

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

JANUARY 2016

A LETTER FROM YOUR LEAGUE'S VICE PRESIDENT

NORMALLY, you would be receiving this letter from the outgoing president, John Pharr. As the civic league's vice president, I am substituting for John to provide you with an overview of what the North Virginia Beach Civic League has accomplished in 2015. In no particular order, the following significant projects have been addressed by your board of directors:

■ **Uniform Landscaping-Beautification Plan for Atlantic Avenue Median:** On Sept. 8, the board approved this plan after many hours of study and work by several league directors, WPL Landscape Architects/Engineers and the city's Landscape Management Division. Details can be found in the October 2015 newsletter on the NVBCL website (nvbcl.org), and the project's status is reported in this newsletter (*see Beautifi-*

cation, Page 2). Costs will be borne by the city consistent with its current and future budgets; however, the board is looking into ways to perhaps contribute funds periodically to accelerate the effort.

■ **North End Overlay Zoning:** The NVBCL Zoning Review Committee, in conjunction with several North End builders, presented the results of their work to City Council on Nov. 17. The proposal was unanimously approved. North End property owners now have a development alternative consistent with existing zoning that enhances the unique nature of our neighborhood. The relevant data can be reviewed on the league's website under Streets & Zoning.

■ **Bus stop shelters:** Two were installed during the summer in front of the A.R.E. Center and across Atlantic Avenue from the Wyndham Hotel. The NVBCL contributed \$5,827 toward the overall cost of \$30,000. HRT donated the shelters (a \$24,000 value), and the city installed them.

■ **North Virginia Beach neighborhood welcome signs:** See page 2 of this newsletter for an update on this seemingly never-ending effort. The bureaucratic red tape we have encountered has been daunting.

Space doesn't permit additional comments about the many other issues the civic league has tackled in 2015. Many thanks to John Pharr for his leadership as president.

The work of the civic league takes time, effort and money generated from your dues and donations. On behalf of the board, I thank all of you for being members. Your directors are dedicated people actively involved in making our neighborhood better. Please encourage others to join the NVBCL, attend our meetings to learn more and meet many of your neighbors. Most important, be involved to the extent you are able. Your participation makes a difference.

Our next general meeting is at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19, at the A.R.E. Center. Please join us.

Happy New Year,
Jack Drescher, *vice president*



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

Jan. 19
April 19
July 19
Oct. 18

Guest speaker for Jan. 19

Andrea Kilmer, president and CEO of United States Management LLC, an ESG company and developer of Virginia Beach's arena

Treasurer's report

2015 ended with a record number of people paying dues – 943 – and total assets of \$33,075. Thanks to those who paid dues, allowing us to support landscaping, bus shelters and several organizations.

We are now accepting dues for 2016. Envelopes are included to submit your \$15.

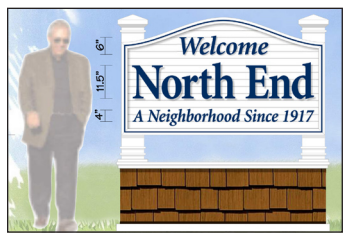
Please note: If you are not receiving emails from the NVBCL, be sure your email address is included with your dues – and please write legibly. Many email addresses were eliminated when we switched our email service.

Also, I would like to say thanks for letting me be treasurer for the last nine years. Bonner Styles, welcome aboard!
– Kaye Harris



DON NADEN

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT After the two bus stop shelters were installed over the summer, we noticed that the one at the A.R.E. Center was quite dark after the sun went down. Hampton Roads Transit had two solar-powered lights installed, shown here. The Wyndham Hotel shelter, however, won't get the same treatment, according to HRT spokesman Tom Holden. There, he says, "The existing street lighting is sufficient."



COURTESY OF BILLY ALMOND

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

After several months of negotiations with the city, the NE welcome-sign project has advanced. City-required site plans were developed and submitted Nov. 25 for review. Insurance requirements set forth by the city are also in progress, and the memorandum of understanding agreement needs final City Council approval.

Sign fabrication is in progress off-site, and hopefully we will see our new signs soon. One will be placed in the median at 83rd Street, the other at 42 1/2.

– Billy Almond

BEACHES

The city’s beach operations staff is slooowly removing the sand from the crosswalks. As of early December, they had done only a few in the 70s-80s. We are monitoring their progress.

As many of you already know, our neighbor Luke Hillier has proposed to gift a fitness park for the beach at 40th Street, but the City Council did not approve it in a 5-5 vote Jan. 5. The proposed donation, including fitness equipment, would have been near the bulkhead and easily accessible to North End residents.

While the Virginia Beach Hotel Association was in favor of the park, some neighbors – concerned about their view, regulations, parking and public restrooms – opposed it.

– Ron Pearson

NVBCL leadership slate for the new year

These NVBCL members were recommended by the outgoing president at the last board meeting to serve additional terms of office as directors:

Ron Pearson, Jim Spruance, Buddy Matthews, Billy Al-

mond, Mark Chase and Dave Jester.

The motion was approved by the board and will be presented at the Jan. 19 general meeting.

Also, current vice president Jack Drescher is slated to become president, Will Fluharty

vice president and Guy Tower executive vice president.

Thanks to all the board members who generously give their personal time to help with projects in our North End neighborhood.

– John Pharr

STREETS, UTILITIES & PUBLIC SAFETY

online

We’d like to draw your attention to a new website, www.seeclickfix.com/virginiabeach, available to all residents to report such things as street light malfunctions, traffic signs down, potholes and general problems on city property.

– Jim Spruance

Streets/Utilities/Public Safety would seem to be enough subject matter for a book, but we are fortunate not to really have problems that tear our neighborhood up or generate major concern.

However, streets do present two recurring problems:

Drainage: If there is a problem with the drains, I suggest that on trash day somebody take a shovel and clear them. I do that on 66th Street. If they still don’t drain, call 385-1470.

Potholes: You can extend the time between needing city repair by taking that same shovel and filling the hole with sand – always plenty of that around the North End! I’ve been nursing one on 66th for three or four years.

Another issue: The city will not pick up bulk items if you don’t arrange for it. Call Waste Management at 385-4650 before the next regular pickup. Vegetation may be no longer than 4 feet.

Utilities is the one I’ve

never gotten a handle on, except for street lights. If a light goes out, find the tag on the pole and report that number to 385-4131; Dominion Power will then be notified.

Public Safety depends upon awareness. If something “isn’t right,” call the police. Second Precinct is 385-2700, police nonemergency 385-5000, option 3.

Stay safe and secure, and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

– Martin Waranch

CAYCE CAFE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR LUNCH

A number of North End residents have been pleased to discover that lunch is open to the public at the A.R.E. Center’s cafe, according to Kevin J. Todeschi, executive director and CEO of Edgar Cayce’s A.R.E./Atlantic University.

Lunch is being served at the Cayce/Miller Café featuring the Leaping Lizard restaurant on the enclosed porch of the former Cayce hospital.

Winter hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and a number of local residents have already taken advantage of the cafe’s food with a view.

Contact info: (757) 457-7105, www.EdgarCayce.org/cafe



DON NADEN

BEAUTIFICATION MORE TREES AND DAFFODILS ON THE WAY

Coming soon: The city Parks and Recreation Landscape Division has notified the civic league that the contract for the new trees in the Atlantic Avenue median has been enacted,

and planting is expected by the end of January. This will include the replacement of some “not so” live oaks.

The city also has planted 840 more daffodil bulbs in 14 locations in the median.

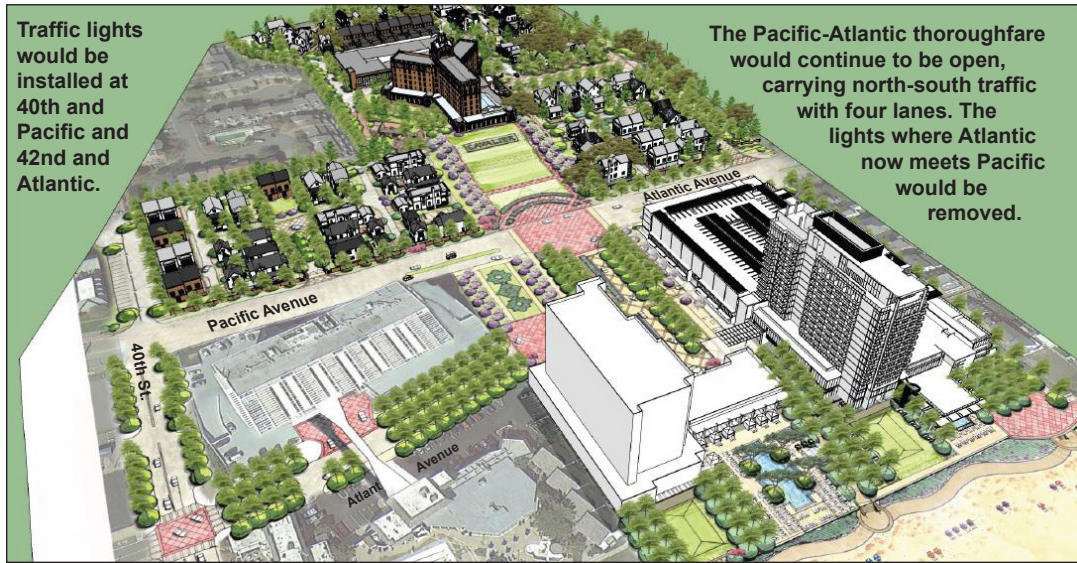
Oceanfront property owners can expect a letter from the city soon outlining their “care

and responsibilities” for the protection of their adjacent dunes. This is in response to some egregious recent damage to dune vegetation reported in the 8500 block.

Once again, thank you to all our good neighbors who pick up trash in the public domain!

– Jim Spruance

THE CAVALIER PROJECT



Traffic lights would be installed at 40th and Pacific and 42nd and Atlantic.

The Pacific-Atlantic thoroughfare would continue to be open, carrying north-south traffic with four lanes. The lights where Atlantic now meets Pacific would be removed.

RENDERINGS COURTESY OF GOLD KEY | PHR

THOMPSON'S PROPOSAL TO "EXTEND" THE LAWN ACROSS ATLANTIC AVENUE

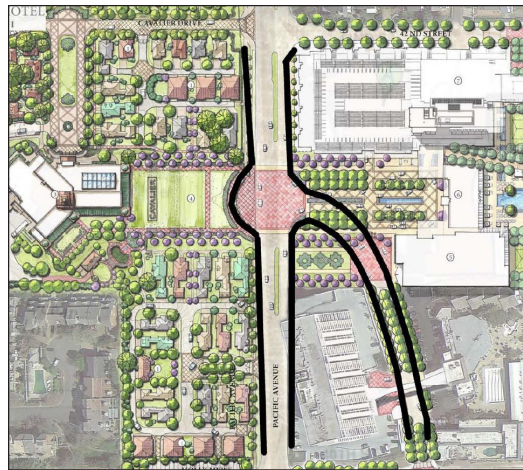
North End residents have been abuzz since developer Bruce Thompson proposed in September to close Atlantic Avenue where it now joins Pacific Avenue to restore The Cavalier Hotel's grand lawn of yesteryear – and there has been some confusion about it.

This "extension" of the lawn would not literally cross the four-lane Pacific-Atlantic thoroughfare and close it off. As you can see in the renderings here, the effect of the proposal would be to restore the linear landscape appearance of the Cavalier on the Hill's front lawn all the way to the new Cavalier hotel-resort that will be built on the Oceanfront.

Atlantic Avenue where it now curves to the west and joins Pacific would end at the new oceanside resort's public park, according to the proposal. Northbound traffic on Atlantic would turn left at 40th Street in order to continue north. The traffic lights now in front of The Cavalier would be removed, and lights would be installed at 40th and 42nd.

The NVBCL's Board of Directors supports the overall concept of Thompson's proposal but awaits more information. (See story at right.)

– Don Naden



This image shows the proposed oceanside resort with the lawn extension and park, superimposed over the existing Atlantic Avenue curve where it joins Pacific.

CIVIC LEAGUE BACKS PLAN BUT REQUESTS MORE INFO

On Dec. 9, Jack Drescher and I met with a number of people with particular interest in the proposed 40th Street changes that would accommodate Bruce Thompson's proposed Cavalier park extension. Among them were representatives from Bay Colony, Linkhorn Park, Princess Anne Country Club, Oceans and Oceans II, Ocean Hills and the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 3900 Atlantic Ave.

While we were unanimous

in our support for the project at The Cavalier, we respectfully will request the specific plan for changes so all parties can further evaluate it and the traffic studies in support of this plan. It also was decided to ask how the process would proceed, i.e. to city planning, the state highway department, etc.

As we receive more information, we will report back to the civic league to keep you abreast of this proposal. We should have more information to report at our next general meeting, Tuesday, Jan. 19.

Thanks as always for your support of the civic league.

– John Pharr

RESORT ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Pacific Avenue improvements have restarted for phase two. Underground utility pulls are scheduled to be accomplished this winter. Mike Tippin is the project manager for the Public Works Department; 385-5639, MTippin@vbgov.com.

OTHER RESORT PROJECTS

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.

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 (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. (See the story at left.) For overall information on the Cavalier project, visit: www.cavalierhotel.com.

Also, the city website www.vbgov.com/government/departments/sga/projects offers information on these resort projects:

- The Aquarium and Owl Creek District Plan
- Convention Center headquarters hotel
- Resort Area Master Plan and form-based codes
- Rudee Loop (Marina District) and Rudee Promenade

ZONING REVIEW

North End Overlay The North End Overlay initiative, which initially allows for two detached cottages on one lot by-right, passed City Council Nov. 17. Special thanks to NE Overlay Committee members Gerrie West, Dave Jester, Chris Ettel, Duff Kliever, Bernice Pope and Billy Almond for their tireless efforts to see this multi-year project through.

– Billy Almond

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We're now accepting \$15 dues for 2016.

SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2016

OFFICERS

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Vice President **	Will Fluharty	303 49th St.	965-2173	willyflu@gmail.com
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Treasurer/Membership **	Bonner Styles	312 Susan Constant Dr.	831-3439	mbonners@yahoo.com
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Past President	John Pharr	202 50th St.	435-3738	john@nbgourmet.com

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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

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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
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** Officer and director nominees to be voted on at the Jan. 19 general membership meeting.