



The Civic Courier

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

Volume XV- Issue 3
November 2025

"From the President's Desk"



How wonderful it was to see so many members, their family and friends working together at the recent Pirates Festival and Renaissance Fair. This was a wonderful kick-off to our fundraising season! Then we moved almost immediately into Ironman. Whether it was packing swag bags, greeting athletes from around the globe, to making sure all participants were properly registered for the competition, you were there for the WCC and our community! Again, so many smiling faces, working side by side, representing the best of the Women's Civic Club of PCB.

Let's keep this momentum going as we have the Fall Spring Arts & Craft Show right around the corner. The committee has arranged a full house of vendors and authors are lined up for the literary nook. Also, the kitchen committee has a wonderful menu planned for the café! Now let's support this event with our attendance, by inviting friends to join us, and by sharing the event on Facebook so that it reaches 1000's in the social media world.

And remember, the year has barely begun and there are many other wonderful events right around the corner. So, keep those running shoes handy and remember, We are United For A Better Community!

Wishing you all a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Cheri Leistner

"October Luncheon at McGuire's Irish Pub"



Am la' cuimhneach! What a great time at McGuire's Irish Pub. I can attest from the beginning; meeting with the manager to the clearing of the tables, the process went very smoothly. The staff was phenomenal, and I don't know of any other time a plated meal came out so quickly and hot. The space was tight with nearly 80 members and guests, but all in all I believe it went very well and I hope you enjoyed yourself.

Our speaker, meteorologist Chris Smith, a 30-year T.V. weatherman launched Panhandle Weather on October 1st. The 24/7 weather channel will be available online and eventually on most streaming devices. Panhandle Weather will have the capacity to focus on specific locations from Pensacola to Tallahassee. Currently he and his associate, Dan Nyman, are tweaking their weather channel and streaming venues but for now it can be seen on You Tube/Panhandle Weather Live Stream. We welcomed Chris as our speaker and wish him the best in his new business.

We had two presentations after the luncheon and business meeting. Rhonda Zartman donated a door prize of a fall decoration and it was won by Susan Major and Jane Fillingim donated a dozen roses to the member who was the longest cancer survivor and that went to Jeanette Poland. Congratulations to both ladies.

Our cash donations for the month went to our Domestic Violence program, and specifically to Gulf View United Methodist Church. From the look of the donation jar, it appeared the donations were plentiful, and I am sure greatly appreciated.

On November 6th we will be holding our luncheon and business meeting at Pineapple Willy's, another favorite buffet of our members. "E komo mai" as they say on the Island.

Gloria Turner, Chair Luncheon and Programs.

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

Raising Funds

Arts and Crafts Show



November 8th - Fall Fling!!

"Shopping is cheaper than therapy!" Bring your friends, bring you neighbors, and enjoy shopping at the Fall Fling! Help us achieve a goal of 500 shoppers.

Additional volunteers are needed to assist on Friday evening before the show and on the day of the show. Please contact Jayn Collins, (678) 571-0664, if you can volunteer.

Julie Sanders, Chair - Arts & Crafts Committee

Jayn Collins, Co-Chair - Arts and Crafts Committee

The Arts and Crafts Show 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.

Dance and Silent Auction



Hearts & Hands Celebration United for a Better Community Friday, February 13, 2026, 6:00-10:00 PM Boardwalk Beach Hotel & Convention Center

Gourmet Dinner Served
Silent and Live Auction
Local Entertainer - Todd Herendeen

Meeting our goals:

	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Dance Income Goal	\$50,000	\$2,250
Silent Auction Item Retail Value	\$40,000	\$ 464

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.

Rhonda Zartman, Julie Sanders, Donna McElroy, Dance Chair and Co-Chairs
Nancy Stovall, Kelly Bertin, Silent Auction Chair and Co-Chair

Special Beach Events



Special Beach Events Committee has been busy again working as beverage ambassadors for the Pirates of the High Seas & Renaissance Fest at Aaron Bessant Park on October 10-12. A third tent was added this year, so we had even more earnings potential for our fund-raising efforts. The weather was beautiful, the event was well attended, and our tip jars were overflowing. A special thanks to all the members, spouses, family, and friends who helped with this fun event!

Now on to our next committee event, production line for the s'mores kits for Home for the Holidays. We will be assembling 4,000 s'mores kits on Friday, November 21st at Cheri Leistner's home in Bay Point. There will be two shifts, and this is one of our few events where we get to sit down while we're working! Committee members will receive an email soon with instructions for signing up and sign-ups will also be available at the next luncheon on November 6th.

And then comes one of our favorite events of the year, Home for the Holidays at Aaron Bessant Park on Friday, November 28th and Saturday, November 29th. This event is great for sparking your Christmas spirit. We will be handing out the free s'mores kits for Visit Panama City Beach and we will be vendors selling hot cocoa. The hot cocoa sales were so successful last year that we will have a second tent this year! More information will be sent out as we get closer to the event but save the date for this fun event!

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

"Supporting the Community"

Community Outreach and Library



Food Pantry

We at Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church seek 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 in to 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 we converted a Sunday School room into a Food Bank. We also opened a Clothes Closet stocked with donated men's, women's and children's clothes, including baby items. Soon we realized the need was mostly work clothes, jeans and work shoes. We established a "work boot voucher" account at Kmart. That first year we gave out hundreds of vouchers for work shoes and gas and gave thousands of meals thru the food Pantry.

The Presbytery of Florida gave us a \$5100.00 grant to help support the mission. We also received corporate donations from 3M and Bell South. The companies matched donations of time or money given by current or retired employees. We also were 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 we entered into a 9-month contract for the corporative venture to provide additional services on the beach. We provided three rooms in the church to be used as an office for referrals and the two rooms of food and clothing distribution. From this group, we formed a board of directors and established Beach Care Services.

We applied for and qualified for Federal Government Surplus Food. In the year 2000, we 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. We offer 3-day emergency food assistance to individuals and families in need.

Statistics: 2025 per month served 616 people, 5544 meals.

The food pantry is always looking for more volunteers. To volunteer, contact the church office at (850) 234-3161.

Pamela Sanders, Liaison

November Luncheon Collections will be for the food pantry Thanksgiving baskets.

Dried Potatoes
Cranberry Sauce

Boxed Stuffing
Chicken Broth

Canned Corn
Canned Green Beans

Gravy
Canned Yams

"Recognizing our Members"



Please 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!!

November

17 Carol Benson
18 Rhonda Zartman
26 Carol Adams
27 Nan VandenBerg
29 Jayn Collins



"Here's to a year full of blessings and happiness!"

"In Appreciation"

From: Breakfast Point Academy

Generosity changes lives. We thank you for donating to Mrs. Zam's classroom. You are all heroes to us. Sincerely,

From: The Panama City Beach Senior Center Board Members and Staff

Would like to thank you for your donation to our organization in memory of our own Gayle Oberst.

From: Maryn Christian, 2025 Scholarship Recipient

Dear Members of the Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for selecting me as a recipient of your generous \$3,000 scholarship. Hearing my name called at Senior Recognition was a moment that I will never forget! I am so honored to have been chosen by an organization with such a meaningful mission and long-standing dedication to civic improvement and community support.

This scholarship will significantly ease the financial burden of my college education and allow me to focus more fully on my academic goals. Your investment in my future is both encouraging and inspiring, and I am truly thankful for your support.

As a graduating senior from Panama City Beach, I appreciate the Club's commitment to helping local students pursue higher education. I am excited to represent our community as I continue my studies at the University of Central Florida, and I hope to contribute positively to our area in the future, just as your organization does so consistently.

Thank you again for your generosity and belief in my potential. Your support will truly make a difference and I am so grateful.

With sincere appreciation.

From: Panama City Beach Library- Ashley Burlow

Thank you for your generous donation for books this past year for the PCB library! We appreciate your support. Please see the enclosed list of titles purchased. Kindest regard.

Adult Fiction

Andrews, Brian; Wilson Jeffrey	Dark Rising
Jones, Stephen Graham	The Buffalo Hunter Hunter
Labuskes, Brianna	The Boxcar Librarian
Mallery, Susan	Beach Vibes
Martin, Charles	The Keeper
Meissner, Susan	A Map to Paradise
Michaels, Fern	Fight or Flight
Shaw, Vivian	Strange New World
Weiner, Jennifer	The Griffin Sisters' Greatest Hits

Adult Fiction Large Print

Box, C J	Battle Mountain
Crais, Robert	Big Empty

Farnsworth, Christopher
Feehan, Christine
Freeman, Brian
Krist, Gary
McFadden Freida
Moyes, Jojo
Prose, Nita
Quinn, Spencer
Robb, J D
Yarros, Rebecca

Adult Mystery

Coben, Harlan
Fletcher, Jessica
Johnston, Antony
Limoncelli, Rosanne
Pandian, Gigi
Paper, Lew
Pleiter, Allie
Sandford, John

Picture Books

Berenstain, Mike
Carle, Eric
Dean, James
Dean, Kimberly
Denise, Christopher
Dewdney, Anna
Emberley, Ed
Fox, Mem
McKee, David

Juvenile Easy Readers

Capucilli, Alyssa Satin
Capucilli, Alyssa Satin
Curry, Parker
Curry, Parker
Dean, James
Dean, James
Lobel, Arnold
Lyons, Kelly Starling
Lyons, Kelly Starling
Lyons, Kelly Starling
Lyons, Kelly Starling
Meisel, Paul
Rylant, Cynthia
Rylant, Cynthia
Thomas, Kiah
Thomas, Kiah

Juvenile Fiction

Brallier, Max
deSaint-Exupry, Antoine
Draper, Sharon M
Estes, Eleanor
Funke, Cornelia
Grabenstein, Chris
Nielsen, Jennifer A
Pamment, Jason

Robert B. Parker's Buried Secrets
Dark Hope
Robert Ludlum's The Bourne Vendetta
Trespassers at the Golden Gate
Crash
We All Live Here
The Maid's Secret
Farewell to Arfs
Bonded in Death
Onyx Stone

Nobody's Fool
Murder She Wrote: Snowy with a Chance of Murder
Can you Solver the Murder?
The Four Questions of Crime
The Library Game: A Secret Staircase Novel
Legacy of Lies
One Sharp Stitch
Lethal Prey

Potty Time (Baby Berenstain Bears)
The Very Lonely Firefly
Five Little Ducks
Pete the Cat: Crayons Rock!
Knight Owl
Llama, Llama Mad at Mama
Take a Breath, Big Red Monster!
Time for Bed
Elmer

Biscuits and Friends Visit the Community Garden
Biscuit in the Garden
Parker Takes a Trip
Your Friend, Parker
Pete at the Beach
Pete the Cat's Mars Mission
Days with Frog and Toad
All Aboard! (Ty's Travels)
Ty's Travels: Camp-Out
Ty's Travels: Winter Wonderland
Ty's Travels: Zip, Zoom
I Want It!
The Elephant's Birthday
Owlets and Tarts
Lone Wolf Gets a Pet
Lone Wolf Goes to School

The Last Kids on Earth
The Little Prince
Out of my Heart
The Hundred Dresses
The Thief Lord
Dog Squad 2: Cat Crew
Lines of Courage
Treasure in the Lake

Patterson, James
 Peirce, Lincoln
 Pilkey, Dav
 Yang, Kelly
 Yang, Kelly
Young Adult
 Aster, Alex
 Aster, Alex
 Aster, Alex
 Barnes, Jennifer
 Barnes, Jennifer
 Riordan, Rick
 Riordan, Rick
 Riordan, Rick
 Riordan, Rick

The Great Mouse Escape: A Word of Mouse Tail
 Big Nate: Attack of the Cheez Fund Breath
 Do Man: A Tale of Two Kitties
 Key Player (Front Desk #4)
 Room to Dream (Front Desk #3)

 Lightlark
 Nightbane
 Skyshade
 The Brothers Hawthorne
 Games Untold
 Heroes of Olympus, Book One of Lost Hero
 Heroes of Olympus, Book Five of the Blood of Olympus
 Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Chalice of the Gods
 Percy Jackson and the Olympians: Wrath of the Triple Goddess

"Upcoming Events"

October 29-30	Ironman Support at Aaron Bessant Park
October 30	Kirby Holt's Christmas Decorating Showcase at AG Center in Chipley
November 6	Luncheon at Pineapple Willy's, 9875 S Thomas Dr., 11:00AM
November 8	Fall Fling Arts and Crafts Sale at Frank Brown Park
November 13	Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
November 20	Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
November 20	Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 309 R Jackson, 10:00AM
November 21	S'Mores Kitting
November 28-29	Home for the Holidays at Aaron Bessant Park, 500 W Pier Park Dr.
December 4	Christmas Luncheon at Harpoon Harry's, 12627 Front Beach Rd., 11:00 AM
December 6	Panama City Beach Marathon
December 11	Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
December 18	Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
December 18	Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 309 R Jackson, 10:00AM
December 31	New Year's Eve Beach Ball Drop at Pier Park and Aaron Bessant 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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The Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach Presents

FALL FLING

JURIED ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW & SALE

FRANK BROWN PARK RECREATION CENTER
16200 PANAMA CITY BEACH PARKWAY
PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL 32413

8 NOVEMBER, 2025
9 AM-3 PM

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 501(c)3 Organization Supporting Charitable Causes in PCB

Come shop with local artisans, get signed books from local authors in the
Literary Cafe and support the Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach.

Questions may be emailed to:

womenscivicclub@aol.com

