

# North Virginia Beach Civic League News

October 2013



## A NOTE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

HAPPY FALL TO ALL!

Let me start off by saying what a fantastic NVBCL fall party we had at the old Cavalier. My hat goes off to Miss Hospitality, Kimberly Goold, Dave Jester, and Jeannie Panza who did the bulk of the planning. They, along with the many other volunteers, pulled off one of the best parties the civic league have ever sponsored as well as one of the best parties of the season. A big thanks goes out to Bruce Thompson and Bart Frye for donating the use of the Grand Ole Dame for the civic league and north end residents to enjoy. The staff at the Cavalier was a tremendous part to having the party run smoothly. Beach Bully's catering was over the top, and the food flowed freely until we gobbled our allotted portions for the event. We are all hoping this can become an annual event, but much will be decided on availability and working around all the renovations that are planned. It is such a great venue, rain or shine. For those of you that missed out on securing a ticket to the sold out event, we apologize. We were pleasantly surprised at how fast the tickets flew out the door and were just afraid we couldn't handle anymore than the around 500 tickets sold.

Summer is over and we now have our beaches back from the many tourists that frequent them. Once summer finally arrived we had terrific weather, and I think I hit the beach more this year than ever. Sand replenishment is completed and no other work, to my knowledge, is slated for the North End except the routine landscaping maintenance that Jim Spruance is doing his best to stay abreast of. The storm season is upon us and at this writing there is nothing heading our way. Let us all pray that it stays that way.

It appears that my two years as president is coming to a close, and John Pharr will begin filling my shoes on January of 2014. It is hard to believe the time has passed this quickly and has been both an honor and a learning experience for myself. Some good, some bad, but over all a great time in trying to solve as many issues

as possible as they arose. I'm sure not everyone was completely satisfied with every outcome, but there is no way to make both sides of an issue happy. I tried my best to keep things fair and impartial and tried to do what was best for all. I had a great group of board members to help me with many of the decisions. There is quite a bit of wisdom to delve into with your board. Great group of people and it has been a pleasure working with them.

Here's looking at great fall and winter and hope to see all of you at the October 15th general meeting.

God Bless Us All,  
Brian Murden  
NVBCL / President

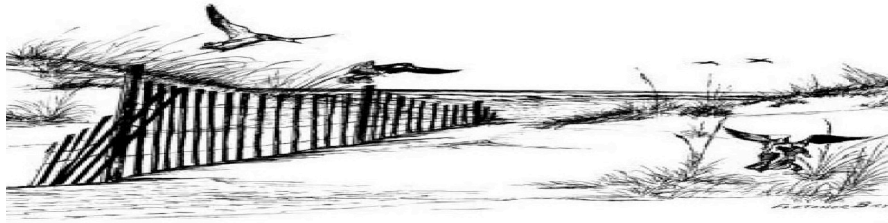
### Civic League Meeting Dates

October 15, 2013  
January 21, 2014

### Guest Speaker

Lt. Harry O'Brien/2<sup>nd</sup> Precinct  
David Nieves with Crime Prevention  
Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2013  
7:30 pm at A.R.E.





## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Thank you to the 763 people who have paid dues. We are trying to get 1,000 homes to pay. If you received an envelope in this newsletter, then please send it in with your \$15 dues. As of the middle of September, we have \$39,056 in checking and money market accounts. We have plenty of money for our North End Sign, which should be up soon.

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## **BEAUTIFICATION**

Hopefully by the time you read this you will have noticed that the City Landscaping crews have trimmed back and removed the “too low” and dead branches from the trees in the median. They often get snagged by school buses and delivery trucks and can become increasingly hazardous to scratching cars and to bikers. For those trees and landscaping on the east side of Atlantic and the west side of the feeder road, the City is sometimes reluctant to trim back resident's landscaping. As a rule in thumb for corner properties, a proper and legal “sightline” is the hypotenuse of a triangle with the legs each 20 feet from the paved corner of the intersection. The “algebra-challenged” can give me a call. All other property owners should trim their landscaping to allow parallel parking or conform with any posted restrictions. Tree branches should probably allow for an 8-foot clearance. Any cuttings will be picked up automatically on Tuesdays if they are in 4' by 4' roadside piles.

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## **STREETS, PARKING & UTILITIES**

Over the past several months, we only had one serious rain that put our new pumps to use...and they worked. Atlantic did not flood. Every street has a few drains and too often trash and/or mulch is washed into them. While some material will enter, invariably some just sits on the grate waiting to hold back the water to flood the street. I take a shovel out from time to time and clear the three on 66<sup>th</sup> and suggest you look into doing it as well. If you have a blocked drain, call 385 1470 and the City will send a crew.

For the most part the owners have taken care of our visibility problem at street corners since being advised. Sometimes the City does the job. If there is a hazard caused by bushes or trees that should be trimmed, please email me or call and I will contact the proper people at the City.

If street lights are out, call 385-4131. As simple as it might sound, they will want the location as well as the Pole number which you'll find somewhere on the pole itself.

We don't have as much trouble with garbage cans left on the streets after tourist season, however sometimes material is put out that is not picked up. If you have a special pickup, you need to call Waste Management at 385-4650 to ensure it gets done.

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## **CURRENT RESORT NEWS**

Laskin Gateway continues to move towards completion by Fall 2013. The round-s-bout is current closed until October 11<sup>th</sup> for the construction of the sculpture and associated foundation. The NVBCL continues to monitor the traffic alerts on the Laskin Road Gateway. All traffic updates are found on the city's web site [www.vbgov.com](http://www.vbgov.com)

The next resort streetscape projects in the resort to be addressed are 29<sup>th</sup> street from Pacific Avenue to Aortic Avenue, Winston Salem from Pacific Avenue to Mediterranean Avenue, and 19<sup>th</sup> street from the Convention Center east to the Dome site. Pacific Avenue improvements are planned in association with the Dome site project from 16<sup>th</sup> street north to 22<sup>nd</sup> street.

Additionally please go to the city website for resort projects for current information on other city projects listed below and more: <http://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/sga/projects/Pages/default.aspx>

## HOSPITALITY

September 20th turned out to be the perfect full moon autumn night for our first ever NVBCL party on the lawn of the Cavalier on the Hill. The cool temperature greeted our neighbors as many arrived by bike, or by walking down the 1920's brick walkway that leads to the grand entrance with its majestic columns and serpentine enclosure. Guest were ushered through the white tiled pool area to the east lawn that overlooks the ocean. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Thompson and Mr. Frye, we enjoyed the grand architecture while dining on southern BBQ, red and white wines and local craft beers while topping it off with an array of cookies. Neighbors were eager to share stories of times at the Cavalier that were special to their family. My favorite was from an elegant woman whose husband, like his father before him, had proposed to her 60 years ago in the family's cabana at the old Cavalier Beach Club. As the years passed and the tradition grew several more family members proposed to their soul mates in the same cabana.

The charm for those who chose to dine in the Sir Walter Raleigh Room was a nostalgic feeling of a former era. Many guests lounged in white wicker sofas and chairs on the south porch or lawn while listening to the tunes of Count Basie, Frank Sinatra or Motown. Neighbors caught up with friends they hadn't seen in years. When we began planning the evening, we thought we could sell 250, maybe even 300 tickets tops. After the postcard invite was mailed to our list of dues paying members (without a Facebook posting) the response went beyond our wildest estimate. Our best guess is a final tally of 500 ++ friends and family members who were able to enjoy the event. The success of the night is due to many volunteer hours contributed by several NVBCL Board Members. A special thanks goes to Dave Jester, Jeannie Panza, Kaye Harris, Virginia Radar, Vince O'Brien, John Pharr and Brian Murden not to mention all the board members that pitched in and helped out the day of the event.

In some respect, our beloved grand old dame *The Cavalier*, defines the history of our neighborhood. We are lucky to live on Virginia's gold coast. If only the walls of the Cavalier could talk, can you imagine ....

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## BEACHES & RECREATION

The board recently received a briefing from the Beaches & Waterways Commission. They were tasked by City Council to identify how future sand replenishments can be funded. They are in the early stages of getting input from the community. Our take was that, rather than raise the city real estate tax to pay for future sand replenishments, they were leaning towards developing a Special Service District (SSD) to raise real estate taxes on the community immediately adjacent to the beach. Before you jump out of your chair, SSD's cannot be created without a majority vote of the affected neighborhood.

The board drafted talking points for the commission that included:

- The NVBCL beach area was originally added to the "Big Beach project" in 2001 over our objections so that the cost/benefit ratios would meet federal guidelines for funding of the project. Additionally, we were told that future FEMA flood insurance support for our area depended upon having a bigger beach. At the time we were told there was a commitment to replenish sand for the next 50 years.
- The NVBCL beach is the only beach contiguous with the resort beach. Consequently, our beach serves as an overflow for the resort beach for tourists (local and non local) who want less congestion and free parking.
- NVBCL property owners already pay much higher taxes as a result of proximity to the beach.
- The beach in the 40's, 50's and 60's needs sand periodically while the beach in the 70's and 80's does not. Getting home owners in about 40% of the neighborhood to vote for higher taxes, when they don't need the sand, would be problematic.
- In the past dune grasses have naturally started spreading in the 40's and 50's; yet the city has plowed them away. Changing this policy and letting grasses and sand cover to expand in the 40's and 50's could improve sand retention and possibly allow dunes to grow.
- The NVBCL believes that sand replenishment should be a city-wide responsibility; a 1 or 2 cent increase in property taxes should suffice to fund a restricted sand replenishment fund (fenced for sand replenishment only). Putting such a burden on just a few property owners would require a far higher increase in property taxes should the city choose to go a Special Service District route.

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**Have you paid your 2013 dues?**

## Important Numbers

Non-Emergency Police 385-5000  
Opt.3  
2nd Precinct 385-2700  
Neighborhood Preservation 385-5750

## **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2013**

### OFFICERS

President	Brian Murden	417 Goodspeed	428-7243	beachgallery@verizon.net
Vice-President	John Pharr	202 50 <sup>th</sup> Street	435-3738	john@nbgourmet.com
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Executive Secretary	Jeannie Panza		437-1677	jpanza@marlyndv.com
Past President:	Kimberly Goold	311 49 <sup>th</sup> Street	428-7537	kimberly.goold@troutmansanders.com

### DIRECTORS

Zoning	Billy Almond	209 70 <sup>th</sup> Street	422-9522	billy@wplsite.com
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Meetings/Publicity	Buddy Matthews	217 68 <sup>th</sup> Street	422-6151	beachtreehouse68@yahoo.com
Hospitality	Kimberly Goold	311 49 <sup>th</sup> Street	428-7537	kimberly.goold@troutmansanders.com

### AREA DIRECTORS

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50 <sup>th</sup> – 59 <sup>th</sup> Streets	Mark Chase	111 57 <sup>th</sup> Street	491-1729	chasemark@msn.com
60 <sup>th</sup> – 69 <sup>th</sup> Streets	Buddy Matthews	217 68 <sup>th</sup> Street	422-6151	beachtreehouse68@yahoo.com
70 <sup>th</sup> – 79 <sup>th</sup> Streets	Sue Bowser	223 77 <sup>th</sup> Street	422-5204	suebowser@cox.net
80 <sup>th</sup> – 89 <sup>th</sup> Streets	Larry Staunton	212 84 <sup>th</sup> Street	428-1514	larrystaunton@cox.net
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### DIRECTORS AT-LARGE

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