

CCL Newsletter

June, 2022



Mike Kelly's letter will be back next month! Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Hello Croatan,

It's the start of summer this month and the CCL kicked it off right with our annual Spring Fling at the Point.

We had over 200 people attend this year including our current and future council reps, Guy Tower and Rosemary Wilson. The day was beautiful with a breeze (which wreaked havoc with my names tags) and everyone seemed to have a great time. We had plenty of food and drink to accommodate the crowd and some great prizes that were raffled off. Thanks to all of the local businesses who donated the prizes. Next year we would like to see if more Croatan resident owned businesses want to participate. I posted some pictures of the event on our CCL Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/CroatanBeach> . Thank you to everyone who have already posted their comments on Spring Fling. We appreciate your positive comments...it was a lot of work to put it together.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make this a success. There are too many people for me to call out however thanks to Mike Kelly for all of his efforts to get this event going (licenses, food, tents etc.) and Bill Wren for his truck and trailer to take care of our coolers and drinks. It was a real team effort that took place over many months. So that's a wrap on SF 2022.

Enjoy your summer and be safe!

Bob Lougen

Vice-President

Croatan Civic League





Safety/Security – June 2022:

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Beach Notes – many reminders
- Heat Stroke or Heat Exhaustion
- Speed Limits and Pedestrians
- Dogs, dogs, dogs – on beach, on pavement, on duty
- Deck Safety
- CAC – Mailbox pilferages and check washing; Oceanfront Survey
- Crisis Intervention Team and 9-8-8 (new National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number)

Beach Notes:

Holes: The recent death of a New Jersey teen prompts me to remind all not to bury individuals in deep holes. The sides can fall in and suffocate a person, even if their head is above the level of the sand. If you (or your children, or your dog) dig a hole – **PLEASE fill it in!** Sprains and broken bones are no way to spend a vacation.

Sunscreen: Please wear it. It is cheaper and less “yucky” than cancer.

No Diving: Storms, tides, and winds shift the bottom sand off of Croatan Beach on a daily basis. Whether on a board or swimming, diving into the water can break your neck leading to paralysis or death. We average one permanent injury per year – don't be that one!

Dunes: Please stay off the dunes. Not only does city ordinance forbid it, but the damaged dunes may reveal dangerous metal stakes only upon stepping, falling, or sliding onto one. (Photo: recent damage to sole of foot from metal stake buried on access path)

Dangers in the Sand: The four-day nor'easter that started Mother's Day tore up the beach, access paths, and dunes south of Croatan Rd. CCL President Mike Kelly, et al, have cleaned a lot of the metal debris and the City is actually acting upon letters submitted by Mike and other CCL members/residents to make the beach safer for recreation. Please do your part and mark or remove any objects you uncover and/or notify Virginia Beach 311 (757-385-5311).



Rip Currents: Usually announced by red flags flying at lifeguard stations. If pulled out to sea by a rip current, do not try to swim against the current. Rather, swim parallel to the shore until out of the current and then return to safety. Don't swim alone and watch children closely.

Thunder and Lightning: If you hear it or see it, get off the beach. Mother nature can be pretty awesome, but she can also be deadly.

Plastic Kills: please police the beach, especially your area, when you leave. Plastic bottles, sales tags from chairs, umbrellas, etc., straws, zip ties, and the like can kill marine mammals, sea turtles, fish, and aquatic birds. Please pick it up and throw it away.

Unexploded Ordnance: Military operations have been a daily occurrence in, off of, and above Virginia Beach for more than a century. Submarine and anti-submarine actions occurred within sight of our shores. The question is not "if," so much as "when and where" unexploded ordnance (UXO) will wash up. Even expended flares can cause serious burns. If you see UXO, do not touch it. Keep others away and **call 9-1-1.**

Heat Stroke or Heat Exhaustion: We've had some seriously hot temperatures lately. There's sure to be more to follow. Know the difference between these two conditions. One is a medical emergency because it can kill you. Which one? See graphic elsewhere in newsletter.

Speed Limits and Pedestrians:

All of Croatan neighborhood is 25 MPH. We have many streets without sidewalks. Please drive kindly.

Pacific Avenue between 16th Street and 32nd Street is 25 MPH for the summer season. (This zone may move further south due to a recent pedestrian accident at 15th and Pacific).

Atlantic Avenue where it makes the big north-end turn near Fort Story to become Shore Drive is 25 MPH.

General Booth (both directions) from about 200 feet south of Croatan Road north to Rudee Inlet is 35 MPH.

Drivers must stop for pedestrians (including bicyclists) in crosswalks. (Hint: For your own safety activate emergency flashers so vehicles behind you know that you are stopped).

Pedestrians – you have an obligation to look out for vehicles and not put yourself into a dangerous situation, such as walking out from behind a stopped high-profile vehicle (e.g., SUV, pick-up, truck, bus) without checking the second lane. In a pedestrian/vehicle collision – you will lose.

Bicyclists – helmets are mandatory for riders 14 and younger. Ride defensively.

Dogs, Dogs, Dogs:

Not allowed on Croatan Public Beach between 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM daily – unless certified and appropriately marked service animals.

Outside of the above times, dogs may be on beach leashed or run loose providing they are under handlers verbal control.

Handlers must pick up and properly dispose of pet waste. Not only is it the law, but it's neighborly and a sign of responsible dog ownership. Plastic bag dispensers (courtesy of CCL) are at every beach access path. They are not designed for nor are they intended to receive deposits. Once you've used the bag, throw it in one of the abundant trash barrels. Come on, man! Do we really need to say this?



Try to avoid walking your dog(s) in the heat of the day. On sunny days, pavement (and sand) temperatures can reach 130 – 150 degrees that can burn even calloused paws.

Deck Safety: When is the last time your deck or balcony was inspected for structural integrity? Two decks in Sandbridge collapsed last summer injuring dozens. For more information and resources on deck, balcony, and porch safety, visit www.vbgov.com/decksafety. _

Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC):

Mailbox Thefts and Check Washing: The civic league in a “well-to-do” neighborhood reported that mail had been stolen from their mailboxes. The mail was opened and discarded but remittance checks (including tax payments) were stolen, “washed” with chemicals, and altered to another’s name, with many additional zeroes. Some of the fraudulent checks were cashed. Anti-fraud experts recommend writing checks with Uniball 207 gel ink pens because the ink permeates the paper thereby preventing the washing of the check. Also, recommend against leaving mail in mailbox overnight as red [out-going mail] flag is just that for thieves.

Oceanfront survey remains open all summer. Whether resident or visitor, please complete a survey located on the vbgov.com splash page (bottom left) on your experience at the Oceanfront. Human Rights Commission thanks you.

Atlantic Hurricane Season Begins June 1: Take the time to review your Hurricane Preparedness Kit, identify your evacuation zone ([Know Your Zone | VDEM \(vaemergency.gov\)](http://www.vbgov.com/evacuation)), “favorite” the National Weather Center out of Wakefield, Virginia at <https://forecast.weather.gov>, and subscribe to VBAAlert ([More About VBAAlert :: VBgov.com - City of Virginia Beach](http://www.vbgov.com/vbaalert)) for weather warnings and guidance. All of Croatan is in either Evacuation Zone A, B, or C. Forecasters predict an above average Hurricane Season in 2022 – the law of averages dictates that sooner or later they’ll be right.

Post Script: Master Police Officer Don Noha’s death last month left our community in shock. **If you are having an emotional crisis, please seek help.** Virginia Beach Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) members are trained and available 24/7. Virginia Beach is also a test location for the new 3-digit **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 9-8-8**. Please use the CIT! Even in the darkest times, there really are people out there who care about you. (988 will be deployed nationwide on July 16, 2022). June is also National PTSD Awareness Month.

M. C. “Connie” Agresti,

Safety and Security Director

CCL Representative to CAC

Did You Know?

The Croatan Women's Club Memorial Bridge is now complete. The plaques were installed this week by Eric Johnson with the assistance of his wife Colleen. The bridge is the culmination of Jane Kelly's and Kay Troutman's idea and dream. Stop by and take a look!



CROATAN BOOK CLUB

Out of respect for our dear member, Jane Kelly, book club will be cancelled in June.

Next meeting, July 21

The Cellist of Sarajevo by Stephen Galloway

Future Selections (in order):

The Paris Library - Janet Skeslien Charles

Butterfly - Yusra Mardini

Tobacco Wives - Adele Myers

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/.

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



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

Tidewater Wildlife Rescue Helpline

757-255-8710

A volunteer organization dedicated to assisting orphaned
and injured wildlife throughout Tidewater, Virginia
Tidewaterwildliferescue@gmail.com

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

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

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