# NORTH VIRGINIA BEACH CIVIC LEAGUE NEWS







Fletcher Bryant©

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

#### **OCTOBER 2010**

# **UPCOMING 2010 MEETING DATES**

\*General Membership\* October 19, 2010 **Board of Directors**December 14, 2010

# GENERAL MEETINGS ARE THE 3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAY OF THE MONTH.

Board meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the ARE library auditorium at 67<sup>th</sup> Street and Atlantic Avenue. We hope to see you there.

# **A NOTE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:**

As I write this message, I know that I share the sentiments of all that the Virginia Beach coastline has escaped the full fury of this year's hurricane season. As usual, the seasonal storm activity brought broad smiles to surfers who were blessed with some great waves (after a flat summer). I know we are also thankful that the recent gale force winds spared our many beautiful trees. Now, as the autumn season gets into full swing, our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving and all of the related festivities that will soon be upon us as the curtain on 2010 draws to a close. This past year has seen continued progress in upgrades to our utility infrastructures which, no doubt, has tested the patience of our community with the accompanying roadway detours. The City continues to post construction schedule changes on its website and we, in return, will continue to post them on the NVBCL website.

A special thanks to Theresa Briggs for organizing a successful neighborhood party recently held on Sunday, September 26, at the Wyndham, with another thank you to the Civic League's Area Directors for selling tickets. It was a wonderful evening and a great opportunity to meet our neighbors.

Please join us Tuesday, October 19, at 7:30pm at the A.R.E. for the NVBCL general membership meeting. Marie Arnt, Public Outreach Coordinator for Hampton Roads Transit, and Travis Campbell, Senior Transportation Planner for Virginia Beach, will be our guest speakers. Results from the VB Transit Extension Study, transit alternatives, station access, traffic circulation including thoughts regarding a walking community, and the impact on the Strategic Growth Area, will be presented. I hope you will plan to attend.

J. Kimberly Goold President, NVBCL

#### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2010 BOARD MEETING:**

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

As of September 14, 2010, there is \$995.32 in our checking account, \$17,461.53 in our money market account, and our certificate of deposit totals \$21,967.42. Total assets are currently \$40,424.27. Presently, our NVBCL membership totals 790 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 2010 dues and be sure to include your email address.

#### **ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE (ZRC)**

A subcommittee of the ZRC continues to work with planning staff, developers, and zoning staff on expansion/modifications of non-conforming uses. This is about a renovation of an older home and requesting to renovate/expand an existing secondary structure in the rear of the property. This was recently successfully done at 211-70<sup>th</sup> street and 203 – 69<sup>th</sup> Street which was supported by the adjacent residents and zoning committee. This is a new approach versus tearing down an older cottage with detached garage apartment and replacing with a big-box duplex. The ZRC feels this is a much better way to preserve the character of our neighborhood in light of the fact that there is no answer to "by-right" duplexes in our zoning district. Our goal is to allow development of two detached small coastal cottages on one site. We are working towards establishing the R5R zoning district between 50<sup>th</sup> street and 89<sup>th</sup> 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. Two neighborhood architects, Gerrie West and Duff Kliewer have been working on refinements to the Old Beach Design Guidelines for inclusion into our neighborhood. This incentive based guideline *is not mandatory but* has worked well in the Old Beach neighborhood over the last few years. Stay tuned for updates about this great planning opportunity for our area.

#### LASKIN GATEWAY PROJECT

The Laskin Gateway project Phase Two and Three are now under construction. Martin Waranch and Billy Almond are representing the NVBCL on the Citizens Advisory Committee for the project. All construction will be complete for this phase for the season is resuming this Fall for the next phase. Please go to the city website for daily updated information regarding the project at <a href="https://www.vbgov.com/laskingateway">www.vbgov.com/laskingateway</a>. All relevant information including project schedule and the latest designs are posted on the right hand side of the web page under "related documents".

# **61<sup>st</sup> STREET PUMP STATION**

Daniel Adams, Virginia Beach Public Works/Coastal Engineering Department, provides the following status update: Construction work began in late October 2009 and is anticipated to be completed by the end of December 2011. Storm drain installation and utility relocation work will resume on Atlantic Avenue after October 1<sup>st</sup>, and will continue until mid-May 2011. Construction continues on the storm water pump station in the median of Atlantic Avenue just south of 61<sup>st</sup> Street. The bottom slab of the wet well has been poured, and the wet well walls are being constructed. The ocean outfall construction has reached the outer surf zone and continues to progress offshore.

# **HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2010 BOARD MEETING:**

## STREET BEAUTIFICATION

The NVBCL would like to recognize and commend Bernie Kirsch and the 87<sup>th</sup> Street "Revelers" on the magnificent beach entryway and garden at the Oceanside end of 87<sup>th</sup> Street. It has obviously been a labor of love for Mr. Kirsch and his neighbors, and it is recommended to all northenders to stop by, take a look, and be inspired at what can be accomplished with strictly local support. If you are walking the beach on a summer weekend it will be easy to find since Mr. Kirsch also provides a yardarm full of flags and pennants. Other street residents can apply for landscape starter funds from a long standing matching grant offer from the civic league beautification committee.

# **BEACHES & RECREATION**

There have been many complaints about sand on the crosswalks, some of which became so bad that even the platform/bench areas were covered and unusable on some streets. Handicapped accessibility was severely degraded. Ron Pearson met with the Mayor and the Assistant City Manager in July specifically to get them moving to clear the crosswalks. With City resources limited by lower tax revenues and limited personnel, continuous clearing of the crosswalks is not feasible. However, the City has begun work with about half being done so far and they will continue to do so.

Since 2006 we have been part of the City's red flag program for dangerous surf conditions. Although we had many dangerous surf conditions this summer, there were no red flags on our beach, except at the Wyndham, causing many beachgoers to be unaware of the dangerous surf conditions. This also caused confusion to residents/visitors when surfers were surfing Friday – Sunday, which is allowed when red flag conditions exist. Ron Pearson has contacted the Emergency Medical Services – Lifeguard Service, and they acknowledge that the ball was dropped in relation to the North End beach. The NVBCL will meet with the appropriate City representatives to develop a better plan prior to the 2011 summer season.

Councilman John Uhrin was recently contacted in response to a few isolated complaints this summer regarding paddleboards at the northend. He reports that because of existing State Codes, the City is not in a position to take action at this time. However, it was agreed that the Chief of Police would set up a committee to help come up with <u>potential future</u> regulations that the City Council <u>might</u> consider in the future, should the need arise. Any rules that may be enacted in the future will be done so with careful consideration and tremendous input from the surfing committee.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Virginia Beach City Ordinances prohibit placing any type of sign on public property, specifically the <u>median</u> between Atlantic Ave. and the feeder road throughout the North End. Any sign is subject to confiscation and there is no requirement to return the sign. Therefore, For Sale/Rent, Open House, Directional Signs, Garage Sale, etc. signs will more than likely be removed.



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# HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES YET?

# **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2010-2011**

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President:	Kimberly Goold	311 49 <sup>th</sup> Street	428-7537	kimberly.goold@troutmansanders.com
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60 <sup>th</sup> - 69 <sup>th</sup> Streets:	<b>Buddy Matthews</b>	217 68 <sup>th</sup> Street	422-6151	beachtreehouse68@yahoo.com
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	Luke Newcomb	118 76 <sup>th</sup> Street	428-5	_
	Vincent O'Brien	6111 Atlantic Ave		_
	Virginia Rader	307 55 <sup>th</sup> Street	425-2	
	Cecelia Soscia	215 68 <sup>th</sup> Street	285-2	<del>-</del>
	Dorothy Spitalney	115-B 68 <sup>th</sup> Street	425-5	•
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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.NVBCL.ORG