



The Civic Courier

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

Volume XIII- Issue 4
December 2023



From the President's Desk

Nancy Stovall

Dear Members:

Unity - the state of being united or joined as a whole. Since 1965, The Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach has been working to fulfill its mission of improving life in the Panama City Beach community for all. Although there are many committees, the goal is to present ourselves as one organization with a common goal. A healthy organization is one that takes care of all its members and recognizes the value of each member. The members encourage and support each other, treating each member with respect and using words wisely.

At the December Christmas Luncheon and Program, we will be giving over \$15,000 to worthy local charities, educational institutions, and safety and support organizations. Giving makes us happy, improves our community and makes others happy. The club can give because of your united efforts and dedication throughout the year. Thank you!

December presents boundless demands – parties, shopping, baking, cleaning and entertaining. Take time to enjoy the Christmas season and the opportunity to ring in the New Year at the Beach Ball Drop in Pier Park.

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." Henry Ford

Nancy

"Gayle's Trails"



Chamber of Commerce Members, Councilman Paul Casto, Gayle Oberst

City officials, staff, and members of the community gathered with the Panama City Beach Chamber of Commerce for an official opening of the eastern segment of Gayle's Trails behind Arnold High School on November 8, 2023. The trail connects the Breakfast Point subdivision to the school and runs to just east of Clara Avenue to the nearly 30 miles of trails within Panama City Beach Conservation Park. Gayle's Trails was the vision of former Mayor Gayle Oberst, who was the guest speaker for the official opening. Gayle joking says, "the Women's Civic Club and other Civic Clubs petitioned for the name 'Gayle's Trails' because it rhymes."

The City's trail system is a great amenity for local residents and visitors which encourages walking, jogging and bicycling. Arlene Klaas took the opportunity to enjoy a healthy ride on the new segment.



Paul Casto, Gayle Oberst



Arlene Klaas' View of the Trail

"November Luncheon at Pineapple Willy's, Navigating the Cybersecurity Landscape"

We were delighted to host our November luncheon featuring Mr. Brian Grainger, who graciously enlightened us on the crucial topic of cybersecurity. In an era where technology is an integral part of our daily lives, understanding how to protect ourselves from hackers is of high importance. Brian provided invaluable insights and practical tips on how to stay informed about the latest trends and navigating the digital landscape securely.

Mr. Brian Grainger
Guest Speaker



Some of the takeaways from Mr. Grainger's handout are:

- 1. Password Management** – Use strong, unique passwords. Avoid using easily guessable words and phrases associated with you, like your birthday, pet's name, etc.
- 2. Regular Software Updates** – Keeping your browsers, operating systems, and applications up to date is crucial. An easy way to achieve the most updated version of your software is to enable automatic updates. This will allow your system to enable the new features as soon as they are available.
- 3. Email Safety** – Verify the sender's identity. Always check the sender's authenticity to ensure they are who they say they are. Suppose the sender's email contains numbers, an unusual domain, or a suspicious address. In that case, this is likely to be a phishing email. In some cases, email platforms are usually excellent at automatically identifying these things, so it is essential to look out for warning messages that suggest the sender is new or suspicious. They may even automatically move this email to your spam folder if it detects authenticity issues.

If an email has a sense of urgent language about it, insisting you take immediate action, then be skeptical, especially if it requests personal information.

Avoid clicking links and downloading attachments. If an email contains a link, hovering over it or holding down the link with your finger if you are using a mobile device will show a preview of the URL before clicking on it; look out for any suspicious text within the URL and the domain itself before clicking onto the link.

4. Firewalls and Antivirus Programs

A good Firewall and Antivirus will scan your machine to find known malware such as viruses, trojans, ransomware, and spyware. Schedule regular scans with your antivirus software to proactively identify and remove threats.

Recommended Antivirus/Firewall: www.avastt.com or www.avg.com

- 5. Data Backup** - It is important to regularly back up any critical data to an external device or a secure cloud service. Backups are crucial; they ensure that information is not lost and can be replaced quickly and easily should it need to be.

Providing valuable information on the importance of actively monitoring financial statements for any irregularities, Mr. Grainger emphasized the significance of reviewing financial transactions and statements on a regular basis to promptly identify any suspicious activity.

Many thanks to Mr. Grainger for his expertise and engaging presentation on increasing our awareness of cybersecurity threats. We are better informed and have a deeper understanding of the significance of being informed and how to recognize warning signs against common cyber threats and how these threats operate.

If you think you have been a victim of a scam, call (866) 966-7226 or <https://www.myfloridalegal.com/consumer-protection/senior-protection>.

Thank You

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our members who joined us and participated in our November luncheon. A special appreciation goes out to Julie Sanders for coordinating the venue, Pineapple Willy's. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Tammy Haight for arranging our featured speaker, Brian Grainger. To all - your presence and contributions made this event truly special.

December Luncheon



The magic of the season is upon us, and it's the season of giving! Join us for the Christmas luncheon at The Boardwalk Beach Hotel on Thursday, December 7th. Come enjoy the choir from Patronis Elementary and gather to be a part of something truly special – distributing funds to various charities and organizations! Don't forget to RSVP to save your seat. With Gratitude,

Jane Fillingim, Chair, Lunches and Programs Committee

"New Member Installation"



- Faye Culpepper
- Kim Escalle
- Susan Lydon
- Cathy Schnader
- Natalie May
- Donna Schlosser
- Becky Farmer
- Membership Chair Arlene Klaas.

"Welcome New Members"

Faye Culpepper



My husband and I moved to Panama City Beach in March 2022 from Marietta, GA. I worked for over 40 years as an Executive Assistant for a consulting engineering company before retiring. We have 2 children and 1 grandchild (2 years old). My daughter and family live in Dothan, AL. My son, who just retired from the Air Force (22 years in service), lives in Navarre, FL.

My husband and I just celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in September. Looking forward to meeting this great group of ladies and working with them to help with the charities that WCC sponsor.

I grew up in CO, in a small town on a farm with lots of animals where I participated in 4H and church activities. I then went on to marry the love of my life, Bob, whom I've been happily married to for 28 years. We share 3 beautiful children together. We've lived all over, but made Allen, TX our home for the past 20 years. There, I was a paralegal and volunteered for numerous community organizations such as: the Allen Sports Association, North Texas Legal Aid & the Presbyterian Hospital of Allen.

My husband and I decided to move to Panama City Beach a year and a half ago, because we had always longed to live near the ocean. We love living here and being a part of this wonderful community and enjoy our home in Margaritaville.

I look forward to volunteering with this great group of fabulous ladies that make up the Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach!



Kim Escalle



Becky Farmer

Hi, all! My name is Becky Farmer, and I'm thrilled to be a new member of this amazing group of women. I love the way this club serves our community!

I am originally from Georgia. I currently reside in Latitude Margaritaville. I am a retired teacher. I taught for 40 years with 31 of those being in kindergarten. Jesus is my center! Kids are my heart and passion. My hubby, Gregg and I have been married for 47 years. Our son, Drew, and his family followed us to Florida, so we see them most weekends. He teaches at Bay Haven Middle School.

My current hobbies and interests include bridge, bunco, diamond art, reading, volunteering at West Bay Elementary (our community school), going to the beach, shopping, and traveling. Being a member of the Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach is my newest adventure! It's going to be great!

My name is Susan Lydon. I am originally from Miami and moved to Woodstock, Georgia after graduating from the University of Florida. I retired from teaching after 30 years. I taught second grade most of those years. After my retirement, my husband and I decided to move to Panama City Beach. We love it here! I met Sharon McDonald and she told me about the Women's Civic Club and I couldn't wait to be able to join and start helping our community.



Susan Lydon

I have two amazing sons. My oldest lives in Georgia and is an artist and works in movie production. My youngest son is a dentist and lives in San Diego with my daughter in law and two amazing grandchildren.

Natalie May



Welcome Natalie May. A retired educator, Natalie is now part of the Latitude Margaritaville community. She is excited about being a part of the club, participating on various committees and giving back to the community.

My name is Donna Schlosser and I have been married to my husband Rick for 36 years. We moved to Panama City Beach about five years ago from Cumming, Georgia with our five dogs. We raised two beautiful children Bradd and Callie in Georgia where I was raised since the age of nine.



Donna Schlosser

I retired in 2017 where I worked mostly in technology and for the same company for 21 years. I wore many hats in corporate with the last being a project manager. When I retired, I didn't want to stop working but also wanted to make a difference in the community. For the last 10 years I have worked with three of my dogs in therapy in children's hospitals, nursing homes and I now have two R.E.A.D. accredited therapy dogs with Intermountain Therapy. I alternate weeks with them in the media center at Dune Lakes Elementary in Walton County on Fridays. We assist children that are behind in reading or testing due to anxiety, ADD, ADHD and sometimes all of the above. As a military brat, I have a huge heart for our veterans. I volunteer at Sims VA Nursing Home in Springfield with my therapy dogs when time permits.

In May 2023, I was installed as the new President for the Gulf Beach Garden Club. A small but mighty club, we have a great program for the 2023-2024 year and a great opportunity to help financially with some other 501(c)(3) organizations in the Bay County area. Our membership is growing and our programs keep getting better and better. The club is off to a good start!

My hobbies are wide spread. I love to garden, fish in our kayaks, swim and I walk 4-5 miles every day. Did I say I love my dogs? I have raised and trained all of my dogs since puppies and I have one that will be turning 16 years old soon. They are a huge part of my life and so is my community. I am very proud to become part of the Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach so thank you for having me as a member.

I am delighted to be accepted as a new member of the Women’s Civic Club of Panama City Beach. Seventeen months ago, after living in Illinois for 43 years, my husband, Randy, and I made the decision to move to Latitude Margaritaville here in Panama City Beach. We are so happy to be a part of the PCB community. This June we will be celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary. We have two sons; Jared, who lives nearby with his wife and three children in Santa Rosa Beach, FL, and Nate, who lives in Winnetka, IL, with his wife and two children. I am a retired elementary school teacher. I enjoy Mahjong, reading, playing cards, arts and crafts, and playing the ukulele for fun. I have started volunteering at “Rooms with a Purpose” in PCB, and look forward to my first room makeover in December. Membership in the WCCPCB is an opportunity for me get involved with more people in the community, and to help make a difference. Thank you, Joyce Kippes, for sponsoring me!



Cathy Schnader

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

Raising Funds

Dance and Silent Auction

You're Invited

Tickets Available Now!

Dance & Silent Auction
Oh What A Night!
 Caring and Sharing with Our Community

WWW.WCCPCB.ORG

You can go to our website to purchase tickets NOW and to also find additional information for sponsor opportunities.

Tickets will also be available to purchase at our December 7th luncheon.

This event plays a pivotal role in raising funds for the causes we support and your involvement can truly be a catalyst for helping us raise funds for our community.

It's going to be fun. Dancing, live and silent auction, DJ, buffet dinner, 50/50 raffle tickets, and door prizes! Team up with us and help us with our mission to give back to our community.

Can't wait to see you there!

Advertising our "Oh What A Night!" at the "Chamber of Commerce - Friday at the Beach"

L-R Brittany Pace, Girl's Inc., Jane Fillingim and Jenna Hall

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

OH WHAT A NIGHT!

Caring and Sharing with Our Community

Laketown Wharf Event Center
9902 S Thomas Drive
Panama City Beach, FL 32408

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2024
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Dancing
Silent Auction
Live Auction
DJ
Buffet Dinner
Cash Bar
50/50 Raffle Drawing
Door Prizes

INDIVIDUAL TICKET \$50 | SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

SPONSORSHIP AND TICKET
INFORMATION: WWW.WCCPCB.ORG

Dance & Auction

Ironman

Thank you for making IRONMAN Florida an amazing event!"



Karen DeMeester, Jayn Collins, Alisa Walley



Deb Kesinger, Sharon McDonald, Susan Lydon



Sheryl Lewis, Kelly Bertin



Monica Thomas, Sharon Williams

Our next event will be December 2nd for the Panama City Beach Marathon. We'll be manning seven water stations from 7:00-1:00. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Thank you,
Monica Thomas

Special Beach Events



Sue Jiles, Cheri Leistner

"Home for the Holidays!!"



Carol Metaxas, Deb Kesinger, Jeanette Poland, Jayn Collins, Gail Claffery

The Special Beach Events Committee accepted the task of making the smores to be given away at the TDC's annual Home for Holidays Celebration. Thanks to committee members, many other ladies of the WCC, husbands and friends this task was completed on Monday before Thanksgiving. And it was quite a fun undertaking!! Much discussion and laughter was heard all while the bags were being filled. And I must say, the house smelled wonderfully of chocolate!

After taking a few days off to celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends, the ladies of the WCC gathered at Aaron Bessant Park on the following Friday and Saturday to participate in the Celebration. The park was wonderfully decorated as a winter wonderland. There were movies, concerts, food trucks, vendors, the official PCB Christmas tree lighting, Santa and Mrs. Clause, carolers, fireworks and of course campfires to roast all of those smores. Our ladies were all smiles and dressed in their holiday attire as they distributed over 4000 smores, several hundred additional marshmallows to roast and Beach Home for the Holidays Santa hats. Everyone left the park filled with the holiday spirit!

Many thanks to all that helped with this huge project. We not only had fun, but we earned funds for our charities and gained community recognition of the WCC. The PCB Tourism Development Council greatly appreciates all of our efforts.



Dena Roewe with the Coca Cola Bear



"The S'mores Station"



Lynn Padgett, Annetta Henderson, Carol Metaxas, Jeanette Poland, Patty Rocco

Next up for the committee will be working the Beach Ball Drop on New Year's Eve at Pier Park. We will be giving away party hats to all attendees!!

"Supporting the Community"

Food Pantry



November Collections for the Food Pantry

December Luncheon Meeting food collections for the Food Pantry.

- Canned Chicken
- Canned Tuna
- Jars of Peanut Butter
- Jars of Jelly

There will also be a collection jar if you would prefer to donate cash instead of items.

Thanks to all our great members and their guest who contributed food and cash at our November luncheon for the Food Pantry Thanksgiving (and Christmas) baskets. The cash collection was a whopping \$235. As with all food pantries they rely on their community for support and we are great supporters!

In the last three months (August, September and October), the pantry served 703 people which equals to 6,327 meals. As we progress into the colder months the statistics show our food pantry's needs increase in the number of requests for food. If you would like to make a personal food donation to the food bank, the Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-12 and will receive donations during that time.

If you ever want to know about the Food Pantry that our Club supports, please contact me.

Gloria Turner, Food Pantry Liaison

Collections for the January 2024 General and Luncheon Meeting will be for the School Projects Committee.

"Spending Time Together"

Member to Member

Trip to Apalachicola





Bobbi Griggs, Lynn Padgett, Sharon Williams, Doris Bayliss, Lisa Nicholson, Soula Dortch

On November 6, 50 WCC Members and friends took a day trip to Apalachicola. It truly was a day of fun and fellowship! The chatter on the bus was nonstop, the scenery along the way was beautiful and the weather was perfect! It was so much fun running into members of our group in the boutiques, at lunch, along the streets, and especially in the gelato/chocolate shop. We can't thank our members enough for making our first bus trip such a success!! Based on multiple requests, we will be looking to do another trip this year. If you have a destination in mind, please let Patty Rocco or Cheri Leistner know.

December Bunco

Our next bunco will be Wednesday, December 13 at Taylor's Restaurant on Thomas Drive. As normal, play will begin at 10 am, so please plan to arrive a few minutes early for check in. Cost is \$20 and includes game play, prizes and lunch. If you have not played bunco before, no worries! This is a game that can be learned in minutes and if you can count, you can play! Everyone at your table will be helping you. And in keeping with the holiday season, this bunco will feature a "Dirty Santa" gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift valued between \$15 and \$20. If you haven't played "Dirty Santa" before, numbers are drawn and whoever has number 1 will pick a gift. They will open the gift and show it to everyone. Number 2 then gets to select a gift. They can either take the gift from number 1 or choose a new gift to open. (That's why it's called Dirty Santa, you don't know what gift you'll actually get to keep till the very end!) If they steal the gift from number 1, then number 1 gets to select a new gift. Play continues through all numbers. When it's your turn to select a gift, you may choose

a new gift, or from any of the opened gifts. But a gift may only be stolen 3 times, so choose wisely! This promises to be an exciting day for all!

Please make your bunco reservations with Patty Rocco, pattyarocco@gmail.com or 812-276-8115 by Monday, December 11 at 10am. We will be limited to 24 players, so make your reservation early.

"Recognizing our Members"

Happy Birthday Wishes!!

December

- 03 Elaine Lichtenberger
- 03 Sharon McDonald
- 07 Annetta Henderson
- 09 Jean Cooney
- 09 Luciann Jacobs
- 11 Faye Culpepper
- 14 Susan Curry
- 27 Carol Davis
- 30 Gayle Oberst



"Upcoming Events"

- Dec 2 PCB Marathon, 7AM-1PM
- Dec 7 Christmas Program and Luncheon at Boardwalk Beach Hotel, 9600 S Thomas Dr, 11AM
- Dec 13 Christmas Bunco at Taylor's, 1114 Thomas Dr, 10AM
- Dec 28 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 309 R Jackson, 10AM
- Dec 31 New Year's Eve Beach Ball Drop at Pier Park
- Jan 4 General Meeting and Luncheon at Deckhand Social, 3901 Thomas Dr, 11AM
- Jan 25 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 309 R Jackson, 10AM
- Jan 26 & 27 Panama City Beach Mardi Gras and Music Festival at Aaron Bessant Park
- Feb 3 Dance and Silent Auction at The Wharf, 9902 S Thomas Dr., 10AM

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

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