



The Civic Courier

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

Volume XV- Issue 6
February 2026

"From the President's Desk"



February is a short month, but it is a month full of love! Not only do we celebrate Valentine's Day on the 14th, but the Women's Civic Club of PCB will be hosting our Hearts and Hands Celebration. This celebration is all about love - the love we spread in our community. And it's not just the grants that we make at our December luncheon. It's the monthly donations that we make to the food pantry to feed the hungry, the school donations of warm clothes and student uniforms, the gift of learning that we donate to the Boys and Girls Club, and so many more. It's also about the love we share when donate our time to serve our assisted living facilities, and other community organizations. It's also about sharing our love and support through our Sunshine Committee.

This February, we have the bonus of celebrating Mardi Gras at the Music Festival at Aaron Bessant Park. Many of you will take this opportunity to work this festive event and earn more funds for our charities. Again, it's about the love that we spread in our community.

So thank you to ALL of our members who share the love, who work to earn the funds for our donations, who support our fundraisers, who donate your time and talents to our organization. With the efforts of each of you, we are truly UNITED FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY!

Blessings and love to you all!

Cheri Leistner

"January Luncheon - Networking and Partnerships"

**Shannon Richmond, Vice President
PCB Chamber of Commerce**



As par for the course, we had a great buffet luncheon at Dee's Hangout for our January lunch and business meeting. Always a Club's favorite. Shannon Richmond, PCB Chamber of Commerce V.P., spoke on the history of the Chamber, member benefits, and upcoming events. Shannon expressed her appreciation for our endurance on working the PCB Marathon, and not only expressed her appreciation but the positive feedback they receive from the athletes for our volunteering and "cheer" leading encouragement to them.

This was a closed meeting to take care of Club business. Kelly Bertin spoke on the responsibilities of the sponsor of a potential member, the process required before an application is submitted to the board, the board's part, and the sponsor's role afterwards. Kelly also went over the conflict of interest form we will be asked to sign with our renewal of membership and why it is required. Sue Jiles then spoke on the necessity to make reservations "on time" for our luncheons and the procedure for late reservations. Sue also reminded the members if they are not going to attend the luncheon after they made reservations to please notify her as soon as possible, so she can see if she can fill those reservations with a member on the waiting list.

On February 5th we will be holding our meeting at a new venue for us and one that has not been open too long on the beach. We will be going to the Big Easy, noted for their Cajun food. If you are not a fan of Cajun food there will be another option on the menu, so "not to worry". We are excited about trying a new restaurant and the manager and chef are excited about having us. So take it easy and I will see you at the Big Easy in February.

A bientot or in laymen's terms. ... Toot- A- Loo

Gloria Turner, Lunches and Programs Chair

"The Membership Tree"

Marie Youngpeter, Cathy Schnader, Kelly Bertin



Kelly Bertin, Wayne Roland, Danny Donaldson, Cathy Schnader



A new Membership Tree was unveiled at our January luncheon and will be used during the installation ceremony for new members. There is much symbolism in the tree. The roots of the tree define our core qualities of being Strong, Dedicated, Civic Minded, Giving and United. Every member has a leaf on the tree with their name on it. The leaves are multi-colored to reflect our individual uniqueness. To show our gratitude and appreciation, those who have been a member for 10 years and up have gold leaves. Members with with 5-9 years of membership have silver leaves. At its unveiling, there were 96 leaves on the tree. Three new members were installed at the luncheon and it now has 99 leaves.

Our new Membership Tree would not have been possible without the creativity and talent of member Cathy Schnader. Thanks to Marie Youngpeter, owner of Sunset Bear Gallery, who generously offered us her studio space and was a great sounding board. We would also like to thank Danny Donaldson and Wayne Roland from the Latitude Margaritaville Lost Hammer & Saw Woodworking shop for making the wooden sign with our club's name on it.

"Welcome New Members"



I, **Janessa Markowitz**, moved to PCB 2 years ago from Houston Texas where I had been an elementary teacher for 25 years. I have one son who lives in Atlanta, and I am anxiously awaiting my first grandchild in June! In my spare time I enjoy exercising, traveling and volunteering. I currently volunteer at West Bay elementary in the classroom and Library. I look forward to making new friends while helping our community.

I, **Sandy McTrusty**, have lived in Panama City Beach for 25 years. I am married to Tim McTrusty who is a Diver and Engineer at the Navy Base. Together we have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. I am retired and my work background is in Insurance Marketing and retail.

Hi, My name is **Morene Chiarella**, but most people call me Mo. I was raised in Louisiana. I love the food, music and culture there, but my new home is in Margaritaville, which is a wonderful place to retire. My partner is David Blasi, who will be by my side volunteering for a lot of the Women's Civic Club events. We moved here 9 years ago from the DFW area. I have two children of my own and a stepson. I also have 3 grandchildren and another grandbaby who will be born in May.

I worked at Citi Financial as a Branch Manager in Louisiana for 22 years. Moved to Texas and worked at Tarrant County College as the President's Executive Secretary for 13 years. I've always loved the beach, so we packed it up and moved here and lived in a condo on the beach for 6 years before our move to Margaritaville.

I'm an avid reader. Mystery is what I love best, but I will read just about anything. I also love to cook. Cajun dishes are my favorite. I have been known to play a little washboard on occasion.

I'm excited to be involved with such a great organization. The ladies that I have met so far are so lovely to be around. The members that I have talked with are passionate about this club. It's a good vibe. Thank you again to the Board Members and Members who took time to call me, take me to lunch and answer all the questions that I have had. I'm extremely proud to be a new member of such a well-run organization.

"Continuing to Give Back to the Community"



David Finn, Cheri Leistner, need name from Sue



Cheri Leistner, Pastor Brad Zimanek, Rhonda Zartman

Representatives from the Thomas Drive Volunteer Fire Department, West End Volunteer Fire Department, and Gulf View United Church's Domestic Violence Program were unable to attend our December luncheon to receive their donations from the club. So, President Cheri Leistner went to them.

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

Raising Funds

Arts and Crafts Show

Spring Fling 2026
Saturday, March 7
9 AM - 3 PM

Mark your calendars and share with friends, family and neighbors. Come on out and shop from local artisans with all handcrafted items. New vendors as well as returning favorites! Pick up your next read and get it signed in our Literary Cafe, with several new local authors selling and signing their books! Hope to see you there!

Julie Sanders and Jayn Collins, Arts and Crafts Committee Chairs

The Spring Fling Flyer is included at the end of the newsletter. One of the ways you can help promote the event is to either print the flyer and hang on bulletin boards or post it to your local Facebook page.

Dance and Silent Auction

The Members of the Club plus many of their friends have been diligent in soliciting items from businesses and/or donating items for the Silent Auction. We are pleased for the 102 items received to date. Compared to last year we had 197 items, so more items are needed to make this a success. Please contact businesses for donations or consider giving a donation yourself. As all items will be entered in the on-line bidding system, we request the items be available by February 6th.

We are also excited to announce for those attending the dance that bidding on Silent Auction items will be done by using their mobile device this year! It's a fun way to bid and provides a streamlined check-out process. If you are attending the Celebration, please register to bid as soon as you receive the bidder registration instructions which will be emailed to guests very soon.



Rhonda Zartman, Kris Saddoris, WMBB Reporter Carolyn McKenzie



**HEARTS & HANDS CELEBRATION
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026, 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM
BOARDWALK BEACH HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER**

RED EVENT Sponsor, **St Joseph Community Foundation** will be joined by these partners: Pink \$1,000 **Cardiac Institute of NWFL, Gulf Coast Panama Jack**, and many others have begun reserving their table for an exciting event evening. All Sponsor packages available include Dinner, Table for 10, early admission to Silent Auction, social media and website spotlights.

The Entertainment with Todd Herendeen, Master of Ceremonies and Tim Summerow, Disk Jockey along with both Silent & Live Auctions will make this an unforgettable night. Wear those dancing shoes!

Auction Spotlight Dances with...SSSHHH don't tell...

- 1 Single Lady
- 1 Romantic Couple
- 1 Table with the KING

Be sure to grab your friends to sponsor a table that guarantees you'll have great seats together attending an extraordinary evening filled with an elegant dinner, dancing, silent & enthusiastic live auctions. Get Registered for those **Auction live updates**.

Special thank you to **Coin & Bullion Reserves Fine Jewelry** for their gorgeous donation, has to be seen, to be believed.

Please contact co-chairs Donna McElroy and Julie Sanders to add your favorite tune to the Spotify DANCE list. Requests will also be accepted.

There are many opportunities for Members to get involved, we need all WCC Members to share their talents and time to make this a successful event. We need everyone to help – decorating, welcoming, registration with training, set up and event close down/clean up afterwards. We welcome the assistance of spouses and friends as well.

- EVENT Set-Up: Thursday, February 12th
- Where: Boardwalk Conference Center
- Time: Auction – 8:30 AM / Dance 10:00 AM
- Tear Down: Immediately following CELEBRATION Closing at 10:00 PM

YOU as a WCC Member are an essential part of our Mission:
United for a Better Community.

The Dance and Silent Auction flyer is included at the end of the newsletter. One of the ways you can help promote the event is to either print the flyer and hang on bulletin boards or post it to your local Facebook page.

Meeting our goals:

	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Progress</u>	<u>% to Goal</u>
Dance Income Goal	\$50,000	\$12,300	25
Silent Auction Item Retail Value	\$40,000	\$12,726	32

The sponsor introduction letter, sponsorship opportunities, sponsorship form and tickets are available by contacting Rhonda Zartman or Julie Sanders. The sponsorship opportunities, sponsorship form and tickets are also available at wccpcb.org/events.

Merchant introduction letters and item donation information forms are available by contacting Kelly Bertin or Nancy Stovall. Thank you for helping the club to meet or exceed these goals.

Dance Committee Chair & Co Chairs

Rhonda Zartman, Julie Sanders, Donna McElroy

Silent Auction Chairs

Nancy Stovall, Kelly Bertin

Special Beach Events -Mardi Gras



The temperature at Aaron Bessant Park was freezing. Really! Low 30 degrees! But on January 31st that didn't stop the ladies of the Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach. The Mardi Gras celebrations went on, and the beer flowed thanks to our dedicated, layered, hand-warmers-toting ladies and one brave husband! Many thanks to you all for going above and beyond! Laissez les bon FRIGID temps rouler!!

Hopefully we will have thawed some in time for our next Special Beach Events fundraising opportunity, The Food Truck Festival on February 7th and 8th!

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

"Supporting the Community"

Boys and Girls Club

The Frank Brown Boys and Girls Club is gearing up for their week of Spring Break. From March 16-20, 2026, they will host a Craft Time at their location in the gym at Frank Brown Park. If you are able to join any day from 10-12, they could use your help. Please email Monica at monicathomas@comcast.net if you are available to lend a hand. They could use 4-5 people each day."

March Luncheon collects will be for the Boys and Girls Club.

Monica Thomas, Boys and Girls Club Liaison

Community Outreach

The Community Outreach Committee is collecting donations for birthday bags for Superior Living at the February luncheon meeting.

Little Debbie Snack Cakes
Body Wash
Nail Kits
Lotion

Kleenex (Box)
Note Pads
Plain or Grip Socks
Birthday Cards

Gloria Turner and Sharon McDonald, Co-Chairs

School Projects



Pictured above:

Patronis Elementary School: Deb Kesinger, Principal Brooke Loyed, Vice Principal Katie McKenzie, Jeanette Poland
West Bay Elementary: Monica Thomas, Principal Bridget Miller, Assistant Principal Amanda Stephens, Jeanette Poland
Breakfast Point Academy: Carol Benson, Monica Thomas, Principal Denise Moss, Jeanette Poland, Sharon Cook
A Walsingham Academy: Assistant Administrator Elise Kirk, Tonia Sampson, Jeanette Poland
Hutchinson Beach Elementary: Lisa Nicholson, Jenna Hall, Parent Liaison Cindy Brost, Jan Schott, Jeanette Poland, Tonia Sampson, Principal Glenda Nouskhajian, Admin Heather Register

The School Projects Committee delivered jackets, long pants, hats and gloves to five schools. They also presented each school with a \$500 check to be used for individual school needs.

Jeanette Poland, Karen Demeester - School Projects Co-Chairs

Scholarships



Cheri Leistner, Monica Thomas

Did you know that we started two endowment scholarships for the Gulf Coast State College Foundation for \$15,000 each?

The Women's Civic Club of PCB Endowed Scholarship was started in 2007. This is a general scholarship for any student enrolled in the college. In 2013, we added the Culinary Arts Endowed Scholarship which is for a student enrolled in the Culinary Management Program. Because of our support, Cheri and Monica were invited to attend the first annual Future in Focus which was a breakfast meeting connecting scholars and donors. This was an opportunity for them to see how our generosity transforms lives and gives students journeys that are made possible because of our endowed scholarships.

"Spending Time Together"

Member to Member

Please mark your calendars for these important upcoming Member to Member dates:

Bunco - February 25th at Taylor's restaurant

1114 Thomas Drive
Games start at 10:00 am
\$20 lunch included

New Member Orientation - Monday, March 23rd at the Senior Center

423 Lyndell Lane
****New Time 4:30 pm*

Open to New Members, Member to Member Committee Members, All Committee Chairs, Board members and anyone interested in learning more about our committees

Please attend and learn more about our club committees and what is expected of members

April 19th - Member Thank You Picnic - Sunday Afternoon April 19th at Camp Helen State Park

23937 Panama City Beach Parkway
All Members invited, lunch is served and you have all of the park available to you.

More information to come as we get closer to these dates - just a reminder to please put on your calendar.

While you are in your gift closet after the holidays, think about donating a few small items to the Bunco group. We are in need of a few cute inexpensive gifts if your closet is full after Christmas.

Sony Edwards and 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!!

February

- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 03 | Sandy McTrusty |
| 10 | Sue Jiles |
| 10 | Sueli Santori |
| 17 | Felicia England |
| 18 | Tammy Galloway |



*"Another year older,
wiser, and even more
fabulous!!"*

"In Appreciation"

From: Hutchinson Beach Elementary Faculty, Staff and Students

Hope. Joy. Love. Kindness. We wish you a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

From: Boys & Girls Clubs of Bay County - Hank Hill, Chief Executive Office

On behalf of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bay County, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation to support our efforts in benefiting the local community through providing swim lessons for the Beach Club. Your contribution of \$2,000, check #6116, played an essential role in helping us provide for local children.

It's because of kind-hearted individuals like you that we can continue our work and make a tangible, positive impact in the lives of those who need it most. Your generosity truly makes a difference, not just in the lives of individuals, but in fostering a stronger, more connected community.

We are honored to count you as a valued partner in our mission, and we look forward to sharing the progress made possible by your support. Please know that your kindness is deeply appreciated, and we hope to keep you informed about the meaningful change you are helping to create.

Once again, thank you for your compassion and support. Together, we can continue to build a better future for our community.

From: Surfside Middle School - Principal Matt Pitts

On behalf of Surfside Middle School, we would like to thank you for the generous donation made to the Principal's Discretionary Fund to assist needy students at Christmas. Our students and staff genuinely appreciate the support of our community and parents, both of which play a vital role in the tradition of success Surfside has enjoyed over the years.

From: Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church Community Food Pantry - Elder Beth Reedy

2 Corinthians 9:11 - You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

Many thanks once again to the members of the Women's Civic Club for your continued support of our Community Food Pantry. Your consistent generous donations of food and money are so greatly appreciated. Thank you especially for the \$2000 donation for our pantry. We cannot express how these donations help us to continue our mission of helping those in need in our community.

Please share with all of your members our sincere appreciation for all you do to help support our Community Food Pantry.

May the Lord Bless and keep you and yours, making us all ever mindful of the needs of others. Peace and Blessings.

From: Girls Inc. (Inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold) - Catherine Glover

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts for your generous donation that will directly support the needs of our Beach center location! Our programs & services are so vital for our girls, and we could not do what we do without the financial support of our community. Warmly.

From: Anchorage Children's Home (McElvey House) - Executive Director Joel Booth

Your gift to Anchorage Children's Home is truly making a difference. As we face these challenging times, I would like to take a moment to thank you for your recent \$1,000.00 donation. Every act of your generosity helps us further our mission and provide safety to abused and homeless youth in our community. Without your support, we would not be able to accomplish our goals and meet the needs of so many.

Again, thank you for your gift to Anchorage Children's Home and for partnering with us. God bless you Ladies!! Merry Christmas!

From: Arnold High School Culinary Program

Thank ya'll! very much - Chef Rudd. Thank you!! - Wyatt Stewart. Thank you!! - Dawson. Thank You!! - Kameron Juarez. Thank you!! Cordell Bell. Thank You! - Airy. Thank you very much! - Brady. Thank you - Nathaniel Scolls. Thank you King! Emilla. Thank you - Briana. Thank You! - Jasmine. TY! - Chastity. Thank you! - Ava. Thanks a lot! - Shelby Byrd.

From: Gulfview United Methodist Church - Pastor Brad Zimanek

We cannot thank you enough for your donations enabling us to help others who came from domestic abuse situations.

There were a woman and her daughter, early twenties, that escaped decades of sexual abuse from family members. They came from Ohio and had nothing except their vehicle and a few pieces of clothing. They have been the main recipients of our help with your donations. We were able to put them up in a hotel for many nights, give money for food and clothing, including work clothes upon the daughter getting a job in Panama City Beach. After many months, they were able to get into an apartment where we were able to help them out getting situated with furniture and filling their refrigerator and freezer with food.

Some other areas we were able to help a few women coming from domestic violence was getting cell phones, food, and trolley passes.

Thank you again for all your donations which have helped some women coming from domestic abuse. In Christ.

Dear Ladies of the WCC,

Thank you all so much for the support shown to me after the passing of my husband, Herb, on October 30. His brief illness took us by surprise. I miss him terribly and am taking one day at a time as I adjust to a new way of life. The outpouring of love - e-mails, texts, cards, phone calls - from my fellow WCC members was greatly appreciated and so uplifting. Thank you also for the donation made by the club to St. Judes Children's Hospital in memory of Herb. This is a charity that is near and dear to my heart. I am blessed to have you all in my life and once again, thank you for being there.

Sincerely,
Julie Sanders

**From: Breakfast Point Academy
Designed by: Artwork By: Zhasmin Arutiunian**

**Hutchison Beach Elementary
Artwork by Caylee Johnson, 2nd Grade**



From the Boys and Girls Club

Note: Each of the Boys and Girls Club Members wrote Thank You notes. The following are an example of their appreciation.



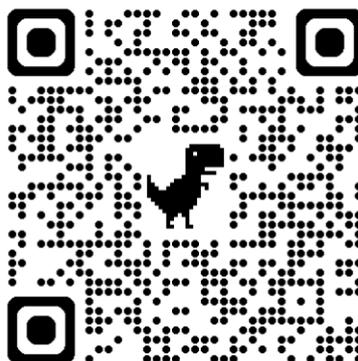
"Upcoming Events"

February 5 Luncheon at Big Easy, 8744 Thomas Dr., 11:00AM
February 7-8 PCB Food Truck & Craft Beer Festival at Aaron Bessant Park
February 12 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
February 13 Hearts & Hands Celebration, Boardwalk, 9600 S Thomas Dr. 6:00-10:00PM
February 26 Board Meeting at Taylor's, 1114 Thomas Drive. **NOTE TIME 11:00AM**
March 5 Luncheon at Bella Roma, 11535 Hutchinson Blvd. Ste 101., 11:00AM
March 7 Spring Fling Arts & Crafts Show, Frank Brown Park
March 12 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
March 19 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
March 23 New Member Orientation at Senior Center, 423 Lyndell Lane, 4:30PM
March 26 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 10:00AM

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

Contact Information

Mail: P.O. Box 9759, Panama City Beach, FL 32417
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Facebook: Women's Civic Club of PCB, FL
Website: wccpcb.org
Website QR Code:



This newsletter is the product of a collaborative effort

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Support Staff:	Arlene Klaas	Cheri Leistner	

The Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach Presents

Spring Fling

Juried Arts & Crafts Show

SATURDAY MARCH 7, 2026

9 AM – 3 PM

**Frank Brown Park Recreation Center
16200 Panama City Beach Parkway
Panama City Beach, FL32413**

**CAFE WILL BE OPEN THROUGHOUT SHOW HOURS
Donation only \$1.00 for adults**

Sponsored by the Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach, FL, Inc.
A Non-Profit Organization Supporting Charitable Causes in Panama City Beach

www.wccpcb.org
womenscivicclub@aol.com





HEARTS & HANDS
UNITED FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY

Dinner, Dance & Auctions

**Friday, February 13th
6-10PM**

**Boardwalk Beach Hotel
9600 S Thomas Drive**

**The Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach invites
you to join us for a night of dinner, dancing and raising
funds for the community!**



*Cocktail Attire
Over 21 event*