

# CCL Newsletter

## January, 2024



Submitted by Kathy Donahoe

### **President's Letter**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Happy (slightly belated) New Year to all. The Board of Directors met on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.

The focus of our effort was to discuss the 2024 budget and event schedule. Like everyone we have seen our costs go up and are taking a close look at ways to increase yearly income to offset these rising costs. Ideas discussed included: raising annual membership dues, increasing the cost of member events, changing event formats and use less costly venues, various ways to sell advertising, change the way we do the Spring Fling raffle, and reducing the scope of events to reduce the cost.

Additionally, there was a significant increase in our security costs. Based on previous years, we budgeted \$12.5 K. Based on the actual cost from 2023, we have to budget for \$20 K. Historically, we get enough donations for the Security Fund to cover annual costs. This past year we had to draw from the General Fund to meet the shortfall. We have always tried to keep accounting separate. There are some people that won't donate to the security fund and question why we need it. That's okay. But, as you may have seen, we went out with a survey of the members. The results were 10:1 in favor of continuing the security program. We have to figure out how to fund the increased cost or we will have to reduce the hours.

Ideas for fundraising are always welcome.

For 2024, the very general, tentative schedule looks like this:

March – Recruiting/Members' Social  
April - Croatan Cares 5K run  
May - Members Social  
June - Spring Fling  
June through September – Several children's events  
August - Back Bay Astronomer's Night  
October - Halloween Party/Costume Contest  
October or November – Fall Social and Annual Meeting  
November or December - Photos with Santa on the Beach  
December - Lights Contest and "Walk/Bike the Lights" with cookies and Santa.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

1/18 Book Club  
2/5 CCL Meeting  
2/12 Women's Club

If you have an idea for a social event (adult or children's) please reach out to us. There will be more events, and we always need volunteers to help. We want to make our civic league a great resource for neighborhood improvement and have a lot of fun while doing it.

I included an update on the Beach Nourishment Project this month. Please check it out.

The next Board of Director's meeting will be held on Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6:30 PM via Zoom.  
**If you would like an invite, please let me know and I will send you one.**

**Thanks to all the people that helped get us through 2023.**

All the best, remain vigilant, and stay safe,

Mike Kelly  
President, Croatan Civic League  
(M) 703.439.9153  
[president@croatanbeach.org](mailto:president@croatanbeach.org)

## **Croatan Beach Update for January 2024**

1. **More Sand!** There is good news and "news yet to be determined."

The City of Virginia Beach Public Works provided the following update.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers CE awarded the construction contract to Manson Construction, Inc. on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The amount is for \$70.6 M. Work is expected to start in late Winter 2024 and run through August 2025. The city has not yet received the contractor's detailed project schedule from USACE. So, we don't know if Croatan Beach is at the beginning of the work or at the end. The city will let us know the schedule as soon as possible.

2. The **Rudee Wier Replacement RFP** is posted here: <https://pw.virginiabeach.gov/bids/rfp>.

The Rudee Inlet Weir replacement study will include the following:

- Review of previous studies and inlet management plan to gain a historical background of the inlet,
- Analyze the efficiency of the existing weir structure and how it is performing based on the existing inlet physical processes,
- Conduct an alternatives analysis to identify improvements to the weir system that will:
  - a. Not increase the need to dredge the inlet Federal Channel; and
  - b. Maintain a wider updrift beach profile along the ¾ mile shoreline of Croatan Beach.
- Present weir modification and/or replacement alternatives,
- Include opinion of probable costs for each alternative,
- Recommend an alternative

While the results will take a while, we will see improvement in the beach when the new weir is completed.

### **3. Twilight Lane Access to Croatan Beach**

This was reported May 2023 via the city app by a Croatan resident who lives on Virginian Dare Drive. It stayed as an open case for months - which is unfortunately typical. Public Works was called in November, and it was found out that this was lost in transit from the app to the proper city department. The request was resubmitted via email. Public

Works generated another internal reference # and forwarded it to Beach Operations. The work was completed 12/1/23. Beach Operations broke up the concrete that was sticking out creating the safety hazard and hauled it away. This picture was taken on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Mike Kelly  
President, Croatan Civic League  
(M) 703.439.9153  
[president@croatanbeach.org](mailto:president@croatanbeach.org)



## HOLIDAY GLOW COMPETITION

Thank you to everyone who entered the Croatan Glows Holiday Lights Contest this year. There were so many wonderful entries. Many thanks to the following businesses for their prize donations - Commune, Esoteric, Barrel 17, Pelon's, Mellow Mushroom and Rockafeller's. Here are the winners:

Best Griswold Lights  
432 Maryland Court

Best Traditional Lights  
433 Maryland Court

Cutest Lights  
505 Bushnell Drive

Judges' Choice #1  
Getaway Grinch  
518 Bushnell Drive

Judges' Choice #2  
Eclectic and Electric  
613 Surfside Avenue

Judges' Choice #3  
Snow Place Like Home  
624 Secotan Road





## **Croatan Women's Club**

Thanks to all that contributed toys for the Toys for Tots program sponsored by The CWC.



## **Croatan Book Club**

Next Meeting Thursday,  
January 18, 2024. Time 7 P.M.  
Place: 408 Vanderbilt

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):**

The Maid – Nita Prose

The Violin Conspiracy – Brendan Slocumb

## **VBCCO Meeting - December 27, 2023**

- VBCCO dues will be \$50 for 2024, and it is a rolling 12 month term. Will be sent out and due in Feb for existing members.
- VBCCO will host a Mayoral Forum for all candidates for 2024 in May at the Oberndorf Central Library that can hold 247 people. There will be pre-submitted questions. A ticket system will be set up and the Board will determine how many tickets each Civic League will be allocated. At this point two City Council members are running and must resign effective December 31st, 2024. Potentially there could be 5 candidates in the running.
- The January 24th meeting features City Manager Patrick Duhaney and Planning Director Kathy Warren. The location could change if registration is larger than Bow Creek can handle.
- Councilman Chris Taylor District 8 spoke to the group and then took questions. He touched on the following topics:
  - Flood Protection Program
  - Festival Council and the need for return on investment for the events.
  - Budget and challenges such as the plan for three schools and only have funds for one. Plan for a new Recreation center but no funds to do upgrades on existing facilities.
- I asked a question on STR based on the November City Council STR Presentation. Chris had stated after that presentation that the \$400K in lost collections from STR was unacceptable. I asked if Chris agreed that the Summons process was broken, and Sheriff Holcomb what he could do to improve the Summons process. Chris agreed the process was broken and pointed out the staff shortage with no STR Manager for over six months contributed to it. He is hoping the Short Term Rental Task Force will help solve issues as well. The Sheriff plans to start issuing Summons on weekends to improve success rates. Owners that live out of state are a challenge to collect.
- Sheriff Rocky Holcomb spoke next and is proud that Virginia Beach is the safest city for its size in USA. He had 6 of his staff with him and combined experience at almost 170 years.
- The Sheriff is responsible for the following:
  - Virginia Beach Correctional Center. Largest City Jail in Commonwealth of VA with average population of 1011 inmates.
  - Virginia Beach Courthouse
  - Civil Process
  - Law Enforcement
  - Stats:
    - 1011 is average daily inmate population.
    - 10% are females
    - 63% inmates with mental illness
    - 13,293 arrestees booked into the Correctional Center last year- most were released on bond.
    - 536 Budgeted full-time and part-time staff.
    - \$49,542 starting salary for deputy recruits. Increases to \$52,020 after basic training plus benefit package.
  - Gangs are in our communities. 133 inmates currently
  - Fentanyl is impacting Virginia Beach
  - Surprisingly Illegal Immigration is not impacting VB yet. I asked the question.
  - \$120 a day is cost per inmate.
- Next VBCCO meeting is Wednesday January 24, 2023 6:30PM at Bow Creek Recreation Center with City Manager Patrick Duhaney and Planning Director Kathy Warren speaking.

Jim Ferrera

Croatan VBCCO Representative

# **Safety/Security – January, 2024**

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Black Ice
- Watch Speed on Side Roads
- Clearing Vegetation from Road Signs
- Politics, Politics, Politics
- Quick Answers to Security Survey Questions
- Security Fund
- CAC – Next meeting January 10.

**Black Ice:** You wouldn't know it by recent temperatures, but we can expect cold weather this winter. When the ambient temperature is at or below freezing (32° F), pavement dampened by dew, fog, or precipitation can acquire a glaze of ice that is not always visible. Test your brakes while going slowly in the neighborhood to see if the road is icy. Be mindful that even on sunny days, elevated roadbeds, bridges, roadways in shadow, or the edges of curves may be slick even when the rest of the road seems clear. Drive cautiously and defensively. If you skid, ease off the throttle and steer into the skid – do **NOT** mash on the brakes, even if they are anti-lock. Final note: Clear all windows before you drive – you can't avoid what you can't see.

**Side Road Speed:** I have noticed an uptick in speeds on our side roads of late. I frequently see and hear cars accelerate once they turn onto Bushnell or Ft. Raleigh Drives and I've fielded neighbors' concerns about Virginia Dare and Vanderbilt, as well. We all have a lot on our minds these days, let's not let drop driver situational awareness from the list. Speed limit is 25 MPH throughout Croatan. Perhaps, we can also slow down those rolling stops.

**Clearing Vegetation Overgrowth from Road Signs:** If you have not already done so, now is the time of year to clear any vegetation that obscures road signs from being visible to drivers. This includes "No Parking" signs but especially "Stop" signs. If they're on your property, they're your responsibility. The city will clear them following a 3-1-1 call, but the homeowner may be charged for the effort.

**Politics:** As we enter what is expected to be a contentious presidential campaign year, let us respect each other's right to support the candidate(s) and issue(s) of one's choice. Please refrain from removing, destroying, or defacing campaign signs. If you place a sign in your yard, please be mindful not to block the view of drivers who need to see past that sign for oncoming traffic.

**Quick Answers to Security Survey Questions:** Without getting too lengthy, I will attempt to respond to some questions asked by more than one resident on the security survey. Please bear in mind that for everyone desiring one thing, there is usually someone desiring the exact opposite – think: on-street parking, speed tables, etc. We cannot please everyone. Here goes:

- We will request more patrol officer focus on side street speed and parking. (When you do park – even at home - remember that you cannot block a sidewalk or park in such a way as to allow your vehicle to protrude into the street.)

- If you know of a “No Parking” sign or crosswalk markings that have been worn away or destroyed due to wear and tear, weather, or careless driving, you should bring it to the attention of Virginia Beach 3-1-1. Follow the path: <https://virginiabeach.gov> → Public Safety → Report a Problem → and subsequent prompts. Location, location, location and “just the facts” are keys to a quick response. Photos help.
- Penalties for speeding, passing stopped school buses, crosswalk violations, etc. are the same in Croatan as elsewhere in the city. Key to any citation, however, is that an officer has to witness the violation.
- The CCL Board will converse with our attorney, but we do not think that we can direct Short-Term Rental (STR) owners to contribute to the security fund. We will try to identify those STR owners who have voluntarily contributed, but if someone owns more than one STR and contributes, how is that to be counted? ‘Tain’t as easy as it sounds.
- CCL does not collect data on crimes that haven’t occurred because such a metric is impossible to calculate. As for the crimes that have happened - reports of burglaries, attempted burglaries, vandalism, squatting in vacant homes, firearm violations, underage drinking, etc. can be found in back editions of the CCL Newsletter.
- Patrol hours are increased during the summer. We request a patrol car for Halloween and seek daytime patrols during the autumnal holidays to deter porch pirates. However, police are “all in” for vacation season-holidays and large events (think: July 4<sup>th</sup>, SITW) when all of their time off is cancelled and double shifts are routine. Regrettably, this does impact patrol officer availability on those days/weekends.

**Security Fund:** The overwhelming response to the Security Survey indicates that Croatan residents want to continue the services of our off-duty police officers. As CCL President Mike Kelly wrote, our need to sustain these patrols at a competitive rate has increased our annual Security Fund requirement to \$20,000. Think of this as a cooperative insurance policy for our neighborhood of high-6 and 7-figure homes. Please contribute what you can, when you renew your CCL membership. (Even non-CCL members can contribute). Thank you.

**Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC):** The next CAC meeting will be held on January 10, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the conference room of Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad #14, 740 VB Blvd (17<sup>th</sup> Street). Please park on the east side of the building. CAC meetings are open to all.

Have a safe and healthy New Year.

M. C. “Connie” Agresti,  
CCL Safety and Security Director

Croatan Activity Log				Page	of
Date:	Day of Week:	Hours:	Total hours worked this shift:		
12/26/23	Friday	7:00 - 1:30	2.5		
Officer:	T/SSA	Code: 3338	Vehicle: 87	Portable:	5581224
1700	Roaming Neighborhood Patrol				
1800	RADAR Croatan Road w/ Lights on as people came into the neighborhood				
1930	Secured				
Neighborhood Patrol: 1 hrs, ____ mins.    RADAR/Speed Enforcement: 1 hrs, 38 mins. Parking Enforcement: ____ hrs, ____ mins.    Calls for Service: ____ hrs, ____ mins. Stop Sign Enforcement: ____ hrs, ____ mins.    Other: ____ hrs, ____ mins.    Total # hours: 2.5					

Croatan Activity Log				Page	of
Date:	Day of Week:	Hours:	Total hours worked this shift:		
12/26/23	Friday	04:30 - 1:00	5.5		
Officer:	T/SSA	Code: 3338	Vehicle: 87	Portable:	5581224
0430	Mobile Neighborhood Patrol - Working these hours due to recent larcenies from vehicles - Nothing suspicious				
	*Remind <del>people</del> residents who primarily use their garage entrances to check front porches for packages at night				
	Called Animal Control for a dead animal picked up in the roadway on Vanderbilt				
	*RADAR Croatan Rd				
	*Stop Sign enforcement at Vanderbilt + Aqua				
	*Lot of surfers - no issues				
1000	Secured				
Neighborhood Patrol: 2 hrs, 30 mins.    RADAR/Speed Enforcement: 1 hrs, 30 mins. Parking Enforcement: ____ hrs, ____ mins.    Calls for Service: ____ hrs, ____ mins. Stop Sign Enforcement: 1 hrs, 30 mins.    Other: ____ hrs, ____ mins.    Total # hours: 5.5					

Croatan Activity Log				Page	of
Date:	Day of Week:	Hours:	Total hours worked this shift:		
12/30/23	Saturday	1500 - 1:00	4		
Officer:	T/SSA	Code: 3338	Vehicle: 87	Portable:	5581224
1500	Neighborhood Patrol				
1600	Stop Sign enforcement at Vanderbilt + Aqua area				
1700	RADAR Croatan Road				
	Spoke to Mr. Whaley about his concerns with vehicles breaking. He showed me videos from 12/19 and showed a letter that has been put out to the neighborhood. The information on the vehicles in the video has been distributed to Massey and Taylor so they can be on the look out for these vehicles unnecessarily breaking at the speed table. No warnings will be issued for this however, we have come in at different hours and have not observed this happening in person.				
1900	Secured				
Neighborhood Patrol: 1 hrs, ____ mins.    RADAR/Speed Enforcement: 2 hrs, ____ mins. Parking Enforcement: ____ hrs, ____ mins.    Calls for Service: ____ hrs, ____ mins. Stop Sign Enforcement: 1 hrs, ____ mins.    Other: ____ hrs, ____ mins.    Total # hours: 4					

Croatan Activity Log				Page	of
Date:	Day of Week:	Hours:	Total hours worked this shift:		
12/31/23	Sunday	0800 - 0900	3		
Officer:	T/SSA	Code: 3338	Vehicle: 87	Portable:	5581224
0800	Neighborhood Patrol				
0830	Bishop + Christine walking both stop signs and looking for any breaking at the speed table				
	- No issues observed				
0730	RADAR Croatan Rd + No breaking vehicles observed during this time				
	*All speeds below 25mph				
0900	Secured				
Neighborhood Patrol: ____ hrs, 30 mins.    RADAR/Speed Enforcement: 1 hrs, 30 mins. Parking Enforcement: ____ hrs, ____ mins.    Calls for Service: ____ hrs, ____ mins. Stop Sign Enforcement: 1 hrs, ____ mins.    Other: ____ hrs, ____ mins.    Total # hours: 3					



CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH  
Voter Registration  
& Elections

## Become A POLL WORKER for the City of Virginia Beach

Virginia Beach needs citizens to serve as poll workers on Election Day.  
Please consider this opportunity to serve your community.

Poll workers are paid \$240.00 each election and an additional \$25.00 to attend a specialized training class.

Initial application can be filled in online at <https://virginiabeachva.easypollworker.com>  
For the best experience with this website, please use Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Mozilla Firefox. Internet Explorer is not a supported browser and will not work.



You may also stop by our office at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center, Building 14.  
Before coming, please go to <https://voter.virginiabeach.gov> and select Election Officials for more information, to review paperwork, and to know what to bring.

Voter Registration & Elections, 2449 Princess Anne Road, Bldg.14, Virginia Beach, VA 23456 757-385-8683

## Neighborhood Contacts

### **Welcome Wagon**

Contact Cheryl Garvey  
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**



### **Book Collection**

Betty Rosignolo  
760 Virginia Dare Drive  
437-8662; rbrosignolo@cox.net  
For Sentara Virginia Beach Hospital Auxiliary

### **Magazine Collection**

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

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

## **Croatan Civic League Board of Directors**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>Mike Kelly</b>	President, VB Gov
<b>Bob Lougen</b>	Vice President, Website, Facebook, Directory
<b>Mike Fantozzi</b>	Director, Secretary
<b>Jan Nielson</b>	Treasurer
<b>M.C. "Connie" Agresti</b>	Director, Security, Citizen's Advisory Committee
<b>Frank Borum</b>	Director, Traffic Mgmt.
<b>Kathy Donahoe</b>	Director, Newsletter
<b>Jim Ferrera</b>	Director, VB Council of Civic Organizations
<b>Bill Garvey</b>	Past President, By-Laws
<b>Cheryl Garvey</b>	Director, Welcome Wagon Landscaping
<b>Jan Perriello</b>	Director, Short-Term Rentals
<b>Jen Resio</b>	Director, Spring Fling
<b>Katie Ripberger</b>	Director, Logo wear, Social Activities
<b>Amanda Robinson</b>	Social Activities, Children's Programs
<b>Amber Torgensen</b>	Director, Halloween Events
<b>Eileen Wren</b>	Director