



THE CIVIC

New Bern Civitan Club's Award Winning Newsletter



Chartered October 4, 1956

Celebrating our 67th Year

July 2023

SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

At our afternoon General Membership Meeting on July 14th, you will be asked to approve the following slate of Officers and Board of Directors for the Civitan year which runs from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024.

Officers

President – Dennis Pymm
President-elect – Roy Leonard
Vice President – Cyndi Papia
Secretary – Maureen Comer
Asst. Secretary – Eileen Buscemi
Treasurer – Van Rice
Asst. Treasurer – Amy Willis

One Year Directors (Term Expires Sept. 30, 2024)

Dev Lippitt (replacing Cyndi Papia)
Judy Lopez
Renee Salvatore
Betty Todd

Two Year Directors (Term Expires Sept. 30, 2025)

Alan Craig
Ann Super
Dave Super
Joanne Tello

Past President – Gary Todd

Thank you to the following members who are leaving the Board on September 30, 2023, for their service to our Club – Susie Bare, Eileen Buscemi and Mary Shine Williams. Thank you also to our current Past President, Jim Comer.

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JULY CIVITAN BIRTHDAYS

William	Snyder	July 06
Randy	King	July 06
Jennifer	Potter	July 07
Al	Mack	July 09
Clark	Saylor	July 10
Maureen	Comer	July 20
Joan	Meutsch	July 29

JULY CIVITAN ANNIVERSARIES

NONE

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

Gary Todd

PRESIDENT ELECT

Dennis Pymm

VICE PRESIDENT

Roy Leonard

SECRETARY

Maureen Comer

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Jan Snyder

TREASURER

Van Rice

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Amy Willis

CHAPLAIN

Bill Baldree

ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN

Bill Snyder

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Ken McCain & Dev Lippitt

EDUCATION OFFICERS

Bill Snyder, Helen Shine, Maureen Comer

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Jim Comer

DIRECTORS

One Year

Term Expires

Sept. 30, 2023

Mary S. Williams

Susie Bare

Eileen Buscemi

Pam Kubik

Two Year

Term Expires

Sept. 30, 2024

Betty Todd

Judy Lopez

Cyndi Papia

Renee Salvatore

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INSTALLATION DINNER 2023 - SAVE THE DATE

Did you like last year's "honeymoon chicken" at the Chelsea? Did you like the carrot cake dessert? Well, If so, this year The New Bern Civitan Club Installation Dinner will be on **Thursday evening, September 28, 2023**, at the Chelsea restaurant. At this dinner, we will install the Officers and Board of Directors for the Club for the 2023-2024 year which runs from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024. The dinner will be a plated dinner. Guest speakers and the price of the dinner are still being determined. As always, we will try to keep the cost of the dinner down while still maintaining a festive and special atmosphere.

At this same dinner, we will be honoring the Citizen of the Year and the Civitan of the Year. We ask that all members put this date on their calendar with hopes that many will attend to support our incoming Officers and Board members as well as our Junior Civitan Board and Officers from New Bern High School. In the past, the Chelsea has put on an outstanding dinner for us at a reasonable price. *Please do all you can to make this dinner a success.* Spouses and guests are welcome. More information will be forthcoming.

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, July 4 - Independence Day

Monday, July 10 - RCS Shelter Dinner 6 pm

Monday, July 10 - *Please remember that the Board meeting has been **CANCELLED**.*

Friday, July 14 - NBCC Afternoon Meeting 11:30 am at Paula's Restaurant - Speaker - Rob Paine, Volunteer with Eastern Carolina Alzheimer's Association - Please contact Maureen Comer by July 12 if you will be attending -

Signed up thus far are: Maureen Comer, Jim Comer, Amy Willis, Sandy Hagen - *need more to make our 15 minimum - please sign up*

Thursday, July 27 - NBCC Evening Meeting 5:30 pm at Paula's. Speaker TBA

CC PRE-K AND FAMILY LITERACY DONATIONS

By now, most of you can write or recite this article by heart, as we have been making this collection for about ten years. **But** we do have some recent members who may not be aware of what we are collecting and for whom we are collecting. For some, this is a refresher...for others - an education...

Those enrolled in the Craven County Pre-School and Family Literacy Program (the children we see at Santa Land) must qualify for the program by being physical or mentally disabled or delayed development, limited in English proficiency and economically disadvantaged. We will be assisting these children and families by collecting the following at our July 27th and August 11th meetings.-

Spiral notebooks for the adults in the Family Literacy part of this program. They are in stores now and some are as low as 35 cents each – Walmart, Staples , Roses & others.

Folders with pockets for the children to keep their work in or for notes to go home to parents. Walmart had them for 20 cents each last year.

Children's book bags in sizes 14 to 15 inches for 3- to 5-year-olds. No need to buy any fancy bags with Disney or other designer brand names – they become expensive. We have found a place on-line where we can order 24 backpacks in bulk and the backpacks will then cost about \$3.00. Most store backpacks are \$5.00 or more. If you would like to contribute money toward this purchase, you may make a check out to New Bern Civitan Club for whatever amount you want and give it to either Judy Lopez, Maureen Comer or Van Rice indicating what you want it to purchase. OR – you may buy your own and bring it to either meeting. If you cannot make either meeting, Judy Lopez or Maureen Comer will plan to pick it up from you.

Lap Blankets or Beach Towels for the children's nap times. After lunch, the children lay on floor mats and are covered by these donations. Each child has his/her own for sanitary reasons. We have recently seen lap blankets in Rose's for \$1.99 each. If you go on Wednesday, Seniors get 10% off. Sadly, many of the children's families in this program cannot even afford that.

You know that the prices on these items continue to go up every year so buying these supplies has become even more of a hardship to the families. We can assure you that ALL your donations go to deserving kids and families. And, just so you know, the "Stuff the Bus" initiative for Craven County Schools does not cover this Pre-School Program as it is intended for grades K-12, not for Pre-K.

As always, if you do not want to shop, Judy Lopez or Maureen Comer will shop for you with your donation. Thank you for your generosity.

NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN...AHEAD



The project engineer for the Rt. 70-E bypass plan, Wendi Johnson, was our guest speaker on June 9th. A graduate of North Carolina State University with a BS in Civil Engineering, Wendi has been with NC DOT for over 28 years and as a contractor supporting NC DOT for another five years. She started as a Traffic Engineer in the Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill area for ten years, followed by eighteen years as a Division Construction Engineer. Currently, Wendi is serving in a Senior Construction and Transportation Manager Billet.

The various US-70 upgrades are going to impact our New Bern community. They include the James City project, which involves improving the highway from east of Thurman Road to the Neuse River Bridge; the Havelock Bypass, a four-lane median-divided highway; and the work between the Havelock Bypass and east of Thurman Road. Together, these projects are intended to upgrade the US-70 corridor – the future Interstate 42 – between Raleigh and the Port of Morehead City to interstate standards.

Wendi was very informative about all aspects of the project and covered many aspects of it including:

- ~The road will keep the same footprint but will have many safety improvements.
- ~The service road will remain in parts, and they are meant to pull away traffic from the main road.
- ~A video showed the new traffic patterns.
- ~No work will be done on the road Monday through Friday during daytime hours.
- ~There will be no weekend work from May 15 to September 15.
- ~Barriers put up during construction will reduce shoulder pull offs.
- ~Noise walls for noise abatement will be constructed.
- ~Cellular concrete will be used instead of dirt fill as it will be more efficient and help speed up construction.
- ~The project is currently in phase 1 and there will be 4 phases.
- ~Roundabouts and sidewalks will be constructed in certain areas along the route.

It appears that in the “short run” there will be inconveniences that community members will have to endure. In the “long run” this project will help the economy of our community and our state. Progress often comes with a “price” but now that we understand many of the benefits, it is hoped that we can be tolerant of the temporary aggravations!



Wendi Johnson Tells us about the Changes in US 70 east of New Bern.

President-Elect Dennis Pymm presents Wendi Johnson a can of Civitan peanuts in appreciation for her presentation to our club.



THE LAKE HOUSE: A LOVING ENVIRONMENT

(From the Boys & Girls Homes of NC – Summer Newsletter)

When the Boys and Girls Homes of NC leadership learned of a growing need in child welfare in 2012, they sprang into action to establish a program for teen mothers and their babies. With help from generous donors and the goal of offering a safe place to learn how to parent- while also continuing their own educational pursuits – The Lake House was created. In this program, young mothers, still expecting or having already delivered, come to live on the campus of BGHNC in Lake Waccamaw and co-parent with the skilled, loving cottage staff. The program's purpose of breaking generational cycles and setting the mother and baby up for lifelong success is one not easily achieved, but more than worth the effort it takes.

"We see teens as young as 13 facing this very challenging, scary time in their life, and they're looking for guidance and support that sometimes can't be found within their own family" said Erika Brown, Chief Officer of Residential Programs at the Homes. "We become their family and walk through the journey of motherhood and effective parenting with them."

The first three suites in The Lake House were quickly filled and the program consistently saw success. Having been so in-demand that it required a second cottage with three additional suites and staff, the Lake House II was established in 2014. "This program has not only seen growth but demonstrated success in the mothers and babies we've served, and we're excited to continue offering impactful options to our partners in social work," said President/CEO Marc Murphy. "I'm grateful that we're now able to announce the program's expansion in The **CIVITAN** Lake House on the campus of Boys and Girls Homes." The third cottage open to house new mothers and babies will be the **Civitan Cottage** which faces the shores of Lake Waccamaw from atop a hill. With a groundbreaking ceremony held in 1958, the **Civitan Cottage** was the **first** to be built on campus. A cherished relationship, the **Civilians** of North Carolina have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars and volunteered countless hours of their time toward the mission of BGHNC since its creation in 1954. "We are so excited to see one of our oldest structures receive new life through a growing, necessary program and look forward to witnessing the blessing it will be in the lives of the mothers and children moving in," said Murphy.

Of note, Marc Murphy visited us at our May picnic when we presented the Waccamaw Bundle items to him. He wants to come back shortly and visit one of our meetings so he may share some more information and heart-warming stories of the children. Please be proud of what this Club has done to enrich the lives of these youngsters. We look forward to Marc's next visit.

IT'S INEVITABLE

Getting older is inevitable, but in a world where the word “aging” is usually prefaced with “anti”, it can be difficult to enjoy the process, as normal and natural as it is. Yet, there are many benefits to getting older: With age come experience, wisdom, and an opportunity to live more intentionally and enjoy every day.

With a slight shift in perspective, it's possible to see all the positives that come along with moving up in years. It can be helpful to remember that not everyone gets the chance to age as far into life as others, and that we should cherish the time as we have it. Here are some quotes to help you to appreciate the beauty in life and embrace getting older.

“Know that you are the perfect age. Each year is special and precious, for you shall only live once.”

“Your wrinkles reflect the roads you have taken; they form the map of your life...My face carries all my memories. Why should I erase them?”

“The longer I live, the more beautiful life becomes!”

“Every year brings you closer to expressing your whole and healed self. I celebrate that. Honor it. Hold it in reverence. And I'm grateful for every age I'm blessed to become.”

“You die young, or you get older. There is nothing in between. You may as well enjoy it.”

“The great thing about getting older is that you don't lose all the other ages you've been.”

A quote from Cher: “Some guy said to me, ‘Don't you think you're too old to sing rock n' roll? I said, You'd better check with Mick Jagger.’”

“Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.”

A quote from Warren Buffet: “When you get to be my age, you'll measure your success in life by how many of the people you want to have loved you – actually do love you.”

“We don't stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing”.

“Too many people when they get old think they must live by the calendar.”

“How old would you be if you didn't know how old you were?”

“I have reached an age when if someone tells me to wear socks, I don't have to.”

“Grow old along with me. The BEST is yet to be!”

THINK ABOUT IT!



THE FOOD BANK – “BOOTS ON THE GROUND”

You might remember that Candi Parker, the New Bern Branch Director of the Food Bank, addressed one of our meetings and told us about the efforts of the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina (FBCENC) . Our Club donated \$1000 to the organization which provided 5,000 meals. A promotional matching grant was in effect for the time that we donated, and our \$1000 donation tripled to \$3000 which in turn provided 15,000 meals. With this in mind, Candi offered our Club named sponsorship in the yearly fundraiser, Chef's Feast at Tryon Palace, and gave the Club eight tickets to this Gala which took place on June 22. Club officers and their spouses or guests attended.

As guests, we enjoyed a wide variety of food and drinks, live music, and a live and silent auction. The premiere sponsors for this fundraiser included Food Lion, Captain Ratty's, Carolina East Foundation, Frito Lay, News Channel 12 plus several hometown businesses. The Food Bank recently moved from a 5,000 square foot facility to a 30,000 square foot facility. This Food Bank in New Bern is one of seven branches, within a network of 34 counties. The local branch covers the counties of Craven, Pamlico, Jones, Onslow, and Carteret.

“The NB branch of FBCENC partners with 65 local non-profits and churches,” said Candi. “Since June of last year, the Food Bank has provided over six million pounds of food to our partner agencies directly from the NB branch; an additional 2.5 million pounds of food has been distributed from local retail grocers we work with. We also work with local farmers, corporate brands, and federal and state programs. We consider ourselves to be **‘boots on the ground’** in serving those suffering from food insufficiencies in the areas that we serve.”

Some other interesting statistics include

Local master gardener's organizations have donated over 8,000 pounds of produce per year for several years.

Since June of last year, the Food Bank has logged 3,541 volunteer hours.

In 2022, the Food Bank provided 97,159,166 pounds of food distributed.

80,965,970 meals provided.

695,622 kids' meals provided through the Kids Programs

.97 cents of every dollar collected goes directly to providing food to the communities served.

This “Chef's Feast” raised over \$75,000 through ticket sales, both auctions and attendee's individual donations. It was a fun night for a very worthy cause. “In 2020, Feeding America named us the #1 food bank of the year, and we are a four-star rated charity on Charity Navigator,” said Candi. “We are good stewards of our dollars, donations and initiatives.” If you want to learn more about this charity, visit them at www.foodbankcenc.org

4TH OF JULY TRIVIA



Did you know that:

The Liberty Bell is tapped 13 times on July 4th.

Massachusetts was the first state to make July 4th an official state holiday.

Coney Island hosts a famous hot dog-eating contest every year on July 4th.

There have been 27 different versions of the US flag.

Former President Barack Obama's older daughter was born on the Fourth of July.

John Hancock was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence.

Minions: The Rise of Gru holds the record for the highest film opening over the 4th of July weekend.

President Zachary Taylor died after falling ill at a July 4th celebration.

Apple pie has been a staple American dessert since the 1700s.

Bristol, Rhode Island has the longest running 4th of July parade.

Betsy Ross is often credited with sewing the American flag, but it is not officially known WHO sewed the first flag.

John Adams predicted that Independence Day would be a huge celebration for many generations to come.

Independence Day was once celebrated on July 5th as the holiday fell on a Sunday in 1779.

Three US presidents have died on the 4th of July – James Monroe, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson.

The 50th star was added to the American flag on July 4th, 1960 (Hawaii).

Americans consume a lot of hot dogs on July 4th – about 150 million!

Only two men signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776 – the rest of the delegates signed within a few weeks after.

There are approximately 16,000 Independence Day fireworks displays that take place each year.

When we look at the costs, Americans spend over \$1 billion on fireworks every 4th of July.

July 4th wasn't an official holiday until almost 100 years after the Declaration of Independence was signed.

There were only about 2.5 million people living in the US in 1776.

Hospitals receive a surplus of patients on July 4th due to fireworks-related injuries.

Our national anthem wasn't "The Star-Spangled Banner" until 1931.

The One World Trade Center in New York was designed to be 1,776 feet tall.

The Liberty Bell has not been rung since 1846.

The first newspaper to print the Declaration of Independence was the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*.

George Washington celebrated the 4th of July in 1778 even though he was at war.

It was once considered disrespectful to keep your business open on the 4th of July.

There is one US president who was born on the 4th of July – Calvin Coolidge.

A time capsule was buried by Paul Revere and Sam Adams on July 4, 1795.