

Take

NOTICe

North Old Town Independent Citizens' Association

September 2021

NOTICe Updates

This summer your NOTICe Board took stock of our [OTN Small Area Plan \(SAP\)](#) progress. There were lots of projects in the first five years of the 25-year plan. We've seen rapid growth in housing and retail, but we've lost office jobs. The OTN SAP public benefit goals of 9 acres of new public parks and increased green, open space, affordable housing and an arts/cultural corridor are lagging.

The market trend is to convert office and hotel buildings to residential. We recently reviewed the Trans Potomac offices to [Tide Lock residences](#) plan. New mid-high rise residences and town homes are now coming into view at the Muse and Venue (along the Mount Vernon Trail), Abingdon Row and the Alexan (Bus Barn).

As OTN becomes more residential, NOTICe is focused on achieving the Public & Open Space, Affordability and Mobility goals of the Plan. We need safer, more pedestrian and bike friendly streets; increased tree canopy and open space; improved vistas and pedestrian access to our waterfront parks and Mt Vernon Trail for active residents. In concert with the OTN Community Partnership, we advocate a pause now on any new arts height/density bonuses to conduct a user survey to guide the Arts & Culture District. We'll be sending out a public survey soon.

It's time to safely re-connect and see some of [these developments](#) and hear your ideas. You can also see new project presentations at [UDAC](#) on September 8th and join NOTICe members on Thursday, September 23rd for site visits and a Member gathering at St. Elmo's. As always, email us at notice.communications@gmail.com with your suggestions and comments! Stay safe!

Mary Harris, President

MetroStage Launches Capital Campaign

With the conversion of the Crowne Plaza hotel to condos almost complete, MetroStage is making plans for the construction of its interior, which will include both steeply raked theater seating and cabaret seating, for a total of 110 seats, and a seated bar concession area, as well as back of stage areas like dressing rooms and box office. The estimated budget to complete the interior is \$1.5 million. MetroStage is offering a variety of naming opportunities, ranging in price from \$2,500 to name a seat or a step and increasing from there to include everything from the elevator to the grand staircase.

Donations are accepted at Metrostage, PO Box 1152, Alexandria VA 22313. For more information, go to www.metrostage.org, or call 703-548-9044 to request a Capital Campaign brochure.

Metrostage was founded in 1984 to provide Alexandria with professional theater performances, and has staged plays and musicals in a variety of storefronts and warehouses. This will be the first location specifically designed to house the theater as a permanent performing arts venue. Its new space, enclosed in glass on three sides, with a well-lit concourse, marquee, and art display will be a striking addition to the Old Town North streetscape.

Our Fall Member Meeting

Grab your walking shoes and join us on **Thursday, September 23rd** from 5:30p-8:00p for our Fall Member Meeting **NOTICing Our New Neighbors: A Walking Tour of OTN Development**. We will tour a few of the current development sites, meeting with developers to answer some of your questions. The tour will conclude at St Elmo's for a brief recap and member Happy Hour. More details and a link to RSVP will be available soon, so keep an eye on your inbox.

NOTICE Needs You!

We are looking for active members in our neighborhood who have an interest in civic engagement to join the NOTICe Board. If you are interested in joining, email us at notice.communications@gmail.com.

Membership Renewal and November Elections

It's almost time to renew your membership! Memberships run November 1st to October 31st. This year NOTICe is excited to announce that new and current members will be able to sign up for memberships with our secure auto-renew feature. This way you will always be up to date with your membership and won't miss a thing. Stay tuned for more renewal details coming soon. And mark your calendars now for our annual meeting and Board elections on **Thursday, November 18th**.

Events in OTN

Free Yoga in the Fresh Air: Thursday, September 9th 5p-6p (Weather Permitting)

The Taste of Old Town North: Thursday, September 16th 4p-7:30p in Montgomery Park
The free event is kid-friendly and offers people from around the region a chance to sample delicious food from area restaurants including Grateful Kitchen, shop the local farmers market, try their hand at making Art in the Park with KidCreate, watch a Karate Demonstration from Seichou Karate, sip wine, and picnic in the park while listening to fabulous music from Sally and the Mander and Three Man Soul Machine. The Taste of Old Town North is presented by The Old Town North Community Partnership with generous support from the Old Town North Alliance, NOTICe, the City of Alexandria, and local and regional businesses and not for profits.

Dogtoberfest A month-long celebration of all things Dog and Cat. Events will take place throughout North Old Town during the month of October.

North Old Town Farmers Market Thursdays from 3p-7p in Montgomery Park.

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

NOTICe Membership Form

North Old Town Independent Citizens Civic Association

Fiscal Year November 1, 2020 – October 31, 2021

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL: INDIVIDUAL (\$15) COUPLE/FAMILY (\$25)

SPONSOR (\$50) ANGEL (\$150 or more)

Make your check payable to NOTICe and mail your payment to:

NOTICe
P. O. Box 25571
Alexandria, VA 22313