

CIVIC CLUB OF OAKLAND

Spring 2026 NEWSLETTER



Co-Presidents' Corner

The main reason I stepped up to help Suzanne as Co-President was to become more involved and help to increase the amount of funds that we give to non-profits each year. We remain a consistent source of support for our community, and as part of the Civic Club of Oakland, we want to keep doing more.

The new motto “**Teamwork**” helps us to focus on working together for our common causes. **Teamwork** is defined as the “collaborative effort of a group of people working together to achieve a common goal efficiently and effectively.” It’s a core concept in fields like Organizational Behavior and is essential in workplaces, sports, and everyday life.

The key elements of **Teamwork** are:

- **Communication** – Clear sharing of ideas, feedback, and information
- **Trust** – Confidence in each other’s abilities and intentions
- **Collaboration** – Actively working together and supporting one another
- **Accountability** – Each member takes responsibility for their role
- **Respect** – Valuing diverse perspectives and contributions

Teamwork matters because it:

- Increases productivity and efficiency
- Encourages creativity and innovation
- Builds stronger relationships
- Helps solve complex problems faster

So, in our upcoming fundraisers, we need everyone to help be the change! Support our Civic Club of Oakland so that we can raise our yearly donation bar and help other non-profits achieve their goals!

BJ Gallagher, Co-President

This year our Club is off to a good start. We've voted for our non-profit organizations and our April Anything Goes Flea Market was a great success. I would like to thank all of you who volunteered and the many members who donated items. Without you, we would not meet our goals. Give yourself a pat on your back!

As a member of our Club, you should expect to become a volunteer at any of our events. This is one of the best ways to meet new members and make new friends. Our theme is Teamwork, which is who we are. A large team that gets together to have fun, raise funds, provide to those in need and give back to our community. We also educate ourselves each month with our luncheon/dinner programs. We do take time out to enjoy ourselves with our July picnic and our December holiday party. These two events give you an opportunity to include your other half.

To all new members welcome and dig in! You should have a mentor that helps you navigate the many things the Club does weekly and monthly. It's a lot to take in until you have at least one year under your belt. If you haven't already joined a group, consider our craft, fiber, book club, hospitality, environment, or Warm the Children program. Each of these groups have an experienced chairperson to lead you where they are headed.

Selling raffle tickets with another member is the best way to learn more about each other. Another way to get to know one another is during our monthly meetings when we mix up the seating arrangements. Take advantage of this seating to meet members you do not know.

This year, the GFWC International Day of Service on September 26th is again focused on domestic violence. We will be working closely with The Dove Center, determining how we can support the Center's needs. In the coming months, we'll let you know how you can assist in celebrating this Day of Service.

Suzanne Harle, Co-President

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

Save the Date: Fashion Show, Saturday, June 13th

The Civic Club of Oakland is pleased to announce its first annual “Runway for a Cause: Fun, Food, Friends . . . and Style,” a fashion show featuring clothing from Chico’s of Morgantown. The event will be held on June 13, 2026, from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm at St. Peter’s Catholic Church Hall in Oakland.

Models will “walk the runway” in Chico’s latest spring and summer fashions, which will be available for purchase or a 10% off show rate. Attendees will be able to purchase raffle tickets for the chance to win baskets featuring items such as wine, spices, games, tickets to the Wine 2026, stemware, homemade peach and apple butter, s’mores, kitchen items, summer related items, a quilted throw, and much more.

A unique feature of the event will be a “Gently Worn and Beautifully Reborn” jewelry sale. Goehringer’s Catering will provide lunch, and wine by the glass will be available for purchase. Cashmere, the clothing store at the lake, will be selling accessories.

The cost of the show is \$50 per person. Tables for 7 are available. Reservations must be made by June 3 by sending a check made out to the Civic Club of Oakland, PO Box 167, Oakland, MD 21550, paying on our website, or scanning the QR code below. There can be no refunds after this date.



The proceeds from this event will benefit local non-profits. This year the Civic of Oakland donated \$20,000 to 25 Garrett County charitable organizations. For questions or more information, please contact the Club at civicclubofoaklandmd@gmail.com.

A special “Thank You” to Stefanie Cornish of Vanity Station, for donating her time to update each model’s hair before the event and on the day of the event.

Can’t wait to see you there!

BJ Gallagher & Judi Merriman

New Members Welcome

We have seven more **NEW MEMBERS** for fall 2025 to spring 2026.

	Maria Acker recently retired from a long career with the U.S. Department of Justice, where she worked for the nation’s largest criminal justice grant-making and policy agency, including years focused on victim services and supporting communities impacted by crime and crisis. Now living full-time in Deep Creek Lake, MD, Maria enjoys community involvement, wine and hospitality experiences, and spending time with her husband Mike, who continues to lead his work with Acker Law Group, and their two sons as they each navigate exciting new chapters of life.
	Debbie Burk is married to a retired Lutheran Pastor; they have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. Debbie was a former Peace Corps Volunteer in Kenya and Family and Consumer Sciences teacher.
	Becky Franzak is married to Jay. They have six children and three grandchildren. Becky has been in the biotech world for over 35 years and is currently a Study Logistics Specialist at Charles River Laboratories. She loves helping the community in her spare time.

	Dana Monahan Dana Monahan was born in Baltimore, grew up in Fullerton, MD. She enjoyed a successful career as a licensed cosmetologist & hairstylist. Dana later became a licensed real estate agent, transitioning into private elder and hospice care for families in need. She continues to assist families in Garrett & Allegany counties. In 2023, Dana relocated to LaVale, met & married her high school classmate, Dave Monahan. They reside in Sunset View in LaVale. She has two children, seven grandchildren. Dana has been able to combine her passion of caring for others & hairstyling in LaVale. She spends her spare time gardening & chasing two ornery pups.
	Chris Riley joins the Club after a rewarding 33-year career in federal service. She's loving retirement here in Garrett County and the opportunity to focus on life's greatest pleasures, choosing to serve in the roles of wife, mother, aunt, friend, and world traveler. She's all in.
	Patti Serridge spent pre-retirement in, as she says, the pretty part of New Jersey. She even stayed in New Jersey for college at Centenary College. After friends introduced them to the Deep Creek area, they purchased a second home here. In the fall of 2019, they retired and moved here full time. They do visit NJ often as their adult children and granddaughter live there. Patti stated they are still struck by the great sense of community and the warm and friendly vibe here at the lake.
	Rose Silverstein has been a homeowner at Deep Creek Lake since 2013. She made the lake her primary residence in the fall of 2025. Rose retired from the financial world in 2022. She enjoys walking, traveling, playing Mahjong, and spending time with her family and friends. She has a 25-year old son and an 11-week old golden retriever grand puppy.

Linda Kelly, Membership Chair

Anything Goes Flea Market

We've had six years of success with our Anything Goes Flea Market despite a second year of rain. Four vendors were no-shows. Our success was due to our members

donating great flea items and the work of 19 of our members who volunteered. The vendors were happy, and we made a total of \$2,188, which funds the Garrett College scholarships that we give out in May.



New this year at the farmer's market building was a built-in speaker system which made it easier to communicate with the buyers. We had a lot of items to fill our six Civic Club tables. Items that were not sold were donated to two non-profits, the Nearly New and Garrett County Habitat for Humanity. No donated items were wasted.

Suzanne Harle

Consider the Civic Club as Part of Your Planned Giving

Planning your estate can feel overwhelming, but it's an essential step in ensuring your wishes are honored if you are no longer able to speak for yourself. Whether your estate is modest or substantial, a thoughtful plan helps protect your legacy and provide for the people and causes you care about most.

As part of this process, members may wish to consider including the Civic Club of Oakland in their estate plans. According to the Pew Research Center, only about 66 percent of people over the age of 70 have a will. Creating an estate plan not only provides peace of mind but also offers an opportunity to make a lasting impact through planned giving. Many individuals choose to support charitable organizations, including local nonprofits like the Civic Club of Oakland, as part of their legacy.

Planned giving benefits both donors and the organizations they support. For the Civic Club, it helps build long-term, sustainable funding to continue its mission and community programs here in Garrett County. For donors, it offers a meaningful way to

reflect personal values, create a lasting legacy, and potentially receive financial and tax advantages.

Most importantly, planned giving allows individuals to make a greater impact than might be possible during their lifetime — leaving behind a legacy of generosity and purpose.

For more information about planned giving, please consult your attorney or financial advisor.

Jeannie Campbell

The Discount Cards Are Here!

We have begun selling our 225 Civic Club of Oakland discount cards for the price of \$20 and should make a profit of at least \$2,700. If we sell this first batch quickly, we can order more cards in 50 card allotments. Each member of the Club is asked to sell two discount cards.



The card is good for one year, until April 30, 2027, featuring these primary discounts:

To see ALL discounts provided with this card: **Member ID #**

1. Go to xtramancardholder.com or scan QR code with your smartphone →

2. Login or register your card using your Member ID (printed above).



 Customer Service 800.331.8867 

In addition to all the discounts found online, take advantage of these extra local savings:

STONECROFT MANOR - 10% OFF (Excluding Alcohol) - 830 Memorial Dr
SUBWAY - 6" Meal Deals for \$6.99 (Any Eligible Sub) - 13164 Garrett Hwy
THE CASSELMAN BAKERY & CAFE - FREE Cookie w/ Any Menu Sandwich - 19595 Garrett Hwy
THE GREENE TURTLE Sports Bar & Grill - \$5 OFF a Purchase of \$30+ (Excl Alcohol) - 75 Visitors Center Dr
DEEP CREEK BEVERAGE - 10% OFF Cash, 7% OFF CC Alcohol Purchases (Excl Allocations) - 25297 Garrett Hwy
MOUNTAIN STATE BREWING CO. - 10% OFF (Excluding Alcohol) - 6690 Sang Run Rd
THE ALLEY - 20% OFF 1 16" Pizza - 499 Oakland Dr
206 ALDER BISTRO & BAR - \$10 OFF a Purchase of \$50 or More - 206 E Alder St
DAIRY QUEEN GRILL & CHILL - \$1 OFF a Blizzard (Excluding Mini Size) - 12740 Garrett Hwy
TRADER'S COFFEE HOUSE - 10% OFF Total Purchase - 21311 Garrett Hwy
THE GREEN ROOM LOUNGE - 10% OFF Total Purchase - 119 S 2nd St
THE ROWDY ROOSTER BAR & GRILLE - 10% OFF (Excluding Alcohol) - 17869 Garrett Hwy
MOUNTAIN POSTAL - 10% OFF Total Purchase - 13180 Garrett Hwy
HARVEST HOUSE - 10% OFF (Excluding Alcohol) - 2132 Friendsville Rd
LEDO PIZZA - 10% OFF Total Purchase - 24465 Garrett Hwy

All discounts subject to change and valid only at participating locations. Discounts not valid with other sales, promotions or discounts unless specified. Limit one discount per person per day. "Buy One, Get One" offers are on equal or lesser value items. Discount may be denied for misuse of card or errors/omissions. Other restrictions may apply. Full details at participating locations.

Once you register the card at xtramancardholder.com, there are over 300,000 more discounts that you can benefit from if you are traveling around the US. All you do is

enter the zip code of your location, and the app will populate whatever discount is available in that area.

This fundraiser can be highly successful with your help and requires little effort. We started selling the cards at the kickoff spring selling season at our Anything Goes Flea Market and were well received! Personally, I have used my card and have already received more than \$20 worth of savings, and the year has just started.

Please consider selling more than two cards. If you need more cards, please contact me at drbigallagher@gmail.com. Remember, the more cards we sell, the more money for our non-profits! Thanks for helping.

BJ Gallagher

Road Clean Up by the Environmental Group

The crew met and had their first road cleanup on Wednesday, April 22 (Earth Day). Ten women worked for two hours and collected 15 bags of trash with a total weight 80 pounds. The next road cleanups include Thursday, May 28; Wednesday, July 1 (this was originally scheduled for July 2), and Thursday, September 3.



The group meets at 10:00 am at Burger King in McHenry. Most road cleanups last about an hour. The April cleanup was longer because it was the first one of the year and after all winter, trash builds up more.



Kathy Zimmer

Sewing with the Ladies at Reflection House

We meet two Wednesdays a month at Reflection House in their sewing room and have started a Certificate of Basic Sewing, highlighting independent sewing skills including how to thread a machine, wind a bobbin, problem solve basic machine issues. The ladies must complete three projects to earn the certificate. They have created carry bags, coasters, scarves, table runners, and quilts. We have several ladies who will be earning their certificates in the next couple of weeks! It is a blessing to see the ladies beam as they complete their projects.

We need the following items: four fabric scissors, four rotary cutters with blades, sewing machine needles, pins, clips, fabric markers, one yard minimum of a variety of fabrics, batting, fusible interfacing, and 12 one-inch binders.

If you can help with any of these items or want to volunteer to help sew with the ladies, please let me know and I can arrange pick up or you can bring them to the May or June meetings.

Bj Gallagher

History Corner: The Early Days of the Civic Club

In 1914, the Oakland Civic Club published The Maryland Cookbook which featured the humorous recipe by F.W. Sumner named "How to Cook a Husband." In 2014, we re-published the cookbook, combining updated recipes.

In 1916, the Oakland Civic Club became part of the National General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). At that time, the ladies began to broaden their interests to include needy children, the Free Library, and having a restroom for women and children during the County Fair. At that time, the major focus of the GFWC nationally was to

encourage women to improve their skills, expand their rights, and apply their abilities and special sensitivity to the problems of their communities and nations.

As early as 1916, the Oakland Civic Club sought to buy provisions before winter to help the poor, should the price of food soar any higher than it already was. In 1919-1920, the Club raised money to assist the Free Library since it needed funding.

So, the Oakland Civic Club, just like today's Civic Club of Oakland, sought to help those in need in our community. Our reach has long been an integral part of Garrett County history.

BJ Gallagher, Club Historian

Donations to Non-Profits 2026

The Board of the Civic Club of Oakland wants to express our deepest THANK YOU to all members. With each of you and your support, we were able to donate \$20,000 to the following non-profits this year. Our fundraising efforts have increased and the amount of money that we are able to give to the non-profits also grows. Please keep supporting our fundraisers!

Non-Profit	Amount Donated
Dove Center	\$ 1,300.00
GC Forestry	\$ 710.00
Believe in Tomorrow	\$ 1,070.00
GC Concert Band	\$ 570.00
Cindy's Fund	\$ 940.00
GC Com Action Meals on Wheels	\$ 1,110.00
James Isaac House	\$ 600.00
Bridging Gaps	\$ 830.00
Garrett Mentors	\$ 670.00
GC Habitat for Humanity	\$ 1,010.00

Garrett Choral Society	\$ 430.00
GC NAACP	\$ 640.00
GC Lighthouse	\$ 1,210.00
Hospice of Garrett County	\$ 1,240.00
GC Historical Society	\$ 560.00
Our Town Theater	\$ 940.00
Garrett Composite Mountain Bike	\$ 850.00
Garrett College I Can Swim	\$ 980.00
Crellin Elementary	\$ 880.00
Oakland Golf Club	\$ 320.00
AAUW	\$ 770.00
Oakland Cemetery Monuments Restoration	\$ 590.00
Stage WEST Arts	\$ 490.00
Highland Festival GC	\$ 490.00
Friends of Ruth Enlow Library	\$ 800.00
Total	\$ 20,000.00

Here are some of the thank you notes that we received from the non-profits. We make a difference!

“On behalf of everyone at Oakland Golf Club, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to you and the members of the GFWC Civic Club of Oakland for your generous donation of \$320 to our Kids Camp.

We truly appreciate your continued support of our club and our efforts within the community. Contributions like yours make a meaningful impact and help us continue to provide quality programs for all to enjoy. Thank you again for your support, and we wish your organization continued success in all the great work you do for our community.”

Jason Finch, Director of Golf, Oakland Golf Club

"This is wonderful news! Thank you and your wonderful organization for this kind gift that will go a long way in helping with our Barter Camp this year!! We appreciate you and your great organization."

Mikey, Our Town Theater

"Thank you so much for this incredible donation, this is amazing!!

I'm so glad I had the chance to meet you all and learn more about the Civic Club of Oakland last year, and that Katie was able to share more about our work with you as well. It's been wonderful building that connection, and I'm truly grateful for your continued support. Thank you again for all that you do!"

Cassidy Roberts, Believe in Tomorrow

"This is wonderful news! Congratulations Ellen, I believe this is the largest gift that we have received for the I Can Swim! Program since we have been involved with this particular effort. Many, many thanks to our very generous Civic Club members."

Cherie Krug, Garrett College

"Wow! Great news! Thank you so much!!"

Laura Fike, Executive Director, Garrett Mentors

"This is great! It will help a lot of people. Thank you!!"

Sandy, Cindy's Fund

"Amazing! Thank you so much! We are very grateful!"

Kasey, Bridging Gaps

Carrie Bohrer

Supporting Our Students: The Growing Need at Garrett College

The Garrett College Students In Need Group (SING) is a volunteer group of Garrett College staff and faculty, and members of the local community. They are dedicated to

providing assistance to all Garrett College students, both on-campus and off-campus, in times of need. The group provides services including; food, winter clothing, textbooks, transportation, and housing deposit assistance.

As we all navigate the rising cost of living, our students at Garrett College are feeling the squeeze more than ever. During the Fall 2025 semester, the SING Food Pantry saw a significant **12% increase in student visits** compared to the previous year, totaling 281 visits. The total visits for the 2025-2026 school year were 502, from 120 different students. This represents 1/3 of the total student body (excluding high school students). With inflation driving up the price of staples, our operating costs have surged over the last three years. We are committed to providing more than just non-perishables; we are actively working to increase the variety of fresh, healthy foods available—such as eggs, cheese, and produce—to ensure our students have the nutrition they need to succeed in the classroom.

There are several ways you can help us sustain this vital resource and keep our students warm and fed next year:

- **Online:** Make a secure gift at my.garrettcollege.edu/gcm/gift/personalinfo.
- **By Phone:** Call **301-387-3131** to make a pledge or credit card contribution.
- **By Mail:** Send checks payable to the **Garrett College Foundation** (Memo: SING) to 687 Mosser Road, McHenry, MD 21541.
- **Direct Donations:** We gratefully accept food and personal care items for the pantry, as well as new or gently used winter gear—including coats, blankets, hats, and gloves—for our seasonal clothing giveaway.

Your generosity ensures that Garrett College remains a place where every student has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of the challenges they face.

Kim Newman, Coordinator of Student Affairs, Garrett College