



HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS

a report to the membership



March

2026



Penny Badolato...In Memoriam

On January 16th we lost a charter member, former President and key supporter of Ruth House (Hand in Hand). Many of her friends had a chance to attend her Celebration of Life.

Her obituary follows"

On January 16th, Heaven gained a creative, loving, energetic and tenacious Renaissance woman...my mom. The indomitable Pamela "Penny" Badolato is finally in comfort after her most recent challenge battling colon cancer. I cannot think of a more fit 74 years young lady that took care of

herself. Be it swimming a mile in the morning, taking on a 5k with friends on the weekend and walking religiously, her health and love for the friends and family in her life made this most recent battle with cancer a gritty affair, like only mom would embark upon.

My mom was one of the most creative people I know. A teacher, a steel foundry worker, carpenter, painter, triathlon athlete in her 70's, builder, philanthropist, volunteer, artist, world traveler, devoted Catholic, friend, wife of over 50 years, mom and grandma...and yes, big fan of IPA's!

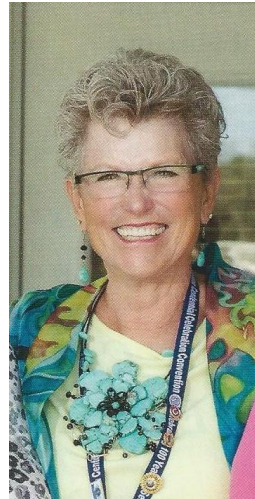
Hailing from Detroit, you start to understand where mom got her grit. Car accidents, brain, back and shoulder surgeries, kicking breast cancer to the curb for over 30 years, and then tackling colon cancer, you would never know by being with mom how much pain she endured over the years. She hid it well (or thinks she did) to keep us all hopeful, moving forward and working on things we can control. If you ever doubt the power of faith and positive mindset...DON'T. She has taught me 2 lifetimes of learning and leaves a legacy of hope to her family and friends.

There are books I could write about mom, including some pretty interesting new stories that have surfaced over the past couple of weeks (for another day...need to check on the statutes of limitations in Michigan...ha, ha, ha). Today, however, I will endeavor to put those learnings to action and pay tribute to the woman that gave me so many opportunities. Love you mom and happy you are finally comfortable, pain free and with friends and family above.

Thank you ALL for your love, thoughts and prayers over the last few weeks and months. It has meant so much to all of us.

Penny will be missed.

Here is a photo collage of Penny in various club roles.



www.HometownCivitanClub.com

HOMETOWN Civitan Club

The Villages, Florida

Penny Badolato

Making a Difference, One Person at a Time



Monthly Happenings



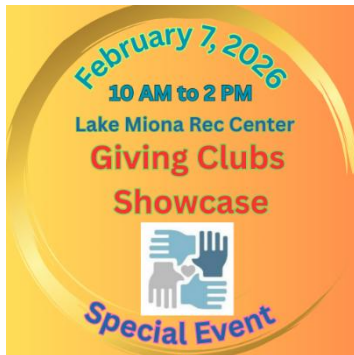
Cristy Sullivan, President of My Special Place, outlined the mission and status of this new organization.

'My Special Place is a residential facility dedicated to providing a loving and supportive home for the adult special needs community whose parents live in The Villages, Florida. We intend to create a sense of belonging and empowerment by embracing diversity and fostering an inclusive environment that celebrates the unique strengths of each individual.' Go to www.myspecialplacethevillages.com for more info.



Rebecca Christiansen provided our Club members with an overview on the 20-year history of Celebrate Differences on both the national and local levels.

See www.celebratedifferences.org for more info.



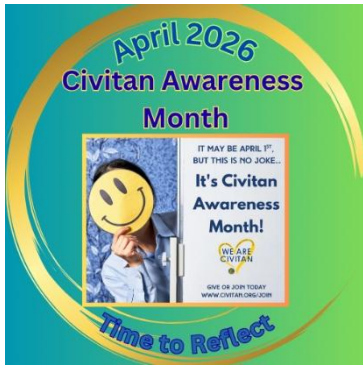
Mary Anderson, Maureen Carr, Deb McCoy and Judi Higbee represented Hometown at this expo event that is held twice a year and provides an opportunity to get our Club noticed, is a soft setting for member recruiting and a perfect opportunity to see what other clubs are doing.



A Night to Shine was held at New Covenant United Methodist Church again this year. Hometown members were offered several opportunities to participate in this prom night for the adult special needs community.



Check out our photo gallery for a collection of pictures from the Beacon College luncheon where Hometown and several other organizations were honored for their support of Beacon College student scholarships.



April is Civitan Awareness Month and National Volunteer Month. Go to the Video Channel on our website to see a brief video on "What is Civitan"?



Hometown member Gay Aaron celebrated her 50-year anniversary with Civitan International at our April 7th meeting. A highlight was when President Deb McCoy surprised her with a special CI 50 Year Member pin. The Daily Sun provided a ½ page article with pictures of the event. Many more pictures are on the HCC website



Bless Wildwood is an organization that serves and supports this neighboring town from civic events to special needs of the school system. Learn more at our May 5th meeting that is also our 11th anniversary.



Our June Meeting will consist of the viewing of an excellent video on key projects and research areas that CIRC is pursuing. This is also a new member orientation with a 'What is Civitan?' video.

NOTE the DATE CHANGE and MEETING LOCATION!

MONDAY, JUNE 1 at the FRUITLAND PARK LIBRARY