



FUQUAY VARINA WOMAN'S CLUB
PRESIDENT RUTH OLIVE
June 2025 – May 2026



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May 2025



May Banquet and Meeting



En Plein Air Paint Off



Art Class at Calyx Living



Run the Quay 2025





May—Sara Tew Interviewed by Amy Massengill

I had the honor of interviewing the most perfect example of a Strong Woman. Sara Tew has always strived to “put into actions her better impulses, straight-forward and unafraid” as noted in our Club Collect.

Sara Tew is a beautiful 82 years young and has been a member of the Fuquay-Varina Woman’s Club for 50 years in November. She held countless positions within our club including President, and 2nd Vice President. She has been Department Chair of Arts, Home Life, Education and Public Affair. She was local Arts Festival Chair several times and has served on 16 special committees. She was the Partners for Progress chair for the summer recreation Planning Program, and created the guidelines which she presented to the Fuquay-Varina Town Board. She also helped write the guidelines for the Mini Grant Program and, the Vocational Trade Scholarship. There is probably no position or job within our club that Sara Tew has not had a part in!!

Sara was presented the Club Woman of the Year twice and the Distinguished Service Award.

Sara was presented the Club Woman of the Year twice and the Distinguished Service Award.

On the district level she was Historian and Arts Chair. She has been a delegate to GFWC State Convention several years.

Sara served the community as a Registered Nurse and worked for 34 years including 26 years in Fuquay-Varina at Wake Med. She made the effort to know her patients, treated them like family, and continues to keep in contact with many of them.

Sara was raised in Fuquay-Varina on Main Street by the most wonderful parents Victor and Christine Capps who had 4 girls. Three of the siblings still live in Fuquay.

Sara was married to the love of her life Billy Tew for 56 years. Billy worked for Wake County EMS and also owned and operated Service Barber Shop. Sadly Billy passed about 3 years ago. Sara and Billy have a wonderful daughter Wendy Tew Woodard who is also a RN. She and her husband have a son and daughter whom Sara adores!! Sara describes Wendy as the best daughter and says she takes great care of her mother.

Sara has been a member of Wake Chapel church for 72 years and has been Church Historian, a Board leader, and Women of Fellowship member. She was very involved with the 40 members of JOY (Just Over Youth) which included serving lunch and decorating tables as well as other activities. Her involvement in her church included helping those who needed medical aid, transportation for the elderly, cooking meals or just reaching out to members by phone.

Sara volunteered at Windsor Point teaching Bible Study. She was a member of WMU Bible Study for 21 years, under Mrs. Margaret Fish.

Sara is a charter member of the Garden Club and Fuquay-Varina Friends of the Museum.

With all her extra time (HAHA), Sara enjoys cross stitch for which she has won several GFWC State Arts Awards.

An Inspiration or mentor in Sara’s life was Myrtle Hopson, Charter member of Fuquay-Varina Woman’s Club, as well as her 5th grade teacher. Mrs. Hopson lived in the house across from the club and never had children. She loved Sara like she was her own child.

Sara also feels our own Ruth Olive is a very special person in her life and she admires her hard work and dedication to our club.

Two things that make her proud are her club work and her church work. Sara strives to live according to the words of the Bible which continues to motivate her in all aspects of her life.



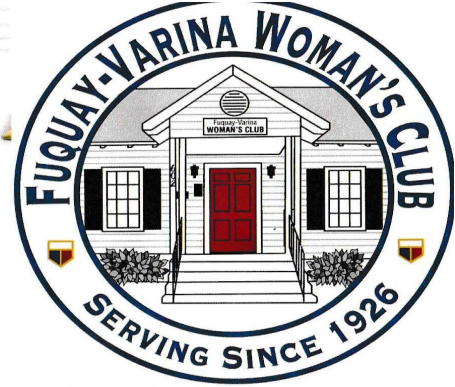
7:45 Awards and Recognition Ceremony for 2024-2025
 District Awards
 State Awards
 Inspiration Award
 Seabrooke/Gardner Friendship Award
 Membership Award
 Challenge Award
 Outstanding CSP Award
 Sara Tew New Horizon Award
 Distinguished Service Award
 Walters Outstanding Community Commitment Award
 Extra Service Awards
 Perfect Attendance
 Woman of the Year

8:00 CSP and Standing Committee Announcements
 Rejoicements Reporting Raffle and Best Hat Winner
 Closing Remarks
 Farewell for Summer Break

THANK YOU to the Social Committee and others for all your hard work to make this evening lovely, to our special guests for joining us, and all members for your joyful hearts to give joy to one another and service to the community!

2024-2025
 FUQUAY-VARINA
 WOMAN'S
 CLUB

Spring
 Awards
 Banquet



Welcome To Our Garden Party



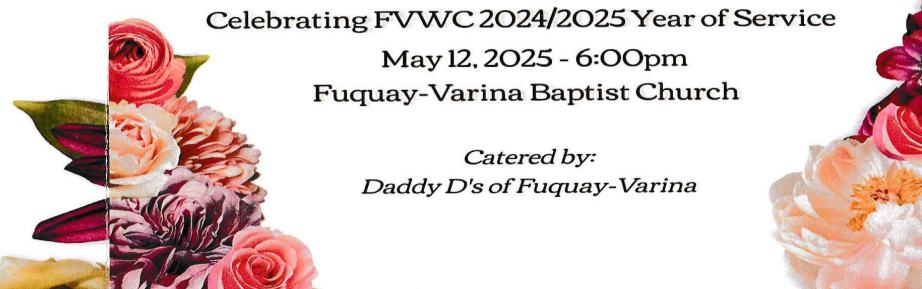
Celebrating FVWC 2024/2025 Year of Service

May 12, 2025 - 6:00pm

Fuquay-Varina Baptist Church

Catered by:

Daddy D's of Fuquay-Varina



6:15 Welcome to Members, Special Guests
 Ruth Olive, President

Karen Throckmorton, GFWC-NC
 President 2024-2026

Students from Pine Acres Middle School and
 their mothers.

Directions and Blessing for Buffet Dinner
 Social Committee

7:00 Call to Order for Opening
 Ceremony

Ruth Olive

Inspirational Message and Collect (below)
 Angela Moss

Keep us, oh 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 generous. Let us take time for all things: make us 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 we may 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!

Prayer written by Mary Stewart in 1904 and adopted for GFWC meetings

National and State Pledges

Valerie Seymour, VP CSP

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag:

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 State Flag of North Carolina:

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

Strong Women Recognition:

Amy Massengill, Civics Engagement

Congratulations to Sara Tew



7:15 Banquet Program

"It's Monumental: Herstory of the Women's Suffrage Movement."

Special Committee Coordinators: Sarah Abraham, Faith Junghahn, Melvina Corner.

Guest speakers from Pine Acres Middle School: Maura, Sasha, Harper

7:30 GFWC-NC Annual Convention News
 Vicki Currin, Treasurer

7:35 New Member Induction Ceremony

Ruth Olive, President and Julia Yeargan, VP Membership



Kimberly Austin

Dianna Bennett

Kelley Burkett

Etaine Butler

Erica Cann

Kelley Crogen

Anita Dickens

Ruby Haynes

Barbara Heinrich

Sophia Kalieharan

Keely Kurth

Eileen Mannetta

Maureen Scuttin

Carol Sherman

Celma Spooner

Pam Stewart

Audrey Weiss

Jesi Wilde



Getting the
silent
auctions
items
packaged
and the day
of the
tournament



WOMEN FORE WOMEN GOLF TOURNAMENT 2025



Blake Massengill

Mayor
Fuquay-Varina, NC

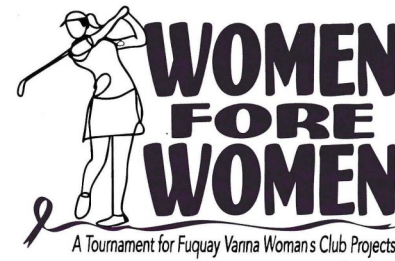
Thank you to all the players, sponsors, donors, supporters, volunteers, and Bentwinds Country Club for making this fundraiser a success and fun day!

Guest Speakers



Marilyn Gardner

Mayor Pro Tem
Fuquay-Varina, NC



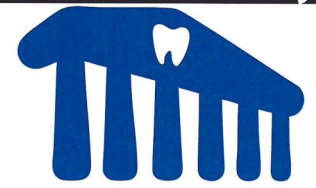
Community Heros



Putting Green



Community



**Lane & Associates
Family Dentistry
Champion**

Team Sponsors

**Bob Barker Company
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Fuquay Mineral Springs Inn
J's Golf Carts
Lane & Associates Family Dentistry**

Powder Room Sponsors - Fuquay Mineral Springs Inn,
Julia & Terry Yeargan, Elaine's Teas,
Smith Farm Goat Sanctuary, Ashworth's Clothing

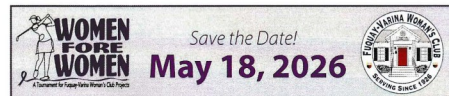


Silent Auction Donors:

Bentwinds Country Club
Cellar 55
Diamonds Direct, Raleigh
Downtown Revitalization, FV
Flowers on Broad, FV
Teresa Hamby, artist
The Library Restaurant, FV
Mason Jar, FV
Lynne Nelson, watercolorist's daughter
Merle Norman, FV
Oak Haus Aesthetics, Chapel Hill
Planet Fitness, Holly Springs
Samantha's Jewelry, FV
Southern Dash, FV
Wanda Swain, NMB Condo
YMCA of the Triangle

Donors from FVWC:

Cathy Burmaster
Patty Byrne
Madonna French
Linda Goodwin
Linda Nicodemus
Ruth Olive
Becki Randolph
Barb Rickard
Jan Seagroves
Susan Stanley
Audrey Wiess
Jesi Wilde
Marlene Yarborough
Julia Yeargan



Beverage Cart

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Garibaldi's Restaurant
(919) 552-8868



Lunch for Guests and Volunteers



Breakfast Sponsor



Hole Sponsors

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Roz and Wallace Mangum
Anne and Don Moell
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Ruthie and Mike Olive
Pittman Family Orthodontics
Quality Equipment
Senter, Stephenson, Johnson PA
Smith Farm Goat Sanctuary
Stanley Dentistry
W.S. Architects





Yates Mill Donated Art Display



FVWC Art Class by Martha!



Pine Acres Community Center Bingo





JUNE



Pine Acres Community Center Bingo



JULY



Calyx art project





CONNECT at My Way
Tavern
The biggest group ever



AUGUST





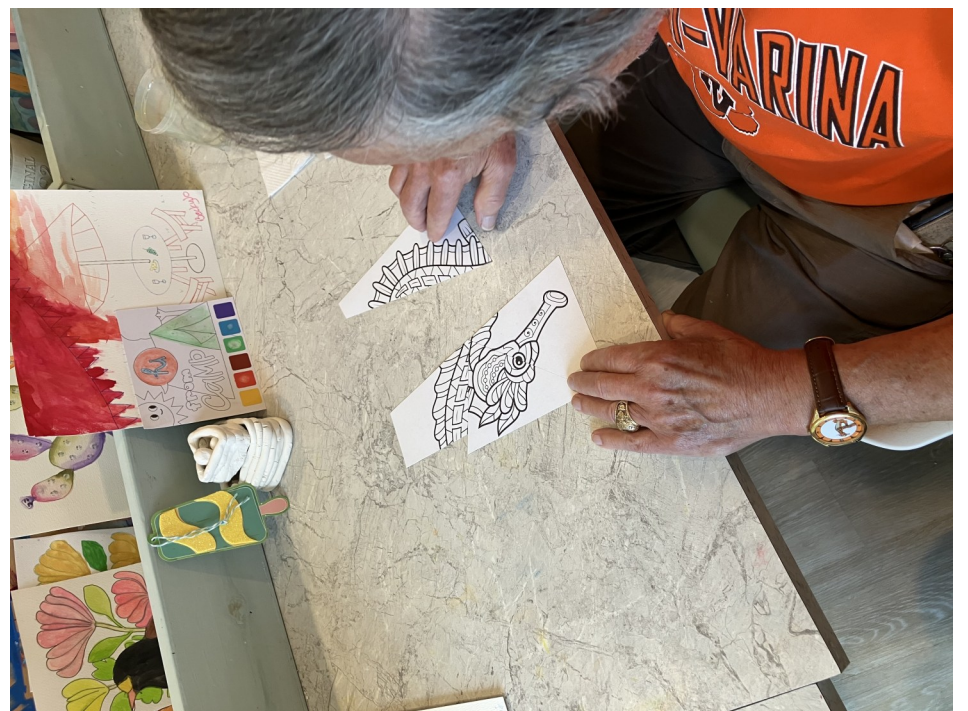
Our generous members gave all this at our Summer Social , Mix and Mingle, this week to stock the pantry at the Designed For Joy studio for the women who work there to have nutritious snacks and meals while they work and to take home to their families. FVWC is supporting DFJ for our National Day of Service and afterwards as needed.





SEPTEMBER

Monthly Calyx memory care art class



BE A PART OF MONUMENTAL HISTORY
 COLLECT YOUR QUARTERS
 FOR THE GFWC-NC P&DJSP - QUARTERS FUND
 TO SUPPORT THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

#GFWCNCRHYTHMFORCHANGE

It's Monumental!
 New PSP and JDSP!

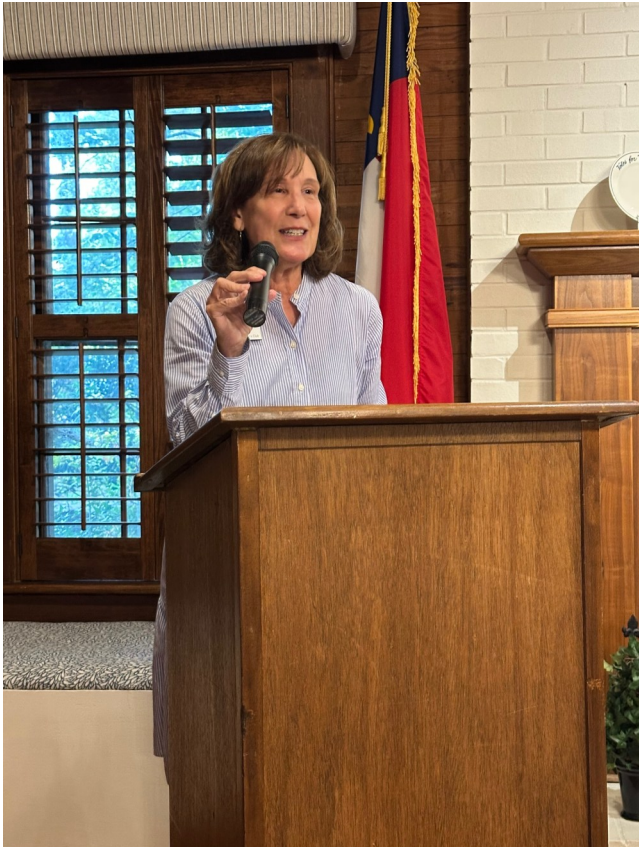
GFWC-NC
 Find your Beat, Join the Rhythm

Executive committee supper before starting out new club year.



Monthly Meeting

Budget was passed



September Strong Woman of the Month --Kimberly Austin



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

A strong woman knows who she is, even when the world tries to tell her otherwise. She's not defined by titles or roles – she shows up, gets things done, and lifts others as she climbs. She can lead a room, run a household, build a business, or rebuild her life – sometimes all at once – and still make time to check on a friend or mentor someone else.

Strength isn't always loud. Sometimes it's in the quiet choices: showing up every day, keeping promises to

yourself, having the hard conversations, or choosing grace when it's easier to walk away.

To me, a strong woman is honest, resilient, an unapologetically herself – not because she never struggles, but because she keeps going anyway.

2. What is your occupation? What is your role at AOK Training Center? What are the primary services/products you represent, and what benefits do they offer?

I'm the founder and CEO of AOK Training Center, a professional training hub dedicated to preparing individuals

and organizations for excellence in healthcare, emergency response, and public safety. With over 20 years of experience as an emergency nurse with national certifications in trauma, pediatrics, sexual assault, masters prepared educator, and healthcare consultant, I've built AOK to deliver training that's not only clinically strong,

but community-focused and real-world ready. We provide advanced life support training from neonates through adults for healthcare professionals –including physicians, mid-level providers, nurses, and paramedics. Our clinical certification courses cover trauma care, forensic nursing, emergency preparedness, and specialized support for high-risk scenarios. Beyond the clinical setting, we offer workplace safety courses for businesses, including Managing Aggressive

Behaviors, Bloodborne Pathogens, AED/First Aid, and other OSHA-aligned programs that help organizations protect their teams and clients. We also serve the broader community with life-saving education for all ages – such as First Aid, Stop the Bleed, Babysitting Basics, Safe at Home, Youth Mental Health First Aid, and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. These programs empower everyday people to respond effectively in emergencies, protect their families, and support their neighborhoods in times of crisis.

At AOK, we don't just issue certifications. We build confidence, capability, and leadership – for the frontlines,

for the workforce, and for the community. My vision is to grow AOK Training Center into a hub for professional

and community development and resilience – expanding programs, building partnerships, and creating educational opportunities for mentorship and leadership for anyone who needs or desires it.

I want to see more people – especially those underrepresented in healthcare – stepping into leadership, saving

lives, changing systems, and stepping beyond the bedside into their communities. The more we equip people with knowledge and confidence, the stronger our community becomes.

3. Family – Tell us about your family. What makes you most proud?

As a mother of three sons with the gift of three daughters-in-law – one in Sanford, one in Apex, and one currently living in the Netherlands – and a grandmother to four (with another on the way any day now), I’m constantly reminded of how vital it is to pass on values that matter. In both family and professional life, I believe leading by example leaves a legacy that transcends generations.

What makes me most proud is our resilience and connection. Life hasn’t always been easy, but our family has faced challenges with love, faith, and strength. Whether we’re cheering each other on from across the world or holding each other close in hard times, I see the same values reflected: integrity, perseverance, and deep care for others.

4. Volunteer Work

- Do you participate in volunteer work within our community?

Yes – giving back to my community isn’t just something I do; it’s part of who I am. I currently serve as Program Manager for the Fuquay-Varina Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), where I help train and coordinate community responders on disaster and emergency responses as well as enjoying local events with our town and communities whether it be first aid stations or assisting our town police/fire/or businesses.

I’m also deeply involved in civic leadership:

- President-Elect and Community Service Chair for the Downtown Fuquay-Varina Rotary Club
- Active member and Ambassador with the Fuquay-Varina Chamber of Commerce
- Committee member on both Civic Engagement and Ways and Means with the Fuquay-Varina Woman’s Club

Professionally, I stay closely connected to policy and practice development. I serve on multiple committees with the Emergency Nurses Association, including a national seat for position statements, and I’m part of the NC Emergency Management Association’s Training Committee –helping shape preparedness at the state level. I also enjoy providing clinic care and education around the world.

Volunteering keeps me grounded and connected. It’s how I stay in touch with what our community truly needs – and how I help create the solutions to meet those needs.

•5.How do you balance work, family, and volunteering?

For me, it’s all about alignment. I don’t separate my roles as a professional, a community leader, and a parent – I see them as different ways to live out the same values: service, leadership, and impact. I prioritize what matters most in each moment, and I’ve built a life where my personal and professional missions support each other. Some days it looks like juggling; most days it feels like purpose!



9 of us made and delivered lunch to the staff and artisans at Designed For Joy today. We also shopped their boutique full of products made by them, especially the "surprise" bags full of reduced price items. One of the staff wants to join FVWC after seeing how much fun we have together as volunteers serving others.







DESIGN
FOR
JOY





We inspire, motivate and educate our community.



Free Emergency Response Training from the Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club.

The Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club is proud to offer the community FREE "Stop the Bleed" and A.E.D. (Automated External Defibrillator) classes. These sessions are designed to empower you, your loved ones, and neighbors with the skills to recognize and respond to life-threatening emergencies—such as severe bleeding or cardiac arrest.

In just one class, you'll learn essential techniques to take action confidently—whether you're at home, at work, or in a public space. Your quick response could make all the difference and even save a life. Our classes are being taught by one of members, Kimberly Austin, MSN RN CPEN SANE-P TCRN . She will award a certificate to you for Stop the Bleed at the completion of the class.

"Stop the Bleed" will teach you how to recognize and control severe, life threatening bleeding until professional help arrives.

AED training will teach you how to recognize if someone is in cardiac arrest, how to set up and use an AED to help restore a regular heart rhythm until professional help arrives.

Select one of the available dates to join us at our Clubhouse, located at 602 N. Ennis Street in Fuquay-Varina. All sessions run from 5:30 to 6:15 PM.

October 13, 2025

November 10, 2025

January 12, 2026

February 9, 2026



Walk out of darkness







October Strong Woman— Angela Moss

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?

Loyal, dedicated, independent, loving, caring, confident, responsible and willing to give all to whatever she does in her everyday life

2. What is your occupation:

Accountant for the Wake County Board of Alcoholic Control for the past 26 years.

The Wake County Board of Alcoholic Control supports the city and towns in Wake

County by providing a percentage of our profits to them quarterly. They also provide

grants to help local nonprofits with drug/alcohol treatments.

3. Family

I have been married to my husband Steven for 23 years and we have a daughter,

Haleigh. She is a freshman at Meredith College majoring in Computer Science and

living out her dream of playing softball in college.

4. Volunteer work.

I have been a member of the GFWC-NC Federation of Woman’s Club for the past 23

years. I started out as a Junior in 2002 and joined the Woman’s Club in 2022 when I

aged out. I was the GFWC-NC 3 rd Vice President – Director of Junior Clubs from 2020-

2022. I also volunteer at Wake Chapel Christian Church when any opportunity comes

up.

Balancing work, family and volunteering can be challenging sometimes but it is well

worth it to give back to the community that I have lived in my whole life

(Fuquay-Varina).

My husband once asked me why do you volunteer with the Woman’s Club so much – I

told him it makes me happy and a better person – Then I told him you know how happy

you are on the golf course – that is me volunteering.

5. Hobbies

My favorite hobby would be sitting at the softball field watching my daughter play.

During the summer I love to get a good book and seat under the tree at the pier at White

Lake and enjoy the breeze.

6. Inspiration or mentor in your life

My mentor in my life would have to be my Dad – Johnny Jones. My dad was a volunteer

Fireman for over 50 years and worked for the Town of Fuquay until he retired. He was

the first one to step up and help anyone in need. He loved doing a bbq fundraiser for

any family that needed financial help. He did this to the day he died. So, I guess you

could say doing good for the community runs in my family.

7. What motivates you??

Some days it is hard to get myself motivated but when I do go and do good for others

the joy that it brings me makes it worthwhile. The thing that makes me most proud

would be hearing my daughter tell me how proud she is of me doing good for others. I

hope that she will embrace the volunteer spirit in her future.



FUQUAY-VARINA
WOMAN'S CLUB



CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 13, 2025**

11:00 AM UNTIL 5:00 PM

TICKETS: \$20 PER PERSON

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT

Advance tickets available:
(Cash or Check)

LOGAN'S GARDEN HUT
1004 OLD HONEYCUTT ROAD

KNB'S MARKET PLACE
(120 RALEIGH STREET)

Or on the day of the tour:

FALCON PARK HUT
(105 FALCON DR.)

FOR CREDIT CARDS, VISIT EVENTBRITE.COM

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY
WITH SANTA!!**

FALCON PARK
10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

Home Tour Tickets



**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY
WITH SANTA'S
CUTEST GOATS**

415 RALEIGH STREET
12:00 PM TO 2:00 PM

Eleven Beautifully Decorated Homes

(PLEASE NOTE: HOMES ARE NOT ADA COMPLIANT)



HOLLY SPRINGS
Parks & Recreation

~ Capturing Time ~

The Art of Maureen Scullin & Katherine Grossfeld

The Holly Springs Cultural Center Exhibit is featuring two award-winning artists known for their realistic, representational work.

Their shared focus on light and color, along with complementary palettes and subjects, creates an engaging and cohesive exhibit.

MSculinFineArt.com | 828-243-3151

KatherineGrossfeld.com | 919-345-6935

Maureen Scullin is an award-winning, nationally recognized fine artist, specializing in representational art, including commissioned portraits, fine art landscapes, still life paintings and figurative works. Originally from Michigan, she later moved to NYC to attend Parsons School of Design. After continuing her education, she became a successful illustrator (creating book covers, and illustrations for Advertising Agencies). Maureen is a member of the Portrait Society of America, Cecilia Beaux Forum, Oil Painters of America, Fine Arts League of Cary, NC, the National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society, Art Council of Moore County, and the American Women Artists. Awards include, Oil Painters of America National 2025 Exhibit, Winsor & Newton Best in Show, Northeast Region, Honorable Mention Arts Council of Moore County, Selected as one of four Solo Artists in the Light Space & Time Show, 2024 National Oil & Acrylic Painters Society, Fall Light Space & Time International Online Exhibition, 2nd place Light Space & Time "Figurative" Art Competition, FASO Artist of the Month, Fine Arts League Cary Member Exhibit 2nd Place Honors and the Fine Arts League Cary Fabulous Faces 2nd Place Honors.

Katherine Grossfeld is a nationally recognized artist whose oil paintings of still life and landscapes exemplify contemporary realism, focusing on the study of light and fleeting moments. She is a proud member of the Salmagundi Club and participates in numerous organizations, including the U.S. Department of State's Art in Embassies Program and Oil Painters of America. Her work appears in private and corporate collections both in the United States and abroad, including those of US Figure Skater Michelle Kwan and Tootsie Roll Industries. Grossfeld earned her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and studied in Florence, Italy, as an undergraduate. She has been featured in Fine Art Compass, American Art Collector, Studio Visit, New American Paintings, and publications by Crow Woods Publishing.

Reception for Maureen Scullin Art October Art Class



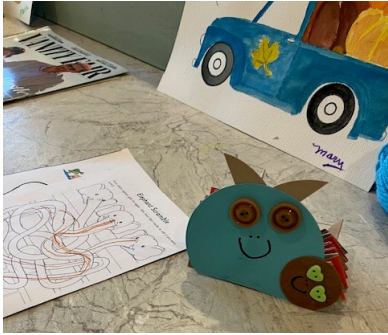
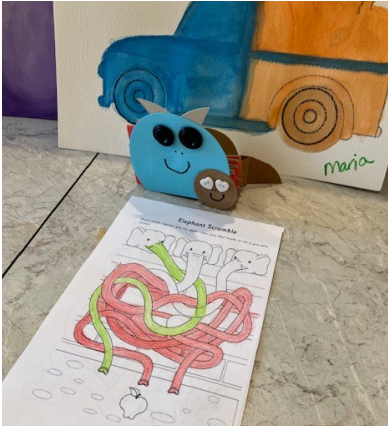
Congratulations
to Debra Semple
on 25 years
with the
Fugay Varina Woman's Club



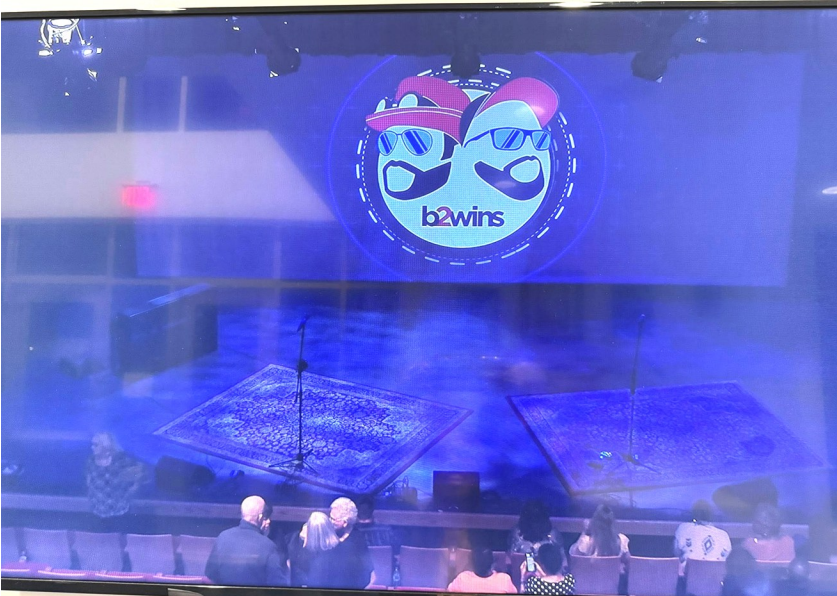
<https://fugayvarinawomansclub.org/>

Celebrate

Calyx Memory Care



B2wins group,
Connect



November



This was delivery to our schools for BPB. This year we have 5 schools serving around 157 students in need of food assistance. We deliver this with the help of the American Legion. We first gather all the food that H&W has bought or that has been donated. We then take all of it to Kathie's house where it is separated for the 5 different schools. When all ready we deliver to all the schools who are appreciative of our efforts.

The FV Woman's club had an art class to day at Calyx memory care. Everyone was talkative and enjoyed cake and coffee while putting together Rudolph and coloring a Christmas ornament.

Teacher Mini grants 34 grants and 34 years





The Health and Wellness ladies of the FV Woman's club took goody bags to Your Choice Pregnancy Clinic House for expected mothers.

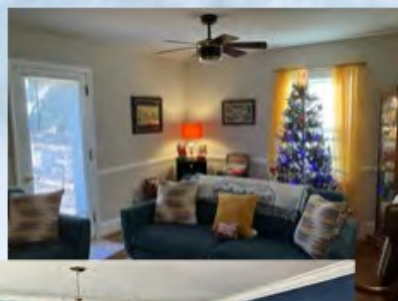


December

FVWC ROCKS!!!

The Fundraising Committee

Patty Bryne, Co-chair
Frances Carroll, Co-chair



November Strong Woman—Kristen Lundberg



You may have heard about the local Fuquay Varina Middle School teacher that recently donated a kidney to a colleague. Kristen Lundberg, theater and drama teacher, shared the ultimate gift to her friend and assistant principal Ernest DeVane. We are honored to have Kristin attend our No-

vember meeting and briefly tell us about this recent journey. Below is some great information about this interesting and inspirational teacher.

Kristin Lundberg -*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?

Someone who is authentic, generous, empathetic, humble, and able to rise unapologetically to a challenge. Someone who embraces her mistakes and turns them into creative learning opportunities. Someone who recognizes her foundation, her roots, and community which have made her who she is today.

2. What is your occupation?

I'm the theatre & dance teacher at Fuquay-Varina Middle School, as well as the program director of the FVMS Broadway Bengals. I'm also a published playwright, an adjunct professor of theatre arts at Wake Tech Community College, an actress, and a mom to a spunky sweet pup and a scrappy loving kitty.

Fuquay is family and we are a community of givers. The Broadway Bengals program has grown exponentially in the past five years, and we are truly blessed! The Broadway Bengals are celebrating our five-year anniversary this October honoring all our performing arts middle school theatre and dance accomplishments at Fuquay-Varina Middle School. Due to my recent surgery of a kidney donation, we will be hosting our anniversary celebration on November 6th from 5:30-7:00pm with an Autumn Harvest Carnival at the middle school, as well as showcasing some of our talented performing arts students!

In my role at FVMS, I help students build tools and participate in performing arts experiences in-school and after-school, as well as take field trips to local historic theatres and New York City where students work with professionals in masterclasses. My Broadway Bengal kiddos not only build their confidence, communication, and life skills through our performing arts opportunities, but they understand the importance of giving back to the local and wider commu-

nity. Each theatre season, our students become Red Bucket advocates, and we raise money for national organization, *Broadway Cares Equity Fight Aids*. These funds directly benefit local charities in need that provide basic needs of food, housing, and medicine to people who are without these fundamental necessities. This past year, the students not only gave speeches about the importance of giving back to the community, but we raised over \$500 for Broadway Cares and on our NYC field trip, the students were able to take a tour of the Broadway Cares facility and witness firsthand the benefits of their advocacy in giving back to their community. Additionally, in June 2025, the Broadway Bengal Booster officially dedicated our annual compassion fund to one of my former theatre students who tragically lost her life due to her nut allergy. We renamed it the *Celina Rose Minsk Compassion Fund* which will continue to raise money at SPOTLIGHT! our annual student-produced talent show. All SPOTLIGHT proceeds are dedicated to this fund for students who want to participate in performing arts enrichment but may not have the financial means. This compassion fund provides resources and grants for those students to have equitable participation. For more information and pics about the Broadway Bengals, <https://sites.google.com/wcpss.net/broadway-bengals/home>

3. Family

I am originally from Wake County. I was born in Rocky Mount, my childhood was spent in Raleigh, worked for 15 years in NYC as a professional actress, arts teacher, and producer and in June 2015 moved back to NC when mom told me she was diagnosed with breast cancer. My mom is my rock and foundation, so this crushed me and all I wanted to do was to be close to her through this journey. My brother lives in Singapore and I miss him being so far away. Since moving back to NC, I have lived in my dream house down the street from my parents. I have a dog and a cat, both of whom adopted me. I'm very lucky and loved.

4. Volunteer work.

The work-life balance is a struggle, but it keeps my heart beating. I love what I teach, and I love what I do. I always teach the kids, if you are in a position to give back, you should.

In my 20 years as a performing arts educator, some of which were serving as the artistic director for my NYC theatre company - the *Shakespeare's Sister Company*, giving back to community has always been important to me. In NYC, I would volunteer in Women's Shelters using performing arts skills to build their confidence in their house and job interviews. As well, I produced new plays by women and partnered with other organizations to bring awareness to causes important to me. Outside of my theatre company, I volunteered with Hope for New York providing warm meals to the elderly and assisted in caring for animals in shelters.

Since I founded the Broadway Bengals at FVMS, the kids and I have put together programs where we host story time at the local library

dramatizing favorite children's books for the kids in the community, visit retirement homes and dramatize stories the residents share with us about their favorite memories, hosted a toy drive for the UNC children's hospital, and this year we'll be hosting a VIP preview performance of "Peter and the Starcatcher" for our feeder elementary school 5th graders!

5. Hobbies

I love gardening and just learned how to compost! I really enjoy repurposing and teaching the kids how to design through repurposing rather than buying things. It's a fun puzzle and challenge. I am fascinated by the psychology and inner mind of my dog and cat so that keeps me busy. I sew dresses for my dog - she has a whole fashion line. I also make my own lavender sugar salt scrub named after my furry children, Grace & Kitty!

I love writing plays and sitting in nature – writing poetry based on metaphor. My play "Ophelia's Swan Song" is premiering Nov 7 at 7pm at the PSI Theatre as the opening show in the Next Act Festival with OdysseyStage and the Durham Arts Council. I'm really excited for that as this play is the companion piece to my other play "Muse" from the artists perspective which premiered in 2012 in NYC and I played the title role. "Ophelia's Swan Song" is written and performed from the model's perspective.

6. Inspiration or mentor in your life

My mentor of 30 years, Patch Clark who is the retired ECU Theatre Education Department Head, has empowered me to become the theatre teacher and creative problem solver that I am today. All that I have accomplished as an educator has been due to the wisdom of this incredible woman. I am so grateful. I also have been inspired by the life and writings of Virginia Woolf.

I think what makes a strong leader is being able to listen, feel the room, and ask questions of how you can best help. Because leaders are in the "spotlight" people often associate them with getting attention, narcissism, or sole reward which can become a destructive way of thinking. Leaders – good, solid substantial leaders – show up ready to do the work and are focused on how they can continue to problem solve and assist – not just absorb the outcome.

As an aside, I will say that two years ago when Mr. DeVane and I sat at the table in the media center and he first shared that he was on dialysis and eventually needing a kidney, my only focus was on him. As soon as the National Kidney Registry was open to receiving potential donors for him to get a kidney, my only focus was on him. As soon as I discovered I was his best kidney match, I was ready to donate the next day if they'd let me. Knowing that through extensive testing that this kidney was going to add 20 years to his life with his beautiful family, God called on me to do this and I'm so grateful that not only was Mr. DeVane able to accept the kidney but he immediately started seeing the positive results. To be authentically a part of each other's lives and step up when we are needed – pushing forward through love and not fear – this is what it means to be a family and a community.

I choose joy to celebrate and spread joy. We are here to help each other. How we choose to take that call looks different but what's important is to show up for each other.

7. What motivates you?

This is a great question. Sleep motivates me because I often function from a lack of it. Staying in the moment, yoga, and prayer often motivate me and inspire me to make space for what's important. Writing and creating theatrical content --- telling stories motivates me to begin conversations and allow audiences to engage in it.

My go to book is Virginia Woolf's narrative "A Room of One's Own" which gets me out of my funk and empowers me as a woman with her own narrative to keep writing, keep creating, keep letting my voice be heard and my stories told. It's a timeless piece of literature. I'm currently reading Rick Rubin's novel "The Creative Act: A Way of Being" and am a sponge for all the philosophical and authentic content of what it means to be an artist. I have several books on my top 10 theatre & dance list, but for aspiring performing artists my top two are Twyla Tharp's "The Creative Habit" and Robert Edmond Jones "The Dramatic Imagination" – these two books changed my life.

And to be honest, my go-to motivators are peanut M&Ms, Downton Abbey, and tacos. 😊

The Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club Clubhouse — A Cornerstone of Civic Life, and What It Takes to Preserve It

Posted By: Rob Foxon: November 18, 2025 In: Articles, Exploring Fuquay-Varina, Featured, The History of Fuquay-Varina

[Print Email](#)

By Valerie Macon



On North Ennis Street in Fuquay-Varina, a modest bungalow/American Craftsman-style building has anchored nearly nine decades of civic engagement. Built in 1936 for the Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club, the clubhouse has served as a hub for community service and fellowship. Now, as the building approaches its 90th anniversary, it is due for some renovations.

To learn more about its legacy and plans to preserve the building for future generations, I spoke with Ruth Olive, president of FVWC; Fran Carroll and Patty Byrne, co-chairs of the fundraising committee; and Debbie Semple and Jeanette Moore-Burlock, co-chairs of the house and grounds committee, which oversees the maintenance of the FVWC clubhouse.

History

Formed in 1920, The Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club joined the Federation of Woman's Clubs in 1926. Land for their clubhouse was donated by the Judd family. Debbie Semple recalls, "It took 10 years of oyster stew and chicken and

dumpling suppers (and other fundraising efforts) to collect enough money to build the clubhouse." These grassroots efforts laid the foundation for a space that would serve generations. Dr. Judd, himself, supervised the building of the clubhouse, which was completed in 1936.

In 2007, the building was added to the National Register of Historic Places, a recognition of both its age and its role in community life. During its remarkable ninety-year history, the clubhouse has served almost like a community center that the people of the town could use. Over the decades, the clubhouse has hosted more than Women's Club meetings — it has been a place of gathering for weddings, family reunions, birthday celebrations, and even funeral services.

Preservation

Because the clubhouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, any planned work on the building must first be reviewed and approved by the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. The office provides guidance to ensure that renovations comply with preservation standards and maintain the building's historical integrity. Even seemingly simple updates — like adding much-needed gutters — require professional contractors and formal review. It's a process that takes time.

Just this year, the building has undergone its first deep cleaning since 2005, with every surface scrubbed from floor to ceiling. The oriental rugs have been professionally cleaned, and the red brick wall behind the fireplace — added in the 1950s — received a fresh coat of paint to brighten the room. A new mantle was installed, and the cornices were updated with lighter fabric to contrast with the dark paneling. Some of these interior decorative updates were last made over 35 years ago. But there are still things that need to be done to keep the building safe and attractive for renters. As Debbie

Semple, who just turned 74, remembers: "I had my 14th birthday party in this clubhouse, and I've got the pictures to prove it . . .with a building this age, there's always going to be something that needs to be done."

The Club has long raised funds to support community initiatives and continues to do so. But it is now also turning some of its attention to fundraising for the essential upkeep and preservation of the historic clubhouse, ensuring it remains available for both Club and community use. That maintenance, however, draws from a budget separate from the

community projects budget — a maintenance budget that has been stretched thin in recent years due to major infrastructure updates, including a new HVAC system, roof replacement, plumbing and electrical repairs, as well as necessities like utilities and insurance expenses. Funds are now needed for capital improvements such as exterior painting, gutter installation, landscaping, and ADA ramp renovation that adhere to historical guidelines.

Fundraising

To help rebuild the Club's funds, members are bringing back a beloved tradition — the Christmas Tour of Homes. Though not usually held annually, this festive event will return on Saturday, December 15, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine.

Fundraising Chairs Patty Byrne and Fran Carol, who have planned and organized the self-guided tour, shared some details. The tour will feature nine beautifully-decorated homes in the Fuquay-Varina Historic District, along with the Teacherage — a historic boarding house once home to local teachers. Docents will be stationed at each site to share stories and historical insights. Along the route, guests can enjoy holiday carolers, baby goats, visits with Santa, hot chocolate and cookies. Nationally acclaimed artist Maureen Scullin will be painting an original holiday portrait on-site at Falcon Park Hut. Raffle tickets for the portrait will be sold for \$5/ticket, 5 tickets for \$20.

Tickets and maps for the Christmas Tour of Homes will be available starting in October for \$20 (children under 10 free). Tickets can be purchased:

Online via Eventbrite

At Logan's Garden Hut (1004 Old Honeycutt Road)

At KnB's Marketplace (120 Raleigh Street) until 4 p.m. on December 12, 2025

At the Falcon Park Hut (105 Falcon Drive) on December 13, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., where Santa will be greeting guests. Parking will be available at Falcon Park where five of the tour homes off Academy Street are just a short walk away.

Celebration

Looking ahead, the Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club is preparing to celebrate a historic milestone: its 100-year birthday celebration. The Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club Centennial Gala, scheduled for April 16, 2026, at Bentwinds Country Club, will be a tribute to the legacy of a club that has served the community for generations. Members of the FVWC and FV Junior Woman's Club, town and government dignitaries, distinguished leaders from other women's clubs, and representatives from local organizations who have been partners in charitable work throughout the year will be attending. The celebration will feature guest speakers who share memories of the clubhouse and its many roles over the decades. A highlight will be the unveiling of a centennial quilt, a tapestry that captures the service of the Club over the past 100 years. To mark the occasion, FVWC centennial items will be available for purchase. While the Centennial Gala is not intended to be a fundraising event, those who wish to support ongoing restoration and repair efforts will have the opportunity to contribute.

As the Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club approaches its centennial, the clubhouse on North Ennis Street stands not only as a physical landmark, but as a testament to the spirit of community service. From oyster stew fundraisers to centennial quilts, its history reflects the dedication of women who value civic engagement. With restoration efforts underway, the

clubhouse continues to inspire the kind of care that built it in the first place. Ninety years in, it's still doing what it was always meant to do — bringing people together.

December's Strong Woman is Maureen Scullin. I know you will enjoy reading about this very talented member.



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?

A strong woman shows strength and confidence, but never at the cost of others. A

confident woman strives to achieve her goals in her career, her family and in her

community, she accepts help along the way and pays it forward for the next generation.

2. 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?

I am currently a full-time fine artist, formerly a marketing, business development

professional. My primary products are oil paintings of people, places and pets.

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

I believe my greatest contribution is to bring art directly into the community. I use my

paintings to raise both awareness and funding local needs. More than that, I help to

celebrate and reinforce the importance of art as a catalyst for positive change in 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 would like to help our town become an arts & cultural destination and show others

that they can be creative as well.

3. Family

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

My family consists of my husband (of 33 years) and our twin daughters, who are

approaching 26 years old. The greatest source of pride is our family's strong

foundation built on shared values and mutual support. We maintain an extremely

close relationship, and I believe we have successfully instilled great appreciation for

the little things in life, which are the most important after all.

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?

Besides the Women's Club, I volunteer with the Fine Arts League of Cary which

supports artists in our region by offering art workshops, exhibits, mentoring and

support.

How do you balance work, family, and volunteering?

With our daughters on their own now, I have more time to spend in my studio, which

I am so grateful for! To manage everything, I try to organize my time and hoping that it works to get things done. We can only try!

5. Hobbies

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

My favorite hobbies are cooking and taking care of my plants. I love to try new recipes and really feel that cooking grounds me. It can also be very creative and satisfying if it ends up right! I love being home and painting, cooking and enjoying time with my husband.

6. Inspiration or mentor in your life

Who do you look up to for inspiration or mentorship?

My greatest inspiration and mentoring came from my father. He was a great influence in my life, both as an artist and as a human being. He taught me so much about my craft, but more importantly, he taught me about business, to treat everyone with respect and kindness. He showed me that I could achieve anything if I worked hard at it.

He also taught me to be humble, creative and loving towards others. He wasn't perfect, but neither am I.

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

The most important attribute for leadership today is to see the needs of their community or

their organization and create a commonsense plan that will address and benefit those

requirements. A truly great leader gathers the best people and lets them do what they do

best. An excellent leader doesn't micromanage; they guide. They know that lifting others up

is the greater achievement.

7. What motivates you??

How do you motivate yourself despite obstacles?

Like so many others, I have faced difficulties that sometimes seemed

insurmountable, but I've always tried to learn the lesson that each obstacle created

for me. If you don't learn the lesson, you will keep getting those problems until you

get it right.

Also trying to see the humor in all things helps too!

What one thing makes you most proud?

My family makes me the proudest. My husband is a wonderful, kind man who has

always supported me even when I suggested we move to a brand-new area where

we knew no one. We have always worked together to figure things out. Our

daughters are wonderful women. They are smart, confident and kind to everyone.

They taught us to be better human beings. Our whole world changed for the better

the moment that they were born.

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?

Some of my biggest risks included quitting my job and starting a company. I

developed several marketing programs/platforms that hospitals utilized to create

greater awareness of their services. There were moments when I really wasn't sure I

knew what I was doing, but I was determined to figure it out. I developed many new

systems to handle various programs. It led to having successful business with clients

across the nation.

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

A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving motivated me because it tells a story of

how everyone can touch others no matter how tragic their life has been, that if you

look hard enough you will see beauty in others.

My story, that I take with me always.

I once had a work colleague named Dave, that was very difficult to deal with. He

didn't get along with others and kept to himself. He once was very nasty to me. I

went to my boss to see if he could do something about him. My boss asked me to

take one week and see if I could see the value that Dave brought to the company

and what was so special about him,

I thought this was a ridiculous request, but I admired my boss, so I agreed to the

challenge. I made it a point to interact with Dave a little more each day. I learned

from someone that knew him that he came from a horrible family and that he had a

very rough childhood. He was also a genius and was solving our company's

development program at warp speed.

At the end of the week, I had greater appreciation for Dave and he seemed to be

opening up a bit to me. By the time I left the company, Dave hugged me and said

that he would miss me. I was overwhelmed. This situation taught me a valuable

lesson; try to get beyond the façade and see if you can really see the value in every

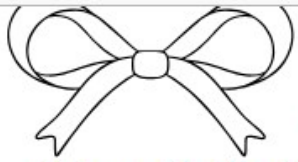
human being.

CHRISTMAS BANQUET. Strong Woman and New members



Pine Acres art class





Special Recognition: Sara Tew

We are thrilled to recognize *Sara Tew* for an incredible milestone—50 years of dedicated membership in our women's club! Her long-standing commitment, generosity, and passion truly embody the spirit of our organization. As if that weren't enough, she also earned top honors for selling the most Christmas Home Tour tickets, helping make this cherished event a wonderful success. Please join us in congratulating her on these remarkable achievements and thanking her for all she continues to do for our club.



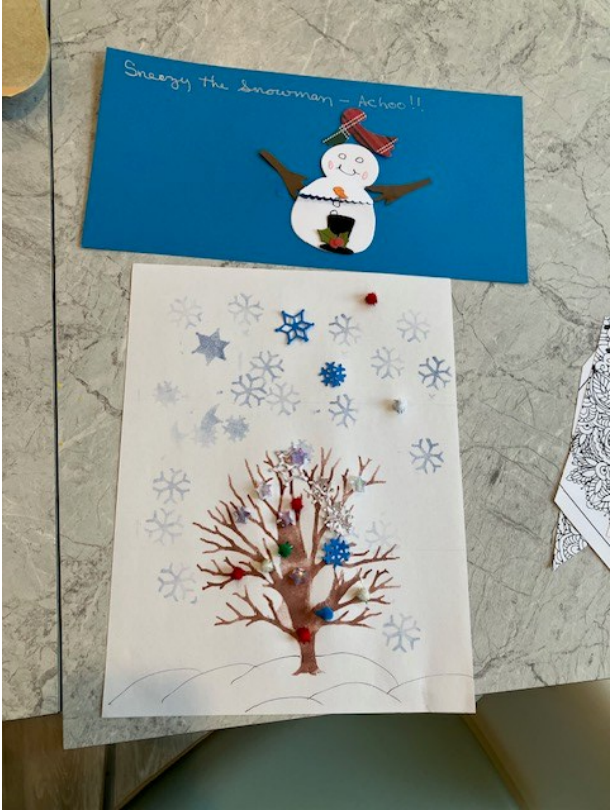


Christmas Banquet



January 2026

Calyx art class for January



Club meeting we presented the Town person of the year





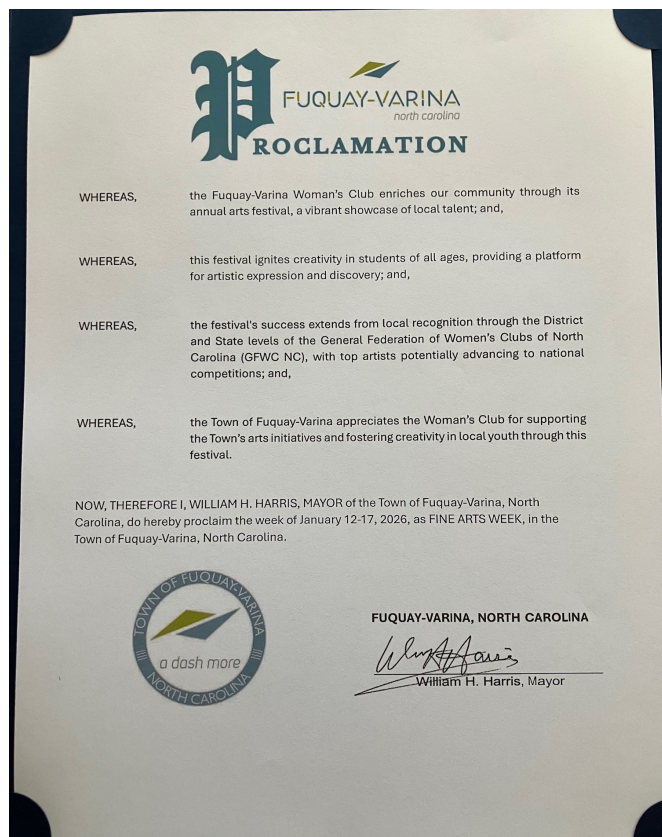
The special speakers for January were from the Firefighters



Wreaths Across America



The annual Art show for the local schools





**Mayor Harris and the Best in Show along with
a resident from Windsor Point**



February 2026

We delivered gift cards to all 60 units to the lovely residents the Homes for the Elderly. We worked with Christine Williams to hand out bags with some essential items, lunches and desserts. A very special guest was a baby goat that was a huge hit with everyone. The appreciation these elderly show is such a gift and so heartwarming to be able to help in this small way.

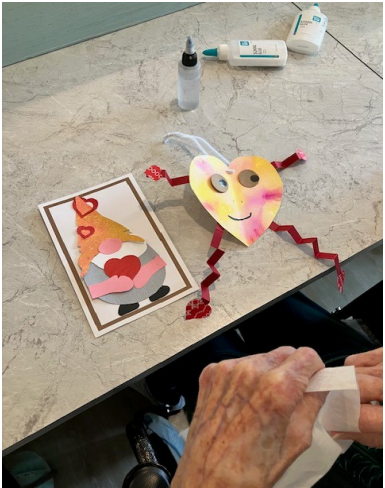


Valentines for Calyx art lass this month

Club meeting for February, Geard O'Connell specialist for the +55 at Hilltop Needmore Community park in Fv


Lynne Nelson won the contest for renaming our District to Dogwood, Congratulations Lynne. Strong Woman of the Month was Martha Smallwood.

Talk it out Tuesday is always a fun time to visit and enjoy our club ladies.





Pine Acres
Bingo day.




**STRONG
WOMAN**

MARTHA SMALLWOOD

February's Strong Woman is Martha Smallwood. She is one of the most loyal and hardworking members in our club. She is humble as indicated in her responses below but goes over and beyond in her dedication to our club.

By: Amy Massengill



What do you feel are some of the characteristics of a strong woman?
I think anyone of us can step up and be strong if the occasion arises or you have passion you follow.

What is your occupation?
I was in the Coast Guard, now only volunteering.

Family
Married for 50 years to my husband, who I met in the Coast Guard, and he retired with 24 yrs of service.
We have a son and daughter in their 40's.

Volunteer work
Usher at the Art center, 15 yrs with the Woman's club.

Hobbies
All crafts

Inspiration or mentor in your life
My parents who were missionaries for 30 years in Honduras, Central America.

What motivates you?
To love and help others smile.

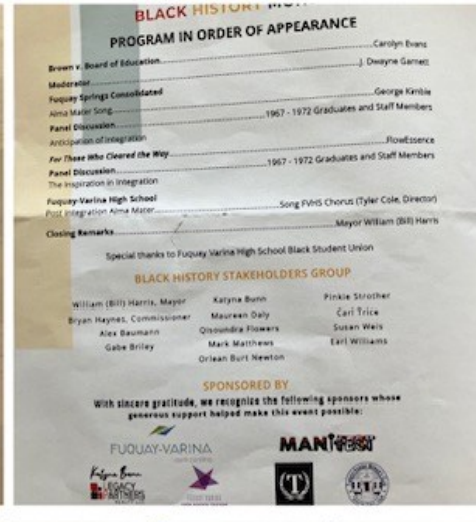


We delivered with the help of the American Legion the first of our 4 elementary schools today. Great group and the schools are beyond grateful.

New membership Tea

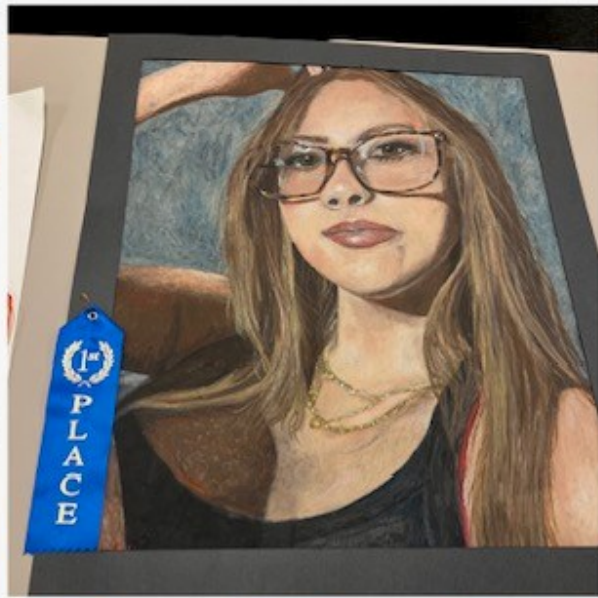


Inspiration Integration





District Art show 2026
FVWC handbook





March meeting with
the Art CSP

Backpack Buddies and Kids Peace





We delivered with the help of the American Legion the first of our 4 elementary schools today. Great group and the schools are beyond grateful.



Ms. Aurelis Lugo from Herbert Akins Middle School, who works with Intellectually Disabled students, visited our March meeting to share highlights from the professional development trip our club helped sponsor. She spoke about the valuable training she received and the new strategies she learned to better support her students through art.

Talk it out Tuesday at Restored Coffee group.

Maggie Thompson



MAGGIE THOMPSON

March's Strong Woman of The Month is Maggie Thompson – Home Delivery Manager for Meals on Wheels – Fuquay-Varina. You have been recognized as a strong woman in our community. One that represents leadership, assertiveness, resourcefulness, and integrity. You are “a dash more”.

By: Amy Massengill

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

Proverbs 31:25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; She can laugh at the days to come. As a Christian, I feel that a strong woman is one that has learned to tap into God's presence. She can navigate the good times as well as the hard times with wisdom, resilience, and grace, knowing the Lord is with her. Philippians 4:13 I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength. A strong woman realizes that true strength comes from reliance on God rather than personal ability.

What is your occupation?

I am the Home Delivery Manager for Meals on Wheels in Fuquay-Varina. My job is to coordinate volunteers to deliver meals to our senior citizens. Our goal is not only to provide a warm meal, but also a well check and a friendly face to our clients. I love chatting with my dedicated volunteers. They are the heartbeat of our company! They give so freely of their time & are always going the extra mile for the clients, remembering their birthdays, taking extra time to chat, delivering wood to keep their stove going, and even buying and delivering food on days when we are closed.

Family

My husband & I have been married for 45 years. We have lived in Fuquay-Varina for 37 years. We have 3 sons and one daughter. Our daughter is a true beach girl and lives in Florida. Our sons, daughter in law and grandchildren, all live in the area. Like most families, we have our quirks, but we all get along and are there for one another. I am truly blessed to be able to be part of my grandchildren's lives and to have most of my children nearby.

Volunteer work

My church, Church Alive, partners with Pine Acres Community Center to distribute food on a monthly basis. Sometimes I help monetarily, sometimes I show up on the Saturday they give out food and sometimes I am able to help with some of the beforehand prep since Meals on Wheels operates out of Pine Acres Community Center. Pine Acres Community Center works diligently to collect and organize and pack food to ensure folks in the area don't go hungry.

Hobbies

My favorite hobby is backpacking. There is nothing like carrying all you need to survive on your back, sleeping under the stars, experiencing breathtaking views, and just being in the great outdoors!

Inspiration or mentor in your life

My oldest sister, Marilyn, inspires me. She is 85 and going strong!! She wakes up each day and thinks of one unpleasant thing that needs to be done and conquers that first. When she goes out, she looks for ways to brighten someone's day...small things like holding the door for someone or giving a compliment or allowing a car to get out at a busy intersection. She volunteers at her church's clothing closet, she visits her sick friends, she remembers her neighbors with homemade or store-bought treats on holiday's & birthdays & always has good common-sense advice. Let's all be like Marilyn!!

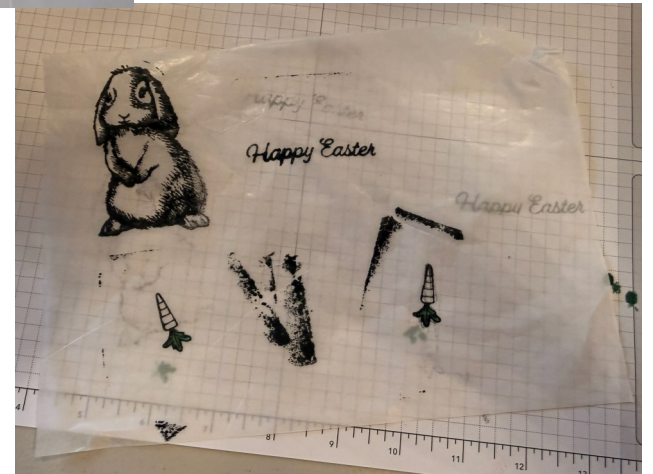
Pine Acres art class of a junk journal and Connect at Mi Cancun.





Easter bags delivered to all 60 units at the Homes of the Elderly in conjunction with Angels Among the Elderly. As always they were delighted and very appreciative of everything.

FVWC gals getting down to the music at follow me to Fv music concerts
Candle class with Barb K



Gala Celebration





May Banquet

Awards for 2025-2026

Ruth and Valerie presented awards to the following members:

Inspiration Award – Becki Randolph

Seabrooke/Gardner Friendship Award – Ruth Olive

Membership Award – Patty Byrne

Challenge Award -Sarah Abraham

Walters Outstanding CSP Award – Civic Engagement & Outreach

Simmons Outstanding Community Commitment Award -Jeanette Moore-Burlock

Golden Award – Sara Tew

Sara Tew New Horizon Award – Maureen Lund

Distinguished Service Award – Barb Giarelli

Extra Service Awards – Melvina Croner, Angela French, Julia McCombs

Massengill Strong Woman Award – Amy Massengill

Woman of the Year – Martha Smallwood

Installation of 2026-2028 Executive Officers:

President – Valerie Seymour

VP CSP – Faith Junghahn

VP Membership – Erica Cann & Keely Kurth

VP Fundraising – Barbara Rickard & Allison Keisler

Recording Secretary – Barb Giarelli

Corresponding Secretary – Hillary LeFevre

Treasurer – Vicky Currin







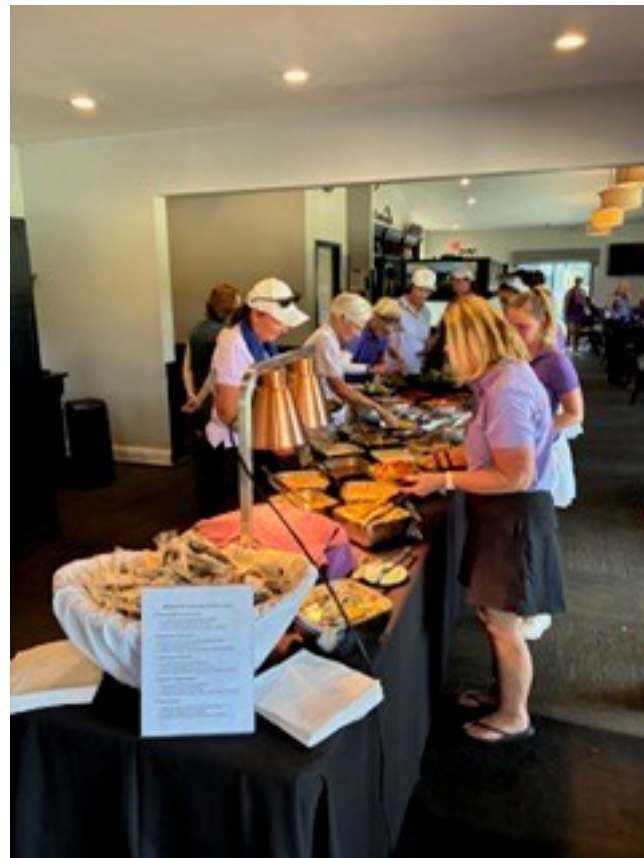




Golf Tournament 2026

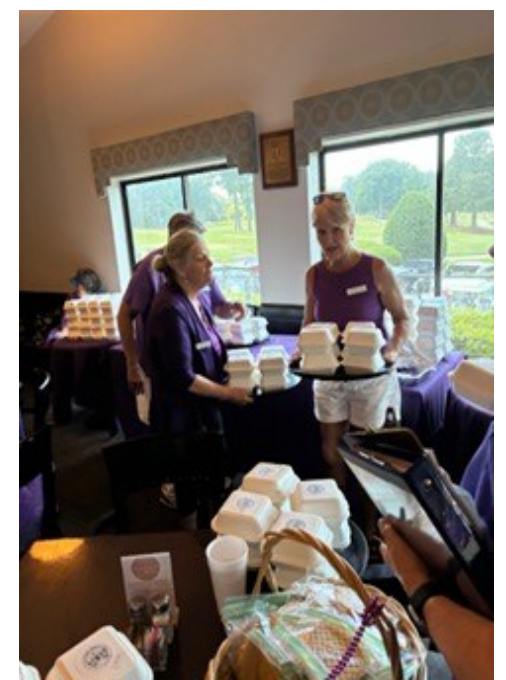












As we close the chapter on a remarkable two year term, our club extends its deepest appreciation to Ruth for her outstanding leadership as President of the Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club.

Ruth has guided us with a steady hand, a generous heart, and a spirit rooted in service. Under her leadership, our projects grew stronger, our outreach expanded, and our sense of community deepened. She brought calm where it was needed, encouragement when it mattered most, and a quiet determination that helped us accomplish more than we imagined.

She celebrated our members, championed our volunteers, and ensured that every

voice felt valued. Whether organizing events, supporting committees, or representing our club in the community, Ruth led with grace, humility, and unwavering dedication.

These two years have been filled with meaningful work, joyful moments, and shared purpose—and Ruth has been at the center of it all. Her presidency leaves a legacy of kindness, collaboration, and strength that will continue to shape our club for years to come.

With heartfelt gratitude, we thank Ruth for her service, her leadership, and her friendship. She has truly made a difference.