



# The Civic Courier

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

Volume XI - Issue 3  
November 2021



Diane Vitale

## From the President's Desk

Dear Members:

I'm approaching this communication a little backwards this month by providing you with my words of wisdom first. My purpose in so doing is to elaborate on and personalize the quote.

GROWTH...." Happiness is neither virtue nor pleasure nor this thing nor that but simply growth. We are happy when we are growing". *William Butler Yeats*

I find the WCC offers many opportunities to grow. By sponsoring new members, we perfect our relationship skills and can gain new ideas on hobbies and adventures that others share with us. Committee work can stimulate our creative juices and have us contributing to a common goal.

Stepping up to be a chair, co-chair or executive committee member can refresh those skills of leadership that may be laying dormant from years gone by.

Each one of us has many talents. By utilizing them to their fullest potential, growth is inevitable and that is such a good thing.

We have the Iron Man coming up in a few weeks and I challenge everyone to volunteer and bring along friends and family for a growth opportunity experience.

Diane, President



## "Foundations of the Club"

In this edition of The Civic Courier, "Foundations of the Club" is highlighting Edith Ellis and focusing on The Club's Purpose and Mission.

**Edith Ellis** moved from Birmingham, Alabama in 1977 to join the love of her life, James H. Ellis, aka "Red". Together they owned and operated a small family motel. She also worked over twenty years for Ralston Purina.

Edith became interested in the Women's Civic Club after being invited to a meeting. Her interest was ignited by the opportunity to help children in need in the West Bay area/community. She joined the club in September 1979. Her daughter, Flo Watson, joined her in the club in February 2002.



Edith and daughter Flo



"Fashionista" Edith



Edith, Janet Roan, Shirley Crawford, Nan VandenBerg, Karen Honeycutt, Beth Waltrous

As a fashionista, Edith loves walking the runway in the annual club fashion show. Her other club interests include the annual Christmas Parade; selling T-shirts, designed by Paul Brent, at the annual Seafood Festival; and assisting children in the West Bay area.

Although she did not have any great words of wisdom to pass on to other members, she has many great memories. Edith enjoys participating in all the activities of the WCC. She especially loves the Christmas Parade and remembers when it was just a small parade.

### The Club's Purpose and Mission

The Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach is organized exclusively for the purpose of making distributions to organizations; charitable, religious, educational, and scientific, including one's that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3). Having a clear purpose enables the club to conduct business in an efficient manner and to stay focused.

Although there are many worthwhile charities in the area, the mission of the Club is to give aid to worthy projects for the promotion of civic improvements for the best development of the Panama City Beach community. The Panama City Beach community is defined as the area within the Hathaway Bridge, the Phillips Inlet Bridge and the West Bay Bridge in Bay County. When the charity is based in our community, we can reach out to see how they are doing and we can view the impact of our giving.

## "Members and Guests Enjoy the October Luncheon Meeting"



Marta Rose Thorpe, Kay Vider  
Nan VandenBerg



Kay Vider, Cheri Leistner

Members and guests of the Women's Civic Club experienced tropical beach fun at the October Luncheon Meeting. Each attendee was given a lei to get them in an island state of mind. Marta Rose Thorpe, Area Director for Grand Lagoon Life Media, shared "Things to Do, Places to Go on the Beach."

## "New Member Installation"



Debbie Wood, Nancy Stovall, Julie Sanders

## "Welcome New Member"

At the October luncheon meeting, Debbie Wood, sponsored by Julie Sanders was installed in the Women's Civic Club. Debbie took the time to share some things about herself.



Debbie Wood

A native Floridian, Debbie moved to Panama City in 1972 and was in the first graduating class of Mosley High School. Upon graduating, Debbie pursued her interest in politics by going to work for the Republican Party of Florida in Tallahassee, where she earned her way to be the **first female** "fieldman" for the party traveling 50 of Florida's 67 counties. Her career in the campaign field continued - where she met her husband, Buddy Bishop, who was a well know national Republican consultant. Together they ran hundreds of campaigns throughout the country, as well as produced dozens of documentaries. They also *produced* 3 kids - Tho, Tyler and Tiffany- now grown and all living here locally.

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## **"Welcome New Member"**

Since being widowed over 10 years ago, Debbie began her own business "Destination Meets" which runs gymnastics competitions in Branson, Biloxi, St. Augustine and Panama City Beach. Debbie still remains active in the Republican politics and is serving her 3<sup>rd</sup> year as Chairman of the Bay County Republican Party.

Just recently, Debbie became a proud new member of the GRANDMOTHER CLUB and is looking forward to all the spoiling ahead.

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

### ***Raising Funds***

#### **Ironman**

A "thank you" to each of you who have signed up to work on the Ironman. This is one of the Club's major fundraisers. We are working on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> at Aaron Bessant Park. If you have signed up and forgot what you signed up for just reach out to Luciann Jacobs or me. We have the sign-up sheets.

If you are reading this and saying to yourself "I forgot to sign up" you're not too late. Email me at [bjvecrumba@hotmail.com](mailto:bjvecrumba@hotmail.com) and I will take care of it immediately.

We look forward to seeing you as we prepare for the big race.

Barbara Vecrumba

### ***Supporting the Community***

#### **Food Pantry**

The food pantry served 279 clients in September and August for a total of 2,511 meals. As a comparison the pantry served 196 clients the previous two month (June and July) for a total of 1,764 meals.

Our W.C.C donations, along with several other organizations, businesses and individuals, make it possible for the pantry to be open three days a week; Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-12. Currently clients may come to the pantry once a week.

If any of you would like to see how the food pantry operates, please email me and I, or another volunteer, will be glad to show you the facility located at Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church, on Highway 79 between Back Beach and Front Beach Road.

Our donations are most welcome and after every donation from our Club I receive a nice email from Sandy and Tony Young, coordinators of the pantry, for our continued support.

Are we not the BEST!

Gloria Turner, Food Liaison, [gloturn1@gmail.com](mailto:gloturn1@gmail.com)

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## Food Pantry

*At the November Meeting we will be collecting:*

- Toiletries - Shampoo, Men and Women's Deodorant, Shaving Cream
- Packaged Bakery Goods - Pies, Muffins
- Cake and Muffin Mixes
- Canned Pumpkin
- Reusable Grocery Bags



## Community Outreach

### *The Ark*

This year the Club has included a budget line item for The Ark. It's part of the Community Outreach committee. Please keep this organization in mind when you are cleaning your closets. The first item on their list is slacks. Men's size 32-40 and Ladies 8-16. They need jeans and slacks in black, blue, and khaki colors.

Also needed are blankets (twin and full size); shoes- men size 9-12 work boots and black shoes for food service and ladies' size 6-10 low heels and tennis shoes; and coats.

Please let me know, if you have any of these items and they are in good condition. Someone can pick up the items.

Thank you in advance for helping with this project.

Luciann Jacobs

Barbara Vecrumba [bjvecrumba@hotmail.com](mailto:bjvecrumba@hotmail.com)

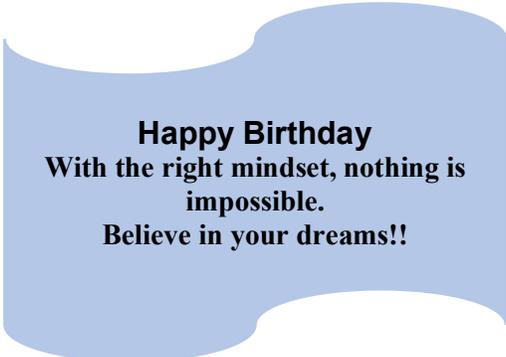
Co-chairs

## *Recognizing our Members*

### **Birthday Wishes !!**

#### **November**

03	Sue Schmitz
17	Carol Benson
19	Helen Schreiner
27	Nan VandenBerg



**Happy Birthday**  
**With the right mindset, nothing is impossible.**  
**Believe in your dreams!!**

#### **Member Updates**

Gwen Odenheimer  
1800 Hermitage Blvd.  
Box 108  
Tallahassee, FL 32308



## Upcoming Events

- November 3 Telephone and Reservations Committee Meeting at Panera's at 1:00 pm
- November 4 Luncheon Meeting at Pineapple Willy's, 9875 S Thomas Drive at 11 am
- November 16 Beach Boogie Dance Committee Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Board Room at 10 am
- November 18 Board Meeting at Grand Panama, 11800 Front Beach Road at 10 am
- November 26-27 Beach Home for the Holidays, Aaron Bessant Park

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

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