



The Croatan Civic League News

March 2021

President's Letter by Mike Kelly

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I heard today that the President announced that the U.S. will have enough vaccines for everyone by the end of May, which is great news. Hopefully, the vaccine site efficiency will continue to get better so that we can get back to the "new normal" as soon as possible. I also heard that several States have removed all restrictions on mask wearing and social distancing. Virginia is not one of them. Until that happens here, we need to stay safe and be careful. "Connie" has an update in this newsletter.

When the Board of Directors met this past Monday, we discussed the social agenda for 2021. Until we see how the issues associated with the COVID virus goes, we are not scheduling any large group social events. When we do, we will approach it cautiously. The Board globally agreed that a Spring Fling type event is not realistic for this June. We want to avoid the situation last year where we were well into planning and had to cancel. There is some discussion about whether an in-person event might be possible in June. This could be one that could be scheduled and cancelled without a big loss. We are looking at venues where we could do an outdoor "meet and greet" similar to what we have done in the past. Factors impacting the gathering will be State of Virginia limitations, vaccinations, and the level of comfort of residents in neighborhood. We are looking at the end of Summer to do a "Spring Fling-like" event on the point.

Please make sure you read the update on the beach. The length of time this is taking is very frustrating. Call me or send an email if you have any questions.

All the best, remain vigilant, and stay safe,
Mike Kelly, President, Croatan Civic League
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president@croatanbeach.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 4/5 CCL Board Meeting**
- 4/9 Newsletter Deadline**
- 4/15 Book Club**



Beach Restoration Project

Beach Update for March 2021

I recently looked through my electronic files and note that I provided a presentation to the civic league on the Croatan Public Beach issues on October 13, 2015. More than 5-years later, we are still trying to get it solved. There is no question that progress is extremely slow.

Here is a short recap of the milestones:

- The Shoreline Assessment Study was completed in April 2017.
- In July 2017, the city allocated \$1.65M for the comprehensive study, restoration, and monitoring.
- In 2018, the city obtained two permits through the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the overall restoration effort and to allow some sand from the Rudee Inlet dredging to be reposition on the Croatan Public Beach. This was a challenging bureaucratic process.
- The city advertised, in November 2018, for vendors to bring sand by truck for the replenishment project. Bids were significantly higher than expected and no award was made.
- The last time any sand was put on the beach was November 2019.
- In June 2020, USACE released a solicitation which included a cost-sharing agreement with the city. It included dredging of the Federal Channel and placing sand from the outer deposition area on the Croatan Public Beach. One bid was received at twice the estimated cost and no award was made.
- We were told on February 8, 2021, that USACE intends is to solicit bids for the Rudee Inlet dredging project in the March/April timeframe and dredging/beach nourishment of Croatan Beach to occur in early summer 2021 (weather and/or contract award process depending). Once the work is started, it is estimated to take approximately 7 days. If this goes as planned, the work should be complete by July 4th. The contractor will ensure that appropriate safety precautions are taken.

If the second USACE solicitation fails, Plan B is to return to the original plan and contract for sand hauled in by truck. The nearby sand pits are open again and the city engineers believe that the previously allocated funds will cover the cost. Hopefully the USACE solicitation will be successful this time. Running big trucks through the neighborhood is not a good idea.

Future Concerns

Once the restoration work is complete, we will have to get funding for annual maintenance called a Renourishment Program. There are two approaches to this. We can ask that funds be allocated in the Rudee Inlet Capital Improvement Program (CIP) or a separate CIP could be created. We will have to work on this for the City's FY-23 budget which begins on July 1, 2022.

In the longer term, 15+ years, Sea-Rise will require significant modification of Rudee Inlet and the Croatan Public Beach. We don't want to lose sight of that, but I don't think that there will be any serious discussion until we get well past the COVID crisis.

Michael Kelly, CCL President

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



Safety/Security:

Bottom Line Up Front:

- School Safety – buses and school zones
- Dog Safety – new Animal Control phone number
- Springtime Safety – ugh, my aching back
- Parking – where, how, and how much
- Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)
- VBVRS Annual Oyster Roast

School Safety: In-person learning has returned to our schools and we are seeing school buses ply Croatan streets again. Please heed their flashing lights and be on the lookout for students running to catch the bus – they may not look both ways. If you are driving your children to the bus stop, please stay at least one car length from intersections so as not to block the road or sight distances for other drivers. Remember to give yourself more time when driving to account for active school zones and stopped buses.

Dog Safety: Please keep your pets on a short tether when meeting other dogs. Most “sniff-and-grin” meetings are harmless, but some are not. Alternatively, increase the distance between encounters (e.g., cross to other side of road – if safe) unless you **are 100% certain** that the two dogs interact in a friendly manner. Please walk and exercise your dog(s) responsibly, dispose of excrement properly, and know that some dogs are more protective when leashed than when running loose. City ordinances require that dogs be leashed unless on the beach or in a City-designated dog park (e.g., Red Mill). If loose on the beach, dogs have to be within a distance to respond to the handler’s commands. Encounters that cause injury (i.e., draw blood), should be reported to **Animal Control at 757-385-4444, option 1 (please note: this is a new number)**. Just as if you were in an auto accident, get the other owner’s name and contact information. Thanks to everyone who has acts courteously and responsibly.

Spring is Springing Up All Around Us: We’re starting to see the earliest spring flowers add some desperately welcome color to the gray existence of a cold, wet, dreary winter. As we emerge from hibernation and start to prune, plant, mulch, and otherwise cultivate our gardens, please recognize that exercise levels may have fallen off during the winter and that we may not be able to do the same level of yard work as when we put our rakes and shovels away in autumn. Stretch before undertaking any arduous work (including weeding). Lift with legs and not just your back. Take breaks, when you feel the need. Stay hydrated and wear sunscreen.

Parking:

- **Late night street parking:** In his monthly patrol notes, Officer Noha noted several cars illegally parked on Vanderbilt and S. Atlantic Avenues. There is no street parking at any time on S. Atlantic

and parking on Vanderbilt (and Surfside) is limited to between 9:30 AM and 7:00 PM in marked spaces only. All reported street parking violations were after 11:00 PM; so, late night does not equal permission. Emergency vehicles still need to get through.

- **No parking on lawns:** I have also noted a number of vehicles parked on lawns. VB City Ordinance actually prohibits this, especially for short-term rental units, which must have sufficient parking for their designated capacity. The city requires parking spaces to be “concrete, asphalt, or other suitable material approved by the Planning Director.” Stone pavers and gravel/river stone have historically been acceptable surfaces.
- **Parking Lot Fees start April 1:** No joke; the hours of operation and parking fees for the Croatan parking lot are not matched to “the season.” (Please don’t shoot the messenger). Beginning, April 1, the lot opens at 6:00 AM daily and entrance is free until 10:00 AM. Between 10 and closing (at 8:00 PM), there is a \$7 charge (\$3 for VB residents). Regrettably, there is no re-entry permit; meaning you cannot leave and return without re-paying. Vehicle operators should call 311 if they have been locked in or towed at closing. (Through March 31, the lot is open for free from 6:00 AM through 5:00 PM daily).

Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC):

Crime Report: City-wide, there was a 13.2% overall reduction of Part 1 Crime (i.e., Violent crimes – murder, aggravated assault, rape, robbery and select Property crimes - burglary, motor vehicle thefts, thefts from motor vehicle, and all other thefts) for 2020. When broken down into the two sub-categories, Violent crime decreased 7.6% and Property crime decreased 13.6%. This yearly decline corresponds with the five-year downward trend. Crime statistics can be found at WAVES-Crime Statistics :: VBgov.com - City of Virginia Beach .

Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP): Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation is sponsoring the SYEP for those 16 – 21 years of age. The program offers job sourcing, skills development, work ethic, and financial management counseling and training. Visit Summer Youth Employment Program :: VBgov.com - City of Virginia Beach for details.

Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad (VBVRS) Annual Oyster Roast: VBVRS must replace two ambulances that are at the end of their service-lives. Cost is \$230k each (prior to outfitting). This annual fund-raiser will include a drive-thru pick-up from their 17th Street location. If you did not receive a mailer, please visit <http://www.vbvrs.org> . Fare includes oysters, clams, oyster stew, and/or BBQ.

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO) remains active but without meetings.

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

The **City Council has announced that in-person meetings with resume on March 2** (6:00 PM) at the Convention Center (1000 19th Street).

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

Some Notes on Coronavirus by M. C. “Connie” Agresti

COVID-19 Vaccines: The prescribed information system to pre-register for a vaccine has changed a number of times, so please continue to reference <http://www.vbgov.com> for the latest and greatest. Vaccines are currently being offered to individuals in **Tier 1a** (front-line health care workers, long-term care facility residents/staff, essential workers, and first responders) and **Tier 1b** (persons > 65 and those < 65 with certain co-morbidities). Here are a few tips to smooth the process:

- Complete the on-line questionnaire prior to your appointment. Be honest and thorough with your responses. (It has been reported to me that some have checked “Don’t Know” for all answers, including whether or not they (septuagenarians) are pregnant).
- **Your second vaccine dose will be given at the same location/provider as the first dose.**
- Pfizer second dose is given three weeks after the first dose. Moderna second dose is given four weeks after the first dose. As I write this, the recently-approved one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine has yet to arrive in Virginia Beach – its ETA is expected sometime during March.
- Second dose vaccine brand **must** be the same as the first dose brand. Check which brand is being administered for the day on which you are scheduling your second dose. (Yes – it is on the website)
- Remember to bring your Vaccine Record Card with you.
- Once completed, you’ll be able to download and print your vaccination record. I suggest downloading to your phone (if capable), and keeping a hard copy with both medical records and travel documents (i.e., passport).

COVID-19 Vaccination Volunteers: I want to take a moment to recognize the Croatan residents who are volunteering to administer vaccinations at the Convention Center and elsewhere (e.g., nursing homes, assisted care facilities, churches). Their selfless efforts are helping draw us out of this long ordeal. Croatan volunteers of whom I am aware include Martha Davenport, Cheryl Garvey, Jane Kelly, Alice Weisz, Claire Yoder, and Eric Yoder. If there are others – please let the CCL Board know because we want to thank you on behalf of all residents of Croatan and Virginia Beach.



Relaxing COVID Restrictions: Governor Northam signed a modification to his Executive Order 72, slightly easing some coronavirus restrictions, effective March 1. You can find the full text (all 19-pages) at [EO-72-THIRD-AMENDED-and-Order-of-Public-Health-Emergency-Nine-Easing-of-Commonsense-Surge-Restrictions-Due-to-Novel-Coronavirus-\(COVID-19\).pdf](https://www.virginia.gov/eo-72-third-amended-and-order-of-public-health-emergency-nine-easing-of-commonsense-surge-restrictions-due-to-novel-coronavirus-(covid-19).pdf) (virginia.gov) . This is not carte blanche to party hearty – gatherings are still limited to 25 persons. Please help our volunteers, your family, and your neighbors by continuing to wash hands frequently, socially distance, wear facemasks (over nose and mouth), and get vaccinated.

Short-Term Renters Returning

As “The Season” approaches, renters are again flocking to Virginia Beach. This is good for our economy, but can be troublesome to residents living amid the helter-skelter of move-in/move-out days, etc. Many residents have cited anecdotal transgressions by renters to City Council, et al, such as:

- using homeowners’ driveway(s) for parking, or blocking same;
- driving over lawns and landscaping;
- littering and speeding;
- using homeowners’ garden hoses to wash boats;
- leaving trash/recycling cans on the street for days;
- not picking up from their dogs using neighboring lawns;
- having loud parties at all hours of the day and night
- early morning/late night unloading and loading of vehicles (e.g., slamming of doors), yelling into and out of the house.

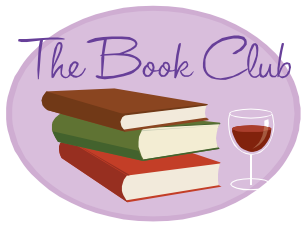
One of the tenets of the Conditional Use Permits (CUP) process for City approval of short-term rentals (STR) is that occupants (and owners) abide by rules, regulations, and guidelines established in City Zoning Ordinance, sec. 241.2 (C. - CONDITIONAL USES AND STRUCTURES | Code of Ordinances | Virginia Beach, VA | Municode Library) and any other specific covenants of their particular CUP. Failure to do so could result in fines or revocation of their CUP to operate an STR. Airbnb will actually take steps to ban troublesome renters from using their platforms.

Last year, CCL provided refrigerator magnets to all homes in Croatan (including STRs) detailing other “good to know” information, such as garbage pick-up days, dog on beach regulations, staying off dunes, etc. Despite this and other efforts, CCL continues to receive complaints and concerns of “renters behaving badly” on a regular basis.

In an effort to compile detailed data of “renters behaving badly,” CCL asks that Croatan residents observing incidents, in addition to reporting them to appropriate authority – 311 call center, renters, owners, police and/or fire departments (when appropriate) – to provide incident date/time, location of rental house, specific issue (including vehicle make, model, color, and license plate, if germane), person(s) contacted, and any additional comments to security@croatanbeach.org . Please provide data on incidents where renters go above and beyond to act as good neighbors, as well, so that we can obtain a fact-based objective database.

The Croatan Book Club

Next Meeting



Date: **Thursday**, March 18
 Time: 7 PM
 Place: Jane Kelly, Fort Raleigh Dr.
 Selection: **American Dirt** by Jeanine Cummins
 Leader: Susan Martin

All Neighbors are welcome. Just read the book (or maybe not), bring your own beverage/snack, and e-mail the hostess that you will be attending. If a new member, just show up and be welcomed; if no longer interested in book club please indicate that in the RSVP. COVID distancing and masks observed.

Future Selections (In Order)

Author

This Tender Land

William Kent Krueger

Tempest on the Outer Banks

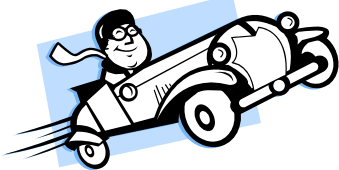
Rod Barfield (copies available)

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.



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

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

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