



# The Croatan Civic League News

April 2021

## President's Letter by Mike Kelly

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It looks like the country is making significant progress with the COVID-19 vaccination program. There are people forecasting that things will be "somewhat normal" by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, at least for outdoor events. Hopefully, that will be the case. Based on that, there are a couple of scheduled social events. The first is the Scavenger Hunt on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. The announcement went out on April 1<sup>st</sup> and there is also information in this newsletter. The second is a "Members Meet and Greet" at the New Realm Brewery on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be more details on the latter as we get closer to the date. It will be an outdoor event.

For the second year, we won't have a Spring Fling, but we are planning on an end of Summer party similar to the Spring Fling. Possible dates are August 28<sup>th</sup> and September 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have any ideas or comments, please send them to me or Patricia Zuraw.

On Wednesday, April 7, City Public Works took down the old bridges that connected Coastal and Fort Raleigh Drives. We were not notified of the specific date but had been notified that they were unsafe and would be removed. These bridges were on city property and were at least 20-years old. Since the city did not build them, they will not build a replacement. Many people used these bridges in their walk or bike ride around the neighborhood. It is certainly upsetting to those who have used them for decades.

The process to build another bridge is fairly complex. It will take several months to get through the city review and approval process. It requires an easement approved by the city council as it is city property. We also must apply for a building permit which requires a detailed design with drawings, certification by a Virginia licensed structural engineer, a site survey, city review and approval, and, of course, an inspection. We will have to buy the building materials. While I am assuming that most of the labor will be volunteers, the cost will still be high. Several people have already said that they will donate some money. I will keep everyone informed on the progress.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 4/15 Book Club**
- 4/17 Scavenger Hunt**
- 5/3 CCL Board Meeting**
- 5/7 Newsletter Deadline**
- 6/12 Meet and Greet**



Please make sure that you read, "Connie" Agresti's Security Update. There are some good items for awareness and update.

All the best, remain vigilant, and stay safe,

Mike Kelly

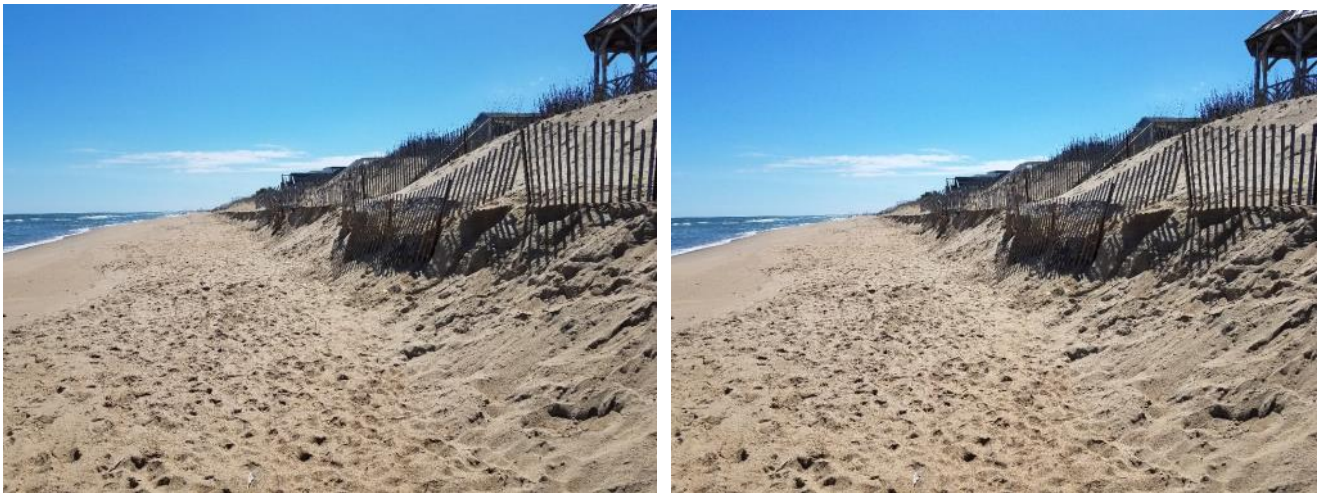
President, Croatan Civic League

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(H) 757.961.6244 (After 6:00 PM)

## **Croatan Beach Restoration Project** by Mike Kelly

### **Beach Update for April 2021**



The late March northeast winds and associated high tides have damaged all the beaches in Virginia Beach. Of course, the Croatan Public Beach was hit hard. The picture was taken on March 30, 2021. The damage was similar to what we saw in February 2018 although not as bad. The recommended course of action is to allow the beach to naturally recover through Spring. City staff has said that the Croatan Beach profile monitoring data indicates that the beach remains quite resilient when it is allowed to naturally recover from winter profile conditions. In the meantime, Public Works Engineering and Public Works Beach Operations staff will continue to monitor the beach. The next beach profile monitoring survey is scheduled for the May/June timeframe.

A Rudee Inlet Federal Navigation Project progress meeting between City staff and the USACE Project Delivery Team was supposed to be held this past week. We have received no update to the status/schedule of the project.

As mentioned previously, a possible back-up plan is for a truck haul to bring the sand in. The contract documents from 2018 can be updated and used to advertise for bids if it is necessary. However, the current plan is to stay the course with the Rudee Inlet Federal Navigation Project.

Michael Kelly, CCL President

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## Safety, Security Update by Connie Agresti



### Safety/Security:

#### Bottom Line Up Front:

- Oceanfront Violence and Protests – know your surroundings
- Thunder & Lightning – get out of water and off beach
- Box Turtles – Be on the Lookout
- Parking Lot – now in effect, credit cards only
- Code Enforcement – additional phone numbers
- CAC - Crime Stats
- VBCCO – virtual meeting and questions for City Manager

**Oceanfront Violence:** The violence of Friday evening, March 26, came as a shock to us all. The VBPD has turned the investigation into the shooting death of Donovan Lynch over to the Virginia State Police to remove any appearances of conflicts of interest. I hope I speak for all Croatan in saying that we appreciate the heroic performance of our officers amid the chaos of that evening and we appreciate their continued determination and dedication to duty and community safety.

**Lawlessness:** Notwithstanding the tragic deaths of two individuals, possibly the most disturbing revelation of that evening's chaos is that the initial altercation and gunfight began ***in front of uniformed officers***. This implies that police presence alone will not deter mayhem; and suggests that our expectation of civil behavior and decorum by all visitors to our City may require adoption of a more cynical perspective. Coming on the heels of two other shooting incidents in recent weeks (both involving short-term rentals), your neighbors ask owners/ operators of a short-term rentals to perform due diligence on perspective renters before leasing. Nobody wants to risk bullets flying around Croatan indiscriminately.

**Post-Incident Protests:** Despite restraint shown by police not to engage multiple shooters in the initial gunfight, protestors seek to "Boycott the Beach" to demand the arrest of the police officer implicated in Mr. Lynch's death. We can expect these protests, often arranged via social media with different organizers and starting points, to continue. The goal, of course, is to create sufficient economic pain to force the City to cave to their demands.

Police do have response/containment plans for such protests, but as long as the demonstrations remain exercises in free speech and do not violate any other ordinances or laws, police are relatively powerless to deter the protestors. Concurrently, as COVID restrictions ease, City leaders urge a return to business as usual on the Oceanfront. I urge you to be mindful of your surroundings, emerging situations, drink in moderation, and exercise self-discipline to refrain from verbally or otherwise engaging protestors. Protests often begin at 7:57 PM) and run along Atlantic Avenue (with or without permits).

**Thunder and Lightning:** Real-world incidents usually influence which topics I choose to write about on any given month. The tragic death of Olympic-hopeful surfer Katherine Diaz (22) from a lightning strike in El

Salvador is such a catalyst. Once you hear thunder, lightning is already in the area. If you have a weather radar app on your phone – check it out. Storms usually move from west to east. Look in that direction. If you see the storm approaching or if you feel a radical drop in temperature accompanied by increased winds – **get out of the water and off the beach immediately.** Do not wait for the rain. The safest place if you cannot get home is in your car. (If you can see the lightning flash, the old saw is to count the seconds (‘one Mississippi, two Mississippi,’ etc.) from the flash to the thunder clap. The number of seconds is the rough distance from you, in thousands of feet, that the lightning struck. One nautical mile = 6,000’).

**Box Turtles:** Although not classified as “endangered,” our little armored friends are “at risk,” with populations dropping 75 – 80 percent since 2002. They become active in April and can often be encountered crossing roads (artificial barriers) constructed between their hibernation sites and their friends of the opposite gender. Please be on the lookout for them and, if safe to stop, help them cross the road in the direction of their intended travel (and spring frolic). You can safely pick up a turtle between its fore and hind legs; but do wash your hands afterwards.

**Code Enforcement:** As rental season commences, code violations increase. The CCL has made an effort to advise residents and renters of the more common issues – dogs on the beach, garbage pick-up days, parking, etc. The City’s office of Code Enforcement has police powers when it comes to issuing citations for code violations occurring on private property. There are more numbers than just 385-3111 (aka: 3-1-1) that can be called; or complaints may be registered online at [Register a Complaint :: VBgov.com](http://Register a Complaint :: VBgov.com) - City of Virginia Beach .

- Inoperable vehicle parking on a public (city) street or on public property - Police (non-emergency), 385-5000
- The placement of storage containers (POD’s) - Planning/Zoning, 385-8074
- Placement of signs - Planning/Zoning, 385-8074
- Overgrown bushes obstructing view - Traffic Engineering, 385-4131
- Building permits and new construction - Planning/Permits and Inspections 385-4211
- Complaints regarding animals - Animal Control, 385-4444
- Noise complaints - Emergency Services and Citizens Services (VB311)), 385-3111

## **Camp Pendleton Parking Lot Fees**

**Parking Lot Fees:** On, April 1, the lot started opening at 6:00 AM daily. Entrance is free until 10:00 AM. Between 10 and closing (at 8:00 PM), there is a \$7 charge (\$3 for VB residents). **The only accepted form of payment is a credit card.** 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.

## **Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC ), and Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO) by Connie Agresti**

### **Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC):**

**Crime Report:** The March 26 incident skewed the March violent crime numbers to an eighty percent (80%) increase in the Second Precinct over the corresponding period last year. Property crimes, specifically home burglaries and thefts from motor vehicles are up as well. Robberies have increased City-wide, but not in Second Precinct. Nevertheless, be mindful of your surroundings, especially at night. Crime statistics can be found at WAVES-Crime Statistics :: VBgov.com - City of Virginia Beach .

**Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO)** held a virtual general membership meeting on April 8. This meeting, the first in many months, was well attended by representatives of various civic leagues around the city. The objective of this meeting was to gather concerns from civic leaders to bring to the attention of City Manager Patrick Duhaney. The VBCCO President, Mr. C. Douglas, Jr. meets with Mr. Duhaney monthly and has nothing but praise for his perspective as a departure from "VB Business as Usual." Mr. Duhaney has assigned Ms. Nancy Bloom to serve as a liaison to civic groups throughout the city. Topics and concerns discussed were:

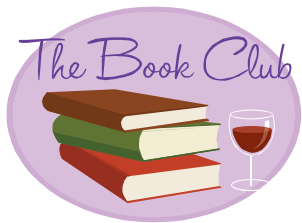
- Violence – both at the oceanfront and elsewhere.
  - The possibility of hiring private security contractors to augment police. (I will raise this issue at the next CAC meeting).
- Concern that the focus on the Oceanfront shortchanges tax-paying citizens from other areas of the City
- City Council inconsistency in policies/voting, especially on Short-Term Rentals
- Passage of HB 2198 and how that will change the way we elect City Council and School Board members
- Shortages in police end-strength. At the Special City Council meeting to discuss the March 26 violence, Police Chief Paul Neudigate stated that VBPD was more than 100 officers below its authorized staffing levels. Causes include difficulty recruiting officers nationwide in the wake of last year's notorious police involved shootings, poor pay structure in Virginia Beach, and the fact that our officers are well trained and therefore ripe for poaching by other departments offering more lucrative pay and benefits.
- Responsiveness of Department of Public Works to See-Click-Fix requests and adequacy of notification to residents when major DPW work will impact neighborhoods. Note: vbgov.com has many resources for this information, but requires users to "pull" the information rather than "push" it from city departments (e.g., the short-term rental survey of last August/September).
- Call for building code revisions in response to of sea level rise.

- Pay parity for Public Defenders to that of Commonwealth Attorneys was discussed at a recent City Council meeting wherein Mr. Duhaney was tasked to liaise with the General Assembly to seek resolution.

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

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

## The Croatan Book Club



### Next Meeting

Date: **Thursday**, April 15  
 Time: 7 PM  
 Place: Jane Kelly, Fort Raleigh Dr.  
 Selection: **This Tender Land** by William Kent Krueger

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

**Tempest on the Outer Banks** Rod Barfield (copies available)

Information is also on the CCL website: [www.croatanbeach.org/book-club/](http://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](mailto: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.

## Croatan Scavenger Hunt - April 17



# CROATAN SPRING SCAVENGER HUNT

**Who: Croatan Residents**  
**When Saturday April 17th**  
**Time: Starting at 10AM**

### Details:

All participants registered  
with Amanda will receive a  
prize!

Register by texting to  
757-641-9403 or email to  
[amanda@croatanbeach.org](mailto:amanda@croatanbeach.org).

**Grand Prize:**  
The first 3 people  
to complete the  
Scavenger Hunt  
and have the  
correct answers  
will get one of  
the Grand Prizes

**Rita's Italian Ice and Frozen Custard will  
be in Croatan at 1PM too!**

**Croatan**  
CIVIC LEAGUE

## Neighborhood Contacts

*Send any corrections, deletions or additions to this page to Marian Kitchin at [mdkitchin@gmail.com](mailto:mdkitchin@gmail.com).*

### Welcome Wagon

Contact Cheryl Garvey at [cgcroatan@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:msp8@cox.net)

### Book Collection

Betty Rosignolo  
760 Virginia Dare Drive  
437-8662; [rbrosignolo@cox.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.croatanbeach.org)  
and [Nextdoor.com](http://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:**

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### **Director, Artisan's at Croatan Beach:**

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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

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### **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