



April 2025

VIA INSIDER

Serving the Community since 1883

April Activities:

- April 10 General Meeting 10 am
- April 24 Venue Expo 5 – 7 pm
- April 26 VIA Book Sale 10 am - 2 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.

WWW.GFWCVIA.COM



viagcs@gmail.com

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've said this before, but I must say it again. You ladies amaze me with your ideas and enthusiasm! Last year, I was so impressed with all our programs and thought the topics were so timely for each month. This year, you are absolutely doing it again! Our meeting was so "on point" and I love how our speaker made it so relative to our club. You all were so energetic at the meeting, too, and that always makes it so much fun. It is your energy and your huge hearts that are getting us so much recognition in our community.

Right before the holidays, I was allowing myself to fret and worry about so many things concerning our clubhouse. I know we still have a lot of situations that must be addressed, but I do believe that if we keep our focus on the real purpose of the club, things fall into place for us. We are so involved with our community right now, and people want to be a part of what we are doing. So many of you are so busy in so many different places and activities, and you always look like you are exactly where you want to be! Who would not want to be a part of a group like us that continues to "give back" and loves doing it?

We have so many opportunities in the coming months. We have our April tea, our Rental Expo, the Art Walk and the book sale, all in the next month. They will all require work, but we will have so much fun doing it! It's much more exciting, too, when more of us participate. I love the way you are reaching out and offering to help in any way you can. Let's give it our all and let our giving spirits shine!

I love working with all of you!

Larianne

l.stutts@aol.com



VIA Supports the GCS Community

The VIA participated in Third Saturday Market in the Park by having a club booth and by helping the Green Cove Springs Preservation Society with the First Leprechaun Scavenger Hunt.

The Hunt's purpose was to showcase historic landmarks and buildings in Green Cove Springs. VIA members participated writing the clues for the hunt and by handing out stickers for the activity. Best of all, our VIA Clubhouse was a station in the Hunt!

Thank you to all those members who came out and helped!



VIA in the Community ...



Fundraising Efforts

Sharon Nellis spent the day at the Market in the Park selling our VIA merchandise.

*Looks like a lot of cool merchandise!
Thank you, Sharon!*

Supporting our Community

Head Start had an emergency need for Diapers and the VIA responded in less than 24 hours. This is what the VIA does, *We Respond!*

*Thank you, Janey for making
the quick delivery for the VIA!*



Florida History Book Fair

On President's Day, our Historical Society had a "Historical Book Fair" promoting local authors and titles that promoted our own heritage and history. It was especially a pleasure to see Jonathan Rich, there showcasing his book, "Spires in the Sun". Many of us met him and heard him speak during our February ESO trip.

It is always great to see members of the VIA supporting other events in our community. It shows our neighbors that we are vested in our town and want to encourage the gifts and talents of its citizens.



BUNGO

It's How We Roll!

The VIA hosted a fun filled and exciting BUNCO night at our clubhouse. AND IT WAS AWESOME! There was plenty of food, drinks, laughter and even some prizes! Thank you to the Environmental Committee who hosted this fundraiser.





VIA's Random Acts of Flowers



The tradition continues...

This year members of the VIA continued its history of creating beautiful flower arrangements and delivering them to 17 organizations throughout the Green Cove Springs Community. The effort was coordinated by the Arts and Culture Committee.

Way to go, ladies!





March Meeting Recap

The Environment Committee hosted an exceptional meeting with guest speaker, Elizabeth Smith from the Florida Division of Forestry. Ms. Smith elaborated on how May Mann Jennings and the Women's Club were instrumental in starting Florida's Division of Forestry.

Tina Brannen won the St. Patrick's Day game while Marnie Buchanan reported out on the great massage she won from Essence of You at the last meeting. Pam Harris won the Environmental Committee's bag recycling challenge.

Thank you to Glee Glisson who ran unopposed for the Green Cove Council and donated \$1,800 from her campaign funds upon retirement. The "And Then What Happened Game" was used to announce a \$2500 Giving Forward Endowment grant at the Community Foundation for the STEM program. Thank you, Community Foundation!

If you were fortunate enough to attend this meeting, you no doubt felt the love for the VIA!





Next Month's Meeting

"Villages of Hope" is our District 4 Director, Terry Laws's special project for her term. For our April Meeting, we are planning to host several prominent speakers to help bring awareness to **Human Trafficking and Domestic Abuse**. The "Villages of Hope" project is one that focuses on providing homes for families that have been victims of Human Trafficking.

We want this event to be very special and to bring awareness to this cause in Clay County. Please invite your friends and let's do our part to support Terry as we learn more about this great project.

See you on Thursday, April 10th!

Did you know?

In 2024, our awesome VIA members supported 89 programs, 62 projects and volunteered over 11,530 hours! Together we make a strong and impactful team. Thank you all!



**Happy Birthday from your
VIA friends...**

Celebrating in April...

- 6 Raeanne McCarty**
- 8 April Pearson**
- 18 Tiiffani Pearson**
- 15 Bonnie Sprinkle**
- 28 Janet Swingle**

Mother's Day Bouquet

The Arts & Culture Committee has created a unique Mother's Day Bouquet. The arrangement, which is made of money, is being used as a VIA fundraiser. Please consider purchasing tickets for a chance at this beautiful bouquet.



- \$5 ... 1 ticket**
- \$10 ... 3 tickets**
- \$20 ... 10 tickets**

Tickets will be available for purchase until the drawing at the May 8th meeting.



The Buzz *with Environment*



To Bee or Not to Bee:

The Choice is Ours!

Florida's Solitary Bees Need Our Help!

When we think of bees, most of us picture honey bees buzzing around their hives, but did you know Florida is home to over 300 species of native bees? What's even more fascinating is that the majority of them are solitary, working tirelessly on their own to pollinate the plants and crops that sustain our ecosystems. Unlike honey bees, these unsung heroes don't live in hives or produce honey, but they are absolutely essential for the survival of our wild plants, wildlife, and the food we eat.

Why Solitary Bees Matter

- **Super Pollinators:** Native solitary bees, like the mason and leafcutter bees, are actually better pollinators than honey bees in many cases, thanks to their efficient pollination techniques. They are essential pollinators for many of Florida's crops, including citrus, blueberries, and watermelons.
- **Essential for Biodiversity:** They are critical in pollinating native plants, which in turn support Florida's diverse bird, butterfly, and wildlife populations.
- **Better Gardens, Stronger Yields:** Solitary bees help increase the fruit and vegetable yields in gardens, thanks to their specialized foraging habits.

Simple Actions to Support Solitary Bees

- **Plant Pollinator-Friendly Flowers:** Grow nectar-rich native plants to support bees year-round.
- **Reduce Pesticides:** Avoid chemical pesticides; use organic alternatives instead.
- **Provide Nesting Areas:** Leave dead wood, hollow stems, and bare ground to create natural nesting spots.
- **Spread the Word:** Raise awareness and encourage others to take action for our pollinators!

Source: GFWC Environmental Newsletter

Questions about the Environmental Committee, please contact Christina Treadway at teacherckt@gmail.com

Healthy Tidbits *with Health & Wellness*

Nurse Appreciation Week May 6-12

The Health and Wellness Committee will be providing small gift baskets to our school nurses in GCS. If you have any items to donate (we need 6 of the same items) please let Donna know or bring to the April Meeting.

Cystic Fibrosis Walk ~ Village Safari Guides ~ May 18 at the Jacksonville Zoo (Chair: Tonya Everitt) Please consider walking the one mile with us or donating. Link for the Team is on the VIA website flier on the home page.

April causes to support:

- World Autism Awareness Day ~ April 2
- World Health Day ~ April 7
- National Stress Awareness Month
- April is Women's Eye Health and Safety Month
- April is National Donate Life Month

Brighton Purse Raffle ~ winner will be pulled at our April Meeting ~ get your tickets (\$5.00 each or 3/\$10.00) by contacting Sharon Nellis.

Cystic Fibrosis Walk
May 17
Join us for a day of celebration, community and fun!

We are the Village Safari Guides

One mile walk starting at 9:00am
At Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, 370
Zoo Pkwy, Jacksonville, FL

donate/register ~ click on our [TEAM LINK](#)

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



“The House That Built {Us}”

There is always a lot of time, money and commitment involved in caring for an old historical building. Repairs are often needed and can be more costly than those on a newer model. Also, decisions must be made as to what is necessary to make our house comfortable and endowed with modern convenience, as well as preserving the historical value and beauty of the structure.

At this point, we are considering all unrestricted funds for repairs and improvements on our clubhouse. I think she has earned that, don't you? That means we will not halt our community service but can begin to prioritize and make some necessary judgments and decisions on what repairs are most pressing. I know that if we keep our priorities right, and have faith in ourselves and our community, we can do all the things that need to be done in a timely manner.

Remember, every event is a fund raiser of some sort. Our expo is to promote our rentals, and our book sale and art walk are also ways to promote our rentals. Any time we have people in our clubhouse, we want to show it off!

You are doing everything right!

History Corner



May Mann Jennings

(photo circa 1900s)

By now, everyone should know the name of May Mann Jennings. However, it seems that every time her name is mentioned, we learn of something else that she accomplished or promoted. Because the VIA was the first Federated Women's Club in the state of Florida, May's first involvement with the women's clubs was with us! She was one of us and met in the homes of ladies right here in Green Cove Springs. She was elected President of the Florida Federation of Woman's Clubs in 1914; the same year we got our building. Her first cause was preservation and protection of the forests and the birds, which directly resulted from our first endeavor of cleaning our town and making it pretty. May Mann Jennings accomplished so much for the environment in her lifetime, and every bit of it was in conjunction with the Federated Women's Clubs of Florida.

Free Venue Expo

Planning a special event?

*Visit the most beautiful and affordable event venue
in Green Cove Springs!*

*Village Improvement Association Clubhouse
17 N Palmetto Dr*

April 24th 5 - 7 pm



*See our beautiful historic clubhouse as we set it up for various functions -
graduations, birthday parties, showers and weddings.*

Meet vendors who can help you with your party planning needs.

Special Pricing for those that attend and book!

For questions regarding Clubhouse rental, please contact Terry at (904) 884-3210

www.gfwcvia.com

Calling All Book Lovers

Book Sale



Fundraiser

Saturday, April 26th
10 am – 2 pm

VIA Clubhouse
17 N Palmetto Ave
Green Cove Springs

Paperbacks \$1
Hardcovers \$2

Books for all interests and age groups!



**Village
Improvement
Association**
WOMEN'S CLUB

Proceeds to benefit the VIA Women's Club of Green Cove Springs, a nonprofit serving the GCS community for over 140 years.

Rentals of our beautiful historic clubhouse also provide funding for our community service. For rental information, please contact Terry at (904) 884-3210 or visit gfwcvia.com



*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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- Secretary:** Sharon Nellis
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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

Larriane 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!

