

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

APRIL 2023

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

NVBCL faces our issues with one voice – yours

From short-term rentals challenges to zoning protections to intrusions into our beautiful dunes to special parking issues – our civic league members step up to add their strength to help us preserve and protect what makes the North End special.

By Gary Sharpe
NVBCL president



HAPPY SPRING! I for one am hoping a mild winter gives way to an early start to summer weather. I want to start off with a thank you to you all: Over the past several years, we have called on you, the members of our civic league, an increasing number of times to lend your voice to our causes. Your response is always resounding and helps shape the outcomes of the issues challenging our area.

We do this because of the importance of the recent issues we face and the fact our greatest asset as a civic league is the strength of our collective voices.

Because of you, we were once again successful in opposing legislation at the state level that would have allowed for the return of short-term rentals with no regard for our local legislation.

I also want to give a special thanks to

the co-chair of our Government Affairs Committee, Andy Cohen. Andy was essential in orchestrating our opposition to multiple bills introduced during this past General Assembly. (See his story below, on this page.) He spent countless hours speaking to lawmakers and traveling to be our representative in Richmond every time the opportunity presented itself.

We fully expect the issue to return next year, and we will continue to keep you informed when we learn of new efforts or bills pertaining to this issue.

I also want to highlight the work that has continued on several other important issues directly impacting our community.

Recently our Zoning Review Committee was able to oppose a challenge to our zoning regulations that threatened to create a pathway for developers to create substandard, single-family lots below the current minimum required lot size. Our estimates indicated such a zoning change would have had the potential for the creation of up to 40 new substandard lots throughout the North End and could have resulted in a dramatic effect

on housing density.

A favorable vote by City Council, led by Councilman Worth Remick, helped

Please see **PRESIDENT**, Page 2



INSIDE

NVBCL's Summer and Fall Socials have been scheduled for June at the Wyndham and October at Princess Anne Country Club.

Details, Page 3

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Thank you! NVBCL folks' efforts help keep STR bills from advancing in General Assembly

By Andy Cohen
Government Affairs

Thanks to efforts by so many of you, we are pleased to report that the short-term rental bills that we opposed did not advance in the most recent session of the Virginia General Assembly.

These bills would have exempted licensed Virginia real estate agents from ordinances that Virginia Beach and other Virginia localities have adopted to regulate STRs.

The sponsors of the House and Senate bills, recognizing that their bills faced unexpectedly strong opposition, asked the respective House

and Senate committees to refer their bills to the Housing Commission (<http://vhc.virginia.gov>) for further study. In doing so, they stated that they expect the Housing Commission study to resolve opponents' concerns so that similar, if not identical, bills can be introduced and passed next year.

So state legislative action on STRs has been delayed for a year, but STR advocates are clearly not giving up.

After those committee meetings, one of our civic league members in attendance was able to speak with the vice chair and a member of the Housing Commission about including an NVBCL representative

Please see **STRs**, Page 3



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

April 17, July 18, Oct. 17

General meeting date change to Monday, April 17

The date of our general membership meeting has been changed from Tuesday to Monday, April 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the Wyndham Hotel.



This change will allow City Councilman **Worth Remick**, pictured, to attend and speak to our members.

Moving our meeting to the Wyndham is due to continuing construction work at A.R.E.

Treasurer's report

Thank you to all members of the civic league who paid their 2023 dues. Our membership stands at 572, and our assets are \$51,249.89.

This newsletter includes 2023 member-dues envelopes for those folks who have not yet paid those 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

PRESIDENT

From the front

to strengthen our current zoning regulations.

We also have made progress in the effort to protect our dune systems and stop encroachments beyond property lines along the Oceanfront.

After a receptive meeting with Mayor Bobby Dyer, we were invited to present our concerns in front of City Council. We are hopeful we will be able to work with multiple city departments, council members and the mayor to come up with a sensible solution to limit and roll back dune encroachments to preserve this valuable natural resource.

As of writing this newsletter, we continued our opposition to the special parking exemptions granted to the Cavalier Shores neighborhood.

What was a temporary program to accommodate construction traffic from the Cavalier Resort project was extended April 4 by an 10-1 vote of the City Council until 2026.

We see no reason for special treatment beyond its intended purpose to have been granted.

Finally, I want to remind you that our City Councilman, Worth Remick, will be the speaker at our next general membership meeting Monday, April 17. We have changed from our normal meeting date to accommodate his obligations with council meetings.

During his brief council tenure, Mr. Remick has already proven to be a great advocate for our community. We look forward to hosting him and continuing our work with him on any issues that arise affecting our NVBCL community. ■

info fyi

City of Virginia Beach contacts

City Information & Help: (757) 385-3111

Animal Control: (757) 385-4444

Zoning: (757) 385-8074

Public Works (streets and utilities, drain problems): (757) 385-1470

Waste Management: (757) 385-4650

Park & Landscape Services (visibility/bushes): (757) 385-4461

Street lights: (757) 385-1470

BEACHES & RECREATION



SKIP GIBSON | NVBCL

77th Street is a good example of the walkway buffer zones the city's Beach Operations Division is creating by pushing the sand away from the boardwalk.

Dune stories Clearing walkways, adding protection

By Skip Gibson
Beaches & Recreation

You may have observed the city's Beach Operations Division using heavy equipment to create a buffer area between the dunes and beach-access walkways, pushing sand back to either side of the walkways.

The city does this annually to reduce the amount of sand moving from the dunes and covering walkways. The above photo of 77th Street is a prime example of the walkway buffer zone as sand is pushed back. As this clearing out was being accomplished, the city also cleared off any existing sand from the walkways.

The request I most often get from our members is to ask the city to clear the walkways of sand. There is some good news on that front. The city is in the process of purchasing a sweeping attachment that will more effectively and efficiently respond to clearing requests. The bad news: It will be several months before it's delivered and mounted – but the city has definitely heard our requests and is addressing the problem.

In the interim, I have spoken to several of the NVBCL's area directors (you can find their names and contact information on the back of this newsletter), and we are going to form a "shovel

and broom" group to help keep the walkways clear. Many residents, including Phil Curtin on 77th Street, are already sweeping sand off walkways. If you would like to volunteer to keep the walkway on your street clear, please contact the area director for your street.

In the coming weeks you will begin noticing new "Keep Off the Dunes" signs going up.

Most dune damage results from individuals walking through the dunes, stepping on the sea oats and grasses, and crushing or breaking plants. Please use the walkways. Do your part to help protect and maintain the dunes.

Peter Langlands was in Cocoa Beach, Fla., recently, participating in a sea oats replenishment project sponsored by that city and supported by local residents. Pete, an NVBCL member, was part of a group that planted approximately 3,000 plants in a little over an hour. Our North End dunes have

several spots that will need new plants in the coming year.

Based on Pete's experience, I have contacted the City of Virginia Beach and asked if it could provide the plants and required equipment – the NVBCL would do the planting.

Hopefully, we will have a decision from the city in the coming weeks.

Pete has offered to chair the project as it moves forward.

The city is experiencing an increasing number of Oceanfront residents, from Sandbridge to the Lesner Bridge area, attempting to extend their yards into the dunes.

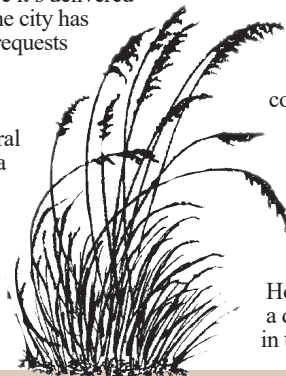
Any time a resident encroaches by removing natural plants, extending flower beds or cutting down trees, the dunes are damaged – and dunes are our primary protection against hurricanes and storms. Damage to the front or back of the dune line has been described by several environmental engineers as "death by a thousand cuts."

The city is proposing to re-establish the Beaches and Waterways Commission to find solutions to encroachment appropriate for each beach area. The dune issues in Sandbridge are different from the North End – no single answer will address all the concerns.

We have been meeting with City Council members and staff in an effort to discuss what we are seeing in an ongoing effort to protect and preserve the North End dunes.

Our position has been and continues to be not to support encroachments into the dunes. Please do *not* extend your flower beds or thin out or cut down growth in the dunes.

If you would like to know more about protecting Virginia Beach dunes, a good video can be found by searching online "Dune Systems and Coastal Resiliency in Virginia Beach – YouTube." Sponsored by Lynnhaven River Now, this recorded webinar video includes speakers from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Old Dominion University and the City of Virginia Beach.



UTILITIES & PUBLIC SAFETY

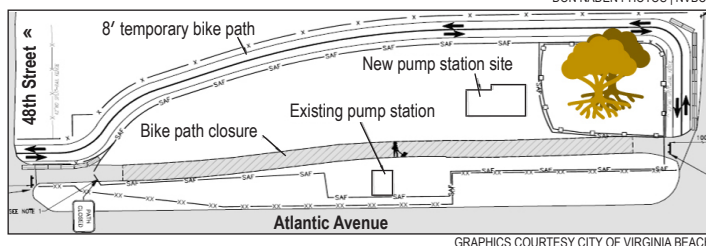
Bike path will have to move over when city replaces sanitary pump station at 48th Street this summer

By Don Naden
NVBCL newsletter editor

After almost seven years, the city says it's ready to replace the 48th Street Sanitary Pump Station – and that will mean temporarily rerouting part of the bike path.

Construction is scheduled to begin sometime this summer and is expected to take about 18 months, city engineer Randall W. Allen told North Virginia Beach Civic League members at their Jan. 17 meeting. The project was last presented to the civic league in July 2016 but had been delayed for various reasons, including those related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Allen said.

Replacing the pump station "is required due to age and inadequate capacity to service the existing community," according to the Power Point presentation Allen used during the meeting. The new station, ex-



pected to last about 50 years, should "avoid sanitary sewer overflow and ensure service reliability."

The new pump station will be somewhat bigger and built farther



DON NADEN PHOTOS | NVBCL



When the existing structure (photo at left) is replaced, its exterior will have the shingled look of the 61st Street Pump Station (top photo).

away from Atlantic Avenue, 50 feet from the existing structure, Allen said, and the work will mean

a "temporary bike/pedestrian path will be available during the construction," according to the presentation, and it will be paved, Project Manager Dawn Ray Panaguiton said. Also, trees in the site's northwest corner will be preserved, Allen added.

Allen's presentation also included this construction information:

- Public Utilities will provide a notice before construction begins.

- The site will be restored to its original condition, including the paved bike/walkway path.

- A construction inspector with be the on-site point of contact.

- Public Utilities will provide updates via the North End civic league, online on the Next-Door app and online at pu.virginiabeach.gov/engineering-construction/projects.

- The project manager will be available by phone or email: Dawn Ray Panaguiton

– (757) 385-8409, dpanaguiton@vbgo.com.

STRs

From the front

on the commission work group that will study the STR issue and make recommendations about how to proceed. They said the commission will probably vote to set up the work group when it next meets sometime in April. Appointments to Housing Commission work groups are controlled by the chair, Delegate Daniel Marshall (District 14, Danville), so if any of you have influence with him, please contact Andy Cohen (acohen@gmail.com).

Thank you again for the efforts by so many of you to contact our state senators and delegates to express our opposition to these STR bills. There are also still multiple pending lawsuits that challenge Virginia Beach's authority to regulate STRs, so we are monitoring those as well.

We will let you know how and when we need your voices again. ■

– Andy Cohen is NVBCL Government Affairs Committee co-chair.

We're on Facebook

Just a reminder that our NVBCL Facebook page has been up and running for a year now. You may join by searching "North Virginia Beach Civic League" on Facebook. You must answer some security questions to gain access.

– Caroline Willcox

HOSPITALITY



Winter Social was cool, and our summer, fall gatherings will be, too

By Monica Stein
Hospitality

As we look forward to our just-confirmed summer and fall social get-togethers, we recall our Winter Social, which took place in late February at 501 Kitchen + Bar.

New and old members and friends gathered and enjoyed an array of complimentary appetizers and happy-hour-priced craft cocktails, beer and wine.

Thank you to the many residents who took this opportunity to pay their 2023 NVBCL dues and showed their support for our civic



501 KITCHEN + BAR PHOTOS BY DON NADEN | NVBCL

league. Thank you to owner Debbie Lou Hague and the 501 staff for a great time.

The summer and fall events are scheduled for June 21 at the Wyndham and Oct. 13 at Princess Anne Country Club – details at right.

SAVE THE DATES!

Mark your calendars for our upcoming NVBCL socials:

Summer Solstice Social

Wednesday, June 21

Wyndham Hotel's Surf Club

Ocean Grill

6 to 8 p.m.

Grant and his team will debut some of the Surf Club Grill's new summer menu delicacies.

Live music, free – this is not a ticketed event; NVBCL members and guests are welcome.

Fall Member Party

Friday, Oct. 13

Princess Anne Country Club

6 to 9 p.m.

Dinner, dancing, live music and more

This is a ticketed event, open only for ticket purchase by current NVBCL members. Always a sold-out event and the best party of the season!

Stay tuned for more information via email, Facebook and neighborhood news.

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

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

2023 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Gary Sharpe	757.544-0885
Vice President	Skip Gibson	757.617-2824
Treasurer/Membership	Bonner Styles	757.831-3439
Executive Secretary	Linda Palluch	757.641-0410
Past President	John David	757.748-3131

COMMITTEE CHAIRS (Phone numbers must include 757)

Beaches & Recreation

Skip Gibson, 617-2824

Beautification

Jim Spruance, 646-1225

Budget/Assessments/Taxes

Jake Denton, 647-8259

Government Affairs

Jayna Eller, 773-1250
Andrew Cohen, (703) 855-2184

Hospitality

Monica Stein, 636-0222

Meetings/Publicity/Social Media

Caroline Willcox

Newsletter

Don Naden, 491-4483

Streets/Utilities/Public Safety

Martin Waranch, 491-3343

Zoning Issues

Billy Almond, 422-9522

AREA DIRECTORS

42nd – 49th	Willy Fluharty	965-2173
50th – 59th	Mark Chase	491-1729
60th – 69th	David McDaniels	348-3386
70th – 79th	Steve Kelley	450-6019
80th – 89th	Larry Staunton	428-1514

Princess Anne Hills Liaison
Mike Byrnes, 434-3200

Find more information on our website, nvbcl.org.

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK

Local garden tour steps off Wednesday

The annual Virginia Historic Garden Week is scheduled from Saturday, April 15, to Saturday the 22nd – and the Virginia Beach tour will be Wednesday, April 19, at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in the North End.

This year's is the 90th edition of this annual event, organized by the Garden Club of Virginia.

"Visitors will tour inspired private landscapes, public gardens and historic sites across Virginia," according to the club's website.

The Virginia Beach part

of this garden celebration will be morning and afternoon "semi-walking" tours "between "47th and 55th Streets and features two Oceanfront and two oceanside properties, as well as an Oceanfront Memorial Garden," according to the club website. "Visitors will enjoy private homes that are beautifully decorated and appointed with unique

features and furnishings. Upon arrival, please check in at the Princess Anne Country Club and board trolleys, which will transport visitors to the touring area. Lunch and a Garden Market at the country club are enjoyable options."

Tickets, \$50 and \$90, may be ordered online at vagardenweek.org.

– Don Naden



ZONING ISSUES

City, ZRC still setting priorities for development

By Billy Almond
Zoning Issues

The NVBCL Zoning Review Committee continues to work on several initiatives with city planning staff to revise regulations as they pertain to redevelopment. ZRC members met in person with this committee last June 9 regarding the redevelopment topics listed below. Those in **bold** are advancing with the Planning Department:

1. Remaining nonconforming parcel re-subdivisions into new nonconforming parcels is under study
2. Clarifications to the **R5RNE zoning ordinance regarding the "Two Detached Cottage" options, graphic examples and narrative revisions in the zoning ordinance**
3. **"Two Detached Cottage" option allowed on 7,500 square foot parcels or larger**
4. Revisions to the **R5RNE zoning ordinance, allowing garage apartments "by-right"**
5. **Establishment of the R5RNE Zoning/Civil Inspector**
6. Public Works Real Estate participation and processes regarding public right-of-way (ROW) encroachments, including Oceanfront properties and associated dune systems and privatization of ROW

property frontage with site construction that reduces public parking; this is under study with Beaches and Waterways Committee.

7. The city's zoning ordinance definition of impervious cover with respect to permeable pavement systems

8. Interior Oceanfront parcels with no direct attachment to a public ROW – impervious cover hardship

9. Property-line vacation requirements for redevelopment

Recently, the NVBCL Zoning Review Committee opposed the subdivision of nonconforming lots into new nonconforming lots for the purposes of construction of two single-family houses on nonconforming lots.

Our concern was, if allowed, this subdivision would be applicable to the remaining 22 nonconforming 30-foot parcels at the North End. The City Council listened to the NVBCL concerns and denied the subdivision request.

The ZRC will continue to participate in the Planning Department discussions and will report the outcome of the final resolutions to the NVBCL general membership as soon as possible.

The ZRC continues to review requests for variances at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of the

month at the A.R.E. Visitor Center, 67th Street at Atlantic Avenue.

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 are seeing an increase in illegal, non-permitted 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 member of the ZRC or call the city's Permits and Inspections office at (757) 385-8060.

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 sold, it is in the hands of the buyer, who has the three by-right options listed above.

If you wish to meet with the ZRC, please contact Billy Almond at (757) 235-0731 or billy@wplsite.com for additional information in advance of our meetings.