



The Croatan Civic League News

January 2021

President's Letter by Mike Kelly

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have to admit that I am glad that 2020 is behind me. For many, it has been a year of change, frustration and incredible sadness. And while we are still going through that, I am optimistic that by the end of 2021, we will feel more joy and happiness. Please continue to watch out for yourself and you neighbors. If anyone needs help, contact me or someone on the Board.

The Civic League had a successful year despite the social limitations created by the critical responses to the COVID virus.

We had a "meet and greet" at Murphy's in February. However, when Executive Orders 51 and 53 were issued by the Governor in March, and much to everyone's disappointment, our most important event, the Annual Spring Fling, had to be cancelled. Subsequently, we put on hold any further "meet and greet" events and were unable to consider any Fall social event.

Through the efforts of Amanda Robinson, our Secretary and Social Committee Chair, and several other Board members (Katie Ripberger, Amber Torgerson, Bob Lougen), there were weekly food trucks from Spring through September. In August, for the many children in the neighborhood, we had the "Last Licks of Summer" (Free ice cream to the kids of Croatan) and, in October, we had a late afternoon "Halloween Scavenger Hunt" prior to children out collecting candy in the early evening. In November, was the Foodbank Fundraiser and virtual run/walk. That event raised \$2,311.

Cheryl Garvey, our Welcome Committee Chair gave away 28 baskets to new families moving into Croatan during the year.

John Mannarino, Beach Committee Chair, continued to monitor and engage the city public works restoration project engineers. If

CONTENTS:

<i>From the President</i>	1
<i>Security Report, CAC, VBCCO</i>	3
<i>Wildlife in Croatan</i>	5
<i>Book Club</i>	6
<i>Women's Club</i>	6
<i>Croatan Restoration</i>	6
<i>Neighborhood Contacts</i>	7
<i>Croatan Civic League Contacts</i>	8



Croatan
VIRGINIA BEACH

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 1/21 Book Club**
- 2/1 CCL Board Meeting**
- 2/5 Newsletter Deadline**



you are reading his monthly notes in the newsletter, you know that the contract effort is with the US Army Corps of Engineers. The effort to get reasonable contractor bids is difficult. Hopefully, we will see significant progress before the Summer. At least, that's what he is being told.

"Connie" Agresti continued his campaign to advise the neighborhood on safety and security concerns. Besides the monthly newsletters, he has put out many notes on Nextdoor covering COVID-19 precautions and guidance; Hurricane Awareness, Preparation, and Precautions; Fire Safety; Beach/Water Safety; Hot weather precautions; Scammer alerts and tactics; Pet cleanup; Parking; Speeding in Croatan; and property crimes. He also submitted 17 Community Improvement reports to Public Works through the city See-Click-Fix application. He has also been a strong advocate for Croatan at the City's multi-agency Dogs-on-the-Beach program to preserve freedom of responsible dog ownership and freedom of dogs to run and exercise unleashed on sand beaches.

For those of you who haven't looked at the Croatan website, you should. We will be putting more information on it as we educate and address the issues. We encourage all members to pay your annual dues on the site and our most current neighborhood directory resides in the Member's Area. Bob Lougen, our Vice-President, created what you see and continues to make it better.

As we start 2021, our Treasurer, Jim Skarbeck, reports that we have \$39,644 in our general fund and \$2,410 in our security fund. I want to thank everyone for their membership and generosity this year. The extra contributions do help and are an important expression in your confidence with the Board of Directors.

The Board will continue to watch the COVID situation. We hope that we will soon be able to hold many of the social activities that we have had in the past. I am not sure we will be able to have a Spring Fling. If not, perhaps it will be a Summer or Fall Fling. As soon as we can, we want to get the neighborhood together again.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be virtual on Monday, February 1 at 6:30 PM. If you have an item you want placed on the agenda, please send it to me and plan on attending. I will provide the Zoom invite and connection to those members who wish to observe/participate.



**MEETING
NOTICE!**

All the best and stay safe,

Mike Kelly

President, Croatan Civic League

(M) 703.439.9153 (Primary)

(H) 757.961.6244 (After 6:00 PM)

president@croatanbeach.org

Safety, Security Update, Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC), and Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO)



Bottom Line Up Front:

- New Driving Laws as of January 1, 2021
- Help for Depression
- Overhaul Ashes
- Jellyfish and Harbor Seal Ashore
- Post-Thanksgiving Gunshots (follow-up)

New Driving Laws effective January 1, 2021: Don't be the first on the block to run afoul of these laws.

- **No Handhelds while Driving:** Holding a device (e.g., cellphone) while driving on a highway in Virginia is now prohibited. Fines can go up to \$125 for the first offense and up to \$250 for second and subsequent offenses. It is time to put the phone down and focus on driving.
- **Reckless Driving:** Driving in excess of 20 miles per hour (MPH) above the posted speed limit on any road or 85 MPH on highways with a 75 MPH speed limit is now considered reckless driving.
- **Photo Speed Monitoring:** Cities and counties throughout Virginia may now monitor active construction and school zones with speed cameras. Tickets may be mailed for those driving more than 10 MPH above the posted speed limit.

Speaking of speed: By far the more frequent complaint I receive (and unneighborly practice I observe) is speeding – not just on Croatan Road but throughout our community (e.g., Vanderbilt, Va. Dare, Bushnell). Without sidewalks in many places, children play in streets while others stroll, bike, or exercise pets. Your car may have an automatic transmission, but you shouldn't; ***please engage conscious brain mode*** when car is "on" and drive kindly. Speed limit is 25 MPH throughout Croatan – slower when conditions (e.g., fog) dictate.



Help for Depression: The Holidays are not the "*Hap-Happiest Time of the Year*" if you have lost a loved one, are ill or caring for an ill family member, are impacted by the short days and chilly weather, have been beaten down by COVID-19 social distancing and travel restrictions, or suffer from one of the many forms of depression. Emergency mental health services are available 24/7 at **757-385-0888**. National Suicide Prevention Hotline is **1-800-273-8255**. You can also call **9-1-1** as many officers who are trained to deescalate crises. Also see <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org> .

Disposal of Fireplace Ashes: Fireplaces and fire pits are hot (no pun intended) commodities this winter, as people seek warmth in the fresh air absent indoor COVID-imposed reclusiveness. Improperly disposed-of ashes recently resulted in a fire that damaged 24 apartments and left scores of neighbors homeless. Fire officials caution to never assume that a fire is out until the ashes have been overhauled and are cool to the

touch. Ashes should be placed in a closable **metal** container for at least 24 hours after they are assumed to be out and that container should not be placed in a garage, on a deck, or near anything combustible. “Overhauling” means agitating the ashes with a metal garden rake or other such tool to ensure that there are no hidden pockets of heat, drenching any hot spots with water, and agitating again (...and again, if necessary).

Please Pass the Jelly(fish): I spied an interesting jellyfish on our beach recently. This was a beefy specimen whose body was about 8” across and 5” high, with abundant purplish-brown “oral arms” (but no tentacles) reaching down from its center. Using the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences’ website - “Identify that Jellyfish” (Identify that Jellyfish | Virginia Institute of Marine Science (vims.edu)), I believe it was either a Cannonball Jelly or a Mushroom Cap Jelly. Both are uncommon (but not unheard-of) winter visitors to our shores and both have only a mild sting. I’m not sure how a dog’s nose would react to it though, so I am providing this information with the advice to (apologies to *Polander*) “please pass [up] the jelly.”

Harbor Seal: *The Virginia Pilot* reported on Sunday, January 3, that a harbor seal has been sighted ashore in Virginia Beach. The Virginia Aquarium warns not to approach closer to 150’ and to call their Marine Mammal/Sea Turtle Stranding Hotline at 757-385-7575. (Why not add it to your phone?)

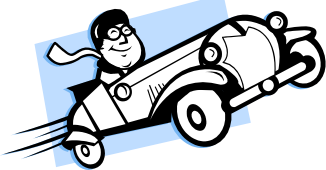
Post-Thanksgiving Gunshots. The good news is that CCL President Mike Kelly was able to obtain the copy of the police report (# 2020039317) submitted following the November 27 “shots fired” event at Twilight and S. Atlantic. The bad news is that the report is disappointingly scant of details. Some details were redacted while others are likely reserved for detective investigative files and not shared with the public lest they hamper the case(s) against the individual(s) charged. As always, I will pass on any public information as (if?) I learn it.

Both the **Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC)** and the **Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO)** took December off of their meeting schedules. Next meetings will be January 13 and 14, respectively, at 7:00 PM. Both are expected to be virtual. I will ask about how citizens can get information on crimes impacting their neighborhoods more quickly.

The VBCCO monthly newsletter – *The Voice* can be found at <http://www.vbcco.org> .

The up-tick in COVID-19 cases is certainly disheartening. Please stay safe and be careful.

M. C. “Connie” Agresti,
CCL Security & Safety Chair



Do you want to save \$200.00, save your neighbors, save children, bicyclists, pets and wildlife? **GO SLOW IN CROATAN!!!**

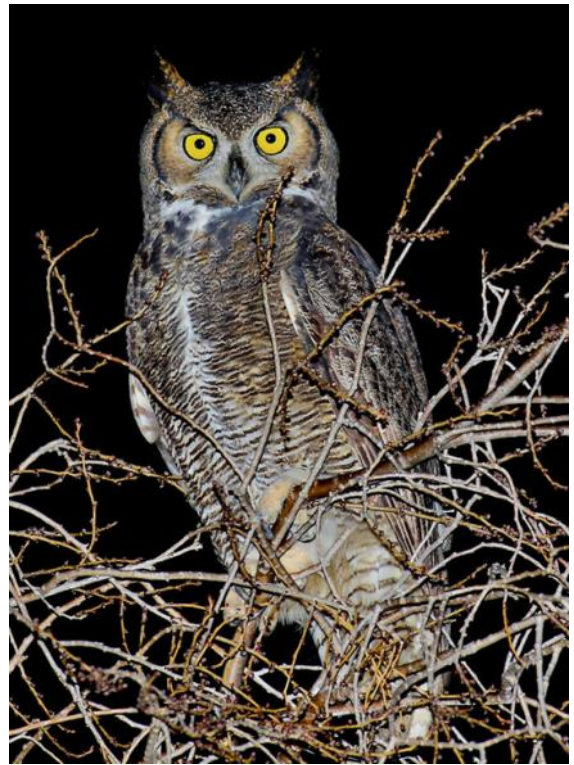
Wildlife in Croatan by Susanna Miller

Who who Who.... is that in Croatan?

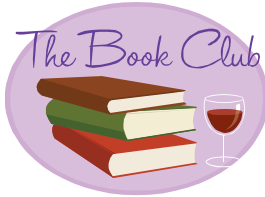
The Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*)



Seeing this magnificent bird was such a thrill whenever I happened to encounter one in the daytime... Luckily, hearing them in Croatan is not difficult at all. Read, see and hear a tiny bit more about this iconic animal on the website at <https://www.croatanbeach.org/wildlife-in-croatan/>



The Croatan Book Club



Next Meeting

Date: **Thursday**, January 21

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Alice Weisg

Selection: **A Gentleman in Moscow** by Amor Towles

Copies of Tempest on the Outer Banks by Rod Barfield will be distributed.

All Neighbors are welcome. Just read the book (or maybe not), bring a beverage or snack, and e-mail the hostess that you will be attending.

Future Selections (In Order)

Author

American Dirt

Jeanine Cummins

This Tender Land

William Kent Krueger

Tempest on the Outer Banks

Rod Barfield

Information is also on the CCL website: www.croatanbeach.org/book-club/.

Croatan Women's Club

From President Amanda Robinson....

We decided not to have in person meetings until things with COVID are safer. In the interim we are taking people's email addresses (send to wclub@croatanbeach.org), if you are interested in being part of our email list (which now includes a cocktail of the month recipe), but we are not collecting dues. We will host beach clean ups, and see what the spring brings. For more information please see our page on the CCL website.

Beach Restoration by John Mannarino, Director

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is still in the beginning phases of the Croatan Beach restoration project. It has yet to issue the solicitation and hope to have it out soon. I can't provide a date, but hopefully in the next month or two.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®

Neighborhood Contacts

Send any corrections, deletions or additions to this page to Marian Kitchin at mdkitchin@gmail.com.

Welcome Wagon

Contact Cheryl Garvey at cgcroatan@gmail.com or phone 471-5436 if you know of new Croatan neighbors .



Magazine Collection

Michele Speight, Teen Crisis Intervention
549 Bushnell Drive
428-7947; msp8@cox.net

Book Collection

Betty Rosignolo
760 Virginia Dare Drive
437-8662; rbrosignolo@cox.net
For Sentara Virginia Beach Hospital Auxiliary

Who to Call

Dead or Stranded Marine Mammal (dolphin, seal, whale) or Sea Turtle
Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Team
757-385-7575



Important Contacts

Police Fire & Rescue Emergencies	911
Non-Emergency Assistance	385-5000
Miss Utility	811
Potholes, Street Signs and Repairs	385-1470
Animal Control (Option #1)	385-4444
City Landfill	385-1980
Bulk Trash Pickup	385-4650
Croatan Temporary Parking Permit	385-4131
Wildlife Response , Inc.	543-7000
VBSPCA Wildlife Referral Line	263-4762
Wildlife Conflict Helpline (toll free)	(855) 571-9003
Beach Wedding Permit	385-4800

Tidewater Wildlife Rescue

Helpline 757-255-8710

A volunteer organization dedicated to assisting orphaned and injured wildlife throughout Tidewater, Virginia.

Tidewaterwildliferescue@gmail.com



SCOOP THE POOP!!!! It's the LAW!!! Please carry a plastic bag with you when you walk your dog. Don't let pet waste become part of our waterways or our neighbor's landscape.

We are on the WEB!
Check us out at
www.croatanbeach.org
and Nextdoor.com

The People Make the Beach

Croatan Civic League

Croatan Civic League Officers, Directors and Committee Chair Contacts

President, Spring Fling, City Government and Military:

Mike Kelly Phone 961-6244

Email: mkellyav8@aol.com

Vice President, Website, Facebook Group and Directory:

Bob Lougen

Email: support@croatanbeach.org

Secretary, Social Activities and Children's Programs:

Amanda Robinson

Email: secretary@croatanbeach.org

Treasurer:

Jim Skarbek Phone 491-3230

Email: treasurer@croatanbeach.org

Past President, Croatan Yard Sale:

Bill Garvey Phone 471-5436

Email: cddx@aol.com

Director, Security, VB Council of Civic Organizations, Citizen's Advisory Committee:

M.C. "Connie" Agresti Phone 425-2068

Email: security@croatanbeach.org

Director, Artisan's at Croatan Beach:

Jen Alex Phone 348-3884

Email: directorja@croatanbeach.org

Director:

Regina Amick

Email: directorra@croatanbeach.org

Director:

Kathy Donahoe Phone 757-403-0109

Email: Kdonahoe1@cox.net

Director, Welcome Wagon and Landscaping:

Cheryl Garvey Phone 471-5436

Email—cgcroatan@gmail.com

Director, Spring Fling:

Larry Kurtz

Email: directorlk@croatanbeach.org

Director, Beach Restoration:

John Mannarino Phone 496-2746

Email: directorjm@croatanbeach.org

Director:

Nancy Purkey

Email: directornp@croatanbeach.org

Director, Social Activities, Logo Wear and Directory:

Katie Ripberger Phone 434-6450

Email: katiefr@howardhanna.com

Director, Halloween Party and Parade:

Amber Torgerson

Phone 319-6076

Email: directorat@croatanbeach.org

Director, Spring Fling and Directory:

Patricia Zuraw Phone 757-373-8601

Email: pzuraw@howardhanna.com

Special Advisor:

Ken Jobe Phone 428-0328

Email: kejo425@aol.com

Committee Chairs

Newsletter, NextDoor:

Marian Kitchin Phone 437-9554

Email: mdkitchin@gmail.com

Surfing:

Wes Laine Phone 428-2620

Email: surfing@croatanbeach.org

Women's Club President :

Amanda Robinson

Email: wclub@croatanbeach.org

Book Club Leader:

Alice Weisz

Email: bookclub@croatanbeach.org