

Safety/Security – February 2023

Bottom Line Up Front:

- A Note of Thanks
- Groundhog Day and Spring Harbingers
- Coyote Sighting
- Yard Debris
- Pedestrians – Be Seen
- Mind Speed/Stop Signs
- CAC and VBCCO
- Support Croatan Security Patrols

Thank you to the individual(s) who cleaned the algae/mold from the signs at the Croatan entrance. That little touch enhances the appearance of, and shows pride in, our community.

Groundhog Day: I am reminded of the eponymous movie that forced a cynical weatherman to relive February 2nd repeatedly. As I write this, the little rascal saw his shadow. Despite that, our bulb plants are popping out of the ground. With weeding, pruning, and planting around the corner, remember to stretch beforehand and ease into your “normal” gardening routine following weeks of winter’s relative inactivity (unless your gardener is on speed dial).

Coyotes: Coyotes are common throughout Virginia, therefore as they increasingly lose natural habitat to development, sightings in neighborhoods increase. Virginia Department of Fish and Game offers a tri-fold document on coyotes (see a copy included with the newsletter and online at croatanbeach.org.) Coyote breeding and birthing season is between January and June. They may be more active in foraging at this time. They will generally be afraid of you but there are some absolute DO NOT guidelines: do not feed wild animals, do not leave food out for feral cats, ensure that garbage bins are closed, do not let small dogs and cats venture outside unrestrained, and most of all, do not use ACME mail order products. Coyotes will eat rabbits, geese, rats, and other small animals (such as groundhog meteorologist wannabes).

Yard Debris: We are fortunate that Virginia Beach picks up yard debris. Yard debris may be placed in clear plastic bags (not to exceed 25 pounds/bag) and placed roadside for city pick-up on garbage days – Tuesdays. Bundles of limbs (also placed roadside) need not be tied, should be no more than four feet high or long, and should not extend more than 18” into the street. Limbs should not exceed 6” in diameter. Limit of two limb bundles per house per collection day. If the collection workers drop some of your branches in the roadway, please retrieve them for either placement in your black can or the ensuing week’s pick-up.

Pedestrians – Be Seen: If you are walking, biking, skateboarding, or dog walking in the dark – please remember that it is ON YOU to be seen by drivers. Wear reflective or light-colored clothing. You can also use reflective collars and/or leashes on your pets. Even a car hitting you at slow speed will hurt.

Mind Speed/Stop Signs: It scares me to see vehicles (including large trucks and buses) traveling our neighborhood streets at speeds markedly above 25 MPH. Please do your part by watching your own speed and minding stop signs. Easily half of the cars approaching the stop sign in front of my house, cruise through it. Other stop signs get their own share of disrespect – you know where they are, but familiarity breeds contempt.

Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC) is a coalition of civic leagues, businesses, and concerned citizens who gather on a monthly basis with representatives from city departments to discuss matters of community concern. There are four CACs aligned to the catchment areas of the four police precincts. Croatan is in the Second Precinct catchment area. The “CAC of the Second Precinct” meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the conference room of the VB Volunteer Rescue Squad (Building #14) at 720 Virginia Beach Blvd (aka: 17th Street) (east (butterfly garden) side of building). All are welcome. I represent the CCL at these meetings, so if there is anything that you desire to be raised but cannot attend, please let me know and I will try to get you answers.

Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO) is in the reconstitution phase. After being placed into “caretaker” status for two years during COVID and following the deaths of two long-term leaders, a standing-room-only crowd of civic league representatives voted (at a January 26, 2023 meeting) to reconstitute the organization. CCL has submitted its dues (\$25 per annum), so we can now vote. There are 168 registered civic organizations within Virginia Beach. Some (like CCL) are more active than others, but that number carries weight when presenting issues to City Council, etc.

Support Croatan Security Patrols: The CCL employs off-duty police officers to patrol our neighborhood and therefore provide an added level of security. They give us a break on what off-duty cops normally draw for hourly-pay, but it still amounts to a bit over \$12,000 per year. Some say that VBPD should support us through our taxes. While a valid argument on the surface, the VBPD is understaffed and must deploy their patrols on a risk-management basis. Fortunately, Croatan is low on that list but that makes on-duty patrols sparse. Regrettably, we are not immune from crime (although usually property crime), hence the employment of off-duty officers. Please show your support and appreciation for their efforts by contributing to the Security Fund when you renew your CCL membership. Thank you.

M. C. “Connie” Agresti,
CCL Safety and Security Director
CCL Representative to CAC and VBCCO