



August/September Activities:

8/6 and 9/3 ~ Executive Board Meetings

8/21 ~ District 4 Meeting (page 2)

9/10 ~ September Open House (see page 2)

9/18-20 ~ GFWC Florida Fall Board (see page 2)

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**.



President's Message

Can you believe the summer is almost over? Did it even feel like we were taking a break? These last two months have been pretty busy from my point of view, but they have also been so much fun! I am much happier when I have a full calendar, and I love spending time with all of you.

I was so pleased with the way you all turned out for our "Fun in the Sun" event. Over and over again, I heard so many people telling us how wonderful it was, and how great it was to see so many from the community come out and enjoy each other. The vendors were all so prepared and had such engaging booths for our children. So many of you were there, and it seriously looked like you thought of everything! A huge "shout out" to our Dr. Cheryl Gonzalez, too, who held the megaphone and interacted with our participants for the duration of the day! Everyone of you added to the fun!

Thanks to all of you that have volunteered to assist with the District 4 meeting, too. I love participating with the other clubs, and I love hosting and decorating. I know many of you volunteer to help simply because you know I enjoy it so much, and I truly appreciate that. I am very excited about our theme of "Strength in Numbers", because it describes our club so well.

I love the freedom of the summer months, but I look forward to our routine returning in a few weeks. I have already been thinking about our Open House, and plans for our October and November meetings are already underway. It is going to be a great new year at the VIA!

Larianne

l.stutts@aol.com



September 10th Meeting 2026

Our general meeting after summer break will be an open house to introduce our Officers, Special Program (SP) and Community Service Program (CSP) Chairmen and their Committees, and to give attendees a snapshot of what we do in the community. We look forward to meeting guests ~ feel free to reach out and invite family and friends.

Quigley House donations



Continue to contact Janey with donations of clothing and household items in good condition.

Pieces of our Past

We had a very successful **Pieces of the Past Auction** sponsored by the **VIA Environment Committee**. Thank you to all who contributed, bid, and won.

GFWC Florida District 4

Thank you to our VIA club members who volunteered to set up, cook, serve, and clean up for the upcoming GFWC Florida District 4 Meeting held at our headquarters on August 21.

thank you 



These six VIA club members are all smiles as they attended the GFWC Florida District 4 Meeting held at the GFWC Woman's Club of Welaka on July 17th.

Congratulations from the VIA

Congratulations to Green Cove Springs Mayor, **Darren Stutts** who was elected and took office on May 19, 2026. This is a one-year appointment as Mayor/Council Member, Seat 5.



This makes **Larianne Stutts**, the First Lady of Green Cove Springs.

Congratulations to **Cheri Starnes** who serves as Green Cove Springs Vice Mayor/Council Member, Seat 4.

VIA member **Donna Shibley** was installed as the



GFWC New England Region President at the GFWC Convention in Scottsdale, AZ on June 28. Her theme is *Kindness in Action:*

*Hearts for Service,
Hands for Purpose.*



As a clubwoman for over 38 years, Donna has served in many positions for GFWC Massachusetts (including State President 2020-2022), for the New England Region, and served on the GFWC Board of Directors for 16 years. She is proud to serve as a mentor to many and deeply appreciates everything our clubwomen have to offer. She is happy to be a VIA member since 2022.

GFWC Florida Fall Board of Directors Meeting

Held from September 18-20, 2026 in Orlando, Florida.

This will be an unforgettable weekend filled with leadership, meaningful connections, and opportunities to be inspired by the many presentations, speakers, and technology updates.



VIA members have been Around Town and More this Summer Visiting the Orange Park Art Guild Gallery

The VIA members went on a field trip to the Orange Park Art Guild Gallery on June 11th.



For more than 50 years, the Art Guild members have been creating Art and supporting the community through service projects and exhibits that help change the lives of people of all ages. They work to cultivate Art with local professional artists and Art guild members.



Participating in the Freedom Truck Display

The VIA had a booth at the Freedom Truck, a mobile museum in Green Cove at our Courthouse on June 16th. Our ladies (and their helpers) love to be out in the community telling others about our VIA activities.



Touring Project Quench in Green Cove Springs



On July 22nd VIA members took the opportunity to tour the water treatment facility Project Quench. Darrel Damrow and Zach Loeb were happy to share information about the Clay County Utility Authority (CCUA). The CCUA is actively planning to create and ensure a reliable and affordable water supply to serve population growth. They are operating an extensive public access reclaimed water program which treats wastewater for irrigation purposes.



Reclaimed water can be used as a source water and treated further so the final product is suitable for drinking water. The method relies on multiple tried-and-true water treatment processes, which CCUA is testing through a new pilot program, Project Quench, to generate drinking water from reclaimed sources.



VIA members Support Community Events



This last of the free **3rd Saturday Story Time in the Park** events sponsored by the Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge #1892 will be held on August 8 @ 10:00 am. This Beacon Grant-funded, literacy program is being offered in partnership with the City of Green Cove Springs and local law enforcement.



Rivers House Heritage and Adventure Center Porch Fest

VIA members were in full force at the July 10th Rivers House Porch Fest hosted by the GCS Preservation Society, Inc. The rain did not dampen the evening of live music from the band Remedy. Supporting the restoration of the historic Rivers House is important to Green Cove Springs and to the VIA.

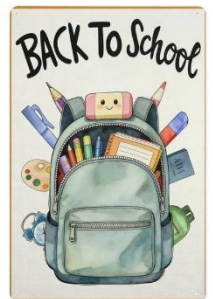


August 14th is the next event featuring the Taildraggers Ultralight band



Giving Back to the Community in the VIA Name Back to School Donations

Every year at this time there are multiple requests from schools, non-profit organizations, and individuals looking for help with Back-To-School supplies for children. If you donate, think of donating in the name of the VIA. Please report all donations to April for the Education and Librarians Committee tracking sheet.



End-of Year Reporting

Please make sure you are reporting all your donations in the name of the VIA to your respective Chairman. Our VIA members are SO generous, we want to make sure we are counting all donations. Thank you!

Camp Heritage for Grandparents and Grandchildren

The VIA and the Green Cove Springs Historic Preservation Society collaborated on the exciting Camp Heritage for Grandparents and Grandchildren held June 22-26. Thank you to the VIA and the Green Cove Springs Preservation Society who inspired the next generation of community leaders! 🐝

🏛️ Day One: How a Town Works 🏛️

🔍 Day Two: Seeing Our Town 🔍

🚗 Day Three: Places That Bring People Together 🚗 💧 🚚

🏛️ Day Four: Remember Our Stories 📄 🚚

🚗 🏡 Day Five: Building Cove Springs 🏡 🏠

Participants and their grandparents spent the mornings exploring and learning behind the scenes as part of the Rivers House Heritage and Adventure Center's Camp Heritage, hosted by the Village Improvement Association Woman's Club and the Green Cove Preservation Society, Inc. See more pictures on our VIA website/Events/Event pictures.



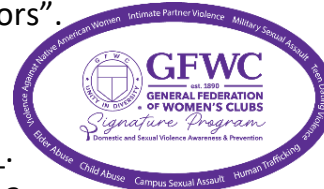
Take the Pledge

Introduced by our GFWC sisters at the GFWC International Convention in Scottsdale, AZ was the GFWC "Pledge to Stand With Survivors".

This is a pledge we hope everyone will consider taking.

"My name is _____.

I pledge to be a voice for change and a light for hope when a survivor confides they have experienced domestic or sexual violence.



I will Stand Up, Speak Up, and Show Up for the silenced, for the brave, and for those still on their journey to healing. Together, we raise awareness, offer support and move closer to a world without violence."

VIA Fun in the SUN



The VIA **Civic Engagement and Outreach Committee** led by Mary Justino, Chair with assistance from many VIA members held a fabulous community event on Thursday, July 9th at the Vera Francis Hall Park. Facepainting, photo booth, water activities, entertainment, snacks, drinks were free to all attendees. There were some extra special interactions with families this year that we will cherish.

This day of Fun in the Sun was held with support of generous sponsors who provided funds, manned a booth/activity, or provided in-kind donations or all three! We appreciate all our amazing sponsors and local public safety offices who braved the heat so we could all have FUN IN THE SUN!



Shout out to
Our TOP event sponsors:
* Elks USA – GCS Lodge #1892
* Trailer Leasing Company (TLC)
* Vallencourt
* Florida Blue



See more pictures on our VIA website/Events/Event pictures.

Health and Wellness

The **VIA Health and Wellness Committee** is letting you know there are many causes to support in **August**:

- National Immunization Awareness Month
- Psoriasis Action Month
- Summer Sun Safety Month



 Continue to save those puzzles you wish to donate ~ see Cheryl. 

VIA Members Birthdays

August:

- 1 ~ Susan Hess
- 1 ~ Deborah Page
- 3 ~ Clara Freeman
- 3 ~ Karla Logston
- 7 ~ Pam Harris
- 8 ~ Laura Elgin
- 11 ~ Rita Blackmar
- 14 ~ Judy Lind
- 16 ~ Susan Kite
- 22 ~ Teresa Moore

September:

- 3 ~ Jo Potter
- 6 ~ Sandra Gardner
- 9 ~ Jenifer Dunnevant
- 9 ~ Sandra Sheridan
- 14 ~ Christina Treadway
- 24 ~ Tracy Hardy



ESO (Epsilon Sigma Omicron) Sorority Happenings

VIA One Read with ESO ~ You are Invited!



The ESO Book Club invites all VIA members to join in a shared reading experience. As you experience **Theo of Golden** by **Allen Levi** we hope it will deepen your appreciation for small-town life, relationships, and perhaps even help us see our community with fresh eyes. Each month monthly themes and light activities will be offered. In December we will gather to share insights, favorite moments, and conversation.

August – Deepen

Focus: One author or one meaningful book, read slowly

Activity: Reread passages that stand out

Reflection: What is this book asking me to see differently? Where am I invited to grow?

Practice: Copy favorite quotes and respond to them in writing.

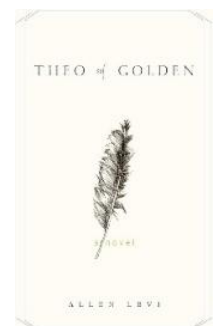
September – Learn

Focus: Something new or outside your usual interests

Activity: Watch a lecture, attend a talk, or explore an idea

Reflection: What challenged me this month? What surprised me?

Practice: Write a one-page “what I learned” reflection.



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 Editor, 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 Woman's Club of Green Cove Springs, FL, Inc. Executive Board

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Vice President: Cheri Starnes

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Building Maintenance Committee:

Sharon Nellis

Building Rental Committee:

Christy McCarthy

Membership Committee: Pam Harris

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Communications & Public Relations

Committee: Donna Shibley

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"The House That Built {Us}"

Our clubhouse has been quite versatile these past few months. We are hosting more and more events, and members are beginning to have classes and teaching sessions right on the premises. That keeps us very busy with rearranging chairs, and lots of cleaning, but I think our building looks happier than ever! Remember, every time we have new people in our clubhouse, we have an opportunity to grow our membership and gain new rentals.



I am so excited to host the District 4 meeting for August! Our ladies do such a good job of cooking, serving and simply showing old fashioned hospitality! Decorating for this event is always so fun and I am so grateful that we have such talented and supportive members!



In just a few short weeks, we will be back together again for our Open House, as well! That is really our time to shine! I am looking forward to seeing all of you soon!

Larianne

GFWC Headquarters ~ your home

GFWC Headquarters, a National Historic Landmark located in the heart of the Dupont Circle historic district, has been the Federation's home since 1922. Consisting of three adjacent rowhouses, Headquarters holds administrative offices, the Women's History and Resource Center, and the International President's living quarters during her term. As a National Historic Landmark, GFWC Headquarters is a snapshot in time. The beautifully decorated rooms, furniture, and historic collections are certainly worth a visit!



GFWC History



Founded in 1890, GFWC's roots can be traced back to 1868 when **Jane Cunningham Croly**, a



professional journalist, attempted to attend a dinner at an all-male press club honoring British novelist Charles Dickens. Croly was denied admittance based upon her gender, and in response, formed a woman's club - Sorosis.

In celebration of Sorosis' 21st anniversary in 1889, Jane Croly invited women's clubs throughout the United States to pursue the cause of federation by attending a convention in New York City.

On April 24, 1890, 63 clubs officially formed the **General Federation of Women's Clubs** by ratifying the GFWC constitution. Since 1890, GFWC's impact has been felt throughout communities across the United States and the globe.

With 63,000 members in affiliated clubs in every state, the District of Columbia, and more than twenty countries, GFWC members work in their own communities to support the arts, preserve natural resources, advance education, promote healthy lifestyles, encourage civic involvement and work toward world peace and understanding.

Collectively club members call/email their legislative representatives using the **GFWC Legislative Action Center** to support current legislation.





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

- Exit Magnolia Point Realty | 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!

