



The Civic Courier

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

Volume XV- Issue 9
May 2026

"From the President's Desk"



You always hear people say, "Time flies when you're having fun!". Well, I know I've had a lot of fun this year and the year has truly flown by!

As we begin a new year on May 1, I want to say a huge thank you to all that have made this such a fun and successful year. We have had wonderful fundraisers events. Our dance, silent auction, special beach events, arts and crafts, and ironman committees have really set the bar high for hosting successful, fun events. And the results show, not only in how much fun these committees had, but at how successful they were. Thanks to everyone's efforts, we donated over \$55,000 back to the PCB community this year. And all of the support committees had a blast as well. Whether it was the school projects committee presenting donations to the schools, the kitchen committee serving our café customers with smiles galore, community outreach spending quality time with some assisted living residents or joining others at backpack blessings, the fashion show strutting their big personalities at the fashion show, the member to member committee hosting buncos and the member picnic, the sunshine committee sending smiles to all of our members, the reservations committee cheerfully checking in all members and guests at the luncheons or the luncheon committee planning and hosting our monthly meetings, everyone showed their pride, and enthusiasm for the WCC and our mission to be "United for a Better Community".

I'd be terribly remiss not to mention Tammy Ruerhwein and her fantastic efforts at chairing our Marketing Committee this year. She will be terribly missed, not only for her marketing skills, but her smiles, encouragement and positive attitude that she always brought to meetings and get togethers.

At our May luncheon, we will recognize 3 outgoing officers who donated their time and talents to ensure the club had great leadership. Thank you Jeanette Poland, Dena Roewe, and Sony Edwards. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

We will also be installing new officers in May. Thanks, Sue Jiles, Jayn Collins and Soula Dortch for stepping up to ensure the great leadership of the club continues. I look forward to working with each of you.

And thank you to ALL club members who donated their time, talents, and dollars to the WCC. It takes EVERYONE pulling together to keep the club running smoothly, and to be successful fundraisers for the PCB community. I greatly appreciate your spirit of cooperation that makes our club so much fun and so successful.

I am greatly looking forward to the 2026 – 27 year and all the blessing that it will bring to our members, our club and the PCB community!

Cheri Leistner

"Giving Back More to the Community"

Thanks to the exceptional fundraising efforts by the members, the Women's Civic Club was able to donate an additional \$15,000 to the community in April. The members chose organization which would impact the most people - food pantries, schools and summer programs. Donations went to Breakfast Point Academy, Hutchinson Beach Elementary, Patronis Elementary, Walsingham Academy, West Bay Elementary, Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church Food Pantry, The Church on the Beach Food Pantry, Woodlawn Church We Care Food Pantry, and the Boys and Girls Club.

Boys and Girls Club



Christine Keiker, Monica Thomas

Gulf Beach Food Pantry



Gloria Turner, Coordinator Rick Clubb

Woodlawn Food Pantry



Sue Jiles, Lynn, Patti, Kathy

Church By The Beach Food Pantry



Sharon Williams, Dr. Jay Powell

Walsingham Academy



Dean Elise Kirk, Jan Schott, Lisa Nicholson, Tonia Sampson

Breakfast Point Academy



Principal Deniece Moss, Monica Thomas

West Bay Elementary



Monica Thomas, Principal Bridgett Miller

Patronis Elementary



Principal Brooke Loyed, Sue Jiles, Katie McKenzie

Hutchinson Beach Elementary



Jan Schott, Principal Glenda Nouskhajian, Tonia Sampson

"Membership"

Membership Renewals Due!

It's time to renew your membership and make your committee selections for the upcoming year. The completed form should be given to the Membership Chair at the May luncheon and should be accompanied with a \$30 check for membership dues made payable to the "Women's Civic Club". If you aren't attending the luncheon, please mail your completed application and check to the PO Box noted on the application form. Per the Club's bylaws, if you are a new member and were installed in February or March, you do not need to pay dues for the upcoming year. You do need to submit your committee selections for the new year however.

All members must also complete and sign the Conflict of Interest Form that is attached to the Committee Sign-Up sheet. Don't forget to list any other clubs or organizations that you are associated with (#5 on the form).

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Bertin, Membership Chair, at kwbertin@yahoo.com or 404-909-9323.

"March Luncheon and Fashion Show"

What a nice visit to Captain Jack's who always welcomes us and makes sure we don't trip over that electrical cord going to the buffet line.... Pick Up Your FEET. This year Capt. Jack's was also the venue for our Club's Fashion show, and we applauded and hooted for our members in their outfits from Dillard's. Thanks go to Carol Adams and her committee for showing up and showing off the spring fashions. Our ladies rock! Also, a thank you to David Blasi for the music accompaniment and the Garden Club for the pretty table flower decorations. Dillard's donated a BIG basket to raffle off at the luncheon too.

Members also got into the festivities of giving away something by voting to give an additional end of the year money to three food pantries, five elementary school and the Boys and Girls Club. Our Members Rock!

In May, we will be having our last luncheon for the 2025-26 session at Harpoon Harry's where we will have a beautiful ocean side view to go along with the chef's creation. So, let's all go. It may be the last time we see each other until September and have a "whale" of a time.

Gloria Turner, Chair Lunches and Programs

"Fashion Show"



Denise Rentz



Jayn Collins



Jayn Collins, Janet Tettermer, Jenessa Markowitz, Sylvia Ellington, Sylvia Payne, Pam Sanders, Diane Vitale, Bobbi Griggs, Toni McLane, Denise Rentz, Cathy Prabhu, Carol Adams



Bobbi Griggs



Jenessa Markowitz

Janet Tettermer



Sylvia Ellington

Cathy Prabhu



Pam Sanders

Toni McLane



Diane Vitale

Sylvia Payne



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

Raising Funds

Ironman

Our last Ironman of the year takes place on Saturday, May 9th. Our team will be volunteering packing athlete bags on Wednesday, May 6th starting at 9AM, and working to register Ironman athletes on Thursday, May 7th in two shifts from 1:00pm to 4:00pm or 4:00pm to 7:00pm. Finally, our last day will be Friday to register athletes once again starting at 8:00am to 12:30pm or 12:30pm to 4:15pm. Many thanks to those who have signed up to volunteer. We look forward to this fun event!

Kris Sadoris, Ironman Chairperson

Special Beach Events



The Special Beach Events Committee had a very busy and successful month of April! We kicked the month off with a committee favorite event, UNwineD on April 4. Members, along with family members and friends had the pleasure of pouring samples of wine, spirits, and craft beer from around the world, all in the wonderful setting of Aaron Bessant Park. Getting to meet visitors to Panama City Beach is an extra benefit of staffing this event.

Next, we manned beverage tents at Aaron Bessant Park and at the Russell/Fields Pier for the Gulf Coast Salute Air Show. Each day of the free 3-day event began with the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team "dropping in" with the U.S. flag while the national anthem was broadcast at both the Pier and Aaron Bessant Park locations. We were treated to performances by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, the Misty Blues All Woman Skydiving Team, the U.S. Air Force Drum and Bugle Corp, Third Strike Wing Walking and many more aerial acts. The newly added events at Aaron Bessant Park included interactive STEM experiences, a flight simulator and an opportunity to see up close the U.S. Army's Blackhawk helicopter and Apache helicopter, both based at Ft. Rucker, AL.



Kelly Bertin, Brenda Farmer, Sylvia Payne



Alisa Walley, Rick & Donna Schlosser



Sue Jiles, Donna McElroy, U.S. Army Black Pilot Nick Stehmeier, Cheri Leistner



Cathy Schnader, Sylvia Ellington, Sue Jiles, Deb Kesinger



Sue Jiles, Faye Culppepper, Joyce Kippes, Karen Demeester, Pam Sanders



Susan West, Sharon Burnett, Gail Sauer, Lynn Padgett, Sharon Williams



Sylvia Ellington, Carol Adams



Jeanette Poland, Carol Adams, Soula Dortch, Sylvia Ellington



Toni McLane, Sylvia Payne, El Moreland, Dena Roewe



Kelly Bertin, Cheri Leistner, Sue Jiles, Paula Smith, Nancy Stovall, Dena Roewe with Arnold High School Students

And our final fundraiser for the year was the Seabreeze Jazz Festival, a 4-day event at Aaron Bessant Park. Our task was to assist the catering company in the VIP Catering Tent. This was a new event for us this year and we met a lot of great people, listened to some great music and had great fun making more money for the club.

Whew! That was a lot for April and this year. The Special Beach Events Committee worked nine events this year and this could not have been accomplished without the commitment and dedication of these committee members. In addition, many club members who are not on the committee stepped in to help when we needed more hands on deck. Some of these events were multi-day events and some of them required an army of volunteers. Some them required long shifts. And of course, Mother Nature was there to test our resolve for some of the events. We are so appreciative of each one of you and your recruited family members and friends. Please accept our heart felt thanks and wishes for a restful, relaxing Summer!

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

"Supporting the Community"

Community Outreach



Superior Residents have formed a sewing class which will meet a couple times a month. **Sharon Cook** is sharing her knowledge with some of the residents. Some of the women are putting together recipes for a book and came up with an idea to make potholders and towels to go with the recipes.

Gloria Turner and Sharon McDonald, Co-Chairs

Food Pantry

Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church seeks to answer God's call to service in a variety of ways and feeding the hungry is a very important one.

In the mid 1970's Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church had many requests for assistance. The Church decided to establish vouchers with a local restaurant and gas station to provide a hot meal and gasoline and bill the church. Many times, these vouchers were not turned into the church but considered a donation. At this time the Session decided to start a Pastor's Fund. Also, at this time they granted use of the church facilities to the Bay County Council on Aging for a congregate site for a food distribution program "Meals on Wheels". After this program was discontinued in the mid 1980's, the Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church decided to start its own Food Pantry to help the needy in the community.

By 1991, under the guidance of Rev. Dr. Ken Churchill, the food pantry was expanded and established regular hours of Monday – Friday 9am – 12 noon and was staffed by church volunteers. At that time a local business closed and offered to donate shelves so they converted a Sunday School room into a Food Bank. A Clothes Closet was also opened and stocked with donated men's, women's and children's clothes, including baby items. Soon it was realized the need was mostly work clothes, jeans and work shoes. A "work boot voucher" account was established at Kmart. That first year, hundreds of vouchers for work shoes and gas were given and thousands of meals thru the food Pantry.

The Presbytery of Florida gave a \$5100.00 grant to help support the mission. Also received were corporate donations from 3M and Bell South. The companies matched donations of time or money given by current or retired employees. The Pantry

was also supported by many churches and agencies including Catholic Charities, Grace Episcopal Church, Salvation Army and many others.

In 1998, the coalition of agencies, Catholic Charities, Salvation Army and others wanted to establish a presence on the beach and a 9-month contract was entered for the corporative venture to provide additional services on the beach. Three rooms were provided in the church to be used as an office for referrals and the two rooms of food and clothing distribution. From this group, a board of directors was formed and established Beach Care Services.

The Pantry applied for and qualified for Federal Government Surplus Food. In the year 2000, became the distribution center for our area.

In 2000, Rev. Churchill and the mission committee chair were invited to speak about the Food Pantry on Gulf Coast Community College Talk Radio. This invitation resulted in many great News Herald articles.

It is an ecumenical endeavor that is supported by many area churches and local community groups making it possible to continue the mission of meeting the needs of the community's less fortunate without interruption, even during COVID and hurricanes. The Pantry is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-12:00 offering 3-day emergency food assistance to individuals and families in need.

Statistics

In 2025, the Pantry served 7028 people, providing 63,252 meals.

Items to be collected at the May Luncheon

- Hot Dog Buns
- Chef Boyardee Mini Spaghetti with Meatballs (7.5oz)
- Canned Luncheon Meat
- Pasta Sauce
- Cash for Purchase of Hot Dogs

Pamela Sanders, Liaison

Library



Tami Andersson with Tea Party Guests



Debi Davison, Tami Andersson, Sharron Hill

The Panama City Beach Public Library offers a variety of educational and recreation activities for all ages. Children activities include interactive stories, songs and play. Pre-school readiness programs prepare children for school. The lego club has monthly themed building sessions with creations displayed in the library. Adult and Team programs include weekly knitting and sewing groups, weekly mahjong meet ups, library bingo, and book clubs. The items and money collected at the April Luncheon will support the summer reading and story time craft programs.

Scholarships



Three Arnold High School Seniors were presented with the Women's Civic Club Scholarships on May 1st.

Allison Campbell is the AHS Student Government President, founder of the Arnold Dance Team, works at McGuire's, and is involved in many more activities. She plans to major in Political Science with a minor in dance. She is also ranked number 2 in her class!! She is a real go getter!

Kiera Cox plans to attend Gulf State and then attend the University of Florida. She plans to major in Speech Therapy. She wants to "help kids overcome challenges, celebrate their progress, and feel heard." She is the editor of the yearbook and is captain of the volleyball team. She currently works at Captain Anderson's and coaches youth gymnastics.

Julia Kickham is co-editor of the year book and her dream is to become a New York Times Best Selling Author. She plans to pursue her dream by majoring in English and Creative Writing. She works at Uncle Ernie's as a hostess. One of her references stated that "Julia has a great heart for people and is a wonderful team player."

Monica Thomas, Scholarship Liaison

"Spending Time Together"

Member to Member

Member Appreciation Picnic

Over forty Women's Club members, spouses, and friends gathered at Camp Helen State Park for our annual picnic. They enjoyed a horse racing game, Left Right Center, Cornhole, and Chinese Checkers. Plenty of snacks, drinks, BBQ, and desserts were available. Thank you Member to Member Committee for hosting an enjoyable afternoon. If you missed it, you missed out on a great day of fun and friendship.

Rhonda Zartman, Alisa Walley



Dan Zartman, Diane & Mike Pickering



Natalie May, Sylvia Ellington, Cheri Leistner, Janet Tetterer, Susan West



Lynn Padgett, Sharon Williams, Natalie May, Soula Dortch

Mark Your Calendars for Summer Buncos

- June 17
- July 22
- August 19

Sony Edwards, Janet Tetterer, 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!!

May

- 08 Kay Vider
- 22 Karolina Schleicher
- 23 Glenda Densmore
- 23 Sherrill Kelley
- 24 Barbara Allgood



"Don't let aging get you down. It's too hard to get up again!"

June

05 Jeanette Poland
 08 Becky Farmer
 13 Patty Rocco
 15 Sharon Cook
 18 Pam Davis
 19 Carol Lynn
 23 Diane Vitale
 26 Cathy Prabhu
 27 Alisa Walley
 28 Denise Rentz
 29 Sharon Mayberry

July

01 Pamela Kremm
 02 Karen Demeester
 02 Janet Tettermer
 05 Natalie May
 16 Gail Claffey
 17 Deborah Lowry
 21 Jenna Hall
 21 Sharon Williams
 21 Shirley Williams
 29 Sony Edwards

August

01 Cherie Lagace
 06 Peggy Lowery
 08 Jenessa Markowitz
 09 Doris Bayliss
 10 Sylvia Ellington
 11 Deb Kesinger
 12 Diane Pickering
 13 Eloise Cox
 14 Sylvia Payne
 17 Lisa Nicholson
 19 Cheri Leistner
 22 Sharon Burnett
 29 Jan Schott

"In Our Thoughts and Prayers"**Tammy Ruehrwein****Russ & Tammy Ruehrwein**

It is with deep sorrow of the passing of Tammy Mitchell Ruehrwein, on April 9, 2026. Born on May 28, Tammy had an infectious positivity that could light up any room. Her bubbly and outgoing personality drew people to her, and those who knew her will remember her warmth and cheerful spirit. She cherished moments spent by the beach and loved fishing, adventures, and traveling, but above all, family was her greatest treasure. She devoted her life to her loved ones, finding joy in the simplest moments spent together.

When Tammy joined the club in September 2024 she shared "I've been a resident of Panama City Beach for 3 years now, I'm a Covid transplant! Prior to moving to PCB I lived in Milford, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati. While living in Cincinnati for over 30 years I married my husband, Russ. Had two boys, Collin & Clay and I taught primary school children for 28 years. We decided to move to Panama City Beach once both our boys were out of the house making us empty nesters. I'm using my teaching skills to help educate others about Real Estate as a Realtor here in Florida. I volunteer at my church, Destiny Worship Center and now I'm blessed to be part of an organization that's making a difference in the community".

Please remember Tammy's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

"In Appreciation"

From: Ann Howard, Panama City Beach Library Branch Manager

Thank you for your very kind and thoughtful donation. We will use these funds for program supplies for kid's crafts.

From: The Church At The Beach Food Pantry Staff

"Thanks for all ya'll do" Jim. "Thank you so very much for your generous monetary contribution to the Food Pantry at The Church At The Beach. You're such a blessing!" Karen Schmidt. "Thank you" Linda S. "Thank you so much for the generous gift! It will be put to great use!" In Him, Jay C. Powell. "Thank you so very much. God bless you!" Mary Ann."Thank you. We appreciate your generous gift" Wanda. " That was so amazing! Thank you all so much" Kay Greies. "Thanks a bunch" Allan Dudin. "Thank you for the kind gift".Pam Hovel. "Thank you so much for the gift. Praise the Lord" Kam Campbell. "Thank you with love" Susan B. "Thanks so much" Bonnie H.

"Upcoming Events"

May 7	Luncheon & Installation of Officers at Harpoon Harry's, 12627 Front Beach Rd., 11AM
May 14	Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
May 21	Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
May 28	Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 309 R. Jackson Blvd., 10AM
August 27	Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 309 R. Jackson Blvd., 10AM
September 3	Luncheon - Location to be determined, 11AM

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

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