Delegate Mark Levine, former Mayor Alison Silberberg, and City Area Planner Heba El-Gawish. We celebrated by honoring NOTICE founder Sally Ann Greer and past presidents Ernie Lehmann, Roger Waud, and Tom Soapes, and then cut the delicious birthday cake donated by Fran Zorn. Partygoers took home some fantastic silent auction items donated by our local businesses.

Visit Notice-Alexandria.org for photos from the evening.

And now, it's here! Spring! Take a stroll through the Watergate of Alexandria's lush gardens or along the Potomac waterfront from Oronoco Bay to Daingerfield Island. Our neighborhood is greener than ever. The ospreys are back. The waterfront is teeming with people and wildlife. And join NOTICE on Thursday, May 16th, atop Alexandria House for a panel presentation on “Enhancing our Potomac Waterfront: Ecology, History, and Future Vision” featuring Potomac Riverkeeper Dean Naujoks, Archeologist Ben Skolnik, and Waterfront Commission member Christa Watters. Hope to see you there.

Green Infrastructure Is Coming to Second Street in Old Town North

Erik Olson



Alexandria is launching a new “green infrastructure” project in Old Town North along Second Street between Pitt and Royal Streets, near the Watergate of Alexandria and Canal Place Condominiums. The seven-month project is scheduled to begin this summer, with project completion in the winter.

Green Infrastructure is an approach to managing storm water by infiltrating it into the ground where it is used by trees and other vegetation instead of running off directly into the sewers. By reducing the width of the roadway pavement, the Second Street project will create space for trees and a series of rain gardens to absorb rainfall. In addition to reducing the amount of water washed into sewers, the project also aims to beautify the streetscape with increased

vegetation, particularly on the north side of Second Street. And to improve pedestrian safety, pedestrian crosswalk distances will be reduced and traffic calming measures will be added.

While the project will involve some temporary inconvenience for neighboring homeowners and drivers, there will be significant long-term benefits for the area with a safer, greener, and more attractive street.

The Second Street project is one of the city's early and most ambitious green infrastructure retrofit projects. The Old Town North Small Area Plan and NOTICE have urged that green infrastructure be deployed across the city to improve the environmental footprint and quality of life, and to further reduce the storm water runoff into the combined sewers in Old Town and across the city. Visit Notice-Alexandria.org for more information.

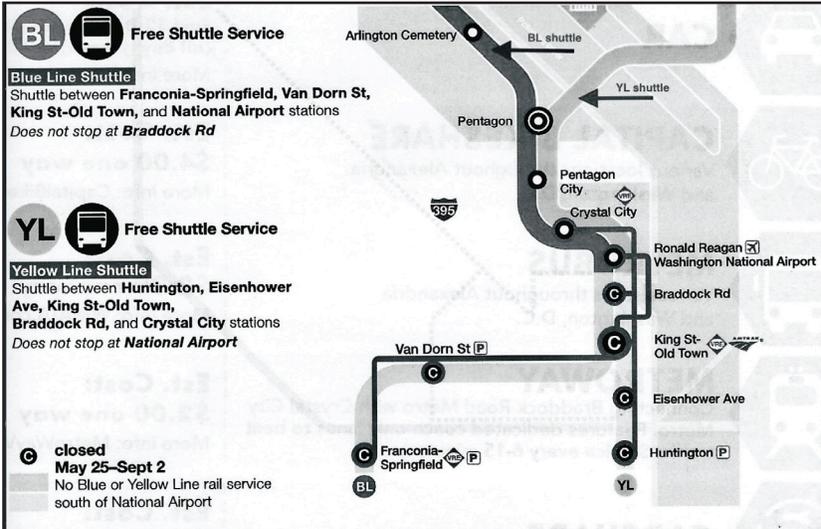
Prepare for Summer METRO Shutdown

Starting on Memorial Day, May 25, through Labor Day, September 2, all Alexandria Metro stations will be closed round the clock for platform and other urgently needed repairs. The closures will include Braddock Road and King Street stations, affecting all Blue and Yellow lines south of Reagan National Airport.

The City is working with the WMATA to put in place alternative transportation options and minimize traffic on Washington Street to mitigate the four-month disruption.

For more information, visit: <https://www.wmata.com/service/rail/PlatformProject/>

See also: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/tes/info/default.aspx?id=106691>



Get to Know Your Neighborhood

Did you know Old Town North has its own infamous Watergate? Well, maybe not as infamous as the one from the Nixon years; but it was built by the same development team and represents a critical turning point in Alexandria history. In the early 1970s, like many cities along the eastern seaboard, the area around the Alexandria waterfront was transforming from an industrial base to residential communities. Watergate Development Inc. proposed four 18-story buildings along what is now Founder's Park, south of Oronoco Street. The City Council approved the development with over forty changes to the original plan, but a citizen's group objected that the plan would change the character of Alexandria.

When the Federal Government also objected over issues concerning the land title of the Alexandria waterfront, a negotiated settlement was reached. The city offered the developer the two-block site where the Theodore Ficklin elementary school was located (South of Second Street between Pitt and Royal Streets). In exchange, the developer agreed to build one hundred luxury town homes that reflect the historic character of Old Town North.

Today's Watergate of Alexandria is the result.

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

Insights on Sites

Continued

...specializing in rice noodle dishes from China's Yunnan Province. And **Goldfinch Home + Interior** (806 North Fairfax) recently opened its doors. Goldfinch offers a curated display of fine interior design items, including artisan candles, hand-blown glassware, luxury handbags, seasonal accents, wall art and fine arts books.

Elsewhere in the neighborhood, a full-service **UPS store** has opened adjacent to the Holiday Inn at 625 First Street, and **Hank's Pasta Bar** at 600 Montgomery Street received approval for a rooftop deck and second floor private party room.

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