

Take

NOTICe

North Old Town Independent Citizens' Association

Winter 2021

Welcome to the brave new NOTICe in 2021

Happy and healthy New Year to all. A year ago we met together in large rooms at Marina Towers and The Gables and then moved into large group video calls. Well, welcome to new virtual version of YOUR local civic association here in Old Town North. We Zoom. We Facebook Live. The NOTICe Newsletter is now digital and we are launching the new NOTICe website! It's all good! We can do this.

I'm looking forward **with hope and purpose** to 2021 but need your help.

This year, North Old Town will be welcoming hundreds of new neighbors at residences lyrically named The Muse, The Venue, and The Alexan. They chose OTN as their home and will add new ideas and energy to keep our waterfront community beautiful and vibrant. Let's get them involved in OTN from the start. Aside from saying "Hi" on Nextdoor, please send your ideas for welcoming our new neighbors to notice.communications@gmail.com

Mary Harris, President

Meet the 2021 Board of Directors

We are excited to announce our new Board of Directors for 2021. Please visit us on the [web](#) to learn more about them.

Mary Harris, President
Mace Carpenter, Vice President
Trevor A. Riley, Secretary
Karen Branding, Treasurer
Eleanor Quigley, Member at Large
Margaret Townsend, Member at Large
Agnès Artemel, Member Emeritus

NOTICE On the Web

Our new website is up and running! A special thank you to former NOTICe Secretary Jim Lewis who designed this new site for us. We invite you to visit us [HERE](#). Be sure to bookmark this site to stay connected on current NOTICe content and other neighborhood happenings between newsletters. And don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#).

Membership Corner

NOTICE members, we are grateful for your support and interest in in our neighborhood – especially during these cold January pandemic days when we feel more disconnected than ever before!

Together, we can combine our energy and talents to positively influence change in our community. Let's challenge each other to individually and collectively mold our neighborhood into a place where we can enjoy the best quality of life in the metro DC area

What can we do to accomplish this? We need your input – what do you see going on around you? What are your concerns and what are your celebrations about what is happening in Old Town North? Is there something you can personally offer to help optimize the quality of life in our neighborhood?

Please join us in celebrating the past and fighting for a sustainable future in North Old Town/Old Town North by signing on as a voting member of NOTICE civic association, sharing your ideas or volunteering to lead or support civic projects and following [NOTICE](#) on Facebook for weekly OTN news and events.

Karen Branding, Treasurer and Membership Chair

On the Waterfront in 2021

The Power Plant site was sold in 2020! Moving on in 2021...

NOTICE will advocate to implement the key tenets of the Old Town North Small Area Plan (OTN SAP): protecting our waterfront trails, views and access; pedestrian friendly design and green streets, expanded tree canopy and 8 acres of new public green space, more affordable housing, bringing art to our Arts Corridor and preserving the last remnants of North Old Town history – Slaters Lane and the W&OD Railroad. We also urgently need broadband infrastructure and a safe bicycle route from the Mt Vernon Trail along East Abingdon Street between Bashford and Slaters Lanes to keep our neighborhood safe and connected. **Eleanor Quigley** of Alexandria House, also on the ALX Beautification Commission, is leading NOTICE tree canopy campaign.

NOTICE will keep you up to date on public safety issues as well as Waterfront construction activity at Oronoco Bay Park with two new representatives on the River Renew Stakeholder Group: **Erik Olson** from Watergate of Alexandria and **Mace Carpenter** from Rivergate. **Agnes Artemel** and our UDAC reps, **Tom Soapes** and **Katherine Bingler** will keep us on top of zoning, plans and designs for new developments along Tide Lock Park and Mt Vernon Trail, including Trans Potomac Plaza and the former Gen-On Power Plant.

NOTICE will actively engage in the planning process this year to tear down and reimagine the old Gen-On (Mirant) Power Plant site- the last 20+ industrial acres to be redeveloped in our neighborhood. Innovation and Green are the key words here. NOTICE worked more than a decade with our City leaders (shout out to retiring **Councilwoman Del Pepper**) to close this plant and guide the OTN SAP. We have a lot of skin in the game. **Christa Watters**, former NOTICE President, now on the Waterfront Commission, will keep us informed of the goals of the Small Area plan for this waterfront site. See you outside and online!

NOTICE at Work for YOU!

NOTICE worked with the City of Alexandria and the developers of The Gables to find a mutually agreed upon location for a new Bikeshare location in our neighborhood. This location will not only benefit current and future neighbors, but also day visitors and guests at the surrounding hotels. To read the letter NOTICE submitted, please click [HERE](#)

Alexandria Restaurant Week is BACK!

Alexandria Restaurant Week returns January 22nd-February 7th. Be sure to take advantage of the delicious to-go dinner specials around town, with many participating restaurants in our own backyard. Need some inspiration? Check out our [North Old Town is Delicious](#) virtual segment and take the culinary tour of our neighborhood hosted by Board Members Karen Branding and Trevor Riley. To learn more about Alexandria Restaurant Week, click [HERE](#).

Upcoming NOTICE Events

Neighborhood Party: Did you know that 100 years ago, much of our neighborhood was FARMS and NOT in the City of Alexandria? Or that 100 years ago, women first voted in Alexandria? The 1920 election was heralded as a "return to normalcy" when Warren Harding won in a landslide at the end of the Spanish flu and WW1 and inaugurated in January 1921. (He was no angel)

Are you curious to know who lived and loved on your block and what happened there 100 years ago? Join us virtually for our annual neighborhood party in later this winter to learn more about North Old Town's History. More details including date and speakers will be available soon. Be sure to check our website and Facebook page for the latest information on this exciting event.

Farmer's Market: Don't forget to visit your local Farmer's Market! You can find in Montgomery Park (901 N. Royal St) each Thursday from 3p-6p (Winter hours). Rain or shine!

Thank You to our Angel Donors and Sponsors!

The NOTICE Board would like to give a shout-out to our civic association's generous Angel Donors and Sponsors thus far in 2021! There is still time to join this list of leading contributors – please see visit us on the web to learn more.

Angel Donors:

Katie Barta and Roger Waud

Sponsors:

Mary Harris and Jim Eady

Bruce Machanic

Anne White-Olson and Erik Olson

Eleanor and Robert Quigley

We are grateful for your continued substantial support!

Have suggestions, comments, recommendations for Take NOTICE? Email us at notice.communications@gmail.com

