

CCL Newsletter

May, 2023



Submitted by Kathy Donahoe

President's Letter

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The weather is starting to warm up. My backyard thermometer showed 85° F. The forecast for the week shows several days in the low 80s. The forecast also shows that Memorial Day Weekend starts on May 26th. As you are aware, many of the rules change a bit. "Connie" Agresti has a great write in the security section that everyone should read. I also want to point out that the city has highlighted crosswalks in the resort part of the beach. Please watch out because I have already noticed pedestrians not being very careful as they approach the walkways. If they are in the crosswalk area, they have the right-of-way. So, watch at the corners of every street and watch your speed. That also applies to the new crosswalk on Croatan Rd. at Christine Drive.

The **Croatan Cares 5K Walk/Run**. We had a great turnout. More than 44 people participated and raised \$1870 for Foodbank of Southeastern VA. The people who helped put this together did a nice job and ensured that it was a successful day. They include Bob Lougen, who created the advertising and signage, getting the RSVPs, and sending notifications out; Lori Calderon who allowed us to meet on her property; Carol Skarbek, Nicole and Brian Ziegler helped on race day, and Mike Duffy for allowing people to cut through. Most importantly were the efforts by Amanda Robinson who did the organization and coordination.

DON'T FORGET THAT SPRING FLING IS ON SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH.

Tickets will go on sale soon and you will be able to purchase them on our website.

The Board continues to meet via Zoom. We rarely have Civic League members 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, June 5th.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

5/18 Book Club

5/8 Women's Club

6/10 Spring Fling

6/5 CCL Meeting



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.

Croatan Book Club - May, 2023

Next Meeting Thursday,
May 18, 2023. Time 7 P.M.
Hostess: Susan Martin
Place: 853 S.Atlantic

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

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):

West with Giraffes - Lynda Rutledge

Remarkably Bright Creatures – Shelby Van Pelt

Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow - Gabrielle Devin.

Women's Club - May 8, 2023



Safety/Security – May 2023

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

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Dogs on the Beach – Seasonal rules start later this month
- Atlantic Hurricane Season Begins June 1
- Protect Marine Life – Trash Removal
- Holes on the Beach
- Avian Influenza
- CAC – 2022 Crime Statistics, Firearm Use Guidance
- VBCCO – Finding their niche, STRs, Green Line

Dogs on the Beach (Croatan): As of 10:00 AM Saturday, May 27, dogs are ***not allowed on Croatan Beach*** between the hours of 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. (Legitimately registered/marked service animals are allowed during the restricted hours but must be leashed). Comfort and emotional support animals are ***not*** included in this exception. All dogs are allowed leashed or unleashed (if under handler’s verbal control) on the beach until 10:00 AM and after 6:00 PM daily. Handlers must clean up after their animals. Bag dispensers and trash barrels are available at every beach entrance.

Dogs on the Beach (Oceanfront Resort Area): Dogs are ***prohibited*** on the Resort Area Oceanfront beach from Rudee Inlet north to 42nd Street at all hours during “the season.”¹ The rules for dogs on beaches north of 42nd Street are the same as for Croatan (see above).

Dogs on the Boardwalk: New this year, leashed dogs are allowed on the Oceanfront Boardwalk and grass surfaces west of the boardwalk between the hours of 6:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Again, owners must clean up their pet’s waste.

Atlantic Hurricane Season Begins June 1: Take the time to review your Hurricane Preparedness Kit, identify your evacuation zone ([Know Your Zone | VDEM \(vaemergency.gov\)](#)), “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](#)) for weather warnings and guidance. All of Croatan is in either Evacuation Zone A, B, or C. Forecasters predict a below average Hurricane Season in 2023. Their track record isn’t that good, so keep a “weather eye” open. ;-)

As I learned the hard way with the April 30 tornado in Great Neck, **you must sign-in to VBAAlert at least every six-months** to continue receiving severe weather notifications.

Protect Marine Life - Trash Removal: One cannot walk Croatan Beach without finding discarded water/soda bottles or caps, elastic hair bands, plastic food wrappers/baggies, cans, straws, or other detritus. Some may accidentally fall from grasp (that’s life) but others (like labels from beach chairs/apparel) are just stuffed in the sand and clearly left intentionally. Regardless of the cause, all of these items find their way into the marine ecosystem and present hazards to marine and avian fauna. Please pick up after your day at the beach and dispose of trash in the receptacles available at each beach access point.

Holes on the Beach: If you, your dog, or your children dig a hole, ***PLEASE*** fill it in before you leave the beach for the day. Holes account for many breaks and sprains during the season.

¹ “The Season” is from 6:00 PM the Friday of Memorial Day weekend until 6:00 PM on Labor Day.

Avian Influenza: One need only watch the price of eggs to know that something is afoot in the fowl world. Avian influenza has impacted many chicken, turkey, and duck farms. Because Virginia Beach lies within the “Atlantic Flyway” bird migration route, Virginia Department of Health held a briefing on avian flu last month. What we learned is that our backyard songbirds have been largely unaffected by this avian flu. Regardless, anyone keeping a bird feeder, bird bath, or bird nesting box is advised to use PPE (personal protective equipment - e.g., gloves, face mask) when handling and cleaning these items or if encountering any dead birds.

Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC): Virginia Beach **Police Chief Paul W. Neudigate** presented his **2022 Crime Stats** briefing at the April 12 CAC meeting. This is the same briefing that he had previously provided to City Council. A copy of the slide deck may be found at vbgov.com → Departments → Police → Department Statistics → Annual Report.

Key take away is that despite media sensationalism, Virginia Beach continues to be the safest city of its size in the United States vis-à-vis violent crime, which is down markedly (almost 21%) over the last five years. (Although homicides did increase in 2022 over 2021, the total number of shooting victims decreased 14.7%).

Property crimes are approximately equal to what they were pre-Covid. With businesses returning to post-quarantine customer-facing operations and increasing inventories/cash-on-hand, commercial burglaries are up (32.4%) when compared with 2021. Also contributing to the increase are motor vehicle thefts (up 12.9%) and thefts from motor vehicles (up 7.3%).

Chief Neudigate presented comparison statistics for homicides against 100K population of other Hampton Roads cities. At 5.1 per 100,000, Virginia Beach’s rate was less than half that of the next nearest jurisdiction. Compared to other U. S. cities of similar population as Virginia Beach (~ 460,000), we ranked lowest in absolute numbers as well as rate per 100,000 residents.

Nevertheless, Chief Neudigate stressed that despite Virginia Beach’s successes, the following individual statistics are alarming:

- Seven of 19 homicides involved drugs – most of which were minor drug deals gone bad involving relatively small quantities of marijuana and cash.
- Virginia Beach Police have a homicide clearance rate of nearly 90%, compared with a national average of 54%.
- Twelve of 64 shooting victims (18.8%) were juveniles.
- Four of 19 homicide suspects (21%) are juveniles.
- Both homicide victims and suspects, as well as shooting victims and suspects, are disproportionately people of color – both in absolute terms and as a percentage of population.
- In 2022, Virginia Beach Police Officers confiscated more than 1,650 illegal firearms.
- Many illegal firearms are weapons stolen from motor vehicles.
- Modernization of technology has been a force multiplier for an understaffed police department. Chief Neudigate thanked City Council for its budgetary support.
- Although staffing gaps have been nearly halved, it remains difficult to recruit and retain quality police officers in large part because of negative media portrayals of police nationwide.

Responding to a question about groups of juveniles roaming neighborhoods in search of unlocked vehicles, Chief Neudigate said that some of these suspected ne’er-do-wells have been seen in camera footage brandishing firearms. He urged citizens not to engage them but to call 911, turn on outdoor lights, and/or activate the panic mode from their car’s key fob. Asked separately re: the legalities of engaging a suspected thief with a firearm, **ACA Michael Defricke** said that a citizen only may use a firearm to protect their life or the

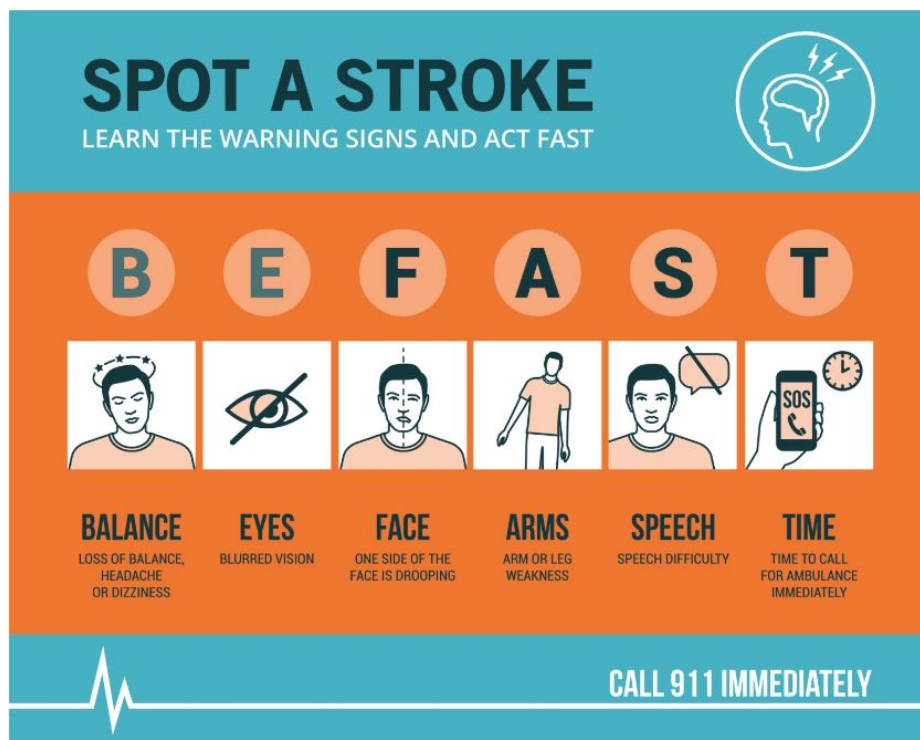
life of another. Deadly force is not legally authorized to prevent property from being stolen. It is also illegal to fire warning shots within the City of Virginia Beach (that projectile has to come down somewhere).

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO): Membership meeting was held April 27. CCL is one of 38 civic leagues (out of 160 city-wide) holding membership. This was an upbeat meeting wherein new leadership is attempting to identify the niche that VBCCO can fill to assist civic leagues (e.g., helping with drafting by-laws, social media footprint, website development), inform civic leagues of pending/potential government actions, and/or take a consolidated stand on issues impacting Virginia Beach communities as a whole.

In the latter regard, North Beach Civic League representatives raised the **Short-Term Rental (STR)** issue and the existence of unregistered STRs. **VBCCO President Rick Boyles** stated that the VBCCO would probably shy away from STR policy issues, except for fighting the perennial General Assembly proposal(s) to wrest STR control from localities. He said that VBCCO could work to influence the city on improving management of STRs and validity of their STR inventory in order to collect appropriate taxes. STR violations can be reported to 757-210-5385.

One issue that could impact the totality of Virginia Beach is the recent **off-agenda** proposal to City Council from **Deputy City Manager Taylor Adams** to use a 250-acre tract of city owned land in the southern part Virginia Beach for an unspecified medical industrial facility. Key issues of concern in this proposal are that it does not take into account stormwater management, violates the City’s Compressive [Land Usage] Plan and zoning ordinances, and would necessitate movement of the **“Green Line”** further south. The “Green Line” represents the southern limit of development and residential use in order to preserve arable, agricultural acreage and wetlands. Many city services (e.g., sewerage) do not exist south of the “Green Line.” Stories in April 28 and 29 *The Virginia Pilot* state that public comment on this change of zoning from rural to industrial will be invited on May 16 but it does not specify who or where. There is a City Council meeting that day (6:00 PM in Building 1), but their agenda does not list this issue, which is not to say that it won’t be brought up.

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

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



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

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 |
| 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 |
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