



The Civic Courier

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

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April 2026

"From the President's Desk"



Spring is here! And I love spring. I don't mind the winter clean up in my garden, as I can see the spouts of my perennials returning for another year of blooms. I love the warmer weather during the day and appreciate the cooler nights as I know the heat and humidity is just around the corner. Spring is a wonderful time to refresh the soul!

Spring for the WCC means new beginnings also as we elect 3 new officers to serve for the next 2 years. Spring offers us a chance to provide more help in the PCB community. After a fantastic year of fund raising the board will consider a recommendation for additional donations to our charities and support organizations. Spring is the time where we set the budget for the coming year.

Spring also gives the WCC an opportunity to say thanks to each and every one of our members for their hard work on all of our committees and fundraisers. The WCC could not do our wonderful work without caring and committed members, so please plan to attend the Annual Member Appreciation Picnic on April 19. It's a great time to mingle and socialize with everyone.

So welcome SPRING ! May your Spring be as bright as the spring bulbs emerging from their winter rest. And may the peace and beauty of the Easter season be with you.

Cheri Leistner

"Recognition of the Club's Mission"



Sue Jiles, Kay Vider, Carol Adams, Kelly Bertin, Jayn Collins, Soula Dortch, PCB Chamber President/CEO Kristopher McLane, Cheri Leistner, Monica Thomas, PCB Chamber Executive Board Chairman Jeremy Hinton

The Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach was formed in 1965 by a small group of ladies who wanted to do what they could do improve life for all of those living, working and visiting the Panama City Beach community. And for 61 years, we have been living that mission. We have never asked for recognition. However, our members take great pride in all of the accomplishments achieved, especially each December when we see and hear from our many grant recipients regarding the difference our donations will make to their work.

So, when recognition comes, it is unexpected and immensely appreciated. Late last month, The Women's Civic Club of PCB was caught speechless when members attended the Panama City Beach Chamber Annual Awards Dinner. It was a beautiful event, with approximately 650 attendees. Various awards were presented during the evening, however, no one could have been more appreciative than our group of ladies. As the presenter began to announce the winner of the Humanitarian of the Year award, our ears began to perk up. The description of the winner of this award sounds quite familiar to all of us. But could it be?

The following is a reprint of the announcement of the award winner:

“The Humanitarian of the Year Award is presented to an individual or organization that exemplifies generosity and unwavering dedication to improving the lives of others in our community.

This year's recipient has been quietly and powerfully doing exactly that for more than six decades. Formed in 1965, this non-profit was founded on a simple but profound mission: “to cultivate civic improvements and give aid to worthy projects for the better development of our community, always putting people before politics and service before recognition.”

For more than 60 years, this remarkable group has lived out their motto: “*United for a Better Community.*” Through annual fundraisers, this Club raises thousands of dollars each year, only to turn around and pour every dollar right back into Panama City Beach. They support Backpack Blessings, the Gulf Beach Food Pantry, Girls Inc., and Boys & Girls Club. They stand behind the Bay County Sheriff's Department, Panama City Beach Police and Fire Departments.

Each year, rain or shine, this group shows up to support our PCB Marathon by manning all of the water stations and the start & finish line, which is a tremendous contribution to the success of the event.

What makes this organization truly extraordinary is not just the funds they raise, it is the purpose in which they serve. This group of women from different backgrounds and careers who come together, month after month, year after year, to make life better for those who live, work, and visit Panama City Beach.

We are proud to present the Humanitarian of the Year Award to Cheri Leistner and the ladies of the Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach.

Our members could not have been more proud to represent the club and to receive this award. To walk on stage, to hear the applause, to see the standing ovation... it was truly an honor for us to represent ALL the members of the club and to know that many ladies have come before us and helped to make this award possible. The Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach has for 61 years and will continue to be “United for a Better Community”.

"March's Luncheon - Turtle Watch "

Erin Martin



Grazie to Bella Roma's for hosting our luncheon business meeting in March. The food was awesome. Some glitches with services, always something, but overall, a good venue. Our speaker, Erin Martin with Turtle Watch, gave us information on Loggerhead turtles and their process of laying eggs thru maturation and "heading to the sea". She also told us the things we can do to facilitate that process," Keep it Clean, Level and Dark".

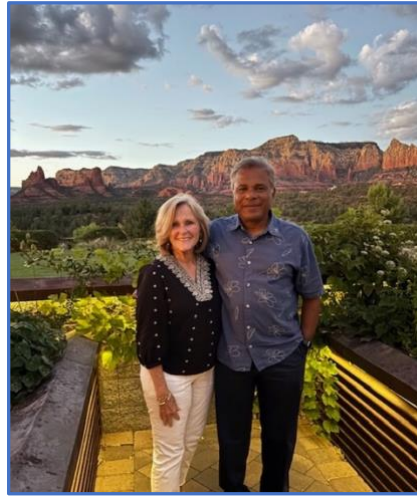
On April 2nd, we will be at one of our favorites, Captain Jack's. This year it will also be the venue for our Fashion Show. So come prepared to grin and clap as our Fashion Committee member's strut their stuff.

Gloria Turner, Lunches and Programs Chair

"Welcome New Member"



**Membership Chair Kelly Bertin, Cathy Prabhu,
Sponsor Susan Lydon**



Cathy and Nick Prabhu

My husband, Nick, and I first met in New Orleans, and we've been married for 34 wonderful years. We have two children: Jonathan, who is 33, and Catherine, who is 30. We moved to Panama City Beach from Woodstock, Georgia, which is just outside Atlanta. We lived there for 30 years, raising our kids right there. Now, we've been living in Latitude Margaritaville Watersound for over two years, and we absolutely love being so close to the beach on the Florida Panhandle.

Thank you for accepting me into the Civic Club and I look forward to working beside all of you.

Cathy Prabhu

"Membership"

As we start wrapping up our 2025-2026 fiscal year, it's time to renew your membership and make your committee selections for the upcoming year. Committee Sign-Up sheets will be available at the April luncheon and will also be available on our website. The completed form should be given to the Membership Chair at the May luncheon and should be accompanied with a \$30 check for membership dues made payable to the "Women's Civic Club". Per the Club's bylaws, if you are a new member and were installed in February or March, you do not need to pay dues for the upcoming year. You do need to submit your committee selections for the new year however.

All members must also complete and sign the Conflict of Interest Form that is attached to the Committee Sign-Up sheet. Don't forget to list any other clubs or organizations that you are associated with (#5 on the form).

If you have any questions, please contact *Kelly Bertin*, Membership Chair, at kwbertin@yahoo.com or 404-909-9323.

"Fulfilling Our Mission of Improving Life in Panama City Beach Community"

Raising Funds

Arts and Crafts Show

Thank you to all members who helped support the Spring Fling on Saturday, March 7th by volunteering for the show, or in the cafe, or if you came out to shop! Once again, our vendors were very complimentary about our volunteers. They appreciated your help loading and unloading and relieving them throughout the day so they could take a break. The only thing we were lacking were shoppers. Unfortunately, we barely had 200 shoppers, and we need to work on getting more people there next year. Vendors have to make sales in order to continue participating in our shows. Be sure to mark your calendars now for the Fall Fling which will be on November 14th same place, same time!



**Top Right: Joyce Kippes, Denice Dare, Sharon Cook, Faye Culpepper, Sherrill Kelley, Cathy Schnader, Annetta Henderson
Bottom Right: Barbara Lambrow, Arlene Klaas, Karolina Schleicher, Carol Davis, Soula Dortch, Nancy Stovall**

Julie Sanders, Jayn Collins, Arts & Crafts Chair & Co-Chair

Ironman

Spring Ironman is coming in May! The Gulf Coast 70.3 half Ironman hits Panama City Beach on Saturday, May 9th. It's a great event for our community and it's always interesting to meet athletes from around the globe. The Women's Civic Club will be working the bag stuffing on Wednesday, May 6th starting at 9:00AM as well as the Athlete Check in on both Thursday, May 7th and Friday, May 8th. There are two shifts available for members on each day. Thursday shifts are 1:00pm to 4:00pm or 4:00pm to 7:00pm and Friday shifts are 8:00am to 12:30pm or 12:30pm to 4:15pm. Please note that the Athlete Check in work can all be done seated.

Link for signing up: <https://ironman.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=100109> Please let Kris Sadoris know what shifts you have registered for once you have completed your sign up. Thank you for your support of this important and always fun event for the club!

Kris Sadoris
Ironman Chairperson

Special Beach Events

One of our favorite events is drawing near - UNwineD. It's pouring wine, pretty spring outfits, and entertainment on a spring day - what's not to love? On April 4, we will need all hands on deck as this event requires 70 volunteers. Thanks to the many who have already signed up to join in the fun. We need just a few more volunteers to meet our goal. Please contact Dena Roewe or Karen DeMeester if you'd like to join us!

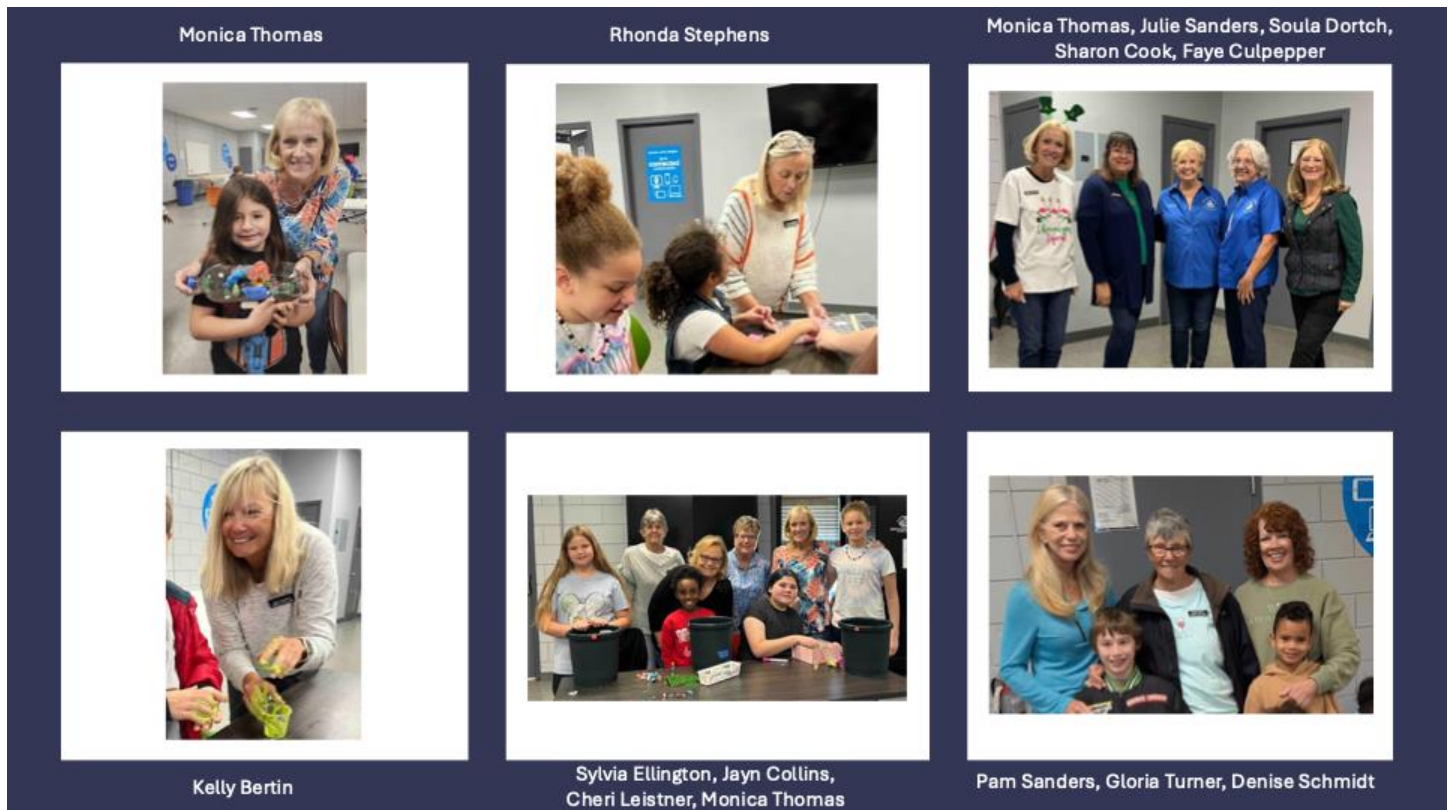
The next event of the 2025/2026 year is a first-time event for us. We are excited to be working the Seabreeze Festival on April 23-26 (Thursday through Sunday, two shifts per day). If you are a music lover, this is the event for you. We will be Catering Assistants, serving meals to their VIP ticket holders. An email was recently distributed to the membership with all the details. All volunteers will receive a ticket to enjoy the full day of the festival on their designated shift day. Once again, Dena or Karen will be happy to help you sign up.

We will see you at the festivals - thank you again for your participation -

Karen Demeester, Sue Jiles and Dena Roewe
Special Beach Events Co-Chairs

"Supporting the Community"

Boys and Girls Club



"We were busy with Craft Time at the Boys and Girls Club, from making Rice Krispie treats and fairy gardens to slime, we had a fun time volunteering!"



Monica Thomas presented our March lunch donations to Sherry Small at the Boys and Girls Club. She was very appreciative of our generosity and plans to use our items during the arts and crafts time during the Spring Break Camp.

Monica Thomas, Boys and Girls Club Liaison

Community Outreach



"Mardi Gras Celebration at Superior Residences of Panama City Beach" Sylvia Payne, Gloria Turner, Barbara Allgood, El Moreland, Brenda Farmer, Sharon Cook

Gloria Turner and Sharon McDonald, Co-Chairs

Library

April Luncheon Collections will support the Panama City Beach Library Summer Reading and Storytime Craft Programs.

- Bulletin Board Borders
- Bulletin Board Paper Rolls 5' X 3' - Blue, Black, Red, Green, Orange
- Cardstock - White & Black
- Cardstock - 12" X 12" for Cricut
- Construction Paper - Green, Red, Black
- Craft Feathers
- Dinosaur Toys - Small & Medium
- Ink Pads for Thumbprint Craft - Multi Colors
- Jumbo Markers
- Plastic Bins 12-16 Quart Size - Small & Medium
- Pom Poms for Pom Pom Art
- Tissue Paper - Colorful
- Yard Stick

"Spending Time Together"

Member to Member

Member Appreciation Picnic

Remember YOU and a guest are invited to the Member Appreciation picnic on Sunday, April 19th at 12:00 noon at Camp Helen State Park. We have once again reserved the Recreation Hall for our use. It is screened in, has restrooms in the building, ceiling fans and picnic tables inside and outside. Games, food, and fun, what more could you wish for? BBQ will once again be served (by unanimous decision) so bring your quarters, card games, and party hats and have a great time. You will have access to all activities available at the park - swimming, beachcombing, nature study, hiking, and fishing.

You have worked diligently to support the fundraising efforts of our club so please attend this picnic that celebrates YOU.

To reserve your special place (we don't want to run out of banana pudding) text or email Janet Tettermer at (321) 443-3692 stardust8385@gmail.com or make a reservation at the April luncheon.

Bunco

February Bunco was a rousing good time. 21 members and guests met at Taylor's restaurant to play Bunco and have a great lunch.



**Top Left: 21 Members and Guests Top Right: Rhonda Zartman, Sony Edwards, Donna Schlosser, Lynn Padgett
Bottom Left: Becky Farmer, Anita Gruzins, Flo Watson, Arlene Klaas Bottom Middle: Sue Jiles, Jayne Collins, Kay Vider
Bottom Right: Carol Metaxas, Anita Gruzins, Arlene Klaas, Jenna Hall**

New Member Orientation

Seven new members gathered together with club committee chairs and sponsors to learn more about the Women's Civic Club volunteer opportunities. Each committee chair (or their designee) explained expectations, the time commitment involved, meetings/events held, and what other committees they work with to accomplish their goals.

A Knowledge Showdown Game Show was held to see which team could answer some tough questions about our club. The score was 11 to 0, but doesn't represent the knowledge our new members took away from the event.

New members in attendance were:

Barbara Allgood
Morene Chiarella
Sylvia Ellington

Nancy Glaze
Sandy McTrusty

Rhonda Stephens
Susan West

A big thank you to the Member to Member Committee for a delicious dinner and to Game Show Host Kelly Bertin and MC Cheri Leistner.



Sony Edwards, Janet Tettemer, Member to Member Chairs

"Recognizing our Members"



Please remember to inform the Sunshine Committee of any members who are ill, had a loss, need surgery or any other concern. Feel free to call if you know someone who needs a card. We don't want to miss cheering up our fellow members.

Sony Edwards, Sunshine Committee Chair (678) 478-1955

Happy Birthday Wishes!!

April

10 Corinne Hardee
10 Flo Watson
15 Jane Fillingim
15 Carole Ohlemueller
15 Monica Thomas



"Upcoming Events"

April 2 Fashion Show & Luncheon at Captain Jack's, 8208 Thomas Dr., 11AM
April 3-4 UNwined at Aaron Bessant Park
April 9 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
April 16 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
April 19 Member's Thank You Picnic at Camp Helen State Park, 12PM
April 23-26 Seabreeze Jazz Festival at Aaron Bessant Park
April 30 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 309 R. Jackson Blvd., 10AM
May 6-8 Ironman Support at Edgewater Resort
May 7 Luncheon & Installation of Officers at Harpoon Harry's, 12627 Front Beach Rd., 11AM
May 14 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
May 21 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
May 28 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 309 R. Jackson Blvd., 10AM
August 27 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 309 R. Jackson Blvd., 10AM

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

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This newsletter is the product of a collaborative effort

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