



September 2025

VIA INSIDER

Serving the Community since 1883

September Activities:

- 9.4 ~ Executive Board Meeting
- 9.6 ~ Villages of Hope Pool Tournament
- 9.11 ~ Club Open House (see page 2)
- 9.26 ~ International Day of Service project

Visit our website WWW.GFVCVIA.com for the current calendar

Our club email: viagfvc@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/VIAGreenCoveSprings>

VIA Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of each month at our clubhouse ~ 17 N. Palmetto Ave, Green Cove Springs.

The women of the VIA focus on service to the community. We strive to impact lives through our actions, both large and small, and build lasting friendships along the way.

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



President's Message

Our wonderful summer is coming to a close! The last three months have been so fun, and I have loved all our simple outings so very much. You are all such sweet people and spending time with you is so encouraging and energizing. I loved our coffee tour, our "Fun in the Sun" event and I was thrilled with the gathering at my home this past week. Whether we are working hard in our community or relaxing and enjoying a meal or snacks, you are all amazing!

So many great ideas and amazing examples of collaboration have developed over this past summer. We had so many compliments and so much positive feedback from our "Fun in the Sun" at the Vera Frances Hall Park. We also gained a lot of support for our Grandma's Camp and will likely have a much bigger group next year. The city continues to talk about us and praise us for our involvement in our community. I love that so many organizations see us as a fun group that always has the best of our community at heart.

It is now time to get back to our monthly schedules and our work in the community. We already have some amazing events scheduled for September and I know our October meeting is going to be great as well. I love participating in each of our committee meetings, because I get so excited when I hear of all your plans for the coming year. I already know that our Open House, as well as our Education/Library Committee and Civic/Engagement Committee have such awesome ideas for their fall programs. I love feeling excited to see what our ladies have in store for us!

I look forward to seeing each of you at our Open House on September 11.

Larianne
l.stutts@aol.com



September Meeting 2025

September 11 is our **Open House at the VIA!** This is our grand opening to welcome back all our current members and encourage our friends and associates to come and see what we are doing for our community. For the last two years, we have made this an evening event and invited, not only prospective members, but also dignitaries of our community and people that have partnered with us to accomplish some amazing projects. We will be using that same format again, and welcoming guests in the early evening of September 11.

For our new ladies, this is a time where we want to showcase our past activities as well as show guests our plans for the upcoming year. Each committee will work together to create a display, highlighting the best of its projects. Some of you will focus on several small acts of kindness that made a huge impact, and some of you will focus on one or two large events that brought many members of the community together. For the last three years, I have been overwhelmed at the creativity of our committees. Please be sure to reach out to your committee chairs so that you can participate in our Open House in some way. We all love ideas, and hopefully everyone will bring a snack to share, too. Our Open House is usually a very elegant but relaxed evening, and we all enjoy reuniting after a long and busy summer.

More information will come in the form of an email but begin now thinking about your display and thinking about who you would like to invite to our fun night!

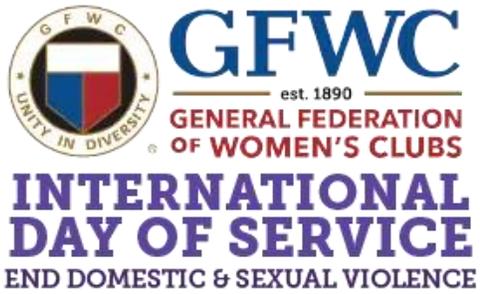


October Meeting ~ October 9 ~ hosted by Education and Libraries with guest speaker Ashley Gilhousen, Clay County District School Board member ~ more information next month.

November Meeting ~ November 13 ~ hosted by Civic Engagement and Outreach ~ more information next month.

International Day of Service

September 26, 2025
We will help our VIA community partners conduct a HT-DV-SA Awareness Training and Day of Service on this date.



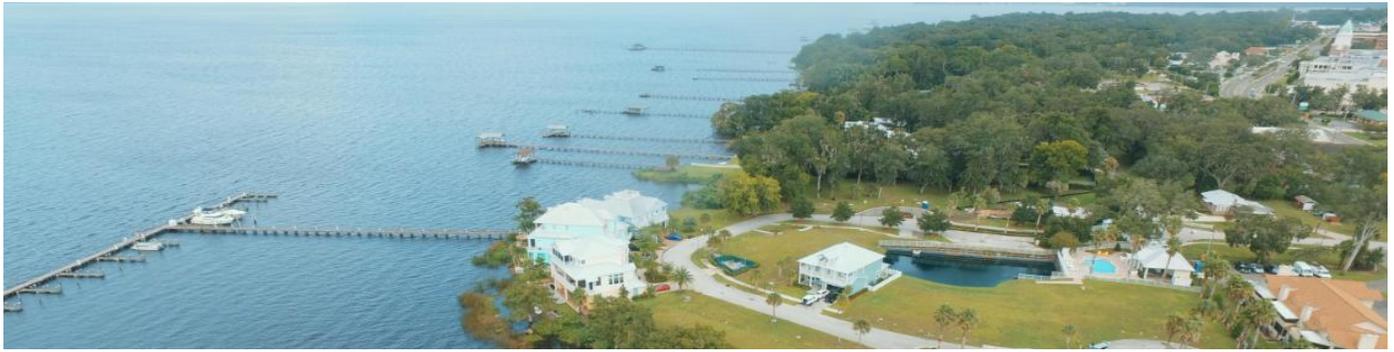
- Schedule: 8:30am - Guest arrival, sign-in, morning refreshments in APR
- 9:00am - Welcome and Clerk's Office staff introductions from Clerk Green in APR
- 9:15am - Introductions and Explanation of Day of Service plans by VIA leadership in APR
- 9:30am - Group watches hour-long HT video from the AG's Website
- 10:30am - Guest speaker(s) in APR address any questions and provide updates on local efforts
- 11:00am - Courtroom Q&A session with Judge Whittington and an SAO member; Group escorted to main lobby for exit/travel to VIA Clubhouse
- 12:00 pm - Charitable collection of items for QH residents and lunch at VIA Clubhouse provided by our own Tonia Everritt.

Please make sure you let Larianne know if there is any change in your ability to attend.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

VIA Dues (\$50.00) are due by October 1. Checks payable to VIA at our September Open House, or mail in. 

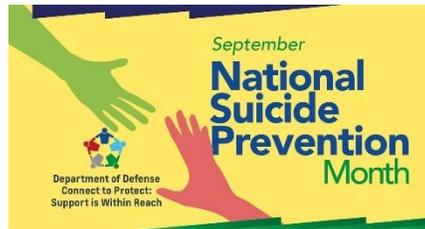
 We appreciate your continued support.



Health and Wellness:

Causes to support in September:

- Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
- National Service Dog Month
- National Preparedness Month
- Self-Improvement Month



Suicide Prevention Month ~ We Can All Help Prevent Suicide

Below are wonderful tips from the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. The 988 Lifeline network and its partners are working to change the conversation from suicide-to-suicide prevention, to actions that can promote healing, help and give hope.

-  **Ask** ~ Research shows people who are having thoughts of suicide feel relief when someone asks after them in a caring way. Findings suggest acknowledging and talking about suicide may reduce rather than increase suicidal ideation.
-  **Be There** ~ Individuals are more likely to feel less depressed, less suicidal, less overwhelmed, and more hopeful after speaking to someone who listens without judgment.
-  **Keep Them Safe** ~ A number of studies have indicated that when lethal means are made less available or less deadly, suicide rates by that method decline, and frequently suicide rates overall decline.
-  **Help Them Stay Connected** ~ Studies indicate that helping someone at risk create a network of resources and individuals for support and safety can help them take positive action and reduce feelings of hopelessness.
-  **Follow Up** ~ Studies have also shown that brief, low-cost intervention and supportive, ongoing contact may be an important part of suicide prevention, especially for individuals after they have been discharged from hospitals or care services.

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat at www.988lifeline.org

Breast Cancer Walks are available in **October** for members to support.

- VyStar Making Strides Walk ~ Saturday, October 18 at VyStar Ballpark, start time 9:00am
- Donna Cancer Walk ~ Saturday, October 11 at TCP Sawgrass, start time 8:30am



Spring Park Coffee Tour ~ summer fun with the VIA

VIA Members joined on June 12th for a free tour of **Spring Park Coffee** shop with owner Steven Kelley who gave us a demonstration of how coffee is made. The tour ended with great coffee!



Splash Bash ~ collaborating with another civic groups

VIA Members enjoyed assisting with this summer community splash event on June 13th. In conjunction with **Hickory Grove Baptist Church** there was an organized giveaway for school supplies for children in the area. Attendees enjoyed all the fun activities.

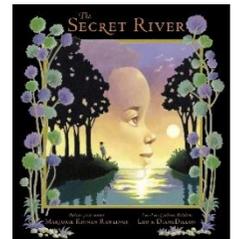


Organizer Hope Chessel had this to say, "I just want to personally say thank you. The ladies were so sweet and so gracious today. It was relentlessly hot and very uncomfortable. There were hundreds of kids throughout the day, and they managed to continue without a single complaint. They didn't owe us their time, but they gave it freely."



Grandparents Camp ~ a wonderful week exploring Florida's beauty

From June 23rd to June 27th, the VIA's Art and Culture Committee, in partnership with several community organizations, hosted "**Finding the Secret River**", a unique, intergenerational summer day camp in Green Cove Springs. Designed to bring grandparents and grandchildren together, the program used environmental education and storytelling to explore Florida's natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. Inspired by "The Secret River" by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, the camp blended literature, nature, and creativity into a five-day journey that deepened connections between generations and the environment.



VIA Supports our Community with our 3rd “Fun in the Sun” Event

Our July 10th event was bigger and better this year ~ “Fun in the Sun” at Vera Frances Hall Park exceeded expectations again with over 500 attendees. Total value of donations, grants and in-kind services for this 2-hour event totaled \$4025.00. This event required many hours of planning, creating items, stuffing bags and preparing for event. In addition, we had 14 VIA volunteers with day of setting up, volunteering during the day and breaking down after the event. Looking forward to next year.

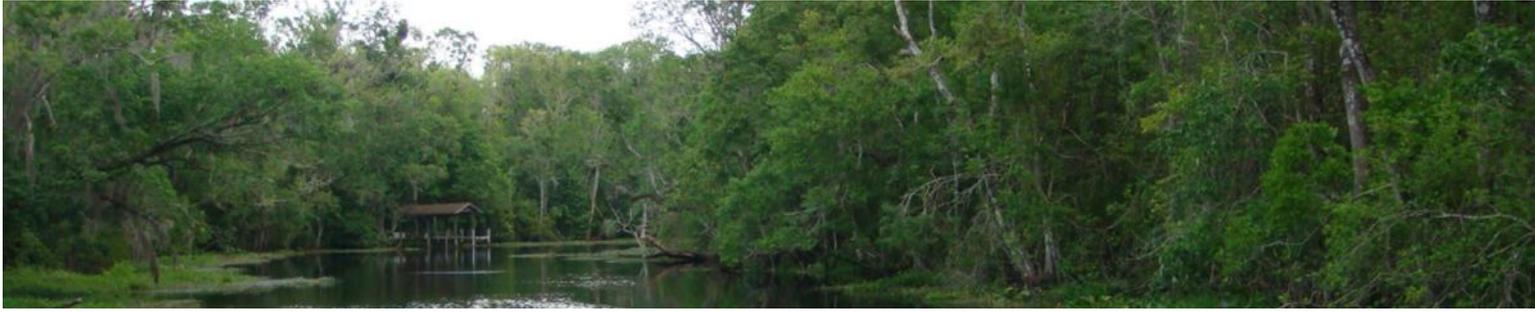


From Karla Logston (Chair)~ It was truly one of the best things we have ever had in Green Cove! So many commented on how beautiful that park looked with so many children in it. I was overwhelmed at the participation of all of you, as well as so many officials and businesses that wanted to get involved as well. That is a tribute to all of YOU! Civics committee, you OUTDID yourselves this time! Amazing work and collaboration!

Many parents and grandparents commented on how focused everyone was on ensuring that all children got their goody bags, their shaved ice, and had a great time. Many of you took extra effort to point children towards things you thought they would enjoy and to make sure each vendor got “traffic” and a chance to interact with the families. It truly was an awesome day!

I am so grateful for each of you and the work you do. You amaze me!





VIA Member visits GFWC Headquarters in Washington, DC

An exciting opportunity arose at the annual **GFWC Convention in Atlanta** when VIA's own **Theresa Crockett** won a four-night excursion for six Florida members to visit GFWC Headquarters. This exclusive trip to Washington, D.C., was a memorable blend of fellowship, history, and fine dining.

The Florida ladies had the honor of spending quality time with the GFWC International President, Suellen Brazil, engaging in meaningful discussions about how to further improve the lives of women. Beyond their time at headquarters, they also explored various historic locations throughout the nation's capital and enjoyed some of the city's finest cuisine. This unique experience not only strengthened the bond between the Florida members but also provided them with invaluable insights and inspiration to bring back to their clubs.

The "Sassy Six" in attendance were:

- Theresa Crockett, Village Improvement Association of Green Cove Springs
- Kay Earhart, Orange Park Woman's Club
- Mindy Estep, Woman's Club of Palatka
- Kim Galvin, Woman's Club of Fernandina Beach
- Lee Kraus, Naples Woman's Club
- Grace Tabor, Woman's Club of Palatka



What a memorable experience ❤️

VIA Member birthdays



July:

- 12 ~ Sandi Dunnivant
- 15 ~ Jennifer Stubbs
- 17 ~ Mingleichi (Miggy) Cobreiro
- 29 ~ Thersa Crockett
- 31 ~ Dena Faulker

August:

- 1 ~ Susan Hess
- 1 ~ Deborah Page
- 3 ~ Clara Freeman
- 3 ~ Jo Potter
- 7 ~ Pam Harris
- 8 ~ Laura Lynn Elgin

August continued:

- 11 ~ Rita Blackmar
- 14 ~ Judy Lind
- 16 ~ Susan Kite

September:

- 6 ~ Sandra Gardner
- 9 ~ Jenifer Dunnivant
- 14 ~ Christina Treadway
- 24 ~ Tracy Hardy
- 27 ~ Sandra Sheridan

Congratulations!

Cheri Starnes was sworn in as a member of the Green Cove Springs City Council in August. She is the third VIA member to serve on the council. Sandi Dunnavant and Jerri Williams were the first women to be elected to the council. Congratulations Cheri. We are so proud of you!



Open House

On August 19th VIA members visited President Larianne's home for an Open House from 10:00 – noon. Members came, socialized and heard about our fundraising and team building efforts for the upcoming year.

Of Interest

POOL TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER
Saturday, September 06, 2025
10:00 AM
CORNER POCKET
14 Magnolia Ave. N.
Green Cove Springs 32043
CASH PRIZES
\$20 Entry Fee per Person
Text/ Call Mel Leonard
@ 904-627-8260
Silent Auction
Liquor Wagon 50/50
Benefiting GFWC District 4 Project
VILLAGES OF HOPE
Information Contact Theresa Crockett
@ 904-806-0397

Student Volunteer Opportunities Available
Volunteering at the Military Museum of North Florida is a fun and rewarding way to earn community service hours that can count toward scholarship requirements
Please speak to a staff member to learn more about how your student can volunteer at the museum.
or call the museum at
904-863-3527
The Military Museum of North Florida
1 Bunker Avenue
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

1930's LIBRARY
In the 1930s the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) helped establish 474 free public libraries and 4,655 traveling libraries. In the 1990s, over a five-year period, GFWC raised and donated \$13.5 million to public and school libraries across the nation. GFWC was responsible for founding 75% of all U.S. public libraries.
DID YOU KNOW?
GFWC
GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Welcome Back, GFWC Florida Clubs! 🌸

The **GFWC Florida Leadership Committee** is excited to welcome everyone back from a fun-filled summer "break"! 🌻🌺 We hope you enjoyed time to recharge, connect with family and friends, and celebrate the season.

Now it's time to jump back in and get engaged in what we do best — volunteering, leading, and inspiring others! 💙 ✨

- ✓ Freshen up on your bylaws 📄
- ✓ Re-energize your membership outreach 🤝
- ✓ Share leadership opportunities 🌟
- ✓ Encourage mentorship and teamwork 💬
- ✓ Bring fresh ideas to service projects 🌸

Together, let's make this a season of growth, connection, and impact! 🙌 💙

Calling ALL Members

It takes each of us committing ourselves to make this fundraiser successful. Your individual efforts to sell tickets are appreciated.



2025

VIA Women's Club of Green Cove Springs Opportunity Drawing

FOR LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND VIA CHARITIES

\$5 Donation per Ticket
or
5 Tickets for \$20

3 Separate Drawings for the 3 Different Opportunities.
Specify Your Opportunity Choice on Your Ticket.

DRAWINGS on December 11, 2025

Winners Will Be Promptly Notified and Need Not Be Present to Win.
Questions, please email Lstutts@aol.com

You are all amazing! I am excited to see all we can accomplish together!
Thank you, Larianne ❤️

<p>#1 \$500 Visa Gift Card (\$500 Value)</p> 	<p>#2 Sailing at Sunset Original Acrylic 16" x 12" by local artist, Beth Haizlip (\$300 value)</p> 
<p>#3 Airplane Ride over St Augustine for 2 people (\$400 Value)</p> 	

- Please turn in ticket stubs and monies from any tickets you have sold at each monthly meeting as you sell them.
- The purchaser must complete the Opportunity Number for their ticket. One ticket is required for one opportunity.
- If you have questions, please contact Deborah Page at (850) 322-7774.

Walk to Benefit Alzheimer's

The Health and Wellness Committee encourages you to register to walk, or to support one of our VIA It Takes A Village walkers.

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America provides support, services and education to individuals, families and caregivers affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias nationwide, and funds research for better treatment and a cure.

If you are one of the nearly 15 million Americans living with Alzheimer's or caring for someone, you are not alone and they are there to help.

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 8 | REGISTRATION 8:30AM
WALK STARTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER CEREMONY
UNF 3B COXWELL AMPHITHEATER | 1 UNF DR, JACKSONVILLE
JOIN, DONATE AND LEARN MORE @ ACT.ALZ.ORG

Headquarters Rental

Our historic 1914 cottage is available to rent for YOUR next party. Have a special occasion such as a Birthday Party, Anniversary Celebration, Wedding, Family Gathering, Graduation or Baby Shower?

For more information contact Terry Abbott @ viagcs@gmail.com



Newsletter articles are due by the 18th of each month. Please email them to:

l.stutts@aol.com and dmsibley@gmail.com

All submissions must represent VIA supported events and activities.

Larriane Stutts, Newsletter Editor
Donna Shibley, Newsletter Design & Layout

Village Improvement Association of Green Cove Springs Executive Board

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l.stutts@aol.com

Vice President: Cheri Starnes
cstarnes2326@gmail.com

Secretary: Sharon Nellis
snellis@bellsouth.net

Correspondence Secretary: Tracy Hardy
hardy.tracy@gmail.com

Treasurer: Cherie Wilson
cherieywilson@comcast.net

Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention: Janey Fox
jmf1052@aol.com

Arts & Culture Committee: Terry Wilson
ktsswil@bellsouth.net

Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO):
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bookladi2012@gmail.com

Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee:
OPEN

Education & Libraries Committee:
April Pearson
aprilapearson@gmail.com

Environment Committee: Christy McCarthy
christy@interiorsrevitalized.com

Health & Wellness Committee:
Donna Shibley
dmsibley@gmail.com

Building Rental Committee: Terry Abbott
gmatea65@gmail.com

Membership Committee: Pam Harris
pamdora878@comcast.net

“The House That Built {Us}”

Our clubhouse is such a vital part of our activities. On a personal note, many of us have realized how much we depend on our clubhouse and its accessibility to us regular basis. Our auditorium is so beautiful and timely, and our archive room houses so many mementos of our history.

Owning a clubhouse is a blessing, but also a huge responsibility. We are planning some very strategic fundraisers for our upcoming year. As you all know, our building is over 100 years old and we have to remain focused in order to keep it historically accurate as well as beautiful. Repairs need to be made to the ceiling in the Archive Room and the office. We have a few necessary updates that need to be done to the kitchen. With an older building, there is always the possibility of something “breaking”.

I never want our members to feel obligated or stressed about finances regarding the club. I do ask, however, that you verbally support all our fundraisers. Much the same way as we have many different activities; you may not be able to participate in all of them, but I hope that you promote them whenever you have the opportunity. We are also working steadily on grants and donations to assist with these repairs.

Please join us in helping in any way that you can. Many opportunities will arise in which we can enjoy fellowship and sell our raffle tickets or items together in a fun and non-intrusive way. Let’s all support these opportunities in a person or verbally. We are going to have a great year!

Larianne



History Corner



Who Designed our Beautiful Clubhouse?

Mellon C. Greeley (see photo), acclaimed as the “Dean of Florida Architects”, was the designer of our Clubhouse at 17 Palmetto Avenue. Greeley was the last of the great architects who helped rebuild Jacksonville after the Great Fire of 1901.



As the VIA club women and Penelope Borden Hamilton began to discuss building on the property donated by Penelope’s family, Greeley became an integral part of the clubhouse plans. It has been said that the VIA club women had heated discussions about the plans until finalized.

The end result, a clubhouse which has served our community and beyond since dedication in 1914 by May Mann Jennings, President of GFWC Florida.

Our heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of our dear club member

Helen Brummer

August 15, 1946 ~ June 13, 2015



She will always be remembered as the person who made sure you were comfortable, had what you needed, that you were OK, and felt great. And she loved her cooking.

From her daughter Chris: *...I know my mother is shining down and saw how beautiful her service was because of the grace of your group; you helped too make this happen.”*



Member/Family Businesses



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

John Hess

904-269-8772

VyStar Investment Services

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

Specialty Women's Clothing

One Swanky Chic Boutique

Kristina Byrd

904-671-3819

Web Development & Photos

Unicorn Web Development /Foto Fusion Photo

Bobbi Nagle

904-891-4538

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