



# The Civic Courier

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

Volume XII- Issue 3  
November 2022



**Diane Vitale**

## From the President's Desk

Dear Members:

The first "Fall Fling" is behind us and by all accounts another successful event. Vicky Watkins one of our exhibitors and a fellow water aerobics participant was very pleased with sales and is signing up for this spring. You who are familiar with marketing know that loyalty is a sought after component of any successful endeavor. Julie, Roberta & team are helping to create that dynamic.

Also, it's been a pumpkin frenzy at Camp Helen for our first year helping out with sales. Our other new work event, the Pirates Festival had us selling beer and t-shirts. Fortunately, our club membership is growing steadily to have the Manpower to support these events. Speaking of man, we are so appreciative of husbands participating to do the heavy lifting.

My quote is a little wordy but worth the read. " All that is good and unique in you should be brought out. If you do not do this, you will be stunted. The good in you is like the water in a well: the more you draw from it, the more fresh water will seep in. If you do not draw from it, the water will only become stagnant". Deng Ming-Dao.

*Respectfully,  
Diane, President*

## "Foundations of the Club"

The November edition of The Civic Courier, "Foundations of the Club" is highlighting Judy Hardegree and focusing on one of our charities, The Boys and Girls Club.



**Judy Hardegree**

Judy Hardegree was born in Gadsden, Alabama where she lived until age 12, when her father accepted a position in Houston, Texas. She was very close to her grandparents who lived in Chattanooga, Tennessee and spent every summer with them beginning at age 5. When she moved to Texas, her grandfather would take the Chattanooga Choo-Choo train to Houston and take her back to Chattanooga for the entire summer. After graduating from high school in Houston, she married and returned to Chattanooga where she raised two sons.

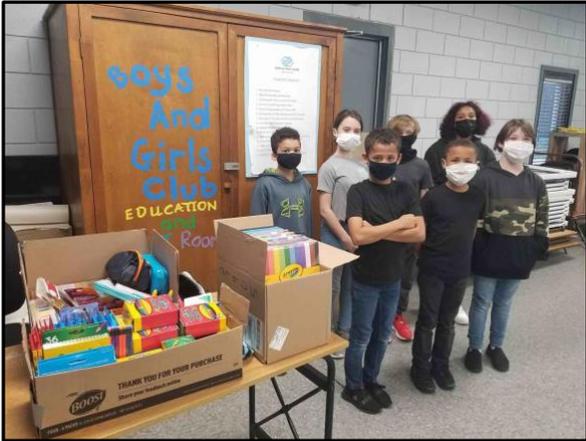
When her sons were in middle school, Judy took a position with a Fortune 500 insurance company. She took night classes for eight years at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga in pre-med courses needed in her job. Judy was promoted to Chief Underwriter in the Disability Section and worked for the company for thirty-six (36) years. During her career she was President of a women's club which was actively involved in fund-raising events for the benefit of St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis. She was also the President of her company's "Quarter Century Club" (about 200 employees with twenty-five years of service). Judy and her husband Tony, an engineer who worked at Tennessee Valley Authority for many years, moved to Panama City Beach one day after she retired in 2000.

In 2000 several neighborhood couples, herself, and local dignitaries were working to set up a homeless prevention charity and Beach Care Services was born. Judy served as a board member for many years and volunteered in the office for 20 years. Mildred Land, a neighbor, persuaded Judy to join the Women's Civic Club in February 2001. She has served as the Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Second Vice President, First Vice President, Chair of the Beach Care Services Committee, Yearbook Editor and Member to Member Committee Chair. As Member to Member Chair, she invited club members to her home and introduced them to bunco.

Judy said she is proud of all the club has accomplished during her twenty-two years as a member; citing the donation to the police department of two drug dogs, the donation for a dog training facility, the donation of the flags on the beach, and the establishment of the scholarship endowments at Gulf Coast College. She also enjoyed working the dance, silent auction, school projects. As a personal note, Judy and Tony enjoy their two sons, a daughter, five grandchildren and six greats who visit several times a year.

When asked if she has a word of wisdom for members, Judy said "When you join the club honor your promise to work because the things the club does will allow it to continue".

### **The Boys and Girls Club**



Imagine a place where who you are, where you're from or the circumstances that surround you don't determine your access to experiences or opportunities. The Boys and Girls Club provides a world-class club experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who enters their doors. Their goal is to enable all young people, especially those who need it most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America had its beginnings in 1860 with three women in Hartford, Connecticut - Mary Goodwin, Alice Goodwin and Elizabeth Hammersley. Believing that boys who roamed the streets should have a positive alternative, they organized the first Club. With character development as the

cornerstone of the experience, the Club focused on capturing boy's interests, improving their behavior and increasing their personal expectations and goals. A cause was born. To recognize the fact that girls are a part of their cause, the national organization's name was changed to Boys & Girls Clubs of America in 1990.

The Women's Civic Club supports the Boys and Girls Club of Panama City Beach with an annual donation which is used for swim lessons for the members. The club felt it was important for all kids to learn to swim so they can safely enjoy the beautiful beaches in our community. Craft items are also collected at one of the monthly luncheon meetings for the Boys and Girls Club Education and Craft Program. The Club liaison to the Boys and Girls Club is Cheri Leistner.

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





**Lauren deCiutiis, Julie Sanders**

Women 's Civic Club Members and Guests enjoyed a delicious luncheon at Firefly. The guest speaker Lauren deCiutiis RN, Coast Guard Veteran and CEO of Emerald Kush Farms shared "CBD Improving Your Overall Well-Being.

### ***"New Member Installation"***

- \* **Monica Thomas (Sponsor)**
- \* **Annetta Henderson (New Member)**
- \* **Dena Roewe (Sponsor)**
- \* **Nancy Stovall (Membership Chair)**
- \* **Diane Vitale (President)**
- \* **Mary Herst (New Member)**
- \* **Susan Curry (Sponsor)**
- \* **Deb Kesinger (New Member)**
- \* **Sue Jiles (Sponsor)**
- \* **Sheryl Lewis (New Member)**



### ***"Welcome New Members"***



**Annetta Henderson**

I was born and raised in central Illinois. I worked for USDA for 30 years retiring in March 2017. I then moved to Panama City Beach in September 2017 and have not looked back! My greatest accomplishment was raising my two daughters. Although they still reside in Illinois, we do see each other often. In addition to this club, I am looking forward to mentoring a student at West Bay Elementary School.



**Mary Herst**

I moved to Florida in 2010 from Missouri. I am a retired educator, a mother, a grandmother and a great grandmother. I am a member of Northstar Church.

I served as an elementary teacher, an elementary principal and an adjunct professor in Missouri. I taught in an elementary classroom after moving to Florida. I retired for the third and final time in 2016.

I am enjoying retirement here in Florida. I look forward to participating in this organization and all it does to help our community.



**Deb Kesinger**

I was born in Virginia and after my mother passed away when I was nine, we moved to Sacramento, California where my sister and I were raised by my grandmother. I began my career working at Sears Roebuck, while attending college at CSUS (Sacramento). Sears is where I would meet my future husband. We married after I graduated with a business degree and we were blessed with having four children. We now have four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter due this December!

Two years after being married, we were transferred to Los Angeles where I became a Sears Catalogue Buyer for the Western Territory supplying 13 distribution centers and my husband was to open a new Sears Outlet store. We eventually were transferred to San Diego and I ended my employment with Sears and worked in procurement for General Atomics and Qualcomm. While in San Diego, we took up a new hobby- Cruising and sailing! Up until 2 years ago, we would take one or two cruises a year. We also bought several sail boats over the years.

When my husband retired from Sears at age 50, we moved to Texas and bought some land to start a small cattle ranch. I worked as a Purchasing Manager for various companies such as General Dynamics, Argon Medical and the Lighthouse for the Blind. I can honestly say that working with the blind was very rewarding. I also enrolled in Texas A&M's Master Gardening Program and became a certified Master Gardener. (We're big Longhorn fans, though!) We ended up living in Texas for 15 years.

Our first granddaughter was born in Panama City Beach nearly 13 years ago and at that time I was fortunate to be hired by Jensen USA, located in Panama City, as their Purchasing and Production Planning Manager. I retired at the beginning of the pandemic. I am also very involved with the Ladies Guild at St. Bernadette's Catholic Church by working in the rose grotto, baking cakes for funerals, giving communion to Catholics in the local Assisted Living facilities, working at the religious counter every Sunday as well as being an Eucharist Minister.



Sheryl Lewis

I've been married for 44 years and have 2 grown children. I have lived in many areas of the United States and I'm originally from Cocoa Beach, Fl. After owning property in PCB for many years, we finally moved full-time to the beach 5 years ago from the Atlanta area. I'm a retired Registered Nurse and for the last 25 years I've been a real estate agent. I was actively involved in my community of Roswell, Ga. before moving to Panama City Beach. Shortly after moving to PCB I was diagnosed with colon cancer, I'm now 3 years cancer free! I'm thrilled to be healthy and able to be a part of this wonderful community and the Women's Civic Club. I absolutely love living in Florida!

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

***Raising Funds***

**Fall Fling Arts and Craft Show**



**"Entrance "**



**Annetta Henderson, Denice Dare**



**"Vendors and Shoppers"**



**Cheri Leistner**



**Nancy Stovall, Sue Jiles, Sallie Clackley**



**Arlene Klaas, Patty Rocco,  
Jackie Logan**

Many, many thanks to those of you who supported the Fall Fling by volunteering for the arts and crafts show or in the kitchen! Thank you to those of you who came and shopped, as well. We had a good turnout and some amazing vendors! I want to give Kelly Bertin a shoutout - she took a stack of flyers and braved all the outdoor sporting events at the park to pass out flyers and advertise our event - she came back sweating and successful as many folks came to see what we were all about! The kitchen crew did a great job with the snack bar. Overall, we had a successful event! Now on to the Spring Fling on March 4!

*Julie Sanders & Roberta Bernhardt*  
Co-Chairs Arts and Crafts Committee

## **Ironman**

**Ironman is coming up soon! Thank you to everyone that has already signed up on-line to volunteer for Ironman. We still need your help at Aaron Bessant Park:**

**Bag Stuffing** - Tuesday, Nov 1 at 9:00AM until we finish the bags

**Athlete Check-In** - Wednesday, Nov 2 at 8:30AM-1:30PM and 1:00PM-6:00PM

**Athlete Check-In** - Thursday, Nov 3 at 8:30AM-1:30PM and 1:00PM-6:00PM

To volunteer, please sign up at:

<https://ironman.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=59904>

Please let me know if you have any questions.

*Monica Thomas*

## **Special Beach Events**

### **"Beach Home for the Holidays**

Once again PCB will officially kick off the Holiday Season in Style with Beach Home for the Holidays. It will be held the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 25 and 26. Aaron Bessant Park will be transformed into a Holiday Paradise with snowflakes, lights, carolers, Santa's Village and more. This event features the official Christmas Tree Lighting, 2 concerts, fireworks, Santa Claus, holiday movies, campfires and of course Smores! That's where the WCC comes in.

We will be making the smores packages for the attendees as well as handing out the packages on both Friday and Saturday nights of the events. The event opens at 3:30 and concludes with the fireworks at 7:15. This is always a popular event for the WCC! We will be dressed in our best Christmas hats and sweaters to add to the festivities.

The Special Beach Events Committee has been tasked with making 5000 smores. But if you would like to join in on the fun and really get in the holiday spirit, we would love additional hands. We have never had the opportunity to make this many smores before, so it will be an exciting experience for all!

## "Camp Helen State Park Pumpkin Sales"



Jessy and Patty Rocco



Bobbi Griggs, Cheri Leistner  
Doris Bayliss



Jane Fillingim and  
Granddaughters



Roberta Bernhardt, Lynn Padgett



Donna and Tom McElroy

The Women's Civic Club supported "The Friends of Camp Helen" sell pumpkins at the Camp Helen State Park on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Working in pairs, volunteers enjoyed watching children and adults enjoy selecting pumpkins from tangerine to watermelon size, posing for pictures and enjoying the activities.

## "Pirates of the High Seas & Renaissance Fest"

The Pirates of the High Seas & Renaissance Fest set sail from October 7-9, 2022! The Women's Civic Club supported the event by selling beer and t-shirts.

The annual event celebrated the legacy of the pirates who once roamed the Gulf of Mexico and pillaged the Emerald Coast, telling the tale of Dominique Youx and his krewe of loyal buccaneers through staged pirate battles and storytelling.

Pirate-fans enjoyed online and in-person activities, including a digital pirate costume contest, an in-person and online treasure hunt, parades, live music, fireworks, Renaissance vendors and activities, and more.



**Monica Thomas, Patty Rocco, Lynn Padgett, Gail Claffey, Cheri Leistner, Flo Watson Sharon Williams, Sue Jiles**



**Gail Claffey, Sharon Williams, Flo Watson**



**Karen and Dave DeMeester with Pirate Family**



**Dave and Karen DeMeester, Lynn Padgett, Monica Thomas**



**Sue Jiles**

## *"Supporting the Community"*

### **Boys and Girls Collections**

The club will be collecting the following arts and craft items for the Boys and Girls Club at Frank Brown Park at the November Luncheon:

- \*Construction Paper
- \*Crayons
- \*Markers
- \*Watercolors
- \*Colored Pencils
- \*Glue Sticks
- \*Scissors

There will also be a collection jar if you would prefer to donate cash instead of items.

## Food Pantry



Ladies, what a great bounty our members provided for the Food Pantry at our October Luncheon. WOW. Not only did we collect a lot of specific food items for their Thanksgiving baskets but we also received \$108 in cash donations that will be used to supplement what extras they may need for the baskets. What a great Club. Sandy Young, coordinator of the food pantry, sent us a nice letter and wanted me to thank each of you for your unending generosity. She ends her letter with "May the Lord Bless and keep you and yours, making us all ever mindful of the needs of others"..... I say "Amen" to that.

The next collection for the food pantry will be at our December luncheon and we will be collecting for their Christmas Baskets. In the Newsletter and in the luncheon invitation will be a list of the items requested. I know the generosity of our Club members and know we will "step up to the plate" when there is a call.

*Gloria*

## *"Spending Time Together"*

### Member to Member

### Member Family Picnic

### *"The Chefs"*



### *"The Games"*



## "The Attendees"



Clear skies, food, and games provided the Women' Civic Club members and their guests a perfect day for a picnic at Maggie Still Memorial Park. Maggie was a member of the club. The WCC has supported the park with an annual monetary donation each year since it was established in 1987. Gayle Oberst, club liaison to Maggie Still Park, provided an informative history of the park and on Maggie Still herself.

Thanks to all who participated in this new Member to Member event! Special thanks to Felicia England and Trustmark Bank for providing the grill, Tim and Patty Rocco for transporting and cleaning the grill, and Dave DeMeester and Dan Dufresne for grilling over the hot grill with support from Tom McElroy. We greatly appreciate the support from our family members!

## *"Recognizing our Members"*

### Happy Birthday Wishes !!

#### November

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



*"Your birthday is the beginning  
of your own personal new  
year!"*



*Special Wishes to Nan Vandenberg  
who will be celebrating her 95<sup>th</sup>  
birthday on November 27<sup>th</sup>!!*

Nan says, "Enjoy life while you have it and don't sweat the small stuff."

***"In Appreciation"***

**From: Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church- Sandy Young**

Ladies,

Many thanks to the members of the Women's Civic Club for your continued support of our Community Food Pantry. Your generous contributions include frequent visits from various members with miscellaneous foods, volunteer hours from other members and your very generous monetary donations. The donation of foods and money for our Thanksgiving baskets that we provide to our local schools during the holidays are amazing. We cannot thank you all enough for your unending generosity.

Please share with all of your members, especially Gloria Turner, our sincere appreciation for all you do to help support our Community Food Pantry.

May the Lord Bless and keep you and yours, making us all ever mindful of the needs of others.

**From: GCSC Foundation - Assistant Director Dunkin McLane and Director of Donor Cultivation and Alumni Engagement Lauren Del Toro**

Greetings,

On behalf of the Gulf Coast State College Foundation's Board of Directors, we would like to thank you for your continued support. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to be good stewards of funds and to protect the donor's intent. At this time, we would like to submit to you a report on your scholarship endowment.

We are grateful that you have given us the opportunity to administer your scholarship. Our Foundation is successful because of donors like you who have made an investment in the future of our community.

**From: Scholarship Recipient Kailyn Johnson, Panama City Beach, Graduated from Arnold High School. Major-Liberal Arts, Concentration - Elementary Teacher**

I know this may be a late response letter but I am just now finding out about this! I want to personally thank you. This means a lot to me that other people believe in what I could offer the world one day. So once again, thank you.

**From: Scholarship Recipient Heather Jordan, Panama City Beach, Received GED. Major- Culinary Management**

I am not sure there are words enough to express the magnitude of my appreciation! I am so grateful for this award and the opportunity it affords me to continue with my academic endeavors and reach my goals. I will continue to strive for excellence and continue to reach my full potential each and every day. And because of you, the steps are a little less cumbersome. Thank you so much!

***"Upcoming Events"***

- November 1 Ironman Bag Stuffing at Aaron Bessant Park, 9:00AM until finished
- November 2 Ironman Athlete Check In at Aaron Bessant Park, 8:30AM-1:30PM, 1:00PM-6:00PM
- November 3 General Meeting at Pineapple Willy's, 9875 S Thomas Dr., 11AM
- November 3 Telephone & Reservations Committee Meeting at Pineapple Willy's, following luncheon
- November 3 Ironman Athlete Check In at Aaron Bessant Park, 8:30AM-1:30PM, 1:00PM-6:00PM
- November 3 Ironman TDC Tent at Aaron Bessant Park, 1:00PM-6:00PM
- November 10 Beach Boogie Dance Committee Meeting at Chamber of Commerce, 10AM
- November 14 Arts & Crafts Committee Meeting at Chamber of Commerce, 2PM
- November 17 Board of Directors Meeting at Chamber of Commerce, 309 Richard Jackson Blvd, 10AM
- November TBD Home for the Holidays S'Mores Kitting at TBD, TBD-TBD
- November 25 Home for the Holidays at Aaron Bessant Park, 3:30PM-7:30PM
- November 26 Home for the Holidays at Aaron Bessant Park, 3:30PM-7:30PM
- December 1 Christmas Program and Luncheon at Edgewater Beach Resort Conference Center, 11 AM

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

**Contact Information**

Mail: P.O. Box 9759, Panama City Beach, FL 32417  
Email: [womenscivicclub@aol.com](mailto:womenscivicclub@aol.com)  
Web: [wccpcb.org](http://wccpcb.org)  
Facebook: Women's Civic Club of PCB, FL

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

Coordinator:	Nancy Stovall	256-527-0195	<a href="mailto:nlstovall@gmail.com">nlstovall@gmail.com</a>
Article Contributors:	Annetta Henderson Mary Herst Deb Kesinger	Cheri Leistner Sheryl Lewis Julie Sanders	Monica Thomas Gloria Turner Diane Vitale
Support Staff:	Arlene Klaas	Cheri Leistner	Sue Jiles