

October 2026

The Connection

Volume 50, Issue 45

BRANDERMILL



WOMAN'S CLUB

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

JOANNE BUCHANAN

Dear extraordinary members of the Brandermill Woman's Club,

The pumpkins are out! Sweater weather is around the corner and it's my favorite! I have learned that canned pumpkin is difficult, if not impossible, to find in England, so I am taking a can or two to my son in October. Do you have a favorite pumpkin recipe to share with me? Email me!

Thank you for joining in with one of my favorite things at our first meeting! Our collective memories of TV show themes, and music of the 60's and 70's flooded in as every missing lyric was solved! The Broadway tunes group was flying high defying gravity and didn't let anyone rain on their parade. Congratulations! Thank you all for being such great sports, or in this case, vocalists!

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)

Happening Now and Very Soon!

Susan Basl has certainly offered a true "something for everyone" palette of games and activities.

At our next meeting, please check them out! Players and hosts are needed for a Bunco

group. Take a look at Daytrippers' planned events. While the Hollywood Cemetery tour is filled, you can still get on a waiting list. Try your hand at painting – join the Nutcracker painting group in a class offered by Michaels! And there is more fun to come!

Call for Charity Names

It is that time of year again to submit the name of your favorite charity to be considered for our annual donations. You may send those to me directly at jokayjul18@gmail.com. In November, we will vote and select the top favorites.

Share Your Talent as an artist (or a shopper!)

Saturday, November 14 is our Candy Cane Craft Festival to be held at the Harbour Pointe Clubhouse from 9:00-1:00. Please share this event with friends and neighbors and come and shop for one or more special items for yourself or your loved ones.

Last year, one of our talented members was selling jewelry and beautifully painted vases. I chose one for my sister's birthday and managed to keep it in one piece for the next 9 months until I saw her! She loves it!

Sunshine

If you would like to submit your birthday to Marie Repp, Sunshine, please do so that we won't miss your special day! Do you know of a club member who is ill, has had surgery, or needs encouragement? Please let us know.

Raising Canes Fundraiser is Thursday, October 22 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Last year, Raising Canes donated two generous gift baskets complete with gift cards, a stuffed animal and other "merch" to us. This year, we are partnering with them on October 22 by asking members and friends to purchase their delicious chicken tenders, fries and lemonade. Brandermill Woman's Club will receive 15% of net sales during the 4:00-8:00 timeframe on 10/22 when a customer does one of two things: 1. Mention Brandermill Woman's Club while ordering. There is NO coupon necessary. OR 2. Use the code RCFUND96 when ordering online or on the app. Our agreement with them does not allow us to ask customers on the property (in the parking lot, in line, etc..) to use the code or mention BWC. Please respect this rule. Thank you in advance!

FIFTY

The number 50 keeps popping up my calendar, my "to do" list, and is on my heart. Your support is needed to help Brandermill Woman's Club celebrate fifty years of friendship, charity, community, and fun! The 50th Anniversary Committee has planned so much for us to enjoy over the next 15 months. And it also happens that this is The Brandermill Church's 50th Anniversary as well. The Church has been very kind to us. For me personally, I plan to attend my 50th reunion of a small private college called Montreat University. Sweet Montreat is in Black Mountain NC and I am anxious to connect with my friends over that weekend. Climbing Lookout Mountain at night? Check. A weekly Friday night Barn dance where "you just have to learn to clog!" Check. Lifetime friendships formed? Check. Yes, most of us will need to look at the "as I was" photo nametag, but the heart of who we are is still there.

Would you like to grab lunch after the October 21st meeting? We will take a lunch count at the beginning of the meeting and we plan to go to The Grill at Waterford 13548 Waterford Pl, Midlothian.

What Do You See?

When we gather each month, I see women whose talents, backgrounds, joys, struggles, and personal stories we may never fully know. We share some parts of ourselves with those closest to us; other parts remain private.

Let's offer one another an extra gesture of kindness:

- a warm smile;
- a reassuring nod or gentle pat;
- a thoughtful card; or
- a phone call.

Thoughtfully,

Joanne



MEMBERSHIP

MICHELLE SCOTT

We had a wonderful September meeting. Our September meeting is always an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and welcome new members! As of September, our membership was 111. We welcomed 8 guests at the meeting. Many thanks to several members who brought friends. You can still pay your \$35 membership dues at the October meeting. Enjoy the fall weather!

Questions?

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

SCHOLARSHIPS

JO HAYDEN

We kicked off the new Club year on Sep 16 by reconnecting with members – and meeting some new guests! – who are already jumping in to build our 2027 Clover Hill High School Scholarship fund through raffle ticket sales. Thank you, thank you! Congrats to Lucy Blair, the winner of the 50/50, Nancy Acuto and Linda Cummer, who each won gift cards to PeppersMexican Restaurant, and Cyndy Ball and Leslie Kuntz who each took home a pretty fall plant.

The Scholarship Committee is looking at new and fun(d) ways to raise money this year! One event we're planning is a silent auction, which will be part of our Holiday Party in December. Stay tuned for more information, but in the meantime ... do you have something you'd be willing to donate for auction (a piece of artwork, a designer pocketbook, a week at your beach condo, a restaurant gift card, or maybe even a little time or talent (pet-sitting or chef services anyone?))? If so, please contact Susan Coffey, 804-301-1429, or stop by the Scholarship table at the October meeting. We'd love to hear your ideas!

Questions?

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

SUNSHINE

MARIE REPP

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Sue Ackley, Margaret Mann, Pat Francisco, Carol Sterns, Marie Repp, and Barbara Teats.

Questions?

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

PROGRAMS

CAROL STEARNS

October 21st:

Continuing with our country's 250th anniversary, our October our speaker will be Mr. James Triesler, Education Director for The Virginia War Memorial. He will be speaking on the American Revolution and displaying interesting artifacts as well. If time permits, Mr. Triesler will also touch on the Civil War.

November 18th:

We are happy to welcome Debra Brown who will be giving Handwriting Analysis presentation. I'm sure my scratchy handwriting depicts that I love to eat and shop! Debra had to cancel last year and we are thrilled that she is able to accommodate at this time.

December 16th:

We return to The BoatHouse again for our annual Holiday Luncheon. This year's fee is \$50.00 per person, including tax and tip with a two-choice menu. More details to follow in October. Mr. James Curry will be entertaining us again with his terrific voice, which promises to be a fun time for all.

Questions?

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

DAYTRIPPERS

CAROLINE ZONG & YVONNE RICCIARDELLI

Greetings ladies!

Our October outing to Hollywood Cemetery is on Wednesday the 28th. The guided trolley has a maximum of 25 seats and all seats have been claimed. However! Your seat is truly reserved upon payment (\$38). If you have not had a chance to make your payment yet please contact me at 703-282-1035 ASAP. Payment needs to be made before our next BWC meeting. There will be a waiting list for those who still wish to go. If there are any cancellations, I will be calling the waiting list.

A sneak peak for the November outing...We'll be getting into the holiday spirit! Join us Thursday, November 12th at Michaels craft store to paint and decorate your very own nutcracker! Any skill level is welcome!! What a sentimental gift idea for the holidays. Imagine how cherished that nutcracker would be to your special person. Painted with love by you! Sign up available our next club meeting.

CANDY CANE CRAFT FESTIVAL: November 14, 2026 from 9-1pm

Mark your calendars for the CANDY CANE CRAFT FESTIVAL at the Brandermill Harbour Point Clubhouse (5710 Promontory Pointe Rd, Midlothian). Contact Susan Morales (410.599.6343) or Jenn Inman (804.833.7002) to participate as a vendor. Spaces are \$30, \$40 for non-members.

Please come and support our members who will have beautiful items available for sale. Start your holiday shopping with us or treat yourself to something special. There will be pancakes with different toppings available for purchase as well as other food items.

Holiday music will be streaming while you stroll through our amazing event. Please come out and support our club event and bring a friend!!

Questions?

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

Yvonne Ricciardelli: ym.ricci@gmail.com -or- 804-239-5161

BWC ANNIVERSARY

BWC, THANK YOU!! We have 12 new volunteers from the 50th anniversary open house held, 9/23, at Harbour Pointe Club House. That's commitment

extraordinaire. The committee is grateful for your time. Collectively, we will meet very soon. We will continue to scout additional volunteers, if you have not already joined us, we hope that you will. This is an exceptional opportunity for each of us to contribute to the BWC Golden Jubilee of 2027.

TREASURY

NANCY ACUTO

I want to extend a warm thank you to all the ladies who have already paid their \$35 BWC membership dues by check or cash. We had a wonderful turnout at our first meeting, where many of you paid in person. Additionally, fifteen BWC members mailed in their dues to Brandermill Woman's Club, PO Box 1615, Midlothian, VA 23113.

What an amazing response rate of forty-nine percent. We truly appreciate your prompt support and enthusiastic response as we kick off a fantastic new year together.

Questions?

Nancy Acuto: nancyacuto@gmail.com -or- 607-7424-437

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

BWC Executive Board 2026 / 2027

President: Joanne Buchanan

VP of Programs: Carol Stearns

VP of Membership: Michelle Scott

Treasurer: Nancy Acuto

Secretary: Donna Elder

Parliamentarian: Betsy Lewis

President Emerita: Jo Hayden

Appointed Positions 2026 / 2027

Activities: Susan Basl

Daytrippers: Caroline Zong & Yvonne Ricciardelli

Connection: Erin Melton

Scholarship: Jo Hayden

Hospitality: Mary Ann Owens & Tina Fries

Sunshine: Marie Repp

Website: Caroline Zong

Community Outreach: Michelle Scott

Ways & Means: Vacant

50th Anniversary (AdHoc): Lori Hobbs

Publicity: Open Position

THE BRANDERMILL CHURCH MEETING ROOM

To keep setup running smoothly, only the two members of the Hospitality Committee, (Mary Ann Owens and Tina Fries) and myself may enter the meeting room at 9:45 a.m. **ALL other members may enter at 10:00 a.m. This is in agreement with Brandermill Church (see below).**

The Men's Bible Study generously arrange the tables and chairs according to our specifications. They close bible study by 9:45 and begin this work. Entering the room while they are working disrupts that process.

Parking

Because preschool drop-off and pickup occur at the same time, the parking lot is especially busy. To support a safe, efficient traffic flow, please park beyond the first two rows of cars and proceed cautiously.

Agreement with The Brandermill Church

These standards are in accordance with an agreement made between Brandermill Woman's Club and The Brandermill Church in 2021. Since that time, they kindly modified the agreement to allow us an additional 15 minutes of access to the room, as the previous time was set at 10:15 a.m.

Thank you for your attention. We offer a relatively modest love donation to Brandermill Church annually for use of the convenient and pleasant premises, and with your help, we will continue to enjoy it! together, the more we can do for our club.

Warmly,

Joanne

**OUR CLUB WEBSITE IS OFFICIALLY UP AND
RUNNING! CHECK IT OUT AT**

<https://brandermillwomensclub.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