



# THE CIVIC

## New Bern Civitan Club's Award Winning Newsletter



Chartered October 4, 1956

Celebrating our 68th Year

April 2024

### UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

**Mon. Apr. 8** - Board of Directors Meeting at Garber UMC, 1 pm Rm. 222. Directors - please try to attend this meeting

**Fri. Apr. 12** - NBCC Afternoon Meeting at Paula's restaurant 11:30 am - Speaker Buna Cumbie, Volunteer Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity.

**Thurs. Apr. 25** - NBCC Evening Meeting at Paula's restaurant 5:30 pm - Speaker: Robert Paine - New Bern Newcomers Board of Directors

**Thursday, May 2, 2024:** In lieu of our traditional Fishing Derby, we will be hosting a **game day and picnic at Lawson Creek Park** We will be inviting the same people from the facilities in the area to join us. Please put this date on your calendar as there will be much need for volunteers to make this outing successful. Betty and Gary Todd will be our chairs.

**Friday, May 10:** **Club Picnic** Our traditional Spring picnic **will be at noon, Lawson Creek Park.** Again, we are planning to have it catered by Fat Fellas of Havelock. Renee Salvatore and Susie Bare will again be hosting this event. Thanks to all of you who responded to the survey.

## APRIL CIVITAN BIRTHDAYS

Tom	Braaten	April 15
Max	Thompson	April 17
Bob	Whitley	April 27
Gary	Todd	April 28

## APRIL CIVITAN ANNIVERSARIES

**No Anniversaries in  
April**

## The 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.

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Dennis Pymm

### PRESIDENT ELECT

Roy Leonard

### VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant

### SECRETARY

Maureen Comer

### ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Eileen Buscemi

### TREASURER

Van Allen Rice

### ASSISTANT TREASURER

Amy Willis

### CHAPLAIN

Bill Baldree

### ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN

Jim Comer

### SERGEANT AT ARMS

Ken McCain & Dev Lippitt

### EDUCATION OFFICERS

Helen Shine, Maureen Comer

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Gary Todd

## DIRECTORS

### One Year

*Term Expires*

*Sept. 30, 2024*

Dev Lippitt

Renee Salvatore

Judith Lopez

Betty Todd

### Two Year

*Term Expires*

*Sept. 30, 2025*

Alan Craig

Dave Super

Ann Super

Joanne Tello

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## THANK YOU JUNIOR CIVITAN CLUB



Abby Rodrigues (l.) and Mrs. Laura Miller-McLemore (r.)

As has been the tradition for many years, the New Bern High School Junior Civitan Club has prepared and delivered the March dinner to the RCS Shelter. This year was no exception. It was the traditional spaghetti and meatball dinner, but this year some chicken pot pies were added as a treat. In addition, Italian bread, salad, and dessert cupcakes were supplied.

Many Junior Civitans collaborated to provide this meal which was delivered by the Junior Civitan Club President, Abby Rodrigues, and the Junior Club advisor, Laura Millier-McLemore. The Juniors have also been collecting canned goods and non-perishable foods for the last month to bring to the RCS Food Bank. The bed of an entire full-sized truck was brimming with contributions.

This is only one of the community projects that the Junior Civitan Club participates in throughout the year. Their compassion for others as well as their community mindedness is admirable. Our Club is enormously proud of these young people. Our best wishes go to them for all they do. Thank you!

### **AN UPDATE ON CRAVEN COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

Chris Worsinger, Program Manager at Craven County Recreation and Parks was our guest speaker on March 8. He has been in this position since 2019. Prior to that, he was the Swim Coach of East Carolina Aquatics in Greenville and worked at Harrison Family YMCA in Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

Chris is also in charge of Special Olympics in our county. This program serves the special citizens here by providing a fun and safe experience as they compete, coach, volunteer, and cheer. Special Olympics has been offered in Craven County for over 40 years. There are over three hundred athletes that participate in local and state level Olympic-type sports, such as swimming, bocce ball, equestrian and more. Our own member, Nathan Silves, has been awarded a medal in bocce locally and will be competing in the state competitions. Roy Leonard is our liaison to the county Special Olympics.]

As we are all aware, the mission of Special Olympics is to provide sports training and athletic competitions in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Chris was presented with a check for one thousand dollars for the Craven County Special Olympics from our Charity Budget. He accepted it on behalf of the Special Olympic athletes and was grateful to our Club for its continued support. When the next Special Olympics Field Day is held, we hope to again have volunteers to assist any way that we can. Thank you, Chris, for what you do for these very special participants!





## **FOURTH (ALMOST) ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER**

The New Bern Civitan Club's "annual" Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser took place on March 23 where it has always been held – the Rhems Firehouse. The last one was held in 2020. Why the long break? COVID and the untimely passing of our member, Carmine Buscemi whose wife, Eileen, was in charge.

Well, it's 2024 now and Eileen was geared up to bring it back and make it successful. There were many club members, Junior Civitans members and local businesses ready to support this project. But it was the organization and "sweat equity" of Eileen that got this project off the ground as well as the dedicated crew that helped her.

First the local businesses – Food Lions, Harris Teeter, Piggly Wiggly, Moore's BBQ (iced tea), Cotten Funeral Home (bottled water) and our biggest contributor Paula's Restaurant for sauce and bread.

Many members donated desserts for a beautiful variety of sweets – mostly homemade. Mary Traina coordinated the salad buying and making and was assisted that night by Susie Bare. Joanne Tello collected the iced tea from Moore's and looked over the table. May Kay Dyer was the "sweet treat" coordinator. The meatball makers in Eileen's kitchen before the event were Eileen, Cathy Welles, Judy Lopez, and Mary Kay Dyer. The Chief pasta maker was Gary Todd with the able assistance of Betty Todd. Servers were Maureen Comer, Cathy Welles, and Frank Salvatore. Fifty-Fifty was overseen by Norma Judd. Bill Snyder was the 50/50 winner. Renee Salvatore and Mary Dougherty managed admission tickets. Take out dinners done by Alan Craig. Chief pot washers were Dev and Hollie Lippitt. Chief utility infielder (meaning – she filled in at many stations) was Judy Lopez. Van Allen Rice oversaw music with his wonderful band, Biscuits N Gravy. The set up and clean up crew were Randy King, Buck Irvin, Tim McLearn, Tom Braaten, Wendy Fleming, Jim Comer, Dennis Pymm, and Ken Welles. The Comers provided the paper goods. Judy Lopez provided the plastic ware. Eileen Buscemi provided decorations. Posters provided by Van Rice. Additional monetary donations toward the dinner came from Alan Craig, Mary Traina and Cathy Welles.



Tom Bratten &  
Dennis Pymm Plan  
Logistics

Nora Judd  
Conducts Raffle

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## FOURTH (ALMOST) ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

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We can't say enough about the role our five Junior Civitan members played. They helped people to their seats, got them salads and desserts, cleaned up after customers left and in their spare time – they danced to the band's music – lots of energy there.

Not all the money has been collected yet, but first returns say profits could be close to \$1700 to be used for our 2024-25 Charity Budget – an ENORMOUS success by any standards – not just in money, but in fun and fellowship. Thanks to all members who assisted in any way and a special thank you to those who attended. EILEEN BUSCEMI – WE THINK YOU ROCK!!! THANKS!



Betty Todd & Tim McClear



Gary Todd Cooks Pasta



Mary Traina & Susie Bare Prepare



Maureen Comer & Cathy Welles



Frank Salvatore Serves Bread



Jr. Civitans Help



Van Allen Rice Sets Up Band

Band Playing and Diners





## CRAVEN COUNTY RECREATION AND PARKS



**Billy Wilkes, Director of Craven County Recreation and Parks** has been with this system for thirty-four years and he STILL loves his job even though he is getting ready to retire. His “love” was evident when he discussed the parks and programs at our March 28 meeting.

**Currently four parks are available for Citizen use in our county. They are:**

**Creekside Park** – located on Old Airport Road opened in 1997 and is comprised of 111 acres. It houses numerous athletic facilities including softball fields, football fields, soccer fields, beach volleyball courts, 18-hole disc golf, pickle ball and Bocce courts. It also has a waterfront dock, walking trails, kayak launches, rest rooms and a Gazebo.

**West Craven Park** – located in Vanceboro across from West Craven High School, it is ninety-one acres and opened in 2008. This park houses Little League baseball and Youth Football. It has several fields, nature walks, tennis courts, a picnic shelter, and a playground.

**Latham-Whitehurst Nature Park** – located on Broad Creek Road near Fairfield Harbor, it opened in 2011 and is comprised of preserved pristine coastal land. It offers hiking, nature observation, bird watching and access to Broad Creek by way of a boardwalk.

**Rocky Run Park** – is a 5-acre neighborhood park located in the Rocky Run Community off Highway 17. This park opened in 1982 and has a playground, charcoal grills, picnic shelter and a basketball court.

A new, yet unnamed park is in the works behind Carolina Colors scheduled to open sometime in 2025

Parks and Recs also use these facilities for instructional classes such as tennis and golf lessons, kayak lessons and beach volleyball lessons. Youth summer camps are offered every year. Special Olympic activities and Senior Games and Silver Arts are also available.

Use of these parks has grown tremendously over the last few years, going from three hundred thousand to five hundred thousand per season. All these facilities are available for public use and can be reserved by calling Craven County Recreation Parks Office at (252) 636-6600. Rental fees may apply. For more information, go to [www.cravencounty.recdesk.com](http://www.cravencounty.recdesk.com) We are grateful to live in an area where there is so much to see and do! Thanks, Billy, for all your hard work over the years. You have made Craven County a better place to live.

Dennis Pymm Presents Billy Wilkes with a can of Civitan Peanuts in appreciation of his presentation.



### **HAPPY EASTER TO OUR VETERANS!**



A special project suggested by Jan Snyder has our members sending cards and letters to our Veterans at the State Veterans Nursing Home in Kinston, NC. This is a full-service state veterans' home with 449 skilled care beds and employing over 750 staff. Its goal is to provide high quality care to veterans that improves their quality of life. The home tries to meet the unique needs of American veterans. This facility offers comfort and security which encourages independence, meets individual needs, and emphasizes personal choice. The home offers comfortable, spacious accommodations in an attractive environment. Care is provided by registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified nursing assistants under the direction of licensed physicians.

How did this all get started? Doug Foster, a former NBCC member and president, is a neighbor to the Snyders. He is deeply involved in volunteering at this facility. In a discussion, Jan asked Doug for more details – what can our Club do to make the lives of these vets more meaningful while showing our appreciation for their service? The answer – cards, letters, notes of thanks and gratefulness. And so, the project began. It started with Valentine's Day cards and candies.

In addition to the cards and notes, Club members provided sweet treats for the residents. Jan was able to make two attractive "Easter Baskets" (see picture) to send before Easter. It was hand delivered to the Vet's Home for us by Doug Foster. Thank you to all members who donated. You have done a lot for these men and women who have helped to keep this country safe. It's the least we can do...isn't it?



## GETTING OLD



Don't be worried about your smartphone or TV spying on you. Your vacuum cleaner has been collecting dirt on you for years.

If you can't think of a word, say, "I forgot the English word for it." That way people will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot.

I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.

- I'm getting tired of being part of a major historical event.

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.

Ate salad for dinner. Mostly croutons and tomatoes. Really just one big round crouton covered with tomato sauce, and cheese. FINE, it was a pizza...OK, I ate a pizza! Are you happy now?

Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk nine feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.

I may not be that funny, athletic, or good looking, smart, or talented...I forgot where I was going with this...

I love being a senior citizen, I learn something new every day and forget five other things.

I think I'll just put an "Out of Order" sticker on my forehead and call it a day.

Just remember once you're over the hill you begin to pick up speed.

Having plans sounds like a promising idea until you must put on clothes and leave the house.

It's weird being the same as old people!

# THE CIVIC

## LAWS OF LIFE

**Law of Mechanical Repair:** After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will itch, or you will have to use the bathroom.

**Law of Gravity:** Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.

**Law of Probability:** The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

**Law of Random Numbers:** If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal; someone always answers.

**Variation Law:** If you change lines or traffic lanes, the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now.

**Law of the Bath:** When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone will ring.

**Law of Close Encounters:** The probability of meeting someone you know INCREASES dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

**Law of the Result:** When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, IT WILL!

**Law of Biometrics:** The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

**Law of the Theater and Hockey Arena:** At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle always arrive last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the performance, or the game is over. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long, gangly legs or big bellies and stay to the bitter end of the performance. The aisle people also are very surly folk.

**The Coffee Law:** As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

**Murphy's Law of Lockers:** If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

**Law of Physical Surfaces:** The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

**Law of Logical Argument:** Anything is possible IF you don't know what you are talking about.

**Law of Physical Appearance:** If the clothes fit, they're ugly.

**Law of Public Speaking:** A closed mouth gathers no feet!

**Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy:** As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop marking it or the store will stop selling it.

**The Law of Television Entertainment:** As soon as you find a TV program that you really like, it will be cancelled.

*May bad luck always follow you, but NEVER overtake you!*