

The Civic



Birthdays

Susan Husson - Jan. 2
 Sandy McClinton - Jan. 17
 Karen Crump - Jan. 19
 Norma Judd - Jan. 29

Civitan Anniversaries

Dan Roberts - 17 yrs
 Woody Besser - 8 yrs
 Betty Sweeney - 6 yrs
 Fred Ohsol - 5 yrs
 Joanne Tello - 2 yrs



CHRISTMAS ANGELS FOR DSS

Our Club's tradition of buying Christmas gifts for ten children in foster care through the Department of Social Services continued this year. Chairperson Judy Lopez got the names, ages, and Wish Lists for these youngsters. Ten members of the Club volunteered to shop for them. From the Club's budget they would get reimbursed at \$150 per child. If the shopper spent more than \$150, they managed the overage.

Thank you to these members for opening their hearts (and their pocketbooks) to make a brighter Christmas for the kids! Thanks to Judy for coordinating this program.

Norma Judd * Amy Willis * Wendy Fleming
 Susie Bare * Alan Craig * Buck Irvin
 Ben St. John * Pam Kubik * Marie & Roy Leonard
 Betty Todd * Joanne Tello



A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS



For 15 years this Club has supported the Santa Land project, so there is not much more to tell. Please look at the attached collage of pictures assembled by one of the teachers whose class came to visit. Every picture tells a story of love and wonder. Every child BELIEVES...

The only thing left is the “thank yous” to our elves: Judy Lopez, Eileen Buscemi, Mary Traina, Dennis Pymm, Mary Shine Williams, Nancy Donahue, Mary Leonard, Mary Kay Dyer, Wendy Fleming, Amy Willis, Carole Creedon, Ann Super, Dave Super, Kathleen Klecker, Nathan Silvers, and Maureen Comer.

Thank you to our setup and take-down crew: Betty Todd, Jim Comer, Maureen Comer, Mary Traina, Dennis Pymm, Buck Irvin, Randy King, Nancy Donahue, and Mary Kay Dyer.

Thank you to the Coastal Photography Club led by Rick Meyer for their outstanding artistry and patience in taking pictures of four-year-olds. Thank you to Renee Harrell, the Program Director, and her staff for their support. And most of all to Santa Jim who had a vision 15 years ago of how our Club might brighten the lives of children. This project exemplifies the adage, “It takes a village to raise a child.” The New Bern Civitan Club is that “village.”



CHRISTMAS PARTY 2024!

Friday the thirteenth of December was an incredibly lucky day for our Club. We held a Christmas party at Paula's Restaurant featuring an Italian buffet of lasagna, chicken parmesan, and stuffed shells. A special dessert for everyone was homemade Christmas cookies made by Judy Lopez and deliciously displayed on our cookie Christmas tree made by Dennis Pymm.

President Roy Leonard opened the party by complimenting all our members for their hard work this past year on fundraising and service projects. December was a busy month for the Club and the party was a culmination of all our events and a time to celebrate the holidays and each other.

Entertainment was provided by members of the "Twin Rivers Ukulele Group." Seven of their members played Christmas Carols with printed words for us for a sing-along. It was fun and we all left with a smile on our faces.

We don't meet again as a group until January 10, 2025. We say goodbye to a good year, 2024, and look forward to new adventures in 2025. Now we look forward to spending time with family and friends, counting our blessings. and rejoicing in the serenity of the season. Merry Christmas to all. Good health, peace, and love in 2025!



TREE AND WREATH SALE: 2024 SUMMARY



We returned to our traditional Black Friday opening day for this annual event and were expecting improved sales (and profits) this year. Unfortunately, it seems the demand for trees, perhaps influenced by higher prices over the last few years, has decreased. We ended up selling 240 of the 325 trees we purchased, although we were able to donate our leftover trees to families who otherwise would not have had one.

In addition to the 240 trees, we sold 96 wreaths (51 of which we made) and 245 cans of peanuts with an overall profit of \$11,679.25 going into our Charity Budget. Our member volunteers were supported by residents of Oxford House, Marines from the Single Marine Program, as well as friends and spouses of members. We appreciate all of the efforts that went into our biggest annual fundraiser: setting up and dismantling the lot, wreath making, and then the operation of the lot over a ten-day period.

Some pictures from the lot setup on November 18 to the teardown on December 17 are included.

Randy King and Gary Todd



GOOD-BYE, NORMA JUDD

We say a fond farewell to our member Norma Judd, who is moving from New Bern and moving on to a new adventure. Norma joined our Club in 2011 and was sponsored by her beloved husband, Joe. She has made a tremendous contribution over these past thirteen years.

Norma liked to raise her hand and volunteered for almost everything. She was our Salvation Army bell ringer chairperson. She served on our Board of Directors. She often donated food to the RCS Shelter Dinner. She cut branches for wreathmaking. You name it, Norma did it!

Her biggest contribution to the Club was being President for *three* years. She kept our Club going during the pandemic and beyond. If Maureen Comer took the name of QUEEN during her ONE term as President, Norma indeed deserves the title of EMPRESS.

Norma and her beloved dog, Ace, are moving to 2240 Windsor Run Lane, Apartment 212, Matthews, NC 28105. Her many friends wish her happiness, good luck, and Godspeed as she enters the next chapter of her life.

Don't forget us, Norma, because we certainly will never forget you!



NBCC EVENTS CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 1 – *HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

Friday, January 10 – NBCC Afternoon Meeting 11:30 am at Paula's Restaurant – Speaker: Marshall Williams of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Outreach Ministry. *If you are planning to attend, please notify Maureen Comer by Wednesday, Jan. 8.*

Monday, January 13 – Board of Directors Meeting at Garber Church 1 pm Rm. 222. Board Members, please make every effort to attend.

Monday, January 13 – RCS Shelter Dinner 6 pm. *We need volunteers to help fill donations. If you can donate, please sign up at <https://signup.com/go/dUenBpr>*

Monday, January 20 – *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

Thursday, January 23 – NBCC Evening Meeting 5:30 pm at Paula's Restaurant. This will be a BUSINESS MEETING to update members on past and future events and projects. *If you are planning to attend notify Maureen Comer by Tuesday, Jan. 21*



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

COOL FACTS ABOUT JANUARY



The month of January was named for the Roman god Janus. Janus had two heads, symbolizing one head looking backward and one looking forward.

January is National Soup Month in the United States, perfect for warming up during cold days.

January is National Blood Donor Month.

The term for the fear of snow is chionophobia.

Alaska became a state on January 3, 1959.

January 27 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day, commemorating the victims of the Holocaust.

January's birthstone is the garnet, symbolizing constancy and loyalty.

The flower of January is the snowdrop or the carnation, representing love and fascination.

January is celebrated as Braille Literacy Month, honoring Louis Braille, who invented the reading and writing system for the blind.

The first American version of the ATM (Automated Teller Machine) was installed in January 1969 in Rockville Centre, New York.

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.