

The Civic



Birthdays

Mary Dyer - Nov. 15

Charles Gillikin, Jr - Nov. 15

Mary Dougherty - Nov. 25

Civitan Anniversaries

Gary Todd - 14 yrs

Robert Husson - 13 yrs

Mary Traina - 6 yrs

Terry Lubsen - 2 yrs



CHRISTMAS PARTY AT PAULA'S

Our annual Christmas Holiday party at Paula's Restaurant will be on **Friday, December 12th at noon**. **Put this date on your calendar**. It will be after the tree lot sales are done, but we will still be selling peanuts at the Farmer's Market until they are sold out. It will also be our last day at Santa Land.

It will be a buffet, which will include chicken parmigiana, stuffed shells, lasagna, salad, bread, soft drinks, and dessert – homemade Christmas cookies made by Judy Lopez. The cost per person will be **\$25 – THE SAME PRICE AS LAST YEAR THANKS TO ROBERTO – OUR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR** – a real bargain for all this food! Entertainment for the party is still being worked on.

Make your reservations by contacting the Club secretary, Maureen Comer at maureencomer0720@gmail.com or phone 252-619-0274. Make your checks payable to the Club and give them to Van Rice.

If you wish to pay on our website, please make sure you indicate that you are paying for the CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY. **Deadline is December 9th**. *Roberto needs time to order the right amount of food.*

You won't want to miss these festivities, as well as celebrating the season with old and new Club friends. Spouses, guests, and significant others are more than welcome. Our next meeting will not be until after the New Year on Friday, January 9, 2026, at 11:30 am at Paula's.

If transportation is an issue, let Jim Comer know, and he will arrange a ride to and from the party. **SIGN UP NOW**. All of you have earned this party with the challenging work you have done and will do to make this another successful Civitan year. Remember to "join us in the fellowship and service of Civitan" as well as the **fun!**

LOOKING AHEAD...PLANNING AHEAD TWO IMPORTANT DATES IN DECEMBER



We need your help.

RCS Shelter Dinner and Christmas Party — Monday, December 8 @ 5 pm

- We still need food donations of Salad & Dressing, and about a 10 lb. spiral ham. Please sign up at <https://signup.com/go/dUenBpr>.
- We also need donations of hygiene items or money to purchase them. Contact Judy at jlothejudge@gmail.com.
- The following members have signed up to help set up, clean up & assist with food service and gift distribution: M. Dyer, J. Comer, M. Comer, J. Lopez, D. Pymm, B. Todd, G. Todd, E. Buscemi, M. Traina, C. Papia, M. Wofford, M. Leonard. Please report to the RCS Kitchen at 5 pm.
- We will be looking for volunteers to buy Christmas presents (up to \$50) for children housed at the Shelter at Christmas. We will not have the number of children and their Christmas lists until the end of November.

Santa Land Update — *This is what we know:*

- We **will** have a trailer at JT Barber for our Santa Land
- We **will** be decorating the trailer on Monday, December 1 around 9 am
- We **will** see children on 5 mornings, between 9 am & noon, on five days **between** December 2 and 12
- We **will** have a schedule toward the end of November but before Thanksgiving. As soon as we receive it, it will be shared with you.
- We **will** need 8 to 10 “elves” for each session. So far, we know we have J. Comer, M. Comer, E. Buscemi, D. Pymm, M. Traina, M. Dyer, J. Lopez. *If you might be available on any or all dates between December 1 & 12 (no weekends), please let me know. We can really use the help. Thank you.*

MORE YOU GIVE – THE MORE THAT COMES BACK TO YOU



We had two guest speakers from Oxford House address us at our October 10, 2025, meeting: Kurtis Miller and Donald Murrell. Kurtis is a native of New Bern, graduating from New Bern High School. He has been a resident of Oxford House since 2022. Kurtis is the liaison to our club, collaborating with Randy Kind to arrange schedules for their members who have helped our Club with the tree and rib sales. Donald Murrell was originally from Boston, but grew up in Trenton, NC. After working through his own recovery as a resident of Oxford House, he is now an employee, offering guidance and assistance to other residents.

Oxford Houses operate all over the United States as self-run, self-supported homes for individuals in recovery from a substance abuse disorder. There are over 300 houses in North Carolina, three of which (two for men, one for women – 6 to 8 residents per house) in New Bern. It is not like a regular halfway house where residents must leave in a prescribed amount of time. If the residents obey the rules and contribute to the running of the house, they may stay. All aspects of maintaining and running the houses are done solely by the residents including food shopping, cooking, cleaning, paying bills, etc. Each house is autonomous.

Both Kurtis and Donald had a long history of alcohol and substance abuse. Both had a difficult childhood. Both have spent time in prison. Both had a difficult journey back to sobriety. Kurtis at one time was near death from an overdose. Both turned their lives around and found Oxford House as a place where they could remain sober, find “family-like support,” and find out how giving back to one’s community is a major source of dignity and strength. They both admit that living at Oxford House has helped to make them a better person. We are grateful to them for having the courage to share their personal stories with us at our meeting.

IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO BE APPRECIATED



Here are some recent “thank you” notes from our charities and a scholarship winner. It is always gratifying to receive recognition for our efforts, isn't it?

From Makenzie Richardson – NBHS Scholarship winner: I was awarded one of your scholarships for the 2024-25 academic year and want to sincerely thank you for your generous financial support which will help me to continue my education at Campbell University.

I am Makenzie Richardson, and I am going into my first year at Campbell. My program major is Special Education and after graduation, I plan to pursue a career in helping plant special needs ministries by creating a non-profit parachurch organization in my hometown of New Bern.

In addition to my studies, I am also involved in current event planning for my special needs community, and plan to pursue club sports, service, and leadership opportunities, as well as being heavily involved in religious activities while at Campbell.

Again, please accept my sincere gratitude for this scholarship. Your financial support will help me to achieve my educational goals and ease the burden of my family incurring additional debt for college.

Craven Community College Foundation: We are deeply grateful to the Civitan Club of New Bern for the generous contributions to the Craven Community College Foundation. Your support plays a vital role in helping us uphold the essence of this year's campaign, “**Deep Roots, Strong Futures.**”

As you requested, your donations have been designated as follows: **\$500** Student Emergency Fund, **\$1,000** Welding Program, **\$2,000** Electrical Program, **\$2,000** New Bern Civitan Club Nursing Scholarship.

Thanks to the commitment of all the members of the Civitan Club of New Bern, we can continue to foster educational excellence and provide opportunities for our students to thrive. Your generosity not only honors our 60-year legacy but also builds a brighter future for our community. Signed: Dr. Raymond W. Staats, President Craven CC, and Charles Wetherington, Exec. Dir. Institutional Advancement

Tried by Fire, Inc.: On behalf of Tried by Fire, My Sister's House, I would like to thank you for your \$100 donation towards our Tea Par — tea event. Your financial support helps us continue in our mission and to assist those in our community.

The generous support of people like you makes it possible for our organization to exist and to make the community a wonderful place to live! Thank you again for your support.
Signed: Bonita Burney Simmons, Chief Executive Officer

COMMUNITY AWARDS – FOSTER PARENTS OF THE YEAR 2025



This year's Community Award for Foster Parents of the Year was given to Guadelupe and Bani Medina. They were honored at a ceremony on October 29th at Department of Social Services Hope Family Resource Center. As always, our Community Awards Chairperson, Helen Shine, organized this event.

The Medinas have been licensed foster parents with DSS since 2024. They have consistently demonstrated outstanding dedication and teamwork in their role as foster parents. DSS appreciates their willingness to participate in shared parenting and their ongoing support for the primary goal of reunification whenever possible. They maintain open, respectful, and effective communication with the children in their care, as well as with agency staff and biological families.

Outside of fostering, Bani enjoys working as a mechanic, woodworking, and traveling. Guadelupe loves baking, crafting, gardening, hiking, and traveling. Their well-rounded interests and nurturing personalities create a welcoming and supportive home environment. They currently have guardianship of twin teenage boys and an eight-month-old boy. DSS recommended the Medinas for this award as "they embody the true spirit of foster care. The Medinas understand that fostering is not about gaining a child for their family but about giving their family to a child in need. Their journey reflects their strength, compassion, and unwavering dedication to making a difference when children need them."

We congratulate the Medinas and all foster families who welcome children into their homes. We thank the staff of the Department of Social Services for their encouragement to these families. We thank Helen Shine (again) for her undying dedication to organizing these awards. We thank the following Civitan members who attended this ceremony: Roy Leonard, Cyndi Papia, Judy Lopez, Tim McLearn, Maureen Comer, Jim Comer, Betty Todd, Eileen Buscemi, and Katie Willams. Thanks for your support.

CRAVEN COUNTY LITERACY HAS A NEW DIRECTOR



The new Executive Director of the Craven Literacy Council (CLC), Dr. Dwight Carlblom, was our guest speaker on October 23rd. Prior to this position he served nearly a decade as the Head of the Epiphany School of Global Studies. He retired from that position last year. “Retired” may be the wrong word because since then he has been the interim Head of Academics at New Life Academy in Woodbury, MN, as well as a board member at CLC before assuming his current role.

Dr. Carlblom was raised on a farm in Minnesota. He received a BA from Crown College in History and an MAT in History from Minnesota State University at Mankato. Three years later, he and his wife, Lori, were invited to teach at Dalat International School in Penang, Malaysia, where they stayed for 22 years. Before coming to Epiphany, he also taught and worked as an administrator in Daejeon, South Korea; Crown College; and Seoul, South Korea, where he finished earning his PhD. Dr. Carlblom and his wife have two daughters and six grandchildren.

In his current role, Dr. Carlblom is charged with leading the organization in its mission to build literacy skills to empower adults and families to improve lives. Why does literacy matter? Dr. Carlblom explains, “When people learn how to read, write, do basic math, and use computers, they are more likely to lift themselves out of poverty, contribute to lower health care costs, and find and keep sustainable employment. There is a significant connection between participation in adult basic skills programs and increased employment and income levels, high school equivalency and postsecondary education attainment, and civic participation.”

CLC is a nationally accredited, volunteer-based provider of adult literacy instruction. It was established in 1986. It delivers instruction through one-on-one tutoring and small group classes. Scheduling is flexible and individualized learning plans tailored to the goals of each learner. The organization depends on volunteers who attend a 15-hour training workshop, then become certified by Proliteracy Worldwide. Tutors are supported and encouraged by CLC’s qualified staff and provided curriculum materials. If you want to learn more about being a tutor or support person to CLC, go to **CravenLiteracy.org**. Good luck, Dr. Carlblom.

BEARY MERRY CHRISTMAS

SAVE THE DATE!

List the things you want in a traditional holiday celebration: snow, sledding, Christmas Parade, Christmas tree lighting, Santa Claus, Candlelight tours, a boat flotilla. Where can you get ALL these things? The answer is right here in New Bern, North Carolina.

Come to our last regular Club afternoon meeting of 2025 on Friday, November 14th, at 11:30 am at Paula's Restaurant. A lot of people engage in this community-wide effort, but ONE leads the pack!

It's New Bern's Mrs. Christmas, **AMANDA BANKS**, who will be our guest speaker. Amanda has volunteered her time and skills to lead downtown's biggest holiday events through the month-long **Beary Merry Christmas** events she has organized and led since 2012.

Please make every effort to attend our last afternoon regular meeting of the year. Amanda will inform you about all downtown festivities and more. Bring your spouses, children, grandchildren, neighbors, and friends to this meeting.

Start the holiday season with all this valuable information! Events begin with:

Santa's Arrival & Tree Lighting - Friday, November 28. Kick off the holiday season in the most magical way! Watch as **Santa makes his grand entrance** to Downtown New Bern and helps light our breathtaking community Christmas tree. Gather with friends, sing along to carols, and feel the joy as we officially welcome another season of Beary Merry magic.



JUST FOR THE PUN OF IT!

What did the grape say when it got crushed? Nothing, it just let out a little wine.

I want to be cremated as it is my last hope for a smoking hot body.

Yesterday, I accidentally swallowed some food coloring. The doctor says I'm okay, but I feel like I've dyed a little inside.

To the guy who invented zero, thanks for nothing.

Geology rocks, but Geography is where it's at!

Can February March? No, but April May.

Need an ark to save two of every animal? I noah guy.

I don't trust stairs because they're always up to something.

My grandpa has the heart of a lion, and a lifetime ban from the zoo.

Why was Dumbo sad? He felt irrelephant.

A man sued an airline company after it lost his luggage. Sadly, he lost the case.

I lost my mood ring, and I don't know how to feel about it.

Becoming a vegetarian is on big missed steak.

I can't believe that I got fired from the calendar factory. All I did was take a day off.

Some aquatic mammals at the zoo escaped. It was otter chaos.

Never trust an atom; they make up everything.

Waking up this morning was an eye-opening experience.

Long fairy tales tend to dragon.

What do you use to cut a Roman Emperor's hair? Caesers.

The Middle Ages were called the Dark Ages because there were too many knights.

Somebody stole all my lamps. I couldn't be more de-lighted.

I know a guy who collected candy canes; they were all in mint condition.

My wife tried to apply at the post office, but they wouldn't letter. They said only mails work here.

My friend's bakery burned down last night. Now his business is toast!

It's hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs; they always take things literally.

NBCC EVENTS CALENDAR

A BUSY MONTH FOR VOLUNTEERING

Saturdays, November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 & Friday, November 28 – Peanut Sales at the Farmers Market, 8 am to 2 pm. If you wish to order peanuts, you may contact Roy Leonard at roy_leonard@hotmail.com.

Tuesday, November 4 – *Election Day*. Don't forget to vote in state, city, and federal elections! Every vote counts.

Monday, November 10 – Board of Directors Meeting, Garber Church, 1 pm, Rm. 222. *Board Officers and Members, please make every effort to attend. It will be our LAST Board Meeting of 2025. There will be NO December Board meeting.*

Monday, November 10 – RCS Shelter Thanksgiving Dinner @ 5:45 pm

Tuesday, November 11 – *Veterans Day*

Friday, November 14 – NBCC Afternoon meeting 11:30 am at Paula's Restaurant. Guest Speaker: **Amanda Banks** of New Bern's Beary Merry Christmas – all invited. *If you plan to attend this meeting, please contact Maureen Comer, maureen-comer0720@gmail.com before November 12th so she may call in reservations to Paula's.*

Monday, November 17 – Construction of Tree Lot on MLK Blvd. across from Paula's Restaurant – same location as last year.

Saturday, November 22 – Trees and Wreaths arrive to lot

Monday to Wednesday, November 24-26 – Wreathmaking at lot 9 am to 1 pm

Thursday, November 27 – *Thanksgiving*

Friday to Sunday, November 28-30 -Tree Lot open 9 am to 6 pm. *Randy King will be sending out a request for members to sign up and help. Please give generously of your time. Everyone can do something. This is one of our biggest fundraisers.*



Officers

President: Eileen Buscemi

President-Elect: Roy Leonard

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Maureen Comer

Assistant Secretary: Susan Husson

Treasurer: Van Allen Rice

Assistant Treasurer: Amy Willis

Sergeant-at-Arm: Dev Lippitt

Education Officers: Helen Shine & Maureen Comer

Chaplain: Bill Baldree

Assistant Chaplain: Jim Comer

Current Board

	Term Expires
Buck Irvin	2026
Randy King	2026
Clark Saylor	2026
Betty Todd	2026
Wendy Fleming	2027
Marie Leonard	2027
Judy Lopez	2027
Tommaso Serra	2027

Webmaster, Civic Editor & Social Media: Cyndi Papia

NOVEMBER FACTS



- ◆ Here is one of the more intriguing fun facts about November: it is the only month that Shakespeare never mentioned in all of his plays and sonnets.
- ◆ November is the only month that doesn't have a full moon.
- ◆ Did you know wild turkeys can run at speeds of up to 25 miles per hour and can fly as fast as 55 miles per hour in short bursts?
- ◆ November 1, 1848: The first medical school for women opens in Boston.
- ◆ The first-ever American crossword puzzle was published on November 2, 1913, in the New York World newspaper.
- ◆ November 4, 2007, the first Android smartphone, the T-Mobile G1, was released.
- ◆ The first-ever American football game was played on November 6, 1869, between Princeton and Rutgers.
- ◆ November 7, 1907: the first radio broadcast of a football game occurred, with Harvard vs. Tufts.
- ◆ The United States Marine Corps was founded on November 10, 1775.
- ◆ The first-ever Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was held in November 1924.
- ◆ The coldest temperature ever recorded in the contiguous United States was -69.7 degrees Fahrenheit on November 24, 1985, in Rogers Pass, Montana.

