

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

JANUARY 2019

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

From short-term rentals to the Atlantic Avenue realignment project, we're working to protect our neighborhood.

Will Fluharty
NVBCL president

YOUR CIVIC LEAGUE Board of Directors has been working hard to ensure our neighborhood retains its unique character and quality of life.

We have been very active with City Council members, for example, advocating our preferred choice of one rental per week for short-term rentals. We believe that one rental per week will be the least disruptive option for our families and neighborhood.

At a meeting in 2016, Virginia Beach traffic officials briefed the Civic League on the proposed traffic realignment of Atlantic Avenue at the Cavalier hotel. It was an opportunity to inform our members of the plan and a forum to ask questions.

The proposal is back on the table now that the developer has said he would pay for it. (*Story, Page 3*)

The plan is that Atlantic Avenue would be closed at the Pacific Avenue intersection to allow a larger valet area leading into the new Marriott hotel on the Cavalier's oceanside property. Developer Bruce Thompson said this would help relieve traffic congestion along Pacific in front of the hotel properties.

The Civic League directors two years ago met with city officials and the developer and, given the additional traffic the hotel projects will create, "the ultimate question was simply this," former NVBCL Presi-

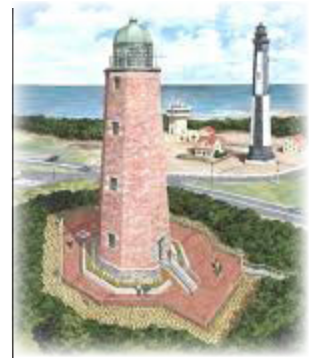
dent Jack Drescher wrote to the City Council last month. "What street routing will safely and efficiently serve pedestrians, bicycles and motor vehicles through this area, which by definition best serves North End residents? The city professionals without question supported the proposal then presented."

Taking into consideration the increased traffic from the new oceanside hotel parking garage, and the safety of increased pedestrian and bicycle traffic, the Civic League directors voted 14-2 (with one abstention due to a conflict) to support the initiative.

At our last general membership meeting, Oct. 16, retiring police Captain Mike Ronan of the 2nd Precinct provided an overview of crime statistics in our neighborhood with some excellent advice on how to prevent crime. In summary, we live in a very safe neighborhood with little crime. Many thanks to Capt. Ronan, who retires at the end of this month, for his years in the Police Department helping keep the North End safe.

I encourage everyone to attend our next meeting, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, at the A.R.E. Center, Atlantic Avenue at 67th Street. We'll introduce our new fire chief, Preservation Virginia will update us on the Cape Henry Lighthouse project and the Atlantic Avenue Association will brief us on their business association.

The general membership meeting is your opportunity to learn more about our community initiatives and voice your concerns. If you can't make the meeting, feel free to email me any time at willyflu@gmail.com.



Upcoming civic league general meeting dates (Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., at A.R.E.)

Jan. 22, April 16, July 16

Speakers for the Jan. 22 meeting
Elizabeth S. Kostelny, CEO, Preservation Virginia, on the lighthouse project

George Kotarides, Atlantic Avenue Association

Daniel Hennet, Virginia Beach Fire Department, Engine 15

Treasurer's report

As of late December, our league had 775 members, and our total assets were \$22,545.59.

Thank you to all donors and to members who have paid their 2018 dues. Please note that our dues are now \$20 per year.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the membership meeting Tuesday, Jan. 22. Only those who have paid their dues may vote; you may pay by check or cash at the meeting, but you also can pay online at our website, www.nvbcl.org.

NVBCL dues have allowed us to support landscaping, bus shelters, the neighborhood welcome signs and several organizations.

— Bonner Styles

inside



Illustrations show how the Atlantic Avenue realignment project would affect traffic flow / Page 3

BEAUTIFICATION

Median gets some new life for the new year: 41 trees, shrubs planted, 33 as replacements

Forty-one trees and shrubs, mostly magnolias and hollies, were planted in the Atlantic Avenue median last month from 34th to 88th Street – 33 of them replacements for those paid for by the North Virginia Beach Civic League in previous years.

Over the years NVBCL has contributed money to add trees and

shrubs in the median to beautify the area and to help screen utility boxes and other such installations. The city's landscaping division handles the purchasing and planting, the civic league pays for it.

Many of these trees and shrubs are replaced under warranty.

— Anne Abraham, Jim Spruance



ANNE ABRAHAM PHOTOS | NVBCL

New juniper at 53rd Street, left, and Magnolia at 49th



Public safety phone numbers
 Nonemergency police, 385-5000, option 3
 2nd Precinct, 385-2700
 Fire/police emergency, 911

BEACHES



DON NADEN | NVBCL

This is how the crosswalk at 81st Street looked Dec. 24.

CITY IS WORKING TO CLEAR AWAY CROSSWALK SAND

The recent weather has dumped more sand onto the beach access crosswalks than at any time in my memory. The city's Beach Operations staff reports the resort area is also covered.

Operations crews started cleaning up from First Street and say they will work their way north to 89th Street. Hopefully, you, your furry friends and bicycles will have easier access soon, but it was expected to take a while. All the crosswalks could be cleared by late January.

In the meantime, North Enders might want to consider taking things – like a shovel – into their own hands.

– Ron Pearson

RETIREMENT

MARY K. DREW STEPS DOWN

We would like to announce the retirement of Mary K. Drew from the NVBCL Board.

She has been a diligent board member for many years helping ensure we stay true to our mission to protect our neighborhood and culture. She was a critical voice on major issues like the Cavalier and short-term rentals. Her sincerity and calm demeanor were very much appreciated. We always knew exactly where she stood on an issue.

Please thank Mary for her years of service to the Civic League. She'll be sorely missed.

– Will Fluharty

HOSPITALITY

THE NEXT SOCIAL We'll gather at the Oceanfront and do some shuffling

Do we know how to have fun in the North End?

Absolutely.

Next month we'll hang out at Beachside Social, an Oceanfront venue built around shuffleboard courts, bocce ball and board games. It also has a full bar and casual menu.

The event, from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, will include free shuffleboard on two courts for Civic League members. It's a cash bar and menu.

We hope you'll join us!

PHOTOS ▶

North End resident **Eli Shocket** and his girlfriend, **Arielle**, during a visit to **Beachside Social**, 2728 Atlantic Ave.



MONICA STEIN PHOTOS | NVBCL



IF YOU GO

What NVBCL's Winter North End Social

When 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21

Where Beachside Social, 28th Street at Atlantic Avenue

Cost It's free, including shuffleboard; the venue also has a full bar and casual menu. beachsidesocialvb.com

THE LAST SOCIAL It was NVBCL's 2nd time at Smartmouth's Pilot House



MONICA STEIN PHOTOS | NVBCL

▲ **Cheers!** From left: **Karen** and **Greg Graham**, **Kathy Edwards**, and **Bob** and **Nancy Larned**.



▲ From left: **Bill O'Connor**, **Ken Silverman**, **Kate Michaels** (NVBCL hospitality co-chair) and **Chris Neikirk** of Smartmouth.



The Civic League's fall social returned to Smartmouth's Pilot House craft brewery on 32nd Street. The Oct. 18 event drew NVBCL members and new members – three of them! – alike. Organizing credit goes to NVBCL hospitality co-chairs Kate Michaels and Monica Stein.

RECYCLING UPDATE

CITY'S PROGRAM IS PICKY – WE'LL JUST HAVE TO LIVE WITH IT

As many of you know, I managed to step on my own feet when I tried to tout the “new and improved” Virginia Beach recycling program in the October issue of this newsletter. Despite everything I might have read and/or heard, the program did not expand acceptable plastic – it accepts only #1 through #7.

Despite the restrictions, I surmise most of us would rather see some of the other waste recycled, anyway, but I urge you to resist throwing things that “ought to recycle” into the blue bins.

“The City's recycling contractor has dedicated buyers for the items the City collects, which ensures that none of our recycling is sent to landfills,” Kristi Rines, the city's recycling coordinator, emailed me late last month. “As recycling markets broaden, and as more manufacturers realize the importance of including recycled items into the processing of their goods, we will one day be able to recycle more than what we currently do.”

Rines added that “... the following does allow for the majority of items that we use and discard to be recycled”:

1. Plastic bottles: drink, juice, milk, etc. (plastic bottles #1-7 only; caps may be left on).
2. Cans: steel and/or aluminum; clean aluminum foil plates and pans.
3. Cardboard and chipboard, such as shipping boxes, cereal and cracker boxes (dry, clean cardboard/chipboard only; always flatten your boxes).
4. Paper: newsprint, magazines, junk mail, paper bags, etc.
5. Glass jars and bottles; remove caps and discard in the trash.
6. Food and beverage cartons (juice, milk, broth, wine).

No other items are accepted in the city's recycling program.

– Martin Waranch



ATLANTIC AVENUE REALIGNMENT / A PRIMER

LOOKS LIKE IT'S A GO, BUT WITH PRIVATE MONEY

IT'S BEEN an on-again, off-again process for the proposed realigning of Atlantic Avenue at Pacific Avenue across from the new/old Cavalier hotel, and it looks like it's definitely on again.

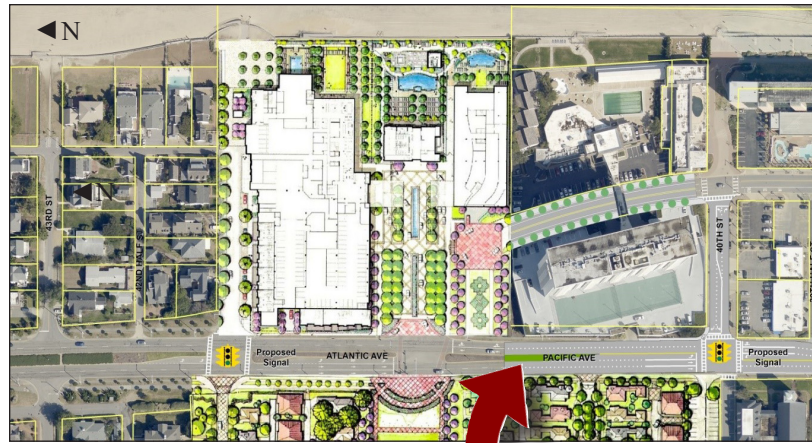
The city of Virginia Beach has declined to pay the estimated \$2.5 million tab to implement the project, proposed by developer Bruce Thompson, CEO of Gold Key | PHR and partner in Cavalier Associates, the company that repaired and renovated the 1927 Cavalier and is building across the street.

Thompson also did not want to pay for it. The city already has invested about \$245,000 on the street redesign and tried for more than two years to get a state grant to pay for the project. The state said no.

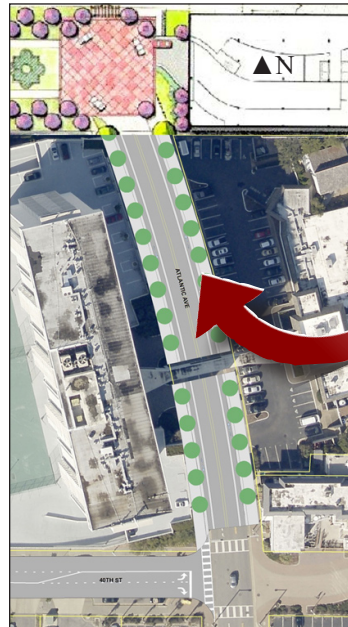
So why is this back on the table? Because Thompson and Cavalier Associates have now decided to pay for it.

It also appears that the last opposition to it on City Council ended Dec. 11, when the council voted 7-3 to block a resolution to stop the project. Councilman John Moss, supported by Councilwoman Jessica Abbott and Mayor Bobby Dyer, hoped the resolution would put an end to the plan.

Thompson's proposal would visually restore the so-called Grand Lawn – extending from the restored hotel to the Cavalier Beach Club, next to the Marriott hotel under construction on the Cavalier's oceanside property – by removing the intersection where Atlantic meets Pacific and ending Atlantic in a cul-de-sac at the south boundary of the Cavalier oceanside property. (Pacific would not be interrupted.) This would allow the Marriott to have a much



◀ **THE PLAN** would rework Pacific southbound to add a traffic light at 40th Street and install a left-turn lane onto 40th, next to two southbound lanes. A northbound left-turn lane would lead into Galilee Episcopal Church while preserving two northbound lanes (see bottom photo).



◀ **AS IT IS NOW** Atlantic intersects Pacific in front of the Cavalier on the Hill, at a traffic light that would be removed if the realignment plan is implemented.

▲ **NOW** Atlantic intersects with Pacific, but the new plan would terminate it with a cul-de-sac and small park at the south end of the hotels' oceanside property.

◀ **40th Street**, at bottom left and at right, after parking is removed becomes three lanes, allowing right- and left-turn lanes at each end, this view at Atlantic.



▲ **View at Pacific:** 40th Street would have left- and right-turn lanes, after parking is removed.

larger valet area that Thompson says would help alleviate traffic congestion on Pacific in front of the Cavalier properties.

An independent traffic engineering study, the city's traffic engineer as well as the city manager and his staff agreed that

the best and safest option was to close the intersection, create the cul-de-sac, add turn lanes on Pacific Avenue and reroute traffic through 40th Street.

– Don Naden

RESORT AREA PROJECTS

DOMESITE'S SURF PARK PROPOSAL TAKES A STEP TOWARD APPROVAL

Several significant capital improvement projects and private initiatives mark the beginning of a Renaissance in the Central Beach District.

■ Just recently announced is that the Dome site's The Wave surf park (photo) term sheet has been agreed to as of Dec. 31. City Council and the Economic Development Authority still had to vote, set for Jan. 15, on the term sheet. If approved, the project would move into the development phase with possible construction as early as 2020.



■ The Virginia Beach Sports Center is well under construction across the street from our Convention Center. The 19th Street streetscape project is under

construction, with 17th and 18th to follow soon; 18th Street is to begin in the spring.

■ The pier project submissions for 15th and 17th streets appeared to be on hold as of our press deadline, early January.

■ As we have reported this past year, property owners, tenants and concerned citizens formed the Atlantic Avenue Association. The AAA is very active and has advanced several events and has new ideas to return Atlantic Avenue to the destination venue it was in the past. You can find out more at <http://atlanticavevb.com>.

■ Also, a newly formed association of property owners on 17th

Street has advanced several initiatives for that streetscape, from Birdneck Road to the Boardwalk. Google "17th street property" to learn more at pilotonline.com.

■ The city, along with the help of entertainer Pharrell Williams' I AM OTHER group, and Live Nation are working to bring the Something in the Water festival to our Oceanfront in April to coincide with College Beach Weekend. This festival is patterned after the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas. You can read more about Williams' festival ideas online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dp4rfcQhMrl>.

– Billy Almond

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

Post Office Box 1676
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
contact@nvbcl.org
www.nvbcl.org

\$20 dues for 2019 are now due.
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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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2019

OFFICERS

President	Will Fluharty	303 49th St.	715-1010	willyflu@gmail.com
Vice President	John David	410 48th St.	748-3131	johndavid2@verizon.net
Treasurer/Membership	Bonner Styles	312 Susan Constant Dr.	831-3439	mbonners@yahoo.com
Executive Secretary	Linda Palluch	308 48th St.	641-0410	lpalluch@gmail.com
Past President	Jack Drescher	6410A Ocean Front Ave.	428-3344	jdrescher@breitdrescher.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Beaches & Recreation	Ron Pearson	6204 Ocean Front Ave.	428-6634	ronspearson@cox.net
Beautification co-chair	Jim Spruance	200 78th St.	646-1225	jhspruance@cox.net
Beautification co-chair	Anne Abraham	5002 Atlantic Avenue	428-0867	luvfax@aol.com
Budget/ Assessments/Taxes	Jake Denton	313 51st St.	647-8259	jake@jeremiahdenton.com
Hospitality co-chair	Kate Michaels	448 Discovery Road	472-4949	ktmichaels@cox.net
Hospitality co-chair	Monica Stein	4141 Fitzgerald Way	636-0222	monica.stein@n2pub.com
Meetings/Publicity	Buddy Matthews	217 68th St.	422-6151	beachtreehouse68@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Don Naden	213A 81st St.	491-4483	dnaden71@gmail.com
Streets/Utilities/Public Safety	Martin Waranch	111 66th St.	491-3343	mlwaranch@outlook.com
Zoning	Billy Almond	209 70th St.	422-9522	billy@wplsite.com

AREA DIRECTORS

42nd - 49th Streets	Will Fluharty	303 49th St.	965-2173	willyflu@gmail.com
50th - 59th Streets	Mark Chase	111 57th St.	491-1729	chasemark@msn.com
60th - 69th Streets	Buddy Matthews	217 68th St.	422-6151	beachtreehouse68@yahoo.com
70th - 79th Streets	Sue Bowser	223 77th St.	422-5204	suebowser55@gmail.com
80th - 89th Streets	Larry Staunton	212 84th St.	428-1514	larrystaunton@cox.net
Princess Anne Hills/Liaison	Mike Byrnes	551 Susan Constant Dr.	422-2539	mikebyrnes@cox.net

DIRECTORS AT-LARGE

Anne Abraham	5002 Atlantic Avenue	428-0867	luvfax@aol.com
Billy Almond	209 70th St.	422-9522	billy@wplsite.com
John David	410 48th St.	748-3131	johndavid2@verizon.net
Jake Denton	313 51st St.	647-8259	jake@jeremiahdenton.com
Jack Drescher	6410A Ocean Front Ave.	428-3344	jdrescher@breitdrescher.com
Kimberly Goold	311 49th St.	428-7537	kimberly.goold@troutmansanders.com
Kaye Harris	108 60th St.	425-0883	kaye.harris@cox.net
Dave Jester	200 63rd St.	437-1677	DJ@marlyndv.com
Kate Michaels	448 Discovery Road	472-4949	ktmichaels@cox.net
Brian Murden	417 Goodspeed Rd.	428-7243	beachgallery@verizon.net
Don Naden	213A 81st St.	491-4483	naden2@cox.net
Ron Pearson	6204 Ocean Front Ave.	428-6634	ronspearson@cox.net
John Pharr	202 50th St.	435-3738	john@nbgourmet.com
Jim Spruance	200 78th St.	646-1225	jhspruance@cox.net
Bonner Styles	312 Susan Constant Dr.	831-3439	mbonners@yahoo.com
Martin Waranch	111 66th St.	491-3343	mlwaranch@outlook.com