

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

JULY 2015

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

SUMMER is in full swing at the North End, and I hope you all are having a terrific season. The heat has arrived, along with the resort tourists, rip currents and even more shark sightings this season. Who needs an action movie? Just walk around the neighborhood and take in the excitement.

In all seriousness, take the time to be careful while you enjoy these hot summer days; we are filled to capacity with more people, cars and visitors, so be careful each and every day while we all enjoy our wondrous neighborhood.

As you can see – or, more to the point, not see – the Cavalier project is well under way and moving forward. The Oceanfront hotel has been demolished, the historic hotel on the hill is in full renovation and the first home site is going up. There will be lots more coming quickly, and possibly a few new details for us to consider, which we will keep you briefed on as they come to us. Several of us enjoyed a recent update on the progress of the entire project, and it was very enlightening (*see Page 2*). I continue to be impressed with the efforts of the Cavalier team to be the best neighbors they can during construction.

As we wrote recently on our website, we are coordinating a joint effort with the city to update and improve the flower beds along the feeder road, which runs the entire length of our neighborhood. While the oleanders will be leaving us, we view it as a terrific opportunity to

work with the city to vastly improve the existing area to beautify it and truly make it a linear park (*see Page 3*).

Updates will be made at the general membership meeting July 21, so come and hear what is proposed, and what we can look forward to in the future.

A special mention of thanks and appreciation is due our zoning committee members, who recently received a design award from the city for the Atkinson Realty project at 54th Street. It's a first, but more than that a deserved thank-you for the many hours they have put in to protect the North End's residential character.

Our general meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 21, at the A.R.E Center. In addition to reports and updates from our committee chairmen and the committee working with the city on the feeder road project, our speakers will be from The Virginia Gentlemen, a nonprofit charity specializing in raising awareness, and money, in the fight against ALS. Come hear about their mission and the Camp Grom project.

One last note: I hope you all read and see the difference your civic league is trying to make in our great neighborhood. As I have always asked, come join in any way your time allows. Become a member and get our newsletter. Come to a meeting and see what we are involved in. And, if you are able, give some time to help the many neighbors who already support the North End with so many good causes and projects.

See you around the neighborhood.

John Pharr, president, NVBCL



Upcoming civic league general meeting dates
(Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. at A.R.E.)

July 21
Oct. 13

Guest speakers for July 21

Billy Ennis and Ross Verra from The Virginia Gentlemen will present information on the Camp Grom project.

Treasurer's report

As of the end of June, we had 803 members who have paid their \$15 dues for 2015. (The mailing label will indicate if you have paid as of then.)

At year-end 2014 we had 917 members – the most ever but short of our 1,000-member goal. Please ask your neighbors to join the civic league!

Our total assets at the end of June were \$41,880.

– Kaye Harris



Important numbers

Nonemergency police, 385-5000, option 3

2nd Precinct, 385-2700

Neighborhood Preservation,
385-5750

Cavalier update

On May 6th, several people were invited to a preview tour of the Old Cavalier Hotel sponsored by Bruce Thompson and some of his development team. We also got a preview and some conceptual ideas for the new Oceanfront hotel across the street. The tour comprised residents who live nearby, North End civic league officers, residents of Ocean Hills and select members of the Virginia Historical Society. So here is some information from a few of my tour notes:

- The Hunt Room stays, as does the fireplace. It will be enhanced to allow for dining, entertainment, etc.
- The bourbon distillery will be directly behind the Hunt Room and will be open for tours and tastings. If you read the Beacon recently, you saw this was approved and moving forward.
- The project is expensive, more than estimated. Higher costs due to the shape of the Old Cavalier at the time of purchase and working with the Historical Society to preserve the building according to plans and procedures.
- The ballroom and main floors have outstanding features, and off the back an outdoor, terrace style restaurant is planned.
- The pool, spa and exercise rooms will be on the bottom floor. Thompson envisions the Old Cavalier to

be the premier wedding locale in Virginia.

■ In total, there will be 60 rooms or so and about 32 suites. A lot of research has gone into making this a mix of history, elegance and style without being stodgy. As Thompson put it, “The hotel should have a little edge to it, and energy.”

■ Plans are to open late spring or early next summer.

Likewise, a few more notes on the new property on the Atlantic side of the street:

■ Will be a Marriott property; we got a sneak preview, and I definitely approved of the look – it will be a showcase hotel.

■ Much thought is going into how to pull the two properties together. Some ideas were offered up for opinions, and it was my estimation that they will be excellent ideas – some on the way, some still being considered, and the team was really seeking input from the neighbors before advancing some of their plans.

■ The Beach Club area will be totally redone, and some oceanside condos are planned – all well-done, all well-placed within the boundaries of the property.

Once more information becomes reality, Thompson has offered to come back to the civic league to make an updated presentation.

– *John Pharr*



COURTESY OF FRYE PROPERTIES

OTHER RESORT PROJECTS

■ Pacific Avenue improvements are complete for phase one. Phase two is scheduled to begin about the first of October. Mike Tippin is the project manager for the city’s Public Works Department: (757) 385.5639, MTippin@vb.gov.

■ The Peterson Cos. submitted its proposal for the former Dome site in June, calling the 230,000-square-foot entertainment venue VA ViBe! Details at www.yesviriniabeach.com/resources/domesite and www.petersoncos.com – *Billy Almond*



DON NADEN

BEAUTIFICATION: SO LONG, OLEANDERS?

At the NVBCL board meeting June 9, a presentation and update was made regarding the dead oleanders in the bedding up and down the North End's median along Atlantic Avenue.

The city began June 10 to remove all the dead plants, starting in the lower 40s and moving up Atlantic. A lively discussion was held as to what to replace the oleanders with, mainly seeking native plants that should survive the winters, high heat and salt burn. There were not a lot of really good choices, but that did lead us to a re-examination of the entire feeder road, which is truly a gateway to our neighborhood streets and the resort area.

With that in mind, we have formed a committee to review

possibly making the entire feeder road median area a virtual linear park, filled with more live oaks and other, low plantings. We feel it might be a great opportunity to work with the city to vastly improve our North End and to end the beds that continue to not support hearty and pretty plants and get heavily weeded.

We will have more news at the regular civic league meeting, and our proposed deadline for a plan to the city is Oct. 1.

The committee members are directors Billy Almond, Dave Jester, Jack Drescher and Jim Spruance. We encourage North End residents to submit ideas and comments to any of us.

– John Pharr, Jim Spruance

STREETS

There has been a lot of discussion regarding speeding this summer, and a lot of it is warranted. Let's do what we can: Be vigilant for our children, cyclists and joggers. Respectfully caution anyone

we know to obey the speed limits.

We know this is occurring, as it does in so many places, so please be careful and aware when out in the streets.

– John Pharr

ON THE BEACHES

The new signs for the sand dunes, previewed at the last civic league general meeting (*below*), are available for streets beginning at 57th and proceeding up from there along the dune line. These signs are designed to enhance protection and awareness of our sand dunes.

If your street would like to sponsor the new signage, collect \$400 per street, and the civic league can work with the city to help erect the signs.



The sponsors who have offered fireworks July Fourth weekend around 52nd Street were unable to blast off this year due to issues with beach closures, fire marshal regulations, etc. They say they want to do it again, and talks were under way to see how we can bring them back to the North End. We will keep you posted.

– John Pharr



COURTESY HRT

WHERE ARE THE SHELTERS?

Here's an update: In mid-June, Hampton Roads Transit estimated the bus shelters, at the Wyndham and A.R.E. Center, should be installed within 45 days, so we anticipate now that they will be in place by late July. (Photo is an example of what they look like.)

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Have you paid your \$15 dues for 2015? YES

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http://nvbcl.org

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2015

OFFICERS

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Past President	Brian Murden	417 Goodspeed Road	428-7243	beachgallery@verizon.net

DIRECTORS

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AREA DIRECTORS

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