



# The Civic Courier

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

Volume XIV- Issue 7  
March 2025



## From the President's Desk

Nancy Stovall

Dear Members:

"Unwind" - to relax after a period of work. Not to be confused with "UNwineD" where the club members will volunteer on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The club has been busy with numerous fundraising and community outreach activities, and I am sure each of you are ready to relax and enjoy some "me" time. On April 26<sup>th</sup>, in recognition of your contributions throughout the year, a picnic will be held at Camp Helen State Park. It will be a time to enjoy good food, good fun and good company.

On March 9<sup>th</sup> we will spring forward by one hour as we move to daylight savings time, however you can get a head start by attending the Spring Fling at Frank Brown Park on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The Arts and Crafts Committee has worked hard to make this a premier event. Enjoy shopping and a quick bite at the Cafe'.

Congratulations to the Dance and Silent Auction Committees for hosting the Diamond Jubilee Gala. The planning, marketing and execution of the event is a testament to the talent of the members of our organization.

As you select your committees for 2025-2026, consider either chairing or co-chairing a committee. These leadership roles are vital to the success of the club. Committee sign-up sheets and the \$30 dues are to be submitted by the May General Meeting.

*"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes...including you."*  
Anne Lamott

Nancy

## February Luncheon - "Making a Difference, One Backpack at a Time"



We had the pleasure of welcoming Lynn Sears and Rebecca Dent from Backpack Blessings of Panama City Beach, FL, as our featured speakers at our February luncheon, held at the beautiful Runaway Island Restaurant. Their heartfelt presentation shed light on the remarkable work that Lynn, Rebecca, and their team do every week to ensure that no child in our school system goes hungry.

This non-profit organization provides weekend meals to students across all Panama City Beach schools. These students are identified by their counselors and teachers as needing additional nutritional support. Each weekend, during the school calendar year, they receive seven balanced meals along with healthy snacks, helping to bridge the gap when school meals are unavailable.

During their video presentation, we gained insight into the logistics involved in preparing and distributing these essential food packs. It was inspiring to hear about the dedication of volunteers who give their time and energy each week to support this cause. Lynn and Rebecca also shared heartwarming stories about the program's positive impact on the children and their families, reinforcing the importance of community involvement in addressing this critical need.

As part of our WCC Community Outreach, we have the privilege of witnessing firsthand the incredible impact of volunteering side by side with this team on Thursday mornings. This is a cherished time as we come together to fill bags with wholesome snacks and meals, knowing they will soon be in the hands of children in need.

We are incredibly proud to support this non-profit organization, not only through our volunteer efforts but also as a beneficiary of the funds raised by the Women's Civic Club. These funds, which we give back to our community, help sustain and grow vital programs like Backpack Blessings. This program stands as a testament to what can be achieved when individuals unite for a common cause: ensuring that every child has access to the nutritious food they need to learn, grow, and succeed.



For more information about Backpack Blessings or to learn how you can help, please visit their website at [backpackblessingspcb.com](http://backpackblessingspcb.com). You may also reach out to me, Jane Fillingim if you need additional information. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Panama City Beach's children.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Jenna Hall has been a longtime volunteer with Backpack Blessings and happened to mention the organization to our Community Outreach Chairman, Dena Roewe and that's how the WCC got involved with Backpack Blessings. Thank you, Jenna. Just goes to show you that "you" can make a difference.

**THANK YOU TO OUR ATTENDEES:** Thank you so much to those of you who could join us for our February luncheon. It was wonderful to have you with us as we learned more about the impactful work of Backpack Blessings. Your presence and support mean a great deal to us and contribute to the success of our events and mission.

We hope you enjoyed the presentation, the delicious meal, and the camaraderie with fellow friends and members. Your involvement helps us continue to make a positive difference in our community.

**"MINI" FASHION SHOW:** Master of Ceremonies Tammy Ruehrwein introduced models Diane Vitale, Sharon Mayberry and Denise Rentz as they showcased the most recent spring collection from Chico's.

**A HUGE THANK YOU:** We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Roberta Bernhardt for her selfless dedication to the Women's Civic Club. Roberta consistently goes above and beyond to coordinate with venue personnel, ensuring that every detail, from the meal selection to the event logistics, is meticulously planned. Her unwavering commitment and singular focus on creating a seamless and enjoyable experience for all attendees reflect her genuine care for the success of our club. Thank you, Roberta, for your invaluable contributions, exceptional efforts, and steadfast support.

**MARCH LUNCHEON:** We look forward to welcoming everyone on Thursday, March 6, 2025, for our upcoming luncheon. The event will be held at Captain Jack's Family Buffet, located at 8208 Thomas Drive. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal while hearing from our distinguished guest speaker, Beverly Nield, an accomplished genealogist and author.

**PLEASE TIMELY RSVP:** Please check your email for your March luncheon invitation and be sure to RSVP by the specified deadline. Your timely response is essential in helping to provide the venue with an accurate guest count and ensure a smooth, enjoyable event for all. Thank you so much for your prompt reply and we look forward to seeing you there!

*Jane Fillingim, Lunches and Programs Chair*

### **March "Mini" Fashion Show - Bealls**

Donna McElroy, Alisa Walley, and Sharon Burnett will proudly present a locally established Florida and family owned value department store for the March "mini" fashion show: Bealls.

Donna and Sharon share nearly the same fashion favorites. They both shop at discount stores including Bealls. Donna looks for brand names and favorites refined to a casual look with white pants, nice shirts, sweater and jackets. You will most likely see her in flip flops to complete her fashion style. Sharon comfortably wears loose pants and tops in white, black and beige colors. She accessorizes with fashionable jewelry, purses and footwear.

Alisa Walley enjoys shopping for fashion favorites at various stores in Panama City Beach. I love just popping in to see what they have when I have free time. My current fashion interest is wide leg jeans or slacks and casual tops with tenny's or sandals.

You will find this "mini" to be a "Step into Spring" moment. Spring is a season of the year when the weather becomes warmer, leaves and plants start to grow again and flowers appear. Join us by wearing your favorite spring wear and share your recent Bealls' spring purchases.

*Bobbi Griggs, Fashion Show Chair*

## ***"Membership"***

### **2025-2026 Membership Dues and Forms**

Active members, it's time to submit your committee sign-up sheets, \$30 dues and conflict of interest form. Inactive members, it's time to submit your inactive form, \$30 dues and conflict of interest form. Please submit these to Arlene Klaas, Membership Chair or mail dues and forms to Women's Civic Club, PO Box 9759, Panama City Beach, FL. 32417. The forms are available on our website [wccpcb.org](http://wccpcb.org) on the forms tab or you can get the forms from Arlene Klaas.

Each member is required to sign an annual conflict of interest form per the club's Conflict of Interest Policy. The policy can be viewed on our website [wccpcb.org](http://wccpcb.org) under the forms tab.

## ***"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 Kelley**

It's that time - time to SHOP TIL YOU DROP!!!

Come on out to our annual Spring Fling on Saturday, March 8 from 9-3 at Frank Brown Park. A variety of vendors all with handmade, artisan items for sale - some returning favorites, along with some new items as well! Come support the club, as well as local artisans! Shop local!!

Have lunch at our cafe' and enjoy a spring outing with shopping, fun, and food! Bring your family, friends, neighbors!

We want to pack the venue with shoppers, so please help us get the word out by sharing on your social media, at your church, in your condo, and in your neighborhood.

Thank you to those who have signed up to volunteer and to the kitchen committee for all they do to provide a delightful cafe experience!

*Julie Sanders and Jayn Collins - Arts and Craft Committee Chairs*

Thank You!  
Diamond Jubilee Gala  
1965 - 2025



Kelly Bertin, Julie Sanders, Soula Dortch, Jane Fillingim, Tammy Galloway

**Thank You for Making Our Diamond Jubilee Gala  
a Sparkling Success!**

The Dance and Auction Committee would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made our 60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Gala an unforgettable evening. Your support, generosity, and participation helped us celebrate six decades of giving back to our community with elegance and joy.

A special thank you goes out to our event sponsors, donors, and auction contributors. Your contributions were instrumental in making this event not only memorable but also impactful. Thanks to your generosity, we will be able to continue supporting local charities, educational initiatives, and community programs that make a real difference in Panama City Beach.

We also want to express our heartfelt thanks to our incredible committees and dedicated volunteers for their dedication, creativity, and hard work. From the meticulous planning stages to the flawless execution, your collective efforts were truly extraordinary and deeply appreciated.

To our members and guests who attended the gala – thank you for joining us in this milestone celebration. Your enthusiasm and support remind us why we continue to live by our motto: 'United for a Better Community!'

As we look ahead to more years of service and community involvement, we are filled with gratitude and excitement for what's to come. Thank you once again for being part of our special night and for helping us honor the past while embracing the future.

With profound appreciation,

Jane Fillingim – Dance Chair  
Julie Sanders and Soula Dortch – Co-Chairs  
Tammy Galloway– Auction Chair  
Kelly Bertin – Co-Chair

***"A Special Thank You to the Dance and Silent Auction Sponsors and Partners"***

***Diamond Sponsor***

St. Joe Community Foundation

***Gold Sponsor***

Bob and Kim Escalle

***Silver Sponsors***

Edward Hickey Jr.

Gulf Coast Panama Jack

Taco Bell

***Bronze Sponsors***

Collaborative Antics

Jean Sturman

Pickled Jubilees 2

Cozy Oak Homes

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David Adamson

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Watersound Insurance

Girls Gone Wild I

Pickled Jubilees

ZMAN

Girls Gone Wild II

The following are a list of donors who partnered with the Women's Civic Club to make our Diamond Jubilee Auction a success. Please show your support to these donors.

30A Smiles

Aquafit Mann

Back Beach BBQ

Bayside Cafe

Beach Dermatology

Bella Salon & Spa

Boardwalk Beach Hotel & Convention Center

Boondocks

Captain Anderson's Marina

Captain Jacks

Carousel Supermarket and Gift Shop

Centennial Bank

Charity Getaways

Chick Fil A

Coastal Cryotherapy

Coastal Plastic Surgery Institute/30A Spa

Crowley Wealth Management

Cozy Seaside

David Adamson Designer Jewelry

Diego's Burrito Factory

Donovan's Liquors

Duplin Winery

Edward Jones/Mike Calidonna

Emerald Coast Olive Oil Company

Encore Interiors & Design

Factory Direct

Firefly

Florida Linen

Ford's Garage

Ghost Crab Pizza

Gulf Beach Garden Club

Gulf Coast Panama Jack

Gulf Coast State College

Gulf World Marine Park

Hair Benders

Hair Genesis

Hairology of Panama City Beach

Hammerhead Fred's

Hampton Inn & Suites -Beachfront

Halo Salon & Blowout Bar

Hyatt Place -Beachfront

IKONIK Partners, LLC

Indulgence Hair Salon-Sherry, Rita, Becky

J Michael's

JPT Davis Consulting

Jute & Palm

Kilwins

Kwiker Liquor

Lay's Insurance

Legacy Golf Club

Liddon Furniture

LMWS Marketing Team

Made In the Shade

Maharaja's Fine Jewelry & Gift - Margaret Gress

Man in the Sea Museum

Mark Phillipson Woodworking

Margaritaville

Michele Morros, The Beach Team

Nails So Happy

Olive Juice Per Care and Wellness

Panama City Symphony Orchestra

Panhandle Helicopter

Panhandle Patio

Paws in Paradise Animal Hospital

PCB Cigars

People's First Insurance

Pescado Rooftop Bar & Seafood Grill  
 Pretty Neat Organizing & Home Staging  
 Risa's Interiors  
 Runaway Island  
 S & S Interiors  
 Salty Sue's  
 Saltwater Grill  
 Shaka Sushi and Cocktail Bar  
 Shades Bar and Grill  
 Shimmering Seas  
 Shells by the Sea  
 Shuckums  
 Simply Outdoor  
 Skywheel Attractions  
 Southern Sun Metal Works  
 Springhill Suites  
 Sugar & Sand Salon & Spa  
 Taco Bell

Taylor's Breakfast & Lunch  
 TCOR Consulting Group  
 Texas Roadhouse  
 The Beach House Market  
 The Charming Sister  
 The Deckhand Social  
 The Eye Studio  
 The Fresh Market  
 The Grand Marlin  
 The Home Depot  
 The UPS Store  
 Tim Allen Photography  
 Todd Herendeen Theatre  
 Tranquility by the Sea  
 Triple J Steakhouse  
 Tristan PB Coach  
 Tropical Funk Studio  
 Winn Dixie

## Special Beach Events

### Mardi Gras



**Faye Culppepper, Jayn Collins, Joyce Kippes**



**Carol Lynn, Denise Rentz, Brenda Farmer, Sylvia Payne, Karolina Schleicher, Sherrill Kelley, Karen Demeester, Janet Tettermer, Arlene Klaas, Michelle Coombs**

Oh my goodness!!! What a fun event we had last Saturday at the Mardi Gras Music Festival at Aaron Bessant Park! The crowd for Chris Janson was HUGE and he totally delivered. And who knew he lives in South Walton! We endured the volume of the first band, the lack of refrigeration, the intermittent internet connections and still managed to have fun and to exceed our goals financially.

We sincerely appreciate each and everyone of our volunteers!. This committee has many events that we work and so many moving parts for each event. Our events are staffed by our committee members, club members who are not on the committee, and our husbands, friends and neighbors. And it takes your determination and commitment and smiling faces to make it happen. So thank you!!

*Sue Jiles and Cheri Leistner,*  
 Special Beach Events Co-Chairs

## *"Supporting the Community"*

### **Boys and Girls Club**

#### March Luncheon Collections

##### After School Program Snacks

- \* Peanut Butter Crackers
- \* Cheese Crackers
- \* Cheez-Its
- \* Cookies
- \* Nutri-Grain Bars

##### Art Supplies

- \* Construction Paper
- \* Markers

### **Community Outreach**

#### **Superior Residences of Panama City Beach**

##### *Galentine Day*



**Roberta Bernhardt, Doris Bayliss, Diane Pickering,  
Sue Jiles, Dena Roewe, Gloria Turner, Denise Rentz,  
Cheri Leistner**

##### *Taco Night*



**Carol Benson, Cheri Leistner, Gloria Turner, Denise Rentz,  
Monica Thomas, Sue Jiles**

### **Charter Senior Living**



**Women's Civic Club Members Join Charter Senior Living Residents in Making Hearts for Valentine's Day**



## Food Pantry

*Food Pantry in need of volunteers.* As you know we are supporters of the food pantry at Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church on Highway 79. Their hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9AM-12PM. Throughout the winter, snowbirds assisted with bagging food for the multiple families and homeless. The snowbirds are now going home and the food pantry is in need of one or two volunteers for the 9AM-12PM shift on the first and third Friday of the month. If you are interested, please contact me and I will tell you about the position and whom to contact.

*Gloria Turner, Food Pantry Liaison (828)280-1727*

## *"Spending Time Together"*

### Member to Member

A VERY IMPORTANT DATE TO SAVE

Please Save the Date for the WCC annual Member Appreciation Picnic on Saturday, April 26 at Camp Helen State Park! More details to follow.

The WCC appreciates ALL of your efforts that ensure we can contribute to many organizations and support organizations on the beach that strive to improve life for all on the beach. This picnic is just a small token to express that appreciation. All club members and one guest each are invited.

*Cheri Leistner, Member to Member Chair*

## *"Recognizing our Members"*

Dear Members,

You are important to us! Sunshine committee members are now wearing sunflower pins to make it easier for members to tell us when a member is ill, had a loss, needs surgery or just a hug. If you are new and have a question, we might be able to steer you in the right direction. Feel free to call if you know someone who needs a card. We don't want to miss cheering up our fellow member.

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

## Happy Birthday Wishes!!

### March

- 04 Rhonda Jones
- 05 Rhonda Blankenship
- 06 Eadie Lloyd
- 11 Alice Jacobs
- 18 Kim Escalle
- 30 Donna McElroy



*"Cherish all your happy moments; they make a fine cushion for old age."*

## *"In Appreciation"*

**From:** Kim Noles, Superior Living Residence Director of Activities

A special Thank You to the Women's Civic Club for their generous help during our Galentine Event! They have been so helpful to us every month and we appreciate all they do for us!

**From:** Panama City Beach Chief of Police Talamantez

On behalf of the **Cops 'N' Kids Program**, I want to extend our deepest gratitude for your incredibly generous \$2,000 donation. Your support played a vital role in helping us provide gifts, food, and much-needed holiday cheer to families in need this past season.

Thanks to your kindness, many children experienced the joy of opening presents, and families were able to share warm meals together—moments that would not have been possible without your generosity. Your commitment to supporting our community embodies the true spirit of giving, and we are profoundly grateful for your partnership in making a difference.

The impact of your donation reached far beyond just material gifts—it brought hope, smiles, and a sense of togetherness to those who needed it most. Your dedication to uplifting others is truly inspiring, and we are honored to have your support in our mission.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and for being a beacon of compassion in our community. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate again in the future to continue making a positive difference.

With heartfelt appreciation.

**From:** Glenda Nouskhajia, Hutchison Beach Elementary School Principal

We sincerely appreciate your generous donation. Your support is vital to our mission of educating and facilitating effective young leaders. Thanks to your kindness, we can: **Support our students and teachers:** Providing essential services to those in need. **Enhance our programs:** Improving educational and outreach initiatives. **Invest in the future:** Shaping young leaders through our Leader in Me program.

Your generosity is an investment in our school's betterment, bringing us closer to our goals. We invite you to stay connected and witness the impact of your generosity. Thank you once again for your support. Together, we can make a difference

## *"Upcoming Events"*

- Mar 6 Luncheon Meeting at Captain Jack's Family Buffet, 8208 Thomas Drive, 11AM
- Mar 8 Spring Fling Arts & Craft Show at Frank Brown Park, 9AM-3PM
- Mar 13 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
- Mar 20 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
- Mar 27 Board Meeting at Taylor's, 1114 Thomas Dr, 10:15AM
- Mar 29 UNwineD at Aaron Bessant Park
- Apr 3 Fashion Show and Luncheon Meeting at Harpoon Harry's, 12627 Front Beach Rd, 11AM
- Apr 10 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
- Apr 10 New Member Orientation, Oatfield Building, 423 Lyndell Ln, 5PM
- Apr 17 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
- Apr 24 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 309 R Jackson, 10AM
- Apr 26 WCC Picnic, Camp Helen State Park

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

**Contact Information**

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**This newsletter is the product of a collaborative effort**

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