November Activities:

11/5 ~ Executive Board Meeting
11/7 ~ Alzheimer's Walk and District 4 Meeting
11/12 ~ November Meeting (page 2)
11/23 ~ Pork Butt pick up

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 historic 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 est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
Village Improvement Association Federated Woman's Club of Green Cove Springs, FL, Inc.

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

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

As always, we had a terrific meeting in October, didn't we? The decorations were perfect for the theme and the food was amazing. I am always so pleased and amazed at the talent within our club. The thought and attention placed on every detail makes the meetings so welcoming and engaging. We had lots to talk about, too, and everyone did such a great job with their reports and activities. Once again, everyone there portrayed the kindness and the warmth that our club should represent. You are all so wonderful.

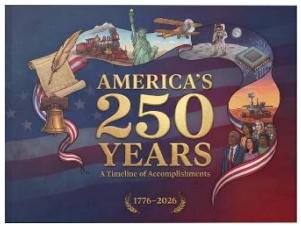
Our speaker did such a great job as well. I know she came from quite a distance, but she said so many nice things about all of you. She was impressed, not only with the reception she received, but also to hear of all the many ways we are trying to serve the children in our community. The silent auction of the cakes as well as the card sales just added to the excitement of the meeting.

Ladies, we have gotten so many new members in the last few months! You should all be very excited and proud of yourselves and each other. People join our club because they want to be a part of what we have and they enjoy the way it feels to be around such a warm and friendly group of ladies. Even the rentals bring us new interest and new members because of your hospitality and willingness to make sure everyone feels important and appreciated.

November will be awesome as well! I know our meeting will be extra special as we celebrate and honor our Veterans with the Civic/Engagement committee. If you have a relative that is a Veteran, be sure to invite them as our special guest and let us know so we can recognize them. I hope each of you will attend and support as many of the events that we do as you can. We have so many opportunities to build and strengthen friendships. I am looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Larianne
l.stutts@aol.com

November 8th Meeting 2026



The VIA November meeting will be hosted by the Civic Engagement and Outreach Committee.
With a USA 250th theme the meeting will be a patriotic celebration with decor, food items, and presentations. Highlights will include:
Clerk of Court's Historical Archives large display "The 14th Colony - British East Florida" (Clay County's Revolutionary War history)
Special guests including Clay County Veterans Service Office members (speakers) and various county and city officials.

Quigley House donations

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

Take the GFWC Pledge

This is a pledge we hope everyone will consider taking.

Pledge to Stand With Survivors

"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.

October 10th Meeting

was hosted by the Education and Libraries Committee. Our guest speaker was Angalena Cromartie, Department of Education, Government Operations Consultant accompanied by Ansonia Taylor social worker. Our cake raffle and homemade card sale had proceeds going into the VIA Scholarship fund.

More pictures are on the VIA website-Events.

GFWC Southern Region Conference

was held from October 23-25, 2026 in Jacksonville, Florida. This weekend was filled with leadership, meaningful connections, and opportunities to be inspired by the many presentations and speakers. Janey and Terry went to the Friday Sweet Pete's Tour and luncheon. Cheryl and Donna went to the Friday night dinner and Saturday business session and luncheon. Pictures were posted on our VIA Facebook page on 10.25.

* Donna and Cheryl w/ GFWC International President, Wendy Carriker.
* Janey and Terry with Southern Region Treasurer, Sharon Oliphant (from FL).
* VIA Firefighter's Calendar photo included in the GFWC Florida video

VIA members Support Others by Participating in Runs/Walks

2026 Walk to End Alzheimer's ~ Jacksonville

Saturday, November 7, 2026
Riverfront Plaza, 2W Independent Drive, Jacksonville
9:00 registration, 10:00 ceremony, 10:30 walk.
The **VIA It Takes a Village** will take part in this Alzheimer's event. Feel free to register as a participant. Or support our efforts.

HEROES & Holidays "Tougher Than You Think" Clay County Veterans

Saturday, November 14, 2026 | Time 8:00 AM | Orange Park Mall | Day 5k 2026 Adults
Description: Includes food trucks, awards ceremony, organizations supporting veterans, and more. All ages are welcome. Everyone is welcome to participate in the 5K race. This event is a collaboration between the Veterans Council of Clay County, Florida and the Clay County Board of County Commissioners. https://runsignup.com/clayvetsday5k26

GFWC Florida District 4 Meeting on October 16th

Six VIA members attended the recent GFWC Florida District 4 meeting hosted by the GFWC Woman's Club of Macclenny. With a spooky theme, the luncheon meeting featured the GFWC MA President's Project (Fired Up for Firefighters), D4 Director Project (Kids in Need of Desks) and D4 Chairmen presentations. Raffle winners were announced, and a delicious lunch and dessert were served.

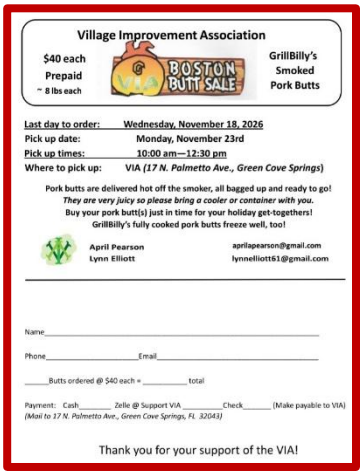
Photos:
* Group attendees
* Betty and Wilma
* Larianne with Elizabeth van Rensburg
* VIA Members attending
* Decorations

VIA Arts and Culture ~ Lightner Museum

On Tuesday, October 20, six VIA members and friends took a guided tour featuring "Ceramics: Selections from the Otto C. Lightner Collection." This guided tour offered us insight into the museum, founded in 1948 by Chicago publisher, collector, and professional hobbyist Otto C. Lightner. Lunch in the "pool" Café Alcazar was also a treat. Pictures were posted on our VIA Facebook page on 10.24.

VIA Arts and Culture ~ Hosted the BOO Bunco BASH

48 players and two facilitators participated in the October 27th Boo Bunco Bash. This successful fun evening offered fast die rolling, partner encouraging, BUNCO shouting, mingling when seats were changed, an array of yummy items brought by attendees, auction items to bid on, prizes for winners, and an overall spooky good time. More pictures are on the VIA website: Events: Event Photos



VIA Education and Libraries Fundraiser

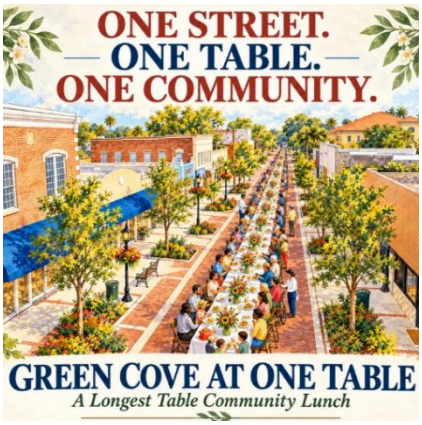
Buy **Grill Billy's Smoked Port Butts** for yourself, family and friends.
$40 prepaid each.
Order by Wed, November 18
Delivery date ~ Mon, November 23 from 10:00-12:30
at our clubhouse.
Proceeds support VIA efforts.

"Florida Road Trip" episode featuring Clay County

6 VIA members attended the 10.27 beautifully produced program at the CC Historic Courthouse showcasing the history, culture, natural beauty, and unique experiences that make Clay County, Florida, such an incredible destination.

Watch on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ipnaqv TInfQ

Green Cove Springs Preservation Society Happenings



One Table. One Community. One Street.
Friday, November 13 from 11am to 2pm you are invited to be part of the "You Bring Something Special to the Table" event. Bring your own food. Bring your own friend. Or order your food ahead of time from one of our local restaurants. Enjoy the kindness, generosity and friendship that connects our town. Attendance is FREE. Prior registration is a MUST.

And on Friday, November 20, VIA members are invited to the rescheduled **Porch-O-Kee** on the Rivers House lawn from 7–9pm at 219 Spring Street. Cheer on the singers, vote for your favorite, and help choose who takes home the $120 prize! Every ticket supports the restoration of the Rivers House Heritage & Adventure Center.

Health and Wellness

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

- Alzheimer's Awareness Disease Month
- National Diabetes Awareness Month
- Lung Cancer Awareness Month
- Pancreatic Cancer Month
- National Epilepsy Month

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

VIA Welcomes these New Members

Angela Mallory ~ 2121 Blue Heron Cove Drive, Fleming Island ~ 210-428-0559|angelajmallory@gmail.com
Fabi Robinson ~ 1893 Hickory Trace Drive, Fleming Island ~ 804-296-0253|Fabzda1@yahoo.com

VIA Member Birthdays

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

December:
19 ~ Jayne Clark
24 ~ Linda Hobbs
31 ~ Joan Jaffrey

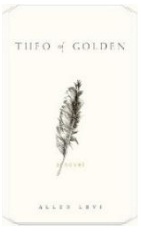
The VIA Nominating Committee is looking for names of members in good standing who are interested in serving as an Officer for the 2027-2029 administration.

If you are interested in a position, you can call:
Terry Wilson (Nominating Chair) ~ 904.631.8938
Martha Mangus (Committee) ~ 904.887.3617
Terry Abbott (Committee) ~ 904.884.3210

Thank you for helping keep our club strong and active!

ESO (Epsilon Sigma Omicron) Sorority Happenings

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. In December we will gather to share insights, favorite moments, and conversation.



November – Give Thanks
Focus: Spiritual writing, poetry, or reflective essays
Activity: Gather your notes from past months
Reflection: What has this season taught me? What am I most grateful for?
Practice: Write a letter of gratitude (to a person, place, or even yours

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! And **Chairmen** ~ please get your numbers reported to Donna. We NEED these numbers for our end-of-year reporting. Please and thank you

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

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.

Larianne 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

President: Larianne Stutts
l.stutts@aol.com
Vice President: Cheri Starnes
cstarnes2326@gmail.com
Secretary: Sharon Nellis
sjnellis@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):
Sandi Dunnavant
bookladi2012@gmail.com
Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee:
Mary Justino
justinom@clayclerk.com
Education & Libraries Committee:
April Pearson
aprilapearson@gmail.com
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}”

We are so fortunate to have our beautiful clubhouse. am so grateful, as we should all be, that Penlope Borden saw fit to donate this building to us.
I always hope we continue to carry on the legacy of the ladies she knew and engaged with so many years ago. Our mission is still the same as it was back in the late 1800s.

We are increasing our average of rentals regularly. Our clubhouse has gotten so much attention, not only by people coming to our meetings, but with people seeing the activities there, hearing about our service in the community, and seeing the decorations on the outside. People know that great things happen in our clubhouse.

With all the activity, the rentals and the events, also comes the need for more upkeep. While we have specific teams and individuals that take responsibility for the maintenance of our house, we all own and enjoy the clubhouse. We want to create a mindset of every member wanting to assist with its upkeep.

“If you see something, do something!”

In other words, let’s all be mindful of any issues that impact the appearance of our clubhouse. While the committee in charge for the month is responsible for “housekeeping” at the meeting, we can all be cognizant of little things that need to be done. Throwing away our trash, straightening our tables, noting that toilet paper or paper towels are missing, are all things that we can join together and do. Also, if you bring something to donate, please let someone know so it can be put where it needs to go or stored.

Our clubhouse is taking good care of us. Let’s all work together to take care of it.

GFWC ~ Did you Know?

The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) has a long-standing history of supporting active-duty military, veterans, and military families dating back over a century through wartime service, community outreach, and legislative advocacy.

World War I and Overseas Service

War Victory Commission: During World War I, GFWC formed a War Victory Commission to raise funds and organize support for troops.

GFWC Unit for Overseas Service: In early 1919, GFWC recruited and sent an overseas unit of women to France, Belgium, and Germany to run canteens, host dances, serve refreshments, and boost morale for the American Expeditionary Forces waiting for transport home.

World War II and Homefront Efforts

War Bonds and Relief: During World War II, GFWC clubwomen across the country organized massive campaigns—raising over $154 million in war bonds in 1944 alone—planted victory gardens, and sewed garments for service members.

Local Support: State federations (such as GFWC Florida) mobilized local clubs to assist military families and support homefront readiness.

Modern Support for Veterans and Military Families:

Partner Organizations: Through the GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program members partner with groups like Honor Flights, Quilts of Valor, Wreaths Across America and the USO.

Direct Community Engagement: Clubs host initiatives like "Barbecue for the Troops" fundraisers, "Bring a Vet to Lunch" meetings for homeless or local veterans, and group sew days. Special state-level projects have also funded honor flights for women veterans.

Legislative Advocacy: Clubwomen use the GFWC Legislative Action Center to lobby Congress on issues affecting veterans—such as advocating for the burial rights of Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) at Arlington National Cemetery.

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 Dunnavant | 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 / BPH Entertainment | Bobbi Nagle | 904-891-4538

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