

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

JANUARY 2024



A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

TWO LEADERS STEP INTO NEW NVBCL ROLES

After two years, Gary Sharpe steps down as president, handing off to Skip Gibson, who hands off vice president to Stephanie Calliott. So we have new leaders, but they will be dealing with many familiar issues and problems.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK Gary Sharpe for his two years as our civic league president. Gary has done a remarkable job on a multitude of issues – ranging from short-term rentals to protecting the dunes. He has worked with the mayor, City Council and various city departments to ensure they are aware of North End residents' concerns.

Gary is not leaving us – he will continue to be involved as an NVBCL Board member. Gary has done a great job and deserves our warm thanks.

Stephanie Calliott and I are excited to be assuming new NVBCL roles, as vice president and president. We hope to build on the civic league's many positive actions, including:

Short-term rentals continues to be in the forefront of many city and resident discussions as we closely monitor any potential legislation in the General Assembly.

Last year, 511 NVBCL

members signed a petition opposing any legislation that would supersede local city control of policy and rules of STRs. Andy Cohen and Parker Hannahs serve as our focal points to track and stay abreast of this issue. Parker was appointed to the Virginia Housing Commission STR Working Group, and we hope both will be appointed to the city's STR working group.

The North End Accessory Dwelling Unit Initiative, led by Billy Almond and Gerrie West, have been regularly meeting with the City of Virginia Beach Planning Department to discuss options for garage apartments, or accessory dwelling units, by-right. The intent is to return to the

development pattern of the past at the North End to allow garage apartments, now called "detached dwelling units,"

to be an option for property owners to remain within their primary dwelling but have an additional source of income.

This might allow North End residents to stay in their

homes longer with rental income versus selling the property for complete redevelopment. The intent here is to provide another option for property owners as well as more options for our workforce. Those who grew up at the North End remember well having a schoolteacher or a firefighter living over a garage on their street.

The NVBCL Hospitality events,

Please see **PRESIDENT**, Page 4

INSIDE

Who is Stephanie Adler Calliott, our new vice president?

Skip Gibson fills us in on her story, **Page 4.**

By Skip Gibson
NVBCL president



BEACHES & RECREATION

Beach Ops This city team does vital work on our beaches and dunes



CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH

Among the Beach Operation team's many responsibilities is grading and otherwise moving vast amounts of sand around.

By Skip Gibson and David McDaniel
Beaches & Recreation

The city's Beach Operations team in the Public Works Department, led by Mitch St. Clair, continues to provide superb care and protection to all the city's beaches, particularly the North End's beaches and dunes.

Beach Ops is responsible for all six public beaches in the city: Sandbridge, Croatan, the Resort area, North End, Lynnhaven and Chesapeake Beach. Working with a limited staff of 26, they work 364 days a year on multiple projects, such as preparing the beach for over

150 events such as concerts and volleyball tournaments, in addition to cleaning and maintaining the beaches. They often install fencing, seating, support the construction of staging and then work to restore the beach after an event is completed.

Beach Ops team members maintain our North End beaches and dunes in some way every week, more often in the summer. Using graders, they attempt to keep the beach relatively level all year. Twice a year they clear the access walkways, pushing the sand on either side back about 10 feet. This slows the buildup of sand on each walkway.

The team is also responsible for the waste management tasks on the

Please see **BEACHES**, Page 3

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

Jan. 17, April 17, July 17, Oct. 16 – we're changing from Tuesdays to the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Speaker for our Jan. 17 meeting

L.J. Hansen, Public Works director, City of Virginia Beach – he will address concerns regarding streets, zoning, dune encroachment, construction, pumping stations and more.



Treasurer's report

Thank you to all members of the civic league who paid their 2023 dues. At year's end, our membership stood at 947, and our assets were \$42,764.20.

This newsletter includes envelopes for paying our 2024 member dues. Our annual dues are \$20, for the calendar year. You also can pay through PayPal on the NVBCL website, www.nvbcl.org. Please include your North End address, your primary resident address and your email address.



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

SHORT-TERM RENTALS

STR update Your NE civic league remains vigilant

By Andy Cohen and Parker Hannahs
Legislative Affairs Committee

In Richmond, the Short-Term Rental (STR) Work Group of the Virginia Housing Commission (VHC) had not met as of press time since its first meeting May 16.

Other VHC work groups met several times since May, but VHC chairs and staff of the work group gave no reason why the STR work group had not. As previously reported, with the assistance of Delegate Anne Ferrell Tata, we were successful in getting NVBCL director Parker Hannahs appointed to that work group.

In November, Del. Tata contacted the VHC executive director on our behalf to find out why the STR work group had not met since May; she said she was told only that the work group had not met due to “other priorities.”

At that time, Del. Tata also said that our STR letter, co-signed by over 500 North End residents, was a clear message from her constituents and that she would support us on this.

At the end of December, no STR legislation had been filed for the Virginia General Assembly session scheduled to begin Jan. 10, but this issue is not settled, so we remain vigilant.

Of note, we obtained a copy of an email that Airbnb sent to its hosts in Tidewater, stating, “The registration and renewal processes for Hosts in Virginia can be quite complex and time-consuming, leading to frustration for many. That’s why we need your help to improve these processes by advocating to your members in the General Assembly to modernize state law to recognize the impor-

tance of citizen-led tourism to the state’s economy by ending local use of Conditional (or Special) Use Permits in the Seven Cities and across Virginia. . . .”

Local STR Enforcement Update: In its informal session Nov. 28, the Virginia Beach City Council dedicated over an hour to a presentation and discussion by the planning administrator on STR enforcement. In that meeting, the council directed the city attorney to draft a resolution to establish an STR Enforcement Task Force, and the council approved it on Dec. 12. *(To listen to this presentation, see the link at the end of this story.)*

According to the resolution, “The task force shall study the many aspects of short term rental enforcement and registration, including grandfathered properties, and recommend to the City Council ways in which enforcement and registration could be improved, including prioritization of enforcement efforts and consideration of City recognition of short term rental owners who are fully compliant with all short term rental regulations.”

The City Council will appoint members to this task force, and we have asked our councilman, Worth Remick, to include an NVBCL representative as a member.

Stay tuned for further updates. We appreciate your interest, support and willingness to help.

A link to the recording of this presentation and discussion on 11/28 is available in the last paragraph (“watch this presentation”) at <https://virginiabeach.gov/whats-up/whats-the-scoop/short-term-rentals-what-to-expect-when-filing-a-complaint>

We’re on Facebook

Just a reminder that our NVBCL Facebook page has been up and running for more than a year now. You may join by searching “North

Virginia Beach Civic League” on Facebook.

You must answer some security questions to gain access.

HOSPITALITY



MONICA STEIN PHOTOS | NVBCL



Dog Jaw kept the tunes coming while civic league members mingled, had dinner, hit the bars (two of them) and mingled some more – all on the lawn at Princess Anne Country Club.

Havin’ a ball in the fall

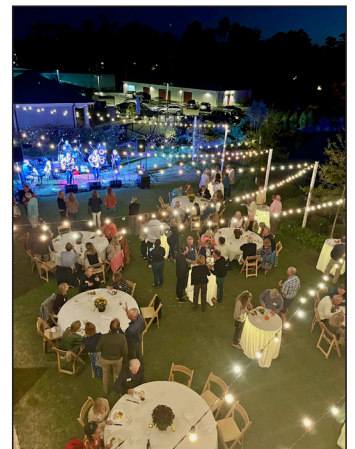
Party at the PACC was a blast – we’re planning another for maybe next month

By Monica Stein
Hospitality

Throughout the year NVBCL members, residents and friends enjoy getting together at quarterly social events. (Can’t all be about zoning, beach encroachment, parking issues, etc., although important N.E. issues are a big part of what we have in common.) And then we get to socialize ...

Our most popular event is the Fall Social, which took place Oct. 13 – and that Friday the 13th was lucky and wonderful.

The weather was absolutely perfect, and the Princess Anne Country Club provided a fantastic venue and staff, food including fresh fried fish (caught the day before, locally) and all the fixins. We had a great band, Dog Jaw, and a fantastic turnout of



DON NADEN | NVBCL

The party as seen from above.

great people – it was a blast.

As we step into this new year, we are already planning more NVBCL socials. Stay tuned (via email, Facebook and civic league announcements) to hear about our next gathering. We plan to get together in mid-February – hope to see you there!



COURTESY CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH

Beach Ops, a crew of 26 with help from some noncity workers, works seven days a week, 365 days a year, minus Christmas, says director Mitch St. Clair. "We didn't have a photo of the whole crew or with Mitch," assistant Sierra Welsh told us, "but this is most of them!"

BEACHES

From the front

beaches, including trash disposal and maintenance of the trash cans, as well as moving them up near the dunes in the winter or before threatening storms. Team members report having collected over 1,300 tons of trash from our beaches and boardwalks this year. Recently they graded the North End to clear the sea straw from the beach; you might have noticed the straw piles and dumpsters during this process. They also work together with the Virginia Aquarium Stranding Team to help remove washed-up sea life carcasses from the beaches.

A major area of focus for our city, and our neighborhood, is to protect our dunes. The primary dunes are our first line of defense against heavy erosion from storms. We have extremely healthy and large dunes for a residential beachfront, and we want to do everything we can to keep them that way.

phone fy

Injured or dead turtles or marine mammals, Virginia Aquarium Stranding Team: (757) 385-7575
Dead fish or large objects: Beach Ops: (757) 385-5115

Beach Ops routinely removes a multitude of items that residents put up or leave in the dunes – everything from temporary structures, platforms for chairs, flag poles, works of art, single-hull boats and catamarans, trash and many more items. Most importantly, Beach Ops also performs dune restoration projects – planting new sea oats in areas to prevent erosion.

In 2024, Beach Ops will be installing more "Keep Off the Dunes" signs, and we will help identify problem areas where signs are necessary. Any time residents or beach visitors walk in the dunes, they inevitably walk on the sea oats, or sea grass, damaging

it in the process. Even "private paths" to the beach from Oceanfront properties damage the dune vegetation, and these paths are prohibited.

As mentioned in our July newsletter, we in the civic league will continue to cooperate with Beach Ops and the city to monitor the enforcement of dune encroachment throughout the year – and we need your help. At our Jan. 17 general membership meeting, Public Works Director L.J. Hansen will be our speaker – Beach Operations falls under Public Works, so he will be able to address concerns on dune encroachment.

Please join me in thanking Skip Gibson for his dedicated work the past few years as chair of our Beaches and Recreation Committee. As he moves into his role as NVBCL's president, he leaves very large shoes to fill. You may now direct your questions to me, David McDaniel.

– City clerk Sierra Welsh contributed to this report.

SEA OATS HELP KEEP OUR DUNES IN PLACE, NEED OUR PROTECTION

Many of our residents are proactively involved in protecting the North End dunes.

The dunes are our first line of defense to provide natural coastal protection against storm surge and high waves, preventing or reducing coastal flooding and structural damage, as well as providing important ecological habitat.

Our dunes naturally change over time due to wind and rain action, but there are preventable causes that can cause erosion.

Sea oats literally anchor the dunes in place. The fibrous roots of this plant usually extend to the upper parts of the water table, some 12 meters (40 feet) below the dune's peak in some places. The vertical taproot alone can grow up to 3.5 meters (12 feet). Millions of gallons of water are filtered through the dunes.

When residents dig into the dunes to plant ornamental plants and shrubs, they literally create a weak spot in the dunes for increased erosion.

The city recently re-established the Beaches and Waterways Citizens Advisory Commission, and the NVBCL anticipates working with this group to develop and establish policies and programs to further protect our beaches and dunes.

– Skip Gibson



DON NADEN | NVBCL

BANNED, SORT OF

Somebody recently installed this Little Free Library at 76th Street – or maybe we just hadn't walked there in a while so hadn't seen it. Only problem with this is that the city doesn't allow such things – signs, statues, artwork – on city property and removes them. You could ask for permission: Public Works, (757) 385-4167, option 7.

UTILITIES

48TH STREET PUMP WORK CONTINUES ON SCHEDULE

By Don Naden
Newsletter editor

Construction to replace the 48th Street sanitary pump station is still projected to be finished by November, the project manager has confirmed.

"With everything as it is today, we are looking at Nov. 20," Dawn Ray G. Panaguaiton said in an email Dec. 18.

The project began Aug. 21 and was expected to take 15 months, three months shorter than originally esti-



DON NADEN | NVBCL

Construction is scheduled to be completed by Nov. 20.

mated, she said.

"The NextDoor apps haven't had any need for an update ... or any further coordination with the public since the contractor, Conquest USA Inc., has been working diligently alongside their projected schedule with

the city," Panaguaiton added.

"... Since my inspector and I have not received much contact with any residential concerns since the start of construction, it is assumed that everything has been working well for everyone."

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

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

2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

- President** Skip Gibson (757) 617-2824
 skip.gibson50@gmail.com
- Vice President** Stephanie Calliott (757) 615-6512
 sacinva@aol.com
- Treasurer/Membership**
 Bonner Styles (757) 831-3439
 mbonners@yahoo.com
- Executive Secretary**
 Linda Palluch (757) 641-0410
 lpalluch@gmail.com
- Past President** Gary Sharpe (757) 544-0885
 gary.sharpe.iii@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS (Phone numbers must include 757)

Beaches & Recreation

David McDaniel, (757) 348-3386,
 mcdanieldavid72@gmail.com

Beautification

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

Budget/Assessments/Taxes

Vacant

Legislative Affairs

Andy Cohen, (703) 855-2184, acohen@gmail.com
 Parker Hannahs, 274-8973, parker.hannahs@lfg.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 Issues

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

AREA DIRECTORS

- 42nd – 49th Willy Fluharty (757) 965-2173
 willyflu@gmail.com
- 50th – 59th Mark Chase (757) 491-1729
 chasemark@msn.com
- 60th – 69th David McDaniel (757) 348-3386
 mcdanieldavid72@gmail.com
- 70th – 79th Steve Kelley (757) 450-6019
 stekel4@cox.net
- 80th – 89th Larry Staunton (757) 428-1514
 larrystaunton@cox.net

Find more information on our website, nvbcl.org.

43rd St. They never disappoint when they dress up our holidays

As they do every year, the residents of this North End street decorate their homes together and, after Thanksgiving, that signals the start of the winter holiday season. They've been getting competition from the folks on 76th Street, but we think there's plenty of room for all to light up our lives.



DON NADEN | NVBCL

PRESIDENT

From the front

coordinated by Monica Stein – with continuing support from Caroline Willcox, Linda Palluch and Kaye Harris – have proven to be overwhelmingly successful, and there's a continuing member request to do more. These events allow NVBCL members to meet socially, get to know each other better and serve to build relationships.

Monica is planning a February event (time and location TBD – see her story on Page 2) to build on these great events to enhance civic league member involvement.

Atlantic Avenue and the Atlantic-Shore Drive intersection continues to be a constant source of concern due to speeding, and the NVBCL regularly meets with members of the Second Police Precinct to seek their support to slow the traffic through a variety of measures. Paul O'Gorman will be our liaison to the Second Precinct Citizens Advisory Committee.

Dune protection and dune encroachment is one of our most important ongoing issues. David McDaniel, who now chairs the Beaches & Recreation Committee, is working with various city departments to protect the dunes. (Story, Front Page)

We continue to experience a number of issues from a small number of residents who build or extend their yards into the dunes, clear out trees and sea oats from the dunes, establish walkways or paths through the dunes and place things in the dunes that don't belong there.

The NVBCL Board has heard from many members regarding the need to protect the dunes, and we will continue to do so.

Stephanie and I are committed to growing and strengthening the NVBCL through discussions and engagement with our members and the city on these and many other issues. I look forward to this next year and seeing you in the future. ■

As our vice president, Stephanie Calliott brings years of leadership experience to new post

Stephanie Adler Calliott joins the Board of Directors as the vice president of our civic league.

Stephanie was born and raised in the 757 and has lived at the North



End for 20 years. She attended Norfolk Academy and the University of Maryland, where she received a degree in economics.

Stephanie spent over 30 years in executive leadership with Bank of America and Wachovia/Wells Fargo, helping families manage their investments, trusts and estate plans. After banking, she was a senior vice president with Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, overseeing its philanthropy services.

Stephanie and her husband, Don London, have two sons and three grandchildren. She and Don are big fans of the Virginia Beach Fire Department and believers in integrated smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, having recently survived a house fire on Ocean Front Avenue.

After my two-year term, she will become president.

Please join me in welcoming Stephanie into her new role as our vice president.

– Skip Gibson

