New Year, New Newsletter

Welcome to The River Renower, the new e-newsletter for RiverRenew! RiverRenew is a major infrastructure program in response to a 2017 Virginia law to achieve cleaner, healthier waterways in Alexandria. In this inaugural issue, we'll begin to look at what’s boring and more – for RiverRenew and the Alexandria community in 2019. We look forward to sharing updates, events, and behind-the-scenes stories. As always, your feedback is welcome.

Behind the tagline: “Boring” has several meanings for RiverRenew. A boring is a small, deep hole in the ground that allows us to conduct soil sampling to understand subsurface conditions. RiverRenew will also use a tunnel boring machine to build the tunnels as it bores through the ground, about 100 feet beneath the surface.

2019: Looking Ahead

In January, AlexRenew and the City of Alexandria announced the establishment of the RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group to advise and monitor implementation of the program. Composed of 13 members, this diverse group of citizens will serve as ambassadors for the program, reaching out to neighbors and community members to receive and share input. Stakeholder Advisory Group meetings will be open to the public, and we encourage you to attend and participate. Learn more about the Stakeholder Advisory Group and find out who your representatives are here: riverrenew.com/sag/.

Throughout the spring, RiverRenew will continue to work through the Environmental Assessment process with the National Park Service and conduct field investigations to inform the tunnel system design. The Environmental Assessment document analyzes the potential impacts on the community and environment to ensure that natural resources, cultural resources, and community impacts are considered when locating proposed alternatives for the tunnel system. Following its completion, anticipated in spring, the RiverRenew team will share findings of the Environmental Assessment with the community at the next series of Community Listening Sessions. Community outreach efforts will also continue, with the RiverRenew team sharing information at community meetings, local events, and farmers’ markets.

Our goal is to make RiverRenew an enriching community experience that helps all of us learn more about the value of water and the important role we all play in preserving our natural resources. We encourage residents to learn more about this important upgrade to Alexandria’s sewer system at riverrenew.com and watch for exciting happenings this year, like our next round of Community Listening Sessions.
Recent and Upcoming Events

- **January 7: Presentation to Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations**
  RiverRenew provided an update on the program and coordination with the National Park Service on the Environmental Assessment.

- **January 31: City Council – AlexRenew Board Project Review Workgroup Meeting**
  The City Council-Board Workgroup held its monthly meeting to oversee the implementation of RiverRenew. Meeting materials are available here.

- **February 5: Soil Sampling Activities Begin**
  RiverRenew started collecting soil samples at AlexRenew's wastewater treatment plant and in Jones Point Park. Learn more.

- **February 20: City Council – AlexRenew Board Project Review Workgroup Meeting**
  5:00 p.m. – AlexRenew Environmental Center (1800 Limerick Street)

- **February 27: RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting**
  7:00 p.m. – AlexRenew Environmental Center (1800 Limerick Street)
  The RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group will hold its first meeting to monitor the implementation of RiverRenew.

Getting to Know:

**Mike Bracher, P.E. – Geotechnical Lead**

If you've driven the perimeter of Old Town the last few months, chances are you've seen Mike Bracher. And if it looked like he was playing in the dirt, that's because he was! As RiverRenew's resident "Dirt Guy," Mike leads subsurface exploration efforts for the program. Mike graduated from Washington State University with a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering. With over 15 years’ experience in the industry, he specializes in the design of subsurface exploration plans and field engineering related to site explorations, excavation support, and construction oversight.

Since July 2018, Mike and his team have supported RiverRenew by studying the conditions below ground in Old Town. The data collected from these soil sampling activities, called "borings," will be used to design and build solutions best suited to our local geology.

When he's not working on RiverRenew, Mike enjoys spending time with his wife, two children and dog. He plays volleyball, coaches youth soccer and volleyball, and is always up for singing karaoke.
Did You Know?

RiverRenew is working with the world-renowned University of Iowa – Hydrosience & Engineering C. Maxwell Stanley Hydraulics Laboratory (IIHR) to model and test the diversion facilities that will capture flows from Alexandria’s combined sewer outfalls.

A scale-model drop shaft constructed by our partners at IIHR demonstrates how water will enter the proposed tunnel system. The drop shaft dissipates the energy of the falling water and removes air before it enters the tunnel. This model will allow our engineers to test a variety of conditions and configurations to optimize a design best suited for Alexandria.

Check out this video to see the model in action!

Pictured to the right: RiverRenew’s scale-model drop shaft constructed by IIHR