

The Woman's Club of Clayton

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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

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Club Chatter



Volume 7

2025-2026

March 2026

From Our President

Trish Perna



As we step into March, I continue to be amazed by the energy, dedication, and heart that each of you brings to our club. The start of this year has already been filled with meaningful service, strong teamwork, and exciting accomplishments, and it is clear that our momentum is only growing.

I am also proud to share some unexpected news about our clubhouse. The Woman's Club of Clayton has been recognized by QualityBusinessAwards.com as the **Best Birthday Party Venue** in our area. This recognition reflects the care we put into maintaining our beautiful space and the welcoming spirit we extend to our community. Congratulations to everyone who works behind the scenes to make our clubhouse such a special and well-loved place.

One of the biggest highlights this month is our upcoming **Taste of Carolina** fundraiser. This event is not only one of our most enjoyable gatherings of the year, but it is also vital to support the projects, scholarships, and community outreach efforts that define who we are as a club. Events like this take a tremendous amount of planning, creativity, and volunteer support. Thank you to everyone who has already stepped up to help organize,

donate, promote, and participate. Your willingness to contribute your time and talents is what makes this event — and our club — so successful. If you have not yet found a way to get involved, there is still time, and we welcome all helping hands.

March is also an important time for the future of our club as we hold elections for our 2026–2028 administration during the March General Meeting. Leadership transitions are vital to the continued success and growth of our organization. I encourage you to attend the meeting, participate in the election process, and support the members who have stepped forward to serve. Our club is strongest when members share their talents, ideas, and leadership, and I am always inspired by those willing to take on these important roles.

I am also incredibly proud to share some exciting news that gives our club permanent bragging rights. The Woman's Club of Clayton submitted the winning entry in the district naming contest, and our new district name is **The Sunflower District**. This is such a special honor and a wonderful reflection of the bright, welcoming, and service-driven spirit that

our club represents. Sunflowers symbolize loyalty, longevity, and happiness — qualities that truly mirror the dedication and positivity our members bring to everything we do.

As we move further into the spring season, our Community Service Programs continue to grow and remain busy with projects that impact our community in meaningful ways. I encourage each member to stay engaged, try something new, and support projects that inspire you. Remember, you are always welcome to participate in any program or project, regardless of your primary CSP affiliation. Our greatest strength comes from working together and supporting one another.

Thank you for your continued commitment, enthusiasm, and passion for service. Because of you, The Woman's Club of Clayton continues to thrive, grow, and make a lasting difference in our community. I look forward to celebrating our future successes together.



MARCH

March 2
ESO—NO MEETING

March 7
Art Festival—Mebane

March 8
Daylight Savings Begins

March 10
House of Hope meal

March 11
TWCC General Meeting

March 13
Bingo @ Senior Center

March 14
Taste of Carolina

March 16
Night n Gals Zoom

March 17
Exec Board meeting

March 17
St Patrick's Day



February Speaker
Cindy Kouhout
Exec Director
House of Hope

Blessing & Devotional: Sandy Nesselrode**President's Welcome: Trish Perna**

I am so happy to see all of you here today. February may be the shortest month of the year, but it is often one of the fullest — filled with service, connection, and heart. And if there is one thing that defines The Woman's Club of Clayton, it is the heart each of you brings to everything you do.

Health & Wellness CSP: **Tina Zimmerman**
February is Heart Health month. **Tina Zimmerman** disclosed that she is a congenital heart defect and congestive heart failure patient who has had three heart surgeries and was recently hospitalized for complications. She emphasized that her condition is due to a birth defect, not lifestyle, and expressed gratitude for the perspective it provides.

Guest Speaker: Tina Zimmerman introduced TWCC member, **Cindy Kouhout**, Executive Director of House of Hope. House of Hope is a Christian organization providing residential and educational programs for teenage girls aged 12-17. It also offers outpatient counseling services. The organization helps girls who have experienced sexual abuse, physical abuse, sex trafficking, and drug addiction. Its model is distinguished by two key factors: Mandatory parental involvement and Christ-centered foundation. Ways to support the House of Hope: prayer, volunteering and donations.

The gala is April 16th at the Angus Barn. Members can purchase tickets, sponsor tables or donate a high value raffle item.

Welcome New Members and guests: Nancy Maynard
Nancy introduced our guests and asked that they share a little bit about themselves. Guests, **Charlena Powell**, Ann Pluchos, Carol Costin, and Carolyn Holmes. Nancy introduced new members **Marie Maiorana**, and **JoAnn Currie**, both are joining the Environment CSP as well as **Carolyn Middleton** who will be joining Education & Libraries CSP.

Business

Minutes' Approval: approved

Woman's Suffrage Monument Quarter Bag : **Trish Perna**
A bag was circulated to collect loose quarters for the Woman's Suffrage Monument, a fund to help place a monument on the mall in Washington D.C.

Rise Against Hunger: Trish Perna

Thank you to all that participated in the packing event. We had a great turn out, look for pictures in the newsletter.

District Name and Administration Nomination Voting:
Wednesday, February 12 at 7:00 PM (Zoom meeting opens at 6:30 PM).

Voting will be electronic and anonymous.
A quorum of 25 members from at least 6 clubs is required, so attendance matters.

Officers and Committees Reports

1st VP: **Christie Latham Christie** thanked members for submitting their reports.

2nd VP: Nancy Maynard

Ballots were distributed to members for voting for:
Clubwoman of the Year: **Susan Johnson, Trish Perna**
Outstanding Citizenship & Patriotism Award: **Lynn Roman, Emily Stocks**
Clubwoman with Heart Award: **Marianne Sapsara, Brenda Hill**

Winners entries will be sent to the GFWC NC headquarters for the state-level competition.
Final results will be announced after the Night 'N Gals vote on Monday.

Arts Festival: Susan Johnson

Certificates were awarded to the winners of the Arts Festival. Winners will be included in the newsletter. All first-place entries will be taken to the state art festival on March 7th

Nominating Committee: Brenda Hill

The Nominating Committee was introduced: **Brenda Hill, Brenda Gay, and Diane Carroll**.

The current slate of candidates are:

President: **Karen Keeslar**

First Vice President: **Christie Latham**

Second Vice President: **Nancy Maynard**

Secretary: **Kari Murray**

Corresponding Secretary: **Teresa Chicarelli**

Treasurer: **Sarah Brooks**

Members were encouraged to consider running for office

and to put their own names or others' forward next month when nominations are opened from the floor.

Senior Games: Betsy Grannis

Betsy encouraged members to participate to help reach the goal of 500 participants (up from 325 last year). It is a great opportunity for fun and networking.

Cost: \$15 online, \$20 in-person at the community center.

Includes: An event t-shirt, free lunch at the opening ceremonies, and admission to the gala dinner event.

Registration deadline is February 28th, games begin March 30th.

Jayne Hafer encouraged Arts Festival participants to also enter their work.

Tina Zimmerman asked those participating in wellness activities to report their participation to the Health and Wellness CSP.

The Taste of Carolina Committee: Karen Keeslar

We have 8 restaurants that are confirmed.

The Silent Auction will feature 28 items, including a beach house, tickets to Hamilton, tickets to a Hurricanes game with parking passes, and jewelry.

This is a gentle reminder that this event is an all hands on deck. Team leaders for different areas described their need. Sign-up sheets are on the back table and will be there during the March meeting.

Currently there are 33 tickets left. If you need one, don't wait. Get in touch with **Karen** or go to our web page to get yours.

Spring Fling Brunch & Fashion Show: Sarah Brooks and Dianne Carroll

Date of event: Saturday, April 11th, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the First Baptist Church of Clayton. Tickets are \$40 each.

The event will feature a silent auction and fashions from Dillard's.

Promotional flyers are available for members to take and post in community locations like salons or stores. **Sarah** has about ten flyers on hand and can print more.

All proceeds from the event will be donated to Isaiah 117, a nonprofit the club supports that built a house in Selma for children awaiting foster care.

Reminder each CSP must create a silent auction basket and inform Trish of its theme.

Mardi Bra Bash: Sarah Brooks

The event is a social gathering on a Tuesday, February 17th at 6:00 PM.

The "entry fee" is one new bra with tags still attached.

The purpose of the event is purely social, for members "only" to get to know each other, and is not a service project or fundraiser.

CSP, Special Project Reports**Education & Libraries CSP: Ginny Kennerly**

Club scholarship update. **Margaret Lee, Sarah Brooks and Ginny Kennerly** interviewed 14 high school students for one of the following scholarships: Sallie Southall Cotten Scholarship and Sybil Champion Community College Scholarship.

Winners will advance to the district level where they can win additional money and then to the state level where a \$12,000 scholarship is available.

Donna Steele asked for support of the Dr. Seuss reading program, 180 "early reader" books are needed for the book bag stuffing project in May. Donations can be brought in starting next month.

Health & Wellness CSP: Marianne Sapsara

Health & Wellness is undertaking a new project to fill 3 local "blessing boxes" once a month located at Fire Station One, Fire Station Two, and the Community Main Street Community Garden. The initiative aims to supplement the efforts of the Junior Woman's League in Smithfield, which currently stocks ten boxes throughout Johnston County twice a month.

House of Hope, **Debi Beal**. We deliver meals the second Tuesday of every month. Volunteers are needed for April and May. The meal should be prepared for approximately 8 people.

President's Special Project: Trish Perna

The project's goal is to sell 650 bricks, but only about 65 have been ordered so far.

The group needs to increase efforts to "get the word out" to anyone who might want to support the project.

Order forms are available in multiple formats:

Written order forms are on the back table.

A QR code for online ordering is also available.

Health & Wellness CSP

Co Chairs: Tina Zimmerman and Marianne Sapsara



MARCH

3/4 Nancy Conte

3/31 Mary Ellen Causby



Dianne Carroll with Val Taylor's new Golden Retriever. Nice how they coordinated their fur for the pic!

Meals for House of Hope (2nd Tuesday)
Bingo at Senior Ctr (2nd Friday)
Silent Partners Hospitality
Walking Challenge
Recipe Makeovers

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!



As we continue through the season, it's a great time to pause and think about heart health. February often reminds us to focus on caring for our hearts, but it's something that deserves attention all year long. Simple habits like taking a daily walk, choosing heart-healthy meals, managing stress, and keeping up with regular check-ups can make a big difference. Let's encourage one another to make small, positive choices that keep our hearts strong and healthy.

Health & Wellness CSP was your host for the February meeting. Thanks to the entire committee for pitching in and making everything a success. Special thanks to **Betsy Grannis** for her always marvelous lunches.



We'd also like to give a cheerful shoutout to **Judy Ryan** for her wonderful work assisting with Bingo at the Senior Center. Bingo days are always filled with laughter, friendly competition, and great conversation, and **Judy's** warm spirit helps make the events extra special. Activities like these create meaningful connections and bring so much joy to everyone involved.

Another highlight this month is **Debi Beal's** continued partnership with House of Hope to provide a monthly meal. Her dedication to serving others ensures that the residents and staff at the House of Hope receive not just a tasty meal, but also care and compassion. Efforts like these remind us how powerful a shared meal can be in bringing comfort and community to the community. Thanks to **Cristy Hoskins** for proving the meal and dessert in February.



Finally, we invite everyone to join us in helping stock our local Blessing Boxes with non-perishable food items. **Marianne Sapsara** is currently working out the details with the Junior League of Smithfield to keep these boxes filled with nourishing foods. These community boxes provide easy access to essentials for neighbors who may be facing food insecurity. Canned goods, pasta, rice, peanut butter, and other shelf-stable items are always appreciated. Additionally, personal items (diapers, soaps, deodorant, toothpaste) are always in need. Together, through small acts of generosity, we can continue to support and uplift our community.

Thanks to new 2026 tax incentives, donating to our club can lower your taxes while supporting club projects. The new federal tax rules have created unique opportunities to make charitable giving even more advantageous:

1. **Standard Deduction Boost:** Most taxpayers take the standard deduction instead of itemizing. Under the new 2026 rules, up to \$600 per individual (\$1,200 for married couples) in cash donations to qualified charities can now be deducted even if you don't itemize. This means seniors can reduce taxable income without needing to track itemized deductions.
2. **Higher Deduction Limits if Itemizing:** Taxpayers who do itemize can now deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) for cash gifts to qualified charities. This is higher than previous limits, allowing for larger, tax-advantaged gifts in 2026.
3. **IRA Charitable Distributions (QCDs):** For retirees over 70½, contributions directly from an IRA to a qualified charity can count toward required minimum distributions (RMDs) without increasing taxable income.

Every donation helps fund community projects, scholarships, and club activities. You can earmark your donation for specific purposes, like supporting scholarships or other club initiatives that are meaningful to you.

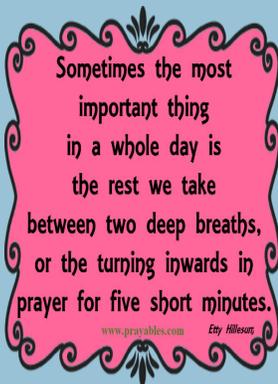
Art & Culture

Chairs: Angela Williams, Dianne Carroll, & Patti Jo Johnson



On February 7th, six members of the Arts and Culture CSP and two family members met to make no sew blankets. A great time of fun, fellowship and work was had by all. The blankets will be donated to Sleep in Heavenly Peace and Harbor House. Thank you to **Becky Stewart, Brenda Hill, Betsy Grannis, Dianne Carroll, Angela Williams, and Patty Jo Johnson and her sister, Carolyn Crawford** and her niece, Jessica Davis for

all of their hard work.



Sometimes the most important thing in a whole day is the rest we take between two deep breaths, or the turning inwards in prayer for five short minutes.

www.prayables.com Etty Hillson

ATTENTION

The storm door is broken, again. When the storm door is not properly closed all the way the wind gust we have been having blow the storm door open. so we are asking all club members when entering and leaving the clubhouse to make sure that the storm door is completely closed and latched.

Thanks for your help.

Angela Williams-
Clubhouse Committee

GFWCNC



TWCC has earned bragging rights for life! One of our district name submissions won! Our new district name is **The Sunflower District**. I am forwarding the announcement from our GFWC-NC President. Please see below.

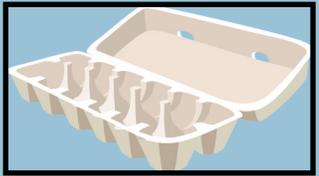
Our new district is also still in need of a few more officer positions to be filled. They are seeking interested persons (nominees) who, if elected, are willing to serve as the Sunflower District Representative for the 2026-2028 GFWC-NC Nominating Committee for Community Service Program Chairmen. They also need Alternates! One is needed for the 2026-2028 GFWC-NC Nominating Committee for Officers and Trustees, and one for the 2026-2028 GFWC-NC Nominating Committee for Community Service Program Chairmen. If you have questions about responsibilities, please reach out to **Cindy Hewett** at chewett@atmc.net. They would like for voting to occur at the 2026 Sunflower District Fall Meeting. -**Trish Perna**



Silent Partner—This program was established years ago as a partnership between The Woman's Club of Clayton and local schools to help meet special needs for students. We can thank **Belle Allen** and **Mavorine McLeod** (who are looking down at us from Heaven now) for starting this program. There will be a sign-up sheet on one of the tables behind the chimney at each meeting if you would like to sign up. The sign-up sheet is done during the two-year administration term. We are on our second year, therefore, if you signed up last year, you are still on the list. We ask for \$25.00 when called upon. You are only asked one time during the two year term. **Brenda Gay** is the chair of Silent Partner. If a school counselor contact her for help, she will then call a name on the list.

Environment

Co-Chairs: Sarah Brooks



QR Code to Order Bricks
President's Special Project

ENV CSP will host the March meeting where members will enjoy Betsy Grannis' Irish Stew. We will feature **St. Patrick's Day** as the theme so be prepared to **wear green!** We are thrilled to have Anna Golden-Torres from the **Dix Park Conservancy** talk about the amazing park focusing on the Trolls that are made from recycled materials. Thank you **Susan Mancuso** for suggesting this topic!

Save the Date: Community Shred Event
May 9th, 10am-Noon
New Parking Lot by Percy Flowers Store (4879 Hwy 42 E)

Silent Auction Basket: The ENV CSP will donate a coffee-themed basket, "Mocha Monet", for the Spring Fling Brunch & Fashion Event.

Key Environmental Days in March: These days encourage global participation in protecting ecosystems and fostering a more sustainable planet.

March 3: [World Wildlife Day](#) – Focuses on the, preservation of wild fauna and flora.

March 14: [International Day of Action for Rivers](#) – Aims to raise awareness about the importance of rivers.

March 18: [Global Recycling Day](#) – Promotes the importance of recycling and reuse of materials.

March 21: [International Day of Forests](#) – Raises awareness about the importance of all types of forests and celebrates the ways in which forests and trees sustain and protect us.

March 22: [World Water Day](#) – Focuses on the importance of freshwater and raises awareness of the 2 billion+ people living without access to safe water.

March 23: [World Meteorological Day](#) – Highlights the role of weather and climate in environmental safety and raises awareness about climate change.

March 30: [International Day of Zero Waste](#) – Encourages sustainable production and consumption.

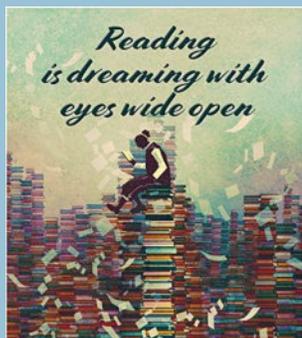
Last Saturday in March: [Earth Hour](#) – held annually on the last Saturday in March to show symbolic support for the planet and raise awareness of the environmental issues affecting it. Businesses and residents are invited to turn off their lights for one hour (from 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 PM local time) and spend 60 minutes doing something - *anything* - positive for our planet.

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

AND WEAR GREEN to our March Meeting!

Education & Libraries CSP

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



The Education and Libraries Community Service Program has completed one of its most meaningful projects of the year: the interviewing and awarding of the Sallie Southall Cotten Scholarship and the Sybil Champion Community College Scholarship. This year's applicant pool was exceptional. We interviewed 13 outstanding high school seniors representing Clayton High School, Cleveland High School, Corinth Holders High School, The American Leadership Academy, and The Early College Academy at Johnston Community College. Each candidate reflected the excellence and promise of Johnston County Public Schools.

We are proud to announce **Isabella Sholar of Cleveland High School** as the recipient of the **Sallie Southall Cotten four year scholarship**, receiving **\$4,500**. **Sophia Pak of the Early College Academy at Johnston Community College** was selected as **first runner up**, receiving **\$1,500**. In addition, **Evelyn Rodriguez** has been awarded the **Sybil Champion Community College Scholarship** in the amount of **\$1,000**.

We congratulate these remarkable young women and look forward to the bright futures they will undoubtedly shape.



As we celebrate these achievements, Education and Libraries is also gearing up for **Read Across America** and **Dr. Seuss' Birthday**. Members will serve as guest readers at **Cooper Academy** and **Wilson's Mills Elementary**, helping spark joy and imagination in young readers.



Looking ahead, we invite members to support our **May Bookbag Project** by donating gently used **Early Readers** and **Dr. Seuss books**. This project provides first graders with bookbags filled with books, reading buddies (small stuffed animals), and encouragement to continue reading throughout the summer. It's a small gesture that makes a lasting difference in a child's literacy journey.

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

Beyond our local schools, we continue to champion lifelong learning across the community. From early childhood literacy initiatives to adult education resources, our CSP remains committed to advocating for accessible learning at every age. These efforts reflect our belief that strong communities grow from strong educational foundations.

As we move forward, the Education and Libraries CSP encourages every member to stay engaged—whether by donating a book, mentoring a student, or helping us imagine new ways to support learning. Together, we are building brighter futures, one reader, one classroom, and one community at a time.



Night 'N' Gals



The **Night 'N' Gals** will meet via Zoom on **MONDAY, March 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

Amtrak—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)

March in North Carolina: Celebrating 250 Years of History

As we move into March 2026, North Carolina is alive with events honoring the approaching 250th anniversary of America's independence — a milestone that invites reflection on the state's central role in our nation's earliest days. One of the month's signature commemorations is the **America 250 Celebration at Alamance Battleground** State Historic Site in Burlington on March 7. This free, family-friendly event brings colonial history to life with living-history demonstrations, lectures, exhibits on early North Carolina figures, and reenactments of pivotal moments that helped shape our journey toward independence.

Beyond Burlington, communities across the state are hosting a variety of history-themed programs. Educational walking tours like "**Colonial Wilmington & The Revolution**" on March 13 explore how revolutionary ideas spread through port towns, while heritage garden tours and public dedications throughout March deepen local connections to the past.

Across the state, March offers history lovers and curious visitors alike a chance to explore the stories, struggles, and triumphs that have helped define both North Carolina and our nation as we approach this remarkable Semiquincentennial milestone.

Don't Forget to Vote

March also marks an important civic moment: the 2026 North Carolina primary election is on Tuesday, March 3, 2026. Here's what you need to know:

- Voter registration deadline: Friday, February 6, 2026, by 5 p.m. — make sure you're registered so you can cast your ballot on March 3.
- Early in-person voting: Runs February 12–28, giving voters flexibility in where and when they cast their ballots

Absentee voting: Ballots must be requested by February 17 and returned by 7:30 p.m. on March 3. This primary will shape the choices for federal, state, and local offices headed into the November general election, so make your voice heard!



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

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Our ESO (Epsilon Sigma Omicron) book club did not meet on February 2nd because of inclement weather. The weather was so unpredictable the majority vote was to skip the book club meeting in February but not skip books members would read and report at the March meeting.

As your chair, I want to thank **Betsy Grannis** and **Angela Williams** for joining the Zoom Book club led by our GFWC-NC State Chair, **Lynn Wiss** on January 26th. The book chosen was "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi. This book was featured in the January News Letter.

Every several months, a book is chosen with other club members joining the Zoom Book Club to give their report on how they felt about the book that was read. It is great when we have at least two or three of our members from the ESO book club of Clayton to join in the Zoom book club group. I will keep you posted when the next book is chosen for reading and the date for the Zoom Book Club.

The Woman's Club Fashion show is set for April 11th from 11:00 to 2:00 at the Clayton First Baptist Church. There will be a Silent Auction and each CSP is asked to make a basket for the auction. **Betsy Grannis** agreed to prepare our ESO basket and put it together for us. **Members, please plan to attend the book club meeting on Monday, March 2nd at 10:00 and bring something to go in the basket, something pertaining to books, etc.**

A good "Memory" from year of 2025 from Margaret DiNublia: "I flew to Washington, DC with my daughter and granddaughter to go to the Kennedy Center to see the Stuttgart, Germany Ballet performance of Onegin and best of all to meet my cousin from London, England, one of the dancers."

"The Maid's Secret" by Nita Prose (Genre: General Fiction) book report by **Betty Francies**

Books are mirrors. You only see in them what you already have inside you. Carlos Zafon



MURDER MYSTERY

al fundraiser. It was another fantastic success!

On behalf of the Murder/ Mystery dinner committee, we would like to thank everyone that contributed to our annu-

Many thanks to Food Lion in Riverwood and to Costco on Wake Forst Road for their contributions of \$100 gift certificates and to our many members who generously gave money for our many needed supplies, cakes and casseroles!

We also want to thank **Betsy Grannis** for her tireless dedication in managing the food galley, along with the assistance of **Lance and Debra Beal with Lou and Susan Mancuso.**

Our waitstaff was terrific and managed to maneuver the dining room without one run in from the cast of the Clayton Theatrical's! Huge kudos to these ladies. Our clubhouse was filled to the max with patrons each evening and we even had a wait list at one time for tickets. It is predicted that we averaged over 85 people present in the Clubhouse each evening.

The ladies that are photographed standing in our kitchen, were our Friday night volunteers and our members standing in front of the ship, were our Saturday night volunteers.

A special "thank you" goes to Mr. Andrew Wade and his cast of performers, The Clayton Theatrical's who hail from high schools around Johnston County.

Margaret Lee

Menu

*Irish Stew
Green Salad
Cookies*

*Environment
will host and provide
dessert*



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

Denise Rogatnick is recovering from surgery

Jean Cornell is still recovering from a broken arm.

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

Fundraising—Taste of Carolina

Co-Chairs: Karen Keeclar, Val Taylor, & Emily Stocks



Taste of Carolina

Featuring food from many of your favorite local restaurants

TICKETS \$75/person

Saturday March 14, 2026
Doors will not open until 6:00pm

The Farm at 42 Hwy 42 East Clayton, NC

DJ & Dancing
Beer & Wine Cash Bar
Silent Auction and more

Presented by The Woman's Club of Clayton

Your Funds raised are used to support community centers including: Claycomb Art Center | Claycomb Storage Library | Senior House | Clayton Arts Festival | House of Hope, and more!



February 2026

I would like to formally introduce myself as the new Executive Director for House of Hope of NC. One of the primary goals of the Board of Directors for 2026 is **growth**; basically, helping more families! I think that is something we can all get behind! There are so many families that could benefit from our Christian focused residential & education program and our goal is to reach as many of them as possible.

Our goal this year is to raise \$150,000 to help build more space for more girls in our education & residential program, as well as expand our outpatient therapy program for the community at large. I would love to invite you to partner with us this year as we plan our 2026 Gala which will be held on Thursday, April 16 at The Pavilion at Angus Barn. We have several ways that you can partner with us:

- Sponsor a table and invite 10 guests that you feel may resonate with our mission!
- Donate a raffle item: this year we are limiting the number of prizes hoping to have larger value items in our raffles! Some ideas include: \$500 gift cards, restaurant packages, a weekend away, golf packages, a massage a month, etc.
- Unable to attend or sponsor a full table? Donations are also needed to cover the cost of the event!

However you choose to support us this year, please know that we are grateful. As you can imagine, we cannot do any of this work without consistent donors like you. Thank you in advance for prayerfully considering this request & we hope to see you at the Gala! **Because Every Girl is Worth It!**

Ways to give:

- Use our QR Code below to register as a sponsor, guest of a sponsor or to purchase a ticket
- Mail a check to: PO Box 339 Clayton, NC 27520
- Make a donation on our website: [Donate Now](#)



Cindy Kouchout



Clubwomen Awards



Congratulations to the winners of our clubwomen awards! Well-deserved ladies! You make us PROUD!!

Criteria for Clubwoman Awards for 2024

Clubwoman of the Year

This award is given annually to honor a member who has given of hertime talents, interests, organizational efforts, and active participation to render outstanding service through the Federation.



2025/2026 Winner

Susan Johnson

Outstanding Citizenship & Patriotism

This award is given annually to recognize a member for outstanding work in citizenship and patriotism (including community affairs with church, political, other service organizations, civic, board membership, etc.).



2025/2026 Winner

Emily Stocks

Clubwoman with "Heart"

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



2025/2026 Winner

Marianne Sapsara

Their entries will be submitted to the General Federation of Women's Clubs of North Carolina for the state contest. Good luck!



Celebrate Easter and the joy of spring with delicious See's Candies while supporting The Woman's Club of Clayton!

Every purchase made through our fundraiser helps TWCC continue our community outreach, scholarships, and local service projects. It's a simple (and sweet!) way to make a difference.



Beautiful Easter gift boxes



Spring favorites perfect for sharing



Treats for family, friends, teachers, and YOU

**See's
CANDIES®**

Orders are easy to place and will be shipped directly to you or your gift recipient.

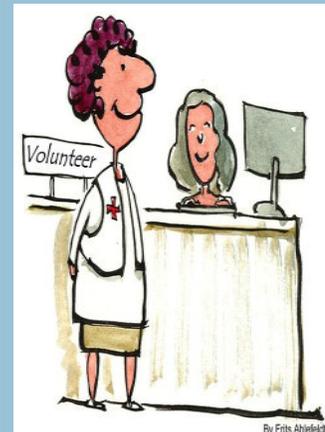


Order here: <https://www.yumraising.com/store/spring-2026-the-womans-club-of-clayton-sees-candy-sales-f979/WomOf59606>

Thank you for supporting our mission and helping us serve the Clayton community. Your purchase truly makes an impact.



Denise Rogatnick gets a scrumptious meal from Tina Zimmerman and Deborah Fuller during her recovery from recent surgery.



Thank you ladies for helping with this fun and worthwhile cause!



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

Want to spend **Saturday, April 11th** enjoying a wonderful brunch and admiring beautiful Spring clothes from Dillard's? Let your friends know about the event and plan to enjoy the day together! The Spring Fling Brunch and Fashion Event Fundraiser to benefit Isaiah 117 will be held **April 11th**, 11am -2pm, at First Baptist Church of Clayton. Tickets for the event are \$40 and they can be purchased online at www.twccnc.org or from Karen Keeslar. Models for the event are Elaine Johnson and Haley Moon from First Baptist Church of Clayton; Georgia Stewart, daughter of TWCC member Becky Stewart; TWCC members **Tiffany Boyd, Brenda Gay, Trish Perna, Robin Sachsenheimer, Patti Farmer, Jackie Evans and Debi Beal**. There will be a wonderful Silent Auction with amazing baskets including the following:

Environment CSP – "Mocha Monet" coffee basket

Health & Wellness CSP – Self Care basket

Arts & Culture CSP – **Val Taylor** Pet Portrait

Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP – Pampered basket

Education & Libraries CSP – Toiletries basket

Trustees – "A Day in the Sun" Designer Sunglasses

ESO – Basket TBD

Isaiah 117 – Movie Night basket

Karen Keeslar custom Charcuterie Board and the winner can design the engraving



NOTHING IS AS STRONG AS THE HEART OF A VOLUNTEER

JIMMY DOOLITTLE



**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

Candidates: Slate of Officers

We will vote on this Slate of Officers at the March General Meeting.

President: Karen Keeslar

I'm running for President of The Woman's Club of Clayton because this club means so much to me — not just for what we do, but for who we are together. I've seen the heart, energy, and generosity our members bring to every project, and I'd love the chance to help lead us into an exciting next chapter.

Serving as Treasurer over the past two years has given me a deeper understanding of how our club works behind the scenes. I've learned how much care, planning, and teamwork it takes to support our programs and events. That experience has strengthened my appreciation for our mission and prepared me to serve in a broader leadership role.

I've had a front-row seat to the incredible impact we make in our community. Whether we're planning events, raising funds, or simply showing up to support one another, this club is full of women who care deeply and work hard. That spirit is something special, and I want to help it grow even stronger.

If elected, my goal is simple: keep what works, strengthen what we can, and welcome new ideas along the way. I want every member to feel included, appreciated, and excited to be part of what we're building together. That means encouraging participation, supporting our committees, and making sure everyone has a voice.

I also believe leadership should feel approachable and collaborative. I'm not running to lead from the front — I'm running to work alongside you. Listening, communicating openly, and keeping our focus on service should guide every decision we make together.

Most of all, I'm running because I truly love this club and the friendships, purpose, and pride it brings. It would be an honor to serve as President and help us keep doing great things — together.



1st Vice President—Christie Latham

I would like to continue serving as 1st Vice President of the Woman's Club of Clayton because I truly enjoy being involved and helping our club succeed. This past year I've loved working alongside our members, CSP chairs, and supporting our president. It's been rewarding to see how much good our club does in the Clayton community and how our members come together to make a difference. I'd be honored to keep learning and continue encouraging participation, friendship, and teamwork within the club.



2nd Vice President—Nancy Maynard

I have been a member of TWCC since 2019. I served as co-chair of Health & Wellness until becoming 2nd VP. I am often one of the first to contact prospective members inquiring through our website or word of mouth. I get to brag about all we do to our guests and new members. It is an honor to be nominated for the best job in the club. Thank you



Candidates: Slate of Officers



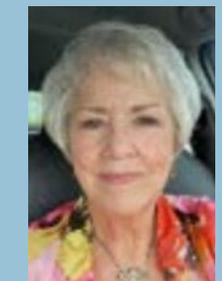
Secretary—Kari Murray

Kari Murray has been a member of TWCC going on 2 years. Her professional background is in education administration and media communications. She loved her career prior to retirement, as it featured service to community, just like TWCC. She looks forward to doing more for TWCC by using her skills and passion in working with others through steady and accurate communications as Recording Secretary for the upcoming elections.



Corresponding Secretary—Teresa Chicarelli

I am a native of Durham. My husband (Vince) and I moved to Clayton about 4 years ago. I have a Master of Divinity from Southeastern Seminary, but the majority of my career has been in Administration within the secular world. My career spans Finance, Human Resources, and currently Research Grants and Contracts with Duke University. I am retiring from Duke in May after 18 years of service. I also work part-time as a contract Chaplain with WakeMed and will continue in this position throughout retirement. I joined the Woman's Club in December 2024 and have enjoyed getting to know everyone. I look forward to getting more involved and meeting more members as the Corresponding Secretary.



Treasurer—Sarah Brooks

I am pleased to submit my nomination for the position of Treasurer of The Woman's Club of Clayton. The Treasurer plays a vital role in the successful operation of the Club, overseeing financial records, managing dues and disbursements, presenting regular financial reports, and ensuring compliance with GFWCNC and District 8 requirements. This position requires accuracy, accountability, and a thorough understanding of club operations.

I joined TWCC in 2014 and have served continuously on the Executive Board since that time. My service began as Editor of the club newsletter, a role I held for nine years, during which I remained actively involved in all club activities. In addition to editing the newsletter, I maintained the club's official roster, Yearbook, and website, giving me a broad and detailed understanding of TWCC operations.

Over the years, I have held numerous leadership positions, including Parliamentarian; Bylaws Committee Chair and Secretary; First Vice President; Co-Chair of Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP and Environment CSP; and Nominating Committee Chair. I have also worked for several years to co-manage the Silent Auction for the Taste of Carolina (with Brenda Hill) and am currently cochairing the Spring Fling Brunch & Fashion Event (with Dianne Carroll). These experiences have strengthened my organizational skills and deepened my understanding of the Club's financial and administrative needs.

In addition to my service within TWCC, I bring strong fiscal management experience. During the final ten years of my professional career with the State, I served as a Project Manager responsible for managing budgets exceeding \$10 million, requiring careful oversight, accuracy, and clear financial reporting. With my longstanding commitment to TWCC, extensive leadership experience, and proven management skills,

I am well prepared to serve as Treasurer of The Woman's Club of Clayton so I would appreciate your support.

Just a Bit of Fun—Mardi Bras—Sarah Brooks



What a fun evening! More than 30 TWCC members enjoyed the evening with many dressing in their Mardi Gras finest! Members brought delicious appetizers and wonderful desserts. **Kari Murray** won the prize for best themed item with her delicious King Cake. The clubhouse was wonderfully decorated with many bras decorated in 2011 by TWCC members when **Dianne Carroll** was club President. Members played "This or That" and some won prizes playing "Find the Member Bingo".

A HUGE thanks to all members who donated new bras. **60 bras** were delivered to Harbor House so women who experience domestic abuse will have new bras to choose from since many of the women leave their homes with nothing.

TWCC Mardi Bras Bash





From the President

I have done some calculations with the help of AI for the price per brick. This is for 650 bricks at \$47.97 each . I am moving the brick price down to \$50.00, leaving a few dollars per brick for a buffer on install costs. Thank you to **Susan Johnson** for calling out the math issue. I think I was referencing their fundraising price ranges when I initially priced it. The members that have already purchased will receive a refund of \$25.00.

Cost Breakdown:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Brick & Engraving @ 650 bricks | \$24,700.00 |
| Sales Tax | \$ 1,729.00 |
| Labor for Install | \$ 4,750.00 |
| Total Cost | \$31, 179.00 |



Isaiah 117 annual golf tournament

4.23.2026
8:30 OR 1:00 pm

Reedy Creek Golf Course
\$400/team

Sponsorship Opportunities

- Title Sponsor - \$5,000**
- 3 teams
- Large individual logo banner
- Logo hole signs
- Social media recognition

- Advocate Sponsor - \$2,500**
- 2 teams
- Small individual logo banner
- Logo hole sign
- Social media recognition

- Partner Sponsor - \$1,000**
- 1 team
- Group logo banner
- Logo hole sign
- Social media recognition

- Team Sponsor - \$500**
- 1 team
- Logo hole sign
- Social media recognition

- Hole Sponsor - \$250**
- Logo hole sign

Golf & lunch
Snacks & drinks
Premium logo giveaways
Prizes for contests on the course
Premium door prizes
Prizes for top teams
One mulligan per player

To register to play or sponsor visit
linktr.ee/isaiah117housejohnstonconc
or scan the QR code



for more info, or to pay by cash or check, please contact
johnstongolf@isaiah117house.com
or call 423.518.3760 ext. 232

Help us change the way foster care begins in Johnston County!

Art Festival

Chairs: Susan Johnson



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

It was a full house at The Clayton Center as The Woman's Club of Clayton together with Mayor Jody McLeod presented 45 first place certificates and 32 second place certificates to high school and middle school students from Clayton area schools. The participating schools for this year were Clayton High School, Corinth Holders High School, and Cleveland High School, Clayton Middle School, Swift Creek Middle School, Archer Lodge Middle School, and LifeSpring Academy.

All first place winners will be taken to the Greater Federation of Women's Club NC State Art Festival in Mebane on March 7th, 2026 to compete with their peers throughout the State.

Clubwomen also showcased their talents in the areas of photography, crafts, and visual arts. First place winners in each category will also be taken to the State Festival for judging. Nine ladies submitted entries and the first and second place certificates were awarded to the following:

Photography:

Our World Up Close - 1st Jayne Hafer 2nd-Kari Murray

Natural Wonders - 1st Jayne Hafer 2nd - Brenda Gay

Reflections - 1st Jayne Hafer 2nd - Brenda Gay

Volunteers in Action - 1st Kari Murray

Visual Arts:

Oil Painting- 1st Marlene Dillon

Acrylic Painting - 1st Marlene Dillon

Watercolor - 1st Jayne Hafer

Crafts:

Crochet -1st Patty Jo Johnson

Jewelry - 1st Bernie Beck

Fabric - 1st Bernie Beck

Upcycling - 1st Patty Jo Johnson

Painting-other surface - 1st Jayne Hafer

Nature Craft - 1st Karen Keeslar

Glass - 1st Jayne Hafer

Open Category - 1st Karen Keeslar

Thanks to all these ladies for their entries and we look forward to more honors in Mebane.

We appreciate the members of the committee, **Ruth LaRosa, Connie May, Dianne Carroll, Becky Stewart, Brenda Hill, and Susan Johnson** for the endless work they did for this event. And to the club members who provided refreshments and table assistance that evening. It truly took a village to put this on. One of the teachers commented how much she appreciated the honor to work with this group. She mentioned how much the schools support the sports but the arts get so little and this is an evening for artistic students to shine.

So now on to 2027.





Welcome to our new member:



Charlenda Powell—Charlena will be sharing her talents with Art & Culture

Please welcome a new face and make them 'at home'

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



BUNCO fun at the clubhouse!! On Tuesday Feb 24th, 14 members joined in an afternoon of fun and fellowship with the return of BUNCO (4th Tuesdays of the month). Cash prizes were awarded and drumroll please.....the winners were **Susan Johnson** with most BUNCOS; **Nancy Maynard** with most WINS; **Brenda Hill** with most FAKES; **Charlena Powell** with most LOSSES and **Julie Ginsler** with last BUNCO won the mini rose plant. Well done ladies!





SENIOR GAMES

Johnston County

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](https://www.facebook.com/JohnstonCountySeniorGames)

Contact Information

Local Coordinator: Joni Hubble-Zeneberg



Fundraising—Taste of Carolina

Chairs: Karen Keeclar, Val Taylor, Emily Stocks

2026 Taste of Carolina – A Community Celebration for Clayton

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 14, 2026, when The Woman’s Club of Clayton presents the much-anticipated *Taste of Carolina* at The Farm at 42. This signature fundraiser brings together many of the area’s favorite local restaurants for an unforgettable evening of flavor, fun, and community spirit.

Guests will enjoy taste-sized servings from participating restaurants, live music from a professional DJ, and a lively silent auction. Attendees will also have the chance to vote for their favorite restaurant, adding a little friendly competition to the night. Proceeds from the event support local projects and programs that strengthen our community.

Club members play a vital role in making this event a success. Signup sheets will be available at the March 11 club lunch meeting for volunteers to help with key activities such as the 50/50 raffle, silent auction bingo, and more. Whether you can give an 15 or 30 minutes, your support helps create a memorable experience for our guests and maximizes our impact.

This event will sell out! Fewer than 20 tickets remain. If you haven’t purchased yours yet, please be sure to contact Karen Keeclar right away to purchase tickets so you don’t miss this special evening.

Taste of Carolina

Featuring food from many of your favorite local restaurants

TICKETS \$75/person

Saturday March 14, 2026
Doors will not open until 6:00pm

The Farm at 42
Hwy 42 East
Clayton, NC

DJ & Dancing
Beer & Wine Cash Bar
Silent Auction and more

Presented by The Woman’s Club of Clayton

Your Funds raised are used to support community issues including Children for Kids, Heart Disease, Library, Homeless, and more.





Join the Health and Wellness Blessing Box Initiative



Health and Wellness is launching a new project, and your participation is encouraged. We have pledged to fill three Blessing Boxes in the Clayton area once a month. These boxes are conveniently located at the Main Street Community Garden, Fire Station #1 on Horne Street, and Fire Station #2 on Highway 42 E. A sign-up sheet will be available at every meeting for those interested in helping.

We invite you to sign up for a month that fits your schedule, either as an individual or as a Community Service Project (CSP). You can choose to fill one Blessing Box or all three during your selected month. There is no set schedule for restocking; simply replenish the boxes as you are able. If you prefer not to deliver food yourself, we will provide a bag at each meeting to collect non-perishable items. Additionally, you are welcome to drop off food whenever you are passing by and have items in your car. Please know that anything you add to the boxes will be used quickly, often within a day, as food insecurity remains a significant challenge in our community.

Thank you for your generosity and support in helping to reduce hunger in our area. The following items are especially needed and appreciated:

- Canned vegetables (4)
 - Boxes of pasta (2)
 - Tomato sauce (jars) or canned tomatoes (2)
 - Boxes of mac and cheese (2)
 - Packages of ramen (4)
 - Canned chicken or tuna (2)
 - Bags or boxes of rice (2)
 - Cans of soup (2)
 - Breakfast bars or granola bars (4)
 - Peanut butter (1 jar)
 - Jelly (1 jar)
 - Cereal or grits (1 box)
 - Laundry soap (1)
 - Toilet paper (1 pack)
- Other hygiene items (pads, tampons, shampoo, deodorant, etc.)

To give some perspective, Tina Zimmerman was able to purchase all of the items listed above (with the exception of toilet paper and hygiene products) from Walmart for approximately \$24. This cost demonstrates that filling the Blessing Boxes can be a shared effort between individuals or a CSP. Every contribution makes a difference and is deeply appreciated.

- May your pockets be heavy and your heart be light.
- May good luck follow you wherever you go.
- May your troubles be less and your blessings be more.
- May the road rise to meet you.
- May you always have a clean shirt, a clear conscience, and a coin in your pocket.
- May your heart be warm and your smile be bright.
- May you live as long as you want and never want as long as you live.





*Recipes Provided
by
Marianne Sapsara
This was the dessert
served at the
February meeting*



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

INGREDIENTS

Crust

- 14.4 oz graham crackers 1 standard box
- 8 Tablespoons butter melted

Filling

- 8 oz cream cheese softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 24 oz Cool Whip three 8 oz containers
- 3 oz strawberry jello mix 1 box
- ½ cup boiling water
- ½ cup cold water
- 4 cups strawberries chopped



Before You Begin

- If mixing in a glass bowl, adding cold water to the hot jello mixture could cause thermal shock and break the glass bowl.
- If you love strawberries like I do, add all four cups into the strawberry Jello layer and add additional chopped strawberries on top to your liking.
- If freezing before serving, wait to add the strawberries to the top until after sliced.

DIRECTIONS

To a large food processor add the graham crackers and pulse until a fine crumb. Add the melted butter to the food processor while at low speed.

14.4 oz graham crackers, 8 Tablespoons butter

Once combined, pour the contents into a 9×13 casserole dish and press to form an even layer. Place into the freezer while you assemble the other ingredients to firm up.

In a large bowl, whip the softened cream cheese with the powdered sugar. Fold in **one 8oz container of cool whip**. Spread into an even layer on top of the graham cracker crust and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

8 oz cream cheese, 1 cup powdered sugar

In another large bowl dissolve the Jello powder with boiling hot water. As it begins to cool (bowl should get close to room temperature), add the cold water.* Once cooled on the counter (not in the refrigerator as you do not want the Jello to setup) and slightly thickened (about 5-10 minutes), fold with **one 8 oz container of cool whip**. Add **3 cups of chopped strawberries**, reserving about a cup for the garnish on top.** Spread into an even layer on top of the cheesecake layer. Return to the refrigerator to cool for another 30-45 minutes.

3 oz strawberry jello mix, 1/2 cup boiling water, 1/2 cup cold water

Add the last 8 oz **container of cool whip** on top in an even layer. Garnish with more fresh strawberries. Freeze or refrigerate for a couple hours to setup all layers. Remove and cut with a knife that has been ran under hot water for clean cuts.

March 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|-----|--|--|
| 1 | 2 NO ESO!!!  | 3 | 4 Nancy Conte ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY! | 5 | 6 | 7 Art Festival  |
| 8 Daylight Savings begins  | 9 | 10 House of Hope meal  | 11 TWCC General Meeting  | 12 | 13 Bingo  | 14 |
| 15 | 16 Night n Gals  | 17 Exec Board Meeting St. Patricks Day  | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 Mary Ellen Causby ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY! | | | | |