

CCL Newsletter

January, 2025



Submitted by Kathy Donahoe

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Happy (slightly belated) New Year to all.

The Board of Directors met on Monday, January 6th at Mike Fantozzi's home.

The treasurer's report showed 416 member names, an increase from 391 in the previous year, with about sixty new members added in the last three months.

The focus of effort was to discuss the 2025 budget and event schedule. Our costs continue to go up and we are taking a close look at ways to offset these rising costs. At the end of the year, the combined money for security and the general fund totaled approximately \$34,600 (\$5,000 and \$29,000, respectively.) A few members have said that we have too much in our account. It's not. Our 2025 budget forecasts expenses at \$35,850. The board voted to leave member dues the same - \$80 per couple and \$45 for singles. We expect revenue to be about \$32,700 through dues and Spring Fling tickets and raffle. This will result in a planned shortfall of approximately \$3,150. This is in line with our 2023 decision to reduce the general account down to \$20,000. We think that is a comfortable reserve.

The security fund is kept separate from the general fund as it is a volunteer donation. Some people object to paying for additional security. Our surveys show that the majority of members want it to continue. The forecast budget for security is \$22,000. It is a lot of donations, and rates continue to rise.

We are going to try something different this year with quarterly town halls. Our first one will be in March. We will cover the neighborhood security program and provide an update on the beach sand and weir projects. We will also be asking for input on what you would like to discuss. Look for a specific announcement soon.

Don't forget about the Dominion Energy CVOW meeting on Thursday the 16th of January at the South Aquarium building. Start time is 5:30 PM.

The next Board of Director's meeting will be held on Monday, February 3, at 6:30 PM. The location is at my home, and I would appreciate RSVP's if you want to attend

All the best and stay safe,

Mike Kelly

President, Croatan Civic League

703.439.9153

mkellyav8@aol.com

Did You Know?

Civic League meetings are open to the neighborhood.

Croatan has a a Little Free Library on Vanderbilt Ave?



VBCCO Meeting Wednesday December 18, 2024

- Stacy Cummings-New Councilman from District 8 was in attendance and spoke briefly.
- 1st Speaker-Cindy Walters- Housing and Neighborhood Preservation- HUD 5 Year Consolidated Strategic Plan was discussed.
- 2nd Speaker-Tara Ingram-PIN Industries- support homeless in VB- VBCCO provided donated socks to the group.
- VBCCO President gave updates and discussed items of interest.
- VBCCO University was introduced as a goal for the future. VB Council members would teach the group about various topics impacting our communities.
- Next VBCCO Membership meeting, January 15, 2024 6:30-8:30PM. Bow Creek Recreation Center. **Talking about the Police Real Time Crime Center.**

Upcoming Events

Save the date

CVOW Croatan Community Meeting

Thursday, January 16, 2025 from 5:30-6:30PM

Presentation begins at 5:30PM

Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center, South Building, Education Hall, 801 General Booth Boulevard, Virginia Beach, VA 23451



BRING ART AND COMMUNITY TO LIFE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

Creative Neighborhoods Grants are here to help you bring people together and celebrate your community through creative projects. This funding pilot program supports neighborhood-based art projects that enhance public spaces, celebrate local culture, and make our communities more vibrant and welcoming.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Civic leagues, neighborhood associations, nonprofits, artists, and local businesses are all eligible. If you want to organize free, family-friendly events or short-term art projects that inspire community pride and togetherness, this grant is for you!

WHAT KIND OF PROJECTS?

- **Music Events** – Host a neighborhood concert or music festival.
- **Community Art Projects** – Work together to paint a mural, create a community quilt, set up pop-up galleries, outdoor art displays, or projects tied to local events.
- **Art Classes and Workshops** – Host classes to teach new art skills and encourage creativity.
- **Festivals and Cultural Celebrations** – Organize an art walk, neighborhood festival, or a cultural celebration.
- **Public Performances** – Bring theater, dance, or storytelling to public spaces.
- **Volunteer-Based Projects** – Create projects that encourage volunteerism, like community gardens or beautification projects.

WHAT CAN THE GRANT COVER?

- **Project Planning:** Costs for project managers, support staff, or volunteers.
- **Professional Services:** Permits, consultants (like designers or artists), and insurance.
- **Materials and Equipment:** Art supplies, building materials, and rented equipment like tents or tables.
- **Setup and Cleanup:** Expenses for setting up and taking down project items.

WHAT CAN'T THE GRANT COVER?

- General organization fees not directly tied to the project.
- Projects already funded by other city programs this year.
- Fundraising costs.
- Buying equipment or food.

GRANT AMOUNT & PROJECT TIMELINE

Up to \$10,000, with applicants expected to contribute part of the project costs through volunteer time, donations, or other support. Projects should be completed within 12 months of receiving the grant.

Ready to Make a Difference?

Apply today for the Creative Neighborhoods Grant and help bring art, culture, and community spirit to your neighborhood!

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS JANUARY 31, 2025

Visit VirginiaBeach.gov/ArtsGrants to apply. Questions? Email artsinfo@vbgov.com.



@VABEACHARTS #VBARTS



UNLOCK YOUR ARTISTIC POTENTIAL with the Virginia Beach Individual Artists Support Grant!

Are you an artist looking to grow your career and showcase your talent?

The Virginia Beach Individual Artists Support Grant is here to provide resources that help you develop your work, expand your portfolio, and connect with the community!

Virginia Beach is committed to fostering a vibrant arts scene by investing directly in local artists. Through this grant, we aim to empower individual artists to achieve their professional goals and bring unique, inspiring art to our community. Join us in enriching the creative spirit of our city!

GRANT OVERVIEW

This grant is designed to:

- Support artists in creating and showcasing original work.
- Encourage artistic innovation and professional growth.
- Contribute to Virginia Beach's cultural vibrancy.
- Be flexible and accessible to individual artists.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Resident of Virginia Beach (with proof of address).
- Active Artist: Must have created and presented original work to the public within the past 3 years and have a professional portfolio.
- 18 years or older by the application deadline.
- Dedication to New Work: Demonstrate a clear commitment to creating new work.

ELIGIBLE ART FORMS

Visual arts, performing arts (dance, music, theater), digital, film, folk/traditional arts, literature, and more!

Grant funds (up to \$4,800) can support:

- **New Work Completion/Presentation** – Resources to complete and present a major new piece (e.g., supplies, shipping artwork).
- **Career Promotion** – Website development, portfolios, or video documentation of your work.
- **Training** – Tuition for workshops or master classes to build skills.
- **Documentation** – Hiring a photographer or videographer to professionally document your work.

WHAT CAN'T BE FUNDED?

- Personal living expenses (rent, utilities, groceries).
- Fundraising or charity projects.
- Tuition for formal education.
- Commercial manufacturing projects unrelated to approved artistic goals.
- Travel not directly related to your project.

Ready to Take the Next Step in Your Career?

Apply for the Virginia Beach Individual Artists Support Grant and get the support you need to bring your artistic vision to life! Virginia Beach is proud to champion local artists like you in building a vibrant and inspiring community.

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS JANUARY 24, 2025

Visit VirginiaBeach.gov/ArtsGrants to apply. Questions? Email artsinfo@vbgov.com.



@VABEACHARTS #VBARTS

CROATAN BOOK CLUB

Next meeting is on Thursday, January 16, 2025, 7 PM at the home of Kathy Prokopius, 828 Vanderbilt Avenue

BOOK: The Measure by Nikki Erlick

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 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

Croatan Women's Club

Happy New Year! Come learn how to make your closet happy. 😊

REIMAGINE Your Closet

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 6:30

Come See the concept of a
Capsule Wardrobe

555 S Atlantic Ave
RSVP :410-599-9457



Safety/Security – January, 2025

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Security Survey Results and Security Fund
- Be Seen at Night
- Black Ice
- CAC – Next meeting January 8; Personal Safety

Security Survey Results: I want to personally thank everyone who responded to the security survey. The data captured provide the CCL Board with insight into what our neighborhood desires in the way of security.

Acid Test: More than seventy percent of respondents agree that the costs and policies of VBPD’s designated contractor (Off-Duty Management (ODM)) are problematic – i.e., cost-prohibitive for the level of services they desire. However, more than seventy percent also feel that the police presence should continue. A significant number of people suggested looking into private security companies or employing automated systems (discussed later).

Presence vs. Patrol: Survey respondents were equally split between their desire to see a police presence along Croatan Road or having police patrol the neighborhood. We have asked our officers to split their time *by doing both*. We have also asked our officers to focus on crime deterrence versus speeding (which is not to say that the latter will be abandoned) by increasing their patrols during “high-crime vulnerability hours” (i.e., wee hours of the morning). Please do not complain that you do not see them if they’re out after midnight and you’re not. I will also be keeping the pressure on Second Precinct to send periodic patrols through Croatan as their operations in higher crime areas permit.

Private Security Firms: The CCL investigated private security firms as an alternative. While offering a lower hourly rate, the well-respected firms with whom we spoke expressed the desire for us to employ their services full-time. Despite a lower hourly rate, employing a full-time equivalent (FTE) (i.e., 2,000+ hours) would triple the annual cost requirement to approximately \$60,000. The CCL Board of Directors has discussed this and agrees that we simply cannot afford an FTE-level of services.

Other factors weigh in against pursuing private security guards. These include (1) guards are not empowered to cite, ticket, detain, or arrest suspects; (2) we cannot guarantee that guards possess the level of training needed to de-escalate situations; (3) the fallback action for guards confronted with a difficult situation, is the same as any citizen – call 9-1-1; (4) the potential liability to CCL by employing private security is immeasurable.

A hybrid alternative that may be available is to contract with a private security firm to park a marked (unmanned) car in a visible location (e.g., Croatan Road). Some have suggested that this presence is sufficient deterrence, but we have not seen data to support that assertion, nor does CCL Board think that this would be effective in the long run as a vehicle’s stationary, unmanned presence would soon become evident. Still, it is a consideration.

Automated Security Systems: Some respondents suggested that CCL obtain and position automated monitoring systems within the neighborhood. The logical location for these would be Croatan Road – our neighborhood’s single route of ingress/egress. If the systems are to be solar powered (versus siphoning off someone’s electricity), the best location would be east of Christine Drive/Kerry Lane, as any

closer to the esses at our entrance is shaded. Additionally, we'd have to piggyback off of a nearby resident's Wi-Fi signal. That's a big "ask." Regardless, such systems are reactive only in that they record suspected misdeeds or arriving/departing vehicles. Their ability to proactively deter crime can't really be measured because you cannot measure intent or something that does not occur

Alternatively, many residents already have home security systems, whether smart-doorbells or more sophisticated camera/alarm systems. While CCL can encourage their purchase and use, it remains an individual decision whether to employ such systems. These systems represent "defense in depth" and residents are asked to share any video they capture of nefarious activity with police. (Croatan does have a sign near our entrance citing video surveillance use).

Neighborhood Watch: The VBPD does have a Neighborhood Watch Program ([Neighborhood Watch Program | City of Virginia Beach](#)) but it has suffered from dwindling participation in recent years; in part due to training and reporting requirements (e.g., neighborhoods should not exceed 250 households, 60% of households must participate in the program; each group of 20 homes must have a block captain), that seem (IMHO) overly burdensome. Since the program stipulates that participants are to "observe and report suspicious activity to VBPD" and "not physically intervene or attempt to detain suspects," I do not see that changing much from what we already have among our concerned neighbors.

Future of Security Fund: In response to the overwhelming desire (> 70%) of residents, CCL has little choice but to continue to employ (at least in the near-term) off-duty VBPD officers through the ODM contractor system. Doing so establishes a Security Fund "bogey" of approximately \$22,000 for 2025. If every CCL member (and even nonmember residents) contributed just \$100, we'll make that budget level handily and have the flexibility to expand services, if necessary. The Security Fund is a cooperative insurance policy for our neighborhood of high-6 and 7-figure homes – a "C-Note" apiece should not break anyone's piggy bank.

Be Seen at Night: I was startled the other evening as a black dog and owner (in dark clothing), both without reflectorized or lighted garments, appeared in my headlight beam, way too close for comfort to either of us. Although we are now getting longer hours of sunlight, it is still dark out there. Please ensure that you and your pup can be seen.

Black Ice: When the ambient temperature is at or below freezing (32° F), pavement dampened by dew, fog, or precipitation can acquire a glaze of ice that is not always visible. If the road looks wet, test for the presence of ice by braking while driving slowly in the neighborhood.

Be mindful that even on sunny days, elevated roadbeds, bridges, roadways in shadow, or the edges of curves may be slick even when the rest of the road seems clear. Drive cautiously and defensively. If you skid, ease off the throttle and steer into the skid – do **NOT** mash on the brakes, even if they are anti-lock. Final note: Clear all windows before you drive – you can't avoid what you can't see.

Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC): The next CAC meeting will be held on January 8, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the conference room of Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad #14, 740 VB Blvd (17th Street). Please park on the east side of the building. CAC meetings are open to all.

Personal Safety and Antiterrorism: We were all shocked to hear of the mass-casualty event in New Orleans and sensationalized suicide in Las Vegas on New Year's Day. Although, current news reports suggest that the latter was an individual statement vice an attempt to inflict mass casualties, the former certainly was not. Couple this with the large cache of explosives recovered recently by FBI in nearby Isle of Wright County and the ongoing political discord in the country, the suggestion that home-grown and/or

radicalized extremists are out there is not untoward. Exercise increased caution around large venues and “soft targets” – like shopping malls, concerts, etc. If you see something, say something.

M. C. “Connie” Agresti,
 CCL Safety and Security Director

Security Patrol Hours, 2025 Estimate

Month	2023 Hours	Cost @ \$65	2024 Hours	Cost @ \$65
Jan	15	\$ 975.00	10	\$ 650.00
Feb	15	\$ 975.00	10	\$ 650.00
Mar	15	\$ 975.00	10	\$ 650.00
Apr	20	\$ 1,300.00	10	\$ 650.00
May	25	\$ 1,625.00	20	\$ 1,300.00
Jun	45	\$ 2,925.00	35	\$ 2,275.00
Jul	45	\$ 2,925.00	35	\$ 2,275.00
Aug	45	\$ 2,925.00	35	\$ 2,275.00
Sep	30	\$ 1,950.00	25	\$ 1,625.00
Oct	25	\$ 1,625.00	15	\$ 975.00
Nov	15	\$ 975.00	10	\$ 650.00
Dec	15	\$ 975.00	15	\$ 975.00
Totals	310	\$ 20,150.00	230	\$ 14,950.00

Neighborhood Contacts

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

Welcome Wagon

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



if you know of new
 Croatan neighbors

Book Collection

Betty Rosignolo
 760 Virginia Dare Drive
 437-8662; rbrosignolo@cox.net
 For Sentara Virginia Beach Hospital Auxiliary

Magazine Collection

Michele Speight,
 Teen Crisis Intervention
 549 Bushnell Drive
 428-7947msp8@cox.net

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
M.C. "Connie" Agresti	Director, Security, Citizen's Advisory Committee
Frank Borum	Director, Traffic Mgmt.
Kathy Donahoe	Director, Newsletter
Jim Ferrera	Director, VBCCO, Directory, Membership
Bill Garvey	Past President, By-Laws

Croatan Civic League Board of Directors

Name	Title
Cheryl Garvey	Director, Welcome Wagon, Landscaping
Katie Ripberger	Director, Logo wear, Social Activities
Amanda Robinson	Social Activities, Children's Programs
Amber Torgensen	Director
Eileen Wren	Director