



The Civic Courier

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

Volume XV- Issue 5
January 2026

"From the President's Desk"



Happy New Year and Welcome to 2026!

I hope you've had a wonderful holiday break and are ready to jump back into WCC activities. And speaking of activities, do you have your dancing shoes ready? The Dance and Silent Auction committees have a very special evening planned for our Hearts and Hands Celebration on Friday, February 13. We will be celebrating the work that the members of the WCC do throughout the year to make PCB a better community for all. It's that work from our hearts and our hands that makes our community donations possible.

Please consider purchasing a ticket or table to the event. It promises to be a most enjoyable evening for everyone with a delicious sit down dinner, dancing, live entertainment, photo booths and more! There will be plenty to do for both couples and singles, so please join us. Also, if you could assist the auction either by soliciting a donation from a business that you frequent, or by purchasing an item or gift card, your generosity would be greatly appreciated. The auction is a significant fundraiser for the club and relies on these donations.

And please know, your support of the dance and silent auction, as well as ALL of the other WCC fundraisers is always GREATLY appreciated!!

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and joyous 2026!

Cheri Leistner

"December Luncheon - Giving Back to the Community"



Receiving organizations: Arnold High School Culinary & Hospitality Programs, Backpack Blessings, Bay County Sheriff Department, Boys & Girls Club, Girls Inc., Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church Food Pantry, Gulfview United Methodist Church-Domestic Violence, Maggi Still Park, McElvey House, PCB Fire Department, PCB Library, PCB Police Department, Thomas Drive Volunteer Fire Department and West End Volunteer Fire Department.

What a festive setting Harpoon Harry's was for our "donation" Christmas luncheon. The sand, water, Christmas tree, holiday decorations and the beautiful table center pieces certainly put me in the mood to start singing. Thank goodness we had the Patronis Children Choir, so I didn't have to. You would not have been happy if I sang! The highlight of the luncheon is our annual donations to various organizations here on the beach that we support and hearing how we impact our community with these donations. Good job ladies on your continued support of our events that bring money into the club that enable our Club to make these donations. As always, we welcome your feedback on the venue and the food (of course) at Harpoon Harry's.

In January we will be going back to another fan favorite, Dee's Hangout. There are a couple things to point out about the January meeting 1) It is not the first Thursday of the month but the second FRIDAY, JANUARY 9th. 2) This is a closed meeting for members only, so no guest please. This was a board decision so business relating only to club members can be discussed.

Dees' always has wonderful food so come with empty stomachs and full hands (donations for school projects). Looking forward to Hanging out with you.

Gloria Turner, Chair Luncheon and Programs.

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

Raising Funds

Arts and Crafts Show

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Spring Fling Juried Arts and Crafts Show and Sale

Saturday, March 7, 2026 - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Frank Brown Park Recreation Center - 16200 Panama City Beach Parkway; PCB, FL 32413

Julie Sanders and Jayn Collins
Arts and Crafts Show Committee Chairs

Dance and Silent Auction



Rhonda Zartman, Angel & Todd Herendeen, Tim Summerow

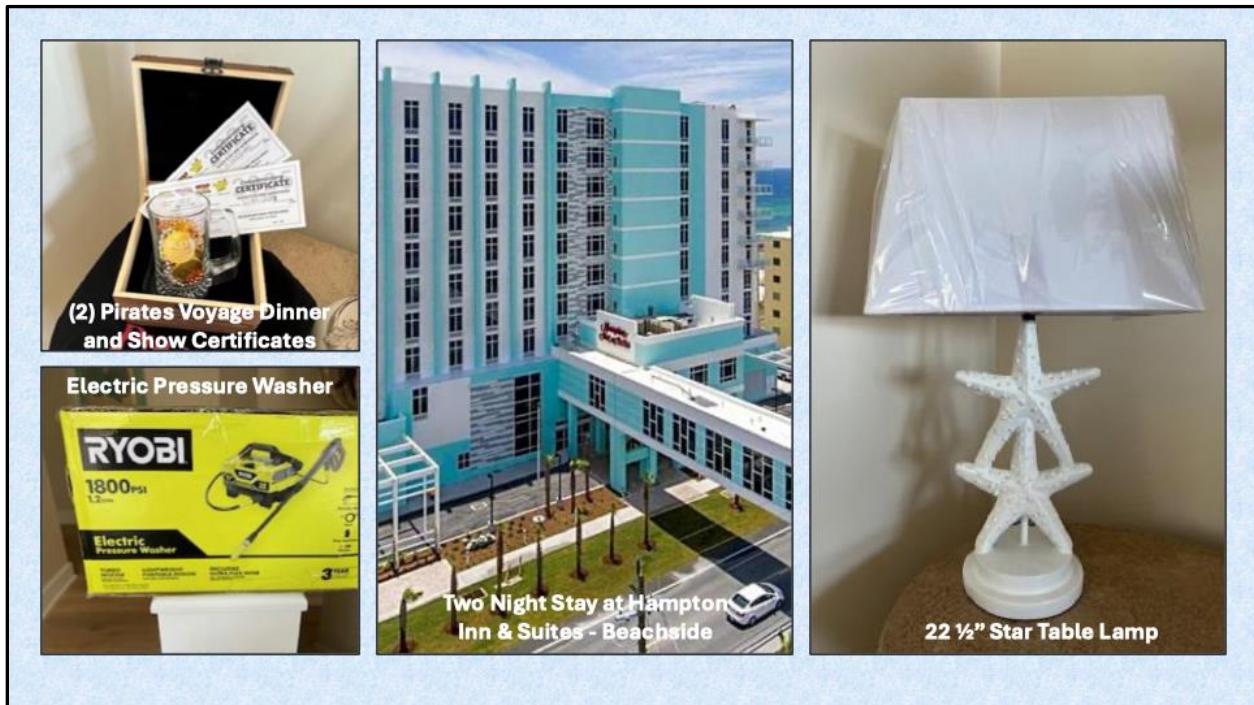
HEARTS & HANDS CELEBRATION
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026, 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM
BOARDWALK BEACH HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER

- The Entertainment is shaping up to be an exciting event thanks to Todd Herendeen, Master of Ceremonies and Tim Summerow, Disk Jockey who met together along with Angel Herendeen and Rhonda Zartman, Committee Chair during the Holiday Member luncheon.
- As the committee prepares for the club's biggest fundraiser of the year, they are compiling the DANCE playlist. Please see co-chairs Donna McElroy and Julie Sanders to add your favorite tune to the Spotify list. Requests will also be accepted.
- 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.
- Then invite local professional businesses to partner with us and our **RED Sponsor, St Joseph Community Foundation** by becoming a Sponsor. All Sponsor packages available include Dinner, Table for 10, early admission to Silent Auction, 10 Drink Tickets, social media and website spotlights.
- YOU as a WCC Member are an essential part of our Mission: United for a Better Community.

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 with the event – decorating, welcoming, registration, set up and the close down/clean up afterwards. We welcome the assistance of spouses and friends as well.

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

The members of the club make our silent auction a success by soliciting businesses for donations or donating items themselves. Thank you and please continue to get these items. Here is a sneak preview of items in the February 13, 2026 Auction.



Meeting our goals:

	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Progress</u>	<u>% to Goal</u>
Dance Income Goal	\$50,000	\$ 9,000	18
Silent Auction Item Retail Value	\$40,000	\$ 4,884	12

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

PCB Marathon



The Women's Club had another successful outing supporting the Panama City Beach Marathon on Saturday, December 6th. Unfortunately, Mother Nature brought us a soggy day, but we had 27 WCC members, along with 31 friends and family members that staffed seven different water stations, as well as the finish line. We are so thankful for their willingness to happily support all the athletes with great enthusiasm, while raising important funding for our club. THANK YOU all the ladies that came out! We now turn our attention ahead to our spring Ironman 70.3 Gulf Coast on May 9th next year.

Kris Saddroris, Ironman Chair

Special Beach Events -New Year's Eve Beach Ball Drop



Not sure if you know, but USA Today has recognized our PCB Ball Drop in the Top Ten New Year's celebrations in the country, and the Women's Civic Club has stepped up again to make sure that tradition continues.

Fun was had by all ringing in the New Year at Aaron Bessant Park. We worked the kids area this year selling our famous Hot Cocoa and handing out hats to the happy revelers! Thanks to all that helped make it another fun NYE celebration.

Our next Special Beach Events Committee event will be the PCB Mardi Gras & Music Festival January 30-31st in Aaron Bessant Park. Please save the date on your calendar and stay tuned for more info.

Thank you for all you've helped with in 2025, and we look forward to another stellar year of 'fun'd raising in 2026! Best wishes for a joyous holiday season from your Special Beach Event Committee!

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

"Supporting the Community"

Community Outreach



The Community Outreach committee wanted to do something for students in our area schools at Christmas. After contacting counselors at the schools, the “need” for assistance was overwhelming especially for the students whose parent did not have transportation, or just financially could not afford to buy presents. The committee members elected to give six beach schools; Breakfast Point Academy, Hutchinson Beach Elementary, Patronis Elementary, Surfside Middle School, Walsingham Academy, West Bay Elementary; \$200 plus \$200 matched by a committee member's donation to each school specifically for Christmas assistance.

Gloria Turner and Sharon McDonald, Co-Chairs

Food Pantry

December Luncheon Collections



Thank you for bringing your generous donations to the Food Pantry to the December Luncheon!

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

Pamela Sanders, Food Pantry Liaison

School Projects

For the January luncheon the school projects committee will be collecting:

- Sizes children 8 - 16, adult small-medium
 - Jackets - can be any color, but no graphics, small logo is okay
 - Long girls pants (preferably joggers with elastic waistband, but not sweat pants) in khaki, navy blue, black or gray
- Knit hats and gloves - any color

Clothing can be slightly used but need to be clean.

Jeanette Poland, Karen Demeester - School Projects Co-Chairs

"Spending Time Together"

Member to Member

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.

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

March 23rd New Member Orientation - Senior Center - Monday 5:00 pm
New Members, Member to Member Committee Members, All Committee Chairs

April 19th Member Thank You Picnic - Camp Helen State Park - Sunday Afternoon
All Members invited

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

Sony Edwards and Janet Tettener, Member to Member Chairs

"Recognizing our Members"

A Season of Giving

December 18 Board Meeting



The spirit of Christmas lives in the joy of giving - not only through gifts wrapped in ribbons but also through compassion, kindness, and smiles freely shared.

Cheri Leistner, Sue Jiles, Nancy Stovall, Kelly Bertin, Carol Adams, Soula Dortch, Janet Tettener, Sharon McDonald, Sony Edwards, Dena Roeve, Karen Demeester, Donna McElroy, Rhonda Zartman, Gloria Turner, Jeanette Poland



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!!

January

02 Shirley Crawford
04 Carol Metaxas
08 Susan Major
12 Cathy Schnader
12 Dena Roewe
14 Rhonda Senkbeil
15 Joyce Kippes
21 Sheryl Lewis
22 Kelly Bertin
27 Toni McLane



"In Appreciation"

From: Gael Hernandez, recipient of the Women's Civic Club's Gulf Coast Endowed Scholarship

I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity. This is more than just financial support, it's the fuel that will help me cross the finish line, with only two semesters left to complete my education. Thank you so much!

Gael attended J R Arnold High School and is majoring in Digital Media with concentration in Digital Production.

From: Caroline Vermilyea, recipient of the Women's Civic Club's Culinary Arts Endowed Scholarship

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to receive this scholarship. I am very excited to pursue my culinary dream and this scholarship will help me reach this goal more smoothly. I am honored to even be considered for this award and am blessed to receive it! Thank you!

Caroline was home schooled and is majoring in Culinary Management.

From: Chief Talamantez and Staff of the Panama City Beach Police Department

Merry Christmas. Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a new year of peace and happiness! As always, thank you for your support to our Cops N Kids program!

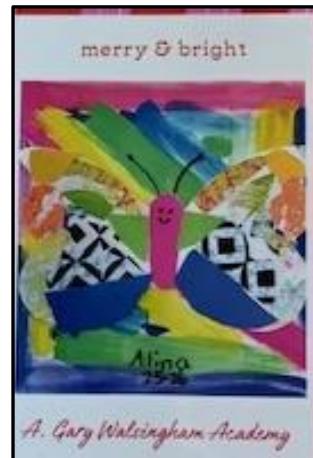
From: Hutchinson Beach Elementary Faculty, Staff and Students, Glenda Nouskhajian and Mary Kay Jackson

Thank you! We are so appreciative of your kindness and all that you do for our school. We truly appreciate all that you do for our school!

From: West Bay Elementary
Designed by: Nicole John, 5th Grade



A. Gary Walsingham Academy
Alina Arman, 2nd Grade



"Upcoming Events"

January 8	Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
January 9	Luncheon at Dee's Hangout, 529 N Richard Jackson Blvd, 11:00AM (Note Date/Day Change for Luncheon)
January 9	Winter Appreciation at Boardwalk, 9600 S. Thomas Dr., 8 - 10:30AM
January 15	Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
January 29	Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 309 R Jackson, 10:00AM
January 31	Mardi Gras and Music Festival, Pier Park and Aaron Bessant Park
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.
February 19	Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
February 26	Board Meeting at TBD, 10:00AM

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

Contact Information

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Facebook: Women's Civic Club of PCB, FL

This newsletter is the product of a collaborative effort

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	Cheri Leistner		



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*