



January 2025

# VIA INSIDER

Serving the Community since 1883

## December Activities:

Jan 9 General Meeting 10:00 am

Visit [GFWCVIA.com](http://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.*

[WWW.GFWCVIA.COM](http://WWW.GFWCVIA.COM)



[viagcs@gmail.com](mailto:viagcs@gmail.com)

VIA is a member of the  
General Federation of Women's Clubs  
(GFWC)



VIA Meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
of each month at the clubhouse,  
17 N. Palmetto Ave, Green Cove Springs.



## President's Message

Wow! Didn't we close out a very successful year? I love looking back and thinking about all the great things we accomplished in 2024! We pulled off another successful District 4 Meeting, we entertained our youth with our "Fun in the Sun" event, celebrated our history with our Suffrage Event, and even "spooked" our citizens with the "Ghosts of Green Cove's Past" event. We participated in the parade, with two vehicles and walkers this time, our tree in the park looked amazing, and we are reading to children all over the place, alongside of decorating cards and cookies with them at the Augusta Savage Art Center. Our ladies are everywhere, and we are having so much fun!

One of my many favorite things about our VIA is the way you all pull together for an event and show up for any fun activity. When I think of my past "New Year's Resolution" words, I think of the characteristics I see in so many of you. As I mentioned at our December meeting, I have used "gratitude", "brave" and now "prioritize". You all exhibit these characteristics so clearly. Your enthusiasm for our future is so contagious and exciting.

Hold me to it, ladies! I told you I was going to "streamline" our activities and plan some social activities in the evenings, too, so we can involve more of our members. Let's all be adventurous this year and challenge ourselves to give 100% to at least one activity every quarter. Some will do more; some will do less, but I am confident that our club will flourish if everyone commits to doing something! This is going to be an awesome year!

**Larianne**

[l.stutts@aol.com](mailto:l.stutts@aol.com)





## Our VIA Spirit Shines

### *VIA gives spirited representation at GCS Parade*

Our ladies and some of their spouses had a wonderful time representing the VIA with a decorated golf cart and a vintage automobile. Check out the **phenomenal** job this group did on decorating for the theme, "A Vintage Christmas".

VIA member, Carol Johnson and her husband along with their grandson, drove their vintage 1940 Chevy Coupe, which was even the perfect color for this event – red.

*Wow! Ladies you really went above and beyond in your efforts!  
Thank you all!*





## VIA Participates in GCS Parade of Trees

### *Parade of Trees*

*Members of the VIA put their hearts and souls to go above and beyond in their efforts to decorate the VIA tree for the GCS Parade of Trees! Thank you to those members and their supportive spouses who turned out to decorate our tree. Beautiful job, ladies!*





# VIA Serves Our Community

*VIA members volunteered at the Night of Wonders to both support our community and as a fundraising opportunity. As a result of these exceptional volunteers, who each generously gave four hours of their time, the VIA received a check for \$500 from the event organizers! Way to go!*



A special Thank You to:

- Cheri Starnes
- Constance Higginbotham
- Deborah Page
- Donna Shibley
- Gale Miller
- Jackie Kujala
- Janey Fox
- Jennifer Stubbs
- Karla Longston
- Marnie Buchanan
- Sandra Gardner



# VIA in the Community ...



## Augusta Savage Cookie Decorating

The Education & Libraries Committee hosted a cookie decorating event with the children at Augusta Savage. About 20 children had the opportunity to decorate sugar cookies. Sherry Kelly shared that she expected the children to have some cookies to take home... but the cookies were just too tempting and most children ate them right away!

*Looks like a fun and yummy time!*



## Historic Houses Christmas Tour

VIA supported the newly formed Green Cove Springs Preservation Society by participating in a free and self-guided tour of Green Cove Springs. In addition to the VIA clubhouse, several members' homes and two churches were open to tour.

The inaugural tour was sensationally received by the community with approximately 50 attendees!

### Celebrating 150 Years of History



Green Cove Springs Preservation Society Presents

## Historic Houses CHRISTMAS TOUR

December 7, 2024 from 1 PM - 3 PM



## December Meeting Recap

### *Holiday Celebration & Installation of Officers*

Members celebrated the season with a fun gift exchange presented by our president, Larianne Stutts. (Some members are still working on distinguishing their left from their right!) In addition to a beautifully decorated clubhouse, ladies were treated to some exceptional snacks by our very talented members.

Terry Laws, the GFWC D4 District Director, was on hand to install our new slate of officers. Thank you to the nominating committee of Joyce Engelken, Lynn Elliott and Marnie Buchanan. And a very special thank you to Lucy Conrad, our Treasurer and Joyce Engelken, our Secretary, for their service on the VIA Board. We so appreciate the talent and time each of you brought to these positions.

The 2025- 2027 slate of officers includes:

*Larianne Stutts, President*

*Cheri Starnes, Vice President*

*Sharon Nellis, Secretary*

*Deborah Page, Corresponding Secretary*

*Cherie Wilson, Treasurer*

Congratulations! We appreciate your commitment to share your time and your talents to further the VIA..



# Civics & Engagement Fundraiser

Ladies, our basket opportunity drawing raised nearly \$1,000! Thank you to those who donated to the basket and to those who sold and or purchased tickets! This was a great team effort. Please show your appreciation to those local businesses who supported this effort.

Thank you!



## Thank you for your support:



**FIELDS CADILLAC JACKSONVILLE**

7999 Blanding Blvd, Jacksonville, FL (855) 873-0215



*The Art Room*

408 Walnut St, Green Cove Springs, FL (904) 704-2365



*BRASS TACKS COFFEE*

318 Ferris Street, Green Cove Springs, FL (904) 881-4380



# Welcome

New Members

## Angela Chene

*Interests: Gardening, Kayaking, Hiking, Cooking, Canning, Sewing, Writing & Reading*  
*Profession: Semi-retired from copy editing & web QA*  
*Committee Interests: Environment; and Health & Wellness*

## Donna Habing

*Interests: Reading, Choir, Walking, Book Club, Mah Jong, President of Magnolia Point Women's Club*  
*Profession: Retired Recreation Therapist*  
*Committee Interests: Environment; and Health & Wellness*

## Upcoming Craft Competition with GFWC

January is the time when we gather our creations from the past year and enter them into the GFWC Craft Competition. This year, Karla Ziegner will be coordinating our participation. Look for upcoming details and January dates to bring your creations to the VIA clubhouse. Good Luck to all our crafters and artists!



# JANUARY

## Celebrating in January...

- 5 Cheryl Mobley-Gonzalez
- 12 Lucy Conrad
- 16 Terry Abbott
- 18 Kristina Byrd
- 17 Cheri Starnes
- 20 Bobbi Nagle
- 20 Sharon Nellis
- 26 Carol Johnson
- 31 Cherie Wilson



## Thank you!

Ladies, in response to the *Thank You for Your Service* cards we completed for VIA member, Jennifer Stubbs' son, we received the following note:

*I just wanted to let you know I spoke with my son for Thanksgiving. He said they had received the cards the club sent. Everyone was able to receive a card and were appreciative. They were so happy to receive the kind words from the VIA. The sailors shared their cards around so they could all read the different sentiments that were sent.*

*Thank you for doing this for my son's detachment while they are deployed. Jennifer*

*Our small act of kindness had a lovely impact!!*



# Call for Volunteers and Support

## VIA to Host GFWC D4 Meeting

VIA will again host the District 4 meeting for the GFWC on Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> in our beautiful clubhouse. We need volunteers for this event for setup and serving. When our membership comes together as a team, we have such wonderful and fun times. Thank you!



## Unity Outreach, Inc.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Wide Open Open 4 Man Scramble Magnolia Point Golf Course

Anticipating a MARCH 2025 Date  
(Aiming for a Saturday, after March 10<sup>th</sup> )

Unity Outreach, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that offers hope, financial support and resources for Breast Cancer victims in our community. They provide services for the uninsured and help with any needs not available for those which agencies do not cover.

The Woo will graciously donate all proceeds from the WOO, "Wide Open Open" golf outing. This year's Pirate theme welcomes golfers to dress up in your favorite *thievin'* costume (plastic swords only).

You can support this event by volunteering to assist with registration, holes, sponsorships or serving. Assistance could include registering to participate in the golf outing; and or by donating a gift certificate or item from your place of business; and or by making a donation. Golfers have been very generous in the past in the silent auction tables.

For further information, please contact Cheri Starnes at  
[Cstarnes2326@gmail.com](mailto:Cstarnes2326@gmail.com)





**SAVE the DATE: Social and Puzzle Making Competition**  
**A Piece of Our Heart Fundraiser**

Register now - Contact/text Donna: 413.519.1845  
 Join us for this fun event ~ open to all.  
 Get your team of 5 together for a great evening.  
 Entry fees will be collected in January.

Celebrate **Heart** Month in February, with our  
**Social and Puzzle Making Competition**

Win a Raffie Basket!

Thurs, Feb. 13th  
 Social: 6pm  
 Puzzles: 7pm

BYO drinks/snacks  
 Drinks/Snacks available for donation

Entry Fee  
 \$10 per person

To Reserve Your Spot:  
 Donna Shibley  
 413.519.1845  
 Call/Text

Set Up: Teams of 5, Singles will be matched to a team  
 Awards for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place

**Healthy Tidbits** *with Health & Wellness*

**From the American Heart Association**  
**Stress and Insomnia Linked to**  
**Irregular Heart Rhythms After Menopause**

About 1 in 4 women may develop irregular heart rhythms after menopause, with stressful life events and poor sleep being leading factors, finds a new study in the Journal of the American Heart Association.

A study of more than 83,000 questionnaires by women ages 50-79 found more than 25% developed irregular heart rhythms, known as atrial fibrillation, which may increase their risk for stroke and heart failure.

Stressful life events and insomnia were strongly linked to the development of atrial fibrillation, highlighting the need for mental well-being evaluations to be included with physical health examinations.

Here's what you need to know.  
<https://newsroom.heart.org/news/stress-and-insomnia-linked-to-irregular-heart-rhythms-after-menopause>

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

**Next Month's Meeting**

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, the Arts & Culture Committee presents a talented speaker, Beth Haizlip. Beth is a watercolor expressionist and commissioned artist who uses "bright, vibrant colors, which also provides a sense of peace and tranquility" in her work. She states "a painting should brighten up your life."

**Mark your calendars for this special event!**





## “The House That Built {Us}”

It is wonderful to see so many in our community that have ties to our VIA clubhouse. The VIA worked with the new Preservation Society to host a Historic Home Tour right before the Christmas parade, with the VIA clubhouse right in its center! Our clubhouse was beautifully decorated for the holidays, and our hosts, Janey and Terry were dressed accordingly in Victorian attire! The tour attracted over 50 people, and each of those were genuinely interested in the history of the oldest women’s club in Florida. They listed eagerly as the hostesses explained the historical pieces in the archive room, and they enjoyed Christmas cookies and tea. Many had stories to tell about their experience with the VIA.

Our clubhouse is our largest source of revenue. Showing our clubhouse and renting it to the public is what allows us to do so many service projects in our community. Every opportunity we get to tell its history and market our rentals is a win for all of us.

### LARIANNE



## History

### VIA Clubhouse Tour

The following excerpt is from the presentation by VIA member, Janey Fox, as shared with tour attendees during the recent inaugural Historic Houses Tour of GCS.

February 20, 1883, the first Women’s Club of Florida was formed by 25 ladies and came to be known as the Village Improvement Association of Green Cove Springs. Mrs. A. M. Rutledge was President.

A festival ball was held to raise money to clean up the town. It was here possibly where the barrel idea came from. We were concerned with Environment then and today one of our CSPs is Environment still!



Check out the poem from the top of the barrel:

*To make our town attractive and neat  
I stand ever ready to aid you:  
Throw in the trash that’s under your feet  
and I will kindly thank you.*

VIA Barrel, Circa 1888

Back to the ball, \$12 was raised to make the town look better and making boardwalks. In addition, 70 feet of clay pavement was laid. Women were tired before this of walking in dirt and other unmentionable things! They got their beautiful high top shoes very dirty and they did not like that.



*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](mailto:viagcs@gmail.com)*



## Village Improvement Association

- President:** Larianne Stutts  
[l.stutts@aol.com](mailto:l.stutts@aol.com)
- Vice President:** Cheri Starnes  
[cstarnes2326@gmail.com](mailto:cstarnes2326@gmail.com)
- Secretary:** Sharon Nellis  
[snellis@bellsouth.net](mailto:snellis@bellsouth.net)
- Correspondence Secretary:**  
Deborah Page  
[page4rwe@gmail.com](mailto:page4rwe@gmail.com)
- Treasurer:** Cherie Wilson  
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- Historians:** Clara Freeman and Theresa Crockett  
[bigcfreeman@bellsouth.net](mailto:bigcfreeman@bellsouth.net)  
[theresac425@gmail.com](mailto:theresac425@gmail.com)
- Arts & Culture Committee:**  
Sandi Dunnavant and Terry Wilson  
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[ktsswil@bellsouth.net](mailto:ktsswil@bellsouth.net)
- Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee:**  
Karla Logston and Martha Mangus  
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[mangmarth@gmail.com](mailto:mangmarth@gmail.com)
- Education & Libraries Committee:**  
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- Building Rental Committee:**  
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- Membership Committee:**
- Parliamentarian:**  
Janey Fox  
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- Head Start Program:**  
Gale Miller  
[galemiller001@gmail.com](mailto:galemiller001@gmail.com)
- Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention:** Janey Fox  
[jmf1052@aol.com](mailto:jmf1052@aol.com)

**Newsletter** articles are due by the 17<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Please email them to: [l.stutts@aol.com](mailto: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 Dunnavant

(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

### Web Development & Photos

Unicorn Web Development /FotoFusion Photo

Bobbi Nagle

(904) 891-4538

### Women's Clothing

One Swanky Chic Boutique

Kristina Byrd

(904) 671-3819

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

