

The Old Town Crier

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

Announcing the October Program and Notice of the Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, October 10, 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) COMMENTS BY AND QUESTIONS TO THE CANDIDATES**
- (3) INTRO OF THE NEW HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA CHAIR**
- (4) HARC CHAIR, PRESENTS PRESERVATION PRINCIPLES**

CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR ELECTION IN THE 45TH DISTRICT

It is the Old Town Civic Association's privilege to host both candidates running for Virginia's 45th District Delegate seat in the November 6th election. Both the incumbent, David Englin (Democrat) and Mark Allen (Republican) will provide us with a short synopsis (10 minutes each candidate) of their major issues. Following that, the floor will be open for OTCA members to ask questions (20 minutes each candidate) of the candidates.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PRESENTATION

Lance Mallamo the newly appointed Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria will be introduced at our membership meeting and given the opportunity to comment on his new position. Following Lance, Ellen Stanton, and the Chair of the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC) will present the results of our recent Historic Preservation Conference.

LARGE CROWD BOARDS THE CHERRY BLOSSOM

OTCA's annual membership party and celebration on September 16th was a huge success. As in previous years we gathered aboard the Cherry Blossom, Alexandria's authentic Paddle wheeler for a leisurely cruise down the Potomac. We were able to view the almost completed Woodrow Wilson Bridge and the large development at National Harbor. The weather was terrific and approximately 200 guests took part in the cruise.

Many thanks to Senator Patsy Ticer, 45th District Delegate Candidates David Englin (incumbent) and Mark Allen (challenger), Vice Mayor Del Pepper, Councilman Paul Smedberg, Councilman Justin Wilson, Electoral Board Chairman Don Ledwig, and Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks who honored us with their attendance.

Many thanks to our Old Town neighbors and merchants who contributed door prizes to add to the festivities. Restaurants who gave out complimentary dinners were: Buggy's, Chadwicks, 100 King, Overwood, Theismann's, Pat Troy's, Trattoria da Franco, Union Street Public House and the Warehouse Bar and Grill, and the Dandy. Other merchants who provided gifts were: Christmas Attic, Alexandria Symphony, Elder Crafters, Enchanted Florist, Gold Works, Gossypia, King's Jewelers, Little Theater of Alexandria, Mystique Jewelers, Port City Playhouse, Testeverde and Why Not.

A big round of applause to all the OTCA Board of Directors and Members who provided a great deal of manpower to make it all happen. Tim Elliott and Poul Hertel provided two of the large Hollin Hills cakes. Also many thanks to the TC Williams Jazz Band who for the second year provided us with great music during the entire cruise.

The biggest round of applause goes to our hosts Willem Polak and Charlotte Hall of the Potomac Riverboat Company, who not only contributed a number of door prizes, but contributed in countless other ways to the success of the event. Without their support, it would simply not have been possible.

Please show your appreciation by patronizing the good friends and neighbors who were kind enough to support our event. The next time you are in one of their restaurants or shops thank them in person for their support.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE ACTION PLAN

Over the past several years, a broad based group of individuals and organizations from across the city has worked to organize two city-wide preservation conferences. In 2006, at the first conference, Charleston, S.C. Mayor Joseph Riley spoke. This past May, a two-day conference featured William Seale as the key-note speaker and included informational sessions and much dialogue on the issues facing historic preservation in Alexandria. The outcome of the two conferences and the committee's work is the creation of an action plan for historic preservation in Alexandria.

The members of the Committee are Ellen Stanton; Chair of the Historic Alexandria Resource Commission; Morgan Delaney, Chair of the Historic Alexandria Foundation; Patrick Butler; Pamela Cressey, Director of the city's Archeology Department; Stewart Dunn; Louis Hicks, Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum; BAR member Tom Hulfish; city staffer Richard Josephson; Jim MacKay of the Office of Historic Alexandria; Skip Maginniss; Janice Magnuson; Stephen Milone of the City's Department of Planning; Laura Overstreet; Susan Pettey, Chair of the Waterfront Committee; J Rust;

Peter Smith of the City's Department of Planning; OTCA Board member Doug Thurman, Historic Restoration and Preservation Commission Chair Chuck Trozzo; Greater Alexandria Preservation Alliance President Boyd Walker; Lee Webb of the City's Department of Planning; and John Johansen, OTCA Board member and Chair of the OTCA Historic Preservation Committee. The action plan for historic preservation in Alexandria follows:

GUIDING PRINCIPLE: To Enhance, Maintain and Promote Alexandria's Unique and Significant Historic Resources—Utilizing the Advances and Improvements in Preservation Tools and Practices—and To Support Sustainable Heritage Tourism for the Economic Benefit of the Community

- ✍ **GOAL # 1:** To create an historic preservation management plan, as directed in the Alexandria Master Plan of 1992, that will establish priorities for public officials and the community in making decisions regarding the future of preservation in Alexandria

RECOMMENDATION: The City of Alexandria hire additional preservation professionals to write the preservation plan and, on an ongoing basis, to implement and manage preservation policies espoused in the plan

- ✍ **GOAL # 2:** To promote history as a key factor in Alexandria's development and economic sustainability

RECOMMENDATION: City Council appointment representatives of the historic preservation community to active roles on commissions and work groups dealing with economic development and heritage tourism efforts

- ✍ **GOAL # 3:** To promote public awareness and support of historic preservation and heritage tourism in Alexandria

RECOMMENDATION: City Council charge the Office of Historic Alexandria with studying, developing and coordinating a preservation education program for the community

- ✍ **GOAL # 4:** To evaluate and improve the current regulatory process governing historic preservation

RECOMMENDATION: City Council establish a Regulatory Review Panel consisting of city staff and community representatives to evaluate the regulatory process and make recommendations

- ✍ **GOAL # 5:** To coordinate and enhance public/private partnerships and volunteer efforts on preservation initiatives including the maintenance of historic structures

RECOMMENDATION: City Council charge the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission with outlining the diverse community resources dealing with

preservation issues and the opportunities for cooperative ventures and diversified funding initiatives

WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

The summer has been a very busy time for your Board of Directors. The Board sent a letter to the National Park Service (NPS) reiterating the position of the community that no soccer fields be included in the final NPS plan for Jones Point Park. This letter was also published in the Gazette Packet, the Alexandria Times and the Washington Post and sent to the Mayor and Council, Senator Warner and Congressman Moran.....The Board sent a letter to the Mayor and Council, the BAR and the Planning Commission regarding the Ceechi development at Hunting Terrace. The letter stressed that OTCA was not in favor of 150 foot height buildings along the George Washington Parkway specifically at the southern gateway to historic Alexandria.....The Board sent a letter to the Mayor and Council regarding the total misuse of Windmill Hill Park by the City and the Kids Pro Soccer organization. Organized league play and lessons for pay have been discontinued in this park.....OTCA's Waterfront Committee continues to work on a set of waterfront standards that will be presented to the entire membership at our November meeting. Hopefully, these will eventually assist in guiding the final design of the waterfront by the city. The City will not officially start their planning for the waterfront until early next year.....OTCA has taken a position to not renumber all the new George Mason Post Office boxes. Renumbering every box will result in increased costs to all the small businesses and individuals using this post office. The United States Postal Service should allow every business and individual to keep their old box office numbers.....

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
President

NEXT OTCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS ON THE 14th OF NOVEMBER