



SEPTEMBER 2023

VIA INSIDER

Serving the Green Cove Springs Community since 1883

September's Activities:

Sept 5 – Tuesday Trippin

Sept 14 – VIA Open House 5:30 pm

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.



President's Message

Can you believe that our summer is already gone? I know it went by so fast because we were having so much fun! I loved everything that we did and enjoyed being with so many of you. Our field trips, our volunteering of our time, and even our canning lessons were so fun! I am so glad to be surrounded by so much talent and enthusiasm for life.

Ladies, we have so much planned for our new year, and I can't wait to share it all with you. Our first big event is our Open House on September 14th. We are doing things a bit differently this year, and we really want it to be special. I hope each of you will get excited and invite your friends to join us. We want a full house, and we want each guest to see how friendly we are, and how much fun we are having. We also want them to see that we love our community and are eager to serve and fulfill as many needs as we can.

We have a lot of fund raisers planned because we want to make improvements to our building without having to halt or even slow down on our service projects. We've never done an Opportunity Drawing before, and I am excited to see the results of it. This fundraiser costs us very little and has the potential to bring in so much. We must be enthusiastic and excited about it and take advantage of every opportunity to sell tickets. People will purchase because we have some awesome prizes, but also because they want to support what we are doing.

Ladies, enthusiasm is contagious. When we work together for a common goal, we bond. We have a lot going on, but remember, you don't have to participate in everything. Pick and choose what is best for you and your schedule but be sure to verbally support and get excited about all of it! I am so grateful for each of you.



Larianne
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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.



VIA OPEN HOUSE

The annual VIA Open House will be held in the evening this year. Please come join us and bring your friends. This is a time to show who we are and what we do for the community. See you there!



Please join us in celebrating
140 years of service.

Thursday, September 14th
Refreshments 5:30 pm
Special Presentation 6:00 pm

VIA Clubhouse
17 N Palmetto Ave



VIA Supports GCS Library Summer Program

VIA volunteers supported the Pete the Cat summer program at the GCS Library. An estimated 100 children participated in the story time and crafts. Check out the kids' smiles!





Summer Fun: GCS Historic Triangle Tour

VIA members joined Clay County Archive Specialist, Vishi Garig, as she entertained with colorful stories of bank robbers; attempted jail breaks; and tales of whiskey ledgers. Buildings at the Historic Triangle site were open for touring.

A special thank you to those individuals who made this tour so special: VIA member, Mary Justino, of the Clerk of Court's Office; Clerk's Office Archives Supervisor, Vishi Garig; Archives Specialist, Amelia Dixon; Teen Court Manager, Michelle Taylor; and Clerk's Office volunteers, Rick and Marilyn Lee; and Historical Society member, Jerry Casale.



Above: VIA members and grandchildren tour the Historic Triangle.



Left: Records from the first VIA meeting were on display.

Below: VIA member, Sharon Nellis, shows President Larianne Stutts, the quilt square she made for the GCS Jr. Women's Club which is on displayed at the Triangle.



"What an interesting day! The GCS Triangle Tour was definitely worthwhile. Our hosts were knowledgeable and engaging. They had even pulled out documents that were specific to our VIA history. I met some new people which is always nice and learned some things about this town to which I am a relative newcomer."





VIA Honored for 140 Years of Service to GCS



Dear VIA friends,

I am so honored and excited to share with you that the City Council of Green Cove Springs recently recognized the VIA through proclamation.

“The City of Green Cove Springs recognizes the Village Improvement Association Women’s Club of Green Cove Springs for their 140 years of concerted efforts for social, educational work and beautification projects to benefit the unique quality of life enjoyed by present and future generations of Green Cove Springs.”

*Proud to be YOUR President,
Larriane Stutts*





“The House That Built {Us}”

We are so blessed to have a clubhouse that meets our needs and is available to serve our Green Cove Springs community. I am sure that when our founders provided the building for us, they had the wisdom to realize that dedicating the clubhouse ensured the future of the VIA. Our clubhouse serves as our vessel with you, the members, providing the service and dedication that allows us to give back to our community. Our clubhouse is carefully woven into who we are and who we have been for the past 140 years.

As with any structure built in 1914, our building needs maintenance to ensure its sustainability for future generations. Information has been gathered with the hopes of repairing and replacing faulty stucco and rotted wood. We have had many successful fundraisers these past few years, but our rentals are our greatest source of reliable revenue. Our clubhouse needs to be sustained so that we can continue with steady rentals. We are reviewing the budget so that we can address these needed repairs without compromising our service projects. Soon these proposed repairs will be brought to you for consideration and for a vote.

You all do a great job of supporting our fundraising efforts. I am confident that many of you will purchase a cookbook, a pork butt and our teas and game nights will continue to draw huge crowds. I want us to get excited about our Opportunity Drawing, too! We can all support this fundraising effort in some way. We all have family and friends that are happy to support us, and we can all sell tickets at a community event. Let’s do this, ladies! Let’s approach this year with a positive attitude, and celebrate our efforts by preserving the historical clubhouse that has served us and our community for 140 years!

Your President,
Larianne

It’s A Wrap *with Arts & Culture* ESO Reading Suggestions

The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghasse

Mad Money by Jodi Picoult



Tuesday Trippin

We kick off the season by trippin’ to Winter Park to visit the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens Tuesday, September 5th.



This museum holds an art collection that focuses primarily on American representational sculpture and has over 200 works by Czech-born American sculptor Albin Polasek. We will also view the exhibit *Japanese Embroidery: A Journey of Tradition and Innovation* which explores the thousand-year-old technique of traditional Japanese embroidery, *nihon shishu*, and its modern adaptations to a global art form. Lunch will be at a restaurant in Winter Park close to shopping. Further information will be sent out after everyone RSVP’s.

The cost is \$20. Make a check payable to VIA. RSVP to bookladi2012@gmail.com by Wednesday, August 30th if you are going.

Sandi will collect money at the club Friday morning, September 1st, at 11:00 am or you can bring it to her. Please do not mail.

Questions about ESO or Tuesday Trippin, please contact Sandi Dunnavant at bookladi2012@gmail.com

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@aol.com

<p>#1 \$500 Visa Gift Card (\$500 Value)</p> 	<p>#2 Airplane Ride over St Augustine for 2 people (\$400 Value)</p> 
<p>#3</p>  <p>Citizen's Gold Watch from Kingsley Jewelry (\$200 Value)</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



The Buzz *with Environment*

Why a Light Blue Porch Ceiling?

I thought you would be interested in this article that I found regarding a superstitious tradition that if one painted the ceiling of their porch light blue (haint blue) that the home would be protected from evil spirits. This belief has its roots in West Africa. It was common to hang blue talismans, mostly glass containers, outside the entrance of a home, and paint blue above the doorways and untimely death seemed to avoid these homes. As much as the modern world seems to reject this, there is some science to it.



Mosquitos historically have been our biggest killer in the south because they spread yellow fever. Yellow fever is spread by female mosquitos to people, not people to people. It has been theorized throughout the new world that maybe the haint blue ceilings confused the mosquitos into thinking it was sky on the porch ceiling and they would not enter the home. The point is that those with haint blue porch ceilings had less death from yellow fever.

Come to find out, it was always the formula for the paint. Haint blue required much more potash/ lye to manufacture. Mosquitos hate lye! Oh, and the blue bottles near the door freak out any insect with a compound eye. You gotta love science! I hope you enjoyed this environmental tidbit!

Article by Linda Fonferek, Environmental Committee Chair

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

Healthy Tidbits *with Health & Wellness*

Journaling for Health

I have journaled for years and sometimes when I pick up an old journal and read a bit, I am astounded that I wrote that! I must have been repeating something I heard because surely I am not that smart! Some other things are too funny and some sad but I realize that whatever I was going through, I survived!



Did you know journaling strengthens immune cells and decreases symptoms of asthma and rheumatoid arthritis? It also helps you deal better with stressful events and reduces their impact on you.

The act of writing accesses your left brain, which is analytical and rational. While your left brain is busy, your right brain is free to create and feel. Writing removes mental blocks and allows you to use all of your brainpower to better understand yourself and others. It is a wonderful way to tackle life and it will keep you from moping around.

I suggest that you find a pretty journal in a color you like or a picture on the front that draws you to the book and get a nice pen that is special to you. Forget proper grammar and use your own code. It's your book and not for anyone else. Put it near where you sit often.

I will admit to you that I also use my two little dogs to help me cope with life. I tell them EVERYTHING and they listen attentively with cocked ears and they never repeat a word I said!

Enjoy this life God has given you as much as you can.

Article by Linda Fonferek, Environmental Committee Chair

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



September Membership News

As we start this year, a big **Thank You** to members who have given so selflessly in various positions and a welcome is extended to those who have stepped up to continue this legacy of service.

New roles:

Cheri Starnes - Vice President

Christie Staton - Membership Chair

Deborah Page - Corresponding Secretary

Helen Brummer - Co Chair Education/Libraries

Lucy Conrad - Treasurer

Terry Abbott - House Chair

Thank you to:

Pam Harris - Former Membership Chair

Lynn Elliott - Former Corresponding Secretary

Jerri Opsahl - Treasurer

Lucy Conrad - House Chair

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

September Birthdays



- 3** *Jo Potter*
- 8** *Jerri Opsahl*
- 9** *Jennifer Dunnivant*
- 12** *Dorothy Robinson*
- 19** *Bernita Nester*
- 30** *Norma Elliott*
- 30** *Joyce Engelken*

Membership Renewal

Ah...it's that time of year when our thoughts turn to summer vacations, relaxing at the beach, visiting family, taking it easy...But wait! **Before you do all that, don't forget to pay your \$50 VIA membership renewal for 2023/2024!** Our membership renewals are due October 1st, **but your payment now will help plan the budget over the summer for our next VIA season of community service and activities.**

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

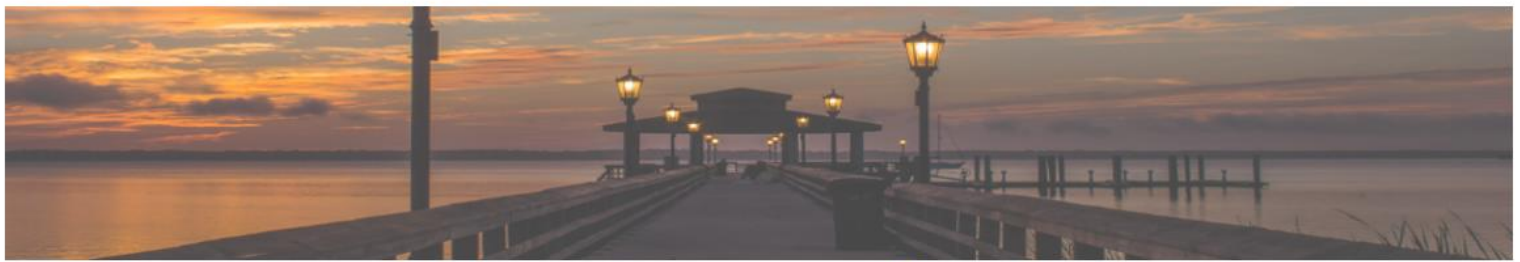
Thank you!

*VIA members, friends and family, let's show our appreciation to our community
Let's help spread the word about how great these businesses truly are!*

CLAY TODAY
~New Subscribers Only~

Call 904-264-3200
and ask for the
**LEESA
SPECIAL**
to receive a full year
subscription
including online
access for only **\$20!**





*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:** Open
- Correspondence Secretary:**
Deborah Page
page4rwe@gmail.com
- Treasurer:** Lucy Conrad
lucelc9@yahoo.com
- Historians:** Clara Freeman and Theresa Crocket
bigcfreeman@bellsouth.net
theresac425@gmail.com
- Arts & Culture Committee:**
Sandi Dunnavant and Terry Wilson
bookladi2012@gmail.com
ktsswil@bellsouth.net
- Arts & Culture Subcommittee**
- Bee Creative Committee:**
Sandi Dunnavant and Terry Wilson
bookladi2012@gmail.com
ktsswil@bellsouth.net
- Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee:**
Martha Mangus and Cheri Starnes
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cstarnes2326@gmail.com
- Education & Libraries Committee:**
Sherry Kelly and Helen Brummer
s_kelly1947@yahoo.com
im2daboss@hotmail.com
- Environment Committee:**
Linda Fonferek
fonfereklinda@gmail.com
- Health & Wellness Committee:**
Open
- 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 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

Women's Clothing

One Swanky Chic Boutique

Kristina Byrd

(904) 671-3819

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

