

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

JANUARY 2020

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

John David takes over as NVBCL president, urges Nenders to get involved as we focus on 5G and e-scooters issues.

By John David
NVBCL president

Your 2020 NVBCL #1 and #2:

President John David, left, and Vice President Gary Sharpe



GOOD DAY. I HOPE this newsletter finds you and your family well. Please accept the Civic League's and my warmest wishes for a blessed and prosperous new year.

This is my first newsletter report, and I am honored and grateful to be assuming the role as your league's president. I would be remiss if I did not thank Willy Fluharty for his stalwart leadership of the league over the past two years. Rest assured Willy will continue to be involved on the league's Board of Directors and its Zoning Review Committee.

I am extremely fortunate to welcome Gary Sharpe as my vice president. Gary is a lifelong Virginia Beach resident and lives on 48th Street with his wife and son. Gary brings a keen intellect, business acumen and youth. One of my goals is to increase the league's membership, especially among younger people, and Gary's involvement will help us facilitate that goal. In any conversation with Gary, I trust that you will enjoy his warm personality and

appreciate his astute grasp of the issues that face us.

Our Civic League's success depends upon the involvement of all North End residents. Simply by reading this newsletter and being informed, you are strengthening the league and increasing our influence in the city. I highly encourage you to attend our quarterly meetings, meet your neighbors and become involved. The meetings are not lengthy, and our speakers provide pertinent information.

Willy Fluharty's final report / 3

Please email either Gary or me if you have ideas for future speakers; we are happy to reach out to them.

We are also always seeking individuals to fill the roles of our committees. If you would like to participate or are passionate about a civic issue, please contact us. You will be helping your fellow residents and will learn a lot about the city and how to proactively interact with your government.

Speaking of that, I would like to make another pitch for using a very useful app, SeeClickFix. With this app on your phone, you can report virtually any issue to the city. You can upload a picture and easily track your issues with the responding city department. The app is intuitive, quick and easy to use. With just a couple minutes' effort, you will

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

Jan. 21, April 28

Speakers for the Jan. 21 meeting

Brian Solis, assistant to the city manager for special projects, will update us on the e-scooter issue. **Lisa Mike** from the Red Cross will discuss hurricane preparation, evacuation process and shelters. (Cox High is now our shelter, but they would like to propose that A.R.E. become our designated shelter.)

Treasurer's report

As of Dec. 6, our civic league had 868 members, and our total assets were \$32,723.88.

The civic league would like to sincerely thank all members who paid their dues in 2019, and we hope we'll have you back as members in 2020. We look forward to seeing everyone at the general membership meeting, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21.

This, our January newsletter, has been printed and mailed with the return-dues envelopes included for your 2020 membership. Please note that our dues are \$20 per year, and be sure to include your email address – that's also how we communicate with our Civic League members.

You may pay by check or cash at the meeting, but you also can pay online, with PayPal, 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

RESORT AREA PROJECTS

MAKING WAVES City Council, developer reach agreement to build surf park at the Dome site

Atlantic Park The latest on the surf park project (the former Dome site) is that the developer and the city have entered into a development agreement by City Council action.

Now that this agreement is in place, the project is moving into the design development and construction document phases.

Resort action plan The Resort Area Strategic Action Plan (RASAP) planning process is nearing completion after a final draft review on Dec. 4. The final version is scheduled to go to the



VENTURE REALTY GROUP

The City Council voted Nov. 19 to approve a development agreement to build the Atlantic Park surf project at the former Dome site.

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

HOSPITALITY

Our Fall Social returned to familiar surroundings

WYNDHAM'S OCEAN GRILLE
 NOVEMBER 6



Ocean Grille Manager Grant Myers, left, poses with NVBCL directors Anne Abraham and Jayna Eller, and outgoing league president Willy Fluharty.

OUR NVBCL Fall Social returned to the Wyndham's Surf Club Ocean Grille at 57th Street.

It was a perfect fall night on Wednesday, Nov. 6 – and the free bourbon tasting, happy-hour prices on food and drinks, and wonderful turnout helped make it a huge success. Thank you, restaurant Manager Grant Myers.

He wanted to make sure, in case you have not heard already, that the Ocean Grille closed mid-December for renovations and is scheduled to reopen in March with a brand new menu, additional TV screens, and enlarged bar and restaurant oriented toward the ocean's fantastic views.

Here are some photos from the November occasion. Grant promised he would give us priority in early spring for the next NVBCL Social, so stay tuned ...

– Monica Stein



From left, Amy & Tim Jackson with Shannan Poteran and Amy Metzger.

THE NEXT SOCIAL
THE HUNT ROOM

Let's gather 'round the Hunt Room fireplace!

What NVBCL's North End Winter Social

When 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14

Where The Hunt Room, in the Historic Cavalier Hotel, 4200 Atlantic Ave.

Greg & Helene Watts with, from left, Dana Power and Laurie Dawson. The Ocean Grille closed in December for renovation work that is scheduled to be finished by March, says Grille Manager Grant Myers.



MONICA STEIN PHOTOS | NVBCL

PROJECTS

From the front

Planning Commission and City Council this month. You can read more about the Strategic Growth Areas RASAP planning process online at www.vbgov.com/SGA.

Atlantic Realignment The completion of RASAP in the first quarter of 2020 sets the stage for the mobility study that will ultimately determine what's going on with Atlantic Avenue from First to 40th streets.

However, the realignment of the Atlantic terminus at the Cavalier hotels property is a city project and is in progress.

We've seen a great deal of median work on Pacific Avenue, but the actual realignment – terminating Atlantic as a cul-de-sac at the oceanside hotel property – will be done in future phases.

More info at www.vbgov.com – search “Atlantic Ave Reconfiguration”

E-scooters The NVBCL is working closely with the city's Brian Solis on our input on e-scooter mobility planning. More information will be provided as the process unfolds and options are offered in first quarter 2020.

5G Network The NVBCL also is working closely with the city's Debra Bryan on our input regarding the 5G Broad Band Network and its effect on our neighborhood.

The Federal Communications Commission has granted approval for multiple carriers to locate 5G poles in the public Right of Way along our streets. Each

carrier may install its own pole or 5G transmitter on an existing pole. This can have a significant impact to the visual quality of our neighborhood.

More information will be provided as the process unfolds.



SITW 2020 Extensive planning has been in the works for months for the Something in the Water 2020 festival. It is expected to have a larger footprint this year, with attendance projected near 60,000.

For more information about this second annual festival: 2019.somethinginthewater.com.

Resort Capital Improvement Projects

- Winston Salem Avenue construction starts October 2020
- Vibe District 18th Street construction starts fall 2020
- 17th Street 30 percent design + public meeting spring 2020
- Virginia Beach Sports Center opening November 2020
- Oceanfront Restroom Project site location narrowed to five sites; showers installed at 2nd Street in 2020

More information about these resort projects can be found at the city's website, www.vbgov.com.

– Billy Almond

ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE

PANEL DEFENDS OUR OPPOSITION TO VARIANCES

The NVBCL Zoning Review Committee recently successfully defended the Civic League opposition for additional variances on a multi-site project. Several ZRC members testified at the city's Board of Zoning Appeals and persuaded it to deny the request.

Also, due to the ZRC's diligence, a developer who constructed a two-story, detached cottage incorrectly was stopped and required to reconstruct it in accordance with development guidelines.

Recent requests for variances or land entitlements for redevelopment have been coming in at a typical pace in the last quarter of 2019.

– Billy Almond

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ZONING, E-SCOOTERS, 5G – THE KEY ISSUES WE FACE

IT WAS GREAT seeing many of you at the recent NVBCL social at the Wyndham.

Many thanks to our Hospitality Committee – Monica Stein, Kate Michaels and Anne Abraham – for their efforts to bring our neighbors together on a regular basis.

Our Zoning Review Committee, ably led by Billy Almond, meets monthly to review all zoning-variance requests to ensure a much-needed check on development to help preserve the character of our community. Unfortunately, some development does not need a variance and, therefore, does not require our zoning input. We do as much as we can to ensure that all new development abides by the zoning regulations.

Regarding e-scooters: the NVBCL has been in touch with Brian Solis, assistant to the city manager for special projects, and hope to provide some input on the upcoming e-scooter regulations. We will make sure that the

concerns of our community are heard as the city creates much-needed regulation.

As per our recent general membership meeting, we are communicating with the city regarding the proposed 5G towers, which are already starting to pop up along our streets – and



Willy Fluharty

on our properties. Although installation of these towers is inevitable, we do hope to have some input on how, and where, they appear on our streets and alleys. Please know that we are actively seeking a voice in the conversation between the city and the 5G providers.

Many thanks to Public Works Director Mark Johnson, city Traffic Engineer Rick Lowman and Brian Proctor, staff engineer in Traffic Engineering, for presenting at our general membership

meeting to explain the city's right-of-way history and conflicts. Hopefully, our members will now be far better informed regarding this very important issue that can have a major impact in our community.

And thanks to Frank L. Fentress, administrator of the city's Park and Landscape Services division, for informing us more about what we can and cannot do regarding landscaping, especially in the public right-of-way.

Partnering with the city of Virginia Beach has been an important aspect of the Civic League, and we hope to continue this valuable relationship far into the future. The North Virginia Beach Civic League is very active as a conduit for our members' voices to the city in an effort to abide by our mission, to preserve and protect our community. Thank you for your membership and participation.

And finally, please extend a warm welcome to our incoming president, John David, who began his term Jan. 1 and will preside over our next general membership meeting, Jan. 21. I hope to see everyone there.

– Willy Fluharty

BEACH SAND

REPLENISHMENT OUGHT TO BE DONE BY NOW

Sand replenishment should be complete at the North End by the time you read this.

The city's project resumed Nov. 21 near 60th Street, after having been suspended in late August because of turtle-nesting restrictions on our beaches. The plan was to add sand to the beach up to 72nd Street then southward from 57th to 49th streets. The project moves to Sandbridge in February and is scheduled to end in May.

There was some damage to the crosswalk at 68th Street reportedly caused by the contractor as it brought equipment onto the beach. The city will contact the Corps of Engineers to have the contractor do repairs.

Also, the gate at 57th has been damaged – unknown by whom – and the city plans to replace it sometime this winter.

Despite the best efforts of many NVBCL members cleaning off their local crosswalks, there was still quite a bit of sand on them in December due to the seemingly continuous nor'easters. The city will probably work on crosswalks in March, including removing sand from 6 feet on either side.

We had a late-season turtle nest up in the high 80s, but nothing seems to have hatched. The city's aquarium stranding team reported that the eggs appeared to cease development very early on, apparently because of nest damage from Hurricane Dorian, high tides and/or nor'easters.

Speaking of turtles, hatchlings primarily use the light of the moon to lead them to the ocean. When there are bright light sources on the shore, the baby turtles can become confused and crawl in the wrong direction, with fatal consequences.

People walking the beach sometimes lose their night vision due to bright lights shining from nearby homes. Many people, especially those who don't live here year-round, light their properties for security purposes, but there are ways to meet everyone's needs.

Check out www.darksky.org, where you will see ways to light your property for security in such a way that you won't be misdirecting turtle hatchlings or blinding those out for a walk on a dark beach.

– Ron Pearson



PROBLEM FOR THE CITY? TRY CLICKFIX!

We'd like to remind you of a really helpful website, seeclickfix.com/virginiabeach, available to all city residents to report such things as street light malfunctions, traffic signs down, potholes and general problems on city property.

From the website you also can access See ClickFix's mobile app, for Apple and Android devices.

Give it a try. We've found it to be very responsive.

– Jim Spruance

PRESIDENT

From the front

help resolve an issue and improve the quality of life in our neighborhood for all of us.

We have two issues facing us that will impact our lives significantly. First are the new 5G utility poles that are starting to appear in the North End and throughout the city. These poles can appear virtually overnight in the city right-of-way (ROW), which unfortunately can be part of your front yard. Your NVBCL board is aware of the impact these rather unsightly poles can have, and our Zoning Review Committee, led by Billy Almond, is actively communicating with the city about them. 5G is coming to the North End, and we will do our best to mitigate its impact upon our lives.

Also on the forefront is the issue of e-scooters. Once we step back into the resort season, we can expect to be faced with another influx of these electric scooters in our neighborhood. We are actively interfacing with the city with the hope of having rational regulations in place to ensure the safe operation of the scooters and to ensure that they are not an eyesore on our streets.

Thank you again for taking the time to read this newsletter. Your involvement, attendance at quarterly Civic



DON NADEN | NVBCL

A 5G pole stands at the corner of Pacific and Norfolk avenues, Nov. 29.

League meetings and remittance of your annual dues will help ensure that the North End remains the best neighborhood in Virginia Beach.

Regards,
John David

North Virginia Beach Civic League News

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

\$20 dues for 2020 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 2020

OFFICERS

President	John David	410 48th St.	748-3131	johndavid2@verizon.net
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Past President	Will Fluharty	303 49th St.	715-1010	willyflu@gmail.com

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Hospitality co-chair	Anne Abraham	5002 Atlantic Avenue	428-0867	luvfax@aol.com
Hospitality co-chair	Monica Stein	4141 Fitzgerald Way	636-0222	monica.stein@n2pub.com
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AREA DIRECTORS

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60th - 69th Streets	Buddy Matthews	217 68th St.	422-6151	beachtreehouse68@yahoo.com
70th - 79th Streets	<i>Unfilled position</i>			
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This list also includes directors, listed above, Anne Abraham, Billy Almond, John David, Jake Denton, Kate Michaels, Don Naden, Ron Pearson, Jim Spruance, Monica Stein, Bonner Styles and Martin Waranch.