



The Civic Courier

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

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December 2024



Nancy Stovall

From the President's Desk

Dear Members:

Our December Christmas Luncheon is always the highlight of the year as we give back to the community and once again, we will have the opportunity to enjoy the adventures and songs of the Patronis Choir. Our donations of over \$22,000 will impact many people and is a result of your continued commitment and dedication.

In 2025, The Women's Civic Club will be celebrating 60 years of caring, sharing and giving back to our community. Google says, "the fundamentals of *caring and sharing* are: sharing is when you give up something of yours so someone else can benefit or take pleasure in it; caring is displaying kindness, compassion, and being aware of others' feelings and needs". Take a moment to imagine how many volunteer hours were spent and how many people were impacted over 60 years.

December is a month of shopping for gifts and one of the best gifts is the "gift of time." To many people giving time is simply volunteering but it is much more than that, it's a foundation on which we can build a better life for ourselves while we build a better community. My sincere thanks to each of you for your "gifts of time" to the club and to the community.

"Sharing is a way of life that brings joy to everyone involved". Unknown

Nancy



Andrew Starr

November Luncheon Spotlight – Transforming Healthcare in Panama City Beach, Florida

We were honored to welcome Andrew Starr, Vice President and Chief Health Operations Officer of Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare (TMH), as the guest speaker at the November luncheon. Mr. Starr captivated the audience with an insightful presentation about the newly completed medical office building and the transformative hospital project coming to Panama City Beach. This initiative promises to revolutionize healthcare access and elevate the quality of care in our community.

Key Highlights of the Presentation:

1. Vision & Planning

The hospital is designed with the community at its core, aiming to provide seamless, patient-focused healthcare. The campus will prioritize accessibility, intuitive navigation, and a welcoming environment for patients, families, and staff.

2. Timeline & Growth

Spanning 87 acres on Highway 79, the project's first phase includes an 80,000 square foot Medical Office Building (MOB), which will feature primary care, urgent care, cardiology, orthopedics, imaging, an outpatient pharmacy, and more.

- Groundbreaking for the hospital is set for January 2025, with completion anticipated by late 2027. Initially designed for 100 beds, projections have already doubled to 200 beds, reflecting the region's growing needs.
- The campus is poised for significant expansion, with plans for three additional medical office buildings totaling 400,000 square feet. Recent zoning updates in Bay County permit structures up to 95 feet, allowing for five-story facilities to better serve the community.

3. Commitment to Local Governance

The hospital will be locally governed, ensuring decisions are made with the community's best interest in mind, rather than corporate shareholders.

4. Education & Talent Retention

Partnerships with Florida State University and residency programs will help attract and retain top-tier physicians. Studies show that doctors are more likely to stay in the areas where they train, providing long-term benefits to our community.

5. A Destination for Healthcare

The vision extends beyond meeting local needs, positioning Panama City Beach as a premier regional healthcare destination. With aspirations to rival institutions like Duke, Vanderbilt, and UAB, the hospital aims to elevate the area's reputation for medical excellence.

This project is more than just the construction of a hospital; it represents a commitment to a stronger, healthier future for Panama City Beach. With each milestone, we move closer to a community where top-quality healthcare is available in our own backyard.

Mr. Starr stated that he was excited about the opportunities this development brings, from enhancing healthcare services to fostering economic growth, and he looks forward to the positive impact it will have for generations to come.

We extend our sincere appreciate to Mr. Starr for taking the time to share his insights with us. His presentation was both informative and inspiring, shedding light on the exciting developments in our community's healthcare landscape.

We look forward to welcoming him back in the future to provide updates as the new health facilities continue to grow, creating opportunities for healthcare professionals and introducing cutting-edge medical advancements to our area. Thank you, Mr. Starr, for your dedication and vision!



FASHION SHOW: The mini-fashion show was an absolute delight! Our models, Soula Dortch and Carol Adams along with our talented MC, Bobbi Griggs, dazzled and shined as they showcased LOFT's latest designs, bringing style and elegance to the event. From trendy everyday essentials to chic statement pieces, the collection offered inspiration for elevating any wardrobe.

The LOFT team went above and beyond by providing generous giveaways. Their thoughtful offerings truly elevated the experience and were much appreciated.

THANK YOU: A heartfelt thank-you to our fabulous models and to everyone who joined us. Your energy and enthusiasm made the luncheon an enjoyable and fashionable success!

DECEMBER LUNCHEON: We can't wait to see everyone at our December 5th luncheon. The magic of the season is upon us, and it's the season of giving! Come enjoy the choir from Patronis Elementary and gather to be a part of something truly special as we distribute funds to various charities and organizations! The luncheon will be held at Boardwalk Beach Hotel and Convention Center, 9600 South Thomas Drive, Panama City Beach, FL 32408.

Please check your email for your luncheon invitation and be sure to RSVP by the deadline. Your timely response will help us secure your spot and provide the venue with an accurate count. We don't want you to miss out, so we truly appreciate your prompt reply!

Looking forward to seeing y'all in December.

Jane Fillingim, Lunches and Programs Chair

"Welcome New Members"



- Membership Chair Arlene Klaas
- Sponsor Jean Sturman
- Rhonda Jones
- Kerri Morris
- Sponsor Lynn Padgett
- Janet Tettermer
- Sponsor Carol Lynn



Hello! My name is Rhonda Jones and I am super excited to be a part of the Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach. I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know everyone. My husband, Barry Jones of 38 years, and I moved permanently August of 2023. We've owned several condos here and have always vacationed in PCB and are excited to now call it our home. We have two children. Our son Ben lives here as well and works at one of the local golf courses. Our daughter, Jensen Henderson lives with her husband and our two grandchildren in Tuscaloosa. Yes, we are all diehard Alabama fans. Our daughter and son in law, graduated from the University of Alabama. We have a grand daughter who is 4, and she says I am her best friend, and a new grandson who was born this October.

I enjoy CrossFit and have been lifting heavy things for about 8 years now. My husband and I enjoy riding bikes around our condo and to the state park during cooler weather. I enjoy reading as another hobby. We've joined First Baptist Panama City and I'm hoping to get plugged into the choir as I love singing.

I look forward to getting involved with the Women's Club, making new friends, and making an impact on our community together.

Hey yall! My name is Kerri Morris. I feel so blessed to be part of this amazing group of women. My husband, Brian, and I will celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary next April. We have 3 amazing kiddos and are expecting our first grandchild - a sweet baby girl - in April as well. We are originally from Mississippi but have called PCB home since May 2018.

When not working full time as an Insurance Agent, I spend most of my free time at the beach or shopping. As a family we also enjoy walking and exploring the trails at our beautiful parks.

I'm very excited to work with WCC and do my part to give back to our community. I look forward to forming lasting friendships and bonds with your beautiful ladies. Hope yall have a bless week!





Janet Tettemer

Janet and her husband moved here from Conifer, Colorado 3.5 years ago at the request of her son, Stuart Tettemer, who is our Mayor. They also have a daughter who is a medical research scientist in Seattle, WA. She specializes in breast cancer research and chose this field after Janet survived breast cancer.

Janet is a retired real estate broker and paralegal. She loves PCB and wants to give back to the community and to be a part of the community. She is also a member of the Gulf Beach Garden Club, where she volunteers at the ARK to restore their community garden and other events hosted by the Garden Club.

She said she is an “Army brat” and has lived many places. There are 3 generations of military service in her family. She was born in Berlin, Germany.

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

Raising Funds

Arts and Craft Show



Cathy Schnader, Joyce Kippes, Jan Schott, Deb Kesinger, Sherrill Kelly



Ron and Elaine Lichtenberger, Kay Vider



Julie Sanders



The Fall Fling Arts and Crafts Show on November 9th was a great success! There were 42 vendors and 488 shoppers. The Literary Cafe had good feedback from both authors and customers.

Thanks to Jenna Hall, Kay Vider and the marketing team. Social media seemed to be the way the majority of the shoppers heard about the event. Gloria Turner, Annetta Henderson and the kitchen crew did a great job with the menu and the services which received high marks from the vendors. All volunteers, coordinated by Jayn Collins, ensured the decorations, signs, entry table were set up and ready to go, as well as making sure vendors got the help they needed.

Now it's time to fast forward to our **Spring Fling** - it will be on Saturday, March 8th, so please mark your calendars!

Julie Sanders and Jayn Collins
Arts and Crafts Show Committee Chairs

The kitchen committee supported the Arts and Crafts committee by running a Cafe' on the day of the November 9th event. Our committee members made pastries, BBQ and Breakfast Casseroles. The Café' opened as soon as the coffee was ready much to the happiness of vendors who were eager to buy coffee, pastries and a slice of freshly made breakfast casserole. We operate the café in two shifts with the first shift starting at 7am, the earliest we can get into Frank Brown Park's community center. We are getting better each time with the amount of food/drinks we prepare or purchase so we have very little left over. What we do have left over is donated to Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church's food pantry... so nothing goes to waste. We are not a fundraising committee, but we do have FUN, and we do raise funds that goes to the Women's Club general fund and ultimately goes to assist our beach community.

Gloria Turner, Chair Annetta Henderson, Co-chair

Dance and Silent Auction



Please Join Us as we celebrate a truly special milestone! In 2025, the Women’s Civic Club of Panama City Beach, Florida, Inc. proudly marks 60 years of caring, sharing, and giving back to our beloved community. To commemorate this incredible achievement, we are excited to announce our Diamond Jubilee Gala fundraising event. The Gala will feature a spectacular Dance and Charity Auction and will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at the Boardwalk Beach Hotel and Convention Center. Proceeds from this memorable evening will benefit numerous charitable causes. We warmly invite you to celebrate this extraordinary evening with us.

This event, featuring a dance, dinner, and robust silent and live auction along with great entertainment, will play a pivotal role in raising funds for the causes we support, and your involvement can truly help us make a difference. By teaming up with us for this occasion, you become an essential part of our mission to give back to our community.

Sponsorship Opportunities: We are excited to offer four levels of sponsorship opportunities for our upcoming event. Each level presents a unique chance to make a meaningful impact while gaining valuable exposure and supporting our mission. Our Diamond, Gold, Silver, and Bronze sponsorships provide substantial benefits and offer meaningful ways to become involved, all while lending vital support to our cause.

The Women’s Civic Club of Panama City Beach, Florida, Inc., is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving life in the Panama City Beach community. Your generous support directly impacts numerous local charities and community organizations. By joining our 2025 Diamond Jubilee Gala – Dance and Charity Auction, you will be part of a community of individuals and organizations dedicated to making a positive difference.

Your Dance Chair and Co-Chairs,
Jane Fillingim, Julie Sanders, and Soula Dortch

Donations of an item, service, experience or gift card to be included in our silent auction is another way to support our fundraising efforts and donations are still needed. If you have not yet reached out to prospective donors, please do so as soon as possible as the date of the Dance & Silent Auction is quickly approaching! Please let Kelly Bertin kwbertin@yahoo.com know of any commitments you have for donations. Also contact Kelly for a convenient pick-up or drop off process for the received donations.

Tammy Galloway and Kelly Bertin
Silent Auction Chairs

Ironman and Panama City Beach Marathon



Deb Kesinger, Karen Demeester



Carol Adams, Kelly Bertin, Sharon McDonald

Our volunteers did a fantastic job of stuffing bags, directing athletes through the tent, checking them in and providing them with their swag/transition bags and backpacks. Thank you volunteers! You are appreciated!



Jeanette Poland, Tommy Thomas



"Our Volunteers"



Kris Sadoris, Gloria Turner

The PCB Marathon is December 7th and volunteers are still needed for the water stations. There are two shifts, 7:00am-10:00am and 9:45am-1:00pm. Please contact Kelly Bertin kwbertin@yahoo.com to support this event.

Kelly Bertin, Chair

Special Beach Events

Home for the Holidays



Monica Thomas, Karen & Dave Demeester, Tom McElroy, Donna McElroy, Lynn Padgett



Diane Vitale, Carol Lynn, Gail Claffey, Cathy Schnader, Nancy Stovall, Joyce Kippes



Cathy Schnader, Sony Edwards, Joyce Kippes



Nancy Stovall, Arlene Klaas, Jeanette Poland, Gloria Turner, Phil Klaas, Carol Lynn, Darlene Conrad



Karolina and Jurgen Schleicher, Sue Jiles, Sharon McDonald

Home for the Holidays kicks off the Holiday season for many of us in the WCC. S'mores kits were assembled for 4000 of the attendees at Aaron Bessant Park on Friday November 29 and Saturday November 30. Our ladies were tasked with distributing the s'mores kits, roasting sticks and holiday hats for Visit Panama City Beach. With the lovely decorations, carolers, firepits, movies, concerts, fireworks and of course Santa, our ladies and their families thoroughly enjoyed the event. This is truly a unique and family friendly experience for all of PCB to enjoy.

And thanks to Visit Panama City Beach, the Women's Civic Club of PCB served as the "OFFICIAL" Hot Cocoa Booth of the event. This was a first for the club and we were honored with such recognition! We experienced a couple of hiccups the first night, but the event attendees were understanding and patient with us. By Saturday night, we were "cooking with gas" and the sales line was constantly moving. We sold out of Hot Cocoa during the symphony's performance.

Many thanks to our ladies and husbands that served on the s'mores assembly line to prep all those kits and have them ready for distribution. It was a fun day and a chance to really enjoy each other's company. Then we had the Friday and Saturday night crews in the s'mores tent. And finally we had the cocoa tent staffed on both Friday and Saturday. A multi day event like this takes a lot of prep, set up and then staffing. We cannot express enough gratitude to ALL that worked this event and made everything possible. All of you also represented the club so well to the community with your wonderful, friendly smiles and attitudes. Once again, our members prove that we are "United for a Better Community!"

Cheri Leistner and Sue Jiles, Special Beach Event Chairs

"Supporting the Community"

Community Outreach



Center Picture: Roberta Bernhardt, Sharon Williams, Lynn Padgett, Gloria Turner, Friend, Jane Fillingim, Denise Rentz, Doris Bayliss, Friend and Residence and Staff from Superior

Women Civic Club Members and friends assisted residents at Superior Residences of Panama City Beach with the cupcake decorating class on November 20th. It was also a time for celebrating November birthdays.

Food Pantry



Gloria Turner, Beth Reedy



November Luncheon Collections

December Collections for Christmas Baskets

- * Dried Potatoes
- * Boxed Stuffing
- * Canned Green Beans
- * Canned Yams
- * Canned Cranberry Sauce
- * Canned Chicken Broth
- * Gravy
- * Canned Corn

At the November Business Luncheon, we collected food for Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church's Food Pantry for their Thanksgiving Basket distributions. They also received a check from the W.C.C. in the amount of \$122 from cash donations at the luncheon. We will be collecting food and cash donations at our December Business Luncheon for their Christmas Basket Distributions.

Again, the numbers only increase for individuals and families needing food assistance on the beach. In October 2024 the food pantry served 464 people that amounts to 4176 meals. This month on Wednesday alone, November 13, they served 83 people and that is giving food out for 747 meals.

We, in the Women's Club, are very blessed that we can assist with both cash and food donations to Gulf Breeze's food pantry. When you are purchasing or donating cash for their Christmas Baskets, please remember to say a pray for those who really depend on the food pantries, not just Gulf Breeze but for all of the other food pantries on the beach.

Gloria Turner, Food Pantry Liaison

Scholarships

In 2007, the Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach made a \$ 15,000 donation for an endowment to the Gulf Coast State College for their General Fund. In 2013, our Club established a second endowment of \$15,000 for their Culinary Program. The selection of the recipients is made by the Gulf Coast State College Scholarship Foundation. The General endowment scholarship for the incoming year (2024-2025) was Aiste Palukaitye and the Culinary endowment went to Brittany Fillyaw.

Aiste lives in Panama City Beach and is a graduate of J R Arnold High School. Her major is Diagnostic Med Sono Tech (AS). Brittany lives in Panama City Beach is majoring in Hospitality and Tourism Management (AS).

"Spending Time Together"

Member to Member

Kirby Holt's Holiday Decorating Showcase



Becky Farmer



Dena Roewe, Bobbi Griggs, Kelly Bertin, Becky Farmer, Natalie May



Kirby and Brad Holt

The Member to Member Committee sponsored a quick bus trip to Chipley, FL to see our favorite floral designer, Kirby Holt, perform his magic at his annual Holiday Decorating Showcase. This year he was joined by his son Brad on stage and there was a quick cameo appearance by his granddaughter! We were all entertained by his stories and jokes, but most importantly we were enthralled as Kirby demonstrated how to turn any tree into a decorator showpiece! We even learned about filler, spillers and thrillers as Kirby demonstrated making holiday centerpieces and door decorations. Once again, Kirby never disappoints us with his shows. And he again demonstrated his generosity to the Women's Civic Club of PCB

with a generous donation to our club. Many thanks to all of those that joined us on the bus, as well as those that drove to the morning and evening shows!

The bus riders also got to enjoy some tasty bites at 1901 on Main. It was just what we needed to complete the mood for the evening.

Save the Date:

In response to our summer bunco players that requested a winter bunco, Member to Member Bunco organizers Sony Edwards and Carol Lynn are planning a bunco on February 13 at Taylors. More information will be coming as the date draws near.

Cheri Leistner, Member to Member Chair

"Recognizing our Members"

Happy Birthday Wishes!!

December

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



"Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter!" Mark Twain

"In Appreciation"

From: St. Bernadette Child Development Academy

Acknowledges with gratitude your generous gift in memory of Rowan Quave. The family has been notified of your kindness.

From: Gwen Odenheimer

You make a difference. Thank you for keeping me up with great work our club has been doing all these many years. I've been with you since 1982. Keep it up!

From: Gulf Coast State College Foundation Board of Directors

On behalf of the Gulf Coast State College Foundation's Board of Directors, we would like to thank you for your continued support. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to be good stewards of funds and to protect the donor's intent.

We are grateful that you have given us the opportunity to administer your scholarship. Our Foundation is successful because of donors like you who have made an investment in the future of our community.

From: Aiste Palukaitye, Gulf Coast State College Scholarship Recipient

Thank you so much for awarding me with this scholarship! I am so excited, and it will help me a lot to pay for my tuition. Being the best sonographer I can be is definitely my biggest life goal. It means much for you believing in me and I will continue doing my very best. Can't wait to see what new information other semesters will bring. I learned a lot in first semester, and it is just the beginning. Thank you for helping me financially and believing in me:).

From: Brittany Fillyaw, Gulf Coast State College Scholarship Recipient

Thank you so much for accepting my application amongst the other applicants! I am so grateful for this scholarship offer! This is an opportunity that definitely helps me in my journey of obtaining my degree.

From: Family of Rowan Quave

During a time like this we learn how much our friends and family really means to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

From: Julie Sanders

Dear Members of PCB Women's Club, Thank you so much for your generous donation to St. Bernadette's Catholic Church in honor of mom. She so loved being a member of the Civic Club and was so excited to get involved and meet so many wonderful ladies after she moved to Panama City Beach. The many cards she received before her passing made her smile and the many cards of condolence were special to me. We miss her terribly but are grateful for all the precious memories we have. Love, Julie

"Upcoming Events"

- Dec 5 Christmas Luncheon at Boardwalk Beach Hotel, 9600 S Thomas Drive, 11AM
- Dec 7 PCB Marathon
- Dec 12 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
- Dec 19 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
- Dec 19 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 10AM
- Dec 31 New Year's Eve Beach Ball Drop at Pier Park and Aaron Bessant Park
- Jan 3, 2025 Luncheon Meeting at Dee's Hangout, 529 N R Jackson, 11AM
- Jan 9 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
- Jan 16 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
- Jan 30 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 10AM
- Feb 1 Dance and Silent Auction at Boardwalk, 9600 S Thomas Drive

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

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