

CROATAN CIVIC LEAGUE NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2025

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Annual Meeting and Social was held on Sunday, October 26th, at the Warriors Taphouse. What a wonderful time. In addition to an update on CCL activities, you re-elected seven board members, Bob Lougen, Mike Fantozzi, Frank Borum, Cheryl Garvey, Katie Ripberger, Amanda Robinson, and Martha Kelly. Departing board members included Jim Ferrera and Eileen Wren. They both did an excellent job and provided invaluable service to the Croatan community.

We still need to fill a couple of director positions. If you are interested, please contact me.

This past Monday, November 3rd, the board elected officers for 2026. Bob Lougen will continue as vice-president. Mike Fantozzi stays as secretary. Pat Costigan will continue as treasurer, and I will continue as president.

Do not forget Pictures with Santa on Sunday, November 30th, and the Holiday Lights Contest. Date for the latter will be announced soon.

There will be a Holiday Member's Social at Chico's on Sunday, December 7th. It starts at 4:00 PM and goes until 6:30 PM.

The most important part of this newsletter!

Please review **Connie's Safety and Security report for November**. You will find important information and answers to the on-going safety and security concerns that several people have expressed.

There will be no Board meeting for December. The next Board meeting will be on Monday, January 5th. I will announce our meeting location in January 2025 in the next newsletter.

All the best,

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

HALLOWEEN BLOCK PARTY AND CHILI COOKOFF

What a fantastic job Christina Michels and Jill Gierok did once again organizing our Halloween Block Party and Chili Cookoff! They truly hit it out of the park this year — thank you both for all of your hard work and creativity.

A special thank you as well to Matt and Alison Quelch for generously hosting the event at their home. It was wonderful to see so many Croatan families come out, enjoy the activities, and spend time together as a community.

This year's new addition — the Chili Cookoff — was a huge hit! Congratulations to all of our entrants:

- Matthew Michels
- Matt Quelch
- Joe Gierok
- Kristy Kain
- Aaron Peterson
- And our **WINNER — John Drevik!** 🎉

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and attended. Events like this are what make Croatan a great place to live!

SAFETY/SECURITY - NOVEMBER 2025

*****Please Share with Renters & Contractors*****
Be courteous; we all live in this community.

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Lithium-Ion Battery Disposal
- Littering
- Protection of Primary Sand Dunes Protects Property
- 'Tis the Season for Porch Pirates
- CAC – November 4 General Election



Lithium-Ion Battery Disposal: I read a warning recently regarding disposal of lithium-ion batteries. Please do not put these in trash as they have been known to start fires. Most hardware stores (e.g., Home Depot) have bins in the store for proper disposal. If unsure, treat any rechargeable battery as lithium-ion.

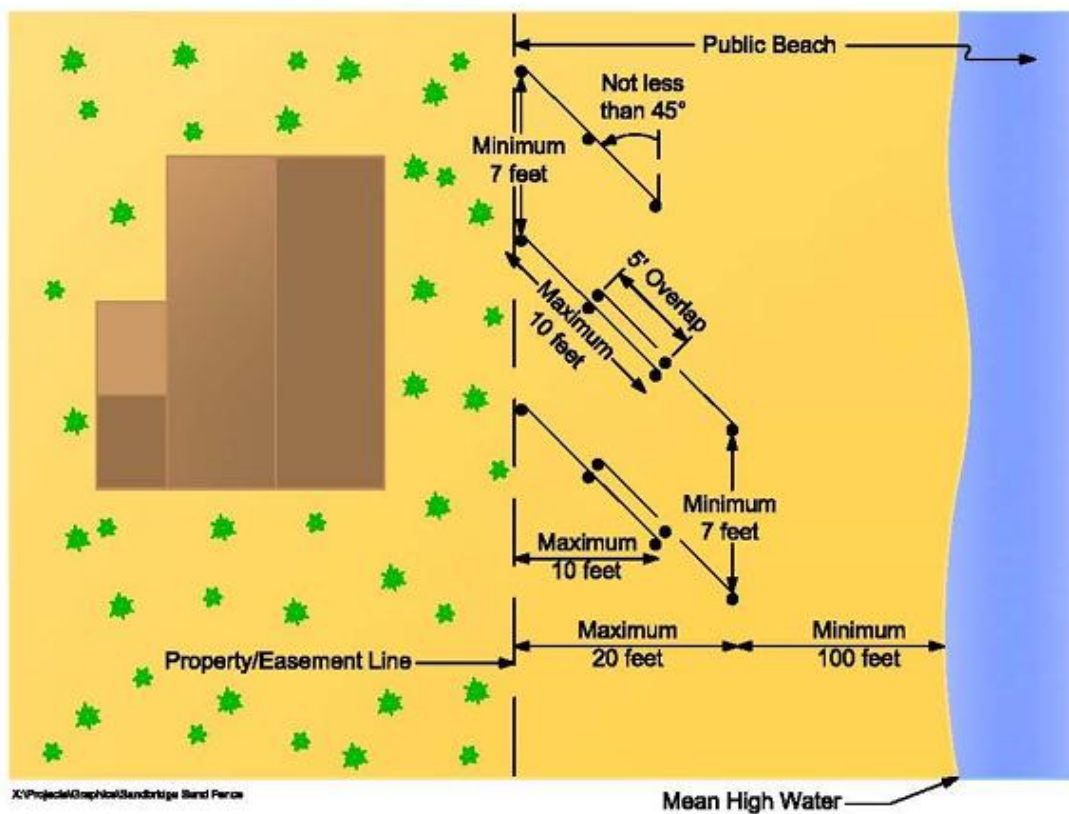
Littering: Readers of this document are conscientious stewards of our neighborhood, streets, and beaches. However, in recent weeks, several ridiculously egregious examples of littering have been brought to my attention. These include abandoning dirty diapers (really?) and empty beer bottles/cases on our streets and (depicted here) White Claw parties discarding what appears to be a full case of empties on the beach. As the saying goes - “Come on, man!” While we normally discover the trash after the litterbugs have fled, our Second Precinct Community Liaison Officer, Kishon M. Roberts, informs me that anyone witnessing littering, should report it to police at their non-emergency number (757-385-5000). Officer Roberts may be reached at rmroberts@vbgov.com or 757-817-9825. Please get descriptives of those involved, license plates, car type/color, etc. Partying can be cool, but littering is not cool – just



remember the lyrics to *Alice's Restaurant* – “What are you in for? Littering. And they all moved away.”

Protection of Primary Sand Dunes: We had two nasty nor'easters hit our shores in October. These storms generated significant waves, storm surges, and wind. Protection of our property rests in the ability of our primary sand dunes to absorb the brutal punishment that nature doles out. I walked Croatan Beach on Saturday, (11/1) and could easily see where the surf washed up into the primary dune. A number of snow (dune) fences, especially at the southern end of our beach, were damaged, buried, or missing. This is a reminder that dune fencing needs to be emplaced at an angle to the surf line. Placing fencing in this manner will help the dune regenerate and strengthen the protective barrier that the dunes provide. Please visit [Sand Fence Installation Guidelines | City of Virginia Beach](#) and see graphic on next page:

Installation Details:



Porch Pirates: As seasonal online shopping picks up, ne'er-do-wells conduct their own shopping by cruising neighborhoods (especially, up-scale ones – like Croatan) in search of freebies. The CCL has asked for increased security patrols during November and December, but we can collectively protect ourselves with some common sense practices, such as:

- Always ask the online vendor to overwrap the product so that the actual content (e.g., new Windows 11 computer) is not visible.
- Schedule deliveries for periods when someone is expected to be home (e.g., weekends).
- If you have security cameras, be sure that they're charged and operational.
- Arrange for a non-working (e.g., retired) neighbor to receive packages or keep a lookout for deliveries.
- Arrange delivery directly to a gift recipient or to a neutral location (e.g., Mail Boxes, Inc).

- Monitor email for delivery notifications. I have found that this is often my first indication of a delivery even when I am at home.
- Finally, keep a look-out for suspicious vehicles and persons. **Caveat:** it has become common to conduct deliveries by non-liveried individuals in private autos. Just verify that they're carrying packages **TO** the residence versus **AWAY** before calling authorities. Police non-emergency number is 757-385-5000.

CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

CAC meets at 7:00 PM on the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings are open to all. Please park on the east side of the building. The next meeting is November 12 at Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad #14 conference room (740 VB Blvd – aka: 17th Street).

Officer Recognition: At the November 12 meeting, CAC will recognize two detectives whose work helped lead to the arrest of EBK (Everybody Killer) gang members and confiscation of weapons, drugs, etc.

Drone Operations: VBPD drone operators will also provide a briefing.

17th Street Improvement Project: This multi-year project has begun. The City assures us that businesses will remain open during construction, but navigation may be difficult on a road that may be limited to one lane in each direction for the next few years. The website [17th Street/Virginia Beach Boulevard... | City of Virginia Beach](#) should have the current information. Alternatively, use the **Waze** smartphone app to identify detours.

Citizen's Advisory Board: with the VBPD Chief Paul Neudigate, the Deputy Chiefs, and Precinct Commanders was held on November 3. Police are gearing up for the Holiday shopping season with a walk-through of Lynnhaven Mall. Personal security advice includes:

- Keep at least one hand unencumbered at all times.
- Shop with a friend or partner.
- Keep any packages out of sight.
- Lock your car as soon as you get into it.
- Do not unlock your car from a distance, especially if lights and horn sound when you unlock.
- Keep your head on a swivel and be aware of your surroundings.
- If you feel uncomfortable, return to the mall and request a security escort.
- Stay off the phone while walking to your car.

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

VBCCO MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025

- VBCCO Academy starts September 16th with goal to do 4 a year with Chris Taylor, former VB City Councilperson and Mayoral candidate leading them.
- Brief discussion on City Referendum for 10-1 versus 7-3-1 on ballot Nov 4th.
- Noted City Council Town Hall dates in October.
- Discussed new Blue Line that is South of the original Green Line. The area in between is considered the transition area and some development will happen in that region. Requires 9 Council votes to make changes south of Indian River Road.
- The Virginia Beach National Golf Course is selling a portion of the course to VBDA RFQ. It will still be an 18 hole course.
- The VBCCO By-Laws changes were approved 21-3 after a lengthy discussion.

- Next VBCCO Membership meeting, Wednesday, November 19, 2025 6:30-8:30PM. Bow Creek Recreation Center, 3427 Club House Road.

Jim Ferrera,
VBCCO Representative

CROATAN'S LITTLE LIBRARY

Enjoy your fall reading. There are books for all ages!
Suggestions or Questions? Reach out to: littlelibrary@croatanbeach.org.



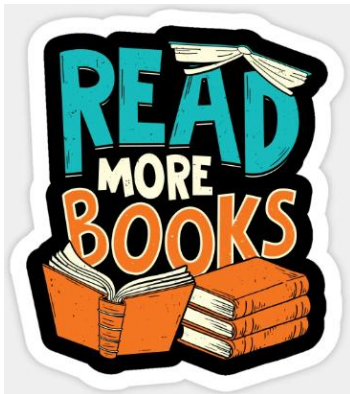
533 Vanderbilt Avenue

BOOK CLUB

New Members Welcome!

This month our book is Yours Truly by Abby Jimenez. This fun rom/com, was one of the most popular books in 2023, read by book clubs and women of all ages. The book has been described as a novel of terrible first impressions, hilarious second chances, and the joy in finding your perfect match. Our meeting will be held October 20th, 7PM at the home of our member Bettina Armour, 516 Virginia Dare Drive.

If you have already read the book, or it sounds interesting, come join us.



Future reads:

December TBD – The Correspondent - Virginia Evans
January 15th - Throne of Glass - Sarah J. Maas
February 19th - The Wedding People by Alison Espach
March 19th - Hail Mary by Andy Weir
Later March - optional group outing to see new movie coming out
April 16th - The Secret Life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar
May 21st - Lion Women of Tehran by Marjan Kamali
June 18th - the Stolen Queen by Fiona Davis
July 16th - Wild Dark Shore by Charlotte McConaghy

Books are a mix of genres chosen by age, availability at library in print and audiobook form, plus suitability for the group. Movie versions are also acceptable forms for discussion.

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

CROATAN WOMEN'S CLUB

Ladies of Croatan, please join us for our oyster shell decoupage party at our November meeting. RSVP at croatanwomen.com.

When: Monday, November 10th, 6:30 p.m.

Where: 740 Virginia Dare Drive

Also, the Croatan Women's Club is collecting gifts for teens in foster care this holiday. Please bring donations to this or next month's social. You may also drop off donations at 555 S. Atlantic Avenue. Ideas for donations can be found at croatanwomen.com.

Thank YOU for helping the community!



CROATAN "BE BONE STRONG" WALKING CLUB

SATURDAY MORNING WALKS ARE NOW 8:00 a.m.!

Saturday morning weekend walks continue. A great way to kick off your Saturday with movement, conversation, and connection. There are different pace groups so find the one that works best for you! Meet at 8am on Saturday morning on the corner of Croatan Rd/Kerry Lane.



Thanks for helping make this walking community so special. And as always—feel free to **share this email with friends, neighbors, or family members** who might like to walk with us!

See you out there!

Barbara + Bettina

Croatan *Be Bone Strong* Walking Club





CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES

