

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

OCTOBER 2024

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

YES, WE HAVE ISSUES – LET'S COUNT THEM

City Councilman Remick helps us deal with many key issues facing the North End, and your civic league directors work hard to take care of the rest – with help from all of you.

By Skip Gibson
NVBCL president



WHERE HAS THE SUMMER gone? It's October, our Fall Social is scheduled for Oct. 22 at the Hilton on 31st Street and hopefully you will come to meet your friends and neighbors.

The civic league continues to be busily representing the interests of North End residents – let me highlight some of our most recent and ongoing activities.

Councilman Worth Remick was our guest speaker for the July general membership meeting. He spoke on a wide range of issues, and let me summarize a few:

Property tax. North End residents have seen a significant tax increase due to rising property values of 10 to 40 percent. Having Councilman Remick at our meeting gave residents the opportunity to speak directly to him, as individuals and as a group, regarding their concerns and impacts of these increases. He fully discussed the impact higher taxes was having on our residents and how he's focused on finding ways to lower our tax burden.



Worth Remick

Atlantic Avenue Pedestrian Improvement Project. Councilman Remick gave a very informative update to this highly sought project. Illustrating pedestrian accommodations between 42nd and 83rd streets along Atlantic Avenue, the project will focus on ramps for people with disabilities, high-visibility crosswalk markings, LED pedestrian warning signs and pedestrian signal improvements at specific locations. The project is scheduled to begin in November 2024 and is fully funded.

Short Term Rentals/Accessory Dwelling Units. Councilman Remick is actively supporting legislation that would allow the city to set standards for STRs rather than have the state establish a single, overarching regulation. As a tourist destination, our requirements are markedly different from other cities, and a single standard could possibly be either too restrictive or too lenient. He is continuing the discussion with various city and state leaders to have Virginia Beach and our residents determine the appropriate standards.

Councilman Remick has continued to work with individual residents on a multitude of projects ranging from residential parking to helping one of our members

Please see **PRESIDENT**, Page 3



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

Oct. 16, Jan. 15, April 16 – Remember, we've changed from Tuesdays to the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Speaker for our Oct. 16 meeting

State Del. Anne Ferrell Tata will speak on her legislative support for STRs/ADUs, military legislation and children and education issues from the state perspective. For some background information on her, please turn to **Page 3**.



Treasurer's report

Thank you to all civic league members who have paid their 2024 dues. At the end of September our membership stood at 833, and our assets were \$45,958.13.

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. 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

BEACHES & RECREATION

Dune intrusions Should we try to do more to protect our dunes?

We want your opinions on encroachment issues

By Skip Gibson
NVBCL president

Last year the City of Virginia Beach re-established the Beaches and Waterways Advisory Commission to review dune encroachments throughout the city and to make recommendations regarding this issue.

Throughout the city, dunes are being impacted by various types and levels of encroachment, ranging from private walkways

and yard extensions to permanent construction – most done without city approval. As examples, the pictures with this report show a “private” walkway leading across the dunes and, on Page 2, the construction of a sitting area in the dunes and a residence whose yard and flower beds have been extended into the dunes.

For North End residents, the dunes and beaches are part of our community and character and need our protection.

As background, if you were

Please see **DUNES**, Page 2



SKIP GIBSON | NVBCL

A “Private Walkway” has been built on public city land in our North End dunes.



Public safety phone numbers

2nd Precinct Police, (757) 385-2700

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

Fire/police emergency, 911

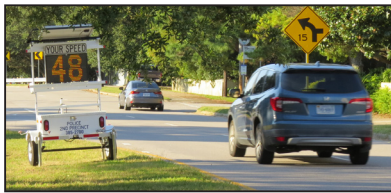
POLICE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Crime drops, but vehicle break-ins have increased

By Mary Souther
NVBCL Citizens Advisory liaison

Capt. Bradley Wessler, the 2nd Precinct commander, reports that crime is down in our area with the exception of vehicle break-ins. The past messaging to residents to lock their cars has worked, but the police are now seeing a rise in broken car windows – so the messaging has shifted to “don’t leave valuables visible in your car.”

The 2nd Precinct Citizens Advisory Committee meets monthly, and this report covers the last two meetings, in August and September.



DON NADEN | NVBCL

This speed sign was in the North End, Atlantic Avenue at 81st Street, during September.

Virginia Beach has experienced several car, bicycle and motorcycle fatalities within the past month. Most of these accidents are speed and/or alcohol related. The police and city’s Traffic Engineering departments are studying safety improvements along Atlantic Avenue based on speed-trailer data, tickets issued and accident reports; these improvements will take a few years to implement,

Wessler said. In the meantime, the police have increased random speed enforcement from marked and unmarked cars, and motorcycles. We can all take an active role by following the speed limit, being mindful of cyclists and pedestrians, and not driving while impaired.

A two-vehicle accident Aug. 18 left one man dead in the 2400 block of Shore Drive at First Landing State Park. The driver of the first vehicle, identified as Benjamin Alvarado Jr., 48, of Virginia Beach, was pronounced dead at the scene, and a woman passenger in that vehicle was taken to a local hospital with serious injuries, police reported. The driver of the second vehicle was identified as Samuel Randolph, 22, of Norfolk and was charged with DUI. On

Aug. 20, the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office approved additional charges of DUI Manslaughter and DUI Maiming against Randolph.

Drug overdose deaths continue in our area. Police reported that a 21-year-old recently died due to an opioid overdose despite having Narcan (Naxalone) present in the home. The police would like to convey that they are focused on saving lives instead of arresting users; therefore, anyone should immediately administer Narcan and immediately call 911 if a companion overdoses. Police say they won’t be arrested for mere possession. Human Services Pathways Center, 409 Birdneck Circle, offers free Naxalone and fentanyl test strips “no questions asked.”

after our press time, to finalize its recommendations to City Council.

At this time, we don’t have many public updates, but we remain vigilant and productive. We look forward to concrete updates (and good news) soon.

Thank you for all of your support and encouragement.

Government Affairs Committee

– Parker Hannahs,

Parker.Hannahs@lfg.com

– Andy Cohen, acohen@gmail.com



SKIP GIBSON PHOTOS | NVBCL

For example: This sitting area extends past the homeowner’s property line and into the dunes, which is city public property.

DUNES

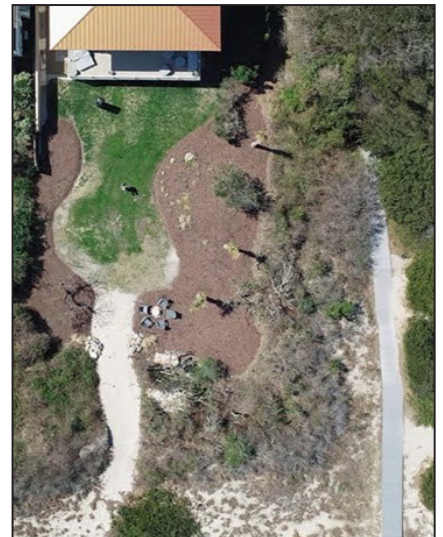
From the front

standing on the North End sand dunes in 1960, you would see a beach that was less than half what is today and a significantly smaller dune line. The beach shoreline back then was 80 to 100 feet at its widest point. In many places, there were not any dunes.

In 1968 the U.S. Corps of Engineers initiated a \$670 million project that widened the beach to over 200 feet, creating additional sand dunes with a minimum elevation to 8.5 feet and forming a barrier to serve as our first line of defense against storms, tidal surge and rising sea levels.

In the 1980s the Corps installed sand fences in the dunes that are now mostly submerged by the sand they helped collect. To replace sand pathways through the dunes to the beach, the Corps also built elevated walkways that terminated at the end of the dunes. The walkways were made of synthetic materials, and several decades later they still look great and function well. Additionally, the city continues multiple efforts to ensure the dunes and seawalls will do their job as our first line of defense.

We need your opinions regarding dune encroachment. What should the civic league recommend to the city? I seek your comments on



This yard and flower beds extend past the property line into the dunes and onto city property.

these questions:

- Should permanent structures be allowed in the dunes?
- Should residents be allowed to extend their yards into the dunes?
- Should residents be allowed to add ornamental plants and shrubbery in the dunes?
- Should residents be allowed to establish walking paths through the dunes?
- Should encroachments of any type be permitted?
- What recommendations do you have?

Please email your response to info@nvbcl.org, and I look forward to hearing from you. ■

STAYING ON TOP OF STR ISSUES

Our Legislative Affairs Committee remains busy in a few areas, but we’ll highlight two of them.

First, we’re coordinating with state delegates and senators regarding Accessory Dwelling Units and Short Term Rentals. Additionally, the city’s Short Term Rental Enforcement Task Force was scheduled to meet Oct. 11,

HOSPITALITY

Highpoint The best view of the beach: at our Fall Social

By Monica Stein
Hospitality

What The **Sky Bar** Fall Social, overlooking the beach and ocean from the Hilton Hotel's rooftop

When Tuesday, Oct. 22, 6 to 8 p.m.

Where Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel, at 31st Street

Complimentary appetizers provided by the Hilton, with a cash bar.

If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll move to the Catch 31 Restaurant on the hotel's main floor.

Take the lobby elevator up to the rooftop's Sky Bar, and enjoy the view while visiting with your neighbors and friends. You will have the opportunity to pay your 2024 North



COURTESY OF HILTON VIRGINIA BEACH OCEANFRONT

Virginia Beach Civic League dues. Here's a big thank-you to the Hilton for hosting our Fall Social!

Gimme shelter(s)

SHOT OUT

Somebody shattered the glass at the 57th Street bus shelter across from the Wyndham hotel sometime during the summer. Hampton Roads Transit had the glass removed and scheduled the replacement, but as of press time, Oct. 1, that work hadn't been done.



INSTALLED

Two additions to the Cavalier Resort appeared recently: HRT bus shelters, one at 41st Street, the other across from 42½. Gold Key/PHR requested them, according to Thomas Becher, HRT's communications manager.

— Don Naden



DON NADEN PHOTOS | NVBCL



PRESIDENT

From the front

get a new trash can that was stolen. It's all in a day's work for him, and I believe we are truly fortunate to have a councilman so involved in North End residents' issues.

Board of Directors. There are a few updates and changes coming to the board, including:

Bylaws update. Jack Drescher has been working the past several



months to update our bylaws and will present the proposed changes at our next membership meeting, Oct. 16. While many of the changes are clarifications and necessary to ensure we're in compliance with state law, there are also new sections on Ethics and Conflict of Interest. Jack has done a truly great job and put in many hours on our behalf. Many thanks to him for tackling this difficult project.

Streets/Utilities/Public Safety Committee. Martin and Trudy Waranch moved to the North End in 1991, joined the civic league the



same year — and he has been a mainstay of the civic league. In addition to this committee (see his report on Page 4), Martin has served on the

Zoning Review Committee since its inception, as the civic league president and served on our Board of Directors. Today he's taking on a new challenge by agreeing to chair a new committee tentatively titled Future Planning. Martin will be looking over the horizon to identify issues that will impact North End residents and prepare us to respond

to them. Martin has given much of his personal time and energy to the NVBCL over the past years and deserves our hearty thanks. I hope he brings his knowledge and enthusiasm to this new committee. Most importantly, I know he will continue to be one of those people who show up.

Succession. John Weech will become chair of the Streets/Utilities/Public Safety Committee. He and his wife, Kelly, have lived in the North End for five years. He is a corporate legal counsel who has



represented state and local governments on planning, zoning and wetlands issues. Please join me in welcoming John to the committee and board.

Mary Souther, a North End resident for the last eight years,



also will take on an additional role as vice chair for John's committee. Mary also will keep her role as our representa-

tive to the Police Second Precinct Citizens Advisory Committee, where she has been doing an exceptional job. (Her story is on Page 2.) Mary is vice president of Enterprise Sales for Digital Envoy. Please join me in congratulating her on her additional role and as a new board member.

New Area Director. Cheryl Bombaugh will assume this role for 60th — 69th streets. She bought a home in the North End, has renovated a great house into a wonderful home, and I'm certain she's ready to expend some energy volunteering for the civic league. Please join me in welcoming Cheryl to her new role. ■

WANTED

We're looking for help with home insurance info

Have you been dropped by your insurance company or found it difficult to obtain home insurance?

The NVBCL has created a new planning committee, and we are trying to gather data points about this situation to take to the State Corporation Commission.

If you can help, please email Ron Pearson at ronspearson@cox.net with details!

Speaker for our Oct. 16 meeting

State Delegate Anne Ferrell Tata and her husband, former naval officer Bob Tata, raised their four children in Virginia Beach.

Del. Tata is a member of the House Appropriations, Education and Counties, Cities and Towns committees. During her tenure in the House of Delegates, she has passed legislation supporting our military, foster care, children and education, while fighting human trafficking and anti-Semitism in the commonwealth. She most recently has supported the city and NVBCL positions regarding short-term rentals and Accessory Dwelling Units.

— Skip Gibson

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

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contact@nvbcl.org
www.nvbcl.org

2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS (Phone numbers must include 757)

Beaches & Recreation

David McDaniel, 348-3386

Beautification

Jim Spruance, 646-1225

Hospitality

Monica Stein, 636-0222

Legislative Affairs

Andy Cohen, (703) 855-2184

Parker Hannahs, 274-8973

Meetings/Publicity/Social Media

Caroline Willcox

Newsletter

Don Naden, 491-4483

Planning

Martin Waranch, 491-3343

Ron Pearson, 428-6634

Streets/Utilities/Public Safety

John Weech, 579-0274

Zoning Issues

Billy Almond

AREA DIRECTORS

42nd – 49th	Willy Fluharty	(757) 965-2173
50th – 59th	Mark Chase	(757) 491-1729
60th – 69th	Cheryl Bombaugh	(310) 292-2357
70th – 79th	Steve Kelley	(757) 450-6019
80th – 89th	Larry Staunton	(757) 428-1514

Find more information on our website, nvbcl.org.

Still in business Graze Kitchen finds new life at A.R.E. after almost closing

The cafe at the top of the hill at A.R.E. came close to closing recently, but a deal was worked out to keep the popular eatery open.

"Graze Kitchen is here to stay!" was the Aug. 12 Facebook announcement, after the Aug. 6 posting that said it would be the cafe's last week.

We were unable to connect with Graze owner Shelley Kilby for details, but apparently it had to do with the amount



of rent the A.R.E. Center wanted, according to two people close to the situation who spoke on condition they not be identified.

Graze opened

about five years ago after Cafe '67 closed in the same location.

Besides GRAZE, Kilby also operates a catering business.

– Don Naden

Graze Kitchen is in the Health Center & Spa building on the hill overlooking the A.R.E. campus, at 67th and Atlantic.

DON NADEN | NVBCL

STREETS/UTILITIES/PUBLIC SAFETY

Street lights, parking, trash concern us all

By Martin Waranch
Streets/Utilities/Public Safety

Major concerns brought to this committee over the years deal with street lights, drainage, trash/landscape debris and that old devil, public parking.

A great city service, poop-bag stations at the beach entrances, curtailed a mess we all endured for years. Many will recall I get double duty out of Charlie's dooty bag by picking up assorted trash.

Trash pickup is a continuing concern. Place the can so the front faces the street, wheels face the curb. A major problem is lawn/landscaping debris. The city's Waste Management division changed things: They will pick up only *one* pile no more than 4-feet square; limbs no longer than 4 feet, 6 inches in diameter; clear-bagged material (25 max) with no rocks, dirt, roots and weighing no more than 25 pounds. To schedule anything else, you must call (757) 385-4650.

We have a lot of second homes, and most

are well cared for – but if there is a mess and no way to deal directly with the owner, call Neighborhood Preservation, (757) 385-5750.

Storm drains are not trash cans. We should all help to keep them clear – I've shoveled mine often. However, if too sluggish, call (757) 385-1470.

If you have a concern regarding traffic visibility at an intersection, contact Landscape Management at (757) 385-4693.

Email works best for streetlights. Identify the street and pole number to pwclrks@vbgov.com.

Public parking continues to be a major problem. Trying to make a public parking space look "private" is not allowed, and it is not legal for owners to landscape into the public right of way. We *must* help provide as much public parking as possible. The veiled threat, that the city will turn the median over to public parking, is something we cannot encourage by discouraging or impairing on-street parking.

It has been my pleasure to serve as chair of our Streets/Utilities/Public Safety Committee, and I enjoyed working with many people over the years.

And smile – you won't have to hear about Charlie's dooty bag anymore!

SPEAKING OF UTILITIES ...

There's a lot of work going on to extend the life of the 59th Street Sanitary Sewer Pump Station – and will be for a while.

The station was switched over to bypass pumping in July (that's what all the outside equipment is for) while the major work continues, according to the project manager, Chris Graves. "Construction is currently scheduled to be complete by late December," he said in an Aug. 29 email.

Meanwhile, the 48th Street Sanitary Pump Station replacement work is on track



The 59th St. pump station

to be finished in November, Project Manager Dawn Ray G. Panaguiton said in a Sept. 16 email. "The old pump station



The 48th St. pump station

demolition will begin shortly after assessing a successful run of the new pump station," she said.

– Don Naden

DON NADEN, 09/29 | NVBCL