

CCL Newsletter

March, 2024



Submitted by Kathy Donahoe

President's Letter

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Board met this past Monday, March 4th.

We discussed having an in-person meeting soon. In the past, few members, sometimes none, attended. If you have feedback, please let us know.

All are invited to the Zoom meeting. The next one is on Monday, April 1st. I will be happy to send an invite with the link if you want to attend.

The civic league now has tax-exempt status from the State and City. This means that purchases that we make will not have sales tax added. Jan Nielsen, our Treasurer, did a great job getting the paperwork together and pushing it through the bureaucratic process.

Some important dates to put on your calendar:

- 1) Spring member's / Shuffleboard Social on Thursday April 11th. See the website flyer for details.
- 2) Garage Sale – Saturday, May 4th. More details soon.
- 3) Croatan Cares Walk/Run – Sunday, May 5th.
- 4) Spring Fling 24 - Saturday, June 1st.

Please make sure you read Connie's Security Notes. As always, he has some very important information on safety and security.

Croatan Beach. Bad news / good news. See the update within.

For those of you who have not done so yet, join or renew your membership for 2024. It is easy to do online. Please consider donating to the security fund as well.

The next Board of Director's meeting will be held on Monday, April 1st at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

All the best and stay safe,

Mike Kelly
President, Croatan Civic League
(M) 703.439.9153
president@croatanbeach.org
mkellyav8@aol.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

3/11 Women's Club
3/21 Book Club
4/1 CCL Meeting
4/11 Spring Event
5/4 Neighborhood Garage Sale
6/1 Spring Fling

Croatan Beach Update

Important: Sand won't come until 2025, not 2024, as expected. The reason is in the text.

I received this note from Dan Adams, Department of Public Works – Engineering, Coastal Program Manager

Your message is timely. The update below was shared with City leadership today. We had planned to share this update with all stakeholders and the larger community once leadership had been apprised. So, please share these details with the Croatan CL.

USACE had been forecasting an earlier start as there was some indication from the contractor that the beach quality sand would be encountered earlier in the dredging schedule. As it turns out, the **beach (quality) sand will not be encountered until the end of the larger dredging schedule**. This schedule was made available to us at the project preconstruction meeting last week. We would prefer the work to start soonest, however we are not at liberty to dictate the schedule. We did request that the Croatan work be completed before the July 4th holiday, and they revised their schedule to reflect that. Their original schedule had the Croatan work starting after July 4th. As with any construction project, this schedule is tentative and subject to change. We will keep you informed of any changes as soon as we are made aware of them. The good news is we now have a contract in place to deliver the largest single sand placement to occur on Croatan Beach, it will happen.

Resort Beach/Croatan Update

As a reminder, the City of Virginia Beach has partnered with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District (USACE) and the Port of Virginia to receive sand for purposes of renourishing the Resort Beach and Croatan Beach. The beach quality sand will be mined as part of the Norfolk Harbor and Channel Deepening, Atlantic Ocean Channel (Phase 2) dredging project. The project is the continuation of the Federal/Local sponsor partnership between the City of Virginia Beach and the USACE. The USACE is the construction administrator for this project. Manson Construction Company, based out of Jacksonville, FL, was awarded the contract on December 5, 2023. The preconstruction meeting for the project was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

This will be the fourth nourishment project along the Resort Beach shoreline since 2001. The last one was performed in 2019. Manson Construction Company has prepared a tentative construction schedule which shows most of the beach nourishment work will occur outside of the heavy tourist season.

The Resort Beach mobilization should occur mid-January 2025. It will take about a month to mobilize. Then, the replenishment should be underway March 1, 2025, through May 23, 2025. At that point, the Contractor will move onto Croatan Beach. The Croatan Beach nourishment is tentatively scheduled to occur in June/July 2025.

Other details for the project include:

- Sand placement limits will be from 15th St to 45th St (Starting at the Northern end)*
- ±950,000 cubic yards of sand will be placed on the resort beach.*
- ±130,000 cy of sand will be placed on Croatan Beach.*
- The massive oceanic dredging project will begin in May 2024. At that time, the Contractor will deal with seasonal restrictions, adhere to turtle nesting laws, and perform beach surveys.*

- Sand will be pumped onshore and graded into place by various equipment.
- The contractor typically works in 1,500-ft sections (500-ft pre-work, 500-ft work area, 500-ft post work area).
- The US Army Corps of Engineers will host a webpage that shows the progress of the project. A link will be placed on the City's website when we receive it.

The US Army Corps of Engineers and City of Virginia Beach staff look forward to undertaking this long-awaited dredging and shore protection project that will provide significant storm damage reduction benefits in addition to a wider recreational beach with all its amenities to be enjoyed by residents and visitors to Virginia Beach for years to come.

On the weir study. We received three proposals, and all three firms will be selected for an interview. A city selection committee has been formed and an interview and award schedule for this study/design effort will be forthcoming.

Frustrating? A bit.

The Hoover Dam was built and operating in 7 1/2 years, two-years ahead of schedule. It also came in under cost. I doubt that it be done again today as fast and without cost overruns.



Croatan Women's Club



Join us at 740 Virginia Dare Dr, Monday March 11th

For dishes from around the world at 7pm!

Care to bring a dish? Please text 757-567-1412



Croatan Book Club

CROATAN BOOK CLUB, March 2024

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 21, 2024 Time 7 P.M.

Hostess: Bettina Armour

Place: 516 Virginia Dare

Book: None Of This Is True, Lisa Jewell

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 Frozen River – Ariel Lawhon

Saved – Benjamin Hall

The Emancipation of Evan Wallis – Jeffrey Blount

Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone – Benjamin Stevenson

Next Year in Havana – Chanel Cleeton

Ordinary Grace – William Kent Kruger

The Measure – Nikki Erlick

Safety/Security – March, 2024

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Stretch and Warm Up Before Yard Work
- Au Revoir All-Day Free Parking in Croatan Lot
- General Booth Road Closure
- Security Assignments and Funding
- CAC – Next meeting March 13
- VBCCO – Fraud and Scam Warnings

Stretch and Warm Up Before Yard Work: The robins have never really left, but there can be no doubt that Spring is nearby as colorful blooms and blossoms awaken from their winter hibernation. If you're doing your own lawn and garden work, be sure to stretch and warm up a little bit before hauling heavy bags of mulch and soil, bending over to pull weeds, or conducting any late-winter/early-spring pruning. Muscles that have lain dormant over the winter may object to overly strenuous use and abuse if you don't.

Croatan Parking Lot: A more dependable sign of seasonal changes (than robins) is the cessation of all-day free parking in the Croatan lot at the south end of Vanderbilt Avenue. Beginning April 1, those parking after 10:00 AM will incur a \$3 VB-Resident (\$7 non-VB resident) fee. Payment is made at kiosks located near the bathhouse. A welcome change is that new provisions allow for reentry the same day without having to repay. Hours of operation are listed as 6:00 AM until 8:00 PM.

General Booth Road Closure: Northbound General Booth Boulevard from Birdneck Road to Rudee Inlet will be closed on **Sunday, March 17 from 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM** to accommodate the Shamrock Marathon. Police will be monitoring the Croatan Road intersection so you ***may*** be able to turn south during gaps in runners, but will not be able to return until the road reopens. Plan ahead if headed to church, brunch, the airport, or other events.

Security Assignments and Funding: Changes are coming to the way Croatan engages our officers for off-duty assignments. Under a new Off-Duty Management (ODM) system being implemented by VBPD, we must now be more descriptive of which hours our officers work and work blocks must be at least three hours in duration. Captain Michelle Wyatt (VBPD) will brief the March meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) on these changes.

Thank you to all who have contributed to our Security Fund. We're roughly two-thirds of the way to our goal. Contributions can be made online at <https://www.croatanbeach.org> or mailed to our Treasurer.

Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC): There was no February CAC meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the conference room of Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad #14, 740 VB Blvd (17th Street). Please park on the east side of the building. CAC meetings are open to all.

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations: Jim Ferrera asked me to cover the February VBCCO meeting for him. I am glad that he did because VBPD Detective Caleb Davey gave a superb presentation on Frauds and Other Scams, especially those being perpetrated locally. Scammers are so accomplished and smooth, that many people do not realize that they've been "taken" until after the fact. This says a lot about both the goodness of human nature and the absolute disregard for people by nefarious individuals. Some key scams notching victims every week include:

Cell Phone Scam: Someone comes up to potential victim in the parking lot with a sob story, "My mother was just taken to the hospital and my phone is out of battery, can I use your phone to call her?" In less than a minute, they can access your banking information and take out a loan in your name or transfer money to an account they control. If you can't say "no," dial the phone yourself and put it on speaker.
UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOW THEM TO TOUCH YOUR PHONE.

Romance Scam: There are a lot of lonely people out there. Pictures and profiles are not always accurate, but even if one does hit it off with a potential partner, beware of the "need" of some financial assistance with rent, car payment, because ex-spouse left them destitute, airline tickets, until deceased-spouse's life insurance payment is received, etc.

Puppy Scam: Puppies are endlessly cute. Photos and sob stories tug on heartstrings. "Breeders" promise pure-bred puppies for anywhere from a few hundred to several thousand dollars. Usually, you won't get a dog at all, but if you do, it may be sick, require shots, spaying/neutering, etc. Quick solution – VB Animal Shelter on South Birdneck Road is overflowing with adoptable pets. Adoption fees are just \$1.00.

Imposter Scams: "Hello, this is Deputy Sheriff Dawg, Badge number 12345, calling to inform you that a warrant has been issued for your arrest for having ignored your Jury Duty summons." But you never received a summons? So, Deputy Dawg offers to quash the warrant if you wire \$500 to XYZ Account immediately. If you do so, fraudster gets \$500. If you get sucked into providing your bank routing number and account number, you lose it all. NO ONE from the Police, Sheriff, Social Security, FBI, Secret Service, CIA, etc. will ever call you with such a pitch.

Nigerian Scam: Called this because of its source of origin, this comes in many forms but is usually similar in that some prince, lawyer, agent, widow, caretaker, missionary, etc. represents someone who has come into several millions of dollars but needs a U.S. bank account to affect the wire transfer. If you are willing to provide a good faith payment of \$10,000 and allow use of your bank account, they will split their millions with you. I receive email to this effect every week. **Do not open, do not reply, and do not click on any hot links.** Just delete it from your in box and delete it again from your trash folder.

Grandparent Scam: I love when someone calls with this one because I have no grandkids – but it usually consists of a late-night/wee-hours emotional phone call, “Hello Grandma/Grandpa, I’m in trouble. We were in Timbuktu on spring break and our rental car was hit by a taxi. Police are saying that I was driving and I need money to hire a lawyer.” On comes a well-spoken, less emotional individual (“the lawyer”) with specifics of how serious this offense is, how severe the penalties can be, and how he can be retained for \$15,000 wired overnight to an account. Before the victim is even awake, the transaction is done.

Charity Scam: Scammers call seeking money for some police or veteran’s organization that may sound legitimate. **They’re not!** The names are changes ever so slightly from the true organization (which will not call you). And your kind-hearted donation ends up lining some fraudster’s pocket rather than benefiting those you want to assist. For example: rather than Disabled American veterans (DAV) – legit – they’ll use something like American Disabled Veterans – bogus.

Tech Support Scam: You receive a call from “Microsoft Tech Support” (always fun if you have an Apple), “We’ve noticed that your computer is running slowly [or hasn’t been updated with the proper software], if you allow us remote access, we can make the correction for you.” As obvious as this is, people fall for it and “poof” – all of your passwords, personal information, financial data, etc. is compromised. Never, ever let someone remote into your computer unless you initiate the call and know you speaking with bona fide tech support.

A few computer basics:

- Regularly (i.e., daily) process updates to computer programs and virus definitions.
- Invest in TotalAV, Norton, Bitdefender, McAfee, or some other reputable brand of computer protection software. **Avoid Kaspersky** unless you want Russia to know everything you are doing.
- Use a Virtual Private Network (VPN)
- Build passwords that are easy for you to remember but difficult to crack, incorporating – upper- and lower-case letters, numerics, and special characters.
- Change passwords often
- Password protect any file in which you store other passwords
- Use different passwords for each banking account
- Use multi-factor identification
- Use fingerprint biometric identification on cellphone, if possible. It is safer than facial recognition.
- Use a single credit card for internet purchases (easier to identify unauthorized purchases)

- Do not conduct online banking from a non-secure WiFi network unless absolutely necessary. If necessary – make it quick!
- Hover your mouse over the “From” address of any email that seems suspicious (e.g., from someone you haven’t heard from is a long time, a bank, anything that discusses a late or delayed shipment, account, or potential charge)
- Artificial Intelligence is reducing the incidence of telltale signs formerly used to identify scam and phishing emails such as misspelled words, poor grammar, syntax errors, etc.
- Rather than clicking on embedded hot-links in messages – go separately to the company’s known website and investigate from there. Telephone the company, if necessary.
- Don’t automatically click on the first returned website of a Google, Bing, Safari, or other search result.

If there is a short-fused time window to act or you’re being asked to pony-up some money – it is most likely a scam. There’s a sucker born every nano-second, or, in the immortal words of Abraham Lincoln – “Not everything you read on the Internet is true.”

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

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	vagolfers@mac.com	
Alice Weisz	Book Club	bookclub@croatanbeach.org	425-2068
Wes Laine	Surfing Advisor	surfing@croatanbeach.org	428-2620

Name	Committee	Email	Phone
Ken Jobe	Special Advisor	kejo425@aol.com	428-0328

Croatan Civic League Board of Directors

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

Croatan Civic League Board of Directors

Name	Title
Eileen Wren	Director