



# The Croatan Civic League News

2020

## President's Letter by Mike Kelly

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The weather remains terrific. On November 7<sup>th</sup>, I am still picking a few tomatoes and a lot of peppers from my garden. I am not sure how long it will last but I urge everyone to get out and walk around.

Our virtual election for the Board of Directors was completed in one week. Thanks to Bob Lougen and his website acumen, the process ran quite smoothly. Our two new Board members are Gina Amick and Nancy Purkey. If you see them, please let them know that their volunteer service is appreciated. Milt Martin stepped down. Dedicated and offering great counsel, we will miss him.

Please make sure that you read "Connie" Agresti's safety and security notes. As always, he has a lot of information on the concerns of the city and the neighborhood.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be virtual on Monday, 7 November at 6:30 PM. If you have an item you want placed on the agenda, please send it to me and plan on attending. I will provide the Zoom invite and connection to those who ask.

Stay safe and watch out for each other.

Mike Kelly

President, Croatan Civic League

(M) 703.439.9153 (Primary)

(H) 757.961.6244 (After 6:00 PM)

[president@croatanbeach.org](mailto:president@croatanbeach.org)

### CONTENTS:

<i>From the President</i>	1
<i>Croatan Restoration</i>	2
<i>Book Club</i>	2
<i>Women's Club</i>	2
<i>Security Report, CAC, VBCCO</i>	3
<i>There's Power in Leaves</i>	6
<i>Neighborhood Contacts</i>	7
<i>Civic League Contacts</i>	8



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 12/7 CCL Board Meeting**
- 12/11 Newsletter Deadline**
- 12/17 Book Club**



## Beach Restoration by John Mannarino, Director

The Rudee Inlet project has not been advertised yet.

The City of Virginia Beach Project Manager, who is coordinating with the US Army Corps of Engineers) USACE, provided email correspondence informing him that the contract documents are routing for final approval to be advertised.

The current schedule of, "award is anticipated for January 2021 and Notice to Proceed (NTP) for February 2021 (contract performance period between April and July 2021)" still holds with an anticipated advertisement period of November/December.

## Croatan Women's Club

From President Amanda Robinson....

We decided not to have in person meetings until things with COVID are safer. In the interim we are taking people's email addresses (send to [wclub@croatanbeach.org](mailto:wclub@croatanbeach.org)), if you are interested in being part of our email list (which now includes a cocktail of the month recipe), but we are not collecting dues. We will host beach clean ups, and see what the spring brings. For more information please see our page on the CCL website.

## The Croatan Book Club

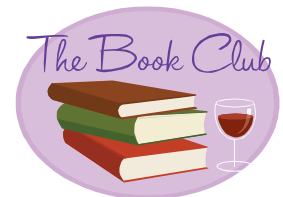
### Next Meeting

Date: **Thursday**, Nov. 19th

Time: 5:00 P.M.

Place: Jane Kelly's Driveway 604 Fort Raleigh

Selection: **Only Time Will Tell** by Jeffrey Archer



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 (In Order)

### Author

**A Gentleman in Moscow**

Amor Towles

**American Dirt**

Jeanine Cummins

**This Tender Land**

William Kent Krueger

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

### Safety/Security:

#### Bottom Line Up Front:

- It's Getting Dark Out There
- Driving in the Fog
- Slick as Ice and Ice Itself
- Bottle Rockets and Other Fireworks
- Thieves Targeting Upscale Neighborhoods
- Dogs on Beach
- Access to "The Point"
- Croatan Parking Lot – New Hours
- Free 2-Hour Parking on Atlantic Avenue
- Speeding on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets



### **Eastern Standard Time:** went into effect on November 1. This means:

- School children are walking to/ from bus stops in the dusk and dark. Please drive carefully and use headlights during morning and evening twilight – doing so helps pedestrians and other drivers see you.
- Please carry a flashlight when walking your pet in the dark. Not only will that help drivers see you, but it will assist in locating that little "gift" that you're out there walking the pooch for in the first place. Please don't leave dog waste on someone else's property, the beach, or roads/sidewalks.
- Read-up on the light settings in your vehicle's owner's manual. Be sure that you are not driving with high-beams on even during the day (look for the little blue icon on your dashboard). Cars, and especially higher-riding pick-ups and SUVs, with LED headlamps can blind oncoming drivers and lead to vehicle and pedestrian accidents.



**Driving in the Fog:** As the seasons change, water/air temperature differentials can lead to rapid and dense fog formation. If it feels like you're driving in a cloud, it is because you are. When in fog, use only your low beam headlights. High beams tend to reflect back at you and actually reduce your vision. Good drivers

activate low beams in daytime fog because many automatic daytime running lights do not illuminate the tail lights. Sunglasses with amber lenses may help some see better in daytime fog situations.

**Slick Roads:** Rain and fallen leaves combine to make roads as slick as ice. Please be conscious of leaves built-up in intersections and on curves; especially if you're on two wheels. As temperatures drop during the month, be wary of shaded roadways. "Black ice" can form in these areas even though the air temperatures have risen above freezing.

**Bottle Rockets and Other Fireworks:** Two Ft. Raleigh Drive neighbors have recently reported that their homes had been struck by bottle rockets. Not only is it illegal to launch missiles of any kind in the City of Virginia Beach, but pyrotechnics can wreak havoc with dry leaves, pine straw, or other tinder in a closely packed community. They also scare pets. Just say "no."



**Thieves Targeting Upscale Neighborhoods:** ...throughout Virginia Beach, betting on money and valuables being left in parked vehicles. Firearm thefts from vehicles (some unlocked) are up 80% across town. It is not illegal to simply walk down a street, whether we suspect someone is "casing" the area or not. However, seeing someone trying vehicle doors or entering yards uninvited is sufficient cause to call police. We're also entering gift season with many deliveries left on doorsteps. Keep a lookout for "porch pirates."



**Dogs on Beach:** Some neighbors have asked that I remind dog owners/walkers that while dogs are permitted to run loose on the beach during the "off season," they **must be under the verbal control of their handler**. Aggressive play is common among animals, but some may interpret these as attacks – especially if there is a large size disparity among animals. Without handler involvement, such incidents can escalate if one dog doesn't want to "play."



**"The Point":** CCL is actively working to resolve continued confrontations between City of Virginia Beach employees and pedestrians transiting the north end Croatan Beach, aka: The Point. CCL President Mike Kelly and I are both working with City officials to ascertain the definitive guidance and signage, and to ensure that the policy is communicated to interested parties on both sides of the issue. Updates will be posted on Facebook, Nextdoor, and/or Constant Contact.

**Croatan Parking Lot:** The Croatan parking lot located at the south end of Vanderbilt Avenue is now being locked at **5:30 PM** (City web site reads 5:00, so take it as fair warning). Please watch the clock (I know, antithetical when at the beach) so that you do not get locked in. If you are locked in, you can **call 757-385-3111, or simply 3-1-1**. There is no fee to park during the "off season," and for now anyway, there is no fee to be "let out of jail."



**Free 2-Hour Parking on Atlantic Avenue:** The City has announced off-season changes to parking on Atlantic Avenue in the resort district. **Between 6<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Streets** (except for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>) you can park for two hours free of charge in any marked parking space from 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM (through January 3, 2021) and from 11:00 AM until 11:00 PM from January 4 through April 1, 2021. **Between 17<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> Streets** (except for 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>) you have two-hour free parking from now until April 1, 2021.

**Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC):** A virtual CAC meeting was conducted on October 14. Most discussions were about voting, expanded opening of Recreation Centers, and other October events and observations.

**Speeding on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets:** If leaving the eastbound I-264 (aka: VB Expressway), be mindful that the speed limit steps down to 45, 35, and finally 25 MPH as you approach the beach. If headed west (away from the beach), be mindful of "Turn Only" lanes. The speed limit does not get above 35 MPH until you pass Parks Ave. Through August 31, VBPD issued 735 speeding tickets on these two roads this year. You've been warned.

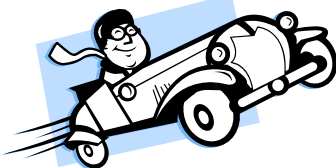
**Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO):** VBCCO meetings (postponed since April) expect to start anew (in-person) on November 12 at 7:00 PM, in the Ocean Lakes Community Association Clubhouse, 881 Old Dam Neck Rd, 23454.

The organization's monthly newsletter – *The Voice* can be found at <http://www.vbcco.org>.



We're all sick and tired of masks and COVID restrictions, but we need to maintain vigilance lest we become sick and tired with COVID itself. Stay safe.

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



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

## There's Power in Leaves by Liza Field 9 Nov 2014 Virginian-Pilot

To fix the planet, it's often said that humans need to turn over a new leaf. But old leaves also work. And they can turn themselves, if we let them, into life. They're partially responsible for good topsoil, native microbes, beneficial insects and songbirds, healthy plants, water conservation, insulation during weather extremes - even human happiness. If you don't believe me, just put down the leaf blower a minute and hear the quieter news equipment ads won't tell you.



We're talking humus, the life-giving compost. By nature's design, this humus would be in renewal mode now, in late autumn. All around us, myriad unseen microbes would be turning this year's leaf litter and pine straw into the humble, lowly magic carpets that later take wing, transformed into sweet cherry blossoms, wood thrush music and floating summer fireflies.



Even as these humble magic carpets are swept up across the developed world, researchers keep uncovering more of their astonishing benefits. Euphoria, for example. A simple rug of humus underfoot can make a person smarter, happier, healthier and just plain glad to be alive. Walk through an Eastern hardwood forest - or your local patch of unraked leaves - and inhale. The musty, great old-library air exuded by leaf decay comes partly from the compost-dwelling bacteria, *M. vaccae*. These tiny microbes are one big reason that hours spent in a woodland or compost-rich garden profoundly elevates human mood, especially compared to time spent in lawn, asphalted

or indoor settings. Humus-rich landscapes are linked to profoundly raised serotonin levels in laboratory mice and humans, along with decreased depression, blood pressure, anxiety and stress hormones. You get a dose of this mind-sharpening mood-lifter when raking leaves. But if you then banish those leaves to a landfill, burn-pile or municipal compost, you and your neighbors (and pets and wildlife) lose a powerful antidepressant - the kind with no side effects. In fact, organic humus triggers so many happy side effects it's a marvel we ever thought to waste it.

Native humus provides a vigorous microbial community for trees and plants. It serves as a vast digestive tract and immune system that turns death into life, pathogens into nutrients. Native humus is teeming with pathogen-fighting microbes, inoculating and nourishing the surrounding plants. Eradicating it mechanically or steeping the land in chemical biocides is like wiping out human gut flora with antibiotics. Humus also feeds the grubs, insects and larvae that nourish migratory songbirds, whose plummeting populations need this kind of habitat. These birds protect trees and their ecosystems from parasite imbalance. It's one reason that conservationists urge homeowners to leave some portions of the yard as humus, where worm-and-insect-eating birds can "scratch" for food.



Aside from feeding plants and wildlife, humus also hydrates the place, filtering, absorbing and housing rain and snowmelt. It then creates a permeable, insulating lid to slow groundwater evaporation during dry spells. A recent three-year study of potato crops in Maine showed compost-amended, non-irrigated plants yielding harvests equal to those of irrigated crops. This means that humus, left on the land, could significantly conserve time, money and food costs - along with our increasingly scarce water supplies. And it would keep those precious waters cleaner. After all, drugging depleted soils with inorganic fertilizers and biocides, as the ads teach us to do, can't begin to regenerate the soil nutrients and loft that humus creates. Then, because compacted, impoverished, uninsulated soil dehydrates easily, we have to douse lawns with gushers of chlorinated water - itself harmful to native soil microbes and quick to evaporate. Factor in the compost-shriven land's inability to absorb rains that do fall, and fertilized storm water ends up in street-gutters, creeks and rivers, causing the kind of toxic algae blooms downstream that affect the Chesapeake Bay every summer.

A return to humus landscaping - in fields, parks, campuses and your yard - could powerfully help redeem things on every level. If that prospect doesn't lift your spirits, go stand in those autumn leaves and breathe. Relief, health and big reasons for hope are waiting right under your feet.

*Liza Field teaches in Virginia, where she also hikes old mountains and doesn't rake leaves. Distributed by Bay Journal News Service. Photos by Suditi, taken in Croatan, Provided generously by Nature.*



## 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.**

We are on the WEB!  
Check us out at  
[www.croatanbeach.org](http://www.croatanbeach.org)  
and Nextdoor.com

## **The People Make the Beach**

### **Croatan Civic League**

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

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

Mike Kelly Phone 961-6244  
Email: mkellyav8@aol.com

### **Vice President, Security, VB Council of Civic Organizations, Citizen's Advisory Committee:**

M.C. "Connie" Agresti Phone 425-2068  
Email: security@croatanbeach.org

### **Secretary, Social Activities and Children's Programs:**

Amanda Robinson  
Email: secretary@croatanbeach.org

### **Treasurer:**

Jim Skarbek Phone 491-3230  
Email: treasurer@croatanbeach.org

### **Past President, Membership and Croatan Yard Sale:**

Bill Garvey Phone 471-5436  
Email: cddx@aol.com

### **Director, Artisan's at Croatan Beach:**

Jen Alex Phone 348-3884  
Email: directorja@croatanbeach.org

### **Director:**

Gina Amick  
Email: directorga@croatanbeach.org

### **Director:**

Kathy Donahoe Phone 757-403-0109  
Email: Kdonahoe1@cox.net

### **Director, Welcome Wagon and Landscaping:**

Cheryl Garvey Phone 471-5436  
Email—cgcroatan@gmail.com

### **Director, Spring Fling:**

Larry Kurtz  
Email: directorlk@croatanbeach.org

### **Director, Website, Facebook Group and Directory:**

Bob Lougen  
Email: support@croatanbeach.org

### **Director, Beach Restoration:**

John Mannarino Phone 496-2746  
Email: directorjm@croatanbeach.org

### **Director:**

Milt Martin Phone 804-467-0717  
Email: directormm@croatanbeach.org

### **Director:**

Nancy Purkey  
Email: directornp@croatanbeach.org

### **Director, Social Activities, Logo Wear and Directory:**

Katie Ripberger Phone 434-6450  
Email: katiefr@howardhanna.com

### **Director, Halloween Party and Parade:**

Amber Torgerson  
Phone 319-6076  
Email: directorat@croatanbeach.org

### **Director, Spring Fling and Directory:**

Patricia Zuraw Phone 757-373-8601  
Email: pzuraw@howardhanna.com

### **Special Advisor:**

Ken Jobe Phone 428-0328  
Email: kejo425@aol.com

### **Committee Chairs**

#### **Newsletter, NextDoor:**

Marian Kitchin Phone 437-9554  
Email: mdkitchin@gmail.com

#### **Surfing:**

Wes Laine Phone 428-2620  
Email: surfing@croatanbeach.org

#### **Women's Club President :**

Amanda Robinson  
Email: wclub@croatanbeach.org

#### **Book Club Leader:**

Alice Weisz  
Email: bookclub@croatanbeach.org