



March Activities:

3/5 ~ Executive Board Meeting

3/12 ~ March Meeting (see page 2)

3/11 ~ GFWC Florida Flight of Honor (see page 8)

3/20 ~ D4 Awards Meeting ~ Starke

Visit our website WWW.GFWCVIA.com for the current calendar. Our club email:

viagfwc@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 Avenue, 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.



GFWC Florida
GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
living the volunteer spirit
A Proud Member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs



President's Message

One of the best things I hear from our community these days is that we are everywhere! Ladies, that is quite a compliment. It is definitely true, though. We had such a busy February, but every event was well covered. The VIA had activities of its own, but there were a lot of city events as well. Our support of our community was obvious by our participation. I try to attend as many activities as I can, but even when I am unable, I always hear from others that we were there and happy to assist. Each of our committees is bringing such fun and enriching activities to the group. It is no wonder, our numbers are growing! Who wouldn't want to be a part of such a fun group of ladies!

Our February meeting was great, wasn't it? The information provided in the program was so appropriate for our group. I love it, too, when we can utilize the talents and "gifts" of our own members to educate the rest of us. I am always amazed, too, at the artistic abilities and creativity of our members. Didn't the tables look amazing! The food, too, was delicious.

I am so pleased with our committees and their cohesiveness. We have always had committed committee members, but right now it feels like all committees are equally strong and well supported. So much creativity and energy is present in each one. Every time I attend a committee meeting, I see so much enthusiasm and "far reaching" ideas that will continue to move us forward and keep us present in our community. Our new members are jumping right in, too, and you all are welcoming them with open arms and using their talents and gifts! What an awesome group of ladies you are! I am so excited for February, too. I know great things are happening in every committee, and we just seem more involved, more prepared and more connected than ever!

Larianne
l.stutts@aol.com



March 12th Meeting 2026

The **Environment Committee** will host the March 12th meeting with featured speaker Douglas Conkey, Intergovernmental Coordinator for the St. Johns River and Waste Management District.

Please remember to bring old frames of any size, in good shape, to revive with more archived GCS photos. See photos on page 4.



Wear GREEN for the Environment and St. Patrick's Day on March 17th.

VIA supports Villages of Hope

The VIA bought a brick in support of the Light Her Path Villages of Hope Legacy project.

Villages of Hope (District 4 Director's Project) Vision

The Villages of Hope is a supportive community where women can find safety, healing and belonging while pursuing lives free from sexual exploitation and substance abuse.



Quigley House donations



The Quigley House accepted \$700 worth of used, in good condition clothing from Teresa Moore and Janey Fox. If you have clothing items to donate, please contact Janey.



February 12th Meeting 2026

The **Health & Wellness Committee** hosted the February meeting, which featured speakers Tracy and Matt Hardy, co-owners of Assisting Hands South Jacksonville. Members wore red to recognize the month as Heart Month, candy for staff and 102 Valentine cards were donated and delivered to the Green Cove Springs Senior Center. Members enjoyed Valentine-themed trivia questions, which were answered and guessed by attendees. Member Bobbi Nagle outlasted everyone and took home the prize of the day. The 'YOU Pick Raffle' was a success, earning \$180.



More meeting pictures are on page 6.



VIA Courthouse Project: January Human Trafficking Awareness Month

There is an eye-catching change in a waiting room space that went from “blah” to “ahhh” in the Clay County Florida courthouse thanks to the Village Improvement Association of Green Cove Springs and member Christy McCarthy. The Clerk of Courts Office recognized January as **Human Trafficking Awareness Month** and committed years ago to employee training and awareness efforts on this issue. Citizens coming to the courthouse to complete forms in the Civil Department (namely for obtaining injunctions for protection from DV) often require more time, may be upset, or are even embarrassed. In these situations, some privacy, peace and quiet go a long way.



Originally planning began in the fall of 2025 and the small cozy waiting room is now beautifully decorated and comfortable. A key improvement is children’s toys, books, art supplies, and kid-sized furniture. This special project was completed without cost to the government office because of the generosity of the community and their businesses/organizations.



VIA Presents a Little Bit of GCS Nostalgia

Thanks to the creativity of Christy McCarthy, donations of windows by Christine Treadway, historical archive and display by Mary Justino, and continued donations by VIA members, these beautiful historical framed photos will be on display at the GCS Courthouse 4th floor. They will be auctioned off July 2-4. This is but a sampling of what there will be to offer. Watch for updates.



Children crafting for Kindness and Black History Month



Sherri was the lead for the kid’s crafting booth on February 21st at the 3rd Saturday in the Park event. 25+ kids visited the booth, decorated bookmarks and took home Black History Month coloring pages.

The VIA continues to support youth in the community with fun, interesting projects and programs.

Health and Wellness

There are many causes to support in **March**:

- National Nutrition Month
- National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month
- National Kidney Month
- Developmental Disabilities Month
- March is Red Cross Month
- March 22 is Red Cross Giving Day
- March 15-21 ~ National Poison Prevention Week



Social and Puzzle Making Competition II

So glad everyone had fun at February 12th **Social and Puzzle Making Competition II ~ A Piece of Our Heart Fundraiser**. 34 attendees made this a great night of socialization and excitement w/ prizes were awarded to all winners. Thx to all who donated to make this a successful event. Plans are underway for next year.



We are also **donating puzzles** (with no missing pieces) to the **GCS Library**. If you have any you wish to donate, please reach out to Cheryl.



Enigma ~ 1st second time winner

Puzzle Pros ~ #2

Jigsawmania ~ #3 sporting matching shirts



VIA Raffles



The VIA also takes every opportunity to conduct raffles. These **YOU Pick Raffles** were offered at the February Meeting. Eight lucky winners were announced at the Social and Puzzle Competition. Get ready for more raffles in the future.



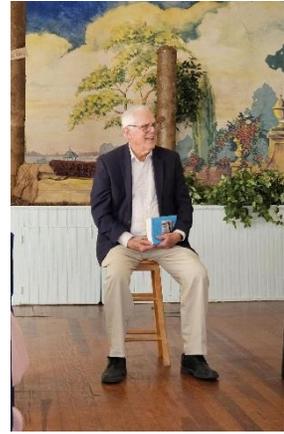
ESO Happenings

The Quiet Beauty: A Still Life Walk at the Cummer Museum trip Art@Noon was held on February 10th. Attendees explored the quiet power of Still Life paintings. This was a culminating event held after the January Zoom meeting: Why Artists Love Fruit: The Secret Life of Still Life.



VIA Assisting Green Cove Springs Friends of the Library

Per request from the **Green Cove Springs Friends of the Library**, the **Education and Libraries Committee** hosted the February 21st event ~ Storytime for BIG Kids! Author Bert Creswell told stories from his Wonder Tree Book series. All participants received a free book.



District 4 Meeting and GFWC Florida Arts and Crafts Competition

7 members of the VIA attended the February 20th D4 Meeting at the GFWC Women's Club in Palatka which consisted of District business and the awarding of ribbons for the **GFWC Florida Arts and Craft Competition**.

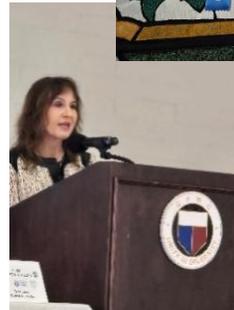
VIA had XX entries which were organized by Karla Ziegner, Chair.

The VIA had two first place winners:

Christy McCarthy ~ open ~ photo in antique frame

Lynn Lisenby ~ machine pieced and quilted tree skirt

President Larianne spoke to the attendees about the VIA Courthouse project and challenged other D4 clubs to find a need for and complete a similar project in their City or County.



Looking for items to keep our VIA House ship shape

Sharon is looking for these products to keep our house looking fine. All donations are appreciated.

- Damp-Rid
- Toilet bowl hanger cleaners
- Deodorizers (not spray, the type that sit)
- Swiffers for dusting and floor sweeping



More February Meeting pictures



All February meeting pictures are on our VIA website ~ Events, February meeting.

VIA Welcomes these NEW Members

Christina Kelley ~ 2026 Brock Road, Green Cove Springs ~ 904-504-6515 | christinamkelley16@gmail.com

Tonya English ~ 1650 Marsh Winds Court, Fleming Island ~ 407-437-7781 | english4956@bellsouth.net

Kimberly Evans ~ 631 St. John's Avenue, Green Cove Springs ~ 912-313-3333 | kimconnerevans@yahoo.com

Nancy Coltrin ~ 2196 Orangewood Street, Middelburg ~ 404-824-7700 | ncoltrin@mac.com

VIA Member birthdays



March:

- 5 ~ Nikki Glanville
- 20 ~ Donna Habing
- 22 ~ Ellen Greer
- 31 ~ Constance Higginbotham

April:

- 6 ~ Raeanne McCarty
- 8 ~ April Pearson
- 14 ~ Gale Miller
- 15 ~ Bonnie Sprinkle
- 18 ~ Tiffani Pearson
- 25 ~ LaToya Glenn

March is Woman's History Month

Women's History Month is observed annually throughout March to celebrate the vital role and contributions of women in history and contemporary society.

- 1987: After a petition by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Public Law 100-9, designating March as Women's History Month.
- 2026: The National Women's History Alliance has highlighted the month's theme "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations".



Random Act of Flowers

To 33 locations from school staff to supporters of the VIA, to government and social service organizations, the **Arts and Culture Committee** brightened the community on

February 17th. After assembling beautiful live flowers in vases with ‘thank you for all you do, from the VIA’ messages, the deliveries began.

The initiative was met with smiles and gratitude at every stop, reinforcing the VIA’s commitment to those who tirelessly serve our town. It was a simple gesture with a powerful message: your hard work does not go unnoticed and we appreciate you.



VIA Visits Pleasant Point and Magnolia Springs Cemeteries

In honor of Black History Month in February, eight VIA members met on February



24th to view a slide show of the Pleasant Point Cemetery, the oldest black cemetery in our community. Presenters Steve Griffith and Megan Coopage included the history as well as the work being done to bring it back to



“life”. A guided tour featured the progress made at the cemetery. They also visited and heard history of the Magnolia Springs Cemetery.



Florida Flight of Honor ~ VIA attendees

Marnie Buchanan (Veteran) and Donna Shibley (Guardian) are thrilled to be able to go on this historic all-women Veteran flight to Washington DC on March 11th. The night before is a meet and greet hosted by the Woman's Club of Lakeland and a trip briefing. Leaving Lakeland Linder Airport very early in the morning on Wednesday, the jam-packed day trip will include visiting the WWII Memorial, time on their own to see other memorials, a presentation and lunch at the Military Women's Memorial, time at Arlington Cemetery for Changing of the Guard, and a welcome home celebration back in Lakeland.



3rd Saturday Market in the Park ~ donations needed

Not only does the VIA have a presence at a booth for the **3rd Saturday Market in the Park** where we talk about our club and upcoming projects and programs, but we have quite an assortment of items we are selling. From our VIA cookbooks, jewelry, hand and body scrub and bath bombs, essential oils, we are now venturing into selling gently used brand name handbags. Do you have a high end handbag that you would be willing to donate? All items must be in good condition. Contact Sharon 904.446.5073 to donate.

Did you know?

Since 1890, **GFWC's impact** has been felt throughout communities across the United States and the globe.

Part 3 final ~ GFWC's Impact (Part 1 was in January's newsletter, Part 2 in February's newsletter)

Today: Collectively club members have called/emailed their legislative representatives using the GFWC Legislative Action Center to support current legislation:

- **Celebrating the Centennial** ~ 100 Years of Voting Rights for Women which asked people to contact Congress in support of commemorative coins honoring the centennial of women's suffrage.
- **Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2022** which includes narrowly focused enhancements to address gaps identified by victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence and the people who work with them.
- **Debbie Smith Act** ~ Public Law 118-72. The Debbie Smith Rape Kit Backlog Act reauthorized funding to law enforcement to analyze untested rape kits. DNA analysis is one of the most important methods to investigate crimes and improves the capacity to bring these cases to court.
- **Report ACT Online Child Safety** ~ Public Law 118-59. Reauthorization of funding and services for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Project Safe Childhood Act requiring federal prosecutors and the Department of Justice to coordinate with state/local law enforcement/experts to develop training materials/strategies to identify and rescue child victims while quickly arresting offenders.



Join the **GFWC Legislative Action Center** to make a difference ~

<https://www.gfwc.org/legislative-action/>

It literally takes minutes to sign up, and you too can join, advocate, and make a change.

VIA 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?

Members task! Anytime the opportunity rises, please share info about our clubhouse.

For more information contact:

Christy McCarthy @ gcsviarental@gmail.com

The Village Improvement Association Venue Rental

17 Palmetto Avenue
Green Cove Springs

gcsviarental@gmail.com
Christy- 904.860.2597

Host Your Event in Historic Elegance

Perfect for showers, receptions, parties, graduations, and business gatherings, the Village Improvement Association's historic clubhouse is the perfect place to bring people together.

Affordable, welcoming, and full of character, this Green Cove Springs treasure is ideal for family celebrations, milestone events, and professional gatherings.

Every rental helps our nonprofit continue serving the community—140+ years strong!

Reserve your space and celebrate with purpose. Book your date today!



<https://gfwcvia.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

Facebook postings are managed

by Tracy Hardy and Donna Shibley.

Reach out to them for any suggested VIA postings.



Village Improvement Association Federated Women's Club of Green Cove Springs, FL, Inc. Executive Board

President: Larriane Stutts

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

cheriewilson@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):

Sandi Dunnivant

bookladi2012@gmail.com

Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee:

Mary Justino

justinom@clayclerk.com

Education & Libraries Committee:

April Pearson

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Environment Committee:

Christy McCarthy

christy@interiorsrevitalized.com

Health & Wellness Committee:

Cheryl Gonzalez

Cherylgonzal@yahoo.com

Building Maintenance Committee:

Sharon Nellis

Building Rental Committee:

Christy McCarthy

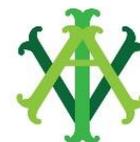
Membership Committee: Pam Harris

pamdora878@comcast.net

Communications & Public Relations

Committee: Donna Shibley

dmshibley@gmail.com



“The House That Built {Us}”

If you haven't seen our Archive room yet, you will want to make a point to do so! Many of you know that the ceiling in our office and Archive room has been slowly deteriorating for the past two years, at least. Pieces of plaster will actually falling from the ceiling in several places, and it was hindering our ability to actually use those rooms, or even display them as the beautiful settings that they are.

In February, we were able to repair the ceiling in both of those rooms. The job that was done has far exceeded my expectations. The ceiling looks perfect, and it still looks like the ceiling of a room from the late 1800's, I knew we would be able to repair it, but I had no idea we would be able to keep in looking as it should for the time period in which it was built.



We also have a new rug in our Archive room. The colors are perfect for our VIA and the design looks like it could have easily come from the same time period as our building. A special thanks to our Christy McCarthy for finding and donating that rug to our club.

Thanks, too, for all the ladies that have joined in to assist with deep cleaning and arranging our silk flowers in a more updated fashion. I am so grateful for our members and their dedication to our club and its history.

Larianne



VIA History



Our country is celebrating its 250 birthday this year! Isn't it great to know that the VIA has been a part of our history for the past 143 years? Much has changed over the last several decades, but our mission and our vision for the future has remained constant.

In 1885, “any woman or girl could become a member by simply doing one of all of three things: (1) Pay five cents weekly, (2) plant and protect a tree, (3) give ten hours labor under the direction of the Executive Committee.”



Most of our first projects were centered around clean-up and environment related activities. Cleaning the streets of litter and planting and protecting trees was the main focus. The VIA also employed one man for one week to take a wheelbarrow and tools out into the community and clean the streets.



We have come a long way since then, but our goals are still the same. Our Environment Committee has a different focus today, but maintaining a clean and healthy as well as a welcoming environment is still the goal.

Larianne





Member/Family Businesses

Accounting/Tax Services

- Susan Hess CPA, P.A. | 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 McCarthy | 904-908-2495

Gifts

- Nikki's Custom Gifts | Nikki Glanville | 904-476-2475

Home Care

- Assisting Hands Home Care | Tracy Hardy | 904-746-1036

Interior Design/Home Staging

- Interiors Revitalized | Christy McCarthy | 904-860-2597

Pet Services

- Jen's Pet Sitting Service | Jenifer Dunnivant | 904-657-4460

Outdoor

- Space Coast Green Fence and Gates | Teresa Moore | 904-678-7754

Realtor

- Davidson Realty, Inc. | Christina Treadway | 904-548-7775

Restaurant

- Corner Pocket | Cheri Starnes | 904-548-7775

Scents

- Scentsy | Jo Potter | 541-279-0595

Specialty Women's Clothing

- One Swanky Chic Boutique | Kristina Byrd | 904-671-3819

Web Design Development and Photos

- Unicorn Web Development / BOH Entertainment | Bobbi Nagle | 904-891-4538



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

