

# North Virginia Beach Civic League News

APRIL 2017

## A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

### State allows “home sharing” regs; now it’s up to the city

OVER THE PAST YEAR I have alerted you to a dilemma facing the city of Virginia Beach in attempting to regulate online “home sharing” rental platforms offering rooms for short-term leasing in residentially zoned neighborhoods.

Until the 2017 legislative session of the General Assembly, neither the Commonwealth of Virginia nor the city had enacted laws to address these virtual commercial enterprises, thereby presenting statewide local governments with serious zoning, public safety, taxation, waste management, insurance, noise and parking issues.

I am happy to report that the Virginia House of Delegates and Senate have now empowered localities

ties across the commonwealth with the legal ability to regulate such activity. The governor has signed this bill into law, effective July 1.

Essentially, the statute allows Virginia Beach to establish a registry for all “operators” of short-term rentals, defined as providing a room or space for dwelling, sleeping or lodging purposes for a period less than 30 consecutive days in exchange for a charge for the occupancy. The failure of a short-term rental operator to properly register could result in a penalty of up to \$500 per violation. The law further provides that repeated violations could result in denying an operator the ability to register and thereafter offer the property for short-term rental.

Importantly, nothing in the new statute prohibits, limits or otherwise supersedes existing local governmental authority to regulate the short-term rental of property through general land use and zoning regulations. There are other detailed provisions dealing with condominium documents, private contracts, etc.; however, space does not permit me to detail them in this message.

So, where are we? Last November City Council accepted, but did not formally act upon, regulatory recommendations regarding short-term rentals submitted by its On-line Home Sharing Economy Ad Hoc Committee. The Planning Commission, Zoning Department and Commissioner of Revenue’s Office are examining how to bring existing ordinances into conformity with the new law and will eventually make appropriate recommendations to the council.

The council also will consider enacting additional ordinances designed to protect residential neighborhoods and yet permit short-term rentals, taking into consideration public safety, taxation, zoning, waste management as well as individual property rights.

While the timetable for council action is unknown, it is anticipated that final decisions will be made during the coming summer. As further pertinent information becomes available, the civic league will report it to you.

– Jack Drescher, NVBCL president



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

April 25  
July 18  
Oct. 17

### Guest speaker for April 25

Matt Boyce, Princess Anne Country Club’s director of golf course maintenance and grounds, will speak about environmentally friendly yard practices.

### Treasurer’s report

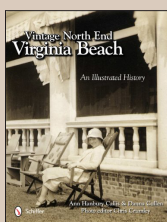
As of April 6, our league had 565 paid members, and our total assets were \$27,421.51.

Thank you to all donors and members who have paid their 2017 dues, and we look forward to seeing everyone at the general membership meeting Tuesday, April 25. (Remember, only those who have paid their dues may vote at the general meetings. You may pay by check at the meeting.)

NVBCL dues have allowed us to support landscaping, bus shelters, the neighborhood 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

### Happy B-day!



Our neighborhood is a century old this year. Our civic league party in the fall will help celebrate it (see

Page 3), and meantime we can read up on our history. “Vintage North End” by Ann Hanbury Callis and Danna Cullen is available at the public library and online at amazon.com and schifferbooks.com (both \$34.99).

## RESORT AREA PROJECTS UPDATE

### Cavalier project nears next phase

Also: Arena gets green light, Pacific Avenue project wraps in May

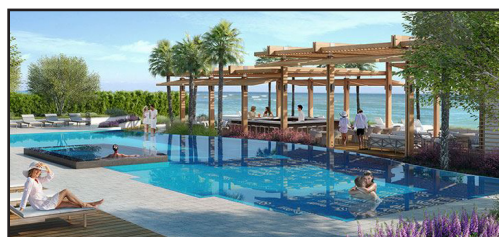
As everyone can see, the Cavalier residential development is well under way, with houses sprouting like spring flowers around the historic hotel.

“All lots are sold to home builders who are building and selling

houses,” Liz Dyer, Gold Key|PHR’s executive assistant to the VP of Development, emailed March 29.

She added that the Cavalier Beach Club, originally projected to begin construction in mid-January on the oceanside site, has begun “with the erection of the construction fence; you will see more activity real

See **Projects**, Page 3



RENDERING COURTESY OF GOLD KEY | PHR

The new Cavalier Beach Club will be a private dining and celebration venue, but the poolside bar will be open to the public.



## STREETS, SAFETY & UTILITIES

### IF WE ALL PITCH IN, TOGETHER WE CAN DO A LOT

It would be nice if the city regularly cleaned the North End's streets. Even nicer if people didn't throw cigarette butts and trash out of their vehicles and if all pet owners cleaned up after their animals. It would be nice if I could get a lottery ticket with the winning six numbers, too.

You've all heard the expression that many hands make the work go faster. The problems above are only going to be solved by our many hands. When I walk Charlie, I get double "doody" out of his poop bag, filling it with butts and other trash – policing the area, as we said in the Army. Everyone needs to pitch in.

The city will replace burned-out street lights, but they need to be told about them. Every light pole is coded. Write down the numbers and phone the info to 385-1470. If storm drains are slow (try to keep them cleared off), the same number.

For trash pickup other than your normal garbage, call 385-4650. Do that a day or two before the regular pickup, not that morning.

Police nonemergency is 385-5000; the 2nd Precinct Police (for help right now) is 385-2700.

We live here. If we all do a little, a lot gets done.

– Martin Waranch

## BEACHES & RECREATION

Beach-access crosswalks are in decent shape this season, but for those that aren't, we appreciate anyone willing to take a broom to clean off a crosswalk.

Benches have been temporarily removed at 46th, 50th and 53rd streets so the city's Landscape Services can get to the buildup of sand in those locations. Once the sand is gone, the benches will return.

– Ron Pearson

## BEAUTIFICATION



DON NADEN / NVBCL

This Atlantic Avenue median landscape bed is at 67th Street. North Enders who sign up to "adopt" a bed that doesn't yet exist would receive priority for future plantings under this program.

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A LANDSCAPE BED FOR YOUR STREET? NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!

The NVBCL Executive Board voted in March to approve the Beautification Adopt-a-Landscape-Bed initiative, whereby residents either adopt an existing Atlantic Avenue median landscape bed or pledge to adopt a potential bed to be planted in the near future.

The form for this program is at right and on our NVBCL website, nvbcl.org. The form can be mailed, dropped off or scanned and emailed as an attachment to Jim Spruance, your league's beautification chairman.

The success of this program will determine if and where the city's Landscape Management Division, which maintains overall responsibility, adds more landscape beds to the median. There are very few below 78th Street.

As a follow-up to our last donation to the landscape division, nine more trees, of five varieties, have been planted in the median to supplement the initial planting done in March 2016.

– Jim Spruance



### ADOPT A LANDSCAPE BED

As we approach the third and final phase of our North End Median Beautification Project, we would like to identify residents willing to volunteer to maintain a small portion of landscaped median in the vicinity of their residences. We're calling this our Adopt-a-Landscape-Bed project.

This effort is primarily envisioned to:

- Relieve the city's Landscape Management of the cost and burden of weeding and light pruning of the landscaped, mulched median beds at the Atlantic Avenue intersection of each numbered street.
- Involve those residents who enjoy gardening, just want to help out and/or live on the feeder road and benefit from a beautiful median.
- Involve only two self-scheduled weeding sessions per year.
- Maintain existing landscape beds.
- Give a priority to the city for establishing new median beds. For example, those streets now without corner landscape beds but with a designated "volunteer maintainer" will receive priority in future plantings.

All interested landside,

adjacent-corner residents (i.e., street numbers 200, 201, xx00, etc.) are requested to sign up; however, any resident may volunteer to assist their neighbors if their adjacent-corner neighbor is uninterested or unable.

There is no enforcement or guarantee of recognition!

To volunteer, please fill out the form below and submit to NVBCL Beautification, 200 78th St., VB 23451, or scan and email as an attachment to Jim Spruance at [jhspruance@cox.net](mailto:jhspruance@cox.net).

(Also, any residents who already are maintaining one of the beach crosswalk landscaped entryways or large planters are requested to use the same form to help us coordinate and recognize your contribution.)

#### Adopt a Landscape Bed

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Area to be maintained (i.e., north corner, south corner, both, all beds in xx00 block): \_\_\_\_\_

May we use your name in a future issue of our newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## PROJECTS

From the front

soon!” According to Gold Key | PHR, the club will be private for hotel and conference guests, but the tiki bar will be open to the public. The Marriott hotel construction “will also be under way in May/June,” Dyer added.

As to the Atlantic Avenue realignment proposal, the City Council voted March 7 to authorize the city manager to apply for a grant from a state tourism agency to pay for the project. The council also approved “an ordinance to increase gap financing for The Cavalier.” The Virginian-Pilot reported March 13. Cavalier Associates LLC requested \$6.5 million more in gap financing, above the \$18 million the city has already approved, to be funded from the project’s sales tax revenue. In addition to the Marriott hotel, Cavalier Associates wants the extra money to finance an Embassy Suites for conference space.

– Don Naden

As everyone knows, the **Virginia Beach Arena** appears to be on track. Resort leaders are now focusing on the surrounding development opportunities including a field house, the Dome site

and 19th Street redevelopments, infrastructure improvements around the arena and the Sense of Arrival project at the eastern end of I-264. Recent news about these resort projects can be found at the city website, [www.vbgov.com](http://www.vbgov.com).

– Billy Almond

The third and last phase of the **Pacific Avenue Improvement Project** is “on schedule to be complete in May – provided everything continues to go as planned and no surprises,” project manager Michael Tippin emailed March 28.

According to the city’s Public Works website, the project began south of 17th Street and runs to north of 22nd along Pacific Avenue. The overhead utilities were moved underground, the existing gas, water and sanitary sewer lines were replaced and the storm system was improved.

This last phase, according to the city website and Tippin, will replace the span-wire signal at 19th and Pacific with a mast-arm signal similar to those at 17th, 21st and 22nd streets; will remove the large power poles on the east side of Pacific; and will install stamped crosswalks, decorative sidewalks and street lighting on the east and west sides of Pacific.

– Billy Almond, Don Naden

## ZONING ISSUES

With the increase in real estate transactions, the NVBCL Zoning Review Committee (ZRC) is very busy again.

We remind our neighbors that developers have three options for North End properties: a single-family house, a duplex or a NE Overlay project consisting of two detached cottages on one parcel. The NE Overlay opportunity is an incentive-based design guideline, and a developer must comply with the design criteria in the overlay ordinance.

We remind our neighbors that any opportunity to determine what

type of redevelopment happens on your street starts with the “Seller of the Parcel.” Once the parcel has sold, it is in the hands of the buyer, who has the three by-right options listed above.

The ZRC meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the A.R.E. Visitors Center, 67th at Atlantic Avenue, unless there is no business before the committee that month. If you wish to attend the ZRC, please contact Billy Almond at 235-0731 or [billy@wplsite.com](mailto:billy@wplsite.com) for additional information.

– Billy Almond



DON NADEN / NVBCL

**Atlantic Avenue from 63rd to 65th suddenly had a new coat of asphalt in late March. Turns out utility work left patches whose traffic vibrations upset nearby residents, says Public Works, so the city decided to repave the two blocks.**

## HOSPITALITY



DON NADEN / NVBCL

The civic league’s fall neighborhood party will be Friday, Sept. 15, on the Princess Anne Country Club’s west lawn.

## NVBCL’S AUTUMN PARTY RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER

Save the date ... for Friday evening, Sept. 15, for the NVBCL’s autumn party, celebrating our first 100 years as the North End neighborhood.

Spend a casual evening on the west lawn of the Princess Anne County Club. We will offer a grilled buffet, cash bar and tons of fun spending time with family, friends and neighbors.

More information and tickets (all will be presold; cost is yet to be determined) will be available at the league’s July 18 general membership meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the A.R.E. Center.

Volunteers welcome: Help selling tickets appreciated. We’re looking forward to another North End Party!

– Kimberly Goold

### GARDEN WEEK

The Historical Garden Week tour will be Wednesday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., in the Cavalier Shores section of the North End. For details, contact Connie Fulton at [virginiabeach@vagardenweek.org](mailto:virginiabeach@vagardenweek.org) or Anne Lanning at (757) 437-1395.

## CITY BUDGET/TAXES

The real estate property tax rate and the storm water fee would increase under the city’s proposed fiscal 2017-18 operating budget, but the personal property tax rate, the trash fee and fees for water and sanitary sewer would remain the same.

Also, the tax to fund light-rail service would be reallocated rather than rescinded, according to City Manager David Hansen’s budget proposal.

He submitted to City Council on March 28 the proposed fiscal year 2017-18 operating budget and a capital improvement plan covering fiscal years 2017-18 through 2022-23.

Here’s a summary of the budget funding elements:

■ Increase of 1.25 cents per \$100 of evaluation in the real estate tax rate to fund all-day kindergarten and begin expanding the prekin-

dergarten program

■ Reallocate 1.8 cents of the current real estate rate that had been dedicated to light rail

■ Increase of 2.5 cents per day in the storm water fee

■ No increase in the personal property tax rate

■ No increase in the trash fee

■ No increase in fees for water and sanitary sewer service

The council is scheduled to vote May 9 on both the budget and CIP plans.

See this link to the city’s budget website for everything you ever wanted to know about this year’s and prior year budgets: [www.vbgov.com/government/departments/budget-office-management-services/budget-archives/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/budget-office-management-services/budget-archives/Pages/default.aspx).

– Jake Denton

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Post Office Box 1676  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451  
info@nvbcl.org  
nvbcl.org

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**Have you paid your \$15 dues for 2017? NO**

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2017

### OFFICERS

President	Jack Drescher	6410A Ocean Front Ave.	428-3344	jdrescher@breitdrescher.com
Vice President	Will Fluharty	303 49th St.	965-2173	willyflu@gmail.com
Executive Vice President	Guy Tower		(804) 398-0070	guytower@gmail.com
Treasurer/Membership	Bonner Styles	312 Susan Constant Dr.	831-3439	mbonners@yahoo.com
Executive Secretary	Linda Palluch	308 48th St.	641-0410	lpalluch@gmail.com
Past President	John Pharr	202 50th St.	435-3738	john@nbgourmet.com

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Beaches & Recreation	Ron Pearson	6204 Ocean Front Ave.	428-6634	ron@beachfas.com
Beautification	Jim Spruance	200 78th St.	646-1225	jhspruance@cox.net
Budget/ Assessments/Taxes	Jake Denton	313 51st St.	647-8259	jake@jeremiahdenton.com
Hospitality	Kimberly Goad	311 49th St.	428-7537	kimberly.goad@troutmansanders.com
Meetings/Publicity	Buddy Matthews	217 68th St.	422-6151	beachtreehouse68@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Don Naden	213A 81st St.	491-4483	naden2@cox.net
Streets/Utilities/Public Safety	Martin Waranch	111 66th St.	491-3343	mlwaranch@outlook.com
Zoning	Billy Almond	209 70th St.	422-9522	billy@wplsite.com

### AREA DIRECTORS

42nd - 49th Streets	Will Fluharty	303 49th St.	965-2173	willyflu@gmail.com
50th - 59th Streets	Mark Chase	111 57th St.	491-1729	chasemark@msn.com
60th - 69th Streets	Buddy Matthews	217 68th St.	422-6151	beachtreehouse68@yahoo.com
70th - 79th Streets	Sue Bowser	223 77th St.	422-5204	suebowser55@gmail.com
80th - 89th Streets	Larry Staunton	212 84th St.	428-1514	larrystaunton@cox.net
Princess Anne Hills/Liaison	Mike Byrnes	551 Susan Constant Dr.	422-2539	mikebyrnes@cox.net

### DIRECTORS AT-LARGE

Anne Abraham	5002 Atlantic Avenue	428-0867	lavlax@aol.com
Billy Almond	209 70th St.	422-9522	billy@wplsite.com
Jake Denton	313 51st St.	647-8259	jake@jeremiahdenton.com
Jack Drescher	6410A Ocean Front Ave.	428-3344	jdrescher@breitdrescher.com
Mary K. Drew	5250 Lakeside Ave.	422-3669	marykdrew@gmail.com
Kimberly Goad	311 49th St.	428-7537	kimberly.goad@troutmansanders.com
Kaye Harris	108 60th St.	425-0883	kaye.harris@cox.net
Dave Jester	200 63rd St.	437-1677	DJ@marlyndv.com
Kate Michaels	448 Discovery Road	472-4949	ktmichaels@cox.net
Brian Murden	417 Goodspeed Rd.	428-7243	beachgallery@verizon.net
Don Naden	213A 81st St.	491-4483	naden2@cox.net
Vincent O'Brien	6111 Atlantic Ave.	428-8479	vincent62nd@gmail.com
Ron Pearson	6204 Ocean Front Ave.	428-6634	ron@beachfas.com
John Pharr	202 50th St.	435-3738	john@nbgourmet.com
Virginia Rader	307 55th St.	425-2943	vellen1@aol.com
Jim Spruance	200 78th St.	646-1225	jhspruance@cox.net
Bonner Styles	312 Susan Constant Dr.	831-3439	mbonners@yahoo.com
Martin Waranch	111 66th St.	491-3343	mlwaranch@outlook.com