

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

JULY 2020

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

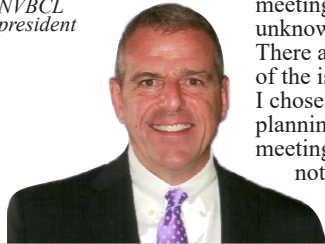
NVBCL is still active while the virus continues, even without our general members' meeting in July and having to put off our socials. Beware: motor scooters are coming back!

I HOPE THIS NEWSLETTER finds you and your families well, and I thank you for taking the time to read about our community. All of us in the North End are truly "in this together" in good times and in tough times. It is the strength of our community that will help us support each other and succeed.

Throughout this pandemic your civic league has remained active and engaged. I am happy to report that we held our first in-person Board of Directors meeting at the end of June. The meeting was socially responsible, productive and made me very proud of all of our board and committee members. Every day these individuals work on behalf of the citizens of the North End to maintain and strengthen our community. If you happen to see one of them out and about, please thank them, as I cannot thank them enough.

I made the decision not to have our scheduled general membership meeting in July based upon all of the unknowns surrounding the pandemic. There are strong feelings on both sides of the issue regarding gatherings, and I chose the middle. Considerable planning also goes into the general meeting, and we simply could not make plans in this environment. I sincerely

By John David
NVBCL
president



hope we will be able to have our next general meeting in October at the A.R.E.

We are also unable to plan for any socials at this time. Although Virginia has continued to reopen, I think it is in the best interest of all of our members to wait until we are free of the pandemic to conduct a social event. I would expect that we will have a general meeting before any socials as the social hygiene requirements are easier to observe in a meeting.

I would like to call all of our residents' attention to traffic safety. Our community becomes terribly busy in the summer months, and we all must pay increased attention to safety on the streets. This includes pedestrians, cyclists, runners and motorists. Please be aware of the feeder roads and the intersecting streets. Never assume that you are seen at an intersection, and please reinforce that with your children and/or grandchildren. There already have been several close

Please see **PRESIDENT**, Page 2



The return of eScooters
4 companies get franchises from the city; see rules, other info on Page 2.

BEACHES/RECREATION

CROSSWALKS

Clearing sand is a never-ending job, and skateboards, carts only add to the boardwalks' abuse

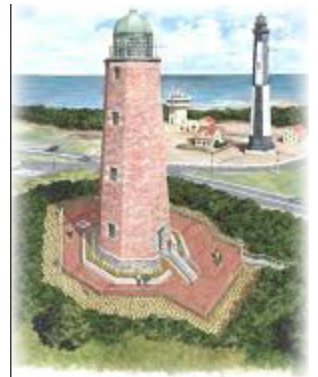
After the city cleared the crosswalks (from 60th to 89th), we had days of high winds that blew the beach sand right back onto many of them. Kudos to those individuals who have shoveled/brushed the sand off on their local crosswalks!

Those crosswalks also have been damaged by skateboarders and people driving golf carts on them. These crosswalks are not built for that kind of use. Please remind your children that, while bicycles are allowed on the crosswalks, no skateboards or powered devices/carts are.



GO FIGURE Somebody with a saw cut out a chunk of the handrail at the 58th Street beachfront. Also, some welds have failed on the 68th Street crosswalk railing, leaving a jagged tear. Beware!

Please see **BEACHES**, Page 3



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

Oct. 20, tentative

July 21 meeting

Canceled, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will update our members via email and newsletter whether the Oct. 20 general membership meeting can take place.

Treasurer's report

As of June 30, our civic league had 696 members, and our total assets were \$42,269.93.

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

Our dues are \$20 per year. You may pay by check (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.

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.

– Bonner Styles



Public safety phone numbers

2nd Precinct Police, 385-2700

Nonemergency police, 385-5000, option 3

Fire/police emergency, 911

PRESIDENT

From the front

calls at the intersections, and we all must focus our attention on these spots to avoid a tragedy.

Additionally, there is a serious concern with crosswalks and traffic lights. When you have a white walk sign indicating that you may cross a street, there might also be a green turn arrow for a vehicle to turn at that same time – this can place you in conflict with a turning vehicle. The civic league is aware of this and is seeking a change to the traffic light patterns with the city. Please never assume that a vehicle’s driver sees you. Be vigilant at the crosswalks.

Motorized scooters will soon add to the congestion in our community. On May 19 the City Council granted four companies – Bird, Lime, Spin and VeoRide – franchise agreements. The scooters were scheduled to begin rentals July 20. Below are some pertinent scooter regulations:

- 1,000 motorized scooter cap, citywide.
- Up to 40 percent of the 1,000 scooters, or 400, may be allowed in the Oceanfront Resort area at any given time.
- City Council was briefed Jan. 20 and asked that the cap be dynamic to allow an additional 20 percent at any given time for peak need.
- Motorized scooters will continue to be prohibited from the Boardwalk and parallel bike path.
- Motorized scooters may be allowed in the shared outside, bike/trolley lane but with a 10 mph speed limit.
- Parking corrals will be designated in the Atlantic Avenue/Connector parks for designated motorized scooter parking.
- Motorized scooters will be prohibited on sidewalks on Pacific Avenue to points east.
- Vendors will be required to have an education plan and staffing / management plan and many other new management requirements.
- New fees related to compensate for management of the program (including new signage to help with enforcement of the regulations).
- Vendors will provide COVID-19 related education and cleaning protocols for employees and customers.

It is likely there will be some growing pains as the rental process proceeds. The motorized scooter program will be managed by the Parking Management office of the city’s Planning Department. Your civic league has already been in contact with the city and will stay engaged as the process unfolds.

Thank you again for reading this newsletter. Your involvement in your community pays dividends to all of us. Our strength is our membership. If you have not paid your dues for 2020, please consider paying them at this time. You may send a check or use PayPal on our website, nvbcl.org.

I look forward to seeing you around in the North End and at our next membership meeting.

– John David

BEAUTIFICATION

City says North End is still a priority; brace for onslaught of election signs



DON NADEN | NVBCL

◀ **Clearing this area at the northwest corner of Bay Colony Drive/47th Street and Atlantic Avenue (view is looking east) was a work in progress in early July. The idea is to improve its appearance as well as visibility for safety.**

▼ **White crosses and tiny flags mark the locations of young trees that have died along Atlantic Avenue to help with replacements by the city in the fall/winter planting season.**

THERE HAVE BEEN some personnel changes at the city’s Landscape Division. While our 89th Street neighbor Kenny Denson is still supervising our area, he is now assisted by John Brady, who has established a regular presence at the North End refilling doggie bag holders at the beach entry ways and emptying bus-shelter trash cans (an HRT responsibility).

Although the Landscape Division has taken its share of personnel cuts, they have assured us that the Resort Area and North End are still the high priorities.

Our efforts to seek a cleanup of the northwest corner of Bay Colony Drive (47th Street) and Atlantic Avenue have commenced and when completed should improve the appearance, and maybe safety, of that intersection. *(Top photo)*

You may also have noticed that some trees that have not survived in the median have been removed, and their locations are marked with white crosses and small flags *(photo at right)* to facilitate the planting of replacements in this upcoming fall/winter planting season. Most of these young trees were paid for by an NVBCL donation and will be replaced at the city’s (taxpayers’) cost.

As we have concluded our three-phase, 10-year Atlantic Avenue Median Beautification project, the civic league would like to entertain suggestions for future beautification projects to partner with the city. Please send any ideas to my email address (jhspruance@cox.net) for board consideration.



JIM SPRUANCE | NVBCL

One of my pet projects is to maintain a clean and uncluttered look for the Atlantic Avenue median. This is no more evident than in the elimination of illegal yard signs and others such as posters and flyers.

As this comes under the responsibility of the city’s Zoning Administration in the Planning Department (385-8074), not Landscaping, we have an ally in Zoning’s John Dudley, who has been very responsive in removing signs.

With a big election season looming, we can expect a deluge of these illegal signs, some from well-intentioned citizens who equate “excess signs with candidate competence,” cluttering our landscape – so please help me, and your neighbors, and call Zoning immediately and directly: 385-8074.

Save it to your contacts now!
– Jim Spruance

PUMPED UP? 48th St. pump station replacement is still alive, but don't hold your breath on the deadline

Like everything these days, the plan to replace the sewage pumping station between 48th and 49th streets is delayed.

According to project manager Chris Johnson, the design is almost complete, but the earliest start date would be this winter. It is on the capital improvement schedule for fiscal 2023, so the latest start date would be summer 2023. A bit away.

When construction finally begins, Johnson said in an email, plans call for a year to complete the project, though weather could delay it. During construction the bike/walking path will be relocated around the construction site until work is complete, he added.

The contractor is obligated to provide written notification to all owners/residents of adjacent property 30 days before work begins.

By now, everyone should be aware of two serious accidents at the intersection of Bay Colony Drive/47th Street and Atlantic Avenue, the most recent on June 17, when a pedestrian was reported injured.

I spoke to the city's traffic engineer involved in that investigation who said that while fender-



This is the existing 48th Street sewage pumping station today.



This is a possible design for the replacement station.

bender reports are available soon, those involving personal injury take longer – so he did not have it in time for me to include any more information in this article. The intersection has traffic signals and walk lights as well as pedestrian-crossing signs.

Warm weather and adequate rainfall ensure vigorous vegetation growth. Although I generally survey many streets to ensure the “cone of visibility” isn't impaired, there's no way to be totally current. Thankfully, a number of you email me problem

areas, and I'm glad to send that info to the city for action. However, understand that it is the property owner's responsibility to ensure landscaping is not a hazard to traffic.

Finally, I repeat: The city does not clean our streets, and though someone will sometimes come out and unclog a blocked drain, it makes sense for us to watch them ourselves. If you see debris covering a drain, shovel it into a trash can Monday evening. – Martin Waranch

ZONING ZRC RESUMES IN-PERSON MEETINGS

Recent requests for variances or land entitlements for redevelopment came in at a typical pace in the first quarter of 2020.

The NVBCL's Zoning Review Committee had not met since February due to COVID-19, but we reconvened in person July 9. The second Thursday of the month is the ZRC's regular meeting day.

We meet at 6 p.m. at the A.R.E. unless there is no business before the committee that month. If you wish to attend, please contact Billy Almond at 235-0731 or billy@wpsite.com.

The city's Board of Zoning Appeals held its first meeting in several months on July 1.

– Billy Almond

BEACHES

From the front

Red flags to warn of dangerous surf should be visible, when warranted, every other block. Occasionally, the Lifeguard Service forgets, so please notify me should this situation arise: ronspearson@cox.net, 428-6634.

For some reason, someone

hacksawed a 3-foot chunk of the handrail at the 58th Street beach-front. The jagged edges were covered with duct tape until they could be repaired. If anyone knows anything about this, please contact me.

Also, there were two potentially dangerous, sharp edges on the handrail at 68th Street early this month. The city was notified but hadn't repaired them as of our press time.

Please keep an eye on the little ones on that crosswalk so they don't injure themselves.

– Ron Pearson

Beach Rules	Off Season		In Season (Memorial Day—Labor Day)	
	No	Yes	No	Yes
Dogs				No dogs on beach 10 am—6 pm
Surfing				No surfing Fri—Sun & Holidays 11 am—4 pm Leashes required No surfing shore break
Fishing				Virginia Saltwater Fishing Regs Apply
Fireworks Fires				
Golf Carts Skate Boards (on beach or crosswalk)				

GRAPHIC BY RON PEARSON

ADD BIKE TRAILS TO 1ST LANDING? STUDY SAYS NO.

Efforts to add approved mountain bike trails in First Landing State Park look like they won't happen right away, if at all.

“It's going to take more conversation and more work,” state Sen. Bill DeSteph, a proponent of the trails, was quoted in a July 6 story in The Virginian-Pilot by Stacy Parker.

“Such bikes are apparently harmful to the park's unique landscape, according to a recent study,” Parker wrote in the story.

DeSteph – a Republican representing the entire city in the 8th Senate District – said he hopes revising the trail route “can resolve some of the environmental concerns raised in the recent study,” The Pilot reported. “DeSteph and several other local cyclists started pushing a few years ago for the installation of trails at First Landing State Park. They believed the park's natural rugged landscape – a maritime forest flanked with steep, sloping sand dunes alongside cypress swamps – made it well suited for some two-wheeled fun.”

The Pilot continued: “Two years ago, DeSteph secured \$50,000 from the General Assembly for the environmental impact study that recently concluded the trails were a bad idea.

“We get it that it's something people like to do, but it's got to be the right place,” said Tom Smith, deputy director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. “Sandy soils are difficult to manage in terms of bike trails. ...”

Parker's story said the study reported that “cyclists already have harmed the landscape by carving out unofficial ‘ghost’ trails” and building “bridges over swamp sections” and cutting down trees to clear those illegal trails.

“In the steepest parts of the proposed trail segments, soil had eroded, according to the study,” Parker reported. “Once roots are exposed and subjected to repeated stresses from bike tires or foot traffic, it becomes only a matter of time before tree mortality results, stabilization of the dune is compromised, and forest integrity is degraded,” the study said.

According to Parker's story, the study “acknowledges that the lack of facilities for mountain biking in Virginia Beach has contributed to the illegal biking activity in First Landing, but concludes sanctioned trails would further compromise the park's fragile landscape.”

– Don Naden

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

Post Office Box 1676
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contact@nvbcl.org
www.nvbcl.org

\$20 dues for 2020 are now due.
You can pay online, at www.nvbcl.org,
or send a check (payable to NVBCL) to
P.O. Box 1676, Virginia Beach, VA 23451.

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2020

OFFICERS

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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	luvflax@aol.com
Hospitality co-chair	Monica Stein	4141 Fitzgerald Way	636-0222	monica.stein@n2pub.com
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Streets/Utilities/Public Safety	Martin Waranch	111 66th St.	491-3343	mlwaranch@outlook.com
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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

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David McDaniel	210A 69th St.	348-3386	mcdanieldavid72@gmail.com
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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.