

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

JULY 2017

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Police promise to do all they can to control beach parties

THE RECENT GATHERING of young people, primarily college students, on the beach at 80th and 81st streets several weekends ago has raised legitimate concerns about the management of groups that target the North End to congregate. We are all concerned about the safety of our neighborhood and want to insure that it remains the special place we know it to be.

Your civic league board reached out to Captain Mike Ronan, commanding officer of the 2nd Precinct, to address not only what happened June 10 but also to consider ways for North End residents to better assist police in safeguarding the community. We met as a group with Capt. Ronan on June 13, when he advised that the promotion of this particular event, dubbed “Dusapaloosa,” was essentially begun by an ODU student using social media platforms Twitter and Instagram, resulting in essentially what turned out to be several hundred people converging on 80th and 81st streets throughout the mid-to-late afternoon.

The Police Department has become adept not only at watching for such promotions but immediately dispatching officers and supervisors to insure that matters do not get out of hand. Some 10 to 12 uniformed police officers, including a lieutenant and a sergeant, were assigned to 81st Street and the surrounding area before the crowd began to arrive. They remained on site until people dispersed roughly between 9 and 10 p.m.

By nearly all eye witness accounts, the vast majority of the attendees were polite and well-behaved. Of course, there were some miscreants who were issued summonses and warrants for offenses such as disorderly conduct, urinating in public, drinking in public and underage alcohol consumption. Several arrests were made, and some 20 plus parking tickets were written, with at least one vehicle towed. While police attempted to enforce our laws, officers couldn't be in all places at once, so there were some unlawful acts that went unpunished.

The refuse left behind on the beach and in the

dunes was addressed by the city's Landscape Services/Beach Operations division the next morning and again by Public Works the following day to insure that affected streets were returned to normal.

The ocean and beach are attractions that without question will continue to draw many to the North End. Law enforcement is not able to stop people from using a public beach individually or in large numbers simply because they carry coolers in one hand and boom boxes in the other. There is no longer a “loud music” ordinance on the books, as it was declared unconstitutional by our state Supreme Court several years back. However, disturbing the peace is a viable offense that is used to address large, unruly crowds or individuals acting alone. Obviously, drinking in public, public intoxication and many other charges are available to city police to insure that public welfare and safety are maintained. As Ron Pearson points out in this newsletter (*Beaches & Recreation, Page 2*), large events require a permit – a cumbersome and lengthy process. The police will enforce the failure to have such a permit, which is exactly what happened in the Dusapaloosa instance – but again, one cannot deny a large group access to the beach if the individuals are otherwise behaving lawfully.

So, what can you do to help? If it appears that regardless of the size, a “happening” in the North End is getting out of control, call the police. Use your good judgment in determining whether the circumstances warrant a 911 emergency call. You can always dial the 2nd Precinct (385-2700) or the nonemergency police number (385-5000, option 3) to discuss with a precinct representative or dispatcher whether your complaint warrants immediate police assistance.

Capt. Ronan has assured us of his cooperation and is fully committed to our neighborhood. At our request, he has ordered a more frequent ATV-riding, uniformed police presence on the beach especially on the weekends. However, he has cautioned that circumstances at times might dictate that such officers be directed to other areas of the city to address more serious concerns. Such in our view is reasonable.

As for Dusapaloosa, the police and other city officials are attempting to hold the so-called promoter responsible for the two day clean-up costs. Whether this effort proves successful remains to be seen. In the final analysis, the NVBCL Board feels that the police acted promptly and reasonably under the circumstances they found June 10.

Enjoy your summer!

– Jack Drescher, NVBCL president



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

July 18

Oct. 17

Guest speaker for July 18

State Delegate Jason Miyares, whose 82nd District includes Virginia Beach, will report on what happened in the General Assembly's last legislative session.

Treasurer's report

As of May 31, our league had 712 paid members, and our total assets were \$27,915.

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, July 18. (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

INSIDE



TIME TO PARTY!
The NVBCL fall party, celebrating the North End's 100 years, will be Sept. 15.

Details/Page 3



SO, HOW SOON IS SOON?
Smartmouth Brewing is aiming for an early fall opening on 32nd Street.

Details/Page 3



Public safety phone numbers
 Nonemergency police, 385-5000, option 3
 2nd Precinct, 385-2700
 Fire emergency, 911

RESORT PROJECTS



DON NADEN / NVBCL

Construction work has been progressing on the back side of the Cavalier residential development, as you can see from this Holly Road view. Between the hotel and this house is the new parking garage.

ARENA PLAN LOOKS LIKE IT'S A GO

The Virginia Beach Arena opportunity appears to be on track. Resort leaders are now focusing on surrounding development opportunities, including a field house, Dome site, 19th Street redevelopment, infrastructure improvements around the arena site, 18th and 19th streets improvements, the ViBe District and the Sense of Arrival project at the eastern end of I-264.

The city's economic development staff is reviewing four proposals that have been submitted to redevelop the Dome site.

Recent news about these resort projects and others can be found on the city's website, www.vbgov.com.

— *Billy Almond*

BEACHES & RECREATION



DON NADEN / NVBCL

Fort Story has told us to keep out for years, but now the Army base has put some teeth into it with this fence.

WHAT PART OF RULES DON'T WE UNDERSTAND?

■ Remember, until Labor Day dogs are allowed on the beach only before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m., yet we have been seeing lots of dogs on the beach mid-day. Please allow beachgoers a dog-free beach from 10 to 6!

■ Summertime is a great time to meet your friends at the beach. However, if you are expecting over 150 people, you need to get a special-event permit. That process addresses do's/don't's, parking, cleanup, noise issues, etc. The police are

monitoring social media and will do their best to head off large, unsanctioned events as well as monitor all large parties for adherence to city laws.

■ If you live out of the area or don't get the newspaper, you might not know that the Navy has installed a fence at the boundary of Joint Expeditionary Base Fort Story and 89th Street on the beach. There are a number of activities on the base that are sensitive, and authorities do not want unvetted people wandering onto the base, even on the beach. You might know you are innocent, but they don't. Please honor the new fence!

— *Ron Pearson*

STREETS/UTILITIES/SAFETY

YOU HAVE A SAY IN WHAT WE DO, SO TELL US!

Every time I start to write this newsletter article, I consider its title: Streets/Utilities/Public Safety. How nice it would be if I, in fact, had much control over any of it. However, I recognize the missing word is "liaison."

Over the years I've been in contact with people at the city who actually do the things I get credit for. The function of our civic league is to provide a forum for us to discuss matters of importance to our neighborhood. We all pay taxes, and those go to support all the services we expect from the city. However, as a body we have just a little more influence, a decided advantage. As I've always said, "All I ask is an unfair advantage."

Each of you is part of the information lifeline to the group. With that info, we who are charged with following up are able to get things done often in a more timely fashion. The league depends upon you for its support, and the strength in numbers gets our concerns considered.

One thing often overlooked is that when we bring minor concerns to those in the city charged with taking care of a matter, we actually help keep costs down and allow work to be done before an emergency occurs.

Please feel free to contact me for the items in my title, and I will do my best to resolve your concerns.

— *Martin Waranch*

BEAUTIFICATION

THANK YOU, "ADOPT A BED" VOLUNTEERS

Individual "Adopt a Bed" forms were included in the April NVBCL newsletter and then distributed in June to residences on the land-side corners and a few others who live opposite existing Atlantic Avenue median beds.

Several residents are already maintaining their adjacent areas, and as of mid-June we would like to thank the following residents for their commitments: Abraham, Jester, Downing, Sitar, Walters, Kovnar, Reader, Wance, Pruden, Spruance, Elkin, Naden and Dickey.

If you are not interested in or are unable to participate in this effort, please enlist one of your neighbors to participate in our NVBCL effort to support the city's Landscape Management team and help keep our Atlantic median beautiful.

— *Jim Spruance, Anne Abraham*



RENDERINGS COURTESY OF SMARTMOUTH BREWING COMPANY

SMARTMOUTH HOPES TO OPEN ON 32ND ST. BY EARLY AUTUMN

The Smartmouth Brewing Company folks are shooting for an early fall opening for their second location, at 313 32nd St.

“We are hoping for early fall if we are lucky,” Chris Neikirk, the Norfolk craft brewery’s HR and community engagement director, said in a June 19 email. “But considering we have a beer named Murphy’s Law, we may not be!”

The new operation will be called Smartmouth – Pilot House, “a name that pays tribute to the area’s nautical and aviation roots as well as the facility’s core function of producing experimental and creative beers,” according to the news release put out by Smartmouth in December. “A ‘pilot house’ is traditionally the name for a boat’s bridge, and a ‘pilot batch’ is the term used to describe the trial brew of a new beer in the brewhouse.”

It will be in the former 32nd Street



post office building, next to the Sea Pines postal station, and the renovated space will include “a small-batch brewery system, private event space, and a tasting room with back patio and additional outdoor space,” the December statement says.

Will the Pilot House have food trucks?

“Yes,” Neikirk said. “We’ll have rotating food trucks and snacks (pretzels, peanuts),” but “no kitchen.”

– Don Naden

TOP The rear-view architectural rendering shows how Smartmouth plans to add outside seating in the back of the renovated former post office on 32nd Street, next to Sea Pines postal station.

ABOVE An overall view of the renovated building

ZONING ISSUES IS THAT DRIVEWAY LEGAL? NVBCL, CITY ON ALERT

Recently we have seen an increase in illegal driveway construction.

Some projects with approved site plans for a proper driveway are being converted to large driveways and gravel parking pads by new owners. Each single lot at the North End is granted one driveway access to the public right of way, and corner lots are allowed two.

The NVBCL Zoning Review Committee is being made aware of these illegal driveways and is meeting with city officials to address the issues.

With the increase in real estate transactions, the ZRC has been very busy again.

We remind our neighbors that developers have three options for North End properties: a single-family house, a duplex or a North End Overlay project with 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.

We remind our neighbors that any opportunity to determine what type redevelopment happens on your street starts with what’s known as the “Seller of the Parcel.” Once the parcel has sold, it is in the hands of the buyer – who then has the three options.

The ZRC meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the A.R.E. Center unless there is no committee business that month. If you wish to attend a ZRC meeting, please contact Billy Almond at 235-0731 or billy@wplsite.com.

– Billy Almond

HOSPITALITY



COURTESY OF THE BAND

Providing the music will be local rockers Dogjaw. The party will be at the Princess Anne Country Club, on the west lawn, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

NVBCL CELEBRATES NORTH END SEPT. 15

Please join us for the 100th anniversary celebration of the North End neighborhood Friday, Sept. 15, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the west lawn of the Princess Anne Country Club.

The \$35 tickets (cash or check) will go on sale at the Tuesday, July 18, civic league general membership meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the A.R.E. Center.

A grill-out buffet menu will be served, to include hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, garden salad, potato salad, fruit, coleslaw, baked beans and corn muffins, and there will be a cash bar. Music will be provided by local rockers the Dogjaw band.

Space limits available tickets to 500.

– Kimberly Goold

info fyi

2nd Precinct Police 385-2700
Nonemergency: 385-5000, option 3

City of Virginia Beach

City Information & Help: 385-3111
Animal Control: Lt. Scott Wichtendahl, 385-2775

Wildlife Management (report animals): (855) 571-9003

Neighborhood Preservation: 685-5750
Zoning: 385-8074; Jennifer Cobb, 385-5069, JCobb@vb.gov

Streets and utilities; drain problems: 385-1470

Waste Management: 385-4650

Landscape (visibility/bushes): 385-4693

Street Lights: 385-1470 or email pwlrks@vb.gov

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Have you paid your \$15 dues for 2017??

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