

The Civic



Birthdays

Eileen Buscemi – Dec. 1

Van Rice – Dec. 22

Helen Shine – Dec. 29

Civitan Anniversaries

William McClinton – 35 Yrs

Jeff Williams – 27 Yrs

Clark Saylor – 15 Yrs

Mary Dougherty – 10 Yrs

Peggy Marcus – 8 Yrs

Robert Marcus – 8 Yrs

Buck Irvin – 7 Yrs

Cathy Welles – 3 Yrs



WHO IS THAT MASKED WOMAN?

Do you recognize this woman even though she is trying to disguise her identity? Here are a few clues...

She lives in Fairfield Harbor.

She joined NBCC in 2015.

She moved here from New York.

She is a retired nurse.

She has one son and two grandchildren.

She has a dog, Maddie.

She likes to sing and is in the Fairfield Harbor Chorus.

She likes to read and is in a Book Club.

Her Civitan volunteering has included – Chairperson of Operation Keep Warm Chairperson of the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. Volunteer at Santa Land. Frequent volunteer providing dinner for the RCS Shelter Dinner.

She has served on the Board of Directors for more than one term.

She has been the Club's Assistant Secretary.

She is Santa's sister.

Give up yet or have you guessed it?

It is our **NEW** President-elect – EILEEN BUSCEMI. Thanks, EJB, for stepping up to take this particularly prominent position.

The mask has been removed!



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY AT PAULA'S



Our annual Christmas Holiday party at Paula's Restaurant will be on Friday, December 13th at noon. Put this date on your calendar. It will be after the tree lot sales are done but we will still be selling peanuts at the Farmers Market until they are sold out. It will also be our last day at Santa Land.

It will be a buffet which will include chicken parmigiana, stuffed shells, lasagna, salad, bread, soft drinks, and dessert – homemade Christmas cookies made by Judy Lopez. The cost per person will be \$25 – a real bargain for all this food! Entertainment this year will be by the New Bern Ukes – a ukulele Club to which our member, Mary Traina, belongs. If you haven't heard them play, you are in for a big treat!

Make your reservations by contacting the Club secretary, Maureen Comer at maureencomer0720@gmail.com or phone 252-636-2217. Make your checks payable to New Bern Civitan Club and give them to Van Rice. **Deadline is December 10th.** *(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 Friday, January 10, 2025, 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!**

TREE & WREATH SALE: READY TO SELL!

We have returned to our traditional Black Friday opening day for this annual event – by far, our largest fundraiser. We had 10 members who set up the lot, and over 30 volunteers, including 4 Marines and 16 residents of Oxford House, to help unload the truck on November 23.

We received our full order of 325 trees. Some pictures are shown below. A complete summary of this event, including estimated proceeds for our Charity Budget, will be included in the January newsletter.

~ *Randy King*



NBCC PEANUT SALE FUNDRAISER CONTINUES



The New Bern Civitan Club is again selling its HUBS peanuts as a fundraiser every Saturday at the downtown Farmers Market. It started on November 2 and will continue every Saturday until Christmas – unless sold out before then. These peanuts sell out every year!

This year, in addition to our salted and chocolate variety, we have added honey kissed peanuts and peanut brittle. Buy them early, so you won't be disappointed! These peanuts make great holiday gifts, client gifts, or stocking stuffers.

This is the second year Roy and Marie Leonard have chaired the peanut sales, and they are serious and dedicated to the task. They work the entire shift every Saturday from 8 am to 2 pm with the assistance of one Club member every two-hour shift.

Roy states that we are “ahead” of sales from last year. Our goal...another sell out. If you need more information, please contact Roy Leonard – roy_leonard@hotmail.com. Thank you for your continued support of this fundraiser.

FORTY YEARS AND COUNTING

The Club honored member, Bill Snyder, on November 8th for his forty years' service to Civitan. It all began in 1984 when Bill was invited to speak at the Frederick, Maryland Civitan Club. Shortly thereafter, he was invited to join, and he did on October 1, 1984.

Bill participated in many projects and held many positions and was elected to the Club Board of Directors, Club Vice President, Club President, Lt. Governor of District 7, District Growth & Retention Chair, District Director-at-Large, and Governor-Elect. He became Governor of Chesapeake District in 1993.

Following his term of Governor, Bill was on the District Board as Past Governor Director, and then moved on to become the President of the Chesapeake District Foundation for Handicapped Children. Chesapeake District Civitans have honored him with several awards including Distinguished President of an Honor Club, Outstanding Lt. Governor Honor Key, Chesapeake District, Fellow, and Chesapeake District Honor Key. Bill has served as Assistant Chaplain and "Master of the House" for our Club.



In 2005, he and Janice escaped the northern cold winters and moved to New Bern, NC, where they joined the New Bern Civitan Club. They have participated in many projects and activities. In 2011, Bill was part of a team of Club Builders from New Bern Civitan Club who built the Civitan on the Pamlico Club in Washington NC.

On a personal note, Jan and Bill recruited us, the Comers, to join the Club...one of the best moves we've ever made. On accepting the 40 Year pin, Bill thanked Jan for her support and expressed joy for having been a Civitan for the past forty years. We are honored and grateful to have such a long-term, active, and highly accomplished member as Bill in our Club. Congratulations and best wishes for continued service to our Club! We appreciate all that you have done.

THE TREE LOT 2024: MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

By the time this newsletter is published, we will not know the outcome of our tree lot sales yet as the lot will be opening on Friday, November 29, and we HOPE to be sold out on Sunday, December 1st.

From the pictures, you can see that a lot of work went into getting the lot ready. We are grateful to the following members and friends who have made this fundraiser possible...again:

The ramp crew who helped build the lot;

The Cherry Point Marines who have aided unloading the trees and “lumping” at the lot;

The members of Oxford House who have helped unload the trees and “lumping” at the lot;

The students at Epiphany School who have assisted;

The members of the Club who came out to cut branches for the wreath makers;

The wreath makers;

The members of the Club who took shifts to “man” the lot;

And, of course, our hardworking Tree Lot co-chairs – GARY TODD AND RANDY KING!

We are hoping for a quick sell out in 3 days of our 325 freshly cut, luscious, and full Christmas trees. Thanks to all who have made this possible...again!



NBCC EVENTS CALENDAR

Nov. 29 to Dec. 1 – Tree Lot open from 9 am - 5 pm on MLK Jr. Blvd. across from Paula's Restaurant. Trees, wreaths, and peanuts for sale.

Dec. 2 – If trees remain, lot will be open from 2 pm - 5 pm and open every day thereafter until trees are sold out.

Dec. 2 – Unload Santa Land materials from shed and bring to Santa Land trailer at J. T. Barber Elementary School - 10 am.

Dec. 3 – Decoration of Santa Land trailer – 9 am. Need volunteers.

Dec. 4 – Santa Land begins 8:30 am - 11:30 am, 49 children.

Dec. 5 – Santa Land 8:30 am - 10:45 am, 55 children.

Dec. 7 – Peanut Sales at Farmers Market – 8 am - 2 pm.

Dec. 9 – Santa Land 8:30 am - 11 am, 66 children.

Dec. 9 – RCS Christmas Dinner and Party – volunteers and food arrive – 5 pm; dinner at 6 pm. Santa arrives with gifts 6:30 pm.

Dec. 11 – Santa Land 8:45 am to 10:45 am, 51 children.

Dec. 13 – Santa Land 9:30 am to 11:30 am, 45 children.

Dec. 13 – NBCC Christmas Party at Paula's Restaurant – noon.

Dec. 14 – Peanut Sales at Farmers Market 8 am - 2 pm.

Dec. 21 – Peanut Sales at Farmers Market 8 am - 2 pm.

Dec. 25 – **CHRISTMAS**

Dec. 25 – **CHANUKAH** begins at sunset

Dec. 26 – **Kwanzaa** begins

Dec. 31 – **New Year's Eve**



Officers

President: Roy Leonard

President-Elect: Eileen Buscemi

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Maureen Comer

Assistant Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Van Allen Rice

Assistant Treasurer: Amy Willis

Sergeant-at-Arm: Ken

McCain & 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

FILL 'ER UP!

Mary Ann LeRay, the Executive Director at the Filling Station, Inc. in Pollocksville was our guest speaker on November 8th. The mission of the Filling Station is to assist with filling unmet needs in the areas of nutrition, education, and connection. "Our State" magazine featured the Filling Station in its September 2024 issue. The article titled "Shelter from the Storm," captures the heart of the Filling Station mission and the resilience of the Jones County community.

Its director, Mary Ann, is a true local. She is a native of Pollocksville and went to New Bern High School and studied Business Management with Marketing at N.C. State. The Filling Station takes its name from a former propane business where the waters of the Hurricane Florence surge had stopped and where the charity put down its roots. The Filling Station set up its board five months prior to the hurricane, with the goal of ensuring that residents of the low-wealth county could put food on their tables. No one could have foreseen the devastation of Florence, but members of the group realized that there was much more they could do to lift the community. With concern about the response time of state and federal agencies, the Filling Station quickly became Jones County's disaster recovery hub.

The Filling Station hand-delivered financial relief to more than 125 families who had lost everything; provided gift cards supplied by their corporate partners in advance of Christmas; helped the community deal with the strain of COVID-19; established a ham radio station in its office; and founded a teaching kitchen in partnership with the Jones County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension. Currently, Mary Ann and her staff are building a warehouse funded by the Golden LEAF Foundation to expand their food pantry.

Our Board of Directors has made the Filling Station our quarterly focus from January to March 2025. When paying your quarterly dues, you may add a donation that will go to the Filling Station to further their impact on the lives of people in the Pollocksville area – some of whom are STILL recovering from Hurricane Florence.

CONGRATULATIONS, DEPUTY SHERIFF “A.T.”

The NBCC Community Award for 2023-2024 for Sheriff's Deputy went to Deputy “A.T.” Who? Who is that? Look at this photo:



It's a picture of our Community Award Chairperson, Helen Shine, Craven County Sheriff Chip Hughes, and Past President, Dennis Pymm. But where in the world is Deputy “A.T.”? Did she skip the ceremony? No, she was there and expressed gratitude for our Club's recognition for her and her team. So why only initials and no photo?

You see, Deputy Sheriff “A.T.” is an undercover officer. Revealing her name and showing her picture might put her in jeopardy. Thus, all the secrecy. We can tell you that A.T. has been with Craven Sheriff's Department since 2019. She transferred here from Pitt County. Much of her work has been undercover drug enforcement. Sheriff Hughes praised her professionalism and dedication to the job. Her work has been a valuable part of reducing county Fentanyl deaths from 19 to 3 over the past several years.

We are grateful to A.T. for all she has done to make us safer here in Craven County. The Club is honored to present to her this year's Community Award!

VETERAN'S DAY

The following Veterans' Day tribute was composed by our Club President, Roy Leonard, who is a Navy veteran. Although he was not present at our meeting on November 8th, the information was shared at the meeting by President-elect, Eileen Buscemi:

As we approach another Veterans Day on Monday, November 11th, I thought it would be appropriate to provide some background on this important holiday.

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” – officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.” Or so we hoped.

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...”

In 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation’s history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the Veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word “Armistice” and inserting in its place the word “Veterans.” With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American Veterans of all wars.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The observance of Veterans Day on November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Many people confuse [Memorial Day](#) and Veterans Day. Memorial Day is a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. While those who died are also remembered, [Veterans Day](#) is the day set aside to thank and honor **ALL** those who served honorably in the military – in wartime or peacetime. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank **LIVING** veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served – not only those who died – have sacrificed and done their duty.

A number of countries honor their veterans each year on November 11, although the name and types of commemorations differ somewhat from Veterans Day celebrations in the United States. For example, Canada and Australia observe “Remembrance Day” on November 11, and Great Britain observes “Remembrance Day” on the Sunday nearest to November 11.

Please take a moment on Monday to reflect on the sacrifices of so many Americans to ensure the many freedoms what we enjoy as Americans.

SOME MORE THANK YOUS

A note from **Ruth Powers**, 2023-24 Citizen of the Year:

Thank you so much for your truly kind nomination for Civitan's Citizen of the Year. It means a lot to me that you were the one that said all the pleasant things about me. I am humbled and blessed. Thank you!

A note from **Boys and Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plains**:

You are providing kids across eastern North Carolina opportunities to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Thank you for your recent gift of \$850 on September 4, 2024, to Boys and Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plains.

At Boys & Girls Clubs, we do whatever it takes to provide youth access to life-changing programs and educational opportunities in a safe, caring, and fun environment. Our dedicated and trained staff work diligently to create activities and programs to equip our youth with the skills and confidence to achieve their full potential. Your contribution allows us to create positive outcomes for more kids, more often, and with greater impact.

Thank you for investing in our next generation of changemakers. You make a difference!

From Brittany Spear, Chief Development Officer

COOL FACTS ABOUT DECEMBER



The Bill of Rights came into effect on December 15, 1791.

December babies are lucky to have two birth flowers: holly, symbolizing good luck and protection, and paperwhite narcissus, symbolizing purity and sweetness.

December's birthstones are turquoise, tanzanite, and zircon.

The winter solstice occurs around December 21 in the Northern Hemisphere and marks the shortest day and longest night of the year.

On December 17, 1903, at Kill Devil Hills in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, when Orville Wright completed the first powered flight of a heavier-than-air aircraft.

On December 12, 1954, Dr. Joseph Murray and his team at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, performed the first successful human organ (a kidney) transplant.

The term "Yuletide" comes from a Norse tradition of cutting and burning a tree to bring in the Winter Solstice. This was to last through 12 days – later known as the 12 days of Christmas.

Spiders and spider webs are considered good luck on Christmas.

Common decorations on a Christmas tree each have their specific meanings. Candles – the light of the world, the Star at the top is a reminder of the first Christmas night and Candy canes are to represent the Shepherd's cane.

An ancient legend states that forest animals can speak in human language on Christmas Eve!

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.