

Safety/Security – September 2023:

Residents/Owners: Please share with renters and contractors – be courteous; we all live in this community.

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Crimes in Our Neighborhood
- School Zones and Buses
- Hurricane Season Not Over Yet
- CAC – Suicide Prevention, Get-It-Together (GIT), City Seeks Input on Budget Priorities & Recycling Options

Crimes in Our Neighborhood: Although we live in one of the safest neighborhoods in one of the safest cities in America, Croatan is not immune to crime. Recent concerns:

Burglary: At about 4:00 AM on Sunday morning, August 13, two individuals broke a garage door window and stole two dirt bikes (motorcycles). Homeowner and neighbor video capture the actual breaking and entering and then the departure of the two motorcycles (along with a suspected support van) from the neighborhood. Anyone with home video in the Bushnell Dr, Ft. Raleigh Dr, Christine Dr, and Croatan Rd areas is requested to review it in that time frame for anything suspicious. If found, we can direct people to the appropriate detective.

Trespass and Property Damage: On or about 3:44 PM on Thursday, August 18, someone in a dark colored sedan drove around the speed tables near Kerry Lane and Virginia Dare and into the yards of two residents thereby damaging/destroying personal property. Video suggests that the actions were deliberate.

Verbal Assault – two instances: One was resolved with the intervention of one of the police officers that Croatan employs during their off-duty hours. A second incident involving a Croatan resident occurred outside the neighborhood but rose to such a level that individuals involved advised CCL directors potential violence. Information has been passed to our off-duty VBPD security patrol officers.

Malicious Damage to Homes: During the first week of September, a neighbor's garage windows were broken possibly by thrown rocks. Similar reports of broken windows in other neighborhoods have been noted recently on Nextdoor. It is not known whether these rocks were thrown by vandals or accidentally by lawn equipment. But, for those who used to watch NCIS – Jethro doesn't believe in coincidences.

School Zones and Buses: Schools are open. Drivers need to adjust their schedules to allow increased transit time as well as tune up their situational awareness to be alert to school buses picking up or discharging students and observing speed limit changes of school zones. You **must** stop for buses with red flashing lights; even if proceeding in the opposite direction of the bus when **on roads without an island dividing the lanes** (e.g., General Booth Boulevard north of Croatan Road). Pack some patience and leave 10 – 15 minutes early. Beware of children running to catch the bus and (seemingly) oblivious to traffic.

Hurricane Season – at least another two months: The Atlantic Hurricane Season officially lasts until November 1. With warming seas, storms could persist beyond that date. In any event, we have all been watching Hurricane Lee, hoping that this Category 5 storm will complete its turn northward and miss our shores. At a minimum, we can expect high surf and strong rip currents.

Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC): Held on September 13. Discussion included:

National Suicide Prevention Month: September is National Suicide Prevention Month. Please ensure that your loved ones know that if they are in crisis, they can call the **National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 9-8-8.**

Get-It-Together (GIT) campaign at Hampton Roads schools is aimed at increasing usage of seatbelts among teenagers. Last year, 63 teens (aged 15 – 19) died on Virginia roads – two of those were local. Of the fatalities, more than half (35) were not wearing seatbelts. Nearly 1,500 more were injured. Being unrestrained, especially when combined with teen-driver inexperience, distractions, excessive speed, and alcohol or drug use is a losing bet. Even if they survive, being immobilized as a result of carelessness, nonchalance, or peer pressure is no way to spend the best years of one’s life.

City Seeks Resident Input – Vote Online:

Fiscal Year 2024-26 Focused Action Plan - Open NOW: – visit [City of Virginia Beach | SpeakUp VB: Share Your Thoughts on Two-Year...](#) to cast your vote on where you feel the city’s funding and management priorities should be focused for the next two years. Type “Speak UpVB” in the search feature of [virginiabeach.gov](#) or [vbgov.com](#).

Recycling Options – Vote starting October 2: The Virginia Beach contract with their recycling company is up for renewal. Local government leaders are seeking public input to influence their decisions on how to proceed. Visit “[SpeakUpVB](#)” after October 2 to cast your vote for one of four options:

- **Option 1:** Same services as present with increased cost (estimated at \$2.50 - \$4.00 per household per month).
- **Option 2:** Eliminate curbside recycling and increase number of recycling centers (currently only two) at an estimated cost of \$400,000 each.
- **Option 3:** Develop an opt-in/opt-out recycling process. Cost increase would be a factor of how many households opt-in.
- **Option 4:** Other options not already offered.

Remember to make your voice heard.

The next CAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 11 in the conference room of the Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad, Station #14 – 740 VB Blvd (17th Street) - at 7:00 PM. If attending, please park on the east side of the building. This meeting is open to all.

M. C. “Connie” Agresti,
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CCL Representative to CAC