

CCL Newsletter

December, 2024



Submitted by Kathy Donahoe

President's Letter

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is now December, and we are in the holiday season. There are lots of lights on houses. Take a few moments and drive around. Some of the displays are spectacular.

If you have not signed up yet for the Croatan Holiday Lights Competition, you can do so at this link on our website. <https://www.croatanbeach.org/holiday-glow-competition-2024/> Judging will be on Wednesday, December 18th.

Also, do not forget the Hot Chocolate and cookies get together - it will be Saturday, Dec. 13th from 4:30 to 6:00 PM! The Volpe family is hosting at 505 Bushnell Dr.

Please make sure you read Connie's Safety and Security report. He always has "good scoop." There is important information on protecting your property. This is the season for car break-ins and porch pirates. Of note are his comments on bike and e-bike illumination. The law states that bikes at night require lights so that they can be seen. Another issue with e-bikes is the speed that they are being ridden on the pedestrian/bike path. They are much faster than a human-powered bike. They can come up on people and pets scaring them, especially from behind. The law also requires a warning from bikers when you are passing pedestrians. Please be considerate.

The next Board of Director's meeting will be held in January. The time, date, and location are TBD and will be posted on the CCL website. We will be refining the calendar and budget for next year.

We are always looking for suggestions on how to improve the civic league. More importantly, we are looking for people who want to help with the variety of activities throughout the year. The very few people on the board and a couple of families keep everything going. Without them, we would be doing a lot less for the neighborhood. Please volunteer. **Thanks to all the people who helped get us through 2024.**

I hope that everyone has found happiness during the year. We all experience extraordinary joy and heartache throughout our lives. The holiday season, in particular, seems to bring both. The joy is ineffable; the heartache devastating. If you are joyful, share it. If you are sad, please let others know and ask for help. To all, please be a little kinder now because everyone (yes, everyone) is fighting their own battles and demons.

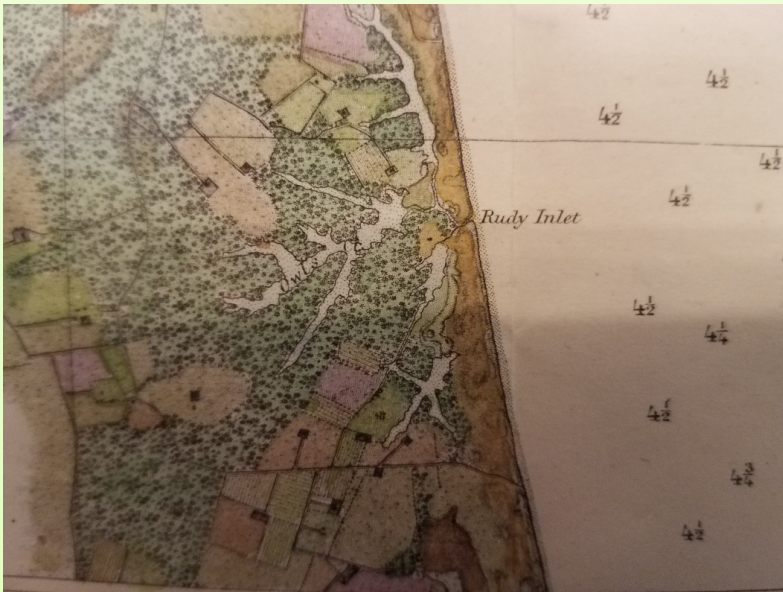
All the best, remain vigilant, and stay safe,

Mike Kelly
President, Croatan Civic League
703.439.9153
mkellyav8@aol.com

Croatan Beach Update

There is no change to the current schedule. The Croatan Beach nourishment fill schedule is May 17 to May 27, 2025. This, of course, could be affected by weather. It should take 11 days.

The Rudee Inlet Wier Replacement



Rudee Inlet on a Coast Chart of the Chesapeake Bay published in 1863.

As previously mentioned, the contract was awarded to [Geosyntec Consultants/ATM](#).

Wes Laine, Bob Lougen, and I attended a meeting with the Geosyntec people and the city engineers on November 24th. It was a “listening session.” The dialog back and forth was very open and everyone listened a lot to each other. We learned about other weirs around the country and the challenges of getting them right. Regardless of the final design, we were assured that more sand would accumulate on the Croatan beach. I jokingly suggested that we want to hear people complain that the beach is too wide.

Based on our conversation, I am guessing at the following timeline.

Site investigation and analysis: (6 mos.) May-June 2025

Design and permitting: (6 – 12 mos.) Jan – Jun 2026

- The unknown timing is how long it will take to get all the many permits required.

Construction: The latter half of 2026. Realistically, probably completed in early 2027.

Sometime in early 2025, there will be a public presentation from Geosyntec and the city engineers.

Did You Know?

Civic League meetings are open to the neighborhood.

Croatan has a a Little Free Library on Vanderbilt Ave?



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY IS A NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT TO PROVIDE FREE BOOKS CONVENIENTLY AVAILABLE TO READ OR DROP OFF. IT ENCOURAGES THE JOY OF READING FOR ALL AGES.

THE CROATAN LITTLE FREE LIBRARY IS LOCATED AT THE CRANE RESIDENCE – 533 VANDERBILT AVENUE.

Getting into the spirit of the holidays, the Little Free Library will be **stocked with holiday books by Santa's elves** beginning December 5th through January 12th. You are invited to come by to borrow a book and return it- *especially kids!* Or, if you choose to keep it, please replace it with another seasonal book so there will always be a good supply of books available for everyone. There will be a holiday bow on the library making it easy to find! After January 12th, the Little Free Library will be restocked with a regular selection. Please feel free to contribute to this endeavor at any time. Thank you in advance for your enthusiasm and support. Enjoy the pleasure of relaxing and reading during this wondrous time of year! Wishing you Joy, Peace, Love and Wellness for the season!

With Awe and Magic from,
Santa's Workshop



**VISIT US AT
533 VANDERBILT**

Rudee Park Community Meetings



Envision
**RUDEE
PARK**

Engagement Sessions

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

December 9th • 6 - 7:30
Kempsville High School
5194 Chief Trail

December 10th • 6 - 7:30
Holland Road Annex Library
2323 Holland Road

December 11th • 6 - 7:30
Virtual
(Scan QR code for link)

Scan for more info!
@rudeepark
Visit rudeepark.com

CROATAN BOOK CLUB

There will be no December meeting of the Croatan book club. We will resume on the third Thursday of January. Happy New Year!!!

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. Books are chosen by club members with only 2 caveats: (1) the member has read the book, and (2) the book is available through the Virginia Beach library system.

Future Selections (in order)

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

Upcoming Events



croatan civic League presents...

4th Annual
**Croatan Holiday Lights
Competition**
3 Themes

1. Traditional - Classic/Religious
2. Cute - Inflatables & Kids motif
3. Griswold - Crazy/Chaotic/Lots of Lights/RV?
+ Neighbors can nominate other neighbors

Judging will be Dec 18th
*Cookies & Hot Chocolate on Dec. 13th
and Santa will be there 4:30-5:30*



Croatan Civic League
presents

Dec. 13th

**Celebrate the Holidays
in Croatan**
with Cookies and Hot Chocolate at
505 Bushnell Dr.
Santa will be there from 4:30 to 5:30

Friday • December 13 • 4:30-6:00PM

Celebrate the holidays with your neighbors ~ there will be a hot chocolate/cookie stop at 505 Bushnell Dr. Please stop by and celebrate with us. Special thanks to the Volpe family for hosting this event!

Questions - support@croatanbeach.org

VBCCO Meeting Wednesday November 20, 2024

- The Comprehensive Development Plan Administrator, Hank Morrison, presented a power point on Long Range planning for Virginia Beach.
- Guiding document: Comprehensive Plan | City of Virginia Beach
- VBCCO currently has 85 members with a goal for 100 by year end.
- VBCCO is not political strictly educational.
- Sock drive in December for homeless.
- Next VBCCO Membership meeting Tuesday, December 18, 2024 6:30-8:30PM. Bow Creek Recreation Center. **Housing and Neighborhood Preservation Speaker.**

Croatan Women's Club



Safety/Security – December, 2024

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Motor Vehicle Larcenies
- Package Delivery
- Security Patrol – Continue or Terminate **PLEASE TAKE SURVEY**
- Croatan Parking Concerns (Continuing Saga)
- Illumination a Must When Riding in Reduced Visibility
- Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) – Rudee Park

Motor Vehicle Larcenies: Croatan was hit by a string of thieves targeting valuables in motor vehicles in late-November. Home surveillance systems generated some excellent full-facial photos of “suspected” perpetrators. Police reports have been made and I have forwarded those photos that I have received on to the police. It cannot be said enough – **ensure that your vehicles are locked.** Remove all valuables – **especially firearms** – from vehicles.

Packages, packages, packages: Our security patrol officers report “a lot of packages observed on porches and sticking out of mailboxes.” Since many companies report package delivery via email or text, please be attentive to the notifications and consider asking neighbors if they will pick-up the items for safekeeping while you’re away.

I have not heard many “porch-pirate” pilferage reports but given the previous note – know that ne’er-do-wells are out there. Also, **PLEASE**, inform the CCL of any crimes, police responses, or other security/safety-related events in the neighborhood. Hearing of these incidents third hand several days later reduces their utility.

Croatan Security Patrols - Survey: Croatan has employed off-duty VBPD police officers to patrol our neighborhood, monitor speed, and (yes) issue citations (warnings or tickets) for illegally parked vehicles for nearly 30 years. While our security officers have committed to patrolling Croatan during their on-duty hours (when other tasking allows) they are not assigned to us full-time; nor are they available via cellphone for ad hoc requests, as was once the case.

Times have changed and the cost of continuing patrol services has risen to more than \$20,000 per annum despite paring back allotted hours by a third in order to stretch finances.

The CCL is therefore faced with deciding whether to continue to solicit funds to keep these patrols or terminate them and instead rely on available police. CCL VP Bob Lougen has placed the survey on our website (<https://croatanbeach.org>). **Please sign-in on the website and complete the survey no later than December 15.**

Croatan Parking Concerns: Despite the intercession of Deputy Mayor and District 5 Councilwoman Rosemary Wilson, **City Manager Patrick Duhaney** provided an incomplete, perfunctory, and overall unfavorable response to Croatan’s request to pass an ordinance outlawing parking in front of mailboxes, etc.

Fortunately, Croatan residents refuse to accept bureaucratic patronization and have continued to document abusive parking. These emails and photos (such as the attached) have elicited secondary “eye-opening” responses from the City Manager’s Special Assistant Mr. Mattes and Ms. Wilson; both of whom realize that there’s “meat on this bone.” Please continue to document parking abuses. Key email addresses are:

- City Manager Patrick Duhaney: cmoffice@vbgov.com
- District 5 Councilwoman Rosemary Wilson: rcwilson@vbgov.com
- Assistant to the City Manager (Special Projects, ADA) R. J. Mattes: rmattes@vbgov.com

Be respectful, unemotional, and focused on issues where the whole neighborhood can benefit, such as:

- a) Passing a City Ordinance making it a ticketing offense for parked vehicles to block mailboxes;
- b) Re-measuring parking spaces on Surfside and Vanderbilt to eliminate those that no longer accommodate vehicles that have grown in length, breadth, and height since the spaces were originally approved and laid out in 2004 (see great exemplar in adjacent photo); and
- c) Modifying the city contract with its parking enforcement contractor to monitor and require ticketing of illegally parked



vehicles on Surfside and Vanderbilt.

These are all “zero sum gains” for the city and should not be opposed.

Illumination, aka “I Never Saw Him”: The good part about being a teenager is that you think that you’re indestructible. The bad part is that you’re not.

One night recently, a teen came speeding down Croatan Road **on an e-bike** without visible lights or reflectors. I first saw him as he passed me. Whether on a bicycle or e-bike, forward and rear lights are required by law when riding before sunrise and after sunset. Pedestrians and golf cart users should also consider having lights for their safety.

From my Navy days, navigation lights should be illuminated whenever you’re in reduced visibility – fog, precipitation, darkness, and especially twilight. “All lights, bright lights, Sir.” Seeing and being seen could save your life, or the lives of loved ones. Think: Christmas gift?

Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC): CAC meetings (open to all) are held the second Wednesday of the month (except December) at the VB Volunteer Rescue Squad #14 conference room (740 VB Blvd – aka: 17th Street). The next meeting is January 8, 2025, at 7:00 PM. Ample parking is available on the east side of the building (by the butterfly garden).

Highlights from the November 13 meeting, include:

- VBPD Chief Neudigate’s report to City Council on significant reductions in both violent and property crime. View full report on YouTube at [Shootings, Violent Crime Down in Virginia... | City of Virginia Beach](#)
- Annual count of “Unhoused” (formerly: Homeless) people
- Reimagining Rudee Park (yes, again)
- Atlantic Park – the monster facility being built between 18th and 19th Streets and Pacific and Baltic Avenues
- New Sports Center Contractor
- Proposals for the redesign of the Beach central Business District – 17th – 19th Streets from Pacific Avenue to Birdneck Road
- Road closures at S. Birdneck and Bells Road until Spring 2025
- Sign up for “Be In the Know”

Visit <https://viriniabeach.gov> for info on these and other issues of interest.

M. C. “Connie” Agresti,

CCL Safety and Security Director

Croatan Security Patrol Survey

Since we lost our dedicated patrol officer (MPO Don Noah) three years ago, his designated successor (MPO Katie Tassa) and three other officers have been fulfilling the security patrol duties here in Croatan.

In March 2024, VBPD changed their policies for how officers “moonlight” in off-duty jobs.

- Current guidance is that all contracted shifts must be a minimum of 3 hours in duration.
- VBPD and their contractor (Off-Duty Management) then added (unannounced) an additional half-hour to each end of every shift to account for travel time to and from patrol location.
- So, where Don Noah worked for \$35/hour and provided almost 400 hours to the community per annum, we are now faced with paying \$72.15/hour for only 249 hours.
- Because of the travel time assessment – we’ve found ourselves paying for 25% more hours than we actually receive in on-location patrols.
- Accordingly, our annual budget has gone up 67% (to > \$22,000) for a 36% reduction of services.

This situation fails most objective business case analyses. However, an intangible/subjective sense of security within the community may lead some to desire continuance of these patrols.

Which brings us to today’s survey:

Survey Question 1: Are you a CCL member? Yes _____ No _____

Survey Question 2: Do you contribute to the Security Fund? Yes _____ No _____

Survey Question 3: Do you feel we’re getting the “bang for the buck” for our security investment? Yes _____ No _____

Survey Question 4: Do you desire to continue off-duty police officer patrols?
Yes _____ No _____

Survey Question 5: If “Yes” to Q4, What is there a top-line limit for what you feel CCL should pay for security patrols? < \$75/hr _____ \$75.01 - \$85/hr _____
\$85.01 - \$95/hr _____ \$95.01/hr - \$105/hr _____

Please reply to Connie Agresti no later than December 15, 2024

Address is 501 Bushnell Dr or emails are security@croatanbeach.org or mcaiii@aol.com

Neighborhood Contacts

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

Name	Committee	Email	Phone
Elizabeth Antolak	Women's Club	elizabeth.antolak@gmail.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

Croatan Civic League Board of Directors

Name	Title
Mike Kelly	President, VB Gov
Bob Lougen	Vice President, Website, Facebook, Communications
Mike Fantozzi	Director, Secretary
Patrick Costigan	Director, Treasurer

Croatan Civic League Board of Directors

Name	Title
M.C. "Connie" Agresti	Director, Security, Citizen's Advisory Committee
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Cheryl Garvey	Director, Welcome Wagon, Landscaping
Katie Ripberger	Director, Logo wear, Social Activities
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