CROATAN CIVIC LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

CROATAN BEACH
SINCE 1774

OCTOBER 2026

IN THIS ISSUE

- President's Letter
- Safety & Security
- Upcoming Events
- Croatan Conservation Crew
- Walking Club
- Book Club
- Little Free Library
- In Memoriam
- Board of Directors

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Important Reminder:

Annual Meeting October 25th

Our annual meeting and membership social will be held on Sunday, October 25th, at the Surf Rider Restaurant at 501 N. Birdneck Road. It starts at 5:00 p.m. and goes until 7:30 p.m. See the CCL website for sign-up information. Please RSVP so that we can ensure that we order enough food.

During the annual meeting portion of our evening, we will hold the Board of Director elections, Treasurer's Report and activities review.

Up for reelection as Directors are the following residents:

Mike Kelly	President
"Connie Agresti"	Security, 2nd Precinct Citizens Advisory Committee
Amber Alvarez Torgerson	Director

Up for Election as Directors are the following residents:

Chuck Womack	Treasurer
Mary Adams	Director
Tony Aiken	Director
Nic Masarone	Director

If you are a member of the Civic League and have never sat on the board, please consider doing so now. Nominations can be made from the floor.

If you cannot make the meeting, please fill in the proxy sheet on the website (**link**). We need 75 names of members to have a quorum.

With elections in mind, early voting is underway, and Election Day is Tuesday, November 3rd. Our location is Seatack Elementary School. If you have not done so already, please vote.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER *(continued)*

Update regarding the State Military Reservation (SMR).

- Commonwealth Challenge is closed permanently due to funding.
- The main gate on General Booth Boulevard, will open sometime in January 2027. Trucks are supposed to still use the entrance on S. Birdneck Road.
- New security fencing for the west side of Croatan (Fort Raleigh Drive and Bushnell Drive.)
- The Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Project (CVOW) work on the SMR will be finished mid- to late November. 34 Turbines were installed at the end of August.
- The rifle range on the SMR is gone.

All the best, remain vigilant, and stay safe,

Mike Kelly
President, Croatan Civic League
703.439.9153 | mkellyav8@aol.com

SAFETY/SECURITY – OCTOBER 2026



Please share with your renters and contractors

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Post-Nor'easter Hazards
- E-Bike Safety Workshop
- Fire Safety Month – No Burning of Yard Waste; Risk of Lithium-Ion Batteries
- Croatan Parking – no fees in lot, time restrictions remain on streets
- Speeds are Up
- Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) – Traffic Engineering Brief

Post-Nor'easter Hazards: The late-September nor'-easter brought us five days of heavy surf, high tides, and beach erosion. The good news is that the dunes and expanded beach berm fulfilled their missions in protecting property. The bad news is that dune faces, especially to the south end of the beach, and the berm (the width of the beach from the foot of the dune to the low water mark) lost sand. The City's Public Works Coastal Division has already begun surveying the damage and has a plan in place to replenish not only Croatan Beach, but the Resort, North End, and Bay beaches as well.

Having said that, the churning of the waves brought abundant hazards to the surface of the beach. Items such as fishing tackle, glass shards that haven't yet been ground down into "beach glass," sharp and rusted metal, and barnacle-encrusted flotsam pose risks to walkers, waders, pets, and native fauna. To protect yourself and others, please carry an extra bag when you walk the beach and pick up these dangerous items (as well as the plethora of plastic bags, food wrappers, bottle caps, etc.) that litter our beach.

E-Bike Safety Workshop: I attended this workshop, held by VBPD's Second Precinct on September 26. It was a great opportunity to pick up a free bicycle safety helmet but also an eye-opening symposium. Some key takeaways:

Reckless riding (e.g., popping wheelies, riding on the boardwalk or oceanfront bike path, failure to abide by rules of the road) can result in ticketing by police. The tickets can cost $25 each plus court costs (approximately $160) ***AND*** can result in points being added to a minor's permanent record, which may not appear until they get a driver's license, at which time they will be visible to insurance companies. (Ka-ching!) Transgressions in the resort area can result in higher fines.

Just like pedal-powered bicycles, e-bikes require illumination at night but given their narrow profile and relatively higher speeds, burning a front light both day and night is highly recommended.

Riders 14 years of age and under must wear helmets on Class-1 and 2 E-bikes; ***BUT*** **all riders** of Class-3 E-bikes must wear helmets, regardless of age.

Class-3 E-bikes are not allowed in state parks – think: First Landing. As sworn law enforcement officers, Park Rangers are empowered to issue tickets (and make arrests).

E-Moto bikes (look like dirt bikes with high springs and fenders) are considered motorcycles and riders must have a motorcycle endorsement on their license. For those too young to have a license, that means E-moto operation on public property is illegal.

Unlike motorcycles, E-bikes (and bicycles, for that matter) ***are not entitled*** to the whole lane on a roadway. They must ride in the direction of traffic and in single file. Automobile drivers must allow 3' of lateral separation when passing.

Licensure and registration of E-bikes are subjects under discussion in Richmond. At present, neither is required.



Both the State and City recognize that E-bikes (and E-scooters) offer a relatively inexpensive mobility option and are seeking to make operation safer for all. The attached QR code can take you to the City's E-bike information page. If you cannot read the QR code, the link is https://communications.virginiabeach.gov/hot-topics/e-bikes

Fire Safety Month: October is Fire Safety Month.

While popular, fire pits come with their own set of safety regulations. Please see Open-Burning-FAQs.pdf for answers to questions such as open fire and fire pit stand-off distances from structures (25 ' and 15', respectively), burning yard debris (*prohibited*), fires on the beach (*prohibited*), and the nuisance nature of smoke. Always be sure to extinguish a fire completely – drown it with water, rake through the embers, and drown it again.

Another discussion at the E-bike Safety Workshop was **thermal run-away** when charging e-bikes. Thermal run-away is a risk when charging ***any*** device containing lithium-ion batteries, whether automobiles, e-bikes, laptops, cell phones, electric toothbrushes, etc. Safety tips include not charging E-bikes in a house or garage, not charging to 100%, and only using chargers and cables provided by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM).

The site Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Risks: How Hot Do They Burn And Safety Concerns [Updated On: October 2026] offers comprehensive data for managing lithium-ion batteries. Some quick tips are:

1. Use the original charger and cable.
2. Charge in a cool, dry place.
3. Avoid overcharging the device.
4. Regularly inspect for cable damage.
5. Do not use the device while charging.
6. Keep the device ventilated.
7. Unplug when fully charged.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) designated lithium-ion battery fires as **Class L** only this year. Because Class L fires are so difficult to extinguish, your best means of protection is to vacate the area and **call 9-1-1** letting the operator know that you have a **Class L (pronounced: Lee-ma)** fire.

Croatan Parking: Parking fees in the Croatan parking lot were suspended for the off-season effective on Thursday, October 1. This annual change includes the parking lot closing time being changed to 5 pm.

On-street parking restriction for Vanderbilt and Surfside continue in effect – no parking between 7 pm and 9:30 am.

Speeds are Up: Officers patrolling Croatan made six traffic stops and issued nine summonses and one warning last month. Speed limit throughout Croatan is 25 MPH.

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC): The September Second Precinct CAC meeting was held on Wednesday, Sept 9th.

Ms. Valerie Henchel, VB Traffic Engineer, discussed enhanced pedestrian crosswalks, traffic calming, roadway improvements, pedestrian safety, golf carts vs. low-speed vehicles, etc. Key takeaway notes include:

Golf Cart: designed for use on a golf course

- Vehicle only reaches a maximum speed of 20 miles per hour.
- Can not be driven on roads that exceed 25 mph in Virginia Beach
- Can be driven between sunrise and sunset, but no operation at night.
- Driver must be 16 years old with a valid driver's license
- Can not be driven on public streets in Virginia Beach unless the area is designated a "Golf Cart Neighborhood"

Low-Speed Vehicle (LSV):

- Four wheels with maximum speed of 25 miles per hour.
- Driver must be 16 years old with a valid driver's license.
- Cannot drive on roads where the speed limit exceeds 35 miles per hour.
- Registration and proof of insurance are required to be in the vehicle.
- A license plate must also be mounted and visible.
- LSVs must have:
  - - Headlights
  - - Brake lights
  - - Turn Signals
  - - Parking Brake
  - - Seat Belts
  - - Windshield
  - - Rearview Mirror
  - - Red Reflex Reflectors
  - - VIN (Vehicle Identification Number)

Finally – reiterating what I have written regularly – pedestrians and bicyclists should wear light-colored/reflective clothing to ensure that they can be seen, especially in low visibility conditions. Bicycles and other vehicles must have a front light and at least a rear reflector (light preferred) for nighttime riding.

If crossing a street, be sure that the driver sees you and is stopping, and check that following drivers are stopping as well. This can be difficult with high profile vehicles and those with heavily tinted windows inhibiting eye contact with drivers. **Bottom line:** versus a vehicle, a pedestrian will lose 100% of the time. **You own your own safety.**

Ms. Henchel's full PowerPoint deck is available via the following: **LINK**.

CAC meetings are open to all. Please park in the Convention Center lot and enter through the main precinct entrance on 17th Street. The next meeting is **Wednesday, October 14 at 6 pm** in the Second Precinct Muster Room , 820 VB Blvd (aka: 17th Street).

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

UPCOMING CCL EVENTS

CCL Member Social and Annual Meeting

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25th
5:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Surf Rider Restaurant – 501 N. Birdneck Road

2026 CCL Members please join us.
RSVP no later than Friday, October 16th
at the following link: **RSVP**

If you cannot attend please complete a proxy at the following link: **PROXY**









CCL Halloween Hangout

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31
3:00 p.m. Start Time
432 Maryland Court

Hosted by the Michel's, Quelch's & Masarone's.

Lots of fun to go around.
See details . . .



CROATAN CONSERVATION CREW



ONE EARTH, LET'S CONSERVE IT!
Join the Croatan Conservation Crew beach and neighborhood monthly cleanup.

Croatan Conservation Crew is a new drop-in beach cleanup club started by Croatan resident and high school junior at First Colonial, Orlando Roberson. We will canvas our beach and Croatan neighborhood to pick up any unwanted litter or debris in order to protect our beautiful beach & community.

October 25th from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Meeting point at the Croatan Road beach access. Nitrile gloves and trash bags provided.

High school community service hours can be earned. Contact judgeorlando2010@gmail.com with any questions.

CROATAN BHOF 'BE BONE STRONG' WALKING CLUB

JOIN US EVERY SATURDAY MORNING AT 8AM!
We meet at the corner of Croatan Road and Kerry Lane at 8:00am. ALL PACES, ALL ABILITIES ARE WELCOME! We have different pace groups and no walker ever walks alone.

BHOF 'BE BONE STRONG' WALKING CLUBS ARE SPREADING THE JOY!
New chapters are popping up around Virginia Beach including Seatack, Southgate, Little Neck, and more!

FLEET FEET VIRGINIA BEACH IS PARTNERING WITH THE BHOF 'BE BONE STRONG WALKING CLUBS!
HOKA will be hosting a shoe clinic at the Fleet Feet Virginia Beach store in October for all Walking Club members. It will be a great opportunity to get your feet properly assessed and fitted for the right shoes for you. Refreshments will be served. An email will be sent with details as soon as the date is confirmed.

BE INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BONES:
Get more information about how to protect your bones and even build back bone density from the only U.S. not-for-profit that focuses on bone health and the prevention of osteoporosis: https://www.bonehealthandosteoporosis.org.

See you Saturday mornings!
Barbara + Bettina
Croatan *Be Bone Strong* Walking Club

CROATAN BOOK CLUB



This month our book discussion is *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi at the home of Allison Evanish. Please join us on October 15th at 6:30pm if you have read this lovely book. For more information, please email Cindy Kilmer at cynthiakilmer@verizon.net or call Cindy at 703-470-1996.

Future Reads:
November 19th – Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid
December 17th – The Natural Way of Things by Charlotte
January 21st – Remain by Nicholas Sparks and M.Night Shyamalan
February 18th – The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Merriweather Post by Allison Pataki
March 18th – The Names by Florence Knapp
April 15th – Strangers: A Memoir Of Marriage by Belle Burden
May 20th – The Invisible Life of Addie Larue by V.E. Schwab
June 17th – Yesteryear by Caro Claire Burke
July 15th – Land by Maggie O'Farell

New members are always welcome!



After more than 13 years in Croatan, longtime neighbor Sharon Robinson is getting ready to move to Boise, Idaho, to be closer to family.

Over the years, Sharon has quietly done a lot for our neighborhood. Many people probably never knew that she was the person taking care of the Little Free Library on Vanderbilt Avenue — keeping the books fresh, straightening things up, and even adding a few seasonal touches now and then. She never looked for recognition and simply did it because she enjoyed helping the neighborhood and supporting the Civic League. Now that she is moving, we thought it was time to finally say thank you publicly.

Sharon has also spent time training a therapy dog to help and comfort people in need, which says a lot about the kind of person she is.

We'll miss having Sharon as part of the Croatan community and are grateful for all the quiet ways she has made our neighborhood a little better. We wish her happiness in Boise, lots of time with family, and all the best in this next chapter.

CROATAN's LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Croatan's Little Free Library still stands and has some new books! We will give an update in an upcoming newsletter on its continued presence in our neighborhood.



533 Vanderbilt Avenue

IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened to share that former Croatan neighbor Tony Ellis passed away in September. Tony and his late wife, Karen, built their dream home in Croatan and shared a love of traveling the world. Tony was the owner of Bayshore Home Solutions and spent more than 35 years working in construction and remodeling. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Tony's family, friends, and former neighbors.









BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Croatan CIVIC LEAGUE

Mike Kelly President, VB Government Liaison	**Bob Lougen** Vice President, Website, Facebook, Communications	
Mike Fantozzi Director Secretary	**Chuck Womack** Director Treasurer	**M.C. "Connie" Agresti** Director Security, CAC
Frank Borum Director Traffic Management	**Cheryl Garvey** Director, Welcome Wagon, Landscaping	**Bill Garvey** Past President, By-Laws
Katie Ripberger Director, Logo Wear, Social Activities	**Martha Kelly** Director Newsletter	**Amber Torgerson** Director
Nic Masarone Director	**Mary Adams** Director	**Tony Aiken** Director