

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

JULY 2016

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

THERE ARE THREE important issues recently addressed by the NVBCL Board of Directors about which you should be aware:

Bylaws change Efficient, accurate record keeping, coupled with a desire to achieve fairness for property owners and primary residential renters, led the board to conclude that only dues-paying members may vote on civic league matters at general membership meetings. To be a member you must be at least 18, pay your dues (\$15 annually per residential dwelling) and either own a residence in the North End or rent as your primary residence a home in the North End. The details of the board's decision may be viewed online at www.nvbcl.org under "Bylaws." The relevant provisions are Articles III, IV, V and Section 6 under Article IX. Please note that payment of dues by a residential dwelling permits two otherwise qualified individuals either owning the property or residing there to be members. These changes were effective July 1.

Event houses These are usually humongous buildings with multiple kitchens, living areas, bedrooms and the like that have proliferated in the Outer Banks of North Carolina and Sandbridge. The NVBCL does not want them in the North End. Here's the board's position, provided to the city's Beaches and Waterways Commission, which recently was charged by the City Council with the task of recommending ordinances to regulate event houses:

"The North Virginia Beach Civic League is aware of the proliferation of so-called "Event Houses" within the geographical limits of the City of Virginia Beach, particularly in the Sandbridge Beach area. It is the view of the League that the existence of Event Houses is a thinly disguised effort to utilize residential neighborhoods

for commercial purposes contrary to existing zoning regulations and permitting processes for residential construction. Accordingly, the North Virginia Beach Civic League (1) adamantly opposes any effort to allow the establishment of Event Houses within any residentially zoned neighborhood in Virginia Beach and, more specifically, within the geographical boundaries of the North End; (2) adamantly opposes any modification or adjustment to existing ordinances which do not permit Event Houses; and (3) adamantly opposes the establishment of any new ordinance which would allow existing Event Houses to operate on a limited basis."

Airbnb This national, online room-rental business has absolutely no regulatory oversight anywhere in Virginia. The civic league feels that is unfair to residential property owners and conventional real estate brokers operating in the commonwealth, and particularly in Virginia Beach. Most importantly, Airbnb and other like operations seemingly ignore the residential character of a neighborhood in deference to commercial enterprise. Here is the NVBCL position on this subject, also filed with the Beaches and Waterways Commission:

"Given the current and total lack of an appropriate regulatory scheme established by either the Commonwealth of Virginia or the City of Virginia Beach to address the rental of private residences through the use of any virtual reservation system such as "Airbnb" and/or others, the North Virginia Beach Civic League opposes the use of Airbnb to rent any such residence in the City of Virginia Beach unless and until the Commonwealth of Virginia and/or the City of Virginia Beach adopts and implements proper rules and regulations for such rentals consistent with the existing zoning of residential properties within its city limits."

There you have it. I hope to see you at the general membership meeting this Tuesday.

— **Jack Drescher**, president



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

July 19
Oct. 11 (Tues. exception)

Guest speakers for July 19

Heather M. Gordon, emergency planner with the city's Fire Department, speaking on hurricane preparedness

DeWayne Craddock, project manager, city Public Utilities Department, speaking on the new 48th Street pump station

Officer **D.R. Ertmann**, 2nd Precinct community policing unit; not technically a speaker, he will be present to answer questions by league members at the close of the meeting.

Treasurer's report

At the end of May, 756 households had paid their \$15 dues for 2016, and the league's assets totaled \$29,540.33.

I would like to thank all paid households for their support of our league and ask those who have not yet paid their dues to do so.

NVBCL dues have allowed us to support landscaping, bus shelters, the welcome signs and several organizations. Contributions are deposited as they are received, and envelopes are included with this newsletter to submit your \$15.

— *Bonner Styles*

SEASHORE AT SUNSET

Is there anything more classic in the North End than a stroll along the beach? This was the view just before sundown June 19, Father's Day.

DON NADEN / NVBCL





Important phone numbers

Nonemergency police, 385-5000, option 3

2nd Precinct, 385-2700

Neighborhood Preservation, 385-5750

NORTH END BEAUTIFICATION

UTILITIES, SIGNS, TRAFFIC SAFETY ON OUR RADAR

The NVBCL's Beautification Committee continues to coordinate with local utilities (Cox Communications, Dominion Power and Verizon Landlines) and city Landscape Management to seek their cooperation in maintaining (painting) and providing landscape screening of their respective connection boxes and other equipment in the Atlantic Avenue median.

Thanks to all those who "pulled signs" immediately during the primary elections. We seemed to survive the primary season fairly cleanly: Few signs appeared to remain after more than 24 hours, and many more were potentially discouraged. However, that was just a scrimmage for the general election in the fall. Just consider every sign in the public right-of-way as that candidate's or campaign's disregard of local laws, rejection of beautification and promotion of littering. Vote accordingly!

For overgrown or damaged vegetation that concerns traffic safety, "We try to respond very quickly to at least assess the situations and get things moving to ensure public safety," says Frank Fentress, our city Landscape Management administrator. "Please encourage folks to report potential traffic safety issues to us by calling 385-4461 or emailing us at landscape@vbgov.com. Our Customer Service Center can get the information to teams in the field as quickly as possible, and they also involve Traffic Engineering, if needed, and they can require vegetation to



DON NADEN PHOTOS / NVBCL



Clockwise from top: Two Dominion Power transformers stand in the Atlantic Avenue median between 78th and 79th streets – the one on the right has been leaning a bit for years; this utility pole, between 81st and 82nd, is one of several broken poles along Atlantic Avenue that look like they should be on the list for replacement instead of first aid; this Virginia Natural Gas installation is next to Atlantic Avenue between 49th and 50th.

be trimmed by private property owners."

Please contact me via email at jhspruance@cox.net so I can execute follow-up.

– Jim Spruance



TUESDAY'S AGENDA

Call to order, invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, treasurer's report, committee reports, president's report

Speakers program

Heather M. Gordon, emergency planner, Virginia Beach Fire Department, on hurricane preparedness; *DeWayne Craddock*, project manager, city Public Utilities Dept., on the new 48th Street pump station; Officer *D.R. Ertmann*, 2nd Precinct Police; not technically a speaker, he will be present to answer public safety questions by members at the close of the meeting.

Old Business

New Business

Action item requiring a membership vote: One of our members, on behalf of Neighbors for a Safe Beach, has asked that the membership vote on the following: That North Virginia Beach Civic League post, or ask the City of Virginia Beach to post, as soon as possible, small signs approved by Animal Control at beach access points from 42nd to 89th Street, these signs to be attached to the existing posts holding the poop bag dispensers. By majority vote, the NVBCL Board of Directors on March 1 declined this request.

Adjournment

SPEAKING OF BEAUTIFICATION ...

IS THIS ANY WAY TO CLEAN UP?

Take a good look at the photo on the right. We can see two bags of yard waste – but do you see the tiny, blue bag next to the big bag on the right?

Folks, this is only half right. It's good that the dog walker scooped and bagged the poop, but leaving it for someone else to discard? Really?

Yes, people say they sometimes leave a bag intending to



DON NADEN / NVBCL

retrieve it on the way back and then forget, but – that's sometimes hard to believe.

– Don Naden

STREETS, UTILITIES, PUBLIC SAFETY

AH, SUMMER: LOOK OUT FOR DANGER SPOTS

Summer brings more people and traffic as well as serious growth to landscaping. (Don't you just love brilliant observations?)

The added people and traffic call for added caution. If you are on foot, use care; if you are driving, give pedestrians a break, even if there's no painted crosswalk.

As for landscaping, it is the responsibility of those living on the corners to ensure the "cone of visibility" is not blocked. If a driver can't see oncoming traffic and/or people, it is a disaster in the making. Please email or call me if you observe obstructing overgrowth (491-3343,

mlwaranch@outlook.com). I will get it taken care of.

If you observe burned-out street lights, note the pole and street numbers and call the city at 385-4131.

City code directs that trash be put out no sooner than Monday afternoon and removed Tuesday as soon as practical. Call 385-4650 if you plan to put anything other than a normal trash can out for collection.

Finally, the city does not clean our streets or our beach. Be one of the folks who actually pick up that trash! You have my permission to beat anyone who doesn't clean up after their pet. At the very least, embarrass the hell out of them!

– Martin Waranch

HOSPITALITY



DON NADEN / NVBCL

THE FULL MOON rises off the Oceanfront on the summer solstice, June 20, as seen from 81st Street. The next full moon will be Tuesday, July 19, at 7:15 p.m. Alas, the sun will still be up, so the moon will be less visible – and the NVBCL general membership meeting is at 7:30! (Try the day before: 6:24 p.m.)

MUSIC, MUSEUMS, MARKETS AWAIT

Just a bike ride away, summertime festivities have begun along the Oceanfront.

For a calendar of the weekly, free music shows along the Boardwalk at the 31st, 24th and 17th streets parks, go online to www.beachstreetusa.com.

The Virginia Beach orchestra Symphonicity and bands performing Motown, country, jazz, rock and more will add delight to your summer evenings.

The Old Coast Guard Station, 24th Street and the

Boardwalk, hosts maritime storytellers and museum artifacts. The Farmer's Market on 19th Street is in full swing every Saturday morning, with local produce, flowers, breads, seafood, meats and more.

Many of our North End yards are beautifully groomed now, adding to the enjoyment of a morning or late-day stroll to enjoy the scenery.

And of course, you must see at least one sunrise and moonrise this summer. Our coastal region has a lot to offer. Enjoy ...

– Kimberly Goold

RESORT AREA PROJECTS



DON NADEN / NVBCL

The Cavalier The grand hotel on the hill and surrounding residences continue to be well under renovation and construction. Several recent initiatives involving the proposed realignment of Atlantic Avenue are in the works. For overall information on the project: www.cavalierhotel.com. Also, the city website www.vbgov.com/government/departments/sga/projects offers information on other resort projects.

Arena The developer of the \$210 million arena on 19th Street, U.S. Management, announced June 28 it has a preliminary agreement with Chicago investment bank B.C. Ziegler & Co. to finance the project, instead of using the Export-Import Bank of China. City Council approval was required for the deal to move forward, and the council voted July 12 to approve the change. To learn more about the project, go online to www.esgeo.com/virginia-beach-arena.

The Vibe District The Resort Advisory Commission and the Strategic Growth Area office continue to support the creative efforts of the property owners and tenants within the ViBe Creative District. For more information about the arts district go online to www.thevibedistrict.com.

The Dome site The Peterson Cos. missed its June 30 proposal deadline for the site, saying the Norfolk Premium Outlets mall development has made the Fairfax firm's Dome site plan unworkable.

Resort Area Master Plan and Form-Based Codes

The committee formed in late 2015 to study the effects of the Oceanfront Resort District (ORD) Form-Based Code (FBC) on hospitality development in the Resort continues its work.

This group consists of representatives of the VB Hotel Association, the Resort Advisory Commission, Resort Beach Civic League, resort architects and land-use attorneys as well as SGA and planning staff. Several revisions to the FBC are in the works for 2016 that will involve public hearings, Planning Commission and City Council actions.

This city website offers current information on projects: www.vbgov.com/government/departments/sga/projects.

Zoning Review Committee

In order to better serve our neighborhood and to establish regularity in our review process, the committee meets the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the A.R.E. Visitor Center, 67th Street and Atlantic Avenue.

We cordially invite all NE residents to attend with their current or future applications for variances, nonconforming uses and encroachments for preliminary or final review. We also invite residents who may simply have a question concerning zoning, land development or other site and building construction issues to attend.

– Billy Almond

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

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Have you paid your \$15 dues for 2016?

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2016

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Past President	John Pharr	202 50th St.	435-3738	john@nbgourmet.com

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DIRECTORS AT-LARGE

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