



The Croatan Civic League News

September 2020

President's Letter by Mike Kelly

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The hottest topic for the last several days has been Short-Term Rentals (STR). In July, there was a single bullet from a city presentation that spoke to an Overlay District in Croatan that would cover all properties on S. Atlantic and Vanderbilt Avenues. There would be no STRs outside of that area except those that are already in-place. Within the overlay area, any property could be an STR without going through the Conditional Use Process (CUP). Additionally, at the last City Council meeting, the Council lawyer stated that the council could approve this without agreement from the Croatan property owners. As you would expect, many residents reacted strongly to this information.

Our Vice-President, "Connie" Agresti is working this hard. He has communicated with city council members and the planning commission. The responses that he has received are reassuring and there appears to be no immediate effort to create a Croatan Overlay District. That said, the Board is aggressively monitoring. We will keep you informed.

Covid-19 has had a significant impact on all of us, especially our opportunities to socialize. The Social Committee has done a great job over the Summer putting together smaller events, especially with the weekly food trucks. Since the Governor just changed the rules, we can have a social event for the members of the Civic League. The committee is looking at an outdoor event in October. Please be on the lookout for more details. Also, if you have some ideas that you think would work, please pass them on to Amanda Robinson.

In addition to the national elections this Fall, we also have elections for the Board of Directors. Seven Board seats are on the docket. If you have an interest in joining the Board,

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 10/5 CCL Board Meeting**
- 10/9 Newsletter Deadline**
- 10/12 Women's Club**
- 10/15 Book Club**



please contact me. If we have an October get together, we will hold the election at that event, and it will meet the requirement for our annual meeting. If things change regarding social activities, we will look at a virtual election.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be virtual on Monday, 5 October at 6:30 PM. If you have an item you want placed on the agenda, please send it to me and plan on attending. It's possible that we will meet in-person, but, if not, I will provide the Zoom invite and connection to those who ask.

Remember the basics. Wash your hands. Practice social distancing. And, wear a mask.

Stay safe and watch out for each other.

Mike Kelly

President, Croatan Civic League

(M) 703.439.9153 (Primary) (H) 757.961.6244 (After 7:00PM)

president@croatanbeach.org



Beach Restoration by John Mannarino, Director

The following is the US Army Corps of Engineer's (USACE's) update for the schedule for Rudee Inlet dredging and subsequent nourishment of Croatan Beach, "Award is anticipated for January 2021 and Notice to Proceed (NTP) for February 2021 (contract performance period between April and July 2021)." This statement indicates that the project will be bid in the November/December 2020 timeframe.

City of Virginia Beach Waste Management Division

Plastic bags are a huge problem for equipment at the local recycling facility. Remember, plastic bags are not accepted in the blue cart and recyclables should be placed directly in the cart. not bagged. If you're looking to recycle plastic bags you can recycle them at many retail/grocery stores.

Plastic bags are not only an issue for our environment but also a big problem for our equipment. Plastic bags are not accepted in curbside recycling. **Plastic bags can tangle within equipment not designed to process this type of thin plastic - damaging and breaking the equipment.** We need you to sort your recyclables.

RECYCLE RIGHT

NO PLASTIC BAGS



If you would like to recycle your bags please return them to a participating store. Thank you for recycling right! [#RecycleRight](https://www.facebook.com/RecycleRight/)

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

Safety/Security:

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Note of Appreciation
- National Night-Out – October 6
- Dogs on Beach – we're free!
- Vehicle Thefts – "Beep It to Keep It"
- Report Zoning Violations



MPO Don Noha sent the following to CCL President Mike Kelly and myself. *"I wanted to take a minute and express to you, and all of the residents in Croatan who have voiced their support of police, a sincere and heartfelt "thank you." In this time of strong anti-police sentiment being portrayed by the media and misguided efforts to defund the police, I have found that residents of Croatan remain supporters of law and order. I have worked part time as security in Croatan since 1998 and have grown to know many of the families that reside in the neighborhood. Several have gone out of their way to express their appreciation for the police presence in Croatan. The officers of the Virginia Beach Police Department have been fortunate to enjoy the support of its citizens, [partially due to the presence of the military in our area], without some of the challenges other areas of the country are experiencing. With challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the continued protests that began in May 2020, VBPD officers have been subjected to long hours and cancelled days off in a contentious environment.*

"Since the beginning of my part time employment in Croatan, I have been adamant that I want the residents to feel like they are receiving value for their donated dollar. I strive to be fair, firm and consistent with enforcement throughout the neighborhood. I quite frequently go above and beyond "routine" to address issues in the neighborhood. Although the police cannot be everywhere all the time, I am of the opinion that the police presence in Croatan makes a difference. Croatan has been fortunate to successfully establish itself as a secure neighborhood with a low crime rate due to the diligence of its residents in cooperating with the police. I look forward to that cooperative effort continuing. Thank you. – Don"

National Night Out: The nation's 37th National Night Out will be held on **October 6, 2020**. This event is intended to unite neighbors with police to make communities safer. National Night Out is held annually to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;



- Generate support and participation in local anti-crime efforts;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know local communities are organized and are fighting back.

Croatan has not had an organized National Night Out event for some years, but if people would like to conduct a flashlight walk around the block or through the neighborhood at 8:00 PM, they are encouraged to do so. The CCL will let the VBPD know that we are conducting this event.

Dogs on Beach: With the passage of Labor Day, we are again free to bring our four-legged friends to the beach all hours of the day. If dogs are loose, they must be under verbal control of the handler – who is also responsible for picking up after the pooch.

Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC):

CAC meetings are again suspended due to re-imposed coronavirus mandates restricting gatherings. The following are provided for your information.



Vehicle Thefts: Late July and August saw an alarming number of thefts from motor vehicles. In most cases, the thefts were opportunistic and minor, but the sense of violation was no less profound; especially on those where the perpetrator(s) entered garages. Although a suspect has reportedly been apprehended, it does not signify carte blanche to let down our guard. VBPD has a "Beep It to Keep It" program reminding people to lock their cars in the evening. Please remove any valuables from sight and please remove any firearms. Lastly, if you see a neighbor's garage door open after dark, please knock on their door and remind them.

Report, report, report: Routine VBPD patrols are allocated to Croatan in proportion to the threat and MPO Noha cannot be omnipresent. As with any organization trying to effectively allocate finite resources, the areas of greatest threat garner the lion's share of attention. Being relatively safe, Croatan does not attract much of that attention. But, if thefts occur, or if egregious violations of zoning regulations (loud parties, fights, drugs, etc.) occur in rental houses, by all means report it. While zoning violations should be called in to **3-1-1**, they have not proven effective, especially on weekends. Police non-emergency number is 757-385-5000. In an emergency, call 9-1-1. Also, please inform Mike Kelly or me of such occurrences. We'll catalog the events.

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO)

VBCCO meetings continue to be postponed – at least through August. The organization's monthly newsletter – *The Voice* can be found at <http://www.vbcco.org>.

COVID is still with us. Be careful, be safe, be happy.

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

Wildlife in Croatan by Susanna Miller

It's NOT Just For The Birds...

It's so easy to advocate for what you love and are passionate about... but how did that passion develop in the first place? So many events shape our viewpoints and paths in life. This month, I am revisiting a memory from a childhood book that fostered a thirst to know more... "Gurney's Guide to Feathered Friends". I barely remember the book, but for its humorous approach to presenting information and a section on names for groups of birds... such as: A Cast of Hawks, a Covey of Quail...

In this issue, several Croatan community creatures, other than just birds, will be included... I've tried to be true to at least one photo with more than one animal, but occasionally I "cheat" with multiple photos or photos of similar species taken outside Croatan... There will be much larger photos on the web site version.

A Creep of Tortoises

I did find and photograph the two box turtles on pine straw at the same time, so an official "Creep" despite



separate photos... The third shot is the top view of the left tortoise. The third crept into the photo spread...

A Scurry of Squirrels



These three squirrels made a little pile of cuteness... Yep, there are three... Squirrels are the class clowns, which can make their digging and chewing slightly less intolerable.



A Bale of Turtles

There are 10 turtles on this log! Can you find them all?

Wildlife in Croatan by Susanna Miller

Siege of Herons



Well, I couldn't manage a group of herons, but how about a bale of three turtles (can you find them?) with one, the Great Egret, and separate photos of the rest of the Siege (Great Blue, Little Green and Black-Crowned Night Herons)?



A Squadron of Pelicans

Self-explanatory. They are also called a Pod, like with whales, but that would be more appropriate to a "flotilla" of pelicans, I think...



A Squabble of Seagu



A Murder of Crows



This was the group that triggered the memory... 7 on the ground and 4 more in the trees. But crows are wily and do not like things pointed at them... even if it is a camera. So just a few members of the Murder here...

Wildlife in Croatan by Susanna Miller

A Gaze of Raccoons

This was a ridiculous number of babies following a Momma this summer on the left... Gazing (Adult Version), and Gazing (Juvenile Version) on the top right, Swimming Lesson bottom right.

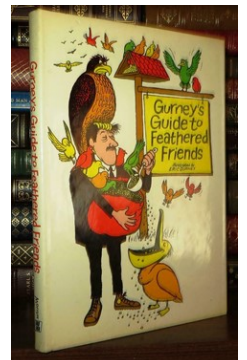


A Descent of Woodpeckers

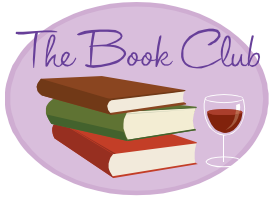


My only pair photos were blurry, so here are three singles: left, Pileated Woodpecker; right top, Downy Woodpecker; right below Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

I really enjoyed this trip down memory lane... I hope you also enjoy the few pictures of the neighbors we share in Croatan. Much thanks to "Gurney's Guide to Feathered Friends" for inspiration old and new.



The Croatan Book Club



Next Meeting

Date: **Thursday,**

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Place: Karen Moore

Selection: **The Art of Racing in the Rain** by Garth Stein

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.

Future Selections

A Gentleman in Moscow

American Dirt

Only Time Will Tell

Author

Amor Towles

Jeanine Cummins

Jeffrey Archer

Information is also on the CCL website: www.croatanbeach.org/book-club/.



Croatan Women's Club

The Women's Club of Croatan invite you to this (social distancing) special Beach Cleanup event on the evening of September 21st between the hours 6:30-7:30 PM. We are always open to new neighbors and members. Please consider joining us for this event. Stay safe.... See y'all at the beach !!

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

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