



The Croatan Civic League News

January 2020

President's Letter by Mike Kelly

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A slightly belated "Happy New Year" to all.

The first Board of Directors meeting of the New Year was on Monday, January 6th. As a reminder, the Board meets on the first Monday of every month. The location is the Virginia Beach Rescue Squad Conference Room at 740 Virginia Beach Blvd. Meetings start at 6:30 PM and are usually two hours. Everyone is invited to attend. If you cannot make it, the minutes are published on the Croatan website.

The Board finalized the 2020 budget. Annual dues will be \$75 for two and \$50 for a single. You will receive a flyer or two over the next couple of months asking for member registration and payment, as well as asking for donations to support our security fund. Hopefully you will be generous.

Social events will include the Spring Fling on Saturday June 6th. There will be three other opportunities to gather on an informal basis and we will have a late Summer/early Fall event which is still in the planning stages. There will be the children's programs and we will, again, support the Croatan Artisan's show at the Croatan Beach Parking Lot.

Katie Ripberger and Patricia Zuraw will be sending out a letter and survey regarding our directory. Please be looking for it and let them know your preferences.

As always, be safe.

Mike Kelly

President, Croatan Civic League

(M) 703.439.9153 (Primary)

(H) 757.961.6244 (After 7:00 PM)

president@croatanbeach.org

CONTENTS:

<i>From the President</i>	1
<i>Croatan Beach Update</i>	2
<i>Security Report, CAC, VBCCO</i>	3
<i>Book Club</i>	5
<i>Women's Club</i>	5
<i>Neighborhood Contacts</i>	6
<i>Civic League Contacts</i>	7



Croatan
VIRGINIA BEACH

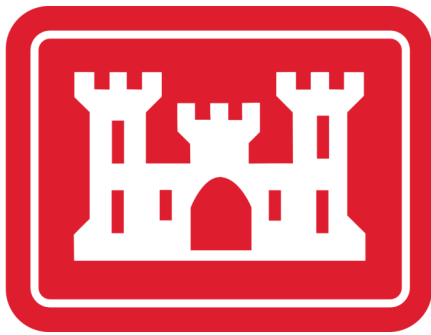
UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2/3 CCL Board Meeting**
- 1/13 Women's Club**
- 1/16 Book Club**
- 2/7 Newsletter Deadline**
- 6/6 Spring Fling**



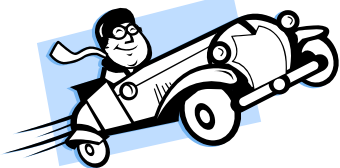
Beach Safety Update by John Mannarino, Director

As a part of our handover turnover, Mike Kelly and I met with Mark Johnson (Director Public Works), Jim White (Coastal Project Manager) and Daniel Adams (Coastal Program Manager). According to the engineers, the solicitation for the dredging and beach restoration will be issued in mid- February with an anticipated award and start date in mid-May. The goal is a one-time nourishment of the beach; extending its width by 50 feet, overtopping the dunes and beach grass planting to include sand fencing and signage at some point.



Approximately 20K cubic yards of sand will come from the sand trap; the City coordinate with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) (which supports the effort) - as a part of Rudee Inlet maintenance. The project, however, is dependent upon FY20 funding, and a full contract in place. Any additional action along the beach will require a 3 to 5 year capital improvement project and a major dredging of the inlet. Mr. Johnson did indicate if the Corps could not fulfill the requirement the City would contract with the Corps to execute the project.

Of note, the city conducted a wave study to fully examine the seasonal sand shift and wave action affecting the beach width. This past year showed improvement overall because of fewer coastal storms than in 2018 which caused significant erosion. The study also looked at sand lying off shore as much as what was actually on the beach - it revealed a significant amount of sand lays unseen, and acts as a wave buffer that contributes to beach stability. The city offshore survey will take soundings to determine relative depth.



Do you want to save \$200.00, save your neighbors, save children, bicyclists, pets and wildlife? **GO SLOW IN CROATAN!!!**

Safety, Security Update, Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC), and Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO)

Happy New Year to all. This year starts with **eight S's** – security, signage, streetlights, safety, scat, speed control, (with license) shred, and scam.



Security: The new year brings a new request to voluntarily fund the security account that pays for a Virginia Beach Police Officer to patrol Croatan during his/her off-duty hours. In 2019, we budgeted for 310 hours (approximately \$12,000). Although relatively crime free, 2019 saw a couple of incidents that are disturbing and we have received requests to cover more hours. Please consider at least \$100 donation to this fund per CCL membership household or rental property. Alternatively, commercial video door bells and exterior monitoring cameras are available 24/7/365, albeit at an increased individual cost.

Signage: Several weeks ago, we ran a survey in Nextdoor regarding the possibility of posting a sign or signs near the Croatan entrance to the effect of "Homes in this neighborhood are under video surveillance." About 80 percent of respondents favored a sign/signs but the devil is in the details and the discussion got messy – what to say, where to place, etc. Research revealed that we cannot legally place a sign on public land (i.e., the entrance median triangle). Practical solutions are welcome.

Streetlights: I have been approached to look at streetlight coverage in the neighborhood. I did some research and found formulas to calculate the spacing per lumen per light, but they're beyond my capability. Even as I was researching those calculations, I was approached by other neighbors who prefer not to have additional lighting (shining into bedroom windows). Whether the street lighting is adequate or not (and I acknowledge some dark stretches), I do not see a win-win solution to seeking a review by the City of our street lighting (assuming they would even do such a study). History tells me that years back, parking issues pitted neighbor against neighbor and the CCL Board does not want to revisit such acrimony. Rather, we all opted to buy where we bought based upon a number of factors, including traffic and lighting.

Therefore, I recommend a fall back to a position of "fix what's broken" by requesting that any inoperable street lights be reported to the City Public Works Department via the "**See-Click-Fix**" or "**VBWorks**" smartphone applications (both are free downloads). These apps can also be used to report overgrown trees/bushes that effectively block street lights and/or traffic signs.

Safety: On a segue from streetlights, my drives around the neighborhood at dusk and after dark reveal many people are walking dogs without reflective or lighted gear on themselves or their pets. Even at 15 – 20 MPH, they're hard to see. If you're out after dark – please wear something reflective (even if just athletic shoes) and remember that just because you can see the car, does not mean the driver can see you. Drivers – remember that we have few sidewalks and people **WILL BE** in the street; please drive slowly and be attentive.

Scat: Reports continue to be received of feces being left by dog owner in yards, on the beach, and on sidewalks. In these short days, if you're walking your dog after dark or before sun-up, please carry a



flashlight (or use your cell phone app) and please clean up after your pooch. On the subject of “know your...(err)...scat,” I did some research on the scat of our indigenous wildlife – raccoons, opossums, deer, rabbits, and fox. Except for deer and rabbits, whose scat is pellet-like, the scat of the others can appear similar to a small dog’s. In the interest of decorum, I am not providing photos, but can provide, if requested. Adhesive **“Scoop the Poop”** signs are available from VB Health and Human Services and at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Speed Control (aka: Traffic Calming): As a “value added” to his security patrols, MPO Noha provided me with a list of Second Precinct Traffic Calming locations for the last quarter of 2019. Croatan Road was represented at least twice each month – so we are getting representation. Just a suggestion, if your car has “speed control,” why not use it to stay within limits?

Shred: Actually, an e-cycling event sponsored by the City at nearby Virginia Aquarium’s east parking lot from 9:00 AM – noon on Saturday, January 25. For your security and protection, remember to wipe/remove hard drives and batteries prior to recycling electronic equipment. Details are at <https://www.vbgov.com/Pages/default.aspx>.

Scam: The following was posted by the City on Nextdoor on Monday, January 6 – “A letter was delivered to residents claiming that a third-party company will need access to their homes for water meter maintenance. The letter asks residents to leave their doors unlocked, deactivate their alarm systems, and crate their pets. Virginia Beach Public Utilities urges residents to exercise caution. Water meters are located on the exterior of properties in Virginia Beach and the City will never request to enter a residence to perform maintenance on a meter. Residents should report suspicious individuals to the Virginia Beach Police at 757-385-5000.”

Citizen’s Action Committee (CAC): At the January 8 meeting, it was announced that Councilman John Moss will be hosting several Town Hall meetings to discuss the FY 21 city budget with residents. All times are 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the following dates/locations:

- January 15 - Princess Anne Recreation Center
- January 22 - Bow Creek Recreation Center Rooms 2 & 3
- February 5 - Kempsville Recreation Center
- February 19 - Seatack Recreation Center
- March 4 -Bayside Recreation Center - Rooms 1 & 2
- March 18 -Great Neck Recreation Center Rooms 1 & 2

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO):

Acting City Manager **Tom Leahy** spoke on his delayed retirement to provide continuity while the City seeks a permanent City Manager.

Mr. Leahy addressed seven areas of the city that account for 87 percent of flooding property damage losses. Shore Drive, Oceanfront, and Windsor Woods are among these locations. Croatan was not listed. In response to my inquiries, Mr. Leahy voiced his (the City's?) opinion that few non-Croatan residents use our beach. He also stated that Croatan needs to lengthen jetty to resolve sand trap issue as if we had such control. Frankly, I did not "feel the love" for Croatan from the Acting City Manager.

I regret that I was unable to attend the January 9 VBCCO meeting due to illness.

M. C. "Connie" Agresti,
CCL VP, Security Chair



The Croatan Book Club

Next Meeting

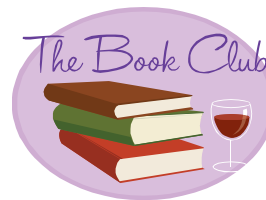
Date: **Thursday, 1/16/2020**

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: Karen Moore

Selection: **Small Great Things** Jodi Picoult

All Neighbors are welcome. Just read the book (or maybe not), bring a beverage or snack, and e-mail the hostess that you will be attending.



Date	Future Selections	Author
2/20/2020	Becoming	Michelle Obama
3/19/2020	Origin	Dan Brown

See the CCL website for 2019 selections: www.croatanbeach.org/book-club/.

Croatan Women's Club

Next Meeting

Date: **Monday, January 13th**

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: Priscilla Ayers

Program: Winter Blues & Soups & Stews

See the CCL website at www.croatanbeach.org/womens-club/



Neighborhood Contacts

Send any corrections, deletions or additions to this page to Marian Kitchin at mdkitchin@gmail.com.

Welcome Wagon

Contact Cheryl Garvey at cgcroatan@gmail.com or phone 471-5436 if you know of new Croatan neighbors .



Magazine Collection

Michele Speight, Teen Crisis Intervention
549 Bushnell Drive
428-7947; msp8@cox.net

Book Collection

Betty Rosignolo
760 Virginia Dare Drive
437-8662; rbrosignolo@cox.net
For Sentara Virginia Beach Hospital Auxiliary

Who to Call

Dead or Stranded Marine Mammal (dolphin, seal, whale) or Sea Turtle
Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Team
757-385-7575



Important Contacts

Police Fire & Rescue Emergencies	911
Non-Emergency Assistance	385-5000
Miss Utility	811
Potholes, Street Signs and Repairs	385-1470
Animal Control (Option #1)	385-4444
City Landfill	385-1980
Bulk Trash Pickup	385-4650
Croatan Temporary Parking Permit	385-4131
Wildlife Response , Inc.	543-7000
VBSPCA Wildlife Referral Line	263-4762
Wildlife Conflict Helpline (toll free)	(855) 571-9003
Beach Wedding Permit	385-4800

Tidewater Wildlife Rescue

Helpline 757-255-8710

A volunteer organization dedicated to assisting orphaned and injured wildlife throughout Tidewater, Virginia.

Tidewaterwildliferescue@gmail.com



SCOOP THE POOP!!!! It's the LAW!!! Please carry a plastic bag with you when you walk your dog. Don't let pet waste become part of our waterways or our neighbor's landscape.

The People Make the Beach
Croatan Civic League

We are on the WEB!
 Check us out at
www.croatanbeach.org
 and Nextdoor.com

Croatan Civic League Officers, Directors and Committee Chair Contacts

Board

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