



The Croatan Civic League News

August 2021

President's Letter by Mike Kelly

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Although we continued to be challenged by the COVID virus, life locally does appear to be somewhat normal. The resort district is crowded with visitors and most of us are shopping and eating at a favorite restaurant. I see people wearing masks in buildings and offices as directed by authorities, but also as a precaution. The CDC identifies Virginia Beach as "high" for level of community transmission, so they are recommending that masks be worn indoors even if vaccinated. Be safe.

Some progress on the beach restoration. See the note in this newsletter for a few details.

The Coastal / Fort Raleigh pedestrian bridge continues to go very slowly. I have a note from the US Army Corps of Engineers stating that they don't require a permit. However, they also said that the US Coast Guard needs to review the package. Seriously? As Pogo would say, "We have met the enemy and they are us."

It's election time again for the Board of Directors. Tentatively, we are planning on an annual meeting in late October or early November similar to what we did at New Realm in 2019. We need new people to volunteer and run. Please contact me or any of the directors for further information.

There will be an Ice Cream Social for the younger members of Croatan on September 10th. More details will be posted on the website.

The End of Summer Party is Coming!

Saturday, September 18th at the point. The time will be 3 – 7 PM. The format will be exactly like the Spring Fling. Cost will be \$20 for members (\$30 at the gate) and \$50 for non-members and guests (\$60 at the gate.) Bob Lougen, our Vice President and web guru, has set up payment online. If you don't want to do that, he has also posted a flyer with details on how to pay by cash or check. Please help us make this a success. Meet your new neighbors and join the Fun.

All the best, remain vigilant, and stay safe,
Mike Kelly
President, Croatan Civic League

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 8/26 Book Club**
- 9/6 CCL Board Meeting**
- 9/10 Ice Cream Social**
- 9/10 Newsletter Deadline**
- 9/20 Women's Club**
- 9/18 End of Summer Party**



Beach Restoration by Mike Kelly

The US Army Corps of Engineers has released the latest Rudee Inlet Dredging Solicitation. It is posted at <https://sam.gov/opp/7ce2478af0104532b9da73b1a867e725/view>. Within it is the placement of sand on the Croatan Public Beach.

Vendor responses are due August 30th. It could slide a week or two depending on questions. If it doesn't, then I would expect the award to be made by mid-October. Work would begin 15-days after the award and must be completed within 180-days. Once they start, it should not take that long.

The Corps' estimated cost is between \$1 Million and \$5 Million. The last solicitation single bid was approximately \$9 M. So, there was no award. Hopefully, the second time around, they will get bids withing range.

Michael Kelly, CCL President
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**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®

Short-term Rental by Mike Kelly

This is a recap of the city Council session of 13 July 2021. For more detail, see bookmarked agenda at <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/city-clerk/city-council/Pages/fault.aspx>. The items are on pages 269-270.

Items A and B were not passed at the 6 July meeting. However, they will be opened at the 7 September meeting for another vote. The reason is that there is consensus that an OR (Resort area) Overlay District should be created but not the North End. Intent appears to be to vote the OR Overlay District in. There is a slight danger that the North End could be added although the cussion clearly indicated that the Council would not support that.

Item C was approved. This says that STRs can only be in overlay districts less grandfathered with proper registration and permits. No new STRs except in Sandbridge (and the OR Overlay District if approved on 7 Sep.)

Item D is the section that adds additional safety requirements. This was deferred to the 7 Sep. meeting.

Item E was approved. This section covers the rules and regulations for STRs in overlay districts. Importantly, this is the section that requires that a petition to become an overlay district requires agreement by 75% of "an identified community."

Item F was approved. This says that any applications submitted after the transition date of 20 Oct 20, are subject to the regulations in-place at the time they are considered by the PC or City Council. As a result of this vote, any application submitted after 20 Oct 20 and not already reviewed/approved by the Planning Commission would be stopped and no longer allowed to apply for an STR CUP.



Of note, these other important comments were made:

- Concern was raised about enforcement of the rules and that attention must be paid to that.
- There is no list of STR complaints.
- “All” problems seem to be associated with the illegal STRs. (Not really true, but since there is no STR Complaint List, people can say anything.)
- The STR permitting process falls under zoning. Violation fines are \$200. That is the maximum amount the State Law allows for any zoning violation. It can go to \$500 with repeat violations.
- No one knows how many STRs there are in the city. Part of the reason is that many “grandfathered” properties have not properly registered for an STR through zoning. See next bullet.
- The city needs to the State to change the law and allow the Commissioner of the Revenue to share information with the city on properties that are paying the Transient Tax. That list combined with the approved STR list from zoning would allow identification of “illegal” properties.

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A Letter from the Editor by Marian Kitchin

I am sorry to announce that this is the last edition of the Croatan Civic League newsletter for me. I have enjoyed bringing this to you through the years and will miss the contact and comments from my neighbors.

Bob Lougen will take on the responsibility for the newsletter—as he has in so many other ways for the neighborhood.

I feel very fortunate to live in this community with such good and caring neighbors. I have lived here longer than any other place in my lifetime.



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



Safety/Security – August 2021:

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Virginia Beach Approaching Grim Milestone
- Street Parking on Vanderbilt & Surfside – 9:30 AM through 7:00 PM
- Beach Safety – Sharp objects; Fill in those Holes; No Diving; Mysterious baggie finds
- CAC –Human Trafficking; Shot-Spotter; Motor Vehicle Thefts
- VBCCO – Building Permits; Miss Utility; Short-Term Rentals

Virginia Beach Approaching Grim Milestone: Police report that the city is on track to set a record for motor vehicle fatalities this year. Most of these fatal accidents are caused by speed and/or impairment. On the speed issue – police report frequent stops of individuals traveling in excess of 100 MPH, even on feeder roads such as General Booth and Oceana Boulevards.

Street Parking: Please respect the time window for street parking on Vanderbilt and Surfside. Vehicles are being parked (and ticketed) outside of the prescribed 9:30 AM – 7:00 PM window.

Our Security Patrol, Officer Noha, has a day job and is not available to us 24/7. (His off-duty availability is further limited by a shortage of Security Fund donations). Report illegally parked vehicles to police non-emergency number – 757-385-5000. The city's parking management contractor services the Croatan lot, but not street parking in Croatan. Last word on parking: be sure to clear any obstructing vegetation from No Parking signs. Police cannot enforce if signs are in any way obscured.



Beach Safety:

“Sharps”: Most of the trash that we pick up on the beach is more unsightly than harmful; but a recent report of medical waste washing up on New Jersey shores and forcing beach closures is alarming. If you see syringes, broken glass, sharp plastic or metal (including discarded/lost awning anchors), or fishing gear – please pick it up; mark it; or notify the lifeguards. The most important thing is to **do something** to prevent others from injuring themselves or worse.

Holes in the sand: Few endeavors are more relaxing than a casual stroll along the beach. While one's gaze may be on their pet, children, or looking for dolphins, they may fall victim to holes dug into the sand by departed beachgoers. **If you dig it, please fill it in.** We don't need broken ankles, legs, or strained backs that will remind us for life of that summer in Virginia Beach.

Don't dive: Lifeguards, EMS, and physicians are renewing their warnings against diving into the water at the oceanfront. No less than 20 individuals, usually young men at their peak fitness, have been reduced to wheelchairs in the last four years – some have died.

What's in the bag? Small bags of powdery substances are occasionally found on our streets. While the immediate assumption is that they may be drugs, they could also be body powder used by surfers to ease into wet suits. Regardless, please treat such finds as dangerous and **do not pick-up with bare hands.** People should call police

non-emergency number – 757-385-5000 or 311 and guard the bag. Alternatively, it can be picked up with a plastic bag (as you'd pick up after your dog) and reported to the police after the fact.

Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC): Held Wednesday, July 14.

Human Trafficking: Police recently rescued a 12-year-old female human trafficking victim here on the Oceanfront. Yes, it still happens; and yes, it happens here. The influx of thousands of transients during the summer offers the perfect opportunity for predators to target vulnerable young women (and men) – whether they're runaways or simply looking for a good time without recognizing the risks. Enjoy the summer – but keep your eyes open as well. You can contact 911 or the Center for National Center Missing and Exploited Children at 1-800-843-5678 (<https://connect.missingkids.org>).



Shot-Spotter: The ShotSpotter gunshot detection system was placed into service on July 14 in the Oceanfront area – the first Virginia Beach location to receive this technology. VBPD is deploying Shot-Spotter to high-risk areas to enable their officers to be alerted to gunshots in seconds instead of minutes or possibly not at all, as national statistics have shown that 911 calls occur in fewer than 20 percent of firearm discharges.

Motor Vehicle Thefts: The Second Precinct is now showing an increased incidence in only one crime category – motor vehicle theft. These crimes of opportunity stem from individuals leaving cars running (often to keep air conditioning on) during brief stops for coffee, gasoline, etc. A hot car is not as bad as a hot walk home.

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO) Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO): The VBCCO monthly newsletter – *The Voice* can be found at <http://www.vbcco.org>.

Building Permits: Whether putting in a pool, expanding a deck, or installing a fence, the city will extract its “pound of flesh,” in the form of a permit. Permits are a legal requirement and must be displayed throughout the duration of the work. Code Enforcement has police powers re: permits and can cite you, stop work, and in extreme cases, force remediation. Reputable contractors usually include the cost/effort to obtain permits in their estimates. Also, remember to call **Miss Utility (8-1-1)** before beginning any ground-penetrating work to allow utility lines to be marked. Visit Permits & Inspections under <http://vbgov.com> for forms.

Croatan Spared Short-Term Rental Overlay District Designation: The VB City Council voted in July against overlay districts for short-term rentals unless 75% of the residents vote in favor of such a designation. Croatan was not among the original list of four candidate areas. Virtually all civic leagues and homeowners' associations that are members of the VBCCO have opposed overlay districts. CCL leaders worked long and hard to ensure that our neighborhood retains its residential character, family-friendly ambiance, and that existing short-term rentals are responsibly managed and controlled so as not to disturb the peace and tranquility we moved to Croatan to find.

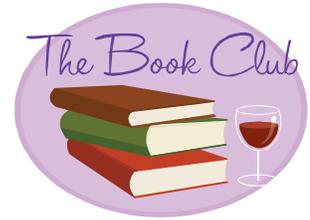
M. C. “Connie” Agresti,
CCL Representative to CAC and VBCCO

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



The Croatan Book Club

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 19, 2021
Time. 7 P.M.
Location: Home of Sue Cashman
 824 Vanderbilt Avenue
Book: **The Four Winds** by Kristen Hannah



All Neighbors are welcome. Just read the book (or maybe not), and notify hostess that you will be attending. Bring a light snack/wine to share, if desired

Future Selections (in order):

Anxious People – Fredrik_Bachman

The Postmistress- Sarah Blake

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

Croatan Women's Club

From President Amanda Robinson....

The Croatan Women's Club has a few announcements.

First, we would like to thank Martha Heitzler for all of her work as the Corresponding Secretary for the Board. She is resigning. Never fear, as we have another capable woman stepping into the role. Please applaud Kim Scholl for volunteering as the Board's newest appointed Corresponding Secretary.

We are so pleased to report that the Croatan Women's Club will resume meetings in September! We are going to hold regular monthly meetings on the second Monday of the month, excluding some exceptions. The first meeting will be held on September 20th. We will resume collecting dues at that time, which will be \$40 and include the meetings and programs through June.

Please contact wclub@croatanbeach.org to get on the mailing list, if you haven't already done so. More information about the programs will be distributed as we get closer to our meetings.

Best wishes,
 The CWC Board

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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