

# North Virginia Beach Civic League News

JULY 2024

## A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

### CITY ASSESSOR HAS ANSWERS ON REAL ESTATE

The Virginia Beach Assessor tells our members what's what with real estate values – and NVBCL President Skip Gibson says, “We are very fortunate to have someone of Sue Cunningham’s caliber in city government.”

By Skip Gibson  
NVBCL president

AS USUAL, WE HAVE several important issues facing us here in the North End – including residential parking, police and traffic support, and our beaches – but first I would like to talk about a city official.

We were fortunate to have Sue Cunningham, the city’s Real Estate Assessor, as our guest speaker at our April membership meeting.

Real estate tax assessments had been mailed out in March, and many North End residents saw significant increases and had numerous questions for her. She addressed our con-



Assessor Sue Cunningham

cerns by providing a very timely and extremely informative presentation to the estimated 75 members in attendance. She also spent a considerable amount of time, very cordially and directly, answering each and every individual question in a very professional manner.

Some of her key points were:

- The assessed value of North End homes and businesses has doubled in 10 years. In 2024, the appraised value of homes and businesses in the North End was \$3.353 billion; the assessed value in 2015 was \$1.607 billion.

- This increase reflects the increased demand/purchases for homes in the North End.

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### OUR JULY 17 SPEAKER: COUNCILMAN WORTH REMICK

By Skip Gibson

I am pleased to announce that City Councilman Worth Remick will be the principal speaker for our Wednesday, July 17, general membership meeting. For our membership, this is a wonderful opportunity to meet Worth and directly ask him your questions.

I had the opportunity to ask him what some of the principal issues the city is facing are. Here’s his response:

“As I stated when I ran for this seat, and continue to emphasize, my priorities are to ensure that the city government support and focus on basic city core services such as public safety, public education, the Stormwater Bond Referendum initiative and neighborhoods protection.

“This is applicable to the North End, my home since 1985 if you include Bay Colony and now Linkhorn Park, as I continue to see the

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

July 17, Oct. 16 – We’ve changed from Tuesdays to the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

### Treasurer’s report

Thank you to all members of the civic league who have paid their 2024 dues. As of June 28, our paid membership stood at 770, and our assets were \$47,716.66.

This newsletter includes envelopes for paying your 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](http://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

### TRAFFIC

### POLICE FOCUS ON ATLANTIC AND SPEEDERS

By Paul O’Gorman  
NVBCL

Several NVBCL members asked Police Sergeant Rich Cheatham in March if the Police Department could improve enforcement of the Atlantic Avenue speed limit. He said he would act, and evidently he did.

When Cheatham spoke at our March general membership meeting, he focused on car and motorcycle speeding, particularly at the intersection of Atlantic Avenue and Shore Drive. That’s when several of our members spoke up about it.



SKIP GIBSON | NVBCL

The number of police officers in cars and on motorcycles has been much more visible, as seen in this recent photo. Our police officers say they have written as many as 80 tickets per shift at this intersection in a continuing effort to slow the traffic.

– O’Gorman, a former police officer, is an NVBCL member and one of our two representatives to the 2nd Precinct Citizens Advisory Committee.

### BEAUTIFICATION

### THE ATLANTIC MEDIAN IS NOT YOUR BACK YARD

By Jim Spruance  
Beautification

Sometimes your trash just won’t fit in your trash can.

Sometimes it doesn’t meet the city’s strict criteria for a special pick-up. Go online to [pw.virginiabeach.gov](http://pw.virginiabeach.gov) to confirm your bulky-items criteria.

Sometimes it just seems easier to shlep it into the Atlantic median because surely the Tuesday trash collectors or grass cutters will just automatically pick it up – NOT.

Our Atlantic Avenue median doesn’t maintain itself. It is an ongoing, constant effort to keep clear of



JIM SPRUANCE | NVBCL

signage, free of unlawfully parked cars, landscaped, beautified and an area we can all be proud of.

Please don’t be the irresponsible neighbor who dumps construction materials, old aquariums, mattresses, outdoor grills or anonymous black bags in the median. Do the right thing and go the extra step to have those bulky items properly disposed of, even if it means arranging a trip to the city dump.



## Public safety phone numbers

2nd Precinct Police, (757) 385-2700

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

Fire/police emergency, 911



MONICA STEIN | NVBCL

## HOSPITALITY

# Back at the Wyndham

By Monica Stein  
*Hospitality*

Perfect weather, great location, wonderful neighbors ... all contributed to make our Summer Social in June SPECTACULAR.

Members had a chance to update

**We had a good turnout June 19 at the Surf Club Ocean Grille.**

their 2024 dues (only \$20 per household).

A big thank-you to the Surf Club Ocean Grille at the Wyndham, and Manager Jack Morley and his staff.

Stay tuned for info on our next social in the fall, and thanks to all who attended. It was great seeing everyone.

## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

# Keep it local NVBCL keeps tabs on STR, ADU bills

## SHORT-TERM RENTALS

### CITY'S STR TASK FORCE HOLDS FIRST MEETING

The Virginia Beach STR Enforcement Task Force created by City Council held its first meeting June 14.

NVBCL Board members Jack Drescher and Andy Cohen are on that task force, with a total of 10 members that include residents, real estate agents and STR operators. The scope of the task force is to recommend to the City Council how to improve enforcement of existing ordinances, not to change where STRs are allowed to operate.

At this first meeting, city Planning and Zoning staff presented information about current ordinances, and enforcement processes and challenges. Consultants hired by the city introduced task force members to the process that they will lead. The task force elected Cohen as its chair.

The next task force meeting is scheduled for July 19. We will share more with you about this group's work as it progresses.

— Andy Cohen

By Andy Cohen and Parker Hannahs  
*Legislative Affairs Committee*

Short-Term Rentals (STRs) and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) remain the focus for our Legislative Affairs Committee. Airbnb and other STR advocates have ongoing campaigns for state legislation to limit local regulation. NVBCL continues to advocate for local authority to regulate STRs and ADUs and to oppose bills that would pre-empt that authority.

Two statewide STR bills that were still pending in April were subsequently passed and signed. We remain concerned about SB 544 because it could require Virginia Beach to allow more STRs in the future. We withdrew our objection to the other, HB 1461, after it was amended to clarify and narrow its impact to resolve a technicality.

Two nearly identical ADU bills that we opposed, SB 304 and HB 900, did not advance and were referred to the Virginia Housing Commission. (See NVBCL's April 2024 newsletter; at [nvbcl.org](http://nvbcl.org), for descriptions of these bills.) VHC created a Special ADU Workgroup for these, and that workgroup met on May 20. NVBCL is monitoring activity by this workgroup that might lead to future ADU legislation.

As recently reported in the Wall Street Journal ([link, end of story](#)), Airbnb is organizing its hosts to advocate for STRs in state legislatures across the country. We saw the

Please see **ASSEMBLY**, Page 4

## POLICE RELATIONS

### Advisory panel welcomes new 2nd commander

By Mary Souther  
*NVBCL*

The police Citizen Advisory Committee meeting in May honored the retirement of Capt. Harry McBrien and welcomed Capt. Bradley Wesseler as the new Second Precinct commander.

Capt. Wesseler previously worked in the 2nd Precinct and volunteered to speak at an upcoming NVBCL meeting to address resident's concerns and discuss several new tools they are employing.



COURTESY OF 2ND PRECINCT

**The Star Chase "dart" sticks to a vehicle so police can track it instead of continuing pursuit.**

One of these is Star Chase, which allows the police to fire a GPS-enabled dart onto the back of a suspect vehicle and then tracks it (to watch a video, go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiNPvrKRCgg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiNPvrKRCgg)). Another is the Grappler, a net-deployment device that brings a vehicle almost to an abrupt stop ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5FJdpk6hrQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5FJdpk6hrQ)).

**The 2nd Precinct**, with the seasonal influx of additional

police officers, reported that crime at the Oceanfront is under control. Their focus will be on crime prevention in the area around the convention center and the Seatack community. The Police Department will be reinvigorating the Neighborhood Watch Program. More information: <https://police.virginiabeach.gov/community/neighborhood-watch-program>

**Traffic data continue** to be collected along various locations of Atlantic Avenue. At the request of NVBCL members, I raised the issue of speeding around the intersection at Atlantic and 83rd Street – the scene of several serious accidents in the last year. Speed cameras and speed tables do not appear viable at this time; however, the city is studying the traffic light timing and will report on recommended changes. In addition, I am exploring how to request funding for a red-light camera.

**Lastly, VBPd provided** a friendly reminder that Memorial Day brings into effect the seasonal rules where no animals are allowed on the sand beach from Rudee Inlet to 42nd Street from Friday, May 24, until 6 p.m. the Monday of Labor Day weekend. Dogs are allowed on the North End sand beach above 42nd Street before 10 a.m. and after 6, provided they are leashed or under control.

Dogs are allowed on the Boardwalk and grass areas to the west of the Boardwalk between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily, and any dogs on Atlantic Avenue must be leashed during the season.

— Souther is an NVBCL member and one of our two representatives to the 2nd Precinct Citizens Advisory Committee.



## MEMBERSHIP

# WANTED More members to strengthen our civic league



It was a good turnout for the NVBCL's general membership meeting April 17 at the A.R.E. Center. An estimated 75 members attended.

DON NADEN | NVBCL

By Stephanie Adler Calliott  
NVBCL vice president

There's something for everyone when you're a member of the North Virginia Beach Civic League: community updates, social gatherings, neighborhood advocacy and more. Thanks for being a member!

The city and its leadership take great interest in our community, so the more members we have, the stronger our voice; \$20 a year is all it takes, and we could use your help.

If each of us asked one or two of our neighbors to join, our membership would double, and that would make a real difference.

So, let's do this:

- Ask the neighbor across the street and the neighbor next door to join you as an NVBCL member.

- Text them the \$20 dues instructions: It's easy to pay online, at [www.nvbcl.org](http://www.nvbcl.org), or pay by check, payable to NVBCL, P.O. Box 1676, Virginia Beach, VA 23451.

- Most people will join if someone they know asks, so please ask!

Need more information on the

benefits of NVBCL membership? Consider these:

- The NVBCL furthers the interests of the North End with respect to beautification, recreation, sanitation, safety and protection of property values.

- It's a great way to meet new people, get to know your neighbors and be socially active.

- Your opinion matters; share information or discuss topics of neighborhood interest.

- We identify problems and cooperate with the city to resolve them.

- City officials and staff regularly present information at our general membership meetings that affect the North End. Members have the opportunity to speak directly with our representatives so they can get to know each other.

- Our civic league works to create an equitable, thriving community and to maintain the North End's unique culture.

There's no time like the present to join. Please ask two neighbors today!

## PRESIDENT

From the front

- State law requires her office to assess homes at 100 percent of their fair market value, which is primarily based on sales, with support from construction costs and income – rent – if applicable.

- Property value is also impacted by location, square footage, number of baths.

- Her staff of 35, which includes 22 appraisers, is focused on ensuring equability throughout the city by seeking true market value.

- Real estate tax is the single largest source of revenue for the city's General Fund and a principal driver for the city budget.

- Property tax is based on the fair market value of the home multiplied by the tax rate established by City Council.

- Anyone having a question or concern regarding the assessed value of their home should contact the Real Estate Assessor's Office at (757) 385-4601 or at [assessor@vb.gov](mailto:assessor@vb.gov). You also can find good information on all City of Virginia Beach property using the Property Assessment Search tool found on the Assessor's website: <https://assessor.virginiabeach.gov>.

In my opinion, we are very fortunate to have someone of Sue Cunningham's caliber in city government. She effectively leads a highly complex and visible office, her experience and credentials are exceptional, and her demonstrated desire to serve our city and residents is without question. Many thanks to her for taking time from her schedule to meet with us.

We also have had several ongoing issues, including:

**Bylaws update.** Over the past several months, Jack Drescher has been reworking and updating our civic league's bylaws. Several changes are being proposed to include an ethics and OCI (Organizational Conflict of Interest) statement, the establishment of a new committee tentatively titled "Planning" to address future directions for the civic league, and a general update. Jack hopes to have the revisions completed and presented to the Board of Directors in September, with a full vote by the members tentatively scheduled for the December meeting.

**Committee vice chairs.** We are looking for individuals to volunteer to become vice chairs of our various committees. Our committees further the interests of the North End with respect to beautification, recreation, sanitation, safety and protection of property values. It's also a great way

## REMICK

From the front

importance of safety on Atlantic Avenue (speeding, pedestrian crossing, congestion), as well as development issues.

"Also, City Council asked for a Festival Task Force to address festivals and entertainment at the resort. This is important to get it right and offer entertainment while also respecting the need to just enjoy the beach and ocean. We will be discussing this more and will need and want public input.

"Lastly, our North End homes are enjoying a lot of increased value and, therefore, increased assessments. Many are seeing 10 to 40 percent annual assessment increases. We need to discuss this more as I anticipate that values may continue to climb and it's not fair for North End owners to continue to bear higher real estate taxes."

I hope you can attend the July 17 meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the A.R.E., to meet with Councilman Remick. ■

to meet new people, get to know your neighbors and be socially active. If you are interested in taking on a role in the civic league, please let us know.

**RV Parking on Ocean Front Avenue.** During the summer tourist months, we have had an increase in overnight RV parking on some sections of Ocean Front. We were informed that one Canadian RV travel website actually listed one of our streets as an ideal place to park because there were no restrictions on any type of RV parking. To keep this from becoming a destination parking location for multiple RVs, we are working with the city (Police and Public Works) to identify solution(s). One suggestion is for "No Overnight Parking" signs to be placed where this is occurring.

**Support to the Police Department.** The Second Police Precinct provides the collective security for North End residents. To express our thanks, the NVBCL has previously provided funding for two special police bikes and associated equipment that was beyond their budget. Over the past year, we have asked for increased focus on a multitude of areas of concern, including speeding on Atlantic Avenue, and on bicycle patrols and increased night patrols. We also have asked for the precinct's diligence in monitoring social media for impromptu/mob beach

See **PRESIDENT**, Page 4

## WANTED

Help with this newsletter!

Your intrepid newsletter editor could use someone to help produce our quarterly publication.

Familiarity with the Adobe InDesign program, or similar software, would be a plus – at least a willingness to learn such a design program.

Publication layout and editing experience is also a plus but not required.

Interested? Contact me at [dnaden71@gmail.com](mailto:dnaden71@gmail.com)

– Don Naden

## UTILITIES



DON NADEN | NVBCL

**PUMP UPDATE** Still to be finished at the 48th Street Sanitary Pump Station is the pump station building, sewer connection and the site restoration, says Project Manager Dawn Ray G. Panaguiton. "We are still looking at finishing on time," in November, she says, "if not a couple weeks earlier."

# North Virginia Beach Civic League News

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

## 2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

<b>President</b>	Skip Gibson	(757) 617-2824
<b>Vice President</b>	Stephanie Calliott	(757) 615-6512
<b>Treasurer/Membership</b>	Bonner Styles	(757) 831-3439
<b>Executive Secretary</b>	Linda Palluch	(757) 641-0410
<b>Past President</b>	Gary Sharpe	(757) 544-0885

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS (Phone numbers must include 757)

### Beaches & Recreation

David McDaniel, (757) 348-3386,

### Beautification

Jim Spruance, 646-1225

### Budget/Assessments/Taxes

Vacant

### Legislative Affairs

Andy Cohen, (703) 855-2184

Parker Hannahs, 274-8973

### 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	(757) 965-2173
50th – 59th	Mark Chase	(757) 491-1729
60th – 69th	David McDaniel	(757) 348-3386
70th – 79th	Steve Kelley	(757) 450-6019
80th – 89th	Larry Staunton	(757) 428-1514

Find more information on our website, nvbcl.org.

## ZONING ISSUES

# Unpermitted North End sees more oversized, illegal driveways

By Billy Almond  
Zoning Review Committee

Several oversized, illegal driveways have been constructed this past winter and spring in our neighborhood. As mentioned by the city appraiser during her April 17 talk to our membership, 7 of 10 projects do not have a city permit.

The following is the Public Works Standard for North End driveways. It can be found in Chapter 3, Section 3.9 in the Public Works Design Standards Manual.

### “Residential Entrances in the North Beach Area

“In an effort to balance the functional need for residential driveways, protect public property, and to maximize on-street public parking in the North Beach area, the following driveway standards will be adhered to for all single-family, duplex and multi-family site plans on the west side of Atlantic Avenue and in the 100/200 blocks of 41st Street to 89th Street:

“1. 2. Each single-residential unit requires two parking spaces. Where on-site parking meets or exceeds the requirements of the City’s zoning ordinance and can be reasonably accommodated or is required by the approved site plan, one 12-foot wide driveway will

be designed so as to tie into that parking area. Where on-site parking does not meet the minimum requirements of the City’s zoning ordinance or does not exist or where the minimum requirements for on-site parking cannot be reasonably accommodated, a 20-foot-wide driveway apron for two cars will be designed within the right-of-way extending as much as practical onto the site.

“For duplex and multi-family units, each individual unit requires two parking spaces. Where on-site parking meets or exceeds the requirements of the City’s zoning ordinance and can be reasonably accommodated or is required by the approved site plan, one 12-foot-wide driveway will be designed so as to tie into that parking area.

“In unusual cases where on-site parking does not exist and cannot be reasonably accommodated on-site, driveway aprons may be designed within the right-of-way to the following maximum widths: 4 cars = 36 feet, 6 cars = 48 feet, 8 cars = 64 feet. The width of the driveway apron will not exceed the lot width. Any existing entrances and driveway aprons within the right-of-way will be modified to meet the criteria set above. Every effort will be made to have these driveway aprons extended onto the private property.”

## ASSEMBLY

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impact of those efforts in the Virginia General Assembly this year, particularly in defeating a bill that would have imposed greater reporting requirements on them. We are exploring strategies to most effectively oppose these efforts.

We can’t stress enough the importance of your participation. You responded in force when we asked you to voice your concerns to our state legislators. Thank you! We also appreciate the willingness of Delegate Anne Ferrell Tata and Senator Bill DeSteph to consult and communicate with us about legislation of interest to NVBCL. ■

“Airbnb’s Secret Weapon to Fight State Laws: Its Hosts,” *Wall Street Journal*, June 3, 2024: See the online link at nvbcl.org, on our STRADU page.

## PRESIDENT

From Page 3

parties, such as the one last year that attracted many hundreds of kids, creating parking backups to Holly Road, major traffic congestion on Atlantic Avenue and required a significant land and water police presence. Our North End beaches are open for the enjoyment of everyone, and we are grateful for everything the Second Precinct is doing to ensure the safety of all.

### Beaches and Waterways Advisory Commission.

The city has reestablished this commission, whose mission is to review issues concerning “access to and the preservation, development and use of the city’s beaches and waterways, and to make recommendations” to City Council. North End resident Rob Goodman and I were nominated by Councilman

Worth Remick to serve as commission members. The first task from City Council is to “review the approval and enforcement process for encroachments onto city property and established easements along the city’s beaches and beach accessways.” The commission is just coming up to speed and receiving information from the city, and I anticipate more information will be forthcoming.

**Special thanks.** Lastly, I want to thank everyone who makes our civic league one of the largest and most accomplished in the city. We have several wonderful people, such as Executive Secretary Linda Palluch, Treasurer Bonner Styles and Don Naden, our newsletter editor, who give of their time and energy to make everything work smoothly. Please give them a major pat on the back for all their efforts. Kudos to Linda, Bonner and Don! ■