

The Croatan Civic League News

March 2022



President's Letter by Mike Kelly

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is great news, at least for me. The pedestrian bridge connecting Coastal and Fort Raleigh Drives is finally complete. This project, sponsored by the civic league, has taken over a year to complete. This was primarily due to the paperwork required by the city and other agencies. We thank Kevin Roomsburg who drafted the plans; Billy Moore who has worked hard on the pathway and finer touches on the bridge; Tony Aiken who spent the day hauling gravel for the pathway; and Jim Briggs who managed the overall construction. In addition to finding a good construction crew, Jim provided machinery and truck support. He also spent several hours pouring and shaping the concrete curb entrance needed to meet ADA requirements. If you haven't seen it, it's worth a walk or bike ride.



No changes on the beach project. The city says that Rudee Inlet dredging should start around April 15th, and we should see sand put on the beach around May 1st.

Don't forget that it's membership renewal time. You can pay this online. Please go to the CCL website at <https://www.croatanbeach.org/>. Also, consider donating to the security fund which pays for our off-duty police patrols.

The Board continues to meet via Zoom. We rarely have a member observe or participate. I urge you to attend. Your concerns are very important. Contact me at the email address below and I will send you an invitation with the link. The next meeting is on Monday, April 4th.

All the best, remain vigilant, and stay safe,

Mike Kelly
President, Croatan Civic League
(M) 703.439.9153 (Primary)
(H) 757.961.6244 (After 6:00 PM)
president@croatanbeach.org

Did You Know?

A receptacle has been placed at the Point for used fishing line and hooks?

Thank you Anne Mannarino!

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**
3/14 CWC
3/17 Book Club
**4/4 CCL Board
Meeting**



Safety/Security – March 2022

Bottom Line Up Front:

- General Booth Intersection
- Bicycle Safety
- Scoop the Poop
- Dog Control
- Be fob smart
- CAC – Traffic Calming – disappointing performance for Croatan drivers



General Booth Intersection: An accident on General Booth Blvd in February took down two telephone poles and signage just south of Croatan Road. The damaged 35 MPH speed limit sign was put up on one of the replaced telephone poles, but it is partially hidden by a tree and is now only 65 feet from Croatan Road – almost 200 feet closer from where it was. I have made the city aware of the need to move this sign further south because traffic, always fast, is barreling towards our intersection at 50 MPH or more. **Be very careful when exiting Croatan.** The time-distance window from your normal sight markers has been reduced and approaching vehicles will be upon you quickly. The same caution applies to pedestrians/bicyclists using the crosswalk on Gen. Booth. The city does **not** have plans to put a stop light at this intersection.

Bicycle Safety Reminders: Spring weather is finally upon us and that means that more of us are getting out to enjoy the sun's warmth. Before you begin to pedal around town, be sure your bicycle is properly tuned up:

- check and properly inflate tires, replace if cracked or worn
- clean and oil chain, gears and cables
- examine brake pads – replace if worn or cracked
- check batteries and operation of lights (lights required if riding after dark)
- break-out the light colored and bright clothing, best if reflectorized
- ride with traffic and obey traffic signs/signals
- be mindful that while you may be able to see cars, drivers may not be able to see you; especially if you are up-sun, coming from shade into sunshine, at twilight, or after sunset (in other words – at all times)
- Helmets are encouraged (**mandatory** for those 14 and younger)
- **DRIVERS:** new law (eff: July 1, 2021) requires you to **give cyclists at least three feet lateral distance when passing**, even if it means crossing double yellow line.

Scoop the Poop: Many lawns have been damaged by the cable installers. As we labor to get them back to green, let's not add to our neighbors' grief by leaving our dog's waste on their lawns as well. City ordinance requires that you scoop the poop. Plastic bags are available at every beach entrance and both bridges.



Dog Control: I learned of an incident (attack?) on the beach this week of an out-of-control "part-pit dog" dog intimidating another dog so badly that the victimized dog ran from its handler. Fortunately, this young pup found its way home (in the west end of Croatan), but this could have ended tragically. **Please ensure that your dog is trained to respond to its handler's voice in any circumstance.** This means paying attention to your pet and what it encounters. If you cannot comply, please do not let your dog

run loose on the Croatan beach. Irresponsibility on the part of just one or two owners threatens the freedom for everyone. In 2019, there was a concerted effort by the city to ban dogs from the beach all-together.

Crime Stats: Second Precinct is still doing well reducing crime except for motor vehicle thefts. Modus operandi for thieves is to test car doors. If unlocked, they push the start button. If the fob has been left in the car or is in close proximity, the car will start and “away they go.” Be fob smart.

Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC):

Some of the city’s highway engineers came to the February 9, CAC meeting to discuss traffic calming. As many know, Croatan has been in the third of four progressive traffic calming phases for many years. The third phase includes increased police enforcement, periodic electronic sign notifications, and higher fines.

There are 26 streets in Phase III across Virginia Beach. The data presented at this meeting show that for the calendar quarter ending December 31, 2021, more speeding summonses were issued on Croatan Road than on all but eight (8) of the other Phase III streets. Regrettably, more speeding summonses were issued to Croatan residents than residents of all but four (4) of the other Phase III communities. So, the problem isn’t just with surfers and workmen/delivery trucks; as comic character Pogo would say – **“We have met the enemy and he is us.”** Communities that fail to control speed while in Phase III, become eligible for Phase IV - emplacement of physical means to reduce speed.

Separately, I asked the engineers if they would consider painting speed limit signs on the pavement of Croatan Rd. as they are planning to do on 21st Street. I haven’t received a response.

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO): Heather Malaby has stepped in as President so that annual corporation papers may be filed with the State Corporation Commission, but meetings of the VBCCO remain on hold.

M. C. “Connie” Agresti,

Safety and Security Director

CCL Representative to CAC and VBCCO

Do you want to save \$200, save your neighbors, save children, bicyclists, pets and wildlife? GO SLOW IN CROATAN!!!



We are on the WEB!

Check us out at
www.croatanbeach.org,
Facebook.com/CroatanBeach
& Nextdoor.com

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



Jim Skarbek, Treasurer



- Jim is originally from Maryland but was a Navy transplant to Virginia Beach.
- He has lived in Croatan since 1993.
- Jim flew as an F-14 Radar Intercept Officer for 13 years followed by 3 years in the Navy's Assessment division (N81).
- He retired in 2015 from the staff of the Commander Naval Safety Center in Norfolk. Since that time he has worked as an instructor at the Strike Fighter Weapons School Atlantic on NAS Oceana.
- He holds an MA in history, an MBA, and a BS in Engineering (Nuclear).
- Jim resides in Croatan with his wife Carol and their children James and Allis.

Kathy Donahoe, Board Member, Newsletter



- Kathy retired from the Virginia City Beach School system after 34 years. She spent 26 years in the classroom and 8 years as a Computer Resource Specialist.
- She has 2 sons (1 local) and 2 grandchildren (local) that you may see driving around the neighborhood on bikes or in the golf cart or playing pickleball in the driveway.
- She loves the beach and working in her yard.
- Kathy has lived in Croatan for 25 years. She has a 13 year bichon/shih tzu that she adopted 11 1/2 years ago.
- Kathy has recently taken over the Croatan monthly newsletter.

Time To Renew Or Join CCL

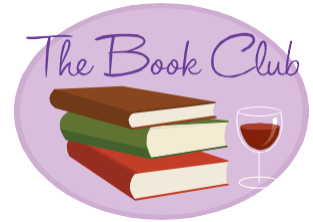
SCOOP THE POOP! IT'S THE LAW!

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, March 17, 2022
Time. 7 P.M.
Location: Home of Alice Weisz
501 Bushnell Drive
Book: **Middlesex**, Jeffrey Eugenides



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):
Finding Freedom – Erica French

Have you read a good book recently? Want to recommend it to others? Share your find with us.

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

Croatan Women's Club



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

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

Magazine Collection

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

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 continued

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