



# The Civic Courier

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

Volume XII- Issue 2  
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**Diane Vitale**

## From the President's Desk

Dear Members:

I have just returned from an unprecedented event at the Panama City Beach Council meeting. The Women's Civic Club along with the St Joe Company Foundation presented a check for \$160,000 for the new family Splash Park at Frank Brown Park. Cheri and I were supported by over a dozen club members proudly wearing our "sea of blue shirts". Cheryl Joyner from Parks and Rec showed the video depicting the new facility which included the beautiful plaque representing our contribution. Please stop by and view it in person. You will be impressed. Thank you to everyone. You work hard to shine a light on the Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach.

The fall is bursting with events calling out for participants. We have a couple of firsts, the Fall Fling Arts and Crafts Festival on October 15th (flyers available at the October 6th luncheon) and the Pumpkin Patch at Camp Helen State Park to assist with pumpkin sales on various dates.

Continuing in positivity, my quote this month "Find everyday reasons to dance" by Eileen Fehlen. The flow of creativity in any kind of movement allows the spirit within to express visibly.

*Respectfully,  
Diane, President*

## "Foundations of the Club"

The September edition of The Civic Courier, "Foundations of the Club" is highlighting Gayle Oberst and focusing on "Club Meetings".



**Gayle Oberst**

Gayle Oberst has been an active member of the Women's Civic Club, with exception of the years she went inactive to serve as the Coordinator of the Citizen Leadership Institute at Gulf Coast Community College, since September 1991. Most of her childhood was spent in Elba, Alabama with a brief move to Panama City Beach where her parents owned and ran a fish camp. Gayle married Walter and they lived in Europe and Asia (South Korea). She had the opportunity to explore the different countries in Europe during this time.

Upon return to Alabama and with a B.S. in Marketing and a M.B.A. with emphasis on Management, she held numerous positions at Troy University including Vice President of Finance and Administration and Assistant Professor in the School of Business.

Walter and Gayle were able to retire in their early 40's and with the love of the beach decided to move to Panama City Beach. After a few years of enjoying golf, Gayle decided to get more involved in the community. She was elected to the Panama City Beach City Council and was appointed to the position of Mayor when the current Mayor resigned in 2006. Gayle was elected as Mayor in 2008 and served until 2016. She was instrumental in Panama City Beach's "green planning" which resulted in Conservation Park and Gayle's Trails. Gayle joking says, "the Women club and other civic clubs petitioned for the name 'Gayle's Trails' because it rhymes".

Gayle has served as the Women's Civic Club President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and Parliamentarian. She says one of the biggest challenges as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President responsible for lunches and programs was finding places to hold the meetings as there were so few restaurants on the beach at the time. Some of her fondest, or funniest, memories in the community were when the TDC decided Mayor Oberst should be taken as hostage and dragged through Pier Park during the 2016 Pirates Fest and participating in the Christmas Parade walking from Hutchinson Beach Elementary through Pier Park.

When asked if she has a word of wisdom for members, Gayle said "If you want to join the club, just be sincere and want to help. If you put your heart in it, you will get back more than you put in."

## Club Meetings

Meetings are held to make decisions, solve problems and to share information. All meetings should have an agenda to ensure time is used wisely and minutes published after the meeting to document and share decisions and information. General Meetings, Board Meetings and Committee Meetings are the major meetings held by the Women's Civic Club.

Board Meetings are held the last Thursday of each month (except June and July) at 10:00am and are held at the Panama City Beach Chamber of Commerce, 309 Richard Jackson Boulevard. If the last Thursday falls on a holiday or if the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room is not available, the board members will agree to a different date and/or location making sure all members are aware of the change. Any member can attend and are encouraged to attend the board meetings, but only the board members (officers and committee chairs) participate in the discussions and decision making.

General Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month (September thru May) and is an opportunity for members to invite guests who are interested in becoming members. Luncheon venues are selected by the Lunches and Programs committee and are located in the area between the Hathaway Bridge, Phillips Inlet Bridge and West Bay Bridge in Bay County. All members are responsible for notifying the reservation committee of their and any guest's intention to attend the meeting. Once a commitment to attend has been made the member is responsible for reimbursing the club for the meal. The Lunches and Programs committee also identifies the program for each meeting with the exception of the December meeting when checks are presented to our selected organizations, April when the Fashion Show is held and May meeting when incoming officers are installed.

Committee Meetings are scheduled by each Committee Chair and/or Co Chair and are attended by the members who have signed up for the particular committee. Fund Raising Committees are the source of income which is distributed to our selected organizations. Community Outreach and Events Committees allow the club to reach out to the community and to its members. It is extremely important that committee members attend the meetings and participate in the committee activities.

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



**Jean Sturman, Jane Fillingim, Sue Jiles**

The September General Meeting was held at the Boardwalk Conference Center on September 1st. After three months, members were excited to catch up with each other. The program was WCC 101 which covered Constitution and Bylaws - Cheri Leistner, Mentorship - Nancy Stovall, Expectations - Diane Vitale and History and Background - Gayle Oberst. As a special bonus, Sue Jiles shared information on the financial processes and expectations

## *"New Member Installation"*

- \* Nancy Stovall (Sponsor)
- \* Jenna Hall (new member)
- \* Soula Dortch (new member)
- \* Juile Sanders (Sponsor)
- \* Diane Vitale (President)



## *"Welcome New Members"*



**Soula Dortch**

I have lived most of my life in Tennessee, although, I lived in 6 other states earlier, due first from my Dad's work and later from my husband's work.

After losing my husband to cancer in 2008, I began coming to Panama City Beach for the winter months. At the urging of my daughters, two living here and one in Jacksonville, I sold my home in Clarksville, Tennessee and made the permanent move to Panama City Beach in 2017.

I worked for Ernst & Young Accounting Firm in Nashville, TN for a little over 20 years. After retiring, I became involved in community activities. I was active in my church, was a volunteer at a local hospital and became involved in state and local politics, working in several campaigns. I joined the Republican

Womans' Club, which is not just a political club, but we contributed to the community by supporting several charities. I also have joined Bay County Republican Women and I am now serving as secretary of the club. My passion is traveling and I am fortunate to have visited 40 US states and 15 foreign countries. I hope to travel more in the future.

Here is a little about myself. I have known my husband 35 years. We have a 12 year old daughter. My family moved to PCB in 2019 from Kansas City, MO. I started my company Hallin Hearts, a transportation and excursion company here on the beach that supports our community. I enjoy being a writer for two local magazines. I was awarded the PCB Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year for 2022. One of my passions is our community. I volunteer weekly with Back Pack Blessings. I love creating fundraisers and fun adventures. Often, we fill a bus with collected books and food for the community. Helping and supporting our Veterans and elderly has been a blessing. I also run a business! I am very excited to begin the journey with the Women's Civic Club. I am very humbled and grateful to serve and live in such a wonderful community.

**Jenna Hall**



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

## ***Raising Funds***

### **Fall Fling Arts and Craft Show**



Fall Fling - October 15, 2022  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Frank Brown Park

Join us for our first Fall Fling! We have a full house of vendors with many unique handcrafted items. Get your holiday shopping done early!

Bring your friends, family, and neighbors to shop and help make our event a big success!!



**Soula Dortch, Jackie Logan, Nancy Stovall, Patty Rocco, Arlene Klaas, Jan Schott, Denice Dare, Joyce Kippes**

The Kitchen Committee members met to plan their Cafe menu for the upcoming Fall Fling Juried Arts and Crafts Show. The Cafe menu will offer three types of sandwiches (chicken salad, pulled pork, and sloppy joes), along with a variety of home baked goodies!

We're talking cinnamon rolls, muffins, brownies, snickerdoodles, chocolate chip, and million dollar cookies!!! Stop in for lunch and a sweet treat on October 15th at Frank Brown Park to keep up your strength while shopping! We look forward to seeing you!

## **Special Beach Events**

October is a busy month for the Special Beach Events Committee! Not only will they be selling pumpkins at Camp Helen State Park October 1 and 2, October 8 and 9, October 16 and October 22 and 23, they have been asked to support the Pirates of the High Seas. The club will be selling beer and T-shirts on October 7 from 4pm-9pm, October 8 from 10am-3pm and 3pm-8pm and October 9 from 12pm-5pm.

Volunteers are still needed for the 3pm-8pm shift on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to assist in this fundraiser, please, contact Nancy Stovall, [nlstovall@gmail.com](mailto:nlstovall@gmail.com) , or Cheri Leistner, [cheri@advantagesoutheast.com](mailto:cheri@advantagesoutheast.com) .

As always, thanks for your help!!!  
*Nancy Stovall and Cheri Leistner*

## Ironman

### The Ironman is Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, and we need volunteers!

All 3 of our volunteer opportunities will be held at Aaron Bessant Park. All volunteers must register online this year.

Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00am-done - Bag Stuffing

Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:30am-1:30pm or 1:00-6:00pm - greeting and registering athletes

Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8:30am-1:30pm or 1:00-5:00pm - greeting and registering athletes

You can register at <https://ironman.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=59904>

The shifts listed on the website overlap on Wednesday and Thursday which prevent you from selecting morning and afternoon shifts. If you can work both, just sign up for the morning shift and let me know if you can work all day.

It's a great event! If you have questions contact me, [monicathomas@comcast.net](mailto:monicathomas@comcast.net), (770)712-8464.

Thank you, *Monica*

### *"Supporting the Community"*

## Food Pantry

The October's Luncheon/Business meeting will be the first time this year we will be collecting donations for the Food Pantry. It could not come at a better time. The items requested are listed below, and they are items for the clients who come into the pantry and also items for the Thanksgiving Basket the Church members prepare for needy families.

The Food Pantry Volunteers had a potluck luncheon /meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup> and we had great food and a great turnout. At that meeting it was discussed whether the food pantry can continue to serve the clients once a week and Coordinators from the Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church said right now yes, they are still able to get enough food and monetary donations that individuals and families can come in and get food from the pantry once a week.

The number of clients served continue to go up with the frequency some clients come in and new clients who have never utilized the food pantry. In August 281 clients were served which equates to 2,529 meals. That is the highest number in one month I have seen since I have been volunteering at the pantry. This month may surpass that number because in two days of one week they served 71 clients which equates to 639 meals.

The pantry has an awesome group of volunteers and an awesome group of women from the Women's Civic Club who continue to support the pantry by volunteering and providing food donations. You are gratefully appreciated.

- Cans of Yams
- Cans of Fruit Cocktail
- Regular Size Boxes of Stove Top Dressing
- Cans of Jellied Cranberry
- Cans of Whole Kernel Corn

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

*Gloria Turner*, Food Pantry Liaison

At the November Luncheon, the club will be collecting arts and craft items; construction paper, crayons, markers, glue sticks, colored pencils, watercolors, scissors, etc; for the Boys and Girls Club at Frank Brown Park.

## School Projects

### Hutchinson Beach Elementary



**Daizy Richardson, Officer Wright  
Cindy Brost, Tonia Sampson**

### Luncheon Collections



### Patronis Elementary



**Jeanette Poland, Principle Brooke  
Loyed, Carol Metaxas, Katie Mc Kenzie**

### Walsingham Academy



**Peggy Lowery, Eadie Lloyd**

### Breakfast Point Academy



**Principle Clint Whitfield, Carol Metaxas,  
Jeanette Poland**

### West Bay Elementary



**Karen Demeester, Jeanette  
Poland, Donna McDaniel**

Thanks to all of you for contributing the much needed school supplies!

Many of the schools expressed a need for clothing items for their clothes closets which helps children that may have come to school with inappropriate clothing or had an accident during school. We will be collecting these items in January. Suggestions are T-shirts, jeans, underwear, socks and tennis shoes in elementary school sizes.

*Carol Metaxas and Jeanette Poland*

## Splash Park

On Thursday, September 22, at the PCB City Council Meeting, the WCC presented the city with a check in the amount of \$160,000 for the new Splash Park at the Aquatic Center of Frank Brown Park. This donation was made possible not only through the hard work of our members, but also with the help of a grant provided by The St. Joe Community Foundation. This was not this first time the WCC has contributed to a PCB Parks and Recreation Department project. When the original Under The Palms Playground was built, the WCC was a founding sponsor. We have also supported the Maggie Still Park since it was established in 1987.

Mayor Sheldon thanked the Women's Civic Club of PCB for the donation and called us a great organization. He summed up his comments with "We appreciate everything you do for Panama City Beach and making it better everyday."

Our contribution has been recognized at the Aquatic Center with a lovely bronze plaque.

Many thanks go out to the many WCC members who represented the club for this check presentation. It was a proud day for ALL !



**Diane Vitale, Cheri Leistner, Councilman Paul Casto**



**Bobbi Griggs, Sharon Williams, Lynn Padgett, Patty Rocco, Sue Jiles, Cheri Leistner, Gayle Oberst, Julie Sanders, Dena Roewe, Jane Fillingim, Joyce Goetz, Carol Metaxas, Kelly Bertin, Luciann Jacobs, Jeanette Poland, Roberta Bernhardt, Nancy Stovall**



## *"Spending Time Together"*

### **Member to Member**

#### **Kirby Holt Christmas Décor Showcase !**

Lynn Padgett from the Member to Member Committee has worked with Kirby Holt to allow the WCC to sell tickets to his Christmas Décor Showcase in Chipley. I know many of have missed not having this showcase in Panama City the last few years. The dates are November 3 at 10am and 6pm, and November 4 at 10am. The event will take place at The Vance Theatre at 699 Main Street in Chipley. If you are interested in tickets, please contact Lynn at 770-328-2184. Tickets are \$20 and a portion will be donated to the WCC !!!

## **Member Family Picnic**

The Member to Member Committee is sponsoring a WCC family picnic which will be held October 23 at Maggie Still Park, 604 Lantana Street. The park is near the intersection of Front Beach and Middle Beach Roads. This will be a great opportunity to socialize with your fellow members, get ready to kick off another successful year for the WCC and see and learn about the park that the club has donated to since 1987. The picnic will begin at 1pm. The Fresh Market has generously donated the hamburgers and members are asked to sign up to bring either a salad, side, dessert, chips or buns. Also bring your drink and a lawn chair! We will have sign up sheets at the October luncheon. If you will not be at the luncheon, please call Cheri Leistner at 502-296-3205 to let us know what you would like to bring and allow us to get a headcount for the burgers! And be sure to bring your spouse or significant other!

## **RADA Fundraiser**

RADA Cutlery catalogs will be available at the October Luncheon meeting. This is a great fundraising opportunity for our club. And the products sell themselves! We have rave reviews of the dips and cheeseball mixes which will be great to have on hand for the holidays. The knives and utensils are made in the USA and make wonderful gifts.

Orders will need to be turned into Cheri Leistner by October 31. This will give us time to get the order placed and have it ready for distribution at the December luncheon. Please either email ([cheri@advantagesoutheast.com](mailto:cheri@advantagesoutheast.com)) or call (502-296-3205) your order to Cheri. Please include the page number, item number, and quantity. All items will be paid for at delivery.

Orders can also be placed directly online at <https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=4789200.ba676f>. This is a unique link to the WCC fundraising account. All orders placed on line will be charged shipping cost. These items will be shipped directly to your house. Orders placed thru Cheri will not incur shipping costs or handling fees. This unique link may be shared with family, friends, etc.

If you will not be at the meeting to pick up a catalog, you can review the products online at the link above, and either email Cheri you order, or place it directly on line. If you would prefer to have a catalog to review, just let Cheri know and one will be delivered to you.

We appreciate your support of this fundraiser. Again, please share the on-line link and catalog with family and friends.

## ***"Message from your Treasurer"***

We are at the beginning of a new fiscal year for the club and are anticipating another successful year of fundraising. It might be helpful for a few quick reminders.

AmazonSmile-When you shop on AmazonSmile you get the same low prices and vast selection as on Amazon, but Amazon Smile donates (at no cost to you) 0.5% of your purchases to WCC. You need only to go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and identify "Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach" as your chosen charity. Then every time you return to AmazonSmile to shop, it remembers your charity. Holidays are coming!!

Charge Card Fees - We are now happy to offer you the choice of paying for club dues and luncheons by credit card. We will have to pass along the credit card fees, so to make it easy, there will be a \$1.00 addition if you choose to use your credit card.

Luncheon Donations Cash Jar - There are those times when you just don't have time to shop for that month's donation or you walk out your door with your donation sitting right there so you won't forget it. No worries! We will now have a jar at the donations table if you wish to make a cash donation.

Luncheon RSVP's - According to our By-Laws, Article IV(b), if you make a luncheon reservation and then do not show, you will still be responsible for paying for that lunch. We will be happy for you to mail a check, call me with your credit card or simply pay the next luncheon.

We have so many promising fundraisers ahead of us this year and I know we will all be "United for a Better Community"!



## *"In Our Thoughts and Prayers"*

Felicia England for the loss of her father. Our sincere condolences to the family.

### *Recognizing our Members*

#### **Happy Birthday Wishes !!**

##### **October**

03 Soula Dortch  
09 Roberta Bernhardt  
10 Julie Sanders  
15 Joyce Goetz  
16 Arlene Geneva  
19 Arlene Klaas  
21 Gloria Turner  
22 Nancy Stovall  
29 Jackie Logan  
31 Gwen Odenheimer



*Special Wishes to Gwen  
Oldenheimer who will be  
celebrating her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on  
October 31<sup>st</sup>!!*

Gwen says, " I have always been proud of the club and all it has given to the community. Say hello to the old and new members for me-keep up the good work."

### *"In Appreciation"*

From: **HOPE Project (in memory of Paul Schreiner)**

Thank you for your investment in the work of the HOPE Project.

David Torgdon

Chaplain, LTC, USA, Ret.

HOPE Project Director

From: **West Bay Elementary School**

West Bay School wanted to thank you so much for the recent school supplies you all donated.

Thank you for supporting our school!!! Teachers & Admin.

From: **St Andrew Baptist Church (in memory of Mike Lowery)**

St Andrew Baptist Church gratefully acknowledges gift of \$50.00 to the Benevolence Center of St Andrew Baptist Church. It is our pleasure to notify the family of your generosity. To God be the Glory!

## ***"Upcoming Event"***

- October 1 Pumpkin Sales at Camp Helen State Park, 9AM-1PM and 1PM-5PM
- October 2 Pumpkin Sales at Camp Helen State Park, 9AM-1PM and 1PM-5PM
- October 4 Community Outreach Committee Meeting, 11800 Front Beach Rd, 10AM
- October 6 General Meeting at Firefly, 535 N Richard Jackson Blvd, 11AM
- October 7 Pirates of the High Seas, Aaron Bessant Park, 4PM-9PM
- October 8 Pumpkin Sales at Camp Helen State Park, 9AM-1PM and 1PM-5PM
- October 8 Pirates of the High Seas, Aaron Bessant Park, 10AM-3PM and 3PM-8PM
- October 9 Pumpkin Sales at Camp Helen State Park, 9AM-1PM and 1PM-5AM
- October 9 Pirates of the High Seas, Aaron Bessant Park, 12PM-5PM
- October 15 Fall Fling at Frank Brown Park, 16200 Panama City Beach Pkwy, 9AM - 3PM
- October 16 Pumpkin Sales at Camp Helen State Park, 9AM-1PM and 1PM-5PM
- October 22 Pumpkin Sales at Camp Helen State Park, 9AM-1PM and 1AM-5PM
- October 23 Pumpkin Sales at Camp Helen State Park, 9AM-1PM and 1PM-5PM
- October 23 Women's Civic Club Picnic at Maggie Still Park, 604 Lantana St, 1PM
- October 27 Board of Directors Meeting at Chamber of Commerce, 309 Richard Jackson Blvd, 10AM
- November 1 Ironman Bag Stuffing, Aaron Bessant Park, 9AM-until done
- November 2 Ironman Athlete Check-In, Aaron Bessant Park, 8:30AM-1:30PM, 1PM-6PM
- November 3 Ironman Athlete Check-In, Aaron Bessant Park, 8:30AM-1:30PM, 1PM-6PM
- November 3 General Meeting at Pineapple Willy's, 9875 S Thomas Dr., 11AM

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

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

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