



The Civic Courier

The Women's Civic Club
of Panama City Beach,
Inc.

Volume VIII-Issue 3
November 2018



From the President's Desk

Basma Swearingen

Dear Members,

Hurricane Michael reminded me that we cannot fight Mother Nature-we end up being on the losing side. The devastation looks like a war zone, and I, myself, have witnessed it in my home country of Lebanon.

Some fared better than others, and help is going to be needed for a long time to come. The humanitarian efforts, witnessed in the past two weeks, reinforced my belief in the good will of people.

Our club, through the the School Projects Committee, responded to the needs of the "Rebuild Bay District Schools" by providing school supplies and clothing. I am sure there will be another opportunity to help out once the students are back in school.

My hope is for the WCC to make a difference in the community through our charitable contributions.

Blessings to all,

Basma

Hurricane Michael spreads disaster throughout area

Board meeting and Nov. meeting cancelled Ironman cancelled

Hurricane Michael came through Bay County with a vengeance on October 10, 2018. It was the worst storm to ever hit the area, and caused irreparable damage and many cancellations.

For the first time in its history, The Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach, Inc., had to cancel a Board Meeting and a regular meeting.

Families have been scattered and communications impossible. Some members have been badly hit and others have not, but most are digging in to help restore their lives and trying to get back to a normal life and help others who were not as fortunate.

WCC's School Committee was one that dug right in to help. Under the leadership of Chairman Gail Claffey, they shopped for items for West Bay Elementary School children and teachers through the BDS Rebuild

Drive. They purchased pencils, crayons, highlighters, notebooks, underwear, socks and light-weight jackets for students, and supplies for teachers, such as pens, cleaner wipes and hand sanitizer. These were delivered by Brenda Bryson and Gloria Turner.

Christmas Outreach shopping and wrapping have been postponed from Nov. 17, 2018. Because the schools have been closed, the names of the needy children are not yet available.

Another member digging in to help others, is Helen Schreiner. She and husband Paul have been busy feeding workers throughout the clean-up process. (See related pictures on Page 5)

Thunder Beach has been cancelled, as have many other events.

Saturday Nov 3, 2018



Ironman Florida was another major event that had to be cancelled this year due to Hurricane Michael. They will return to this area at a future date.

Meanwhile, the IRONMAN Foundation will match up to \$100,000 in donations and has already pledged \$50,000. to Panama City Beach to help with the Hurricane Emergency Relief efforts.

Mugsy Parens and Joyce Goetz want to thank all of the dedicated women who had signed up to work again this fall. "Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated. We could never do it without your help! Hopefully, we can have it again in May."

Meet our new members



Sponsor Janet Roan is seen with new member Deanne Taylor.

Sponsor Alice Jacobs is seen with new member Luciann Jacobs.

Seen above are Karen Gunsaulus, installing officer; new member Deanne Taylor; Janet Roan, sponsor; Basma Swearingen, President; Alice Jacobs, sponsor; and Luciann Jacobs, new member at the installation service at Edgewater Beach Conference Center Oct. 4th.

Deanne Taylor was born in Biloxi, Mississippi and was raised in Bay Saint Louis. Her family moved to Arkansas when she was 9 years old. Although she loved the beauty of the Ozarks, when she finished school, Deanne headed back to the beach, this time to the South Carolina Low Country. Deanne lived in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina for the next 25 years, where she worked for a family owned resort development company. She met her husband, Brian in 1989. In 2014, Deanne and her husband decided that it was time to make the move to the Emerald Coast of Florida. They had visited several times before and fell in love with the area. Deanne has lived in Panama City Beach for the past 5 years and owns a local Title Company. Deanne's family includes her husband Brian, their two children, Jet (10) and Sydney (8), and their miniature pinscher, Clifford.

Deanne loves to golf, play tennis, and play at the beach. She volunteers at the ReStore for Habitat for Humanity and is a member of Keep PCB Beautiful, a beach clean up group. Deanne is excited to be able to continue to volunteer and be a member of the Women's Civic Club of PCB.

Luciann Jacobs tells us a little about herself. "I was born & raised in Rockford, Illinois. My husband (Gary) & I own property in Bay county. He will be joining us here when he retires. Gary & I decided that I would retire so I could come help 'Ma' (Alice).

We have five children, (three boys and two girls), 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

As far as my education goes, I have a GED and am certified in medical coding (CPC). I'm a board member of the Rockford Regional AAPC Chapter and am a Member Development Officer.

My biggest interest is helping people. whether it be spiritually, getting them financially free or just listening. What ever it takes to help someone. That's why I'm in Life Leadership.

Committee Activities

Christmas Parade: Saturday, Dec. 8 (Date tentative)

Members: Please save any left over Halloween candy for the Christmas Parade, which will be coming up soon in early December. A date has yet to be confirmed.

Chairman, Janet Roan

Tree Lighting Ceremony: The date for this is still tentative, also. Notifications will be sent out as soon as decided.

Chairman, Karen Gunsaulus

Christmas Outreach:

We also need to cancel our Christmas Outreach shopping and wrapping scheduled for November 17th. Due to the fact that the kids have not been in school, we won't have names, etc. of needy children by that time. We hope to get some information by the first week of December. Please look for updates on this in the newsletter and E-Mail.

Brenda Bryson & Gail Claffey, Co-chairs

Member-to-Member:

**Bunco!! Are you ready for some fun?
Save the Date! January 17, 2019**

10 a.m. The Egg & I \$18.00 includes lunch and a good time.

Judy Hardegree & Sue Jiles, Co-chairs

Hurricanes and Travels

Gwen Odenheimer who lives on E. Baldwin in Lynn Haven, was with her son and family in Tallahassee during the hurricane. When she returned, her building was greatly damaged, even though her unit was not too bad. She now has to put all her things in storage for three months while the whole complex is being gassed for mold damage. She was looking all over for a storage place for her furniture. If anyone can help, please contact her. Her number is in the WCC yearbook.

Joyce Rouillard is in the process of moving to Louisiana to be closer to her children.

Kay Vider was in Italy during the storm with husband Jim and family. They returned to find their home on North Lagoon in pretty good shape, except for the boathouse and trees. They were very lucky for such a hard hit area.

Elaine and Ron Lichtenberger returned to the area from Ohio before Hurricane Michael to find their power had gone off while they were away. They had to clean up and destroy their fridge/freezer and buy a new one. They just completed that mess, when the hurricane hit. They did not suffer any damage from that. However, in a storm on November 1st, trees came down that had been loosened by Hurricane Michael. (See picture below!)



Jean Cooney and husband celebrate their 72nd Anniversary last week. (Seen here two years ago on their 70th)



NOVEMBER

- 2 – Margaret Ivey
- 19 – Helen Schreiner
- 27 – Nan VandenBerg

Health of our Members

Deborah England is now home recovering from a recent stay in Bay Hospital. She had pneumonia and a spot on her left lung. She is now undergoing radiation and chemo treatments after some delays due to the storm. She evacuated to her son's home in Lynn Haven, which was hit harder than her own home near South Lagoon, where her husband remained. She said it was very scary hiding in the bathroom with her son's family!

Sunshine Lady, Peg Lowery, had her gall bladder surgery cancelled twice because of the storm. I haven't heard if she finally had it done or not. She said she was not in a great deal of pain and got through the storm safely.

Betty Dunn evacuated to her brother's home in Troy. From there she went to Cleveland Clinic in Ohio once again and had two heart procedures. They were successful and she is on her way back home now. You just can't keep a good woman down!!!!



Betty Dunn's daughter, Gail Pike is seen with Betty's nurse!!!

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.WCCPCB.ORG



United for a Better Community

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COMING EVENTS



November 3— Turn your clocks back!

November 11- Veterans' Day

November 22—Thanksgiving

**November 29—Executive Board Meeting
Beach Chamber Board Room
10 a.m.**

Plans for the many Christmas events are tentative. You will receive notices when the dates are finalized. Thank you for your cooperation and patience.



Food Pantry News

The Community Food Pantry suffered some damage during Hurricane Michael. Unfortunately, the Presbyterian Church, including the Food Pantry, was without power for over a week, so lost all frozen and refrigerated goods. Power finally came on on the 17th, and they will slowly replenish all that was lost.

Many donations of canned goods, water and emergency kits have come in by truck loads. However, the needy number is also growing due to so many people being displaced. Families are taking in other families who have no where to live.



If you prefer to drop off articles instead of bringing them to a meeting, the Community Food Pantry is located in the "Pink" Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church located at 271 Hwy. 79, and is open to clients from 9 am to noon Monday through Friday.

Your generosity in the past has been amazing and greatly appreciated! Please keep up the good work!



Basma Swearingen is shown above delivering paper products and many other items for teachers and students to West Bay Elementary School.



Picture sent in by Cheri Leistner of neighbor's tree.



Texas Roadhouse Mobil Kitchen in action served throughout the Beach and City.

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE



It took many hard-working people to make it a success!!



Preparing the wonderfully delicious food.



Helen and Paul Schreiner were happy to thank First Responders



Dinners lined up to go!

WE WILL SURVIVE



Trucks rolled in with supplies from all over the nation.