



September 2024

VIA INSIDER

Serving the Community since 1883

September Activities:

Sept 12 Open House 5:00 – 6:30 pm

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

Haven't we had a wonderful summer! One of my favorite times for our club is the "dog days" of summer, where we have fewer organized meetings, but more time to just enjoy the company of each other. I loved our tours of the courthouse as well as the museum. It was so relaxing to be with each of you, and I always love learning more about our community and its history. I love, too, the way you all always "show up" for a fun time, a project, or just an opportunity to be together.

I want to thank you all again for your participation and assistance with our reception. I think it was one of our best events ever, and I loved how many members of our local government came to wish us well. You all were certainly "on your game" that night! We are still receiving compliments about our sign, our beautiful building and your amazing hospitality. I love it!

We have a fun-filled and busy year approaching! Our committees have been busily planning their fund raisers and their service projects. The District also has some exciting things that we may well want to partner with and support. We always want our Open House to be welcoming and inviting, and it is one of our biggest "recruiting" events, so bring your friends! New members always bring in new ideas and enthusiasm!

Don't forget, my friends, never put demands on yourself to participate in everything. Of course, we always want a great showing, but we are also women with families and other obligations. Never hesitate or feel guilty putting your family or your health first. I love having lots of activity, but that allows us all to "pick and choose".

I am so excited to face another year with you beautiful ladies!

Larianne

l.stutts@aol.com

VIA Open House

Sept 12th at 5:00 - 6:30 pm

Please plan to attend.
You play an essential role
in this success.



Summer Fun: *Tour Military Museum of North Florida*



The Military Museum of Green Cove Springs is listed as one of the best tourist attractions in Clay County; and now we know why! Our ladies had the best time being together and learning about the patriotism in our own community. It was awesome to have a tour guide that was so passionate about this subject! We have so many members that are truly interested in the history of our town and that just love being together!

Special thank you to Ray Scott whose dedication and love for preserving the military history of GCS and this area is reflected in this unique awesome museum. Thank you, Ray!



Carson Wildlife Sanctuary

Members of the club toured the Carson Wildlife Sanctuary in Gainesville. Participants learned the story behind each of the animals. The tour also stressed the importance of conservation and preservation and the balance of nature.

Looks like everyone had a fun time!



VIA at Charles E Bennett Open House

Members of the Education and Libraries Committee were assisting with the Charles E Bennett school's Open House, to help show all students and parents the support in this community.



Education & Libraries
Community Service
Program of the VIA

Questions about the Education & Libraries Committee,
contact Sherry Kelly at s_kelly1947@yahoo.com



Welcome New Members

VIA President, Larianne Stutts, welcomed new members to the club with a tea at her home. Regularly, the VIA hosts these special events to help new members learn about the VIA and to answer questions. The tea also assists new members in their choosing a service committee to join.

Welcome New Members, we're so happy you've joined us!



Honoring Purple Hearts on August 7th

National Purple Heart Day offers Americans a special opportunity to say "Thank You" to the nearly two million brave men and women who fought for our nation's freedom, and bear the physical scars of war.

We salute these brave Americans service and sacrifice on this National Purple Heart Honor recognition day. **Thank you for your service and your sacrifice to ensure our freedom!**



Happy Birthday!

September

- 3 Jo Potter
- 6 Sandra Gardner
- 8 Jerri Opsahl
- 9 Jenifer Dunnivant
- 14 Christina Treadway
- 16 Dorothy Robinson
- 24 Tracy Hardy
- 30 Joyce Engelken



FYI: GFWC offers its members a way to let their voices be heard. If you join the GFWC Legislative Action Center, your email information is saved along with your legislator's information, making it very easy to support causes that GFWC has an interest in.

<https://www.votervoice.net/GFWC/home>

Currently:

- Take Action: Support Alzheimer's Patients and Caregivers
- Call the Action: Build a Women's Suffrage Monument on the National Mall
- Call the Action: REPORT Act and Kids Online Safety Act
- Increase FY 2025 Funding for Programs that Address Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking
- Shot@Life: Support for Global Immunization Programs in FY25
- Take Action: Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act



“The House That Built {Us}”

Ribbon Cutting for New VIA Clubhouse Sign

Reprinted Thank You email by VIA President Larianne Stutts:

Good morning, amazing ladies! Wasn't last night wonderful! The food was wonderful, every table was filled, and I was thrilled with the turnout of city officials. Everyone complimented our sign and made so many kind comments about the beauty of our building and its historical significance. I was so proud to be a member of the VIA last night!

YOU are responsible for the success of our event!

... You all are always amazing, but last night was the BEST!...

Our contractor as well as our sign maker both shared that they had never felt so much gratitude for simply doing their jobs. They were overwhelmed at your kindness.

The city councilmen and those from City Hall were so complimentary of the way we had handled things and so grateful for our involvement in the community.

I am so grateful for each of you. YOU did this, and I cannot thank you enough.

Larianne



Thank you again to the **City of Green Cove Springs** for the beautification grant; **Kelly Ricardo**, owner of **Kelly's Signs**, for designing, building and constructing our sign; and **Amy Brooks** licensed contractor with **Carlton Construction** owned by **Matt Carlton** for securing the permit.



Comments on the event from our community and club members:

Thanks for hosting the reception. You VIA ladies are the movers and shakers of our community. Thanks for all you do.

*My Sign has gotten SO MUCH LOVE!
It was a great honor to be invited to a wonderful ribbon cutting ceremony and reception today at the VIA.
Thank you for your trust in me to create the representation... it was truly my honor.*

I was so honored to be with you all last night. You made my year! ...I am just so tickled to have met you, and your sweet ladies yesterday were absolutely precious.

It was a very enjoyable evening and so nice that so many city officials were able to make it as well as VIA members..... kudos to you Larianne for suggesting and organizing this reception!!!!



The GFWC Village Improvement Association in Green Cove Springs



is sponsoring a **FOOD for FRIENDS** food drive with help from the Green Cove Springs Friends of the Library. Donations can be dropped off starting **NOW** and ending **Saturday, September 28, 2024**.

Help Us to End Hunger by donating any of these much-needed items:

- peanut butter and jelly
- pasta and rice
- baking mixes (e.g., brownie, cookie)
- cereal
- large cans of soup
- macaroni & cheese
- canned meat (e.g., tuna, chicken)

Contact: Sharon Nellis @ phone 904.446.5073 for questions

Since 1989, the GCS Food Pantry has been providing Clay County with emergency food for families and individuals in need. They rely on food drives from local organizations to stock their shelves and donations from foundations, corporations, and individuals in the community. The Food Pantry is an all volunteer organization which allows for donations to go directly to feeding the hungry and supporting our mission in Clay County.

VIA to Join Fight to End Alzheimer's

Promise Garden Honor Display & Walking for a Cure

The Health & Wellness Committee would like to invite VIA members to honor their family members and friends who have fought or are currently dealing with this disease or dementia.

Let's create a Promise Garden honoring those friends and family members impacted by this disease. We'll add their name and yours to a flower and display this in the clubhouse. You're invited to send the name, photo if you like and any comments to H&W Chair Donna Shibley. Please include which color flower best describes your situation.

Another way to honor those impacted is to **join in the Alzheimer's Walk on November 9th** to draw attention to the cause by joining the VIA Team – *It Takes A Village!*

Walking raises awareness and while there is no fee to join the walk, **sharing with friends and family may help raise much needed funds for research** through sponsorships. Funding allows the Alzheimer's Association to provide 24/7 care and support and advance research toward methods of prevention, treatment and, ultimately, a cure.

If you are unable to walk, but would like to support this cause, please consider sponsoring a member of the VIA who is walking.

It takes a village coming together to serve others to find a cure for this disease.

Let's be a part of the solution to end Alzheimer's.

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



Which Flower represents YOU?

Across the nation, the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is full of flowers, each carried by someone committed to ending this disease. Promise Garden Flowers:

Blue - someone living with Alzheimer's or another dementia

Purple - those who have lost someone to the disease

Yellow - someone who is currently supporting or caring for a person living with Alzheimer's

Orange - those who support the cause and the Association's Vision of a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

Please use this link to join the VIA Team – It Takes A Village or to show your support for another team member.

Let's honor those we love and fight to find a cure!





JOIN THE VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION FOR A

FUN WALK

AT THE WALK TO END ALZHEIMERS

Join Team:
VIA It Takes A Village



Share with
#ENDALZ



SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 9 | REGISTRATION 8:30AM
WALK STARTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER CEREMONY

UNF JB COXWELL AMPHITHEATER | 1 UNF DR., JACKSONVILLE

JOIN, DONATE AND LEARN MORE @ [ACT.ALZ.ORG](https://act.alz.org)



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
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- Vice President:** Cheri Starnes
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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

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!

