

Volunteer and philanthropic opportunities abound in Port Aransas. Below is a listing, with a brief description, of the nonprofit organizations.

Any nonprofit organization not listed here is asked to contact the South Jetty newspaper at 749-5131 or news@portasouthjetty.com to be included. Each organization is responsible for notifying the South Jetty of any changes.

Information about upcoming activities will be published in the print and online editions of the South Jetty.

- **Texas SandFest**, a three-day family-oriented beach festival (April 26-28, 2013) featuring world-class sand sculptors from around the earth, creating larger than life statues from sand and water. It is held annually in the spring drawing approximately 100,000 people to aid the local economy and help local non-profit organizations raise funds. Promotes an unusual art form as it encourages visitors to enjoy and protect our beaches, oceans and nature as a whole. It is a 501(c)4 non-profit organization. Planned and worked on year-round by a board of directors and volunteers. Volunteer now to help with working with the police department on traffic control; soliciting volunteers to work the three-day event and help plan work efforts; also to arrange months ahead of time to find large and small sponsors, and weeks ahead of time to help find donations of food and soft drinks for sculptors, etc. For further information e-mail texasandfest@yahoo.com or call Elleece Calvert at (361) 215-0677 or write to P.O. Box 1076, Port Aransas, TX 78373

The **Wetlands Education Center** (WEC), a salt marsh and sand dune complex located on the campus of the University of Texas Marine Science Institute (UTMSI), was established to help visitors learn about the ecological and economic importance of coastal wetlands. WEC volunteers extend the educational outreach capabilities of the WEC. WEC volunteers lead public and K-12 school tours of the WEC, assist school children with hands-on marine science activities, and help staff with special educational outreach events. For more information contact Colleen McCue at 749-3153 or colleen.mccue@utexas.edu.

- The **Port Aransas Education Foundation** raises funds year-round for grant to teachers, coaches or programs in Port Aransas ISD. Donations should be made out to PAEF and mailed to The Port Aransas Education Foundation, P.O. Box 95, Port Aransas, TX 78373. For more information, contact Wendy Moore at 749-7450.

- The **H.G. Olsen Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization** also raises funds for the school. They fund playground equipment, field trips, school equipment and grants to teachers as needed. Mail donations to PTO C/O H.G. Olsen Elementary School, 100 S. Station St., Port Aransas, TX, 78373. For more information, call 749-1212.

- The **City of Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Department** runs the after-school care Latchkey program. Their scholarship fund helps subsidize the program and provide scholarships for families who cannot afford the service. To donate, mail checks, payable to the City of Port Aransas Latchkey Scholarship, to Latchkey, C/O City of Port Aransas, 710 W. Ave. A, Port Aransas, TX, 78373. For more information, call 749-4158.

- The **Rotary Club** is a service organization supporting several programs in Port Aransas. It provides the holiday flag service, the annual children's Easter egg hunt and scholarships to graduates of Port Aransas High School each year. Meetings are held at noon each Thursday at Pelican's Landing Restaurant, 337 N. Alister St. To contribute, mail checks made out to the Port Aransas Rotary Club to Rotary Club, P.O. Box 674, Port Aransas, TX, 78373.

- The **Kiwanis Club**, like the Rotary, is a service club, dedicated to raising scholarships for graduating seniors at Port Aransas High School. It oversees its junior partner club, the Key Club, a service club for high school students. Meetings are held at noon Wednesday at Jay's Seafood and Spaghetti Works, 710 State Hwy. 361. To donate, mail checks payable to Port Aransas Kiwanis Club to Kiwanis Club, P.O. Box 968, Port Aransas, TX, 78373.
- The **Port Aransas Boatmen, Inc.** supports the youth of Port Aransas through many programs. It sponsors the annual Deep Sea Round Up fishing tournament, which in turn funds scholarships for graduates of PAHS, underwrites the annual Boat Lighting Parade and Carolers Afloat, the kid's Summer Reading Program at the Ellis Memorial Library, the summer Marine Science Camp, the Junior Boatmen, the Port Aransas Youth Soccer League, the Scouts and the Children's Christmas Party each year. Donations may be made to PABA, P.O. Box 271, Port Aransas, TX, 78373.
- **Junior Boatmen** is a club exclusively for male and female PAISD middle and high school students interested in boating and fishing opportunities. The club was organized in February 2008 and has more than 35 members. There are no fees to join and this organization is open to beginners or the most experienced anglers. It offers a kayak, pier, bay and offshore tournament to all members during the school year. There are periodic meetings to plan upcoming events. There are fundraisers occasionally but mostly members get together and spend time on the water. Julie Shodrock is the club organizer. She can be reached at 361-290-0301.
- The **City of Port Aransas Animal Shelter** can always use help, through donations or adoptions. If you can't adopt, donations help care for the animals in custody. Send checks payable to Port Aransas Animal Shelter to the City of Port Aransas Animal Shelter, 705 W. Ave. A, Port Aransas, TX, 78373.
- **Animal Friends Port Aransas, Inc.** was formed to offer public support for improvements at the shelter and to assist with getting animals adopted out of the shelter. To help out e-mail friendsoftheanimalshelter@gmail.com. To contribute, make checks payable to Animal Friends of Port Aransas and mail to P.O. Box 301, Port Aransas, TX 78373.
- The **ARK** (Animal Rehabilitation Keep), housed at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute, rehabilitates and releases wild marine animals, including birds, whenever possible. Some reside there permanently if too seriously injured for release. To report an injured animal or to volunteer, call Tony Amos at (361) 442-7638. Donations, made payable to Friends of the ARK may be mailed to Friends of the ARK, P.O. Box 755, Port Aransas, TX, 78373.
- The **Port Aransas Art Center**, a 501-c non-profit organization, hosts a wide variety of events and classes, supporting education and promotion of the arts for all ages. For information, call 749-7334. To support the arts in Port Aransas, send checks payable to the Port Aransas Art Center, P.O. Box 1175, Port Aransas, TX, 78373. Donations specifically for the new building fund should be noted in correspondence.
- The **Port Aransas Community Theatre** (PACT), a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, provides area residents and visitors the opportunity to attend and participate in quality presentations of a cross-section of the finest theatrical works available. PACT is an all-volunteer organization and invites persons of all ages to join and express their interest in the theatre through acting, directing, set building, stage management, and other areas of the theatre. For more information call (361) 749-6036 between the noon and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or write PACT at P. O. Box 835, Port Aransas, TX 78373.

- **Port Aransas Preservation and Historical Association (PAPHA)** was established Nov. 15, 2002, to promote citizen interest and participation in the appreciation and preservation of Port Aransas' history, environment and ambiance. The Association is dedicated to preserving and encouraging the preservation, restoration and reproduction of historic buildings, structures, sites, places, objects, culture, ecology and customs of Port Aransas as a means of positively contributing to and enhancing the community's natural beauty, well-being and distinctive character. There are no set meeting dates for this 501(c) (3) non-profit which raises money through memberships, grants, fundraisers including Old Town Festival and an Auction. Proceeds go to run the museum, create museum exhibits, outreach (teaching the schools and public the stories of Port A) and preserving places and artifacts of the town. The museum is located at 101 E. Brundrett, on corner of Alister Street and is open Thursday – Saturday. 1-5pm. For more information please visit www.portaransasmuseum.org. To donate, send checks made out to PAPHA to P.O. Box 677, Port Aransas, TX, 78373.
- The **Port Aransas Garden Club** was started in 1964 for the purpose of stimulating interest in gardening, landscaping, education, litter control and other activities that contribute to the beautification of Port Aransas. The club meets the second Tuesday of each month from September to June unless otherwise noted. Meetings are held at the Community Center at 10 a.m. There are two major fundraisers each year, the Home Tour in January and the Spring Fashion Show in March. Monies earned from the events are used for newly identified landscape projects around town, maintaining on-going projects and scholarships for graduating PAISD seniors who meet qualifications.
- The **Joint Effort Leisure Ministry (JELM)** Center provides classes, workshops, social gatherings, trips, concerts and dances for the community, including Winter Texans. They operate on donations and volunteered time. Call the center at 749-5321. To donate, send checks payable to JELM to The JELM Center, 129 S. Alister St., Port Aransas, TX, 78373.
- The **Ellis Memorial Library** is a community resource always in need of funding for updated materials. Cash donations are deposited in the Library Trust Fund. Donors honoring deceased loved ones may request a book plate in the library book of their choice, reading “in memory of ...” Those donating \$100 or more can request a book shelf memorial plaque with the name of the person honored. Checks should be made out to the Ellis Memorial Library Trust Fund and mailed to the Ellis Memorial Library, 700 W. Ave. A, Port Aransas, TX, 78373. For more information, call 749-4116.
- The **Port Aransas Computer Center**, 430 N. Alister, 749-4011, is operated by volunteers. The center has 25 computers, all connected to the Internet, where visitors can check their e-mail, shop online or tend to other Internet business. All computers are equipped with Microsoft Office.
- The **Port Aransas Little League** provides the softball, t-ball and baseball programs for the youth in Port Aransas. Donated funds are used for field and scoreboard maintenance, equipment and uniforms and concession maintenance and supplies. Volunteers are always in demand as well. Send checks made out to the Port Aransas Little League, P.O. Box 646, Port Aransas, TX, 78373.
- The Port Aransas Soccer League oversees youth soccer. Funds donated are used for uniforms and equipment. Mail checks payable to PAYSL and send to PAYSL, P.O. Box 134, Port Aransas, TX, 78373.
- The **Marlin Athletic Booster Club** provides grants to coaches as needed and scholarships to PAHS graduates each year. To support these programs, send checks payable to the Marlin Athletic Booster Club to Booster Club, P.O. Box 3003, Port Aransas, TX, 78373.

- **Boy Scout Troop 29** in Port Aransas uses donations for their summer camp program and to update camping equipment. To donate, make checks payable to Boy Scout Troop 29 and mail to Boy Scout Troop 29 C/O American Bank, 216 S. Alister, Port Aransas, TX, 78373.
- **Girls Scout Troops** in Port Aransas use donated funds for field trips, classes, project supplies and insignias. Send checks payable to Girl Scouts to Girl Scouts, 415 Sea Isle Dr., Port Aransas, TX, 78373.
- **Relay for Life** raises funds annually for the American Cancer Society breast cancer research. Volunteers are needed to coordinate events and to serve as team members. Send checks payable to the American Cancer Society to Relay for Life, P.O. Box 1531, Port Aransas, TX, 78373.
- The **Helping Hands Food Pantry**, operated by the Community Presbyterian Church, is a satellite of the Corpus Christi Food Bank. The Food Pantry provides perishable and nonperishable foods, personal care items and diapers to anyone in need in Port Aransas. Donations of nonperishable items may be brought to the Community Presbyterian Church, 113 S. Alister. Checks made out to Port Aransas Food Pantry may be mailed to Port Aransas Food Pantry, P.O. Box 147, Port Aransas, TX, 78373.
- **Salvation Army Service Unit** is a small board that oversees donations and provides assistance to residents and transients in the community. Anyone wishing to become involved can call Chief Scott Burroughs at 749-6241 or Debby Kalke at 749-6536. We do not hold regular meetings (yeah!); we meet as needed.
- **Keep Port Aransas Beautiful** (KPAB) was organized in 1987, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that focuses on litter reduction, beautification and community improvement, “reduce-reuse-recycle and rebuy” and environmental education. Meets quarterly. Is a Keep America Beautiful and Keep Texas Beautiful affiliate. 361-749-5101 www.kpab.org. To donate, mail check to P.O. Box 595, Port Aransas, TX 78373. Donations are tax-deductible.
- **EMS Auxiliary** exists to raise funds for the Emergency Medical Service. The primary means of fund raising is the Resale Shop, 520 N. Cut-off Road, Suite 6, 749-7297.
- Port Aransas Volunteer Fire Department protects Port Aransas homes and businesses when fire threatens. To learn about volunteering, contact city hall at (361) 749-4111.
- **Port Aransas Fire Auxiliary** raises funds to help purchase equipment for the fire department. Primary funding comes through the annual Outboard Fishing Tournament. Help with the tournament in July is always welcome. Contact Kim Hill, 749-6211 or Patsy Grimes at 749-5862.