



# The Civic Courier

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

Volume XI - Issue 9  
May 2022



**Diane Vitale**

## From the President's Desk

Dear Members:

My latest experience pouring over nine scholarship applications from Arnold High School has left me with mixed emotions. All of the students must have more than 24 hours in their day with all of their scholarly achievements, community volunteer hours, devotion to Church, work and part-time jobs. My wavering faith in the Youth of today has been restored. I wish our two Awards could have multiplied into nine.

My choice of quotes directly relates to my above experience. "The aim of life is self-development. To realize one's nature perfectly, that is what each of us is here for." Oscar Wilde.

We will be meeting for our last luncheon of the year in May at Dee's Hangout. I like to consider all that we have accomplished with the effort from each and everyone of you. I believe our aim of realizing our true nature is close to perfect.

*Respectfully,  
Diane, President*

## "Foundations of the Club"

The May edition of The Civic Courier, "Foundations of the Club" is highlighting Glenda Densmore and focusing on "Membership Achievement".



**Glenda Densmore**

Glenda grew up and raised her three children, two girls and a boy, in the Gardenville, Alabama area. She was able to stay home with her young children until the youngest one was in middle school. Her first position was with a newspaper as the secretary and treasurer. However, after a few years she found her passion in banking where she started in consumer lending, moved to commercial lending and ended her twenty-one (21) year banking career in administrative correspondence.

Her position in administrative correspondence required planning for required executive training, coordination in the selected locations, and working with travel agencies to identify activities for the group. Although it was very demanding, Glenda had the opportunity to travel to several places including Hawaii and California.

She retired January 25, 1996 and on January 26<sup>th</sup>, they moved to Panama City Beach where she had visited several times as a child and where her in-laws had built a house. Glenda was installed in the club in May 1998. Two people were instrumental in encouraging her to become part the Women's Civic Club; Shirley Williams, who sponsored her and Dotti Perfetti, who encouraged her to take on leadership roles. She was a member and chair of several different committees and she served as recording secretary.

When asked about some of the best volunteering memories, Glenda said "they are all good memories"; the dance where people socialized, the library where she regularly has lunch with friends made while working at the library and domestic violence where she was able to help those in need. Her words of wisdom for members of the club are "do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Family is important to Glenda and she enjoys time with her husband Larry, her children, and grandchildren, who fondly call her "Gigi". She has a love for music, plays the piano and loves to read. And although her sponsor Shirley Williams has moved to Ormond Beach, Glenda enjoys visiting and spending time with her.

## Membership Achievement

The members of the Women's Civic Club work tirelessly by volunteering and hosting events in order to raise funds so they can give aid to worthy projects of the Panama City Beach community. Throughout the year, donations and support is given to several organizations and in December of each year selected organizations are recognized with the presentation of a check.

Not only is it important to recognize those in the community, it is important to recognize our members. Recognition helps the members see that the club values them and that their contributions are important to the success of the club. Although a simple "thank you" or "job well done" is a nice form of appreciation, the club will be recognizing members for their dedication and service at the May General Meeting each year for every 5 years of their active service (ie 5, 10, 15, 20, etc). Years of service will be associated with the installation date. (By-Laws Article I. Membership, Section 2. Membership Achievement).

### *Members and Guests Enjoy the April Luncheon and Fashion Show''*



**Club Members and Guests**

Sixty-five members and guests enjoyed the annual fashion show and lunch at Harpoon Harry's for the April Women's Civic Club General Meeting. With the beautiful view of the beach for the backdrop, members of the club showcased the latest spring fashions from Chico's.



**Bobbi Griggs**



**Pam Kremm**



**Deborah Lowry**



**Flo Watson, Rhonda Senkbeil, Jackie Logan, Jeanette Poland**



**Sharon McDonald**



**Lynn Padgett**



**Patty Rocco**



**Rhonda Senkbeil**



**Monica Thomas**



**Sharon Williams**



**Gayle Oberst, Fashion Show Chair**



**Gayle Oberst, Monica Thomas, Sharon McDonald, Patty Rocco, Rhonda Senkbeil, Lynn Padgett, Deborah Lowry, Bobbi Griggs, Pam Kremm, Sharon Williams**

A special thank you to all our club members who were involved in the Spring Fashion Show. The models, assistants, and audience made it a great time. Chico's and their employees were great to work with. *Gayle*, Fashion Show Chair.

## "New Member Installation"



**Karen Demeester (Sponsor), Diane Vitale (President), Karen Gunsallus (Co-Sponsor),  
Donna McElroy, Tonia Sampson, Nancy Stovall (Installation Chair)**

## "Welcome New Members"



**Donna McElroy**

One of five girls, I was born in Daytona Beach but raised in north Georgia. Having vacationed in Florida for many years as soon as my husband retired we made the move to paradise and what's always been a dream of mine.

I have two girls, one in Georgia and the other in Alabama. One bonus daughter that's also in Georgia. We have 6 wonderful grandchildren.

I'm very excited to become a member of WCC to give back. I've met so many wonderful people and I know we're going to love living here and being a part of our new community. Beyond Excited!

I am married with 2 children, a son and a daughter. I have three grandchildren, 2 boys and 1 girl. I retired from my job of 34 years at the end of June 2021. Thank you so much and I look forward to being a part of your organization.



# "Fulfilling Our Mission of Improving Life in Panama City Beach Community *Raising Funds*

## Special Beach Events

Who knew when we started this fiscal year in the middle of a pandemic, that we would have the opportunity for such a successful fund-raising year! Thanks to the opportunities provided by our friends at Visit Panama City Beach/TDC, our members, their families and friends put together 2,000 smore's kits for Home for the Holidays, staffed the smore's tent for Home for the Holidays at Aaron Bessant Park, handed out hats for the New Year's Eve celebration at Pier Park, staffed the beer concession for the two Mardi Gras concerts at Aaron Bessant Park and poured wine, beer and other spirits for the UNwineD event at Aaron Bessant Park. Wow. Then we finished the year with the Todd Herendeen fundraiser (see below). This was a lot of man hours from our members and their "recruited" spouses and friends. Because of them, we are able to continue to give back to this great community. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

*Sue Jiles and Monica Thomas, Co-Chairs Special Beach Events*

## Todd Herendeen Theatre Fundraiser

Women's Civic Club members and their guests, along with locals and visitors from across the country, enjoyed the Todd Herendeen Tribute to the Legends of Rock and Country Show at the Todd Herendeen Theatre on April 9th. Ranging from songs made famous by rock and country stars, a patriotic salute of "America Is My Name", the moves and tunes of Elvis Presley to "Brother Love's Traveling Salvation Show" had not only the audience clapping and dancing but several of the club members shaking their tambourines. In addition to the proceeds from the ticket sales and 50/50, Todd donated a guitar signed by him, the band and singers to auction off to add to the proceeds. The club is most thankful for Todd and Angel Herendeen and Paul and Helen Schreiner for being such great partners with us for these fundraisers. We couldn't do it without their help and commitment to bettering this community.



**Dena Roewe, Monica Thomas, Patti Maloy, Lynn Padgett  
Kay Vider, Cheri Leistner**



**Sallie Clackley (highest bidder)  
with Todd Herendeen**



**Great ending to an enjoyable event!!**

## Ironman

### **The Ironman is Saturday, May 7th, and we still need volunteers!**

Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 12:45-4:00pm or 3:30-7:00pm - greeting and registering athletes

Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am-1:00pm or 12:30-4:15pm - greeting and registering athletes

You can register at <https://ironman.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=59818>

It's a great event and we need more volunteers! If you have questions contact me, [monicathomas@comcast.net](mailto:monicathomas@comcast.net) (770)712-8464. Thank you, *Monica*

## *Supporting the Community*

### **The Women's Civic Club of PCB makes a "SPLASH" at Frank Brown Park!**

The Aquatic Center at Frank Brown Park is getting a new Kids Area Splash Park, thanks in large part to the Women's Civic Club of PCB. This new area will include a dumping bucket, a toddler slide, and a larger family slide and will provide our community with a safe and positive experience for families visiting the park. The features of the Splash Park are constructed so that parents and guards have an unobstructed view of the park facility, leading to improved safety for the kids. Per the bid specifications, the facility will be installed and open in August 2022. This project was unanimously approved at the April 14, 2022 Panama City Beach City Council meeting.

The old equipment at the splash pool had met its life span and was showing signs of corrosion and rusting. Also slippery conditions presented dangers to the children using the facility. Vice Mayor McConnell called the new facility "a great thing for our community" before making the motion to approve the acceptance of the current bid and the donation from the WCC to be used to build the splash park. The council voted unanimously to approve this motion.

The contribution from the Women's Civic Club of PCB was made possible through a grant to the club provided by The St. Joe Community Foundation. The WCC is contributing an additional \$10,000. To recognize the Women's Civic Club of PCB and The St Joe Community Foundation, a plaque will be placed at the entrance to the Kids Splash Park thanking them for their support.

This is not the first time that the WCC has supported additions to Frank Brown Park. The WCC was a founding member for the development of the Under the Palm playground at the park and also has a plaque at that entrance.

When discussing the building of this splash facility at the PCB City Council Meeting, City Manager Drew Whitman said "I'd like to thank the Women's Civic Club for helping to donate the money for this."

Once again, the Women's Civic Club of PCB is fulfilling its mission of improving life for all in our community.

## **Community Outreach**



**Jackie Logan, Band Director Colvin, Luciann Jacobs with Band Members**

The Surfside Middle School band was given a unique opportunity to record part of a movie soundtrack at Universal Studios in Orlando allowing the band members to create a lifetime memory. To help ensure that all students would be able to participate, the Community Outreach Committee presented a check to the Surfside Middle School.

## Food Pantry

The Food Pantry held a volunteer meeting on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church. The Women’s Club had very good representation with 6 of our members attending who either work permanent days or are substitutes at the pantry. Sandy Young, coordinator of the food pantry, again thanked the Women’s Civic Club for their volunteer support, food and toiletries collected from our membership and also our recent donation of \$1,000.

For the months of February and March the pantry served 422 people that equates to 3,798 meals. Sandy said the pantry is still getting enough donations to keep the pantry open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-12 and clients are still allowed to come once a week.

If any of you would ever like to see the food pantry and learn how it operates please let me know and I will be glad to arrange a visit for you. *Gloria Turner, Food Pantry Liaison*

### May Luncheon Collections for the Food Pantry

- \* Toilet Paper
- \* Water
- \* Spaghetti
- \* Bug Spray
- \* Spaghetti Sauce with Meat
- \* Ball Caps
- \* Toiletries - Shampoo
- \* Sun Block

## School Projects

The School Projects Committee was able to make special donations to the elementary schools which will allow them to replenish supplies, hold special events for students or purchase much needed items.



**Breakfast Point Academy**  
Jeanette Poland, Principal Whitfield,  
Carol Metaxas



**Hutchinson Elementary School**  
Monica Thomas, Assistant Principal  
Kayla Shepard, Tonia Sampson



**Patronis Elementary School**  
Gail Claffey, School Secretary  
Lisa Fish



**Walsingham Academy**  
Gail Claffey, Principal Amy Harvey



**West Bay Elementary School**  
Karen Demeester, School Secretary, Kelly Bertin

## Scholarships

The Women's Civic Club has made Scholarship donations ,according to budget records, since 2000-2001 fiscal year. In 2007 -2008 the Club made an Endowment of \$15,000 to Gulf Coast Community College, to their general fund. The Club made another Endowment in 2012-2013 to Gulf Coast State College for \$15,500 and specified it was for a student enrolled in their Culinary Program. Now called Gulf Coast State College, the College's Foundation Scholarship Committee handles the applications and selection of recipients. All Endowments at the college are combined and the interest and principal earned from the endowment money then goes to student recipients. The Foundation Board decides each year how much money will go to Foundation recipients and awards the money twice a year in the Fall and Spring. For the last few years recipients have received a total of \$1400.

Since 2015-2016 we have budgeted two \$1,000 scholarships for graduating seniors at Arnold High School who will be attending an accredited college or vocational training school. This year we have 9 outstanding applications for our two scholarships. The Scholarship Liaison and the President of the Club review the applications and together select the two recipients to receive the scholarships. At the board meeting in April the two applicants are recommended to the board for approval.

President Diane Vitale will give the two recipients their scholarship checks at Arnold High School's Senior Recognition Day on May 9<sup>th</sup>. *Gloria Turner, Scholarship Liaison*

## Special Donations



**Katie McKenzie (Assistant Principal, Gail Claffey, Kenny Kirkland (Chorus Director), Ellie Spivey (Principal)**

The Women's Civic Club made a special donation to the Patronis Elementary School as a thank you to the Patronis Chorus under the direction of Kenny Kirkland. The club and their honored guests have had the opportunity to watch the Chorus perform at our Christmas Luncheons.

With the uncertainty of fundraising events for 2021-2022, the donations for the Thomas Volunteer Fire Department and West End Volunteer Fire Department were reduced in the approved budget. Thanks to the fundraising efforts throughout the year and with the approval of the club members, Kay Vider and Darlene Dial were able to present additional funds to David Finn for the fire departments.



## *Spending Time Together*

### **Member to Member**



The Member to Member committee recently hosted a New Member Orientation at Gulf View United Methodist Fellowship Hall. This orientation gave 13 of our new or prospective members the opportunity to learn about each of our fundraising, community outreach and events committees. Jackie Logan and Nancy Stovall planned a fun “scavenger” hunt game to ensure everyone visited all the committee stations and had a chance to talk with the committee chair or representative. Following the game, everyone enjoyed a delicious array of hors d’ oeuvres and desserts organized by Patty Rocco and supplied by the Member to Member committee members. Special thanks go to all the committee chairs who gave their time to attend this special evening and to share their knowledge with the new/prospective members.

The Member to Member committee is also excited to announce that Summer Bunco returns! This is a great opportunity for the WCC members and prospective members to get together while the club is officially on vacation. Buncos will be the first Thursday in June, July and August. (June 2, July 7 and August 4). We will be playing in the meeting room at Taylor’s Restaurant on Thomas Drive, across from the Navy Base. Play will begin promptly at 10am, so please plan to arrive a few minutes early to check in. The cost is \$18, includes lunch, prizes and unlimited fun! Please be on the lookout for emails from Patty Rocco shortly before each bunco date for further information and instructions on how to make a reservation.

### **Membership Updates for 2022-2023 Reminder**

Completed committee sign-up sheets and dues can be returned at the May Luncheon Meeting (collection box will be available at the check-in table), to the Membership Chair Nancy Stovall or via mail: Women's Civic Club, P.O. Box 9759, Panama City Beach, FL 32413. Also, due at this time are any changes regarding membership status. New members installed in February thru May shall be deemed to have paid their dues for the year.

## *In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

Jan Schott for the loss of her husband Charlie and for a speedy recovery. Our sincere condolences to the family

## Recognizing our Members

### Happy Birthday Wishes !!

#### May

06 Babs Umenhofer  
08 Kay Vider  
17 Barbara Britton  
21 Pat Diamond  
23 Glenda Densmore

#### June

02 Edith Ellis  
05 Brenda Bryson  
05 Jeanette Poland  
09 Linda Tabaka  
13 Patty Rocco  
17 Darlene Dial  
19 Carol Lynn  
23 Diane Vitale

#### July

01 Pam Kremm  
02 Karen Demeester  
07 Elaine Clark  
12 Phyllis McLane  
16 Gail Claffey  
19 Debbie Fazzone  
19 Deborah Lowry  
21 Sharon Williams  
21 Shirley Williams  
26 Judy Hardegree  
26 Laura Laspee  
29 Sony Edwards  
30 Patti Maloy

#### August

01 Cherie Lagace  
06 Peggy Lowery  
09 Doris Bayliss  
11 Karen Gunsauillus  
13 Eloise Cox  
19 Cheri Leistner  
20 Lana Lowery  
25 Lisa Stretch  
26 Debbie Wood  
29 Jan Schott

"Fabulosity has no age"



### Birthday Celebration



Jane and Earl Fillingim

*in spite of injury...*

### Upcoming Events

- May 5 General Meeting at Dee's Hangout, 529 N Richard Jackson Blvd, 11AM
- May 26 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce, 309 Richard Jackson Blvd, 10 AM
- June 2 Bunco at Taylor's, 1114 Thomas Drive, 10AM
- July 7 Bunco at Taylor's, 1114 Thomas Drive, 10AM
- August 4 Bunco at Taylor's, 1114 Thomas Drive, 10AM
- October 15 Fall Fling at Frank Brown Park

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

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