

CROATAN CIVIC LEAGUE NEWSLETTER



April 2025

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I wish I could say that we have a beautiful Spring, but it's not clear what's going on. There seems to be no rhyme or reason with cold, very windy days to beautiful sunny days in the high 80's. Additionally, many people are having allergy problems. Virginia Beach takes [the number two spot for the worst Virginia city for pollen sufferers](#) in 2025 and [eleventh nationally](#) (Richmond was eighth.)

Upcoming Events:

Croatan Walking Club – Every Saturday morning, 8:30 AM, Intersection of Croatan Road and Kerry Lane.

Annual Garage Sale – Saturday, May 3rd, 8:30 AM to Noon.

Croatan Cares 5K – Sunday, May 4th, 9:30 AM, Meet at Croatan And Surfside. This year is a Star Wars theme! Even if you don't participate, please donate. Croatan Cares is a charity event for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore. Spread some of your good fortune around! [Click here for more information.](#)

CCL Social (Pizza night at Chichos Strawbridge location) – Sunday, May 4th, 4:30 – 6:30 PM. Bring a Croatan resident who isn't a CCL member!

Spring Fling – Saturday, June 7th, 3:00 – 8:00 PM. Details will be on the [CCL website.](#)

Please see the article on the next page of this newsletter for details on the beach renourishment and weir replacement.

Please make sure you review Connie Agresti's safety and security notes in this newsletter. He always has useful information that is important to you.

The next Board meeting is on Monday, May 5th.
The next Town Hall will be in June.

All the best,
Mike Kelly, President, Croatan Civic League
703.439.9153



Little Library 533 Vanderbilt Ave

VIRGINIA BEACH RESORT BEACH/CROATAN BEACH RENOURISHMENT UPDATE

The Croatan Beach renourishment start date is now TBD. There is a problem with the sand that is being dredged, and work was halted on the resort beach. You can read more about it [by clicking here](#). I am in contact with the Head of Coastal Engineering. He will keep me informed. I will pass on updates as I receive them. – Mike Kelly

THE RUDEE INLET WIER REPLACEMENT

The city had a small group together to include Croatan representatives to review the GeoSyntec model developed from the data collected earlier this year. From that, alternatives improvements for the weir will be developed. The city will host a public meeting (especially for Croatan residents) sometime in June. We will get the date out as soon as we know. – Mike Kelly



SAFETY/SECURITY - APRIL 2025

Landlords – Please Share with your Renters

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Flex Posts
- QR Codes Scams Proliferate
- 23andMe – clear your data
- Balloon Release is Illegal
- Motorcycle Awareness – look twice, burn headlights
- Parking Lot Fees
- On-Street Parking
- Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC) – open to all



Flex Posts: Reflective flex posts have been replaced along the Croatan Road walking/biking path. Please protect these devices that provide a safe separation barrier on this heavily traveled street where sidewalks are absent. The posts represent your tax dollars at work.

QR Codes: Organizations and social media are warning of numerous scams involving QR (Quick Response) codes – those ubiquitous checkerboard-resembling boxes that take one to websites, restaurant menus, etc. Clicking on them with a smartphone “QRC Reader” application can take you to a variety of places – not all of which are legitimate. **Do not assume that the links are kosher, read the link carefully, and do not sign-up for or subscribe to anything.** I was spoofed to a look-alike site recently while trying to access information on medicine I received from a military pharmacy. Search “QRC Scams” online to make you and your family aware.

23andMe: The Wall Street Journal reports that DNA search company 23andMe has filed for bankruptcy and intends to sell all its assets, including personal and genetic data for its more than 15 million subscribers. Those who have used 23andMe are encouraged to request that the company delete their information from its database.

Balloon Release is Illegal: As graduation and wedding seasons approach, we can expect an increase in celebrations on the beach. A recent posting to Nextdoor reported observing the release of “more than 30” celebratory balloons. The Commonwealth of Virginia made this practice illegal and imposed a **\$25 fine per balloon**, because non-biodegradable (e.g., mylar) balloons will come down at sea and may be ingested by or entangle marine and avian fauna.

Motorcycle Awareness: Please **look twice** for motorcyclists, especially when changing lanes and making turns. Give riders extra following distance, especially in the rain. Bikers – including e-bicyclists – please burn a headlight and ride defensively/responsibly.

Croatan Parking Lot: Parking fees began April 1 for those entering the Croatan parking lot after 10:00 AM. Virginia Beach residents are charged \$3.00, while non-residents are charged \$7.00. Pay at kiosks or by on-line apps. Lot closing time moved to 8:00 PM. And will remain so through October.

On-Street Parking: A limited number of on-street parking spaces are available on Surfside and Vanderbilt, north of Croatan Road. These spaces are time limited – 9:30 AM – 7:00 PM. Please do not block driveways or mailboxes. Non-time-limited parking is available on other neighborhood streets, mostly west of Virginia Dare. CCL has filed a FOIA request for a copy of the parking enforcement contract the city has in place. With that information, we hope that former government contracting officers we have in the neighborhood can draft a practical contract line-item option for the city to use to add Surfside and Vanderbilt parking enforcement into the contractor’s statement of work.

CROATAN BEACH PHOTOS AND SUGGESTIONS SOUGHT

The Beach and Waterways Advisory Commission is in the process of drafting a revision to the Beach Management Plan of 2002 (available at <https://virginiabeach.gov>). Connie Agresti has been tasked with drafting the Croatan Beach section of this plan and is seeking representative photos showing the beauty and the post-storm devastation of our beach, as well as any resident desires to improve the beachgoing experience. Please send to him at mcaiii@aol.com or cagresti@vb.gov.

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

CAC meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month 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.

The April 9 CAC meeting included a presentation by Mr. David Lavanne, General Manager of The Dome, describing its characteristics, planned uses, and schedule of events.

Community Liaison Officer: The new Second Precinct Community Liaison Officer is **Officer Kishon Roberts**. He may be reached at (o) 757-385-1338, (m) 757-817-9825, or KMRoberts@vbgov.com.

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

VBCCO MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025

- Jason from the Virginia Beach Real Time Crime Center was the guest speaker.
- Showed the group Live Maps indicating current calls, police vehicles, body cams etc.
- Encouraged residents to register home cameras.
- Will offer tours of the Real Time Crime Center in June, July and August.
- Several VBCCO members discussed Zeffy as a great way to collect dues payments for Civic Leagues. It is for non-profits. No charges for transactions. This would save CCL members the transaction fees they currently pay. There is an option to pay a voluntary tip but not required.
- VBCCO is looking for volunteers for committees.
- VBCCO changed By-Laws to allow individual members if they don't have a Civic League in their area. They will not have voting rights.
- Virginia Beach is starting a Comp Plan from scratch with a consulting firm. VBCCO will have upcoming meetings to discuss.
- Next VBCCO Membership meeting, Wednesday, April 16, 2025 6:30-8:30PM. Bow Creek Recreation **Center. Guest Speaker, Virginia Beach Rescue Squad.**

Jim Ferrera, VBCCO Representative

BOOK CLUB

Cindy Kilmer has graciously agreed to take over as CCL book club lead. Announcements and other items will originate from her email address (cynthiakilmer@verizon.net). Thank you to Alice Weisz for her tenure leading the book club!



Next meeting is on Thursday, April 24, 2025, 7 PM
at the home of Diane Ferrara: 539 S. Atlantic Avenue
BOOK: [Becoming Madam Secretary – Stephanie Dray](#)

All Neighbors and friends come and join us. Just read the book (or maybe not – come to socialize and hear a review of the book) Bring a light snack/wine to share, if desired. We normally meet on the third Thursday of each month, the location varies. Books are chosen by club members with only 2 caveats: (1) the member who recommends the book has read it to know if it is appropriate for the group, and (2) the book is available through the Virginia Beach library system.

Future Selections (in order)

- The Library of Borrowed Hearts - Lucy Gilmore -- May
- The Rose Code – Kate Quinn -- June
- Wrong Place, Wrong Time - Gillian McAllister – July
- Hillbilly Elegy – J.D. Vance -- August

New faces always welcome!


CROATAN “BE BONE STRONG” WALKING CLUB





The launch of The Croatan ‘Be Bone Strong’ Walking Club—a community-driven initiative to get us moving—has been a great success! Croatan resident (and sometimes NYC resident) Barbara Hannah Grufferman, award-winning author and host of the [AGE BETTER podcast](#), will lead the weekly walks. For those days when Barbara isn’t in Croatan, Bettina Armour will take over and lead the way!

Walkers meet every Saturday morning at 8:30 AM for a 60-minute walk inside and outside of Croatan. Walking is not only a fantastic weight-bearing exercise that strengthens bones, but it also improves heart health, boosts mood, and builds community. What’s not to like? *BONUS! Members-only zoom meetings will be scheduled throughout the year with top medical experts from around the country to talk about all the ways we can stay healthy and active and answer your questions.*

DETAILS:

 **When:** Every Saturday at 8:30 – 9:30am (Note: you will be notified if walks are cancelled due to inclement weather)

 **Where:** Meeting point: Intersection of Croatan Road and Kerry Lane

 **Distance:** 2–3 miles (3 is the goal!)

[JOIN US](#)

[Click Here](#)

CROATAN WOMEN’S CLUB

Learn about the benefits of CBD in the April meeting.

Monday, April 14th at 6:30 p.m.

568 Virginia Dare Drive. Parking Available.

Please RSVP to Diane at 410-599-9457. Please bring your favorite beverage to share.

UPCOMING EVENTS



2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturdays **Croatan Walking Club**
Every Saturday at 8:30 AM. Meet at Croatan Rd. & Kerry Lane. Visit the CCL website to join

May 3rd **Croatan Garage Sale**
The annual Croatan Garage Sale day in conjunction with the Shadowlawn Civic League 8:30 - 12pm

May 4th **Croatan Cares 5K**
Annual fun run thru Croatan. Starts at 10AM. You can run or walk. This year its a Star Wars theme!!

May 4th **CCL Member Social**
Pizza night at Chichos Strawbridge from 4:30 - 6:30PM Pizza and two drinks will be available.

June 7th **Spring Fling**
Join us for our annual CCL Spring Fling at the Point at Croatan Beach. Saturday June 7th from 3-8PM

Being Planned

- Ice Cream Social 9/5
- Fall Member event
- Halloween Party
- Annual Meeting
- Pictures with Santa
- Holiday Lights contest
- Cookies and Cocoa with Santa

Croatan Civic League
<https://www.croatanbeach.org/>

CCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Kelly President, VB Gov Liaison	Bob Lougen Vice President, Website, Facebook, Communications
Mike Fantozzi Director, Secretary	Patrick Costigan Director, Treasurer
M.C. "Connie" Agresti Director, Security, CAC	Amber Torgensen Director
Jim Ferrera Director, VBCCO, Directory, Membership	Frank Borum Director, Traffic Mgmt.
Amanda Robinson Social Activities, Children's Programs	Katie Ripberger Director, Logo wear, Social Activities
Cheryl Garvey Director, Welcome Wagon, Landscaping	Eileen Wren Director
Bill Garvey Past President, By-Laws	Martha Kelly Newsletter

Time to...

Renew or Join

Croatan Civic League Membership
for 2025

www.croatanbeach.org/join-renew



Use the QR code or copy and paste the link above

