

CIVIC CLUB OF OAKLAND

SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER



CO-PRESIDENTS' CORNER

Is it spring yet? I sure hope by the time this newsletter comes out, spring finally decides to stick around for a while. One or two warm days followed by a day with snow and cold temperatures are such a tease! Good thing daffodils are resilient. The ones in my yard seem to do OK after popping out of the ground only to be hit with snowflakes overnight.

We must be doing something right; we welcomed thirteen new members last year and four new members already this year! My husband, Mike, is president of the Oakland Rotary and he is so jealous! He keeps asking what we are doing to have so many new people. I tell him we have wonderful members who make great ambassadors; they love being a part of the club and community. They talk up the Civic Club wherever they go. People want to join in on the fun and support the community they call 'home'.

I am very impressed by the enthusiasm of our new members. Many of you have already jumped in and found ways to help the club and the community. Thank you so much! We love hearing your ideas and suggestions on how to make the Civic Club even better. May your energy stay strong as we move forward with our many activities and events for the year. There is much to look forward to doing.

I would like to mention two new members who have been a tremendous help to me personally by taking over two big jobs from me. First is Linda Kelly who has taken on the task of updating the website. What a phenomenal job she has done! Please check it out when you get a chance <https://civicclubofoaklandmd.com/>. You will be hearing more about the new website at the May meeting, learning how to access the members only section and renewing your membership online – a VERY easy process. Linda has devoted many hours to making sure the website is exciting to read, uploading new pictures, and ensuring member information is safe and secure.

Terry Weyant is another brand-new member who is learning this year how to coordinate the Anything Goes Flea Market. I called her out of the blue to ask if she would be interested and she did not hesitate to say yes! I love it when that happens. We are working together to make a smooth transition for next year. I know everyone involved with this event will help as she learns names and roles along with putting her own ideas into action.

Here's to another fun and successful year!

Jean Tumbarello, Co-President

We are now going into our second year being your Co-Presidents. As a member, there are many ways you can volunteer throughout the year. Please take advantage. Volunteering involves giving your time and provides opportunities to meet club members. Think about joining the Book Club, Craft Group, or Fiber Group. If your goal is to help other members, try the Hospitality Committee. When you sell raffle tickets, you are scheduled with another member. This is the best way to learn more about each other.

Throughout the year at our monthly luncheons, random seating arrangements will be set up which is designed for members to get to know other members. Take advantage of these seating arrangements to meet members you do not know.

In case you did not notice when registering on Punchbowl for our monthly meeting, there is now an opportunity to choose a vegetarian lunch or to add special dietary needs. Please read all the information provided to let us know your preferences.

Thank you to those who came to the March meeting or sent in your ballot voting for the non-profit organizations. Your vote was important to help determine the amount of funds each non-profit received.

When you receive the luncheon or dinner agenda each month, please take note of the "Upcoming Dates" at the end. This listing contains valuable information regarding upcoming events in which you can participate.

The GFWC Day of Service changes every two years. This year the GFWC International Day of Service will be held on September 27, 2025. The focus will be domestic violence. We will be working closely with the Dove Center to determine their specific needs. Keep a look out for how you can assist us in celebrating this Day of Service.

Suzanne Harle, Co-President

"Our journey is never complete – there is always something that is going on or something to prepare for."

WORK UNDER WAY FOR NEW WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES

Over the winter months work has been under way to enhance the club's website to improve usability and information sharing among members as well as the public. Linda Kelly has led these efforts and will provide a show and tell of the upgrades during the May general membership meeting. "This has been an incredible undertaking and one long overdue. The improvements to the website are terrific and I am excited to share them with our members." said Co-President Jean Tumbarello.

Members will be able to access the yearbook in a member only section of the new website and will be able to renew membership online. Future plans include adding more information about Committees, fundraising efforts and general club activities. "We're also hoping to have the nonprofit applications online for local charities to submit their request for funding from the club," Linda Kelly said. Plans are in the works to enable members to submit volunteer hours via the website as well.

“The website is an important tool to promote the Club and its contributions to the local community and to share information with one another,” Kelly said.

<https://civicclubofoaklandmd.com/>



*Dedicated to Community Improvement by Enhancing
the Lives of Others Through Volunteer Service*

Tumbarello said that members have also focused on promoting upcoming events through the use of social media, including Facebook and Instagram. “We need help getting the word out about upcoming events, we don’t have a daily newspaper and people increasingly rely on social media for their news. If you see a post on Facebook or Instagram about the club, please share it with others as it can really help us get the word out about events like the Anything Goes Flea Market and the Antiques & Artisans Market,” Tumbarello said.

Jeannie Campbell

NEW MEMBERS

Spring 2025 has started with a blast of 4 new members, which swells our ranks to 72 active members in addition to our 9 Honorary members. Let's meet them now.

Karen Ackerman recently retired after working as a CPA at Garrett Regional Medical Center. Originally from Detroit, she and her Staten Island husband raised their family in Westminster, where they lived for 25 years. Karen has a son and a daughter, both of whom live in Texas. She recently became a first-time grandmother.



Kim Ferguson is a self-described "Lucy" with a strong personality and is fiercely independent. She has been married for 47 years, blessed with 2 sons, 2 daughters-in-law, and now an amazing grandson. She enjoyed a successful sales/sales management career for 35+ years. She values her family, lifelong friendships, her furry pets, enjoys scenic photography, and playing Rummikub. Kim looks forward to pitching in with our crafting group, raising money, and building new friendships.



JoEllen Osiecki has been married for 34 years. She and her husband raised their two sons in Fairfax County Virginia before retiring in 2021 and moving to McHenry in 2023. They have just become brand new grandparents to a little boy, who lives in Virginia. Their younger son now lives in Denver. JoEllen has held various jobs including teaching adult computer classes and managing a small medical practice. Her hobbies include reading, crafting, dog walking, and volunteering.



Terri Peterson and her husband now live in Sky Valley. She was employed for 23 years at Clearview Federal Credit Union, followed by Student Choice (a credit union servicing agency). Terri retired this past February. She has 3 children and 6 grandchildren who live in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Texas. Terri is looking forward to more time with the "grands," traveling, and enjoying the lake.



Pat Reichelt, Membership Chair

BOARD APPROVES REVISION TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Board voted to approve updates to the Civic Club's Policies and Procedures during its April 2025 monthly meeting. Most of the changes to the Policies and Procedures were to align the policies with the revised Bylaws which became effective in March 2025. The revised Policies and Procedures included adding job descriptions and roles and responsibilities of Board member positions. A new addendum on the club's Standing Committees and the purpose of each Committee was also added.

Members of the Committee that led the revisions to both the Policies and Procedures as well as the Bylaws included Jeannie Campbell, Kathy McNerney, Judi Merriman, Darla Soles and Martie Wetmore. The Bylaws Committee will review the Bylaws as well as the Policies and Procedures on an annual basis to ensure they are up to date with club practices and governance best practices.

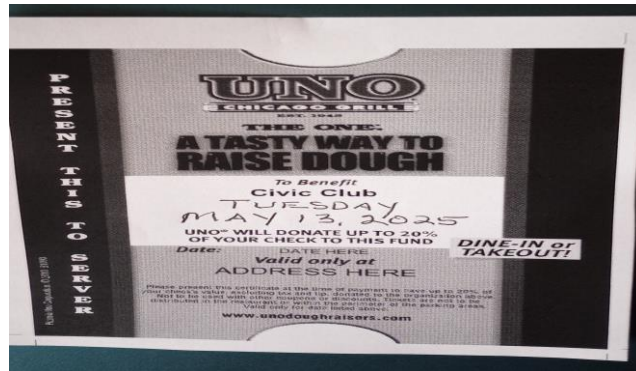
The updated Policies and Procedures and the revised Bylaws can be found on the club's website in the members only section at: <https://civicclubofoaklandmd.com/members-only-1>.

Jeannie Campbell

UNO'S DOUGH RAISER

On Tuesday, May 13, 2025, the Civic Club will be participating in an Uno's Dough Raiser. It is a terrific opportunity not only to eat at UNO's Restaurant and not have to cook at home for an evening but to raise money for the club. Twenty percent of your bill will be sent to the Civic Club as a donation.

This is the time to gather your family and friends to eat at UNO's. Please make sure you and others each have one of UNO's Civic Club tickets to give to your server.



Uno's Civic Club Ticket

It is my understanding the restaurant will except a picture of the ticket from your phone. Let us make this a remarkably successful Dough Raiser!

Suzanne Harle

2025 NON-PROFIT GRANT PROGRAM

Twenty-two non-profit organizations that serve Garrett County residents applied to the Civic Club in winter 2024 for grants to meet specifically identified needs within each organization. Each organization attended our March 25 luncheon meeting and gave a two-minute presentation about their organization's request which included information regarding what they would use the funds to accomplish. Our fundraising efforts throughout 2024 allowed us to donate \$14,585 to these 22 community-centered groups.

The top recipients were the Dove Center (\$1,190), Reflection House (\$1,005), and Garrett County Community Action Committee – Meals on Wheels Program (\$985). Each group was notified via email of their awarded amount and checks were processed in mid-April.

Colleen Painter

NEW MEMBER LUNCHEON

On March 11, a new member luncheon was held for the 13 members who joined the club in 2024. A total of nine were able to attend along with ten Board and Committee Chairs. Food was provided by the 'senior' members attending. The gathering was casual and festive.

A 'pass the bag' game opened the meeting with six people receiving handmade trinkets to take home. Often times it takes a while to understand how our club fits into the larger GFWC picture and this was illustrated by an organizational chart made and presented by Suzanne Harle.

<p>GFWC (Mother Ship) General Federation of Women's Club</p>
<p>REGIONS GFWC Southeastern Region District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia</p>
<p>GFWC MARYLAND General Federation of Women's Club</p>
<p>Maryland Districts Western, Chesapeake, and Montgomery County</p>
<p>WESTERN MARYLAND DISTRICT - 7 CLUBS</p>
<p>GFWC Centennial Club of Western District GFWC Junior Women's Civic Club of Cumberland, Inc. The Frederick Women's Civic Club, Inc. GFWC Civic Club of Oakland, Maryland, Inc Junior Women's Civic Club of Garrett County GFWC Civic Club of Westminster, Inc. GFWC Junior Women's Club of Westminster, Inc.</p>

Corresponding Secretary Colleen Painter gave a short 'tutorial' in advance of the non-profit presentation meeting on how our donation process works, the voting process, counting of the ballots and distribution of funds to each organization.

Each committee chair was given time to explain their purpose and answer questions. The group learned about specific ways to become involved in the club depending on their interests.

Future new member gatherings will be organized by the hospitality committee. For 2025, we already have four new members with three of them joining on the spot at the March meeting! Welcome to all our new members.

Jean Tumbarello

THE ANYTHING GOES YARD SALE & MAKERS MARKET

Year Five is in the books and it was a great year despite the weather. This year, we filled all our designated tables in the pavilion and had additional vendors outside. Approximately 2,000 people attended this year's market. The vendors were happy, and the Civic Club earned \$2,035 to fund the Garrett College scholarships in May.



Outside the Anything Goes Flea Market

We had a LOT of items to fill our five Civic Club tables and had very little left that wasn't sold. Items that were not sold were donated to the two non-profits, the Nearly New and Garrett County Habitat for Humanity. So, not much went to waste.

Plants were big sellers. Joan Harvey and her crew did a great job organizing and selling our 'fleas.' The bake table had a good bit of competition from other vendors, but Karen and her helpers enticed visitors to purchase cookies, brownies, snacks, and coffee. The bake table brought in \$311. A big thank you to all our bakers. Raffle ticket sales for our October raffle have begun. The raffle tickets raised \$280.



Karen and Linda selling tickets

The increase in raffle price did not appear to have an impact on sales. The quilt top was on display and received favorable comments for the design and colors.

Many thanks to all who helped me with this event. It truly takes a village to pull all the parts together. Terry Weyant will coordinate the event next year and will be counting on all of us to pitch in and help make our sixth year even better.

***Jean Tumbarello and Terry Weyant
Co-Chairpersons for Anything Goes Flea Market***

THE WASHINGTON ELM

Denise Shay, the Regent of the Youghiogheny Glades Chapter of NSDAR, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, contacted the Civic Club regarding our knowledge of the history of the Washington Elm planted in Garrett County in honor of George Washington's 200th birthday anniversary (1732-1932).

The tree is the great-grand tree of the elm tree under located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where George Washington accepted the command of the American Army in the Revolutionary War. In 1926, Mrs. James Dorsey, a descendant of Governor Bradford, the first governor of Massachusetts, decided to grow seeds and root-shoots from the original tree and send trees to each state capital in 1932.

About 1930, Mrs. Dorsey, a member of DAR from Baltimore, and a friend of Lottie Loar, the Civic Club President from 1928-1938, sent Lottie several trees. Mrs. Loar first planted the trees in her yard to make sure they were tended. When the trees were big enough, one tree was planted on the property of the Episcopal Church Parish House at the corner of Second and Center Streets in Oakland, Maryland and the others in a nearby park by the Oakland Hotel. When the tree was planted, residents placed soil from nine locations important to George Washington's life including Valley Forge and Philadelphia. The tree grew at this location until the church expanded.

Then on October 29, 1950, the tree needed to be moved. The Civic Club and Rotary Club rededicated the tree in honor of Lottie Loar at its current location at the Garrett Regional Medical Center (GRMC). The DAR and GRMC are planning a re-dedication this July, and they want to include the Civic Club of Oakland.



BJ Gallagher Club Historian

Table of Contents

Co-Presidents’ Corner 1

Work Under Way for New Website and Social Media Activities..... 2

New Members 3

Board Approves Revision To Policies and Procedures 4

UNO’s Dough Raiser 5

2025 Non-Profit Grant Program..... 5

New Member Luncheon..... 6

The Anything Goes Yard Sale & Makers Market 7

The Washington Elm 8