

CCL Newsletter

April, 2023



Submitted by Kathy Donahoe

President's Letter

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The VB Department of Public Works made a presentation to the City Council on 28 March regarding Croatan Beach. That presentation is posted on the CCL website at <https://www.croatanbeach.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Croatan-Beach-Informational-Briefing-CC-3.28.23.pdf>

Note slide 23, Next Steps. This is the first time we have seen DPW link the weir and the beach together. They will be looking at weir replacement and how it will affect the beach. Design modifications will be considered as part of the process. There is no change in the timeline for additional sand. It's still going to be next year.

We had a **Members Social** on Friday, March 24th at Beachside Social off 27th St. This is our second year having it there and it is a lot of fun. This was a free event and we had 81 people sign up to attend. Unfortunately, 20 were no-shows. Please keep in mind the Civic League is required to pay for all members that sent in an rsvp.

The **Croatan Cares 5K Walk/Run**. Details are on the website. Even if you don't participate, please feel free to donate to this charitable event for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore.

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 1st.

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?

- It is time to pay your annual CCL dues. Please visit our website to join.
- Spring Fling will be held June 10th at the Point from 4-8:30. We are looking for volunteers to help with various tasks in preparation for the big day! Please contact Jen Resio at jenresio@hotmail.com to volunteer.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

4/20 Book Club

4/17 Women's Club

4/30 Croatan Cares

6/10 Spring Fling

5/1 CCL Meeting



Croatan Book Club - April 2023

Next Meeting Thursday,
April 20, 2023. Time 7 P.M.
Hostess: Debbi Warwick
Place: 516 Kerry Lane

Book: The Orphan Keeper – Cameron Wright

All Neighbors are welcome. Just read the book (or maybe not – come to socialize and hear a review of the book), and notify the hostess that you will be attending via a response to the email. Bring a light snack/wine to share, if desired. We meet on the third Thursday of each month, location varies.

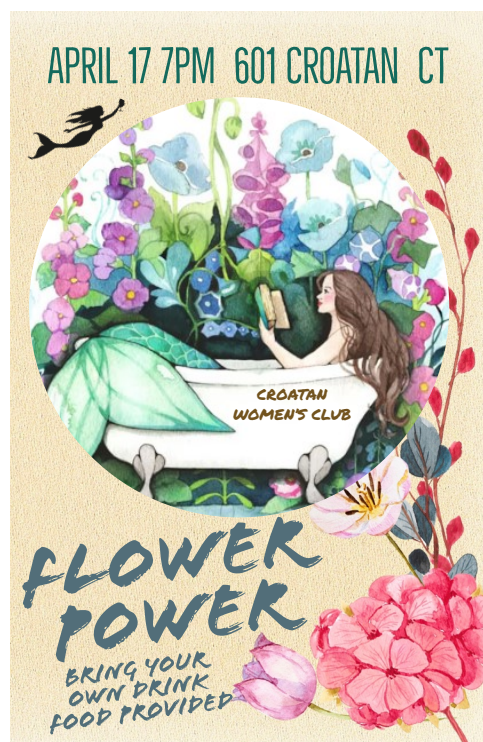
Future Selections (in order):

Three Words for Goodbye – Gaynor,H. & Webb,H

West with Giraffes - Lynda Rutledge

Remarkably Bright Creatures – Shelby Van Pelt

Women's Club - April 17, 2023



Croatan Cares - April 30, 2023



Safety/Security – April 2023

Residents/Owners: Please share with renters and contractors – we all live in this community.

Bottom Line Up Front: (Apologies for length)

- Respect Stop/Yield Signs
- Parking Lot Charges Begin April 1
- Sustaining Security Patrols
- Something in the Water Traffic Impact on Croatan
- CAC – personal security measures – property crimes hitting closer to home
- VBCCO – Elections, Committees, new CCL representation.

Please Respect Stop/Yield Signs: A local 2-year-old lost their life recently after being run over by a driver failing to stop and yield to pedestrians while making a right turn on red. Croatan is at high risk for this type of incident – we have few sidewalks, children play in streets, we have many bicyclists, dog walkers, skateboarders, and pedestrians. I have received many reports of, and have personally observed speedy cornering or blown stop signs. It happens throughout our neighborhood - at Croatan and Christine onto Bushnell, Ft. Raleigh and Bushnell, along Virginia Dare intersections with Secotan, Surfside, Twilight, and Vanderbilt, at Vanderbilt and Twilight, and along Vanderbilt and South Atlantic. Please ratchet the speed back a notch. **We love our children.** I have asked our security patrol officers to watch for such aggressive driving.



Croatan Parking Lot: Charges for parking in the Croatan lot (south end of Vanderbilt Ave) began April 1. Those parking after 10:00 AM will incur a \$3 VB-Resident (\$7 non-VB resident) fee. All payments are being made via kiosk, text, phone or application. The QRC on the sign brings you to an application known as **ParkWhiz**. The VB resident charge will be determined from the zip code of the credit card being registered. The kiosks will work on the honor system when asking for amount you are paying. Improper charges, tickets, etc. can be adjudicated at parkinghelp@vbgov.com. Please do not drive through the gates. There are many cameras linked to the same Enterprise Resource Program (ERP) used by the police. Consequences might not be in your best interest.

One last note on the parking lot: I contacted VB311 to get the eyesore (rusted, faded, and askew) “VB Parking” sign at the lot replaced and received a notification within 72 hours that the work order had been completed. Their solution was to remove the sign. I am waiting to see if a new sign is mounted.

Sustaining Security Patrols: Our lead security officer, MPO Katie Tassa, notified the CCL Board of Directors that she is having difficulty retaining additional officers to patrol Croatan because the pay rate we offer is 50 – 150 percent below what is available to officers moonlighting elsewhere (think: Walmart, clubs and bars, evening school events). In this period of high inflation, the cops need to augment their salaries to make ends meet at home and they can’t do that working in Croatan.

To keep the same number of patrol hours (310 per annum) at a competitive rate, we need \$19,025 in our security fund. We currently have about \$8,000 in donations against a budget of \$12.4k. If we keep the \$12.4k budget, we end up cutting the number of hours by one-third – less than 3 hours/week during the peak summer months.

On March 29, CCL President Mike Kelly, VP Bob Lougen, Treasurer Sharon Heath and I discussed this situation. Collectively, we agreed that in order to keep a viable security patrol, we must raise the offered rate.

Something in the Water (SITW): I attended the April 6 community briefing for the Something in the Water festival that will run April 28 – 30. We were advised to expect heavy traffic and possible periodic road closures to allow crowd/traffic clearance, if necessary. Event-goers are being directed to park at Veterans United Amphitheater and bus to the venue. That will still entail heavy bus traffic on northbound General Booth Blvd. Drivers are encouraged to download and use the **Waze** application.

If you drive out of Croatan, expect to be allowed to turn left (southbound) only. VBPd representatives assured me that there will be an officer on duty at Croatan Road intersection with Gen. Booth to facilitate breaks in traffic. Returning home is a different matter – bring patience. You may be required to show that you reside here (license), but that is not expected at this juncture. Emergency vehicles will be prepositioned throughout the city to ensure timely responses, as needed.

SITW will have three stages set up at 17th, 24th, and 31st Streets. The amplifiers of the two southern-most stages will be facing north (away from Croatan), however, I expect that there will be some sound heard in our environs. Music is scheduled to end at 11:30 PM on Friday and Saturday, and at 11:00 PM on Sunday. If you are going to the event from Croatan, you are advised to bike or walk. We were told that SITW will also be live-streamed on YouTube.

Virginia Beach is investing heavily in ensuring that this is a successful, safe, and secure event – employing lessons learned from the previous two occurrences – a successful one here in 2019 and a not-so-successful one in Washington, DC last year. A complete list of permitted and prohibited items can be found at <https://somethinginthewater.com>.

SITW is also focused upon improving the quality of life of area residents and will feature scholarships and grants, a year-long Community Food Program, home renovation, sports court resurfacing, library (reading) programs, Department of Health screenings and clinics, local artists, etc. One very successful element – the Pop-Up Church – will again be held featuring local congregations and Gospel music.

Volunteer observers to assist Human Rights Commission are still being sought. Visit www.facebook.com/HRC4VB to learn more and sign up. Additional questions may be emailed to SITW@vbgov.com.



Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) Lots of physical and personal security information was promulgated at the March 14 CAC meeting. Here are the highlights:

- There has been a cluster of larcenies from vehicles as well as vehicle thefts in the North Birdneck area, between Barbaton and Linkhorn Bay apartments. It can't be said enough – lock your vehicles and take valuables (especially firearms) inside with you.
- Outgoing mail has been reported stolen from home mailboxes recently in the Rudee Heights, Cavalier, Bay Colony, and North End neighborhoods. Thieves are “washing” checks with acetone and rewriting them payable to themselves or a co-conspirator for thousands of dollars. Thieves are also ordering new checks with the pilfered account numbers and having them sent to their addresses (usually, post office boxes).
 - If you place outgoing mail in your mailbox, **do not** to use the notification flag as that telegraphs the presence of mail to thieves. A safer alternative is to take outgoing mail into the post office. Also, **do not** use the large blue drop boxes outside the Post Office because they, too, have been broken into (most recently at the Seapines Post Office at 320 33rd Street).

- Checks written in ballpoint ink are susceptible to “washing.” If you do write checks, recommend using **Uniball Gel Pens** (often carrying a “fraud prevention” label), as the ink permeates the paper.
- Bike theft is on the rise and thieves are using both bolt cutters and hack saws to defeat locks. No easy solution here – just keep an eye on your ride.
- Teams of highly skilled pickpockets have been working the **Hilltop area**. A common tactic is for one to distract the target while the other rifles a purse or picks a pocket. Do not leave purses unattended in shopping carts – they have been stolen or rifled without the victim being any wiser. Such thefts from Whole Foods and Walmart are repeatedly cited in police reports.
 - A common tactic is for one perpetrator to appear to pick something up from the ground (possibly as the victim in loading packages into his/her car) and ask if it belongs to the intended victim and while distracted, a cohort executes the theft. If happens quickly! Always be on guard.
 - If you are good-hearted and want to help a panhandler (not advisable), keep a small bill separate from a wallet or purse. Letting them see a stash of cash paints you as a target. Don’t be so naïve as to think that they’re not passing your vehicle information by phone to compatriots plying nearby parking lots.
- As mentioned in previous notes, social media comments and casually spoken threats to/about schools and school officials are on the rise nation-wide. Schools, police, and prosecutors can no longer accept “I was just joking,” as an excuse. Students are being charged and expelled. Parents should emphasize to their children that “idle chatter” can have life-altering consequences. A student brought a loaded handgun to a Virginia Beach high school just last week.

The April CAC meeting will be held on **Wednesday April 12 at 7:00 PM** in the conference room of the VB Volunteer Rescue Squad (Building #14) at 720 Virginia Beach Blvd (aka: 17th Street) (east (butterfly garden) side of building). All are welcome.

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO): An election to reconstitute the Board of Directors was conducted on March 23. The newly elected President is Rick Boyles (Thalia Civic League). Corresponding Secretary is Buddy Wall (Princess Anne Plaza Civic League). Other civic leagues represented in the BoD ranks include Cypress Point, Resort Beach, Pembroke Meadows, Witchduck, Ocean Park, and Lake Smith Terrace. The website (www.vbcco.org) is still being re-established with new “Contact Us” links.

The stated purposes of the VBCCO “according to the current by-laws” are:

1. To create a forum whereby the civic organizations throughout the city can work together to educate, inform, and empower civic leaders, support and assist member organizations, and advocate for stronger neighborhoods.
2. To help organize neighborhood civic organizations, and to support the activities of member organizations when requested.
3. To unite Virginia Beach neighborhoods for the common good.
4. To study and discuss important issues and problems that affect our community and to work toward mutually agreeable solutions.
5. To provide a forum for the discussion and debate of current topics and to provide educational programs that will enable member organizations to better serve their residents.

The VBCCO has established various committees and is seeking chairs and membership volunteers. Email board@vbcco.org to express interest in serving on any of the following committees:

- **By-Laws Committee**-rewrite and strengthen By-Laws

- **Budget Committee**-money
- **Programs Committee**-what the CCO offers to Civic Leagues
- **Membership Committee**-increasing membership
- **Phone Tree Committee**-phone calling to make people aware of the “new” CCO
- **Communications Committee**-publications, news, email blasts, website
- **Events Committee**-developing community events
- **Best Practices Committee**-creating Civic League startup guide and best practices for running a Civic League
- **Fund Raising**-generation of revenue other than membership fees

The next general membership meeting of the VBCCO will be **Thursday, April 27, 2023** at Kempsville Elementary School cafeteria, 570 Kempsville Road, beginning at 7:00pm.

I am looking to divest myself of one of my many functions, so if anyone has an interest in taking on CCL representation at the VBCCO, please let the CCL Directors know. Thanks.

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

Annual Croatan Yard Sale - May 6, 2023



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

Neighborhood Contacts

Name	Committee	Email	Phone
Jo Bloomquist	Women's Club	vagolfers@mac.com	
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

Magazine Collection

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

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)739-7078

if you know of new
Croatan neighbors



Croatan Civic League Board of Directors

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Mike Kelly	President, Spring Fling, VB Gov	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
Sharon Heath	Treasurer	sharon@ellitgroups.com	508-857-9894

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Bill Garvey	Past President, By-Laws	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
Frank Borum	Director, Traffic Mgmt.	fborum1117@gmail.com	
Kathy Donahoe	Director, Newsletter	kdonahoe1@cox.net	403-0109
Mike Fantozzi	Director	directormf@croatanbeach.org	289-6016
Jim Ferrara	Director		
Cheryl Garvey	Director, Welcome Wagon Landscaping	cgcroatan@gmail.com	739-7078
Jan Perriello	Director, Short-Term Rentals	jjpjl@aol.com	434-262-2033
Jen Resio	Director	jenresio@hotmail.com	540-250-8243
Katie Ripberger	Director, Logo wear, Social Activities	katiefr@howardhanna.com	434-6450
Amber Torgensen	Director, Halloween Events	directorat@croatanbeach.org	319-6076
Bill Wren	Director	bwren2@cox.net	232-3184