



May 2025

VIA INSIDER

Serving the Community since 1883

May Activities:

May 8 General Meeting 10 am

May 16 Line Dancing

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

The last 4 months have gone by so quickly, but WOW! We have packed so much into this time. It really feels like something spectacular is happening at the VIA! I am seeing so many posts and responses on FACEBOOK to our activities, and many members of our community are commenting about how busy we are! Ladies, this is great! Our service projects and involvement get recognition, and the recognition helps us grow so that we can continue doing more and more projects for the citizens in our surrounding areas. We have had our events and pictures in the Clay Today for the past three weeks! Isn't that amazing!

I am loving the way everyone is working together. Each of our committees is very active and busy right now, and I love the way everyone is working together. I was so proud of us at the last D4 meeting! We got so much recognition and even the judges were commenting about how innovative and creative we were with our projects and activities. I love the way we reach out, but I am also so grateful for the way we commit to being life-long learners ourselves. Each of our projects is helping us grow and stay "young" and sharp, as we serve our fellow citizens and our youth.

Our May meeting will be our last official meeting before the 3-month summer break. Once again, I plan to continue with small outings and fun events throughout the summer months. I do this primarily because I miss you when we are not together, but also because it keeps us active. I also love the way many of you are so adventurous and eager to try new things. Remember, ladies, that keeps us young and keeps our minds sharp! You all are amazing and I am so grateful for the way each of you has enriched my life.

Larianne

l.stutts@aol.com





VIA Serves Our Community

The Civics Committee and VIA members volunteered again this year at the Clay County Fair 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 Fair organizers!

Way to go!

A special Thank You to:

April Pearson
Cherie Wilson
Deborah Page
Ellen Greer
Jackie Kujala
Janey Clark
Jennifer Stubbs
Joan Jaffray
Laura Lynn Elgin
Lynn Lisenby
Karla Logston
Marnie Buchanan
Martha Mangus
Robin Maton Bascara
Sandra Gardner
Terry Abbott
Tonia Everritt



VIA Impacts the Community:



Augusta Savage Art Director Barbara Cornett asked Marnie Buchanan to share her palm frond Easter bunnies. Marnie facilitated the class along with Janie Fox. Yesterday at the Fair, it was thrilling to see that Ansley entered her bunny and won a special merit ribbon and a first place ribbon. **Way to go, VIA!**





VIA Partners with Augusta Savage



The VIA joined with Augusta Savage to host, "Create a Life You'll Love." The event showcased career options that might require technical training rather than a full college degree. Thank you to Community First who helped sponsor the event.

We're proud to support an event that so positively impacts our future!



VIA Hosts 3rd Annual STEM Night

The VIA with the support of the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida hosted a STEM program for girl's at Green Cove Springs Jr High. This is the third year that the VIA has hosted this event!



These two young presenters are the product of the Clay County School system. They both went to GCSJH and both graduated from Clay High School! I'm the proud Nana of Jill Foster Lepore, CPA on the left and her long time friend Kennedy Allen, IT Specialist.....so proud of these two!!!

Ladies, this "proud Nana" is our very own VIA member, Sharon Nellis!



VIA Supports.....

Raising Awareness...

The VIA Clubhouse rounds were decorated with blue pinwheels to raise awareness in the prevention of child abuse in America.



Celebrating National Library Day...

Homemade cookies were delivered to the librarians in Green Cove Springs in recognition of National Library Day. Way to go!



GFWC Florida
GENERAL FEDERATION of WOMEN'S CLUBS
Living the volunteer spirit



VIA Receives Recognition with GFWC D4 Awards

1st Place: Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention
Arts & Culture
Education/Libraries
Membership
Women's History and Resource Center
Communications & Public Relations

2nd Place: Civic Engagement and Outreach
CSP/AA/Contest Committee
Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO)
Legislative & Public Policy
Newsletter

3rd Place: Health & Wellness
Environment
Fundraising and Development
Leadership

Every single one of our CSP committees won an award! I am so proud of all of you that worked so hard this past year. I know we don't do it for the recognition, but it is so nice to get accolades from GFWC! We were so excited every time we heard our name called! So grateful for each of you!
Larrienne



VIA Adventures...

Sally Dark Rides Tour

VIA members and their grandchildren had a blast touring the Sally Dark Rides facility in Jacksonville. Sally Corporation is a dark ride and animatronic manufacturing company that serves amusement parks, attractions, museums, and retail clients worldwide. It offers complete design/build services from concept to installation, including scripting, audio and music production, props and sets, lighting and special effects, electronics, and project management.





April Meeting Recap



Wasn't our April meeting powerful? I have heard from so many of you that our April meeting was likely the best ever! A lot of time and effort was poured into making it a great event, and it came together beautifully! The theme was so powerful, the speakers were excellent, and the decorations were beautiful! Most of all, everyone was there for a common goal of service to the community.

Our first speaker was Tara Green, the Clerk of Court from the Clay County courthouse. Her most prominent message was that the courthouse was often the first place where signs of Human Trafficking can be spotted. She did an excellent job covering this topic and then she introduced the speaker, Carol Gardner, whose daughter had been a victim of Human Trafficking. Her story was very impactful, as well as enlightening.

Sherin Brennick, from Villages of Hope was our main speaker. She was able to share about the project of tiny homes for victims of Human Trafficking. Her speech was followed by that of Michelle Cook, sheriff of Clay County and then a speaker from her department that did undercover work to rescue victims and locate perpetrators. This succession of speakers was followed by a thorough "question and answer" period. So many sincere and thoughtful questions were answered so thoroughly by a variety of speakers.

The program was concluded by Jackie Krug from Quigley House, who did an awesome job sharing about domestic violence and how it connects to Human Trafficking, and how their services intertwine. Our Theresa Crockett shared the connection between the program and the District 4 Women's Club and how it was our Director, Terry Laws' signature program for her term.

This was very impactful for all involved. Much awareness was brought to our community and our members. A special thank you to Janey Fox and Debbie Holmes for coordinating such a meaningful meeting and event.





Thank you!

A special Thank You to Chloe Dean of Fun 4 Clay Kids for sharing our Book Sale Fundraiser with her followers. We appreciate her helping us reach those families who home school their children and may be looking for extra books. Check out her site at fun4claykids.com



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

Celebrating in May...

- 5 Tara Green**
- 9 Dawn Mahnken**
- 16 Carol Bendlin**
- 18 Tonia Everitt**
- 19 Lynn Elliott**
- 26 Terry Wilson**

Next Month's Meeting

The Arts & Culture Committee presents a talented artist, Beth Haizlip. Beth is a watercolor expressionist and commissioned artist who used, "bright, vibrant colors, which also provides a sense of peace and tranquility" in her work. She states, "A painting should brighten up your life."

Encouraged by her parents to draw, paint, and appreciate art at a very young age Beth Haizlip was destined to become an artist.

She was born in Charleston, South Carolina and graduated from Florida Southern College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Beth married her high school sweetheart, a navy pilot, and has had an adventurous life living in California, Hawaii, Texas, and Florida.

In 1990 she moved to Orange Park. Beth became an active member of The Florida Watercolor Society, The Jacksonville Watercolor Society, The St. Augustine Art Association, The Clay County Art Enrichment program for children, and [The Art Guild of Orange Park](http://www.bethhaizlip.com/) where she served as president for two years and is currently Vice-President and in charge of programs and workshops.

Beth's paintings range from florals, seascapes, landscapes to still life's and portraiture. She finds great joy in sharing her art techniques in acrylics with others. Beth says, "Art is a never ending discovery and a peaceful rewarding experience. It brings great joy into my life."

Beth's artwork and awards can be reviewed at <https://www.bethhaizlip.com/>.



See you on Thursday, May 8th!



Healthy Tidbits *with Health & Wellness*

May Causes to Support:

- Older American Month
- National Osteoporosis Awareness Month
- National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
- National Melanoma & Skin Cancer Awareness
- May is Maternal Mental Health Month
- National Stroke Awareness Month

Happy Mother's Day!

GFWC Massachusetts first President, Julia Ward Howe and the connection to Mother's Day.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, it's important to remember its history.

"Too few Americans are aware that early advocates of Mother's Day in the United States originally envisioned it as a day of peace, to honor and support mothers who lost sons and husbands to the carnage of the Civil War.

In 1870 — nearly 40 years before it became an official U.S. holiday in 1914 — social justice advocate Julia Ward Howe issued her inspired Mother's Day Proclamation, which called upon mothers of all nationalities to band together to promote the "amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace." She envisioned a day of solemn council where women from all over the world could meet to discuss the means whereby to achieve world peace. In the spirit of Julia Ward Howe's original call, this occasion can be a time to dedicate ourselves, on behalf of mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers everywhere, to rise up and protect our most vulnerable by calling for our leaders to make a directional shift in the course of our nation. There is no need more urgent than addressing the devastation brought on by violence in all of its forms — affecting the lives of untold millions in our nation and around the world. Then, we may finally see the carnage and devastation of violence and war fade into its own history. There could of course be no better way to honor our mothers."

Quote from The Peace Alliance website. You can read the full text of the Mother's Day Proclamation here:

<https://peacealliance.org/history-of-mothers-day-as-a.../>



Nurse Appreciation Week May 6-12

The Health and Wellness Committee will be providing a small cloth gift pouch (thank you Joan Jaffrey) with a gift card inside to The Toasted Yolk to each of our six school nurses in GCS. If you would like to donate money to the gift card, please let Sharon know. Thank you to all who donated to this project.

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}"



On April 24, we had a "Venue Expo" to showcase our beautiful historic building and show the community the variety of events and celebrations that our clubhouse can host. We had a variety of decorations on each table, including weddings, birthdays, baby showers, and graduation receptions. One of the most notable things about promoting this event was how many members of our surrounding areas had memories of events that had been held in our clubhouse. Citizens commented about having had a baby shower there, been to a family member's wedding there, and attending many anniversary celebrations in our clubhouse.

The ongoing theme in all the conversations was the memories created in our clubhouse. People love the historical atmosphere and the heritage that has been maintained in our building. They also love knowing that our building was "home" to a lot of Green Cove's prominent events and celebrations. Most also comment about how well-preserved things are, and how proud our members are of the history. We need to work hard to keep that reputation and promote our building for all these reasons. Remember, our clubhouse is at the core of what we are able to do, and the rentals are our most lucrative source of income.

History Corner

Who are these women?

Who are the women whose portraits hang in our clubhouse? The large one nearest the podium is that of Mrs. E.G.G. Munsell. Ms. Munsell came to Green Cove Springs in 1887 from New York City. She and Miss Penelope Borden revived the ladies club, which had become somewhat dormant from late September, 1884 until the first of the year in 1888. These two ladies enlisted the help of their husbands to clean and restore the cemeteries of Green Cove Springs. They even gave honorary membership to the men that assisted with the clean-up project.

Penelope Borden is responsible for the land and the building that we still meet in today. Her family is that of "Borden Milk Company" and her name is listed in the latest version of VIA minutes. The chandelier in our foyer, donated to us by Elizabeth Van Rensburg, D4 director from 2022-2024, is affectionately named "Penelope" in honor of Mrs. Borden.





IT'S LINE DANCE TIME!

A VIA Fundraiser



Friday, May 16th
7 – 9 pm

Doors open at 6:30 pm

VIA Clubhouse

*17 N Palmetto Ave
Green Cove Springs*

*No worries if you don't know how
to line dance! We'll have an
instructor there to help us learn.*

\$20 per person

Cash payment at the door



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*



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.

Larriane Stutts, Newsletter Editor

Jennifer Stubbs, Newsletter Contributor Coordinator

Deborah Page, Newsletter Design & Layout

Village Improvement Association

President: Larriane Stutts

l.stutts@aol.com

Vice President: Cheri Starnes

cstarnes2326@gmail.com

Secretary: Sharon Nellis

snellis@bellsouth.net

Correspondence Secretary:

Deborah Page

page4rwe@gmail.com

Treasurer: Cherie Wilson

cheriewilson@comcast.net

Arts & Culture Committee:

Terry Wilson

ktsswil@bellsouth.net

Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO):

Sandi Dunnavant

bookladi2012@gmail.com

Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee:

Karla Logston

karla-logston@bellsouth.net

Education & Libraries Committee:

April Pearson

aprilapearson@gmail.com

Environment Committee:

Christina Treadway

teacherckt@gmail.com

Health & Wellness Committee:

Donna Shibley

dmshibley@gmail.com

Building Rental Committee:

Terry Abbott

gmatea65@gmail.com

Membership Committee:

Pam Harris

pamdora878@comcast.net

Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention:

Janey Fox

jmf1052@aol.com

Head Start Program:

Gale Miller

galemiller001@gmail.com



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!

