

The Croatan Civic League News

April 2022



President's Letter by Mike Kelly

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The beach will finally get some sand!

The long-awaited dredging of Rudee Inlet has begun. This picture of the dredge at the easter end was taken on Thursday, April 7th.



You may recall from previous updates that the contract for the dredging includes sand placed on the Croatan beach. The initial dredging will send sand to the resort beach. In about 10 days, a large pipeline will be placed on Croatan beach and the dredge will pump sand to the south. That should take a week. The amount is supposed to be about 55,000 cubic yards. The normal accretion cycle begins around this time of the year so this should help a lot.

We have two great events this month. I hope to see many of you at the **Members Social** on Friday, April 29th at Beachside Social off 27th St. Details are on the CCL website. It's free, but you need to RSVP.

The second event is the following day – the **Croatan Cares 5K Walk/Run**. Details are also on the website. Even if you don't participate, please consider donating. It is a charity event for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore. Spread some of your good fortune around!

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, May 2nd.

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?

- Beginning **April 9**, Verizon reports you will have to dial area code 757 when calling locally.
- Virginia Beach has a new website. The new site is <https://viriniabeach.gov>

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention:

Because she was in Croatan at the time, our security officer, MPO Katie Tassa, was able to respond immediately to a midnight call for a possible suicidal individual. Her prompt actions led to the peaceful resolution and referral to mental health services.

If you or a loved one is feeling overwhelmed by life and are staring into the abyss, *please* call the **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433), or 911**. Police have Crisis Intervention Team members and can quickly access mental health counselors. For more information go to the NAMI “If In Crisis” page at <https://namivirginia.org/mental-health-resources/crisis-info/>.

You ARE worth it!

Safety/Security – April 2022

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Area Code Overlay
- Personal Safety
- Motor Vehicle Thefts
- Croatan Parking Lot
- Motorcycle Safety
- Exercise Safely in the Sun
- CAC and Coffee with the Captain
- New Virginia Beach City website



Area Code Usage: *Beginning April 9, Verizon reports that you will have to dial area code 757 when calling locally; think: **police non-emergency number 757-385-5000*** and any other local service numbers. Be sure to change your auto-dial systems to reflect this change.

Personal Safety: MPO Katie Tassa reports that that she finds at least one garage door open in the neighborhood every third patrol. This is during the wee morning hours. She also reports bicycles left in driveways/yards overnight. These are prime targets for thieves cruising the 'hood not to mention offering easy violation of one's home and nocturnal bliss. I've found my garage door open some mornings too, so be sure to check twice.

Motor Vehicle Thefts: Motor vehicle thefts continue to soar – up 130 percent city-wide in the last month-over-month comparison (up 120 percent in the Second Precinct). I cannot say it enough – do not leave vehicles unlocked or idling for a quick dash for coffee, forgotten item, etc.; even in your own driveway. Do not leave fobs or valuables (especially firearms) in vehicles. Keep even small change out of sight. Motor vehicle thefts are crimes of opportunity and there are lots of opportunists out there.

Croatan Parking Lot: No April Fools joke – as of April 1 it costs to park in the Croatan Beach parking lot (south end of Vanderbilt Ave) if you arrive after 10:00 AM. Cost for Virginia Beach residents is \$3/day. All others pay \$7. Credit cards are the preferred method of payment. There are no re-entry passes or privileges, so if you leave and return, you'll have to pay again. Also, no break for Croatan residents. On the plus side, the lot is now open until 8:00 PM. These changes will remain in effect until lot closing on September 30. (You can still park for free from 6:00 – 10:00 AM)

Motorcycle Safety: Last month I wrote of bicycle safety. This month, I address their big brothers – the HOGS. As bikers clean the winter cobwebs from their spokes and carbon from their pipes, be especially careful for them taking to the roads in increased numbers. Most bikers ride sober and responsibly, wear helmets, burn headlights, and take preemptive actions to avoid dangerous situations. While some don't, regardless of how responsibly they ride, all lack protection in the event of a collision. A collision between a motorcycle and another vehicle will result serious injury or death. Please be on the lookout – both visually and audibly. Loud pipes may be an irritant to some but they save lives on the highway. Motorcycles are entitled to a full traffic lane - don't crowd them, follow them too closely, or cut them off. Be especially careful when turning left. Motorcyclists can easily lose control on wet pavement, milled pavement, leaves, or grass clippings. Don't leave the latter two in the roadway.

Sun's Out, "Gun's" Out: April is when we start to shed the heavier wraps in favor of cut-offs and sandals in search of some natural Vitamin D. Remember to use sunscreen. It's been a long, cold winter and many of us are paler than we were in October. Start slowly. The same goes for weeding, cutting the lawn, or planting. Whether we hit the gym or think it's a mis-spelled man's name, we're restarting a new exercise regimen. We're all a year older, so take it slow, rest often, and work up to your summer endurance levels. And drink plenty of water.

Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC): The March 9 CAC meeting and a subsequent "Coffee with the Captain" (of the Second Precinct) (on March 24), Second Precinct Commander, Capt. Harry McBrien, gave us the opportunity to review many of the changes made at the Oceanfront over the last year as part of efforts to improve safety of residents and visitors. Additional lighting has been emplaced and police foot and bicycle patrols are increasing. Overgrowth has been removed from the vicinity of the 19th Street parking lot – scene of a fatal shooting last March – and a number of firearms were recovered from having been "stashed" in those bushes. Overall, confiscations of illegal firearms are nearing 200 – many of them high-powered weapons with high-capacity magazines. Shot-spotter technology has also been deployed at the Oceanfront and in other high-crime areas of the city and has led to a number of arrests.

Crime deterrent strategies include cleaning-up and rehabilitating run-down dwellings and apartment complexes, deployment of crisis intervention teams (to assist those in mental health or substance abuse crises), providing underprivileged children with recreation center memberships, and community outreach efforts that place police in neighborhoods along with ice cream trucks, hot dog vendors, etc.

New Virginia Beach website: <https://virginiabeach.gov> will be replacing <https://vbgov.com> in the near future. The layout is a little different but the info seems the same. They'll be running in parallel for a while. Check it out.

M. C. "Connie" Agresti,
Safety and Security Director
CCL Representative to CAC and VBCCO

Time To Renew Or Join CCL

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

Jen Alex, Director



- Jen has lived in Croatan since 2011 (minus a quick Navy relocation to Okinawa, Japan when her husband was active duty).
- Jen is a local artist that has served on the Croatan Women's Club Programs Committee and has served on the CCL Board since 2018.
- She is also the director for the Artisans at Croatan Beach event which she hopes to bring back soon.
- Jen is married to John and has 2 children Conner and Morgan. They also have a husky puppy Luna.

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



CROATAN BOOK CLUB

Book club meets on the third Thursday of each month. It so happened that last month this coincided with St Patrick's Day and wearing the green plus a little booze surely won out; cancellation was in order.

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 2022

Time 7 P.M.

Location: Home of Alice Weisz

501 Bushnell Drive

Book: Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides

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

Future Selections (in order):

Finding Freedom – Erin 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

Our next CWC meeting is Monday April 11 at the home of Debbie Kurtz at 712 Virginia Dare. This will be a wine glass etching event led by Katie Ripberger with your very own personalized wine glass to take home. Please bring \$5 to cover the cost of the glass and supplies if you sent your RSVP.

CWC needs YOU!!

Positions for the Board including President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Programs Chair are positions that need to be filled for the upcoming elections. Linda Richie-Royal (LindaRitchie1@cox.net), Katie Ripberger (katieFR@howardhanna.com) and Kim Scholl (SCHOLLRNK@verizon.net) are on the nominating committee and will be reaching out to our members to find ladies willing to volunteer. Please contact any member of the nominating committee if you are interesting in serving our community in this capacity.

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

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

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