

# **The Old Town Crier**

**The Monthly Newsletter of the Old Town Civic Association, Inc.**

## **Announcing the March Program and Notice of the Meeting**

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 14, 2007  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m., Socializing with Neighbors; 7:30 p.m., Program  
**LOCATION:** The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street

### **PROGRAM AGENDA:**

- (1) POLICE REPORT: LT. JAMIE BARTLETT**
- (2) WATERFRONT PRESENTATION: COUNCILMAN GAINES**
- (3) NATIONAL HARBOR UPDATE: MARK JINKS**
- (4) WATERFRONT SURVEY UPDATE: LINDA COUTURE**
- (5) CITY PLANNERS: JEFF FARNER**
- (6) APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**
- (7) VOTE ON THE BYLAWS: MIKE HOBBS**

### **FUN SIDE OF THE POTOMAC FORUM**

This presentation was originally scheduled for our cancelled February meeting. On the 26th of February, the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association sponsored a Waterfront Planning forum at the Sheraton Hotel. Councilman Ludwig Gaines gave a superb presentation in which he highlighted the five critical elements necessary for a successful waterfront plan. He has agreed to make this same presentation at the Old Town Civic Association membership meeting on the 14 of March.

### **WATERFRONT SURVEY**

Linda Couture, our Waterfront Planning Committee Chairperson, will update you regarding OTCA's Waterfront Survey at our March meeting. Needless to say we are extremely happy with the tremendous response we received.

### **SENIOR CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY**

The next session of the Senior Citizens' Police Academy will convene on Thursday, April 19, 2006 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hoffman Building, 2034 Eisenhower Avenue, in the CIS Roll Call Room. This training is open to all City residents age 50 and over.

The purpose of this training is to give seniors the know-how needed to foil the efforts of any criminals who attempt to take advantage of them. Far too often senior citizens are targeted by unscrupulous characters that prey on them through various scams that often rob them of their life's savings. Attendees get a brief overview of the functions of the Police Department, an in-depth look at scams, con games, identity theft, personal safety, Alzheimer's Disease, and an introduction to disaster preparedness.

## **ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT COMMITTEE**

Susan Pettey, OTCA's Representative and current Chair of the City's Waterfront Committee says that the committee "continues to explore issues that will arise in the upcoming waterfront planning process. Last month we discussed zoning issues, and took a boat tour of the National Harbor building site. At our February meeting, we discussed the National Harbor project, and received updates on the proposed water shuttle service to National Harbor and Virginia legislation to allow Alexandria establish an art and cultural district. We also agreed on a number of issues to forward to the Department of Planning and Zoning for inclusion in the waterfront plan. Several Alexandria organizations, including OTCA, have their own waterfront planning efforts underway, and upcoming Waterfront Committee meetings will feature updates from those organizations. The City expects to have a public citizen meeting on the waterfront in the next couple of months, as the planning process gets underway".

## **BYLAW REVISION: HOME STRETCH**

The OTCA Board conducted its final review of the proposed new bylaws for the Association at its February 22 meeting and made several changes. The language was clarified, but the effect not changed, in provisions relating to action by written consent of the Members (Article 3.8), the areas represented by the Directors (Articles 4.1 and 4.2), the quorum requirement for the Board (Article 4.8), the term filled by appointment or by election when a vacancy occurs (Article 4.11), and the deadline for receipt of nominating petitions (Article 6.3). A provision discussed earlier, authorizing removal of an Officer or Director for cause, if supported by the vote of 80% of the entire voting membership of the Board, was restored; the draft published earlier had permitted removal of an Officer or Director only by the vote of 80% of the Members (Articles 4.13 and 5.6)

A summary and complete text of the revised draft are now posted on the website ([www.oldtowncivic.org](http://www.oldtowncivic.org)), or are available either by regular or e-mail on request. This is the text that will be voted on at the March 14 Members Meeting.

## **WHERE WE HAVE BEEN**

Keeping track of the new Post Office. The final selection between 277 South Washington and 200 North Washington has not been made at this time. At least in either case it will remain in the downtown Old Town area. Attended another Chamber/City/ACVA meeting regarding what tasks need to be accomplished in Old Town before National Harbor opens on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2008. A larger meeting will be held on the Cherry Blossom on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March. We will have at least six members there to take part in the initial planning process. The Waterfront Planning Committee has had several meetings regarding the data received from the survey. The Historic Preservation Committee has also had a number of meetings focusing in on the City's Historic Preservation Conference on 4 and 5 May and Streetscapes in the Old and Historic District. A number of us participated in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade carrying a large banner that said "CLOSE MIRANT".

## **THE FLOWER RAFFLE**

The flower arrangement on the refreshment table at OTCA membership meetings has been given to a membership meeting attendee at each meeting beginning with the October 2006 meeting. Each person interested to win the arrangement writes his or her name (or sometimes someone

else's name) on a slip of paper. These slips of paper are put into a bag. At the end of the meeting a name is drawn. October's winner was an individual from the National Park Service, one of the meeting's speakers. In November, Poul Hertel was the winner. In December we just forgot and everyone was out the door. So at the OTCA Board meeting that closely followed, Board members drew and Board member Susan Brita won the Christmas poinsettia. Starting off the New Year, January's flowers were won by Philip Bradbury. Since the February meeting was cancelled due to bad weather, the Valentine rose's arrangement was given to OTCA food elf, Jon Wilbor. Jon makes sure that the refreshments are there for OTCA members and guests before everyone arrives. We thought this a small thank you for his generous volunteer deed.

## **STREETSCAPE PLANNING**

Old Town Civic's Historic Preservation Task Force is preparing a streetscape planning recommendation for the city. The word "streetscape" implies all the elements listed below. Old Town has never had such a plan and consequently, the streetscape has grown up over the centuries in a happenstance sort of way. If you are interested in helping document and photograph existing conditions, collect opinions on recommendations, participate in the planning or otherwise being involved, please contact [jjohansen@oldtowncivic.org](mailto:jjohansen@oldtowncivic.org). Some of the Streetscape Elements are:

Paving Materials – street, curb and gutter, sidewalk and cross walks  
Lighting and Overhead Wires  
Water, gas and electric meters in public view  
Trees, tree pits and tree pit fencing  
Signage and banners and historic district markers  
Street furniture, Trash receptacles, and Plantings  
Parking Lanes, Bicycles, Medians, Driveways and Corner Radii  
Special historic features, ie., carriage steps, hitching posts, water pumps, and call boxes,  
Awnings, Bus Shelters, Interpretative signage, Set Backs and Fences/Walls  
Newspaper Vending Machines

*Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet*  
*President, OTCA*

**THE NEXT OLD TOWN CIVIC MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS ON 11 APRIL 2007**