

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

OCTOBER 2023

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

GARY SHARPE'S TERM TO END IN NEW YEAR

It's the collective support from the NVBCL's membership that makes the North End the vibrant, wonderful community it is – and I thank you for giving that support to me, as your Civic League's president, as well. Next up: Skip Gibson.

By Gary Sharpe
NVBCL president



AS MY TERM as president comes to an end this year, I want to extend one last thank you for the support you all give to the NVBCL. Reflecting on the past two years of my tenure, I realize what a special organization we have. Our collective voices have helped our neighborhood and community remain a vibrant and wonderful place to live.

The importance of our civic engagement at the neighborhood, city and state level cannot be overstated with the multiple and ever-changing challenges we face. I look forward to continuing my work with the Civic League and supporting causes that preserve the residential character of the North End.

“I look forward to supporting causes that preserve the character of the North End.”
Gary Sharpe

Since our last general membership meeting and newsletter issue, we have had several changes to our Board of Directors.

First, Jake Denton and Jayna Eller have resigned from their positions. Both Jake and Jayna were valuable members of our board and committees and will be missed. If you see Jake or Jayna, please thank them for their years of service to our league.



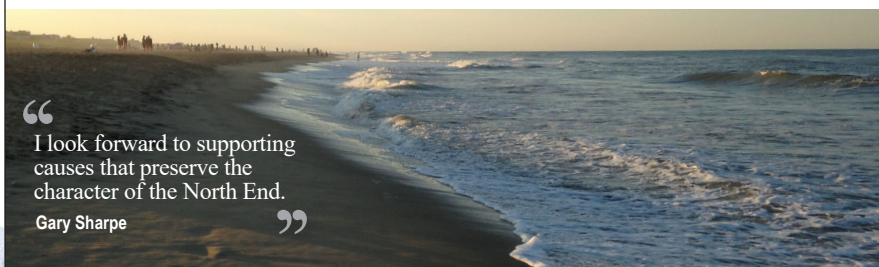
Calliott

These vacancies have allowed the board to welcome Stephanie Adler Calliott as our newest board member. A longtime North End neighbor, Stephanie brings years of valuable leadership experience, and I am excited to start working with her.

During our next general membership meeting, Oct. 17, we will vote on our nominated slate of officers to fill their new roles starting Jan. 1. I look forward to passing the baton to Skip Gibson as our new president.

Skip has been instrumental in working

Please see **PRESIDENT**, Page 2



BEACHES



MIKE NICKELSBURG
The “turtle crawl” shows how the loggerhead made her way up the 86th Street beach, laid her eggs and then returned to the ocean.

Beach babes Turtle hatchlings get helping hands from aquarium volunteers

By Mike Nickelsburg
Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Team

This has been an interesting summer in the North End as we had a rare loggerhead turtle nest on the beach near 86th Street.

While the main nesting areas for sea turtles in the United States are in Southern states, primarily Florida and Georgia, their nesting range extends into Virginia, where we see a few loggerhead, green and Kemp's Ridley nests each year, mostly on the beaches south of Dam Neck.

We have had two nests north of the resort area in the recent past,

one on the North End beach at 66th Street in 2019 and another that same year at 83rd Street; that one was laid too late in the season, and cold temperatures stopped the growth in those eggs.

This year two nests were laid on the North End beach, one at 86th, the other on Fort Story. Also, seven nests were laid between Dam Neck and the North Carolina border this year. As the ocean temperature rises, we might see more nests in the North End.

Every morning at sunrise a mem-

Please see **TURTLES**, Page 3



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

Oct. 17; 2024 – Jan. 17,
April 17, July 17, Oct. 16

Speaker for our Oct. 17 meeting

Capt. Harry McBrien, 2nd



Precinct Police commander, was scheduled to speak to our membership but could not

commit by our publication deadline. Otherwise, a liaison from the department will appear.

Treasurer's report

Thank you to all members of the civic league who have paid their 2023 dues. Our membership stands at 901, and our assets are \$54,194.63.

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



THE ENVIRONMENT

Pollinators Protecting them is also vital for people

By Katherine Quigley Edwards

Protecting our pollinators is critical because most of the world's plants and about a third of the food we consume depend on them – and that's what Bee City USA/Virginia Beach is all about.

In Virginia, 80 food crops depend on pollinators, but they are suffering from loss and degradation of habitat, environmental contaminants, disease and competition from nonnative species. Statistics on pollinating plants and food sources come from the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

The City Council voted unanimous approval Oct. 20, 2020, to designate Virginia Beach as a Bee City USA. That commitment involves creating a committee for advocacy, reducing pesticide use, incorporating pollinator-conscious practices into city policies and plans, and hosting pollinator-awareness events.

As Bee City residents, we can help our pollinators, particularly bees, by providing favorable habitats. Food sources and nesting sites are vital to the survival of honey bees and our native bees. Many



native bees live in underground and wood cavity nests, and these nests can be harmed by pesticides and herbicides. Sunny and well-drained areas of bare ground are ideal for underground nests.

Soft wood and pithy plant stems provide homes for cavity nesters.

Proximity of food sources to nesting and egg-laying sites lessens the risks bees face foraging for food. Planting a variety of flowers throughout the seasons affords food for many types of bees. It is also good for vegetable gardens as bees will be nearby to provide pollination. Native plants provide the most benefit as bees have co-evolved with them. Research shows that native plants are four times better at attracting pollinators. However, other plants that provide nectar including "weeds" are attractive as well. Even if the outdoor space is limited to a deck or balcony, a container garden will provide nectar sources for bees.

By supporting our pollinators, you help to preserve our food sources and benefit your own vegetable garden. May your garden grow!

— **Katherine Quigley Edwards, "KQ,"** is a North End resident who serves on the Virginia Beach Bee City Committee and advocates to other organizations to protect our pollinators.

ALL QUIET ON THE STR FRONT

After an exciting and engaging first meeting in May of the Short Term Rental Work Group of the Virginia Housing Commission (VHC), the meeting originally scheduled for July was postponed.

Parker Hannahs, member of our Civic League Board and the Work Group, has maintained contact with the VHC and other Work Group members. VHC and Work Group co-chairs have shared no reason for the postponement, no

schedule for subsequent meetings and, as of press time, no timeline for further Work Group activity.

We will keep you updated on further developments.

In the meantime, we appreciate hearing from so many North End residents – we are grateful to hear your support for our Civic League's stance. We look forward to making progress for our neighborhood.

Government Affairs Committee

— Parker Hannahs,

Parker.Hannahs@lfg.com

— Andy Cohen, acohen@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY

It's party time Oct. 13 as our annual fall blow-out returns to the PACC

By Monica Stein
Hospitality

Just as this newsletter is being edited for print, we are busy putting the finishing touches on our 2023 Fall Social.

Our fall party is always our biggest event of the year. In 2018 we celebrated the NVBCL's 100th anniversary, at the Princess Ann Country Club, on a beautiful Friday

night in October.

This year our Fall Social is Friday, Oct. 13, at 6 p.m. Again we'll be celebrating with friends and neighbors on the PACC's west lawn, with live music from Dog Jaw and delicious food, beverages and great people.

We're looking forward to more NVBCL socials next year as well. Our Winter Social in late Febru-

ary is a great time to renew dues in person and connect with friends and neighbors.

We try to get together socially at least once each quarter, so stay tuned by updating your dues, receiving our newsletter and stay current on our email list and on Facebook.



2021 FALL SOCIAL AT THE PACC

NVBCL FILE PHOTO

PRESIDENT

From the front

with the city on our dune-preservation efforts, short-term rentals and various other efforts while serving as vice president and chair of our



Gibson

Beaches & Recreation Committee. He is always willing to go the extra mile and lend his efforts where they are needed most. Skip was recently appointed to the city's Beaches and

Waterways Advisory Commission, where he will continue to support our NVBCL efforts. The NVBCL will be in great hands under his leadership. Skip and the board have nominated Stephanie Calliott to serve as his vice president. Bonner Styles has been nominated to retain her position of treasurer, and I will transition to the role of president emeritus.

I am excited about our future leadership and look forward to an easy vote at our Oct. 17 meeting.

Looking at old business, we are also beginning to prepare

for the return of the short-term rental debate during the upcoming Virginia General Assembly session. Earlier this year, promising headway was made with the appointment of our board member, Parker Hannahs, as one of 17 members of the Virginia Housing Commission's Short Term Rental Work Group. The group's task was to study and recommend changes to previously introduced STR bills HB 2271 and SB 1371.

After an initial meeting earlier this year, the commission and the work group have been silent and had not reconvened as of our press deadline. We are not sure why, but we believe the issue will be back in full force again next year.

At the local level, we recently submitted our STR recommendations for inclusion in the city's 2024 legislative agenda, and we are hopeful for a promising result.

Finally, I cannot wait to celebrate with you all at our BIG Fall Social at the Princess Anne Country Club on Oct. 13. Great venue, great food, great music and great people. What else is there to ask for?!

Thanks again for letting me serve as your president. ■

BEACHES & RECREATION

TURTLES

From the front

ber of the Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Team drives the beach from the Marriott Oceanfront Resort to the Fort Story beachfront fence looking for signs of a sea turtle nest.

On the morning of June 23, Dan Ries discovered loggerhead sea turtle tracks and the indentation in the sand of a nest. The Aquarium Stranding Response staff determined that the nest was too close to the high-tide line and moved it to the base of the sand dune. Screening was placed over the nest to protect it from predators, and the nest was checked daily for the next two months.

As the time for hatching neared, Stranding Response volunteers – including several North End residents – spent every night on the beach waiting for the hatchlings to emerge.

And they did!

From Aug. 26 through 31, 63 turtles were seen crawling out of the nest and making their way to the ocean on the smoothed-sand “runway.” On Sept. 1, 72 hours after main emergence, the Stranding Response staff conducted a nest excavation to see if any turtles were still alive. It was determined from the broken eggshells that 79 turtles had hatched out of a nest of 129 eggs. Several of the unhatched eggs did not have any signs of growth, so it is possible some of them were not fertilized.

The Aquarium Stranding Response Team thanks all the neighbors and visitors who watched the nest and encouraged and assisted the volunteers. If you see a sea turtle or marine mammal, dead or alive, on our beach, please call the Stranding Response Hotline at (757) 385-7575. ■



MIKE NICKELSBURG PHOTOS

Volunteers with the Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Team pose near the loggerhead nest near 86th Street in late August after helping hatchlings make their way to the ocean.

ON DECK

David McDaniels will take over in January as chair of our Beaches & Recreation Committee as Skip Gibson becomes president of the NVBCL.

Sea turtle nesting work conducted by the Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Team is carried out as agents of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources under an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For more information on loggerhead sea turtles in Virginia: dwr.virginia.gov/blog/long-live-the-loggerhead-how-the-esa-has-helped-this-marine-turtle/

HERE ARE 2 MORE REASONS TO STAY OUT OF THE DUNES

By Skip Gibson
Beaches & Recreation

One of the most frequent questions asked by Oceanfront residents is, “Can I extend my yard into the sand dunes?” It’s almost always followed by, “My neighbor has done it,” or “The previous owner extended the yard into the dunes, and it’s always been like this.”

The answer is twofold.

First, the dunes are city property and are protected by various ordinances. The NVBCL position has been and continues to be to support the city and oppose encroachments into the dunes. The NVBCL has spoken with numerous environmental engineers who have consistently stated that there should not be any intrusions into the dunes. One described encroachments as “dune death by a thousand cuts.”

The second part of my answer responds to “It’s always been like this.” The City of Virginia Beach has online a “Virginia Beach Historical Aerial Viewer” that shows the city, and the North End dunes, back to 1958. You can find your home on the Oceanfront and, on a year-by-year basis, see what has occurred to the dunes directly in front of your property. Go online to <https://virginiabeach.gov/services/map-center> and scroll down to Historical Aerial Viewer.

If you would like to know more about protecting Virginia Beach dunes, a very good video can be found online on YouTube, at “Dune Systems and Coastal Resiliency in Virginia Beach.” Sponsored by Lynnhaven River Now, this video has speakers from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Old Dominion University and the City of Virginia Beach.

As evidenced by the most recent tropical storm, the North End dunes are a first and most important protection against storms. We need to give the dunes the protection they deserve so they can protect us.

UTILITIES

BIKE PATH SHIFTS AT 48TH STREET

By Don Naden
Newsletter editor

Temporary rerouting of the Atlantic Avenue bike path from 47th to 48th Street will not be necessary after all as the city has begun replacing the sanitary pump station there.

The project began Aug. 21 and is expected to take 15 months, to Nov. 13 – three months shorter than originally estimated, project manager Dawn Ray Panaguiton said in a Sept. 18 email.

“The project scope has not changed, but the construction contractor proposed a more efficient and less disruptive way to continue the pedestrian bike path,” she said. “The path will have minor changes near the end of the project timeline



DON NADEN | NVBCL

The 48th Street construction site

for the force main tie-in.”

Also, she said, “Please understand that the current contract schedule may change due to several circumstances such as unforeseen weather/field conditions and supply chain challenges. When these conditions do occur, the project notices will be released, updating any further delays to the schedule.”

Initial notices were sent to residents whose homes are within 250 feet of the project site by the contractor, Conquest USA Inc., Panaguiton said. “We also intend to post updates to the Nextdoor app.”

NVBCL, POLICE WORK TO SLOW DRIVERS DOWN

Driving too fast along Atlantic Avenue has been an issue for years in the North End, and recent NVBCL efforts have resulted in some new traffic-control efforts.

2nd Precinct police officers set up another speed-advisory sign Aug. 22 at 81st Street in an effort, requested by your Civic League, to get southbound drivers to slow to 25 mph after they round the curve from Shore Drive. Another such sign had been set up near 81st in the northbound lanes of Atlantic.

The officers told the NVBCL’s Skip Gibson that they average 50 tickets per shift when monitoring this intersection. “Based upon NVBCL and citizen input,” Gibson said, “this intersection is a priority. They are listening to us.”

– Don Naden



SKIP GIBSON | NVBCL

Officers D.D. Morris, left, and M.T. Trask of the 2nd Precinct, the day they set up this speed-advisory sign at 81st Street.

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

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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

Vacant

Government 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, 422-9555

AREA DIRECTORS

42nd – 49th	Willy Fluharty	(757) 965-2173
50th – 59th	Mark Chase	(757) 491-1729
60th – 69th	David McDaniels	(757) 348-3386
70th – 79th	Steve Kelley	(757) 450-6019
80th – 89th	Larry Staunton	(757) 428-1514

Princess Anne Hills Liaison
Mike Byrnes, 434-3200

Find more information on our website, nvbcl.org.

BEAUTIFICATION

NVBCL wants to help residents spruce up their beach walkways

Reprinted from our October
2020 edition

By Jim Spruance
Beautification

The NVBCL Board of Directors has confirmed the funding for a long-existing but seldom-used individual street beautification initiative.

Residents of any numbered street may request up to \$500 in matching funds from the Civic League for a city-approved, beach entry-way landscaping beautification project. It was first

offered in 2007.

Residents would be responsible for raising the initial funding for plant materials, submitting a basic plan (it can be a sketch of the plot with requested plant varieties) to the city's Landscape Management Division for approval, and a general agreement for resident responsibility for sustaining maintenance.

Landscape Management officials have indicated a willingness to fast track approval because such projects are usually sched-

uled on a seasonal basis from the first of November through the end of March. They also will provide all necessary initial labor and associated horticultural materials, which often exceeds the cost of the plant material itself.

Checks are to be made payable to Treasurer, City of Virginia Beach, submitted to the Civic League for matching funds, and the division will accept responsibility for buying plant materials, often at wholesale costs.

Jim Spruance can answer any questions and facilitate applications. Reach him at jhspruance@cox.net or (757) 646-1225.

STREETS/UTILITIES/SAFETY

TRASH PICKUP DOs AND DON'Ts BEAR REPEATING

By Martin Waranch
Streets/Utilities/Safety

The life of the streets committee chairman can be frustrating. Trying to get grown people to pay attention – NO plastic bags in the blue bin! – has been ineffective. Reminding people the bins are supposed to face the street and not jammed together (preventing the automatic pickup from working) has just lost its allure!

In short, I have no idea how to write something fresh, informing and topical when there simply isn't anything new – but I'll try.

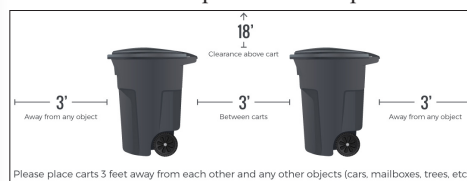
The problems relating to trash pickup in the North End are often of our own making. Over the years, despite being reminded that plastic bags and Styrofoam are not allowed in the blue bins, some people either don't read or don't care.

All the bins have instructions on them. You can't believe how often they're put out on the street incorrectly; the wheels need to face toward the curb, or your home, not the other way around.

Most know the pick-up is as automated as they can make it. One person drives the truck, extends the mechanical arm, picks up and dumps the can. You can't imagine how many folks still put the cans so close together that they defeat this rather simple system.

Finally, the city is far more interested in making the resort area pretty than expanding the personnel and equipment to provide the very necessary service of trash and/or landscape debris removal. Often such debris is left, week after week. To help, consider using the black bin for yard waste rather than putting it out for separate pickup.

I see my task as facilitating our ability to comply as closely as possible so we help those trying to get the job done. Once we do all we can, then we can see where improvements are possible.



CAVALIER SHORES



SPECIAL PARKING EXTENDED AGAIN

By Don Naden
Newsletter editor

The restrictive public parking program for the Cavalier Shores neighborhood has been extended again, this time for three years.

The City Council voted in early April – after this newsletter's April deadline – to extend the program for the neighborhood north of the old Cavalier Hotel. It restricts public parking to four hours in the 200 blocks of 43rd, 44th and 45th streets.

NVBCL Vice President Skip Gibson told the City Council that the Civic League's position preferred Cavalier Shores be part of the city's Residential Parking Permit program. Under that program, parking permits are required from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. in resort area neighborhoods.

North End resident and NVBCL director Billy Almond said the restrictive hours push parking northward, and he urged the council to delay the decision until more data could be collected, as reported in The Virginian-Pilot.

"Councilman Worth Remick, who represents the district, voiced his support of the four-hour limit," the Pilot story added, "saying it's justified based on the amount of activity at the Cavalier Hotel property."