

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

JULY 2025

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

2nd PRECINCT CO'S FOCUS INCLUDES NE

Commander's recent talk to civic league members went beyond crime stats for Virginia Beach and shed some light on issues specific to the North End, such as vehicle larcenies, surge beach parties and added police officers for summer.

By Skip Gibson
NVBCL president



POLICE CAPTAIN Bradley Wessler, commander of the Second Precinct, which provides police protection to North End residents, was our most recent guest speaker and provided one of the most informative discussions of ongoing actions to make our community safer.

Crime of all types continues to decline throughout the city. He reported that last calendar year, for example:

- Property crime was down 4.3 percent from 2023.
- Motor vehicle larcenies were down 17 percent, and motor vehicle thefts dropped 23 percent.
- Shooting incidents decreased by 49 percent, and the Police Department reported it seized or came into possession of 1,221 illegally possessed firearms in 2024.
- The homicide rate fell by 46 percent.
- Citywide vehicle crashes decreased 4 percent since 2023 and 7 percent since 2022. Fatal accidents were down 31 percent since 2023.

In my opinion, crime reduction begins with individual police officers, their professionalism and their determination to be the best possible police force. Combine

this with expanding use of technology, the department's Real Time Crime Center, ongoing regional teamwork and collaboration, and the results naturally come. We have such a police department in Virginia Beach.

Capt. Wessler also addressed a number of issues specific to the North End, including:

■ The No. 1 crime continues to be vehicle larcenies, principally in the hotel areas. The best way to protect your vehicle is to lock its doors and windows and do not have any valuables visible.

■ An unofficial flash/surge party has been occurring between 64th and 66th streets the past several years. Last year, a crowd estimated at between 500 and 1,000 people from about 18 to 25 years old quickly surged onto the beach. Cars were dropping people off and then parking throughout the North End, creating parking and traffic problems.



Capt. Wessler

While the beach is a public resource and open to everyone, the police responded with about 10 officers to serve as crowd control. The VBPD will proactively monitor social network sites in an attempt to get ahead of this event this year.

■ Warmer weather means more golf

Please see **PRESIDENT**, Page 3



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

July 16, Oct. 8 – Remember, we've changed from Tuesdays to the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Speaker for our July 16 meeting

Mayor Bobby Dyer will speak about a variety of city issues, followed by a Q&A session. This is a great opportunity for our members



to directly ask the mayor their questions – we encourage everyone to attend. **A brief biographical recap is on Page 3.**

Treasurer's report

Thank you to all civic league members who have paid their 2025 dues. At the end of June our membership stood at 731, and our assets were \$49,726.93.

This newsletter includes envelopes for paying your 2025 member dues. Our annual dues are \$25, 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.



If you have a question whether you have paid your dues, please contact Bonner Styles or Linda Palluch via email. Contact information is on the back of this newsletter.

– Bonner Styles

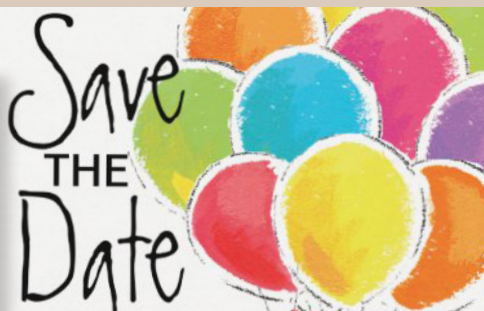
HOSPITALITY



The PACC West Lawn has been the site of our previous October Fall Socials.



MONICA STEIN PHOTOS | NVBCL



Reminder for our **BIG fall party!**

Friday, Oct. 10, 6:30 p.m., Princess Anne Country Club, on the West Lawn.

Tickets go on sale Sept. 3. You must be an NVBCL member, and current on 2025 dues, to buy. An email blast will go out to all members with details. So stay tuned – it's going to be a great night!

INSIDE

Summer Social at Wyndham's Ocean Grille – details, Page 2



Public safety phone numbers

2nd Precinct Police, (757) 385-2700

Nonemergency police, (757) 385-5000, option 3

Police Community Liaison officer

Kishon Roberts, (757) 817-9825

BEACHES & RECREATION

Beach Ops has a lot to deal with, and we can lend a hand

By David McDaniel
Beaches & Recreation

Summer in Virginia Beach is in full swing, and the beaches are busy!

That means more maintenance for the city's Beach Operations team with all the events every week at the south end, and July 4th celebrations on every beach.

Every year Beach Operations has to distinguish and dispose of many burned or burning trash cans from fireworks the night before. So be careful, and as residents, remember to be good stewards of our beaches and try to pick up trash and debris when possible.

The city has completed installing the three service-access gates on 57th, 68th and 79th streets. Beach Operations also plans to remove and replace some of the old

wooden fencing bordering these access walkways. They would replace them with white PVC fencing. This likely will not happen until the fall.

The blue recycling cans on the beach have been delayed due to service issues with the lone vehicle used to collect them.

As of this writing in mid-June, I did not have an estimate for when it would be back in service, but once it's repaired, the cans will go back out on the beach.

The sand replenishment project at the south end of the beach has been postponed until a new plan is approved. When the dredging began the sand was found to be unacceptable – it was like clay. The operation has moved south of Rudee Inlet for Croatan's residents to enjoy for the summer.



Three city service-access gates – this one at 68th Street – have been replaced at the city's beach-access entrances.

DON NADEN | NVBCL

HOSPITALITY



MONICA STEIN PHOTOS | NVBCL

A favorite site for our civic league socials has often been the Surf Club Ocean Grille at the Wyndham Hotel. This one was last June.

Party time Our Summer Socials do not disappoint

By Monica Stein
Hospitality

... and this year was no exception!

Our socials are yet another perk of being part of this community and our civic league.

In June, the NVBCL held one of our most popular events at the Surf Club Ocean Grille, right in our front yard at the Wyndham Hotel. Thank you to the Wyndham for the wonderful hospitality, including live music and a great staff.

Also, we are excited to get everyone together again Oct. 10 for our Big Fall Party at the Princess Anne Country Club's West Lawn.

Enjoy a dinner buffet, live music,



Councilman Worth Remick, center, joined the party in June 2022.

dancing and socializing with friends and neighbors.

Tickets will go on sale Sept. 3. An email blast will go out just after Labor Day with details and price so members – must be current on 2025 dues – can buy their tickets.

Rain or shine – our event will be moved to the ballroom if necessary.

Goldfinches' veggie diet means a late-start lifestyle

By Mary Reid Barrow
LRNow Nature Notes

A bright-yellow goldfinch at the feeder lit up a recent dismal rainy day as if the sun were shining brightly.

Male goldfinches are in their best yellow finery this time of year. Golden yellow with black heads and wings, the males also are foot loose and fancy free, out to impress the ladies.

Most other bird species these days are toiling away at feeding and caring for young in the nest or keeping up with toddler babies hopping around and getting into trouble.

But there's no June bride tradition or mating finery to worry about among the drab females. They remain pale yellowish green with black



MARY REID BARROW

wings year around. Goldfinches wait to mate in late June or July when some flowers have begun to go to seed.

They nest late in the year because they are about the only vegetarians in the bird world. Seeds supplemented by berries is the goldfinch diet. Were they to have a nest full of babies in spring, there would not be enough seeds to feed those hungry mouths. Other baby birds thrive on insects, but goldfinch babies don't eat insects at all.

In May or June you might see goldfinches, male and female alike, still out partying, check-

ing out the neighborhood feeder bars.

I wish I had a better photo than this one, which is years old, but if nothing else it's good for pointing out the difference between showy males and drab females. Just to confuse matters a little, first-year males – bright yellow without a black head – are also among the flocks this time of year.

Later in summer, when the babies are out of the nest, you again will see the goldfinches grouped up to feed, this time more on the ground under the flowers where seeds have fallen.

You may not even know they are there until you get close. Suddenly goldfinches, young and old, burst from under the plants and fly off twittering!

Often goldfinches stay around all year to decorate your feeders, but the males are never prettier than they are in mating season.

– Mary Reid Barrow lives in the North End and writes this column for Lynnhaven River Now.

ZONING ISSUES

ZRC CAN HELP WITH OPTIONS WHEN SELLING PROPERTIES

By Billy Almond
Zoning Review Committee

The NVBCL Zoning Review Committee continues to review applicants' requests for variances on the second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. Recently the meetings have been held virtually via Zoom. If you wish to meet with the ZRC, please let us know – see contact info below.

Construction at the North End continues to be 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 remind our neighbors that developers have three "by right" options for North End properties: a single-family house, duplex or two detached cottages on one parcel. ("By right development" refers to the approval of proposed projects as a matter of right if they comply with land-use regulations, without the need for discretionary review or approval.)

The two detached-cottage options are an incentive-based design guideline, and a developer must comply with the design criteria in the overlay ordinance.

We remind our neighbors that any opportunity to determine what type of redevelopment happens on your street starts with the "Seller of the Parcel"; once the parcel has been sold, it is in the hands of the buyer, who has the three "by right" options listed above.

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 any member of the Zoning Review Committee or call the city's Permits and Inspections office at (757) 385-8060.

If you wish to attend a ZRC meeting, please contact Billy Almond at (757) 235-0731 or billy@wplsite.com for additional information in advance of our meetings. We will advise you if the meeting is in person or virtual and will provide a link for you.

On board 4 NEnders nominated to be directors

Board of Directors asked folks to step up and join leadership of NVBCL

By Skip Gibson
NVBCL President

Your Board of Directors continues to recruit new members to meet our changing needs and population.

Please join me in welcoming the following individuals to the board.

Their nominations will be voted on by NVBCL's members at our July 16 quarterly meeting.

Paige Fox is a business development manager with the city's Economic Development Department. With over 10 years experience in government and politics, Paige's public service has been



at both the local and federal levels.

Since joining the city's Economic Development team in 2021, she has been responsible for leading the business-attraction efforts including recruitment in the city's domestic and international target markets, with her portfolio covering cross-industry focuses.

Paige earned her bachelors of science in political science with a minor in business administration from Texas Christian University, and her masters of public affairs from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Originally from Texas, Paige moved to Virginia Beach nearly a decade ago to be with her husband, Luke, who was born and raised in the city. They are proud to call the North End home and often can be found walking on the beach with their dog, Virginia

Andrew Cornelius Before moving to the North End in



Cornelius

2017, Andy was president of Louisville's Butchertown Neighborhood Association. During his time there, he helped lead the neighborhood – a Nationally Registered Historic District – through the transformative \$2.6 billion Ohio River Bridges project. The association also grew its annual art fair and introduced new festivals

that brought in additional revenue to the neighborhood under his leadership.

For the past decade, Andrew has worked with Oracle software, helping high-growth companies solve complex business problems with powerful tools.

His wife, Alicia, is the International Baccalaureate program coordinator at Strelitz International Academy. They have one daughter who attends the academy and another at Linkhorn Park Elementary. The Cornelius family loves living in the North End, especially with the beach and kids.

Kate Leon serves as the garden director at Virginia Beach Friends



Leon

School, where she nurtures a love for nature and sustainability. A busy mother of two, Kate finds joy in the great outdoors – whether tending to gardens, spending time at the beach with family, riding horses or playing tennis.

Passionate about community and green spaces, she is dedicated to fostering a thriving, eco-friendly environment for all.

Anne Fleder was born and raised in Norfolk and in 1991 left Boston to return to Norfolk to raise



Fleder

a family with her husband, Lawrence. They moved from Norfolk to the North End permanently in 2018. In her past life, Anne worked in various capacities in museum administration from London to New York; Washington, D.C.; Boston; Richmond and finally Virginia Beach.

She has been a volunteer on the board and executive board of Virginia's Museum of Contemporary Art, chairs the Jewish Film Festival and is on the board of the Chrysler Museum's Masterpiece Society. She is also a long-standing member of the U.S. Holocaust Commission.

Anne and Lawrence have three grown daughters: Emily, 31, who also lives at the North End with her husband, Ben; Kendall, 29, who lives in Chicago; and Audrey, 25, who lives in Washington, D.C.

Some background on Mayor Dyer

We are pleased to announce that Mayor Bobby Dyer will be our guest speaker for our Wednesday, July 16, general membership meeting – a great opportunity for our members to meet Mayor Dyer and directly ask him the questions that concern you.

Mayor Dyer was elected Nov. 20, 2018, and is the first veteran to be directly elected mayor in Virginia Beach. Before this, he represented the Centerville District on City Council for 14 years.

Mayor Dyer served in the Marine Corps from 1968 to 1972. In 1976, he earned a bachelor's degree in physical therapy from Saint Louis University, and in 1982 he earned a masters in public administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He earned a Ph.D. in organizational leadership from Regent University in 2001. He serves on a number of commissions and organizations throughout Hampton Roads.

I highly encourage you to attend our general membership meeting, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, at the A.R.E. Center, corner of Atlantic Avenue and 67th Street.

– Skip Gibson

PRESIDENT

From the front

carts – low-speed vehicles technically – are out on the city's streets. The police ask everyone to be vigilant when driving these vehicles and for other drivers to always be on alert.

■ With the school year coming to a close, 26 school security officers will be reassigned to Capt. Wesseler for the summer tourist season. This personnel increase will heighten police visibility, and their presence should serve as a deterrent. Police officers can readily be seen patrolling the North End in cars, motorcycles, bicycles and foot patrols.

■ Police Officer Keshawn Roberts has been assigned as the Police Liaison Officer to our civic league. Please contact Officer Roberts at (757) 817-9825 or Kmroberts@vbgov.com if you have a question or issue you would like to discuss.

■ Lastly, if you see a crime or accident, please call 911 immediately.

In my opinion, the North End is extremely fortunate to have Capt. Wesseler leading the Second Precinct. He is an absolute professional and focused on serving our community. The next time you see a police officer in the North End, please offer a warm thank you for everything they do for us. ■

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

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www.nvbcl.org

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Treasurer/Membership Bonner Styles
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lpalluch@gmail.com

Past President Gary Sharpe (757) 544-0885
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Vacant

Zoning Issues

Billy Almond, 235-0731, billy@wplsite.com

Gerrie West, gkw@folkwest.com

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70th – 79th Steve Kelley (757) 450-6019
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80th – 89th Larry Staunton (757) 428-1514
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Find more information on our website, nvbcl.org.

Annual dues for 2025 are \$25.

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

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Have you paid your \$25 dues for 2025?

2ND PRECINCT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Don't be a victim of financial crime

By Mary Souther

NVBCL Citizens Advisory Representative

Police Detective Caleb Davey of VBPD's Economic Crimes Unit shared key advice at the 2nd Precinct's Citizens Advisory Committee meeting May 14 to prevent financial victimization:

- Never let others use your cellphone: Scammers can access bank accounts in moments.
- Freeze your credit score with ratings firms Experian, TransUnion and Equifax. You can easily unfreeze it when needed.

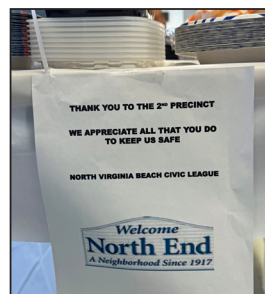
- Check for skimmers when using a credit card; thieves attach these devices to card readers to access a card's data. Use "Tap to Pay" if possible instead of swiping a card.

- Avoid debit cards for purchases; it's harder to recover funds than with credit cards.

If you become a victim, report it to Det. Davey at (757) 385-4101.

Precinct Commander Capt. Bradley Wesseler provided an update on the April 24-27 College Beach Weekend, stating that police had not anticipated the sheer volume of attendees or the number of weapons present at the Oceanfront.

He explained that the crowd rapidly grew from about 50 to 5,000 individuals in a 20-minute time frame,



MONICA STEIN PHOTOS | NVBCL

significantly challenging police and security resources. Additionally, Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Paul Powers said his team was actively working on processing the 56 arrests.

Cheers to a fantastic "muster" appreciation dinner for our 2nd Precinct officers and staff May 10! Our civic league was proud to sponsor this event, and we've heard from the precinct that it was

Mary Souther, the NVBCL's liaison with the Police 2nd Precinct's Citizen Advisory Committee, was flanked at the precinct's "muster" appreciation dinner May 10 by Officers George Annunziata, left, and Kishon Roberts. The NVBCL sponsored the buffet and arranged for the food.

very much appreciated. A huge thank you goes out to our amazing members – your generous donations of money, time and delicious food made this evening possible and showed our officers how much we value their service. And a special thanks to Wegmans supermarket for its generous donation.

And lastly, here is a helpful city website to navigate Oceanfront events this summer. Search *Logistics for Locals During 2025 Oceanfront Event Season*.