

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

JANUARY 2022

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

2 NEW LEADERS TAKING NVBCL INTO NEW YEAR

John David's term as your civic league president ended Jan. 1, when Gary Sharpe's term began. Kate Michaels has been nominated to become vice president. Instead of voting on it at our Jan. 18 general membership meeting, we'll schedule it for April 19.

By Gary Sharpe
NVBCL president



AS 2021 COMES to an end, I am excited to be stepping into the role of president of the NVBCL, along with Kate Michaels, who has been nominated as vice president. We have faced many challenges over the past year, on many fronts, yet our Civic League has emerged stronger, with membership topping the 1,000 mark for the first time since before 2015.

We also welcomed back our first in-person general membership meetings since the start of the pandemic, successfully navigated a complex short-term-rentals issue with the city and finished the year with a wonderful party at the PACC.

What became clearer to me during my two years as vice president under John David is just how important our collective voices are when facing challenging issues. Whether it be from email campaigns to our representatives, to late nights speaking in front of City Council, our voices

carry weight and help shape the narrative of whatever issue we are debating.

Your Board of Directors has continued to focus on upcoming issues that might impact our neighborhood, and it will continue to act as a conduit for our members to make sure we are informed and heard.

Most recently, the board has continued to provide feedback to the city's Public Works Department Traffic Engineering Division regarding the proposed Atlantic Avenue Pedestrian Safety Plan. The directors voted Dec. 14 to identify several areas where we feel safety needs to be prioritized, mostly around existing traffic signals. Although this project remains unfunded with no proposed start date, we will continue to be proactive with our input so we end up with the best results when the time comes.

We also voted to contribute \$2,000 toward the purchase of two new bicycles for the 2nd Precinct to show our support and help the Police Department achieve its goal of 20 much-needed bikes.

And of course, we continue to monitor any developments with regards to short-term rentals. While there are no new STRs allowed in our area, the new regulations will continue to be challenged through the

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inside

Kate Michaels has been nominated to become the NVBCL vice president. See who she is, **Page 2**.

BEACHES & RECREATION

KEEP OFF Our sand dunes are fragile, and they need our protection

By Skip Gibson
Beaches & Recreation

The North End sand dunes are a source of beauty, protection and pride to our residents, but some people are damaging them with plantings, walking trails and other encroachments.

Beginning at 59th Street and running north to Fort Story at 89th, the dunes provide natural coastal protection against storm surge and high waves. They are critical in preventing or

reducing coastal flooding and structural damage, as well as providing important ecological habitat.

Our sand dunes are of all sizes, and they are constantly changing, shrinking and growing. The wind plays a critical role in the life of a beach dune. When it's blowing onshore, it will help accumulate sand where there's an obstacle on the surface of a beach — plants, for example. If

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SKIP GIBSON | NVBCL

Trails such as this one in the North End lead to the beach, but they also can lead to damage in our dunes. Virginia Beach has multiple ordinances designed to protect the dunes by restricting access to them.



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

April 19, July 19, Oct. 18

Jan. 18 meeting canceled

Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, the NVBCL general membership meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 18, has been canceled. The next general membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19.

Treasurer's report

A BIG thank-you to all members of the civic league. We ended 2021 with 1,039 members — the most since I became treasurer. Our assets are \$43,818.44.

This newsletter will include 2022 member-dues envelopes. Our annual dues are \$20. You also can pay your dues through PayPal on the NVBCL website, www.nvbcl.org. Please include your North End address, your primary resident address and your email address.



Also, for those who made donations to the civic league, thank you so very much. Our projects continue to improve and grow.

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

— Bonner Styles



Public safety phone numbers

2nd Precinct Police, 385-2700

Nonemergency police, 385-5000, option 3

Fire/police emergency, 911

UP FOR VICE PRESIDENT

The NVBCL Nomination Committee presented our unanimous selection for civic league vice president, Kate Michaels, to the



Board of Directors for approval, which was formally adopted at the last board meeting, Dec. 14.

Kate and her husband, Stephan, are Virginia Beach natives, and they have three children: Ellie, 24; Athena, 22; and Liam, 19. In 2009 they moved from Harbor Point on Rudee Inlet to Princess Anne Hills.

Kate got involved with the PAH Civic League and served as president for two years, 2017-18. She has been an active member of the Virginia Beach Garden Club since 2014 and serves as secretary.

She joined the NVBCL's board in 2017 as liaison for PAH and for the past several years has helped on the NVBCL Hospitality Committee with Kimberly Goold and Monica Stein.

"I have most enjoyed Hospitality as it has afforded me the opportunity to get to know many of our great North End neighbors," Kate says.

Her nomination will be scheduled for a vote at the general membership meeting April 19.

— Willy Fluharty

PRESIDENT

From the front

courts, and it is possible the debate could re-emerge.

Finally, I am happy to announce the Civic League is finally joining the world of social media, developed by Caroline Willcox, one of our new directors. We hope to roll this out in the near future and will send an announcement to all members once we are up and running.

As we head into 2022, please remember what the NVBCL was able to achieve in 2021 with the support of our members. We hope to continue our growth throughout the new year and strengthen our engagement with our North End residents.

I look forward to meeting and seeing you all in the near future. ■

HOSPITALITY

Fun, fun, fun! The virus threat let up a bit, and we took advantage of the respite



MONICA STEIN PHOTOS | NVBCL

FALL SOCIAL
NVBCL members gathered on the PACC lawn on a warm, sunny Oct. 24. Dog Jaw supplied the music, and the club provided the barbecue buffet.



By Monica Stein
Hospitality

Bright sun, perfect fall air... our Fall Social was *fun, fun, fun!*

Yes, we did it – after a frustrating pandemic season, we finally held our Fall Social, on Oct. 24. We decided to have a Sunday afternoon barbecue this time. Dog Jaw provided great tunes, the PACC provided an ideal setting and an excellent buffet, and almost 300 North End neighbors and friends got together to enjoy a fantastic afternoon.

WINTER SOCIAL

Please join us for our Winter Social at the Hunt Room, in the historic Cavalier Hotel: 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8. (This date is tentative due to COVID-19 considerations.)

Enjoy the roaring fire and wonderful ambiance, plus happy hour prices on drinks and appetizers!

You will have the opportunity to pay your 2022 dues and pick up one of the coveted NVBCL logo stickers to put on your car, beach cart, trash cans – wherever. Please support the NVBCL!



STREETS / UTILITIES / PUBLIC SAFETY

Breaking pump news at 79th

By Martin Waranch
Streets/Utilities/Public Safety

There is news about the 79th Street Pump Station.

As those who pass by it on Atlantic Avenue know, there has been an assortment of machinery and materials outside the station for quite a while. Early this year Public Works advised that replacement parts were on order and promised to neat the area. They did that.

The facility is over 40 years old, and the city has made significant upgrades and repairs to ensure reliable flood protection – but each such improvement revealed other needs.

What we have been seeing at the site is an emergency bypass system to ensure functionality. While that works well, the unsightly condition continues. And



DON NADEN | NVBCL

the curious observer just wonders what is going on there?!

Richard A. Harrell, project manager with Public Works' Stormwater Operations, put it all concisely in a Dec. 22 email:

"Over the last year we have removed and overhauled pumps and check valves and installed a new emergency bypass system to increase storm water pump redundancy. ...

"In the coming weeks there will be another pump removed and replaced. We also have another check valve on order, and lead time is several months out. Once the check valve is replaced, there are no other scheduled repairs in the near future."

There's more: "Most of the repairs over the past year were necessary to keep the pump station operational, and others were performed to increase reliability. I can promise you our goal is to keep the pump station in the best possible condition to protect the North End from flooding."

Thank you, Mr. Harrell!

I have seen people walking along the Feeder Road with bags, picking up trash. Charlie and I do that regularly. Thanks to all who take an interest in keeping the N.E. clean and inviting. Bottom line: If we don't do it, it will not be done.

Rebounding Oceanfront transformation looks strong

Major improvement projects continue forward into new year

By Billy Almond
Resort & Zoning

The Resort area finished the year strong and is in position to continue rebounding next season.

Bookings for the Convention Center and Sports Center are on the increase, with thousands of athletes and their families coming to Virginia Beach during the off-season.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau now headed by Nancy Hellman is actively marketing summer 2022 internationally in addition to our tourism advertising campaigns.

Several major Resort improvement projects continue to move along to continue the Oceanfront's transformation.

We want to thank the Police Department for its proactive law



CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH

Above is a conceptual rendering of what the streetscape on 17th Street could look like, from Pacific Avenue west to Cypress.

enforcement at the Oceanfront during the 2021 season. Following the multiple shootings March 26 at the city parking lot on 20th Street, strategic action taken by law enforcement resulted in one of the safest and incident-free tourism seasons in recent history.

Law enforcement exercised a gun-confiscation program that police said netted hundreds of illegal firearms within the Resort

area. Plus, the introduction of the ShotSpotter program – which can recognize and locate shots from firearms – greatly reduced the number of illegal firearms and actual firing of weapons in the Resort this past season. You can

learn about ShotSpotter online here: www.shotspotter.com.

Virginia Beach law enforcement also has developed an outreach campaign within the apartment and housing complexes just west of the Resort to improve support for police and community programs, and this has proven to be very successful.

The Resort Area Mobility Plan (RAMP) is nearing completion and is expected to go before the Planning Commission and City Council sometime in March or April. Our last newsletter reported on the “AVE” project, which has been constructed to test options for redesigning Atlantic Avenue. It is a “tactile urbanism” installation, from 17th north to 20th Street along Atlantic.

We remind you about the great example of a similar “Main Street” renaissance that occurred in Hendersonville, N.C., a few years ago. A similar straight, four-lane section was transformed into a vibrant, active downtown experience there using a serpentine street alignment. This created areas along the street for significant outdoor cafes, seating areas, bike parking and open-space greenery. The Hendersonville project has been considered a great success, increasing business activity and visitation, and it won several national design awards.

We hope to transform our Atlantic Avenue soon. In addition, the RAMP study will address multiple intersection improvements throughout the Resort as well as multi-modal transportation alternatives for the future.

■ You can learn about the RAMP Study here: www.vbgov.com/government/departments/sga/strategic-growth-areas/Pages/Resort-Mobility-Plan.aspx.

Speaking of transportation, projects are in the works including the planning for Laskin Road improvements from the Laskin traffic circle west to Birdneck Road, Pacific Avenue safety improvements and 17th Street streetscape improvements from Pacific to Cypress. In progress are 18th and 17th streets – 18th improvements are scheduled to start construction in the fall, and 17th Street will follow.

■ You can learn about the 17th St. streetscape project Phase I and II here: www.vbgov.com/government/departments/sga/projects/Pages/17th-Street-Improvements.aspx.

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RON PEARSON RESIGNS FROM NVBCL BOARD

After serving on the North Virginia Beach Civic League for over 23 years, Ron Pearson has chosen to step down from the Board of Directors and as chair of the Beaches & Recreation Committee.

Ron was the 2000-2001 NVBCL president, served on the Zoning Review Committee for 15 years and has served the last 17 as the Beaches & Recreation Committee chair.

During his tenure, Ron played an instrumental role in the “Big Beach Project,” the original widening and raising of the beach using offshore sand in 2000. He also fought to get red surf-warning flags added to North End beaches, developed a compromise on beach volleyball poles, fought for preservation of our Atlantic Avenue median and for preserving allowing dogs on the beaches without leashes during certain times of the year.

The board would like to thank Ron for his many years of volunteer service, leadership and participation in our community!

– Skip Gibson



Ron Pearson steps down after 23 years.

BEACHES

From the front

the wind blows offshore, it transfers sand from the dune down to the beach. Sand is constantly moving back and forth in a dune, just like a river flowing to the ocean, but only in the right amount and at the right pace.

However, the dunes need our help to continue to flourish. While there are multiple city ordinances protecting and restricting access to the dunes, here's what each of us can do to protect and save them:

■ First and foremost, adhere to city ordinances and stay off the dunes – human traffic and encroachment damages them.

The grasses and plants that thrive in sand dunes are very hardy to the harsh environment of salt, sun, heat and a limited water supply, but they cannot survive trampling. The plants have thick, brittle stalks that snap easily when trampled or driven upon. Just a few people passing over a dune at the same point will completely kill a strip of grass.

■ Use the walkways for walk-



DON NADEN | NVBCL

ing or biking to the beach. If you're an Oceanfront resident, set the example by using the walkways and not crossing over the dunes.

■ Do not plant in the dunes. They are home to local flora and fauna found only in the dunes. This vegetation is what binds the sand dune together.

■ Do not throw trash in the dunes. It's unfortunate that many beach users throw plastic bottles and other trash in our dunes. Pick up and properly dispose of trash in city trash cans, or take it home with you.

If you have any questions as to what you may and may not do, you can reach out to the city's Department of Planning and Community Development at (757) 385-4621.

Let's work together to protect and save our beautiful, natural North End dunes!

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

P.O. Box 1676, Virginia Beach, VA 23451
contact@nvbcl.org
www.nvbcl.org

2022 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| President | Gary Sharpe | 544-0885 gary.sharpe.iii@gmail.com |
| Vice President (interim) | Kate Michaels | 472-4949 ktmichaels@cox.net |
| Treasurer/Membership | Bonner Styles | 831-3439 mbonners@yahoo.com |
| Executive Secretary | Linda Palluch | 641-0410 lpalluch@gmail.com |
| Past President | John David | 748-3131 johndavid2@verizon.net |

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Beaches & Recreation

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

Monica Stein, 636-0222, monica.stein@n2pub.com

Meetings/Publicity/Social Media

Caroline Willcox, cwillcox@rogers.com

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 |
| 50th - 59th | Mark Chase | 491-1729 chasemark@msn.com |
| 60th - 69th | David McDaniels | 348-3386 mcdanieldavid72@gmail.com |
| 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

Find more information, including postal addresses, on our website, nvbcl.org.

Dues for 2022 are \$20.

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

ZONING ISSUES

Aware of illegal building? Let us know!

The NVBCL Zoning Review Committee continues to review applicants' requests for variances on the second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the ARE Visitor Center.

We are seeing an increase in illegal, nonpermitted construction including driveway expansions, shed construction, decks, terraces, fences and house

additions. If you see construction on your street and do not see a visible City of Virginia Beach permit displayed on the property, please contact any ZRC member.

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

If you wish to attend a ZRC meeting, please contact Billy Almond at 235-0731 or billy@wplsite.com for additional information in advance of our meetings.
- Billy Almond

ENVIRONMENT/MEMORIALS

Planting a tree can help honor a loved one's life

By Caroline Willcox
Meetings & Publicity

North End residents might not be aware of a program called Tree Buddies, which is managed by the Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Foundation.

This organization supports the city by protecting the coastal environment, improving existing facilities and ensuring access to parks and recreation programs for all residents.

Tree Buddies supports parkland preservation and beautification. Through this initiative, residents can sponsor a new native tree (there are several species options) and receive a commemorative plaque at a Virginia Beach city park, median or another municipal property for \$499.

Alternatively, residents can purchase a commemorative plaque for an existing tree for \$299.



TERRI GORMAN PHOTOS



Tree Buddies allows people to pay to plant a tree and add a memorial plaque.

For more information or if you are interested in purchasing a tree or plaque, the link for this program is vbgov.com/government/departments/parks-recreation/foundation/Pages/tree-buddies.aspx.

RESORT

From Page 3

Property for a regional stormwater management facility, or BMP, was recently acquired by the city to help facilitate redevelopment along the U.S. 58/Virginia Beach Boulevard corridor. Several redevelopment projects are queued up for 17th Street awaiting the regional BMP.

The Atlantic Park surf project continues through the design process and has advanced right-of-way closures and other land entitlements to make way for the planned improvements.

Several other projects are also under way, including the Embassy Suites hotel just south of the Cavalier Beach Club, the Hyatt Place at 36th and Atlantic and the new MOXY Hotel on 11th Street.

Lastly, we remind you that the city opened the Resort Management Office this past summer. The main office is at 2101 Parks Ave. #302, and the field office is at 401 17th St. The field office is home to the VB Ambassador Program that had its inaugural season last summer. You might have seen our Ambassadors in their yellow shirts around the Resort this past summer.

Find out more about the Resort Management Office here: www.vbgov.com/government/departments/cvb/resort/Pages/default.aspx.