

The Civic



Birthdays

Tom Braaten - April 15

Bob Whitley - April 27

Gary Todd - April 28

Civitan Anniversaries

None



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COMING IN MAY

Friday, May 9 – Help set up for the **Annual Picnic** at Lawson Creek Park at noon. Contact Eileen Buscemi at ejbuscemi@gmail.com or Judy Lopez at jlothejudge@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 24 – **Memorial Day Rib Sale** at Piggly Wiggly on Simmons Blvd. Email Randy King if you can help at RKingNewBern@gmail.com.

Tuesday, May 27 – **Picnic and Game Day** for the developmentally disabled at Creekside Park from ten to noon. If you can help with games and supervision, contact Dennis Pymm at dpymm@yahoo.com.

The Todds will be helping with the food and organizing invitations to the event. If you can help with food donations and/or serving, contact Betty Todd at thetoddfamily10@gmail.com.

We cannot sponsor these events without your help and support. Thank you!

MEET THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RCS... AN OLD FRIEND!



Candice Parker was our guest speaker at our meeting on March 14. She is the new Executive Director of RCS. If her name sounds familiar, it's because she was the Director of Regional Development for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. She has been a guest speaker at our meeting before.

As we all know, RCS is a faith-based organization that aims to address the basic needs of struggling people. The nonprofit provides food, clothing, shelter, emergency transportation, disaster relief, and other services. RCS believes every person deserves the opportunity to live a fulfilling life, and it is committed to making that a reality for everyone that it serves. Prior to joining the Food Bank, Candice was the RCS Director of Development where she was able to increase financial support for RCS by 63%.

Described as a Community-Centric Changemaker, Candice has big plans for RCS and its key role in our community. In the brief time she has taken over duties of the organization, she has:

- Sought Federal and State grants for increased funding
- Collaborated with other area nonprofits to improve and coordinate services
- Worked to maximize the use of the organization's money
- Implemented innovative programs to serve the RCS population
- Collaborated with staff to improve efficiency and services to their clientele
- Painted and cleaned up the facility
- Worked on creating new fundraiser initiatives

Candice's enthusiasm and energy are contagious, and she is anxious to share RCS's plans with us. We will keep looking for RCS's new website, expansion of the facility and services and, of course, the continued need for services to the Craven County community. Thank you, Candice, for bringing your leadership skills to this wonderful and valuable organization!

SPAGHETTI DINNER

FUNDRAISER

LIVE
MUSIC



\$15 per person
Cash or Checks Only

Takeout Available!

Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad, Italian Bread, Drink & Dessert

Sat., April 12
5 pm - 7 pm

WHERE:
RHEMS FIRE STATION
5860 BUS US-17 S
NEW BERN

For more information, call Eileen Buscemi at (917) 846-9001

All proceeds benefit the New Bern Civitan Club
sponsored charities: Special Olympics, Santa Land for
Children, handicap ramp building program & more!



AN HISTORIC EVENING



Anthony Giardino, Executive Director of the New Bern Historical Society, was our guest speaker on March 27. He assumed this role last May, after previously been the Operations Manager of the Society. He joined the society in 2022 after a twenty-one-year career in the Marines, where he served in numerous global locations including Afghanistan. He moved to New Bern in 2016 while stationed at Cherry Point. Anthony is a graduate of the Military College of South Carolina, the Citadel Class of 2008. He is often seen biking through town, assisting at school and YMCA functions, and along the river at sunrise with camera in hand. He is married with three children and lives in the DeGraffenreid Park neighborhood.

The mission of the New Bern Historical Society is to celebrate and promote New Bern and its heritage through events and education. They have an active calendar of educational events, storytelling programs, speaker presentations, tours, and social gatherings. Membership has grown to over 1200, with hundreds of volunteers contributing to programs throughout the year.

The Historical Society owns and operates the historic century Attmore-Oliver house and Heritage Garden home of their administrative offices, and the New Bern Battlefield Park where the Civil War Battle of New Bern occurred. It is a non-profit membership organization; it receives no state or local government funding. It is solely membership supported.

The Society sponsors many events throughout the year including Ghost Walk, Battlefield Reenactments, Lunch and Learn programs, New Bern History Quest Scavenger Hunts, and a variety of lecture series. Its upcoming event is the yearly historical house tours on May 2 and 3. Tickets are now on sale on their website www.NewBernHistoricalSociety.org

Anthony shared several stories about New Bern, including its oyster industry phase, the clock outside of Baxter's, and did you know in 1955 Elvis Presley performed here as part of the Hank Snow venue? Unfortunately, many patrons left the concert BEFORE Elvis' appearance as they did not want to be a part of the indecent gyrations of the singer and the evil new form of music, Rock n' Roll.

We thank Anthony for his insightful discussion about New Bern's history and for his donation of four tickets to the upcoming House tours. Check their website for upcoming events and how you can get involved in this wonderful organization.

NBHS JUNIOR CIVITANS DONATE TO RCS

As they have done for many years in the past, the New Bern High School Junior Civitan Club cooked and served the RCS Shelter Dinner on March 10, 2025. In addition, the Club collected 272 pounds of canned and dry food for the RCS Food Pantry.



Club members Zampar Mon, Vanessa Hernandez, Amy Kesendz, Daniel Gonzalez, as well as their advisor Laura Miller-McLemore, made the delivery. President Roy Leonard as well as the RCS Shelter Dinner Coordinators Jim and Maureen Comer were there to welcome the Juniors.

This project has become a steady mission for the Juniors in the month of March for many years. Sharing food with those less fortunate in the community is a valuable learning lesson for youngsters of high school age. It will hopefully lead to a lifetime of continued community service for others.

We are proud of the Junior Club members for all they accomplish in volunteer projects throughout their school year.

Thanks to Ms. Miller-McLemore for all the time and effort she puts into guiding this Club.

THANKFUL CHARITIES THANK US

Salvation Army – *Thank you for making a difference.* We are thankful that you have chosen to place your confidence in us through your generous gift (\$400) and for your partnership in assisting those in need. With friends like you, we can continue to do our work in areas where it is needed – as long as it is necessary. You play a significant role in The Salvation Army's mission of meeting human needs, for it is only possible because of your compassion and generosity. *Major Karl A. Dablin, Corps Officer*

Craven Community College Foundation – We are deeply grateful for your generous contributions to the Craven Community College Foundation's Annual Campaign (\$346). Your support played a vital role in helping us uphold the essence of this year's campaign - **"Deep Roots, Strong Future."** Your donation has been designated to the Volt Food Pantry as requested. *Charles Wetherington, Executive Director Instructional Advancement.*

Boys and Girls Homes – Your gift to the Boys and Girls Homes truly provides wonderful opportunities for very deserving children. With your assistance, we are providing an environment of care that promotes health, healing, and hope. Boys and Girls Homes are a haven for our children, a place where they can build trusting relationships with a caring staff. (\$70 and \$250 Christmas), *Marc Murphy, President/CEO*

MERCI Clinic – Your kindness enables MERCI Clinic to provide limited income, uninsured adults in Craven, and surrounding counties with primary care, dental care, prescription medications, specialty clinics, and referrals for diagnostic testing. We provide this care at no cost to our patients. We could not do this without you. We extend our heartfelt appreciation for your generous support. (\$476), *J. D. Bobbitt, President Board of Directors*

Craven Literacy Council – You have made our day, and we are so grateful for you! Thank you for your recent gifts of \$200 and \$513 to Craven Literacy Council. Thank you for giving the life-changing gift of making increased literacy skills attainable and helping make a bright future possible for our learners. Learning to read, write, do math, and use computers helps people escape poverty, reduce health care costs, and secure sustainable jobs. *April King, Executive Director*

FUNNY BUNNY – HAPPY EASTER

What do you call the Easter Bunny the day after Easter? Eggshausted.

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? It might crack up.

How does the Easter Bunny stay healthy? Hare-obics

What do you call a rabbit with fleas? Bugs Bunny.

What does the Easter Bunny plant next to the green beans in his garden? Jellybeans.

Why did the Easter egg hide? He was a little chicken.

What do you get when you pour hot water into a rabbit hole? Hot cross bunnies.

What did the Easter Bunny say to the carrot? Nice gnawing you.

Why won't Easter eggs go out at night? They don't want to get beat up.

What is the Easter Bunny's favorite kind of music? Hip-Hop.

Why did the Easter Bunny have on a hat? Because he was having a bad hare day.

Where does the Easter Bunny like to have breakfast? IHOP.

How does a rabbit throw a tantrum? He gets hopping mad.

What do you call an Easter bunny with a bad memory? A hare-brain.

What do you call mischievous Easter egg? A practical yolker.

What is the Easter Bunny's favorite dance? The bunny hop.

Why was the Easter Bunny arrested? For hare-assment.

What do you call a line of rabbits jumping backward? A receding hare-line.

Who can you tell which rabbits are the oldest in the group? Just look for the gray hares.

Why did the easter Bunny have to fire the duck? Because he kept quacking the eggs.

What do you call an Easter egg from outer space? An egg-straterrestrial.

What's an Easter egg's least favorite day? Fry-day.

Where did the Easter Bunny go for a new tail? To a retail store.

What did the easter egg ask for at the hair salon? A new dye-job.

Why don't you see dinosaurs at Easter? Because they are eggs-tinct.

Did you hear about the woman who complained about her rabbit stew? She said there was a hare in her soup.

What do you call a Zen egg? An ommmmmmmmmmlet.

What do you call a bunny with money? A millionhare.

What is the Easter Bunny's favorite capital? Albunny, New York.

Why was the Easter egg so strict? He was hard boiled.

Why couldn't the rabbit fly home for Easter? He did not have hare fare.

What did the bunny with DirectTV say to the other bunny? I can't believe you still have rabbit ears.

Why are bunnies the luckiest animals? Because they each have four lucky rabbits' feet.

NBCC EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, April 11: NBCC Afternoon Meeting at Paula's Restaurant 11:30 am. **Speaker is Stephanie Leonard** from Hospice. *If attending, please contact Maureen Comer by 5 pm on Wednesday, April 9.*

Saturday, April 12: **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**, 5pm to 7pm, at Rhems Firehouse on Rte. 17 shortly after the River Bend sign. It will be on your Right if you are coming from town towards Pollocksville. **Menu:** spaghetti, meatballs, sauce, Italian bread, salad, soft drinks, and dessert - \$15. Van Allen Rice's band will provide entertainment.

Takeout will be available and for Civitan Members ONLY. If you cannot make the event, we will **DELIVER** a meal to you *if you sign up ahead of time*. The cost will be the same \$15. You may also order a meal for family members, neighbors, or friends BUT we will only deliver to your house. *If interested, contact Maureen Comer at maureencomer0720@gmail.com.* Deadline to order is Thursday, April 11.

Monday, April 14: Board of Directors Meeting at Garber Church, 1 pm, Rm. 222. All officers and board members are asked to attend to discuss important business.

Monday, April 14: RCS Shelter Dinner @ 6 pm.

Thursday, April 24: NBCC Evening Meeting at Paula's Restaurant 5:30 pm **Speaker is Mayor Jeffrey Odham**, Proclamation of April as Civitan Awareness Month. There will also be a brief Business Meeting.



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
Marie Leonard	2026
Buck Irvin	2026
Wendy Fleming	2026
Clark Saylor	2026

Webmaster, Civic Editor & Social Media: Cyndi Papia

FACTS ABOUT APRIL



- April is the only month with an “i” in its name in the English language.
- The birthstones for the month of April are diamonds and opals. These gemstones are associated with clarity, purity, and creativity. The birth flowers are daisies and sweet peas.
- The first April Fools’ Day celebration in North America may have taken place in 1789 in Boston, where people were invited to a nonexistent event at the Boston State House.
- April is celebrated as **Autism Awareness Month**, with April 2 known as “Light It Up Blue for Autism Day.”
- Did you know April is the best month to look up to the skies and watch meteor showers?
- On Saturday, April 12, the **full Pink Micromoon** will rise, reaching peak illumination at 8:22 PM Eastern Time.
- **Autism Awareness Month** is observed in April, aiming to raise awareness and promote.
- In the Arctic, April marks the beginning of 24-hour daylight, known as the “midnight sun.”
- April is historically one of the most active months for tornadoes in the United States, with a long-term average of approximately 200 tornadoes during this month.

April 12: Passover starts at sundown

April 20: Volunteer Recognition Day and Easter

April 22: Earth Day

April 28: National Arbor Day

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.