

The Croatan Civic League News

February 2022



President's Letter by Mike Kelly

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Usually around this time I am looking for daffodil shoots to be several inches above the ground. But as I write this, we have a possibility of snow this weekend. If it happens, that will be the third time this year.

The Board met this past Monday. I would encourage you to look at the minutes that are posted on the Civic league website.

While you are on the website, don't forget that it's time to join or renew your membership for 2022. It's easy to do online. Please consider donating to the security fund as well.

I haven't had an update on the Beach Nourishment Project other than there are equipment issues with the company, Norfolk Dredging, and that work won't begin until April.

Work has started on the Coastal / Fort Raleigh Drive pedestrian bridge. I am optimistic that it will be completed by the end of February. I want to extend my thanks to Jim Briggs. He volunteered to manage the project during the construction phase, and he is bringing it all together.

The next Board of Director's meeting will be held on March 7th 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
President, Croatan Civic League
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president@croatanbeach.org

The New Voting Districts in Virginia Beach

As most of you know, the next time we vote in November, we will have a change in how the members of the City Council are elected. There will no longer be "At-Large" members and you can only vote for your district councilperson. You can see the new districts at: <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/communications-office/hot-topics/Pages/New-Virginia-Beach-Voter-Districts.aspx>

The new voting districts do not take effect until the November election and the 2023 session begins. So, Guy Tower is still our city council rep until then. (Linwood Branch lives in the new District 6, so he will be focused on that area. Guy Tower will retire at the end of this year.) Rosemary Wilson will tacitly be appointed as our District 5 rep with the November election. That's because she lives in the new District 5 and was elected for an At-Large 4-year term. The court order states that those elected for terms beyond 2022 will continue to serve. There will be no election for District 5 until 2024 when her term expires. Councilman Tower told me that Ms. Wilson is paying close attention to those issues that affect "her district."

Safety/Security – February 2022

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Officer Tassa's Patrols to Start Soon
- Youths and Motorized vehicles
- Unleashed Dogs and Winter Paw Protection
- Crime Statistics
- Don't keep vehicles warm for thieves; Police Bicycles
- Croatan is now in District 5



MPO Tassa's Patrols to Start Soon: Necessary paperwork is backlogged in Chief's office, but we expect MPO Katie Tassa to begin her patrols of Croatan this month.

Motorized Toys and Risky Behavior: Yesterday (February 1, as I write this), I was passed by two teens cranking the throttles up and down on their motorized toys – one a trike and the other a small motorcycle - while hot-dogging by swinging their legs out from side-to-side away from the vehicles.

I happened to be wearing my Harley leathers (a little "street cred") and stopped them asked their ages, if they were licensed, and if they had taken the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) course. The 17-year-old claimed that he had taken the course and the 16-year-old said he hadn't but didn't need a license because his "toy" was "less than 50cc." Fortunately, they were both wearing helmets but I asked them if the MSF course taught them that it was OK to hot dog. I got some "lip" back on how they weren't at risk (ah, the arrogance of youth) and I told them to stop making asses out of themselves before someone calls the police.

There's an old motorcycle rider's adage to the effect that **there are only two types of riders – those who have gone down (i.e., fallen) and those that will go down.** If it's self-propelled, it's arguably not a toy and the operators face the same risks as the big boys, even in a relatively closed environment such as Croatan – where speeding and cell phone use while driving remain perpetual challenges. I'm not here to tell people how to raise their children (I was young, reckless, and didn't listen at that age either). But, many aches and pains later, I recommend heeding the experience of elders, as some kids may not survive making all the same mistakes themselves.

Unleashed Dogs and Winter Paw Protection: After a hiatus, I have started receiving complaints again of unleashed dogs in the neighborhood being aggressive with other dogs. In cold weather, it is comfortable to let your canine friends out to do their business on their own, but they must know the limits of their property and be under verbal control. Otherwise, the only place where dogs may exercise unleashed is on the beach and, even then, they must be under verbal control.

There is also evidence that people are letting their dogs out of their cars at the beach parking lot, letting them eliminate their waste and leaving it there, often alongside the pathway. Nobody wants to see it! Please pick it up! Not only is it neighborly, but it's the law.

I have read recommendations to wash your pet's paws after walking them in the winter months. Salt used to melt ice can irritate their feet and licking salty paws can cause gastric distress.

Croatan Crime Stats: Congratulations on living in one of the safest locales of one of the safest large cities in America. I downloaded the statistics from the police department's database for reported crimes in the Croatan neighborhood for 2021. There was a total of eight crimes – one assault, one threat of bodily harm,

two frauds/identity thefts, two hit and runs, one burglary, and one destruction of private property. The reports do not show the victims or perpetrators, nor do they show the final disposition.

Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC): The January 12 CAC meeting was held via Zoom because of the surge in the Omicron variant of Covid-19. Our anticipated speakers from Traffic Engineering could not be present but were re-scheduled for the February 9th meeting – 7:00 PM at the VB Volunteer Rescue Squad Station #14, 740 Virginia Beach Blvd (aka: 17th Street).

Motor vehicle thefts remain the primary property crime impacting our area. Time and again, we read that someone left their car running to warm it up or just ran in for a cup of coffee. Auto theft is a crime of opportunity. Don't give thieves the opportunity. Do not leave valuables in sight when you park and always lock your vehicle.

Firearm theft from motor vehicles remains the single most common source of weapons in the hands of those who should not have them. If you carry, please take the weapon(s) inside when you leave your vehicle.

During the quarterly Citizen's Advisory Board meeting with the Chief on February 7, I learned that:

- Department is looking for public donations to purchase up to seventeen (17) bicycles for police patrols. These specially-made bicycles cost approximately \$2,000 each. Tax deductible donations (CAC is a 501(c)3 organization) may be made to the Citizen's Advisory Committee and mailed/delivered c/o VBPD Second Precinct, 820 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 23451.
- Police work actively with the Samaritan House (<https://samaritanhouse.org>) to place domestic violence and human trafficking victims in this temporary refuge.

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO): A meeting to reconstitute the VBCCO will be held Thursday, February 10 at 6:30 PM in the Princess Anne Rec Center. Anyone desiring to attend should register online at vbcco.org.

The "Beach District" has fallen into disuse. The city has begun referring to areas of the city by their numerical designations to match the new voting districts. **Croatan is in District 5.** More information is available at <http://vbgov.com>.

M. C. "Connie" Agresti,

Safety and Security Director

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!!!



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

Amanda Robinson, Secretary



- The Robinson family, Amanda, Sam, Devlin, and Austin have lived in Croatan since January, 2011. They also have a “naughty, lovable” pup named Rudee.
- Amanda has enjoyed putting together neighborhood social events and children’s programs for the last 5 years.
- She works part-time as a pediatric physical therapist seeing children from birth to 3 years old.
- Amanda loves her family, friends, the beach, boogie boarding, reading, playing games and dancing.
- If you see her at the bus stop or on the beach, she says wave and say hello. She loves being part of this wonderful neighborhood and community.

M.C. “Connie Agresti, Safety and Security



- Connie moved to Croatan in 2016 with partner, Alice Weisz.
- He is a retired Navy Supply Corps Officer.
- Worked in Major Systems Acquisition, Auditing and Financial Mgmt. in both public and private sectors and with Booze Allen Hamilton, Inc. supporting “all the alphabet soup” agencies of the U.S. Intelligence Community.
- When not walking their lab mix, Suzie, Connie is frequently seen working around their yard.
- Connie is the President of the Second Precinct Citizens’ Advisory Committee (CAC) and represents the CCL at the VB Council of Civic Organizations.

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.



The Croatan Book Club

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 17, 2022
Time. 7 P.M.
Location: Home of Jane
Kelly
604 Fort Raleigh
Drive
Book: **Yellow Wife**, by Sadeqa Johnson



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):

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/.

Croatan Women's Club

The official CWC meeting is cancelled, however a social gathering is being held at Priscilla's house to celebrate tutus on 2/22/22. All CWC members and participants are welcome to attend this informal get together to banish the winter blues. We hope to resume the regular CWC meeting scheduled for March 14, and will make a decision at the end of February.

It Only Happens Once -Tutu 2-22-2022 Party

Date: Tuesday, February 22nd

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Home of Priscilla Ayres 660 S Atlantic Ave

Parking: Very limited driveway parking is available

Wine will be provided by the CWC

A-N bring an appetizer O-Z bring a dessert

Please come dressed in something that resembles the number 2.

Examples - a pair of something, twins or tutu (**Optional**)

Prizes for the best pair, twins, and tutu.

Time To Renew Or Join CCL

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

Welcome Wagon

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

if you know of new
Croatan neighbors



Who to Call

Dead or Stranded Marine Mammal
(dolphin, seal, whale) or Sea
Turtle Virginia Aquarium Stranding
Response Team
757-385-7575



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

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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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We are on the WEB!

Check us out at
www.croatanbeach.org,
www.facebook.com/CroatanBeach
and Nextdoor.com