

# CROATAN CIVIC LEAGUE NEWSLETTER



May 2025

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Ladies & Gentlemen,

The weather is grand and the flowers beautiful, but...

We had two very disturbing incidents in the last couple of weeks. Both occurred late at night. The first was a hit-and-run at the Croatan Rd. entrance. The second incident was a couple awakened by urgent knocking at multiple entry points of their home—first at the back porch door, then at an exterior bedroom door, and finally at the front door. Two individuals, each arriving in separate vehicles and parked in the driveway, were observed at the residence. Their communication was unclear, and when the homeowners indicated they would contact law enforcement, the individuals quickly fled the scene.

Both are reprehensible, callous actions and assaults on our well-being. I have a hard time understanding how anyone could leave a person injured and on the side of the road, making no attempt to call for help. While motivation in the second incident is unclear, it is clear that the individuals did not want police involvement. In both cases, people ran away.

The challenge for us is how we respond to the fear this creates in us. We are reminded that bad things can happen to anyone,

anytime. You may not feel a need to change the things you do or take further action to secure your home. Understandable. However, I am reminded that in my days of military flying, we knew that complacency could cause bad things to happen.

Don't be complacent when it comes to safety and security. If nothing ever happens, you will likely ask, was it all necessary? If something does happen, you will ask, why didn't I do more?

**Connie Agresti's "Safety and Security" comments** in this newsletter are important and a "must read." While Croatan is one of the safest, if not the safest neighborhood to live in Virginia Beach, crime and mishaps still happen.

**DON'T FORGET THAT SPRING FLING IS ON SATURDAY, JUNE 7th.**

Tickets are on sale, and you can purchase them on our website.

All the best, remain vigilant, and stay safe,  
Mike Kelly, President, Croatan Civic League  
703.439.9153

## SAFETY/SECURITY - MAY 2025

\*\*\*Please Share with Renters & Contractors\*\*\*



### Bottom Line Up Front:

- Potential Home Invasion
- Traffic and Pedestrian Safety
- Dogs on the Beach – Seasonal Restrictions Begin Memorial Day Weekend
- Stroke Awareness Month – BE FAST
- Atlantic Hurricane Season Begins June 1
- CAC – The Dome; Vehicle “Report Cards;” Weapons Confiscation; National Police Week
- Military Appreciation Month and Memorial Day

**Potential Home Invasion:** Shortly after 1:00 AM on May 6, a Croatan couple was awakened by “frantic” knocking on their back door, followed by exterior bedroom door, and finally on the front door by two women who had parked separate vehicles in their driveway. The demands of the women were unintelligible and when the homeowners threatened to call police, the women fled. Police response was prompt but suspects had departed the neighborhood. Thankfully, no one was injured but the sense of peaceful wellbeing in one’s home has been lost.

#### **Precautions we can all take:**

1. Ensure that doors and windows are locked.
2. Remove valuables from vehicles. Close windows and lock doors, even if in the garage.
3. If you have cameras, turn them on. If you do not have cameras, consider getting them.
4. If you own a firearm, research the law vis-à-vis use of deadly force.
5. If you own a firearm, advise police of that fact when you call 9-1-1, and do not brandish it when police respond.
6. Secure firearms out of potential reach of children.

**Traffic and Pedestrian Safety:** A bicyclist was struck at the intersection of Croatan Rd and Gen. Booth Blvd by a “light colored” car in the late evening or early morning hours of April 26/27. The victim’s family reports that the driver exited his vehicle, moved the victim out of the roadway, and proceeded on to his destination in Croatan. This callousness boggles the mind. We do not know if the driver was a resident, tenant, or deliveryman, but anyone who was out or received a delivery in this time period may have information to provide to the police – 757-385-5000. The victim suffered a concussion, a fractured clavicle, and seven broken ribs. He remains hospitalized as of this writing (May 1).

**Bicyclists:** ensure that you have lights on your two-wheeler – whether foot, battery, or motor powered. Wear light colored and/or reflective clothing and be aware of vehicles. Do not assume that a driver sees you. The Croatan Road bicycle path/walkway has reflective poles to separate it from vehicle lanes. Please protect these.

**Drivers:** Speed limit throughout Croatan is 25 MPH – slower when conditions warrant.

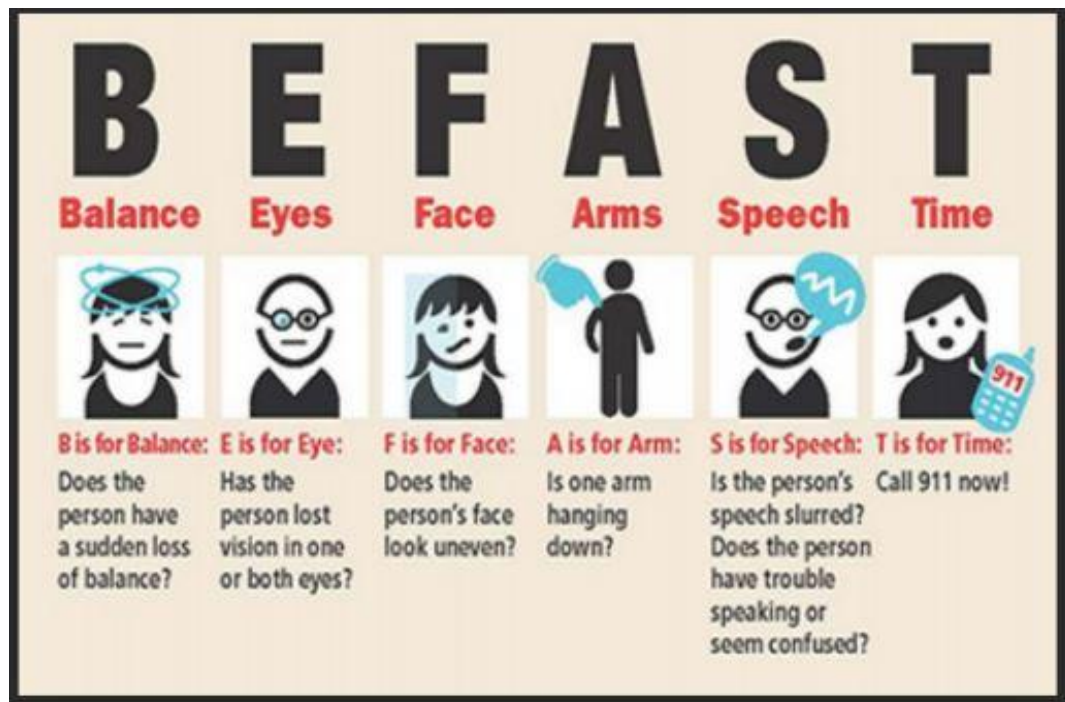
**Dogs on Croatan Beach:** Beginning 10:00 AM Saturday, May 24, dogs may not be on Croatan Beach between the hours of 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. (Legitimately registered/marked service animals are allowed during the restricted hours but must be leashed or in escape-proof containers). Comfort and emotional support animals are **not** included in this exception.

All dogs are allowed leashed or unleashed (if under handler’s verbal control) on the beach until 10:00 AM and after 6:00 PM daily (daylight hours only). Handlers must clean up after their animals. Bag dispensers and trash barrels are available at every beach entrance.

**Oceanfront Resort Area:** Dogs are **not allowed** on the Resort Area Oceanfront sand beach from Rudee Inlet north to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. This is a 24/7 rule during “the season.”<sup>1</sup> The rules for dogs on beaches north of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street are the same as for Croatan (see above).

**Boardwalk:** Leashed dogs are allowed on the Oceanfront Boardwalk and grass surfaces west of the boardwalk between the hours of 6:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Again, owners must clean up their pet’s waste.

**Stroke Awareness Month:** May is Stroke Awareness Month. Learn and know the signs of a stroke in yourself and others. Google “Stroke Awareness” to learn more and remember **BE FAST**. Strokes are life-threatening emergencies – **call 9-1-1**.



**Atlantic Hurricane Season Begins June 1:** Take the time to review your Hurricane Preparedness Kit, identify [your evacuation zone here](#), bookmark the [National Weather Center](#) out of Wakefield, VA, and subscribe to [VBAlert](#) (for weather warnings and guidance).

All of Croatan is in either Evacuation Zone A, B, or C. Forecasters predict an above average Hurricane Season in 2025. What we observed last year is that warmer ocean temperatures contribute to building massive (Cat 5) storms very quickly. You must re-register with [VBAlert](#) **at least every six months** to continue receiving severe weather notifications.

### CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

Mr. Dave Lavanne of Live Nations and General Manager of The Dome provided a rundown on the facility and their all-star line-up at the April 9 CAC meeting. The Dome, which opened May 4, is a multi-purpose venue that features meeting rooms, indoor and outdoor concerts, and a wide variety of music, including some notable headliners across musical genres (e.g., Three-Dog Night, Melissa Etheridge, Pat Benatar, Wynonna Judd) as well as local talent and up-and-comers. Parking garage is accessible from 20<sup>th</sup> Street and Baltic Ave. Valet service is also available. Visit the [Dome website](#) for information and line-up. (**Hint:** If you simply search for “The Dome,” you’ll get half a dozen ticket sales venues before you get to the actual Dome website. Go direct and favorite [the link](#).)

<sup>1</sup> “The Season” is from 6:00 PM the Friday of Memorial Day weekend (May 23) until 6:00 PM on Labor Day.

The Dome shares space in the Atlantic Park complex. This complex – again multi-purpose with restaurants, apartments/condos, etc. - includes “The Wave.” Organizers are bringing in world-class surfers from around the world to evaluate and adjust the waves generated by the Wave machine.

With an increase in thefts from motor vehicles, the VBPD has again started issuing “Report Cards” to drivers. CCL did ***not*** request this. These cards reflect the officer’s evaluation of whether the car is protected from vehicle break-in and theft by looking at such issues as locked doors and windows, absence of valuables in sight, etc. A valid concern was raised regarding the authority of the officers to inspect vehicles parked on private property. CCL has made police leadership aware of this complaint and requested that they review their procedures with the City Attorney. Please let us know if you receive one of these “Report Cards” on a car parked on private property.

**National Police Week is May 6 – 16.** To show solidarity with police and respect to the fallen peace officers, citizens are asked to burn a blue light on their porch or in a window during this week. It is also an opportunity to show respect for VBPD Officers Cameron Girvin and Christopher Reese who were killed in the line of duty on February 22, 2025.

While burning a blue light may sound trivial, please look at this photo of the illegal firearms confiscated by VBPD over College Beach weekend, April 25 – 27, 2025, alone. Many of these handguns were stolen from vehicles. Other weapons or extended and rotary magazines cannot, under any stretch of the imagination, be considered personal protection pieces. Police made 53 arrests over that three-day weekend.

It’s dangerous out there and the men and women of our VBPD do a wonderful job keeping us safe.

May is also **Military Appreciation Month** and culminates in **Memorial Day** – the day the Nation set aside to honor deceased servicemen and women. This year, Memorial Day will be observed on Monday, May 26.

Visit [Know Before You Go](#) for times of commemorative events and any other events in Virginia Beach.

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



## **DOMINION – CROATAN COMMUNITY MEETING**

CVOW construction update for the Croatan community. Please try to attend. There will be a few of Dominion’s senior execs attending for an announcement! Presentation begins **May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 at the Virginia Aquarium – South Bldg.** See address below



Coastal Virginia  
**Offshore Wind**

[Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center \(South Building, Educational Hall\), 801 General Booth Boulevard, Virginia Beach, VA 23451](#)

## VBCCO MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025

- Tina Mapels, Deputy Chief from the Virginia Beach Sheriff Office was the guest speaker.
- The Sheriff's Office secures the Correctional Center and Courthouse. Handles Civil Process by delivering court orders, including evictions, subpoenas, repossessions, levies and sheriff's sales. Perform law enforcement duties as needed partnering with the Virginia Beach Police Department.
- The office provides 3300 meals a day for the inmates and healthcare including mental health.
- Will offer tours of the Real Time Crime Center for groups of 40. May 13 10:00AM & May 22 3:30PM.
- 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 Comp Plan preview is now available. The Comp Plan is generally for 20-25 years and is then possibly amended by the City Council every 5 years. No major changes from the prior plan were noted in the preview.
- The City Council will be voting about a possible Voting Referendum on how citizens will elect future Council members. It will either remain 10-1 (10 Districts, 10 Council members, 1 Mayor) or 7-3-1 (7 Districts, 7 Council members, 3 At-Large Council members, 1 Mayor).
- Next VBCCO Membership meeting, Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 6:30-8:30PM. Guest Speaker will be Kevin Kemp, Zoning Administrator, City of Virginia Beach. Kevin will address By-Right vs. Discretionary Development.

Jim Ferrera,  
VBCCO Representative

## BOOK CLUB

Next meeting is on **Thursday, May 15, 2025, 7 PM**  
at the home of **Sharon Cherry - 673 S. Atlantic Ave.**

BOOK: The Library of Borrowed Hearts - Lucy Gilmore



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 Rose Code – Kate Quinn -- June
- Wrong Place, Wrong Time - Gillian McAllister — July
- Hillbilly Elegy – J.D. Vance -- August

New faces always welcome! For more information contact Cindy Kilmer ([cynthiakilmer@verizon.net](mailto:cynthiakilmer@verizon.net)) or another member of the group.

## CROATAN “BE BONE STRONG” WALKING CLUB



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




**No Walker Left Behind:** Please don't hesitate to join the walk every Saturday morning at 8am (**changed from 8:30am**) because you think you might be too slow or you might not want to go too far. A member of the club will stay with you to chat and keep you company during the walks however long it takes and however far you want to go. This is a community project and is designed to get you out and moving! It's a wonderful way to spend time with neighbors and friends, too.

May is National Osteoporosis Awareness Month, and the theme this year from the Bone Health & Osteoporosis Foundation (BHOFF) is WALKING! They are promoting the #WalkAMileADay program throughout the month. Please check out their website to see all the webinars and links they offer, and to also consider walking a mile a day! Here's the [link](#) .

### **Anyone that is interested can join the Croatan “Be Bone Strong” Walking Club!!!**

Please reach out to Barbara Hannah Grufferman at [BeBoneStrongWalkingClub@gmail.com](mailto:BeBoneStrongWalkingClub@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Barbara sends out a weekly email from this email address to the Walking Club members.

#### **DETAILS:**

-  **When:** Every Saturday at 8:00 – 9:00am (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

Members, come meet the Board. Let your voice be heard and share your ideas/suggestions.

Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

555 S. Atlantic Avenue.

Please RSVP to Diane Ferrera at 410-599-9457. The Club will provide food and drinks.

## CROATAN'S LITTLE LIBRARY

The Library works with the concept of “take/borrow a book and either return or replace a book.” The selection of books are rotated due to the smaller size of the structure. Everyone is encouraged to contribute books. If anyone has books they want to contribute and the library is full, or if anyone has suggestions for improving the project in any way, please send an email to: [littlelibrary@croatanbeach.org](mailto:littlelibrary@croatanbeach.org).


There are books for all ages! Children’s books are typically on the bottom shelf, and adult books are typically on the top shelf.

We are pleased with the interest and activity offered to our Croatan residents. As summer is approaching, it is a wonderful time to stop, take a deep breath and dive into some leisure reading time. Homeowners are reminded to have their guests or renters enjoy the LFL too!




**533 Vanderbilt Avenue**

## CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES

**Be in the Know**  
KEEPING RESIDENTS INFORMED + INVOLVED

Sign up to get email updates on news and happening in our City.  
Click on the image above to subscribe.



Click on the image above to see the latest events upcoming in VA Beach.  
Scroll down on the page to see the calendar.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



# 2025

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturdays**

**Croatan Walking Club**  
 Every Saturday at 8:00 AM . Meet at Croatan Rd. & Kerry Lane. Visit the CCL website to join

**June 7th**

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

**May 28th**

**Dominion Meeting**  
 CVOW construction update for the Croatan community. Presentation begins at 6:15 p.m at the Aquarium South Bldg.


**Being Planned**

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

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

## CCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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