



April 2024

VIA INSIDER

Serving the Community since 1883

April's Activities:

- April 11 - VIA MEETING
- April 19 - GFWC FL D4 MEETING
- April 22 - CalaVida Art Walk
- April 25 - Suffragette Tea

Visit GFWCVIA.com for the current calendar.

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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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

I am sure everyone will agree that our committees are doing an excellent job of arranging exciting and informative programs for us in 2024! I just love the way every committee is bringing current as well as useful topics to our meetings. Enthusiasm permeates the room every single time. Ladies, that is why we are growing and bringing in such amazing women. I am so grateful for each of you and how friendly and engaging you all are at every interaction. I notice so many of you reaching out and ensuring that everyone feels welcome and included. Thanks to each of you for everything you do to make our visitors feel like the honored guests that they are. Please know, too, that I always try to meet and welcome every guest, but never hesitate to let me know if you think I overlooked someone.

Ladies, fasten your seat belts! April has again, become one of our busiest months. We have a great meeting planned, we are hosting the District 4 meeting again, and we have the Art Walk and the Suffrage Event for CalaVida. It's a lot, but there are a lot of us, and we can make this happen. We always do, and every year we seem to "raise the bar." I always love your enthusiasm for every event and each project. April is going to be very busy, but it is going to be awesome! I am looking forward to working with each of you to make this a very successful and very fun month!

Larianne

l.stutts@aol.com



GO TEAM!



VIA Receives GFWC Recognition

| <i>GFWC Recognition Category</i> | <i>Placement</i> |
|---|-------------------|
| <i>Arts & Culture</i> | First |
| <i>Communications & Public Relations</i> | First |
| <i>Health & Wellness</i> | First |
| <i>2023 WHRC Award</i> | First |
| <i>Civics Engagement & Outreach</i> | Second |
| <i>Education & Libraries</i> | Second |
| <i>Legislation & Public Policy</i> | Second |
| <i>Camp Boggy Creek President's Project</i> | Second |
| <i>Human Trafficking Awareness /Prevention</i> | Second |
| <i>Environment</i> | Third |
| <i>Membership</i> | Third |
| <i>Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness</i> | Honorable Mention |



VIA President Larianne Stutts accepts award certificate for the VIA at the GFWC D4 meeting.



A special shout out to Karla Zeigener who received a first place award for the beautiful sweater set she hand crocheted!



Congratulations to all who shared their creations in the GFWC Art & Craft Competition!

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Terry Wilson | Linda Fonferek |
| Tara Green | Marnie Buchanan |
| Cherie Wilson | Karla Zeigener |
| Bonnie Sprinkle | Sharon Nellis |
| Tina Brannen | Christie Staton |
| Janey Fox | Sandi Dunnavant |



March Meeting Recap

Environmental Committee presents Reparation Earth



Our March meeting was both fun and current! We were so fortunate to have Joe McCarthy, owner and operator of Reparation Earth, along with his wife here to speak to us. They operate an aquaponic greenhouse with seasonal urban garden beds, along with free range eggs and honeybees. Joe and his wife, Christie, were able to address the improvements to the quality of food that they raise, as well as the advantages to the environment because nothing is wasted. They also brought lettuce for us, as well as other vegetables and we had honey and potted plants for sale, too! Reparation Earth also decorated the tables with their own produce!

The Environment committee also recognized our own Mary Justino for taking care of the grounds of the clubhouse for the last several months. She and her husband did an awesome job keeping the yard well-groomed and beautiful.

The VIA presented our District 4 Director, Elizabeth, with a lovely bouquet of flowers and a bag full of individual cards written by our members. We are so grateful for her leadership and guidance these last two years.



*Thank
you,
Elizabeth!*

"I adore attending the Village Improvement Association Women's Club meetings but today the members made me cry. I was stunned to be recognized with these beautiful flowers, a standing ovation and a bag of love notes from my sisters in Green Cove. Larianne Stutts, your lovely words mean the world to me and ladies, you are ALL my favorites."

Elizabeth Van Rensburg



Welcome New Members

Christina Kay Treadway

Interests: Fashion, Art, History and Cooking

Profession: Realtor, Former Financial Advisor

Committee Interests: Arts & Culture; Environment; and Health & Wellness

Elizabeth (Libby) Schauer

Interests: Travel, Biking, Reading, Advocacy for Children in Foster Care, Helping Homeless Veterans

Profession: Retired

Committee Interests: Arts & Culture; Civics; and Health & Wellness

Ellen Greer

Interests: Sailing, Walking my dog, Reading

Profession: Retired CPA

Committee Interests: Civics Engagement & Outreach

Eva Dion

Interests: Financial Management Coach – Volunteer, Golf, Mahjong, Bible study

Profession: Retired

Committee Interests: Arts & Culture and Civics

Upcoming Events:

April 11th Meeting

Since the month of April is not the responsibility of a specific committee, we are going to use this April to focus on Cystic Fibrosis. This is the GFWC Junior Club's President's project, and it directly affects some of our own members. We have an excellent speaker coming to share information with us, and many of us have already signed up to participate in the "Great Strides" Walk at the Jacksonville Zoo on May 18th.

Since our Great Strides group is called the "Village Safari Guides", that is going to be our theme for the April meeting, I am going to ask each of you to bring finger foods for refreshments if you can. I have a plan in place, so if you would like to help me decorate, please let me know. Our last three programs have been so great, and I am confident that this one will be as well!

Health & Wellness will be collecting new men's and women's socks for the *Green Cove Springs Diamond Assisted Living and Memory Care* facility at the April and May meetings. Any donations will be appreciated.

April 22nd CalaVeda Artwalk Student Art Show

at the VIA Clubhouse at 6:00 pm. Please stop by and support Green Cove Spring's budding young artists!

Happy Birthday!

6 **Raeanne McCarty**

8 **April Pearson**

15 **Gale Miller**

15 **Bonnie Sprinkle**

28 **Janet Swingle**

28 **Jesi Carroll**

30 **Barbara Cornett**



Look Who Attended GFWC's LEADS Training...



How exciting to see GFWC Florida Members President, Linda O' Toole, show off the VIA Boggy Bear at the LEADS training! VIA member, Tonia Everitt, made this Boggy Bear which the VIA presented to President O'Toole last April at the VIA clubhouse!



Arts & Culture Happenings...



Random Acts of Flowers

The Bee Creative team and other VIA members participated in the Random Acts of Flowers event by creating over 48 flower arrangements. Members delivered them to businesses, public offices, hospitals, nursing homes, schools and individuals throughout the Green Cove Springs and Clay County Community.



Promoting Reading...

Mother Goose and The Honkers celebrated Black History by presenting a program to the children of Head Start. Books about Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, and Jazz were read and interpreted by singing, action rhymes, and arts and crafts. Everyone had a great time. The busses and lanterns made by children were displayed in the Head Start Black history museum.

For further information, please contact Sandi Dunnivant at bookladi2012@gmail.com



Community Engagement *with Civics*

Voting Information

Due to a change in Florida law, all Vote by Mail Ballot requests expired on 12/31/2022.

Want to Vote by Mail?

Go to the Supervisor of Elections website at Clayelections.gov/Voter-Information/Request-a-Mail-Ballot

PRIMARY ELECTION

Vote Early

8/8/24 – 8/17/24

8 AM – 6 PM

Election Day

8/20/24

7 AM – 7 PM

GENERAL ELECTION

Vote Early

10/22/24 – 11/2/24

7 AM – 7 PM

Election Day

11/5/24

7 AM – 7 PM



Questions about the Civics Committee, please contact Karla Logston at karlalogston@bellcouth.net

Healthy Tidbits *with Health & Wellness*

April is ...

Women's Eye Health and Safety Month

Did you know more women suffer from visual impairments than men? Two thirds of blindness occur in women.

Fortunately, 75% of visual impairment is preventable and/or treatable. One reason why women are affected by more eye health issues than men is because they tend to live longer.

According to the National Eye Institute, women are also affected by hormonal factors. Some other risk factors in women are caused by smoking, poor nutrition and obesity. Here are some tips to ensure the health of your eyes and vision.

- Get your eyes examined
- Eat healthy
- Learn about dry eye syndrome
- Stay active

National Humor Month

National Humor Month was conceived to heighten public awareness of the therapeutic value of humor. Laughter and joy - the benchmarks of humor - lead to improved well-being, boosted morale, increased communication skills, and an enriched quality of life. Humor as a tool to lift ailing spirits is an established notion supported by scientific research. The curative power of laughter and its ability to relieve debilitating stress and burnout may indeed be one of the great medical discoveries of our times.

Flex Those Shoes

Participants who turned in forms were Deborah, Pam and Donna. Congratulations for totaling up your miles. We know others walked, so glad you are getting heart healthy.

*All members please consider participating in our March – April (anything goes) **Fitness Challenge**. Track and total up **ANY** fitness activities.*

Questions about the Health & Wellness Committee, please contact Donna Shibley at dmsibley@gmail.com



“The House That Built {Us}”

If you had the opportunity to view the “Women of Courage” zoom event, you saw the photo of VIA members dressed in period in the Archive Room. Everyone loved that photo! While the photography skills were amazing, and we had a lot of fun posing, much of its appeal had to do with the setting. It looked so authentic in our clubhouse, surrounded by antiques and mementos of past clubwomen. Even the story about our first project of cleaning up the streets of our city was more impactful because of the visibility of the barrel sitting in the Archive room.

The citizens of Green Cove are talking about how beautiful our clubhouse is, once again. I am so excited to see it “perform” for us in April when we host the Suffrage Event. This will truly be a historically accurate setting for the program, and the timing is perfect for our city. Once again, our clubhouse will make us proud and we can be grateful for the hard work and dedication that allowed us to bring her back to her original beauty.

Larriane



History Corner



Mae Mann Jennings is often spoken of as the Founder of the Florida Federation of Women’s Clubs, and the Village Improvement Association of Green Cove Springs is the first club of Florida. Jennings is also credited with energizing the movement for Women’s Suffrage. As the widow of the former Governor William Sherman Jennings, she took action to push this movement forward.

It is not known if the genteel women of the VIA openly united with Mae Mann Jennings in her vocal efforts, or if they supported her more “behind the scenes” and through conversations that motivated their husbands and sons to push for women’s right to vote, but the women of Green Cove Springs were very supportive of Mae Mann Jennings and were likely her strongest circle of friends at that time. Support for the movement spread across Florida and legislation was passed in 1921.

The VIA hopes to recapture the enthusiasm and passion that must have been felt at that time for all women. Please join us and learn more about this time period at our April 25th event.

Did You Know?

When you play Bingo in Green Cove Springs, one of the bingo playing card cells asks, “Do you know a VIA member?” We’re gaining awareness and recognition in our community. Way to go, Ladies!



SUFFRAGE RALLY

BE A PART OF HISTORY

**OPHELIA WILL ADDRESS THE MEMBERS OF
THE VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

**17N PALMETTO AVE
GREEN COVE SPRINGS
25TH APRIL, 2024 - AT 12:00 PM**

WEAR WHITE TO SUPPORT THE MOVEMENT

**OPEN SEATING
TICKETS \$30 PLUS SERVICE CHARGE
LUNCH INCLUDED WITH TICKET PURCHASE**

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE ...VOTES FOR WOMEN A ONE WOMAN SHOW

PROUD TO BE A PART OF THE CALAVIDA ARTS FESTIVAL

Introducing the Village Safari Guides....

A VIA Team to Help Conquer Cystic Fibrosis



You're invited to join in as we raise funds to end Cystic Fibrosis. At the GFWC January District 4 meeting, we learned this is a GFWC Junior Women's club project.

The VIA will have a group participate in the Cystic Fibrosis walk at the Jacksonville Zoo on May 18th. VIA member, Tonia Everritt, has a granddaughter with Cystic Fibrosis and would love for you to join us as we support research to end this disease.

Let me know if you are interested in participating. Since it is at the zoo, the theme is safari and safari animals, we will be walking as the *Village Safari Guides* team.

We hope you will join us!

Larriane





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 Dunnavant and Terry Wilson
bookladi2012@gmail.com
ktsswil@bellsouth.net
- Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee:**
Karla Logston and Martha Mangus
karlalogston@bellsouth.net
mangmarth@gmail.com
- Education & Libraries Committee:**
Sherry Kelly and Helen Brummer
s_kelly1947@yahoo.com
im2daboss@hotmail.com
- Environment Committee:**
Linda Fonferek and Jesi Carroll
fonfereklinda@gmail.com
jesicarroll@gmail.com
- Health & Wellness Committee:**
Donna Shibley
dmsibley@gmail.com
- Building Rental Committee:**
Terry Abbott
gmatea65@gmail.com
- Membership Committee:**
Christie Staton
cdstaton@bellsouth.net
- Parliamentarian:**
Janey Fox
jmf1052@aol.com

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



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

Home Care

Assisting Hands Home Care

Tracy Hardy

(904) 746-1036

Pet Services

Jen's Pet Sitting Service

Jenifer Dunnivant

(904) 657-4460

Realtor

Davidson Realty, Inc.

Christina Treadway

(904)548-7775

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!

