

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

APRIL 2021

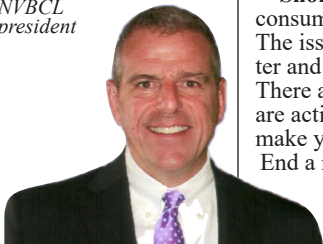


A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

NVBCL FIGHT IS FOR NORTH END OVER STR ISSUE

Short-term rentals' proposed zoning changes are to be considered in a four-step process, ending with a vote by the City Council – but probably not until sometime this summer.

By John David
NVBCL president



THANK YOU for taking the time to read your civic league's newsletter. I have included a lot of information to update you on issues affecting the North End. Now, more than ever, it is important for our members to be informed and to actively engage with city officials.

Your board of directors has been meeting regularly despite the pandemic, and we hope to have the ability to conduct a general membership meeting soon.

Short Term Rentals (STRs) have consumed a lot of our time and effort. The issue is a direct threat to the character and tranquility of our neighborhood. There are several pro-STR groups that are active and vocal, and it is important to make your voice heard to keep the North End a residential neighborhood.

Atkinson Realty, which has an office in our neighborhood, is

a big proponent of STRs and has been promoting a pro-STR petition. Please counter that petition by having your friends and family sign the NVBCL's petition against STRs. *A link to the petition is on the front page of our website, nvbcl.org.*

The City Council has recognized the importance of the STR issue and plans to conduct a four-step process to address it: "brief, workshop, public hearing, vote." The process should commence after the city budget is resolved and likely will extend into the summer. We will keep the membership informed of this process



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Our position against STR changes/Page 2



through our email blasts. The STR issue has been clouded with a significant amount of misinformation and disinformation. City Council hopes to give STRs significant attention and to dispel the falsehoods being circulated. Your civic league has a consistent position on STRs and does not engage the individuals dispelling falsehoods. We are focused on facts and preserving our neighborhood. We do not want an additional zoning overlay in the

Please see **PRESIDENT**, Page 2

CAVALIER SHORES PARKING

Extended Permit program gets another year and an additional hour

By Don Naden
Newsletter editor

The historic neighborhood just north of the Cavalier hotel will be allowed to keep its restricted public parking program for another year, and its time limit will be extended from three to four hours.

The City Council approved the extension at its April 6 meeting, based on the argument that the neighborhood suffers from construction workers and

hotel employees parking in the neighborhood.

The North Virginia Beach Civic League opposed the extension, pointing out that most Cavalier Shores residents have parking available in the alleys behind their houses and that restricting public parking in this way exacerbates the problem of limited parking in the North End.

"It's been a program

See **PARKING**, Page 4



DON NADEN | NVBCL

The Cavalier Shores Residential Parking Permit Program, in effect since April 2019, restricts roadside parking on the city streets in this area to three hours for all subdivision nonresidents. The NVBCL has opposed this program since it began.

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

July 20, Oct. 19

April 20 meeting Canceled, due to the pandemic. We will update our members via email and newsletter whether the July general membership meeting will take place.

Treasurer's report

As of April 12, our civic league had 626 paid members, and our assets totaled \$49,620.04.

I would like to thank all new members for supporting our civic league and all those members who have continued to support us each year. This newsletter will have envelopes for those who have not yet paid 2021 dues, which 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.



inside

GRAZE Kitchen and A.R.E. to open outdoor market / Page 4

Please note: If you are not receiving our emails, 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



PRESIDENT

From the front

North End for STRs, and we have not wavered from that position. If STRs are going to be permitted, we insist upon keeping the Conditional Use Permit process for STRs, a frequency of one rental per week, a defined parking plan

NVBCL'S POSITION ON SHORT-TERM RENTALS

The North End and the Hollies should not be in an STR overlay. If the North End is in an STR overlay, short-term rental applications must be reviewed and approved through the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) process. Limit STRs to a percentage reflecting the current number of legal STRs in the North End.

Short Term Rentals should be limited to a frequency of one rental per week.

STR applications shall require a current physical survey and a site plan showing the proposed parking plan.

Additional zoning inspectors should be funded and hired as often as required to enforce STR regulations and to maintain a safe and congenial relationship with surrounding residential homes.

with a physical survey of the property, and the hiring and funding of additional zoning inspectors.

STR density was added by the city Planning Commission, and the NVBCL has taken the position that the limit on STR density in the North End should be the ratio of current legal STRs to the total number of dwellings in the North End.

If you have an issue with the conduct of a specific short-term rental, please call Virginia Beach Citizen Services at 311 and file a complaint. STR proponents cite a low call volume to 311 as proof

See **PRESIDENT**, facing page

BEAUTIFICATION

In the median Must be spring – new trees are in the ground

By Jim Spruance
Beautification

It must have happened when I was out of town for a couple of weeks on a road trip of the Southeast ...

I had been patiently awaiting the planting of the 32 new trees in the Atlantic Avenue median all winter: the sight of landscape workers turning the soil, young saplings staked in new places, the smell of fresh mulch.

So with my newsletter deadline approaching, I grabbed my list and walked the "Feeder." Surprise! They're in.

They are good, healthy-looking Hollies, Live Oaks, Tulip Poplars and Magnolias. Their mulched beds are already gathering weeds. It must be their good size and old, recycled stakes that made them appear like old

neighbors instead of new "tourists."

But like any new neighbor, they may need your attention to stay on. The city Landscape Division or the contractor might, or might not, water them when needed. For best results as the weather gets hotter and dryer, you denizens of the Feeder, please redirect your dogs, and reach out and give these growing youngsters a healthy drink.

Our next project for NVBCL Beautification is, hopefully, working with the Wyndham to better tree the hotel fence lines on the outside of 56th and 57th streets. Our 56th and 57th oceanside neighbors are the only North End



Holly

Live Oak

Magnolia

residents to have an adjacent, large, commercial property, and their blocks deserve some more-attractive barrier landscaping.



JIM SPRUANCE | NVBCL

This is the Wyndham's north side, fronting 57th Street.

STREETS/UTILITIES/PUBLIC SAFETY

VIRGINIAN-PILOT TO STOP DELIVERING UNSOLICITED ADS

By Martin Warranch
Streets/Utilities/Public Safety

Charlie and I rarely go beyond 64th to 70th, but if our feeder road is any indication, a lot of you are picking up all the trash.

Those participating in the effort to keep the trash down are appreciated. You've done a good job!

I contacted The Virginian Pilot about delivery of the unsolicited advertising sections and was told they have no way of knowing which homes are occupied. Apparently they also don't know who their subscribers are. The result is added trash.

While I appreciate the extra poop bags for Charlie, this is not welcome. The Pilot rep told me these deliveries would be stopped in the North End.

Some folks might have noticed the stalled work on the city pump station on Atlantic between 78th and 79th. Patrick Clark, assistant superintendent



DON NADEN | NVBCL

at the Public Works Department, told me a part had to be manufactured for a hatch before a pump could be repaired. Delivery was expected by about mid-April, he said, to complete the work.

In the meantime, he had the area cleaned up.

Feel free to contact city departments to report pot holes, leaking water meters, street lights, etc. If that is difficult for you, email me the info and I'll follow up.

Have a GREAT spring, and GET YOUR SHOTS!!

▲ AN EYESORE ... NO MORE
The pump station between 78th and 79th was a mess for a few months (inset photo) while the city waited for a part to repair a pump. Your civic league made a call, and that led to some tidying up.

HOSPITALITY

Party time Let's catch up and socialize!

IF YOU GO

What NVBCL's Summer North End Social

When 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 17

Where Surf Club Ocean Grille, Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront hotel, 57th Street at Atlantic

Enjoy live music, drinks and food specials; pay your 2021 dues and catch up with neighbors and friends.

By Monica Stein
Hospitality

We will kick off this summer with a bang!

On Thursday, June 17, the Wyndham's Surf Club Ocean Grille will have a section designated for NVBCL members.

Our pre-pandemic socials at the Wyndham were a huge success – since then the Ocean Grille has renovated the restaurant and has increased seating on its large Oceanfront patio. We are super excited to see everyone and enjoy live music and good times once again.

All NVBCL members, potential members and friends are welcome. We will continue to observe COVID restrictions, and we look forward to seeing you soon, in person!

We are also excited to announce plans for our big 2021 Fall Party.

Mark your calendars: We plan our NVBCL



▲ **The Wyndham's patio is being expanded and will have all new furniture.**

◀ **The PACC will host our annual fall party Sept. 24. This one was in 2017.**

annual fall party for Friday, Sept. 24, at the PACC.

This event is always a sell-out, with 300-plus members attending. We include a buffet dinner,

drinks, music and more.

Stay tuned for details and ticket information, which will be available via email to our members; our website, nvbcl.org; and from your area directors.

CITY BUDGET / TAXES

City manager proposes to cut 1 cent from real estate tax rate

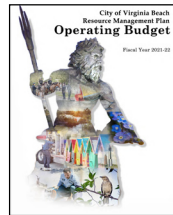
By Jake Denton
Budget/Taxes

The city manager's proposed operating budget would lower the real estate tax rate by 1 cent per \$100 of assessed value, equating to a citywide tax avoidance of \$6.2 million.

City Manager Patrick Duhaney's recommended budget for fiscal year 2021-22 also would delay a previously approved increase in stormwater fees.

Last year City Council initially estimated a revenue shortfall of \$67 million caused by the pandemic. In response, the city reduced vacant positions and eliminated all new programs and initiatives in last year's proposed budget.

However, year-to-date revenues have been greater than expected; city officials expect FY 2021-22 revenues to grow 6.1 percent. This figure reflects estimated revenues during the pandemic that were conservatively low. A comparison of the



online

Find detailed budget information at www.vbgov.com – click on "city budget," right side of the website's main page.

pre-pandemic proposed budget for last fiscal year with the upcoming fiscal year's estimated revenue shows projected growth of 3.1 percent, which is consistent with the city's historic growth.

In addition to funding existing programs and services, the proposed budget allocates additional resources to these areas:

■ **Stormwater** – adding a pipe-cleaning crew to proactively clean stormwater pipes as well as increasing funds for canal management and the city's roadside ditch program.

■ **Increased Safety and Security** – adding six positions to city

Human Resources to establish a threat assessment team.

■ **Short-Term Rentals** – adding two inspectors to implement and enforce the city's STR program (paid for by a \$200 yearly fee on STR owners).

■ **Resort Management Office** – extending the \$1 per night hotel flat fee to provide enhanced entertainment services in the resort area.

■ **Hard-to-fill positions** – funds to establish a Police Cadet program to engage young people to become police officers and attract and retain E-911 call takers.

■ **Public Safety** – funds for expanding police body cameras and the Oceanfront camera system, as well as funds to staff the new Burton Station Fire/EMS Station with 30 firefighters and seven paramedics.

■ **Compensation** – 3 percent raises for all city employees, 5 percent raises for teachers.

The council scheduled public hearings for April 21 and 27 for residents to comment virtually, and a final, in-person budget vote was scheduled for May 11 at the Convention Center.

PRESIDENT

From previous page

that STRs do not cause problems. If you saw what occurred in the 5500 block of Holly Road last month, you know that is not the case. Since the gunfire on Holly Road, there have been other instances of gunfire at STRs in the city. The civic league needs your help to control this scourge in our neighborhood.

We have been actively engaging the city about traffic on Atlantic Avenue. We hope to have Traffic Engineering brief the NVBCL membership on the proposed Pedestrian Safety Improvement Program – which we reported on in the January newsletter – at our first in-person general membership meeting.

The program would help improve safety for pedestrians and also would help control speed on Atlantic. Unfortunately, there is no funding available now for these proposed improvements; VDOT is not accepting applications for its grant program in 2021. While the program will be submitted for possible inclusion in the city's fiscal year 2023 Capital Improvement Program, a grant would be the best source of funding for the project.

The Police 2nd Precinct has been increasing its speed enforcement on Atlantic, too, and I encourage our members to call and ask for further patrols. Unfortunately, as of March 31 the Police Department was short 68 sworn officers. That fact, coupled with the increased presence required at the Oceanfront, limits the resources the police can expend to enforce traffic laws.

You might have noticed that motorized scooters have not been adding to our traffic woes. The City Council on March 2 rescinded the awarded franchises and directed the city manager to resolicit proposals. This was due to a disagreement between the city and the franchisees over liability. Due to the length of the solicitation process, it is highly unlikely we will see motorized scooters on our streets this year.

Your civic league will continue to work to keep the North End a great place to live for all our residents, and you can help – we have two opportunities to participate in the league's activities:

We need a person or persons to staff our publicity committee, which is tasked with promoting the civic league and our message. We also need an area director covering 60th to 69th streets. The area director promotes the league on those streets specifically.

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

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2021 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Vacant

Newsletter

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60th - 69th	Vacant	
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Princess Anne Hills Liaison

Mike Byrnes, 434-3200, mikebyrnes@cox.net

More information, including postal addresses, is listed on our website, nvbcl.org.

Dues for 2021 are \$20.

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

GRAZE, A.R.E. TO START OUTDOOR MARKET

By Don Naden
Newsletter editor

Come Sunday, May 30, a community market will set up shop at the A.R.E. Center, 67th Street at Atlantic Avenue.

The North End Market will be hosted by GRAZE Kitchen, the cafe on the hill behind the main building, in cooperation with the Cayce center in celebration of the



A.R.E.'s 90 anniversary.

GRAZE will set up in the parking lot, and the A.R.E. will have its part of the operation on the lawn in front of the main building, according to GRAZE owner

Shelley Kilby.

Hours will be 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. every other Sunday, she said, and market dates will be May 30, June 13 and 27, July 11 and 25, Aug. 8 and 22 and Sept. 5.

"We buy so many local products, and some asked if we ever thought of a market," Kilby said, so she did.

"I think it'll be a lot of fun!"

ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE

Before selling a property, talk to us

By Billy Almond
Zoning Review

Construction at the North End is very active. Property owners are selling to developers, who are tearing down older cottages and building duplexes or the detached-cottage schemes. We recommend that before selling your property to a developer, talk with the NVBCL's Zoning Review Committee regarding your options for redevelopment.

The ZRC is meeting at its regular time and reviewing applicants' requests for variances at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the A.R.E. Visi-

tor Center, 67th Street at Atlantic Avenue.

Several teardowns recently resulted in the filling of lots, leaving adjacent properties very low. These are flood-elevation, finish-floor and stormwater management requirements set forth by FEMA, DEQ and Virginia Beach regulations. There are very few alternatives. Again, before selling your property please consult the ZRC.

We remind our neighbors that developers have three options for North End properties. They are a single-family house, a 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 zoning 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 the parcel has sold, it is in the hands of the buyer, who has the three by-right options listed above.

If you wish to attend a Zoning Review Committee meeting, please contact Billy Almond at (757) 235-0731 or email him at billy@wplsite.com for additional information in advance of our meetings.

PARKING

From Page 1

of convenience, not necessity," NVBCL President John David said, representing the civic league before the council. "This program is unfair, and it increases the parking burden in the North End."

The program, formally known as the Residential Parking Permit Program (RPPP), has existed since April 2019, and the NVBCL has opposed it since then.

Cavalier Shores

encompasses the area from north of Cavalier Drive to south of 45th Street, and the parking program covers the land side only.

The RPPP restricts parking on the city streets in this area to three hours for all Cavalier Shores nonresidents.

"The RPPP prevents tourists and other residents of the city from parking on these streets to go to the Oceanfront," David recently wrote to North End residents in urging them to contact the City Council to oppose the extension.

BEACHES

RITE OF SPRING: CLEARING SAND

By Ron Pearson
Beaches

Spring is in the air, and the city's Beach Operations will soon return the trash and recycling cans to the middle of the beach.

They plan to groom the beach before the summer season starts and this month planned to remove sand from the concrete beach ramps in the 40s and 50s. After that, they will also remove sand from the beach crosswalks in the 60s, 70s and 80s.

At the same time they will use a bobcat to carve down about a foot on either side of the crosswalks, where possible, to provide a place for wind-driven sand to collect.