



# The Civic Courier

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

Volume X -Issue 1  
September 2020



## From the President's Desk

Nancy Stovall

Dear Members,

Although with the COVID-19 pandemic there is a lot of uncertainty, our members continue to plan for a successful year. Our members have stepped up to accept chair/co-chair roles and have started their planning.

The Lunches and Program committee has met and has identified luncheon locations and luncheon programs. The creativity of the group promises to bring some interesting topics.

Students are back in school; either virtual, Bay-Linked, home schooled or in a classroom. The School Project committee has coordinated with our Elementary Schools, West Bay, Beach, Breakfast Point and Patronis, to identify supplies needed and will collect these supplies at the September luncheon meeting.

Even in a climate of uncertainty, it is important to plan and, if required, adapt the plan accordingly. Here is an interesting tidbit about Benjamin Franklin: when he was 20 years old, he wrote up a 13-point 'plan' for how he would live his life. He found that following the plan increased his happiness so much, that he kept it up for the rest of his life.

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." Benjamin Franklin

*Nancy*

## Luncheons and Programs Committee hits many snags in planning for new year due to Covid-19 Virus

The Luncheons and Programs Committee met in early July and hit the ground running. Committee members have been busy arranging for luncheon locations and speakers/programs.

According to Sue Jiles, Chairman, "Our 2020-21 luncheons will be held at some tried and true favor-

ites with a couple of new adventures thrown in the mix.

"Covid-19 has certainly changed the dynamics for our luncheons, but with a little flexibility, we are looking forward to having some great locations and fun and informative programs."

## WCC members step right up to help Food Pantry when needed



Linda Coleman, coordinator for the Community Food Pantry at Gulf Coast Presbyterian Church, appealed to the Women's Civic Club for help recently when workers were desperately needed.

Answering the plea were Sue Jiles, Cheri Leistner, Gloria Turner and Luciann Jacobs.

Linda thanks them profusely for helping out when it was needed so badly during the pandemic.

(See related article on page 3)

## School finally starts in Bay County Supplies now needed

The School Project Committee, under the leadership of Gail Claffey and Gloria Turner, is collecting requested items for the four elementary schools on the Beach and plans on distributing them after Labor Day.

According to Gloria, "In addition to those supplies donated from members and friends, we will also be purchasing with our budgeted money, special supplies each school has request-

ed. Thank you so much for your generosity!"

If any member is unable to attend the September meeting, Gloria and Gail will gladly make arrangements to pick up any items you would like to donate. Please call:

Gloria: 850-588-8426  
Gail: 850-708-3093

(See related article on page 2)





### School Projects Committee

The School Projects Committee is off to a good start for the new year. Co-chairs are Gloria Turner and Gail Claffey,

They would like members to help with school supplies again this year for the four elementary schools here on the Beach.

#### Items Needed

1. Pink Erasers
2. Boxes of Tissues
3. Paper Towels
4. Pencil Sharpeners (small individual ones)
5. Small Pump Bottles for hand washing
6. Disinfectant wipes (non Clorox)
7. Small masks (If you sew and want to make masks, we will reimburse you on material)

If you can't attend the September meeting, please call Gloria or Gail and they will gladly pick up the items.

Gloria: 850-588-8426

Gail: 850-708-3093

## Easy crock pot pork chop dinner perfect for busy day



### Crock Pot Ranch Pork Chops

#### Ingredients:

Package of pork chops

1 can of Cream of Chicken soup

1 packet dry Ranch dressing mix

#### Directions:

In crock pot, layer pork chops. Add the cream of chicken soup. Sprinkle dry Ranch dressing all over.

Cover and cook on high for 4 hours or low for 6 hours.

The pork chops come out very tender and the flavor is amazing! You also get a good gravy for mashed potatoes.

This is so easy and delicious!

(Found on Facebook)

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

Post Office Box 9759  
Panama City Beach, FL 32417  
E-mail: womencivicclub@aol.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.WCCPCB.ORG



United for a Better Community

Editor: Nan Vandenberg

Phone—814-4265  
E-mail—nanvan27@gmail.com

Printed Courtesy of Coldwell Banker  
Carroll Realty, Inc.



## Coming Events

- ◆ September 3 - Luncheon Meeting  
Fishale - 11 a.m.  
Speaker: Brandi Hezinger  
Interior Designer
- ◆ September 24 - Board Meeting  
Chamber Board Room—10 a.m.
- ◆ October 1 - Luncheon Meeting  
Todd Herendeen Theatre



The following items are always needed:

- Paper products
- Hand sanitizer
- Clorox wipes
- Mayonnaise
- Mustard
- Cereal
- Hamburger Helper
- Complete pancake mix
- Pancake syrup
- Stove Top Stuffing
- Macaroni
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Cookies
- Rice
- Hygiene products
- Laundry detergent
- Dish detergent
- Shampoo (family size)
- Razors
- Reading glasses.
- Vegetable beef soup
- Cream of chicken soup
- Canned chicken
- Canned tuna
- Hot Dog Buns'



We wish the following members  
the happiest of birthdays:

- 10th - Barbara Vecrumba
- 14th - Lynn Padgett
- 23rd - Clara Register
- 24th - Ann Hawk
- 30th - Jean Sturman



This was Fran's favorite picture of herself. She liked it so well, that she asked to have it in the WCC yearbook each year! It was taken at a fun-filled Barbie Party at Nan VandenBerg's gulf-front condo around 2010.

## Frances (Fran) Marie Cassella

**March 29, 1931 -  
August 18, 2020**

Frances "Fran" Marie Cassella went home to be with the Lord on August 18, 2020, joining her husband Joseph C. Cassella Sr. and her two beloved step-sons: Albert B. Cassella and Joseph C. Cassella Jr. She was 88 years old. She was predeceased by parents, sisters and niece. Frances is survived by her grandchildren, Albert B. Cassella Jr, Michael Murphy, Amanda R. Elliott (Jamie), Joseph S. Cassella and Christina N. McFarland (Paul).

Frances was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia where she lived just several streets away from downtown Broad Street. She remained there with her mother and two sisters for 26 years before moving to Washington, DC. Eventually, she made her way to New Jersey where she met her true love, Joe. After years of living and working hard in the northeast, Frances and Joe found their way to their home in Panama City Beach where Frances remained for 30 years.

During her time in Panama City Beach, Frances dedicated her life to serving God and her community by way of the Italian-American Club, Women's Civic Club, Project Linus and Master Gardeners Club.. While her husband, Joe, was still in good health, they were known as a dynamic duo in the community. She continued to serve the Bay County area however she could after his passing in 1998. Up until this year, whether it was prepping for a dance to raise money for the local food bank or having a fundraiser to help support a local church, Fran had a giving heart and found so much joy in doing for others.

Along with her passion for Philadelphia sports teams, music, philanthropy and fellowship, Fran was an amazing cook. She learned the art of Italian cooking when she met her husband Joe and perfected her craft over time, especially through her work in the Italian American Club. Her favorite thing to make was manicotti. With her little pasta machine, she loved to form the pasta dough, hand roll each piece and fill them with love. Not only was she an amazing Italian cook, but she loved to cook for other people.

(Continued on Page 5)





Fran and family members having a fun time together.

No one would ever leave her house with an empty “belly”. Her grandchildren remember her for her elaborate food displays. She made sure to fuel them up for a day at the beach and have them return to find a home-cooked meal to wind down.

Throughout her whole life, Fran was best known as a trailblazer. She was loving and patient by nature, but always knew how to go after what she wanted in life. Fran was also an animal lover, Specifically, she had a love of cats. All of her cats lived a life of luxury and were well loved. If anyone ever received a card from her, she would always sign her name as well as the name of her feline companion. Age never slowed her down. When asked how old she was, she would tell you that she was just 88. Not 88 and a half. Not almost 89. Just 88. To her age was just a number. She was a strong and independent woman that lived the best years of her life by connecting with others. She always said how blessed she was to have been able to live her life to the fullest up until the end of her life.



Fran celebrating a birthday with Glenda Smartt at Jin-Jin

She loved and was loved by many people around her. She will be remembered for her kind nature and caring heart for others.

Due to the ongoing restrictions of Covid-19, funeral services will be indefinitely delayed. Fran will be interred at Kent Forest Lawn Cemetery in Panama City Beach Florida. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial donations to the Women’s Civic Club of PCB in honor of her memory. Frances was a dedicated and loving member since 1992. Checks can be made payable to the Women’s Civic Club of PCB and sent to P.O. Box 9759, PCB, FL 32417.

Women’s Civic Club of PCB, Inc.  
PO Box 9759  
Panama City Beach FL, 32417

Any money that is donated in Fran’s name will be put toward initiatives, such as scholarships for students, Christmas support to families in need, families who need assistance with school age children and so much more.



Fran and Nan Vandenberg celebrating a birthday.



Fran and Gail Claffey at one of the club luncheons at Texas Roadhouse