

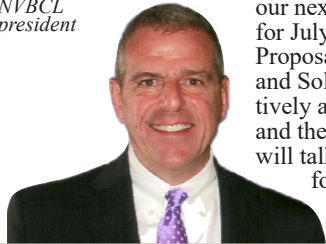
North Virginia Beach Civic League News

APRIL 2020

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

We had to cancel April's meeting, but our NVBCL committees are still active and involved as they represent our neighborhood's interests to our city's leaders.

By John David
NVBCL
president



GOOD DAY. More than ever, I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well. These unprecedented times require that we do our best to take care of everyone in our community.

I will not expound upon the guidelines set by our state and federal governments other than to ask that you please stay informed and compliant. In these times of fear and great stress, compassion and kindness are two qualities that will serve our neighborhood well.

We were forced to cancel our April general membership meeting. I'm sure that does not come as a surprise to any of you. We were slated to have Brian Solis, assistant to the city manager for special projects, talk about shared motorized scooters, and Rebecca Lackey, of Parks and Recreation, speaking about the city's recreation centers. We hope both of them will be able to present at our next membership meeting, scheduled for July. By then, the RFP, Request For Proposals, should have been finalized, and Solis will be able to speak definitively about the scooter vendor chosen and the contract requirements. Lackey will talk about the programs available for us at all the recreation centers.

Despite the restrictions placed upon us for meetings, your civic league actively represents you every day. All of our committees are active and involved. This is when I appeal to you to volunteer to be on a committee. Some of our committees are rather thin on membership, and having additional members will relieve the burden on one or two individuals and ensure that corporate knowledge is not lost. Although it is transparent to you, the committees are constantly working to keep up the quality of life in the North End.

I cannot thank the committee members enough. They work autonomously and report their successes to me frequently. We are very lucky to have each and every committee member. I am their biggest fan since I see what they do for our community on a regular basis.

I know there has been considerable concern about 5G cell towers appearing throughout the North End. State law requires the city to approve permits for these towers in the city right of way; towers may not be placed on private property without permission of the owner.

Unfortunately, many of us have "yards" that actually partly comprise city property, making them eligible for a cell tower. Verizon and AT&T are the two current 5G providers in Virginia Beach. You may get more informa-

See **PRESIDENT**, Page 3

STREETS/UTILITIES/PUBLIC SAFETY

A HALF ASPHALT JOB Atlantic Avenue measured up to be repaved – but not for its entire North End length

Atlantic Avenue has been repaved from 65th Street up to the curve into Shore Drive at 83rd Street, but don't expect the rest of the North End's primary thoroughfare to get a new coat of asphalt any time soon.

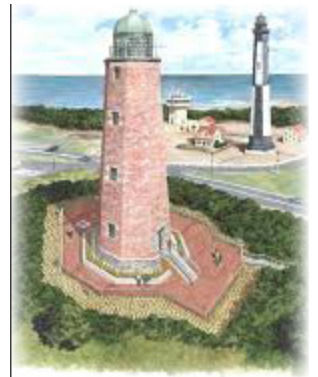
The pavement from 65th southward in the North End didn't meet VDOT's criteria for repaving under a state-city funding program, according to a city official.

"The northern segments of Atlantic Ave. were paved in conjunction with the FY20 VDOT Primary Extension/State of Good Repair (SGR) Paving



DON NADEN | NVBCL

The recent Atlantic Avenue repaving began here, at 65th Street, looking north. Repaving south from that point was not included.



Upcoming civic league general meeting dates (Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., at A.R.E.)

July 21, tentative

April 28 meeting

Canceled, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, of course. We will update our members via email and newsletter whether the July 21 general membership meeting can take place.

Treasurer's report

As of April 15, our civic league had 656 members, and our total assets were \$42,319.

The civic league would like to sincerely thank all members who have paid their dues for 2020.

Please note that our dues are \$20 per year. You may pay by check (see our mailing address on the back page of this newsletter), but you also can pay online, with PayPal, at our website, www.nvbcl.org.



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

— Bonner Styles

See **REPAVING**, Page 2



REPAVING

From the front

Funding Program,” Denny Simon, the city’s Public Works pavement scheduling supervisor, wrote in an email that was relayed March 30 to NVBCL News. “The eligible street segments, scoring criteria, and condition data were predetermined by VDOT, and City staff submitted applications based on these.

“The Atlantic Ave. segments south of 66th [sic] St. did not score high enough based on the VDOT set criteria but will be re-evaluated yearly for inclusion in the upcoming grant programs.” (The repaving actually begins at 65th Street.)

Just what those criteria are that differentiated between the northern and southern portions of Atlantic Avenue, Simon didn’t say. He did offer this Internet link for further information, www.virginiadot.org/projects/state_of_good_repair.asp.

“Known as State of Good Repair (SGR), the program provides funding for deteriorated pavements and structurally deficient bridges maintained/owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and/or localities, as approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB),” according to that website.

Unfortunately, the program’s listing for fiscal 2021 eligible projects is expressed with coding known only to VDOT engineers, and our inquiries hadn’t received a response by publication time.

— Don Naden, Martin Waranch

Public safety phone numbers

2nd Precinct Police, 385-2700

Nonemergency police, 385-5000, option 3

Fire/police emergency, 911

HOSPITALITY / NVBCL SOCIALS

We started off the year at the Cavalier

THE HUNT ROOM

JANUARY 14



WINTER SOCIAL This was the scene in the old Cavalier Hotel’s Hunt Room.

▼ From left: John David (NVBCL president), Linda Palluch (executive secretary), Anne Abraham (hospitality co-chair) and North End resident Lawrence Fleeter line up for the camera.

MONICA STEIN PHOTOS | NVBCL

THE FIREPLACE was roaring when over 100 friends and neighbors gathered Jan. 14 at the Cavalier Hotel’s Hunt Room.

They took advantage of renewing their NVBCL memberships or joining for the first time. Happy hour prices on food and beverages were extended until 8 p.m., and the Hunt Room treated our members to some delicious appetizers.

The NVBCL’s mission is to help protect the character and community of the North End, and our socials are a wonderful way for neighbors to connect, get caught up on neighborhood news, mingle with league board members and enjoy some of our local eating establishments.

We plan to host a social once a quarter, so stay tuned for information on our next gathering.

Thank you to Andrew Yancey, Ashley Salopek and the wonderful servers at the Cavalier’s Hunt Room!

— Monica Stein



Bruce Berlin, left, and Neil Sullivan renew their NVBCL dues before ordering drinks. Thirty-six people paid their 2020 dues.



Chris Abriss, left, and Tysha Edwards look happy to be in the mix at the Hunt Room. Cheers!

THE NEXT SOCIAL?

GRAZE KITCHEN

We were planning our next gathering for this month at the cafe atop the hill at the A.R.E. Center.

However, because of the Corona virus pandemic, we have postponed our next social until at least June.

We’ll update you via email as the situation develops.

RECREATION / FIRST LANDING STATE PARK

OFF LIMITS? Turns out North End’s ‘trail entrances’ aren’t really for the public

This might come as a surprise to a lot of folks who live on the land side of Atlantic Avenue and whose streets dead end at First Landing State Park: The so-called trail entrances to the park are actually off limits.

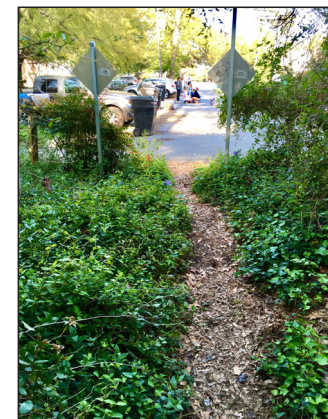
That’s the word from the park administration because they are not designated trails.

“Access to the park is limited to our entrances from 64th St., 2500 Shore Drive and a pedestrian gate on Kendall Street or by boat at the 64th St. Narrows beach and boat ramp,” Assistant Park Manager A. Perry DeMay wrote in an April 7 email to NVBCL President John David.

DeMay was responding to a query about a report that a park employee in late March told a North End resident at the 73rd Street trail entrance to the park that “it was illegal to walk the unmarked trails” that run along a ridge inside the park and generally parallel Atlantic Avenue. This park employee also was reported saying that signs marking these trail entrances had been ordered removed.

“The signs were removed in 2014 from the end of the streets off Atlantic Avenue because it gave the appearance that it was acceptable to use undesignated trails to access the park,” DeMay wrote. “Recently staff members were informed that one sign was still posted and it was removed.”

This was news to several North End folks we talked to recently,



This is a typical so-called trail entrance to First Landing State Park – at the end of 81st Street, as seen from inside the park.

no doubt because the signs did not indicate they were anything but ancillary park entrances.

I’ve never heard of this,” said Jim Spruance, a resident of 78th Street, which ends at the park with a trail entrance. Does he go into the park using that entrance sometimes? “Absolutely.”

“I’ve run those trails for over 30 years, and I’ve never heard that,” said another 78th Street resident, who did not want to be identified. He said he has lived in the North End for more than 30 years, 20 of them on 78th.

He added that a positive thing about his running the unmarked trails is that he “keeps an eye on stuff” – such as reporting when

he notices people camping in the park. The park area that parallels Atlantic is not usually patrolled.

“Park Rangers typically do not patrol those areas that share a boundary with the park unless they receive a complaint,” DeMay confirmed in his email.

Two other residents, a couple who live adjacent to the park boundary but also asked not to be identified, said they have lived in the North End for 40 plus years and had never heard of a trail restriction.

“I’ve never been told that,” the husband said.

Other area residents reacted to this news the same way recently.

Asked when the park policy changed regarding these trails and the signs, DeMay said, “I can’t answer that question – that was well before my time. ...

“Actually, it was always a policy – a Virginia regulation that you can only use designated trails in a state park,” he said in a telephone call April 10. “We call them social trails, something that people make on their own.”

This park policy is designed to keep people safe and to protect wildlife and the unique flora found in the park, DeMay emphasized.

So where do things stand then?

Whenever the state parks’ budget allows, new signs might be installed, DeMay said, directing folks to please use the entrances at 64th Street or Shore Drive.

“We’ll eventually put a sign up, and that’s it,” he added. “We’re not going to change the way the park looks.”

— Don Naden

BEACHES



DON NADEN | NVBCL

‘SAND TRAPS’ CAN HELP KEEP WALKWAYS OPEN

The city has been cleaning sand off the crosswalks. While doing so, they have carved out sand about 6 feet away and 12 inches down from either side when possible.

This provides a “sand trap” for the next storm, helping to keep sand from blowing back into the crosswalks. City staffers say that after completing this, our dunes still provide 100-year-storm protection.

As the weather gets warmer, more people are bringing their dogs onto the beach, and already we’ve had a complaint about an out-of-control dog harassing other dogs (in the mid-80s).

Remember, dogs are allowed off their leashes on the beach only if they are under control. If your dog is a block away or more, or you are heavily into a conversation, your dog is not under your control. And “friendly” has nothing to do with it. (I’ve yet to hear an owner shout, “He’s vicious!”)

We have contacted the city’s Animal Control division, and they say they will be patrolling and that last season they wrote quite a few tickets.

If you are involved in a situation on the beach, you can call the nonemergency number (385-5000). However, if Animal Control personnel don’t personally see the incident, they cannot write a ticket. If the owner has already left the beach and you know who it is (and where he or she lives), you can tell Animal Control, and they will go have a discussion with that owner.

If you are willing to testify in court, you can report an incident at any time to a magistrate (sometimes at Police 2nd Precinct, always at police headquarters). The magistrate can issue a summons for the offending dog owner to appear in court, and your testimony could result in a fine.

Bottom line: Be a good neighbor, and maintain continuous control of your dog!

— Ron Pearson

PRESIDENT

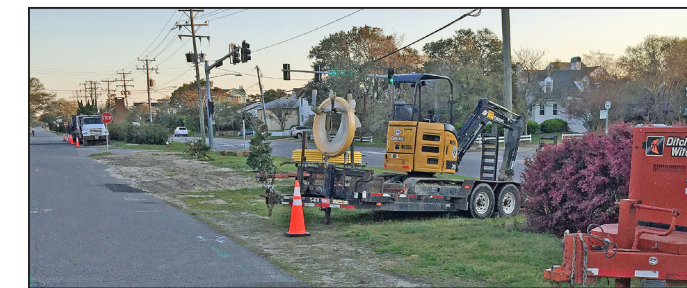
From the front

tion about each vendor online at improveyourwireless.com/virginiabeach and engage.att.com/virginia/connecttoday. If you don’t know which vendor installed a pole, you can call the city’s Permits and Inspections office at (757) 385-4211, ext. 3, and they can look up the owner of the pole.

Our next membership meeting is scheduled for July 21, and I hope to see everyone there. No newsletter would be complete without an appeal for dues payment. Our membership is our strength. The more members we have, the greater our influence on your behalf with the City of Virginia Beach.

— John David

BEAUTIFICATION



JIM SPRUANCE | NVBCL

THE MEDIAN IS A SANCTUARY THAT NEEDS PROTECTION

Well, as you read this, we have all learned to adapt our schedules and social interactions. As we count our blessings, we can be thankful for where we are sequestered.

We are all within

walking (read “exercising”) distance of a beautiful, wide beach, easy access to over 10 miles of hiking trails in First Landing State Park and a feeder road alongside

See MEDIAN, Page 4

▲ The Atlantic Avenue median was a construction equipment parking lot at 58th Street on this day in early April. This can damage the median’s turf and plantings.

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

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

Have you paid your \$20 dues for 2020?

You can pay online, at www.nvbcl.org, or send a check (payable to NVBCL) to P.O. Box 1676, Virginia Beach, VA 23451.

THE MEDIAN

From Page 3

the Atlantic Avenue “linear park.”

Over the last 10 years, it is that Atlantic Avenue median where we, as a civic league, have sponsored numerous landscaping projects and the city Landscaping Division has maintained. And like all city branches of government, they have a budget and limited resources. Due to promotions, departures and a hiring freeze, they are operating

about seven people short.

That is where we can and do help out. The median is like our collective front yard, and we need to help care for it. Signs, trash, dog poop and construction vehicles do not belong on our North End median, and the longer an errant item remains, it seems to attract more. The signs, even real estate and political, are illegal on public property.

Trash happens, whether willful or not. And can anyone explain to me how putting dog poop in a plastic

bag and leaving it is being responsible? Anyway, we all can, individually, be the “bigger person” and help keep the median pristine. If you see it, remove it.

As for construction equipment and trailers with tracks and large tires that tear up or park in the median, their permits do not usually allow that and should be reported immediately to the city’s Permits and Inspections office: Mike Lannon at 385-4211. Contractors do not get a free pass.

– Jim Spruance

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2020

OFFICERS

President	John David	410 48th St.	748-3131	johndavid2@verizon.net
Vice President	Gary Sharpe	414 48th St.	692-1964	gsharpe@rwhomes.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	Will Fluharty	303 49th St.	715-1010	willyflu@gmail.com

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Beaches & Recreation	Ron Pearson	6204 Ocean Front Ave.	428-6634	ronspearson@cox.net
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 co-chair	Kate Michaels	448 Discovery Road	472-4949	ktmichaels@cox.net
Hospitality co-chair	Anne Abraham	5002 Atlantic Avenue	428-0867	luvfax@aol.com
Hospitality co-chair	Monica Stein	4141 Fitzgerald Way	636-0222	monica.stein@n2pub.com
Meetings/Publicity	Buddy Matthews	217 68th St.	422-6151	beachtreehouse68@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Don Naden	213A 81st St.	491-4483	dnaden71@gmail.com
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	Steve Kelley	7411B Atlantic Ave.	450-6019	stekel4@cox.net
80th - 89th Streets	Larry Staunton	212 84th St.	428-1514	larrystaunton@cox.net
Princess Anne Hills Liaison	Mike Byrnes	551 Susan Constant Dr.	434-3200	mikebyrnes@cox.net

DIRECTORS AT-LARGE

Jack Drescher	6410A Ocean Front Ave.	428-3344	jdrescher@breitdrescher.com
Jayna Eller	7909 Atlantic Ave.	773-1250	jaynaeller@gmail.com
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Kaye Harris	108 60th St.	425-0883	kaye.harris@cox.net
David McDaniel	210A 69th St.	348-3386	mcdanieldavid72@gmail.com
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John Pharr	202 50th St.	435-3738	john@nbgourmet.com
Hobie Whitmore	311 48th St.	287-3695	hmcj5@me.com

Directors at-large also include directors, listed above, Anne Abraham, Billy Almond, John David, Jake Denton, Kate Michaels, Don Naden, Ron Pearson, Jim Spruance, Monica Stein, Bonner Styles and Martin Waranch.