

North
Virginia Beach
Civic League
News

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2012 MEMBERSHIP DUES YET? - \$15.00 -

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2012

OFFICERS

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Artist—Crystal Moll

July 2012

A NOTE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

So far it has been an interesting start to my tenure as President. I've always said you are never too old to learn, and I am sure doing a lot of learning of late. It is amazing how many hours go into the civic league and how many hours a handful of people have volunteered their time for the North End. Those of you, who are active and come to the meetings, thank you very much. I hope we can improve on that count in the future, as we can use all the connections and resources that each of you can bring. The board has fielded many questions and complaints, from parking issues to florescent colored homes. One of us on the board has tried to answer each and every one of the concerns as quickly and efficiently as possible. There is no way we can remedy every situation, but we will do our best to give you every bit of help we can muster.

Our guest speaker for the next meeting will be Aubrey Lane. Mr. Lane brings his expertise from his position on the Commonwealth Transportation Board and will be speaking on whether light rail is something that should be considered as an alternative form of transportation for Virginia Beach. He will have a short power point presentation and then answer questions from the audience. With the upcoming referendum on light rail we thought Mr. Lane would give us some insight on the pros and cons.

Summer arrived on June 20th, and we have had some unusual weather since - that week of nice cool weather, where the air conditioners were off and we could enjoy the night air and sounds of summer. Now this week we are in the 90's. It's looking like another roller coaster ride of weather is in store for us. Go out and enjoy the many activities that our North End has to offer - crabbing down 64th street, hiking or biking in First Landing State Park, swimming, surfing, kayaking, paddle boarding, fishing or just plain relaxing on the beach with a picnic lunch by your side. We are some of the most fortunate residents in Virginia Beach, so let's not take it for granted. Get out and talk with your neighbors, as we are a thriving community most would love to join. If problems arise see if one of your neighbors can help solve it. I have found the best way to get things accomplished is by helping one another. Pay it forward, as one good deed deserves another. Hope each of you has a fantastic summer, and Mother Nature is kind to us through the hurricane season.

Take Care and God Bless,
Brian Murden
President NVBCL

Second Precinct 385-2700, Non Emergency 385-5000 opt. 3, and 911 of course



July General Membership Meeting

Please join us on Tuesday, July 17, 2012, 7:30PM at the A.R.E. On 67th Street. Aubrey Lane will be the guest speaker.



Important Numbers

Non-Emergency Police 385-5000 option 3
2nd Precinct 385-2700
Neighborhood Preservation 385-5750
Emergency 911

COMMUNITY CORNER

WARHOL, WARHOL, WARHOL

Debi Gray, Executive Director of our own Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), would like to offer an invitation to any North Virginia Beach Civic League member who wants to visit or revisit the Warhol exhibit, showing through August 19th, at half price admission. Just mention that you are a “ North End civic league member” and come see this great exhibit of 130 portraits by the world’s most famous Pop artist. This is also a great opportunity to show off our museum to your out-of-town guests or pick up a membership for the coming year of many exciting exhibits.

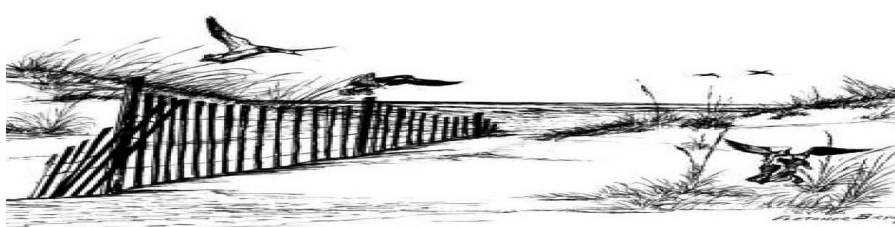
VINTAGE NORTH END

Virginia Beach An Illustrated History

By: Ann Hanbury Callis and
Danna Cullen

Photo editor Chris Crumley

Available locally at Ragged Robin



2012 Civic League Meeting Dates

All General Membership meetings begin at 7:30 PM in the A.R.E. Library auditorium at 67th St. & Atlantic Ave. July’s Guest Speaker – Aubrey Lane

Board of Directors: Sept. 11 and Dec. 4th

General Membership: July 17th and Oct. 23rd

TREASURER’S REPORT

As of June 12 there are 631 members who have paid dues for this year. Check the mailing label if you are not sure whether you have paid or not. If you have not, please mail your \$15 dues in the enclosed envelope. If it says "YES", then you are good until 2013. Thanks for all who have paid. Expenses this year are \$7,458 with an income of \$10,552. Our total assets are \$38,924.

BEAUTIFICATION

The Civic League would like to salute all the “unsung and unknown” daily beach and feeder road walkers who sometimes “take the path less traveled” and divert from the “straight and narrow” or “stoop to conquer” that elusive bit of litter or that scattered case of empty beer cans. These are our neighbors who know that they are never more than a block away from an awaiting trash can. They are the essential link between the careless or thoughtless tourists and transients and our dedicated City waste management professionals. Join them and become part of the solution. Trash begets trash, so don’t pass it by!

HOSPITALITY

Taking it easy, with the beach at our backdoor and many neighborhood gardens in full bloom, it's time to enjoy sunshine, family and friends. If you are ready for a friendly conversation, take a stroll down the feeder road or Ocean Avenue, you're sure to pass a friend or two. If a new neighbor has moved onto your block, please let us know so we can send out a welcome letter. We have posted photos of some of the North End gardens on our website for your enjoyment, with more to come. If you have a vegetable or herb garden that will make your mouth water just by looking at ripe tomatoes, cucumbers or peppers click a pic and let us post it. Happy beach days!

Alert!! - Please make sure your car is locked—it has been reported that several unlocked cars have been broken into.

STREETS, PARKING & UTILITIES

The obvious reduction in work on Atlantic has given all of us a breather. The minor items now delaying full completion are being addressed one by one.

A report was provided the City as to problems with the “Visibility Triangle” for westbound traffic from the oceanfront onto Atlantic. The City has taken steps to “encourage” homeowners who’s landscaping present these obstacles to trim or remove as necessary. The problem of mulch and other materials blocking the drains all over the neighborhood was also made known to the responsible City agency. A review is taking place to see what kind of protection can be provided to prevent vegetative material from washing off yards into the drains. I suggest folks take a look at these drains and use a shovel or rake to clear them. It is OUR homes and cars that will be damaged if water cannot get into the underground pipes.

BEACHES & RECREATION

The storm water project at 61st St. has completed the Atlantic Avenue work but a leak was found near the end of the outfall pipe during testing. Hence the “pier” remains (as well as one trailer in the median for city inspectors). The fix for the leak was started on June 12th and still in work as of June 29th. Inspection and testing scheduled for first week in July. Most of the “pier” will be removed by barge starting July 18th; however the contractor should be able to start removing the beach end of the “pier” as soon as the project passes inspection. Restoration of the dune and walkway is due to be completed as soon as the contractor finishes demobilizing. The pump station pump will not be turned on until the fix is completed, tested and inspected (hopefully well before you read this). When activated, the new pump will move 45,000 gal/min offshore compared to the previous pumps capacity of 600 gal/min which ran over the beach to the surf. The contractor has made interim improvements to the seating of the manhole covers on Atlantic Avenue. Final fixes will wait until summer is over.

We have had significant rip currents already this summer and the city has been putting up the red flags on our beaches. If you are in doubt about swimming conditions, you can call 311 (operators are informed about beach conditions).

Please help educate visitors about no dogs on the beach between 10 am – 6 pm every day and no surfing Friday – Sunday, 11 am – 4 pm (except okay to surf if red flags are up).

Current Resort News

We continue to monitor the traffic alerts on the Laskin Road Gateway. All traffic updates are found on the city’s web site. The Rudee Walk Project is funded and will start construction soon. This project connects the boardwalk to a sidewalk under the Rudee Inlet bridge to Winston Salem Avenue. A boat taxi launch is planned for the future to run visitors from the Rudee Bridge to the pier at the Virginia Aquarium. The Law Enforcement Memorial at 35th Street and the Boardwalk was dedicated on June 23rd. There is a new committee formed to foster the redevelopment of 19th Street. The city is in the process of forming the redevelopment of 19th Street as a destination place including a Farmer’s Market, Art Market and a “Green” destination. It will connect the Convention Center to the Oceanfront.

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:

- 19th Street/Central Beach Corridor
- 61st Street Pump Station (CIP 7-902)
- The Aquarium and Owl Creek District Plan
- Convention Center Headquarters Hotel
- The Dome Site
- Laskin Gateway
- Lesner Bridge Replacement Project (CIP 2-168)
- Light Rail within the Resort Area
- Resort Area Master Plan and Form-Based Codes
- Rudee Loop (Marina District)

Please also check out the Beach Events website for fun activities from now until late fall at all the city venues.

Check out <http://www.beachstreetusa.com>

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. 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 211-70th street and 203 – 69th 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 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. Two neighborhood architects, Gerrie West and Duff Kliwer 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. Our plan is to carry our revisions to the planning department in the Fall of 2012.

Non-Conforming Uses:

The ZRC has worked very hard to review non-conformities which wished to exercise the land planning option listed above. Recently a project that requested the demolition and re-construction of a second dwelling on site met with 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 degree. The ZRC remained “neutral” in our position. Several adjacent property owners used this public process to greatly restrict what this applicant would be able to construct even when they had the same type on construction on their own property. This became a difficult situation for the applicant and the adjacent property owners. The ZRC intervened in this contention and was able to assist in working this out to everyone’s approval. Please make sure that before you oppose a project request that you have all the facts and that your own property is non-conforming and non-compliant as well.

BZA Variances

We continue to monitor variance requests in our neighborhood. We have seen a number of new property owners saddled with illegal construction that occurred on their new residential site by a previous owner that affects their ability to expand now. Site feasibility and thorough due diligence is extremely important when purchasing a new home. Should you be in the market for new property at the North End, please contact the zoning review committee for assistance.

For More Information Please Visit Our Website: WWW.NVBCL.ORG

FYI — Did you know that the city would like you to space your garbage cans/recycle cans 3 feet apart?