

10 January 2024

Upcoming SRCA Events and Announcements:

SRCA Winter Mardi Gras Party: SRCA will be hosting a winter Mardi Gras themed party on **Saturday, February 10** from **6:00-9:00 pm** at the home of Sue and Marty Goodhart, 4105 North Garland Street. We hope you can join us for hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and great company! *This event is for adults only.* We kindly ask that you RSVP by February 5 so we can order an appropriate amount of food and drinks. You may RSVP via the Evite that was sent out, or you may call Jeanne Jacob at 703-461-3622.

SRCA is finalizing its new directory! A copy of our new community directory will be printed and distributed to all households sometime early this year.

Board Meeting Minutes: All approved Board meeting minutes from prior meetings are posted on the Documents page of our website: seminaryridge.net.

Next SRCA Board Meeting: February 1, 2024 at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Community Updates:

Potomac Yard Economic Development Project: There are plans for a public-private partnership to create a \$2 billion Entertainment District in Potomac Yard that will house the NHL's Washington Capitals and the Washington Wizards of the NBA. President and CEO of Alexandria's Economic Development Partnerships gave some details in the Alexandria Times December 21, 2023 issue. She said Monumental's campus will only encapsulate about 15% of the project and the remaining 85% is for retail, hotels and housing.

Things to perhaps watch for are environmental issues, especially flooding and unstable soils in the area, impacts to quality of life to neighboring areas especially because of limited car parking being planned.

The City of Alexandria announced a full slate of community engagement events to share the vision for the proposed [Entertainment District at Potomac Yard](#) and gather input from Alexandria residents, civic and organizational leaders, and other stakeholders. The full slate of community engagement events and listening tour sessions include project briefings, updates, pop-up events, site tours, and other opportunities.

The City invites Alexandria residents, business owners, and those seeking more information and engagement to [sign up here](#).

Upcoming engagement events and opportunities are outlined below. Additional details about all events can be found on Alexandriava.gov and MonumentalALX.com.

- **Biweekly Public Updates | Starting Tuesday, January 9** and continuing every other Tuesday until March 26, the City and other project partners will share new information with the public during city Council legislative meetings, upcoming engagement opportunities, reports from the General Assembly, and more. Updates will continue on an as-needed beyond after March 26.
- **Weekly Virtual Listening Series | Starting Thursday, January 18**, the City of Alexandria will hold weekly virtual listening sessions on Thursday nights from 7-8 p.m., covering topics, including:
 - Financial proposal and economic impact: January 18, 2024
 - Schools, housing and other community benefits: January 25, 2024
 - Transportation and traffic management: February 1, 2024

- Small business and economic opportunity: February 8, 2024
- **City Council Town Hall** | On **Saturday, January 27**, City Council will host a Town Hall at 9:30 a.m. that will include a short presentation on the project as well as Councilmembers answering submitted community questions, concerns, and feedback.
- **Civic and Business Organization Briefings** | The City will work with civic and business organizations to coordinate project presentations and listening sessions to gather community input.
- **Pop-up Events** | In the coming weeks, the city will share details on pop-up events at high-traffic areas such as Farmers Markets to answer questions and take comments.
- **Site Tours** | The project team will announce additional details for pre-scheduled site tours to view and understand the area being developed as part of the proposal.
- **Staff Liaisons** | The city will announce staff liaisons who are assigned to neighborhoods to facilitate day-to-day contact and ongoing engagement.

Alexandria’s Zoning for Housing/Housing for All: On November 28, 2023, the City Council voted unanimously to end single-family-only zoning.

Mayor Justin Wilson announced he will not run for mayor again in 2024. Vice Mayor, Amy Jackson, and Councilwoman, Alyia Gaskins, say they will consider running for mayor. During the night of the zoning changes vote, Amy Jackson made a motion to remove the text amendment regarding changes to single-family zoning changes to defer it for another vote, but that motion failed.

City staff expects that less than 1% of single-family homes in the city may be redeveloped as a result of zoning changes. Seminary Ridge is zoned R-8, R-12 and R-20.

Keep your eyes open for Phase II.

For more information, visit their [project website](#).

King Street-Bradlee Safety & Mobility Enhancements: The City of Alexandria is seeking community feedback on mobility, safety, access, and stormwater issues along King Street between N. Quaker Lane and Menokin Drive. The purpose of this project is to evaluate existing safety issues and develop concept designs for future improvements.

City personnel said concerns include pedestrian safety, buses, bicycles, sidewalks and better treatment and environmental improvements for stormwater.

A FOIA was requested and showed that safety is not a problem. Watch for community engagement opportunities.

For more information, visit their [project website](#).

Strawberry Run: Regarding the camera with the solar panel that was recently installed in Strawberry Run, it’s not part of the “King Street – Bradlee Safety and Mobility Enhancement” project. City stormwater personnel said it is part of a stormwater monitoring system that was being deployed around the City with cameras that are directed towards the various pipes/culverts where they are installed.

Reports from SRCA’s Alexandria City Police Department (ACPD) Liaison and Alexandria’s Sheriff’s Department: Police and Sheriff’s reports from Oct 1- Nov 9, 2023 included mostly car accidents, as well as four vehicles that were stolen. Officers reminded everyone to lock doors and not keep any valuables in your vehicle.

Fentanyl has become a problem in both the middle and high schools. One overdose in the Bradlee

shopping center was reported and Narcan was used to bring the individual back.

The Alexandria Police Department is still down in numbers. It's important for us to understand that when they talk about the whole number in their department, that number includes 20 people that are recruits, 20 in the police academy who are about to graduate, and 30 who are injured or on leave. Therefore, we must take 70 away from the total number to get a true indication of how many officers are on the street. Females make up 20% of their numbers. In January, their numbers were better than other areas. Seminary Ridge is area #9.

The George Washington Legacy Foundation (GWLF) Essay Contest: The GWLF is sponsoring an essay contest for 7th & 8th graders at any Alexandria public or private school on the topic of George Washington and his relationship with the City of Alexandria. The deadline to enter is January 31. The winner will receive a \$500 prize and be asked to participate in a community breakfast event at the Alexandria Washington's Birthday Parade on Monday, February 19. For additional information on GWLF's essay contest, please visit the **GWLF website** at: <https://washingtonlegacyfoundation.org> or contact **Shawn Eyre** at 202-425-1025 or shawn.eyre@washingtonlegacyfoundation.org.