

The Civic



Birthdays

Barbara McCue - Oct. 6
Janice Synder - Oct. 9
Buck Irvin - Oct. 13
Peggy Marcus - Oct. 15
Dennis Pymm - Oct. 15
Diane Shultz - Oct. 24
Joe Alcock - Oct. 30

Civitan Anniversaries

Al Mack - 39 Yrs
Dave McCracken - 23 Yrs
Robert Brock - 16 Yrs
Norma Judd - 13 Yrs
Randy King - 13 Yrs
Bob Husson - 12 Yrs
Betty Todd - 12 Yrs
Reeshema Walker - 8 Yrs
Annette Silvers - 2 Yrs



CIVITAN OF THE YEAR 2023-2024

This year's Civitan of the Year, Judy Lopez, was long overdue for this award. Why did it take so long? It's probably because she did so many things for the Club silently and without fanfare – that most of us just thought "that's what Judy does" – thoroughly, efficiently, and always with love and caring.

A talented cook, baker, sewer, quilter, knitter and crocheter, Judy uses all these skills in some way in many Civitan projects. For example, she cooks meals for the RCS Shelter Dinner often – baking Christmas cookies and fall pumpkin rolls for the residents. For the Shelter's Christmas party, she coordinates the personal toiletry items for the residents and sews the bags to put them in. She donates and shops for the Summer Pre-K program. She coordinates the DSS Christmas Angel Program. She is an elf at Santa Land. She has been a Board member. She sells peanuts, works on the tree lot, cooks for the Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser, volunteers for Special Olympics, rubs and sells ribs, and the list goes on and on.

Judy is a 24-hour-a day Civitan. She is there with a meal, a dessert, a ride if someone needs one, a smile, a shoulder to cry on, or an arm to lean on. Selflessness is a word that best fits her. Outside of her "Civitan" family, she is a devoted mother to her children, Bernie and Michelle; proud grandma to AJ and Calvin; and proud great grandma to Trynity, Roman, and Devaurye. Yes, fellow Civitans, she is the complete package. Thank you, Judy, for all the work, effort and passion you put into everything you do for the Club. Yes, this award is LONG OVERDUE, but all of us knew you were "the wind beneath our wings," and NOW we have made it official.



SIXTY-EIGHT YEARS AND GOING STRONG



The Club's 68th Annual Installation Dinner was held on September 26, 2024, at the Chelsea Restaurant. A crowd of 66 members, spouses, friends, as well as members of our Junior Civitan Club from New Bern High School attended. The dinner was our "traditional" honeymoon chicken with a dessert of carrot cake decorated with our logo on top.

President Dennis Pymm thanked the members for their support throughout the year of his presidency. He is currently going to function as the President-elect until someone else steps forward to take this position. Certificates were awarded to Al Mack for his many years of service as the Scholarship coordinator and one to Frank Court, in absentia, as a longtime member of that committee. Outgoing Board members Judy Lopez, Betty Todd, Dev Lippitt, and Renee Salvatore also got certificates for their two-year time on the Board of Directors.

Civitan of the Year, 2023-24 went to Judy Lopez for her many years of volunteering in almost every capacity of the Club. Judy's son was in attendance. Citizen of the Year 2023-24 went to community member Ruth Powers, who coordinates many community outreaches especially on behalf of children. Ruth is a retired teacher. Several of her family and friends were there to cheer her on at this reward.

Keynote Speaker was our own Tom Braaten, USMC retired General, and longtime member of the Club, a former Civitan and Citizen of the Year. Tom's message was that volunteering is important and satisfying. He quoted from an article written by one of our late members, Kris Rudzik, about the importance of volunteering in our community. Tom also made a plea for current members to be more active in the leadership of our club and the importance of recruiting new members to aid in the workload.

Former Club President Jim Comer had the honor of swearing in the NBHS Junior Club Officers as well as our Club Officers and Directors. Then the "gavel" was passed from our current president, Dennis Pymm, to our President-elect, Roy Leonard, who presented Dennis with a past president plaque with our Club's appreciation. Roy set some goals he has for the Club and he, too, asked for more members to step up and take leadership roles. Chaplain Bill Baldree closed the meeting with a prayer and Sergeant-at-Arms Dev Lippitt led the closing with the recitation of the Civitan Creed.

We wish the new officers and board members of both clubs a remarkably successful year to come...another year of service to our community!

OH, WHAT A NIGHT



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2023-2024



Norma Judd introduced our Citizen of the Year award to Ruth Powers

Ruth is a lifelong educator and was a teacher for 33 years. She retired in 2011, and that's when her "real" work began. She is the Director of the Kingswood Ministry at Garber Church, where four days per week, eighteen to twenty at-risk students are transported after school for a healthy snack, playtime, devotion, and prayers. They are paired with a church or community volunteer who helps with homework and remedial skills.

Ruth has attended twelve mission trips to Haiti where she has helped in programs for physically or mentally disabled residents. She is co-executive director of Backpack Blessings – a non-profit with the goal of feeding hungry children in Eastern North Carolina.

The program has grown tremendously and is now celebrating their 11th Anniversary, it now services every elementary and middle school in Craven, Pamlico, and Jones counties and serves over 900 children per week. She has expanded this program even further to include a summer food program for families and a holiday program which includes a festive meal for many families. These programs are supported by twenty local churches and civic organizations.

Moreover, Ruth is also a Sunday School Teacher, a member of the Handbells Choir, her church choir, and sings in the "Messiah" and the Craven County Community Choir.

This busy lady finds time for so many community projects that impact children and their families throughout the year. It is an honor to award to Ruth Powers the New Bern Civitan Club Citizen of the Year award.

Thank you, Ruth, for all you do to aid disadvantaged folks in our community.

THANK-YOUS FROM DONATION RECIPIENTS

Periodically, this Newsletter will be sharing more of the letters of gratitude with you – our members – who make all this possible in our community. Be PROUD of what you have helped to do!

You are all aware of our Club's monetary donations to charities in our area. What you might not realize is that we get many thank you notes back from them. Here are some snippets from these organizations:

From RCS Interim Executive Director, Krishanda Jones

"On behalf of Religious Community Services, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your generous support of the Annual RCS Gala. Your sponsorship played a crucial role in the success of this event, and we are thrilled to share that, thanks to your contributions, we met our fundraising goal to provide funds equivalent of more than 20,000 meal for those in need....Thank you once again for being an invaluable part of our RCS family. We couldn't do this important work without your support, and we look forward to continuing this journey together to make a positive change in our community."

From VCHC Coordinator, Christie Arrington

"Thank you for our \$500 donation. Vanceboro Christian Help Center has provided for 32,560 individuals and 12,145 families this year. Your donation has helped to feed these clients."

From the Craven Community College Foundation, President Dr. Raymond W. Staats and Executive Director for Institutional Advancement, Charles Wethington

"We are deeply grateful for the New Bern Civitan Club's generous contribution to the Craven Community College Foundation's Annual Campaign. Your support plays a vital role in helping us uphold the essence of this year's campaign '**Deep Roots, Strong Futures.**' A donation of \$2000 has been designated to Nursing, and the donation of \$3000 to Welding, Electrical and other trades as requested. Thanks to your commitment, we can continue to foster educational excellence and provide opportunities for our students to thrive. Your generosity not only honors our 60-year legacy, but also builds a brighter future for our community. Thank you for being a cornerstone of our success."

NBCC HONORED BY CRAVEN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

President Dennis Pymm and President-elect Roy Leonard attended a gathering at Craven Community College put on by its Foundation to honor and thank those individuals and organizations like ours for the monetary donations to them during 2024. Our Club supports scholarships in Nursing and in the Trades at the Volt Center.



CLUB RETURNS TO BUSINESS MEETINGS

September 13th's Club meeting was a return to a business meeting where information and updates can be shared with the membership. The Board decided to include one Business meeting per quarter for the 2024-2025 Civitan calendar year. Those meetings will be on January 23, 2025; April 24, 2025; July 24, 2025; and September 12, 2025.

Important announcements and updates will still be included in the monthly newsletter as well as in the weekly updates, but the business meeting reports will be more in-depth, and members will be able to ask questions of the chairpersons of the various committees. Here is a summary of each report:

Van Rice – Treasurer's Report: The Club is in good standing financially. Approximately \$25,000 was donated locally and to International including local scholarships to NBHS students and Craven Community College scholarships.

Van Rice – Ramp Report: Nineteen ramps have been built thus far this year. The CarolinaEast Foundation have recommended many. This is a great community service which is very appreciated by those who might not be able to live at home if not for our wonderful ramp builders.

Betty Todd – Tree Lot: Both Tree lot chairs were out ill, so Betty read a report written by them. The Tree Lot will go back to selling the Friday after Thanksgiving. The moving of the date last year resulted in some leftover trees which were donated. We are hoping that the return to an earlier date will bring us back to a sell out in 2024 over a 3-day period.

Jan Snyder – Veterans Recognition Program: This is a new program just getting started. In January 2025, interested members will be invited to lunch at someone's house and we will be writing notes and cards to Veterans at the Vet Home in Kinston, NC. The cards will not be connected to any special occasion. It will be a "Just Because We Care" writing so those at the home know that there are many in our community who are thinking about them. A visit to the Kinston Home is scheduled for October.

Jim Comer – Santa Land: Again will be held in a trailer at one of the Craven County Schools. This year it will be scheduled after the Tree Lot, and it will be spread out to every other day so our elves will have more time to recover between sessions.

Eileen Buscemi – Operation Keep Warm: This is the project where we gather hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens for the children who come to Santa Land. She reported that we have enough for this year, but we need scarves as we go forward. Scarves don't have to be knitted or crocheted. They can be cut from colorful fleece which is sixty inches wide and forty-five inches long. Donations of this fleece can yield up to twelve scarves per donation. Be looking out for bargain all you bargain hunters!

Maureen Comer – RCS Shelter Christmas Party: Scheduled for December 9th. We prepare a special dinner and have presents for the residents and special presents for the children who may be housed there at Christmas time. If you can donate food for this dinner or for the Thanksgiving special dinner on November 11th, please sign up at <https://signup.com/go/dUenBpr>

Marie and Roy Leonard – Peanut Sales: Will begin at the Farmers Market on November 2nd and will continue every Saturday until Christmas or until sold out. In addition to the salted and chocolate peanuts there will be an additional variety of peanuts. Last year's sales were very successful.

This first "resurrected" Business Meeting idea allowed many at the meeting to ask questions about each of the projects above. It is hoped that the following Business Meetings throughout the year will help to educate new members and remind our veterans of all the wonderful things we do throughout the year for our community.

NBCC EVENTS CALENDAR

October 1 to December 31, 2024 – First quarter of the Civitan calendar year.

Friday, October 11 – NBCC Afternoon meeting, 11:30 am at Paula's Restaurant. Guest Speaker David Rosando, Human Service Manager for Area Agency on Aging, East Carolina Council.

Monday, October 14 – Board of Directors Meeting at Garber Church, 1 pm, Rm. 222. Please make every effort to attend.

Monday, October 14 – RCS Shelter Dinner, 6 pm. We still need volunteers to sign up for donations. If you can help, please go to <https://signup.com/go/dUenBpr>

Monday, October 14 – *Columbus Day*

Thursday, October 24 – NBCC Evening meeting 5:30 pm at Paula's Restaurant. Guest Speaker – TBA

CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

At our September meeting, Civitan International sent a letter of thanks and recognition to our member, Nathan Silvers, for recruiting a new member to the Club, Christopher Klemmer. Nathan and Christopher are friends outside the Club, so Nathan asked if Chris wanted to join...and he did.

President Dennis Pymm presented the letter to Nathan. We are grateful for our newest member, Christopher, and we thank Nathan for "reaching out in service to others."



2024-25 Officers

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

Current Board

	Term Expires
Alan Craig	2025
Ann Super	2025
Dave Super	2025
Joanne Tello	2025
Eileen Buscemi	2026
Buck Irvin	2026
Mary Dougherty	2026
Clark Saylor	2026

Webmaster, Civic Editor & Social Media: Cyndi Papia

HELP WANTED...AND NEEDED

Some sobering facts: most volunteer organizations are suffering with lack of leadership. The hard truth is that without a President and a President-elect, Civitan International will not recognize a Club's formal existence. So what? you might ask...we'll just keep on meeting as we have without the sanction of the Civitan name. Right? Unfortunately, it's not that simple.

Without Civitan status, we would not be able to keep our charitable 501(c)(3) status, which would mean that we are no longer a charitable organization. Without Civitan recognition as a formal Club, we would not be insured under the umbrella of the organization. This would highly damage the limited protection that our Ramp crew has being under the auspices of an official Club status. All fundraising would have to cease under the name of Civitan. There are many, many more reasons why our Club cannot go on without leadership.

We had a President who stayed on for three terms because no one would step up to take the role. Another former President served a second term because he did not want to see the Club die. Two newer members stepped up to keep the Club running but no one has stepped up to take the President-elect position for the 2024-25 Civitan year so the current president will now take on the President-elect position after serving a year as President. Keep in mind, also, that we have a Vice President position that hasn't been filled for a while, too.

Fellow members, how long can we do this before the Club dies from lack of leadership? If this club ceases to exist, how many of you would consider joining the Tryon Club? I would guess that about 80% of our past presidents were "reluctant leaders." By that, I mean, they did not actively look to be a Club president, but they realized someone had to step up – so they did. Is being Club president difficult? I would say a little bit, but most of it is giving up some time. A good president knows that he/she has a Board of Directors who can help – all he/she must do is either delegate or ask for help. Many reluctant leaders have the talent to be President, but they are hesitant to step out of their comfort zone.

I would ask that every member consider volunteering for these two positions. The Club support will be there for you. If you are like me, I don't want to see a good thing die. And the New Bern Civitan Club dies too soon without your help.

President Roy Leonard starts his term on October 1, 2024. President-elect, Dennis Pymm is serving at this position AGAIN but will not be stepping up as President on October 1, 2025. Then what happens? **Is this the LAST year of our Club's existence?** Think about it...

OCTOBER “GROANERS”

1. **Why did the scarecrow win an award in October?** Because he was outstanding in his field!
2. **What’s a ghost’s favorite month?** Spooktober!
3. **Why did the skeleton go to the Halloween party alone?** Because he had no body to go with him!
4. **What do witches use to do their hair in October?** Scare-spray!
5. **Why did the vampire get a job in October?** He wanted to work the graveyard shift!
6. **Why did the mummy go to school in October?** To improve his wrap sheet!
7. **What’s a pumpkin’s favorite sport?** Squash!
8. **What do you call a ghost that haunts a bakery in October?** A sweet spook!
9. **Why do ghosts love riding in elevators in October?** It lifts their spirits!
10. **How do you fix a broken Jack-o’-lantern?** With a pumpkin patch!
11. **Why did the scarecrow blush in October?** Because it heard corny jokes!
12. **What do you get if you drop a pumpkin?** Squash!
13. **Why do monsters never go on a diet in October?** Because they can’t resist the grave-y!
14. **What do you call a haunted chicken in October?** A poultry-geist!
15. **What do you get when you cross a werewolf and a vampire?** A fur coat that fangs around your neck!
16. **How do you make a witch scratch?** Take away the “w”!
17. **Why don’t skeletons fight each other?** They don’t have the guts!
18. **How do you know if a ghost is a good dancer?** You can see right through them!
19. **Why do witches use brooms to fly in October?** Because vacuum cleaners are too heavy!
20. **How do you know if a vampire has a cold in October?** They start coffin!



FOSTER PARENTS OF THE YEAR

The Club's Community Service Awards have started. The first for the year were given to the Foster Parents of the Year Patricia and Mason Skidmore. A ceremony in their honor at the Department of Social Services was held recently. Words of praise were abounding from their supervisor. Comments included:

"This family has gone beyond from the very beginning of their fostering career. They have taken difficult respites and formed amazing bond with the teens that have been placed in their home..."

"They always put the needs of the children before their own. Patricia and Mason have an 8-month-old biological son and a 6-year-old daughter (in custody.) with special needs. They are currently fostering a teenage girl. They are a good, hard-working, down to earth family that has a desire and heart for fostering."

"They had two sibling, long-term placements that they mentored to help them learn to do things for themselves and they were also with them when their biological mother passed."

"These dedicated foster parents continue to amaze with their kind, compassionate manner when dealing with all ages of children who need placement. They are willing to listen to the children and provide age-appropriate feedback to children on virtually any subject and are sincere and truthful when doing so."

"The Skidmores are always ready and willing to answer the call to speak to new potential foster parents at our panel nights. They participate in Foster Parent Support Group events as often as their work schedule allows. They are always willing to help wherever they can. For these reasons and many more, we are happy to announce that Patricia and Mason are Foster Parents of the Year!"

As always, thank you again to our Community Service Chair, Helen Shine, who puts all these programs together.



COOL FACTS ABOUT OCTOBER



If you were born between October 1st and 22nd, you're a Libra. Libras are known to be calm and balanced with impeccable taste. Born between October 23rd and 31st? You're a Scorpio. Scorpions are known to be passionate and magnetic with a strong will.

The opal is the birthstone of October. It is the only birthstone that isn't crystalized and can take on many shapes and colors. It was also a favorite of Cleopatra. Opal deposits have even been discovered on Mars. How cool is that!?

The flower that has come to represent October is the bright orange calendula, also known as the marigold.

The pumpkin, a famous October symbol, was once believed to cure snake bites.

October is recognized as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

October 2 starts Rosh Hashanah, a Jewish holiday that marks the beginning of the new year.

October 2nd is International Coffee Day. October 8th is National Kick Butt Day. October 15th is National Grouch Day. And October 29th is National Cat Day.

On October 14, 1947, Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier.

The London Bridge was sold to an American and relocated to Lake Havasu City, Arizona, in October 1968.

Thomas Edison filed his patent for the electric lamp on October 22, 1879.

The Statue of Liberty arrived in the United States all the way from France in October 1886.

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.