

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

APRIL 2022

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

SHORT-TERM RENTAL ISSUE BECOMES LONG-TERM CONCERN

Thought we were done with the short-term rental issue? Not at all. Local efforts to weaken or kill our zoning protections have moved to the state legislative level – and your NVBCL is taking steps to continue defending our neighborhood.

By Gary Sharpe
NVBCL president



I HOPE THIS newsletter finds you well as the warm days of spring fade into those much-needed beach days that remind us how lucky we are to live here.

I hoped to spend my first term as your president focusing on many other important matters the NVBCL deals with, but my immediate focus will have to remain on the same issue that has challenged us for the past several years.

Short-term rentals have again emerged as an issue of concern for our neighborhood and have recently become a main focus of our civic league board. Our local zoning and land-use regulations remain in place and continue to protect our community from any immediate threat of STRs returning.

However, the arena of debate has shifted from the city to the state level, and challenges to our local protections have emerged. These efforts appear to be focused on creating an end run around our local regulations

and re-establishing a pathway for STRs to return to the North End.

The recently adjourned 2022 Virginia General Assembly saw two concerning pieces of legislation introduced regarding STRs.

The first was SB 602, which took direct aim at our North End neighborhood. Although ultimately stricken, this Senate bill initially sought to roll back what was achieved with STR regulations through our local efforts with City Council – namely, doing away with neighborhood approval for STRs as well as special parking and occupation restrictions.

The second piece of legislation introduced was HB 1362, which seeks to allow STRs by right statewide if a locality has not restricted them by zoning and land-use ordinance. While seemingly benign on the surface, if this bill was amended or changed from its current form, the result could end up ushering in the return of STRs without our local input. This bill easily passed the House and, at press time, was with the Senate Committee on Local Government, where it might remain until the 2023 session.

We fully expect more legislation of this

Please see **PRESIDENT**, Page 2



DON NADEN | NVBCL

Short-term rental properties are required to post signs like this one, on 89th Street in December.

CAVALIER SHORES PARKING

Extended again Council vote renews restrictions for another year

By Don Naden
Newsletter editor

The neighborhood just north of the Historic Cavalier Hotel will be allowed to keep its restricted public permit-parking program for another year, its third.

The City Council approved the extension at its March 22 meeting, again based on the argument that residents suffer from construction workers and hotel employees parking in the neighborhood.

The North Virginia Beach Civic League opposes the extension, pointing out that while most Cavalier Shores residents do not have driveways from the street, they do 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.

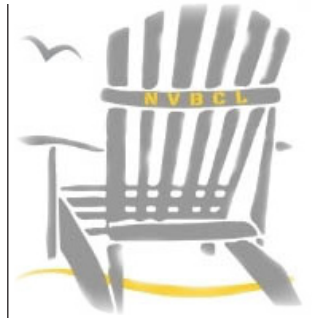
“It’s been a program of

See **PARKING**, Page 4



DON NADEN | NVBCL

The Cavalier Shores Residential Parking Permit Program, in effect since April 2019, restricts land-side parking on the city streets in this area to four hours for all subdivision nonresidents. The NVBCL opposes this program.



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

April 19, July 19, Oct. 18

Speaker for the April 19 meeting

We have invited Debra M. Bryan, director of legislative affairs in the city manager’s office, to talk to us about STR legislation in the state legislature. However, her appearance could conflict with the City Council meeting that evening – in that case, a member of Lynnhaven River NOW has graciously agreed to be our backup.



Treasurer’s report

Thank you to all members of the civic league who have paid their 2022 dues. Our membership stands at 605, and our assets are \$48,782.60.

This newsletter includes 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, 757.385-2700

Nonemergency police, 757.385-5000, option 3

Fire/police emergency, 911

KATE MICHAELS STANDS FOR VP

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 Dec. 14 board meeting.

Kate and her husband, Stephan, are Virginia Beach natives and live in Princess Anne Hills. Kate served as PAH Civic League president for two years, 2017-18. 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.

"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 voted on at the general membership meeting April 19.

— Willy Fluharty

PRESIDENT

From the front

nature to be introduced at the state level, so we will remain vigilant in updating our members of pending STR matters. Our board, as well as many of our members, are working hard to develop a strategy to defend against longer term, sustained efforts to change legislation at the state level. While we believe there is no immediate threat, we want to be proactive and forward focused on next year's legislative session and prepared to oppose any new pro-STR bills.

We are also committed to keeping our members informed so we are prepared to make our voices heard no matter the forum. Now more than ever we need your continued support to preserve the character of our neighborhood.

We are excited to be back in person for our upcoming general membership meeting Tuesday, April 19, and I look forward to my first official meeting as president and being face to face with you all again. I am also excited to introduce our new vice president, Kate Michaels, and look forward to a vote confirming her new role. ■

HOSPITALITY

Cheers! We had the new year's first Social – hopefully just the first of many

By Monica Stein
Hospitality

The NVBCL got "the band back together" for our first social of 2022 in February. First of several to come – fingers crossed!

Our event in the Hunt Room at the Historic Cavalier Hotel was a huge success. Several members updated their memberships and paid their 2022 dues, and the Hunt Room provided a roaring fire, our own section in the bar area and special pricing on drinks and apps – and their amazing fried shrimp were served to us complimentary, passed by a most

charming server.

Special thanks to Restaurant General Manager Ashley Salopek and the Tarnished Truth's Andrew Yancey for making our NVBCL Winter Social fantastic!

We are planning a late-spring Social, but details weren't confirmed by press time. We will email you as soon as we nail down the date and place.

Feel free to email me at monica.stein@n2pub.com if you have any ideas for socials or have questions.



▲ Attending the NVBCL Winter Social on Feb. 8, at the Historic Cavalier Hotel's Hunt Room, were Restaurant General Manager Ashley Salopek, left, and former NVBCL President Willy Fluharty and his wife, Stephanie.

Checking in guests ▶ and collecting civic league dues were NVBCL President Gary Sharpe and Executive Secretary Linda Palluch.



MONICA STEIN PHOTOS | NVBCL



BEAUTIFICATION

Live oaks deserve our TLC

Friends of Live Oaks can help us to promote, protect our official tree

By Jim Spruance
Beautification

By the time you read this, you will no doubt be vividly reminded of the presence of our many live oaks.

Yes, our city's official tree and its yearly shedding of yellow pollen. With many beautiful examples in the North End, on private and public property, we share some classic examples of these old, veteran oaks that predate our arrival and "development."

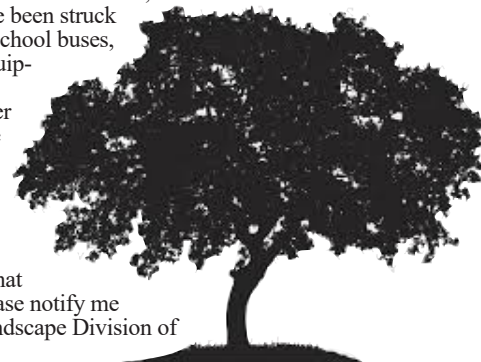
I think it's their wild, sprawling

nature that makes them so attractive, but sometimes they need pruning for their own protection, as when their branches dip into the public right-of-way. This is most evident on the feeder road, where they have been struck and broken by school buses, construction equipment or by the increase in larger delivery vehicle traffic.

We prefer to have them prudently, professionally pruned before that happens, so please notify me or the city's Landscape Division of

potential problems. (OK, enough of my "p" alliterations.)

By the way, a local organization – Friends of Live Oaks (FOLO), website: friendsofliveoaks.org – is doing a fine job of promoting propagation and protection of same (oops!).



Improving Major projects recreating the Oceanfront

Transportation, surfing, stormwater, lodging all remaking tourist mecca

By Billy Almond
Resort & Zoning

The Resort is clearly rebounding this year – all major events are back as planned. The Convention Center and Sports Center are hosting thousands of athletes, and their families are filling hotel rooms and restaurants.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau headed by Nancy Hellman is actively marketing both nationally and internationally.

In addition to our tourism advertising campaigns, several major Resort improvement projects continue to move along to continue transforming the Oceanfront:

The Resort Area Mobility Plan (RAMP) was scheduled to go before the City Council sometime in April with the hope that we can begin the design phase for the new Atlantic Avenue shortly thereafter.



COURTESY CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH

Above is a conceptual rendering of what the Atlantic Park surfing park might look like as part of the Dome site redevelopment.

Other transportation projects are in the works, including planning for Laskin Road improvements from the roundabout to Birdneck Road, Pacific Avenue safety improvements and the 17th Street streetscape from Pacific to Cypress Avenue; 18th and 17th streets' work are in progress – 18th improvements start construction in the fall, 17th thereafter.

Property for a regional Stormwater Management Facility (BMP) was recently acquired by the city to help facilitate redevelopment along the U.S. 58/Virginia Beach Boule-

vard 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 for the planned improvements. The plan is to begin construction later this summer if

the schedule holds.

Several other projects are underway including the Embassy Suites 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 established 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 Virginia Beach Ambassadors program that had its inaugural season last summer, when you may have seen our ambassadors in their yellow shirts around the Resort.

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

■ 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.

BEACHES & RECREATION

City crews getting our strand into shape for the 2022 summer season

By Skip Gibson
Beaches & Recreation

The city's Beach Operations Division is busy preparing for the coming season. You might have noticed work crews in their trucks out cleaning the beaches, picking up trash, moving trash cans directly into line with each walkway and generally sprucing up the strand.

There is a proposed plan to place posts with street numbers at the beach side of each walkway, which would greatly assist residents, locals and tourists to quickly find their location. The city is also clearing sand from walkways leading to the beach and cutting back plantings on either side of the walkways – but this is a slow process. The city is experiencing a staffing shortage and difficulty finding new employees, so these projects will take time to be fully implemented.

The city has also taken steps to remove larger items that have been abandoned in the dunes. Over the past months, you might have noticed that several older



DON NADEN | NVBCL

BENCH BUDDIES Have you seen the new beach walkway benches on 89th Street? They're among the last benches provided by the city's Parks and Recreation Foundation under the Bench Buddies/Tree Buddies Program, which offered individuals and businesses the opportunity to pay for a bench or tree in a designated park facility, including a memorial plaque. However, due to a greater than six-month backlog to obtain the benches, the city has put this program on hold until further notice. As soon as the program starts again, we will let everyone know.

– Skip Gibson

and partially destroyed catamarans, abandoned by their owners and partially buried in the dunes, have been removed. They had become unwelcome, unattractive nuisances, encouraging people to

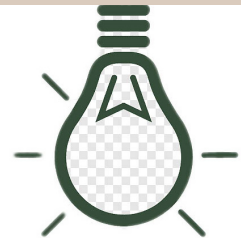
congregate and to walk into the dunes, further damaging the sea oats.

The city also has removed unapproved volleyball courts at the edge of the dunes, a flagpole erected in the dunes, bicycles, broken beach items and more. The city is very protective of the dunes (you might remember when we didn't have such flourishing dunes) and encourage everyone to stay off them.

Lastly, the city asked me to remind beachfront homeowners that we may not intrude into the dunes, expand plantings or make personal use of any land outside our individual property lines. Hopefully, at a future civic league meeting we will have a member of the

Public Works Department speak to us about what we can do to protect the dunes.

I'm looking forward to a great year on the beach – hope you are, too!



LIGHTING

WE CAN LESSEN THE INTRUSION FOR N'ENDERS

By Mark Chase
Lighting committee

Residential light trespass (aka light pollution) has been a growing problem for years, including in the North End, and the NVBCL has created the Good Neighbor Lighting Committee to increase awareness and help with solutions.

Many lights are a nuisance to neighbors, and proper lighting is safer than over lighting. Dark-sky fixtures are readily available, so we can do much better.

Please review your exterior lights as far as the fixtures themselves, direction, wattage, etc., and contact Mark Chase at 757.491-1729 with any questions and/or concerns.

Proper lighting creates a more pleasurable neighborhood and increases home values.

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

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www.nvbcl.org

2022 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Gary Sharpe	757.544-0885 gary.sharpe.iii@gmail.com
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Executive Secretary	Linda Palluch	757.641-0410 lpalluch@gmail.com
Past President	John David	757.748-3131 johndavid2@verizon.net

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

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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.

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK

Tour time Two clubs host their annual private-garden walks April 27

The Garden Club of Virginia's local Historic Garden Week takes place with tours of five Virginia Beach homes scheduled for Wednesday, April 27 – with morning and afternoon tours.

"Featured tour properties ... include diverse architectural styles," according to the club's online schedule. "From the historic white clapboard ocean front home where General George S. Patton and his family spent summers, to a North End Palladian residence, visitors will enjoy the antiques and

treasures ... within. Other properties highlight contemporary and Nantucket styles, as well as lovely gardens and water views."

The tours are at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and cost \$40 per person (plus a \$2.80 fee). Buy tickets, online in advance only, at VAGardenWeek.org. The above information is listed online at the Garden



Club of Virginia.

The Virginia Beach portion of Historic Garden Week is co-sponsored by the Virginia Beach Garden Club and the Princess Anne Garden Club, which hosts the tours' headquarters.

– Don Naden

IF YOU GO

What Historic Garden Week, by the Garden Club of Virginia

Where Bay Colony and Oceanfront

When Wednesday, April 27

Tour cost \$40 per person

Tickets VAGardenWeek.org

PARKING

From the front

convenience, not necessity," former NVBCL President John David said, representing the civic league before the council's vote last year. "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 four 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.

Cavalier Shores requested in 2019 that the city limit public parking hours – in the 200 block of 43rd to 45th streets –

while construction continued on the Cavalier's oceanside hotel/condo projects, the new Marriott and the Embassy Suites.

The City Council approved a one-year parking restriction by permit and extended the program in 2020 and again last year, when it added an hour for a total of four hours of parking without a permit.

The Embassy Suites is still under construction, scheduled to open in early 2023.

Hotel employees, as well as guests of the hotels and the residences around the Cavalier, continue to park in Cavalier Shores, says Bernice Pope, president of the Cavalier Shores Civic League, according to a March 21 report in The Virginian-Pilot.

"The parking program created by the City has worked well to limit the duration of time that non-residents can park in Cavalier Shores, enabling residents to more often access parking in front of or near their own homes," she wrote in a letter to the City Council in February, The Pilot story said.

Pope asked council members to extend the parking restrictions indefinitely, but the council's vote only extended them for another year. ■

COMING SOON: NVBCL FB PAGE

By Caroline Willcox
Meetings, Publicity, Social Media

Jayna Eller and I are in the process of creating the civic league's Facebook page.

We hope to have it up and running by the April 19 general membership meeting. Members should look for an NVBCL email inviting them to join the page once it's created.

ZONING

TALK TO ZRC BEFORE A SALE

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

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 ask that before you sell your property to a developer, talk with the ZRC regarding your options for redevelopment.

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 permit displayed on the property, please contact Billy Almond at 757.235-0731 or billy@wplsite.com.

– Billy Almond