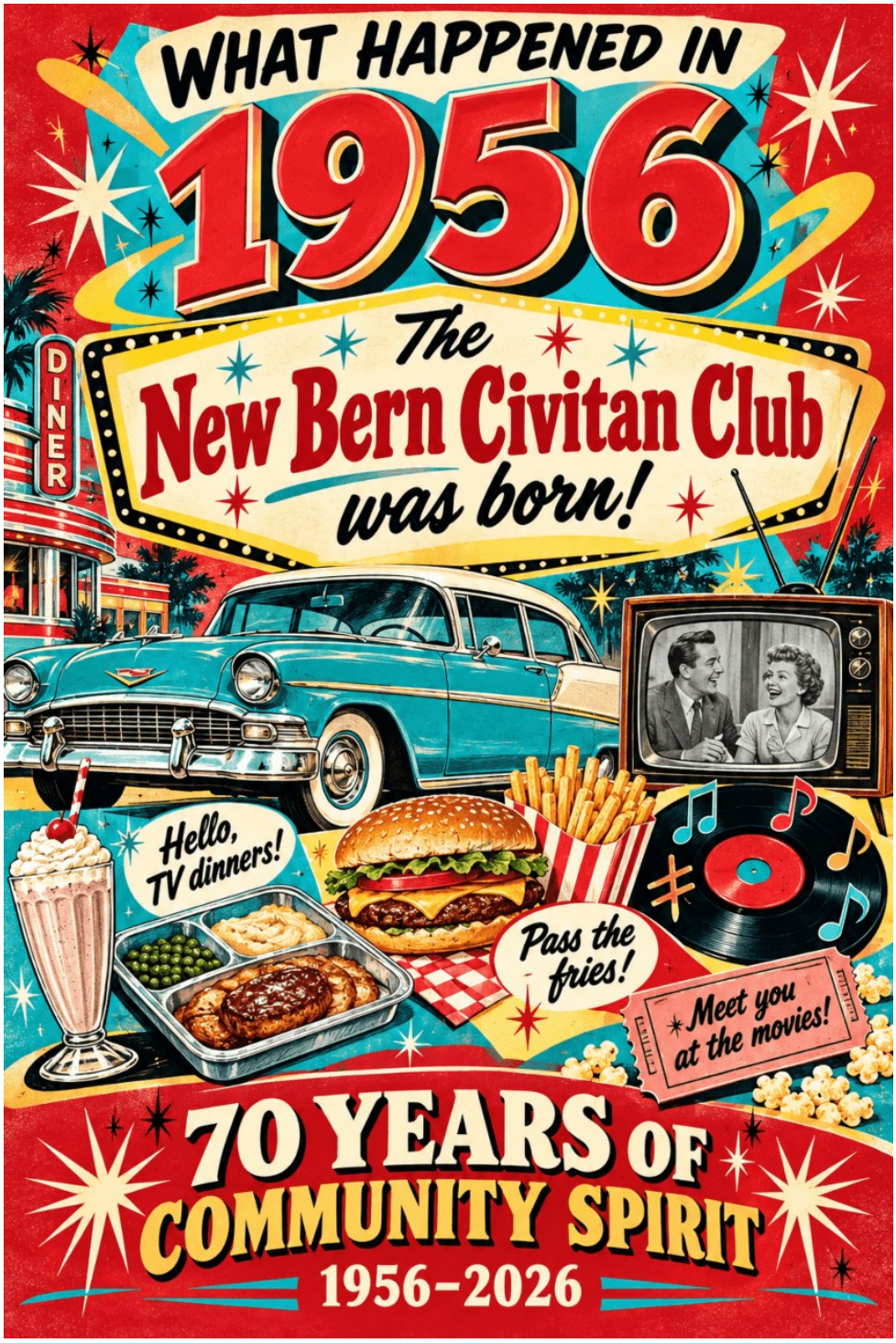
The Civic

Civitan Anniversaries

October
Al Mack - 40 years
Dave McCracken - 25 years
Frank Salvatore - 21 years
Jim Comer - 20 years
Maureen Comer - 20 years
Robert Brock - 18 years
Mary Dougherty - 16 years
Randy King - 15 years
Betty Todd - 14 years
Susie Bare - 6 years
Marie Leonard - 4 years
Larry Gold - 1 year

November
Gary Todd - 15 years
Robert Husson - 14 years
Mary Traina - 7 years
Terry Lubsen - 2 years

December
George Sawyer - 45 years
Bill McClinton - 37 years
Jan Snyder - 36 years
Jeff Williams - 29 years
Clark Saylor - 17 years
Peggy Marcus - 10 years
Buck Irvin - 9 years
Dennis Pymm - 5 years
Cathy Welles - 5 years
Teresa Klotz - 1 year



WHAT HAPPENED IN 1956?
The New Bern Civitan Club was born, but also…

Fast food and TV dinners were all the rage
Dwight D. Eisenhower was President of the US
The 84th Congress was in session
The US unemployment average 4.2%
Inflation rate was 1.52%
The average price of gasoline per gallon was 22 cents
Average household income was $4,400
Cost of a new house $11,700 (average)
Average monthly rent $88
A pound of coffee 69 cents
A gallon of milk 97 cents
A six-pack of Rheingold beer was $1.20
A movie ticket cost 50 cents
An Oldsmobile Holiday Sedan cost $2,929
A bottle of Coke was a nickel
American companies established in 1956 included 84 Lumber, Jesey Mike's, Marshall's, Midas, Mr. Softee, Payless
Norma Jean Morternson legally changed her name to Marilyn Monroe
The musical *My Fair Lady* opened on Broadway
Emmy Awards were given to *The Phil Silvers Show, Producers' Showcase, The Ed Sullivan Show, The $64,000 Question*
Academy Award for Best Film – *Marty,* Ernest Borgnine, Best Actor & Anna Magnani, Best Actress
Undefeated Heavyweight Champion Rocky Marciano retired
The NBC Peacock logo was introduced
General Electric introduced the "Snooze Alarm"
"In God We Trust" becomes the US national motto
Albert Sabin announced the polio vaccine
Nikita Khrushchev said "We will bury you!"
Best-selling book *Don't Go Near the Water* by William Brinkley
Popular films – *The Ten Commandments, The King and I, Around the World in 80 Days*
Most Popular TV Program – *I Love Lucy*
NFL Champions – NY Giants (YES!)
Stanley Cup Winner – The Montreal Canadians
World Series Champs – NY Yankees (double YES)

HAPPY 70TH ANNIVERSARY TO US!

Seventy years of friendship, service, and community gave us plenty to celebrate at our Installation Banquet on September 26, 2026, at the Chelsea Restaurant. Hosted by outgoing President Eileen Buscemi, the evening brought together friends old and new to share dinner, recognize outstanding service, and welcome our next chapter.

Roy Leonard was installed as president for a second term and honored as our Civitan of the Year. We also welcomed the incoming officers of the New Bern High School Junior Civitan Club. Our Citizens of the Year—Trey, Laura, and Ana McGovern—were recognized in absentia, as illness prevented them from joining us.

Guest speaker Zeb Hough offered an inspiring reflection on “Community 2026” and what it means. Two members received milestone pins recognizing 35 and 40 years of service, and we lovingly remembered three Civitans who have passed away.

There were more special moments than we can capture in words, so we’ll let these photos share the spirit of our 70th anniversary celebration!

Thank you, Tommaso Serra, for taking the photos.



A lone place setting was displayed at the Banquet on honor our recently departed 33-year member, Helen Shine. RIP, Dear Friend.





Eileen Buscemi congratulates Roy Leonard on his Civitan of the Year Award.



Jan Snyder received her 35-year pin & Al Mack received his 40-year pin. Eileen Buscemi congratulates them on this achievement.



Incoming president Roy presents outgoing president Eileen with a plaque of appreciation from the Club.



Jim Comer swears in new board.



Retiring Board members (L to R) were thanked for their service: Randy King, Clark Saylor, Buck Irvin, Betty Todd.



Roy Leonard honors our Citizens of the Year Trey, Laura, and Ana McGovern. They sponsor a pasta dinner monthly free to the community once a month.



Newly installed President Roy Leonard addresses the audience about his plans for the upcoming year.



Guest Speaker Zeb Hough talks about the meaning of Community in the year 2026. Zeb was our Civitan of the Year - 2020-21.



Jim Comer chats with guest speaker, Zeb Hough and his wife, Summer.



Jim Comer swears in new board.



Jim Comer swears in incoming board: Randy King, Maureen Comer, Van Rice, Susan Husson, Roy Leonard.



Junior Civitans



Junior Civitan officers sworn in by Jim Comer.

ABUNDANT LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Krishanda Jones, Executive Director of Abundant Life Community Services (ALCS), was our guest speaker on August 14. A New Bern native and former ALCS volunteer and employee, she brings more than a decade of leadership experience in nonprofit management, community outreach, and human services to her role.



She previously served as Chief of Staff and Interim Executive Director of RCS. She is also the founder and CEO of Created with Resilience, Inc., which focuses on emotional well-being and a holistic approach to personal development within families. Krishanda holds a Master of Science in Clinical Counseling with an emphasis in addictions and a Bachelor of Science in Family and Community Services from East Carolina University.

Abundant Life's mission is to build resilient communities, one family at a time. Its vision is for every family to have the tools needed to lead resilient, sustainable lives that strengthen both the family and the wider community. The organization works toward this goal through four programs: Family Life Education, Parent Plus Programs, "Connect" Academy, and the Resource and Training Center.

Family Life Education offers workshops, classes and coaching on parenting, communication, budgeting, conflict resolution, goal-setting and emotional wellness to strengthen family relationships. They also offer classes in the evening and online for working families. These services are also extended to other partnering agencies, organizations, and businesses.

Connect Academy is a Youth Empowerment Program that provides after-school enrichment, summer camp, and mentorship programs.

Parent Plus is designed to bridge relationships between parents and teachers and provide support within the school. The annual Mother-Daughter Tea Social and the Father-Son breakfasts celebrate family unity and serve as community-building opportunities and provide events for families to attend.

The Resources and Training Center connects family to essential community services and resources such as housing and utility assistance, employment support and health resources through partnerships and local agencies. It also provides training, forums and meetings on-site for all partner agencies and communities that are served.

Krishanda said, "I am excited to share my heart and vision with the community that I raised my children and grandchildren; it has brought me intense pleasure to come full circle because home is where the heart is." For more information visit AbundantLifeCommunitysServices.org.

COLLECTION FOR PRE-K SUPPLIES – 2026

Take a bow everyone – you have done it again this year. The Pre-K supply collection has donated to the program:

200 Boxes of crayons

342 Glue sticks

170 Backpacks

151 Lap blankets

These supplies were shared with the program via delivery in late July to their distribution point. Children will receive them at the opening of school.

Thank you for your continued backing for these children who might do “without” were it not for this Club’s generosity. Special thanks to our shopping guru Judy Lopez and her assistants the Comers.



BUSINESS MEETING – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11,

As Treasurer, Van Rice reported on our finances. We are in a fine state as we venture into the next fiscal year. The Club has donated over $20,000 to charities and scholarships. As ramp chairman, Van and the crew continue to help those in need in our community. He and his dedicated crew worked in excessive heat this summer but got the jobs done. Thank you to Van and company.

Clergy Appreciation Day chairman, Jim Comer, reported that he has kept in touch with all our 2025 Clergy people to continue to support and help. The 2026 Clergy Appreciation Day will be on February 12 at the RCS kitchen. The plan is to bring in 4 to 5 community leaders to share their trials and triumphs. Hopefully, La Cassetta will continue to provide the buffet.

Marie and Roy Leonard will continue to sell peanuts at the Farmers' Market on Saturdays starting Saturday, November 9 through Saturday, December 19. There will be a slight increase in prices.

Grant committee chairman, Dave Super, updated our members about the status of applications for charity grants. Grants are due back to the committee by October 30, 2026.

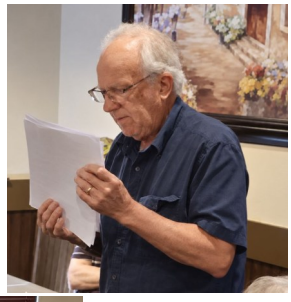
A very special award was given at this Business Meeting. Jan Snyder received her 35-year pin from Civitan International. It was presented to her by President Eileen Buscemi. Thanks, Jan, for your support and many years of hard work.

Tree Lot co-chair, Randy King, reported on the upcoming Tree Lot sales. We will be selling 200 trees this year. The Tree Lot opens the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 27. Randy is also our Rib Sales chairman and czar, and he reported that we MAY have 2 sales this year, Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend. Stay tuned for more updates.

Maureen Comer updated the group about the RCS Dinner and Christmas Party to be held on Monday, December 14. We will need volunteers for cooking, serving, baking, gifts, and elves for Santa. More information to follow.

Thanks to all our chairs for their dedication to each of these projects.





SUPPORTING NON-PROFITS

Over the past year, the Board has created a special committee to work on a change in supporting our non-profits. That Grant Committee is Dave Super (chairman), Judy Lopez, Susan Husson, and our new member, Michael Corr, has volunteered to assist. Van Rice, our treasurer, is of course an ex-officio member. In July, Dave sent this note to our membership, and it is copied below.

It is important for our membership to know that they may suggest a non-profit to be considered for funding from our Club. All this information is posted on our website so please check it out. The deadline for applications is October 30, 2026. The Committee will meet after that to make recommendations to the Finance Committee as they form our Club's new budget.

Fellow members:

As we have discussed over the past few months, we are changing the way that we provide funding to nonprofit organizations in our community. Each organization requesting funding must submit an application that will be reviewed by the Grants Committee, with recommendations approved by the Board.

Yesterday, the letter and application were e-mailed to the following organizations:

Craven Community Special Olympics
MERCI Clinic
Coastal Women's Shelter for Hope and Healing
Interfaith Refugee Ministry
Religious Community Services
Supporting Peace
Boys and Girls Club of Coast Plain NB
Craven Literacy Council
Partners in Education
Craven County Schools Pre-K Program
Vanceboro Christian Help Center
Food Bank of ENC

In nearly every case, the e-mail was sent directly to the Executive Director of each organization. If there are other organizations that you believe meet the criteria set forth on the NBCC Website (NewBernCivitanClub.org), please forward EACH of the documents on our website.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Dave Super dsuper80@yahoo.com 570 872-6941

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING FOR DSS CHILDREN 2026

Ever wonder where the money from 50/50 and the Pennies from Heaven bucket circulated at every meeting goes? It goes toward buying Christmas presents for foster children in the Department of Social Services (DSS) system.

Every year, ten children's "Wish Lists" are distributed to ten of our Civitan members. She or he can spend $150 from funds collected during the year. Most members spend above the allotted money from Civitan and pay for the rest on their own. Judy Lopez has coordinated this program for MANY years. She is the liaison between our club and DSS.

Judy will have the names and wish lists of the children in the next couple of weeks. Some Civitans have already signed up to take a child. If you want to be part of this program, please contact Judy at **jlothejudge@gmail.com or (802) 355-2114.** I suggest you do this ASAP as this is one project that our members respond to quickly. We will ONLY be given 10 names, and some have already been spoken for. The gifts must be delivered unwrapped to the DSS Office on Neuse Blvd. in early December.

"My ears hear the cry of children…" – thank you to those members who respond to this call. You help to make Christmas brighter for these children.

THANK-YOU NOTES FROM CHARITIES

From: Feed Craven: Thank you so much for your gift of $120 *(from our Quarterly Focus)* which we recently received. This and all your support through the years have been great blessings to us and our guests.

From: The Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC: We are deeply grateful for your support of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC. Your generous $1000 gift in June is putting food on the tables of people facing hunger in our community. Thank you for giving our friends and neighbors experiencing hunger the nourishing food and relief they need to regain stability.

From Craven Community College Foundation: We are deeply grateful for your generous contribution of $500 – designated to the Student Emergency Fund as requested. We continue to foster educational excellence and provide opportunities for our students to thrive Thank you for being a cornerstone to our success, as we continue to build in our community. *(The Club name will appear in the Craven Magazine donor list.)*

From MERCI Clinic: On behalf of everyone at MERCI Clinic, thank you for your generous support and donation of $1000. 2026 marks MERCI Clinic's 30 years of service in our community. Every contribution directly impacts the health and wellbeing of our patients and the overall health of our community. We are deeply grateful for your partnership in caring for our neighbors in need. *A handwritten note from Executive Director – Nicole Riggs – "Thank you – 47 new patients were enrolled into our care during the month of June. We could not sustain this volume increase without your support!"*

From Boys & Girls Club of the Coastal Plain: I just wanted to take a minute and say thank you for your continued support of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain. Your gift helps us fund our mission and provide a safe place for our local youth to thrive! Your Club is welcome to tour our local Club so you can see what your donation helps with!

RCS CHRISTMAS DINNER AND PARTY 2026

LIST OF OUR NEEDS

The RCS Christmas Dinner and Party has been a tradition of this Club for many years. Our menu if different; we serve the residents of the Shelter; all adults receive gifts; and we have special gifts for each child living at the Shelter during this holiday. You have always been generous in supporting this event.

As we plan for the dinner on **Monday, December 14,** let me share with you our needs so you might be able to help in some way ~

- Our special dinner needs six volunteers. We need donations of ham (2 donations of 10-15 lbs. each), a potato casserole, a vegetable casserole, salad, bread/butter/ soft drinks, and dessert.
- Members serve the meal via buffet line (4 people).
- Set-up and cleanup.
- Need donations this year of toiletries, and men's wallets. We accept monetary donations.
- Members buy a special gift for one of the children residing in the Shelter. We get a list in early December of what children will be there and what present they may want.
- Elves to help Santa distribute the gifts.
- Some table decorations to make the RCS kitchen look more festive.

This is a group effort that will only be effective if we can get the support of 12 to 15 members in the Club. Will you be a part of this effort this year?

MISSION STATEMENT

Recently, the Board of Directors adopted a revised MISSION STATEMENT. It is posted on our website. But, in case you missed it, here it is:

The mission of the New Bern Civitan Club is to support those in financial need within our own community by providing food, shelter, clothing, educational support, and items of services that will contribute to the quality of life for those affected by disease, developmental challenges, abuse, poverty or overcoming addiction, either directly or indirectly via local organizations.

NBCC EVENTS CALENDAR

Fri., October 9 – NBCC Afternoon Meeting 11:30 am at Paula's Restaurant – Speaker, Casey Hoffman, Craven-Pamlico Children's Advocacy Center
Mon., October 12 – BOD Meeting – Garber Church 1 pm Rm. 222
Mon., October 12 – RCS Shelter Dinner 5:30 pm. Donations needed. If you can help, please sign up at https://signup.com/go/dUenBpr
Sat., October 17 – Helen Shine Memorial – Christ Church 11 am
Thurs., October 22 – NBCC Evening Meeting 5:30 pm at Paula's Restaurant – Speaker TBA
Sat., November 7 – Peanut sales begin at Farmers Market 8 am to 2 pm – EVERY Saturday until December 19
Mon., November 9 – BOD Meeting – Garber Church 1 pm, Rm. 222
Mon., November 9 – RCS Shelter Special Thanksgiving Dinner – 5:30 pm – Donations needed. If you can help, please sign up at https://signup.com/go/dUenBpr
Fri., November 13 – NBCC Afternoon Meeting 11:30 am at Paula's Restaurant – Speaker TBA
Tree Lot set up in mid-November *– stay tuned for exact date*
Mon., November 23–Tues., Nov. 24 – Wreath Making at Tree Lot
Thurs., November 26 – **Thanksgiving –** NO CIVITAN MEETING
Fri., November 27 – **Tree Lot Opens**
Mon., November 30 – Decorate Santa Land Trailer – tentative
Mornings of Tuesday, December 1, Thursday, December 3, Monday, December 7, Wednesday, December 9 and Friday, December 11 – See children at Santa Land – tentative
Fri., December 4 to Saturday, December 12 - CHANUKAH
Fri., December 11 – **NBCC Christmas Party** at Paula's Restaurant – NOON.
Mon., December 14 – RCS Shelter Dinner & Christmas Party 5:30 pm. Food donations needed. If you can help, please sign up at https://signup.com/go/dUenBpr
Mon., December 14 – NO BOARD MEETING
Fri., December 25 – **CHRISTMAS**
Thurs., December 31 – **NEW YEAR'S EVE**
Fri., January 1 – **HAPPY NEW YEAR – 2027!**

Please note: *if you will be attending any of the meetings, please contact Maureen at maureencomer0720@gmail.com at least 2 days prior to the meeting so she may call in the reservation to the restaurant.*



Officers

President: Roy Leonard

President-Elect: Open

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Maureen Comer

Assist. Secretary: Susan Husson

Treasurer: Van Allen Rice

Assistant Treasurer: Randy King

Sergeant-at-Arm: Dev Lippitt

Education Officers: Maureen Comer

Chaplain: Bill Baldree

Assistant Chaplain: Jim Comer

Board

	Term Exp
Dev Lippitt	2028
Dave Super	2028
Gary Todd	2028
Wendy Yager	2028
Wendy Fleming	2027
Marie Leonard	2027
Judy Lopez	2027
Tommaso Serra	2027

Webmaster, Civic Editor & Social Media: Cyndi Papia

NBCC EVENTS CALENDAR



Civitan Birthdays

October
Barbara McCue - 6
Jan Snyder - 9
Buck Irvin - 13
Peggy Marcus - 15
Dennis Pymm - 15
Joe Alcoke - 30

November
Mary Kay Dyer - 15
Charles Gillikin - 15
Mary Dougherty - 25

December
Eileen Buscemi - 1
Larry Gold - 17
Van Rice - 22

Officers

President: Roy Leonard

President-Elect: Open

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Maureen Comer

Assist. Secretary: Susan Husson

Treasurer: Van Allen Rice

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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 he 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