



July August 2024

VIA INSIDER

Serving the Community since 1888

Activities:

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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*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

This is shaping up to be one of the best summers ever! We were all so excited to see Mae Mann Jennings added to the Hall of Fame, and we loved seeing her display at the courthouse together. I am always so excited when I plan a "get-together" for us, and even on short notice, so many of you show up! It makes me so happy to realize how much we all enjoy being together and supporting each other. The sisterhood we have is truly what makes our club thrive. I hope you all know how much I value your friendship and support.

I love the summer because it allows us time to enjoy each other's company and brainstorm activities for the upcoming year. I enjoy the planning so very much! So many of our events these last few years have gone so well that we will likely want to do them all again. I love that enthusiasm and energy, but the summer months allow us time to take a close look at our calendar and make sure we don't spread ourselves too thin. As always, I value your input, and would love to know which events you enjoyed the most, felt had the most impact, or definitely want to do again. Please let me know, too, if there were any projects that you enjoyed but may not feel are worth repeating. I always welcome your texts and emails. I want us to be happy and busy, but never overwhelmed, and every single one of you is important to our club.

On a personal note, thanks so much to each of you for your support and encouragement during the loss of my mother. Your cards, texts, phone calls and food kept me from ever feeling alone. You are an amazing group of ladies.

Larianne

l.stutts@aol.com





VIA Supports GCJH STEM Night



The VIA collaborated with GCJH to support their second STEM Night for girls. The evening featured female professionals from a variety of fields requiring a utilization of various STEM disciplines.

VIA member, Janey Fox's daughter, Dr. Jessica Harmes, MA, CAP, PhD was among the presenters sharing her experience.



Well done, ladies!



VIA Walks to Conquer Cystic Fibrosis



Members of the VIA raised funds to support the GFWC's efforts to fight Cystic Fibrosis by participating in a walk at the Jacksonville Zoo. The VIA's team, Village Safari Guides raised over \$3,856!

VIA member, Tonia Everritt, whose granddaughter has CF, joined the team at the zoo. It was Tonia's birthday and her granddaughter's birthday was the following day. What a way to celebrate!



VIA Hosts...

Celebrating The Historical Architecture of GCS

What a great crowd and such a fun event honoring the architecture and history of GCS! Thank you to Clamour Theatre and the Historical Society of Green Cove Springs as well as Penney Farms. Brian Johnson did an amazing job portraying Dr. Applegate in a Clamour Theatre skit discussing the history of Green Cove Springs.

A very special thank you to VIA members, Leslie Davidson and Cheryl Gonzalez, who both shared their knowledge on the history of families and community buildings in our GCS community.



"It was a delightful evening, hearing Dr. Applegate's stories, learning the history of the city's lovely older homes, and enjoying the warm VIA's hospitality."

"...It gave me the incentive to look for these houses. I would love to see a tour of homes."



"A whirl of information was feted for attendees about historical structures with the VIA leading the way. I was surprised at the photos and opportunities to share what we know."

"Yaba daba doo!! I had no idea there was so much interesting history in GCS. My husband and I absolutely loved the event."



"Loved all the GCS history at the Clamour Theatre production, Passing the Baton...It would be great to put together a walking tour to see all those historic homes and buildings that were displayed on the tables...it might take two different walking tours!!"





VIA Supports Walnut Street with Sip & Shop Event

The Civics Engagement Committee organized an afternoon of shopping along Walnut Street to support local businesses impacted by the road work along the front of their shops.

Included in the excursion was a successful shopping venture to One Swanky Chic Boutique and the Pink Peony. Both are owned by VIA member, Kristina Knowles. The recently opened Pink Peony offers a variety of specialty teas and snacks including boba tea drinks. Afterwards, everyone gathered for refreshments and fellowship at Red's Wine Bar.

Please consider shopping local in Green Cove Springs to support these hard working entrepreneurs.





Thank you for Our Tea Pot Lunches

Larianne and Cheri,

On behalf of the entire VJA, especially those members who have already participated in a Teapot Lunch, "Thank you Larianne and Cheri!" What a fantastic idea to have members whose names are randomly chosen from the "teapot" have lunch together. This has created a welcomed opportunity for fellowship and strengthening of our friendships. Thanks for treating us to a delicious lunch at Corner Pocket.

Thank you both for always going the extra mile to help our club succeed!

Your friends from the VJA





Cool Summer VIA Fun: Courthouse Tour



The ladies of the VIA enjoyed a tour of the Mae Mann Jennings Display at the Clay County Courthouse. We also had an informative tour of the new "passport" to Clay County and so much history behind the names of the streets and other locations right here in Green Cove Springs.

Such a fun day, and a special thank you to Mary Justino, who served as our well-versed tour guide, as well as Theresa Crockett, who has worked for years to see Mae Mann Jennings get the honor and recognition she so deserves.





Grandmother's Camp at the VIA

The ladies of the VIA are always eager to try something new and innovative. Many of us are grandmothers and often have young grandchildren with us for extended periods of time over the summer. While we all love time with our little ones, sometimes it can be complicated to keep them entertained. We also love sharing our history with our youth and helping them know our heritage as well as their own.

The summer of 2024 was a first for our Grandmother's Camp! Several of us spent the last Thursday of June touring the area around our clubhouse and noting the patterns and designs of the historical architecture. The children ranged from two years old to fourteen and were all enthusiastic and supportive of one another on the quest. Before the summer is over, we hope to have a tour of the artifacts in our historical triangle and spend a day building our own model community out of paper and cardboard.

Our goal is that this grows into a regular program for our summer grandchildren and likely involve children of the community as well.



Questions about the next Grandmother Camp day, contact Larianne Stutts at l.stutts@aol.com

Fun In the Sun

Florida Blue Sponsors VIA's Children's Event

The VIA Civics & Engagement Committee would like to thank Florida Blue for being the major sponsor of this year's Fun in the Sun! Florida Blue graciously supplied shaved ice, face painting and a balloon artist! This was the VIA's second year hosting this event and the GCS community showed up with over 300 participants enjoying the day.

In addition to a major sponsor, it takes a Village to make this type of event a true success. Thank you to the groups below and to all the volunteers! And thank you to the VIA members who helped secure vendors, promote the event, create signs, flyers, donate services, snacks, supplies and who came on event day to set up, serve others, breakdown booths and generally do whatever was asked of them!

It takes a community coming together to serve others to make this event a success. This would not have been possible without our sponsor, contributors, volunteers and VIA members. We see the service hearts in each of you and our community is better for it!



More Fun in the Sun





Save the Date

August 6th

We'd like to celebrate the renovations and signage for the VIA clubhouse with the GCS community. It's the perfect opportunity to thank the City and all those in the community who came together to help us with our new sign! We'd love for all the VIA members to show up on Tuesday, August 6th to show the community what an awesome group we have. *More details to follow.*

Happy Birthday!

JULY

- 5 Libby Schauer
- 11 Rita Blackmar
- 12 Sandi Dunnivant
- 15 Jennifer Stubbs
- 17 Miggy Cobreiro
- 29 Theresa Crockett
- 30 Chris Klausser
- 31 Deena Faulkner



AUGUST

- 1 Deborah Page
- 1 Susan Hess
- 3 Clara Freeman
- 3 Karla Logston
- 7 Pam Harris
- 8 Laura Lynn Elgin
- 15 Helen Brummer
- 22 Christie Staton
- 30 Leslie Davidson

Join in VIA Summer Fun on Saturday, July 27th



The VIA is booking a tour of the *Carson Wildlife Sanctuary in Gainesville on Saturday, July 27th at 10:00*. If you're interested in going, please look at the website FIRST, before you make your decision. If you have problems with mobility or do not enjoy walking on hilly ground, you may want to reconsider. However, if you love animals, and enjoy seeing them in a natural habitat, you will love this place!

Larriane must know if you're attending so she can reserve your spot in the VIA tour group. You can pay the \$35 entry fee and register online, or pay at the door. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Larriane through email, text, or call. *Hope to see you there!*

VIA - IT Takes a Village to End Alzheimer's

The Health and Wellness Committee is organizing a team to participate in the November 9, 2024 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Jacksonville. Our team is VIA - It Takes a Village.

Please scan this QR code link and consider supporting this worthy cause. Thank you!

For further information, please contact H&W Chair Donna Shibley at dmsibley@gmail.com





“The House That Built {Us}”



Check out our new Victorian-inspired sign! It’s the crowning touch to our recently renovated clubhouse.

Thank you to everyone who played a role in helping us achieve this amazing sign including the City of Green Cove Springs for the beautification grant.

Additional special thanks to:
Kelly Ricardo, owner of Kelly’s Signs, who designed, built and installed the sign.

Amy Brooks licensed contractor with Carlton Construction owned by Matt Carlton for securing the permit required for our sign.



History Corner

May Mann Jennings Joins Florida Women’s Hall of Fame

Governor Ron DeSantis announced the selection of Graci McGillicuddy, May Mann Jennings, and Penny Thompson to the Florida Women’s Hall of Fame. Each year, the Governor selects three nominees from recommendations presented by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women. It’s been a long time but Our May Mann Jennings has been recognized!

May Mann Jennings was the First Lady to Governor William Sherman Jennings, who served as Florida’s 18th Governor. She was a founding member of the Florida State League of Women Voters, the precursor to the League of Women Voters of Florida, and served as President of the Florida Federation of Women’s Clubs.



May Mann Jennings

Jennings is known as the “Mother of Florida’s Forestry” due to her efforts to lobby the Florida Legislature for the establishment of the State Board of Forestry, which today is known as the Florida Forestry Service. She also spearheaded the effort to have Royal Palm State Park established in 1915, which later became part of the Everglades National Park.

Her legacy has earned her a reputation as one of Florida’s original suffragettes and conservationists. Jennings championed causes for women’s suffrage, better treatment of children and prisoners, education funding, historic preservation, and highway beautification which still leave their mark on Florida today.



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*



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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

Photo Booth Services

FotoFusion Photo Booth

Bobbi Nagle

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Davidson Realty

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(904) 548-7775

Restaurant

Corner Pocket

Cheri Starnes

(904) 284-1992

Scents

SCENTSY

Jo Potter

(541) 279-0595

Let's support the businesses of our members!

