

**NORTH VIRGINIA BEACH
CIVIC LEAGUE NEWS**



**North Va. Beach Civic League
Post Office Box 1676
Virginia Beach, VA 23451**



Fletcher Bryant©

JANUARY 2011

2011 CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING DATES

All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the ARE library auditorium at 67th Street and Atlantic Avenue.

Board of Directors

December 14, 2010
March 8, 2011
June 14, 2011
September 13, 2011
December 13, 2011

General Membership

January 18, 2011
April 19, 2011
July 19, 2011
October 18, 2011
January 17, 2012

A NOTE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

An arctic blast of cold air, high winds and a blanket of 13 inches of snow in the North End on Sunday, December 26th, made for a dynamic conclusion to 2010. I enjoyed observing the picturesque scene unfolding outside our house that transformed our yard into a winter wonderland. As a roaring fire in our living room kept the biting cold away, I watched a brilliant red cardinal throughout the day constantly clearing out a small patch on the bird feeder for the many other North End birds in search of a bite to eat. Eventually, we ventured out for a brisk visit to the beach that was exhilarating and cold. After such a busy holiday season, the stillness of January and the beauty of the bare trees is a welcome change.

And, of course, we continue to work on issues important to all North End residents, including: *Safety Awareness Issue*: The NVBCL Board and several of our citizens continue to express concern about the safety issue related to the many pedestrians and bicyclists who use the feeder road for exercise. The rules of the roads for pedestrians and bicyclists require stopping at crossing points along the feeder road (controlled by STOP signs) and looking for traffic before crossing the numbered streets. Several near misses have occurred when those exercising were distracted while listening to music on their iPods and not paying attention to motorists. We need to make this a priority in our 2011 safety campaign and raise awareness that safety is the responsibility of EVERYONE. Drivers leaving the numbered streets must remain alert for exercisers who are simply not paying attention. Additionally, we are working with the City to make sure that hedges, fences and trees are not blocking the stop signs. NVBCL has requested the City to re-paint the stop signs along the bike path pavement and to look into adding this feature to the feeder road. Budget permitting, it is an environmentally sustainable way to remind those using the feeder roads to use caution and remain alert.

Happy New Year!

J. Kimberly Goold
President, NVBCL

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.NVBCL.ORG

JANUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Please join us on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. at the A.R.E. Dan Adams, with Public Works/Coastal Engineering will provide an update regarding the North Beach Drainage Project and Barry Frankenfield, Strategic Growth Area Manager with the City will provide a status report regarding the Laskin Gateway Project.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of December 14, 2010, there is \$230.49 in our checking account, \$15,482.65 in our money market account, and our certificate of deposit totals \$21,967.42. Total assets are currently \$37,680.56. Presently, our NVBCL membership totals 831 participants with over 600 registering for our mass email message system so we were able to quickly notify them of important matters pertaining to our neighborhood. If you wish to join the NVBCL Civic League and be added to our notification list, please use the enclosed envelope to pay your 2011 dues and be sure to include your email address.

BEAUTIFICATION

The NVBCL Board passed a motion to honor Bill Lackland (214 85th Street) as the civic league's recipient of the "Beautification by Example" award for his dedicated continual trash removal and maintenance of the entire Northend Atlantic Avenue median/feeder road corridor. Additionally, the NVBCL Board agreed to give \$40 for a "Civic League" paver for inclusion with the pavers installed by the 87th Street residents.

LASKIN ROAD GATEWAY PROJECT

The Laskin Gateway Project continues to move forward with a detailed update provided on both the civic league's and the City's websites. Most notably the City plans to have Laskin Road re-open in May.

61st STREET PUMP STATION

The pump station work in the median is on schedule. However, the outfall work offshore has been delayed for four weeks to correct the alignment of the pipes.

RESORT PROJECTS

The City has established a direct link to all resort projects: <http://www.vbgov.com> Go to upper right side of web page and click on link to "Resort Area Projects" under "Hot Topics". This is where all updates for the following can be found:

- Laskin Gateway
- The Dome Site
- Grommet Island Park
- Rudee Loop
- South Beach Trail
- Resort Area Master Plan
- 61st Street Pump Station (CIP 7-902)
- Convention Center Headquarters Hotel
- Light Rail within the Resort Area
- 19th Street/Central Beach Corridor
- Aquarium and Owl Creek District Plan
- Lesner Bridge Replacement Project

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HOSPITALITY

A hospitality committee will review the NVBCL fall party at the Wyndham where 134 neighbors attended at a cost of \$1,000 to determine ways to improve attendance or postpone the event for a few years. Comments from all are welcome. It was a good opportunity to meet our neighbors, while listening to our very own D.J., Mark Chase entertain us with a wide variety of tunes. *Thanks Mark!*

67TH STREET OFFICERS CLUB

Demolition of the 67th street naval officers club will begin the week of January 3, 2011. Construction start for new Naval housing project is slated for Fall 2012.

ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE (ZRC)

Land Planning Initiative:

A subcommittee of the ZRC continues to work with planning staff, developers, and zoning staff on expansion/modifications of non-conforming uses and the best possible approach for the redevelopment of our neighborhood. An example of this would be the renovation of an older home combined with a request to renovate or expand an existing secondary structure in the rear of the property. Two such projects were successfully done at 211-70th street and 203 – 69th Street, both of which were supported by the adjacent residents and our zoning committee. This new approach is in response to the typical solution we have not always enjoyed--tearing down an older cottage with detached garage apartment and replacing with a big-box duplex. The ZRC feels this may be a better way to preserve the character of our neighborhood, especially since there is no answer to “by-right” duplex development in our zoning district. The ZRC feels it may be better to allow the development of two detached small coastal cottages on one site, rather than one big duplex box. We are working towards establishing the R5R zoning district between 50th street and 89th street as a special overlay district. This special overlay would take the applicable sections of the Old Beach District Design Guidelines and synthesize them with our neighborhood character. Two neighborhood architects, Gerrie West and Duff Kliever have been working on refinements to the Old Beach Design Guidelines for possible use and benefits in our neighborhood. The guidelines will be strictly incentive based and therefore will not be mandatory. Stay tuned for updates about this great planning opportunity for our area. Our goal is to carry our revisions to the Planning Department in early 2011.

Non-Conforming Uses:

The ZRC has worked very hard to review some non-conforming request that have asked us to consider the land planning option listed above. Recently a project that requested the demolition and re-construction of a secondary dwelling received rather intense scrutiny from the ZRC. We worked with the applicant to reduce the size and mass of the requested re-construction and were successful to a great degree. The ZRC provided a “neutral” but well detailed report to City Council. Several adjacent property owners used this public process to restrict what this applicant would be able to construct even when they had the same type on construction on their own property. What was a difficult situation for the applicant and the adjacent property owners was worked out to a better overall result through the efforts of the ZRC. Please make sure that before you oppose a project try and obtain all the facts and consult with our zoning committee, the result may be better for all parties.

BZA Variances

The ZRC has seen an increase in variance requests at the North End over the last few months. The good news is that this represents an increase in construction activity which is very good for our local economy. Some requests have been very simple to review while others are very complex. We have reviewed (21) twenty-one cases this year and look forward to an increase in activity in the coming year.

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES YET?

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2010-2011

OFFICERS

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Past President:	Dave Jester	200 63 rd Street	437-1677	eljefe11@marlyndv.com

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