

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

APRIL 2018

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Joining NVBCL is important, but *engaging* is even more important. Together, we can accomplish a lot for our neighborhood.

Will Fluharty
NVBCL president

I HAVE REVIEWED a recent assessment of Atlantic Avenue median trees and landscaping. The string of emails between the civic league's Jim Spruance, who heads our beautification committee, and the city's representative illustrate our efforts to preserve and protect our community. An example of the correspondence: "4700 block: 2 probably dead multi-trunk trees (MTTs) Star Magnolias (alive), 5200 block: consider planting 1 additional tree (mid block) Fall if approved., 7200 block: replace missing tree Will replace Red Cedar. 8500 block: replace 1 missing tree Will Replace."

Most of us are unaware how involved the civic league is in protecting the beauty of our neighborhood, but Jim's efforts help maintain the beauty we all value.

Last month we met with a City Council member to discuss the challenges of short-term rentals. Civic league President Emeritus Jack Drescher is leading our efforts to limit rentals to one per week along with other stipulations that would help maintain a semblance of normalcy in our residential areas. Also last month our zoning committee, led by Billy Almond and Dave Jester, submitted an update to our zoning overlay requesting that the minimum frontage of any lot should be 50 feet, and lots must be at least 7,500 square feet to subdivide.

On March 27 several civic league past presidents met with city leaders to review the large, 40-foot-deep parking area recently installed by the city on 48th Street. The city's team graciously agreed to reduce the depth to the standard 22 feet, returning the remaining land area to green space. Atlantic Avenue is the northern gateway into the city and continues to be enhanced by the city and with contributions from the NVBCL to improve and preserve the green space.

In each case mentioned above, the NVBCL was actively working to preserve and protect our community. All too often, the efforts of directors and committee members go unnoticed, but we benefit from their volunteerism every day as we drive along Atlantic Avenue or walk to the beach. It is so important that everyone in the North End supports the civic league by not only joining but by engaging.

In an effort to increase our reach to members, the civic league has updated our website at www.nvbcl.org. Please take a minute or two to explore it. I think you'll enjoy the pictures and the fun Northender video. After this edition, NVBCL newsletters will be printed only in January; all other editions will be posted on the website. The newsletters are an excellent way to keep informed about our neighborhood and the board's efforts.

The new website allows you to easily renew your membership with an easy online registration and payment option – check out the story below.

I hope to see you all at Tuesday's general membership meeting.



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

April 17, July 17, Oct. 16

Program for the April 17 meeting

Deputy City Manager Ronald H. Williams Jr. will speak on the city's General Entertainment District, including the ViBe arts district.



Treasurer's report

As of March 30, our league had 594 paid members, and our total assets were \$25,574.

Thank you to all donors and members who have paid their 2018 dues, and we look forward to seeing everyone at the membership meeting Tuesday, April 17. Remember, only those who have paid their dues may vote at the meeting. You may pay by check or cash at the meeting, but an envelope is included with this newsletter to submit your \$20 if you haven't paid already.

NVBCL dues have allowed us to support landscaping, bus shelters, the neighborhood welcome signs and several organizations.

– Bonner Styles

ONLINE IMPROVEMENTS

NVBCL'S WEBSITE GETS A MAKEOVER, BUT THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT

The civic league is redesigning and upgrading its website, which also will become the gateway to joining the NVBCL, paying dues, offering comments and suggestions to the organization and learning about what your civic league is trying to do for North End residents.

First, this will be the last issue of our newsletter to be printed and mailed. Beginning with the July edition, it will be posted on our

website, www.nvbcl.org. This is to save money, folks, but it also adds the flexibility to add more than four pages when needed, and photos and illustrations will be in color. Another bonus: Our deadlines will be later, so the newsletter can be more current, more up to date.

However, each January newsletter will again be printed and mailed and will include the envelope for returning your \$20 check for dues.

You also will be able to pay your annual dues on the website – but we will still accept cash and



New civic league website, same location: www.nvbcl.org

checks! Information on how to get them to us will be on the website. Nonmembers can sign up online as well.

The NVBCL website is our primary form of

communication – and it can be for nonmembers, too. We hope, however, they will find value in the civic league and will then sign up to support our efforts.

Many thanks to Chris Colley for working to redesign and set up the new website.

– Don Naden



Public safety phone numbers

Nonemergency police, 385-5000, option 3

2nd Precinct, 385-2700

Fire/police emergency, 911

ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE

WE'RE WORKING TO CONTROL BUILDING ON TOO-SMALL LOTS

The NVBCL's Zoning Review Committee met with the city Planning Department several times in November and December in an attempt to discourage approval of substandard lots. We are encouraged by the department's response and feel it is looking at options to require that all new subdivided lots meet the minimum standards for lot size and street frontage.

We also have learned some great lessons about the detached, two-cottage, land development option. Several initiatives to tighten the requirements for allowing the two-cottage option are in the works along with the lot configuration criteria.

After several years of reviewing site plans and architectural

plans for the two-cottage option, we have found that it is extremely difficult to develop this option on lots of less than 7,500 square feet. Also, it has been very difficult for the city to review and approve the architectural designs of these projects to assure that they conform with the design guidelines. We are working diligently to resolve these issues.

The ZRC recently met with city councilman Jim Wood to address our concerns. The ZRC will continue to work with the Planning Department in 2018 until these issues are resolved.

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

or two detached cottages on one parcel. The two-detached-cottages option is an opportunity for an incentive-based design guideline, and a developer must comply with the design criteria in the North End overlay ordinance. We remind our neighbors that any opportunity to determine what type 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 then has the three by-right options listed above.

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

— *Billy Almond*

STREETS/UTILITIES

PICKING UP TRASH CAN BE ITS OWN REWARD – REALLY!

When I walk Charlie in Florida, I see trash even in the neighborhood where we rented. As at home, I use his poop bags for "double dooty" cleaning as we go.

When I was working, I'd go back three or four nights a week to my office in Janaf. In a Walter Mitty sort of way, I used to imagine someone would see the only office lit and just know the guy working there would be worth a fortune in their million-dollar business. No one ever did. Likewise, I used to think folks would see me picking up trash and realize how great I was. No one did.

My point in this message is that we need to take the satisfaction from doing what is right as its own reward. We may never be noticed, but somehow not seeing all that trash walking Charlie, pleases *me*.

Hope it is the same for you.

— *Martin Waranch*

BEAUTIFICATION



DON NADEN | NVBCL

These are the screening shrubs planted around the pump station in the 8300 block of Atlantic Avenue. The city agreed to redo the landscaping to form a single contiguous bed to facilitate mowing.

FUNDING ALLOWS MEDIAN MOWING EVERY 2 WEEKS

City Landscape Division Manager Frank Fentress reports the city is fully funded for the year's grass-mowing budget, so we can expect the Atlantic Avenue median to have had its first attack on the weeds by now and will be under a biweekly cutting schedule.

After many years of funding median landscape improvements, we have no new projects and are putting our emphasis on maintaining or replacing any recent landscaping that didn't survive its first full seasonal cycle.

The recent screening landscaping around the 8300 block pumping station is expected to be reconfigured into a single contiguous bed to facilitate mowing operations.

With the spring season under way, everyone is encouraged to help in weeding the Atlantic Avenue median landscape beds. Thanks to those who signed up last year for the civic league's Adopt a Landscape Bed program. Please let Jim Spruance know if you are willing to "dig in" to this effort.

— *Jim Spruance*

HOSPITALITY

VB GARDEN WEEK TOUR IS APRIL 25

The Princess Anne Garden Club and the Virginia Beach Garden Club will host the Virginia Beach Historic Garden Week Tour on

Wednesday, April 25th, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The tour will be in the Great Neck Point area with a luncheon and shuttle buses offered at Broad Bay Country Club. In support of the tour, Beach Gallery is hosting garden-themed paintings by local artists through May 12.

Tour details and ticket sales are online at www.vagardenweek.org/main/tour-details?id=379; for statewide information: www.vagardenweek.org.

— *Kimberly Goold*



RESORT AREA PROJECTS



“The Wave” concept for the former Dome site proposes to develop an entertainment complex featuring a Wavegarden Cove surf park, experiential retail, restaurants, a 3,500-seat music venue and residences.

RENDERING COURTESY OF VENTURE REALTY GROUP

CITY HAS A LOT ON ITS PLATE

Sports Center, Dome Site, ViBe, 15th St. Pier ...

The city has focused its energies in the Central Beach District area, as defined by the Resort Strategic Action Plan from 2006. The city has turned its attention to the Dome Site, Sports Center, Pier Project and public infrastructure projects on 19th, 18th and 17th streets. A tremendous amount of redevelopment is in the wings in the ViBe District, and the 19th Street Streetscape project is to start in early 2018.

The city-selected developer for the Sports Center is in the preliminary design phase. It is researching three site options for the 19th Street venue, close to the Convention Center.

The Dome Site, now being referred to as “The Wave,” is in the feasibility stage with Venture Realty Group – along with Beach native Pharrell Williams – to develop an entertainment complex featuring a Wavegarden Cove surf park, experiential retail, restaurants, a 3,500-seat music venue and residences. The schedule is to have a term sheet in place by early summer. There is a great deal of information on this by Googling “The Wave” surf park in VB. Williams also posted The Wave video on his Instagram site in March with a following of 10.2 million. (You also



MARGIT NADEN



COURTESY CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH

can see it at <https://vimeo.com/253695610>.)

It’s out there!

The 15th Street Pier Project has been paused so a new RFP (request for proposal) could be released for new submissions. The resort community was concerned at the lack of a feasibility study for the additional needs for food and beverage, retail and the city support for competing establishments.

The Cavalier resort hotel is open! All North End

residents should thank these entrepreneurs for their work on saving this magnificent Virginia Beach icon. Across Atlantic Avenue the Cavalier Beach Club is well under construction, and the Marriott Oceanside hotel on the north side of that site has started setting columns. Google “The Cavalier” for updated information.

News about these projects can be found at the city’s website, www.vbgov.com.

– *Billy Almond*

This rendering shows the initial proposal for replacing the 15th Street Fishing Pier.

BEACHES & REC

ABOUT THOSE STORM-TOSSED CATAMARANS

In March our beach was groomed, and the crosswalks were cleared of sand.

In September, I discussed the issues of apparently abandoned catamarans becoming flying objects in high winds. Our storms in March were just such a lesson as a catamaran on 73rd Street was swept out to sea. It easily could have been blown into someone’s house (and stressed tested the limits on its liability insurance).

Here’s what I wrote in the autumn issue of this newsletter:

“While they are no longer ‘registered’ and tracked, they must not be parked in the dunes or blocking a crosswalk/beach access. In addition, if the city’s Beach Operations needs to do beach work where your catamaran is parked, they will move it to their storage lot. Catamarans left unused for two years are considered abandoned and might be removed by the police.”

So again, I strongly encourage removal of catamarans to safe locations away from the beach during the winter!

– *Ron Pearson*



BRAD LORIMER

Several catamarans were photographed on the beach – this one a block south of the Wyndham – in early March during back-to-back nor’easters.

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@vbgov.com
Streets and utilities; drain problems: 385-1470
Waste Management: 385-4650
Landscape (visibility/bushes): 385-4461
Street Lights: 385-1470 or email pwclrks@vbgov.com

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Have you paid your \$20 dues for 2018?

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