



# THE CIVIC

## New Bern Civitan Club's Award Winning Newsletter



Chartered October 4, 1956

Celebrating our 61st Year

December 1, 2017

### Christmas Season Begins

Christmas Trees arrived Thursday, November 16. They were unloaded from the truck and stacked in place on the lot. Then wreathes began to be made.



## DECEMBER CIVITAN BIRTHDAYS

Eileen	Buscemi	December 01
Mickie	Wittmeyer	December 03
Irving	Geary	December 07
Sandra	Cottuli	December 08
Richard	Robusto	December 12
Niles	Compton	December 13
Warren	Smith	December 14
Mae	West	December 16
Bonnie	Burch	December 18
Van	Rice	December 22
Helen	Shine	December 29

## DECEMBER CIVITAN ANNIVERSARIESS

George	Sawyer	December 1981
William	McClinton	December 1989
Jeff	Williams	December 1997
Bob	Donnelly	December 2004
Steve	Hannan	December 2006
Doug	Foster	December 2009
Sharyn	Foster	December 2009
Clark	Saylor	December 2009
Warren	Smith	December 2009
Mary	Dougherty	December 2010
Tommaso	Serra	December 2012
Judy	Lewis	December 2013
Linda	Johnson	December 2015
Irving	Geary	December 2015
Mitch	Harriett	December 2016
Peggy	Marcus	December 2016
Robert	Marcus	December 2016



## The Civitan Creed

**I am Civitan:** as old as life, as young as the rainbow, as endless as time.

**My hands** do the work of the world and reach out in service to others.

**My ears** hear the cry of children and the call throughout the world for peace, guidance, progress and unity.

**My eyes** search for others to join in the fellowship and service of Civitan.

**My mouth** utters the call to daily duty and speaks prayers in every tongue.

**My mind** teaches me respect for law and the flag of my country.

**My heart** beats for every friend, bleeds for every injury to humanity and throbs with joy at every triumph of truth.

**My soul** knows no fear but its own unworthiness.

**My hope** is for a better world through Civitan.

**My motto:** builders of good citizenship.

**My belief:** do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

**My pledge:** to practice the Golden Rule and to build upon it a better and nobler citizenship.

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Jan Snyder

### PRESIDENT ELECT

### VICE PRESIDENT

Tommaso Serra

### SECRETARY

Jan Manning

### ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Judy Marco

### TREASURER

Van Allen Rice

### ASSISTANT TREASURER

Karen Betz

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Dev Lippitt

### DIRECTORS

#### One Year

Jody Hudson

Irv Geary

Norma Judd

Bill Snyder

#### Two Year

Eileen Buscemi

Judy Lopez

Gattis Williams

Susan Husson

New Bern Civitan Club Web Page  
[www.newberncivitanclub.org](http://www.newberncivitanclub.org)  
 North Carolina District East Web Page  
<http://www.ncdecivitan.org/>  
 Robert Brock, THE CIVIC Editor  
 Email: [robertgbrock@yahoo.com](mailto:robertgbrock@yahoo.com)

# ***New Bern Civitan Club***

## **December 2017 Calendar**

- 1 **Friday** **Work Continues on Christmas Tree Lot—Contact Gary Todd**
- 1 **Friday** **Christmas Lunch at Garber UMC –Lunch Served at 11:30  
Garber Choral Group will entertain at 12:00**
- 2 **Saturday** **Peanut Sales at Farmer’s Market—Contact Joe Jdd**
- 2 **Saturday** **Ring Bells for Salvation Army at Haris Teeter—Contact Norma Judd**
- 4 **Monday** **Santa Land at Christmas Tree Lot**
- 5 **Tuesday** **Santa Land at Christmas Tree Lot**
- 7 **Thursday** **Evening Social Meeting—Dinner on your own– Meet at Bank of the  
Arts, 317 Middle Street at 6:30pm –Free Concert at 7:00pm—  
After Concert go to Prohibition, 243 Craven St. for Coffee, Drinks,  
Snacks , or desserts**
- 9 **Saturday** **Peanut Sales at Farmer’s Market—Contact Joe Judd**
- 9 **Saturday** **Ring Bells for Salvation Army at Haris Teeter—Contact Norma Judd**
- 11 **Monday** **Board Of Director’s Meeting at Unitarian Church –2-4pm  
RCS Shelter Dinner—Contact Maureen Comer**
- 12 **Tuesday** **RCS Soup Kitchen—Contact Cindy Scalion**
- 15 **Friday** **Lunch Meeting at Hibachi— 11:30 Lunch. 12:00 Meeting  
Speaker: Steven Aster, Craven County Special Olympics Coordinator**
- 16 **Saturday** **Peanut Sales at Farmer’s Market—Contact Joe Jdd**
- 23 **Saturday** **Peanut Sales at Farmer’s Market—Contact Joe Jdd**
- 25 **Monday** **Christmas Day –*MERRY CHRISTMAS***

## PROTECT YOURSELF



John Bason

The guest speaker at our November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting was **John Bason** from the Public Protection Section of the North Carolina Attorney General's Office. His topics included how to protect yourself from scams and identity theft. "Scammers play on three basic human emotions – fear, sympathy and excitement," John stated. Scammers often try to rush you into deciding or try to scare you to get you to do what they want. His best advice to consumers – "Never give out personal or account information to people you don't know or trust."

Scams come in many disguises. They can be telemarketing scams, sweepstakes scams, health care scams, government imposter scams, investment scams, charity scams or home construction and repair scams. Each of these has a different slant on how to defraud a customer but the result is the same – you lose your hard-earned money. You may get more information on scams by going to the NC Dept. of Justice website at [www.ncdoj.gov](http://www.ncdoj.gov) or by calling 1-877-566-7226. Take your time. Do some serious research before jumping into any unfamiliar "deal."

Another topic of interest to all of us is Identity Theft. Mr. Bason made many suggestions in this area –

Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet or print it on checks

Never reveal your SS number to anyone unless absolutely necessary

You are entitled to one free credit report every year – check it. Go to

[www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)

Set up a free security freeze. More info at [www.ncdoj.gov/creditfreeze](http://www.ncdoj.gov/creditfreeze)

Destroy documents you no longer need – shred them

Monitor your finances

Protect your information online

Set strong passwords and protect them

Protect your e-mails

Protect your mail

John's last discussion was about the recent Equifax breach where the personal information about 145 million Americans, 5 million of them in North Carolina, was hacked. All of us need to keep a vigilance on our bills and charge accounts to ensure that unauthorized fees are not being put on our accounts.

For more information on any of these topics go to the website for the Dept. of Justice listed above. We hope to have John Bason back soon to update us on things we need to know to protect ourselves against unscrupulous predators.



Maureen Comer presents John Bason with a gift basket and a Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation..

## STILL TIME TO VISIT SANTA LAND AND...

By the time December's CIVIC is published, Santa Land will have seen children for two days. You still have a chance to visit Santa Land and interact with the children in the Craven County Pre-K program by stopping by the Tree Lot on either December 4 or 5 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. MANY Civitans make this program possible by donating hats, gloves, scarves, stuffed animals, money, books, and Christmas bags. Many more of you volunteer your time to be "elves" helping with the children who come to see Santa. Don't forget, "It STILL takes a village to raise a child!" You are a welcome "village" to these kids.

The tree lot will still be open in December so please be generous with your time in "manning" the lot to sell trees, wreaths and peanuts. The Farmers Market peanut sales will continue Saturdays throughout December. Civitans are needed to sell these peanuts, also.

Wreath making will continue until the lot is closed. Volunteers are needed to cut branches to make the wreaths. Chairman Dev will be on the lot most days starting at 11 a.m. Please help him make this year's wreath sales as much of a success as last year.

Christmas will be here sooner than we know. We will all enjoy the holiday with family and friends. Some people are not as fortunate and as Civitans we recognize this fact and we do all we can to help those in need during this season and throughout the year. The tree lot and peanut sales are our biggest fund raiser so please do all you can to support the Club's many worthwhile charities.



Students Exiting the Bus



Students Lining Up to see Sana



Each Class poses for group picture



Each class poses for group picture



Each class poses for group picture



Each class poses for group picture



Santa has many helpers



Santa has many helpers



Santa has many helpers



Helpers Make pictures of each child on Santa's lap.



## Civitan Evening Social Meeting

On Thursday December 7, There will be an evening social meeting After dinner on your own, Meet at the *Bank of the Arts* at 317 Middle Street at 6:30-6:45 for a free concert by the Craven Community College Chorus, “Encore”. Performance begins at 7:00 pm. Following the concert, we will go to Prohibition, 243 Craven Street, for coffee, drinks, snacks, and/or deserts.



## **Craven County Veteran's Council**

### *Civitan Ken Lewis Honored*

One of our Civitans, Ken Lewis, was honored Thursday November 9 at the Craven County Veteran’s Council luncheon, receiving the Council’s Lifetime Achievement Award. Lewis served in Vietnam with the Air Force Security Police Airman at Tan Son Nhut Air Force Base during Tet in 1968. Congratulate him when you see him. We all thank you for your service, Ken.

### **More Pictures of Christmas Tree Lot**



## HONORING VETERANS AND OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM

A moving and informative Veterans Day meeting was held on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Our own, Ken McCain, a Korean War vet himself, educated the group about the history and origin of our National Anthem. We all sang the first verse of the anthem together and then Ken led us through the 4<sup>th</sup> verse of the anthem which is rarely sung. Many of our members DID know the words and sang along. Thanks to Ken for his research and delivery but most of all for his service to our country, his continued support of the Club and his passion for being a part of Wreaths Across America.



President Jan Snyder presents Bill Fiske with a flower and a Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation.

Our guest speaker was **Bill Fiske** (US Army retired) who happens to be Jan and Bill Snyder's neighbor here in New Bern. Bill is a veteran of 26 years. He entered on active duty on November 19, 1956 and was commissioned as an Ordnance Officer. He was trained in the field of ammunitions and explosives. He was the officer who led his division to the site of the first nuclear bomb accident here in the States, when a bomb fell from a B-47 and landed just outside of Florence, SC in 1958. Later, Bill served for a year in Vietnam.

Bill commanded at all levels from Lieutenant to Lt. Colonel. Following a Pentagon assignment, attendance at the Army War College in Carlisle, PA, and another posting in D.C. as a Federal Fellow at the Brookings Institution, he retired and worked in northern VA for about ten more years before retiring again. He and his wife moved to Oriental in 1990 and then to New Bern in 2006. They had 46 wonderful years together until her passing in 2011. Now Bill keeps busy and wonders how he

ever found time to work for a living.

Bill shared "words of wisdom" with us from his Army days. He said tongue-in-cheek, "Never volunteer; Never walk when you can ride; Never pass up a chance to take a leak!" He reflected positively on his career in the service. He touched upon the tone of some people in the country during the Vietnam War. He shared how he sees how attitudes toward military people have changed over the years. He is frequently told by strangers, "Thank you for your service."

He reminded us that there are many Vets in North Carolina and the US-

- There are 21 million vets in the US
- 10,000 soldiers serving in Iraq and Kuwait
- 10,000 soldiers in Afghanistan
- 4,000 soldiers in Djibouti – guarding against pirate attacks

Organizations helping to support vets are plentiful and they are doing a fine job of helping vets readjust to civilian life. Bill is proud of his service and we thank him for sharing his experiences with us as we attempt to honor on Veterans Day 2017 those who served. God bless our troops and God bless America...