

October 2025

VIA INSIDER

Serving the Community since 1883

October Activities:

10/2 ~ Executive Board Meeting

10/3 ~ Author Rick Kilby event (see page 4)

10/9 ~ October Meeting (see page 2)

10/18 ~ ELKS Lodge Hoop Shoot (see page 7)

10/23 ~ Ghost of Green Cove Spring Past

Visit our website WWW.GFVCVIA.com for the current calendar. Our club email: viagfvc@gmail.com

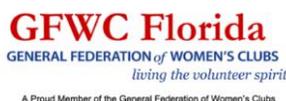
Follow us on Facebook:

<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

I hope you are all as excited as I am to begin meeting again! We had a wonderful Open House this past month, and it was great to see so many of you! Many of you have been out and about all summer, and I am so glad that we were able to accomplish so many things these past few months. Many of you, however, have been traveling or relaxing and spending time with families, and I have definitely missed you! It is great to be a part of a club that respects our time with family and friends yet also continues to provide ways to get together and fellowship. We have so much to look forward to in the coming months.

I must say, this was one of the busiest summers ever for the VIA. Our tour of Spring Park Coffee, our Grandmother's Camp, Fun in the Sun, and our Open House in my home were all so fun! We have also been so busy preparing for our Day of Service and I know it is going to be amazing. I am so grateful for the response from our members as well as from our community. It is wonderful to be affiliated with so many women who, not only care about our children, but take the initiative to do something about it. I also know we have an exciting line-up of speakers and subjects for our fall and winter meetings. Our clubhouse is going to be full of exciting events and our rentals have picked up as well. We have so much for which to be thankful. I hope that everyone will get involved in some way this coming year. As mentioned earlier, we have so much happening in our club, and while I know we all cannot participate in everything, I hope you will all find ways to participate and support the events and fundraising efforts we have planned. I love seeing each of you in attendance and I am always so impressed with the talents and hearts of our members.

I know it is going to be a great year!

Larriane
l.stutts@aol.com



October 9th Meeting 2025

Our first meeting for the fall season will be hosted by the **Education/Libraries Committee**. We are fortunate to have **Ashley Gilhousen from the Clay County School Board** joining us! She will be talking to us about the growth in our community and how our school board members are preparing for it. She will also answer questions for us and share plans for new schools.

Once again, we will be having a **Silent Cake Auction** to raise funds for our scholarships and essay contests. We will also be launching some of our best fund raisers! Come prepared to learn about our education system, enjoy spending time with friends, and hopefully go home with a delicious homemade cake!



Boston Butt Sale is back by popular demand. Order forms available at our meeting.

Village Improvement Association

\$40 each
Prepaid
~ 8 lbs each

GrillBilly's
Smoked
Pork Butts

Last day to order: Wednesday, November 19, 2025
Pick up date: Monday, November 24th
Pick up times: 10:30 am—12:30 pm
Where to pick up: VIA (17 N. Palmetto Ave., Green Cove Springs)

Pork butts are delivered hot off the smoker, all bagged up and ready to go!
They are really juicy so please bring a cooler or container with you.
 Buy your pork butt(s) just in time for those holiday get-togethers!
 GrillBilly's fully cooked pork butts freeze really well, too!

April Pearson aprilpearson@gmail.com
Lynn Elliott lynnelliott61@gmail.com

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

_____ Butts ordered @ \$40 each = _____ total

Payment: QR Code _____ Cash _____ Check _____ (Made payable to VIA) (Mail to 17 N. Palmetto Ave., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043)

Thank you for your support of the VIA!



September Open House 2025

Our Open House was so fun! I was so pleased with the turnout, and the room looked amazing! I am always so impressed with the creativity of our members; in the way they decorate as well as the food they bring for our events. Even though we have a similar set-up every year, the boards and tables always look new, fresh, and so inviting. Each display captured the most fun moments of each committee's events, and I could see our guests lingering at each one.

Once again, you were all on your game! I loved watching all of you as you greeted our guests and made them feel welcome. Your enthusiasm for our club and its activities shone on your faces and I know our guests could see it as well. You were all so friendly and inviting. It makes me so happy when I see each of you interacting with our guests and including them in your conversations. I am confident that this is what makes our club so special and what brings others to us. Congratulations on another amazing Open House!

Larianne



More pictures are on our website ~ Events, Event Photos



Health and Wellness

Causes to support in October:

- **October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

Domestic violence takes place in our nation every minute of every day, occurring just about every 15 seconds. Most Americans don't realize just how real domestic violence is and how many lives are affected by it.

Most of these cases are left behind closed doors. That's why the Domestic Violence Awareness Month was introduced to not only educate and raise that awareness but bring the support and strength that domestic violence victims need. <https://ncadv.org/2022DVAM>



- **National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

Over the last few years, we have had a powerful reminder that we are all in this together, and our choices and actions have the power to protect the most vulnerable among us in a big way. The same holds true when it comes to breast cancer. Have you scheduled your mammogram?



More Causes to support in October:

- Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Month
- National Down Syndrome Awareness Month
- October 7 ~ National Stop Bullying Day
- October 10 ~ World Mental Health Day
- October 16 ~ World Food Day
- October 18 ~ National Mammogram Day
- October 20 ~ World Osteoporosis Day

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

Who doesn't like POPCORN?

Support the VIA and buy or gift some yummy treats. It is easy to register to sell (October 13-November 30)

Log in at VIAGCS@gmail.com

Group ID is FZGTRB



The more you buy, the more the VIA earns.

Thank you in advance for your support!



Open House ~ hosted by Larianne

On **August 19**, from 10:00 until 12:00, Larianne opened her home for a fun social and brief presentation for the ladies of the VIA. Everyone brought the most delicious snacks, and there was such a nice turn-out. During the two scheduled hours, discussion revolved around club fundraising efforts for the coming year, focusing on our Opportunity Drawing (see page 6) and ticket sales. Attendees also got to know each other better and were able to spend time with our newest members.



904 Day ~ supporting small businesses

904 Day is now a designated day to support small businesses in our area code. It is celebrated on **September 4**, and our local tourism group is hoping to make it a very productive day for local businesses. The VIA chose to celebrate 904 Day by going to lunch at a local business! It was great that so many of you chose to support your community by helping 904 Day bring revenue to our area and awareness to the growing trend.



Meet Author Rick Kilby

Meet Historical Author of "Florida's Healing Water's" and Finding the Fountain of Youth" on Friday,

October 3 from 6:00-9:00pm at the VIA. All are welcome.

Of Interest



VIA members assisted by assembling name tags for the District 4 Meeting.

VIA Logos

Village Improvement Association
WOMAN'S CLUB



Village Improvement Association
WOMAN'S CLUB



Village Improvement Association
WOMAN'S CLUB

VIA Supports victims of Domestic Violence for the GFWC International Day of Service

The GFWC “International Day of Service” for 2025 at the VIA was likely the most impactful event we have had in a long time. On September 26, approximately 50 people met together to bring about awareness to Human Trafficking in our state, and in our community. While this is a growing problem everywhere, many citizens are unaware of how prevalent it has become, even in our small town and its surrounding areas.

Members of the VIA, along with their invited guests filled the room at the courthouse to watch a training video and then participate in a question/answer session with representatives from Clay County Sheriff’s office and Green Cove Springs Police Department. Following the presentations, we moved to the judge’s chambers and heard a presentation from Judge Whittington and his staff, concerning cases that were impacted by human trafficking. We ended the day with a delicious lunch and wonderful conversation at our clubhouse.

I speak for many when I say that I was humbled and incredibly grateful with the participation from our community. It was an excellent showing from our club, as well as guests from “Friends of Augusta Savage”, Habitat, Quigley House, Green Cove Junior High School, and local churches. “!00 Women Who Care” contributed to our program as well. It was wonderful to see so many citizens joining together to support a program whose goal is to keep our children safe.

Thanks to all who attended, and all who worked so hard to make this day possible.

YOU are amazing! Larianne



It was very possibly the best thing we ever have done. There was a warmth and family feel to the entire day; it's like we were truly gathering to better care for our children. Larianne



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 l.stutts@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 <i>Original Acrylic 16" x 12" by local artist, Beth Haizlip (\$300 value)</i></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.



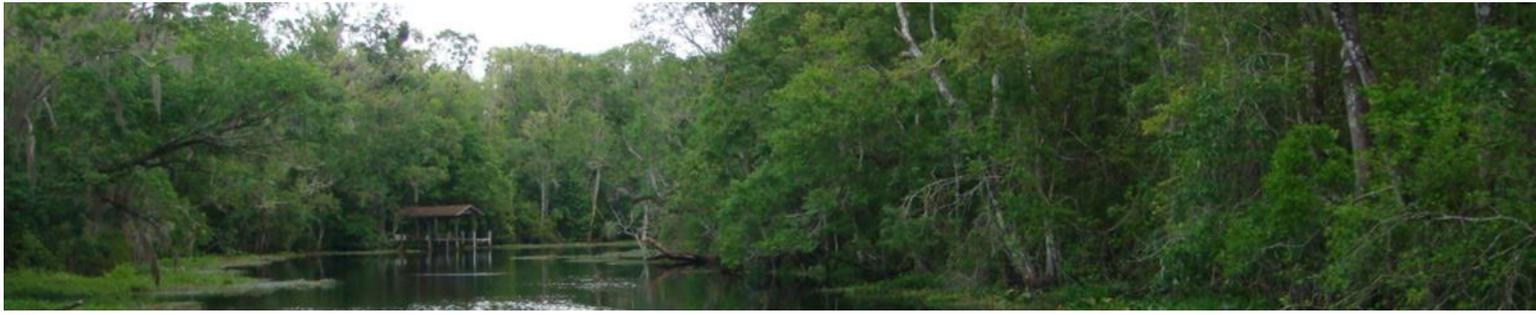
JOIN THE VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION FOR A
FUN WALK
 AT THE WALK TO END ALZHEIMERS

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 | UNF DR., JACKSONVILLE

JOIN, DONATE AND LEARN MORE @ ACT.ALZ.ORG



🏀 Join Us for the GCS Elks Lodge #1892 Hoop Shoot! 🏀

The Elks Hoop Shoot is a fun basketball free throw contest for kids ages 8–13 (age as of April 1, 2026)! This nationwide program gives young athletes the chance to showcase their skills, build confidence, and compete for a shot at advancing to district, state, and even national levels!

📍 **Location:** Thomas Hogans Memorial Gym, 415 Lemon Street, Green Cove Springs, FL

📅 **Date:** Saturday, October 18, 2025

🕒 **Registration:** 9:30 AM 🏀 **Contest Starts:** 10:00 AM

Important Details:

- Participants must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian.
- Bring proof of age (birth certificate or passport) at registration.
- No Elks affiliation is required ~ event is open to all eligible youth!
- Contestants must be at least 8, no older than 13 as of April 1, 2026.
- All contestants are required to wear gym shoes, T-shirt and pants/gym shorts. Basketball uniforms are acceptable, not required.
- See the registration form below for additional details.

For more information, contact Hoop Shoot Director ~ Stuart Williams at (904) 312-4784 or lswilliams93@gmail.com

Learn more about the national program → <https://www.elks.org/hoopshoot/>
Let's get those kids practicing and ready to "Get Gritty" on the court! 🏀 ✨



VIA Member birthdays



October:

- 10 ~ Christy McCarthy
- 12 ~ Lynne Lisenby
- 18 ~ Jessie Rivers
- 24 ~ Janey Fox

November:

- 6 ~ Jessica Hames
- 11 ~ Martha Mangus
- 16 ~ Tina Brannen
- 23 ~ Angela Chene
- 26 ~ Annette Engelman
- 29 ~ Donna Shibley
- 29 ~ Larianne Stutts



Attention Members last CALL for Dues

VIA Dues (\$50.00) are due by October 1.
Mail checks payable to VIA.

💰 We appreciate your continued support.

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 dmshibley@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, FL, Inc.

Executive Board

President: Larriane Stutts
l.stutts@aol.com

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Secretary: Sharon Nellis
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Arts & Culture Committee:
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Health & Wellness Committee:
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Building Rental Committee:
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Membership Committee: Pam Harris
pamdora878@comcast.net

“The House That Built {Us}”

One fact that makes our clubhouse so special and vital to our town’s history, is this; it is the oldest building in our city that is still being used for its original purpose. Penelope Borden donated the land and had the cottage built in 1914 so that the women of that time would have a regular meeting place, as opposed to meeting in each other’s houses. We should all be very proud of that fact. It has not been refurbished or repurposed; it is still a GFWC Women’s club.



Maintaining our clubhouse, while also celebrating its historical value is part of our commitment to the VIA. Historic buildings are not bound by the same standards as a new building, but it is important for us to keep our building safe for all its current uses.

For several years now, the Florida Department of Health has given us a clean record. For the last 3 years, however, they have encouraged us to have a handwashing sink installed in our kitchen, as it would bring it up to current health codes. Due to a successful year of fundraising and a grant, we were able to have the handwashing sink installed in September! It is great to be able to make improvements that make our clubhouse safer and more useful without compromising its historic appeal! **Larriane**



History



The VIA of Green Cove Springs has been serving the community for February of 1883.



Our ladies from that time worked to rid the city of public trash by placing barrel containers in public places, and disinfecting the public drains on a regular basis.

However, we are more widely celebrated for starting the first library in Clay County. The library began in 1888, when J.J. Merritt gave one book to our club and encouraged his friends and members of the community to do so also. People that visited the city of Green Cove Springs and residents brought donations of books. That was the beginning of the library.

The ladies of the VIA maintained the library from that time until December of 1961. At that time, the library here became a part of the Clay County Library system. October is the month that we celebrate our Education/Libraries committee. Our ladies continue to promote reading and learning by providing opportunities to learn and engage with books by becoming lifelong learners and readers with every age group.

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 ?

The logo for the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), featuring a circular emblem with a globe and the text "GFWC GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS".



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

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

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!

