

The Civic



Birthdays

Susie Bare – May 2
Alan Craig – May 3
Frank Salvatore – May 6
Dan Roberts – May 11

Civitan Anniversaries

Bob Whitley – 40 yrs
Bill Baldree – 30 yrs
Max Thompson – 21 yrs
Renee Salvatore – 19 yrs
Van Rice – 9 yrs



PROCLAMATION FOR CIVITAN AWARENESS MONTH

As you know, April is Civitan Awareness Month throughout the United States. At our April 24th meeting, New Bern Mayor Jeff Odham presented certificates to representatives of all three local clubs.



Pictured (l. to r.) Stephanie Crosby of the Tryon Club; Robyn Hare of the We Can Club; Mayor Jeff Odham; Eileen Buscemi, President-elect of New Bern Civitan Club.

**“WE CAN’T CHANGE THE
OUTCOME BUT WE CAN
CHANGE THE EXPERIENCE”**



The motto above summarizes the motto and beliefs of Craven County Hospice. We were fortunate to have two representatives of this organization at our meeting on April 11th. Volunteer Coordinator/Community Outreach Coordinator, Stephanie Leonard, and Clayton Gaskins, a Hospice Administrator.

Craven County Hospice began in 1980, in a small house, as part of the mission of the Craven County Health Department to help ensure area residents received quality end-of-life care, pain and symptom management at one of the most vulnerable times in their lives. Craven County Hospice is part of our local government. It is the only “not-for-profit” hospice in Craven County and is not part of a statewide, regional, or national organization. Its goal is to provide the best quality care and the best quality of life possible.

Hospice’s philosophy affirms the basic dignity and worth of life. It sees dying as a normal process whether resulting from disease or not. It cares for terminally ill patients and families in their home where they are supported to live as fully and self-determining as possible. It uses a team approach which recognizes the emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the patient and family. Its team is a blending of multidisciplinary staff and volunteers with a variety of backgrounds and talents. It provides continued support to the family after the death of their loved one.

Hospice volunteers receive training to help them be equipped for the challenge of being a volunteer in this program. They are a vital part of the care CC Hospice provides. Hospice is a concept, not a building. Each patient has individual needs and Hospice tries to fill those needs any way they can. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, you may learn more by calling 252-636-4930. Our Club has purchased a table at the upcoming CC Hospice Fundraiser on May 14 at the Riverfront Convention Center. Ten members of the Club have volunteered to attend this event.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MEMORIAL DAY RIB SALE FUNDRAISER?

Never fear, fellow Civitans, the Rib Sale Fundraiser WILL take place – just not on Memorial Day Weekend – but on a new date, **THE FOURTH OF JULY**, and here's why according to Rib Chairperson, Randy King:

“Given that we can only do one sale this year due to the availability of Danny Creel, owner of Piggly Wiggly on Simmons, the Board officers have concurred with my recommendation that we move the date of the sale to Friday, July 4th. After talking to Danny, I believe we can have a better result (more profit) by moving it to the middle of the summer. While there are some minor advantages (like spreading out our activities since the Game Day at Creekside is scheduled for right after Memorial Day), the main reason for this recommendation is that Danny is running a produce sale from July 3rd to 5th.

This event, held both inside and outside the store, highlights the produce available from local farmers. There will be specials on cantaloupes, corn, blueberries, and other produce depending on their availability on those dates. Danny and I believe the produce sale will bring a number of “walk up” customers to the store who may purchase our ribs. Depending on how our pre-sale orders go, we can order and cook up to 180 racks, which would be twenty-eight more than we cooked and sold last May.

There are no guarantees, of course, just like with the Tree Sale, but I am hopeful that this change will give a much-needed boost to our Charity Budget for the year. I will get back to you in late May or early June to seek volunteers as well as your help in publicizing our event.”

We support Randy in this decision and there are a few things YOU as members can do to help:

- Volunteer to help at the sale;
- Let your friends and neighbors know of the change in date;
- Buy ribs personally for your family or donate racks of ribs to RCS;
- Use your personal Facebook and other social media pages to share the change;
- Post on your local email loops of this change in date.

Thank you for your continued support of this fundraiser – a win/win as we get tasty food and raise money for our local charities.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SWIMMING



Three of our Civitan members, President Roy Leonard, Past President Gary Todd, and Past President Dennis Pymm volunteered to assist at a Special Olympic competition held on Saturday, April 5th. They answered a short-notice request for volunteers to fulfill various tasks at the event which was held at the New Bern YMCA.

The total number of swimmers numbered about seventy. Events in which they participated were those typical for swim meets – 25-yard heats of breaststroke, backstroke, butterfly, and so forth. There were several 50- and 100-yard meets for more advanced and abled swimmers. There was one 500-yard event, and several relay swims. In total, there were about twenty-five different heats.

Our “Presidents’ duties” of the day included setting up flags for the Awards Ceremony, acting as timers, and just generally cheering the Special Athletes on during the competitions. Gary Todd said, “The swimmers were really pumped up, lots of high-fives, and, of course, very big smiles on all the athletes and the audience.”

Thanks to all three of these members for supporting this event. You embody the spirit of Civitan. Kudos to y’all!



AND THE WINNERS ARE

Eleven very qualified students from New Bern High School competed for three of the New Bern Civitan Club's \$1000 scholarships. The screening process for these scholarships includes many criteria including grade point average, community service, extracurricular participation, income and need. The selection rubric is extremely comprehensive and the decision to get to three from the eleven was difficult.

Amy Willis chaired this Selection Committee for the Club and Jim Comer was her co-chair and a member of the Committee along with three other non-Civitan members. The announcement of the recipients was made at the High School Awards Assembly on April 25. Jim represented the Club at this assembly as Amy was called away to Arizona to await the birth of a new grandbaby.

We are proud to recognize the three NBCC Scholarship winners as:

Christopher Behrendt Diamond Dade Mackenzie Richardson

Congratulations to all the winners and we hope to meet them at a future Civitan meeting. Thank you to Amy, Jim, and all the members of the committee for putting in the time and effort to choose these scholarship champions.

VETERANS GRATITUDE PROJECT



At our Business Meeting on April 24, Jan Snyder, Veterans Gratitude Project chairperson, gave the following reported:

“Our Veterans Gratitude Project continues to move forward. We will be writing messages of hope, cheer, gratitude, respect, and honor to Veterans at Kinston Veterans Home. Let’s plan to do a minimum of one hundred. This will be happening at each meeting in May. They will be delivered in the first week of June.

We need cards – note cards, Thinking of You Cards, Happy Birthday, Thank You, Happy Day, celebrating you – any cards deemed appropriate. If you receive cards in the mail and you don’t use them, bring them in, please. If you have extra cards you haven’t used, bring them in, please. OR, if you are in Dollar Tree, pick out a pack and use them. We also want to include some Activity Books – Word Search, Adult Coloring Books, Adult Activity Books, Puzzle Books, etc.

Van Rice has talked with some local vendors to try to get some hats for the various branches of the Armed Services. We thank Van for his efforts. Judy Lopez has found a website with a variety of designs for all five branches of the service at a lower price. Thank you, Judy. The Buscemi “fund” under their Troops for Tony initiative will be funding part of the Veterans Hats to be ordered. All the organization of this will be worked out by our committee.

We will then determine if Doug Foster will deliver them OR if an NBCC team will deliver them in person OR will we invite the Activities Director here to a lunch meeting to receive them.

I believe this has been a positive project. If we can brighten any Veteran’s Day just a little bit, it is important to us to do so. When sending a message to a Vet, put on the front of the envelope what kind of greeting it is. Do not seal the envelope. Put only your first name on the card and add from the New Bern Civitan Club.”

Thank you to Jan and her committee for taking on this wonderful project to honor our Vets. We need YOU to help by writing some cards – either at home or at a meeting so we can achieve our goal of one hundred cards. Thank you.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER



Well, President-elect Eileen Buscemi, has done it again! She has orchestrated as chairperson of the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser another successful event bringing in about \$1500 for our charity budget for 2025-26. Again, the dinner was held at the Rhems Firehouse, and as always, we are grateful to them for the use of their facility. A BIG change this year is that Paula's restaurant donated all the meatballs, pasta, sauce, and Italian bread for the dinner – FREE. Other local businesses helped also – donations were given by Harris Teeter, Piggly Wiggly, Moore's BBQ, Cotten Funeral Home, and a large donation from Food Lion. We appreciate all their efforts on our Club's behalf.

NONE of this would have been possible without the support and help of our members. They helped to set up, clean up, serve, donate desserts, make salads, collect money, and do a variety of other tasks that needed to be done. Here is our extensive list of volunteers:

Tom Braaten, Randy King, Tim McLearn, Alan Craig, Nancy Donahue, Dana Donahue, Terry Lubsen, Tommaso Serra, Dennis Pymm, Ann Super, Dave Super, Betty Todd, Cathy Welles, Wendy Fleming, Joanne Tello, Judy Lopez, Mary Kay Dyer, Anita Pandolfe (friend of Mary Kay's visiting from Massachusetts), Ben St. John, Jan Snyder, Susan Husson, Bob Husson, Lovay Wallace-Singleton, Clark Saylor, Helen Shine, Jim Comer, Maureen Comer.

And we cannot forget the assistance from our NBHS Junior Civitan Club members: Zampar Mon, Jaiden Bloomfield, Antonio Hill, Vanessa Hernandez, Jessy Mukungampics, Grace Chin, Masi Kim (Grace's friend).

We extend our gratitude to all members who contributed to various capacities. Special appreciation goes out to those who attended. Extraordinary thanks to Van Rice and his band for providing wonderful music and entertainment. Many people come to hear them play and the dinner is just a bonus for them!

The fundraiser was an IMMENSE success by any standards – not just in money, but in fun and fellowship. Thanks to all members who worked hard to make this happen. EILEEN BUSCEMI – much gratitude for all you do for the Club – you are the BEST!

MEMORIAL DAY QUIZ

Think you know all about Memorial Day...take this quiz to check your knowledge.

- What year was Memorial Day first observed?
- What was the original name of Memorial Day?
- Who is credited with establishing Memorial Day? (**hard question**)
- Which war prompted the establishment of Memorial Day?
- What flower is often associated with Memorial Day?
- Memorial Day was originally meant to honor soldiers from which side of the Civil War?
- In which city was the first official Memorial Day held?
- What is the significance of the flag being flown at half-staff on Memorial Day?
- What is the purpose of the National Moment of Remembrance on Memorial Day?
- Memorial Day was declared a federal holiday in what year?
- What type of events commonly take place during Memorial Day weekend?
- Why is Memorial Day held in May?
- What popular activity do many Americans participate in on Memorial Day?
- Which traditional song is often played on Memorial Day?
- What do red, white, and blue represent?
- Why are red poppies significant on Memorial Day?
- What does placing a flag upside-down symbolize?
- What do the colors in the American flag symbolize?
- In modern ceremonies, what color ribbons are often used to honor military personnel?
- What is a common tradition in Chicago on Memorial Day?
- Which popular sport event is held during Memorial Day weekend?
- What happens every Memorial Day at Arlington National Cemetery?
- Which organization often hosts National Memorial Day observances?
- Arlington National Cemetery used to be a plantation belonging to whom?
- When was the tomb of the unknown soldier established at Arlington National Cemetery?

Want the answers? – email me and I'll send them to you!

MaureenComer0720@gmail.com

NBCC EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, May 9: NBCC Annual Picnic at Lawson Creek Park at noon. Catered by Fat Fellas – BBQ, chicken, all the fixings, drinks, dessert – for \$16 per person (same as last year's price). Spouses, neighbors, and friends are welcome to attend. The picnic was organized by Judy Lopez and Eileen Buscemi. Please sign up with Judy at jlothejudge@gmail.com or call at 252 288-5422. **ALL ARE WELCOME. Deadline is May 6.**

Monday, May 12: Board of Directors Meeting at Garber Church at 1 pm, Rm. 222. All officers and directors are asked to make every effort to attend.

Monday, May 12: RCS Shelter Dinner – please note new time for delivery – **5:45 pm.**

Wednesday, May 14: Hospice Fundraiser at the Convention Center 8 am. Our table of ten is filled. Thank you.

Thursday, May 22: NBCC Evening Meeting at Paula's Restaurant 5:30 pm. The meeting starts at 6 pm. Speaker – TBA. *If you are attending, please contact Maureen Comer before Tuesday, May 20, so she may phone in with reservations.*

Monday, May 26: MEMORIAL DAY

Tuesday, May 27: Field Day/Game Day/ Picnic for the Developmentally Disabled at Creekside Park, 9 am to 1 pm. If you can help with games, please contact Dennis Pymm at dpymm@yahoo.com. If you can help with food – need mashed potatoes and mild chili in crockpots – please contact the Todds at thetoddfamily10@gmail.com. We will also need volunteers to serve the food. The Club will be providing hot dogs, drinks, and snacks.



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 MAY



- If you were born in the month of May, then your zodiac sign is Taurus (May 1st to 20th) or Gemini (May 21st to 31st) and your birthstone is the vibrant, deep green emerald.
- The official birthday flower of May is the delicate and fragrant lily of the valley, said to represent sweetness, motherhood and humility.
- The grandest horse race in the world, The Kentucky Derby, takes place on the first Saturday in May every year. This is one of the oldest horse races in the world and has been running every year since 1875 except in 1945 during a wartime ban on horse-racing, and 2020 when the race was delayed until September due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in May.
- May 4th is widely hailed as Star Wars Day, a play of words on the popular line, "May the Force be with you."
- Cinco de Mayo, May 5th, is a holiday that celebrates the date of the Mexican army's May 5, 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War.
- Memorial Day is a federal holiday observed on the last Monday of May, honoring and mourning U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the Armed Forces. Originally known as Decoration Day, it began after the Civil War to decorate the graves of fallen soldiers and has evolved to commemorate all military personnel who have died in service

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.