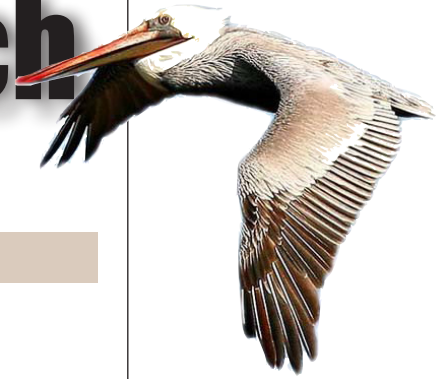


# North Virginia Beach Civic League News

JULY 2021



## A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

### COUNCIL VOTE DELAYS ACTION ON STR RULES

Short-term rental rules continue to be an important issue for all North End residents. At press time, City Council had not yet made a decision on the issue.

I AM HAPPY to be writing a President's letter that finally precedes a General Membership meeting. I have missed seeing everyone at the meetings and thank you for your support of the Civic League while we have been on a meeting hiatus.

We are considering changing our meeting day to another day of the week so as not to conflict with City Council meetings. This makes sense so that we can invite our Councilman or the Mayor to address us.

The NVBCL has been busy with the Short Term Rental (STR) issue. At press time, Council had not yet made a decision, but has likely done so by the time you read this newsletter, I can only hope their decision benefitted our neighborhood and not outside investors.

If you have a problem with a STR, please call 311 and report

it. Many of us, myself included, did not know that this reporting mechanism existed until recently. Reporting an STR to the city is the only way to build a quantifiable database of complaints. The lack of complaints on 311 is frequently cited by STR proponents.

In the past I have advocated the use of See Click Fix to resolve issues in our neighborhood. The City has transitioned away from See Click Fix to the VB Works widget. You can find the widget at: <https://www.vbgov.com/services/Pages/report-problems.aspx>. There are also links to Android and iOS VB Works apps on that page.

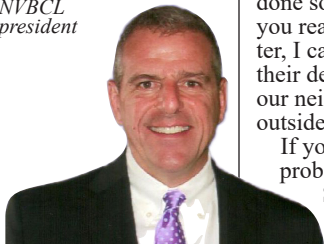
Using either method, you can make a request for service or report an issue as an anonymous guest or as a registered user. Please use VB Works whenever you find an issue in the North End as it builds a quantifiable and traceable database of requests.

I spoke to City Council about the Cavalier Shores Historic Association Residential Parking Program in March. The program provides those residents with permitted parking in front of their homes as well as parking behind their homes through the alley. The program was extended for another year and the parking restriction raised from three to four hours for non-permitted

See **PRESIDENT**, Page 2



By John David  
NVBCL president



### GRAZE Kitchen & A.R.E.

#### Canceled Why did the North End Market not get off the ground?

By Don Naden  
NVBCL News editor

An outdoor market was supposed to open May 30 at the A.R.E. Center, but it looks like it won't happen any time soon.

The market was to be hosted by the GRAZE Kitchen cafe in the A.R.E. parking lot, and the Association for Research and Enlightenment was to have its own market at the same time on the nearby lawn, according to cafe owner Shelley Kilby.

"We buy so many local products, and some asked if we ever thought of a market," she told the NVBCL News in April, when she told us about the market plans. "I think it'll be a lot of fun."

It might have been a fun addition to the North End scene, but what appears to have been a misunderstanding between the organizers and the city's Special Events Office

See **MARKET**, Page 4



DON NADEN | NVBCL

The North End Market was set to open May 30 in the A.R.E. Center parking lot, and it would have been staged twice a month on Sundays after that until Sept. 5.



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

Oct. 19  
(2022 to be determined)

### July 20

This will be the NVBCL's first general membership meeting since January 2020. Welcome back!

### Speakers for the July 20 meeting

Representatives from Traffic Engineering will present the Traffic Safety Improvement Plan for the North End. This is the first step to controlling traffic on Atlantic Avenue and making it safer for pedestrians to cross the street.

### Treasurer's report

As of June 7, our civic league had 818 paid members, and our assets totaled \$51,116.79.

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](http://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 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.



**Public safety phone numbers**  
 2nd Precinct Police, 385-2700  
 Nonemergency police, 385-5000, option 3  
 Fire/police emergency, 911

## PRESIDENT

*From the front*

vehicles. The NVBCL's position is that this program pushes parking up into the North End and that parking on city streets should not be restricted to only one group.

On a more positive note, Traffic Engineering will present their Traffic Safety Improvement Plan for the North End at our membership meeting. This is the first step to controlling traffic on Atlantic Avenue and making it safer for pedestrians to cross the street.

Funding for the improvements remains an issue, but the process has begun to seek funds from a variety of sources. We are committed to protecting the safety of all Virginia Beach residents who want to visit the beach from our neighborhood. Our streets are only as safe as we make them. Please be cognizant of your speed on all our streets with the hope that others will follow your good example.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize our hard-working Civic League volunteers and appeal for more volunteers. Now that we have returned to in-person meetings, please take the opportunity to meet the committee chairs and ask questions. New ideas are always welcome and will help keep the North End a great place to live. We need your involvement.

Thank you for paying your dues and for being a member of the North Virginia Beach Civic League.

### info fyi

2nd Precinct Police 385-2700  
 Nonemergency: 385-5000, option 3

#### City of Virginia Beach

City Information & Help: 385-3111  
 Animal Control: 385-4444  
 Wildlife Management (report animals):  
 (855) 571-9003  
 Neighborhood Preservation: 385-5750  
 Zoning: 385-8074; Jennifer Cobb, 385-5069, JCobb@vbgov.com  
 Public Works (streets and utilities, drain problems): 385-1470  
 Waste Management: 385-4650  
 Park & Landscape Services (visibility/bushes): 385-4461  
 Street lights: 385-1470 or email  
 pwcrks@vbgov.com

## BEAUTIFICATION

# Plantings & more Trees, shrubs, signs all get some landscaping attention



JIM SPRUANCE PHOTOS | NVBCL

**Public Works recently restored a "lost" portion of 78th Street's landside sidewalk at the request of some neighbors.**

By Jim Spruance  
*Beautification*

The city's Landscape Division has been on track following up with normal spring maintenance: annual plantings at our two North End welcome signs, biweekly Atlantic Avenue median cuttings and replacing trees and shrubs (6200 and 7100 blocks of the median).

Public Works has resurrected a "lost" portion of 78th Street's landside sidewalk at the request of a couple of neighbors. After years of new construction, only a few of our North End streets still have portions of these original sidewalks, usually found in front of the original houses!

78th isn't the only one,



DON NADEN | NVBCL

**BEAUTIFIED Neighbors recently spruced up their beach entrance at 86th Street, and they wanted to take the NVBCL up on our offer to reimburse 50 percent of their cost, up to \$500. "Congratulations," Beautification Committee director Jim Spruance said and submitted the \$182.44 bill to our treasurer.**

however. As possibly the only block with a continuous sidewalk, maybe we should designate landside 64th Street as "The North End Promenade."

**Our own Billy Almond** has been working with the Wyndham hotel concerning barrier landscaping along oceanside 57th Street. We have seen the plans, and despite the area's constraints, we expect some beautiful improvement in the fall/winter planting season. Think a solid phalanx of Sky Pencil Japanese Hollies.



**City landscape employees, left, recently replanted on the south side of the 71st Street pump station. Their handiwork is shown above.**

## CITY GOVERNMENT

### Council OKs \$2.3 billion budget, cuts tax rate

By Jake Denton  
*Budget/Taxes*

The City Council unanimously approved a \$2.3 billion budget May 11 for the city's 2021-22 fiscal year.

The real estate tax rate was lowered to 99 cents for each \$100 of assessed valuation – the lowest among Hampton Roads' cities. The current rate is

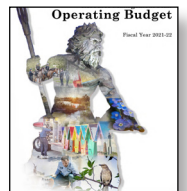
set at \$1.0175.

The council voted to cut the real estate tax rate further than the reduction to \$1.0075 the city manager had recommended. Otherwise, the approved budget adopted recommendations proposed by the city manager.

City law enforcement and emergency workers are set to receive an 8.5

percent raise, and teachers will get a 5 percent raise. All other Virginia Beach employees will earn 4.5 percent more than they do now.

To address short-term rental regulation, operators will now pay a \$200 yearly fee that will fund hiring two new city employees to enforce compliance with short-term rental rules.



#### online

Find detailed budget information at [www.vbgov.com](http://www.vbgov.com) – click on "city budget," right side of the website's main page.

HOSPITALITY

# Party on! Our Fall Social at the PACC

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**What** NVBCL's North End Fall Social

**When** 3-7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26

**Where** Princess Anne Country Club, 3800 Pacific Ave.

**Cost** \$35/person

**Music** Dog Jaw, North Enders' favorite band

**Also**, pay your 2021 dues and catch up with neighbors and friends.



COURTESY OF THE BAND

**By Monica Stein**  
*Hospitality*

We are so pleased to announce that we are “getting the band back together” to gather at our 2021 Fall Social. Enjoy great food, live music, craft cocktails, beer and wine, and socialize with neighbors and friends. Preliminary smoke-

house buffet menu:

- House-smoked beef brisket and BBQ chicken
- House-made N.C. BBQ and traditional sauces
- Corn on the cob and skillet-grilled corn
- Apple wood bacon slaw
- Braised collard greens
- Corn bread
- Dessert

◀ **Dog Jaw**, a Princess Anne Country Club and North End favorite, will supply the music at the civic league's Fall Social, Sept. 26 at the club.

This is always a fantastic, sold-out event. Stay tuned for ticket information; you must be an up-to-date NVBCL member to purchase tickets. You can pay \$20 dues online at [www.nvbcl.org](http://www.nvbcl.org), or send a check (payable to NVBCL) to P.O. BOX 1676, Virginia Beach, VA 23451.

Members will be emailed information about purchasing tickets, \$35 each, for the Fall Social.

We have lots of fun surprises in store including free, commemorative NVBCL swag for the party, so stay tuned!

BEACHES & REC

## BEWARE 68th ST. HANDRAILS, ROUGH SURF AND LOOSE CATS

**By Ron Pearson**  
*Beaches & Recreation*

There are still two dangerous, sharp edges on the handrail at the 68th Street beach (*photo below*) The city was notified a year ago but has not yet fixed it. We are following up. Please keep an eye on the little ones on that crosswalk so they do not injure themselves.

The missing handrail at 58th has been ordered, and we are following up to see that it is installed. In addition, the city plans to remove some of the excess sand behind the bench at 58th as well as north of the sidewalk.

**After Memorial Day**, dogs are not allowed on the beach between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Please take your fur friend in the morning or after dinner. Their paws (from the hot sand) will thank you!

**Red flags warning** of dangerous surf should be posted (when warranted) every other block. Occasionally, the Lifeguard Service forgets. Please notify me should this situation arise.

**Surfing is restricted** between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Friday through Sunday unless those red flags are flying. Leashes are required, and no surfing of the shore break.

**Hobie Cats** must be parked at the base of the dune – not mid-beach and not in the dune. FYI, the city is proposing a requirement for these catamarans to be tied to sand anchors so they don't become flying objects during hurricanes and nor'easters. This is a good practice – you should do it now.

**A special thank-you** to the woman (and those like her) doing her morning walk on the beach in the 60s and carrying a trash bag and cleaning our beach. Also, to those who help keep the sand off our crosswalks!



DON NADEN | NVBCL

**A year after it was reported**, failed welds on this 68th Street crosswalk railing still hadn't been repaired as of June 9, leaving a jagged tear. Beware!

RESORT AREA UPDATE

## Businesses make a comeback; several projects move ahead

**By Billy Almond**  
*Resort Area & Zoning*

The Resort continues to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic. Visitation is up, and bookings are coming in fast. We are grateful to see the North American Sand Soccer Tournament, live music and weekly gatherings return. We are well on our way to a successful tourism season.

**As you may be aware**, our Resort Management Office has now opened at 401 17th St., and new Resort Manager Lisa Bleakley will start soon.

The Resort Area Mobility Plan (RAMP) study is in full swing and is expected to be completed in the fall. You will notice that the Wave trolley has been returned to Atlantic Avenue northbound, from 25th to 40th, due to low ridership on the Pacific Avenue alignment.

Second Precinct police are setting up a new storefront in the former location of The Boxx, between 21st and 22nd on Atlantic. This will provide a presence for police, EMS, ABC and other city staff directly on Atlantic. Our new chief of police, Paul Neudigate, has been very clear that the needs of the 2nd Precinct are one

of his top priorities. He comes to us from Cincinnati, where he has extensive experience in dealing with large festive crowds with the football Bengals and baseball Reds. The 2nd Precinct's new captain is Harry McBrien, who has a long history with our resort.



COURTESY OF BILLY ALMOND

▲ **SAD LOSS** This was the scene after several large caliper oaks on a site at 34th Street and Arctic Avenue were removed recently.

of his top priorities.

Several transportation projects are in the works, including the planning for the Laskin Road improvements from the round-

about to Birdneck Road, Pacific Avenue safety improvements and streetscape improvements along 17th Street from Pacific to Cypress Avenue.

**Atlantic Park** continues through the design process and has advanced with Right of Way closures and other land entitlements to make way for the planned improvements.”

Several other projects are underway, including the Embassy Suites hotel just south of the Cavalier Beach Club, the Hyatt Place hotel at 36th and Atlantic – and we have a new, 17th Street craft brewery planned for property between Parks Avenue and Washington Street.

**On a sad note**, we have witnessed multiple 48-inch-plus caliper oaks removed on a 34th Street site over the last few months. Urban tree canopy loss on that street will result in additional flooding and higher temperatures. These trees were over 150 years old. They were on private property, so the city has no control. Hundreds of years of Virginia Beach history were lost due to this property owner's decision.

# North Virginia Beach Civic League News

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## 2021 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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	mbonners@yahoo.com	
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	lpalluch@gmail.com	
<b>Past President</b>	Will Fluharty	715-1010
	willyflu@gmail.com	

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Skip Gibson, 617-2824, skip.gibson50@gmail.com

### Beautification

Jim Spruance, 646-1225, jhspruance@cox.net

### Budget/Assessments/Taxes

Jake Denton, 647-8259, jake@jeremiahdenton.com

### Hospitality

Kate Michaels, 472-4949, ktmichaels@cox.net  
Monica Stein, 636-0222, monica.stein@n2pub.com

### Meetings/Publicity

Vacant

### Newsletter

Don Naden, 491-4483, dnaden71@gmail.com

### Streets/Utilities/Public Safety

Martin Waranch, 491-3343, mlwaranch@outlook.com

### Zoning/Resort Area

Billy Almond, 422-9522, billy@wplsite.com

## AREA DIRECTORS

42nd - 49th	Willy Fluharty	965-2173
	willyflu@gmail.com	
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	chasemark@msn.com	
60th - 69th	Vacant	
70th - 79th	Steve Kelley	450-6019
	stekel4@cox.net	
80th - 89th	Larry Staunton	428-1514
	larrystaunton@cox.net	

### Princess Anne Hills Liaison

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

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

## STREETS/UTILITIES/PUBLIC SAFETY

### What kind of North Ender are you?

By Martin Waranch  
*Streets & Utilities*

There are three types of North Enders:

■ Those who belong to the civic league, attend and/or get involved in things and act as a part of the neighborhood.

■ Those who pay no attention to what is going on beyond how easy they can get to and from work and/or the beach.

■ Finally, many who don't want to know or be involved with anyone beyond their own group.

We all have one thing in common – the survival instinct, which can break lines between groups.

As the guy responsible for streets/utilities/public safety concerns, I need everyone. No one can see or know all, but among the thousands who live

here, nothing is unseen or unknown by *someone*.

I am ready, willing and able to take any matter to the proper city department to correct shortcomings, *but* you gotta tell me!

Everyone seems concerned about the environment, yet I cannot get people to stop putting garbage, Styrofoam and plastic bags into the blue bins. They screw up the recycling system!

Be involved – help the North End be all it can be!

## MARKET

*From Page 1*

stopped it before it could get going.

Kilby said she was told “someone” complained that the market would create too much traffic around the A.R.E. Center, even though she said they already had received city permission to hold it.

“I had to get a completely different business license for the North End Market and applied and was approved,” Kilby said. “I asked if there was anything else I needed to do, and they told me no because it was all set up as a community market. I had that license before I even started planning the times, vendors, etc. to insure we could actually do it.

“Then weeks after on a Friday at 4 p.m. (of course so I couldn't get any clarification until Monday), I

received the call about the complaint.”

That account doesn't square with the city's explanation.

“It does not appear that the City withdrew its approval for this event but rather, the event organizers did not file the appropriate paperwork for either a special event permit or a Conditional Use Permit,” Nancy Bloom, community affairs liaison in the City Manager's Office, emailed the NVBCL News on June 9.

We were unable to reconcile those positions by press time.

Would Kilby pursue trying to get the market off the ground?

“I'm not sure if I will or not. I think with catering picking up so much, it might just be more than I can handle.”



Kilby

## ZONING REVIEW ‘50% RULE’ EXPLAINED

The Zoning Review Committee has had several requests recently about what is required to have a house remain in place and be vested.

For years, the city used the “50% rule” in terms of the amount of house that had to remain to expand in the location on a property if the house was nonconforming.

The ZRC meets at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the A.R.E. Visitor Center. If you wish to attend, please contact Billy Almond at (757) 235-0731 or email him at billy@wplsite.com for more information in advance of our meetings.

– Billy Almond