



The Croatan Civic League News

December 2020

President's Letter by Mike Kelly

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The weather remains somewhat mild although I have seen frost on the grass in the early morning a few days in the last week. The neighborhood is still walking, riding bicycles and running (fast and slow.) In the evenings, it's great to see the Christmas and holiday lights. I hope to see more over the next week. If you haven't had a chance to stroll around in the evening, you should. Don't forget to look for the "Christmas Star" in the southwest sky just above the horizon on December 21st. Hopefully the weather will be good.



The Board of Director's met on Monday evening via Zoom. Officers were elected for 2021. They are Bob Lougen as Vice-President. Amanda Robinson, Jim Skarbeck and I continue as Secretary, Treasurer and President, respectively.

Your civic league has had a busy year despite no Spring Fling and other traditional social events.

I will have a more detailed report soon, as well as some thoughts on what we do for 2021.

As many of you know, on November 27th, we had an event of "shots fired" on S. Atlantic Ave. At the time of writing this (December 12th) we have received no updates from the VB police. Be assured that we will pass any information on as we receive it.



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 1/4 CCL Board Meeting**
- 1/8 Newsletter Deadline**
- 1/15 Book Club**



Please make sure that you read “Connie” Agresti’s safety and security notes. As always, he has a lot of information on city and the neighborhood issues.

I suppose that most have adapted to the COVID restrictions. The great news is that there is an approved vaccine with a few others near approval as well. We know that distribution and inoculation process will be slow. So, we still have to continue doing what’s right and keep ourselves and each other as safe as possible.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be virtual on Monday, 4 January 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.

All the best and have a great holiday season!

Mike Kelly

President, Croatan Civic League

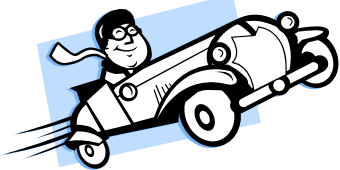
(M) 703.439.9153 (Primary)

(H) 757.961.6244 (After 6:00 PM)

president@croatanbeach.org

Beach Restoration by John Mannarino, Director

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) informed Public Works that the dredging industry day was productive. Six companies attended. The feedback was straightforward (i.e. performance period, dredging quantities, type of equipment that can be used, etc.). Fortunately, there were no ‘show stopper’ type questions or comments. So, the USACE is moving forward at full steam to complete the final review of the updated contract documents. The USACE did confirm that they will miss the December bid solicitation window, but intend to solicit bids in January. The USACE expects to maintain the current dredging and sand placement start schedule of spring 2021 (i.e., between the April and June timeframe). In the meantime, the City will continue to routinely survey the inlet and sand trap. The City’s surveying consultant is in the process of conducting the fall 2020 beach profile survey and monitoring. Public Works Beach Operations staff conducts visual inspections of the inlet (jetties and weir) and Croatan Beach on a routine basis.



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)



Bottom Line Up Front:

- Shots Fired – Croatan not immune
- Gunshots – threat or training
- Scams, thefts, and personal safety
- 25 means 25
- Croatan Parking Lot – Call 3-1-1 if locked in
- No “Last Night on the Town” events

Shots fired at Twilight and S. Atlantic: On the evening of November 27, an individual was observed firing a handgun from a vehicle at said intersection. No one was injured. The suspects were identified and arrested; in part due to the uniqueness of their vehicle. At this time, police will not comment on an open investigation, so we do not know whether this was a targeted or random shooting. Please don't speculate or draw conclusions based upon biases. There are no data at the time of this writing to suggest that short-term rentals, Airbnb, or drugs played a role. If you have evidence, call the police and report it to them – please do not stir everyone up with suppositions on social media.

Are Those Gunshots a Threat or Training? Several residents have expressed legitimate concern regarding the aforementioned shooting vis-à-vis the difficulty distinguishing between military training or genuine threats; and wonder when they should report gunshots to police. **Rule of Thumb:** If it is machine gun fire or dozens of shots **and** happening during the daytime, odds are it is military training from either Dam Neck or Camp Pendleton. If shootings are visually observed or shots are heard at night, especially if there are less than a dozen and not previously announced, **call 9-1-1**. The CCL continues to seek advance notice of blasting and nighttime firing exercises from military authorities, but given the mission of some of the commands at Dam Neck ranges, advance notice is unlikely. Police non-emergency number is 757-385-5500.

Watch Your Speed: Croatan Road became the location of random speed enforcement recently with a number of citations being issued. This was beyond the hours that MPO Don Noha provides to us. His November Patrol Notes also includes speeding citations. Speeding cars and trucks, including on our side streets, are the most commonly cited complaint I receive (and observe) re: neighborhood safety.

Also, be sure your children operating powered “toys” know the rules of the road. I observed a tyke on a motorbike (sans helmet) blow through the stop sign at S. Maryland and Vanderbilt last month and could have easily hit him had I been less attentive.

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 so that you do not get locked in. If you are locked in, you can **call 757-385-3111, or simply 3-1-1**. Please make a note of the number because the sign is posted for those outside the lot to read, not those trapped inside. A

thoughtful (and wise) neighbor, via a submission through the “See-Click-Fix” app, has asked Public Works to reverse the sign.

Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC): A virtual CAC meeting was conducted on November 18. Following key issues were discussed:

New Chief of Police: Chief Paul Neudigate is onboard and eager to get his hands dirty. He is still drinking from the proverbial 8” fire hose and has been invited to visit Second Precinct CAC when we return to in-person meetings.

Vibes Nightclub, 325 N. Great Neck Rd: has been the site of many violations – drugs, weapons, assaults, ABC code, etc. It attracts an unsavory crowd; police advise avoiding the location.

No “Last Night on the Town”: This New Year’s Eve event has been cancelled due to limitations on gatherings incident to coronavirus.

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO): The first in-person VBCCO meeting since April was scheduled for November 12 but postponed due to heavy rain and flooding. Ironically, the guest speaker was going to discuss Stormwater Management. The meeting was conducted on November 18, but I was unable to attend the rescheduled date.

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

The up-tick in COVID-19 cases is certainly disheartening. No one wants Virginia Beach to get to the point, as in some cities, where people are told to wear masks in our own homes and not go outside. Please stay safe and be careful.

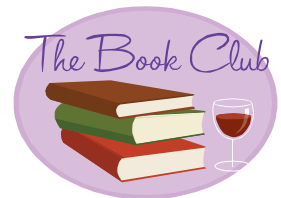
M. C. “Connie” Agresti,
CCL Security & Safety Chair

The Croatan Book Club

There will be no meeting in December. We will announce the January meeting in the January newsletter.

Future Selections (In Order)	Author
A Gentleman in Moscow	Amor Towles
American Dirt	Jeanine Cummins
This Tender Land	William Kent Krueger

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



Croatan Women’s Club

From President Amanda Robinson....We decided not to have in person meetings until things with COVID are safer. . We will host beach clean ups, and see what the spring brings. For more information please see our page on the CCL website.

'Tis the Season for Scams by M. C. "Connie" Agresti

Ne'er-do-wells have many ways to seek a quick buck and make their own Season a little bit brighter...at your expense. Be wary of telephone solicitations – callers often change the names of legitimate charities slightly (e.g., Disabled American Veterans [real] may become Disabled American "War" Veterans [fake]). If interested, ask for literature; **NEVER** give credit card information to a "cold caller." "Charity Navigator" and "Guidestar" are two websites that provide information on IRS 501(c)-registered non-profits (including the salaries of corporate officers and percentage of contributions that go to beneficiaries; data that can be illuminating).

Really nasty phone scam – beware: It is not uncommon to receive phishing calls to the effect of "This is Visa/Mastercard calling to verify you authorized a \$899.95 (*it's always nines*) charge for purchase of a new iPhone" (*or some similar hot commodity*). Where this scam gets particularly nasty is that the caller then says, "If you authorized this charge, please say 'yes' or simply hang up. If you did not authorize this charge, please call...". They obviously want you to call the number which will likely put you into a foreign exchange or one where they can use your number to rack up thousands of dollars' worth of calls. *Don't fall for it – hang up!* Better yet, if you do not recognize the phone number, simply don't answer it and let it go to voice mail. If it's legitimate, they'll leave a number. Remember, the IRS, FBI, and Social Security will never call you. Special Agent *Krumpky* isn't; and your arrest is not imminent.

Porch pirates abound during the holidays, when online shopping deliveries increase. For those who go to work on a daily basis, consider delivery to a neighbor's, a drop box location, or schedule deliveries when you'll be home.

Go-Fund-Me pages and other on-line solicitations also proliferate during the Holidays. Everyone has a tale of woe – "my car, my washer, my dog," etc. Some may be legitimate, but many are not or are the result of poor life choices rather than unfortunate circumstances. It's your money, so caveat emptor.

If shopping in a brick-and-mortar location, be conscious of your surroundings and try to always keep one hand free from packages, purses, etc. Park under lights and walk out in company with others. If you are alone, consider asking mall security for an escort. Police will be increasing mall parking lot surveillance within available staffing and calls for service.

If you're out shopping and come within earshot of a disturbance – go the other way immediately (even if it means abandoning a purchase), leave the mall (if possible) or go into a crowded, well-lit store, and **call 9-1-1**. Disturbances among groups of youths have resulted in gunfire recently at Lynnhaven Mall and elsewhere in Tidewater.

Final word on scams – COVID-19 vaccine: We are all heartened by the prospect of a vaccine to immunize us against CoV-SARS-2. Be skeptical of social media claims of ready availability, imports from foreign countries, or vaccines for a price. It will take a number of months for the vaccines to be thoroughly evaluated, manufactured, distributed, and available for general public inoculation. Anything before the New Year or in a non-medical/pharmacy setting is probably just expensive saline.

Wildlife in Croatan by Susanna Miller

The Comeback Trail...

This month, a photo-look at three iconic species that were once quite rare (during my childhood, at least)... the Osprey, the Bald Eagle and the Harbor Seal. These neat neighbors are commonly seen now... Back from the Brink.

Go to the website for the full article (and more great pics by Croatan resident photographer extraordinaire Patrick McLaughlin! The seals and one eagle in a pine tree are mine, Patrick is featured for all the other amazing action shots of Ospreys and Eagles).



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.

We are on the WEB!
Check us out at
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, Website, Facebook Group and Directory:

Bob Lougen
Email: support@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, Croatan Yard Sale:

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

Director, Security, VB Council of Civic Organizations, Citizen's Advisory Committee:

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

Director, Artisan's at Croatan Beach:

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

Director:

Regina Amick
Email: directorra@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, Beach Restoration:

John Mannarino Phone 496-2746
Email: directorjm@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