



The Croatan Civic League News

May 2021

President's Letter by Mike Kelly

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's early May. The grass is green, and flowers are blooming all around. We are also seeing the fine coat of yellow pollen on everything outside. Many of us find ourselves sneezing quite a bit more than usual. But I note that mask wearing has helped. While most of the State COVID restrictions remain in-place, Governor Northam recently said he hopes to end them by June 15th. It all depends on the case number improving and CDC guidance.

The first 2021 Scavenger Hunt was held on Saturday, April 17th. We had 36 young participants. As always, Amanda Robinson does a nice job creating the puzzle and organizing food and prizes.

The announcement for the "Members Meet and Greet" at the New Realm Brewery was released. It is on Friday, June 11th. The time is 6 – 8 PM. We ask that you RSVP by June 7th using the CCL website.

As previously mentioned, there will be no Spring Fling (again.) However, we will have an end of Summer party on Saturday, September 18th at the point. The time will be 3 – 7 PM. That's earlier than the Spring Fling because sunset is at 7:50 PM. Patricia Zuraw and Kathy Donohoe are in charge so if you have any ideas or want to volunteer, contact them.

With our Summer visitor season officially 3-weeks away, there will be more people in the neighborhood and on the beach. Remember keep your home and car doors locked and when driving be more alert for kids and animals. "Connie" Agresti's Security Update has more information.

All the best, remain vigilant, and stay safe,

Mike Kelly

President, Croatan Civic League

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president@croatanbeach.org

CONTENTS:

<i>From the President</i>	1
<i>Rebuilding the Fort Raleigh/ Coastal Drive Bridge</i>	2
<i>Short Term Rental Update</i>	2
<i>Security Report</i>	3
<i>CAC, VBCCO</i>	5
<i>Book Club</i>	6
<i>Women's Club</i>	6
<i>Croatan Beach Restoration</i>	6
<i>Neighborhood Contacts</i>	7

UPCOMING EVENTS:

5/20 Book Club

6/7 CCL Board Meeting

6/11 Newsletter Deadline

6/11 Meet and Greet

9/18 Summer Party



Rebuilding the Pedestrian Bridge Connecting Coastal and Fort Raleigh Drives by Mike Kelly

For those of you who haven't heard, on Wednesday, April 7, City Public Works took down the old bridges that connected Coastal and Fort Raleigh Drives. We were not notified of the specific date but had been notified that they were unsafe and would be removed. These bridges were on city property and were more than 25-years old. Since the city did not build them, they will not build a replacement. Many people used these bridges in their walk or bike ride around the neighborhood. It is certainly upsetting to those who have used them for decades. The photos show some of the deterioration, as well as the lack of handrails.



The process to build another bridge is tedious and bureaucratic. It will take several months to get through the city review and approval process. It requires an easement approved by the city council as it is city property. We also must apply for a building permit which requires a detailed design with drawings, certification by a Virginia licensed structural engineer, a site survey, city review and approval, and, of course, an inspection. We will have to buy the building materials. While I am assuming that most of the labor will be volunteers, the cost will still be high. Several people have already said that they will donate some money. In the next week, the site survey will be done. With that paper, we can submit the request for encroachment and get the process moving.

Short-Term Rental Update for May 2021 by Mike Kelly

For those of you interested in the status of the Proposed Short-Term Rental Ordinance Revisions, the City Council has released the following tentative schedule:

- May 18th - Staff Presentation on Proposed Planning Commission Ordinance
- May 25th - City Council Workshop Discussion Regarding Regulations
- June 1st - Public Hearing for Proposed Short Term Rental Ordinance Revisions
- June 15th - City Council Vote on Short Term Rental Ordinance Revisions

For further information, go to <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/planning/Pages/Short-Term-Rentals.aspx>. I urge everyone who is concerned about Short-Term Rentals to contact our Councilperson Guy Tower at g.tower@vbgov.com.

Safety, Security Update

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Seasonal Reminders
- Inclement Weather and Hurricane Season
- Fixing Public Works Issues (quick and easy)
- Remediating Obstructed Traffic Signs and Sight Distances
- CAC - National Police Week
- VBCCO – City Council and Short-Term Rentals



Seasonal Reminders: The Merry Month of May heralds warmer weather and Memorial Day weekend - the beginning of “the season.” The Croatan Civic League (CCL) wishes everyone a pleasant summer and seeks peaceful coexistence with vacationers visiting our neighborhood. City-placed signs at beaches can be confusing; therefore, this is an opportune time to offer some reminders for everyone’s safety:

- **Beach**
 - Use sunscreen
 - No diving – sand bars shift daily; death or permanent injury can occur
 - Stay off dunes – they’re fragile and protect homes
 - Don’t go into water alone
 - Police your trash – plastic kills aquatic life and seabirds
 - No glass on beach
 - No dogs on beach between 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM starting Friday of Memorial Day Weekend
 - Surfing at north and south ends of beach only from 11:00 AM thru 6:00 PM starting Friday of Memorial Day Weekend
 - Please do not plop down immediately in front of beach access paths – setting up your oasis to the side will allow other beach-goers unimpeded access.
- **Driving**
 - 25 MPH throughout Croatan – slower, if conditions warrant
 - No handheld devices while driving (Virginia State Law)
 - Headlights on when wipers on (Virginia State Law)
 - Watch out for children, pedestrians, pets, bicyclists, skateboarders, wildlife
- **Parking**
 - No street parking in many areas – please respect signs
 - Lot (south end of Vanderbilt) open 6:00 AM thru 8:00 PM - \$3 for VB residents, \$7 for non-residents; credit cards only; no free re-entry provisions; if locked in or towed – call 311.
 - Surfside and Vanderbilt street parking in designated spaces only – 9:30 AM thru 7:00 PM – see <http://www.croatanbeach.org> for City guidance on event parking permits
 - Do not block driveways or mailboxes
 - All parking for rental homes must be on property

- **Dogs**

- Scoop the poop – it's the law; bag dispensers and trash barrels available at every beach access path
- Dogs must be vaccinated, licensed, and leashed, unless in home yard or running free on beach (between 6:00 PM thru 10:00 AM starting Friday of Memorial Day Weekend). Free ranging on beach all day up until that weekend.
- Unleashed dogs on beach must be under handler's verbal/electronic control.
- Report any dog attack that draws blood to Animal Control – 757-385-4444, option #1; exchange information with owners



- **Trash and Recycling**

- Service day is Tuesday – cans out Monday PM, retrieved Tuesday PM
- Do not overload cans or leave lids open – crush boxes to fit more
- No plastic bags in recycling containers – use paper bags instead

- **Web Sites for Reference**

- <http://www.vbgov.com>
- <http://www.croatanbeach.org>

Inclement Weather: Thunderstorms are a regular occurrence and all should heed nature's warning – usually announced via thunder. If you see lightning or hear thunder, you should get out of the water and off the beach. Storms usually move west to east, so watch the sky, especially if you feel a sudden drop in temperature.

Hurricane Season: Officially begins on June 1, but storms in May are not uncommon. Storm surges and surf regularly over-wash Croatan Beach, so stay off during storms. Stock/pack hurricane preparedness essentials. Please visit Hurricanes | Ready.gov for additional information, including preparedness items and to learn your hurricane evacuation zone.

Fix Public Works Problems (online): The City has two cellphone apps that allow quick and anonymous (if desired) notification of the City's 311 Operations Center of issues requiring Department of Public Works (DPW) attention. Items such as potholes, missing or damaged road signs, overgrown trees/shrubs obstructing signs or sight distances, unserviced trash collection, etc. may be reported on **See-Click-Fix** or **VBWorks** apps. These are free downloads available to everyone and permit them to act as the eyes and ears of the City, whose employees cannot be everywhere and see everything (e.g., today I reported broken glass on the sidewalk at the beach).

Remediating Obstructed Traffic Signs and Sight Distances: The rapid springtime growth of trees and shrubs has a tendency to obscure traffic signs and sight distances. Our Safety Patrol Officer (MPO Noha) asks that residents survey their property with a critical eye to ensure others have clear visibility. Where obstructed, it is the homeowner's responsibility to clear the foliage. If overgrowth is on public property, report via the aforementioned apps.

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

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

Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC):

Congratulations Shannon Wichtendahl: Second Precinct's former Commander was recently promoted to Deputy Chief of Police – the first woman to hold such a position in VBPD. Our new Precinct Commander is Captain Harry McBrien, whom we will look towards inviting to a CCL meeting as soon as possible.

Demonstrations and Protests: Organizations have petitioned to conduct demonstrations on the Oceanfront on alternate Saturdays, often starting at 7:57 PM. Demonstrations have been orderly for the most part and police assure us that it is safe to enjoy the Oceanfront. Still, maintain situational awareness during your dining and entertainment visits to the resort area.

National Police Week – May 9 - 15: A few bad actors (and persistent media coverage) have made it a tough time to be a police officer. Operation BLUE LIGHT allows citizens to show support for their local “gendarmes” by burning a blue porch or window light during Police Week.

Crime Statistics: There's a lot of red (i.e., increased criminal activity) on the 28-day crime report period ending April 20. The mayhem of March 26 influences some of this, but a marked increase in property crimes, especially motor vehicle thefts often comes with the start of warmer weather and should be viewed with concern. Thefts of and from motor vehicles are crimes of opportunity. Lock your vehicles and place valuables out of sight. Crime statistics can be found at WAVES-Crime Statistics :: VBgov.com - City of Virginia Beach .

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO) Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO) held a virtual general membership meeting on April 8, which I covered in last month's newsletter. An emerging (some may say, persistent) issue is:

Short Term Rentals (STRs): Civic organizations throughout Virginia Beach (including within the Resort Area) have been contacting City Council to rail against STRs – defined as those of less than 30-days. Several incidents at STRs in the last two months have resulted in shootings, out-of-control parties, and massive police responses. There can be no tolerance for unruly or dangerous behavior, especially in residential neighborhoods. Meanwhile, the City Council continues to approve new STR applications, often over the objections of the Planning Commission. Hence the widespread concern.

Mike Kelly discusses this challenge in further detail elsewhere in this newsletter. The CCL estimates that 10 percent of homes in Croatan – predominately on S. Atlantic, Surfside, and Vanderbilt - are being used as STRs; but no one, including the City, has an accurate count. To be legal, an STR must be registered with the City, pay all appropriate taxes, and abide by the provisions of City Zoning Ordinance § 2-241 and their respective conditional use permit. Please visit Short Term Rentals :: VBgov.com - City of Virginia Beach for the details.

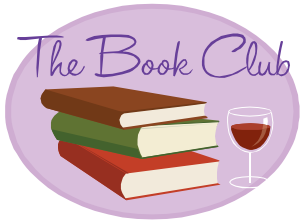
Please register any complaints of “renters behaving badly” with 311, the police non-emergency number (757-385-5000), or 911 (if a bona fide emergency). Please advise security@croatanbeach.org after making all such reports, so that CCL may keep a log.

The VBCCO monthly newsletter – The Voice can be found at <http://www.vbcco.org> .

M. C. “Connie” Agresti,
CCL Representative to CAC and VBCCO

The Croatan Book Club

Next Meeting



Date: **Thursday**, May 20 Time: 7 PM (Outdoors)
 Place: Karen Moore 508 Coastal Drive
 Selection: **Tempest on the Outer Banks** by Rod Barfield
 (copies available)

Please come prepared with one "positive/constructive" criticism or critique that we can share with the author.

All Neighbors are welcome. Just read the book (or maybe not), bring your own beverage/snack, and e-mail the hostess that you will be attending. If a new member, just show up and be welcomed; if no longer interested in book club please indicate that in the RSVP. COVID distancing and masks observed.

Future Selections (In Order)	Author
The Giver of Stars	Jojo Moyes
The Four Winds	Kristin Hannah

Suggestions for future selections welcomed.

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), 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.

Croatan Beach Restoration Project by Mike Kelly

The "Sources-Sought" responses for the US Army Corps of Engineers Rudee Inlet Maintenance Dredging in Virginia Beach, VA was due on Thursday, May 6th, 2021. We will probably not hear for at least a week on whether they received any responses. You may remember that the previous contracting effort resulted in one response. That response stated that the timing was poor due to the unavailability of commercial dredgers, and the funds were not sufficient.

I will keep you updated.
 Michael Kelly, CCL President

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

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