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3-12-05

**Presentation to City Council – March 12, 2005**

My name is Tom Tuttle. I am speaking this morning as the Chairman of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation, to call council's attention to a particular problem facing the city and its citizens and to tell you about a proven way of addressing that problem.

A significant number of Alexandria's young people decide each year that high school just doesn't work for them. This can happen for many reasons, but it is not always because these are bad kids not worth trying to teach. While we are all justly proud of our public high school – both of my kids graduated from TC and loved it - it simply does not meet the needs of all of our youth. And the No Child Left Behind law has greatly increased the likelihood that there will be some kids who are left behind. So, what does and should the City do for the kids that become drop-outs, after having invested over \$100,000 in their education? One answer is just to write them off – forget about them - and hope that they don't end up in jail. This may keep them out of the No Child Left Behind "numbers" but it does not address the real issue, which should be helping all of our youth become productive citizens. We at the Seaport Foundation think there is a better approach.

For the past dozen years the Foundation has operated a program that uses the building of small wooden boats as a vehicle for giving some of our most disadvantaged and at-risk youth an opportunity to get their lives straight and become good citizens who can give back to the community. We give these kids a job and teach them a set of skills that will allow them not only to keep a job but to succeed in it and to have shot at a productive life. In carrying out our work, we partner with several groups both from Alexandria and elsewhere in the region, including the Court Services Unit, the school system and the Carpenter's Union. Of the 220 apprentices that have gone through our program, 65% have gone on to jobs, or back to school or to the military – they are leading productive lives and are staying out of trouble.

This past year we evaluated with our partners how we could do more. The result is this year's expanded program, which is targeted to "graduate" 24 apprentices, who, after a six month program, will each have learned a new trade, gotten their GED, and gone into a good paying job with the Carpenter's Union, who thinks enough of our training program to guarantee the jobs to our graduates. It is not surprising that with this opportunity we filled our roles, with a waiting list, less than two weeks after announcing the current session. These kids want to have a chance and will take advantage of one if it is made available.

We think this is a remarkable program, and we want you to see it first hand, to appreciate how it works and what this type of program can do for our youth. So we will be calling your offices to set up times later this month when each Councilperson can come down to our shop and "classroom" on the waterfront, see the program in action, visit with the kids, and see if you don't agree that it warrants the City's support. After that, we will propose that the City directly sponsor a number of youth in next year's budget through a contract with the Foundation to provide these much needed services to an often overlooked segment of our community.

Thanks for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Jack Thompson

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3-15-04



# Support Smart Growth—Bring a Grocery Store to North Old Town!!

## What's Happening?

The City of Alexandria is reviewing a proposal to tear down an obsolete warehouse at N. Fayette and Madison and construct a **Harris Teeter** grocery store topped with condos. But the Planning Department does not appear focused on getting "The Madison" project approved.

## Why the Delay?

The City prefers to design projects in private with the developer; only after the City has its say does the public have its say. And that means that many good projects never see the light of public opinion. Because **the public found out "too soon"** about The Madison, the Planning Department is out of its comfort zone, and this Smart Growth project is at risk.

## What are People Saying About The Madison?

"[The Madison is recognized] for contributing land use, transportation and environmental advantages to the region."

"The proposal would go a long way toward bringing more residential uses to the neighborhood and putting more people on the street."

"**The location . . . is the bulls eye** for 10 of the city identified 'Potential Redevelopment Sites.'"

—Smart Growth Alliance\*

## What are the Benefits?

Continues the upward trend in North Old Town from deserted warehouses to **pedestrian-friendly urban neighborhood**.

Convenient shopping, street-level retail, and community space.

Smart Growth, tax revenue, jobs, and safer streets.

## What Can I Do?

**Get the City's Attention and Support The Madison!!**

Email the City Council, the City Manager, and the Planning Director (<http://alexandriava.gov/city/amacc/>)

Call our new City Manager, James Hartmann (703.838.4300)

Call the Planning Director, Eileen Fogarty (703.838.4666)

## Who are We?

We are your neighbors at The Lofts, on the corner of N. Fayette and Madison, and we strongly support this project. For more information, email us at [TheLofts@earthlink.net](mailto:TheLofts@earthlink.net).

\* Members of SGA are: Urban Land Institute Washington, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Greater Washington Board of Trade, Coalition for Smarter Growth, and Metropolitan Washington Builders Council. <http://washington.uli.org/sga>.



**From:** "Joe Lerch - ext. 305" <JLerch@savethebay.cbf.org>  
**Date:** March 1, 2005 11:00:05 AM EST  
**To:** <jack.sullivan9@verizon.net>  
**Subject:** **Attack on the Alexandria Planning Staff**

Dear Mr. Sullivan,

Thank you for faxing the circular to us and bringing this matter to our attention. We have contacted John Bailey to express our concern over the language criticizing the planning staff and ask that it not be circulated further with our name on it. While the Smart Growth Alliance (of which CBF is a member) does endorse the project we are not involved in criticizing the planning process in the City of Alexandria.

For more information on the Smart Growth Alliance, principles of smarth growth, and how projects are endorsed, I recommend you to the following website:  
[http://ivic02.residentinteractive.com/programs/web.show\\_html2?xinp ut=1877156&parentid=1299410](http://ivic02.residentinteractive.com/programs/web.show_html2?xinp ut=1877156&parentid=1299410)

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me.

Yours Truly,

**Joe Lerch**  
**Virginia Land Planner, AICP**  
**Chesapeake Bay Foundation**  
**(804) 780-1392**