

The Civic



April Birthdays

Tom Braaten - Apr 15

Max Thompson, Jr. - Apr 17

Donald Whitely - Apr 27

Gary Todd - Apr 28

Civitan Anniversaries

Tim McLearn - 16 yrs

Clark Saylor - 8 yrs

Cyndi Papia - 4 yrs



SOME NOTES OF THANKS FROM OUR CHARITIES

Here are some excerpts from thank-you notes to our Club from local charities:

Tried by Fire – Last September, the Club donated \$100 to support their fourth annual Afternoon Tea Party. We were acknowledged on their program. In the note, Deedra Durocher the Tea committee chair wrote: “This year’s Par-Tea welcomed a record number of guests, over half attending for the first time. With a new venue, excellent catering, donated pastries, and an inspiring talk from a current resident of My Sister’s House, we are pleased that the event was a great success....Thanks to your support, we raised \$4,980 for the mission and programs offered by My Sister’s House for women rebuilding their lives and futures after incarceration.

Craven County Partners in Education – from Suzanne Gifford, Executive Director: On behalf of Craven County Partners in Education, thank you for your generous donation of \$600 to support our Stuff the Buss campaign. Your thoughtful contribution will help provide essential school supplies to students in need, ensuring they are equipped and ready to learn as they begin the new school year. Your gift helps create a positive start for students and reinforces the value of education.

Craven County Family Literacy Program – from Kimberly Clifton, Bookkeeper: On behalf of the Craven County Family Literacy Pre-K Program, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your incredibly generous support. Your donation of \$500, along with 275 backpacks, 150 lap blankets, one hundred notebooks and two hundred pocket folders, will make a tremendous difference in the lives of the children and families we serve. These contributions go far beyond material items – they are an investment in the futures of our youngest learners and a meaningful reminder that our community cares deeply about their success...We are especially grateful for the Civitan Club of New Bern’s continued partnership. Your steadfast support empowers us to provide high quality early education and literacy services that help children thrive and families grow stronger together.

BOARD UPDATES FOR MEMBERS

As you know, our Board of Directors and Officers meet monthly on the second Monday of the month at Garber Church at 1 pm. ALL members are invited to attend or make a request or suggestion to any officer or board member to bring up at a meeting. The names of the Club's officers and board members can be found in ALL our monthly newsletters.

Over the last two months, some things have come up that you may or may not know about. Please read them here and if you have any questions, please contact any of the officers or board members for more details.

1. Van Rice and Dave Super have put together a grant application to be sent out and returned with specific details on how much money is being asked for and for what it will be used. It will also include all the vital information of Directors and addresses to where checks will be sent. A Grants Committee will be formed to maintain contact with fund recipients and to evaluate requests for grants as may fall under new guidelines established by the Grants Committee and approved by the Board (February meeting).
2. Overview of Grant/Contribution Forms for Charitable Donations: V. Rice/D. Super (March meeting) – Dave made a summary of member suggestions for which charities the Club should donate to and handed it out to the Board. Discussion on form for organizations to fill out to request a donation; form goes to members to give to charities and would also be on Club website.

Once applications are received, Dave, Judy Lopez and Susan Husson would review and choose données. Suggestions for recipients included organizations who help others with food, clothing, medical needs, physically and mentally challenged people, and those with addictions. Dave and Van will work on the parameters of the dollar amount of donations that will require an application. (Thank you to Assistant Secretary, Susan Husson, for this update).

3. Storage Shed Update – We had been sharing the cost of a storage shed for our Santa Land materials with another organization. We were paying part of the cost. The other organization did not need the space any longer. So to keep that climate-controlled storage area, we would have to pick up the entire cost of the storage shed. That amount went up to \$90 per month. To keep the storage shed, we would need to take the cost from our Charity Budget.

Tommaso and Van found a donor in Robert Liland from Urethane Innovators, who donated \$1,000 toward covering the cost of the shed. We gratefully accepted Mr. Liland's offer and we honored him with a thank-you note and a certificate at our March 13th meeting.

4. Amy Willis has resigned from her position as Assistant Secretary but will continue as the Scholarship Chair. Her work begins with this process shortly and we appreciate that she is staying in that position.

5. Club Tee Shirts – Dennis Pymm, Mary Traina, and Cyndi Papia are working on Club tee shirts. Shirts will be blue with logo on top left in the front and website URL on the back. There will be no minimum order, and Mary will take orders and accept payment (amount not yet finalized) when the process is finished.

5. Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser – The dinner has been moved to sometime in September after Labor Day. Eileen has had a good response and lots of volunteers. No decision was made on possibly choosing a new venue.

Thank you to all the officers and board members (and members) who give so generously of their time to keep this Club moving forward.

Please check on the Calendar and Events Update in this Newsletter.

HAVE YOU T'D UP YET?



Attention all New Bern Civitan Club members...have youT'd up yet? The time is NOW to order your official New Bern Civitan Club T-shirt. The T-shirts are 100% pre-shrunk cotton. Sizes are UNISEX.

We will be getting a discount for a bulk order. Individual orders are more expensive. The price is \$20 including tax and free shipping.

Mail your check and shirt size to:

Mary Traina
212 Eighth St
New Bern, NC 28560

Make the check out to: Mary Traina

Write the **size** on the "note" section of the check.

You may also pay in person at the Friday, April 10th meeting – Mary will be there.

Email any questions to her at mtraina212@gmail.com.

ORDERING WINDOW: NOW UNTIL APRIL 20TH

Thank you to Cyndi Papia for her design expertise and to Mary Traina for coordinating this project.



WHAT'S NEW AT MERCI CLINIC?



Nicole Riggs was named Executive Director of the MERCI Clinic last August. She holds degrees from Vermont Technical College (Practical Nursing), Johnson State College (BS in Wellness and Alternative Medicine), and Norwich University (MS in Leadership). She has a diverse background and has worked in many different capacities throughout the United States.

At our evening meeting in March, Nicole shared with us the background of MERCI Clinic which has been in operation since 1996. Several community members came together to form a free clinic modeled after one in Virginia. The clinic opened with only two examination tables and serving patients one night a week. It first operated from the Phoenix House, a drug rehab unit, but due to a rapid increase in patients, moved to a rented commercial space on Broad Street less than a year later. It became incorporated with a nonprofit status in May 1997. In 2001, the clinic's board secured a grant to purchase the former ENT Physicians Building at 1315 Tatum Drive, where it remains today. Presently, MERCI employs three full-time and seven part-time employees and serves Craven, Jones, and Pamlico counties. Currently, it serves 235 unduplicated patients in a variety of ways, including dental, diabetic, physical exams, lab work, and more. Its aim is to try to keep these patients out of the hospital.

“Our mission has always been rooted in dignity, access, and compassion. During times of transition in the healthcare landscape, MERCI Clinic remains a constant – providing care, guidance, and hope.” MERCI has approximately twenty-eight volunteer workers and they are always looking for more. They have several fundraisers throughout the year and apply for grants to keep their doors open. In August, they will celebrate 30 years of helping our community. MERCI has reaffirmed its commitment to the community – particularly the uninsured or the underinsured – despite the many recent changes in healthcare insurance coverage.

As healthcare needs and patient needs are constantly changing, Nicole realizes that the Clinic must keep current to adhere to all the laws of the health system. She is proud of the service that MERCI offers to the people who go there. Every donation of money or time is appreciated. At the meeting, our President, Eileen Buscemi, presented Nicole with a check for \$1,000 from our charity budget. We are all pleased to be able to support this very worthwhile facility.


TRIPLE TREAT – FRIDAY, MARCH 13 – OUR LUCKY DAY

Our afternoon meeting on Friday, March 13th wound up to be packed full of information about some of our local charities. We heard about two different organizations which we support and perhaps one new one which we may contribute to in the future.

Craven County Special Olympics – Chris Worsinger, the local program coordinator for Craven County Special Olympics, is a volunteer in this position. He manages a committee that conducts Special Olympics activities within the county and helps provide sports training, competition opportunities and health and wellness initiatives for children and adults who have intellectual or physical disabilities. Under his leadership, the committee recruits, trains, and manages local volunteers as well as to increase athlete participation.

Chris graduated from East Carolina University with a BS in Parks, Recreation and Leisure Facilities Management with a concentration in Outdoor Recreation. His “full-time” job is program manager with Craven County Recreation and Parks. He has a strong swimming background and ample experience in other Special Olympic events. Chris has collaborated with equestrian athletes and volunteered at Special Olympics at the statewide level. More than 300 athletes from schools and the community participate in soccer, basketball, swimming, and basketball.

Coastal Center for Hope and Healing – Executive Director, Amanda Delgado, spoke about her organization. She has been in this position since May 2021. Amanda has a BS from Wichita State University and has been with the Shelter for eight years in various positions. She has been instrumental in creating a safe, friendly, and a warm environment for survivors of domestic violence – seeking housing on a temporary basis while leading a caring, devoted, and compassionate staff.



CCH&H is headquartered on Trent Road and has served Craven, Jones, and Pamlico counties for over 35 years. It is the sole provider of a no-cost comprehensive domestic violence service in our area. Services include a confidential 24-hour crisis line, court advocacy, monthly support groups for women and children, tuition assistance, necessities such as clothing and food, resources for employment, housing assistance and inter-agency information and referral. CCH&H also provides employability services through a grant from the North Carolina Council for Women.

Their vision is to eradicate domestic violence by helping families break the cycle of domestic violence and acquire the skills necessary to promote healthy family relationships. It holds annual fundraisers such as the CarolinaEast health System Run for Shelter, an annual motorcycle ride, the Back to School Backpack Drive, and periodic blood donation drives. Their upscale thrift store, Helping Hands Boutique, is located on Trent Road, next to their new headquarters.

You can help support this program by providing gift cards or donations for hygiene, office, cleaning, and lunch box supplies; or clothing or purses to their store at 2403 Trent Road. Their phone number is 252-638-5995.

EP7 – Stephanie Pauley, Director of EP7, offers support for youth who experience tragic loss. This Youth Outreach was named after Stephanie’s son, Ethan Pauley, who was killed while sledding. While grieving for the loss of her son, Stephanie observed the lack of resources for Ethan’s friends and her own family in our area. This organization was created to fulfill the need for grief education and services. It is their mission to provide opportunities for young people and their families to grieve healthily.

Stephanie holds an MA degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and is licensed to practice in North Carolina. Activities sponsored by EP7 include scholarships, grief camp, care packages, and Christmas remembrance trees. This organization can be contacted through FACEBOOK and Instagram or by calling 740-302-3370.

This was a very full meeting packed with information about the services available in our area. We are happy to support these wonderful organizations that do so much for many in our community.

NBCC PRESENTS TO THE NEWCOMERS CLUB

On March 12th, Mary Traina and Dennis Pymm, representing our Club, made a presentation to the New Bern Newcomers Club. Newcomers is a group that residents can join within the first three years of living in New Bern to learn more about what our area has to offer. The group meets once a month.

At its March meeting, the Newcomers invited local clubs and charities to set up information, slide shows, videos, PowerPoints, and signs to explain and advertise what their particular entity has to offer. Dennis and Mary greeted the new arrivals and spoke about our Club. They explained our mission and impact on the community and invited attendees to see for themselves what we are all about and how we impact New Bern and surrounding area. Invitations to our meetings were offered to all Newcomers.

Both Mary and Dennis agreed that the presentation was a success with people looking at our information and asking questions. We hope that some (or many) will follow through and join us.

Thank you to Mary and Dennis for their time, expertise, and devotion in spreading the word about our “exceptional” Club!



NBHS JUNIOR CIVITAN RCS DINNER



The March RCS Shelter Dinner, usually sponsored by the NBHS Junior Civitan Club, hit a few snags this year, BUT the Club's Advisor, Laura Miller-McLemore saved the day!

The Club was supposed to deliver the meal on Monday, March 9, but school was not in session that day. Miss Laura to the rescue! She cooked the entire meal herself and delivered it so that the residents of the Shelter had nourishing food that evening. Our Club Liaison, Ann Super, was there to assist with the delivery.

Thank you, Laura, for your dedication and generosity and for saving the day so that the RCS residents were fed. Your kindness and big-heartedness did not go unnoticed. Thank you!

Photo (left to right): an RCS Worker; Laura Miller-McLemore, NBHS advisor to the Junior Civitan Club; and Ann Super, NBCC Liaison to the Junior Civitan Club.

PULLED PORK AND HUSH PUPPIES, ANYONE?

Save the date!

Friday, May 8th at noon at Lawson Creek Park will be our annual Club picnic.

Pulled pork, hush puppies, potato salad, Cole Slaw – the works! It will again be catered by Fat Fellas in Havelock, and it will replace our regular afternoon meeting at Paula's for the month of May. More details to follow including this year's price for the picnic.

Hope you all will attend for an afternoon of great food, fellowship, laughs, and fun. Thanks to Betty Todd and Eileen Buscemi for coordinating this effort. See you there!

GAME DAY AND PICNIC AT CREEKSIDE PARK



It was so much fun and successful that we thought we might do it again this year! What – you ask? We will be having a Game Day and Picnic at Creekside Park on Wednesday, May 20th for our developmentally disabled and physically handicapped friends in our community. The fun will begin at 10 am.

Dennis Pymm will be coordinating the games with the Recreation Department and Betty and Gary Todd will be coordinating the food. But here is where YOU, our members, fit in...

If you can help supervise the games or have questions, please contact Dennis Pymm and tell him you can help – dtpymm@gmail.com

We need food for our guests. **Here is the menu:**

Mild chili made in a crock pot

Mashed potatoes in a crock pot

Soft dessert – preferably banana pudding – no need to make from scratch.

Make some boxed banana pudding and stir in some sliced bananas – this is a big treat for our guests!

If you can volunteer to make any of the above and you are available to serve and/or set up and clean up, or questions - please contact Betty Todd at thetoddfamily10@gmail.com

The success of this game day and picnic rely on YOUR help. Please make every effort to participate in some way. You'll be glad you did!

NBCC EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, April 1 – *Passover Begins*

Sunday, April 5 – *Easter*

Thursday, April 9 – *Passover Ends*

Friday, April 10 – NBCC Afternoon Meeting at 11:30 am at Paula's Restaurant, Speaker – TBA. *If you are planning on attending, please contact Maureen Comer by Wednesday, April 8 so she may call in reservations at the restaurant.*

Monday, April 13 – NBCC Board of Directors Meeting at Garber Church 1 pm, Rm. 222. Please make every effort to attend.

Monday, April 13 – RCS Shelter Dinner – 5:30 pm We still need food donations. If you can help, please sign up at <https://signup.com/go/dUenBpr>

Thursday, April 23 – NBCC Evening Meeting at 5:30 pm at Paula's Restaurant, Speaker – TBA. *If you are planning on attending, please contact Maureen Comer by Tuesday, April 21 so she may call in reservations at the restaurant.*

LOOKING AHEAD...

Friday, May 8 – NBCC Annual Picnic at Lawson Creek Park at noon. More information to follow.

Wednesday, May 13 – Hospice Fundraiser Breakfast at the Convention Center at 8 am. If you wish to attend or need more information, contact Dennis Pymm at dtpymm@yahoo.com

A date in mid-May – We will be hosting a Game Day and picnic for the developmentally and physically disabled population in the area. Stay tuned for details. We will need VOLUNTEERS to assist with games, donate food, serve food, set up, and clean up.

Saturday, July 4th – RIB SALE



Officers

President: Eileen Buscemi
President-Elect: Roy Leonard
Vice President: (Open)
Secretary: Maureen Comer
Assist. Secretary: Susan Husson
Treasurer: Van Allen Rice
Assistant Treasurer: (Open)
Sergeant-at-Arm: Dev Lippitt
Education Officers: Helen Shine & Maureen Comer
Chaplain: Bill Baldree
Assistant Chaplain: Jim Comer

Board

	Term Exp
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

FUNNY BUNNY HAPPY EASTER



- What kind of jewelry does the Easter Bunny wear? 14 carrot gold.
- 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.

CIVITAN CREED & MISSION

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.

Mission Statement: The worldwide mission of Civitan International is to build good citizenship by providing a volunteer organization of clubs dedicated to serving individual and community needs, with an emphasis on helping people with developmental disabilities.

Civitan's Vision: A global community where people of all abilities and talents make the world a better place.

Organizational Values: Civitan was founded on three tenets we hold dear – knowledge, fellowship, and service. These are the values that make the heart of a Civitan:

Service

Selflessly serving individuals in our communities

Inclusion

Giving everyone a seat at the table

Respect

Treating all people with the respect and dignity they deserve

Fellowship

Providing a place of belonging and kinship to neighbors and strangers alike

Courage

Having the confidence and conviction to stand up for what we believe in

Leadership

Embracing our knowledge to step up and lead within our communities