

# North Virginia Beach Civic League News

APRIL 2016

## A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

THE ARRIVAL of warm weather at the North End has brought about a sense of renewal and freshness, a welcome respite from Old Man Winter. Just being outside in T-shirt and shorts, enjoying new growth and fresh ocean breezes makes one simply glad to be alive. While we certainly didn't have the consistently frigid temperatures of last winter, we definitely experienced our share of wind, rain and frozen mix. No doubt in the coming weeks we will watch the thermometer occasionally dip well below "no coat" temperatures; nonetheless, let's hope we've moved well past any significant approach to freezing. Keep your fingers crossed and enjoy.

You perhaps have noticed the additional landscaping of native trees chosen by the city and your civic league to complement long-

existing and recently planted live oaks in the median from 42nd to 89th streets. (*Story, Page 3*) Jim Spruance, Billy Almond, Dave Jester and I have continued to work with the city to see this effort through. On March 10 Dave and I met with Frank Fentress, director of the city's Landscape Management Division, and toured each block to finalize the undertaking, which includes replacement of dying and stressed trees. Mr. Fentress could not have been more helpful and has assured us that the remaining tasks will be completed in the fall at the latest.

At last, the North End neighborhood signs have been erected. Your board, primarily through the exemplary efforts of Billy Almond, Dave Jester and Kimberly Goold, started the design and city approval process over five years ago – yes, you read that correctly. The obstacles to what one would believe to be a fairly simple task proved daunting. Extended negotiations, memorandum of understanding revisions and repeated changes to the city's seemingly never-ending requirements – coupled with liability insurance issues, design, construction, maintenance and installment restrictions and responsibilities – left any number of us wondering whether we would be around long enough to see the signs in place.

We made it and are quite pleased with the end result. We hope you are.

– Jack Drescher, *president*



DON NADEN

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY ...** The neighborhood welcome signs were a work in progress for a long time, but the folks you see here persevered through the city's red tape and got the job done. We photographed them at the 42½ St. sign – from left: David Blair of DTB Design; Billy Almond, NVBCL zoning committee chair; Kimberly Goold, hospitality chair (she was NVBCL's president when the sign idea began); NVBCL at-large director Dave Jester; NVBCL president Jack Drescher; and Wade Crane of IDF PENSIGN.



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

April 19

July 19

Oct. 18

**Guest speaker for April 19**

State Delegate **Jason S. Miyares**, 82nd District, speaking on "the 2016 Virginia General Assembly Legislative Update"

**Treasurer's report**

At the end of February, 482 households had paid their \$15 dues for 2016, and the league's assets totaled \$35,874.19.

Thanks to those who pay dues, allowing 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

## Dog etiquette on the beaches

**Editor's note** *A pet dog was killed on the beach at 47th Street on Christmas, and subsequently a committee of concerned neighbors started meeting to discuss what could be done to prevent such incidents. The primary finding was better education of the public of expectations for dog etiquette. This information has been shared with the city's animal control staff, and the city's tourist information folks say they will include it in their visitors materials and on their website. The following was written by commit-*

*tee head Gayle Johnson; I was an observer member since it affected our beach. – Ron Pearson*

Virginia Beach is an unusually dog-friendly town. The law allows dogs to be off-leash on the beach, but they are not allowed on the beach at all between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. This applies to residential beaches only. No dogs are allowed on

Please see **Beaches**, Page 2



## BEACHES

*From the front*

the beach between Rudee Inlet and 42nd Street during the summer.

However, if dogs are off-leash, they must be under direct, positive voice control at all times. The tragic death of the toy poodle Petey on Christmas Day has sparked us to remind everyone to observe common sense dog etiquette in order to make the beach safe and enjoyable for all:

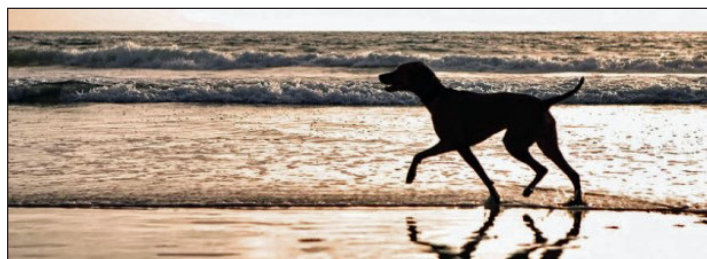
- Keep your dog on a leash unless it can be recalled reliably and quickly even with distractions.
- Handler must not get distracted but must keep a watchful eye on an off-leash dog at all times.
- Keep Fido from running up uninvited to all unknown people, such as small children, joggers, the elderly, photographers on a photo shoot.
- Keep Fido from running up to leashed dogs and unfamiliar dogs that might be anxious or fearful. Normally well-behaved dogs can become more aggressive around unfamiliar dogs. Dogs that are leashed might feel threatened by off-leash dogs charging at them.
- Retain a leash at all times so you can quickly leash and remove your dog in the event of a problem.
- Leash and remove your dog immediately at the first sign of fearful, anxious or aggressive behavior.
- Dogs off-leash might go

after balls that do not belong to them, which can lead to aggressive behavior. Do not allow your dog to play ball with an unfamiliar dog.

- If a fight breaks out, pull the dogs apart from the back. Exchange contact info, and call Animal Control immediately: (757) 385-5000, ext. 2.
- Fill in any holes dug in the sand so other people and dogs won't fall in.
- Always scoop the poop, year 'round.

Advanced recall training is highly recommended so owners can reliably control an off-leash dog in the face of a dangerous situation and in spite of distractions. Your dog will thank you for the additional training, and you can rest assured that you have more control if a dangerous situation arises. This spring we are organizing small classes on the beach with neighbors to provide this training conveniently and enjoyably.

It is important for dog owners to remember that not everyone is a dog person and not every dog is dog-friendly! The future of the privilege to let dogs be off-leash on the beach depends on the ability of dog owners to self-monitor. Many beaches have banned dogs because of incidents or because too many owners did not clean up after their animals. In a world where one bad experience can ruin it for everyone else, all dog owners need to help maintain common sense dog etiquette – For Petey's Sake!



STOCK PHOTO

## Important phone numbers

Nonemergency police, 385-5000, option 3

2nd Precinct, 385-2700

Neighborhood Preservation, 385-5750

## BUDGET/ASSESSMENTS/TAXES

### GOOD NEWS, BAD IN CITY'S 2016-17 BUDGET PLAN

The city manager's proposed 2016-17 fiscal-year budget contains no increase in any tax rate or in water, sanitary sewer and storm water fees. The manager's budget does propose to increase the solid-waste fee by \$1.64 per month, from \$21.36 to \$23. Public hearings on the budget are scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, April 21, at Cox High School and Tuesday, April 26, in City Council Chambers.

While Virginia Beach continues to have the lowest real estate tax rate (99 cents per \$100 of assessed value) in the region, real estate assessments in Virginia Beach are rising again – for the third year in a row after five consecutive years of decreases. Citywide, average residential property assessment increases for FY 2017 were 2.79%. According to the Real Estate Assessor's

### online

Extensive information on the proposed budget is online at [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) (keep the hyphens).

For complete information on the real estate assessment process and assessment data for current and prior fiscal years, go online to [www.vbgov.com/government/departments/real-estate-assessor/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/real-estate-assessor/Pages/default.aspx).

annual report, increases for the 2,258 parcels in the North Virginia Beach neighborhood averaged 10.41%. The neighborhood's mean value is \$853,352; the median is \$692,000.

– Guy Tower

## THE CAVALIER PROJECT

### JOIN THE CLUB?

Judging by the sign on the new brick wall in front of the Cavalier hotel project, you could think the Hunt Room will reopen sometime next year as a private club. It reads:

"HUNT ROOM  
Social Club & Tavern"

Not to worry. The fabled restaurant and North End hangout is not going to become a members-only affair, according to Liz Dyer of Gold Key | PHR. She is the executive assistant to Bryan Cuffee, vice president of development for Bruce Thompson's hospitality company, part of Cavalier Associates LLC, the Thompson group redeveloping the Cavalier properties.



DON NADEN

Civic League News contacted Gold Key | PHR recently to ask about the "social club" addition to the Hunt Room's name, and Dyer responded.

"We debated using the term social club for just that reason!" she wrote in a March 9 email. "The Hunt Room will be open to everyone!"

Good to know.

– Don Naden



## BEAUTIFICATION

# SO, WHAT'S NEW IN THE MEDIAN?



SWEET BAY MAGNOLIA



VIBURNUM



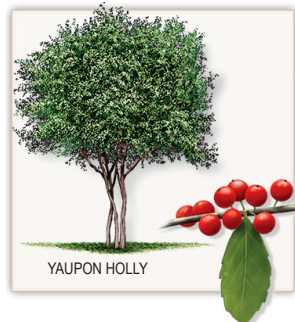
LITTLE GEM MAGNOLIA



AMERICAN HOLLY

**T**HE ATLANTIC MEDIAN tree-planting contract has been completed, and the Beautification Committee has offered a few suggestions that have been approved by the city's Parks and Recreation Landscape Division, including:

- Install three to four new trees in the 6100 block (apparently missed).
- Install five to six trees (total) on five blocks with obvious gaps.
- Remove vines and clean up 47th Street's northwest corner.
- Remove the final yucca bed at 54th.
- And continue to monitor the survival of live oaks planted



YAUPOON HOLLY

STOCK ILLUSTRATIONS

last year (by a now-defunct contractor).

In addition, we will contact the pertinent utility companies to encourage them to landscape/screen their respective connection boxes.

Any further median landscape enhancements (i.e., bedding and shrubs) will probably

be held in abeyance until after we can analyze the overall look of a full growing season.

All residents are encouraged to help maintain our improved median and public rights-of-way by helping to keep them clear of trash AND SIGNAGE. With a potentially raucous political campaign season looming, it is important for all of us to remove or report signs immediately before they encourage others to post still more signs. (If you have any doubts about proliferation, just check the corners near shopping malls and expressway exits.) Report illegally placed signs to the city's code enforcement office: 385-8074.

— Jim Spruance

## Resort roadway improvements

Pacific Avenue improvements have restarted for phase two. Underground utility pulls were to be accomplished by winter's end. Mike Tippin is the project manager for the Public Works Department; reach him at 385-5639 or MTippin@vbgov.com.

## Other projects

**Light rail** The City Council voted, 9-2, April 5 to continue pursuing extending The Tide into the city. The first agreement approved would keep the project on track without delays. The second would start the process of buying three rail cars for just under \$20 million.

**The Dome site** The Peterson Companies continues to work on its VAViBe! proposal for the site. You can learn more about the project online at [www.yesvirginiabeach.com/resources/domesite](http://www.yesvirginiabeach.com/resources/domesite).

**Arena** The City Council voted Dec. 8 to approve the final agreement for the arena on 19th Street across from the convention center. To learn more about the project: [www.esgco.com/virginia-beach-arena](http://www.esgco.com/virginia-beach-arena) (include the *hyphens*).

**The Cavalier** The grand hotel on the hill continues to be well under construction and renovation. Several recent initiatives involving the proposed realignment of Atlantic Avenue are in the works. For overall information on the project: [www.cavalierhotel.com](http://www.cavalierhotel.com).

Also, the city website [www.vbgov.com/government/departments/sga/projects](http://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/sga/projects) offers information on other resort projects.

## Zoning review

**North End Overlay** This initiative, which initially allows for two detached cottages on one lot by-right, passed City Council Nov. 17. There are now several two-cottage projects on the drawing boards for the North End. Several residential developers have embraced this concept, and we look forward to seeing this alternative constructed at the North End in lieu of the larger duplexes.

— Billy Almond

## DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

### Update: Resort Area Master Plan and Form Based Codes

A committee was formed in late 2015 to study the effects of the Oceanfront Resort District (ORD) Form Based Code (FBC) on hospitality development in the resort area. This group consists of representatives of the Virginia Beach Hotel Association, the Resort Advisory Commission, Resort Beach Civic League, resort architects and land-use attorneys as well as Strategic Growth Area and planning staff.

The committee was formed by councilman John Uhrin to study the issues that have arisen during the first few ORD FBC projects. The 27th Street Hyatt complex is under construction, and several hotels have been designed under the FBC, which has resulted in issues regarding hotel access, parking, density and setback issues.

Several revisions to the FBC are in the works for 2016 that will involve public hearings, the Planning Commission and City Council actions.

— Billy Almond

## HISTORIC GARDEN TOUR

The Garden Club of Virginia hosts its 83rd Historic Garden Week from April 23 to 30, and the Princess Anne and Virginia Beach garden clubs host tours of five homes and one garden Wednesday, April 27, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The day begins at the Princess Anne Country Club with lunch (\$15) at 11 a.m. Call for reservations at 428-4141.

Guests can take a free shuttle service to the homes and garden, or they can rent bikes or walk. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Wayne Jones florist, Willis Furniture, London Bridge nursery, The Globe, Baker's jewelry, Yves Delorme Fine Linens, Stravitz Galleries, Flowers at Hilltop, McDonald Garden Center and Virginia Beach Eye Center. Advance ticket price is \$30, day of tour \$40.

The garden tour is a fabulous way to enjoy friends, flowers and springtime. Enjoy!

— Kimberly Goold

# North Virginia Beach Civic League News

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

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
NORFOLK, VA  
PERMIT NO. 171

## Have you paid your \$15 dues for 2016?

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2016

#### 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	Guy Tower		(804) 398-0070	guytower@gmail.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

Billy Almond	209 70th St.	422-9522	billy@wplsite.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
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	vincent6111@cox.net
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
Dorothy Spitalney	115B 68th St.	425-5443	nanads11@gmail.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