



THE CIVIC

New Bern Civitan Club's Award Winning Newsletter



Chartered October 4, 1956

Celebrating our 67th Year

November 2023

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT PAULA'S

Our annual Christmas Holiday party at Paula's Restaurant will be on Friday, December 8th at 11:30 am. Put this date on your calendar. It will be after the tree lot sales are done but we still will be selling peanuts at the Farmers Market until they are sold out. It is also the Friday before we start our yearly Santa Land. It will be a buffet which will include chicken parmigiana, stuffed shells, lasagna, salad, bread, soft drinks, and dessert – homemade carrot cake. The cost per person will be \$22 – (same as last year) a real bargain for all this food!!! We are working on some other surprises for this party – stay tuned! Make your reservations by contacting the Club secretary, Maureen Comer at maureencomer0720@gmail.com or phone 252 636-2217. Make your checks payable to the Club and give to Van Rice. **Deadline is December 2nd**. (The owner of Paula's, Roberto, needs time to order the right amount of food).

You won't want to miss these festivities, as well as celebrating the season with old and new Club friends. Spouses, guests, and significant others are more than welcome. Our next meeting will not be until after the New Year on January 12, 2024, at 11:30 am at Paula's.

If transportation is an issue, let Jim Comer know, and he will arrange a ride to and from the party. Sign up NOW. All of you have earned this party with the challenging work you have done and will do to make this another successful Civitan year. Remember to "join us in the fellowship and service of Civitan" as well as the **fun!**



NOVEMBER CIVITAN BIRTHDAYS

Robert	Marcus	November 05
Woody	Besser	November 12
Charles	Gilliken	November 15
Mary	Dougherty	November 25
Fred	Ohsol	November 26

NOVEMBER CIVITAN ANNIVERSARIES

Judy	Lopez	November 2009
Gary	Todd	November 2011
Kathy	Landis	November 2019
Mary	Traina	November 2019
Susie	Bare	November 2020
Dennis	Pymm	November 2021
Randy	Beltz	November 2021

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

Dennis Pymm

PRESIDENT ELECT

Roy Leonard

VICE PRESIDENT

Cyndi Papia

SECRETARY

Maureen Comer

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Eileen Buscemi

TREASURER

Van Allen Rice

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Amy Willis

CHAPLAIN

Bill Baldree

ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN

Jim Comer

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Ken McCain & Dev Lippitt

EDUCATION OFFICERS

Helen Shine, Maureen Comer

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Gary Todd

DIRECTORS

One Year

Term Expires

Sept. 30, 2024

Dev Lippitt

Renee Salvatore

Judith Lopez

Betty Todd

Two Year

Term Expires

Sept. 30, 2025

Alan Craig

Dave Super

Ann Super

Joanne Tello

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ANGELS AGAIN



buyers.

We are participating again this year in the DSS Christmas Angels Program, Chairperson, Judy Lopez, has gotten the names of foster children in the Department of Social Services foster care program. Children make out their Christmas Wish List and these lists are given to individuals who want to shop for these youngsters. Judy got the names of ten children and offered them to our membership. They were quickly snatched up by some generous

The Club has a fund to help offset the cost of the gifts. Each bargain hunter is allowed \$125 to shop. If they spend over that amount, they pick up the tab on their own. MOST shoppers fall into this category. When gifts are bought, they are then taken to the DSS office on Neuse Blvd. by early December. Gifts are to be unwrapped and then Santa and his elves can deliver them to the children close to Christmas.

This year, the following members have volunteered to shop for the children:

Cyndi Papia Wendy Fleming Alan Craig Annette Silver

Susie Bare Betty Todd/Joanne Tello Ben St. John

Judy Lopez Eileen Buscemi Roy/Marie Leonard

Thank you to all our shoppers. Your time and effort for all these youngsters certainly helps to brighten their holiday season.

TRIVIA

1. One Tequila, Two Tequila, Three Tequila... Floor.
2. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
3. If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes.
4. What if there were no hypothetical questions?
5. If a deaf child signs swear words, does his mother wash his hands with soap?
6. If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation?
7. Is there another word for synonym?
8. Where do forest rangers go to "get away from it all".
9. If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?
10. Would a fly without wings be called a walk?

Labor Day Weekend Rib Fundraiser

For the first time in several years, we fell short of pre-orders for our usual 160 racks. But we did sell the 136 racks that we bought and cooked. Due to another decrease in the price of pork, we cleared over \$1,500.

Thanks to Peggy and Bob Marcus, Jim and Maureen Comer, Norma and Joe Judd, Dave and Ann Super, Frank Court, and Eileen Buscemi for their donations to pay for 12 racks of ribs which were accompanied by potatoes prepared by Maureen and delivered to RCS.

We had 18 members who helped me by volunteering their own time to this effort. Danny Creel (owner/operation of Piggly-Wiggly) once again tended to the "slow-cook" process.

Thank you to the following members of the "Rub" team:

Tim McLear, Bob Husson, Judy Lopez, Frank Court, Fred Ohsol, Betty Sweeney

The "Sales" team consisted of Tim McLear, Ben St. John, Roy Leonard, Van Rice, Mary Traina, Cyndi Papia, Dennis Pymm, Eileen Buscemi, Jim and Maureen Comer.

We also continued our delivery service to Taberna and Carolina Colours under the leadership of Fred Ohsol.

We are grateful once again to Danny and Chris Creel for conducting the cooking and to all the Members who helped sell the ribs to their friends and neighbors.

Randy King



Dennis and Mary Deliver



The Rub Team



Mary and Eileen Count the Money



The Rub Team In Action

THE CIVIC

A BUSY TWO MONTHS FOR CIVITANS

November and December are very busy months for everyone, especially Civitans. Your help and support during these months are vital to the health of our Club. Below is a calendar of events. Please make note of the times and dates.

NOVEMBER

Saturdays, Nov. 4, 11, 18 and 25 – Peanut Sales at the Farmers Market 8 am to 2 pm.
Contact Marie Leonard marieleonard25@hotmail.com

Friday, Nov. 10 – NBCC Afternoon Meeting 11:30 am at Paula's Speakers from Craven/Pamlico Animal Services. Contact Maureen Comer if attending maureen-comer0720@gmail.com

Monday, Nov. 13 – Board of Directors Meeting at Garber UMC 1 pm
RCS Shelter Dinner 6 pm

Thursday, Nov. 16 – Tree Lot set up Rain date – Friday, Nov. 17 Questions? Contact Gary Todd thetoddfamily10@gmail.com

Thursday, Nov. 23 – **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!** – no Civitan meeting

Monday, Nov. 27 – Christmas trees delivered.

Tuesday, Nov. 28 to Thursday, Nov. 30 – Wreath making.

DECEMBER

Saturdays, Dec. 2, 9, 16, and 23 – Peanut Sales at the Farmers Market 8 am to 2 pm
Contact Marie Leonard marieleonard25@hotmail.com

Friday, Dec. 1 to Sunday, Dec. 3 – Tree lot open from 9 am to 6 pm Sign ups led by Randy King rkingnewbern@gmail.com

Wednesday, Dec. 6 to Thursday, Dec. 7 – Decorating Santa Land Contact Maureen or Jim Comer maureencomer0720@gmail.com jmcom7272@embarqmail.com

Friday, Dec. 8 – NBCC Christmas Party – noon – at Paula's – Italian buffet feast! \$22 Spouses/Guests welcome! Sign up with Maureen Comer maureen-comer0720@gmail.com

Monday, Dec. 11 – RCS Shelter Dinner and Christmas Party 6 pm

Monday, Dec. 11 to Thursday, Dec. 14 – Children coming to Santa Land – exact times to be determined.

Monday, Dec. 25 – **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

THE CIVIC

DEAR VETERAN...



Jan Snyder brought an idea to the Board of Directors in October. The Board enthusiastically approved the project, and the information was brought to the members at the first October membership meeting. This project costs the Club no money. It is voluntary. But we believe it will brighten the lives of men and women who have done so much for all of us. We are asking members to write cards, letters or notes to veterans who reside in the Veterans Home in Kinston, NC. You can then bring what you have written to the meeting in November or December. Jan will collect the “mail” and her neighbor, Doug Foster a former President of our Club, will deliver them in person to the Home in Kinston.

The notes should be generic as they are not sent to specific residents. The envelopes should not be sealed. You should just sign your first name, or your first name followed by the New Bern Civitan Club. It might be “in season” to make your notes appropriate to Veterans Day (November 11) Thanksgiving (November 23), or in December for Christmas.

“Why?” – you might ask. Because many service people enjoy getting mail. They need to know that we, as Americans, appreciate their service to our country. Residents of the Home in Kinston may have served in WWII, Korea, Viet Nam, Iraq, Afghanistan, or they may have just served at any time. There are many organizations throughout our country who are doing this for retired and active service people. WE will be keeping our “mail” local. Not sure what to write? How about...

“Thank you for your service. Please know that you are appreciated and recognized as someone who helped protect our freedom.”

“Thank you for all you have done to serve our country. It is very much appreciated.”

“Thank you and your family for your service and sacrifice.”

“To all those who have served, there are not enough words of gratitude.”

“Without your service in the armed forces, I wouldn’t be here writing this letter to you right now. Freedom can be taken for granted, but it is one of the most important things in the world.”

“You are a wonderful asset to our country.”

These are just some examples. The message does not have to be long. This very simple gesture may brighten the life of someone who has served our country during war or peace time. We need to let them know we care and are grateful. Please make every effort to do at least one note or card for November or December. If you can do more – great! Your efforts will not go unnoticed by some very special people residing in Kinston. Thank you!

SERVICES FOR SENIORS IN NEW BERN

Alissa Andrews Brown, Craven County Senior Services Director, is a long-time resident of New Bern having moved here when she was in grade school. She attended UNC at Wilmington and studied Criminal Justice, Biology, and Forensic Science. She started working at the Craven County Senior Services in 2016 as a receptionist. In January 2019 she took over as Director when the previous director retired. She says, "I fell in love with the Center very early when I started working there. I've loved my time here and hope to have many more serving the Seniors of Craven County."

The **Senior Center**, located at 811 George Street in New Bern, is open Monday to Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. It is part of Craven County Social Services. The Center offers activities and health promotion programs. Activities include arts and crafts, coffee and social time, computer aid and Wi-Fi, billiards, Tai Chi, cards, bingo and more. Health Promotion programs include Yoga, chair exercises, core workout, nutritional guidance, and seasonal walking groups. Support groups and dinners are available for caregivers of some Seniors.



A large part of the Center's time and budget is spent on home delivered meals. This is a service that provides a well-balanced, nutritious meal to the at-risk, frail older adults who are 60 years of age or older. This program is funded by the Home and Community Care Block Grant – a federal grant that funds many different programs throughout the country. The purpose of the program is to provide one-third of the daily nutrition that an older adult requires. For some Seniors, this program is a solution to maintaining their independence. It allows many to remain in the comfort of their own homes longer. Home delivered meals have given families peace of mind knowing their loved ones are able to receive a nutritious meal every weekday. An average of 150 meals are served Monday to Friday throughout Craven County. Unfortunately, there is a waiting list to get into this program. Admittance is judged by need. More funding may soon become available to get even more Seniors into the program.

The Senior Center is always looking for volunteer drivers for Meals on Wheels, donations for Bingo and any items crafted that can be donated for sale at the Fall Craft Bazaar. You may find out more information about this project by going to their website at www.ccseniorservices.weebly.com

We thank Alissa, her staff, and volunteers for all they are doing for our wonderful senior citizens!



SHERIFF'S DEPUTY HONORED

In mid-October, the Club again presented its Community Award to an outstanding member of the Sheriff's Department. And again, this presentation was organized and administrated by our Chairperson, Helen Shine, who does not even remember for how long she has overseen this mission. However long it has been, Helen, the Club appreciates all your efforts in this yearly endeavor. More recognition of community heroes is coming in November as we will be honoring members of the NB Police Department, the NB Fire Department, and a member of the Department of Social Services Foster Parents Program.

This year, Sheriff Chip Hughes, recommended Kortlyn Templin. Kortlyn joined the Craven County Sheriff's Department in July 202 after serving for a year and a half with the Carteret County Sheriff's Department. Since joining, he has served as a Criminal Patrol Bureau Deputy for three years and has been awarded commendations for exemplary performance of duty on three different occasions. In September 2023, he was promoted to Investigator with the Criminal Investigation Bureau.

Kortlyn is a June 2014 graduation of New Bern High School and a May 2018 graduate of East Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He resides in New Bern. He offered thanks to our Club and his fellow officers who attended the ceremony for this honor and for the support and encouragement of Sheriff Hughes and the other members of the department.

Helen Shine made the presentation along with Sheriff Hughes. President-elect, Roy Leonard and Vice President, Cyndi Papia, attended the presentation representing our Club. Kudos to all for this honor! We value all the work of law enforcement in our community.- "My mind teaches me respect for law..." It is only right that we commend our dedicated officials.



Pictured (l. to r.) Craven County Sheriff Chip Hughes, Award Winner Deputy Kortlyn Templin, Community Awards Committee Chair Helen Shine

BACKPACK BLESSINGS – OUR QUARTERLY FOCUS



Ruth Powers, Co-Executive Director of Backpack Blessings, has held this position for twelve years. She is a native of New Bern, who taught for many years before retiring. Backpack Blessings is an organization serving eastern North Carolina by feeding children who suffer from food insecurity in their homes. It is a 501C3 non-profit organization, formed in 2012. It partners with area churches and businesses to provide supplemental food for students in Craven, Jones, and Pamlico Counties. It operates from Garber UMC in New Bern. Its goal is to stand in the

gap between kids and hunger whenever they are away from the safety net of the Child Nutrition Programs in their schools. Children normally get free breakfast and lunch at school, but weekends are a struggle for food.

The organization provides weekend a “snack bag” of individually wrapped, kid-friendly foods (mac and cheese, oatmeal, cereal, granola bars, fruit cups, etc.) for at-risk kids to take home with them on the weekends. Backpack currently serves every elementary and middle school in three counties, providing about 950 students with these weekend food bags. That’s 36,000 per year. It also provides monthly food boxes for Backpack Blessings families in the summer, and a holiday meal box when the children are out of school for Christmas break.

Funding is provided by grants and donations. Shopping is also done at Aldi’s and Food Lion as both places are generous and work with the program. Some food is obtained from the Food Bank – some is free, some purchased. When asked about fundraising, Ruth said, “I am proud to state that because of the generous community we live in, no fundraising has been necessary!”

In closing, Ruth announced that on November 13 and 14, volunteers will be gathering at Garber UMC to fill bags and sign up will be online for anyone interested. Go to

www.backpackblessings.com/get-involved



President Dennis Pymm presents Ruth Powers with a can of peanuts in appreciation for her presentation.

GIVING THANKS



As we all anticipate a joyous and thankful holiday season coming up, it is important to keep some raw North Carolina statistics in mind. Most of us are blessed with the love of family, food security, and a roof over our heads. That is not true for all in our great state...some of us are native to this state...others chose this state. For whatever reason that we are here, here are some local statistics ~

NORTH CAROLINA 2020

Population: 10,199,239 Number in Poverty: 1,386,122

Poverty Rate – Gender and Age

Overall – 13.6% Children – 19.3% Working Age Woman – 14.4% Men – 10.8%
ranked 40th ranked 41st ranked 40th ranked 37th.

Poverty Rate - Race & Ethnicity

African/Amer.	Asian/Amer.	Latino	Native Amer.	White
21.5%	7.7%	22.1 %	26.2%	9.4%

Some other interesting stats:

Income Inequality Ratio – 15.3 Ranked 31st – The ratio of the share of income going to the top 20 percent of households and the share of income going to the bottom 20 percent of households.

Unemployment – 3.9% - Ranked 35th – Percentage of workers who were unemployed in 2020.

High School Graduation – 86.3% - Ranked 26th – Percentage of public high school students who graduated on time from 2018-20.

Disconnected Youth – 13% - Ranked 33rd – Percentage of youth 18 -24 without HS degrees who were not in school or working in 2020

Gender Wage Gap – 85.5 cents – Ranked 7th – Women’s median earnings for every dollar of men’s median earnings among full-time, year-round workers.

By the numbers, the five-year figures from 2016 to 2020 American Community Survey reveal 14% of North Carolina residents earned incomes below the federal poverty line - \$12,760 for a single person in 2020.

As Civitans, we are grateful for what we have, but we are always looking to help others in our community and state who are not as fortunate. That is why we fund raise. That is why we volunteer our time to causes. That is why we “reach out in services to others”.

Blessings to all of you during the holiday season. Always remember – we Civitans constantly strive TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD!

13 Carl Sagan Quotes on Life, the Universe, and the Cosmic Perspective

Imagination will often carry us to worlds that never were. But without it we go nowhere.

For small creatures such as we the vastness is bearable only through love.

Our preferences do not determine what's true.

The Universe is not obliged to conform to what we consider comfortable or plausible.

Science is not only compatible with spirituality; it is a profound source of spirituality.

There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known.

Every one of us is, in the cosmic perspective, precious.

The nitrogen in our DNA, the calcium in our teeth, the iron in our blood, the carbon in our apple pies were made in the interiors of collapsing stars. We are made of star stuff.

Exploration is in our nature. We began as wanderers, and we are wanderers still. We have lingered long enough on the shores of the cosmic ocean. We are ready at last to set sail for the stars.

Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives.

Every kid starts out as a natural-born scientist, and then we beat it out of them. A few trickle through the system with their wonder and enthusiasm for science intact.

In meeting people, it's rare that what I'm impressed by is their intelligence. There's much more likelihood that what I'm impressed by is their compassion, their optimism, their sense of humor-things of that sort I find much more compelling.

TURKEY HUMOR

How does a turkey travel? By gravy train.

What do you call a turkey the day after Thanksgiving? Lucky!

What did the turkey say to his real estate agent? Turn-key only.

What sound does a turkey's phone make? Wing-wing-wing

Why did the farmer have to separate the chicken and the turkey? He sensed fowl play.

What did the turkey say to the turkey hunter on Thanksgiving Day? Quack, quack.

Why did they let the turkey join the band? Because he had his own drumsticks.

What happened to the turkey that got into a fight? He got the stuffing knocked out of him.

What do you call a running turkey? Fast food.

Why did the turkey cross the road? He wanted people to think he was a chicken.

What did the turkey say to the computer? Google, google

What do you get if you cross a turkey and a ghost? A poultry-geist.

What kind of weather does a turkey like? Fowl weather.

What did the leftover turkey say? Make me a sandwich.

What is Frankenstein's favorite Thanksgiving dinner? Monster mash potatoes.

What's a turkey's favorite dessert? Peach gobbler.

Why was the Thanksgiving soup so expensive? It had 24 carrots.

What did the mother turkey say to her disobedient children? "If your father could see you now, he'd turn over in his gravy."

Why did the cranberries turn red? Because he saw the turkey dressing.

You know you overdid it on Thanksgiving when you cut yourself shaving and you bleed gravy.

What do you call gossiping with a turkey at the table? A side dish.

What sound does a limping turkey make? Wobble, wobble.

Why didn't the turkey want dessert? Because he was stuffed.

What was the turkey thankful for on Thanksgiving? Vegetarians.

What's a popular Thanksgiving dance? The turkey trot.

If you call a large turkey a gobbler, what do you call a small one? A goblet.

Why are turkeys good at rebelling? They love a coup!

What do turkeys do on Sunday? They have peck-nics.

Why do turkeys gobble? Because they never learned table manners.

And some puns by your drunk uncle after Thanksgiving dinner:

You think Thanksgiving is done? You ain't seen stuffing yet!

More rolls? You butter believe it!

Oh, my gourd, I'm stuffed.

I only have pies for you.

And last, but not feast...My family told me to stop telling Thanksgiving jokes, but I said I couldn't stop.....*Wait for it.....*

Cold turkey!!!