

CCL Newsletter

September, 2024



Submitted by Kathy Donahoe

President's Letter

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Summer is over, Labor Day has passed, the kids are back in school, restaurants are not as crowded, and the dogs reclaim the beach. Most are looking forward to a beautiful Fall.

A few days ago, we held the Annual/End of Summer Ice Cream Social for the Croatan neighborhood children. We have a lot of children in the neighborhood and the turnout was impressive (both children and adults.) Thank you to Patty and Tyler Volpe who hosted the event.

Upcoming Events:

- October 7 - CCL Board Meeting via Zoom. Please contact me for details and the link.
- October 19 - Halloween party hosted by Christina Michels on Maryland Ct.
- October 27 - CCL Social and Annual Meeting at Warriors Tap House. \$10/person. Heavy appetizers and drinks. (There's a rumor that we may have some Trivia as well.)
- October 31 - Halloween Trick or Treat night. (I haven't seen the official city announcement yet, but traditionally the 31st is the day for our area.)
- November 4 - CCL Board and Board Officer Elections
- November 5 - Election Day (Federal, State and Local) Please vote!
- November 17 - Pictures with Santa on the Beach
- December (TBD) - Cookies w/Santa and "Walk the Lights Contest"

Annual Meeting:

Elections for the 2025 Board of Directors will be on Sunday, October 27th at the Warriors Tap House on General Booth Blvd. We traditionally hold it in conjunction with the Fall social event.

We need more civic league members to volunteer for the Board. We have three vacancies for the 2025-26 Board years. (So far.) Several members of the Board have been on it for years. They have served Croatan well, but they need a break. And it is also time for some fresh ideas and energy, especially from people who are relatively new to Croatan.

Since COVID, perhaps before, it seems like volunteerism is fading. I am concerned that we will not have enough people on the Board to plan and conduct our traditional social events, as well as keeping the Croatan neighborhood aware of issues that affect us. Please consider joining the Board.

Mike Kelly

President, Croatan Civic League
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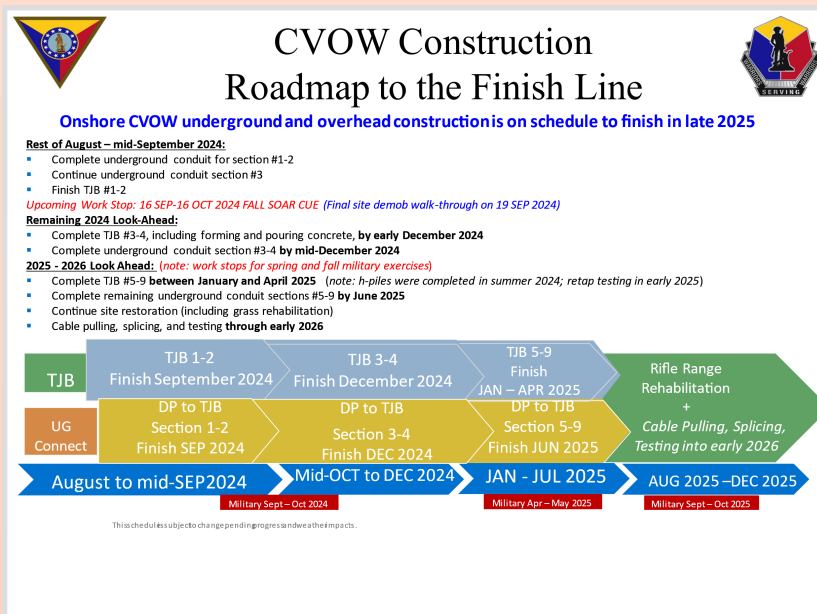
CROATAN BOOK CLUB

Next Meeting Thursday,
September 19, 2024 Time 7 P.M.
Hostess: Cynthia Kilmer
Place: 406 Vanderbilt Avenue
Book: Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone – Benjamin Stevenson

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)

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
Becoming Madam Secretary — Stephanie Dray
The Library of Borrowed Hearts — Lucy Gilmore
The Rose Code — Kate Quinn



Safety/Security – September, 2024

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

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Schools are Open; Please Drive Carefully
- Seasonal Changes – No Lifeguards, Dogs on the Beach, Croatan Parking Lot
- Hurricane Season Not Over Yet
- Elections – Key Dates and Mutual Respect
- CAC – Remove Valuables from Vehicles; Home Firearm Safety; Fall Give-Away; National Crisis Hotline

School Zones and Buses: Schools are open. Drivers should adjust their commute to allow increased transit time as well as tune-up their situational awareness to be alert for school buses picking up or discharging students. Please be mindful of speed limit changes in school zones, especially where the zone starts immediately after a turn, such as at S. Birdneck Road.

You ***must*** stop for buses with red flashing lights; even if traveling in the opposite direction when on roads ***without*** an island dividing the lanes (e.g., General Booth Boulevard north of Croatan Road).

Plan ahead by departing 10 – 15 minutes earlier than you currently do and drive with patience. Beware of children running to catch the bus and who may be inattentive to traffic.

Seasonal Changes in Croatan:

- **Lifeguards** are no longer available at Croatan Beach “after the season.” To reduce your risk – respect the ocean, watch wading children closely, don’t enter the water alone or overestimate your swimming ability, know how to drown-proof and how to escape a rip current (see past Croatan Newsletters for illustration).
- **Dogs** are allowed on Croatan Beach all daylight hours after Labor Day. They may run free if under their handler’s watchful eye and command. The city stocks plastic bags at every beach entrance – please use them or bring your own to pick up after your pooch. Trash barrels are also at every beach access point. The sand can still get hot on sunny days, so be mindful not to let paw pads get burnt.
- **Croatan Parking Lot** will cease charging parking fees effective Tuesday, October 1, but the city will close the lot earlier – 5:00 PM. If locked in, call 3-1-1

Hurricane Season – at least another two months: The Atlantic Hurricane Season officially lasts until November 30. With warming seas, storms could persist beyond that date. Even if we don’t suffer a direct hit, storms offshore can generate high surf and life-threatening rip currents, as we experienced with Hurricane Ernesto last month.

Elections: Election Day is Tuesday, November 5, 2024. On this year’s ballot are the offices of President and Vice President of the United States, one U. S. Senator from Virginia, all members of the U. S. House of Representatives, a proposed Amendment to the Virginia Constitution, Mayor of Virginia Beach, most City Council Members (including Croatan’s District 5 Council Seat), and VB School Board Members. Some key dates:

- **Last Day to Register to Vote** for the election is Tuesday, October 15.
- **Early In-Person Voting** begins Friday, September 20 and ends Saturday, November 2. Visit <https://voter.virginiabeach.com> for full details.
- **Absentee Mail-In Ballot** applications are available at the aforementioned website. Please note the website's caveats on United States Postal Service lengthened delivery standards and reduced performance. **If you're voting by mail – *mail early!***
- **Election Signs** are individual citizens' expressions of their support for certain issues/ candidates. Respect the First Amendment right of neighbors to harbor differing opinions regarding which candidate/ issue they support. Please resist the urge to defile a neighbor's property or deface, take down, or destroy signs of candidates/issues that differ from your own. This is the self-discipline, respect for the rule of law, and freedom of speech that has made our country great.

Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC): Held on the second Wednesday of the month at VB Volunteer Rescue Squad #14 (740 VB Blvd, 23451). Next meeting is September 11 and is open to all.

Lock Vehicles and Remove Valuables: VBPD Second Precinct Commander, Captain Brad Wessler, said that police are observing more window smashing thefts from automobiles of late. Locking your vehicle is no longer enough. Police encourage removal of all valuables or at a minimum, locking them away out of sight. The exception remains firearms – *please* remove them when you leave the vehicle.

Firearm Safety at Home: Several recent incidents remind us to keep firearms locked away and out of children's reach. Kids and adults are being accidentally shot (some fatally) by youngsters, some as young as 2-years-old, who access loaded weapons. Parents/guardians who fail to do keep firearms from children are being prosecuted. VBPD offers trigger locks for free.

Fall Give-Away: Win free stuff by scanning your membership card at VB Recreation Centers. Visit <https://parks.virginiabeach.gov> for details and to learn about all their Fall events. Download the free **VB ParkFinder** app to your smartphone.

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 Crisis & Suicide Lifeline at 9-8-8.**

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

Women's Club 2024-2025 New Officers

President - Elizabeth Kasprak
Vice President - Linda Richie Royal
Recording Secretary - Laura Saltzer
Corresponding Secretary - Jackie Feagan
Treasurer - Susan Savage
Programs Chair - Diane Ferrera

Neighborhood Contacts

Name	Committee	Email	Phone
Jo Bloomquist	Women's Club	vagolfers@mac.com	
Alice Weisz	Book Club	bookclub@croatanbeach.org	425-2068
Wes Laine	Surfing Advisor	surfing@croatanbeach.org	428-2620
Ken Jobe	Special Advisor	kejo425@aol.com	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

Croatan Civic League Board of Directors

Name	Title
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
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