

The Croatan Civic League News

December, 2021



President's Letter by Mike Kelly

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite the COVID restrictions, this past year was by any definition a success for the CCL and the neighborhood.

Acknowledging the challenges, the Board tried hard to deliver a strong program for the community that still complied with government and sensible restrictions/precautions. In April, we had a Scavenger Hunt for the neighborhood children. Spring Fling was cancelled but there was a social held at New Realm. Over the Summer, the Social Committee scheduled neighborhood food trucks every other week and had an ice cream social. When restrictions eased, we hosted an End of Summer Party along the lines of Spring Fling. There was a September EOS/ Back to School party for children, the Halloween Costume Contest and Parade, Pictures with Santa in November and now, in December, the 2021 Holiday Glow Competition in Croatan. We have over 22 homes participating. Associated with this is "Walk/Bike the Lights" on Saturday, December 18 with cookies and hot chocolate at 601 Surfside Ave from 6-8 PM. I hope you will join us.

Many thanks to all of the people that helped with these programs that got us through 2021.

After six years of effort, a contract was finally awarded for the Beach Nourishment Project. I do not have specific details yet but have been told that it will begin in late-January or early February.

The Board also, based on much feedback, started the process with the city to rebuild the Coastal/Fort Raleigh pedestrian bridge. The City Council votes on it Tuesday, December 14. bridge.

At the Annual meeting in November, we voted in four new Directors and at the December BOD meeting, the Board Officers were selected. See the last page of the newsletter for their contact information.

What are your thoughts on what the CCL should be doing in 2022? Social, Civic and Charitable? We would like to get your comments and concerns. Send us an email or call.

The next Board of Director's meeting will be held on January 3rd at 6:30 PM via Zoom. If you would like an invite, please let me know and I will send you one.

All the best, remain vigilant, and stay safe,

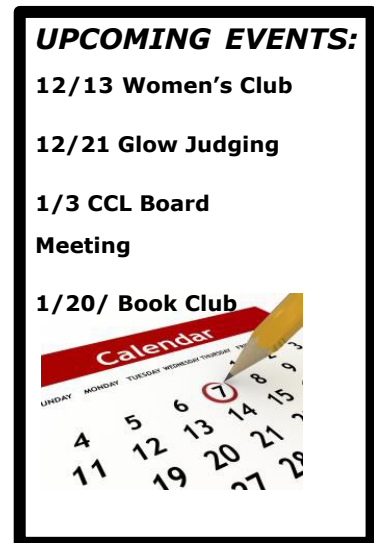
Mike Kelly

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president@croatanbeach.org

Safety/Security – December 2021:

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Winter Driving Safety and Survival Tips
- See and Be Seen
- Short-Term Rental Incident Reporting



Winter Driving Safety and Survival Tips: Last month I wrote cautioning motorists to beware of wet leaves because they can be as slick as ice. This month, we get to discuss ice itself – and its prettier cousin – snow. Even with the traction control and automatic braking systems (ABS) available on most vehicles over the last decade, snow and ice can be challenging. Other tips:

- Think **smooth** and drive the same way. Slow and steady wins the race on ice or snow. Avoid quick starts, sharp turns of the wheel, and hard stops. The speed limit is prescribed for ideal conditions. Adjust your speed for the conditions.
- Keep right if driving below the prevailing speed of traffic and try to follow in someone else's wheel tracks. **Do not drive with flashers on** – this can disorientate other drivers. **Daytime running lights do not illuminate tail lights**. To be seen from behind, you actually have to turn your lights on. Check owner's manual for specifics.
- Clean ice and snow from **ALL** windows prior to hitting the road or you may hit something else. If you can't see it, you can't avoid it.
- Clean ice and snow from headlamps and taillights. See and be seen.
- Please clean hoods and roofs as well. Snow blowing off them can blind you and drivers behind you. Ice flying off at highway speeds can cause an accident behind you.
- Bridges and elevated roadways (think: causeways and flyover ramps) freeze before roadways that obtain some warmth from the ground.
- If you start to slide, ease off of the throttle and steer into the slid. Avoid the urge to brake unless you have completely lost control and are left with trying to reduce the speed of the impact.
- Try to keep at least half a tank of gas in the car. If you get stuck, it will allow you to periodically run the engine and heater. Be sure that the exhaust pipe is clear of snow, ice, debris before running engine.
- Carry a blanket/sweatshirt/coat and gloves in the car for added warmth, if stuck. Be sure that your phone is charged.
- Beware of pedestrians wearing hooded garments – hoods compromise their peripheral vision. Never wear a hood while driving for the same reason.
- Finally – **4-wheel drive** helps you go through snow, but it **does not help you stop**. The laws of inertia apply to pick-up trucks as well as sedans.

See and Be Seen: These late fall days are short, with sunrise later than 7:00 AM and sunset before 5:00 PM. Smart pedestrians, bicyclists, and dog walkers ensure that they can be seen by motorists by carrying/mounting a light and

wearing reflective clothing. For drivers, that reflective clothing only works if your headlights are on. This is a team effort, folks.

Short-Term Rental (STR) Incident Reporting: I have done some follow-up with City officials on the now-notorious Halloween party at an STR (708 S. Atlantic) that led to more than a dozen calls to police and communication with city officials by inconvenienced, disturbed, or disgruntled residents. Here is what I have learned:

- **3-1-1** continues to handle noise complaints, overcrowded parties, parking issues that require immediate action (e.g., towing because of blocked driveways or fire hydrants), and any other issues requiring an “immediate” field response.
- The City’s Planning Department has contracted with a third-party vendor to receive any calls that do not fall into the aforementioned categories. That number is **757-210-5385**.
- If 3-1-1 is not responsive, the **police non-emergency number is 757-385-5000**.
- In a **bona fide emergency** (e.g., violence or threatening behavior of any kind), **9-1-1** remains the proper call.
- All calls for service regarding STRs are sent to the City’s Planning Office. Regrettably, I have been unable to ascertain what, if anything, the Planning Office is doing with the list and if there is any consequence levied upon the owner/operator of non-compliant STRs.

Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC): Held Wednesday, November 10.

Mr. Joe Corey, Office of Emergency Management (OEM), spoke of increased staffing in the OEM, which is seeking to reorganize and restructure the CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams). See ready.gov for more information on CERT employment and duties.

Master Police Officer Tony Espinosa introduced himself as a new addition to the Second Precinct’s staffing to the **Resort Liaison Office**. He mentioned that 62% of the violent crime within the Second Precinct is homeless-upon-homeless assault. Second Precinct officers are working with the **Human Rights Commission** to identify and assist homeless persons living in woods within this jurisdiction.

Ms. Kari Diop represented **Parks and Recreation** and discussed many youth education opportunities and volunteer positions open within the P&R system. Visit them at vb.gov.com.

Mr. Bobby Hill mentioned that the **Volunteer Rescue Squad** has four new ambulances on order; two of which are expected by the start of the year and the other two c. June 2022.

The next CAC meeting will be Wednesday, January 12 at 7:00 PM in the VB Volunteer Rescue Squad #14 conference room (740 VB Blvd). Representatives from Public Works (Highways) have been invited to speak.

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO): Meetings of the VBCCO remain on hiatus while the organization works on reforming.

New Director of VB Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB): Ms. Nancy Helman has been named as the new head of the CVB.

M. C. “Connie” Agresti,

Safety and Security Director

CCL Representative to CAC and VBCCO

CCL New Board Members. Thanks for volunteering!

Frank Borum



- Lifelong Hampton Roads resident and 20 years in Croatan
- ODU Grad
- Married to Robyne for 43 years
- Has a son and 2 granddaughters
- Retired transportation distribution executive

Mike Fantozzi



- Mike and his family, Kelly, Camryn and Carter, moved to Croatan in Spring 2021
- Mike is an ODU grad
- He currently works for a software company as a consultant
- He enjoys attending his daughters' gymnastics meets, surfing, and playing golf in his free time

Sharon Heath



- Sharon has been an accountant for over 35 years and currently owns her own bookkeeping business
- They have been residents of Croatan since May, 2021
- Sharon and her husband have 7 children and 3 grandchildren
- Sharon and her family enjoy the beach, dinner out, movies and spending time with family

Bill Wren



- Bill grew up in New York with 6 siblings
- He retired from the Navy with 30 years of service
- Graduate of the University of Florida
- Currently working with a nationwide ship repair company
- Bill and Eileen enjoy boating, relaxing around the pool and walks with their dogs

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, January 20, 2022

Time. 7 P.M.

Location: Home of Mary Early
717 Vanderbilt Ave

Book: **The Postmistress** by Sarah Blake

We're taking a break for the Thanksgiving and December holidays as we meet on the third Thursday of the month.

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.

chris Suit will be leading the discussion

Future Selections (in order):

Yellow Wife - _Sadeqa Johnson

Middlesex - Jeffrey Eugenides

Finding Freedom - Erica French

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



TOY DRIVE

Every year The Noblemen provide Christmas presents to local children who would otherwise be receiving very few, if any presents at all for Christmas. This year The Noblemen Toy Drive will reach over 6000 Children in Hampton Roads!

HOW CAN YOU HELP???

Two of our Croatan residents will be collecting unwrapped toys for boys and girls to donate to the Noblemen. You can drop them off at...

Jan Perriello - 516 S. Atlantic Avenue
Lynette Reuss - 735 Virginia Dare Drive

Thank you!

SCOOP THE POOP! IT'S THE LAW!

Please carry a plastic bag with you when you walk your dog. Do not let pet waste become part of our waterways or your neighbor's landscape.





Important Contacts

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Police, Fire and Rescue | 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 | 543-7000 |
| VBSPCA Wildlife Referral Line | 263-4762 |
| Wildlife Conflict Helpline | (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

Neighborhood Contacts

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
TurtleVirginia Aquarium Stranding
Response Team
757-385-7575



Welcome Wagon

Contact Cheryl Garvey
cgcroatan@gmail.com
(757)471-5436



if you know of new
Croatan neighbors

Magazine Collection

Michele Speight,
Teen Crisis Intervention
549 Bushnell Drive
428-7947msp8@cox.net

| Name | Committee | Email | Phone |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|----------|
| Amanda Robinson | Women's Club | pixiefloat@hotmail.com | 641-9403 |
| Alice Weisz | Book Club | bookclub@croatanbeach.org | 425-2068 |
| Wes Laine | Surfing Advisor | surfing@croatanbeach.org | 428-2620 |
| Ken Jobe | Special Advisor | kejo425@aol.com | 428-0328 |

Croatan Civic League Board of Directors

| Name | Title | Email | Phone |
|------------------------------|---|--|---------------|
| Mike Kelly | President, Spring Fling, VB Gov, Military | president@croatanbeach.org | (703)439-9153 |
| Bob Lougen | Vice President, Website, Facebook, Directory | support@croatanbeach.org | |
| Amanda Robinson | Secretary, Social Activities, Children's Programs | pixiefloat@hotmail.com | 641-9403 |
| Jim Skarbek | Treasurer | treasurer@croatanbeach.org | 491-3230 |
| Bill Garvey | Past President, Croatan Yard Sale | cddx@aol.com | 471-5436 |
| M.C. "Connie" Agresti | Director, Security, VB Council of Civic Organizations, Citizen's Advisory Committee | security@croatanbeach.org | 425-2068 |
| Jen Alex | Director, Artisan's at Croatan Beach | directorja@croatanbeach.org | 348-3884 |
| Frank Borum | Director | fborum1117@gmail.com | |
| Kathy Donahoe | Director, Newsletter | kdonahoe1@cox.net | 403-0109 |
| Mike Fantozzi | Director | directormf@croatanbeach.org | |
| Cheryl Garvey | Director, Welcome Wagon | cgcroatan@gmail.com | 471-5436 |
| Sharon Heath | Director | sharon.heath@goldstarbookkeepers.com | |
| Katie Ripberger | Director, Logo wear, Social Activities, Directory | katiefr@howardhanna.com | 434-6450 |
| Amber Torgensen | Director, Halloween Party and Parade | directorat@croatanbeach.org | 319-6076 |
| Bill Wren | Director | bwren2@cox.net | 904-383-2318 |