



June 2025

VIA INSIDER

Serving the Community since 1883

June 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.

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

Our summer vacation is officially here! I have loved all our programs and speakers these past 6 months, and I have learned a lot as well. Our committees have done an exceptional job of finding interesting and timely subjects to present to us, and I applaud them all. Working with such amazingly talented and innovative ladies definitely encourages all of us to be lifelong learners. For me, it feels like the way any student would feel; we have challenged ourselves steadily since October and are now looking forward to a fun summer break!

We certainly finished out our year strong, though, didn't we? We received so many accolades and awards from the district, and we have gotten so much recognition in local papers as well. You are the "leading ladies"! I am always so proud and honored to be a part of this legacy that you are building.

We already have lots of fun things planned for the summer. This will be our third annual "Fun in the Sun" and everyone is looking forward to it. Every year it has gotten better and bigger and I know this year will be awesome. We also have our field trip to Spring Park Coffee in June, and it will be great as well. Tonia is also going to help us learn more canning and cooking tips! Isn't it neat, how no matter what we do, we always have a great time?

I am looking forward to our summer months. I love to be busy and scheduled, but just getting together and enjoying some "down time" is great as well. Keep reading your emails so you don't miss any of our fun activities. I miss you all when I don't see you for too terribly long, so try to join our fun outings whenever you can. It is going to be a great summer!

Larriane

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VIA Shows Our Appreciation

The Civics and Engagement Committee showed our appreciation for the service workers in our local community. This is the third year the Civics team has delivered cookies to more than 400 public service and support workers in Green Cove Springs. Here is a sampling of the groups that received appreciation cookies. We love serving our community in such a fun way!



Clay County Fair and Emergency Services (Above)



Archives and Teen Court Office
At Historic Triangle (Above)



GCS Fire Fighters



Public Works Headquarters (Above)
And Streets Sanitation, Water Office
(Right)



VIA Hosts GCJH Appreciation Luncheon

The Education and Libraries Committee continued the VIA tradition of providing lunch to over 80 members of the GCJH faculty and staff as a part of Teacher Appreciation Week!



AND THE WINNER IS...

The Education and Libraries Committee hosted a used Book Sale Fundraiser in the VIA Clubhouse. The event provided exposure for the clubhouse as well as raising over \$425 for the club. Thank you to all those who donated books and helped with this fundraiser.

The event also included a silent auction of several book baskets. VIA member, Tracy Hardy, shared that her niece was excited to win the Taylor Swift Book Basket. We can tell by her smile, that Gabby is the "Biggest Swiftie"!



VIA Supports...

GCJH Drama Club

VIA members turned out to support the Drama Club at GCSJH in the production of Beauty and the Beast. What fun to watch such a well done production!



VIA Hosts...

GCS Children's Art Show

The VIA Clubhouse played host to the fabulous works of art created by Green Cove Springs' aspiring young artists. This is the third year that VIA has participated in the CalaVida Art Walk by hosting the children's art show. A special thank you o guitarist, Arvid Smith, who shared his love of music with these young artists. Judging by the happy smiles on these children's faces – everyone had a great time!



VIA Supports the Community ...

VIA donates Girl Scout Cookies to the GCS Food Pantry

The food pantry was delighted to receive 26 pounds of Girl Scout Cookies. Thank you, Karla, for delivering them!



Health & Wellness Committee Honors School Nurses

Nurses at six schools in the GCS community received beautiful pouches made by Joan Jaffray which containing a \$30 gift card to Toasted Yolk. Thank you to Joan and to those members who supported this initiative with contributions. Way to go VIA team!



VIA Receives Additional Recognition at GFWC Florida Convention*

GFWC Florida Awards, category 4:

- Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention - 2nd place
- Legislation/Public Policy - 1st place
- ESO - 2nd place
- Women's History & Resource Center (WHRC) - 1st place

Top Tens GFWC Florida:

ESO - "Spires in the Sky" The VIA's ESO sorority was encouraged to read Spires in the Sky. After finishing the book, the members took to Melrose and enjoyed a tour and speaker from the Trinity Episcopal Church.

Legislation/ Public Policy – The VIA hosted an open house to thank city officials and first responders for their service and support, including approving the club's sign permit and partnering in Augusta Mentoring Center initiatives. The event strengthened relationships, reinforcing the club's valued partnership with the city.



**And this is a BIGGIE...as it goes to National for Overall Creativity in WHRC
Club Creativity Award
Women's History & Resource Center**

The VIA celebrated its 150th birthday with a spooktacular October event, shining a spotlight on the town's oldest and most historic buildings. To bring history to life, members researched five iconic structures and crafted scripts told from the perspective of ghostly residents who had inhabited these sites since their beginnings. Blending historical facts with legendary lore, the event transformed local history into an engaging and immersive experience.

Volunteer actors from a local school Drama Club donned period costumes, embodying these spectral storytellers and performing monologues that delighted attendees. The clubhouse was transformed into a family-friendly haunted space, offering an eerie yet entertaining experience for all ages. Promoted through the city's website and Facebook, the event was open to the public at no cost, with donations welcomed to support the club's future volunteer service projects.

The turnout exceeded expectations! City council members, neighbors, and longtime residents gathered to enjoy the performances filled with humor, energy, and captivating stories. The clubhouse was packed with adults and teenagers alike, all eager to experience the rich history and vibrant spirit of the community. This event not only honored the club's legacy but also showcased its ongoing commitment to preserving and celebrating local history in an engaging and unforgettable way.

**Special thanks to Donna Shibley for providing this summary.*



May Meeting Recap

Ever wonder which artist helped create the mural below? Artist Beth Haizlip who painted the figures in this mural was the guest speaker at the meeting hosted by the Arts & Culture Committee. Beth spoke about discovering her desire to become an artist as a 19-year-old college student visiting Paris. She shared how her artistic journey became by creating posters for the Jacksonville Jazz festival and how it's been an ongoing journey to refine her skills over the past 40 years, balancing art created for income with art created for fun.



Congratulations to Mackenzie Sprague, winner of the VIA's \$1000 Scholarship. Mackenzie plans to earn her Associates degree and then transfer to UNF to prepare for Veterinary School.



Congratulations to Cherie Wilson, winner of the beautiful "money bouquet"! This Arts & Culture fundraiser added over \$500 to the VIA's funds. Thank you to everyone who held a fundraiser or supported any of the VIA fundraisers by making donations or purchasing tickets over the past several months!





Membership News

New Member Welcome

Welcome

Sherry Rowe

Profession: Veterinarian

Interests: Loves participating in community events and involving children. Loves job!

CSP Interests: Education & Libraries



12 Sue Middleton
13 Sherry Kelly
17 Karal Ziegner
18 Freda Blackmar

VIA Supports GFWC Florida President's Project

GFWC Florida President, Sara Dessureau, has chosen to honor our GFWC Florida Women Veterans with her state project - Flight of Honor. As such, GFWC Florida is sponsoring an all-inclusive flight to Washington, DC. for 172 GFWC Florida veterans in March 2026. This will be the first ALL female veterans Flight of Honor in Florida.

To support this honor flight, GFWC Florida has asked each women's club to raise \$800. With the initiative of VIA member, Joan Jaffray, our club has raised over \$1,000, exceeding the goal! Joan requested donations from the EAA, Experimental Aircraft Association. Thank you, Joan, for taking the lead and helping to accomplish this for our club.

Way to go!



GFWC Florida
GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
living the volunteer spirit



VIA in the Movies!

The story of our clubhouse was included in the GFWC Florida Webinar: GFWC Florida Clubhouses..."A Look to Our Past or a Vision to Our Future?", which was presented on April 8. The webinar presenters were GFWC Florida Treasurer Candy Jackson and several representatives from clubs that own a clubhouse, including Teresa Crockett representing the VIA.

This one hour presentation link is below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hgnqXzOZecA>

Look for highlights about the VIA on the video at 6:05, 21:26 and 45:00



Healthy Tidbits *with Health & Wellness*

June Causes to Support:

- June 1 ~ National Cancer Survivors Day[®]
- PTSD Awareness Month
- Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month
- June 17 ~ National Eat Your Vegetables Day
- June 27 ~ National Sunglasses Day



*Mark your
calendar for
November 9
as we support
Alzheimer's
research.*

Congratulations

to Kim Knotts who won the Brighton Purse raffle sponsored by the Health & Wellness Committee. The VIA added \$140 to its coffers. Thank you to all who purchased a ticket!

VIA Supports CF Walk

Members of the VIA walked under the team name, Village Safari Guides, to support the Walk to End CF, known as Jacksonville Great Strides. As a result, \$300 was raised towards research.



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



"The House That Built {Us}"



Our clubhouse has definitely stepped out of its "comfort zone" these past few months. Our vendor expo followed by our Friday night line dancing showed just how flexible our historic building can be! Some of our D4 awards, as well, were based on its flexibility and different styles of decorating! The vendor expo, the Art Walk, and the book sale were all done beautifully and appropriately in three days' time.

We are "stepping out of our comfort zone" with rentals as well. Right now, venue rentals are not as plentiful as they have been in the past, but we are getting rentals for shorter periods of time on a more regularly scheduled basis. We are still bringing in much needed funds and being supportive of our community and other organizations. It may be a bit less convenient at times, but we need to earn money for some of our much-needed repairs. Remember, too, that the more exposure our clubhouse gets, the better it is for our club. More and more we are presenting ourselves as a vital part of this community. When people see our historical setting, they also become more interested in what we are doing, which can lead to more rentals, more members, and possibly more partnerships.

History Corner

Check this out....

Have an established meeting place has always vital to our club. Having a visual presence helps to ensure the community sees the important role the VIA plays in the Green Cove Springs. Before the clubhouse we use today was built, the VIA met in the home of Mrs. John C. Borden. Called "Village Cottage", this home was built in 1880 by John C. Borden, so of the inventor of condensed milk.

When you can, check out the original VIA Clubhouse located at 503 Magnolia Avenue in Green Cove Springs. The tower on the right was used for judging the house races which occurred on Magnolia Avenue. Later, the house was used as the first home of the VIA. The building of the clubhouse we use today was spearheaded in 1914 by Penelopey Borden Hamilton. The building was dedicated by May Mann Jennings, who was President of the Florida Federation of Women's Club.

Source: exploreclay.com



Village Cottage

503 Magnolia Ave

SAVE THE DATE

Please join the Civics Committee on July 10th for our annual event under the shady oaks at Vera Francis Hall Park. We'd love for the GCS community to the VIA's commitment, so please plan to volunteer!

YOU ARE INVITED!

Fun in the Sun

Children's Event

July 10, 2025, 10am-Noon

Vera Francis Hall Park
1503 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, GCS

- ✓ **FREE** event for youth
- ✓ Frozen treats and fun music
- ✓ Water activities to cool you off
- ✓ Cool cars and trucks to see
- ✓ Snacks and water to enjoy
- ✓ Face painting, too - all **free!**



*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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Treasurer: Cherie Wilson

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Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO):

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Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee:

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Health & Wellness Committee:

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Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention:

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Head Start Program:

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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

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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

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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!

