

The Woman's Club of Clayton

109 Church St
Mailing Address:
PO Box 26
Clayton, NC 27528
twccnc.org

NC General
Federation of
Women's Clubs
www.gfwcnc.org



The Woman's Club of Clayton is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

Officers

President

Trish Perna

1st Vice President

Christie Latham

2nd Vice President

Nancy Maynard

Recording

Secretary

Deborah Fuller

Corresponding

Secretary

Susan Johnson

Treasurer

Karen Keeslar

IN THIS ISSUE

Presidents Address	1
Minutes	2
CSP Reports	3-6
ESO	9
Club Awards	12-16
Art Festival	17-18
New Members	19
Recipes	23
Calendar	24

Club Chatter



Volume 6

2025-2026

February 2026

From Our President

Trish Perna



February often feels like a turning point — the place where planning becomes action and ideas begin to take shape. That is certainly true for our club right now.

Our Murder Mystery fundraiser was once again a success, and I want to thank everyone who helped bring that event together. From planning and preparation to participation and support, it was a wonderful example of what we can accomplish when we work as a team.

Now, we turn our attention to what lies ahead. Planning is underway for our largest fundraiser of the year, The Taste of Carolina, an event that showcas-

es not only great food, but the incredible dedication of our members and the wonderful support from our community. At the same time, we are looking forward to our Fashion Show fundraiser later this spring, which will benefit Isaiah 117 House of Johnston County — a cause that speaks directly to our mission of supporting children and families in times of need.

Beyond fundraising, our club continues to look ahead with purpose. As North Carolina is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year, exciting events and club projects are on the horizon, offering meaningful oppor-

tunities for education, service, and community engagement. These efforts allow us to honor our state's history while continuing to make a positive impact right here at home.

Thank you for your commitment, your generosity, and your willingness to step in wherever help is needed. I am excited for the months ahead and proud of all we are accomplishing together.

Trish Perna
TWCC President

**FEBRUARY****February 2**
ESO**February 5**
Art Festival**February 6**
Olympics begin**February 8**
Superbowl**February 10**
House of Hope meal**February 11**
General Meeting**February 13**
Bingo Senior Center**February 14**
Valentine's Day**February 16**
Night n Gals**February 17**
Exec Board**February 17**
Marti Bras/Marti Gras

Mel Poole, Library Mgr.

January Meeting Highlights

Deborah Fuller

Monthly
Meeting**Blessing & Devotional: Sandy Nesselrode**

President's Welcome: I'm so glad to see you here today as we begin a brand-new year together. Thank you to Education & Libraries for hosting and decorating. The clubhouse looks great!

January always brings a sense of fresh energy—a time to reflect on all we accomplished last year and to look ahead with excitement and purpose. Our club has so much to be proud of, and as we move forward, I know this year will be filled with meaningful projects, strong fellowship, and opportunities to serve our community in powerful ways. Thank you for your continued dedication, your generosity of time and talent, and the support you give to one another. Together, we are making a real impact, and I'm excited to see all that we will accomplish in this new year. Let's get started with today's meeting.

Program: Mel Poole, Manager of the Hocutt-Ellington Library Mel shared the library is currently undergoing internal renovation to improve accessibility and user-friendliness. The temporary location is 446 East 2nd Street. They hope to reopen in the summer.

The library offers traditional print books, large print books, digital books (eBooks), books on CD, and digital audiobooks, periodicals, digital resources, board games, seed library, digital cameras, GoPros, CD boom boxes, DVD players, Chromebooks and Wi-Fi hotspots.

The library offers year-round programs for all ages: book clubs, adult craft hour, senior craft club, fiber arts connection social club.

A jigsaw puzzle speed racing competition is planned for the coming months. They also hope to offer more local history and genealogy classes once the renovation is complete.

Welcome New Members and Guests: **Nancy Maynard** welcomed new members **Carletha Koonce** who will be in Environment CSP; **Carolyn Middleton** & **Angela Stroud** will be in Education & Libraries CSP. Nancy also introduced guests **Marie Maiorana** & **JoAnn Currie**.

Business

Minutes Approval: Approved

GFWC Learning Academy: **Trish Perna** The Learning Academy has launched. This is GFWC's online training platform, offering a variety of courses tailored to meet the needs of its members. Members seeking insight and training to advance their skill set and knowledge will find the training videos helpful as they continue their journey as club members and leaders. If you aren't already, sign up for the GFWC's newsletter on their website for the webinar information as they are released.

GFWC-NC Yellow District News: **Trish Perna** We are transitioning into the new Yellow District, and members have a chance to help shape its future. Hopefully everyone looked through the email and participated.

District Naming Contest:

All members are encouraged to submit proposed names for our new district. Every submission goes on the ballot. The more entries we submit as a club, the better our chances of owning the winning name — and enjoying bragging rights forever.

Names must be inclusive and not include numbers, colors, mascots, people's names, or controversial terms.

Submission deadline: Friday, January 30.

GFWC-NC Nominating Committee Submissions:

Members may nominate individuals to serve as District Representative or Alternate for:

GFWC-NC Nominating Committee for Officers (2026-2028)

GFWC-NC Nominating Committee for Community Service Program Chairs (2026-2028)

Nominees must be aware of the nomination and willing to serve.

Submission deadline: Friday, January 30.

All district name entries and nominating committee submissions must be emailed to:

hq@gfwcnc.org

karent@atmc.net

chewett@atmc.net

Important Zoom Meeting:

Wednesday, February 12 at 7:00 PM (Zoom opens at 6:30 PM).

All GFWC-NC members may attend and vote. Voting will be electronic and anonymous.

A quorum of 25 members from at least 6 clubs is required, so attendance matters.

Rise Against Hunger Packing Event:

January 31 at 10:00 am – noon at Horne Memorial Church in the Fellowship Hall. Enter from Church Street through the door just South of the tunnel. Sign-up sheet on the back table. You can also email or text me. Wear your Woman's

club t-shirt, apron or hats. Last year hats were not allowed.

Officers and Committees Reports

1st Vice President: Christie Latham The deadline to submit annual reports is quickly approaching. If you have not submitted your report, please see me after the meeting.

Corresponding Secretary: Susan Johnson

We received thank-you notes from Emory and Josephine (Jo) Howard; additional notes from Jo Howard; Friends of the Library acknowledgment for contribution in memory of Sue Williams Murray.

Additional acknowledgments were read, including sympathy thanks from **Robin Sachsenheimer**; thank notes from Clayton Middle School and Boys and Girls Club; confirmation of October offering receipt.

Arts Festival: Susan Johnson

The festival is Thursday, February 5th, 6:00 pm at the Clayton Center. There was a great response to my email that I only need a couple more things. So, if you think you might want to bring something, let me know. If you brought any submissions for the Club Women entries, I could take those home. Also, **Margaret** wants me to collect the literature entries.

Murder Mystery Fundraiser: Betsy Grannis

This event is sold out. **Betsy** provided detailed logistics and needs for the "Set Sail for Disaster" Murder Mystery fundraiser were outlined, including schedules, attire, setup, and cooking instructions.

The Taste Committee: Karen Keeslar

Karen provided an overview of the Taste of Carolina fundraiser: event details, ticket sales, and early restaurant confirmations. Ticket price remains \$75.00 each. Volunteer needed for event day (February sign-ups): setup, breakdown, 50-50, silent auction.

Fashion Show Fundraiser: Co-chairs: **Sarah Brooks & Diane Carroll**.

Date: April 11, 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.; venue: Clayton First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall (donated).

Capacity: ~192; brunch; men of the church will cook.

Fashions by Dillard's; model recruitment for all ages/sizes; two outfits per model; selection at Dillard's ~two weeks prior; models receive 25% discount.

Beneficiary: Isaiah 117 House (supports foster children prior to placement).

Mardi Bra Bash: Sarah Brooks

Mardi Bra Bash on Fat Tuesday, February 17th 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm (member only event)

Entry requirement: bring a new bra; donations go to Harbor House (women's shelter in Selma). Bring an appetizer or dessert with Mardi Gras/Mardi Bra theme; judged with a prize.

Beverages/ice/wine offered by board members; **Karen Keeslar** to provide a special cocktail.

SignUp Genius to be created in early February.

CSP, Special Project Reports

ESO: Brenda Gay

ESO monthly book club; members leave unwanted books at the back for others to take; prefer not returning them.

Civic Engagement: Karen Keeslar

Karen announced Civic engagement has a new co-chair, **Joni Koch**. She will serve along with **Karen Keeslar** and **Susan Johnson**.

Club Special Projects: Trish Perna

There are two projects that the executive board chose.

The Clayton Police Department: We are purchasing a sign for the police department building that will face 2nd street to help people more easily identify the building.

Hope Center Ministries, Women's Campus in Wilson's Mills. The center offers faith-based recovery services supporting life skills training, active community involvement, vocational training and family support for women in need.

President's Special Project: Trish Perna

Our President's Special Project is now open to local businesses and organizations, and this is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our community connections. If you have a relationship with a local business, please reach out and invite them to purchase a brick—leaving their mark and becoming part of a meaningful legacy. Together, we can make this project truly shine! Let's all work together to make this project a success!

Bunko (Bunco): Julie Ginsler & Donna Steele

Bunko resumes fourth Tuesday monthly; first session January 27, 1-3 pm, at the clubhouse. An email to be sent one week prior; sign-up sheet in back; aim for at least four tables. Hosting to rotate among members. January hosts: **Donna & Julie**



FEBRUARY

2/2 Patty Jo Johnson
 2/10 Joyce Born
 2/11 Val Taylor
 2/11 Lisa Marie Zavala
 2/12 Dianne Carroll
 2/13 Kim Loftin
 2/15 Kathy Ellen
 2/18 Becky Seroka
 2/22 Jackie Evans
 2/23 Barbara Rossway
 2/23 Donna Steele
 2/28 Jayne Hafer

Meals for House of Hope (2nd Tuesday)

Bingo at Senior Ctr (2nd Friday)

Silent Partners Hospitality

Walking Challenge

Recipe Makeovers

Brenda Gay @ the beach, notice that she wrote out "Woman's Club" in the sand



Traveling??? Snap a pic of a landmark and send to Judy Ryan. Bonus if you're wearing your TWCC shirt, ball cap or carrying the newsletter!



February is American Heart Month, and the Health & Wellness CSP is encouraging everyone to wear "RED" at our February meeting. Wearing red is a simple yet powerful way to honor those affected by heart disease and to remind ourselves and others of the importance of heart health.

We continue to champion the monthly meal program at House of Hope. **Debi Beal** is the contact person for this ongoing effort. Please see the sign-up sheet at the back table for your opportunity to feel great and pass that same feeling on to the girls and staff at House of Hope. Last month's kitchen heros were **Mary Ann Gilbert** and **Betty Francies**. Thanks to your donations and volunteer spirit, we've been able to provide nourishing meals each month.



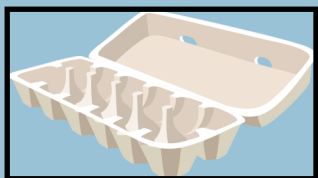
There's something special about Bingo at the Senior Center. It's more than just numbers on a card, it's a celebration of friendship, laughter, and community spirit. Each month, **Judy Ryan** fosters competition, and plenty of smiles while visiting with the players.

It's also a lifeline for many seniors, offering a scheduled reason to connect. We are always looking for small prizes for the games so take a look around your house and bring in what you can.

The Health & Wellness CSP is excited to be joining the Junior Woman's League of Smithfield in stocking three Blessing Boxes in Clayton to help support those facing food insecurity. These boxes are filled with non-perishable items, healthy staples, and are available to anyone in need-no questions asked. By sharing what we have, we're making sure that no one goes hungry. **Marianne Sapsara** will manage this focus area and encourages everyone to participate. Hygiene products (soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine items) are also welcomed. Baby items and paper products are useful additions as well. A sign-up sheet will be available for individuals or a CSP to fill monthly needs. If you'd like to help but don't want to stop at one of the Blessing Boxes, you can bring your contributions to the meetings and H&W will distribute as needed. See the full write-up on this program on page 22 in this newsletter. Please contact **Marianne** with any questions you may have.

Environment

Co-Chairs: Sarah Brooks



QR Code to Order Bricks
President's Special Project

Please pray for comfort and healing for **Jean Cornell** who broke her arm in two places. I am sure she would love to hear from you. Her address is 64 Clipper Ln, Smithfield 27577 and her email address is jmccornell@me.com.

The Environment CSP enjoyed brunch and a planning session on December 29th. Plans for upcoming projects include:

Continued maintenance of the Fairy Garden at Main Street Community Garden includes planting bulbs and use of artificial greenery to reduce the need for watering. The CSP plans to feature the following holidays in the Fairy Garden: Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, July 4th, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. **Jean Cornell** is the primary point of contact for the Fairy Garden.

In the fall, purchase and plant a "Liberty" Red Bud tree on the TWCC clubhouse lot as part of JOCO 250. **Susan Mancuso** will purchase the tree. Prior to moving forward with this project, we will discuss it with the Town of Clayton and inquire if they would be able to dig the hole for the tree. We will also ascertain the availability of funds from JOCO 250.

In the Spring, we will deliver plants, soil, and fertilizer to the House of Hope for the vegetable garden. **Jayne Hafer** has soil and fertilizer she will donate. **Trish Perna** will grow the plants from seeds.

We will contact Wilson Mills Elementary School to ascertain their interest in planting vegetable or sunflower seeds with the second graders as we did last year.

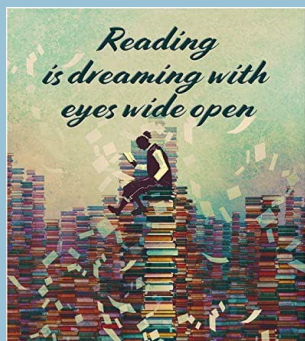
ENV CSP will host the March meeting. Plans for that meeting will be included in the March newsletter. We will feature St. Patrick's Day as the theme so be prepared to **wear green!**

Do not forget to bring *old shoes, wine corks, and foam products* to the monthly meetings so they can be recycled.



Education & Libraries CSP

Co-Chairs: Margaret Lee & Donna Steele, Ginny Kennerly



If you don't find your nametag on the back table at the meetings please see **Nancy Maynard** to have one made.



The Education and Libraries CSP is on the hunt for Dr. Seuss books. Please take a look under your 'red and white striped hat' and locate as many of these as possible. We also need kindergarten and first grade books to accompany 180 bookbags in May. These will be for Cooper Academy and Wilson Mills Elementary Schools. Please bring your donations to our general membership meetings.



The National League of Junior Cotillions of the Greater Johnston Chapter will be teaching a 3-day Pre-Cotillion class for students in K-3rd grade on March 2nd, 3rd, & 5th at TWCC clubhouse. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. The registration link is below.

<https://nljc.com/n/chapters/johnstonnc/chapter/registration/2025-2026>

Night 'N' Gals



The **Night 'N' Gals** will meet via Zoom on MONDAY, February 16th at 7:00pm. This is open to any member who wishes to attend. The Zoom address will be emailed to members prior to the meeting.

**Did You Know????**

Some businesses around town offer discounts to seniors.

Airlines—varies

Alamo Car Rental with AARP membership

Amtrack—10%

Applebees—15% with Gold Apple Card

Arbys—10% locations vary

Clayton Steakhouse—15%

Chili's—10%

Dennys—15%

DoorDash 25% of 1st order of \$15 or more

Harris Teeter—5% (Thurs)

Hertz—20% off base rates

IHop—10%

Krispy Kreme— 10%

Lenscrafters—varies with AARP membership

Michaels—10%

Movie Theaters—varies

Nat'l Park Service Pass—annual pass \$20

Outback—10%

Papa Johns—20% online

Pep Boys—10% instore

PetSmart—10%

Publix—5% (Wed)

Sonic—10%

Subway —10% locations vary

Texas Roadhouse—10%

UPS Stores—5%

Walgreens—20% on 1st Tuesday

Wendy's—10%

Be sure to inquire!! Some require completing an application and some require AARP membership (AARP is \$12.00)

Make Your Voice Heard: Vote in the March 3, 2026 Primary Election

Voting is one of the most powerful ways we can shape our communities, support the issues we care about, and strengthen our democracy. As engaged civic leaders, members of The Woman's Club of Clayton have a proud tradition of community involvement—and the upcoming primary election is an important opportunity to continue that legacy.

Primary Election Day: Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Whether you vote early or on Election Day, your participation matters.

Early Voting

North Carolina offers convenient early voting, allowing you to cast your ballot before Election Day. Early voting typically begins in mid-February and continues through the weekend before the election. During early voting, you can vote at any early voting site in your county and register or update your registration if needed.

Find Your Sample Ballot and Polling Location

It's easy to prepare before you vote:



View your sample ballot: Visit the North Carolina State Board of Elections website at www.ncsbe.gov and use the "Voter Search" tool to see what will be on your ballot.



Find your polling place: The same voter search tool will show your Election Day polling location and early voting sites.



Check your registration status: Confirm your voter registration and update your information if necessary.

Be an Informed and Active Voter

Take time to learn about the candidates and issues on the ballot, encourage friends and family to vote, and make a plan to participate in the election. Every vote counts, and when we vote, we strengthen our community and our future.

Let's show the spirit of civic engagement that defines The Woman's Club of Clayton—by showing up and voting on March 3, 2026!



Michael Grannis husband of **Betsy Grannis** continues to battle the Big C. Please send him your healing prayers.

Honorary member **Jean Lee** passed away after a lengthy illness.

Jean Cornell has broken her arm in 2 places.

Thoughts and Prayers are always appreciated. Please remember those that may be under the weather or without a close-by loved one. Please brighten their day with a card or a phone call.

Who do I Contact?

Member Illness
Susan Johnson

Clubhouse Rental
Carrole Dayton

Newsletter Content
Judy Ryan

Clubhouse Repairs
**Angela Williams,
Betsy Grannis, or
Dianne Carroll**

Membership
Nancy Maynard

Bylaws
Sarah Brooks

Webmasters
**Sarah Brooks
& Val Taylor**

Silent Partner
Brenda Gay



Get ready for a fun evening when TWCC members will celebrate Mardi Gras with a Mardi Gras Bash!!

Date: Fat Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Time: 6pm-8pm

Location: TWCC Clubhouse

Entry Fee: 1 New Bra to be donated to Harbor House

Food: Each attendee is asked to bring an appetizer or dessert with serving utensils. Members who bring Mardi Gras themed food items will be judged for best-themed item and receive a gift.

Questions: Contact sbrooks@twccnc.org or call/text 984-323-2625

Note: Members only event (no guests or spouses). Sign-up Genius will be used for RSVPs so check your email the first of February.

Just a quick reminder that **January 30** is the deadline to purchase Valentine's candy through our club fundraiser! Treat your sweetheart, family, friends—or yourself—while supporting The Woman's Club of Clayton. Every purchase helps our club continue its programs and community outreach.

Why participate?

- You'll enjoy premium, high-quality See's Candies
- Perfect gifts for Valentine's Day

A portion of every purchase supports the programs and charitable work of The Woman's Club of Clayton

How it works:

Browse and order from our special See's Candies fundraiser link below

- Orders are shipped directly to you or your gift recipient

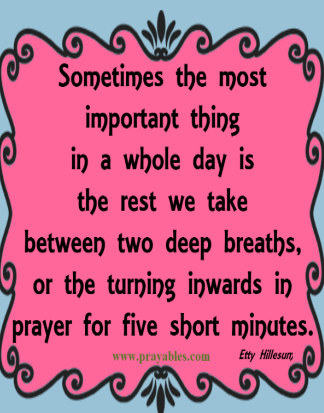
Share the link with friends and family to help maximize our fundraising efforts

Ordering deadline: January 30, 2026

Order here: <https://www.yumraising.com/store/valentines-day-2026-the-womans-club-of-clayton-sees-candy-sales-d39d/WomOf59606>



Nominating Committee—Brenda Hill



This Committee has been assigned to select candidates to serve as officers during the 2026–2028 administration which begins in May 2026 and concludes in May 2028. We would like to have at least two candidates for each office so we need your help and encourage you to let me know if you have an interest in any of the below positions. Officers serve on the Executive Board and some officers may also serve on some committees. Anyone who joined TWCC prior to March 2025 is eligible to serve as an officer for the upcoming term. Officer descriptions are below so **please contact Brenda Hill** via email at silver1188@aol.com or phone/text at 919-247-7617. I know we have members who possess qualifications to fill these positions but with more than 80 members, our committee may not be aware of your qualifications so please reach out!

President. The President shall preside at all Club meetings, Chair the Executive Board, and perform all duties pertaining to the office. She shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. She shall appoint CSP Co-Chairs and all committees (except Nominating Committee), a Chaplain, Parliamentarian, Rental Custodian, Arts Festival Chair, Hospitality Chair, Newsletter Chair, ESO Chair, and Historian. She shall represent the Club at GFWC-NC meetings. She shall have charge of important papers of the club, such as bonds, insurance policies and the deed to the Clubhouse. These papers shall be placed in a safety deposit box rented by the Club and she shall have one key to the box. She shall sign Club checks in the absence of the Treasurer._

First Vice-President. The First Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in her absence or vacancy. She shall be Director of CSPs. (The First Vice-President shall not be assigned to a CSP.) She shall assist the CSP Co-Chairs in formulating the current program of work, which should reflect the ideals and policies of GFWC-NC. With the Second Vice-President, she shall assign Club members to CSPs. She shall work with the President on yearly GFWC-NC reports._

Second Vice-President. The Second Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in her absence and in the absence of the First Vice-President. She shall be Director of Leadership/Membership. She shall formulate and coordinate plans for the orientation of new Club members. She shall also be responsible for GFWC organizational training and leadership development for all Club members. With the First Vice-President she shall assign Club members to CSPs. She shall work with the Treasurer to ensure the membership roster is kept up to date and available on the Club website and ensure member name tags are current. She shall chair and appoint a committee to nominate Club members for Clubwoman awards. She shall also chair the Yearbook Committee._

Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Board and any business conducted at monthly Club meetings. She shall maintain a list of Standing Rules. She shall ensure the roll is taken at all Club meetings by the CSP Co-Chairs and will take roll at all Executive Board meetings.

Corresponding Secretary. The Corresponding Secretary shall assist the President with the general correspondence of the Club. She shall read important correspondence at meetings. She shall keep the minutes in the absence of the Recording Secretary. Upon request of the President, she shall send out communications to all Club members. _

Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and bank all monies due the Club, keep records of receipts and disbursements, collect membership dues and report payment of dues to the Second Vice-President, pay bills by check (upon the approval of the Executive Board; any check over \$500 shall require two signatures), and present a financial statement at regular meetings and a complete financial report which will be presented at the Annual Business Meeting for inclusion in the minutes. She shall have a key to the safety deposit box and shall place the papers in the box and keep an inventory of the box. The Treasurer shall also have a key to the Post Office box and will check for correspondence on a regular basis. She shall serve as Chair of the Finance Committee. She shall submit dues, membership lists and project monies to GFWC-NC and to District 8, subject to their requirements. She shall send a payment each December to GFWC-NC for the 1902 Society from The Woman's Club of Clayton



Have you ever considered
that God has fallen in love
with you?

He sends you flowers
every spring. He sends
you sunshine every
morning. Whenever you
want to talk, He listens
to you. He can live
anywhere in the universe,
but He chooses your
heart. Amen

Steps in Life
©2005 by Patricia Hale



Our ESO (Epsilon Sigma Omicron) book club met on Monday, January 5th with members enjoying brunch and coffee and socializing with lots of discussions about each one's holiday season and the New Year, 2026 before the meeting. It was a cold, rainy day but thirteen members ventured out for the meeting. Just for fun, we decided at each meeting in 2026 members would email the ESO chair a joyful memory they encountered during the year of 2025. Two or three memories would be listed each month. Two 2025 memories are listed as follows for our February news article:

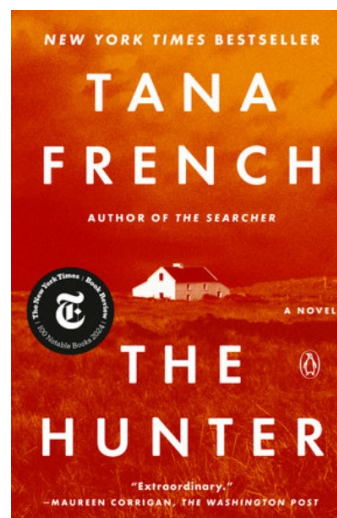
1. Trish Perna's "Happy Memory of 2025 was spending 10 beautiful days in Kaua relaxing, enjoying our best friends and experiencing delicious foods and breathtaking scenery"
2. Val Taylor's Happy Memory of 2025 "attending my first Colored Pencil Society of America Convention in Bethesda where one of my drawings was featured in their international exhibition"

Two books reported from our January meeting:

"The Secret Book of Flora Lea by Patti Callahan Henry; Genre - His. Fiction, report by Nancy Maynard

"The Hunter" by Tana French; Genre – Thriller, report by Margaret DiNublia

Note: **THE NEXT BOOK CLUB MEETING IS FEBRUARY 2, 10:00 A.M. AT THE WOMAN'S CLUB**



Menu

**Healthy Turkey Chili
Salad
Cornbread**

**Health & Wellness
will host and provide
dessert**



Building Hope.

Changing Lives.

Restoring Families.

www.houseofhopeofnc.org

House of Hope, traditionally known for its residential program for teenage girls, also offers an extensive outpatient counseling program.

We offer traditional forms of therapy, as well as Christian counseling for all ages with sliding scale payment options.

Reach out to Denise Campbell at 919-550-8181 for more information!

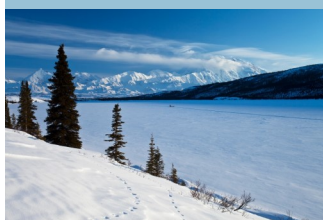
Fundraising—SPRING FLING

Co-Chairs: Sarah Brooks & Dianne Carroll



'I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.'

-Maya Angelou



**NOTHING IS AS
STRONG AS THE HEART
OF A VOLUNTEER**

JIMMY DOOLITTLE

Planning is in full gear for the Spring Fling Brunch and Fashion Event Fund-raiser to benefit Isaiah 117 that will be held April 11th 11am-2pm, at First Baptist Church of Clayton. Tickets for the event will be \$40 and they will be available in March. A huge thanks to **Val Taylor** who has designed a wonderful poster, tickets and program which will be unveiled soon.

Spring Fling

Brunch and Fashion Event

**Saturday April 11, 2026
11:00am-2:00pm**

First Baptist Church of Clayton
411 N. Fayetteville St.,
Clayton, NC

Net proceeds benefit
Isaiah 117
changing the way foster care begins

\$40/person

Tickets available at
TWCCNC.ORG

**Presented by The Woman's Club of Clayton
& Dillard's at Triangle Town Center**

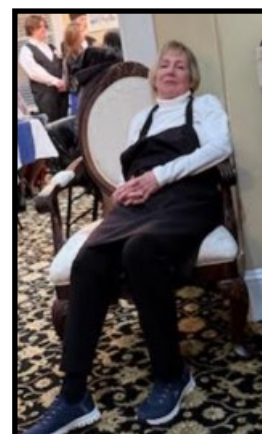
Information confirming to date:

- * Jody McLeod, Mayor of Clayton, tentatively scheduled to do the 'Welcome'
- * Ann Austin, Owner of Clayton School of Dance & Head of Deacons at First Baptist Church will be Emcee
- * Pat Zullo, First Baptist Church Decon & Choir member, is preparing the music
- * **Sarah Brooks & Dianne Carroll** will meet with Dillard's Manager and key staff to finalize plans on February 2nd
- * **Karen Keeslar** will be in charge to ticket sales (tickets will be available after Taste of Carolina on March 14). **Karen** is also going to make centerpieces for the tables
- * **Brenda Hill** will be in charge of the Silent Auction.
- * Models will be selected after plans are finalized with Dillard's. Models will be selected from TWCC and First Baptist Church for Petite, Woman, Ladies and Junior fashions
- * Sign up sheets will be at the March meeting for a variety of tasks such as set up, clean up, security of clothing and assist models and more...
- * More details will be included in the March newsletter

Fundraising—Murder Mystery
Chair Betsy Grannis



SET SAIL FOR DISASTER



Annual Clubwomen Awards



Clubwoman of the Year Award

The award is given annually to honor a clubwoman who has given of her time, talents, interest, organizational efforts, and active participation to render outstanding service through the Federation.



Candidate for
Clubwoman of the
Year

Susan Johnson

In 2015, I retired from my job as an RN at Rex Healthcare. Even though I continued to work part-time until June of 2019, I desired some type of volunteer work to fill in the time that was then available. First I joined a gym which keeps me moving, then after interactions with several club members at other community events, I realized this club would be the place where I could participate in volunteer service activities. At the invitation of Dianne Carroll, I attended the January 2016 meeting and immediately joined. The opportunities for volunteer service were extended and now I say the Woman's Club is my part-time job. I have been privileged to collect food for the seniors of Johnston County, worked on the Community Garden Christmas decorations, did Christmas shopping for seniors and kids, assisted at the Serve the Need Thanksgiving dinner, worked the Taste of Carolina, served as a docent for the Clayton Visual Arts Christmas home tours, and have packed backpacks for Back Pack Buddies. I have served as the resident "Elf" during our past fundraiser during the Town of Clayton Christmas Tree Lighting. Most recently, I worked with the Murder Mystery committee.

From 2018-2022, I served as Corresponding Secretary for the club and resumed that role in the 2024-2026 administration. Since 2018, I have been Chairperson for the Student Arts Festival held each February at the Clayton Center. Both of these positions have allowed me to meet many people in the area and interact with many club members. It has been a pleasure getting to know so many of you and it is such a joy when I see you outside of our regular activities and we get to visit a minute.

In 2020, I assumed the role of Co-Chair of our Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP. This has given me the opportunity to visit within our community as well as our members. Meeting with Town Council, firefighters, law enforcement, and many non-profit community outreaches has been exciting and informative as I learn their roles in our town and how we can help them.

Our club is a blessing to my life. So much good is done by our members. Let's be thankful for one another and let us continue to exhibit the volunteer spirit.

Nominees for Clubwoman of the Year



Candidate for
Clubwoman of the
Year

Trish Perna

Trish Perna joined The Woman's Club of Clayton in January 2020 and has enjoyed being an active member ever since. During her time with the Club, she has served as a Community Service Program Chair, participated on several committees, and held the position of First Vice President. Each role has given her the opportunity to learn more about the Club's work and to support its mission through service, teamwork, and community involvement.

Currently serving as President, Trish is grateful for the opportunity to work alongside dedicated members who generously give their time and talents. She values collaboration, clear communication, and creating a welcoming environment where members feel encouraged to participate in projects that matter to them. Being part of TWCC has been a meaningful and rewarding experience, and she is honored to be nominated for Clubwoman of the Year.

Clubwoman with "Heart" Award

This award is to be given annually to a General Clubwoman who by her efforts provides the "heart" for her club. It is not to be given on the basis of community or club involvement, but rather to the person who best exemplifies the words of the "Collect for Clubwomen".

Nominees for Clubwoman with Heart



Candidate for
Clubwoman with
Heart

Brenda Hill

I've had the honor and privilege of being considered for the clubwoman with Heart. The woman's club of Clayton does have my heart and has for many years. I enjoy being in a club so involved with our community along with so many dedicated women. When the mayor endorses you by telling the town "when you want something done, see the woman's club of Clayton". It doesn't get much better than that.

The planning, work and fundraising shows our love for this club and community. I would be honored to represent this heart we have by being considered "Clubwoman with Heart".

Nominees for Clubwoman with Heart



Candidate for
Clubwoman with
Heart

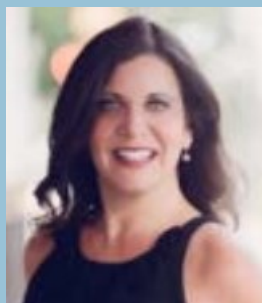
Marianne Sapsara

After reading the requirements for nomination as Clubwoman with "Heart," I am challenged to meet the high standards set in the Collect and by those who have previously received this honor. As so eloquently described in the Collect, I am always trying to identify with those attributes. I have been a member of our Club since 2019, but Covid changed our world in 2020 and many of our activities were suspended for a while. As for many of us, I slowly re-entered life and activities and was grateful our Club provided social outlets and ways to reconnect with our community. I am inspired by the selfless contributions of time, talent and resources from our members. Our Club not only speaks of service but truly embodies it. I am encouraged by so many examples within my CSP of Health and Wellness for which I have been co-chairing these past two years. With February as Heart Month and Health and Wellness CSP hosting this meeting, it is a meaningful honor to be nominated. While working on our special projects to help provide snacks for the Boys and Girls Club, supporting House of Hope, and bringing cheer to residents of Senior Center, the words of the Collect remind me how small acts can make a difference. Meeting our Club members each month reinforces our common goals to be always generous in thoughts and deeds. Being part of a group of like-minded, dedicated women is a gift I cherish and will never take for granted. I am proud to be part of a club that continues to make a positive difference in our community.

Outstanding Citizenship and Patriotism Award

The award is to recognize a clubwoman for outstanding contributions in citizenship and patriotism (including community affairs including church, political, other service organizations, civic, board positions, etc.)

Nominees for Clubwoman with Citizenship & Patriotism



Candidate for
Clubwoman with
Citizenship &
Patriotism

Lynn Roman

It is truly an honor to be nominated for the Outstanding Citizenship and Patriotism Award. This recognition means so much to me, and I am deeply grateful. I moved from Georgia to Clayton, North Carolina in 2020 to be closer to family, not knowing anyone else in the area. As a real estate broker, I was eager to meet people and become actively involved in my new community, which led me to join the Clayton Chamber of Commerce. I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement and have been very active over the years in several programs and initiatives, including the Inspire Mentorship Program, the Student to Entrepreneur Program, the Harvest Festival, the First Responders Award Ceremony, and assisting with fundraising efforts through the Total Resource Campaign. In 2021, I joined The Woman's Club of Clayton, and from my very first meeting, I felt welcomed and at ease. I immediately knew I wanted to be part of this incredible group of women. I currently serve on the Arts and Culture Committee CSP, and I have supported events such as setup and ticket sales for Taste of Carolina (my all-time favorite as a foodie), Lights of Love, purchasing gifts for Christmas Kids, and reading at Cooper Elementary. I am also honored to serve as the current President of the Clayton Rotary Club, a global network of more than 1.4 million business, professional, and community leaders dedicated to service, and building goodwill and peace. Prior to serving as president, I served as Secretary of the Rotary Club for two years. Rotary focuses on critical issues such as health, education, clean water, and economic development through both local and international service projects, guided by the motto Service Above Self and well known for its efforts to eradicate polio. Our key projects include Flags for Heroes, supporting the Salvation Army through bell ringing, organizing the Clayton Christmas Parade, sponsoring our first annual Leigh Hudson Golf Tournament last year, and our current initiative of delivering "Letters of Love" to nearby senior communities this Valentine's Day to ensure no one feels alone and everyone feels loved. In addition, I am an active member of Generation Church, where I have served on the Frontline Team as an usher for several years. I truly enjoy greeting new members, welcoming them into our community, and building connections within the congregation. Giving back to my community is extremely important to me. I have never lived anywhere else where I have immersed myself so fully, and I truly cherish the charming hometown feel Clayton offers. When I am not working or volunteering, I enjoy spending time with my two sons, Aidan and Alex, my dog Bailey, and my family, as well as reading, doing puzzles, and exercising at the YMCA—where I have also served on the annual fundraising committee. Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity to share a little about myself and the volunteer work I have been privileged to be part of in our amazing town.

Nominees for Clubwoman with Citizenship & Patriotism



Candidate for
Clubwoman with
Citizenship &
Patriotism

Emily Stokes

It is an honor to be nominated for the Outstanding Citizenship and patriotism award.

I joined the Woman's Club in 2024 after attending a monthly meeting with my sweet friend, Karen Keeslar. I had such a wonderful afternoon sitting with 4 other ladies I had never met and hearing how much they loved to be a part of this lovely group. I decided that day that I would join the Women's Club of Clayton. I have enjoyed participating in projects such as buying snacks for the Clayton Police Department, collecting plastic bags, selling tickets for The Taste of Carolina, the Clayton Christmas tree lighting, bringing pocketbooks and supplies to the Harbour House woman, Sponsoring 2 years at The Taste of Carolina and helping out when needed for other events.

I love bringing guests to our monthly luncheons and sharing how wonderful our group is to belong too. Giving back to our community is high on my list and I do alot for Clayton outside of the Women's Club. The Clayton Christmas parade is one of my favorite events as I collect new or gently used stuffed animals of all sizes to give out to the kids along the parade route. Last year I collected over 2200 stuffed animals and it gives me great joy to see the kids smile.

I have lived in Clayton since 2006 and I am in several organizations. This year I was asked to be on the Clayton Chamber of Commerce's board of directors and I am also on The Harbour Board of Directors. I am an Ambassador for The Clayton Chamber of Commerce and I am the President of a Non profit Organization called The Southern Women's Show of JoCo.

My husband and I started a business in 2019 called Decks Plus. We have a showroom in Clayton and we love our customers. We take great pride in being honest, fair, dedicated and loyal to each and every customer we meet. Before Decks Plus, I was a Marketing Director for The Law Offices of John Orcutt. Helping others, building a business and being a TEAM player was and is my passion. I truly LOVE being a part of The Woman's Club of Clayton and again Thank you for nominating me for this award.

Our Clubhouse is finally finished. Thanks to Karen Keeslar, Judy Ryan, and our Trustees for all their patience while getting this done. Pics at the right show it's transformation.



Art Festival

Chairs: Susan Johnson



Thanks to all the ladies who have contributed your amazing works for the Clubwomen and Student Art Festival to be held February 5th at the Clayton Center. Many of you will also be providing snacks that evening and monitoring the tables. This is another way that we serve our community. Club winners will be in the newsletter next month. Then onto Mebane on March 5th for the State Art Festival!!





Things to bring to the September meeting:

- Old sneakers
- Wine corks
- Styrofoam Egg Cartons
- Old eyeglasses
- Bingo prizes for seniors
- WEAR RED



In the event of illness or bereavement, members are encouraged to contact Susan Johnson if assistance is needed with meals, errands, etc.
Call/Text 919-522-7746 or email
gr8100rn@aol.com

VOLUNTEER



GFWC-NC Clubwoman Arts Categories Clubwoman Crafts Categories

1. All entrants are limited to non-professionals as defined in the GFWC-NC Arts Festival Rules and Procedures. Any earnings from craftwork must not exceed \$500 per year.
2. One article per category will be declared the winner at the Local level and then will be entered in the District competition.
3. Label entries correctly. Each article must be labeled with an Entry Label. It should be folded in half and the contest information showing. Yarn, ribbon, or lightweight string can be used to attach the card to the item or to a safety pin, pinned to the item so it may be flipped. DO NOT tape or pin the label directly to the item.
4. Needlework items may be framed under glass.
5. All entries must have been completed within the prior year of the Festival

Needlework:

- CC1. Basic Embroidery (on stamped canvas or fabric using basic embroidery stitches)
- CC2. Counted Cross Stitch
- CC3. Crochet (small – doilies, placemats, etc.)
- CC4. Crochet (large – bedspreads, afghans, etc.)
- CC5. Crochet (garments – sweaters, etc.)
- CC6. Knitting (accessories, scarves, booties, etc.)
- CC7. Knitting (garments only – sweaters, etc.)
- CC8. Quilting - Machine (small – baby quilts, pillows, wall hangings, etc.)
- CC9. Quilting - Machine (large – full quilts, pieced or appliqué)

Crafts:

- CC10. Jewelry (any single medium or combination)
- CC11. Painting on fabric, wood, metal or other surfaces
- CC12. Nature Craft (dried flowers, etc.)
- CC13. Sequin and Bead Craft (flowers, jewel pictures, Indian beading, ornaments, etc.)
- CC14. Paper Craft (quilling, paper sculpture, Papier-mâché, etc.)
- CC15. Scrapbooking (single page submission only)
- CC16. Glass Craft (stained glass, etc.)
- CC17. Fabric Craft (appliqué, felt/burlap work, wall hangings, etc. – not stenciling)
- CC18. Upcycling (creative reuse is the process of transforming unwanted products into new materials or products of better quality)
- CC19. Open Category: If an entry does not fit in any of the preceding categories, the Crafts Contest Chairman may place it in the Open Category

GFWC-NC Clubwoman Arts Categories

Clubwoman Visual Arts Contest Directions/Submission Requirements

1. Any clubwoman may enter any or all categories.
2. All entries must not have been previously entered in the GFWC-NC Arts Festival on any level.
3. Entries must be no larger than 30 X 40 inches, not including mat. Entries on materials other than canvas must be matted. Only Canvas entries may have a simple frame. OTHERWISE NO GLASS OR FRAMES and will not be accepted.
4. All entrants are limited to non-professionals as defined in the GFWC-NC Arts Festival Rules and Procedures. Earnings from Visual Arts must not exceed \$500 per year.
5. All paintings must be original. The subject matter is the choice of the artist.
6. First, second, and third place ribbons and certificates will be awarded to clubwomen winners in each category.
7. Label entries correctly. Each article must be labeled with an Entry Label (page 10). Affix to back or underside of entry using string or tape with category information facing up.
8. All entries must have been completed within the prior year of the Festival.

Clubwomen Visual Art Categories

CV1=Oil; CV2=Acrylic; CV3=Pen & Ink; CV4=Watercolor; CV5=Pencil; CV6=Mixed Media

Volunteer



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Joyce Born



JoAnn Currie



Kathy Ellen



Mary Ann Gilbert



Carletha Koonce



Marie Maiorana



Pam McIntosh



Carolyn Middleton



Linda Garcia

If your picture has not been featured in the newsletter please seek **Judy Ryan or Sarah Brooks** out at a meeting.

Welcome to all our new members!!! Please invite these new dynamic ladies to join you at our next meeting. Please welcome:

Joyce Born—will share her talents with Health & Wellness

JoAnn Currie—will be working with Environment

Kathy Ellen—will be helping with Health & Wellness

Mary Ann Gilbert—will be assisting with Arts & Culture

Caletha Koonce—will be working with Environment

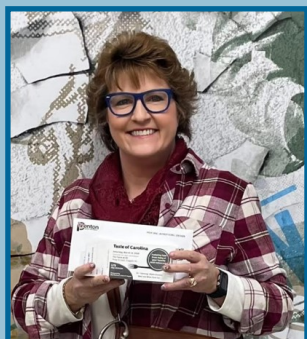
Marie Maiorana—will be sharing her talents with Environment

Pam McIntosh—will be working with Education & Libraries

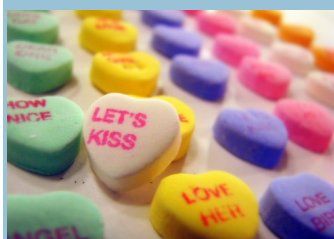
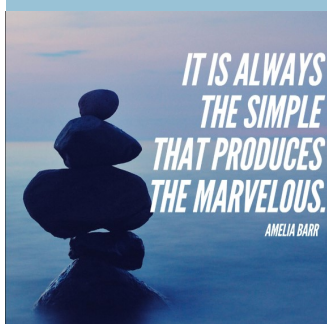
Carolyn Middleton—has agreed to assist with Education & Libraries

Angela Stroud—will share her talents with Education & Libraries –no pic yet

Linda Garcia—has been a member for several months but I just got her pic!



Karen Keeslar's got the goods!! Connect with her for Taste of Carolina Tickets! They're going fast

The logo for the Senior Games Johnston County. It features the words "SENIOR GAMES" in large, bold, blue capital letters. Each letter contains a white silhouette of a person engaged in a different sport: basketball, tennis, golf, baseball, and cycling. Below this, the words "Johnston County" are written in a blue, cursive script.

Location: Clayton, Selma, Benson, Smithfield

Counties Served: Johnston

Accepts participants outside local area: Open

Dates: March 30-May 9, 2026

SilverArts Dates: May 7, 2026

Registration Deadline: February 28, 2026

Register: torch.ncseniorgames.org

Facebook: Johnston County Senior Games

Contact Information

Local Coordinator: Joni Hubble-Zeneberg

HOUSE OF HOPE



One of our very generous donors has given us until January 31st to meet the rest of our matching grant challenge! So far, you've donated \$39,381 towards our match! That is new donors, lapsed donors, and those of you who gave more this year than last! As AMAZ-ING as that is, we still need \$20,619 to meet the full \$60,000 challenge! I believe together we can do it!

These donations are going towards House of Hope's growth in a couple of ways: 1. Completing the final renovations on our Training and Education Center that had some water damage and mold; 2. Helping to grow our scholarship fund for families in need who cannot afford the full tuition. If you've already given, please share this challenge with friends, family, church family that might want to partner with House of Hope this month. We'd love to add them to our donor base and have their help in meeting this challenge. And if you still haven't given, could today be the day you choose to partner with us?



BE A PART OF SOMETHING LASTING *Brick by Brick*
On the Right Path: President's Special Project

The Woman's Club of Clayton

Leave your mark on a beloved local landmark with deep community roots. Join businesses, families, and friends in transforming our historic clubhouse entrance—**one engraved brick at a time.**

THE PROJECT

What we're doing: - Replacing the broken concrete slab at the clubhouse front entry (between the sidewalk and steps) with *engraved commemorative bricks*. - If feasible, add a brick pathway at the back gate to further enhance the grounds.

Why it matters: - Preserves the charm of our historic clubhouse - Creates a lasting tribute to our community

Timeline: - Bricks available **now through May 2026**

BRICK DETAILS & PRICING

Pricing: - \$75 per brick (offline) - \$77.50 per brick (online)

Customization: - 3 lines of text - Up to 20 characters per line (including spaces and punctuation)

Perfect for: - **Businesses:** Show your local support and visibility - **Dedications:** In honor or memory of a loved one - **Messages:** Share encouragement or community pride
Tip: Purchase multiple bricks to tell a larger story!



CREATE A BIGGER IMPACT

Businesses: Use multiple bricks to include your name, established year, and a slogan or mission – order through Trish Perna

Families: Dedicate bricks to family members with "In Honor" tributes

Organizations: Group bricks together for a bold, prominent display – order through Trish Perna



CONNECT WITH US/HOW TO ORDER

Option 1: Scan the QR code or visit the **TWCC Online Store:** <https://twccnc.org/club-products/>

Option 2: Complete the order form and mail it to P.O. Box 26, Clayton, NC 27528

Option 3: Call Trish Perna, President, at 702-875-2691

Together, we can build something meaningful —**one brick at a time.**

Grateful, as we walk a safer, more beautiful path for community service,

Trish Perna



BLESSING BOXES



A new project for Health and Wellness is to help stock three of the Blessing Boxes located in Clayton. They are located at the Main Street Community Garden in downtown Clayton, 325 W. Horne Street which is Fire Station #1, and 800 NC 42 which is Fire Station #2. The Junior Women's League in Smithfield maintains ten Blessing Boxes throughout Johnston County by replenishing these boxes twice per month from September to June. Two of these are Fire Station #1 and #2. They do not contribute to the Community Garden but WIN and other organizations replenish this Blessing Box throughout the year. Other people and organizations in the community

donate to many other Blessing Box locations throughout Johnston County. There is no set schedule so delivery can be at the convenience of the donor.

TWCC could share in this commitment by replenishing Blessing Boxes at Fire Stations 1 and 2, and the Clayton Community Garden on Main Street once per month. You can help as an individual or as a CSP by signing up for a Blessing Box during the year.

This suggested list would be ideal for a CSP to contribute to one of the three Blessing Boxes in Clayton once per year:

- 4 cans of vegetables
- 2 boxes of pasta
- 2 cans/jars of tomato sauce or canned tomatoes
- 2 boxes of mac and cheese
- 4 packs of ramen
- 2 cans of chicken
- 2 packs of rice
- 2 cans of soup
- 4 fruit breakfast bars
- Jar of peanut butter or 4 packs of nabs
- Box of cereal or container of oats or grits
- 1 container of laundry soap
- 1 pack of toilet paper

As SNAP benefits decline, the needs grow. Hygiene products such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothbrush and paste and feminine items are welcomed. Baby items and paper products such as toilet paper, paper towels, sanitizers, etc. are useful additions.

A sign up sheet will be available for individuals or a CSP to fill monthly needs. Suggestions of items needed is at the bottom of the sign up sheet. Taking advantage of BOGO is a great way to add to the Blessing Boxes. Any quantity, any time! If you don't want to stop at a Blessing Box, you can bring your contributions to the meeting and H&W will distribute as needed.

If you are so inclined, you can also contribute pet food and supplies to The Cat House Pet Pantry at 605 N Sumner Street, Selma.

You can join the Johnston County North Carolina Blessing Boxes (JWL) on Facebook and stay up to date with others who are filling Blessing Boxes around Johnston County. Some individuals post pictures which can be helpful to those seeking food.

***Recipes Provided
by
Judy Ryan***



Do you have club member news, personal announcements, family news, personal achievements or recipes to share with club members?

Please submit items by the **25th** of the month to the "Club Chatter"
Editor, Judy Ryan
jaryan612@gmail.com



Each month will feature recipes by category

March—Green Foods

Send your favorite recipes to
jaryan612@gmail.com

Recipe Corner



SUPERBOWL SNACKS

Buffalo Chicken Dip

INGREDIENTS

1pkg (8oz) cream cheese, softened
1 cup chopped cooked chicken breast
1/2 cup Buffalo wing sauce
1/2 cup blue cheese salad dressing
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
French bread baguette slices
Celery ribs or tortilla chips or baguette slices



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350. Spread cream cheese into an ungreased shallow 1-qt baking dish. Layer with chicken, wing sauce and salad dressing. Sprinkle with cheese.

Bake uncovered, until cheese is melted (about 20-25 minutes)

Serve with baguette slices, celery sticks, and/or tortilla chips

Bacon Wrapped Smokies

INGREDIENTS

1 pound Bacon, cut into thirds
1 pound Lil' Smokies (small sausages)
1 stick Butter
2 cups Brown Sugar



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375F.

Cut the bacon into thirds and wrap each smokie. (small sausage)

Place all the wrapped smokies in a single layer in a baking dish.

Then melt the stick of butter and then 1 cup of brown sugar and stir until mixed well.

Pour the butter and brown sugar mixture on the bacon wrapped sausages. Then take the other cup of brown sugar and sprinkle evenly over the smokies.

Bake them for about 15-20 minutes and then turn the heat up to 400F for about 5 minutes or longer until the bacon becomes crispy.

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 ESO Patty Jo Johnson 	3	4	5 Art Festival 	6 Olympics begin	7
8 Superbowl	9	10  Joyce Born House of Hope meal 	11 Gen Meeting Val Taylor Lisa Marie Zavala 	12  Dianne Carroll	13  Kim Loftin Bingo	14 Valentines Day
15  Kathy Ellen	16 Night n Gals 	17 Exec Board 	18  Becky Seroka	19	20	21
22  Jackie Evans	23  Barbara Rossway Donna Steele	24	25	26	27	28  Jayne Hafer