



# The Croatan Civic League News

June 2020

## President's Letter by Mike Kelly

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In normal times, we would be holding the Spring Fling today. While the Governor has relaxed more of the COVID-19 restrictions, and life continues to move toward "the new normal", no one knows for sure what that will look like. Hopefully, the number of cases will continue to decline, but it is still important to be prudent. Your Board of Directors continues to discuss what our first social event will be. If you have any thoughts, please contact us.

This month, we are re-introducing and updating the Wildlife in Croatan series that Suditi (Marian Kitchin's daughter) did several years ago. With many new residents and, especially more children in the neighborhood, we thought it would be worthwhile to bring it back. Each month the newsletter will include a section and it will also be placed on the Croatan website for permanent and easier reference. I always enjoyed reading this when it was previously published, and I look forward to reading it again. I think that you will too. For those of you with children, please make sure they see these. The chance to live with all of nature around us is one of the things that makes Croatan so great.

Please make sure you read our Vice-President's Safety and Security Report. "Connie" provides important information and good advice.

How soon and what an economic recovery looks like is anyone's guess. We know for sure that people and businesses are struggling. Please be kind and generous to individuals and support our local businesses.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be on Monday, 6 July. It will be a virtual meeting using the Zoom platform. If anyone would like to attend virtually, please contact me.

Stay safe and watch out for each other.

Mike Kelly

President, Croatan Civic League

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**6/18 Book Club**

**7/6 CCL Board Meeting**

**7/10 Newsletter Deadline**



## Beach Restoration by John Mannarino, Director

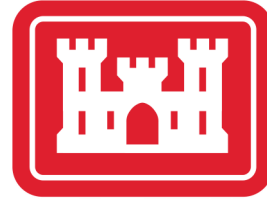
The Rudee Inlet Dredging (Croatan Beach Nourishment) Project is out to bid. The bid due date is Monday, June 8, 2020. Below is the link to the bid solicitation page:

<https://beta.sam.gov/opp/7b0a97e2cfb14f70ab48c2e944a8a9ba/view>

The anticipated schedule, based on the solicitation bid date, is approximated as this is a USACE (US Army Corps of Engineers) project.

The possible nourishment schedule may proceed as follows all things being equal:

1. Bids received on June 8, 2020
2. Contract awarded by mid-July 2020
3. Dredging contractor begins dredging and beach nourishment efforts by early August 2020
4. Completion of dredging and beach nourishment efforts by late September 2020.

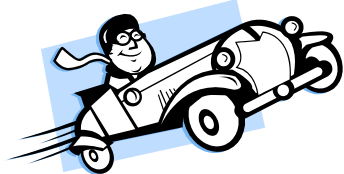


**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

Note: the above timeline is an approximation. The actual schedule will be based on if bids are favorable, how quickly the contract is awarded, and when the contractor will be able to begin.

Funds for the Croatan Beach Restoration were NOT impacted by the revised FY21 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget and remain available.

Public Works Coastal Engineering Section and Public Works Beach Operations are continuing to monitor the condition of Croatan Beach. The current/optimal plan is to nourish the beach berm first under the USACE Rudee Inlet dredging contract. Once the beach berm is nourished, Sand Trap sand will be used to nourish the dune system. The dune system restoration will be conducted by Public Works Beach Operations. Dune grass planting of the entire dune system will occur in winter 2021.



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)



### Security:

On Sunday evening, May 31, what began as a peaceful demonstration on the Oceanfront to raise awareness of concern over the deaths of George Floyd and other people of color at the hands of police or vigilantes, was hijacked by an unruly few and turned destructive. Pent-up rage, job loss, and angst incident to two-months of COVID-19 isolation may have added to the desire to lash out indiscriminately. Fires were set; one man was shot. Many of you may have listened, as I did, to police radio traffic establishing a line of defense at the south end of the Rudee bridge – too close to home.

The Virginia Beach Police Department is professional and competent; but they are understaffed. They were “all in” well past 2:00 AM Monday morning ensuring that peace was restored. Please join me in thanking them for their dedication to keeping us safe.

Please practice these common sense security measures:

- Remove any firearms from vehicles.
- Keep doors, windows, and vehicles locked.
- Keep exterior lights on during periods of darkness.
- If you have video cameras, be sure they are operating properly.
- If you are out and about – maintain situational awareness to avoid mass gatherings and/or protests.

Police non-emergency number is 757-385-5000. In an emergency, call 9-1-1.

### Safety:

The good news is that the beach has been opened, albeit with social distancing practices still in effect. A simple way to enhance social distancing is to move laterally from the beach entrance upon arrival so that subsequent beach goers are not forced to pass close by. The City has posted signs at all entrances that address group size and various activity restrictions. We also have new street signs at each beach access path.

The opening of beaches affords us the opportunity to address common beach hazards and discuss safety procedures.

- Do not enter the water alone unless you are a good swimmer and someone knows when/where you're going in. Swim with a companion - the “Buddy System” is the best system.
- Children should be kept close at hand and in-sight, especially when in or near the water. They can be knocked over easily by surf and disappear from sight in an instant.

- Do not dive into waves – especially if surfing. The sand bars shift on a daily basis. Each year bathers at Croatan Beach suffer serious neck/spinal injuries by forgetting this simple safety rule. Paralysis and deaths have resulted.
- Beware of undertow and rip currents. Croatan is on the Atlantic Ocean. If you are pulled out to sea and find yourself in a rip current – don't panic or try to swim against the current. Swim parallel to the shore until you are out of the current then return to safety.
- For your own safety, respect surfer/swimmer zones and be mindful of fishermen.

Lifeguards are present to protect swimmers. They should not be relied upon to monitor social distancing, dogs, or littering. We have to be self-policing on all of those issues. I do not know how long "Ambassadors" will be with us, but I expect we'll see fewer as the season progresses.

Now that we're in the summer season, dogs must be off the beach by 10:00 AM daily – whether loose or leashed. They're allowed back on the beach after 6:00 PM. Guide dogs enjoy an exemption from the time restrictions, but must be leashed. Please clean up after them – it is the law.

On the subject of time restrictions – bear in mind that all regulated on-street parking is allowed only between 9:30 AM - 7:00 PM. Numerous warnings and some tickets were issued in May.

The parking lot gate attendant told me that the lot will remain open until 8:00 PM during the "season." The City starts charging entry fees at 10:00 AM - \$3 for VB residents; \$7 for out-of-towners.

Rarely a week goes by when a pair of glasses or set of keys isn't lost and found in the sand. Most are reported on "Nextdoor," so having that "app" on your cell phone makes sense.

The Atlantic Hurricane Season began June 1 and we have already experienced two named storms (a third is forming as I write this). Know your evacuation zone (Croatan has all four zones) and prepare emergency kits ahead of need. Visit the City's emergency preparedness site at <https://www.vbgov.com/residents/emergency-preparedness/Pages/default.aspx> for your zone and more detailed information.

#### **Citizen's Action Committee (CAC) and Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO):**

May meetings were postponed. I will place any important information on our Website and/or "Nextdoor" if June meetings are held and/or pertinent information promulgated.

Stay safe; stay healthy.

For the latest City information on **COVID-19**, visit: <https://emergency.vbgov.com/coronavirus>

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



## Wildlife in Croatan by Susanna Miller (Suditi)

### Birdwatching... With Your Ears!

There are moments that change the way you see the world. One of those times for me was when I took over a project for my Masters work in wildlife ecology at the University of Florida. The project required bird identification season by season in large area plots in pine forests. I spent months learning birds by call and song, as well as sight. Breeding birds, wintering birds, migrating birds, juvenile birds, courting birds, fighting birds... it was a jungle out there!

What I left that project with was the lifetime gift of being able to birdwatch without looking! There are so many beautiful, winged personalities out there and many are not that visible. Learning the song and calls of a bird can allow you a bigger picture of the avian world around you. If you are the active sort, you can add the thrill of the chase to identification by tracking the source through the trees or vegetation (don't trespass, though!).

I am going to suggest you check out a few of the commonly heard, but less often seen birds of Croatan... The Audubon Society has an awesome bird identification system that gives several recordings of calls and songs for each species.

You may be surprised to recognize some of your feathered friends' songs once you hear them.

#### [Great Crested Flycatcher](#)

The Great Crested Flycatcher is a raucously, noisy bird that tells me for sure every year that the migrants are here to breed. While not a small bird, it tends to be high in the treetops foraging for flying insects and advertising its territory. This cavity nesting bird is known for placing a shed snakeskin in its nesting material.

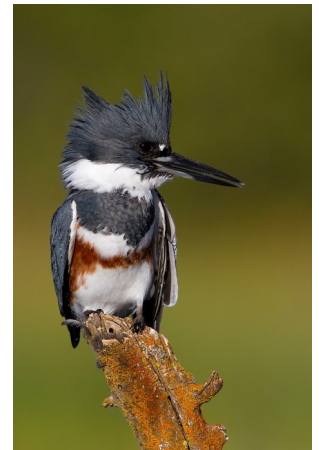


#### [Pine Warbler](#)

The Pine Warbler has a flat trill (song) and bright cheep (call) often heard from the canopy of tall pine trees. It is a small bird with a bright yellow belly and olive back in breeding season and readily seen white wing bars. This warbler will occasionally visit bird feeders.

#### [Belted Kingfisher](#)

The Belted Kingfisher is a handsome crested blue bird that feeds on small fish, snakes and frogs. In this species, the female is the brighter sex with a rusty red band added across her breast. This bird is also unusual for nesting in a burrow rather than a tree. The rattling call is most unique.

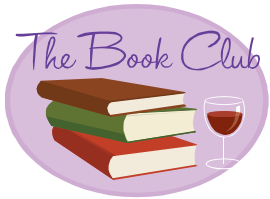


A few more Croatan bird songs worth checking out: Eastern Blue Bird, Gray Catbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Screech Owl.

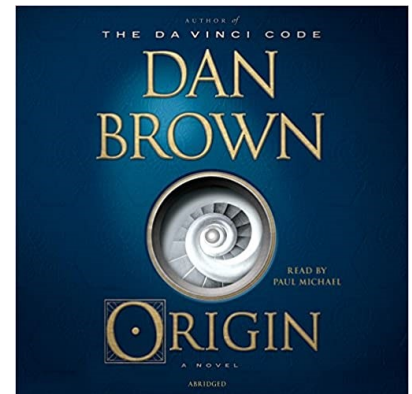
Learning birds by call changed my perception of the natural world around me. I hope you have the chance to explore this side of the neighborhood if you have not before. Don't forget the night creatures as well... owls, frogs, flying squirrels, foxes... they all have most interesting conversations. Happy Birding!

## The Croatan Book Club

### Next Meeting



**Date:** Thursday, June 18  
**Time:** 6:30 P.M.  
**Place:** Karen Moore. 508 Coastal Dr.  
**Discussion Leader:** Susan Martin  
**Selection:** **Origin** by Dan Brown



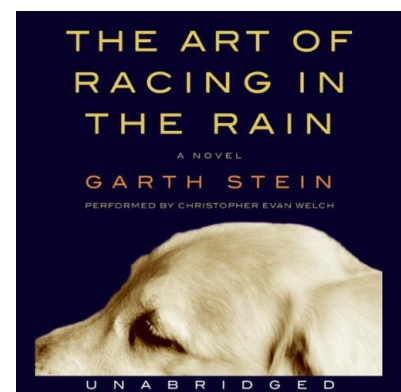
Book club will meet 3rd Thursday in June with some COVID alterations. The meeting will start at 6:30 PM outdoors, with social distancing, and members to bring own snacks/drinks and a folding chair.

Details on future meetings still pending. Stay tuned...

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

Future Selections	Author
<b>Dutch House</b>	Ann Patchett
<b>The Tattooist of Auschwitz</b>	Heather Morris
<b>The Art of Racing in the Rain</b>	Garth Stein

See the CCL website for further information: [www.croatanbeach.org/book-club/](http://www.croatanbeach.org/book-club/).



## Neighborhood Contacts

*Send any corrections, deletions or additions to this page to Marian Kitchin at [mdkitchin@gmail.com](mailto:mdkitchin@gmail.com).*

### Welcome Wagon

Contact Cheryl Garvey at [cgcroatan@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:msp8@cox.net)

### Book Collection

Betty Rosignolo  
760 Virginia Dare Drive  
437-8662; [rbrosignolo@cox.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.croatanbeach.org)  
 and Nextdoor.com

**Croatan Civic League Officers, Directors and Committee Chair Contacts**

**President, Spring Fling, City Government and Military:**

Mike Kelly Phone 961-6244  
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**Director:**

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 Phone 319-6076  
 Email: directorat@croatanbeach.org

**Director, Spring Fling and Directory:**

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**Special Advisor:**

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**Surfing:**

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 Email: surfing@croatanbeach.org

**Women's Club President :**

Martha Davenport  
 Email: wclub@croatanbeach.org

**Book Club Leader:**

Alice Weisz  
 Email: bookclub@croatanbeach.org