

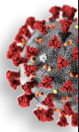
North Virginia Beach Civic League News

OCTOBER 2020

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

KEEPING CALM, CARRYING ON

While we still face the pandemic, North Enders have other issues to deal with and be aware of. The NVBCL is working hard to stay on track and keep us better informed.



I HOPE THIS NEWSLETTER finds you and yours well and that you are successfully negotiating the vagaries of the pandemic. While it may seem that everything in life has changed, rest assured that the North Virginia Beach Civic League has not changed. We continue to act on your behalf daily to protect the character and community of the North End.

I miss seeing everyone at our general membership meetings and hope that we will be able to conduct a meeting in the near future. Bringing everyone together is logistically daunting, however, and we have been in discussions about numerous ways to conduct a meeting.

Of course, your safety is our first priority. One promising idea is a spring outdoor meeting on the lawn of the old Cavalier Hotel. However we may make it happen, we would love to see our members again.

I am sure you know that we have entered hurricane season. This season is like none other, though, as we are still in the midst of the pandemic. I strongly urge you to visit the Virginia Department of Emergency Management to view its "Hurricane Evacuation Guide During the Pandemic." It's too late to view the guide when a storm in immi-

nent. A few minutes of your time might make the difference between safety and tragedy. You can find the guide online at www.vaemergency.gov/hurricanes. I also encourage you to do a web search for Virginia Know Your Zone to check your hurricane evacuation zone.

Traffic on Atlantic Avenue is an issue that concerns every one of us. I made a formal request to the City for a traffic study on behalf of the Civic League, and data was collected and analysis has begun. The study has two parts, vehicular speed and pedestrian crossings. The City collected vehicle and pedestrian data at 11 intersections on Atlantic on a typical weekday and a Saturday. The data will be used to determine priorities for pedestrian-crossing enhancements. Any improvements will be required to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act, which will require construction and funding priorities. I also have requested that vehicle speeds be analyzed to determine if a lower speed limit along Atlantic is warranted.

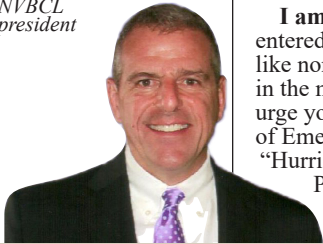
I respect the process that the City's Traffic Engineering Division undertakes and hope you understand there is no immediate solution. I remain in regular communication with the engineers and will report further as progress is made.

Parking is another issue that many of you have raised. We are actively monitoring neighborhood parking and

Please see **PRESIDENT**, Page 2

By John David

NVBCL
president



BEAUTIFICATION

NVBCL wants to help residents spruce up their beach walkways

By Jim Spruance
Beautification

The NVBCL Board of Directors has confirmed the funding for a long-existing but seldom-used individual street beautification initiative.

Specifically, residents of any numbered street may request up to \$500 in matching funds from the Civic League for a city-approved, beach entryway landscaping beautification project.

It was first offered in

2007, and 87th Street residents were the recipient of our initial matching-funds offer.

Residents would be responsible for raising the initial funding for plant materials, submitting a basic plan (it can be a sketch of the plot with requested plant varieties) to the city's Landscape Management Division for approval, and a general agreement

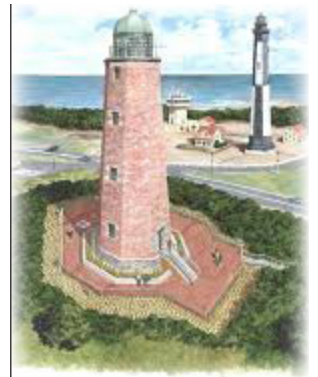
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DON NADEN | NVBCL

The beach walkway landscaping on 87th Street is an excellent example of what residents can accomplish when they organize.

The NVBCL is reviving its program to offer to match the cost, up to \$500, for such efforts by residents of numbered streets in the North End.



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

For 2021, tentative:

Jan. 19, April 20,
July 20, Oct. 19

Oct. 20 meeting

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



Treasurer's report

As of late September, our civic league had 846 members, and our total assets were \$43,214.90.

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

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

the impacts upon our community. Construction will soon start on the Embassy Suites hotel, the last part of the Cavalier hotels campus. This construction will bring another influx of workers to the area, and their parking will impact our streets. We will remain engaged with the City and The Cavalier Shores Historic Community, which has permitted parking on their streets.

We expected to see motorized scooters again on the streets when phase III of the Forward Virginia plan went into effect. The introduction of scooters has been delayed due to the vendors' refusal to sign the franchise agreements presented to them by the City. City staff have been working to modify the agreements and were scheduled to present the modifications to council on Oct. 6.

The major unresolved issue was, unsurprisingly, liability. If council accepts the modified franchise agreements, the earliest we could again see these scooters operating would be in November.

I would like to make another pitch for the SeeClickFix app because we receive many complaints about issues that could be handled using the app. If your Civic League contacts the City about your complaint, the first question asked will be, "Was this reported?" The app allows you to submit your concern to the City, including pictures, and is easily traceable. In most instances, the issue is assigned for correction almost immediately. If the issue is not corrected, we could then intervene on your behalf with a record of your concern and submittal to the City.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your support of the Civic League. We are only as strong as our membership. We have a superb cadre of dedicated volunteers who selflessly give their time and energy to keep the North End a great place to live.

Being a member of the league provides us with the clout to help you every day.

BEACHES & RECREATION

Fallout Storm water helps reshape the beach at 79th after outfall pump fails



DON NADEN PHOTOS | NVBCL

The "mini Grand Canyon" carves its way through the sand at 79th Street in late September. The storm water normally runs through outfall pipes that carry it out into the ocean, but a pump failure has been forcing it to flow across the sand. It might not be able to be fixed until next month.

By Ron Pearson
Beaches & Recreation

The city's Beach Operations staff recently reported they needed to take out the volleyball posts at 79th Street to remove sand blocking the 79th Street outfall bypass.

Investigation as to why the storm water is bypassing the underground outfall piping and flowing over the sand instead found that one of the two outfall pumps at 79th is not operating.

The Public Works Department indicates there are delays getting a replacement pump and that they might not have both pumps operational until November, after the hurricane season ends. Consequently, we will continue to see our "mini Grand Canyon" across the beach at 79th, and residents in the area might experience more flooding than normal.

Also, Beach Operations removed volleyball posts at 79th without a point of contact. Volleyball posts can obstruct the city's ability to groom the beach, and during beach replenishment all the posts are removed.

In the past, there was a proliferation (54) of volleyball posts and no accountability as to who oversaw them. During the last sand replenishment, Beach Operations removed all posts and

initially said none could be replaced. After extensive discussions, Beach Operations agreed to allow volleyball posts under the following conditions:

- Develop volleyball court locations at no more than one per block.
- The court will be at the base of the dune system and must not impact maintenance of the beach, including beach accesses.
- The poles must be no larger than 6x6-inch wooden posts imbedded in beach sand. They must be embedded such that they can be removed when needed. Concrete or other material may not be used as part of the anchoring system.
- The NVBCL will provide names, addresses and phone numbers associated with the court locations to Beach Operations, which will keep a database of the information.
- Beach Operations will meet on the beach with the court-



A volleyball court at 79th Street: The City is regulating where and how such courts may be set up on the beach.

responsible party to agree on the volleyball court's location.

The city recently removed several dead Black Pine trees in the dune at 71st Street. The city arborist says that this is an areawide problem and that we are likely to see more Black Pines die.

With hurricane season in full swing, some people are concerned about catamarans sailboats on the beach potentially becoming flying projectiles. In past years, there were so many of the very popular Hobie Cats on the beach that the city required owners to register them. Hobies were limited to about five per block.

Hobie Cats no longer need to be registered. When not in use, they are supposed to be stored at the base of the dunes – not in the dunes. Hobie Cats left in the middle of the beach or up in the dunes can be removed by the city.

BEAUTY

From the front

for resident responsibility for sustaining maintenance.

Landscape Management officials have indicated a willingness to fast track approval as such projects are usually scheduled on a seasonal basis from the first of November through the end of March. They also will provide all necessary initial labor and associated horticultural materials, which often exceeds the cost of the plant material itself.

Checks are to be made payable to Treasurer, City of Virginia Beach, submitted to the Civic League for matching funds and the division will accept responsibility for buying plant materials, often at wholesale costs.

Jim Spruance will be happy to answer any questions and facilitate applications. Reach him at jhspruance@cox.net or 646-1225.

In response to neighbors' requests, vegetation pruning on the northwest corners of the 47th and 59th streets' medians has been initiated to improve line-of-sight safety for east-bound vehicles.

Landscape Management has also informed us that fall/winter plantings for our two North End neighborhood welcome signs will be available by early November.

ENVIRONMENT

SHOW THE FLAG

LRNow wants you to help the planet

This is no trick, just a treat from Lynnhaven River NOW.

The environmental group invites people to the A.R.E. parking lot from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Halloween, Saturday, Oct. 31, to find out if they qualify for a free Pearl Home garden flag and pole for their yards.

Pearl Homes are "places where people care about our community and our environment and want to do what they can to live responsibly and help protect our resources," according to Lynnhaven River NOW.

LRN folks will be on hand, not only with Pearl Home flag applications and flags but free scoop-the-poop garbage can stickers and dog scarves, poop bag dispensers and doggie treats, as well as candy treats for the children.

Whether you have installed a rain barrel, made a pledge to "scoop the poop" or switched to reusable water bottles and grocery bags, you probably already qualify for a flag. You are helping to keep our environment clean, and LRN would like to recognize your efforts with a flag.

If you'd like to fill out a Pearl Home flag application ahead of time to see if you qualify, you



COURTESY OF TERRI GORMAN

can find the online application at www.surveymonkey.com/t/pearlhome. You also can fill it out when you visit on Halloween or just stop by and get some goodies for your dog and learn what Lynnhaven River NOW is all about.

If you have questions, contact our North End neighbor Terri Gorman, LRNow's Pearl Homes and neighborhood coordinator, at (757) 962-5398.

It takes a community to restore and protect our waterways and keep our environment healthy. See you on Halloween!

— **Mary Reid Barrow**
NE neighbor, LRNow volunteer

TRAFFIC SAFETY

DO YOU KNOW "GOLF CART" RULES OF THE ROAD?

By Jack Drescher
Director at-large

Apparently, there have been several complaints forwarded to the Police Department alleging illegal golf cart use on public roadways within the 2nd Precinct, so we want to alert our members to the concerns of law enforcement.

Officers at the 2nd Precinct have purportedly been made aware of the complaints and the locations where they are taking place.

First and foremost, *no* street in the geographical area of the North Virginia Beach Civic League has been designated for golf cart operations; therefore, city and state laws for the use of "low speed vehicles" are applicable. These laws include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:



DON NADEN | NVBCL

A low-speed vehicle heads down Atlantic Avenue recently.

- Vehicles can reach speeds of 20 to 25 mph.
- Have a vehicle identification number (VIN).
- Must display license plates.
- Must be equipped with head lamps, front and rear turn signals, tail lamps, break lamps, reflex reflectors (red – one on each side and one on the rear), exterior mirror on the driver side and an interior mirror or exterior mirror

on passenger side, parking brake, windshield and a seatbelt for each designated seat.

- May not be operated on any roadway with a speed limit above 35 mph.

Any person operating a low-speed vehicle must have in his or her possession a valid driver's license, which again by definition requires compliance with all state and city motor vehicle laws. A low-speed vehicle must also be registered with DMV and insured with Personal Injury Protection and Property Damage Liability coverages.

We have not attempted to provide an exhaustive statement of various city and state laws applicable to the operation of golf carts and other low-speed motor vehicles, nor is this article intended to provide legal advice to anyone. It is intended to alert our members to law enforcement concerns.

If any of you have questions about the use and operation of these vehicles, please consult an attorney and/or the state Division of Motor Vehicles.

RESORT ADVISORY COMM.

BE IT RESOLVED, ATLANTIC AVE. NEEDS CITY HELP

By Billy Almond
Resort Projects & Zoning

It goes without saying that with COVID-19 and the recent public unrest, the resort area suffered greatly in the summer of 2020. The good news is that Virginia Beach had the highest occupancy and visitation rates of any major tourist destination in the country this summer, topping out at 63 percent.

Although a bright spot nationally, COVID and civil unrest have taken their toll. This dismal season has motivated hoteliers, restaurant owners, retailers and private property owners in the resort area to move forward with the Resort Renaissance and multiple initiatives for improvement.

Resort leaders working with the Resort Advisory Commission have drafted a resolution to ask the City Council to approve and fund multiple initiatives to improve the resort area, starting with Atlantic Avenue, our front door. The City Council approved the resolution 11-0, and leadership is well on its way to undertaking this major task.

The resolution's basic steps are:

1. That the City Council immediately re-establish a Resort Management Office in the resort area with a manager and appropriate staffing.

2. That the City complete the Mobility Plan called for in the Resort Area Strategic Action Plan within the next six months so the appropriate budget allocation can be made in the 2021 fiscal budget.

3. That the City re-initiate Friendship Patrols in conjunction with local churches and increase Atlantic Avenue entertainment programming to maintain a safe and friendly atmosphere for visitors and residents alike.

4. That the City implement a customer-friendly parking plan with guidelines and hours of operation with public and private lots that put public safety as a top priority.

5. Authorize the Resort Management Office to implement immediate and continuing maintenance actions that can address the growing list of areas in need of immediate assistance.

6. That the City provide adequate resources to increase police presence on Atlantic Avenue.

7. That the City Council and Resort Advisory Commission develop a Revitalization Program for Atlantic Avenue infrastructure improvements that reflect the art, history and culture of Virginia Beach and will be funded in budget years 2021-2025.

In addition, the Strategic Growth

Please see **RESORT**, Back Page

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

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

2020 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	John David	748-3131
Vice President	Gary Sharpe	544-0885
Treasurer/ Membership	Bonner Styles	831-3439
Executive Secretary	Linda Palluch	641-0410
Past President	Will Fluharty	715-1010

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Beaches & Recreation	Ron Pearson	428-6634
	Skip Gibson	617-2824
Beautification	Jim Spruance	646-1225
Budget/Assessments/Taxes	Jake Denton	647-8259
Hospitality	Kate Michaels	472-4949
	Anne Abraham	428-0867
	Monica Stein	636-0222

Meetings/Publicity	Buddy Matthews	422-6151
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Newsletter	Don Naden	491-4483
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Streets/Utilities/Public Safety	Martin Waranch	491-3343
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Zoning/Resort Area	Billy Almond	422-9522
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DIRECTORS AT-LARGE

Jack Drescher	6410A Ocean Front	428-3344
Jayna Eller	7909 Atlantic Ave.	773-1250
Kimberly Goold	311 49th St.	428-7537
Kaye Harris	108 60th St.	425-0883
David McDaniel	210A 69th St.	348-3386
Brian Murden	417 Goodspeed	428-7243
John Pharr	202 50th St.	435-3738
Hobie Whitmore	311 48th St.	287-3695

More information, including email and postal addresses, is listed on our website, NVBCL.org.

HOSPITALITY

We haven't forgotten our socials!



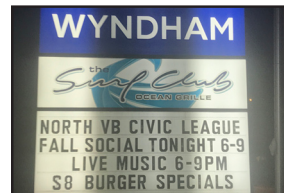
By Monica Stein
Hospitality

Recently a pic from our Full Moon Party at the Cavalier Beach Club popped up on my Facebook Memories ... just one year ago. Gosh, how the world has changed – but what a fabulous party it was!

COVID-19 put a damper on the Civic League's big plans for socials during 2020. We started off with a bang when the Hunt Room at the old Cavalier Hotel hosted us for a fantastic event in January. They were super generous by providing free hors d'oeuvres and happy hour drink prices. We had a great turnout, lots of residents paid their 2020 dues and members got to meet fellow neighbors.

Our committee had lots of socials planned this year, and we plan to pick up as soon as we can socialize responsibly! Members can look forward to:

A weeknight social at **GRAZE Kitchen**, on the hill at the A.R.E Center, 67th Street. Mingle around the labyrinth and enjoy cocktails, sample the delicious and healthy food and



TOP, our Full Moon Party at the Cavalier Beach Club. ABOVE, welcome to the Ocean Grille last year.

socialize with neighbors.

Surf Club Ocean Grille, at the Wyndham Hotel, has been remodeled and offers North Enders a great place for responsibly distanced socializing, eating and drinking. They often have live music, and restaurant Manager Grant Myers and his team are excited to welcome us back.

A full-on **Full Moon Party** next summer! As soon as possible, with respect to COVID precautions, we are super excited to host the NVBCL 2021 party. We can't wait ...

Make sure your dues are up to date – we need your support now!

Stay safe, and we will stay in touch about NVBCL social events.

"STREET CLOSURE"

Save our feeder road?! Well, no need.

By Don Naden
Newsletter editor

If you saw the orange signs indicating a request for a "road closure" involving 74th, 75th and 76th streets off the feeder road in August, you can be forgiven if you thought, "What, they want to close the feeder road?!"

They do not. Turns out it involves an unusual land ownership issue that impacted the residents' properties behind their homes and running along a

10-foot right-of-way – not an actual road – between the properties of one street and those of the other, according to Gerrie West, one of the neighborhood's organizers.

To protect their properties from possible encroachment by right-of-way owners, the residents banded together to buy each 5-foot segment.

Easier said than done, involving real estate law and city bureaucracy. In any case, they had to get the City Council's OK, which they finally did Sept. 15.

ZONING

ZRC RESUMES REVIEWING APPLICATIONS

By Billy Almond
Zoning

The NVBCL Zoning Review Committee is now back meeting at its regular time and reviewing applicants' requests for variances.

We remind our neighbors that developers have three options for North End properties: a single-family house, duplex or two detached cottages on one parcel.

The detached-cottages option is an incentive-based design guideline, and a developer must comply with the design criteria in the overlay ordinance.

We also remind our neighbors that any opportunity to determine what type redevelopment happens on your street starts with the "Seller of the Parcel." Once a parcel has sold, it is in the hands of the buyer, who has the three by-right options listed above.

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

RESORT

From Page 3

Area office is undergoing the Resort Area Mobility Study (RAMP) to look at all aspects of mobility, including all modes of transportation, to be completed within six months.

We ask that during the off season you support the resort restaurants and other businesses. They have barely survived a very dismal season and now head into the fall and winter without much hope.

Please do your part!