

The Croatan Civic League News

January, 2022



President's Letter by Mike Kelly

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Happy New Year to all.

As I write this, it is a cold, cloudy, damp day. While it is not raining or snowing, it isn't a day that most people are outside. It is January after all. We in Croatan and Virginia Beach are fortunate. So many disasters have occurred across the Nation and the World and we have had very few weather events that have caused significant problems over the last several decades. However, as we saw recently when people were stranded in their vehicles on I-95 in a snowstorm for more than 24 hours, it is important to be prepared. If you had been stuck, how would you have done? How would you do if the next Nor'easter knocks out power for several days? What other events would have major impact on your life and how are you prepared to handle them? My point is that at the beginning of 2022, it is good time to think about the things that could happen, good and bad, and what should you be doing to be ready?

The Board of Directors met on Monday, January 3rd via zoom. Despite Covid, last year was a pretty busy year. We are looking at a few more events in 2022. Besides an early Spring Membership Drive Social, you can plan on the Spring Fling at the Point on June 11th.

Our Treasurer, Jim Skarbek, reported that we ended 2021 with \$49,085.33 in the bank (as compared to 2020 with \$49,165.65. There are a few outstanding bills that will be paid in 2022, but overall, the finances are healthy. Security donations went up \$1,500.00.

Most of you have heard that Officer Don Noha retired from the VB Police. He supported Croatan for 24-years. He was presented with \$500 and a memento from the Civic League on December 29th. He is now in Huntsville, Alabama supporting the FBI, teaching explosives and disposal. I have his new address if any of you want to contact him.

We have hired Officer Katherine "Katie" Tassa as Don's replacement. When you see her in the neighborhood, be sure to stop and say hi.

There is no update on the Beach Nourishment Project. City Staff said it would begin in January.

The Coastal / Fort Raleigh pedestrian bridge encroachment request was approved unanimously by City Council on December 14th. Now it's time to start building. I will be sending a note out asking for your help. We need some good bridge builders, coffee, and, maybe, cookies.

The next Board of Director's meeting will be held on February 7th at 6:30 PM via Zoom. If you would like an invite, please let me know and I will send you one.

Thanks to all of the people that helped get us through 2021.

All the best, remain vigilant, and stay safe,

Mike Kelly
President, Croatan Civic League

Safety/Security – January 2022

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Farewell Don Noha
- Hail Katie Tassa

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**
1/20 Book Club
**2/7 CCL Board
Meeting**



Farewell to Master Police Officer Don Noha

Don served Croatan's citizens faithfully for twenty-four years, during which many came to know and appreciate his efforts. When they speak of community policing, Don Noha was the example to emulate. His farewell note follows:

"Effective at the end of [2021], I will be retiring from the Virginia Beach Police Department with over 30 years of service. I began my law enforcement career with the City of Virginia Beach in 1991 as a Deputy with the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office. I became a member of the VBPD in 1997. I have been assigned to the Bomb Squad as my primary duty as a Bomb Technician since August 2000. I have worked part-time in the Croatan neighborhood for the past 24 years.

"I am excited at the new opportunity retirement presents; I have accepted a position as an instructor for the FBI's Hazardous Devices School in Huntsville, Alabama. I will have the awesome responsibility of imparting the knowledge, skills and experience that I have gained in the past 21 years on the Bomb Squad to all new Public Safety Bomb Technician students from throughout the United States. It is an opportunity of a lifetime that few are chosen for. I am humbled at the mere thought of being something larger than myself that will benefit those new Bomb Techs nationwide."



Hail to Master Police Officer Katherine “Katie” Tassa: Croatan welcomes MPO Katie Tassa as Don’s nominal replacement to serve as our security officer. She was personally recommended by Don as she transitions back to the second precinct Crime Suppression Squad after serving as an instructor at the Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA). Katie has worked in Croatan during previous postings to second precinct and likes our neighborhood. She is the recipient of the Silver Cross – VBPD’s second highest bravery award, VBPD’s Life Saving Medal, and other awards. She was the VBPD Officer of the Year in 2018. That’s a pretty good C.V. Please welcome her when you see her and treat her with the same respect as you did her predecessor.

Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC): There was no CAC meeting held in December. The next 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. I have received a “Save the Date” for February 10 to discuss the future of this organization. I will share location and time via Nextdoor when I learn it.

M. C. “Connie” Agresti,

Safety and Security Director

CCL Representative to CAC and VBCCO

CCL Board Member Highlight. Thanks for all your hard work!

Mike Kelly, President



- **Moved to Croatan in 2014 with wife Jane**
- **Former Colonel of U.S. Marine Corps and Harrier Pilot**
- **After retirement, managed an integrated business market sector for Battle Memorial Institute and led business development operations at TASC, Inc.**
- **Mike is the majority owner of Switching Gears Bicycle Shop**
- **He can frequently be seen walking his lab, Murphy**

Bob Lougen, Vice President



- **In addition to VP, Bob oversees the CCL website, Facebook page, email communications and the membership directory**
- **Bob and his family moved to Croatan in 2014 from Calgary, Alberta with their two Bernese Mtn. dogs**
- **He has been in the tax and accounting business for over 35 years**
- **Bob and his wife Beth currently own a tax practice focused on serving American Expats**
- **Bob and Beth have 6 children and 7 grandchildren**

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

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

As the Omicron variant appears to be highly contagious (although not as virulent) attendees are encouraged to wear masks.

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

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.





Many thanks to everyone that contributed a toy to **Toys for Tots** and the **Noblemen Toy Drive**. You helped bring Christmas to the needy children in our area.

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
Turtle Virginia 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

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

We are on the WEB!
 Check us out at
www.croatanbeach.org,
www.facebook.com/CroatanBeach
 and Nextdoor.com

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
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Amber Torgensen	Director, Halloween Party and Parade	directorat@croatanbeach.org	319-6076
Bill Wren	Director	bwren2@cox.net	904-383-2318