



OCTOBER 2023

VIA INSIDER

Serving the Green Cove Springs Community since 1883

October's Activities:

Oct 7 – Soul Food and Music Festival

Oct 10 – Tuesday Trippin

Oct 12 – VIA Meeting 10:00 am

Oct 13 – GCS Tales from the Clink

Oct 21 – Swine & Dine Derby

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



FOLLOW & LIKE US

www.facebook.com/VIAGreenCoveSprings

*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

Wasn't our Open House a fun night! I enjoyed it so very much. We had great participation, both from our membership as well as guests! I was so pleased to see so many from the community in attendance. We had guests from ClayToday, from City Hall, the police force, and so many of you brought family and friends. One of our guests came back because she had so much fun at our Bingo night! We also had a couple that came because they saw from the street what a "happening place" we were! Isn't that great!

You all outdid yourselves. The decorations were excellent, and every committee board was current and informative. The charcuterie board was a big hit, and it was obvious that everyone enjoyed the food. Every one of you was outgoing and friendly and I could see you all welcoming guests and promoting our fun activities. Our PowerPoint showcased our history and current service projects well and it held everyone's attention. I truly meant what I said; you all are the most giving group of ladies I have ever met, and the way you work together is amazing.

You know what else is great? People are still talking about it! There were so many positive comments on FACEBOOK, and people that missed it know they missed a fun night.

I am so excited about our upcoming year! We have so many fun activities planned and I anticipate lots of growth in our membership. I am excited to participate with the city's 150th year, and celebrate our 140th year as well. I look forward to another year of fun and fellowship with each of you!

Larianne
l.stutts@aol.com





Open House 2023





Next Month Meeting

With Education & Library

The Education & Library Committee has a great program for our October meeting. First, we have Jennifer Parker from the Green Cove Library to talk to us about their plans for the fall. Jennifer has been an integral part of the library program for many years and wants to share with us the ways that we can assist them in creating within our youth the desire to read and use their facilities for research and discovery.

Also, we will hear from Christina Hirsch, the Dean of our partner school, Green Cove Junior High School. Christina handles the "Positive Behavior Support System, PBS, that encourages good choices, and reinforces positive behavior rather than resorting to consequences for negative behaviors. This is the program that we contribute towards by purchasing supplies snacks and trinkets that the students enjoy.

Both speakers are eager to talk with us and will be fun and engaging. We are all so excited for the new year and have so much fun stuff to discuss!

In addition, there will be a cake raffle and sales of cards made by Sherry Kelly as fundraisers at our next meeting.

VIA Supports Early Readers

with Mother Goose Program

The Coalition of North Florida joined forces for Mother Goose: Rhymers are Readers. Hickory Grove Early Learning Center's four year olds learned from Mother Goose (VIA member, Sandi Dunnivant) and Her Helper (VIA member, Terry Abbott).



2023 Tales from the Clink — Friday the 13th Edition — 5:00pm—7pm on 10/13/23 \$3 Adults, \$1 Students/Youth

Special Thanks

- Ridgeview High School Theatre Students (Teacher Lindsay McDade) & Clay County District Schools
 - City of Green Cove Springs Police Department
 - Clay County Historical Society (History Museum)
 - Clay County Tourism (ExploreClay.com)
- Clerk of Court and Comptroller's Office Employees / Volunteers



Located at the Clay
County Historic
Triangle Site:
21 Gratio Place, GCS



The Historical Archives Center is a division of the Clerk of Court and Comptroller's Office. Clerk Tara S. Green encourages you to find out more about our Archives services at clayclerk.com today!

Remember:

School supplies will be collected at the October meeting

Please bring any stubs from Opportunity Drawing tickets and monies you have sold to date. The sales will continue until the drawing on December 14th at 10:00 am.

Thank you for all you do!



FAMILY BINGO NIGHT: A *Huge Success!*

The VIA hosted the first ever Bingo Night for the GCS Community. The event drew a great crowd and everyone had a fun time thanks to our awesome Bingo caller, Kaylee Wilson! And a big thank you to the Civics and Engagement Committee for putting this event together.

Here's to more fun BINGO in the future!





Ladies of the VIA Support 904 Local Businesses and Nonprofits!

VIA members gathered at Spring Park Coffee followed by lunch at the Corner Pocket on September 4th to show their love and appreciation for Green Cove Springs businesses.

These notes from VIA ladies say it all!



"... this is the best group of women I have ever been around and I am grateful to be a member."

"Well done VIA! Glad I got to support a bit with coffee!"

"Thanks for planning this. It was a good day with good people. I really do appreciate the women of VIA."

"So sorry I wasn't able to attend!!! I will always support GCS & the ladies of the VIA whenever possible.....such a great group of ladies!!!!!"

"I am so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful group of ladies! You all truly have no idea how amazing you are!"

"Love our group and love our small town!!"



"I enjoy all of you so much. We were so busy today and I was so happy. I'm always glad to have time with you guys. You know what they say, no work and no play make you a dull girl. Some days I am a little dull. But all of you make me smile. **VIA Ladies Rock!!!!**"

Pear Canning Day at the VIA Clubhouse!



Ladies of the VIA spent a fun and productive day at the VIA clubhouse learning to make pear preserves by

Peeling pears

Washing jars

Slicing pears

Boiling pears

Filling jars

Processing jars in a steam bath

Synchronizing our watches

Timing the processing

*And then, almost like magic,
jars filled with delicious pear preserves were ready!!*



A special *Thank You* to Tonia who enthusiastically shared her canning knowledge with us and provided the pears - and who continued to process our pears on her own time at home.

And a note of appreciation to Terry who made all the simple syrup to cook the pears.

Thank you both for teaching us and for providing so much fun!

You ladies rock!





October Membership News

Please Welcome:

Tracy Hardy

If you are interested in serving as Secretary or as Chair of the Health & Wellness Committee, please contact Larianne.

October Birthdays



5 Joanne Bergin
12 Lynn Lisenby
18 Jessie Rivers
24 Janey Fox

Membership Renewal

Please pay your \$50 VIA membership renewal for 2023/2024! Our membership renewals are due October 1st

There are several options to make it easy to pay:

- You may write a check for \$50 payable to VIA, write "dues" on the information line and mail to our secure mailbox at 17 N. Palmetto Avenue, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
- Or you may scan the VIA PayPal QR code. Once the code is scanned, just enter the amount you want to pay (\$50) and put your name on the payment so we know it's you. When that is entered, it will say it's a VIA donation / payment. *There is a \$2.00 transaction fee for this convenience and we appreciate that donation, too!*

Please note: If you have joined the VIA since January 1, 2023, you do not need to renew your membership until this time in 2024.

We appreciate all our VIA members and thank you for your continued support!



Questions, please contact Pam Harris at pamdora87@comcast.net



“The House That Built {Us}”

Didn't our clubhouse look beautiful at our Open House? The decorations were excellent, and having the historical display from Green Cove's Archives there for our viewing made the night so much more special. It is so rewarding to be celebrating 140 years as a Federated Women's Club in the same building that was used by our predecessors so long ago, in (1895). We should all feel a sense of pride that we have been able to maintain it and preserve its historical appeal for so many years.

By now, everyone has had the opportunity to review the plans and vote on whether we should proceed with the repairs and restorations on our clubhouse. I'm happy to share that the votes carried, and we will begin the repairs this next month. Our building will get the "facelift" that it deserves. Not only will the repairs bring it back to its original beauty, but it will also increase its longevity. This will help us with increasing rentals, as well as showing the community a busy clubhouse that is loved and preserves generations of memories.

Thank you all for your participation, your questions, and your input. I am confident that you made the right decision. I can't wait to get this started!

Larianna



The History Corner

First Library in GCS – VIA Clubhouse

Our Education/Library Committee oversees our October program, and it seems fitting to remind everyone of the impact our club made in these two categories so many years ago. Our VIA was responsible for starting the first library in Green Cove Springs in 1888. The Bordens of the Borden Milk Family gave us the cottage that same year and a Mr. J.J. Merritt gave the clubwomen a single book to start the library. This single book prompted visitors as well as members to donate books to the club, and this grew into the first library in our small town. The ladies of the VIA maintained the library right here in our clubhouse until December of 1961, when it became a part of the Clay County library system.

In 1897, Mrs. E.G.G. Munsell was installed as president (her picture is to the right of our stage). During her third year as president, the ladies began and maintained a kindergarten in the public-school building. The VIA assumed the expenses and paid a qualified teacher to instruct the children from 1900-1904. So our very own VIA was responsible for starting the first kindergarten and the first library in Green Cove Springs. Our ladies have actively supported the library as well as education since that beginning many years ago.

Calling All Members!



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 l.stutts@pool.com

<p>#1 \$500 Visa Gift Card (\$500 Value)</p> 	<p>#2 Airplane Ride over St Augustine for 4 people (\$400 Value)</p> 
<p>#3</p>  <p><i>Citizens Gold Watch from Kingsley Jewelry (\$200 Value)</i></p>	<p>#4 A Delicious Dessert a Month for a Year (\$450 Value)</p> 

It takes each of us committing ourselves to make this fundraiser successful.
Your individual efforts to sell tickets are appreciated.

- Please turn in ticket stubs and monies from any tickets you have sold at each monthly meeting as you sell them.
- The purchaser must complete the Opportunity Number for their ticket. One ticket is required for one opportunity.
- If you have questions, please contact Linda Fonferok at (904) 803-4599 or Deborah Page at (850) 322-7774.

Again, thank you for your continuous support! You all are amazing! I'm so excited to see all we can accomplish together!

Thank you, in advance, to each of you!

LARIANNE



Upcoming Events



22nd Annual Soul Food Festival!

Green Cove Springs

The Annual Soul Food and Music Festival is always held on the 1st Saturday of October, from 12:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Vera Francis Hall Park! This cultural event is attended by all from near and far, with a cuisine of good southern/soul style cooking to appease your appetite!

There will be music, including bands, soloists, dancing and many family filled activities! Come join us at the parade route which begins at 12:00 p.m. on Pine Avenue to MLK Jr. Blvd!

FREE entrance/FREE parking

October 07, 2023

12:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Vera Francis Hall Park

1503 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, GCS



OCTOBER 21
4:00-7:30pm
2023
Clay County Fairgrounds
Green Cove Springs

SWINE & DINE DERBY

FAMILY EVENT
Pig Races - BBQ Dinner - Live Music
Clay the Pig - Petting Zoo
Derby Hat Contest - 50/50 Raffle
Kids' Games & Activities

Rotary

www.swineanddinederby.org

Scan to buy your tickets
at www.34.org/rotaryderby



Tuesday Trippin

Exploring Winter Park's Albert Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens

Tuesday Trippers toured the inspired home, galleries and sculpture gardens of internationally acclaimed Czech sculptor, Albin Polasek. Polasek created over 400 works during his life. Located in the heart of Winter Park on Lake Osceola, Polasek's home and gardens reflect his beautiful art.

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



Thank you!

VIA members, friends and family, let's show our appreciation to our community supporters and fellow VIA members by patronizing their businesses. Let's help spread the word about how great these businesses truly are!



If you were at the VIA open house in September, you may have noticed the table coverings in the foyer and on the stage. We would like to thank Nikki Glanville for donating her time and supplies to use a process called 'sublimation' to add our local, state, and national logos along with our name and a salute to our years of service. The sublimation process will allow the fabric to drape well and makes it washable without fading.

Nikki has a business called 'Nikki's Cove Creations'. Check out her Facebook page or Website to see all the different things she can make.

Also, a special thank you to Joan Jaffrey for helping us get these cloths made! .



Nikki's Cove Creations
Customized T-shirts, Signs,
Tumblers, Mugs, Gifts, & More!
904-718-1043
nikkiscovecreations@gmail.com

LETS GET SOCIAL



FACEBOOK ETSY
SCAN ME WEBSITE



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
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- Secretary:** Open
- Correspondence Secretary:**
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- Health & Wellness Committee:**
Open
- Building Rental Committee:**
Terry Abbott
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- 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 L.stutts@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 Dunnavant

(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!

