



October Activities:

10/1 ~ Executive Board Meeting

10/8 ~ October Meeting (page 2)

10/23-25 ~ GFWC Southern Region Conference (page 2)

10/27 ~ Boo Bunco Bash (page 5)

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**.



President's Message

Our Open House this past month was amazing! It was such a joy to see so many of you again. It was also so exciting to see so many visitors for our first meeting after our "summer break". The room was full of excitement and each of you did your part to make every person present feel welcome and valued. Enthusiasm truly permeated the room.

I also want to thank each of you for your input and feedback over the summer when we are trying to plan our Open House. So many of you offered suggestions and rationale for your ideas and it was so appreciated. As President, I hope you know I always try to listen to each of you and take your suggestions to heart. The majority suggested having our Open House during the day and it certainly proved to be a great decision. Again, I thank you for sharing your thoughts and for doing so in a positive way.

We have an exciting meeting planned for October. We also have several fun events scheduled and I hope you will take part in many of them. I also want to remind each of you that, while we have a full calendar, you are not expected to participate in everything. Some of you like to stay busy and have hours to fill. Many of you, however, have other obligations and may not be able to participate in all the "fun stuff". Please know that we understand that and realize that this is a club, and not a job. Service projects are the reason the club was started, and we want to keep that as our priority, but I love to plan fun things that keep us connected with each other. Never feel obligated, though. Never feel pressured to do everything, though. I always suggest choosing one committee, or possibly two, and then joining us for the fun stuff that fits into your schedule. You will meet new people and you may realize that some of your talents and interests have gone "untapped" for many years. We are life-long learners and want to stay active and challenged. I look forward to seeing you for a fun October!

Larriane

l.stutts@aol.com



October 8th Meeting 2026



We are looking forward to kicking off the fall season with the October meeting hosted by the Education and Library Committee. Our guest speaker

will be from **Take Stock in Children ~ Angalena Cromartie accompanied by Ansonia Taylor.**

There will also be a raffle for several cakes, including Cheri's famous hummingbird and Coca Cola cakes! The money raised will go into the VIA Scholarship fund. See you there!

Quigley House donations



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

Home Cookin' is the Clay County Clerk of Court and Comptroller's Office partnering with the VIA to address the needs of our community. Please look at the requested items needed ~ through October 8.



The Clay County Clerk of Court and Comptroller's Office is partnering with the Village Improvement Association of Green Cove Springs, a historic woman's club, to address a need in our community. Transitional housing is one of the services provided to domestic violence survivors by Quigley House, our county's domestic violence shelter. But as welcome a refuge as transitional housing may be to the Quigley House clients leaving shelter to start new lives, they may find their kitchen lacks the tools and cooking supplies needed to make a real home cooked meal. From **Friday, September 25th through Thursday, October 8th** the following new items will be collected at VIA's clubhouse and at the Clerk's main courthouse location (All-Purpose Room then Admin Lobby) and donated to Quigley House in coordination with VIA members in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2026. Please consider helping us with this home cookin' effort! Contact justinom@clayclerk.com with questions.

NEW Items Needed:

Cooking Utensils Hot Pads Dish Towels
Cookware (pots, pans, casserole dishes)
Tableware Sets (plates and eating utensils)
Small Appliances (toaster, blender, coffee machine,
rice cooker, air fryer, can opener)



September 10th Open House

Our general meeting and Open House had a Wizard of Oz theme. The morning was well attended as we welcomed 13 visitors and many of these ladies took applications home. We introduced our Officers, Special Program (SP) and Community Service Program (CSP) Chairmen and their Committees, and each gave attendees a snapshot of what we do in the community.

More pictures are on the VIA website-Events



GFWC Southern Region Conference

To be held from October 23-25, 2026 in Jacksonville,



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. Meet the GFWC International President, Wendy Carriker and President-elect, Jolie Frankfurth. Some of our members are attending.

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, FLA 32202

Description: The world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support and research.

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. This event is a collaboration between the Veterans Council of Clay County, Florida and the Clay County Board of County Commissioners. Everyone is welcome to participate in the 5K race.

<https://runsignup.com/clayvetsday5k26>



VIA members Support Community Events



Hoop Shoot Contest hosted by ELKS Lodge #1892

🏀 The Elks Hoop Shoot is a fun basketball free throw contest for kids ages 8–13! This nationwide program gives young athletes the chance to showcase their skills, build confidence, and compete for a shot at advancing to national levels! 🏀

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

📅 Date: Saturday, October 17, 2026

🕒 Registration: 10:30 AM | Contest Starts: 11:00 AM

Contact Hoop Shoot Director Stuart Williams at (904) 312-4784 | swilliams93@gmail.com

Sharing this message from Clay County

You are cordially invited to join us as we commemorate America's 250th anniversary with a special day of patriotism, history, music, and community.

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2026

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Ceremony at 2:50)

Historic Triangle | Green Cove Springs, Florida

Throughout the day, guests will enjoy live musical performances, food trucks and vendors, historical programming, and opportunities to come together as a community in recognition of this historic milestone. A special America 250 Commemorative Ceremony will be held at 2:50 in the afternoon, followed by a historic document signing inside the Historic Courthouse.

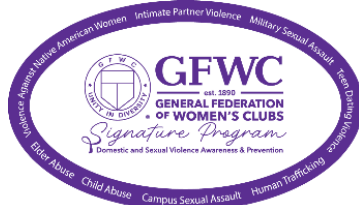


October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

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.

Take the GFWC Pledge

This is a pledge we hope everyone will consider taking.



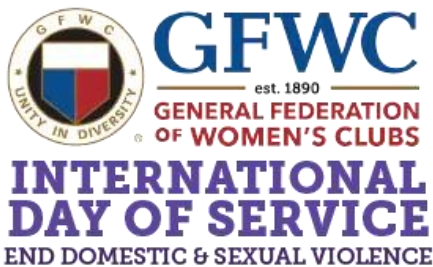
I will Stand Up, Speak Up, and Show Up
for the silenced,
for the brave,
and for those still on their journey to healing.
Together, we raise awareness, offer support
and move closer to a world without violence.

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.

GFWC International Day of Service



September 25 was the VIA's GFWC International Day of Service, again, focused on Human Trafficking. The focus was on the realities and connections found in HT, DV, SA, and drug abuse.

Our watching of the general training video promoted by the AG was meaningful, but the addition of the SAO's presentation that provided local examples and testimonials was very impactful. We are grateful for the time and energy that went into everyone's participation and the Judge

facilitating the special courtroom time.

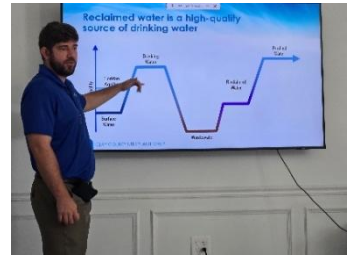
On behalf of Clerk/Comptroller Green and our office's community engagement mission, thank you for all you do. We all learned so much today. From Mary Justino

1. CCSO Ellis and Attendees in Clerk's Office
2. Group in Courtroom
3. Judge Whittington and SAO Presenters in courtroom



VIA members visit Project Quench

The VIA Environment Committee invited our members to tour the Project Quench facility on September 22nd with Clay County Utility Authority's Zachary Loeb. Attendees learned so much about our area's resources, current changes, future concerns and how Project Quench is working hard keep us in great shape!



Upcoming VIA Events ~ Invite your Friends and Family

BOO BUNCO BASH
Fun ♥ Food ♥ Fellowship
Tuesday, October 27
17 Palmetto Ave • Green Cove Springs
Snacks & social time begin at 6 PM
Dice roll at 7 PM
Bunco prizes & silent auction
Entry \$10 • Cash or Zelle at the door
Bring a snack or dessert to share, if you'd like.
Costumes or seasonal attire encouraged, but not required.
RSVP with your name and number of guests
Text: 904-631-8938
VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Village Improvement Association

\$40 each
Prepaid
~ 8 lbs each

BOSTON BUTT SALE

GrillBilly's
Smoked
Pork Butts

Last day to order: **Wednesday, November 18, 2026**
Pick up date: **Monday, November 23rd**
Pick up times: **10:00 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 very juicy so please bring a cooler or container with you.
Buy your pork butt(s) just in time for your holiday get-togethers!
GrillBilly's fully cooked pork butts freeze well, too!

April Pearson
Lynn Elliott

aprilpearson@gmail.com
lynnelliott61@gmail.com

Name _____
Phone _____ Email _____
_____ Butts ordered @ \$40 each = _____ total

Payment: Cash _____ Zelle @ Support VIA _____ Check _____ (Make payable to VIA)
(Mail to 17 N. Palmetto Ave., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043)

Thank you for your support of the VIA!

**The Arts and Culture Committee invites YOU
to the BOO Bunco Bash on October 27th**

**The Education and Libraries Committee invites you
to buy GrillBilly's Smoked Port Butts**

Rivers House Heritage and Adventure Center Porch Fest

On Friday, September 11, VIA members were in full force at the Porch Fest event featuring Brandon Leino hosted by the GCS Preservation Society, Inc. Supporting the restoration of the historic Rivers House is important to Green Cove Springs and to the VIA.

Porch-O-Kee is coming to the Rivers House lawn! on October 9, from 7–9 PM at 219 Spring Street. Cheer on the singers, vote for your favorite, and help choose who takes home the \$120 prize! 🎵 Bring your friends, enjoy the music and help your favorite singer win! Every ticket supports the restoration of the Rivers House Heritage & Adventure Center.



CALLING ALL SINGERS!
PORCH-O-KEE
FIRST PORCHFEST KARAOKE CONTEST

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026 • 7–9 PM
RIVERS HOUSE
219 SPRING STREET • GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL

\$20 SINGER ENTRY • \$120 CASH PRIZE
THE AUDIENCE SELECTS THE WINNER!

LIMITED SPACES • SIGN UP NOW
zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/porch-o-kee

SCAN TO SIGN UP

GREEN COVE SPRINGS PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Health and Wellness

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

- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Month
- National Down Syndrome Awareness Month
- Health Literacy Month
- National Bullying Prevention Month



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

VIA Welcomes these New Members

Linda Hobbs ~ 1092 Buccaneer Blvd, Green Cove Springs ~ 904-866-5210 | amazinggrace04@gmail.com

Elizabeth Judy ~ 1256 Pleasant Point Road, Green Cove Springs ~ 843-819-9110 | ejudy81@gmail.com

Katie Wood ~ 2208 Garden Moss Drive, Green Cove Springs ~ 904-955-3482 | kmwood7211@gmail.com

VIA Member Birthdays

October:

- 1 ~ Christy McCarthy
- 3 ~ Nancy Coltrin
- 12 ~ Lynn Lisenby
- 13 ~ Jan Willems
- 18 ~ Katie Wood
- 24 ~ Janey Fox

November:

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



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. Monthly themes and light activities will be offered. In December we will gather to share insights, favorite moments, and conversation.

October – Imagine

Focus: Fiction, Mystery or something Imaginative

Activity: Create a reading night (candle, blanket, quiet)

Reflection: What does imagination open up in me? Where do I need more wonder in my life?

Practice: Write a short creative piece or alternate ending.

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 yourself)



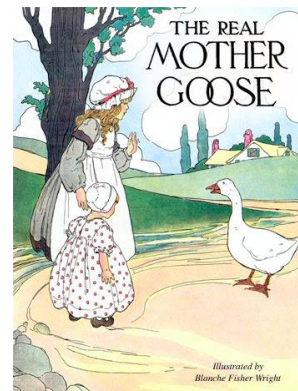
Mother Goose Honkers

Our volunteers, affectionately known as the **Honkers**, read aloud to preschool children, introducing them to the joy of stories, and wonderful literature. This year, we are excited to expand our reading program into **Charles E. Bennett Elementary School**.

You may be a perfect Honker if you:

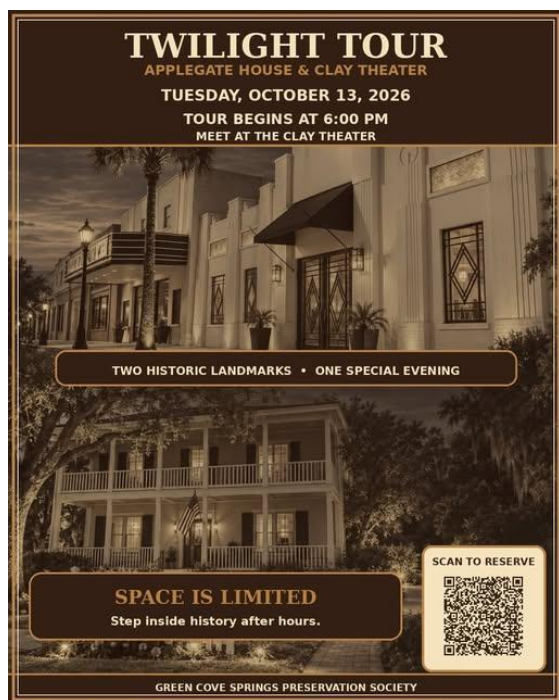
- Love children and enjoy spending time with others who do
- Delight in sharing great picture books
- Want to encourage children's language, imagination, and love of reading
- Enjoy volunteering but need flexible scheduling
- Can honk! (not a real requirement!)

However, after reading to a room full of four-year-olds who have just visited a fire truck, you may want to learn how to honk and let off a little steam!



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 ♥

Green Cove Springs Preservation Society Happenings



Twilight Tour ~ Applegate House and Clay Theater
October 13th @ 6:00pm



Ghosts of Green Cove's Past
October 29th @ 6:00pm

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.

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

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):

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}"

It has been said at our meetings many times that rentals are our greatest source of income. We have been super busy for the past year with rentals. We have been the venue for bridal showers, birthday parties, baby showers and even meetings. Most of those rentals have come from "word of mouth" or people that have been in our clubhouse for a meeting or an event. We have also gotten a lot of publicity just by hosting events in the clubhouse and telling others about its history.



We have also made some significant changes this past year to our décor and our archive room. Some of the paintings that were previously in the auditorium have been moved to the archive room. We also were gifted a 1909 wedding dress that now hangs proudly in our archive room. Our goal is for the archive room to reflect our past, while also promoting our growth and future.



It is very rewarding to look back at where we began and see how much we have accomplished over the past **143 years**. We should all take pride in our beginnings and strive to continue the legacy.

VIA History

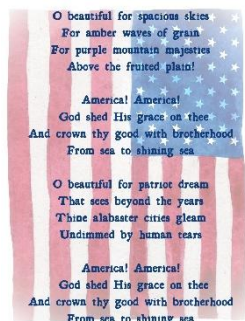


Construction began on the Village Improvement Association Clubhouse in 1914, but the official celebration and dedication was held on February 18 of 1915. The land for the clubhouse was donated by Penelope Borden Hamilton of Borden milk, who was a proud member of the VIA. The formal dedication was made by Mrs. W.S. Jennings, the State Federation President at the time. This was held as a celebratory event in honor of Mrs. E.G.G. Munsell who had been the VIA President for the past 17 years. She was the club's leader during its most formative years and was involved in its planning and construction.



GFWC ~ Did you Know?

- The GFWC Federation color is **blue**.
- The Federation's flower is the **red rose**. It was officially adopted in May 1940.
- GFWC has an organizational **flag**. It was first used at the Golden Jubilee Celebration of GFWC in Atlantic City, NJ on May 19, 1941.
- The **official song** of GFWC is "**America, The Beautiful**" written by Katherine Lee Bates. GFWC selected the song in 1922, as it "...is a song of dignity and beauty, easily sung, and reflecting the true spirit of America and the ideals of this Federation.





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



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

