

# The Civic



## Birthdays

Tim McLearn – Aug 9  
 Renee Salvatore– Aug 12  
 Terry Lubsen – Aug 12  
 Mary Williams – Aug 13  
 William McClinton – Aug 19  
 Bill Baldree – Aug 20  
 Dev Lippitt – Aug 20  
 Jeff Williams – Aug 29

## Civitan Anniversaries

Amy Willis – 12 Yrs



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD

10/1/24 – 9/30/25

**President:** Roy Leonard  
**President-elect:** Dennis Pymm  
**Treasurer:** Van Allen Rice  
**Asst. Treasurer:** Amy Willis  
**Secretary:** Maureen Comer  
**Asst. Secretary:** Eileen Buscemi

### Board of Directors

#### One Year – Term Expires 9/30/25

Alan Craig	Dave Super
Ann Super	Joann Tello

#### Two Year – Term Expires 9/30/26

Eileen Buscemi	Mary Dougherty
Buck Irvin	Clark Saylor

The Board of Directors meet on the second Monday of every month at Garber Church at 1 pm in Room 222. ALL Club members are invited to attend and may at any time submit an item to be considered by the Board by sending their inquiry in writing to the Club Secretary, Maureen Comer (MaureenComer0720@gmail.com).

Thank you to all the Officers and Board Members for sharing their valuable time to help govern and steer our Club. There will be a Board of Directors “Social” on Friday, August 23 starting at 3 pm at the home of Eileen Buscemi in Fairfield Harbor. Board members and officers should RSVP yes or no to the Club Secretary by August 16<sup>th</sup>.

# IF WE DON'T GIVE A PERSON A CHANCE, WHAT ARE THEIR CHANCES?



Deborah Kania of “Autismazing” – a local 501C3 organization in New Bern – received a \$500 donation from our Club at our July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Its mission is to improve higher education, employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities for young adults 13-30 years of age on the autism spectrum through financial support, programs and other initiatives.

Autism Spectrum Disorder is a medical condition that affects the brain in approximately 3.5 million people in the U.S. While a person may have a normal physical appearance, autism affects behavior. Autism can make it difficult for a person to interact socially.

Autismazing seeks to increase public awareness of the talents and strengths had by autistic youth and adults. It seeks to advocate on behalf of autistic people who may not have ability to do so for themselves. It looks to provide support to autistic people in their pursuit of higher education, careers, or entrepreneurship (in the form of grants). It looks to educate and support autistic adults in pursuing lifelong independence.

More about people on the autism spectrum:

- 34.7% attend college vs. 69.2% of non-autistic peers.
- 53.4% of 21–25-year-olds have worked after HS.
- Only 20% have full-time employment at \$8.10/hr. (and NO benefits).
- 40% who shared their condition to employers received accommodations or help.
- An estimated 70% unemployment rate vs. 5% national average.

Autismazing looks to CHANGE THESE NUMBERS FOR THE BETTER.

Autismazing has an upcoming “Ice Cream for Breakfast” awareness/fundraiser at Temple Church on August 3 from 8:30 am to noon. Tickets are free but you must sign up on their website for a ticket – **Autismazing.org**.

# REALIZE U 252



What exactly is Realize U 252? We learned that answer at our meeting on July 25 from its Director, Garret Biss. Mr. Biss is a veteran, an award-winning author, and a leader in the addiction recovery industry. He is a retired Marine Corps Pilot, who has turned personal adversity into advocacy after confronting a post-retirement crisis of anxiety, depression, addiction, and thoughts of suicide.

Garret has charted a transformative path of recovery by emphasizing self-worth and resilience. He is the co-founder of a pioneering recovery residence and creator of Valien Path. Garret leads others toward healing and growth. He blends engineering precision with innovation and military leadership to inspire change and offer practical solutions to complete challenges.

His project Realize U 252 in New Bern is a long-term residential recovery home for men in Craven County. Its mission is to empower individuals to realize their potential for long-term recovery from addiction and substance-use disorders. The facility provides a sober living environment for adult males seeking long-term addiction recovery. Residents benefit from peer support, in-house life skills training, with a connection to areas resourced for job coaching, education, and clinical service through community providers.

Dr. Gabor Nate defines addiction this way: "Addiction is when you can't get enough of what you don't want any more." Typical addiction programs support the addict for merely 30 days. The rate of falling back into addiction is exceedingly high with such a short program. What makes RU 252 sober living unique are the benefits of specialized recovery coaching, propriety in-house curriculum, recovery case management, in-house peer support and the freedom to work or take classes. Residents determine their own length of stay. Minimum preferred length of stay is six months. This kind of program usually has an 86% success rate as compared to a 30-day program at 36%.

Spread the word in Craven County that such a program exists in our community. If you want to know more, their website is **[RealizeU252.org](http://RealizeU252.org)**.

# WHAT DO YOU WANT TO HEAR ABOUT?

We have two meetings per month and our President (Dennis Pymm), and our President-elect (Roy Leonard) are doing a superb job of recruiting speakers who are relevant, informative, and interesting.

We have 20 regular meetings per year, not including special events like Installation Dinner (September), only one meeting in November due to Thanksgiving, no regular meetings in December for the Christmas Party, and only one regular meeting in May because of the annual picnic. Of these 20 regular meetings, we will now be using 4 of them – one per quarter – as a business meeting. That still leaves 16 meetings per year for which we need speakers.

That's where **YOU**, our members, come in. We want to hear from **YOU**. What topics are **YOU** interested in? Do **YOU** have a speaker or a topic that **YOU** want to know more about? Can **YOU** help our officers contact speakers? If so, please drop an email to either one of our officers – Dennis (dtpymm@yahoo.com) or Roy (roy\_leonard@hotmail.com).

**Your help would be greatly appreciated. Think about it!**

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## QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETINGS

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, the Club will start presenting to the membership – Quarterly Business Meetings – designed to share with the membership considerations at the Board level, upcoming events, information about committees and to answer any questions any Club member might have about the organization or running of the Club. In the past, we have had business meetings which were immensely popular and informative, but during COVID they were discontinued and did not return...until now.

The Officers and the Board believe it is vital to the health of the Club to make sure there is a forum for members to have input and ask questions. Of course, members do not have to wait until a quarterly business meeting. Members may approach any Club Officer or Board Member with an inquiry and that question can be brought to the attention of the Board for discussion.

If you have any suggestions for topics to be covered at any of these business meetings, please contact Judy Lopez at [jlothejudge@gmail.com](mailto:jlothejudge@gmail.com).

# THE GIS OF THE CITY OF NEW BERN



We received an informative lecture from the City of New Bern's Geographic Information Manager, Alice Wilson, on July 12<sup>th</sup>. She has been in this position for nearly 24 years. Alice has been involved in local governments in planning and geographic information for over 32 years. She has a BS in Urban and Regional Planning with a minor in Geography from ECU and a Master's degree in GIS Science and Technology from NCSU. Alice is also the local government's representative to the NC Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC) and the American Planning Association for NC (APA-NC) for 12 years.

Here are some brief statistics you may not know:

- City of New Bern Population – 32,226 (2023 US Census estimates)
- Craven County Population – 102,391 (2023 US Census estimates)
- City Size – 29.9 square miles
- Number of Streets – 184.25 miles
- Sidewalks – 46.3 miles
- Bike Paths – 11.7 miles

Much more detailed information is available online at New Bern HUB Information. You can learn more about City Development Projects, Storm and Hurricane Preparedness, Resiliency Projects, Commercial Projects, Building Projects, New Housing Growth, Information on the new Stanley White Center, and more.

Here is some hurricane information that was interesting to this writer as both these storms damaged MY home:

- August 2011 – **Irene** 7 feet + surge – 400 structures damaged and \$12 million structural damage.
- September 2018 - **Florence** 10 feet + surge >2000 structures damaged/\$100.2 million structural damage – including 221 Commercial Buildings - \$25 million; 1,724 Homes - \$75 million multiple piers/docks and city offices; loss of jobs, sales/inventory, debris cleanup.

Alice was only able to touch the surface on the wealth of information her GIS stats available to us through the city website can give us. You can find out “almost” anything you are looking for. Thanks for this important and valuable service to our community!



# 2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Club's 2024 Scholarship winners from New Bern High School, which were awarded in May 2024, were: Shalee Wright, Daniel Bradford, Abigail Rodriguez (NBHS Junior Civitan President), Abigail Moore, and Emily Childs (NBHS Junior Civitan Vice President).

Each winner was awarded \$1,000. Three thousand dollars came from our North Carolina Foundation Community fund. Two thousand dollars came from our Club budget.

Thank you to Al Mack for coordinating this effort for many years. Thank you to Frank Court who has assisted in this process for many years. Both are passing off the reins to Jim Comer and Amy Willis who will take over as Scholarship Chairs for the 2025 awards.



# PRE-K SUPPLIES COLLECTIONS CONTINUE TO GROW – 2024

We have one more collection date at our August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting for donations to the Craven County Pre-K and Family Literacy Program for 2024. A new batch of 4-year-olds will start in this program in early September. Before then, directors, teachers, and teaching assistants will visit with the child and his/her family to complete what is needed to start the program.

Many of these families cannot supply “back to school” items for their children and that is how this Club helps. The 15” backpacks help the kids transport books and supplies to and from their homes to the school. The lap blankets are used to cover the children during their half hour nap times – after lunch. The pocketed folders help to send communications from the school to the homes.

Another part of the program involves the parents and guardians who participate in the Family Literacy part of the program. They may be pursuing a GED diploma, looking to learn or improve their English, or asking for help in resume/application forms or job interviewing skills. The spiral notebooks are used in this part of the schedule.

We have made a great start this year through your generosity of items and money. As always, we are grateful for what you have done thus far and what might be donated on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

If you do not want to shop, Judy Lopez and Maureen Comer would be happy to shop for you. If you have items but cannot come to the meeting, let us know and we will pick your items up from you.

In the September NEWSLETTER we will give you a full report of donations and the impact this has on the program. Thank you.

# NBCC EVENTS CALENDAR

**Friday, August 9** – NBCC Afternoon Meeting, 11:30 am at Paula's Restaurant. Speaker: David Rosado, Human Resources Manager for Area Agency for Aging. *If you are planning to attend, please contact Maureen Comer by Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> so she may call in a count to the restaurant.*

**Monday, August 12** – Board of Directors Meeting at Garber Church 1 pm, Rm. 222 Current and Future Board Members please make every effort to attend. There is a lot of planning that needs to be done for the next Civitan calendar year.

**Monday August 12** – RCS Shelter Dinner 6 pm.

**Thursday, August 22** – NBCC Evening Meeting at Paula's Restaurant 5:30 pm. Speaker: Historian Nelson McDaniel on the history of New Bern. *If you will be attending, please contact Maureen Comer by Tuesday, August 20, so she may call in a count to the restaurant.*

**Friday, August 23** – Board of Directors "Retreat" at 3 pm, Chez Buscemi. Officers, Board Members and their guests, please RSVP (yes or no) to Maureen Comer by Friday, August 16.

**We will be collecting items for the Pre-K program at the meeting on August 9.**



## Current Officers

**President:** Dennis Pymm  
**President-Elect:** Roy Leonard  
**Vice President:** —  
**Secretary:** Maureen Comer  
**Assistant Secretary:** Eileen Buscemi  
**Treasurer:** Van Allen Rice  
**Assistant Treasurer:** Amy Willis  
**Sergeant-at-Arms:** Ken McCain & Dev Lippitt  
**Education Officers:** Helen Shine & Maureen Comer  
**Chaplain:** Bill Baldree  
**Assistant Chaplain:** Jim Comer

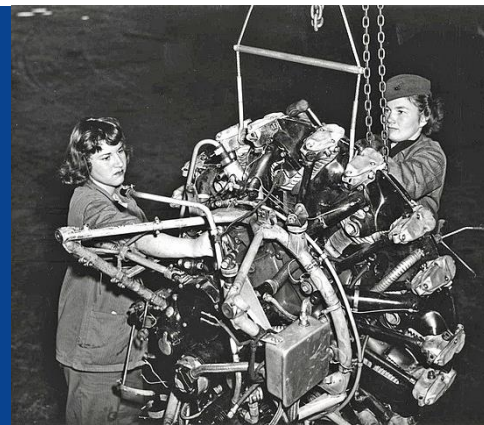
## Current Board

	Term Expires
Judith Lopez	2024
Renee Salvatore	2024
Betty Todd	2024
Dev Lippitt	2024
Alan Craig	2025
Dave Super	2025
Ann Super	2025
Joanne Tello	2025

Webmaster & Social Media:  
Cyndi Papia



# LOOKING BACK AT CHERRY POINT AIRCRAFT HISTORY



Our member, Robert Brock, has been a lifelong resident of eastern North Carolina. He has seen many changes in the area. He is also a student of “history” and in this article, he shares with us some of the history of the US Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point. Read on and learn more about the place where you are living...

Cherry Point was commissioned on May 20, 1942. It was an important and essential part of the base that was created for the aviation purpose of being an Assembly and a Repair Department. Many civilians have been employed in this department and it has been one of the largest employers with a great economic impact on Craven and surrounding counties.

It is interesting to know how this department has grown and has been renamed to reflect its growing and increasing responsibilities over the years.

- The Assembly and Repair Department (**A & R**) was created in 1943.
- The name was changed to the Overhaul and Repair (**O & R**) Department in 1945.
- The name was changed to the Naval Air Rework Facility (**NARF**) in 1969.
- The name was changed to Naval Aviation Depot (**NADEP**) in 1987.
- The name was changed to Naval Air Depot (**NAVAIR**) in 2004.
- The name was changed to Fleet Readiness Center – East (**FRC East**) in 2006.

Although the department name changes are well remembered by long-time Craven County residents, those who have become recent “locals” would be unaware of the name changes and increasing responsibilities of Cherry Point aviation.

For more detailed information about this history, check out the following website, <https://www.NavAir.Navy.Mil/frce/history>.

*Photo: Private First Class Priscilla Goodrich (left) and Private Elaine Munsinger (right) break down an airplane engine in the Assembly and Repair Department at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina, in 1943. From the Marine Corps Women's Reserve Collection (COLL/981) at the Marine Corps Archives & Special Collections.*

# COOL FACTS ABOUT AUGUST



August used to be the sixth month of the year of the Julian Calendar. It was 29 days. Its historical name was Sextilis. In 8 BC, the month was renamed Augustus, to honor the memory of Roman emperor Augustus!

- August was called “Weod monath” in Anglo-Saxon period.
- Leo and Virgo are two-star signs for people born in August.
- Gladiolus and Crimson poppy are the two birth flowers for the month.
- August birthstones are Peridot, Spinel, and Sardonyx.
- August 16<sup>th</sup> is National Rum Day in the US.
- World Mosquito Day is on August 20.
- August 5 is National Underwear Day in the US.
- August 22 is National Tooth Fairy Day.
- August is National Sandwich month.
- August is National Goat Cheese month.
- Ronald Reagan named August the official National Peach month.
- The world’s first roller coaster opened in Coney Island on August 16, 1884
- The longest total solar eclipse of the 20<sup>th</sup> century occurred on August 11, 1999.
- The Wright Brothers’ flight was on August 19, 1909.
- Woodstock was held in August 1969.
- In a regular year, no other month starts on the same day of the week as August. In a leap year, that other quirky month, February, will start on the same day of the week as August.
- The KING, Elvis Presley, died on August 16, 1977 – but you knew that didn’t you Renee and Mark?

*Have a wonderful month!*

# 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.