

# CCL Newsletter

June, 2024



Submitted by Kathy Donahoe

## President's Letter

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To those of you who made it to the Spring Fling, I think you will agree that we had a great time.

The weather was near perfect. This picture was taken at sunset looking across Lake Wesley.

The food and drinks were

outstanding – special thanks to

Beach Bully and Chin, our

bartender. We had a good DJ. I

guess my one slightly negative

comment is that we did not have

enough people dancing...have to do

better next year.

Besides attendance of over 200

people, we had Jen Kiggans, our

congresswoman, Sabrina Wooten,

District 7 Councilwoman (and a

candidate for city mayor) and our

own District 5 Councilwoman and

Vice-Mayor, Rosemary Wilson. They spent a lot of time talking with people while enjoying the

day. A special, unexpected guest was Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears. Having never

met her before, I was quite taken by her enthusiasm and participation. Besides mingling and

dancing, she helped Bill Garvey give away our raffle prizes and was a hit.

Speaking of Bill Garvey, and more importantly his better half, Cheryl Garvey, they did a great

job with the raffle. Bill solicited \$1400 in raffle prizes and Cheryl, with some help from Amber

Torgerson, sold over \$1200 in raffle tickets. Other thanks goes to Mike Fantozzi, who stores the

coolers over the year and Bill Wren, who provides truck and trailer so that we can get our



beverages to the site. Katie Ripberger had a great day with logowear sales. Contact her if you need some of the great Croatan gear. Connie Agresti and Jim Perriello helped all day at the check-in table, and Jan Nielsen kept track of our ticket sales. Also, the whole event might not work without Bob Lougen. Besides the check-in table, he is the person who gets the announcements out and ensures that getting tickets is quick and easy. His work makes a difference.

Of very special note is Jen Resio. She is the chairperson and “Spring Fling Czar.” Jen Resio, with the setup help of her trusty sidekick, Jim Resio, did an amazing job of organizing the event as well as setting up the grounds on Saturday (and ensuring that we left Cheryl McLeskey’s property in better condition than when we arrived.)

And, of course, this was a great day because you were there. You help to make Croatan a great place to live.

Some other notes:

There is a District 5 Community Meeting Hosted by Vice Mayor Rosemary Wilson this Wednesday, June 12, 2024. The time is 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM. It will be at the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center - South Building. 801 General Booth Blvd.

Virginia Beach Democratic Primary and Republican Primary Elections are on Tuesday, June 18th.

Our location is Seatack Elementary School – 912 S. Birdneck Rd.

**Our next Meeting is Monday, July 1, 2024, at 6:30 PM Via Zoom.** If you would like to participate, please let me know.

All the best,

Mike Kelly  
President, Croatan Civic League  
703.439.9153

[mkellyav8@aol.com](mailto:mkellyav8@aol.com)

## **CROATAN BOOK CLUB**

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

6/20 Book Club

7/1 CCL Meeting

Next Meeting Thursday,  
June 20, 2024 Time 7 P.M.  
Hostess: Marie Early  
Place: 717 Vanderbilt Avenue  
Book: The Frozen River – Ariel Lawhon

All Neighbors are welcome. Just read the book (or maybe not – come to socialize and hear a review of the book) and notify the hostess that you will be attending via a response to the email. Bring a light snack/wine to share, if desired. We meet on the third Thursday of each month, location varies.

Future Selections (in order)

Saved – Benjamin Hall

The Emancipation of Evan Wallis – Jeffrey Blount

Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone – Benjamin Stevenson

Next Year in Havana – Chanel Cleeton

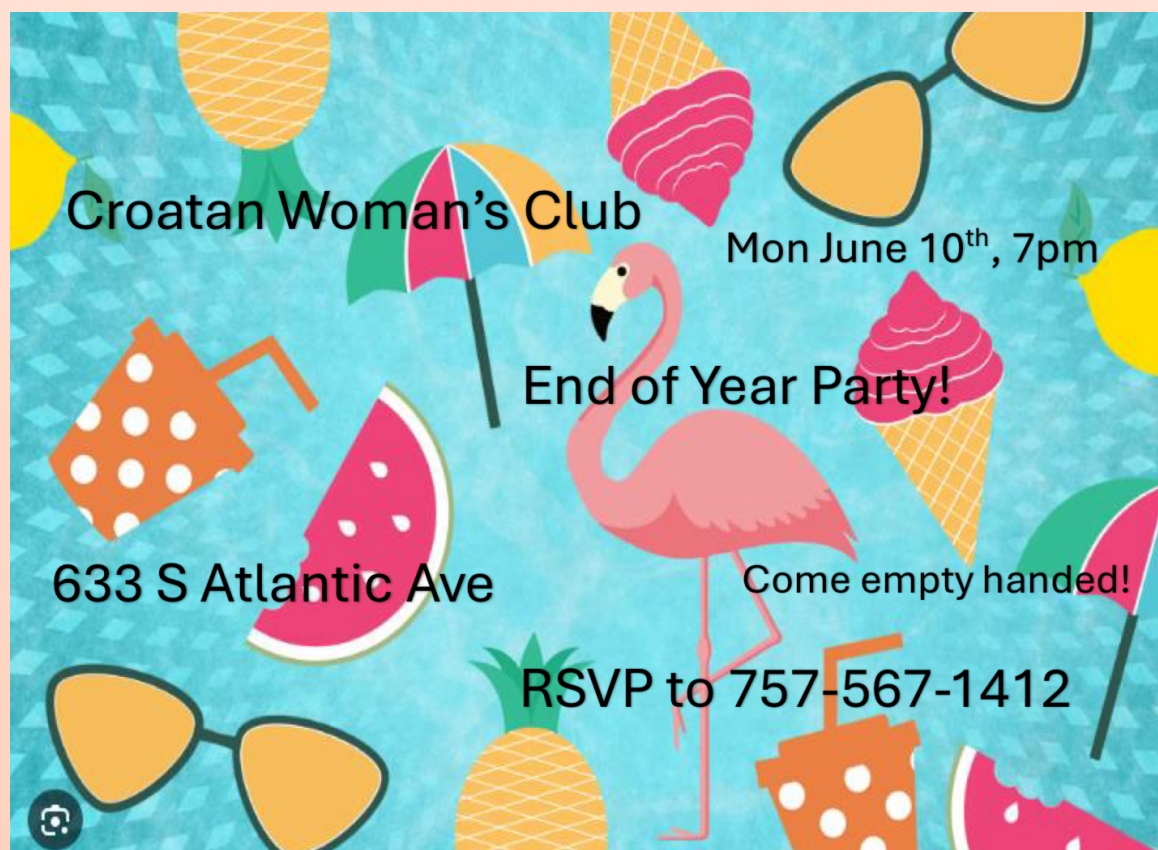
Ordinary Grace – William Kent Kruger

The Measure – Nikki Erlick

The Heaven and Earth Grocery – James McBride

The Women – Kristen Hannah

## **Croatan Women's Club**





# VBCCO Meeting May 15, 2024

- Two guest speakers:
- Gina Benefield, Executive Director of the Virginia Beach Rescue Squad which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
- VBEMS is the largest Volunteer based EMS system in the United States with over 800 volunteers.
- 10 local Volunteer Rescue Squads. They have over 40 ambulances, boats and other vehicles.
- Training is provided at no charge. They handle 53,000+ calls per year.
- Please consider volunteering and/or donating to this worthy organization at [VBRescue.org](http://VBRescue.org) or 757-385-1999
- Sue Cunningham, Virginia Beach Real Assessor.
- The purpose of her office is to equitably distribute the tax burden across all taxable properties.
- Real Estate Assessment Process consists of:
  - Annual Reassessments
  - Maintaining Property Records
  - Manage Special Programs
  - Disaster Response
  - Working with the COR(Senior and Military exemptions)
  - Support citizens
  - Formula used: Value X Rate=Property Tax
  - Factors that influence the value: 1/ Location 2/ Square footage 3/ Bathroom count(how many) 4/ Current condition 5/ Quality of construction 6/ Market conditions
- If you feel your assessment isn't correct call 757-385-4601 for the Real Estate Assessor's Office
- Meeting notes:
  - Approved amended By-Laws
  - Meeting Format change
  - Guest Speaker will go first
  - One 1 Guest Speaker per meeting
  - Member Participation 1/ Register to speak for 3 or 10 minutes 2/ only 5 members per meeting for 3 minutes each 3/ only 1 member per meeting can speak for 10 minutes 4/ All the rules are on the VBCCO website under resources tab.
- New Website will have 2 new sections. Neighborhood issues and City issues
- Treasurer needed until Nov.
- Next 3 meetings (June, July, August) will be held at the Ocean Lakes Community Club House
- Promote the Mayoral Candidate Forum Sept 23, 2024 at Kellam High School
- Next VBCCO meeting is Tuesday June 18, 2024 6:30PM at Ocean Lakes Clubhouse, 881 Old Neck Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23454. Guest Speaker from the Independent Citizens Review Board (ICRB) Police Oversight.

Submitted by James Ferrera

# Safety/Security – June, 2024

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Teen Homicides and Firearms Safety
- Hurricane Season and Dune Protection
- Rip Current Survival
- Five Minutes to Protect Wildlife
- Scams and Frauds – Alive and Well
- Summer Pet Pointers
- CAC – situational awareness/personal security

**Firearms Safety:** While Virginia Beach remains among the safest cities of its size in America, we're not immune to violent crime. Regrettably, most of the homicides of the past two months involve teenagers with firearms (as both shooters and victims). Dead are a 14-year-old, a 15-year-old, and a 16-year-old. Other youngsters have crippling injuries. Each and every weapon recovered from these incidents was illegally possessed (many stolen from vehicles) or improperly secured. I think that many teens fail to comprehend the permanent consequences of discharging a firearm. Perhaps they're mind-numbed by violent shoot-'em-up video games, but there is no reset switch on life. Once they pull the trigger; that's it. Game over!

Responsibility is an essential element of the right to keep and bear arms. **Please keep your weapons secure and do not leave them in vehicles.** If you have children, it might be worth allowing them to witness (say, at the range) just how powerful these items are and to instill in them the knowledge that firearms are not toys. Teach them the fundamentals:

1. Treat every firearm as loaded until proven otherwise
2. Never point a firearm at anything you do not intend to shoot (i.e., kill)
3. If you find an unsecured weapon, call an adult or 9-1-1 and do not touch it.

**Hurricane Season:** Once again, meteorologists are calling for an above-average number of named hurricanes this season (June 1 – November 30). Last year we witnessed storms grow from Category 1 to Category 5 virtually overnight, as a result of warmer mid-ocean waters. Please visit <https://oem.virginia-beach.gov> for more information on hurricane preparedness.

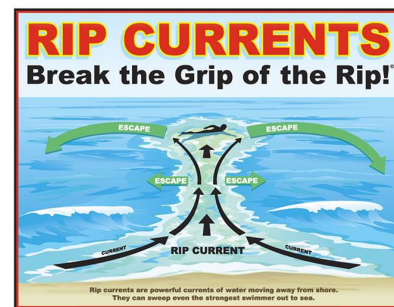
Category	Wind Speed (mph)	Damage at Landfall	Storm Surge (feet)
1	74-95	Minimal	4-5
2	96-110	Moderate	6-8
3	111-130	Extensive	9-12
4	131-155	Extreme	13-18
5	> 155	Catastrophic	19+

**Protect the Dunes:** Our sand dunes are the last line of defense from rampaging wind and wave. Help protect them by (a) **not disturbing any vegetation** growing upon them (yes, it is unlawful to do so) and (b)

installing sand fencing in accordance with the guidelines found elsewhere in this Newsletter. Many sand fences are improperly installed.

**Rip Current Escape Notes:** We don't need a hurricane for Virginia Beach to be subjected to rip currents that can pull swimmers out to sea. Storms hundreds of miles away can create these potentially deadly phenomena. Swimmers can escape rip currents if they keep calm and follow the graphic below – landlords – please post in every rental unit:

If red warning flags are flying, **do not** get into the ocean beyond your knees. Parents – accompany and watch your small children. If a child is knocked down by a wave, they'll be underwater in seconds. You cannot save them if you're twenty feet away or on a phone.



**IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT**

- ◆ Don't fight the current
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water
- ◆ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

**SAFETY**

- ◆ Know how to swim
- ◆ Never swim alone
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out

More information about rip currents can be found at the following web sites:



**Scams and Frauds:** Within the past week, social media has been active with reports of the following scams being perpetrated in our area: the Sheriff Imposter Scam, the Romantic Meet-up Scam, and the Cell Phone Instant Loan Scam. Please read my March Newsletter notes (available at <https://croatanbeach.org>) for more info on these scams. Stay aware of your surroundings (think: “keep your head out of your apps”) and don't become a victim.

**Five Minutes to Protect Wildlife:** My wife and I always carry extra bags to the beach because we often spend more time picking up detritus than we do focusing on our dog (although we do keep her close and clean up her “gifts”). Bottle caps, plastic cigar tips, small baggies, straws, discarded fishing tackle, merchandise labels, and food wrappers of every description easily fill one or two extra bags per visit. Alice suggested placing a note in the CCL Newsletter asking beachfront owners if they would be willing to devote **five minutes per day** to keep the beach to the east of their property clear of trash. All of this flotsam finds its way into the water and into the stomachs of marine and avian fauna. Believe me, we do not want the stench of a dead porpoise or whale washing up on our doorstep.

**Take Care of your Pets:** Summer Seasonal Dog Regulations are now in place through Labor Day. Dogs are not allowed on Croatan Beach between the hours of 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM daily. They **are** allowed to run, unleashed, at other times but must be under handler's verbal command. Handlers must clean up after their dogs. Bags and trash cans are available at each beach entrance.

Try to refrain from walking animals during the height of the day. Pavement retains the sun's heat and can scorch paw pads. Also, please clean up any neighbor's lawn they might soil. Golden rule, folks.

**Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC):** Meets every second Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the conference room of Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad #14, 740 VB Blvd (17<sup>th</sup> Street). CAC meetings are open to all.

The Second Precinct CAC serves as a tax-exempt conduit for sending money and in-kind donations to the Virginia Beach Animal Care and Adoption Center, 341 S. Birdneck Road. The Care Center is always seeking volunteers.

The CAC is seeking volunteers to spend 2 – 4 hours setting-up, serving, and cleaning-up the Independence Day Adopt-a-Muster event to feed the expected 150+ police officers and sheriff deputies who will be working the Oceanfront on that day. The food is arranged, but we need warm bodies to assist. This will be held on Thursday, July 4 from 2:30 – 6:00 PM at the Precinct Headquarters (820 VB Blvd (17<sup>th</sup> Street) –

enter from the 18<sup>th</sup> Street side. Please let Connie Agresti or Jenny Perry (757-724-2232) know if you can help out.

M. C. "Connie" Agresti,  
 CCL Safety and Security Director

**Public Beach Sand Fence Installation Guidelines**

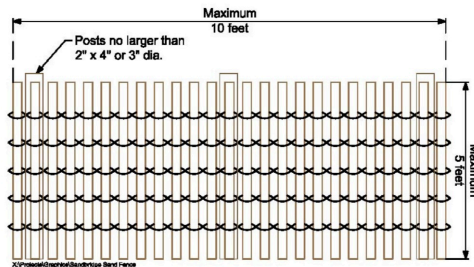
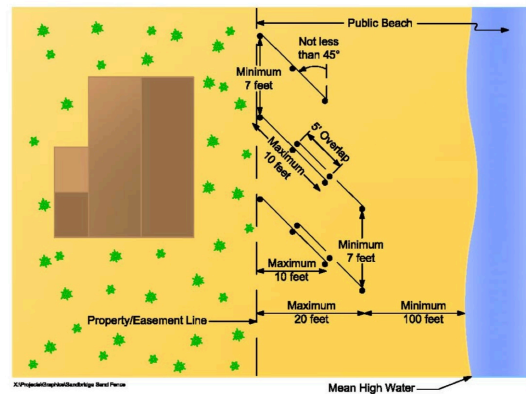
When properly installed, sand fences can help build dunes by trapping wind-blown sand. But if installed improperly and not maintained they can pose a risk to public safety, impede public access and use of the recreational beach, hinder emergency vehicle and beach maintenance access at times of high tide. Improperly installed sand fences can also trap or endanger sea turtles, their nests or hatchlings.

It is the policy of the City of Virginia Beach to allow installation of sand fencing in areas where dune formation is feasible and in areas where existing dunes have been damaged. Sand fencing may be installed in accordance with the following guidelines without the need for a separate permit. The City reserves the right to remove any sand fencing that is deemed to be contrary to the public interest or hazardous.

Installation of sand fencing must comply with the following:

1. Sand fencing must be placed as far landward as possible to avoid interference with sea turtle nesting, public access and use of the beach.
2. Landward end of sand fencing must tie into an existing bulkhead, property line, easement line, or established dunes.
3. Sand fencing must be installed at a 45-degree or greater angle to the shoreline.
4. Each section of fence must not be longer than 10 feet, and sections must be spaced at least 7 feet apart. (Once 50% of the fence height and length has been covered by sand an additional row of fencing can be installed offset 5 feet within the existing row of fencing.)
5. Sand fencing shall only be allowed within 20 horizontal feet of the property or easement line. No sand fencing shall be allowed outside this 20 foot zone.
6. A minimum horizontal distance of 100 feet shall be maintained between the seaward limit of the sand fencing and mean high water (MHW).
7. The fencing must be no taller than 5 feet and built from evenly spaced thin wooden vertical slats connected with twisted wire.
8. Sand fences must not be installed within 20 feet of a public beach access.
9. Sand fences must be installed without the use of mechanical equipment.
10. No grading or pushing up of sand is allowed.
11. If sand fencing is not installed in accordance with these guidelines it must be removed and/or re-installed in full compliance.
12. If sand fence becomes loose, broken or deemed to be hazardous it must be removed or repaired.
13. If sand fence becomes exposed by high tides or erosion it must be removed.
14. Existing sand fence that extends more than 20 feet into the public beach shall be removed back to within 20 feet.
15. Should shoreline erosion cause the horizontal distance between sand fencing and MHW to decrease to less than 100 feet, sand fencing shall be removed to the extent necessary to maintain the 100 foot minimum distance.

**Installation Details:**



**Neighborhood Contacts**

Name	Committee	Email	Phone
Jo Bloomquist	Women's Club	<a href="mailto:vagolfers@mac.com">vagolfers@mac.com</a>	
Alice Weisz	Book Club	<a href="mailto:bookclub@croatanbeach.org">bookclub@croatanbeach.org</a>	425-2068
Wes Laine	Surfing Advisor	<a href="mailto:surfing@croatanbeach.org">surfing@croatanbeach.org</a>	428-2620
Ken Jobe	Special Advisor	<a href="mailto:kejo425@aol.com">kejo425@aol.com</a>	428-0328

### Welcome Wagon

Contact Cheryl Garvey  
cgcroatan@gmail.com  
(757)739-7078

if you know of new  
Croatan neighbors



### Magazine Collection

Michele Speight,  
Teen Crisis Intervention  
549 Bushnell Drive  
428-7947msp8@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**



## Croatan Civic League Board of Directors

Name	Title
Mike Kelly	President, VB Gov
Bob Lougen	Vice President, Website, Facebook, Directory
Mike Fantozzi	Director, Secretary
Jan Nielson	Director, Treasurer
M.C. "Connie" Agresti	Director, Security, Citizen's Advisory Committee
Frank Borum	Director, Traffic Mgmt.
Kathy Donahoe	Director, Newsletter
Jim Ferrera	Director, VB Council of Civic Organizations
Bill Garvey	Past President, By-Laws
Cheryl Garvey	Director, Welcome Wagon, Landscaping
Jan Perriello	Director, Short-Term Rentals



## Croatan Civic League Board of Directors

Name	Title
Jen Resio	Director, Spring Fling
Katie Ripberger	Director, Logo wear, Social Activities
Amanda Robinson	Social Activities, Children's Programs
Amber Torgensen	Director, Halloween Events
Eileen Wren	Director