



*FUQUAY VARINA WOMAN'S CLUB*

*PRESIDENT*

*JEANETTE MOORE BURLOCK*

*August—May 2023-2024*



**GO THE EXTRA MILE!**





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I was in Carolina Beach this week and was invited to exercise with the Sandy Sneakers. I shared with them about the NC Federation's trail's from the mountains to the sea and our special walking stick to navigate trails. They were so impressed!

They exercise every day for an hour. The ages rage from 30s to Ms. Ann who is 85.

I have truly enjoyed sharing the walking stick!

Julia



December 23, 1946-August 13,2023

Farewell, Donna Davis, we want to send condolences to her sister Joyce Wagner.

North Carolinians can play an important role in protecting their food supply by participating in the first statewide pollinator count August 18 and 19. “You find a plant, you watch it for 15 minutes, and you count every time an insect lands on it,” said Amanda Wilkins, NC State Extension horticulture agent in Lee County. “You just count the different types of insects, and then at the end you go to a website and you put in your counts. It’s very simple.”

Read more at: <https://www.ces.ncsu.edu/2023/08/counting-pollinators-for-a-cause/>

GREAT SOUTHEAST  
Pollinator Census

You can upload counts here (or go to the website on your computer <http://GSePC.org/>)

Name of Plant: Vinca Tattoo Blackberry Date: Aug 19 Time: 7:30 AM

Weather Conditions: Sunny Partly Cloudy Cloudy Rainy Temperature: 72

Name(s): M. Smallwood




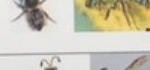
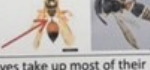



	Description of Insect	Number Counted
Carpenter Bee (16-22mm)	Shiney Hiney 	0
Bumble Bee (10-19mm)	Fuzzy Rear 	0
Honey Bee (12-15mm)		0
Small Bees (smaller than a honey bee)		0
Wasps (13-25mm)	Have a skinny waistline 	0
Flies (6-13mm)	Antennae very small. Eyes take up most of their head. 	0
Butterflies & Moths	Don't overthink it 	0
Other Insects		1

Photo credits on reverse.



## Special Events Group



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE INAUGURAL



## National Day of Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Living the Volunteer Spirit | [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org) | #GFWC23NDS

Help Us to End Hunger in the United States By  
Volunteering, Donating, or Organizing a Community Service Project



## Feed the Quay!



*The Fuquay Varina Woman's Club in partnership with the Food Pantry*

Nearly 1 in 4 households have experienced  
food insecurity this year and over 400  
families in the Fuquay Varina community  
need our help.

**Let's mobilize to eliminate these negative  
health outcomes**

BRING YOUR DONATIONS AUGUST 29th through September 29

### COLLECTION DATES

Aug. 29th - Sept. 29th

### DONATION LOCATIONS

Cultivate Coffee

Daddy D's BBQ

F-V Library

F-V Arts Center

Food Lion - 1338 Main St.

Front Porch Realty

Golds Gym

Garden Hut

MMIA Trailer - 617 NC 55

### MEMBERS:

Bring your donations to:

Connect Social, Aug 29

District VI Mtg, Sept 9

Club Meeting, Sept 11

Daddy D's - Sept 19th

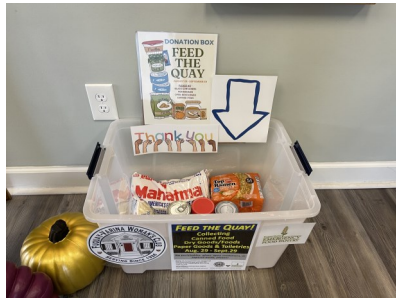
### VOLUNTEER

Consider hosting a  
donation box at your  
home or business!





Food bin drop off pictures Golds Gym Garden Hut, Library, Asbury Realtor, Front Porch and Daddy D's



## American Legion Connect Aug 29, 2023



Thank you gift bags made for  
Policeman and  
Fireman



Wow! Along with 35 club members, there were 20 visitors at our Connect Social.

What a great way to share how awesome we are. Thanks for being such good hosts. Several of the ladies plan to join and I'm sure a lot of them will attend the September meeting.







Gifts for Fireman and Policeman









**September—Beth Glover**

You have been recognized as a strong woman in our community. One that represents leadership, assertiveness, resourcefulness, and integrity. You are “a dash more”.

**1. What do you feel are some of the characteristics of a strong woman?** Confident, stand for what you believe, independence, integrity, knows who she is and encourage others.

**2. What is your occupation: i.e. what is your role at (Company)?** Owner Merle Norman Cosmetics studio and All Things Girly Boutique located downtown Fuquay-Varina.

What are the primary services/products that you represent and what benefits do they offer?  
Skin care and cosmetics made in USA provide quality tested products that help skin care needs.

In what ways do you feel your organization contributes to our community? Volunteer and donate to organizations and advertise and support, recommend other locally owned businesses.

What is your vision for your organization (or business, department, etc.).

Continue to support community and encourage other businesses and organizations.

Are there aspects of this vision that you feel would further contribute to our community?

By supporting and encouraging other business owners and citizens more people will visit and contribute to community.

**3. Family**

Tell us about your family.

Married in 2006, 2 grown boys, 2 grands

What makes you most proud of your family?

Supporting each other and helping others when needed

**4. Volunteer work**

Do you participate in any volunteer work within our community? Yes If so, how?

Help at church, donate to organizations and schools, add to food pantry boxes monthly and donate to the Apex Prom program.

And how does the work of your volunteer organization support

communities?

Raise money to better the town.

How do you balance work, family, and volunteering?

Self care, family time built into schedule and taking a day off week to have self care time.

**5. Hobbies**

Do you have any hobbies?

Photography, interior design and looking sea shells (If so) What drew you to those hobbies?

Job, helping husband with custom building homes and walking beach helps keep me grounded.

**6. Inspiration or mentor in your life**

Who do you look up to for inspiration or mentorship?

Other small business owners

What do you feel are the most important attributes of successful leaders (or business/small business owners) today?

Being Self motivated and share ideas to encourage or better the business

**7. What motivates you??**

How do you motivate yourself despite obstacles?

Solution oriented, break up challenges into doable task

**8. What one thing makes you most proud?**

Blessing have that didn't deserve. Part of growth is taking risks. Can you think of a risk you took that you wished you hadn't?

What did you learn from it and how did it motivate you to do things differently?

Not many regrets try to turn them into learning experiences.

**Is there a book that you have read that motivated you?**

Haven't read it all yet, but the Bible motivates and encourages me daily without that guidance I am nothing.



COLLECT FOR CLUB WOMEN

Keep us O God, from pettiness;  
Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.  
Let us be done with fault-finding  
And leave off self-seeking.  
May we put away all pretense  
And meet each other face to face  
Without self-pity and without prejudice.  
May we never be hasty in judgment  
And always be generous.  
Let us take time for all things;  
Make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.  
Teach us to put into action our better impulses,  
Straightforward and unafraid.  
Grant that we may realize it is  
The little things that create differences,  
That in the big things of life we are at one.  
And may we strive to touch and to know  
The great, common human heart of us all  
And oh Lord God, let us forget not  
To be kind!

Mary Stewart  
April 1904

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America  
and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, under God,  
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG OF NORTH CAROLINA

I salute the flag of North Carolina, and pledge  
to the Old North State, love, loyalty, and faith.

~Upcoming Events~

GFWC-NC Fall Conference, October 28, 2024, Raleigh  
GFWC-NC District VI Arts Festival, February 10, 2024, Raleigh  
GFWC-NC State Arts Festival, March 9, 2024, Mebane  
GFWC-NC State Convention, April 25-27, 2024, Raleigh

General Federation of  
Women’s Clubs of North Carolina

District VI  
Annual Fall Meeting



Saturday, September 9, 2023

Fuquay-Varina Baptist Church  
301 N. Woodrow Street  
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

Mary Grayson Hart, President  
Amanda Roberson, Junior Director  
2022-2024



GFWC-NC District VI Officers

President  
First Vice President  
Second Vice President  
Junior Director  
Junior Membership Chairman  
Recording Secretary  
Treasurer

Mary Grayson Hart  
Kathy Godfrey  
Jennifer McLean  
Amanda Roberson  
Valerie Seymour  
Stephanie Taylor  
Jodi Haire

GFWC-NC District VI Community Service Program Chairs

Arts & Culture  
Civic Engagement & Outreach  
Education & Libraries  
Environment  
Health & Wellness

Tracy Mahl  
Pat Witt  
Marilyn Bonnett  
Lois Nixon  
Brittany May

A special thank you thank to our Hostess Clubs

Fuquay-Varina Woman’s Club and the  
GFWC-NC Fuquay-Varina Junior Woman’s Club

A heartfelt thank you to our Meeting Ambassadors

Many thanks to the following clubs for providing door prizes for today’s meeting:

Carthage WC, Cary WC, Durham WC,  
Garner WC, Wake Forest WC, Western Wake WC,  
Wendell WC, and the Zebulon WC

General Meeting

A time to text, A time to talk.

Drawing inspiration from the famous words of Solomon in  
Ecclesiastes 3,  
Arlene Pellicane wrote a poem about the need for discernment  
in this digital age:

There is a time for everything technological,  
And a season for every activity under your roof;  
A time to take photos and a time to refrain from taking photos,  
A time to text and a time for long conversation,  
A time to install apps and a time to uninstall apps,  
A time to limit and a time to use,  
A time to watch funny cat videos and a time to read thoughtfully in a corner,  
A time to delay gratification and a time for lavish gifts,  
A time to keep and a time to throw away,  
A time for facebook and a time to shut Facebook down,  
A time for Skype and a time for getting on an airplane,  
A time for digital advances and a time for silent retreat.

Ladies, there is a time to text and a time to talk.  
May we have the wisdom to tell the difference.

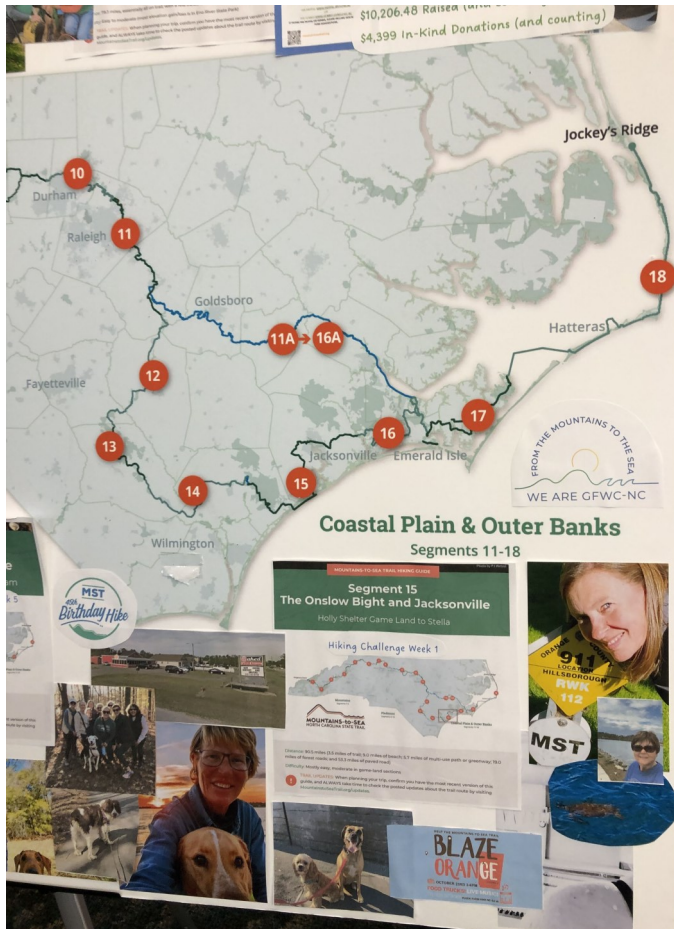
Schedule

8:30 – 9:30 am	Registration, Coffee & Breakfast	
8:30 – 8:45 am	Junior Buzz Session/Meeting Ambassadors with Amanda Roberson	
8:50 – 9:30 am	Board of Directors Meeting	
9:35 – 10:20 am	Opening Session <i>Mary Grayson Hart, President</i>	Fellowship Hall
	Thought for the Day <i>Vicki Currin, Chaplain</i>	
	Pledge of Allegiance & Salute to the North Carolina flag <i>Pat Witt, Civic Engagement &amp; Outreach CSP Chair</i>	
	Welcome & Introductions	
	Greetings from GFWC-NC <i>Jennifer Brighton on behalf of Misty Deyo, GFWC-NC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</i>	
	Club Roll Call	
	Approval of 2024-2025 District VI Budget	
	Election of 2024-2026 District VI Nominees for GFWC-NC Nominating Committees for Officers and CSP Chairmen	
	Election of 2024-2026 District VI Officers and CSP Chairmen	
10:20 – 10:45 am	Plenary Workshop: Mountains-to-Sea Trail—The Journey Continues <i>Jennifer Brighton, GFWC-NC President’s Special Project Chairman</i>	
10:45 – 11:00 am	Break	
11:00 – 11:30 am	Concurrent Workshops <i>Arts Festival – Jennifer McLean &amp; Mary Grayson Hart Leadership – Christy Frisbee Legislative Action Center – Pat Witt Reporting – Lois Nixon</i>	
11:35 – 11:55 am	Speaker: <i>Willa Brigham</i> Topic: <i>Oh, The Things We Women Can Do!</i>	
11:55 – 12:15 pm	Closing Session <i>Mary Grayson Hart, President</i>	Fellowship Hall
	Announcements, Door Prizes, & Adjournment	









**WILLA BRIGHAM**  
[www.willabrigham.com](http://www.willabrigham.com)  
[willastory@aol.com](mailto:willastory@aol.com)  
 919-302-9386

- Two-Time Emmy Award Winner
- Zora Neal Hurston Award Winner
- GFWC-NC Woman of Achievement Award
- Sounds of the Mountain Story Slam Champion
- Indiana University Community Service Award
- 2020 Cary Magazine (Front Cover) Women of Western Wake

Willa is the **Two-Time Emmy Award** Winning Host of the Television Show, *Smart Start Kids*, an Inspirational Speaker, Storyteller, Writer and Performing Artist. She is a native of Tuskegee, Alabama, a graduate of Alabama State University and Indiana University. She holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Health and Physical Education.

Willa has entertained and delighted audiences across the US and to standing ovations on cruise lines in the Caribbean. This busy artist has six delightful CDs to her credit. They include *Willa Will, Something Good, Stinky Johnson and Other Tales, Happy Healthy Habits, What You See and Midnight Quilter*. Willa is also the author of *Golden Years* – a collection of stories and poems dedicated to senior citizens and *The Pizza Tree* – a colorful and imaginative story about sharing.

She is also a multi-dimensional Fiber Artist with an impressive collection of original Note Cards, Sweet-Heart Ladies Portraits from Fabric and Paper and Thread Art Wall Designs.

**Awards, Community Service and Professional Affiliations:**

- Exchange Place Teller @ International Storytelling Festival
- Sounds of the Mountains Story Slam - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner
- Toastmaster Humorous Speech Contest Winner
- Entertainer of the Year - Carolina Health and Humor Association
- National Association of Black Storytellers – Gold Life Time Member
- North Carolina Storytelling Guild
- North Carolina Association of Black Storytellers
- African American Quilt Circle
- Board of Directors Kids Together Playground
- Past Board of Directors Friends of Page Walker
- Past Board of Directors North Carolina Pediatric Foundation
- Past Board of Directors White Plains Children's Center
- Past President Marklund Children's Home Clown Club
- Past Chair of Lincolnville AME Church Christian Education Department

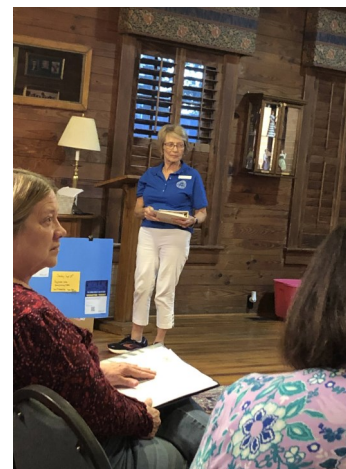
Willa's contagious energy, inspires, challenges and motivates. She has a passion for entertaining and bringing laughter to audiences of all ages.





# September

What a great way to start our club year! Our September meeting recognized Beth Glover from [Merle Norman Cosmetics Fuquay-Varina](#) as our Strong Woman of the Month, gave information about Adult Services at the [Fuquay-Varina Community Library](#), information from each CSP and Standing Committee about upcoming projects, and the Extra Mile Walking Stick was exchanged to the member that went the Extra Mile over the summer! We also had 17 visitors at our meeting! Great job ladies! [Wake County Public Libraries](#) [GFWC of NC](#) [GFWC-NC District 6](#) @GFWC



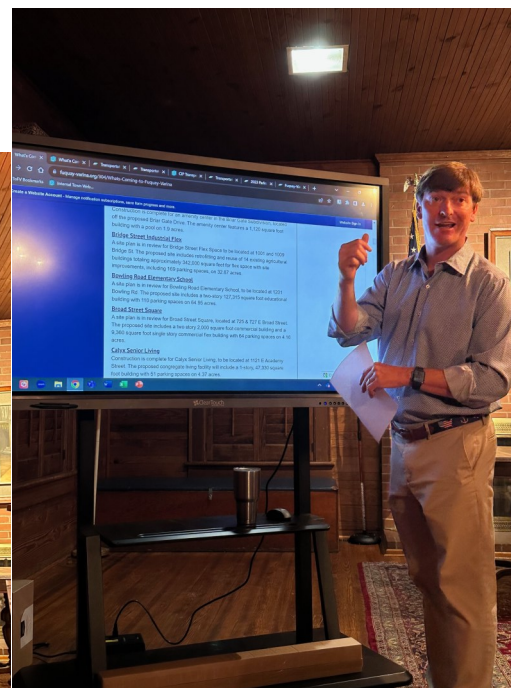
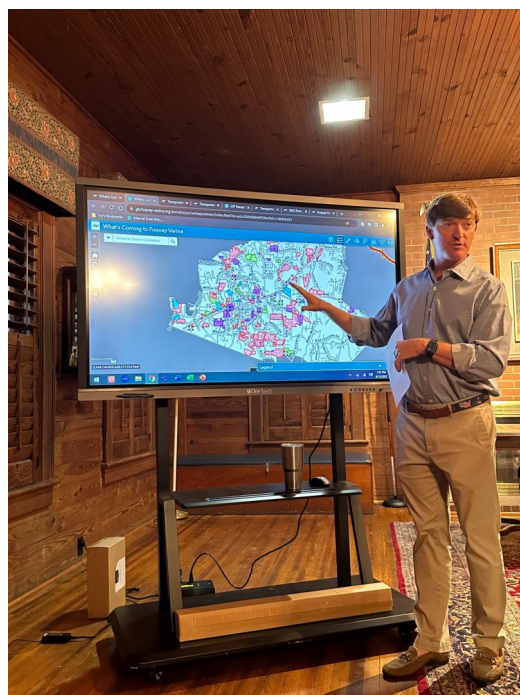
Homelife meeting



First trip with the walking stick to Atlantic beach.



## Questions with the Mayor





**ZOE herb bags  
for the  
soup**





# WALK OUT OF DARKNESS

THE SUICIDE PREVENTION WALK WAS THIS PAST SUNDAY. WE HAD 14 PARTICIPANTS FOR OUR TEAM WITH A COLLECTION OF \$1,095. GO TEAM!!







September 24, 2023  
CONNECT



October

WC Connect Lunch and Card making class at the Club house October 2,23







## Caylx Art class for the resistances October 3, 2023



## Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club

1h · 🌐

We are a little late on this post, but couldn't be more proud of our Shirley S. She and others at the [Fuquay-Varina Museums](#) took part in the FVHS retreat this summer, giving a tour for Principals, new and old together, of the Historic Fuquay School, and opening dialogue between them about the history of the school and the way to move forward. [#innovation](#) [#alwaysimproving](#) [#weloveshirley](#) GFWC of NC GFWC-NC District 6 Fuquay Varina High School

## October speakers—ENGIN

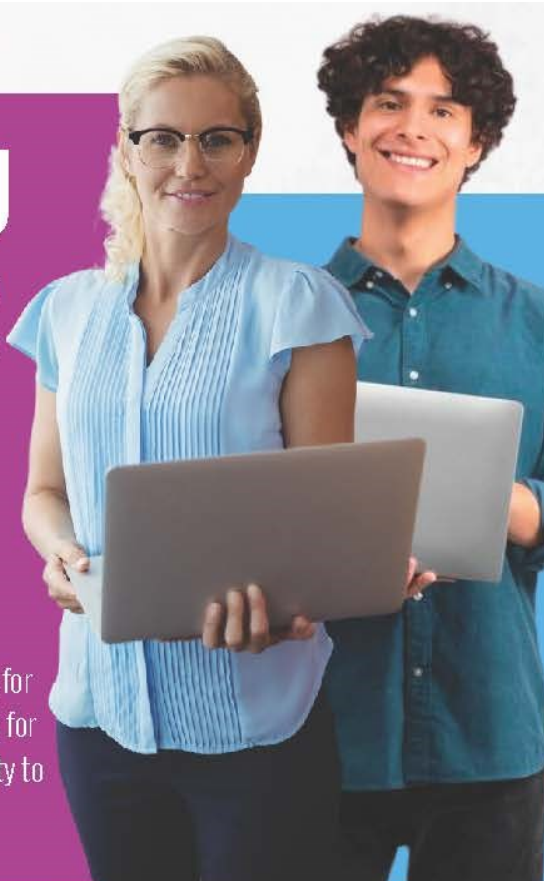




# JOIN ENGIN 4EDU AS A VOLUNTEER

Serve as an English Conversation Partner - Help English teachers in Ukraine Improve their English.

ENGIN for Educators is a new initiative from ENGIN. We are looking for current or retired teachers to serve as volunteer speaking partners for English teachers in Ukraine. This is a flexible and unique opportunity to make a tangible difference in the life of a Ukrainian educator.



## Our main requirements are:

- English fluency
- Work experience in education (preferably teaching English at schools, universities, educational institutions, etc.; you can also have experience in teacher training and curriculum development)
- Computer proficiency - should be able to use messaging apps and Zoom
- Age 21+ (younger volunteers are welcome to apply for our youth program at <https://www.enginprogram.org/volunteer>)
- Minimum volunteer commitment: 6 months

ENGIN 4EDU strives to address a root cause of Ukrainian students' struggles with English:

**English teachers who are not confident English speakers.** Our participants are all English educators from Ukraine seeking to improve their speaking and professional skills. Therefore, we offer a **prepared 3-month online advance training course** where English educators can gain new professional development and improve their speaking skills together with you, ENGIN volunteers with work experience in education.



To get started, please fill out this short form:



Susan McGuire in Blowing Rock NC. She walked 4.5 hike in Moses Cone State Park

## Speakers at Fraud and Scam talk





# October meeting pictures



This month’s Strong Woman of Fuquay Varina, **Marsha Smith** of Fidelity Bank, was introduced by Patty Byrne.

Sarah Chesley gave the devotion.

Ruth tells about support for the state President’s special project, the Mountains to Sea Trail \$11.75, 1175 miles long .

Sandy selling the cookies and soup ZOE fundraiser jars.

Fran showing the blankets made by Homelife.

Jeanette shows the pillows do-  
nated for **Domestic Violence**

**Project for SAFE**

Prospective member Eileen Kelly recently hosted a blanket making class at her home and 40 blan-  
kets have been made so far!

Debra showing the fundraiser for the Caboose train ride onNov 11.

Cindy making baby hats during the meeting.



Hilltop Park Clubhouse located at 4621 Shady Greens Drive in Fuquay-Varina was the place to be this morning for our monthly Coffee with a Cop.





. Fran Carroll and Mary Jane Jackson were recognized for their hard work on GFWC's National Day of Service food pantry collection drive. Becki Randolph was recognized for her work organizing our club's team in support of the Out of the Darkness fundraising walk. This month's Walking Stick award was presented to Madonna French. Anne Moell and Sarah Abraham for submitting their reports from January until the present time.

## Homelife making blankets





Cleaning the veteran gravesites



Ruth on her travels to the parks.





**Victoria Currin** has been recognized as a strong woman in our community. One that represents leadership, assertiveness, resourcefulness, and integrity. You are “a dash more”.

**What do you feel are some of the characteristics of a strong woman?**

A strong woman is grounded. She supports and wants the best for others. She truly listens and tries to understand other’s opinions & views all the while maintaining herself and her values. She strives to make each day the best it can be. She owns up to her mistakes/errors and is always straight forward, honest but kind.

**What is your occupation:** i.e., what is your role at (Company)? What are the primary services/products that you represent and what benefits do they offer?

In what ways do you feel your organization contributes to our community?

What is your vision for your organization (or business, department, etc.). Are there aspects of this vision that you feel would further contribute to our community?

I worked for CP&/ Progress Energy/Duke Energy; my trilogy for 35 years. During my early years, I worked at our Brunswick & Harris Nuclear plants. I retired as the Technical Training and Continuous Improvement Manager for the Fossil (Coal/Gas/Hydro plants) Generation Department covering Florida, SC, Eastern NC and at one time our Georgia Combustion Turbine plants. For the last 20 years, I am the President and General Office Manager of our custom home building company, Angel Structures Inc. Through the years, the power company has supported and continues to support all areas of community volunteering and charities. One big way, is keeping the lights on! And now, we support the community by building quality homes.

**Family**

Tell us about your family. What makes you most proud of your family?

My husband is Gerald, who is a custom home builder of ~40 years. His family is from FV. My family is from FV and Lillington. He has 2 sisters and I have 1 sister. I am proud of the fine, upstanding and nice people that our sisters, BILs, nephews & nieces are, truly contributing functioning adults who support each other no matter what.

**4. Volunteer work.**

Do you participate in any volunteer work within our community? If so, how? And how does the work of your volunteer organization support communities?

How do you balance work, family, and volunteering?

I have been in the FV Jrs & FVWC for 33 years and have held almost every officer and CSP chair position in the local, district and many of state level. Currently, I am the FVWC Treasurer, the GFWC-NC D6 Chaplain and the GFWC-NC Lucy Bramlette Patterson chair.

Also, I am the Women’s Ministry Chair and the Sanctuary Chair at FV Baptist Church. Hosting Bridal teas, Hand of Hope baby showers, leading school supply drives and coordinating other ministry projects that appeal to our ladies. In the past I have been the Personnel chair and on the Finance committee. I also teach Sunday School part time.

For the past 23 years, I have been the President/Class agent for the Merdith College Class of 1980. I oversee our class activities, meetings, communication, help with fundraising and recruiting new MC students.

I work with FVHS PTA to award the yearly PTA scholarships.

Overall, I stay busy but try to always make time for others especially, when God puts them in my mind or on my heart. A phone call is so easy to make!

**5. Hobbies**

Do you have any hobbies? (If so) what drew you to those hobbies?

I love gardening, reading, yoga, hanging at the beach. Gardening brings beauty to the world and reading takes you all areas of the world. Yoga is good for your mental and physical being. Beach just regenerates the soul.

**6. Inspiration or mentor in your life**

Who do you look up to for inspiration or mentorship?

What do you feel are the most important attributes of successful leaders (or business/small business owners) today?

I have had several wonderful women in my life, my Grandmother, Mother, Sister, and female supervisors. All of whom taught me to be honest, straight forward, hardworking and humble. I believe the best leaders are supportive of their workers, give credit where it is due and treat everyone fairly and equally. And definitely do not micromanage.



## 7. What motivates you??

How do you motivate yourself despite obstacles?

What one thing makes you most proud?

Part of growth is taking risks. Can you think of a risk you took that you wished you hadn't? What did you learn from it and how did it motivate you to do things differently?

Is there a book that you have read that motivated you?

I love helping people, encouraging and lifting them up especially women. I truly believe we should give back in every way that we can. I have been so blessed that I want to give back to our community.

Overall, most of my risks were work related, applying for different positions and trying new work ideas. When the position or idea didn't pan out, I used it as a learning opportunity, and different options; usually better opened up. I truly believe that God takes care of us and will open the right/best doors, if we just let Him.

I read so much that there are too many to name but the best of all books is the Bible, if more of the world applied God's principles what a wonderful, peaceful life everyone would have. All the prophets and key people found in the Bible were flawed, imperfect people which should encourage us by showing that God uses all people. He loves us all.



### Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club

Posted by Jeanette Moore-Burlock

30m • 🌐

On Friday, several of our members attended the Corporate Champions for Women and Children Awards Presentation at the [Woman's Club of Raleigh](#). Fuquay-Varina's hometown community bank, Fidelity Bank was honored as a champion for women and children with Mary Willis, President receiving the award. Congratulations to Fidelity Bank! A lovely evening with wonderful women doing great things in our community!



Members of Health and Wellness visited the [Poe Center for Health Education](#) with the [Fuquay Varina Community Center](#) this week to learn about what they do. (Pro Tip: They help people make healthy choices!) A fun time! You never know where you will find the members of Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club! [GFWC of NC](#) [@gfwcnc](#) [GFWC-NC District 6](#) [#HealthandWellness](#) [#FVWC](#)







**Bass Lake Connect Walk and supper**



**Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club** ...

Posted by Jeanette Moore-Burlock

55m • 🌐

This week [#healthandwellness](#) held a chair yoga class in our clubhouse with lots of stretching and deep breathing. It was a wonderful way to get some low impact exercise while having a good time together. [GFWC of NC](#) [GFWC-NC District 6](#)



**Fuquay-Varina Jr. Woman's Club**

Ruth helped out.  
FVJWC volunteering at the MMIA golf tournament this weekend.

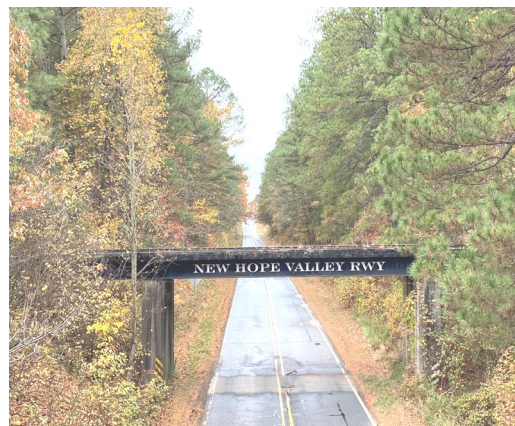




## Membership class 101



Several of our members volunteered at the [Fuquay-Varina Museums](#) fundraiser on the [New Hope Railroad](#) on Saturday and other members attended as well. If you haven't visited the Museums, you absolutely should! Check their website and Facebook for their schedule.



## November craft project at Calyx Living





The health and wellness committee making Thanksgiving baskets for the Homes For The Elderly bingo!



Numerous members volunteered for the [Military Missions in Action #teeoffforthetroops](#) golf tournament last weekend. We didn't get photos of most of them, but they covered check-in, placed flags on the course, and helped the [Fuquay-Varina Jr. Woman's Club](#) on the chicken hole (iyykyk) Thank you ladies (FVWC and FVJrs) for volunteering on your Veterans Day weekend for a great cause! And thanks to Bob for staking the tent after it tried to fly away and thanks to [Blake Massengill](#), [Mayor Fuquay-Varina](#) for cooking with us on Sunday afternoon!



## November meeting pictures

Here are the pictures of the 19 bags of clothes we donated to SAFE. These were all from Donna and I know Linda helped with the bagging up of these and the clothes were immaculate.







## Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club

12m · 🌐

This week the Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club Education and Libraries CSP held a reception for our teacher mini grant recipients. We had 23 recipients with great ideas for projects in their classrooms. Teachers spend a sizable amount of their own money on projects for their classrooms, so these funds help teachers create interesting projects for our local students without having to pay out of pocket or reducing out of pocket costs. The funds are provided by the [Town of Fuquay-Varina](#) and administered by our club. Thank you to the town for working with us on this project!

[GFWC of NC](#) [GFWC-NC District 6](#)

[#education](#) [#minigrantsforteachers](#)

UNICEF boxes collected .Sandy Allen received the walking stick for going the extra mile.

Vicki Currin strong Woman of the month.

Veteran devotion





FUQUAY-VARINA MINI GRANTS AWARDED

The Fuquay-Varina Woman’s Club held the in-person Mini Grant Reception to award the 2023 Mini Grants on November 16, 2023. The date was selected to Celebrate American Education Week with these special recipients and their administrators. Present, also was Ms. Althea Lewis representing the Grants Office of Wake County Public Schools.

President Jeanette Moore-Burlock welcomed the winners and their guests at 4:00 p.m. Mayor Blake Massengill presented the checks. Members of the Education and Libraries CSP of the Woman’s Club, Debbie Semple gave a brief synopsis of the proposal, Shirley Simmons give a brief history and presented a certificate and Julia Yeargan provided a goodie bag to each winner. All CSP members provided refreshments for the recipients and their guests.

Winners for 2023 were:

Willow Springs Elementary: Naeema Carter

Ballentine Elementary: Jennifer Fruend

Michelle Moniz

Jennifer Toscana

Dana Snapp

Fuquay-Varina Elementary: Christy Brown

Lisa Gantt

Kristen Long

Chelsea Lee

Gretchen Thompson

Rebecca To

Herbert Akins Middle: Lea Ellis

Denise Brown & Kelli Weiser

Aurelis Lugo & Lisa Bellini

Brianna High

Fuquay-Varina Middle: Pamela Ellis

Kristin Lundberg

Fuquay-Varina High: Lance Edwards

Gail Siemer

Middle Creek Elementary: Taryn Slozak

Middle Creek High: Ashley Peay-Bettini

Banks Road Elementary: Angela Michelle Martin

Southern Wake Academy: Teedgra Carter

The Fuquay-Varina Woman’s Club under President Lynette Walters originated this program in 1991. The following year the Town of Fuquay-Varina began funding the grants. From five schools in 1991, the program has grown to offer grants to 16 schools in our immediate area. Proposals are judged anonymously according to specific criteria. They may be awarded to former recipients and can be continuations of a program from a previous year. The goal is to recognize originality, encourage programs to reach many students, or fund proposals which are not otherwise provided in the schools.

In this 32nd Year, a total of 23 grants were selected from among 30 applications. The grand total of grants for the 32 years has now reached 593. The Town of Fuquay-Varina is a “star” municipality, partnering with the Woman’s Club in recognition of our area educators!

Members of the Education and Libraries Community Service Program: Julia McCombs, Julia Yeargan, Lori Helwig, Joy Henderson, Angela Moss, Sarah Abraham, Donna Barger, Barbara Giarelli, Sheila Cherney, Linda Nicodemus and Co Chairs, Debbie Semple & Shirley Simmons were especially proud of the excellent proposals submitted this year. We also thank all the administrators who supported and encouraged their staff in this endeavor.



Christmas bags delivered to the old folks home.





Just before Thanksgiving, members of [#HealthandWellness](#) packaged goodies for Bingo gifts at the Homes for the Elderly. Adorable gift baskets and such thoughtful women! Thank you for all that you do for FVWC and the Elderly in FV! [GFWC of NC](#) [GFWC-NC District 6](#) [#thankful](#)



We delivered items for our special project SAFE Dreams, to the offices of [SAFE of Harnett County](#) last week. Our project gathered needed items for the victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse and ranged from pillows and sheets to hair brushes, deodorant, utensils, aluminum foil, and soaps. We filled their offices with goodies! Great job to all of our members that took part and made this happen in such a big way! We also can't thank the staff at SAFE enough for all they do for the people that need their services. A big THANK YOU to the businesses that helped make this happen



Members took a tour of the [Fuquay-Varina Museums](#) last week to learn more about our town's history. It is a wonderful (Blue Star) museum with lots of artifacts and is a great tour! If you haven't been, you really should make it a point to go. They are open Monday 10am-1pm, Wednesday 1-4pm and by appointment.



## December crafts for the group at Calyx



## Pine Acers Christmas gifts



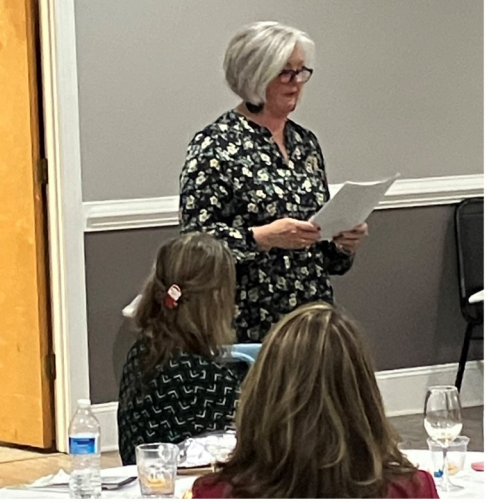
## Nutcracker dance at the Art center backstage and the group.



## Christmas Baquet at the American Legon

This week FVWC held our Holiday Banquet at the [American Legion Post 116](#). We had a full schedule for the banquet and our members had a wonderful time! (More pics and info to come!) Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy New Year and Happy Holidays from our club members to you and yours! [GFWC of NC](#) [GFWC-NC District 6](#)









Last week we were honored to induct five of our newest members at our holiday banquet. These wonderful people have been volunteering with us on our projects this year and are a great asset to our club and our town ❤️ [GFWC of NC](#) [GFWC-NC District 6](#) [#fuquayvarinawomansclub](#) [#gfwcnc](#)





A big thank you to Steve McCoy for his fun rendition of the 12 Days of Christmas at our Holiday Banquet! We had great audience participation, and as always, the 5 Goooooolllddd Rrrriinnnggggs and the Partridge in a Pear Tree stole the show! Steve was the only baritone in the room and is a member of the Fuquay-Varina Chorale! Video to follow 😄 GFWC of NC GFWC-NC District 6  
#twelvedaysofchristmas  
#fuquayvarinawomansclub  
#fivegoldrings #partridgeinapeartree

Bows removed and replaced with new ones at this old building in FV







## Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club

Posted by Jeanette Moore-Burlock

3d · 🌐

This week members of FVWC replaced the bows on the wreaths that will be placed this Saturday for [Wreaths Across America - Official Page](#). (Our members made the bows earlier this year). We, along with the [American Legion Post 116](#) will be placing the wreaths on the graves of veterans in Wake Chapel Cemetery, Greenlawn Cemetery and [Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery](#) this Saturday starting at 9am. A big thank you to [Modern Metalworx, LLC](#) for letting us use their space to finish this project! [#wreathsacrossamerica](#) [#townoffuquayvarina](#) [#fuquayvarinawomansclub](#) [#americanlegionpost116](#)









## January meeting

Recently, our Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP awarded the 2023 [Town of Fuquay-Varina](#) Outstanding Employee Award to Gabe Briley, the Sanitation-Solid Waste Management Superintendent. Gabe is a model citizen as an employee and as a citizen. He is active in coaching, active in and loves his church, adores his family and he runs the best sanitation department around! We are honored to recognize Gabe Briley as a citizen that lives the volunteer spirit, is a fantastic employee and superintendent, and loves our town immensely! Congratulations to Gabe, and thank you for all that you do for our town! [#CivicEngagement](#) [#FVWC](#) [#outstandingpersoninthecommunity](#) [Blake Massengill, Mayor Fuquay-Varina](#)







Mr. Williams is the director of the Fuquay Varina Chamber of Commerce. He spoke about the many activities and events the Chamber sponsors to support and promote our local business community.



Ruth recognized members Anne Moell and Barbara Rickard for timely submitting their reports. Fran Carroll is this month's recipient of the Walking Stick Award. She presented Jeanette with the "Calamity Jane" award for her recent run-in with a truck while in parking lot.

Approximately 70% of club members have submitted their reports.





Cleanup day at the Club house.





Art Show 2024 at  
Windsor Point





Last weekend the Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club and the Fuquay-Varina Junior Woman's Club held our Annual Arts Festival in the theatre at [Windsor Point Retirement Community](#). We had hundreds of great entries from kids with a huge amount of talent! Thank you to [Blake Massengill](#), [Mayor Fuquay-Varina](#) for opening the show with us, thank you to





Windsor Point for allowing us to use the theater for the show again, and thank you to all of the kids and schools that participated! The first place winners are moving on to the District Art Show next month. Thank you to all of the Club members who made this event run smoothly. It is a lot of work to create an art show involving 23 schools! [GFWC of NC](#) [GFWC-NC District 6](#) [#artsandculture](#) [#artsfestival](#) [#fvwc](#)







## Connect lunch before setting up the 2024 Art Show



This week, Martha delivered cookies from our Arts CSP to the [Fuquay-Varina Police Department](#). Thank you Martha, Arts, and FVPD for all that you do! [GFWC of NC](#) [GFWC-NC District 6](#) [#fvwc](#) [#thankyouforyourservice](#)



### February

Dee O'Brian has been recognized as a strong woman in our community. One that represents leadership, assertiveness, resourcefulness, and integrity. You are "a dash more".

**What do you feel are some of the characteristics of a strong woman?**

*For me, I had to start by stepping out of my comfort zone and pushing my limits. I also think that a strong woman needs to stay flexible, listen to*



*others, and maintain a sense of humor. She also needs to lead from the front by setting an example.*

**What is your occupation:** i.e. what is your role at (Company)? What are the primary services/products that you represent and what benefits do they offer?

In what ways do you feel your organization contributes to our community?

What is your vision for your organization (or business, department, etc.). Are there aspects of this vision that you feel would further contribute to our community?

*It's hard to say what my occupation is because I work for no pay. Before retiring, I worked in Special Needs Classrooms, primarily 3 to 5 year-olds.*

*Most of my time is*

*spent volunteering at the Fuquay-Varina Emergency Food Pantry, raising funds for suicide prevention, being an advocate and lending support to those left behind after a suicide.*

*The food pantry serves about 400 families per month, and by working with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, we have been able to get training classes, instructional materials and resources for our community.*

*I would like to see easier access to many resources on Mental Health and for the Food Pantry, more information available on food insecurities and distribution sites.*

## **Family**

Tell us about your family. What makes you most proud of your family?

*After a few years in foster care, I traveled with Up With People High School for a few years. I then met and married my husband, Ray, who was in the Marines. We traveled together for 21 years in the military with our two children, and have been married now for 52 years. Of course, our children (and grandchildren) make us most proud. They both obtained advanced degrees and are very independent. They also blessed us with our two grandsons.*

## **4. Volunteer work.**

Do you participate in any volunteer work within our community? If so, how? And how does the work of your volunteer organization support communities?

How do you balance work, family, and volunteering?

*At the food pantry, I am the volunteer coordinator, work during our open hours and shop at least twice each week for perishable items for our clients. I've mentioned raising funds and advocating for suicide prevention, but also stay involved with Catholic Daughters of the Americas at our church and help another worthy charity, Sleep in Heavenly Peace.*

## **5. Hobbies**

Do you have any hobbies? (If so) what drew you to those hobbies?

*I enjoy hand-quilting and the creativity it allows. I also support the Arts and attend shows when I can.*

## **6. Inspiration or mentor in your life**

Who do you look up to for inspiration or mentorship?



What do you feel are the most important attributes of successful leaders (or business/small business owners) today?

*Frances Goddard, cofounder and past director of the food pantry, as well as Mr. Laeron Roberts who at 90 remains very active as a volunteer. I also admire Marge Moreton, the chairperson from the Growers Market and community activist. Finally, I have to add Mother Theresa who humbly and selflessly served the most marginalized under adverse condition.*

*Leaders need to stay involved with their community, take a personal interest in others and research the needs.*

## 7. What motivates you??

How do you motivate yourself despite obstacles?

*I rely on my faith and remind myself that I'm never without the many other people who make me look good. We depend on each other.*

What one thing makes you most proud?

*Being a part of brining the Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk to Fuquay and watching it grow both in number of participants and funds raised.*

Part of growth is taking risks. Can you think of a risk you took that you wished you hadn't? What did you learn from it and how did it motivate you to do things differently?

*One of my past volunteer experiences was as a volunteer firefighter and EMT. I stuck with it for three years but it really gave me perspective on my physical limitations. I learned that it is possible to over volunteer, especially when also working full time.*

Is there a book that you have read that motivated you?

*Atlas of the Heart* by Brene Brown.

## CALYX Craft for February



## Month of February is "Love your Library"





# FUQUAY-VARINA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

From your establishment in 1926 to 2024  
You have been our "own" library in  
Fuquay Springs & Fuquay-Varina

From the Jackson House on Academy to Bramble Hill  
You have moved and improved  
space and collections

From first Librarian, Helen Gunter to Janet West, Library Manager  
You have given us outstanding, professional,  
cooperative leadership

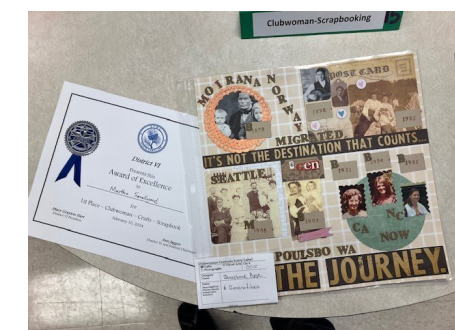
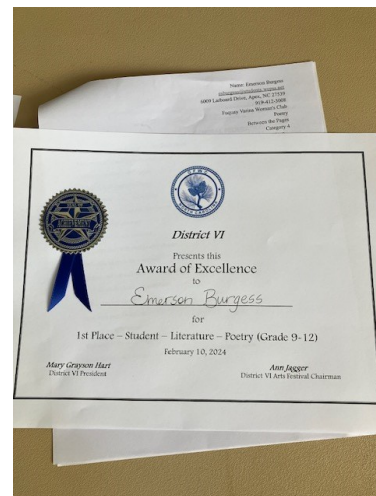
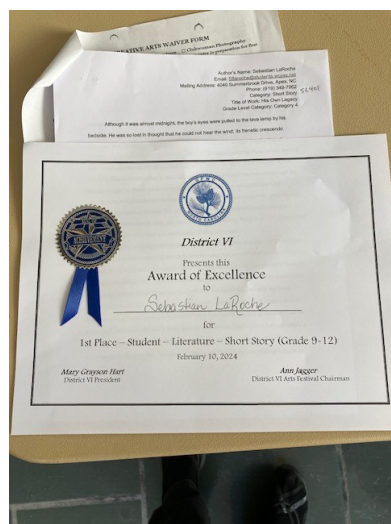
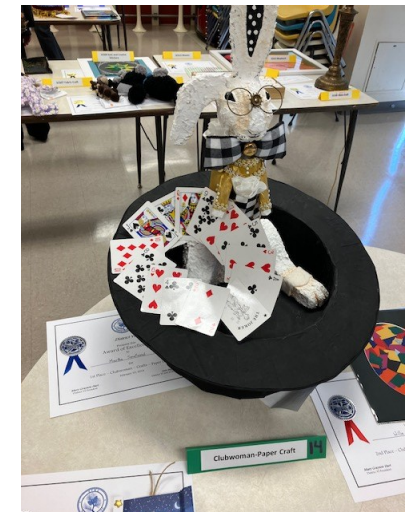
From a tiny shelf in the high school to all 23 Wake County Libraries  
You have enlarged your collection  
and multiplied your services

From February 1-February 28  
Open our letter to you each day  
and accept our member's appreciation

On Leap Year, February 29  
Know that we recognized you this  
LIBRARY LOVER'S MONTH

*The Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club  
Education & Libraries CSP*

## District Art Show 2024







## Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club



Posted by Jeanette Moore-Burlock

5d · 🌐

Last week our Social Committee met to enjoy fellowship and plan our FVWC May Banquet. These women have made each banquet and celebration at FVWC a big success and we are grateful for their work. We are overjoyed that Joyce was able to join us in the fellowship.

A big thank you to our hostess!

@gfwcnc GFWC of NC GFWC-NC District 6 #FVWC





**General Federation of  
Women's Clubs of North Carolina**

***District VI***  
**Arts Festival**



*Making Our Moments Matter*

**Saturday, February 10, 2024**

First Baptist Church  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Mary Grayson Hart, District President  
Amanda Roberson, Director of Junior Clubs  
2022-2024




## Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club

Posted by Jeanette Moore-Burlock  
6d · 🌐

This weekend eight members and our FVWC Sallie Southall Cotton Scholarship winner attended the District 6 Meeting and Arts Festival in Raleigh. We had a lovely time and lots of the art from our Arts Festival will be moving on to the GFWC-NC Arts Show!



Anne Moell 2024 District Woman of the Year



**GFWC-NC District VI Officers**

President	Mary Grayson Hart
First Vice President	Kathy Godfrey
Second Vice President	Jennifer McLean
Director of Junior Clubs	Amanda Roberson
Junior Membership Chair	Valerie Seymour
Treasurer	Jodi Haire

**GFWC-NC District VI Community Service Program Chairs**

Arts and Culture	Tracy Mahl
Civic Engagement and Outreach	Pat Witt
Education and Libraries	Marilyn Bonnett
Environment	Lois Nixon
Health and Wellness	Brittany May

**A special thank you thank to our hostess clubs:**  
Durham Woman's Club and  
the Wake Forest Woman's Club

And a heartfelt thanks to the Meeting Ambassadors!

**Schedule**

8:00-9:30 am	Registration, Breakfast, & Coffee <b>All artwork must be registered by 9 am</b>	Fellowship Hall
8:30 am	Sallie Southall Cotton Contest	Room 201 (parlor)
9:00 am	ArtFest	Room 322
	Crafts	Room 301 (lounge)
	Music	Sanctuary
	Visual	Room 302
	Photography	3rd Floor Hallway
	Literature	Main Floor
9:00-9:30 am	Board of Directors Meeting	Room 110
9:00-9:30 am	Service Project: <i>Valentines for Veterans</i>	Fellowship Hall
10:00-10:40 am	District VI Awards Assembly <i>Mary Grayson Hart, President</i>	Fellowship Hall
	Thought for the Day <i>Vicki Currin, Chaplain</i>	
	Pledge of Allegiance & Salute to the Flag of NC <i>Kathy Godfrey, 1st Vice President</i>	
	Introductions	
	Special Committee - <i>Jennifer Brighton, President-elect</i>	
	Awards <i>Amanda Jackson, Awards Chairman</i>	
11:00 -12:10 pm	Lunch & Viewing of Entries (Literature in Main Entry Hall)	
12:15 pm	Arts Festival Awards Presentation <i>Mary Grayson Hart, President</i> <i>Ann Jagger, Arts Festival Chairman</i>	Sanctuary
	Announcements	
	Closing	







## Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club ...

Posted by Jeanette Moore-Burlock

4d · 🌐

Members of Health & Wellness gathered and made goodie bags for all of the residents at Homes for the Elderly and for Pine Acres. They were delivered today as a Valentine's 💕 gift along with kind words and friendly faces! [GFWC of NC](#)  
[GFWC-NC District 6](#) [#fvwc](#)  
[#healthandwellness](#)  
[#HappyValentinesDay2024](#)





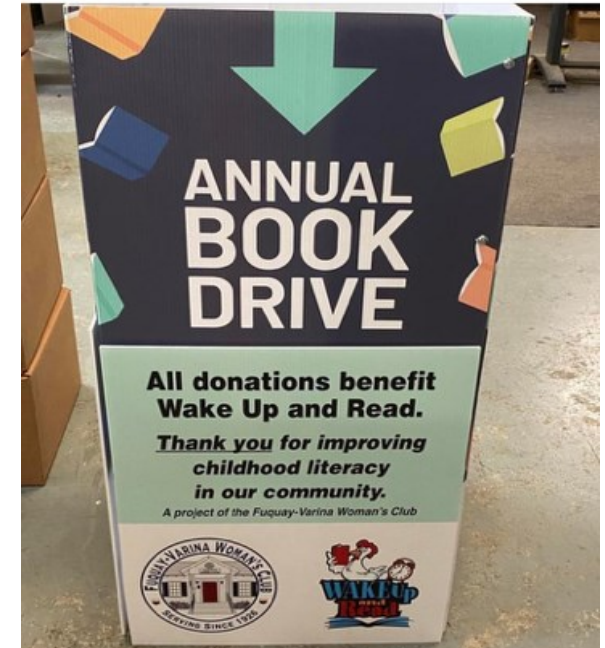


## Backpack Buddies food delivery for March

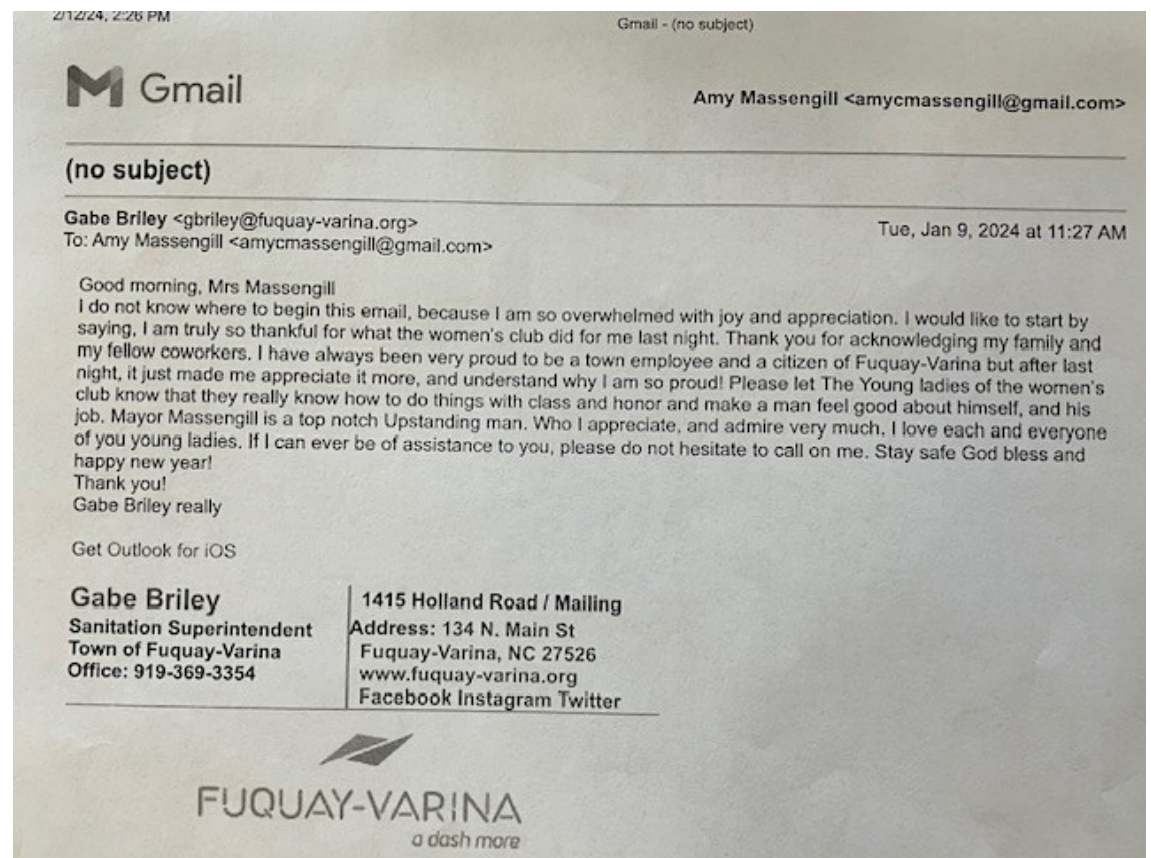
Last week our Health and Wellness CSP delivered food items to schools for Backpack Buddies along with members of the [American Legion Post 116, Fuquay Varina](#). We love our partnerships with other organizations in FV! [#FVWC](#) [#backpackbuddies](#) [#community](#) [GFWC of NC](#) [GFWC of NC](#) [GFWC-NC District](#)



Last week at the [GFWC-NC District 6 Arts Festival and Meeting](#), our own Faith J. won the Outstanding Citizenship and Patriotism Award for all of her efforts in helping veterans and active duty military in her work at [#FVWC](#), the [American Legion Post 116, Fuquay Varina](#), in her work life and her other volunteer efforts. Congratulations Faith! You are the epitome of good citizenship and patriotism!  
[@GFWC of NC](#) [@gfwcnc](#)



FVWC is hosting a BOOK DRIVE! Bring your new or gently used books for infants through 5th grade to the [Fuquay-Varina Community Library](#) or the [Fuquay-Varina Arts Center](#) and place them in these boxes. We are working with [Wake Up and Read](#), and the books will be given to children in Wake County to help improve childhood literacy and start their own home libraries. We are taking donations through the end of February. Thank you! [GFWC of NC](#) [GFWC-NC District 6](#) [#fvcnc](#) [#gfwcnc](#) [#gfwcncdistrict6](#) [#educationandlibraries](#)





# Pine Acers Community Center Craft project







## Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club

20m · 🌐

On Saturday, members of FVWC took part in and supported the Black History Stakeholders Committee's Black History Tour and Celebration at [Pine Acres Community Center](#). It was a wonderful event with lots of great information and great conversations about the local history in our town. Great job Melvina and other Stakeholder Committee members! Thank you Shirley for taking part in the question and answer session. We hope to support this event and continue learning about and supporting local history for many years to come! [GFWC of NC](#) [GFWC of NC](#) [GFWC-NC District 6](#) [#fvwc](#) [#BlackHistoryIsAmericanHistory](#)







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#FVWC closed out February with a connect lunch at [The Blind Pelican Seafood House](#). Good food and even better company! A wonderful group of women doing great things in Fuquay-Varina! [GFWC of NC](#)  
[GFWC-NC](#)  
[District 6](#)

## March meeting

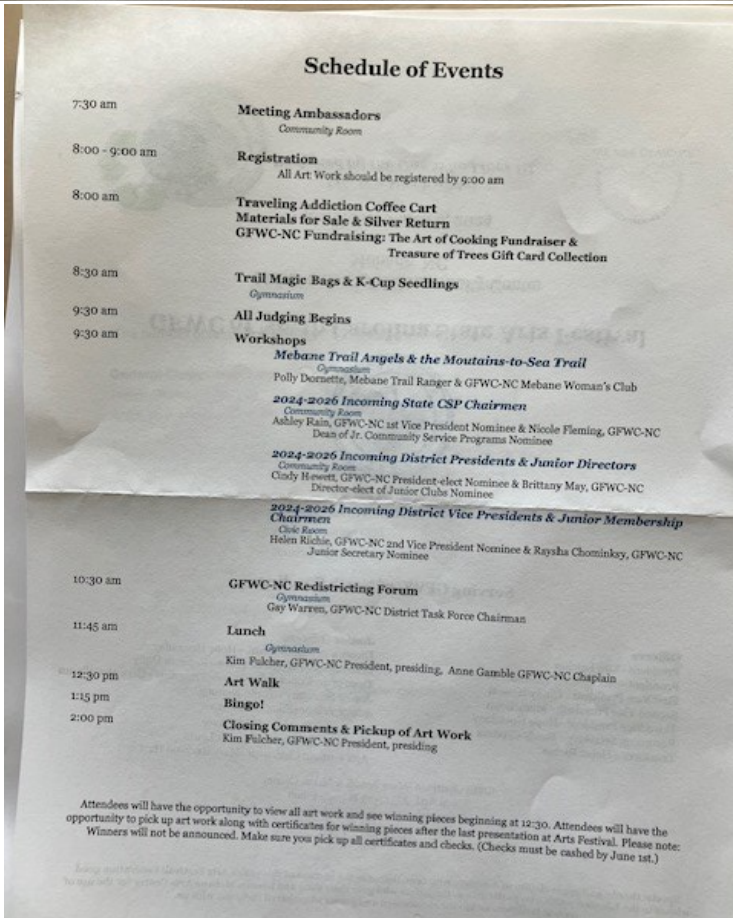


## Calyx Senior Center art class

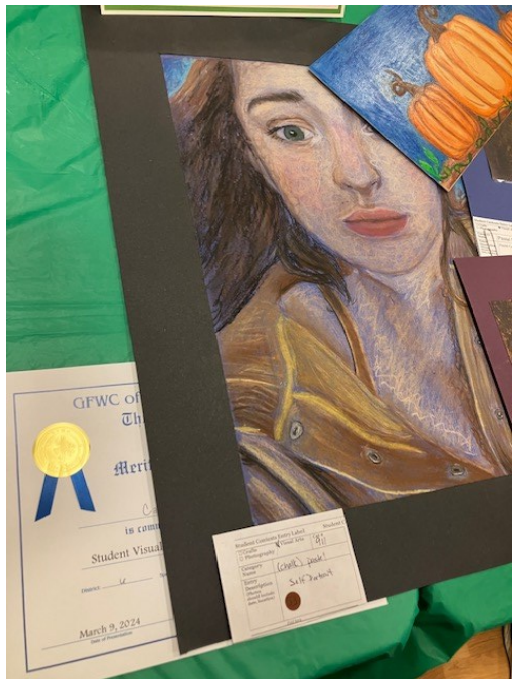
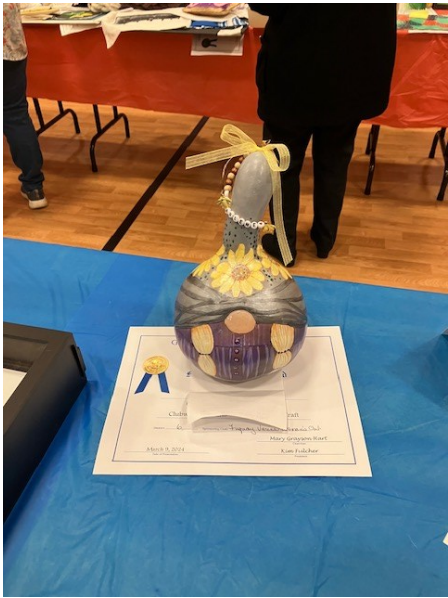
## Social committee finalizing the May banquet













## Skyler Casey Best in Show artist, parents and teacher



Judy McCoy received  
the walking stick for  
her knee surgery this  
month.

Always with a smile  
and ready to help.







## **March 2024 Susan Weiss, communications Director Town of Fuquay-Varina**

### **What do you feel are some of the characteristics of a strong woman?**

The following words come to mind: knowing who you are and what you want, tenacity, faith, honesty, positivity, independence, and respectfulness.

### **What is your occupation?**

I have been the Communications Director for the Town of Fuquay-Varina for fourteen years. In that capacity, I work to advance the Town of Fuquay-Varina's Strategic Vision, Mission, and Goals by providing innovative, effective, and engaging communications through various means, creative support of core services and initiatives, and strong promotion of the town's brand.

### **Family**

My family is my pride and joy! My husband Steve and I have been married for almost 27 years. We have two adult children. Morgan, our daughter, is super bright and works as an engineer in a primarily male-dominated field. She got her brains from her father, and she looks like me. Our son, Alexander, majored in finance and is working in project management for a regional construction company. Alex looks like his dad and his brain works more like mine. Our kids are a great blend of both of us. Nothing can prepare you for the joy of hanging out with your adult children. We recently traveled to Ireland together and are planning a trip to the islands in June. I am very proud that we have a tight-knit family.

### **Hobbies**

I like gardening, though my husband would laugh at me saying that. Steve would say he hadn't seen me in the yard when he was sweating to death. Perhaps we should say I like tending flowers. I love traveling and planning my next trip! I like spending time with friends. For me, nurturing friendships is very important. Also, I'm sure I would have been an HGTV star in another life! Wouldn't we all? That's to say, I love decorating, much to my husband's dismay. I love seeing how all of it comes together. Decorating fosters my creative side.

### **Inspiration or mentor in your life**

My mother and father are the biggest inspirations for me. My father grew up very poor. He used his talents as an All-American High School football player to attend college and eventually become a physician. He met my mom along the way, and she worked many jobs to help put him through medical school. When Dad was in medical school in Memphis, TN, they lived in public housing. Working together, my parents forged an extraordinary life through determination and diligent effort, earning everything they possessed. Their dedication instilled a strong work ethic I've imparted to my children.

### **What motivates you??**

If you asked my kids the one saying their mother said all during their youth, they could quickly tell you: "You set the bar. Don't let others define you. You define yourself." I've tried to live that way, both personally and professionally. I think it's important to know who you are, understand your values, and how you want to spend your valuable time. Knowing yourself helps you set priorities.

In 2003, I left corporate America for a non-profit job to become the downtown manager of Fuquay-Varina's Main Street program. It was a risky move with less money but more opportunity to build a career focused on community development—a core value dear to me—and contribute to a place where I could make a difference. After serving seven years as the downtown manager, I was offered my dream job as Communications Director for the Town of Fuquay-Varina. Knowing who I am and what I want helped this story turn out the way it did.





## Easter Parade entries



Our winners are listed below by category. We hope you have a

### Child

1st - Logan May

2nd - Anna Massengill

People's Choice - Anna Massengill

### Adult

1st - Martha Smallwood

2nd - Carol Fehlner

People's Choice - Carol Fehlner

### Youth

1st - Colton May

2nd - Jake Massengill

People's Choice - Jake Massengill

### Family/Group

1st - Susan Stanley & Family

2nd - FWC Civic Engagement CSP

People's Choice - Susan Stanley & Family

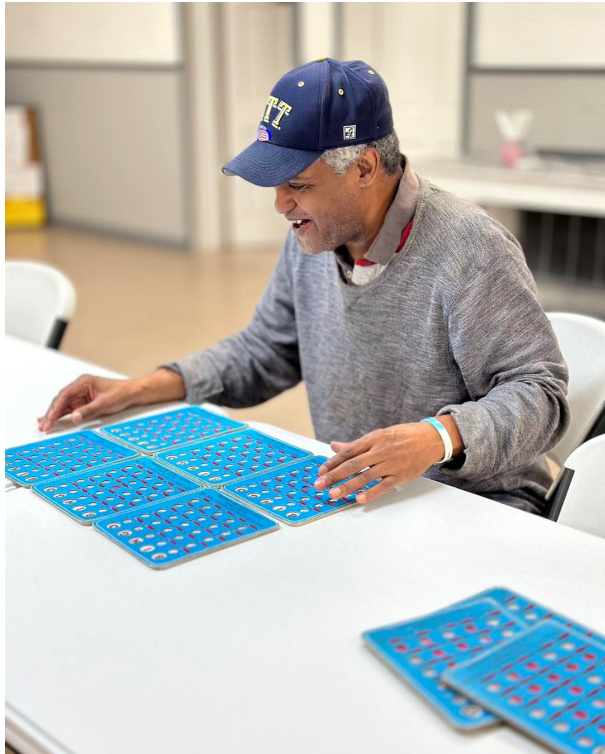
A big thank you to our Health and Wellness CSP for their efforts with Backpack Buddies for four local schools!  
#makingadifference #healthandwellness  
GFWC of NC GFWC-NC District 6 #fvwc



## Health and Wellness group meeting.







Members held bingo at [Pine Acres Community Center](#) this week and had a great time getting to know the players! Thank you to [#HealthandWellness](#) for this fun project! [#fvwc](#) [GFWC of NC](#)





Costumes made for Finding Nemo at the Art Center by Art members Carol F. and Martha S.





## **April Strong Woman Brittany May**



You have been recognized as a strong woman in our community. One that represents leadership, assertiveness, resourcefulness, and integrity. You are “a dash more”.

### **What do you feel are some of the characteristics of a strong woman?**

A strong woman needs to be able to adapt. Life circumstances and seasons change and the attributes of a strong woman change too. Patience, kindness, resiliency, and dedication are some important characteristics of a strong woman.

### **What is your occupation: i.e. what is your role at (Company)?**

I am currently a stay-at-home mom primarily. I also help with my husband’s lawn care and property management business. Our company frequently supports organizations such as the downtown revitalization, sports teams, and the FV Junior Woman’s Club.

## **Family**

Tell us about your family. What makes you most proud of your family?

My family is everything to me. I’ve been married to my high school sweetheart for 12 years and we have 3 sons. They are 10, 7, and 5 and love to participate in the many things around town. I’m proud of them when they work hard and try new things. My oldest has just started guitar lessons and it’s so fun to see them begin a new hobby. My mother and mother-in-law both live in FV too. I feel so fortunate for my children to be able to spend time with their grandparents often.

## **4. Volunteer work.**

Do you participate in any volunteer work within our community? If so, how? And how does the work of your volunteer organization support communities?

I participate in lots of volunteer work in the community. I like to live by Romans 10:12- *Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.* I’ve been a dedicated member of the F-V Junior Woman’s club for nearly 15 years. During that time, we have begun several legacy projects for which I am very proud. We have made our community better in many ways! Some examples include purchasing a wheelchair for the splashpad and a handicap accessible swing for a local park so all children can enjoy our outdoor resources, installing a “Baby Blessings box” for parents who need diapers and baby care items, providing food for local tutoring locations, installing a “Story Walk” where families can enjoy an outdoor book that rotates quarterly, and supplying snack boxes for 16 local schools. I’m also an advisor for our Juniorette club at the high school and enjoy seeing the projects and ideas the students come up with. There are some amazing local high schoolers!

I also volunteer on the state level for the General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC-NC). It’s so encouraging to see each the many clubs across the state working hard to accomplish their goals in their communities. As a community service program chair, I help ensure they have resources needed to accomplish their goals.

I also dedicate much of my time to our church. I’m currently the children’s director and manage the learning of the kids on Sunday mornings. I’m the primary individual who recruits, trains, and manages the full team of Sunday morning teachers. I also manage four curriculums and their implementation each week. It is truly a blessing that I’m able to equip others to pour into the children each week. I also lead “Small groups” that are both fun and fulfilling for those involved.



I also volunteer often at my children's school as well. I feel it is so important to be involved with their teachers and peers. Additionally, I help the PTA for special events and projects. The PTA does so much for the teachers and administration, I encourage every parent to be involved.

How do you balance work, family, and volunteering?

Admittedly, balancing all of life's activities can be a challenge. I try my best to ensure when I am spending time with my children or husband, that it is uninterrupted by outside distractions. I attempt to have one-on-one days with my kids and date nights with my husband. It's important to know you can't attend all the things and we shouldn't stretch ourselves too thin. Rest is important!

## 5. Hobbies

Do you have any hobbies? (If so) what drew you to those hobbies?

Other than volunteering and attending church, I enjoy traveling, reading, golf, and tennis. I love to spend time with my friends and family. I like new activities and am always willing to try new things and go new places.

## 6. Inspiration or mentor in your life

Who do you look up to for inspiration or mentorship?

I look up to my mom for my inspiration. Growing up, she managed a successful career, and always made volunteering a priority. She was a member of the Fuquay-Varina Junior Woman's Club long before it held a charter in the 1960s/1970s, so I always knew I wanted to follow in those footsteps. She also volunteered for many organizations, such as Hospice and the Kiwanis club. I was able to witness how many great things one person can do. I am lucky to still call her, basically daily, for advice and wise words.

What do you feel are the most important attributes of successful leaders (or business/small business owners) today?

Business owners today need to be ethical. I believe if you have a strong product and do business the right way, you will be profitable and successful.

## 7. What motivates you??

How do you motivate yourself despite obstacles?

I motivate myself because I feel that doing good for others is our main purpose in life! Each day I want to grow my children (and myself) into the best people we can be.

What one thing makes you most proud?

I'm proud of my family. They are good friends to those around them and I hope they continue to be helpers in their lives. I'm proud of myself when a project you've worked hard on comes to fruition. It feels good to see something good come from your hard work.

Part of growth is taking risks. Can you think of a risk you took that you wished you hadn't? What did you learn from it and how did it motivate you to do things differently?

All risks I've taken in life have taught me good lessons, so I'm glad I experienced it. From working new jobs, to joining new organizations, to stepping out to meet new friends, each experience made me who I am today and I'm grateful for that.

Is there a book that you have read that motivated you?



The Bible continues to motivate me daily. It is truly the handbook for life and I re-read it daily. For a secular option, I feel Fountain-head by Ayn Rand encourages open-minds and is a must-read for all.

Our April meeting was presented by our Environment Committee. Our speaker was Mondy Lamb with the SPCA Wake County. She gave a fabulous presentation about all of their services. There are more services than most realize. They also help foster pets whose owners have hardships and work to reunify them. They also help people using Meals on Wheels to obtain pet food so they don't have to choose between having pets and having their meds. (And they are not a part of Wake County Government) A wonderful organization that we supported with towels, blankets and sheets as well as a donation towards their services.

## April meeting



Last week at our monthly meeting we passed our Extra Mile Walking Stick Award to a Susan Stanley that took on a Co-chair position in our Health and Wellness CSP mid-stream, and has improved the way we provide food for backpack Buddies, the gifts for Homes for the Elderly, and has helped expand the projects to include Projects at Pine Acres and other projects throughout the year. A big thank you and congratulations to Susan for going the Extra Mile at [#fvwc!](#)  
[GFWC of NC](#) [GFWC-NC District 6](#)



At our monthly meeting we introduced our Strong Woman of the Month, Brittany May!

Brittany is a member of our [Fuquay-Varina Jr. Woman's Club](#) and is State level, Junior CSP chair, State Junior Director Elect, Local level, Incoming Co-President for FV

Juniors. She lives by Romans 10:12 and says to her a strong woman exhibits patience, kindness, resiliency, and dedication among other attributes. Brittany is a Strong Woman indeed! Congratulations Brittany!





Faith was giving the District for Outstanding  
Citizenship and Patriotism. Congrats!!

### The Dogwood Tree by Anonymous

When Christ was on earth,  
the dogwood grew  
To a towering size with a lovely hue.  
Its branches were strong and interwoven  
And for Christ's cross its timbers were  
chosen

Being distressed at the use of the wood  
Christ made a promise which still holds  
good:

"Not ever again shall the dogwood grow  
To be large enough for a tree, and so

Slender and twisted it shall always be  
With cross-shaped blossoms for all to see.  
The petals shall have bloodstains  
marked brown  
And in the blossom's center a thorny  
crown.

All who see it will think of Me,  
Nailed to a cross from a dogwood tree.  
Protected and cherished this tree shall be  
A reflection to all of My agony."







New members class this month



Last week our Art CSP held an art project with residents of Calyx in Fuquay. The residents did a great job and our Arts CSP had a great time helping them! It's always a great time when you can share art with others. Thank you to those who took part! GFWC of NC GFWC-NC District 6



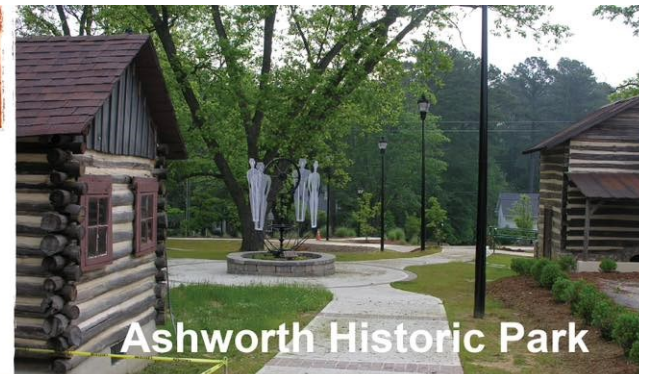
BINGO at Pine Acers







MAY  
4



Ashworth Historic Park

## Heritage Day in Fuquay-Varina

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Museums  
Open for tours**

### “Things You Did Not Know”

1:00 p.m. - 3:00

Matthew Schiemann: Barn Wood Guitars under the Tobacco Barn Shelter

Pinkie Strothers: Local artist in the Dean Room

Southern Wake Quilter's: Learn this craft in the Ballentine Schoolhouse

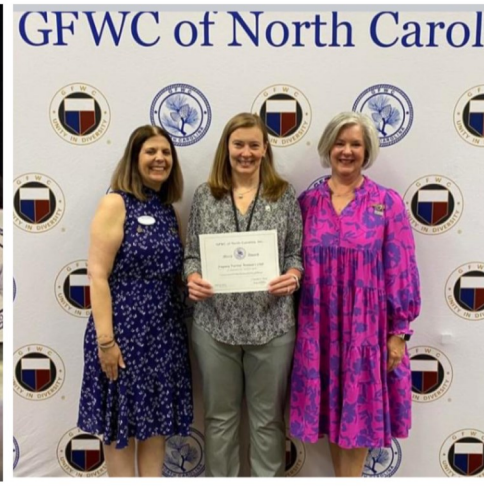
**Morty's Hot Dogs/Food Truck - 11:00 am - 2 p.m.**

### Alumni Association Sign up

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Ballentine Schoolhouse

Alumni of Fuquay-Varina High (Bengals), Fuquay-Varina High (Falcons),  
Fuquay Springs High (Falcons), and Fuquay Consolidated are considering





Last week members of FVWC traveled to GFWC Headquarters in Washington, DC to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Women's History and Resource Center started by Juanita Bryant, Past 1 tee National President of GFWC and Raleigh WC member. It was a wonderful celebration and exciting to see the WHRC in person. We heard from Ms. Juanita Bryant, Anna Laymon (ED of the Women's Suffrage National Monument Fdtn.), Joanna Church (WHRC Librarian), and other special guests. Women's history has been overlooked far too long. In that vein, we are also supporting the Women's Suffrage Monument Foundation to bring women's history to the National Mall. <https://www.womensmonument.org> We hope you will join us in this effort. [#fvwc](#) [#UnityinDiversity](#) [#gfwc](#) [#gfwcnc](#) [#whrc](#) [#womenshistoryandresearchcenter](#) [@gfwcnc](#) [GFWC-NC District 6](#) [GFWC](#)

Last weekend, members of FVWC attended their [GFWC of NC](#) Convention. It was a wonderful weekend started off by Elaine Marshal. Our clubwomen were taking part giving the Lucy Bramlette Patterson Award to a NC writer, being inducted as a 2024-26 Treasurer, Juniorette Chairman, and winning awards! We were also able to spend time with GFWC Past International President Juanita Bryant! (She is a rock-star- more on that later) It was a fabulous weekend with clubwomen from across the state! [GFWC-NC District 6](#) [GFWC of NC](#) [#GFWCNCConvention](#) [#makingadifference](#)





Costumes altered or made for the theater show names Angel street.



Auction baskets getting finished up







Anne Meoll is the Strong Woman of the Month

1. What do you feel are some of the characteristics of a strong woman?

A strong woman is one who is committed, passionate about programs/projects/causes that she is interested in, realistic about how she can contribute to those programs/projects/causes and follows through on those commitments. A strong woman also strives to find a balance between all the obligations and parts of her life – family, work, volunteer/community activities.

What is your occupation?

I'm retired now but for most of my career I worked in the legal field, first as a paralegal for a Raleigh law firm and then as an employee of the United States Bankruptcy Court, first in case administration and then in the courtroom as an electronic court records operator and then as courtroom deputy. I'll admit that it's a bit unusual to have an occupation that is based on the financial misfortunes of others, but it was very rewarding to be in position to help individuals and businesses navigate through a very difficult time period. I very much enjoyed my job and had the great fortune to work with some amazing folks.

#### Family

My family has always been small – I'm an only child and only grandchild. My husband Don and I don't have any children but we've had wonderful dogs - now we have our precious girl, Holly. Luckily Don comes from a large family so I've gotten to be part of a wonderful family with sisters and brothers in law, nieces, nephews and don't get me started on all of the cousins! I'm proud of our 34 year marriage and that we still enjoy being together!

#### Volunteer Work

I'm a 25 year member of GFWC – first in the FV Juniors and now our Woman's Club. I've held many leadership positions over the years, currently serving as our club's Recording Secretary, District 6 Aide to the President and member of the GFWC-NC Fundraising Committee. For the 2024- 2026 administration I'll continue to serve as our club's Recording Secretary, District 6 Second Vice President and GFWC-NC Treasurer. I love being a part of the Federation – we do so much great work to help those in our community. I've met wonderful women along the way, many of whom have become great friends. I am also an active member of a local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Having a very supportive and understanding husband who's always encouraged my clubwork has made it pretty easy for me to find the balance in all areas of my life.

#### Hobbies

I love to read, work in our yard, walk and travel, especially to the western part of NC and anywhere our dog can come along. I think one of the keys to enjoying life is to always keep learning and growing and my hobbies help me do just those things.

#### Inspiration or mentor in your life

My first mentors were my parents – my Mom was always involved in volunteer activities and my Dad's career was in government service so I learned early on the value of volunteer work and the reward of a career in the public sector. I think successful leaders find what they are passionate about and then work to the best of their abilities to fulfill that passion. Abraham Lincoln once said "It's not the years in your life that count but the life in those years" and I've always strived to make the most of every day and every opportunity that I've been given. Another statement I truly believe is that "you make a living by what you get but you make a life by what you give."

#### What motivates you?

If I'm faced with an obstacle or set back, I try to take a step back, a deep breath and then take an objective look at whatever the situation



was and how could I learn from it and do better next time. Doesn't always work but at least I try! I'm proud to say I had a successful career I really enjoyed where I made a difference in someone's life by helping them through a difficult time. I'm also proud of my volunteer work and the work I'm able to do to improve our community. I'm lucky in that most of the time if I've been cautious about doing something or taking a chance on something, it's usually my feeling of insecurity that may hold me back but once I commit to something, I'm all in and it almost always works out great. I read a great book awhile back called "The Present – the secret to Enjoying Your Work and Life, Now!" by Spencer Johson. It about a young man's journey to adulthood and his search for "the present" an elusive gift he heard about from a wise, older man. I won't spoil it for you all but if you read it, you'll immediately learn what the present is and I promise it will motivate and inspire you as it did for me!



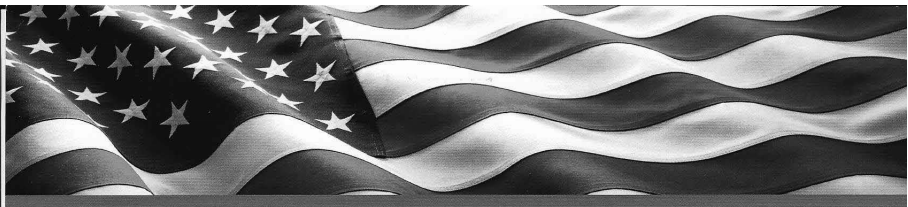
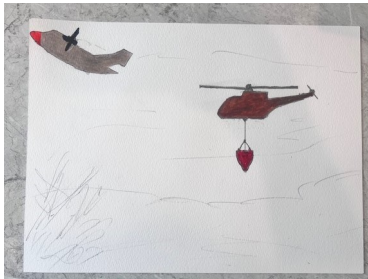
Blythe Quinn was sponsored by the Woman's Club.  
She got the highest price in the auction.  
The top door is of the club house.



Our April Connect lunch was great fun at [Vicious Fishes Fuquay Tap & Kitchen!](#) This wonderful group is a fun bunch when volunteering and of course when we meet for lunch! Thanks to all for being such a caring group! [#fvwc](#) [GFWC of NC](#) [GFWC-NC District 6](#)



Calyx Senior Living Craft



## Flags for Heroes

May 26<sup>th</sup>-July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

401 Old Honeycutt Rd; Fuquay-Varina, NC

**Sponsor a Flag** in honor or in memory of a hero who has served your family, your community, or your country.

Join us for the **Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 10am** as we recognize all of our military veterans and first responders who have died as a result of their service.

Join us for the **Closing Ceremony on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** as we celebrate all of our heroes. Your presence as each hero's name is called shows our heroes and their families how much you appreciate their service.

### Flag Sponsorship | \$50

Recognize someone special in your life who has served your family, your community, or your country by sponsoring the display of a 3' x 5' flag on a 10' flag pole. The flag you sponsor includes a medallion with your hero's name that you can take home as a keepsake. The sponsorship includes the display of the flag with medallion from Memorial Day through Flag Day and **does not** include the flag itself.

Interested in giving more? Become an **Event Sponsor** and not only recognize those who serve but also help sustain this initiative for the future. Sponsorship levels range from \$250-\$1000.

Visit [FVFlags2024.eventbrite.com](https://FVFlags2024.eventbrite.com) to sponsor a flag and recognize a hero in your life.

Contact [FVFlagsforHeroes@gmail.com](mailto:FVFlagsforHeroes@gmail.com) for more information.



**Rotary**  
Clubs of  
Fuquay-Varina

Flags for Heroes is a community event hosted by Rotary Clubs across the country to recognize local community heroes and honor those who serve. *Flags for Heroes* also serves as a fundraiser for service initiatives of local Rotary Clubs, including supporting education; fighting disease; providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene; promoting peace; growing local economies; saving mothers and their children; and protecting the environment. Proceeds from this fundraiser will support the charitable efforts and services of Rotary Clubs of Fuquay-Varina including educational opportunities for local youth including youth of our "Heroes". Fuquay-Varina Downtown Rotary Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. EIN 88-0623637.





Extra Mile/ Trusty Side Kick  
 – Ruth Olive Inspiration –  
 Martha Smallwood Sea-  
 brooke/Gardner Friendship  
 – Ruth Olive Distinguished  
 Service – Lori Helwig Chal-  
 lenge Award – Fran Carroll  
 Tew Horizon – Becki Ran-  
 dolph Membership – Bar-  
 bara Rickard Extra Service  
 – Madonna French Shirley  
 Simmons Outstanding  
 Community Commitment –  
 Shirley Simmons Woman  
 of the Year – Barbara Rick-  
 ard Martha Smallwood  
 was also recognized for her  
 service as Corresponding  
 Secretary and Yearbook  
 chairman

# May Banquet

Special gifts for Jeanette as she  
 passes the torch on to Ruth as  
 President  
 A walking Stick and a painting of  
 the Riley Kemp Turtles.





New Officers for 2024-2026  
Vicki, Martha, Anne, Julia, Madonna, Valerie, Ruth,  
not pictured Fran



Winner of the Sally South Cotton award



Speaker to induct the new officers and icebreaker game.  
Jan's gift



New member induction



Supper is ready  
from Asiago's







Gifts and 100% attendance



Beautiful table settings and friends.









## 1st GOLF TOURNAMENT

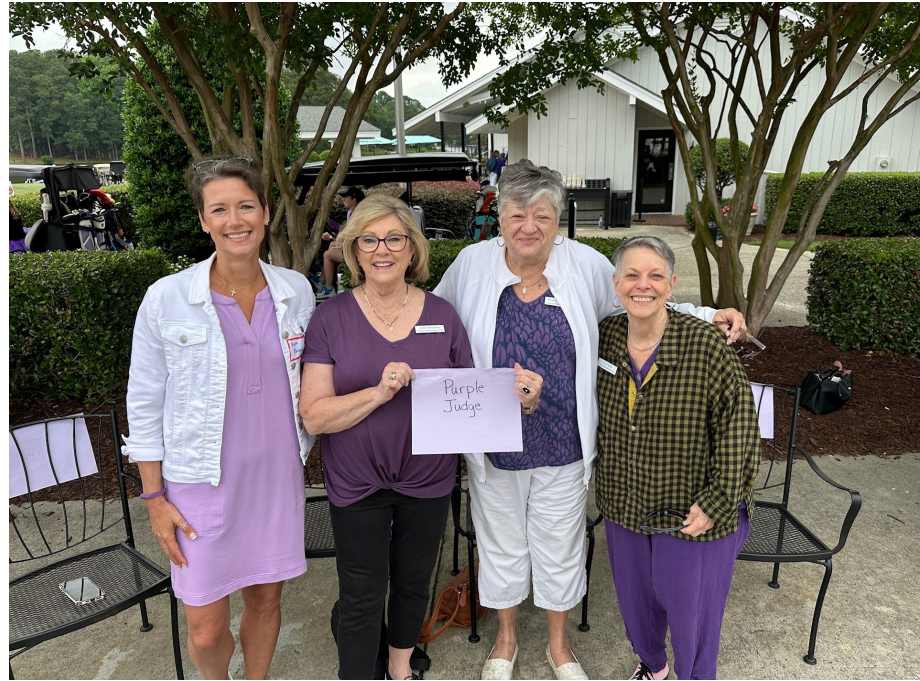




### SILENT AUCTION DONORS

Anna's Pizzeria, Downtown Fuquay-Varina  
 Bentwinds Golf and Country Club  
 Susan Birkhead, Artist and Teacher, Edenton, NC  
 Cameron and Company, Pinehurst, NC, Caroline Fish  
 Cellar 55 Wine and Beer Store, Fuquay-Varina  
 Couture Planet  
 Diamonds Direct, Raleigh  
 Flowers on Broad Street, Fuquay-Varina  
 Fuquay-Varina Arts Center, Downtown FV  
 Fuquay-Varina Chamber of Commerce  
 Fuquay-Varina Downtown Revitalization  
 Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club, charitable members  
 Teresa Hamby, Artist, Holly Springs  
 Havana's Restaurant, Carolina Beach, NC  
 Hemlock Inn, Blowing Rock, NC  
 Lisa Loves Jewelry, North Myrtle Beach, SC  
 Dr Charles Ashley Mann, DDS and Associates, Fuquay - Varina  
 N.C. Museum of History, Raleigh  
 Oak Haus Facial Aesthetics, Chapel Hill, NC  
 Olive Garden, Holly Springs, NC  
 Pinehurst Country Club and Spa  
 Planet Fitness, Holly Springs, NC  
 Purpleology, North Myrtle Beach, SC  
 River Girl Fishing and Boating, Todd, NC  
 Serendipity Boutique, Fuquay-Varina  
 Simply Chic Boutique, Carolina Beach and Wilmington, NC  
 Six Pence Pub, Blowing Rock, NC  
 Martha Smallwood, artist, FVWC member  
 Jonathon Swanson, owner, Carolina Beach  
 "SWEET!" custom baked goods, Holly Springs  
 Daughter of Jim Wordsworth, watercolorist

**THANK-YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS TO W4W!!!**



**WOMEN  
FORE  
WOMEN**

\*Photo by Rickie FER\_0128.jpg

**WOMEN  
FORE  
WOMEN**







## Celebrating the 40th anniversary at Women's History and Resource Center at GFWC National Headquarters May 1, 2024.

Picture with Juanita Bryant , past National president from WC of Raleigh WC and who started the WHRC . Juanita with President Bush . Jeanette with Wendy Carriker , who's from Mt Airey, NC who will be National president 26-28 after the one just installed 24-26, Cake at reception at headquarters, four of us In Capitol rotunda , front of headquarters, touring DC.

