

CIVIC CLUB OF OAKLAND

Fall 2025 NEWSLETTER



Co-Presidents' Corner

Well, that went by fast! How many times do we say that, often referring to how quickly our grandchildren grow up or how the summer is over already? I know I say it all the time. My grandson, Andrew, is almost eight years old. It seems like yesterday I was holding him in the hospital when he was born.

Mike and I moved to Garrett County 13 years ago. We knew no one. I was in the middle of unpacking boxes when my neighbor Sandy Hill called and invited me to a Civic Club meeting. Things kind of took off from there and as I look back, I have to say...well, that went by fast!

The Civic Club has been a huge part of my life for the past 13 years. Just about every friend I made was part of the club. The support from all of you has made it possible for me to accomplish things I never dreamed of. When the antique show suddenly needed new direction, support, help and ideas, club members made it possible for me to pull it all together. After eight years, I passed the reins of this very important fundraiser to Terri Peterson, and I know you all will continue to provide her with the same support, ideas and help. I owe Terri a HUGE thank you for saying yes when I asked her to help me coordinate the show this year. Please say YES to her when she asks for your help next year – it truly takes every member to put on an event like the antique show.

Mike and I are very excited about moving to Gettysburg and being closer to our daughter and her family. Physically we leave Garrett County behind us but certainly not the people we have met along the way. Each of you holds a special place in our hearts, and we are so blessed to have you as friends. I know we have

places to stay when we come back to visit, and you most certainly have a place to stay in Gettysburg. My love (and thanks) to all of you - Jean

PS- Spring will be here before you know it! Terry Weyant will be coordinating the Anything Goes Flea Market – say YES to her too!

Jean Tumbarello, Co-President

Farewell to my Co-President, Jean Tumbarello. She is a remarkable Woman, and it has been a great pleasure to work alongside her. Personally, she helped me when my Husband was dying and for this, she will always be part of my heart. I'm happy she is now going to start a new part of her life close to her family.

Welcome to all our new members. We love new blood because with that come new ideas which are always energizing. Think about how you can bring new ways to join the Club when you are volunteering, or joining a committee, or becoming a Board member. Don't hesitate to get involved. You will make many new friends. We want the Club to continue to move forward, so your help is greatly appreciated.

Our goal is to always look for ways to give back to the nonprofits in our community. Our Antique & Artisan event is in jeopardy. It is increasingly hard to find Antique Vendors. We have so much competition with other craft shows in the county. Even if you are not on the Fundraising Committee, please bring any of your ideas to anyone on the Board or the Fundraising Committee.

I'm looking forward to working with all our members including the new Co-President and the new Corresponding Secretary, two very important positions. I want to thank all our members, new or not, for stepping up this year to make our Club a great success.

Suzanne Harle, Co-President

"Teamwork makes the dream work." - John C. Maxwell

DCL 100 Boat Parade

The Lions Club DCL 100 Parade of Boats was held on Saturday, June 21 at 6 PM on Deep Creek Lake. Louise Carmichael generously loaned their pontoon boat and dock for our use. Committee members and other club members who helped with donations were Mari Vaughn, Anita Eggleston, Louise Carmichael, Terry Weyant, Sarah Hoffman, Colleen Painter, Martie Wetmore, and Linda Herdering. Jeannie Campbell and Anita Eggleston contributed to our banners.



Many hours were put into the planning and decorating of the boat with the theme of "Flowers and Flags." We made red, white and blue flowers and used real geraniums and begonias. Two small, live trees, loaned to us by Halian Landscaping Inc., were decorated. Many US flags and banners were on each side.

Other members and guests, all in our red and white attire, joined us for the parade from the McHenry Cove to the Ace's Run Restaurant. We received the second most votes. Many thanks to the Lions Club for giving us a generous donation of \$500 for coming in 2nd place!

Martie Wetmore and Louise Carmichael

New Members Welcome and Cookie Exchange

We have 8 more **NEW MEMBERS** for 2025.

	<i>SHERRY BEACH</i> is from Frederick County. She and her husband, David, moved here to be near their sons who live in Mountain Lake Park. Their daughters live a bit further away in Alaska and Colorado. Sherry was a middle school teacher for 33 years in the areas of special education, school support, language arts, and reading intervention. She enjoys walking, hiking, crafting, sewing, and thrifting as well as being involved in two book clubs. Additionally, Sherry is looking forward to joining her son in the Garrett Community Chorus.
	<i>CARRIE BOHRER</i> moved here full-time in January after enjoying this as a second home since 2007. She is married to Allen; they are the parents of two daughters. Before they purchased Newson Seed, Carrie was a high school health teacher who went on to be the newsletter coordinator at her girls' schools and served as the PTSA President at Gaithersburg High School for 10 years. Currently, Carrie is the Executive Director for the Office Charity Foundation, raising funds for individuals in dire financial straits due to death or illness. In whatever spare time she has left, Carrie enjoys reading, making greeting cards, scrapbooking and crocheting.
	<i>KIM CARTER</i> was Cheri Krug's guest at our August meeting and joined shortly thereafter. She has expressed an interest in assisting in our Fundraising efforts.
	<i>KIM CECIL</i> comes to us from the Annapolis area, relocating in 2016. She works with her husband Allan, who is a contractor for Garrett County trades inspector. They share two sons and three grandchildren. She recently retired as the Branch Manager of the Accident Library.

	<i>LISA MALONEY</i> is a former member who rejoined in September. She's looking forward to joining the Book Club and Fiber Group.
	<i>CINDY WALKER</i> found us via our website and joined in October. Her interests are the Antiques & Artisans Market & Cafe and the Crafts Group.
	<i>DANIELLE LUSCOMBE</i> was our speaker for the October meeting, joining us on the spot. Her company, Dani Starre Studios, specializes in sustainable art which features upscale, recycled fabrics. She has expressed interest in the Antiques & Artisans Market & Cafe, the Book Club, Crafts and Warm the Children.
	<i>GISELLE MOHLER</i> is another recent addition. She's interested in working with the Antiques & Artisans Market & Cafe, the Crafts Group, and Hospitality.

At the summer picnic, we were thrilled to honor three **MEMBERS' ANNIVERSARIES**. Current Co-President *SUZANNE HARLE* celebrated 15 years with us. Originally joining the book club and then adding the newsletter to her plate, she then started off working in the Kitchen (as it was called then), cooking with Betty Ellington, Barbara Frantz and Judi Merriman for a total of six years. Suzanne became the 1st VP in 2012, charged with programs, yearbook, and newsletter. Then she moved on to the Publicity Chair, stepping down in 2022 due to her husband's health.

KATHY BRADY has been a member for 25 years! Hers is a familiar story. Her family vacationed here and when she retired from Montgomery County schools as the cafeteria manager, she moved to Garrett County permanently. A friend brought her to her first Civic Club meeting, and she's been with us ever since.

Some of her highlights over the years include knitting, Warm the Children and participating in the book club.

RITA LANCASTER has also been a member for 25 years. Unlike so many of us, Rita was a local girl who grew up near Frostburg. Her grandfather actually helped build Deep Creek Lake! Rita eventually retired after working as a dental hygienist. Her friend, Doris Haskell, invited her to join us all those years ago. Over that time, Rita fed breakfast to the Autumn Glory Antiques Show vendors as well as cooked soup and sold tickets at the door.

We sincerely thank all three of you for enriching our club and our community.

Our final activity this fall was hosting the **NEW MEMBERS' RECEPTION** at a lakeside pavilion in September. This was a casual meeting which promoted a better understanding between our club's current leaders and some of our newest members. An added twist this year was a cookie exchange. The committee chairs and board members brought cookies to share during the reception, and then all were encouraged to take home as many baggies of their favorite treats as they wished. The leftovers were then frozen to sell at the Market Cafe in October.

Pat Reichelt, Membership Chair

New Fundraising Ideas

The Fundraising Committee is pursuing a brand new as well as a tried and true event to enhance the Civic Club's ability to raise money to give back to local nonprofits.

Fundraising Co-chairs Judi Merriman and BJ Gallagher are organizing a fashion show, Runway for a Cause . . . Fun, Food, Fashion . . . and Style! Chico's Morgantown has agreed to provide the latest fashions. Vanity Station Salon has agreed to help models with their hair. Models are needed by our club. Please consider volunteering.

Approximately eight models will walk the runway to show off the newest spring and summer fashions in three turns each, for a total of 24 different outfits. The clothes will be for sale at the show or may be ordered and picked up at Chico's Morgantown location.

A 10% discount will be given for any items purchased or ordered during the event. The exact date and the venue are still to be determined but the show will take place in May 2026. The cost will be \$45, which will include heavy hors d'oeuvres, such as little sandwiches, cheeses, dips, veggies and fruit trays, and sweets. Non-Alcoholic beverages are included, and wine will be available for purchase.

In addition to the fashion show itself, attendees will have the opportunity to bid on several donated, themed baskets. Twenty dollars will purchase 15 tickets and during the breaks when models are changing, tickets will be drawn, and the Winners can choose whatever baskets they like.

Volunteers are needed! If you would like to be a model, help with the staging of the fashion show, and/or donate a basket, please contact Judi at judimerriman@gmail.com or BJ at drbjgallagher@gmail.com.

About 10 years ago we created a discount card with the help of a vendor company. On the card were about 12-14 area businesses including restaurants that either gave a discount or a free item. Some of the vendors were national companies which would be good to use at any of their locations.

We sold 250 discount cards for the price of \$20 and made a profit of about \$2,200. Each member of the club bought or sold two discount cards, and we sold the rest to the rental companies to share with their clients. It was a successful fundraiser which required little effort. So, we decided to try the cards again. We hope to have the cards ready by the kickoff spring selling season at our Anything Goes Flea Market.

Anyone who has a fundraising idea, please share with our committee, including Anita Eggleston, Mary Alice Simpson, Karen Lauer, Martie Wetmore, Carrie Bohrer, Jeannie Campbell, Kim Carter, and Sally Lazorchak.

Judi Merriman and BJ Gallagher

Foods at the Antique & Artisan Market Cafe

The Café at the Antique & Artisan Market was a great success! Under the leadership of Mary Alice Simpson and Colleen Painter, club members, the community enjoyed some delicious and healthier foods this year! The biggest sellers this year, were the kielbasa and pierogies from Polska Polish Pottery!

The Café held a cooking day at St. Paul's Methodist Church in Oakland on Thursday, October 2nd. Not only was the day a lot of fun, but we also washed, measured, chopped, and stirred our ingredients while chatting. The aroma coming out of that kitchen was AMAZING!!! Thank you to everyone who helped that day! It was a good day, and we made good use of our time!



Our club members were very busy at home, making and baking some of their most famous, delicious bakery items! Big shout out to Louise Carmichael, Karen Lauer, and Melissa Rank for heading up the bakery and bagging, tagging, and slicing all those donated baked goods!



We were so pleased and thankful to have volunteers to help us from the Reflection House on Friday. These ladies were so helpful and were such a delight to work with!

The Café volunteers were amazing, and we all had a good time “calling” our orders back!

Here are some fun facts about the Café!

- We cut and sautéed 15 lbs. of onions to serve with the pierogies.
- We sold 150 baggies of cookies!
- We sold over 45 hot dogs!
- We made 24 egg salad sandwiches
- We sold 56 Kielbasa, Sauerkraut, and Pierogi platters!
- We went through 10 quarts of Sloppy Joes!

From set-up to clean up, things ran very smoothly, and many hands made light of work.

Carrie Bohrer

Autumn Glory Preview Night & Weekend Synopsis

The recent antique show ended successfully, with notable improvements despite a decline in attendance figures. This year, the event featured seven antique dealers, a significant increase from just one dealer last year. Artisan vendors

contributed a range of unique and high-quality items for sale, and overall, vendor feedback regarding their results was positive, with most indicating their intention to participate again next year.

Preview Night attracted 120 attendees who enjoyed complimentary beverages, light refreshments, live music, and a ticket for a door prize drawing. The drawing was a complete BBQ setup donated by Lowe's, which was won by local resident, Susie Sincell. Additionally, we conducted a 50/50 raffle, with club member

Terri Peterson winning and generously donating her winnings back to the club. Public feedback on the event was highly favorable, although vendor responses were mixed, with many reporting modest booth sales.

Appraiser Tom Dolan examined several items and noted the impressive quality and uniqueness of those brought by attendees. He looked at a wide range of treasures from a Shirley Temple doll to baskets, clocks and watches, and an FDR campaign cloth.

Pierogis and Kielbasa were once again a bit of a hit in the café. We ran out of pierogis just after lunch on Saturday. Traditional offerings of beef vegetable and matzo ball soup, sloppy joes and Flo Royer's egg salad were popular as were the baked goods.

A debrief session was held to evaluate this year's successes and areas for improvement, and planning for next year's event will commence shortly. We encouraged suggestions from all participants and stakeholders.

Terri Peterson has worked closely with me throughout the summer to learn the intricacies of organizing the event and will serve as the lead coordinator for next year. She, together with the raffle, sponsor, table, and café coordinators, will work to deliver another outstanding experience for visitors and vendors. As always, this event will require significant volunteer support. Terri shared, "I would like to thank all who volunteered for this event, in so many ways! We can't do this without you! As a newbie to the group, I'd also like to express my appreciation for welcoming me, tutoring me and guiding me along with this venture. Jean, I can't fill your shoes EVER, but I will do my best to make you proud."

A personal note from Jean, "Words cannot fully express my gratitude for the help, support, and words of encouragement from all of you over the past eight years. When I took responsibility for this event in 2017, things were very different. Social media was not prevalent, and we still had plenty of antique dealers to fill the gym. Organizing this event requires the input and hard work of many individuals. I appreciate every hand that helped along the way. Looking forward to next year!"

Please reserve October 8–10, 2026, on your calendars for the next Antiques & Artisans Market.

Jean Tumbarello and Terri Peterson

Our Strategies for Selling Raffle Tickets

Volunteer enthusiasm was one of the strategies which resulted in the best year ever in selling raffle tickets. Thanks to all the volunteers, the Club was able to make more than \$5,000 dollars in raffle sales this year, making 2025 the most successful year ever in raffle fundraising. That's \$1,500 more than 2024.

"It certainly helps us to have wonderful prizes. The quilt, the gift basket and the \$500 cash definitely gets people's attention," stated Jeannie Campbell, who leads raffle sales.

Key to our success in selling raffle tickets is dedicated volunteers who are enthusiastic and willing to engage with people they don't know. "Confidence and clarity help sway people to buy a raffle ticket," Campbell said. "Selling raffle tickets effectively takes a mix of strategy, enthusiasm, and good communication."

It helps that the Civic Club has a sterling reputation in the area. "Local residents know the power of the Civic Club, and all that we do to support the local community," she said. "We tell everyone who buys a ticket that every dollar we earn we give back to Garrett County residents."

Jackie Stein has several helpful tips in selling raffle tickets. "First, believe in what you're doing. If you don't want to sell tickets, do something else. It will show." Second, Jackie said, "Smile a LOT!" She also suggested having a 30-second spiel memorized so you can get it out quickly, for instance, "There are three prizes, including \$500 cash." That always gets their interest. And finally, "when they buy,

thank them and let them know that they're helping us to help non-profits in Garrett County."

It helps us have great prizes that people really want to win. When people see the quilt in particular, they get interested. What persuades people to purchase tickets even more is the Civic Club brand. "People know the work of the Club and our efforts to support the community. They want to help others," Campbell said.

Mike Tumbarello has helped sell raffle tickets for many years during the Antiques & Artisans Market and said his secret is to engage everyone with eye contact and welcome them. "Engaging people one on one, building a relationship and making a connection, really is the secret sauce."

Laurie Grant knows the power of saying "welcome" and "thank you" to everyone who passes by the raffle table. She was incredibly successful in selling raffle tickets at the Antiques & Artisans Market. Her strategy was to offer everyone who passed by the ticket table the opportunity to buy three raffle tickets for \$10 instead of offering raffle tickets one at a time at \$5 each." Her bundling strategy of first telling people that they could buy three tickets for \$10 resulted in huge ticket sales while Laurie staffed the raffle table.

Over the summer, Louise Carmichael had success with a different tactic. She brought her grandson, Wyatt, to the Oakland Farmers Market and had him wave the stop sign (made by Bob Simpson) and that really got people's attention. It's hard to say no to a cute kid.

Selling raffle tickets is a great way to introduce new members to the Club. Raffle sales are most often done with two members and is a fun and productive way to spend a couple of hours.

Jeannie Campbell

Fundraiser Tea and Holiday Boutique Auction

Our fourth annual event was bigger and better than ever! We had a record number of attendees, 43 altogether, a mix of Civic Club and non-Civic Club members. Guests were served a high tea consisting of Butternut Squash and Apple Soup, Autumn Salad, Almond Ginger and Orange Cranberry Scones, Roast Beef

Sandwiches with Onion Jam on Puff Pastry, Smoked Turkey on Seeded Bread with Sweet Potatoes and Cranberry Sauce, Cucumber Open Face Tea Sandwiches, Chocolate Cake with Buttercream and Berry, Apple Cheesecake, and Palmiers. A variety of teas accompanied the meal. To say it was delicious is an understatement!



We again held a hat contest, with Joanne Kozier being voted the winner. Her prize was her tea for free, which she donated back to the club. We are so grateful to our local businesses, organizations, artists, artisans and Civic Club members who donated gift cards, services, artwork, handcrafted items, and merchandise to the auction.

We offer our deepest thanks and appreciation to the following businesses whom donated gift cards: Dutch's, Uno's, Greene Turtle, Mountain State Brewing Company, Stonecroft Manor, Ace's, Schoolhouse Earth, Wild Ember Bread, the Book Market, Walmart, OMG Relax, the Green Room, Mountain Grape Tavern, Ledo's, and Canoe on the Run. Thousand Acres golf course provided a round of golf for four, Stage West provided two 5-concert ticket packages, HART for Animals donated two nights at the Bed n Bark and tickets for Art & Wine 2026. Seth Ann Snider of Body Centric contributed two Pilates lessons, Funland offered six passes for mini golf, and Garrett Automotive offered an oil change. The Community Aquatics and Recreation Center (CARC) contributed a senior couple's membership as well as three daily passes. The Garrett Community Concert Band donated four tickets to its

Holiday Concert and the Garrett Choral Society donated two tickets to its holiday event. Simon Pierce donated a beautiful 14-inch Christmas tree. Instead of bidding on the tree through a silent auction, we offered attendees the chance to purchase raffle tickets at \$10 each. We sold 38 tickets, and the winner of the tree was Roxanne Bazzini.



Garrett County's artist and artisan community stepped up to contribute beautiful, handcrafted items for the boutique. Sue Arnson, Mari Vaughn, Gisele Mohler, BJ Gallagher, Donna Midcap, Joan Cheney, John Wilmot, Ruth Beitzel, Keen & Bright Art Glass, Hentosh Photography, and Barb's Baubles all provided works of art or handcrafted items for the auction. And finally, we thank our Civic Club members who contributed jewelry and wine: Darla Soles, Linda Luedeke, Martie Wetmore, Judi Merriman. And we especially want to thank Linda Heine, aka Yummy Crumb Gals, for hosting us in her home, which was so beautifully decorated for fall.



With this vast array of enticing auction items, almost everyone at the tea found something to bid on. In total, the Civic Club earned \$4,158.85, up from last year's profit of \$3,300. Next year, we hope to hold our tea in a different, larger venue to accommodate more guests, and hopefully more auction items. Looking forward to seeing you all back in 2026!

Judi Merriman, Tea Fundraiser Chair

Growing Fiber Group Donations

The Fiber Group continues to knit and crochet items. The ones completed at this point of the year were donated to three locations: the SING Program at Garrett College, The Lighthouse Gift Shop, and Oakland Rehabilitation Center. We donated 14 scarves, 7 cowls, 6 hats, 3 headbands, 3 triangle shawls, and 11 washcloths. Collectively that equates to 380 hours of work. A special thank you to all our knitters and crocheters. Your work makes a difference!



As a group, we continue to make handwarmers, scarves, cowls, hats, headbands, washcloths, and triangle shawls. Our next batch of items will be donated to the newly created 360 Access Hub, also known as the Garrett County Food Bank Project, located off Liberty Street near the Garrett County Habitat for Humanity. This group was created in partnership by Garrett County Community

Action Committee, Garrett County Health Department, and Maryland Physicians Care.

BJ Gallagher

All About Book Club

The Civic Club Book Club meets on the third Friday monthly, with the exception of December, at the Stone Croft Restaurant in Oakland at 12 Noon. Robin McGill and Willeta Mateer lead the group. This year, the group read some very interesting novels. The person who recommends the book typically leads the monthly discussion. The group rates each book read from 1 - 5, 5 being excellent. The average of each person's rating is calculated and shared.

Here are some books we read this year with the highest ratings.

The Engineer's Wife by Tracey Enerson Wood - A Novel about the Brooklyn Bridge which was built by a woman.

This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger - Story about four orphans who travel the Mississippi River during the Great Depression.

The Light Pirate by Lily Brooks-Dalton - Set in the future in Florida, a story of survival resilience.

The Indigo Girl by Natasha Boyd - A story of a sixteen-year-old girl in Colonial South Carolina, her ambition, betrayal, and sacrifice.

Take My Hand by Dolen Perkins Valdez - Inspired from true events, a Black Nurse in post segregation Alabama who blows the whistle on an injustice to her patients.

How to Read a Book by Monica Wood - Story about an English Teacher and a life changing power of sharing stories.

One month we each picked a different book written by Jane Austen. We discussed the similarities and differences of classic Austen wrote.

Suzanne Harle

Sewing with the Ladies at Reflection House

Jean Tumbarello started teaching the ladies at Reflection House shortly after the program opened in September 2024. With her upcoming move to Gettysburg, BJ Gallagher and Joan Harvey have agreed to be a sewing tag team, splitting the time to teach the ladies some techniques and make some small sewing projects. We meet two Wednesdays a month at Reflection House in their sewing room and have created carry bags, coasters, scarves, table runners, ornaments, and quilts. It is a blessing to see the ladies beam as they complete their projects. If you want to help, please contact BJ Gallagher.

BJ Gallagher

What does GFWC mean?

GFWC stands for the General Federation of Women's Clubs. It is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. With more than 60,000 members in affiliated clubs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and more than a dozen countries, GFWC members work in their communities to support the arts, preserve natural resources, advance education, promote healthy lifestyles, and encourage civic involvement.

Founded in 1890, GFWC's roots can be traced back to 1868 when Jane Cunningham Croly, a professional journalist, attempted to attend a dinner at an all-male press club honoring British novelist Charles Dickens. Croly was denied admittance based upon her gender, and in response, formed a woman's club—Soros. In celebration of Soros' 21st anniversary in 1889, Jane Croly invited women's clubs throughout the United States to pursue the cause of federation by attending a convention in New York City. On April 24, 1890, 63 clubs officially formed the General Federation of Women's Clubs by ratifying the GFWC constitution. (GFWC website (2025) <https://www.gfwc.org/who-we-are/>)

Since 1890, GFWC has been active throughout communities across the US and in 15 countries: Aruba, Austria, Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Curacao, Cyprus, Korea, Netherlands Antilles, Peru, Philippines, Taiwan, Uganda, and Ukraine.

The Civic Club of Oakland came into existence in 1911 and joined the GFWC in 1913. Our club is part of the GFWC Southeastern Region, which includes: the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The Civic Club of Oakland has been part of the GFWC for 112 years and has been working for our community for 114 years! Our club continues to grow and prosper. Thank you, ladies!

BJ Gallagher, Club Historian