

CROATAN CIVIC LEAGUE NEWSLETTER



June 2025

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing this a few days before Spring Fling. The weather is beautiful, and I hope the forecast remains good. We have only had one time in my memory where it rained during the Spring Fling. It was a thunderstorm that lasted about 20 minutes. We all got under the big tent and the party continued. It was a little sloppy, but those who stayed had a lot of fun. It is Rain or Shine!

As many of you know, the city is in the process of renourishing the Croatan Beach.

From the city program manager today (June 3rd):

Manson has run into delays with their new dredge. So, the Contractor has not yet begun. According to the construction progress meeting this morning, they will be providing a revised schedule next week.

In addition, they are coordinating with the communications line franchise utility at our Rudee Inlet entrance. Manson needs a bit more clearance for the large equipment that they are transporting from the Resort Beach to Croatan.

Meanwhile, the Contractor and Aquarium volunteers are on turtle watch each morning and the USACE is currently performing their "before nourishment" survey.

"Connie" Agresti has critical information regarding the upcoming hurricane season. Please make sure you read it. Also, please take a look at the VBPD Economic Crimes Unit Resource List and Rip Current Safety Diagram attached to the end of the newsletter.

Our next CCL Director's Meeting is TBD.

All the best,
Mike Kelly, President, Croatan Civic League
703.439.9153
mkellyav8@aol.com



Croatan's Little Library
533 Vanderbilt Avenue

Please Share with Renters & Contractors

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Most Common Crimes in Virginia Beach
- Beach Safety Tips (Annual Reminder)
- Balloons Kill Animals – Wedding/Graduation Celebrants Take Note
- Dogs on the Beach
- Atlantic Hurricane Season Began June 1
- CAC – Economic Crimes Briefing; Maryland High School Weekend; Oceanfront Events



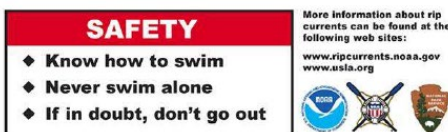
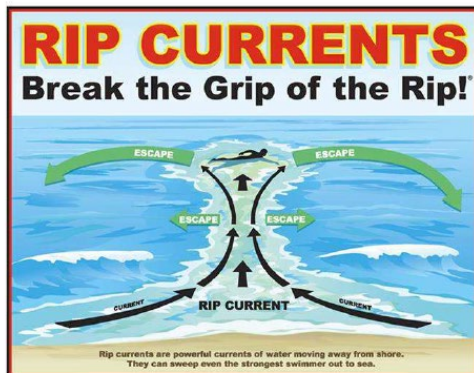
Most Common Crimes in Virginia Beach: Identity Theft/Fraud, embezzlement, and bigamy/online romance schemes. Whether from a stolen wallet, pilfered credit card, or purloined purse, stolen credit cards and their fraudulent usage are the crimes that hit us most often. Good ways to protect yourself include setting your cellphones to accept notifications from your bank or credit union or suspected fraudulent activity and freezing your credit rating. At the May Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, Detective Caleb Davey provided an overview of common economic crimes. See economic crime prevention tips under the CAC heading.

Beach Safety Tips: As an annual service to our residents and visitors, these safety tips are provided to help make your vacation safe and day at the beach, fun:

- Do not enter the water alone
- Do not dive into the water head first
- Watch small children at the water's edge
- Respect designated bathing and surfing zones
- Do not enter the water where people are fishing
- Read and understand how to escape a rip current (see graphic elsewhere in this newsletter)
- Bring only plastic shovels and dig holes no more than two feet deep
- Fill in any holes dug by you or your pet
- Please stay off dunes. These are fragile ecosystems, currently being rebuilt. Disrupting flora is a misdemeanor. Additionally, buried fence posts and other rusted metal can inflict serious injuries.
- Wear sunscreen to protect skin and sunglasses to protect eyes
- Stay hydrated with non-alcoholic beverages

...and as a courtesy to all, please pick up and dispose of all trash.

Balloons Kill Animals - Weddings and Graduations celebrants take note: The release of lighter than air balloons from the beach is prohibited in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Balloons eventually lose buoyancy and come down at sea where they can be ingested by marine mammals and birds, inhibiting their ability to breathe or swallow. The fine for such release is \$25 per balloon. Please don't kill "Flipper."



Dogs on Croatan Beach: Dogs are allowed be on Croatan Beach only before 10:00 AM and after 6:00 PM, daily. They may be leashed (or run unleashed provided they are under their handler's verbal control). Handlers are responsible for picking up pet waste. Plastic bag dispensers and trash receptacles are available at all beach access paths.

Atlantic Hurricane Season Began June 1: Take the time to review your Hurricane Preparedness Kit, identify your evacuation zone at <https://www.vaemergency.gov/know-your-zone> , “favorite” the National Weather Center out of Wakefield, Virginia at <https://forecast.weather.gov> , and subscribe to VBAAlert at <https://eccs.virginiabeach.gov/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 VBAAlert **at least every six months** to continue receiving severe weather notifications.

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

At the May 14 CAC meeting, VBPD Detective Caleb Davey of the Economics Crime Unit (757-385-4101). Some of Det. Davey's key take-away points:

- **NEVER let a stranger use your cellphone** – no matter what “my car, my phone, my grandmother, my child” sob story they plead. Thieves are so adept that they can drain bank accounts in seconds (literally). High risk locations include the parking lots at Fresh Fields and Walmart at Hilltop.
- Set up dual factor identification and/or biometric activation of your phone. “Shoulder surfers” who steal passwords will still be locked out.
- Beware of using your cellphone or computer for financial transactions in a public (i.e., unsecure) Wi-Fi setting (e.g., coffee shop, hotel lobby, airport).
- It is a good practice is to **“Freeze” your credit rating** with the three credit monitoring companies – Experian, TransUnion, Equifax.¹ Be sure you're on their legitimate website because they may not be the first to populate if you Google search for those names. (see attachment) **Hint:** beware of the small “ad” square on top left of search results – those can be for-profit companies, not the free credit services and will seek a subscription. The legitimate credit monitoring sites are free, and you can easily “unfreeze” credit if you are planning a large purchase (e.g., automobile) or applying for a loan.
- A high percentage of losses due to credit card compromises are due to the card holder's own carelessness, **so think** about your card's exposure before use, rather than simply acting in rote.
 - Beware of skimming devices
 - Minimize the exposure of your credit card by using the **“Tap to Pay”** electronic feature.
- **Avoid using debit cards**, if possible. It is more difficult to recover lost funds that come directly from someone's checking account versus a credit card where the banks have incentives to recover funds.
- Purchasing apps, like “Apple Pay” are also relatively secure.
- Limit checking account balances to just the amount of funds necessary to cover your immediate bills. This also helps protect against loss if checks are stolen from the mail, “washed,” and rewritten for larger amounts.
- Bank online, if you can.

¹ I have found that Equifax tries to push you into a subscription plan. I know the guidance is to freeze credit with all three credit reporting bureaus, but TransUnion and Experian were much more straight forward. Caveat Emptor.

- Elders are frequent targets because they have more money accumulated from a lifetime of earnings than do “twenty-somethings” just starting out. Also, elders tend to be less computer-savvy and more easily fall victim to fast-talking con men and women.
- *The Wall Street Journal* reports a marked increase in purchasing fraud being perpetrated in social media, such as Facebook and Instagram. Caveat emptor.

VBPD notified me of a **Maryland High School Senior Week** that social media “chatter” suggests may land in Virginia Beach the week of **June 17 – 24**. They formerly “partied” in Ocean City, MD but have been designated *persona non grata*. Past reported offenses have included public nudity (skinny dipping), underage alcohol and marijuana usage, and loud parties. Second Precinct Commander, Capt. Wessler, cautioned communities with rental units to be aware of misbehavior and report such to police at 757-385-5000 (9-1-1, if a bona fide emergency).

Other large upcoming Oceanfront events include North American Sand Soccer Tournament (June 6-8) and the Point Break Music Festival (June 21 – 22). Visit Know Before You Go ([What You Need To Know Before You Go | Visit Virginia Beach](#)) for times of commemorative events and any other events in Virginia Beach.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for June 11 at 7:00 PM at the Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad Building, 740 Virginia Beach Blvd (17th Street). CAC meetings are open to all.

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

VBCCO MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025

- The Guest Speaker cancelled so a normal VBCCO meeting was held.
- We were reminded that in Virginia Beach there is no fee for Ambulance services even if you have insurance.
- There was a Comprehensive Plan meeting going on at the same time as our meeting this month. Some concerns were expressed about the way things are headed. Green line policies have weakened, and it permits higher density light industrial development.
- There will be no money allocated for Civic Leagues in the budget. The Vice Mayor shot it down.
- VBCCO is still looking for volunteers for committees.
- It was stressed that in VB the City Manager is more powerful than in most cities. City Manager works full time.
- The group expressed concern about how the Pleasure House Point issue was pretty much in motion before it was brought to the public. The Pleasure House Point Wetlands Restoration Project aims to restore eight acres of land to its original tidal wetlands state, allowing the city to utilize the area for future public projects.
- The Stormwater Implementation Advisory Group was discussed briefly. Rick, the VBCCO President, is on the committee.
- VBCCO will focus on being a news source with unbiased fact reporting on what is happening in VB.
- If interested in touring the Real Time Crime Center check the VBCCO website for June
- Next VBCCO Membership meeting, Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 6:30-8:30PM. VB Rescue Squad 8 Building, 1243 Bayne Drive of Old Donation Parkway. Guest Speaker, Nancy Bloom, Public Engagement Manager-City of VB.

Jim Ferrera,
VBCCO Representative

CROATAN WOMEN'S CLUB



On **June 21st at 4:00 p.m.** we will be gathering at the footbridge at the end of Christine Drive to remember Jan Perriello.

Our next Club Meeting will be on Monday, June 9th at 6:30 p.m.
Please RSVP to Diane Ferrera at 410-599-9457.
The Club will provide food and drinks.

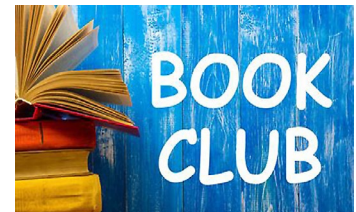


BOOK CLUB

New Members Welcome!

**Our next meeting will be held at Marie Early's house:
717 Vanderbilt Ave, June 19th, start time 7pm.**

We are discussing Wrong Place Wrong Time by Gillian McAllister, a "backward" twist on a psychological thriller. Sounds intriguing? Come join us to find out more. Book reading not required.



We had a productive session at our last meeting and made some changes/updates to the reading list. **Going forward books will be chosen by age, availability at library in print and audiobook form, plus suitability for the group and a mix of genres.**

June 19th - Wrong Place Wrong Time - Gillian McAllister

July 17th - Hillbilly Elegy - J.D. Vance

August 21st - The Rose Code - Kate Quinn (Very popular so get on wait lists now)

September 18th - Harlem Shuffle - Colson Whitehead

October 16th - God of The Woods (also popular so check wait lists)

November 20th - Yours Truly - Abby Jimenez

December 18th - Circe - Madeline Miller (fictionalized Greek Mythology)

January 15th - Throne of Glass - Sarah J. Maas (this is first in a fantasy series and was re-released in 2021 very popular right now with people of all ages)

We also talked about having additional movie nights for those interested. Know of a good book that was also an above average movie? Let us know. Hillbilly Elegy may be our first to watch as a group. Leave the World Behind, recently out on Netflix was also a great adaptation (I personally preferred it to the book and I rarely choose a movie over a book).

Any questions? Email or call Cindy Kilmer 703-470-1996. Looking forward to spending time with some new and old members!



CROATAN “BE BONE STRONG” WALKING CLUB






The Croatan ‘Be Bone Strong’ Walking Club continues to be 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.

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

Please reach out to Barbara Hannah Grufferman at 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](#)

CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES



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 MEETING



District 5 Community Meeting / Second Precinct CAC Meeting

viriniabeach.gov/community-meetings



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 6-8 PM

**Virginia Aquarium South Building
801 General Booth Boulevard**

Residents will hear from public safety leaders, including:

- Police Chief Paul Neudigate
- Fire Chief Ken Pravetz
- EMS Assistant Chief Bruce Nedelka
- An update on the Rudee Park project also will be provided by Clay Dills of Dills Architects

CCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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