

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

OCTOBER 2015

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

WITH THE END of the summer season and fall just around the corner, it normally would be a great time to stop and reflect on things. Not the North End, my neighbors. Lots still going on, projects are completed and more are ahead – all of which keep the neighborhood looking great and keeping up with the changes. Here's a little of what we are involved in for you.

The NVBCL Zoning Committee has finalized the Overlay Project with the city, setting recommendations and incentives for homeowners and builders in the future. (See *Zoning Issues*, Page 2.) Not an easy task, but we have an approved draft that encourages new buildings to help keep the flavor of the North End intact. Maximum allowances on space, square footage, project heights and much more. We will share more of this at next week's general meeting.

The feeder road and median project recommendations have been made to the civic league board and Frank Fentress with the city's Landscape Management Division. We favor the clean look that maintains good visibility, adding more live oaks and native trees where needed. Additionally, some entry gateway planning was discussed. More info coming, but the city plans to start this fall and winter. (*Story*, Page 3)

Our plan of many years to have signs identifying the North End at 42nd and 82nd streets is near completion. We are in agreement with the city on design, cost and insurance, and this should be moving ahead. Again, thanks to some of our neighbors who have worked for years to bring this to completion.

One more note: Many of you have read the articles regarding proposed changes at

the Cavalier project, including a possible realignment of Atlantic Avenue. We don't have enough solid information to give you at this point, but know that we are working with the project's management team and will keep you abreast on the outcome. We continue to appreciate the Cavalier project team updating us with information in advance of events, allowing us to give our input and share the news with you all.

All of this takes time, effort and money, most of which come from your dues and donations. I thank all of you for being members and hope you feel as I do that many dedicated neighbors are involved in making our neighborhood safe, clean and beautiful. Encourage others to join, come to our meetings to learn more and meet many of your neighbors. Most of all, be involved to the extent you can. Your participation makes a difference.

Our next general meeting is at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, at the A.R.E Center, and we invite you to join us. Our speaker will be police Lt. H.I. McBrien from the 2nd Precinct, who will give us an overview of safety this past summer at the beach and will answer questions. After fielding calls from many of you concerning such issues as crime and speeding on Atlantic Avenue, I felt it a good time to ask him to return and give us his perspective as well. Do come and learn!

Also, this is my last letter as your president, and I am pleased that Jack Drescher will take the helm come January. I want to take one moment to thank you all for your support of the civic league; it has opened my eyes personally to see how so many people give so much to where we live or own property. There is lots of room for more involvement, and I can definitely say it has been most rewarding for me.

As always, I hope to see you around the neighborhood.

John Pharr, president, NVBCL



Upcoming civic league general meeting dates

(Tuesdays, 7:30
p.m., at A.R.E.)

Oct. 13

Jan. 19

Guest speaker for Oct. 13

Police Lt. H.I.
McBrien of the 2nd
Precinct. He will
offer an overview
of safety and will
take questions.

Treasurer's report

As of the end of
September, we had
894 members who
had paid their \$15
dues for this year.
(The mailing label
indicates whether
you have paid as
of then.)

Our total assets at
the end of September
were \$38,677.

At year-end 2014
we had 917 mem-
bers – the most
ever but short of
our 1,000-member
goal. We're so
close – please ask
your neighbors to
join the civic
league!

(Please do *not* pay
for next year until
you receive the
January newslet-
ter.)

– Kaye Harris



Important numbers

Nonemergency police, 385-5000, option 3

2nd Precinct, 385-2700

Neighborhood Preservation, 385-5750

ZONING ISSUES



IN THE ZONE! NVBCL Zoning Review Committee members gather around their city Planning Commission Design Award for their role in the Atkinson Realty renovation project on 54th Street, awarded for 2014. "If I am correct," NVBCL President John Pharr says, "it's the first time a neighborhood zoning committee has ever been awarded for such a project by the city."

Members are, front from left: Martin Waranch, Jo Anne Moore, Billy Almond, Mickey Jester; back from left, Hobie Whitmore, Ron Pearson, Holli Wachtmeister, Dave Jester, Will Fluharty, Bernice Pope, Gerrie West.

TOOL FOR A 2-FER

The civic league's Zoning Review Committee members, as well as North End builders, have worked very hard over the last few years to devise a new development opportunity for property owners.

The North End Overlay is a design incentive guideline that allows the construction of two detached cottages on one lot; today this is allowed only if the property already has

two detached living units. Recently an email was sent out to all NVBCL members explaining this procedure.

Please review the email and/or the data on the league's website: nvbcl.org, under Streets & Zoning.

The city Planning Commission is scheduled to review this Oct. 14, followed by City Council action shortly thereafter.

— Billy Almond

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY

ISSUES WITH THE CITY? HERE'S HELP

Our members are the eyes and ears for all of our civic league leaders, and I hear from people with various concerns who don't know which city officials or staff to contact. I've built up quite a list, so I am usually able to provide that info. In cases where you might be hesitant, I am more than glad to make the call for you.

It should be obvious that only in the most extreme circumstances will anyone from the city show up. They are more than willing, but very busy — we live in a big city! — and precisely pointing out a problem or need makes their job easier. Accordingly, whether you are calling me for help or directly contact the city, please follow the Dagnet Philosophy: "Just the facts, ma'm."

A major concern remains those who do not clean up after their pets. If you see that, say something. Every time I take Charlie out, I add trash, cigarette butts, etc. to the bag. We won't see a city street cleaner — it's our job.

The new Atlantic Avenue pump station ended our flooding problem, but some side streets still have problems. Take a shovel or rake when you put the garbage can out and clear off the street's storm drain. If that doesn't solve the problem, call Public Works Operations at 385-1470 — the drain pipe itself might be clogged.

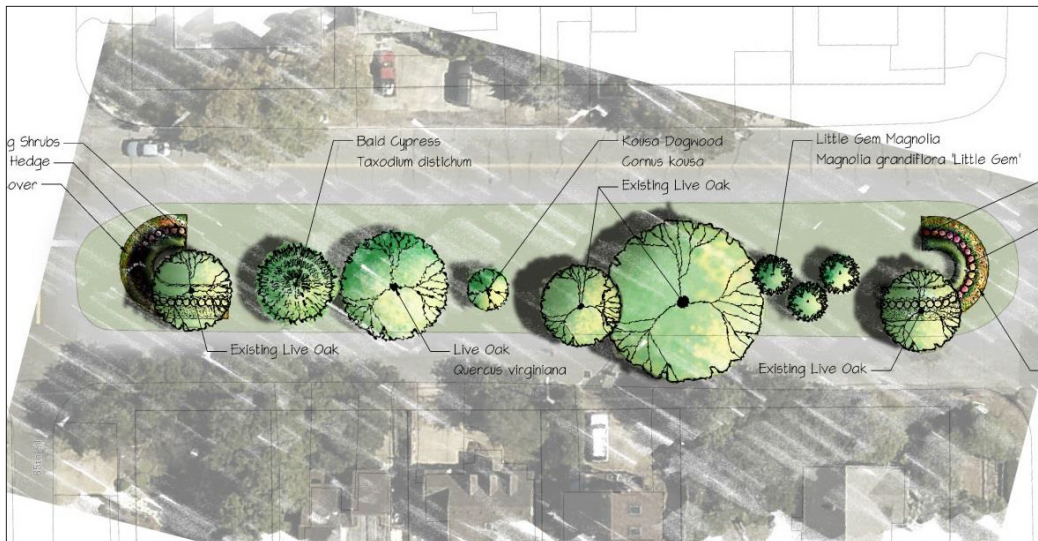
Finally, we need to get everyone to follow the rule that garbage cans go out Monday evening for Tuesday pickup and must be off the street by day's end. If you have neighbors who don't do this, please let them know they could be fined.

— Martin Waranch

SHELTERS IN PLACE

The two bus stop shelters, at the A.R.E. Center and across from the Wyndham hotel, have been in place along Atlantic Avenue since mid-summer.

The NVBCL contributed \$5,827 toward the overall cost (\$30,000), and Hampton Roads Transit donated the shelters (\$24,000). The city installed them.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIRGINIA BEACH PARKS & RECREATION, LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT DIVISION



The North End median design proposal includes renderings of a design approach and a variety of photos showing suggested tree, shrub and flower varieties to replace the oleanders. The report is online at nvbcl.org, under Zoning & Streets.

BEAUTIFICATION

A PLAN TO REPLANT AND RESTORE OUR ATLANTIC AVENUE MEDIAN

Editor's note: Following is a reprint of the email sent to civic league members Sept. 11, edited for length.

The NVBCL Board of Directors met with representatives from the city's Parks and Recreation Department during our June board meeting to discuss the North End median landscape. During the winters of 2014 and 2015 the oleander plantings suffered severe cold damage. While some oleanders in the 40s and 50s survived, the great majority did not and were to a point where the Parks and Recreation Landscape Management Division were prepared to remove the dead shrubs. The city outlined in great detail the removal process and schedule. Dead shrubs were removed; disturbed areas were graded and seeded in record time.

During the June NVBCL Board meeting a committee was formed to work with Landscape Management to develop a planting design for the medians with anticipation of a fall 2015 planting for an initial phase. The committee worked during July and August to receive comments from North End residents and to fully understand planting design criteria on public land within public rights of way. Working with Land-

scape Management, the NVBCL committee was briefed on landscape management practices, traffic visibility criteria and native-plant options.

During the study, many residents expressed pleasure with the openness and repetitive order of the exposed live oaks with a simple lawn below. It is a simple landscape statement. Additionally, the Police Department has expressed optimism about a safer environment with patrol officers' improved visibility of the feeder road from Atlantic Avenue and clear visibility between drivers and bikers at the intersections. On the other hand, a few residents have expressed concern that their private properties are now open to Atlantic Avenue and wish for a screen to be replanted.

After several discussions between the NVBCL median landscape committee and city Landscape Management, the committee developed an approach for supplemental plantings in the medians that are shown in the exhibits.

The landscape design philosophy for the North End medians centers on the following concepts:

1. Maintain good visibility.
2. Supplement medians with new tree canopy, as the North End has

one of the lowest urban tree canopy percentages within the city.

3. Provide new live oak canopy where space allows.

4. Provide new native tree canopy using a mixture of native evergreen and deciduous species as well as some "well-adapted tree species" to promote tree diversity versus a monoculture.

5. Use native evergreen trees branched to the ground to provide semi-screening where needed.

6. Provide entry gateway plantings on either side of each street entry point from Atlantic Avenue.

7. Provide a low evergreen hedge as a backdrop to native flowering shrubs behind native perennial beds in each entry composition.

The landscape design presentation, posted on the NVBCL website, is the recommendation of the NVBCL landscape committee and the city's Landscape Management representatives. The NVBCL Board reviewed the presentation and voted to support the recommendation at the Sept. 8 board meeting. The city plans to advance as much tree planting this fall and winter as the budget allows. Entry plantings are to follow in a future phase.

Should you have additional questions about the median landscape design, please contact Parks and Recreation Landscape Management at 385-4461.

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Have you paid your \$15 dues for 2015?

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