



# The Croatan Civic League News

July 2020

## President's Letter by Mike Kelly

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Board had a virtual meeting on Monday, 6 July. We discussed the possibility of having an outdoor CCL social at a place like New Realm. The consensus is that it is too early and we need to wait and see how we do with keeping the COVID-19 virus in-check. There was an article in the Washington Post on July 10<sup>th</sup> about the COVID rise in Virginia Beach. See [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-beach-hampton-roads-coronavirus-covid/2020/07/10/446b57d4-c22f-11ea-9fdd-b7ac6b051dc8\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-beach-hampton-roads-coronavirus-covid/2020/07/10/446b57d4-c22f-11ea-9fdd-b7ac6b051dc8_story.html).

It's never a good thing when you are covered in the out of town newspapers. It states that, "Coronavirus cases in the city for those age 29 and younger are up almost 250 percent since the last week of May." This is problematic and the numbers are likely to increase as the Summer goes on. I just don't understand people who say that they don't care or it's not going to happen to them. It happens to somebody. Since many people are not watching out for others, you must protect yourself. Remember the basics. Wash your hands. Practice social distancing. And, wear a mask.

Please make sure you read our Vice-President's **Safety and Security Report**. "Connie" has provided a lot of great information about the issues in the area.

John Mannarino has provided an update on the beach restoration status. The process continues with steps forward and backward. It's frustrating for everyone involved.

Suditi's, **Wildlife in Croatan** series, continues. If there are particular animals you would like her to cover, let me know and I will pass it on. I walk around the neighborhood quite a bit. I see rabbits more frequently, but I haven't seen any foxes in the last several weeks. If anyone has had a fox sighting, please let me know.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 8/3 CCL Board Meeting
- 8/7 Newsletter Deadline
- 8/20 Book Club



Stay safe and watch out for each other.

Mike Kelly

President, Croatan Civic League

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## **Beach Restoration by John Mannarino, Director**

The Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) opened bids on this **cost-shared** contract offering Thursday, June 18, 2020. Only one bid was offered at \$9.75M that exceeded the government estimate of \$3.55M. Prospective bidders interviewed cited high industry workload as the principal reason for the lack of bids and thus the high offer. The relatively small, yet difficult and exposed size and setting of the Rudee Inlet project also presented a challenge to competitive bidding.



Industry workload is expected to remain high for at least the next year, perhaps longer, due to a substantial influx of federal funding that took place in 2018 and 2019. Shoaling at the inlet, however, continues. In response, USACE plans to bring Corps-owned dredging equipment to the inlet. The Merritt arrived at the inlet 6 July and will dedicate seven days of dredging to address shoaling. The Currituck is being planned for follow on work August 2020.

The USACE is working to re-scope the dredging/sand placement contract for Rudee Inlet in order to allow for longer performance period. This will allow dredging contractors more flexibility to fit the work into their schedules. The contract rebidding is planned for later in the year. In the meantime, City staff will continue to monitor the beach.

The VMRC #12-0967 permit modification of 24 October 2012 allows the City to use 20K cy/yr of sand trap sand to replenish the dune system on an as needed basis. It is a separate effort from the beach nourishment project. However, **the only funding mechanism currently available for both beach nourishment and dune replenishment is from the Croatan Beach Nourishment budget.**

Dune replenishment **has not** been combined with beach nourishment. The plan remains to nourish the beach berm (from the Rudee Inlet Dredging project) first and follow the beach nourishment with the dune restoration work. This way, the constructed beach berm and dune system will allow the beach profile to naturally advance and recede in a manner that is less conducive to severe sloping of the beach.

**To reiterate, the entire available fund balance of \$1.5M for Croatan Beach Restoration must be retained to support the Croatan berm widening component of the Rudee Inlet Dredging Project when it goes back out to bid.** If we use funds now for say a more modest truck haul from the sand trap to shore up the dunes, we will be in jeopardy of not having sufficient funds to award the contract for the larger sand placement event.

Submitted Respectfully

John Mannarino

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

### Safety/Security:

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Coronavirus is still around; don't let the commencement of Phase 3 seduce you into dropping your guard
- Be careful making left turns into and out of Croatan
- Parking enforcement on Surfside and Vanderbilt is time controlled and monitored (9:30 AM – 7:00 PM)
- Campaign season is here – respect your neighbor's right to their position
- Demonstrations and speed control
- Scooters
- Fire Safety

Summer is here and July 1 welcomed Phase 3 of re-opening since the onset of COVID-19. Enjoy the resurgence of freedom, but please continue to exercise restraint and smarts. Many states are seeing a spike in new COVID cases. The danger of infection continues to exist especially as visitors from high infection areas visit Virginia Beach, crowd sizes increase, and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g., masks) wanes. Also, if you do wear PPE, please dispose of it properly. I actually picked up a discarded mask (using a doggie bag) from the beach last week. (I know, right?!)

An accident at Croatan Road and General Booth Boulevard in June serves as a reminder to be vigilant in making left turns into or out of Croatan. Visibility can be hampered by vegetation, temporary signage, work zones, or weather. Traffic is heavier during the summer and many people are unsure of where they're going (read: do not rely on a turn signal to determine a vehicle's intended path of travel). Left turn accidents often result in "T-bone" (i.e., perpendicular) impacts, which carry the greatest risk for injury or death. Don't be a statistic – check both directions repeatedly...and...be...patient. A gap will come.

Although our surface parking lot is no longer restricted to 50 percent capacity, parking continues to be a challenge in Croatan. Our off-duty security, MPO Don Noha, issued many warnings but also gave out a goodly number of tickets last month for parking on Surfside or Vanderbilt prior to 9:30 AM or after 7:00 PM.

In response to parking concerns, I have learned is that the contractor who manages the majority of the city's parking, does not monitor Croatan. Croatan falls under the auspices of the Traffic Management Division of the Department of Public Works, which has not yet responded to my inquiries of whether or not they patrol the parking for violations. Alas, this leaves us (at least for the time being) with the overworked police force that has their hands full keeping peace on the waterfront, investigating felonies, reuniting lost children, providing calls for assistance, attending to car crashes, etc. before they can respond to parking violations.



The primaries have been held, the nominees of both major parties are known, and campaign signs are popping up throughout the area. Please respect the rights of your neighbors to post signs in their yards, as well as campaigners to post signs on highway rights of way. Many in our neighborhood are veterans and have served in countries where people can only dream of having the right to vote. Cherish the liberty and freedom that we have and respect the same in others by not vandalizing signs. (Ref: the previous note on left turns – if a campaign sign is blocking driver visibility, we can ask for it to be relocated or removed – start with the local campaign headquarters, but if they are not responsive, use **3-1-1**, **See-Click-Fix**, or **VBWorks**).

### **Citizen's Action Committee (CAC):**

On July 8, the CAC met for the first time since March. The VBPD Second Precinct, which serves the Oceanfront, including Croatan, has been under siege – literally and figuratively - since the May 31 demonstrations turned violent and almost a dozen shootings (seven at the Oceanfront) have become a sad, but all too common occurrence. Fifteen businesses suffered damage during the May 31 riot and Walgreens has close their store at 24<sup>th</sup> and Atlantic permanently.

Arrests of some of the suspected violent perpetrators (facing 59 charges total) have been made and most hail from outside of Virginia Beach. Nevertheless, the Second Precinct officers are working overtime even after being augmented by officers from other areas of the Department. Chesapeake, Norfolk, and State Police assisted VBPD on July 4 with traffic control and less public-facing duties.

The Human Resources Council (HRC) walked alongside police for the July 4 demonstration and one of the HRC was aghast at the unprovoked abuse levied at the police during this “peaceful” march. The HRC member commended the restraint of the police and said that he himself felt his blood boil.

Police are focusing traffic control efforts in several areas, including excessive speed during ingress and egress to/from I-264, including on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> streets. Speeds of 120 MPH have been recorded, so beware – especially when moving around that “slow poke” ahead of you, to ensure you’re not crossing into the path of a “super-speeder.”

Anticipate up to 750 electric scooters to appear on the Oceanfront and environs soon. Three companies are finalizing a contract with the City to provide 250 scooters each.

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

### **Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO)**

VBCCO meetings continue to be postponed – at least through August. The organization’s monthly newsletter – *The Voice* - provides the following info:



The new City Manager, **Patrick Duhaney** will assume his new role on July 20.

### Summer Fire Safety Tips:

#### For charcoal grills:

- **NEVER** add lighter fluid to a grill that has already been lit
- Keep lighter fluid at least 6' from the grill
- Keep flammables out of children's' reach
- **NEVER** dispose of charcoal briquettes while they are still warm
- Drown briquettes in a non-combustible bucket filled with water and let them sit overnight

#### For propane grills:

- Conduct routine leak check on bottle and hoses prior to use
- If a leak is detected, do **NOT** use grill until repaired
- Ensure that tubing and gas jets are clear prior to first use
- Keep grill at least 10' from building
- Store propane cylinders properly

#### For Both:

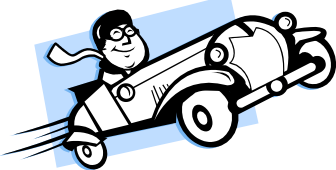
- Maintain a 3' "kids-free" zone around grill at all times
- **NEVER** use grills inside homes, vehicles, campers, garages, tents, etc.
- Follow manufacturer's directions in proper grill operations (or check out YouTube for "how to" instructions)

Take care when refilling gasoline-power lawn mowers and other outdoor equipment. Do **NOT** fill while hot.

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

Be safe, be happy.

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



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



## Wildlife in Croatan by Susanna Miller

### Wildlife Management Techniques as Pest Control

Pest control can have many meanings to many people. Often it results in calling a professional or using chemicals that are sometimes indiscriminant. This month I am going to suggest a few natural options for managing species: some that are considered pests and some that help pest control. It may not be a complete fix, or even practical for your situation, but, hopefully, it will give some food for thought (or encouragement if you are already putting them into practice). You may be able to add ideas for your yard...

Dead limbs and hollows in trees are invaluable for cavity-nesting animals, as well as for birds that forage for insects. If squirrels (including the cute flying squirrels that live in Croatan), raccoons, woodpeckers, etcetera, have foraging and nesting sites, they are less likely to use your home. This tree cavity in our yard is used every year by raccoons. Please do be careful of dead limbs as they can be a danger when they drop.



Providing nesting boxes and landscaping for birds can provide nonstop insect control. Birds like this Eastern Bluebird (using a box in our backyard) eat insects nonstop, but even seed eaters will collect insects for hungry fledglings. Shrubbery and small trees provide cover for traditional nest builders. Just do a little background check on proper dimensions and placement: certain species are quite particular and you want to prevent predation while increasing fledgling success.



Rats, both native and invasive species, can be quite the damaging creatures when they move in your home.



Luckily, we have a fox and owl population to help with that (I have actually seen a young fox tossing a dead rat like a toy early one morning) and we have rat snakes as well to help. This Black Rat Snake is patrolling a shed on Fort Raleigh Drive, so it is unlikely this homeowner will have any rat problems. Make sure you know this (and other) harmless species and let them go about their business.

Ants are a difficult one to control naturally... they spray formic acid that repels predators... unless you are a skink! Skinks, like this Southeastern Five-lined Skink, feed on ants, so encourage these colorful guys... just keep your pets away as eating a skink makes for a tummy ache and vomiting!



Mosquitoes are one of the worst pests in anyone's book. If you have the open area for purple martin or bat houses, great! (They eat a lot of bugs, but do keep in mind they produce guano.) Dragonflies also eat lots of the pesky critters along with other insects. The most effective part of controlling mosquitoes is preventing their hatching. If you have any kind of standing water that sticks around, consider netting a few mosquito fish from

the lake for the area. Mosquito fish are not native, but were introduced for mosquito control. Their overall success is controversial as it may have displaced many native species, but they are here to stay. The larger females produce live young, so will repopulate if an area stays water-filled. These small fish breathe air from the surface, so do fine in unfiltered or standing water.



Spiders are both fascinating and useful. There are a myriad of shapes, sizes, colors and webs. Many have amazing behaviors well worth exploring (like carrying babies on their backs for Wolf Spiders and changing color for Goldenrod Crab Spiders). Most especially, they are huge insect control experts. If you can tolerate the tangled corner webs, ground funnel webs and stretching orbs through the warm months, you will have 24/7 insect “annihilation”.

Wildlife management as pest control is really pretty simple (and a nice way to work with problem species, when possible). Add, control or maintain features (food/water/shelter/nesting) to attract, control or maintain wildlife. The complexities arise from unexpected or unwanted visitors and the concern or damage they can cause. Furthermore, neighbors and safety have to be considered. Everyone has their opinion and that's fine! This article just lists some possibilities and food for thought in a neighborhood that has many wonderful natural features and creatures.

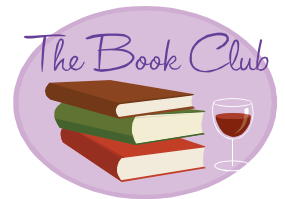


*All photos by Suditi, except skink and mosquito fish, sourced from internet images; and black rat snake by Sergey Si-harov.*

## The Croatan Book Club

### Next Meeting

Date: **Thursday, July 16** Time: 6:30 P.M.  
 Place: Karen Moore (outside) Leader: Alice Weisz  
 Selection: **Dutch House** by Ann Patchett



All Neighbors are welcome. Just read the book (or maybe not), bring your own drink, snack and chair. Masks optional, but social distancing enforced. E-mail the hostess that you will be attending.

### Future Selections

### Author

**The Tattooist of Auschwitz**  
**The Art of Racing in the Rain**

Heather Morris  
 Garth Stein

Information is also on the CCL website: [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**

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