November 2026

The Connection

Volume 50, Issue 46

BRANDERMILL WOMAN'S CLUB

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

JOANNE BUCHANAN

Dear extraordinary members of the Brandermill Woman's Club,

You have read the story of the starfish. Imagine a beach covered in hundreds of starfish. On this beach, an old man looks in the distance and sees a young woman picking up starfish one by one. She selects one and tosses it gently into the ocean. And then another. And another. The old man approaches the young woman and asks, "Why are you tossing the starfish back into the ocean?" The young woman replied by telling him that the tide is about to go out, and unless she helps the stranded starfish back to the surf, "they will surely die." The old man exclaimed, "But there are so many! How can it make a difference, when you surely will not be able to throw all of them back?" The young woman picked up another starfish and tossed it lightly into the surf, "It will make a difference to that one," she replied.

I love that story as it is equally relevant to life's daily challenges and blessings. We are not always in a position to help, support, or acknowledge everyone in our lives. And you may think that to send out or acknowledge a communication by text is a little insensitive, too easy, or just "lazy." But perhaps, on that day, and in that moment, it was all you, or the sender, could muster. You make a difference in keeping in touch with friends, family, and club members. A phone call is always appreciated, but not always convenient. A note or a card is welcome too! How much personal U.S. mail do we actually receive daily in 2026? I know when I see a handwritten envelope, it immediately makes me smile. Communication by any method means we are saying, "I see you. I appreciate you. How can I help?" And so, we sustain each other, one by one.

A few words about the recent passing of Ann Doll, one of our Honorary Members. Ann was a very active and valued member of Brandermill Woman's Club for many years. Additionally, Ann was a past president for three separate terms. Please remember her husband, Jessie, her daughter, Susie, and her family in your prayers and positive thoughts.

Thanksgiving is just 38 days from the day I am writing this. And BWC has so much planned! Look for details in articles and announcements in this issue, on our website, and on Facebook (Meta) for our dining out nights at Raising Canes and Panera. Also, Daytripper events like the Hollywood Cemetery, and Nutcracker painting, and don't forget our Candy Cane Crafts Festival on Saturday, November 14 from 9:00-1:00. Come ready to shop, snack, and chat!

Joanne

MEETING REMINDERS

MEETINGS BEGIN AT 10:30
No admittance before 10:00

BRING YOUR CHECKBOOK TO ALL MEETINGS!
Daytrippers, special events, raffles, happily accept cash or checks.

PARKING: PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE FIRST TWO ROWS OF THE CHURCH.
We do not want to interfere with Pre-school Pickups.

MEETING:

BRANDERMILL CHURCH
4500 MILLRIDGE PARKWAY
MIDLOTHIAN, VA 23112

BRANDERMILLWOMANSCLUB.COM

SCHEDULE FOR 2026-2027:

Sept 16
Oct 21
Nov 18
Dec 16 (Luncheon)
Jan 20
Feb 17
March 17
April 21
May 19 (Luncheon)

MEMBERSHIP
MICHELLE SCOTT

We welcome new members: Susan Carver, Paulette Whitehurst, Cathy Wilson, Lisa Smalling, Liz May, Connie Allen, and Patricia Huntoon. We encourage you to try any one of our activities, trips, boweling, or movie critics. Enjoy getting to know other members and make new friends!

In keeping with Joanne's motto for this year "Hearts in, Hands on", I introduced at the October Club meeting, a project that provides plastic mats for the homeless in Richmond. The group that oversees distribution of mats is Oregon Hill Baptist Center, a ministry of River City Faith Network. Michele Mooney, a resident of Brandermill introduced me to this initiative. It takes 700 plastic grocery bags to make a mat! At this time, I would like the club to collect bags at each meeting. If you would like more information in the making of the mats or would like to volunteer to make a mat, contact Michele Mooney directly at 804-986-0036.

Questions?
Michelle Scott: mlscott1560@gmail.com -or- 703-798-4074

SCHOLARSHIPS
JO HAYDEN

This month, the Scholarship Committee is doing a SHOUT OUT about the upcoming SILENT AUCTION, your opportunity to bid on something wonderful and support something meaningful! From artwork and afghans to Coach bags and cottage getaways, your next favorite thing might be just one bid away.

How will it work? When you arrive at the Holiday Party in December, browse the auction items, find something you love, and write your bid on the sheet provided. Then, keep an eye on the bidding sheet. When bidding closes, the highest bid wins.

A few things to know about bidding:

- **Please bring your checkbook or cash!** We won't be able to accept credit cards.
- **Payment is due at the party**. No IOUs or paying later!
- **Bid generously and have fun!** Your participation helps support our Club!

Have questions about the auction or something to donate for the auction? Please

contact Susan Coffey, 804-301-1429, or stop by the Scholarship table at the November meeting.

Thanks to those who supported our 2027 Clover Hill High School Scholarship fund by buying raffle tickets at the October meeting. Congrats to: Donna Elder, the winner of the 50/50; Millie Campbell, the winner of a gift card to Trolley Car Sweets and Treats, and; Connie Pappalardo, the winner of a fall basket.

Questions?

Jo Hayden: johayden.hayden@gmail.com -or- 804-763-9162

SUNSHINE
MARIE REPP
NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Beverly Carlson, Sara Ide, Janet Shields, Susan Morales, Pat Butler, Debbie Rodgers, Donna Elder, Connie Pappalardo, Diane Denbar, Penny Kell, Jo Hayden, Michelle Scott, Shirley Bohn, Libby Chelborg, Nancy Coggins, Linda Berg, Cathy Wilson, Susan Carver.

Questions?

Marie Repp: 804.263.8649 -or- geraldrepp8704@comcast.net

PROGRAMS
CAROL STEARNS

Hello Ladies!

November 18 - Our speaker this month will be Robin Comfort with The Virginia Genealogical Society. She will let us know how to get started tracing our family history along with some fascinating information of what you may find.

December 16 - We return to The BoatHouse again for our annual Holiday Luncheon. This year's fee is

$50.00 per person, including tax and tip. Tickets will be on sale at the November meeting or you can mail a check, made out to the club, at 6118 Friesian Terrace, Moseley, VA 23120

Entrée choices are:

- Pan Seared Chicken Breast w/ lavender honey, lemon thyme demi-glace,

fingerling potatoes and broccolini.

- Atlantic Salmon with sauteed spinach, crispy mushrooms and capers, fingerling

potatoes and tomato basil butter sauce.

- Vegetarian Option

I can also accept Venmo, contact me at 804-986-1265

Mr. James Curry will be out entertainment like last year's event.

Happy Holidays!

Questions?
Carol Stearns: carols1995@gmail.com -or- 804-986-1265

DAYTRIPPERS

CAROLINE ZONG

Greetings ladies! This month's day trip will be at Michaels' craft store on Thursday, November 12th from 10:00 to 12:00 for $25. Yes! It's going to be a fun time painting Christmas decorations. You get to chose what you want to decorate from a collection of either nutcrackers (snowman, mouse, moose, soldier) or gingerbread houses or door decorations (wooden wreaths, door signs, snow globe). Stencils, ribbons, beads, glitter, paint, etc. Get as creative as you like! This is for all levels. Beginners too. A perfect sentimental holiday gift from you to your loved one. Lunch will follow at the Flying Pig restaurant.

Contact Caroline Zong at 703-282-1035 for your reservation asap.

Questions?
Caroline Zong: zong.caroline@gmail.com -or- 703-282-1035



Hearts In, Hands On is my chosen motto, and BWC has an immediate need to fill some key roles. These positions sustain our Club's mission, offer an opportunity to build friendships within the Club while at the same time supporting our community. Please "give these a think," and contact me if you would like more details, and especially if you are interested in accepting one of these roles. As you will see, many of these positions overlap in the duties and common goals of the Club. Which means that you will have plenty of support. Offering just a few hours a week will be enormously appreciated.

Questions?
Joanne Buchanan 757-615-7195 or jokayjul18@gmail.com

HISTORIAN - Help research and document BWC's past and present role in the community, including club events enjoyed by the membership. While the 50th Anniversary Committee is well underway with its members and planning, the Historian will also want to partner with them to help document this milestone year.

WAYS AND MEANS - Propose ways to fundraise through special events, sponsorships, services, and merchandise. This chairperson will support the Treasurer to ensure that the club has the revenue to meet its budget. Offer help to other committees to determine if an event or program is financially sustainable.

Publicity - Promote the brand of Brandermill Woman's Club in the community

BWC Executive Board 2026 / 2027

President: Joanne Buchanan
VP of Programs: Carol Stearns
VP of Membership & Outreach: Michelle Scott
Treasurer: Nancy Acuto
Secretary: Donna Elder
Parliamentarian: Betsy Lewis
President Emerita: Jo Hayden

Appointed Positions 2026 / 2027

Publicity: Vacant Position
Ways & Means: Vacant Position
Historian: Vacant Position
Community Outreach: Vacant Position
Parliamentarian: Betsy Lewis
Activities: Susan Basl
The Connection: Erin Melton
Scholarship: Jo Hayden
Hospitality: Mary Ann Owens & Tina Fries
Sunshine: Marie Repp
Website: Caroline Zong
Day Trippers: Caroline Zong
50th Anniversary (Ad Hoc): Lori Hobbs

and help maintain a positive public understanding of our mission including outreach, contributions, and human resource support. Being handy with graphics (from online sources, not necessarily original!) writing short "blurbs" for public notices and partnering with agencies in the community (BCA, leaving notices in the public libraries, etc..) to promote BWC will be beneficial.

Community Outreach Leadership is needed to support our community outreach and can be further supported with a small committee that you may build. This position develops creative ways to serve and support the community, e.g., volunteerism at local schools, community food banks, etc. In addition, such a committee will coordinate any fundraisers including the Club's spring non-event fundraiser.

ACTIVITIES

SUSAN BASL

The updated BWC Activities schedule for 2026/2027 is attached to The Connection.

Questions?
Susan Basl: nsrbasl31@gmail.com -or- 781-572-2523



OUR CLUB WEBSITE IS OFFICIALLY UP AND RUNNING! CHECK IT OUT AT
https://brandermillwomansclub.com

MISSION... Our mission is to encourage friendships, social activities, and solidarity in our community. We promote a common interest in civic, cultural, educational and social welfare of the community.

BWC ACTIVITY SHEET

BWC Activity Groups	CHAIR: Susan Basl		781-572-2523		
GROUP	**Days**	**Time**	**Location**	**Chair**	**Phone**
Bookies 1	3rd Friday	10 AM	Woodlake United Methodist Church	Beverly Carlson	804-739-2539
Bookies 2	3rd Tuesday	TBA	TBA	Mary Guarnieri	443-803-3456
Bowling	4th Friday	11AM	Uptown Alley	Lori Hobbs	804-201-0000
Bunco			TBA		
Dominoes	2nd Tuesday	1PM	5405 Creek Heights Dr	Danielle Jimerson	804-639-3160
Hand/Foot	2nd & 4th Wednesdays	1PM	4944 Long Shadow Dr	Marilyn Schlim	804-277-5010
Hand, Knee & Foot	1st Tuesday	1PM	5410 Creek Heights Dr	Susan Basl	781-572-2523
Mahjongg	3rd Monday	1PM	4910 Terrace Arbor Circle	Barbara Teats	703-395-5177
Marbles	1st Wednesday	1PM	Magnolia Green 17700 Twin Falls Dr	Margaret Mann	919-740-1964
Movie Critics	4th Tuesday	TBA	TBA	Yvonne Ricciardelli	804-234-5161
Rummikub	2nd Friday	1PM	15113 Fox Branch Ln	Pinkki Walia	804-937-8095

JOIN OUR FUNDRAISER at

Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers

THURSDAY, OCT 22 | 4-8PM
RAISING CANE'S 6921 LAKE HARBOUR DRIVE
MIDLOTHIAN, VA 23112

Mention the fundraiser at the Restaurant or apply code **RCFUND96** to online or app orders at checkout and Cane's will **donate 15% of Net Sales*** to:

BRANDERMILL WOMAN'S CLUB

Raising Funds with Raising Cane's



Learn more about how we can supp you at **CanesAndCommunity.com**

*erms and conditions apply. Learn more: raisingcanes.com/fundraiser

RaisingCanes



We're raising dough!

BRANDERMILL WOMAN'S CLUB

25% OF NET SALES WILL BE DONATED*

November 13, 2026
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
4701 Brad McNeer Parkway, Midlothian, VA

Use code FUND4U at panerabread.com, in the Panera App, or at the kiosk in-cafe.

Online orders placed all day at your event cafe will count toward your total sales.

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the cafe to ensure your organization gets a portion of the net sales.

Panera FUNDRAISING

*20% fundraiser: Up to 20% of net sales from your designated and registered fundraising event will be donated to your approved organization. Minimum sales of $100 on the specified date, time and location required to receive 20% donation. 25% fundraiser: Up to 25% of net sales from your designated and registered fundraising event will be donated to your approved organization. Minimum sales of $150 on the specified date, time and location required to receive 25% donation. General terms: Details on percentage of net sales to be donated and the minimum sales requirement will be provided during the event registration process. Fundraising events available only at participating US bakery-cafes. Fundraising event details and available dates and times for fundraising events will vary by bakery-cafe. Gift card purchases, catering orders, and orders placed on third party delivery sites are excluded and will not count towards the total net sales from your designated fundraising event. This offer will be void if flyer is distributed in or near the participating bakery-cafe on the night of the event. Fundraising events may be cancelled without notice due to abuse, error, fraud, computer error, electronic or technical malfunctions, or other unforeseen or unintended circumstances. Other restrictions may apply. For more information on how our fundraising events work, please visit: https://fundraising.panerabread.com/faq.

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