

# CCL Newsletter

## August, 2023



Submitted by Kathy Donahoe

### President's Letter

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's August and it's still hot! Be careful in the heat.

Please make sure you read "Connie" Agresti's **Safety and Security Update**. He has a lot of "good scoop" on several of the neighborhood issues. In it, he provides advice on crossing the speed tables and covers his efforts to prevent the parking violations we have seen on Vanderbilt Ave.

Also, read my update on the Beach. Everything is on track for additional sand early in 2024.

The social committee (Amanda Robinson and Katie Ripberger) are doing a great job organizing events for the rest of the year. Here are some things to note.

- Due to weather, the Stargazing event will now take place on Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Members' Pizza night at Chicho's Sunday, August 20, 5-7 PM.
- Last Licks of Summer/Return to School Ice Cream Social will be on September 8 at Katie Ripberger's home on Kerry Lane 5 – 7 PM.
- The Annual Halloween Parade and Party will be at Amber Torgerson's house.

The next CCL meeting will be on Monday, September 11, 6:30 – 8:30 PM. It will be held in-person at Jen Resio's home on Surfside Ave. If you are able, please attend.

Note: The speed table "protest" behavior crosses the line. It is illegal and dangerous, as well as juvenile. We all have enough challenges in our daily lives. Speed tables shouldn't be one of them. Be a little kinder. Go easy on yourself and your neighbors.

All the best, remain vigilant, and stay safe,

Mike Kelly  
President, Croatan Civic League

(C) 703.439.9153

[president@croatanbeach.org](mailto:president@croatanbeach.org)

All the best, remain vigilant, and stay safe,

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

8/17 Stargazing  
8/17 Book Club  
8/20 Pizza Night  
9/8 Last Licks of Summer  
9/11 CCL Meeting



# Croatan Beach Update

On July 31<sup>st</sup>, I was provided the following update from the city Coastal Program Administrator on the beach sand projects.

Beach replenishment – The Army specifications to advertise the in November and award in early in 2024. The project provides Croatan Beach.

Corps of Engineers is finalizing plans and project for bids in October with bid opening December. We anticipate the project to begin up to 130,000 cubic yards of beach fill for

I think early is probably Feb/Mar but like many government contracts it could slide a bit. Much of the sand in the overall contract will go to the resort beach, so if it does get delayed, it won't be for long.

The overall plan is not to replenish the dunes. It is to build-up the berm in front of the dunes in order to protect them. Doing that should also allow the dunes to restore naturally.

Rudee Inlet Weir Replacement - We will be drafting the Request for Proposal (RFP) scope and advertise this project for design services very soon. We just last weekend posted our Annual Service Contract (ASC) for Beach Profile Monitoring; Rudee Inlet Weir Replacement is next out the door. We also recently awarded the ASC for General Coastal Engineering support to the incumbent Moffatt & Nichols. We need a fresh pair of eyes and a different firm, and perhaps perspective, to address inlet management and opportunities to enhance the profile of Croatan Beach in addition to the core scope of rehabilitation of the weir and jetty structure. So even though Moffatt & Nichol has the required experience to perform this work, we will be doing a project specific RFP to acquire engineering design services instead of using the General Coastal Engineering ASC with Moffatt & Nichol. This has resulted in a delay to our design schedule however we anticipate final design and construction plans to be completed and ready for bidding mid-late 2024. The most recent repairs to the weir seem to be holding up.

Getting the new weir design right is critical for the city. They have to ensure that the Rudee Inlet Federal Channel stays open as the seas rise. They have also agreed to ensure that the design will not have an adverse effect on Croatan Beach. My view is that the weir replacement will have a positive effect since it will not be built the same way as the current weir.

Mike Kelly

## Croatan Book Club

Next Meeting Thursday,  
August 17, 2023. Time 7 P.M.  
Hostess: Bettina Armour  
Place: 516 Virginia Dare

Book: Remarkably Bright Creatures – Shelby Van Pelt

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):**

Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow - Gabrielle Devin  
Lessons in Chemistry – Bonnie Garmus  
Dancing in the Mosque – Homeira Qaderi



## **Women's Club**

Will resume in September.

## **VBCCO Meeting Update - July 27, 2023**

- Membership is currently 41 Civic Organizations and the goal is 100.
- Upcoming Social BBQ on 9/16/23 from 4:30-6:30PM at the Red Wing Golf Pavilion. All Croatan CL Officers/Directors are welcome for free. Other Croatan Civic League Members are \$10 per person.
- Project Wayne Status has not changed. It is still in the hands of the Planning Commission. There is a rumor that the private owner deal fell through, so the only option is the city land if true. The interested party is said to be a Medical Device Manufacturing Company.
- Comp Plan Updates. There is a consultant working on this now. The main focus is on the out dated shopping plazas and multi family housing development to replace them. This is meant to be the initial community input for the first phase of the plan. In addition

to the second focus group in September, there will be at least 10 open house style, public meetings over the next 12 months for residents to provide input on the plan.

- Next VBCCO meeting is **Thursday, August 24, 2023 6:30PM** at Williams Farm Recreation Center

10-1 voting system to be voted on Aug 15th

Jim Ferrera

Croatan VBCCO Representative

## **Safety/Security – August, 2023**

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

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Mail Pilferage
- Speed Tables
- Parking
- Holes on the Beach
- School Zones and Buses
- CAC – attempted vehicle larcenies; Kia & Hyundai owner warnings

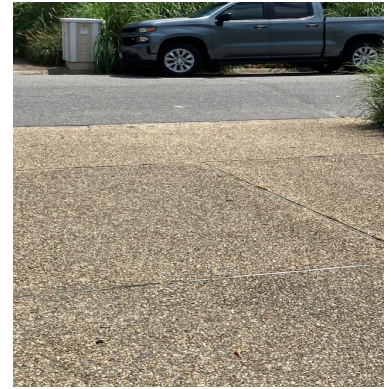
**Mail Pilferage:** Neighbors on Ft. Raleigh Drive reported outgoing mail pilferage from their mailboxes recently. Thieves typically sight the “outgoing mail flag” and take the contents in hopes of capturing checks that they can “wash.” Check washing uses acetone or some other solvent to erase (“wash”) legitimate entries, thereby providing the thief with a blank check that they re-write for thousands of dollars. Such crimes have increased so much nation-wide that the United States Postal Service (USPS) is actually advising against writing and mailing hard copy checks.

For situations where electronic banking is not available or the vendor (e.g., Hampton Roads Sewer District) charges more than a postage stamp (now 66¢) for electronic funds transfers (yes, I am that cheap), consider the following suggestions:

- When possible, mail bills and remittances from within the post office.
- Do not use the large blue drop box or drive-up boxes outside the Post Office because they, too, have been broken into (most recently at the Seapines Post Office at 320 33<sup>rd</sup> Street).
- If mailing items from home, place them in your mailbox in the morning, as opposed to the evening before. Daylight and people discourage thieves.
- Do not to use the outgoing mail notification flag as that telegraphs the presence of mail to thieves.
- Obtain gel pens (recommendation from anti-fraud experts is **Uniball Gel Pen**) because the ink permeates the check paper, thereby thwarting “check washing.”
- If your mail is pilfered, notify police (703-385-5000), Postal Inspectors (1-877-876-2455 or online at <https://www.uspis.com> ), your bank, and the creditor(s).

**Speed Tables:** The City of Virginia Beach installed speed tables to slow traffic on Croatan Road after more than a decade of unsuccessful Traffic Calming efforts. Facts about the “Traffic Calming” program can be found by searching that term on <https://virginiabeach.gov>

These devices have been effective at slowing speeds but have led to traffic moving at a pace that some feel is too slow. Negotiating the speed tables represents a learning process for us all. Most SUVs, Jeeps, pick-up trucks, and large sedans can safely cross the speed tables at approximately 20 MPH. Doing so reduces accordion-type back-ups and reduces an irritant among those who oppose the speed tables regardless. Cars with rugged suspensions or front air dams can also safely negotiate the speed tables without stopping completely, however, vehicles towing trailers must cross more slowly to avoid the risk of decoupling the trailer.

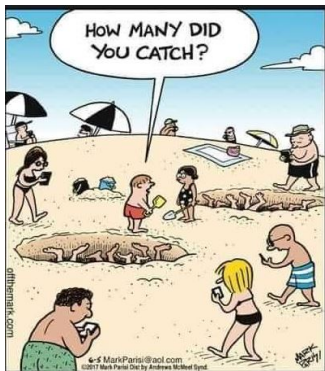


Driving around the speed tables or sounding one's horn in protest are illegal and police will be on the look out for violators.

**Parking:** A misinformed individual decided to address his perceived paucity of parking in Croatan to *The Virginia Pilot* recently with “alternative facts” alleging that we’ve conspired with the city to turn Croatan into a private access beach enclave. T’ain’t true!

Here are the factual facts: There is a 550-space parking lot at the south end of Vanderbilt Avenue that one may enter free of charge before 10:00 AM. After 10:00 AM, the charge is \$3 for Virginia Beach residents and \$7 for non-residents. Although, on-street parking is limited and time controlled (9:30 AM – 7:00 PM) within two blocks of the beach, plentiful on-street parking is available west of Virginia Dare Drive (but do watch for signs identifying no parking areas on some streets). Those parking on streets are requested to respect the rights of residents and refrain from blocking driveways, mailboxes, and trash receptacles. Attached photo is an example of a “**parking failure**” – if postal carrier cannot readily reach the mailbox, mail will not be delivered.

The city’s parking enforcement contractor does not currently have enforcement responsibilities for Croatan in its statement of work. Initial attempts to have Croatan added to the contract were shot down, but I have more rounds in the magazine and am not giving up. In the interim, police have added Vanderbilt and Surfside on-street parking to their patrol responsibilities. If you ever encounter a parked vehicle blocking your driveway or a fire hydrant, please call 3-1-1 or the police non-emergency number of 757-385-5000 and ask that the car be towed.



**Holes on the Beach:** If you or your dog or your kids dig a hold, **PLEASE** fill it in. Do not rely on tide or waves to do so. Humor of the attached cartoon aside, two Virginia Beach teens have died this year when holes collapsed on them and I continue to receive reports of people, often laden-down with beach gear, falling, turning ankles, and suffering other injuries when inadvertently stepping into holes. Other than discarded trash, holes remain the most prevalent beach hazard.

**School Zones and Buses:** Schools are opening and drivers need to tune up their situational awareness to be alert to school buses (with red flashing lights) picking up or discharging students as well as observing the speed limit changes of school zones. You must stop for buses with red flashing red lights even if proceeding in the opposite direction of the bus when on roads without an island dividing the lanes (e.g., General Booth Blvd north of Croatan Road).

**Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC):** The quarterly Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) meeting of all four precinct CAC and VBPD Chief and Deputy Chiefs was held on Monday, August 7. Police remain concerned about the plethora of larcenies from motor vehicles. While this remains a crime of opportunity, organized gangs of thieves have been known to canvass neighborhoods and parking garages in search of unlocked vehicles or vehicles with valuables in plain sight – including vehicles in private garages. **Police need you to report all larcenies and attempted larcenies witnessed or captured on home video so they can gather evidence.** Refuse to be a victim – lock your vehicle, take or hide any valuables (especially firearms), do not leave keys to your home or fobs to other vehicles in the car as one theft can multiply into several.

At the August 9, CAC meeting, I learned that there is a Tik-Tok challenge video that instructs ne'er-dowells how to override security systems and steal late-model **Kia** and **Hyundai** vehicles. Reportedly a **software upgrade is available free of charge** from factory dealers, but a NHTSB recall hasn't been issued because the failure does not lead directly to accidents. If you own one of the following affected models, contact your dealer:

<b>Kia:</b>	Accent, 2015-2021
	Elantra, 2015-2021
	Kona, 2015-2021
	Santa Fe, 2015-2021
	Tucson, 2015-2021
	Veloster, 2015-2018
<b>Hyundai:</b>	Forte, 2015-2021
	Optima, 2015-2021
	Optima Hybrid, 2015-2016
	Rio, 2015-2021
	Sedona, 2015-2021
	Sorento, 2015-2016
	Soul, 2015-2021
	Sportage, 2015-2021

The next CAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13 in the conference room of the Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad, Station #14 – 740 VB Blvd (17<sup>th</sup> Street) - at 7:00 PM. If attending, please park on the east side of the building. This meeting is open to all.

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

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	<a href="mailto:vagolfers@mac.com">vagolfers@mac.com</a>	
Alice Weisz	Book Club	<a href="mailto:bookclub@croatanbeach.org">bookclub@croatanbeach.org</a>	425-2068
Wes Laine	Surfing Advisor	<a href="mailto:surfing@croatanbeach.org">surfing@croatanbeach.org</a>	428-2620
Ken Jobe	Special Advisor	<a href="mailto:kejo425@aol.com">kejo425@aol.com</a>	428-0328

### Welcome Wagon

Contact Cheryl Garvey  
[cgcroatan@gmail.com](mailto:cgcroatan@gmail.com)  
 (757)739-7078

if you know of new  
 Croatan neighbors



### Who to Call

Dead or Stranded Marine  
 Mammal (dolphin, seal, whale)  
 or Sea Turtle Virginia Aquarium  
 Stranding  
 Response Team  
**757-385-7575**



### Magazine Collection

Michele Speight,  
 Teen Crisis Intervention  
 549 Bushnell Drive  
[428-7947msp8@cox.net](mailto:428-7947msp8@cox.net)

### Book Collection

Betty Rosignolo  
 760 Virginia Dare Drive  
 437-8662; [rbrosignolo@cox.net](mailto:rbrosignolo@cox.net)  
 For Sentara Virginia Beach Hospital Auxiliary

## Croatan Civic League Board of Directors

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Mike Kelly	President, VB Gov	<a href="mailto:president@croatanbeach.org">president@croatanbeach.org</a>	703-439-9153
Bob Lougen	Vice President, Website, Facebook, Directory	<a href="mailto:support@croatanbeach.org">support@croatanbeach.org</a>	
Amanda Robinson	Secretary, Social Activities, Children's Programs	<a href="mailto:pixiefloat@hotmail.com">pixiefloat@hotmail.com</a>	641-9403
Jan Nielson	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:jnielsencroatan@gmail.com">jnielsencroatan@gmail.com</a>	757-617-0987
Bill Garvey	Past President, By-Laws	<a href="mailto:cddx@aol.com">cddx@aol.com</a>	471-5436

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<b>Jan Perriello</b>	Director, Short-Term Rentals	<a href="mailto:jjpjp@aol.com">jjpjp@aol.com</a>	434-262-2033
<b>Jen Resio</b>	Director, Spring Fling	<a href="mailto:jenresio@hotmail.com">jenresio@hotmail.com</a>	540-250-8243
<b>Katie Ripberger</b>	Director, Logo wear, Social Activities	<a href="mailto:katiefr@howardhanna.com">katiefr@howardhanna.com</a>	434-6450
<b>Amber Torgensen</b>	Director, Halloween Events	<a href="mailto:directorat@croatanbeach.org">directorat@croatanbeach.org</a>	319-6076
<b>Bill Wren</b>	Director	<a href="mailto:bwren2@cox.net">bwren2@cox.net</a>	232-3184