



# The Civic Courier

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

Volume XIII- Issue 3  
November 2023



**Nancy Stovall**

## From the President's Desk

Dear Members:

Communication can be categorized into three basic types: (1) verbal, in which you listen to a person to understand their meaning; (2) written, in which you read their meaning; and (3) non verbal, in which you observe a person and infer meaning. Positive communication is important to our club as it creates better relationships, increases innovation and builds trust.

Our committee chairs work diligently to cultivate relationships with the community fund sources, which has afforded us so many opportunities to raise funds and give back to our community. The organizers of the events work very hard and long hours to ensure the event runs as smoothly as possible, however challenges do happen. If we criticize event organizers and treat them poorly, our relationships and opportunities are harmed. If there is a concern when you are working an event, it needs to be brought to the attention of the chair(s) so they can resolve the issue.

Unfortunately, committee chair(s) are experiencing situations where committee members are not responding to communications. Committee chair(s) are depending on you so please respect them with a response.

Items will be collected for the Thanksgiving Food Baskets at the November luncheon. Your contributions will have an impact on many families.

"Whatever words we utter should be chosen with care for people will hear them and be influenced by them for good or ill". Buddha

## *"October Luncheon at Runaway Island, A Glimpse into Resilience"*



What an unforgettable luncheon we shared at Runaway Island on October 5<sup>th</sup>. All dressed in shades of pink to honor Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we had the privilege of hosting a truly remarkable and inspiring speaker, Jessica Foster. A beloved local figure renowned for her role as a morning news anchor on Channel 7, WJHG TV, Jessica generously shared her incredible journey of discovery and resilience in her battle against breast cancer.

Her story was one of inspiration and determination, which showed the remarkable strength of the human spirit and the vital importance of self-examinations and regular mammogram screenings.

Jessica's cancer journey began with a routine breast exam, during which she discovered a lump that would forever alter her life and begin her remarkable journey of strength, resilience, and hope. The noncancerous lump was found when Jessica was 30, which led to her having yearly mammograms earlier than the usual recommendation. Five years later, during a routine mammogram, tiny calcifications were detected, which turned out to be breast cancer. The calcifications were so small ...they couldn't even be felt. Diagnosed as coming from a specific genetic mutation that was inherited, Jessica recounted the emotional rollercoaster she experienced, the numerous medical appointments, surgery, and the moments of fear and uncertainty that she faced going forward.

The bright light that shined throughout her story was her unwavering determination to fight her battle with courage and grace and be an example to her daughter and everyone around her. She reminded us that it was not just about surviving, but about living life to its fullest every day and acknowledging the plan that God had for her life.

Many of our members could relate to her story, as they too have faced cancer concerns firsthand or know of someone who has. Jessica's words served both as motivation and an important reminder to regularly perform self-examinations and schedule routine screenings. The importance of early detection could not be stressed enough.

As we reflect on Jessica's story, we want to express our deepest gratitude for her remarkable courage, sincerity, and unwavering commitment as a spokesperson for breast cancer awareness. We are not only fortunate to have her as a champion for breast cancer but also as a news anchor for our community. As some of our ladies said, it is a joy to start the day by tuning in early and see her smiling face.

Inspired by Jessica's journey, let us carry the spirit of resilience and unity forward, and remember that we can be a source of strength for one another. Stay strong, stay healthy, do your self-exams, and schedule your screenings as recommended.

### Thank You



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our members who joined us and participated in our October luncheon. A special appreciation goes out to Roberta Bernhardt for her exceptional coordination of the fantastic venue, Runaway Island. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Julie Sanders for arranging our featured speaker, Jessica Foster, and to Nancy Stovall for generously providing the pink bracelets for our members to wear in support of breast cancer. Many thanks to Rhonda Senkbeil for donating the lovely fall flowers that graced our tables and we gave as door prizes. To all - your contributions made this event truly special.



### November Luncheon

Y'all plan to come. We look forward to seeing you at our November 2<sup>nd</sup> luncheon at Pineapple Willy's.

With Gratitude,  
*Jane Fillingim*  
Chair, Lunches and Programs Committee

### Navigating Rising Costs: Sustaining Affordable Monthly Luncheons for the Women's Civic Club

Dear Women's Civic Club Members,

We wanted to share some important news concerning our luncheons for the upcoming year. We place a huge importance on our gatherings as they hold immense value and play a vital role in the life of the club, and they remain of utmost importance to us.

Our committee is dedicated to providing you with an enjoyable and memorable luncheon experience each month during our cherished traditional season. We have some great venues set up for the remainder of our 2023-2024 year but want you to know that we have been facing a common dilemma as you probably already are aware; the rising cost of luncheons and venues. The rise in venue charges can be attributed to various factors, with increases in food costs and labor costs being among the primary contributors.

While the lunches and programs committee diligently strive to efficiently handle cost and logistical considerations, we believe it would be wise to enact a solution for the 2024-2025 year by limiting our luncheon options to a predetermined set of venues throughout the nine-month period, departing from our usual practice of changing venues on a monthly basis.

The encouraging update is that we have established strong partnerships with several of our trusted venues, and we are delighted to share that some of them have indicated their willingness to collaborate with us in order to maintain competitive pricing. Through our commitment to recurring use, we can engage in more favorable price negotiations.

We understand that the quality of our luncheons is important to you, and we want to assure you that we are doing everything possible to maintain the high standard you expect and keep the cost of lunch under the \$30 price.

If you have any suggestions or would like to provide feedback on the luncheon venues, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Jane Fillingim, chair, Lunches and Programs. 850-499-0223. We welcome your input as we navigate these changes.

We look forward to sharing more delicious luncheons and memorable moments with you in the future.

With Profound Appreciation,  
*Jane Fillingim*  
Chair, Lunches and Programs

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

### ***Raising Funds***

#### **Dance and Silent Auction**

Dear Women's Civic Club Members,

Please join us in creating a meaningful difference! We are excited to announce our upcoming fundraising event, an enchanting night of dancing and a silent auction, and we humbly request your generous support!

The event, featuring a dance and auction, plays a pivotal role in raising funds for the causes we support, and your involvement can truly be a catalyst for helping us raise funds for our community. By teaming up with us for this occasion, you become a vital component of our mission to give back to our community.

#### **EVENT DETAILS:**

- **DATE:** SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2024
- **LOCATION:** LAKETOWN WHARF
- **THEME:** OH, WHAT A NIGHT! – CARING AND SHARING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

#### **PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPONSORSHIP:**

- BRONZE \$500
- SILVER \$1000
- GOLD \$1500
- PLATINUM \$2000
- INDIVIDUAL TICKETS \$35

Valuable perks will be offered to our sponsors.

We invite you to join us in making a positive impact on our community through the following ways:

1. Attend the Event – Purchase a ticket and join us for an inspiring evening of dancing and shopping.
2. Sponsorship Opportunities – Consider becoming an event sponsor.
3. Donations – If you are unable to attend or sponsor, please consider making a donation to our auction. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant difference.

Your support is invaluable to us, and it will enable us to continue supporting the various charities and make a lasting impact on our community. We are confident that together, we can create positive change and improve the quality of life for many.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or if you would like to discuss sponsorship opportunities in more detail or if you would like to donate an item to the auction.

With deepest appreciation,

*Jane Fillingim, Darlene Dial* (Chair, Co-Chair)  
*Tammy Haight, Kelly Bertin* (Chair, Co-Chair)

## Ironman

Ladies, we need your help!!!

We will be manning 7 water stations, with 3-4 volunteers at each station, on Saturday, December 2nd, for the PCB Marathon from 7AM- 1PM. It will be held at Pier Park and east down Front Beach Road.

Please respond to me at [monicathomas@comcast.net](mailto:monicathomas@comcast.net) and let me know if you (spouses and friends are welcome) can volunteer. Please state if you can stay from 7-1 or would rather work 7-10 or 10-1. If you are volunteering with others, please give me their names as well.

This is a new opportunity for us to earn more money to give away!

Thank you!  
*Monica Thomas*

## Special Beach Events



Cheri Leistner, Sue Jiles

### The Pirates of the High Seas and Renaissance Fest



Flo Watson, Carol Metaxas

First, we want to thank all of you who were able to work at Pirates of the High Seas and Renaissance Fest. We had two locations (the merchandise tent and the beer tent) going all weekend and it was a lot of hard work and fun. With the beautiful weather, we were extremely busy, so we did not get many photos. But we appreciate all who worked and the husbands who joined us.

Now we're on to the next event and that is preparation of the s'mores kits for Home for the Holidays. We have been tasked with making 4,000 kits this year. We will be working on Monday, November 20 and Tuesday, November 21 in three shifts. On Monday there will be a 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. shift and a 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. shift. On Tuesday there will be a 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. shift. (Of course if you'd like to work more than one shift, you'll be sure to get "brownie" points!) We will be working at the Leistner's.

Due to the number of smores required, this is one of our all-hands-on-deck tasks, so any help you can give will be greatly appreciated. If you have neighbors, friends, relatives who would like to work with you, just let us know when you respond. Please RSVP with your availability to Sue at [ssjiles@aol.com](mailto:ssjiles@aol.com) or 770- 364-5890, or Cheri at [Cheri@advantagesoutheast.com](mailto:Cheri@advantagesoutheast.com) or 502-296-3205 .



Tommy & Monica Thomas, Dan & Rhonda Zartman, Kim & Bob Escalle



Monica Thomas, Sue Jiles with Customers

### *"Supporting the Community"*

#### **Domestic Violence**



Jessica Weeks, Sharon Williams

Jessica Weeks, Domestic Violence Advocate at the Salvation Army was thrilled with the items and money collected at the October luncheon.

Thank you for your support,  
*Sharon Williams*

## **Food Pantry**

Food and cash for the pantry's Thanksgiving baskets will be collected at the November Luncheon Meeting. We will also be collecting for the Food Pantry in December for their Christmas baskets.

- Cans of Chicken Broth
- Cans of Cranberry Sauce
- Cans of Sweet Corn
- Cans of Green Beans
- Large Cans of Sweet Potatoes
- Boxes of Mashed Potatoes
- Boxes of Stuffing Mix
- Gravy

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

*Gloria Turner, Food Pantry Liaison*

## ***"Spending Time Together"***

### **Member to Member**

The Member to Member Committee is finalizing the plans for the bus trip to Apalachicola. It will be Monday, November 6. We will leave at 9am and return at 4:30. Spaces are open to our members' guests. So, if you have not yet made your reservation, please do so ASAP. You may also invite ladies that are not members of the WCC to join us on the trip. This is a great opportunity for new, and potential members to meet some members and get to know us. Also, if you have guests visiting, this is a great way to entertain them for a day.

So please get your reservations ASAP so that we can finalize this event.

Reservations may be made through Lynn Padgett, [shirlynnpadgett@gmail.com](mailto:shirlynnpadgett@gmail.com) or 770-328-2184  
Or Cheri Leistner, [cheri@advantagesoutheast.com](mailto:cheri@advantagesoutheast.com) or 502-296-3205

**Save the date** for Christmas Bunco: Wednesday, December 13th at 10 am at Taylor's. There will be a Christmas White Elephant (Dirty Santa) Exchange during lunch. If you would like to participate, please bring a wrapped gift valued between \$15 -\$20. It can be a gag gift, or a nice gift.

### **Marketing**

Please remember to like, share, and post on the Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach Facebook page.

## ***"In Appreciation"***

### **From: Patty Rocco and Gloria Turner, Kitchen Committee Chairs**

The Kitchen Committee rocked the Fall Fling Arts and Craft Show! You all did an awesome job, and everyone worked together to make everything run smoothly. We got lots of good feedback on our food. Thank you to each of you for your hard work and delicious food!

## *"Recognizing our Members"*

### Happy Birthday Wishes!!

#### November

- 02 Sara Green
- 03 Sue Schmitz
- 17 Carol Benson
- 18 Rhonda Zartman
- 19 Dawn Wise
- 27 Nan Vandenberg
- 29 Jayn Collins



*"Youth is the gift of nature but age is a work of art!"*

## *"Upcoming Events"*

- Nov 6 Member to Member Bus Trip to Apalachicola, 9AM-4:30PM
- Nov 20 S'mores Kitting at Leistner Home, 9AM-1PM, 1PM-5PM
- Nov 21 S'mores Kitting at Leistner Home, 9AM-1PM
- Nov 24 Home for the Holidays at Aaron Bessant Park
- Nov 25 Home for the Holidays at Aaron Bessant Park
- Nov 30 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 309 R Jackson, 10AM
- Dec 2 PCB Marathon, 7AM-1PM
- Dec 7 Christmas Program and Luncheon at Boardwalk Beach Hotel, 9600 S Thomas Dr, 11AM

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

### Contact Information

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- Facebook: Women's Civic Club of PCB, FL  
Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach
- Hashtag: #wccpcb

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

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|----------------|--|------------------------------|--|
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