

Memorandum

To: Town of Carrboro Mayor and Town Council
From: David Andrews, Town Manager
Date: June 8, 2021
Re: Carrboro Civic Club – 108 Bim Street Background



On February 2nd, 2021, the Town Council accepted the donation of the historic structure located on 108 Bim Street and directed Staff to research the history of the Carrboro Civic Club. In response to the request, this memo (Attachment B) has been prepared and included in the Town Council agenda packet to provide an overview of the Carrboro Civic Club’s history and community contributions.

History



The Carrboro Civic Club’s historic building at 108 Bim Street was the former administrative building for Carrboro Woolen Mills and was donated to the Chapel Hill Junior Service League, who in turn, donated the building to the Carrboro Civic Club and was accepted by Trustees Ruth West, I. A. West, and Jessie Williams on May 25th, 1948.

The Carrboro Civic Club, founded in 1945, was formed by a group of women with the mission to beautify the Town of Carrboro by planting crepe myrtles and hollies along Main Street and other areas of the Town. The Civic Club’s mission evolved to include additional efforts “to promote health, beautification and betterment of the community.”

Some examples of the Civic Club’s contributions and community outreach were uncovered during conversations with Richard Ellington and Civic Club members. In the 1950’s, with the help of medical professionals, members formed the Well Baby Clinic to offer free preventive care, including immunizations, health check-ups and screenings for mothers and their infants. As literacy advocates, members raised funds to open a public library in the clubhouse, offering supplemental reading materials to young children. The library was relocated into the Town Hall building in 1961 and the Civic Club continued to support and operate the library until 1968. In the 1980’s, members participated in a six-month “Seat Belts Pay Off” program, a campaign to increase seat belt use in

Chapel Hill and Carrboro through economic incentives. Their support of the Arts was evidenced by the furnishing of an on-site kiln for local residents and artists to create clay projects.

The Carrboro Civic Club dedicated themselves to many humanitarian club projects that enhanced the lives of Carrboro's residents. Their numerous contributions extend past the projects mentioned above. Additional community partnerships and highlights include:

- American Field Service's 4th of July celebration at Kenan Stadium
- Agricultural Extension Service Workshops
- Adoption of "Sisters" in nursing homes
- Carrboro United Methodist Church
- Carrboro Fire and Rescue
- Duke Power's – Share the Warmth Program
- Home Assistants Service Training Classes
- Lion's Club
- Meals on Wheels
- Services to Shut-Ins
- Triangle Hospice
- YMCA
- Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department

Operations

The property has served as a congregate space for residents, community service groups, businesses and nonprofit organizations and consists of two open rooms with access to a kitchen, bathrooms, and 10-12 parking spaces. Recent uses of 108 Bim Street include:

- Chapel Hill Christian Church – Serves as a Food Collection point for the Inter-Faith Council and Sunday Worship Service.
- Jenkins Driving School – Provides a driving school in Spanish for those with traffic violations and supplemental instruction for driver's education students attempting to obtain their permit/license.
- Girl Scouts – Site for local troop meetings.
- Le Leche League – Offers a parent-to-parent breastfeeding support group.