

The Civic



Birthdays

Ben St. John - Sept. 4

Tommaso Serra - Sept. 13

Frank Court - Sept. 18

Michael Wofford - Sept. 19

Lovay Wallace-Singleton -
Sept. 28

Civitan Anniversaries

Sandy McClinton - 23 yrs

William Snyder - 41 yrs

Reeshema Walker - 9 yrs



SLATE OF OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS FOR OCTOBER 1, 2025 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

President: Eileen Buscemi

President-elect: Roy Leonard

Secretary: Maureen Comer

Assistant Secretary: Susan Husson

Treasurer: Van Rice

Assistant Treasurer: Amy Willis

Board Members (term ending 9/30/26):

Buck Irvin, Randy King, Clark Saylor, Betty Todd

Board Members (term ending 9/30/27):

Wendy Fleming, Marie Leonard, Judy Lopez,
Tommaso Serra

Congratulations and thank you to all these officers and board members. Please try to support them by attending the Installation Dinner on Thursday, September 25, 2025. See next article for more details.

Our 69th Installation Banquet

Repeat article from last month but not many members have signed up yet.
Please make every effort to sign up as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sixty-Nine years of service to our population. Sixty-nine years of fellowship. Sixty-nine years and we're still the New Bern Civitan Club known and respected in our community. It is now time for our **69th Installation Banquet**.

When: Thursday, September 25, 2025

Where: The Chelsea Restaurant

Time: 5:30 pm – Cash Bar | 6:00 pm – Dinner

Menu: Salad, Dinner rolls, Honeymoon Chicken, Vegetable, Starch, Dessert (*For anyone with special dietary needs – gluten free, vegetarian, vegan – the Chelsea will accommodate. When paying, indicate your needs.*)

Price: \$35 (includes tax & gratuity). Please contact Maureen Comer if you will be attending and send your check (made out to NBCC) to Treasurer Van Rice or you may pay at the door. If you sign up, you must attend unless you cancel by the deadline date of Friday, September 19. ALL reservations must be made by then. We will PAY for the number that we call into the restaurant on the 19th. [Click here to pay online.](#)

Guests, spouses, significant others, family, and friends are welcome to attend.

This year our keynote speaker will be newsman **Brian North** of WCTI Channel 12. Brian has been with the station since 1998 and is a respected member of our community.

In addition to our Citizen of the Year and our Civitan of the Year awards, we will have other presentations to members about their special achievements.

Reasons to attend:

To support our Officers and Board Members.

To share fellowship with our other Civitan members.

To support our NBHS Junior Civitan Club.

To hear what our guest speaker, Brian North, has to say.

To enjoy the delicious food of the Chelsea restaurant.

To see who the 2024-25 Citizen and Civitan of the Year will be.

You don't have to cook or clean up that night!

The best reason might be to acknowledge the achievements of the NEW BERN CIVITAN CLUB as it continues to support, assist, aid, fund, encourage, keeps, and sustains so many organizations, charities, and individual people in New Bern and all Craven County.

Please consider attending this important function honoring our Club and ourselves!

MORE ABOUT OUR INSTALLATION SPEAKER BRIAN NORTH



We are honored this year to have local “celebrity” Brian North as Keynote Speaker at our Installation Dinner on September 25th. Here is some information that you might not know about Brian...

Brian has worked at WCTI since September 1998. He was hired as the sports director but then added news anchor to his duties in January 2008. He is married to Jennifer, and they have two daughters who he is trying to make into professional golfers as part of his retirement plan!

Brian states, “It’s the people of Eastern North Carolina that makes this place special, and I enjoy listening to their stories and then telling those stories to our audiences. I am surprisingly good at finding the best local places to eat and can give you some good recommendations.” He also has a knack for getting news and information to people when they need it most. His goal is to always be fair and maybe have a little fun along the way.

When it comes to sports, Brian has some great memories of ENC, more than we can print on this page. He says his best times have been watching and getting to know student athletes as they grow and maximize their potential. Some go on to have success as college athletes, some go to professional ranks, but covering their journey no matter where it leads them and reminiscing about it is the best plan. Brian has seen many varied tournaments throughout ENC, but he says he still gets chills thinking about dealing with the flooding with Hurricane Floyd.

Brian was born and raised in upstate New York. He grew up on a dairy farm in the town of Hartford. When he wasn’t milking cows and driving tractors, he played soccer, basketball, baseball (his school was too small to have football) and participated in every extracurricular activity, because that’s what you do in a small town. Brian then attended James Madison University where he majored in communications with a concentration in coaching and broadcasting. He graduated with honors in 1992. His first job in television was at WHSV in Harrisonburg, VA. He was the weekend special anchor and sports reporter from 1992-1998. He also hosted and produced the VMI Special Magazine from 1994-97.

We HOPE you will come out to hear Brian speak, have a great dinner, visit with friends, support our NBHS Junior Civitans and our Clubs Officers and Board as they are installed and just have FUN. Sign up now with Maureen Comer or Van Rice. See you on the 25th!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF NEW BERN



(Pictured above L to R: Jessica Rhue, Deanna Trebil, Robert Goth, and Roy Leonard.)

Our August afternoon meeting brought in three engaging speakers, each sharing updates on projects shaping New Bern's future.

Jessica Rhue, New Bern's Director of Development Services, joined the City in January 2023 after working in Onslow County. She holds a bachelor's in Communication/Political Science and a master's in Public Administration with a concentration in planning from ECU. Her department manages safe development and orderly growth across the city, with responsibilities that range from zoning, permitting, and inspections to transportation planning, historic preservation, and code enforcement. With an annual budget of \$1.8 million, her team oversees a wide scope of work — everything from economic development and floodplain management to nuisance abatement and housing standards.

Jessica was accompanied by her new assistant, **Robert Gough**, who brings a military background to the role. Robert shared plans for the Shriners' building, which will become a new city parking lot — while preserving as much of its historic character as possible. He also discussed possibilities for the Elks building, including ground-floor shops or restaurants with apartments above.

Our third speaker, **Deanna Trebil** from the Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Services Department, has over 20 years of experience in local government. Her background includes managing capital improvement programs, overseeing multi-million-dollar infrastructure projects, and navigating state and federal grant regulations.

She spoke about upcoming transportation initiatives such as the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Safety Action Plan, Micro Transit, and "Prioritization 8" projects covering highways, bike and pedestrian facilities, public transit, rail, and aviation. One major focus right now is revamping the CARTS transportation system. Residents with questions or suggestions can reach her at trebil.deanna@newbernnc.org.

These city teams are working hard to improve daily life in New Bern. Your input matters — local insight often reveals what data alone can't.

Speak up and share your ideas!

MEETING DATES 2025-2026



Afternoon Meetings (Fridays)

Oct. 10, 2025

Nov. 14

Dec. 12 – Christmas Party

Jan. 9, 2026

Feb. 13

Mar. 13

Apr. 10

May 8 (Picnic)

June 12

July 10

Aug. 14

Sept. 11

Evening Meetings (Thursdays)

Oct. 23, 2025

No evening meeting - Thanksgiving

No evening meeting - Christmas

Jan. 22, 2026

Feb 26

Mar. 26

Apr. 23

May 28

June 25

July 23

Aug. 27

Sept. 24 – Installation Dinner

Board Meetings 1 pm AND RCS Dinners 5:45 pm – all Mondays

Oct. 13, 2025

Nov. 10

Dec 8 – RCS Shelter Christmas Party / NO BOARD MEETING

Jan. 12, 2026

Feb. 9

Mar. 9

Apr. 14

May 11

June 8

July 13 (Tentative) – NO BOARD MEETING

Aug. 10

Sept. 14

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

OCTOBER 1, 2025 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2026



November 2025

Peanut Sales at the Farmers Market on Saturdays, November 1 to December, or until sold out. Chairs: The Leonards

Nov. 1–30: Donations for RCS Shelter – toiletries. Chair: J. Lopez

Nov. 1–30: Christmas Angels Distribution. Chair: J. Lopez

Nov. 28–30: Tree and Wreath Sales. Chairs: R. King and G. Todd

December 2025

Dec. 4–12: Santa Land. Chairs: The Comers

Dec. 8: RCS Shelter Dinner and Christmas Party. Chairs: The Comers

Dec. 12: NBCC Christmas Party at Paula's. Chair: J. Comer

January 2026

NBCC Scholarship Application Portal Opens (to early March)

February 2026

Clergy Appreciation Day. J. Comer and Committee

March 2026

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. Chair: E. Buscemi

April/May 2026

Announcement of NBCC Scholarship Recipients. A. Willis, Chair & J. Comer

May 2026

Game Day at Park for Dev. Dis. Population. Chairs: D. Pymm & the Todds

July 2026

July 4: Rib Sale. Chair: R. King

September 2026

Sept. 24: Installation Dinner and Awards. Chair: Madam President

TREASURER'S REPORT

DONATIONS

IS THIS A GREAT CLUB OR WHAT!

CHARITABLE DONATIONS YTD FOR FY 2024-25

Autismazing	\$	500.00	
Bike Box Project	\$	396.00	Charity Focus
Boys & Girls Clubs	\$	850.00	
Boys & Girls Homes 70th Anniversary	\$	70.00	
Boys & Girls Homes Christmas Child	\$	250.00	
Boys & Girls Homes annual donation	\$	2,500.00	
CIRC	\$	1,000.00	
Coastal Women's Shelter	\$	750.00	
Craven County Family Literacy & Pre-K	\$	500.00	
Craven Literacy Council	\$	513.00	Charity Focus
Craven Literacy Council	\$	200.00	
Craven County Hospice (Spring Breakfast)	\$	150.00	
DSS Christmas Children	\$	1,342.68	
Filling Station	\$	477.00	Charity Focus
Food Bank of E & C N.C.	\$	1,000.00	see note 1
Hats for Vets Program	\$	425.50	Offset by donations
Interfaith Refugee Ministry	\$	500.00	
MERCI Clinic	\$	1,000.00	
My Big Dream	\$	500.00	
My Sister's House	\$	100.00	see note 2
Oaks Road Academy	\$	370.00	Charity Focus
RCS	\$	2,000.00	
Salvation Army	\$	400.00	
Scholarships (from NC Community Foundation)	\$	3,000.00	
Scholarships (from NBCC Savings)	\$	9,000.00	
Special Olympics Craven Co	\$	1,000.00	
Special Olympics NC	\$	500.00	
Supporting Peace	\$	500.00	
Santa Land (all expenses)	\$	537.94	
Vanceboro Christian Help Center	\$	500.00	
Total Donations	\$	30,832.12	

THANK-YOU NOTES FROM OUR CHARITIES



A listing of our charitable donations for the Civitan year, October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025, can be found on the previous page. As you look through the list, you should feel a sense of pride for all this Club has given back to our community. Often, our charities write a note of thanks to the Club – a sampling of recent letters is below:

Bike Box Project and Rock Steady Boxing New Bern. *From Bethany of Team BBP and RSBNB:* We appreciate your generous contribution towards our Building Fund. Your kindness, thoughtfulness and contribution help continue support of our new gym, the fast growing Rock Steady Boxing program, and well-attended support group meetings. Thank you for believing in our mission and for being “in our corner.” Our donation - **\$396 from a Quarterly Focus**

Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina: Thank you for your generous gift of **\$2500** to Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina. Your gift to the Homes truly provides wonderful opportunities for very deserving children....Our children and staff are grateful for your friendship and support. I pray that God will bless you for being such a blessing to our children. *Personal and hand-written note from the Homes' President/CEO Marc Murphy:* Much appreciation to our New Bern Civitan friends. Please reserve November 8 for Civitan Day on Campus this year.

Special Olympics of North Carolina: Thank you so much for the generous donation of **\$500** to Special Olympics North Carolina. Support like this helps ensure year round sports training and competition opportunities that emphasize learning, fairness, and triumph for nearly 53,000 Special athletes in North Carolina who inspire thousands of coaches, officials, local program committee members and event organizers involved in Special Olympics statewide. *From Keith L. Fishburne, President/CEO Special Olympics North Carolina.*

Boys and Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain: On behalf of Boys & Girls Clubs of Craven County, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous gift of **\$850**. Because of you, 256 young people in our community are receiving vital support to reach their full potential as caring, productive, and responsible citizens....We are deeply grateful for your support and dedication to our mission. *From Brittany Spear, Chief Development Officer.*

Our funds and donations have made all the above possible for these organizations and more. Be proud to be a New Bern Civitan Club member...together we are strong and a force in our community!

QUARTERLY FOCUS JUNE TO AUGUST 2025



The Quarterly Focus for June to August was the Oaks Road Academy (ORA), a public elementary school in the Craven County District serving students from Pre-K through fifth grade. Many of the children who attend come from families facing economic hardship, with nearly all qualifying for free lunch. The school relies on community volunteers to assist these children with extra help.

Our member, Dennis Pymm, volunteers his time at this school. At a meeting in June, the school's volunteer coordinator, Gayle Midgette, spoke with us about the great need at this school.

The Board of Directors made ORA the community focus to help support the teachers to buy much-needed supplies. The Club responded with nearly a \$400 donation.

Pictured above is Dennis Pymm presenting ORA's Principal, Dr. Averitt, with the funds that have been collected. Another very worthy cause supported by our Club! Thank you.

Our next Quarterly Focus for September to December 2025 will be the Oxford House, a sober halfway house for those recovering from addiction. The residents have volunteered in the past to assist us with the Tree Lot and the Rib Sale.



ANOTHER CHANCE TO HONOR OUR VETERANS



At our August 28 meeting, we were honored to welcome two special guests from the North Carolina State Veterans Home in Kinston, Jennifer Lanier, Admissions Director, and Barbara Bayless, Activities Director. The Veterans Home is a member of the Pruitt Health family providers and for the past twelve years has delivered the same level of integrity and commitment that our veterans experienced and demonstrated while in service. Pruitt provides 24-hour care to aged and infirm vets. Services provided include skilled nursing, medical, dental, psychological, and therapeutic needs. Pruitt Health partners with the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Jennifer and Barbara report life at the Home is far from quiet – residents enjoy frequent community outings, friendly games of BINGO nearly five days a week, and even visits from beloved pets. The oldest resident, a female vet, will be celebrating her 100th birthday in October.

For the past year, our Club has written cards and notes to the residents. We have collected donations from our members and have been able to donate specific Service ball-caps (Army, Navy, Marines, etc.) to the Home to be distributed to those vets who may not have such a valued hat. All of this has been organized and administrated by our Project Chair, Jan Snyder. She has been the soul of this project making this her “labor of love.” Great job, Jan!

We thank all members who wrote cards or notes, contributed goods or money to this project, but most of all we thank our Veterans who can never be praised enough for what they have done for all of us.

For more information about the Vets Home, contact Jennifer Lanier at 252-417-1328 or Jennifer.lanier@pruitthealth.com.

Soon, we will be setting up a tour of this facility – keep watching for details.



NBCC EVENTS CALENDAR

Mon., September 1: Labor Day

Mon., September 8: Board of Directors Meeting at Garber Church, 1 pm, Rm. 222. All current and future **Board members are invited to attend.**

Mon., September 8: RCS Shelter Dinner at 5:45 pm. Need more donations – if you can help, please sign up at <https://signup.com/go/dUenBpr>

Fri., September 12: NBCC Afternoon Meeting at Paula's Restaurant 11:30 am. This will be a *Business Meeting*. Various Committee Chairs will update the membership about recent activities & future activities.

Thurs., September 25: Installation Dinner at the Chelsea Restaurant at 5:30 pm. Check out a more complete article in this Newsletter.

Reminder:

NBCC Afternoon meetings are the **second Friday** of the month at 11:30 am at Paula's Restaurant
NBCC Evening meetings are the **fourth Thursday** of the month at 5:30 pm at Paula's Restaurant
NBCC Board meetings are the **second Monday** of the month at Garber Church at 1 pm, Rm. 222
The RCS Shelter dinner is on the **second Monday** of the month at 5:45 pm



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

SEPTEMBER PUNS

A thief who stole a calendar got 12 months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.

The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes was on shaky ground.

The batteries were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist got married. They fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead give-away.

If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.

Show me a piano player falling down a mineshaft and I will show you A-flat miner.

You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

When you've seen one shopping center you've seen a mall.

Police were called to the day care center when a three year old was resisting a rest.

Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.

If you take your laptop for a run, you could jog your memory.

A bicycle can't stand alone. t's two tired.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

The guy who fell on the upholstery machine was fully covered.

He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

When she saw her first strands of gray, she thought she would dye.

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.

SEPTEMBER FACTS



- ♦ September is National Preparedness Month in the U.S., a time to raise awareness about disaster preparedness.
- ♦ On September 2, 1969, the very first Internet message was sent, initiating what would become the modern World Wide Web.
- ♦ September 6th is National Read a Book Day in the United States, encouraging everyone to grab a book and spend some quiet time reading, whether alone or with friends and family.
- ♦ On September 8, 1994, Microsoft christened its operating system with the Windows 95 name.
- ♦ September 11 is A Day of Remembrance, honoring those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.
- ♦ September 22 is the official start of fall at 2:19 PM EDT. On this date, there are approximately equal hours of daylight and darkness.
- ♦ The world's first movie theater, the Edisonia Vitascope Hall, opened on September 27, 1896, in Buffalo, 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.