

CCL Newsletter

October, 2024



Submitted by Kathy Donahoe

President's Letter

Ladies and Gentlemen,

An important reminder: **Annual Meeting October 27th**

Our annual meeting and member social will be held on Sunday, October 27th at the Warriors Taphouse at 1630 General Booth Blvd. It starts at 5:30. See the CCL website for sign-up information.

During the annual meeting portion of our evening, we will have a treasurer's report and board of director elections. Up for election are the following residents: Michael Kelly, M.C. "Connie" Agresti, and Amber Torgerson.

A couple of our Board members have finished their term and will be stepping down. Several Board members have served for many years. We are lucky to have them. However, they need a break. If you are a member of the civic league and have never sat on the board, please consider doing so now. Despite the terrific location and overall great weather, what makes Croatan the best are the people who live here. Please consider volunteering and doing your part to keep Croatan great. Or, if you think it is time for some change and new ideas, join us and be a part of our future. **If you are interested in joining the board, please contact me.**

The Michels, Gierok, and Quelch families are hosting a SUPER HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL for the Croatan neighborhood on Saturday, October 19th starting at 2:00 PM. The location is 428 Maryland Ct. See the ad on the CCL website. This will be a fun event for children (and other kids of all ages.)

Our CCL Safety and Security Director, M. C. "Connie" Agresti, has, in his usual, outstanding fashion, included important notes for everyone to review. They are well-worth reading more than once.

Please see the update on the beach restoration project in this newsletter.

Early voting is underway, and Election Day is Tuesday, November 5th. Our location is Seatac Elementary School. All elections are important – this one a little more so.

See the "Voting Extra" in this Newsletter.

All the best, remain vigilant, and stay safe,

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



Croatan Beach Update

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has provided an update on the Croatan Beach nourishment schedule. The latest fill schedule is May 17 to May 27, 2025. This is earlier than the previous schedule of July to July 11, 2025. It will be completed in 11 days.

The Rudee Inlet Wier Replacement study underway was awarded to [Geosyntec Consultants/ATM](#). Once the weir study work order is executed, the city will set up a kick-off meeting with Geosyntec project staff, City staff and the Croatan Beach Civic League Weir Replacement Liaison team to discuss tasks and report schedule. This meeting is tentatively to occur in mid to late November 2024.



Rudee Inlet Wier, 10/12/2024

CROATAN BOOK CLUB

Next Meeting Thursday,
October 17, 2024 Time 7 P.M.
Hostess: Debbie Warwick
Place: 516 Kerry Lane

Book: Next Year in Havana – Chanel Cleeton

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)

Ordinary Grace – William Kent Kruger

The Measure – Nikki Erlick

The Heaven and Earth Grocery – James McBride

The Women – Kristen Hannah

Becoming Madam Secretary – Stephanie Dray

The Library of Borrowed Hearts - Lucy Gilmore

The Rose Code - Kate Quinn

Safety/Security – October, 2024

Please share with renters and contractors – be courteous; we all live in this community.

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Recent Drownings at Croatan and Resort Beaches
- Fire Prevention Month
- See and Be Seen
- Electric Vehicles Are Really Quiet
- Wet Leaves
- Stop Signs and Speed

- RFID-shielding wallets
- CAC – Halloween; November 5 General Election

Recent Drownings: Three people have drowned recently – two at the Resort Beach and one at Croatan. The life of another swimmer hangs in the balance as of this writing.

The ocean has been very rough these last few weeks with Red Flags posted almost daily, warning of dangerously strong rip currents and/or high and confused seas. Sometimes these warnings are for “No Swimming,” “Wading Waist Deep Only,” or “Surfers Only, if strong swimmers.” Even strong swimmers and surfers **should not enter the water alone**, as evidenced by the drowning at Croatan.

There are no lifeguards at Croatan Beach after Labor Day. If you read about Red Flag warnings at the Oceanfront, please treat them as applying to Croatan, as well. I recommend downloading the free smartphone app - ***VBAAlert*** - to receive notifications of such warnings, etc.

Fire Prevention Month: is observed every October in recognition of the Great Chicago Fire, October 8 – 10, 1871. The VBFD usually posts a lengthy notice on Nextdoor addressing many fire safety dos and don’ts. Here are some highlights:

- Change batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors this month. Replace detectors if > 10 years old or if testing fails.
- Fires are not permitted on the beach.
- Permits are required for burn pits and bonfires.
- Permitted fires must be at least 50 feet from any structure. (Commercially sold outdoor fire pits must be at least 15 feet from any structure).
- Put fires out twice – drown the blaze, rake and/or stir the remains, drown it again.
- Keep a charged hose (or other means of extinguishing the fire) at hand.
- Ashes must be disposed of in a non-combustible container placed away from any flammable material or structure – and **not** on a deck.

Visit <https://viriniabeach.gov> -> Departments -> Fire -> Fire Prevention for more info.

See and Be Seen: Lower sun angles and dusk/darkness lingering into Autumn commuting hours lead to hazards for both drivers and pedestrians.

If walking or biking in dusk or darkness, please wear light colored and/or reflective clothing or shoes, carry a flashlight (could be cellphone feature), and obtain a leash or collar for your dog that has reflective qualities. Be aware that if you are up-sun, drivers may not be able to see you. Try to make eye contact with drivers before crossing a street; or just be patient and wait for sufficient gaps in traffic. Bicycles should have lights if ridden at night.

If driving, keep these visibility challenges in mind and exercise caution when approaching crosswalks and intersections. Don’t drive distracted, maintain a constant scan, and have a good pair of polarized sunglasses.

Please refer to owner’s manuals for instructions on setting dusk-sensing headlights and daytime running lights (DRL). If using windshield wipers, Virginia State Code requires that headlights be in the “on” position. This will ensure that even the tail lights are illuminated, something that many vehicles’ DRL do not activate.

Electric Vehicles are Really Quiet: If you operate an electric vehicle or e-bike, please be conscious that pedestrians may not hear you approaching from behind. Startled individuals and animals can react unpredictably; so please give them wide berth. This also applies to Hybrid vehicles operated in battery mode. Pedestrians and bicyclists, please keep to the side of the street and be especially cautious when crossing or in parking lots.

Wet Leaves Mean Slick Roads: Rain and dew can leave fallen leaves as slick as ice. Beware of driving, motorcycling, or bicycling over them, especially on curves.

Stop Signs: In response to residents' concerns, CCL has asked our police patrol officers to monitor stop sign compliance. No tickets have been issued yet, but officers report some panicked stops at the Vanderbilt cross streets (Aqua Lane and S. Maryland) when their cruisers are spotted. These are dangerous intersections due to dog walkers, pedestrians, and cyclists crossing – the latter frequently ignoring stop signs themselves.

If you live on a corner that has a traffic sign, please ensure that foliage has not overgrown the sign or otherwise masked it from a driver's view. The city will cut back foliage if the homeowner doesn't and charge the homeowner for the service. City pruning may be more dramatic or injurious to trees than a homeowner's effort.

RFID-Shielding Wallets: Most credit cards now come with radio-frequency identification (RFID) features. These are indicated by the symbol that looks like 4 end-parentheses -)))) - of increasing lengths on the card. While convenient for speeding up purchases, they are also convenient for speeding up theft, as thieves can brush past you and read the card if it is not protected by a specially designed RFID-shielding wallet. Such relatively inexpensive wallets are widely available. **Case in point:** I slipped a credit card into a pocket rather my wallet recently when my hands were full. Yep – I was awakened to a fraud alert at 2:45 AM that the card was being used in Pittsburg. I was lucky – will you be?

Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC): Meets at 7:00 PM on the second Wednesday of each month at Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad #14 conference room (740 VB Blvd – aka: 17th Street). Meetings are open to all. Please park on the east side of the building. The October meeting has been cancelled as no officers are going to be in town. The next meeting is November 13.

Halloween Trick-or-Treating: will be conducted in Croatan on Thursday, October 31 from dusk until 8:00 PM.

Early Voting is Now Underway for the November 5 General Election. Visit <https://virginiabeach.gov> -> Services -> Elections and Voting for more information. Please respect the right of your neighbor to have a different political view from yours and refrain from damaging their yards, political signs, or property. Other notes:

- U. S. Postal Service has lengthened its delivery standards. If voting via mail-in ballot, be sure to complete it properly and mail it early. I recommend at least two weeks prior to November 5.
- Last day to register to vote is October 15.

M. C. "Connie" Agresti,

CCL Safety and Security Director

Croatan Women's Club



2024-2025 New Officers

President - Elizabeth Kasprak
Vice President - Linda Richie Royal
Recording Secretary - Laura Saltzer
Corresponding Secretary - Jackie Feagan
Treasurer - Susan Savage
Programs Chair - Diane Ferrera

“Croatan Voting Extra” You Need to Vote

The following is excerpted from the October 11th Virginia Pilot

<https://www.pilotonline.com/2024/09/17/2024-election-guide/>

Election Day is Nov. 5.

While the presidential race may be the main event, dozens of candidates are running for state and local offices in Hampton Roads. The Virginian-Pilot and Daily Press voter guide — 757 Votes — explains what races are on the ballot and who is running for office.

The 2024 election guide contains Q&As with candidates running for mayor, city council, school board and in other special elections in Hampton Roads, as well as with candidates running for four congressional seats. The guide will be updated throughout election season with additional reporting on local races and candidates.

Early voting for the Virginia general election [begins Friday, Sept. 20](#) and runs through Saturday, Nov. 2. Voters can cast ballots in person at their local registrar’s office or vote by mail.

Click on the hyperlinks to learn more about the candidates.

[Read more about Virginia Beach](#)

Congressional

[U.S. House of Representatives, Virginia’s 1st District:](#) Leslie Mehta (D), Rob Wittman (R)

- [In 1st District race, Wittman aims to maintain winning streak](#)

[U.S. House of Representatives, Virginia’s 2nd District:](#) Missy Cotter Smasal (D), Jen Kiggans (R), Robert Reid Jr. (I)

U.S. House of Representatives, Virginia's 3rd District: Bobby Scott (D), John Sitka (R)

Senate: Hung Cao (R), Tim Kaine(D)

- [Senate debate recap: Tim Kaine, Hung Cao discuss port strike, immigration, military and more](#)

Virginia Beach

Here's a rundown of what is [on the ballot in Virginia Beach](#).

Mayor: Bobby Dyer, Richard W. Kowalewitch, John Darrell Moss, Chris Taylor, and Sabrina Devon Wooten

- [City spending tops list of hot topics as 5 candidates run for Virginia Beach mayor](#)

City Council:

- District 1: Ryan Gilliam and David "Hutch" Hutcheson
- District 3: Michael Berlucchi, Christina M. Felder, and Cleon Jones
- District 5: L.G. Shaw and Rosemary Wilson
- District 7: Cal "Cash" Jackson-Green and Mabinty Saffie Scott
- District 8: Cody Conner, Stacy Cummings, Phil Hines, and Leland Jones

School Board:

- At large: Monty Gerald Ashliman, Jr. and Sharon Ruth Felton
- District 1: Rose Marie Dwyer, Jennifer Sue Franklin
- District 3: Mark Douglas Bohensiel
- District 4 special election: Anissa M. Bowden, Alveta J. Green, and Shannon L. Kendrick
- District 5: Melinda Josa Rogers and Vincent Earl Smith
- District 7: Matthew Cummings and Noah Moreland

Sheriff special election: Aldo Dibelardino and Rocky Holcomb III

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

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

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

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	Director, 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

Croatan Civic League Board of Directors

Name	Title
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
Eileen Wren	Director