



DECEMBER 2023

VIA INSIDER

Serving the Green Cove Springs Community since 1883

December's Activities:

Dec 2 – Christmas Parade/Hot Dog Sales

Dec 12– Tuesday Trippin

Dec 14 – VIA Meeting 10:00 am

Dec 15 – GFWC Boggy Creek Tour

The women of the VIA focus on service to the community, as well as partnering with local schools to support education. We strive to impact lives through our actions, both large and small, and build lasting friendships along the way.

viagcs@gmail.com

WWW.GFWCVIA.COM



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*VIA is a member of the
General Federation of Women's Clubs
(GFWC)*



*VIA Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday
of each month at the clubhouse,
17 N. Palmetto Ave, Green Cove Springs.*



President's Message

Aren't we all happy to be heading into the holiday season? I always get so excited when it gets close to Christmas. I love the decorations, the music, the food, and just the festive mood that always seems to permeate a room during December. I am really looking forward to celebrating the holidays with each of you, and we have some big plans again, just like last year!

You, dear ladies, are doing an amazing job with our monthly programs! Both committees, thus far, have truly outdone themselves with originality and information that is so current and interesting for our audience. It is such a blessing to work with so many amazing women!

We have a lot to think about in preparing for the holidays. It is my hope that we will do something special for our partner school, GCJH, as well as the Augusta Savage Mentoring Center to make their Christmas special. It is also exciting to prepare for another Christmas parade, and have the whole city know who we are! We also have a tree to decorate in Spring Park, and we are branching out with hot dog sales during Christmas on Walnut Street!

I love watching us grow! When we grow in numbers, we also gain more ideas and more talent! We are going to finish 2023 strong, and 2024 is going to be even better!

*Larianne
l.stutts@aol.com*





November Meeting Recap

With Civics & Engagement

The Civic/Engagement committee put together a fantastic meeting for November! The program opened with a special rendition of the Pledge, written by a POW and read by Marnie Buchanan, and followed by the honoring of our Veterans. The room was beautifully decorated in red, white and blue, and the stars and stripes were on every table. Vishi Garig, from the Historical archives gave a very informative presentation about Green Cove Springs, and the history of the Navy in our city. Vishi also focused on several aspects of the early days of the Village Improvement Association, and mentioned some of the first projects that they undertook, as well as the galas they hosted to raise funds for service projects. Following her presentation, several members and guests asked questions, and Vishi was quick and thorough in all of her answers. The presentation was both informative and entertaining, and we all felt so proud of our community and its heroes.





Upcoming Holiday Gathering at December Meeting

Our Christmas meeting will be our Christmas party! Just like last year, we will begin with a short business meeting, followed by a few games and then a PARTY! We will have fun things to discuss and recap, like our hot dog sales and the Christmas parade. We will also pick the lucky winners of our Opportunity Drawing, but most of the day will be just for fun!

In keeping with our volunteer spirit, we will again donate to the Augusta Savage Mentoring Center to make their holidays even merrier. We will also present gifts to our partner school, GCJH. Below is a list of items that the center and the school would love to have, or we can also accept checks or cash. Feel free to designate whether you would prefer to donate to the school or to the center.

Let's all dress in our best holiday sweaters or colors! I am looking forward to beginning the season with such fun people!

Augusta Savage Art Program:

- Quality Watercolor Paper including
 - Canson cold press 140 lb 18" X 24" or
 - Canson XL Mixed Media 98 lb 11"X14" or
 - Strathmore Watercolor 140 lb 12" x 18" 12 sheets/pad
- 8 Large ¾ or 5/16 Blending Tortillons
- Artist Blending Stump Pencil
- Michael Gift Certificates would be amazing!

Green Cove Springs Jr High School:

Goal:

- 8 Activity Tables (60" Round) - \$396 each
- Chairs - \$44 each
- Any contributions toward this goal would be deeply appreciated!

*Thank you for all you do.
Your generous spirit always amazes me!
Larriano*

Civics & Engagement Committee Sponsored GCS Event

During this year's GCS Christmas Parade, VIA members will be selling hotdog meals on Walnut Street. Kids will receive candy canes and be able to have their pics taken at our "elf photo booth".

We need everyone to help spread the word to your family and friends:

*"Get your hotdogs!"
"VIA hotdogs!"*

Starting at 4 pm before the parade.

Green Cove Springs
Christmas
PARADE
December 2nd

**Hotdogs on Walnut Street
and
Kids' Pics with Our Elves**

Starting at 4 pm
at 422 Walnut Street

HOTDOG, CHIPS & WATER \$5
CASH SALES ONLY

Get Ready...This is it! Time to Draw the Winners

Our Opportunity Drawing club wide fundraiser is in its final days.

**All monies and ticket stubs must be turned In to Deborah Page
by the beginning of the VIA Meeting on December 14th.
The drawing will be held during the meeting.**

Your individual efforts are appreciated whether you are selling tickets;
or cheering others on who are selling tickets;
or supporting this fundraiser by baking a dessert for Opportunity #4.

*Thank you for making this our most successful fundraiser to date! Way to go VIA!
(we'll share the final tally of monies at the meeting.)
Larriane*

2023

 **VIA Women's Club of Green Cove Springs
Opportunity Drawing**

FOR LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND VIA CHARITIES

**\$5 Donation per Ticket
or
5 Tickets for \$20**

*4 Separate Drawings for the 4 Different Opportunities.
Specify your opportunity choice on your ticket.*

DRAWINGS ON December 14, 2023

Winners will be promptly notified and need not be present to win.
Questions, please email Larriane@aol.com

<p>#1 \$500 Visa Gift Card (\$500 Value)</p> 	<p>#2 Airplane Ride over St Augustine for 2 people (value)</p> 
<p>#3</p>  <p>Citizens Gold Watch from Kingsley Jewelry (\$200 Value)</p>	<p>#4 A Delicious Dessert a Month for a Year (\$450 Value)</p> 



Flower Arranging Tutorial

Presented By VIA Member, Linda Fonferek

VIA members learned that making a lovely flower arrangement is easy and inexpensive. VIA member, Linda Fonferek, introduced the art of arranging flowers at the October Bee Creative meeting. She shared simple techniques to create beautiful arrangements. Each attendee made a gorgeous arrangement to share with someone or use in their home. Bee Creative meetings are sponsored by the VIA Arts Committee and occur once a month. At these meetings, VIA members are invited to learn a new art or craft.



Mysterious Halloween Walkers Spook GCS Community!



The VIA's own Health & Wellness Committee sponsored a Halloween walk through Green Cove Springs.

Walkers brought candy to donate to the GCS Police Dept for their fun trunk or treat event.

VIA members strolled to the Corner Packet, followed by apple cider and goodies at VIA member, Sandi's home.

All the ladies had a great time!

Spectators wondered how many calls were fielded by the GCS Police about the Halloween clad Ladies strolling thru their community!





Upcoming Event

The Health and Wellness Committee is sponsoring a holiday quilt raffle. This flannel rag quilt (made by Donna Shibley) measures 60" square and is a perfect way to get cozy on our chilly nights.

Tickets are available through the December 14th club meeting when a lucky winner will be drawn.

\$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00.

Thank you in advance for your support.



December Birthdays



- 13** *Diana Walker*
- 15** *Karen Hinrichs*
- 31** *Joan Jaffray*



VIA Receives Monetary Award

At the 11th meeting for 100+Women of Who Care About Clay County, the VIA received a monetary award of in recognition of our work for the Green Cove Springs Community. The organization has donated just over \$127,000 to non-profit organizations in and serving Clay County.

The VIA along with the two other non-profits, J.P. Hall Children's Charities, and First Coast Women's Services, were welcomed by the group. All are worthy causes! Congratulations to all the recipients including First Coast Women's Services, J.P. Hall Children's Charities, and VIA of Green Cove Springs.

100+ Women Who Care About Clay County is a group who gathers 4 times a year for 1 hour each time to learn about local not-for-profits and donate \$100 per member each meeting.

More information can be found at www.100whocareaboutclay.com





“The House That Built {Us}”

Our beloved clubhouse has served us well for over 100 years. It looks its most beautiful when dressed for the holidays, with bells, wreaths and mistletoe, all in red and green. The special thing about the Christmas holidays is that we decorate the clubhouse on the outside as well as the inside, and the whole community gets to see her looking festive and beautiful.

Each one of you should be proud of the work you have done this year to upgrade our clubhouse. We should be beginning the repairs and painting in the next month, and we have a beautiful, refurbished chandelier in our foyer. All of this has been made possible by the work you have done with fundraising, with service projects, and with others in the area seeing how hard we are working and wanting to contribute to our cause. Allowing others to visit and create memories in our clubhouse gives them reasons to want to help us preserve it. I know none of us can wait to see the finished project!



History Corner

When the VIA was first organized back in 1883, its mission was “to promote neatness and order in the village, improve and beautify the streets and public grounds and generally do whatever would lend to the improvement of the village as a place of residence”. Most of their attention in the beginning was to promote neatness and order, and it took more energy and action than it did funds in those early days.

But what did the ladies do when money was needed to carry out projects? While the early clubwomen did solicit funds and donations from some of the wealthy and interested citizens, they relied heavily on the same types of activities that we do today; teas, receptions, parties, galas, and luncheons. The ladies would get dressed up, busy themselves decorating, and invite the wealthy of the community to come and enjoy themselves. They used their talents to create themes, programs, and interesting topics to draw a crowd.

How interesting to know that we are still using the plan for fundraising that are sisters from the 1800s created for us!



The Buzz *with Environment*

A Greener Christmas

Your Environment Committee would like to suggest that you have a greener Christmas this year as you contemplate your effect on the earth.

According to EPA, household waste increases by 25% during the holiday season. Over 250 tons of trees every year are thrown away after the holidays. Regular and glossy wrapping paper is recyclable unless it has non-paper additives like glitter and plastic.

Studies have found that the chemicals that are necessary to make plastic will eventually leak out of the item and can be harmful to your health.

I spent Christmas in Germany in 2009 and I can tell you that you could not easily buy tissue paper, napkins or gift bags because Germany has programs to save the environment. Most decorations are used with natural greenery, wood and berries like holly and cranberry. There was little plastic used compared to America.

Christmas trees can be used to prevent erosion of the sand on the beach; they can be composted and the Kiwanis Club of Jacksonville Beach will gladly accept your tree or call First Coast Mulch at 904 751-6495. You can also donate them to various animal sanctuaries like The Catty Shack Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary.

I have a handout with suggestions to keep your Christmas greener. Merry Christmas!

Article by Linda Fonferek, Chair Environment



Questions about the Environmental Committee, please contact Linda Fonferek at fonferekclinda@gmail.com

Healthy Tidbits *with Health & Wellness*

Holiday Stress

The holiday season can be a tremendously stressful time for many individuals who are struggling with a mental illness such as depression

and anxiety. According to a survey, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reported that approximately 24% of people with a diagnosed mental illness find that the holidays make their condition "a lot" worse and 40% "somewhat" worse.

And sadness can be challenging to cope with when all around you people are singing about how this is "the most wonderful time of the year." How do you handle so many movies and ads broadcasting family and togetherness if you've lost a loved one or you feel all alone? What do you do with so many messages about everything being "merry and bright" when, in most places, it is quite literally cold and dark?

This holiday hustle and bustle cannot only heavily impact individuals who are prone to anxiety, depression and stress (and a lack of sleep) but can also take a toll on those who have never experienced a mental illness.

Please take the time to really reach out to family and friends. Take care of your own mental health needs by accepting whatever motions come up, maintaining healthy habits, setting boundaries on stressors and making time for meaningful connections.

Article by Donna Shibley, Health & Wellness Committee Chair

Health & Wellness Committee is seeking a new Committee Chair. If you are interested, please contact Larianne at l.stutts@aol.com





Tuesday Trippin

Exploring Jacksonville's Museum of Contemporary Art

Tuesday Trippers had a special tour of the MOCA and then walked over to the Bank of America building to see the art displayed in their lobbies.

Lunch was at Taverna in San Marco where Trippers discussed their favorite art pieces and why they liked it. Even those who weren't interested in contemporary art of abstract art found something to like. Overall, another fantastic Tuesday Trippin!

Questions about the next trip, contact Sandi Dunnivant at bookladi2012@gmail.com





Have a special occasion such as a Birthday Party, Anniversary Celebration, Wedding or Baby Shower?

Our historic 1914 cottage is available to rent for YOUR next party.

*For more information, please email:
Terry Abbott at viagcs@gmail.com*



Village Improvement Association

- President:** Larianne Stutts
l.stutts@aol.com
- Vice President:** Cheri Starnes
cstarnes2326@gmail.com
- Secretary:** Joyce Engelken
jengelken@yahoo.com
- Correspondence Secretary:**
Deborah Page
page4rwe@gmail.com
- Treasurer:** Lucy Conrad
lucelc9@yahoo.com
- Historians:** Clara Freeman and Theresa Crockett
bigcfreeman@bellsouth.net
theresac425@gmail.com
- Arts & Culture Committee:**
Sandi Dunnivant and Terry Wilson
bookladi2012@gmail.com
ktsswil@bellsouth.net
- Arts & Culture Subcommittee**
- Bee Creative Committee:**
Tonia Everitt
tonia04142017@gmail.com
- Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee:**
Martha Mangus and Cheri Starnes
mangmarth@gmail.com
cstarnes2326@gmail.com
- Education & Libraries Committee:**
Sherry Kelly and Helen Brummer
s_kelly1947@yahoo.com
im2daboss@hotmail.com
- Environment Committee:**
Linda Fonferek
fonferek linda@gmail.com
- Health & Wellness Committee:**
Donna Shibley
dmshibley@gmail.com
- Building Rental Committee:**
Terry Abbott
gmatea65@gmail.com
- Membership Committee:**
Christie Staton
cdstaton@bellsouth.net

Newsletter articles are due by the 17th of each month.

Please email them to: l.stutts@aol.com

Photo submissions must represent VIA supported events and activities.

Larianne Stutts, Newsletter Editor

Jennifer Stubbs, Newsletter Contributor Coordinator

Deborah Page, Newsletter Design & Layout



Introducing a Directory of the Services provided for our members and their spouses. The Directory will be located on the last page of each newsletter edition.

If you have information to add or edit, please let Larianne know at Lstutts@aol.com

VIA Member Services Directory

Accounting/Tax Services

Susan Hess CPA, P.A.

Susan Hess

(904) 500-2100

Auto Body Shop

Darren's Custom & Restoration Body Shop

Darren Stutts

(904) 509-2420

Beauty

Rodan & Fields Skin Care Consultant

Larianne Stutts

(904) 251-4995

Financial Advisor

Hess Financial Group

VyStar Investment Services

John Hess

(904) 269-8772

Raeanne McCarty

(904) 908-2495

Pet Services

Jen's Pet Sitting Service

Jenifer Dunnivant

(904) 657-4460

Restaurant

Corner Pocket

Cheri Starnes

(904) 284-1992

Scents

SCENTSY

Jo Potter

(541) 279-0595

Women's Clothing

One Swanky Chic Boutique

Kristina Byrd

(904) 671-3819

Let's support the businesses of our members and their spouses!

