

Green Cove Springs

Business & Community Directory 2023



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Mission Statement:

Our Vision for Tomorrow creates a plan that will define our unique identity, assure quality of life, and make Green Cove Springs a premier 21st century city that reflects our traditional values, natural features, and historic characteristics.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Our City Council meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers, located on the first floor of City Hall, 321 Walnut Street.

CITY ADMINISTRATION

Steve Kennedy, *City Manager*

Mike Null, *Assistant City Manager /
Public Works Director*

Erin West, *City Clerk*

L. J. Arnold, III, *City Attorney*

Michael Daniels, AICP,
Development Services Director

Dee Jones,

Human Resources Director

John Guzman, *Chief of Police*

For assistance, please call 904-297-7500,
visit our website at

www.greencovesprings.com,
like us on Facebook at "City of Green Cove
Springs Government" and "Green Cove
Springs Police Department," or follow us
on Twitter at "@gcsTODAY".

ADVERTISING & LAYOUT INFORMATION:

The Green Cove Springs Directory and Community Review was created and printed by the staff of the City of Green Cove Springs & Clay Today Newspaper. If you would like to be included in the next edition please contact:

Farris Robinson (904) 264-3200

Farris@claytodayonline.com

Publisher, Clay Today and Clay County Leader

Funding Provided by Businesses
Located in Green Cove Springs.

Welcome to Green Cove Springs

We're a thriving city located along the banks of the St. Johns River, where old Florida charm meets modern living.

Much of the City's downtown core is part of the National Register of Historic Places. Walk beside the original brick-paved street along Walnut Street where shops of all kinds reside in the same buildings that have made up the main shopping area in Green Cove Springs for over a hundred years.

Follow Walnut Street to the St. Johns River and walk through Spring Park, the City's crown jewel and main gathering space for events throughout the year. One of the main features of the park is the spring-fed pool that has been used as a private and public pool since the late 1800s. It underwent a complete renovation in 2016, converting the original location of City Hall to a two-story pool pavilion and office, rebuilding the pool structure, and adding a splash pad beside the spring. The pool is open to the public from May to October, while the splash pad is open year-round.

Spring Park and Walnut Street is also home for several events throughout the year, including Green Cove Springs RiverFest, Christmas on Walnut Street (held the first

Saturday in December), and monthly events Food Truck Friday (second Friday evening from March to November) and Third Saturday Market in the Park (third Saturday morning from September to June).

We're also proud to be the birthplace of renowned sculptor Augusta Savage. The City has honored her legacy through the Augusta Savage Arts and Community Center, which includes an indoor gymnasium and outdoor fields, and most recently with the Augusta Savage Museum and Mentoring Center, which offers a public art museum space that features the work of Augusta Savage and other artists. Programs offered at the Augusta Savage Art and Community Center and Museum and Mentoring Center throughout the year are open to the public.

As a full-service municipality serving about 10,042 as of July 2022 residents and a city workforce of just under 100 staff members, Green Cove Springs offers something for residents and visitors alike. You can find more details about our parks, events, and businesses throughout this directory as well as on our website greencovesprings.com.



Yours in Service,



Connie Butler, Mayor



Steven Kelley, Vice Mayor



Edward Gaw, Council Member



Matt Johnson, Council Member



Thomas Smith, Council Member

Letter from the Chief



As the Chief of Police for the City of Green Cove Springs, it is my honor to lead a talented team of police officers and civilian staff members. The average member of our organization is college educated, highly trained, and possesses many years of experience in their professional field.

The Green Cove Springs Police Department (GCSPD) is a full-service law enforcement agency that proudly serves the residents and visitors of

our County Seat of government. Although our department is not as large as some of our local counterparts, we provide a large array of law enforcement and related services. In addition to Patrol, components of our department include School Resource Officers, Canine Team, Marine Enforcement, Narcotics, and Traffic Enforcement.

The GCSPD's motto of "Protect with Courage and Serve with Respect" represents who we are as a department. We serve a fast-growing community with an emphasis on good customer service, continued training, the use of technology, and a progressive mindset.

Our police department does not practice "community policing", as we ARE the community. The dedicated men and women of this agency are an integral part of this community, and the community remains a steadfast support mechanism for our organization.

The Green Cove Springs Police Department currently utilizes several social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Tumblr) as well as our webpage (gcspd.com), and the SaferWatch application to share information. We invite you to follow us to stay informed.

The GCSPD also hosts several events for our community every year, including our annual Trunk or Treat Event, Readers are Leaders Literacy Program, Midnight Basketball Program, Easter Egg Hunt, Bike Rodeo and many more. Please come out and join us for the fun filled events.

John Guzman,
Chief of Police



ClayElections.gov

Your source for verified election information.

Make a plan to vote in 2024!

Vote Early, Vote on Election Day, or Vote by Mail - whatever way you choose, make sure your voice is heard!

Presidential Preference Primary

Early Voting: March 8 -16, 2024 9 AM - 6 PM
Election Day: March 19, 2024

Primary Election

Early Voting: August 8 -17, 2024 8 AM - 6 PM
Election Day: August 20, 2024

General Election

Early Voting: Oct.22 - Nov. 2, 2024 7 AM - 7 PM
Election Day: November 5, 2024



Chris H. Chambliss
Clay County
Supervisor of Elections

Want to Vote by Mail?
Scan the QR code
or visit ClayElections.gov





Green Cove Springs Christmas Parade

DEC 2ND 2023 AT 6PM

**Location:
Can be seen on both
sides of US 17 between
Lamont and Palmer**

- Every 1st Sat in December
- Over 50 parade entrees
- One of the largest night parades in North Florida.

www.GCSBL.com

find us on 



Cove Life

**Welcome to Green Cove Springs,
a charming community of 7,000 nestled
on the beautiful St. Johns River.**

The Clay County Seat, Green Cove Springs is a recreation-rich community, home to our riverfront Spring Park in the center of town with its historic spring-fed swimming pool. Spring Park also boasts a gazebo, playground, fishing and picnicking facilities. The park is the sight of many local festivals and events.

Visitors and residents will also enjoy our historic downtown, with its pedestrian-friendly brick streets, shopping at local antique shops, sipping a hometown coffee, exploring our local artisans or just running errands while supporting local merchants and restaurants.

Other attractions include the Augusta Savage Arts and Community Center, beautiful tree-lined streets with historic Victorian homes. We also offer golf and boating opportunities, as well as our proximity to Jacksonville and St. Augustine.

You'll find lots of information in this publication, along with news on our many festivals and markets, so surely you'll find a new reason to visit or something interesting to do.

For updated event information, membership information and volunteer opportunities, visit us at www.GCSBL.com

Brandon Bascelli

Networking / Increased Visibility / Referrals

Need additional business contacts? The Green Cove Springs Business League holds monthly lunch meetings with guest speakers so members can develop business relationships and increase their professional network. Learn more about other area businesses and the benefits and services they can provide.

Every 3rd Tuesday of the month.



**Third Saturdays
Market in the Park
Every 3rd Saturday of
the month 10am-2pm
321 Walnut Street
in Front of City Hall**



GREEN COVE SPRINGS
business league

GROW

CREATE

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www.davidkingattorney.com

for more information about our qualifications and experience.



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ON THE COVER

Green Cove Springs
Business & Community Directory 2023



Spring Park Pool

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Every effort is made to avoid errors, misspellings and omissions. If, however, an error comes to your attention, please accept our sincere apologies and notify us. Thank you.

Businesses Getting Directories

Magnolia Point Realty: 404 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, FL • **Bright way Insurance:** 423 North Street, Green Cove Springs, FL • **Spring Park Coffee:** 328 Ferris Street, Green Cove Springs, FL
Red's Wine Bar: 414 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, FL • **Sweet Sensations:** 25 N. Orange Ave., Green Cove Springs, FL • **City Hall:** 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, FL • **River Park Inn:** 103 S. Magnolia Ave., Green Cove Springs, FL • **Ronnie's Wings:** 232 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, FL • **Hagan Ace Hardware:** 1305 N. Orange Ave, Ste 114, Green Cove Springs, FL • **Woody's BBQ:** 1301 N. Orange Ave., Ste 103, Green Cove Springs, FL • **McDonald's:** 1165 N. Orange Ave., Green Cove Springs, FL • **Burger King:** 535 N. Orange Ave., Green Cove Springs, FL • **Magnolia Point Country Club:** 3670 Club House DR., Green Cove Springs, FL • **VisualFX:** 430 N. Orange Ave., Green Cove Springs, FL • **D'Fontana's Pizza:** 324 Ferris Street, Green Cove Springs, FL • **Something Special:** 425 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, FL

Meet Joan Saunders:

She's the manager at the ACE HARDWARE Green Cove Springs location.

Here are five fun facts you might not know about her!

Joan was born and raised in Penney Farms, Florida and still lives there to this day!

Joan has been with us for almost 50 years!

She loves her job because of the people she works with, the customers and she loves walking into the Green Cove Springs store every day. Joan went to school for Law Enforcement but ended up falling in love with the hardware business.



Joan was a star softball player in high school.

(She says, "Come see us in GCS because we are a fun bunch of people and we will take care of you!")



**Joan Saunders
Manager**



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www.HaganCoastalOutfitters.com



CITY'S 150 YEAR CELEBRATION



Green Cove Springs celebrates 150 years since becoming an incorporated city in 2024! All throughout the year the City will hold special 150th celebrations during city-sponsored events such as Food Truck Friday and Third Saturday Market in the Park, which leads up to the City's 150th Celebration Festival on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The festival will be held throughout the downtown core with events such as a car show, carnival-style games and rides, interactive displays telling the City's history, fireworks show, and more.

Beginning as a lumber town of White Sulfur Springs, the town was renamed Green Cove Springs in 1866 and became an incorporated City on November 2, 1874. From the late 1880s to the early 1900s, Green Cove Springs was known as the "Saratoga of the South" with several hotels built in the City ready to cater to the steady stream of high-class northern tourists by steamboat on the St. Johns River. During the turn of the 20th century Green Cove Springs became home to Gustafson's Farm and the first Federated Women's Club of Florida, incorporated in 1883. Green Cove Springs Village

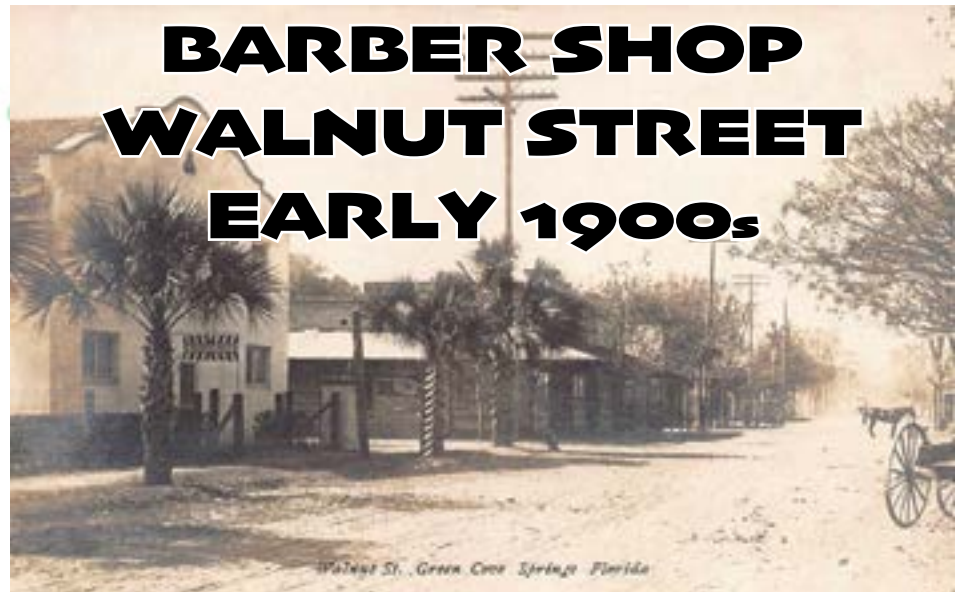
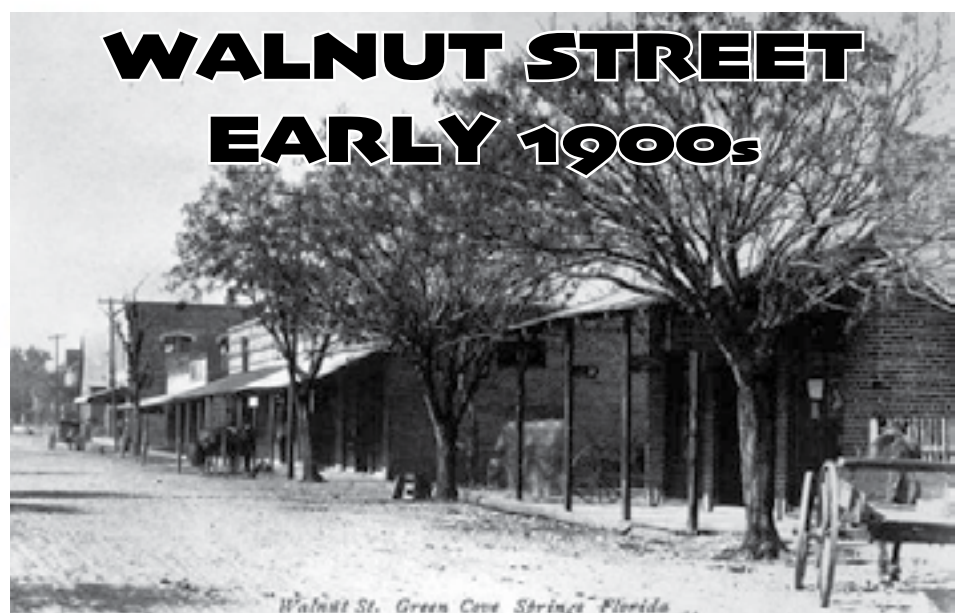
Improvement Association Federated Women's Club is the longest running club in Florida, celebrating 140 years as a club in 2023.

The military community became part of the City's identity with the construction of Camp Blanding, a National Guard training facility, and Benjamin Lee Field, a Navy flight training facility, in the 1930s. As a training facility, Benjamin Lee Field had four 5,00-foot runways designed to train pilots to land on aircraft carriers during World War II. Benjamin Lee Field was later renamed Naval Air Station Green Cove Springs and downgraded to a Naval Auxillary Station, holding the world's largest mothball fleet of over 600 retired ships until it was decommissioned in the 1960s. The City purchased the facility from the federal government then later sold it to the J. Louis Reynolds Corporation, now known as Reynolds Park.

In the past 15 years the City has seen new growth with revitalization of older commercial buildings, anticipation of the First Coast Expressway, and the reconstruction of the pool and new pool pavilion. City Council also began planning for the City's future in terms of safety and development with

"Tomorrow's Vision" in 2005. The goals in "Tomorrow's Vision" were broken down further in 2012 and updated in 2018 with "Vision 2025." The goals of the City's Vision were broken down further in 2021/22 with the "2045 Comprehensive Plan Update," which turned them into more actionable plans and projects. Since 2022 the City has taken the approved comprehensive plan update and completed several other plans, including the Downtown Master Plan, Downtown Parking Study, and Walnut Street Redesign. These plans help to set more specific guidelines for future development within city limits, which will give areas of the city a comprehensive look and feel.

Get ready to learn more about the City and what shaped it to the growing community it is today all throughout the year in 2024 with the City's 150th anniversary celebrations! Go to greencovesprings.com for the most updated information on events and more.



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Soul Food and Music Festival

Green Cove Springs is celebrating its 22nd Annual Soul Food and Music Festival on Saturday, October 7, 2023 at the Vera Francis Hall Park, located at 1503 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. This celebration is a great service to the Green Cove Springs community and anyone wishing to celebrate with us!

Our annual festival is dedicated to the continuance of bringing unity in the community and cultural awareness, by offering southern style cuisines, dancing, sweet potato pie and bbq ribs contests, soulful gospel and R&B music to our historic community.

The Annual Soul Food Festival is the home of our very own, Augusta Savage Fells, who was a renowned sculptress and played a very important role in both our community and the Harlem Renaissance where understanding the history of this sculptress is also imperative to the appreciation of the arts.

The festival is presented by Soul Food Festival, Inc., and is co-sponsored by the City of Green Cove Springs, along with many volunteers and the co-founders, Felecia and Clarence Hampshire, whose objectives are to create platforms from which the public can come and received life changing knowledge as it relates to Health & Wellness, Education with the Dolly Parton Foundation, Financing with local banks, Business and Workforce development.

During the festival, there will be fun, family oriented activities, such as the kickoff at the Soul Food Festival parade, an open to play kickball tournament for all ages, bounce houses and foam party, spades tournament, dance contests for all ages, soul food and other vendors, and lots of entertainment on stage.

Thank you to all of our amazing sponsors who support this annual community event and it's causes. We look forward to seeing your families come out and enjoy this FREE event and FREE parking is available for first come first serve.



Green Cove Springs Events

Please check [greencovesprings.com](https://www.greencovesprings.com) prior to the event for the most up to date information.



FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY

www.facebook.com/greencovespringsfoodtruckfriday/
Every second Friday of the month from March to November
5-9:30 p.m. • Spring Park, Green Cove Springs

Food Truck Friday gathers local bands and up to 16 local food trucks to Spring Park once a month from Spring to Fall for an evening of fellowship and fun along the St. Johns River. Each month features different local food trucks and band, with a sectioned-off “cooler zone” for adults ages 21 and up to bring their favorite beer or wine to enjoy during Food Truck Friday. Follow its Facebook Page “Green Cove Springs, Food Truck Friday” to get the latest information of each monthly event.



THIRD SATURDAY MARKET IN THE PARK

<https://gcsbl.com/3rdmip/>
Every third Saturday of the month from September to June
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. • Spring Park

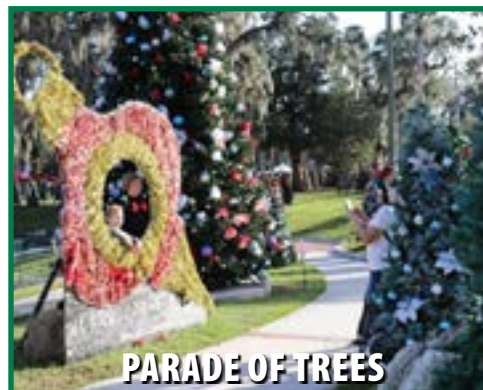
Third Saturday Market in the Park, organized by the Green Cove Springs Business League, lines the streets surrounding City Hall and Spring Park with booths of local artisans selling fresh produce, baked goods, honey, handmade soaps, original artwork, and more. Go to gcsbl.com for more information and to sign up as a vendor.



SOUL FOOD AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

<https://www.gcssoulfood.net/> • October 7, 2023 • Noon to 7 p.m.
Vera Francis Hall Park, 1503 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.,
Green Cove Springs, FL

Soul Food and Music Festival celebrates the community of Green Cove Springs. This year's theme “A Green Cove Spring Southern Soul City Celebrations” highlights the soul food and music traditions of Green Cove Springs with the festival held in honor of the late Erich Terry, who has been a vendor and a supporter of the festival for the past 15 years. It starts with the Parade of Pride at noon, which ends at Vera Francis Hall Park to kick off the festival's opening ceremonies. The afternoon will be filled with local food, entertainment, and food and dance contests. This year's performance headliners include national recording artist Royale904 and DJ Reggie. More information about Soul Food and Music Festival can be found at www.gcssoulfood.net/.



PARADE OF TREES

<https://www.greencovesprings.com/ParadeofTrees>
December 1 – 31 • 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. • Spring Park

Every December Spring Park transforms into a Christmas wonderland with 30-plus decorated Christmas trees lining either side of the park's sidewalks. Each tree is strung with lights and the entire park is lit up every night until New Year's Day. Christmas trees are open to the public to reserve to decorate for an affordable fee. For more information, go to “Special Events” at [greencovesprings.com](https://www.greencovesprings.com).

CHRISTMAS ON WALNUT STREET

<https://www.greencovesprings.com/departments/SpecialEvents/christmas-on-walnut-street>
December 2, 2023 • 12 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Downtown Green Cove Springs

Green Cove Springs celebrates the holiday season with Christmas on Walnut Street. The afternoon is filled with local food and craft vendors, live music, and activities like pictures with Santa and the Jingle Bell Fun Run. The event ends with the Green Cove Springs lighted Christmas Parade and the first lighting of the Parade of Trees in Spring Park and the 40-ft City Christmas Tree. For more information, go to [greencovesprings.com/285/Christmas-on-Walnut-Street](https://www.greencovesprings.com/285/Christmas-on-Walnut-Street).

GREEN COVE SPRINGS CHRISTMAS PARADE “CHRISTMAS MOVIE MAGIC”

<https://gcsbl.com/parade/>
December 2, 2023 • 6 p.m.
Downtown Green Cove Springs

Green Cove Springs Business League presents the annual Green Cove Springs Christmas Parade. The streets of downtown Green Cove Springs come alive with lighted Christmas floats as the parade travels down U.S. 17 from the Clay County Courthouse to Walnut Street. For more information and to volunteer go to <https://gcsbl.com/parade/>.

AUGUSTA SAVAGE 132ND BIRTHDAY GALA

Hosted by Friends of Augusta Savage, Inc. • February 24, 2024

Friends of Augusta Savage Arts and Community Center, Inc. hosts an Augusta Savage 132nd Birthday Gala to support upcoming programs at the Augusta Savage Mentoring Center. Ticket sales will fund instruments for a beginners' music class, establish an Artist in Residence program, and a STEM program for girls. For more information go to fasacc.org

CALAVIDA MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL

<https://calavida.com/> • April 22 – 27, 2024

Calavida Music and Arts Festival celebrates arts of all disciplines, including writing, acting, music, visual art and more. Monday, April 22, to Friday, April 26, offers a performance at a different venue in Green Cove Springs every night. The festival ends Saturday, April 27, with a day-long festival of the arts at Spring Park in Green Cove Springs. Festivities throughout the day include an antiques stroll, meeting local artists and authors, and performances by bands. Past years performers include Mama Blue, The Chris Thomas Band, and Kim Reteguiz & The Black Cat Bones. More information about the week-long festival can be found at <https://calavida.com/>.

GREEN COVE SPRINGS RIVERFEST

<https://www.greencovesprings.com/riverfest>
Memorial Day • 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. • Spring Park

City of Green Cove Springs honors Memorial Day with a day-long event that includes a military memorial service and veterans recognition ceremony. Morning memorial services lead into afternoon festivities to kick off the summer, such as rubber duck races, live music, kids' zone, and craft and food vendors. The day ends with a fireworks show over the St. Johns River at night. For more information, go to <https://www.greencovesprings.com/riverfest>.



CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

November 2, 2024 • 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Downtown Green Cove Springs

Green Cove Springs celebrates 150 years as an incorporated city with a downtown-wide celebration that highlights the city's past as well as celebrates the community that makes Green Cove Springs what it is today. Throughout the day will be vendors, food trucks, a kids zone with games and carnival-style attractions, car show, city history exhibits, and a fireworks show to end the day. For more information on the City's 150th Anniversary Celebration make sure to check greencovesprings.com for the latest updates.



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Bradford/Clay
Community President
904.452.2050



Becky Barrs
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Assistant
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Aging and Disability Resource Helpline

If you are a senior or a caregiver needing resources and support, we are here for you. Our staff is trained to listen to your concerns and quick to respond to your needs.



Caring Connections Telephone Reassurance Program

If you're feeling lonely, sign up to receive friendly telephone calls from a volunteer. Or, be a volunteer to make calls to seniors!



Virtual Caregiver Support Group

Don't go it alone. Our group offers a safe place to connect face-to-face online to share information, ask questions and voice personal feelings.



Medicare Help

The SHINE program - Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders -- offers free and unbiased help about Medicare and health insurance issues.



Full Service Marine Equipment Company

Complete line of services customized to meet the needs of contractors and others who require inland and offshore towing. Our vast capabilities allow us to build, repair, rent and sell a wide variety of equipment.



Yacht salvage



Fireworks barge

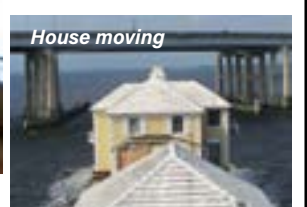
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CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS



DAVID BROSKIE
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

 PineApple Report's 2022-2023 Excellence in Education Leadership Award Recipient

COMMITTED TO FOSTERING A SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF.

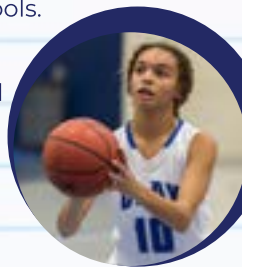
Clay County District Schools – **A TOP 10 SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

– is preparing students for success in a global and competitive workplace upon graduation, with a strong focus on improving the academic well-being of every learner, offering world-class educational opportunities for all students.

DISTRICT Highlights

★ Graduation rate is 95% for the District's seven traditional high schools.

★ School Resource Officer at every school and increased security measures to keep students and staff safe.

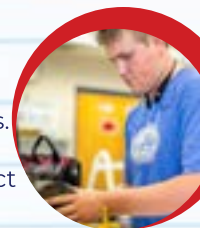


★ Named 2022 Academically High Performing School District by the Florida Department of Education.



★ CCDS offers 34+ Career and Technical Education programs.

★ Ranked 5th Best School District in Florida by Niche in 2023.



★ Expanded School Choice options including Montessori and Pre-AICE programs.



★ All students have digital access through Chromebooks and Wi-Fi at every school.

★ All high schools have accelerated programs.

★ Opened 43rd school, Spring Park Elementary in August 2023.

★ Fleming Island Elementary recognized as a 2022-2023 Purple Star of Distinction school for supporting our military families.



Learn More About Clay County District Schools by visiting our website at www.OneClay.net.

STAY CONNECTED

 @OneClay  @OneClaySchools  @OneClayCountySchools

Green Cove Springs Local Eats

Restaurants are numbered by location from north to south

1. The Pub At Magnolia Point

3670 Clubhouse Dr. • 904-269-9276
<http://www.magnoliapointgolfclub.com/the-pub>
Salads, sandwiches, steak, cod, salmon, great selection of plated meals for lunch and dinner.

2. Pan Asian Cuisine Sushi Bar and Grill/China Wok

1305 N Orange Ave., Ste 127 • 904-529-5153
<http://www.panasiancuisinegcs.com>
Offers a selection of Thai, Korean, Vietnamese, Japanese and Chinese cuisine, including sushi, hibachi and take out.

3. Mariachis Mexican Bar and Grill

1301 N Orange Ave, Ste 104 • 904-531-9380
Serving classic Mexican street food along with a full bar.

4. Sunrise to Sunset

618 N Orange Ave. • 904-827-2013
Diner-style brunch restaurant with a hearty breakfast selection, and serving diner staples like burgers, sandwiches and Salisbury steak for lunch.

5. Tee Marie's

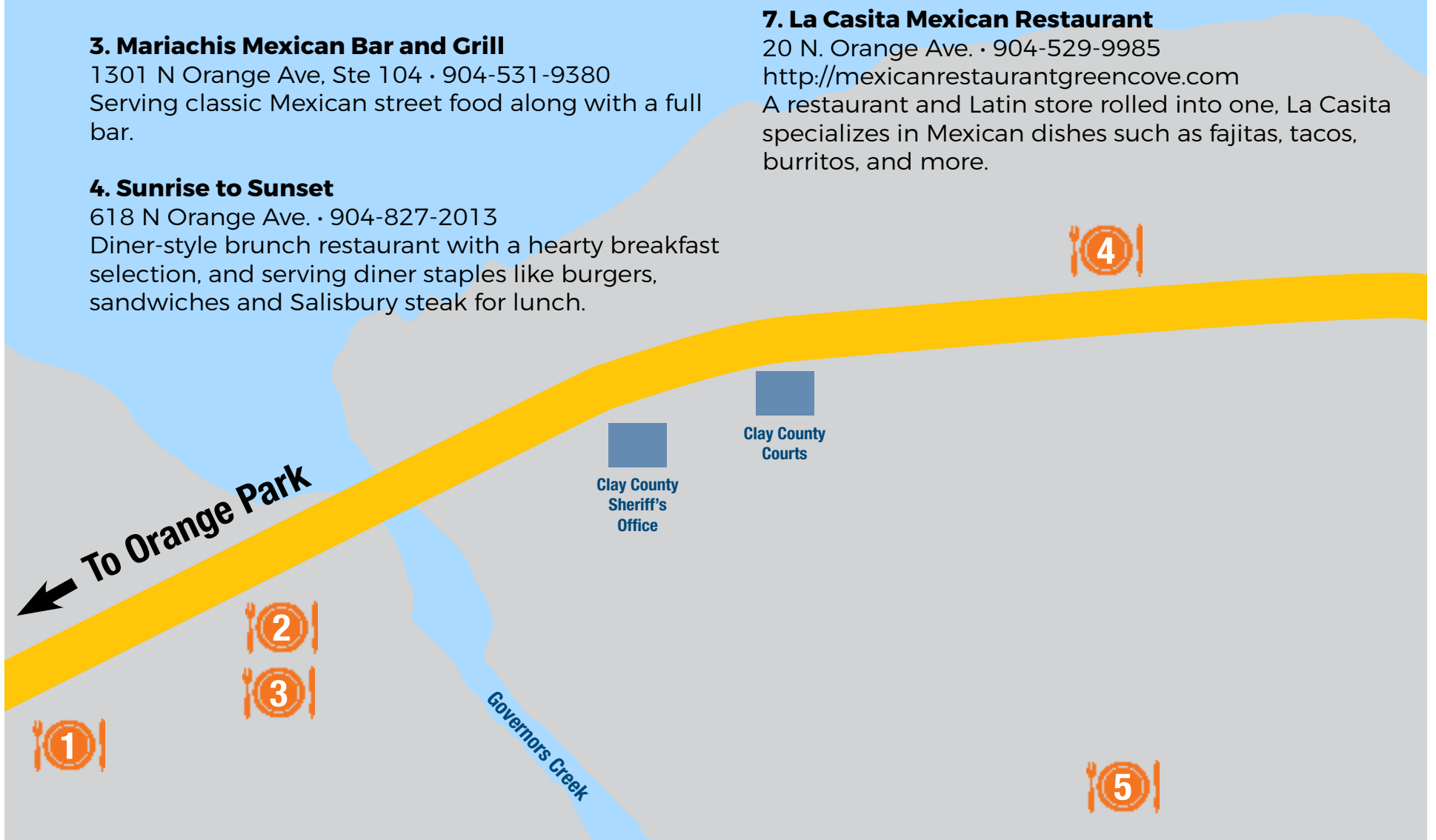
1100 Martin Luther King • 904-844-1310
Restaurant specializing in soul food, with dishes including shrimp and grits, ribs, meatloaf and crab and shrimp trays.

6. Sweet Sensations

25 N Orange Ave. • 904-529-8554
Brunch restaurant serving breakfast and lunch sandwiches, fresh salads and homemade cookies, pies and cakes.

7. La Casita Mexican Restaurant

20 N. Orange Ave. • 904-529-9985
<http://mexicanrestaurantgreencove.com>
A restaurant and Latin store rolled into one, La Casita specializes in Mexican dishes such as fajitas, tacos, burritos, and more.



8. The Corner Pocket

14 N Magnolia Ave. • 904-284-1992

<https://thecornerpocketgcs.com>

Pool Hall and restaurant serving burgers and southern style food.

9. Roger That Wings and Things

232 Walnut St. • 904-284-4728

Local bar known for its wings and fried oysters. Also offers a selection of draft beer.

10. Red's Wine Bar

414 Walnut St. • 904-955-0196

Bar serving a wide selection of wine and beer, with appetizers from Green Cove Springs area restaurants.

11. Spring Park Coffee

328 Ferris St. • 904-531-9391

<http://www.springparkcoffee.com>

Green Cove Springs local coffee shop serving coffee roasted and ground in-house, organic teas, smoothies, milkshakes, breakfast sandwiches and homemade pastries and desserts.

12. D'Fontana Pizza

324 Ferris St. • 904-529-5515

D'Fontana has a wide selection of house-made pizza, as well as classic Italian dishes.

13. Pelican's Snowballs

1100 Idlewild Avenue • 904-352-1200

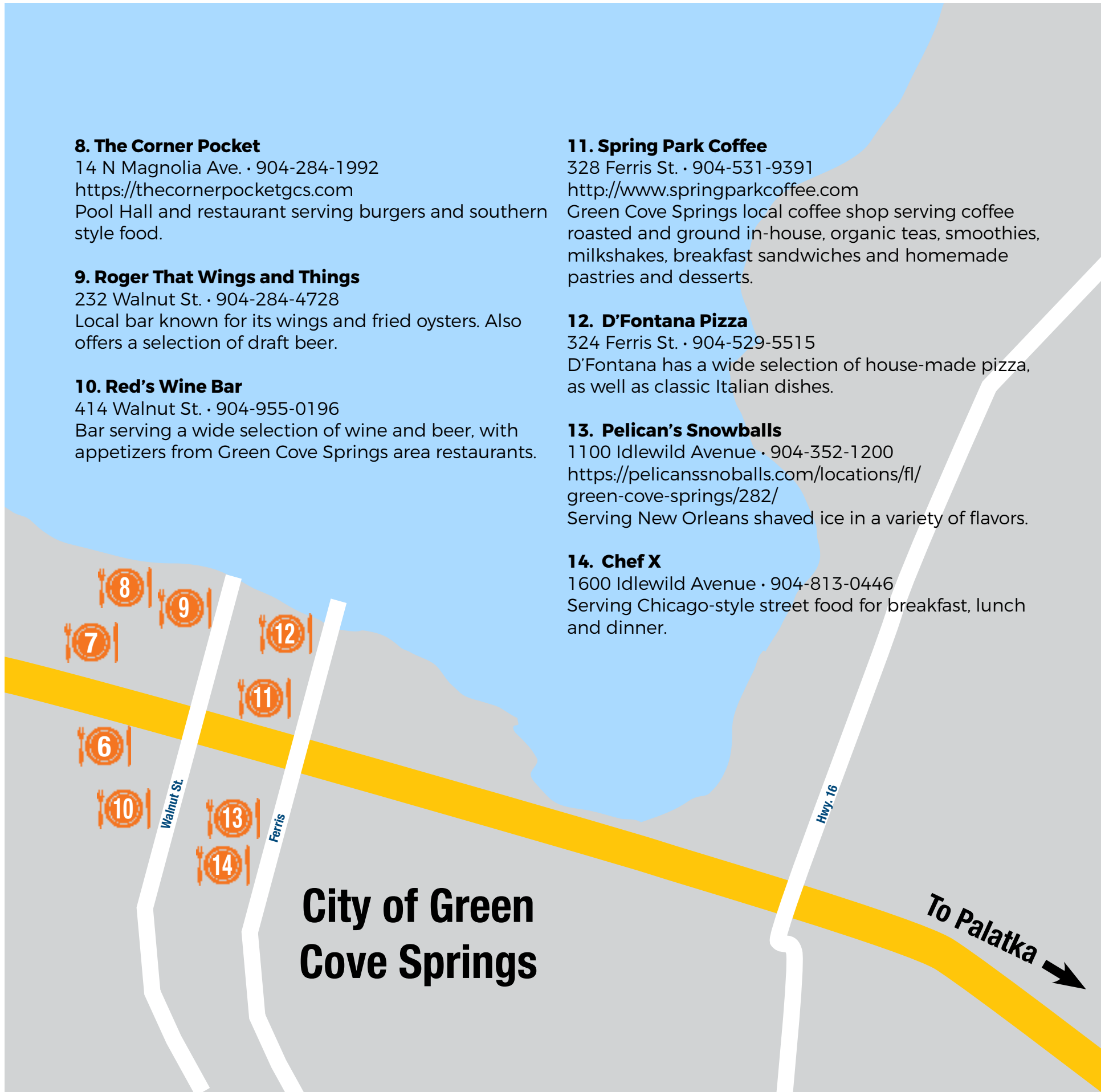
<https://pelicanssnoballs.com/locations/fl/green-cove-springs/282/>

Serving New Orleans shaved ice in a variety of flavors.

14. Chef X

1600 Idlewild Avenue • 904-813-0446

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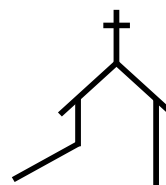
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The Village Improvement Association Federated Woman's Club of Green Cove Springs

Just off Highway 17, and right next to the post office, is the VIA of Green Cove Springs. We are the oldest Women's Club in Florida and are still using the clubhouse that was donated to our first group of women back in 1883. At that time women were not allowed to join clubs, so the group called itself the Village Improvement Association, or the VIA, because the first task they undertook was to clean the streets and make the town more beautiful. We keep that name today in honor of those women so long ago.

The VIA is responsible for founding the first kindergarten and the first library in our small city. We were admitted to the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1893. Since that time, the club has grown and become more involved with so many service projects in our community. We have

five areas of involvement and each make up a committee: Arts/Culture, Civic/Engagement, Education/Libraries, Environment, and Health/Wellness. The women of the VIA are dedicated to finding the needs of our community and doing what we can to fulfill them. It is our goal to enhance the lives of our citizens while partnering with schools, food banks, shelters, and several other service organizations in our city and county.

While our focus is service, we are always having a great time! We welcome women of all ages, backgrounds and talents. We would love for you to join us and help us continue our legacy that was begun by brave women so long ago. For more information follow us at www.facebook.com/VIAGreenCoveSprings or email us viags@gmail.com. We would love to talk to you.



Augusta Savage Mentoring Center Classes

Where Dunbar High School's industrial arts building once stood is now another bustling center of learning in both art and academics. Augusta Savage Museum and Mentoring Center, located at 1105 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, was completed in May 2021 and a much-anticipated addition to the Augusta Savage Arts and Community Center Complex.

Since the original school industrial arts building was knocked down in 2015 the community rallied around constructing a new building on the site. What started simply as a computer lab and community library building morphed into an art and tutoring center, which became a reality with the availability of additional funding in 2020.

It is now the creative heart of Green Cove Springs with classes ranging from art, dance, and acting to reading and math tutoring. Inside is an art gallery/museum space, dedicated art studio and dance studio, classroom space, and computer center. The City is working with community partners to create a professional art gallery space for the history and work of Augusta Savage, which will accompany the historic marker dedicated to Augusta Savage in front of the building.

The mentoring center is run by the community for the community. Art and education after school classes are taught by volunteers approved by the City of Green Cove Springs. Classes currently in the center include art workshops, dance classes, reading and math tutoring, and individual counseling. There are also art-oriented pop-up classes that are offered throughout the year mostly as a single or two class workshops. Current class offerings are aimed at students in first grade through high school seniors.

City welcomes new classes all year round. Anyone interested in volunteering to teach a class or workshop can fill out the volunteer registration form on the Augusta Savage mentoring Center page of the city website for the City to consider adding the class.

All classes offered at the mentoring center are free to the public but filling out and returning sign up forms are required before participating in a class. Class schedule, class sign up forms, and volunteer applications can be found at <https://greencovesprings.com/243/Augusta-Savage-Museum-Mentoring-Center>.



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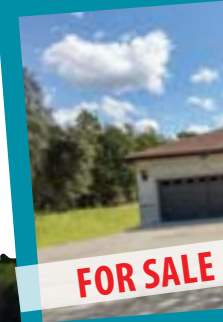
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Dreamette	1301 N. Orange Avenue	
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Elks Lodge	702 S. Orange Avenue	(904) 284-9049
Equipment Corporation of America	1058 Roland Avenue	(904) 284-1779
El Supremo Grocery and Meat Market	1305 N Orange Avenue St. 124-125	(904) 531-9377
Exit - Magnolia Point Realty	404 Walnut Street	(904) 269-4600
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Pegasus Technologies, Inc.	932 Pilot Drive	(904) 284-2490
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Permabase Building Products	1767 Wildwood Rd.	(904) 284-0221
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Superior Senior and Disabled Care	1301 N Orange Ave. Ste 104	(904) 529-5000
Sweet Sensations Bakery & Catering	25 N. Orange Avenue	(904) 529-8554
Taylor Parkway Storage	909 Leonard C Taylor Parkway	(904) 615-6931
Tee Marie's	1100 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd	(904) 657-2442
The Art Room	408 Walnut Street	(904) 704-2365
The Beauty Bar	320 Ferris Street	(904) 451-3960
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The Sheik	422 S. Orange Avenue	(904) 531-5095
The Way Free Medical Clinic	479 Houston Street	(904) 531-9504
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SPRING PARK POOL & SPLASH PARK

Green Cove Springs is home to one of the oldest spring-fed public pools in Florida. Water bubbles up from the spring at a constant 1,346 gallons per minute into the pool, then flows through the pool to the Spring run and into the St. Johns River.

Public pool access dates to as early as 1870, when Joseph W. Applegate and Jonathon S. Harris opened the Clarendon Hotel and built two pools for hotel guests that the spring ran into before flowing out and into the St. Johns River. The pool brought tourists from across the U.S. to Green Cove Springs for its advertised health benefits and as a cure for several diseases between 1870 and 1916, including President Arthur, President Cleveland and Thomas Edison.

Even as tourism and hotels in the area declined, the pool remained open for public use. Today, it's owned and maintained by the city of Green Cove Springs, and managed by Planet Swim, LLC, which includes staff, daily rates and pool passes, and any scheduled swim activities. The pool, located in Spring Park, has recently

become an even popular spot since the City underwent a complete rebuild of the pool and spring, including building a splash pad by the spring and a new pool pavilion.

While the spring feeds into the pool all year round, the pool itself is open to the public from May to the end of October. During these summer months the pool is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Anyone can access the pool for a nominal daily fee that is set every summer, or purchase a pool pass for unlimited access to the pool throughout the summer. For information on daily rates and other details go to <https://greencovesprings.com/Facilities/Facility/Details/City-Pool-2> or call the pool office at 904-297-7070.

The splash pad by the spring is open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. all year round and is free to the public.

You can enjoy the pool during the summer and splash pad all year round. These are just a few of the many amenities available in Spring Park, located in the heart of Green Cove Springs.



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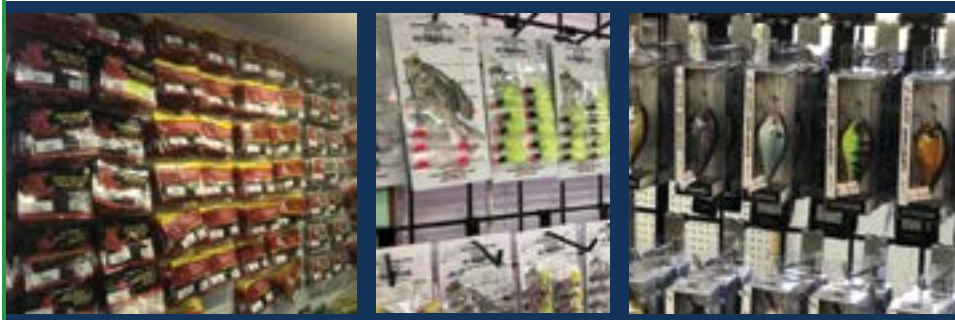
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Nurturing Creativity and Changing Lives: The Augusta Savage Arts & Community Center



Every February, as the nation commemorates Black History Month, the Friends of Augusta Savage Arts & Community Center takes a giant leap into honoring the extraordinary life and achievements of artist Augusta Fells Savage. Born on February 29, 1892, in Green Cove Springs, Florida, Savage was not only a prominent sculptor of the Harlem Renaissance but also a civil rights activist and dedicated teacher, who left an indelible mark on the world of art and education.

While the spotlight is often on Black History Month, it's crucial to delve deeper into the year-round contributions and initiatives of the Friends of Augusta Savage Arts & Community Center. Their dedication to preserving the legacy of Augusta Savage and promoting educational and artistic opportunities for the community underscores the importance of recognizing African American history beyond the confines of February.

Visit the City's website at GreenCoveSprings.com to see a class list, check availability, and register for classes.

Augusta Savage's Inspirational Legacy

Augusta Savage once said, "I have created nothing really beautiful, really lasting, but if I can inspire one of these youngsters to develop the talent I know they possess, then my monument will be in their work." These words encapsulate the essence of her life's work and continue to inspire generations.

A Center with a Purpose

The Augusta Savage Museum and Mentoring Center, located at 1107 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., is a hub of artistic and educational activities. It offers classes in fine and performing arts and provides valuable tutoring in reading and math. However, it's not just a center for learning; it's a place where dreams are nurtured and confidence is instilled.

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Henrietta Francis, President of Friends of Augusta Savage Arts & Community Center, explains, "The Center is important because it provides a space to awaken learning and unleash hidden creativity while instilling greater confidence to persevere and pursue their dreams. It is a place of possibilities and greatness."

Supporting Underserved Communities

The center's mission is to promote programs for youth and families to improve their quality of life, with a specific focus on underserved residents of Green Cove Springs. One of its longstanding initiatives, the Augusta Savage Community Clothes Closet, located in Charles E. Bennett Elementary School, plays a vital role in providing new clothing, footwear, and personal items to students at risk of failing or those living close to or at poverty levels.

Leap into a Brighter Future

The Birthday Gala on February 24, 2024, at Sullivan Hall in Fleming Island occurs only once every four years in honor of Savage's leap year birthday. Proceeds from ticket sales and sponsorships will support crucial initiatives, including the purchase of instruments for a beginners' music class, launching an Artist in Residence Program, and initiating a STEM Program for girls.

For those interested in becoming gala sponsors, applications can be submitted at the center's website, fasacc.org.

Augusta Savage's legacy extends far beyond a single event. It's a legacy of inspiration, education, and empowerment that continues to shape lives throughout the year. To learn more about the Friends of Augusta Savage Arts & Community Center and their impactful work, please visit fasacc.org.



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City Pier

Located at the end of Walnut Street in Spring Park, the City Pier is Green Cove Springs' entrance on the water. The pier is open to the public to dock boats for a small daily fee of between \$5 and \$10 and a reasonable overnight fee of \$20 for water and electricity to boats. Gazebo structures along the pier provide a popular spot for fishing and shrimping and added floating docks and dolphin buoys can hold larger river cruise ships. From the pier you can walk into Spring Park and to the shops and local restaurants of downtown Green Cove Springs.



City Pier

Spring Park & Pool

Located just behind city hall at 200 Spring Street, Spring Park is the hidden gem of Green Cove Springs. Inside this half-acre park is two playgrounds, including the City's first ADA accessible playground on Spring Street, South Dock Kayak Launch located at the end of Ferris Street, grand gazebo on the shore of the St. Johns River, newly renovated pedestrian bridge over Spring Run, paved trails connecting to the City Pier, and several picnic pavilions.



Spring Park

Spring Park pool is one of the oldest spring-fed public pools in Florida. Water from the spring flows directly into the pool before flowing out into the spring run connected to the pool and into the St. Johns River. The pool is recently renovated with a large, covered pavilion and splash pad area. Pool is open for the public to use from May to the end of October.



City Pool

Vera Francis Hall Park

Vera Francis Hall Park is located at 1400 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard near the Augusta Savage Arts and Community Center. At the back of the park there is an amphitheater for entertainment, a fishing pier, and a canoe or kayak launch on Governors Creek that connects into the St. Johns River a few miles away. Vera Francis Hall Park also offers picnic pavilions and tables, a playground, basketball court, and a baseball/softball field.



Splash Pad

Augusta Savage Friendship Park

Augusta Savage Friendship Park is located at the corner of Walburg Street and Pine Avenue. The park has a playground designed for younger children and families with playground equipment accessible for younger children. Park also offers a basketball court for older children and adults.



VHF Park

AG Friendship Park



Augusta Savage Social Services and Cultural Complex

The complex, built as Dunbar High School in 1942, is located on a five-acre parcel of land at 1107 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Augusta Savage sold the property for the first and only black high school before desegregation in Clay County.

The space now Includes the Thomas Hogans Memorial Gym, Jump Start VPK, Green Cove Springs Food Pantry, AMIkids, an outdoor playground, baseball field, soccer field, bike trail, and exercise trail.

The Augusta Savage Museum and Mentoring Center, completed In May 2021, is a new multipurpose building at the location of the former Dunbar High School Library that Includes a dance studio, multipurpose classrooms, a computer room, and a publicly accessible museum space which holds the work of Augusta Savage and additional artists. Both ongoing and pop-up classes are offered to elementary, middle, and high school students throughout the year by volunteer teachers. Go to greencovesprings.com/243/augusta-savage-mentoring-center to more details on classes offered.



AG Community Center

Thomas Hogans Memorial Gym

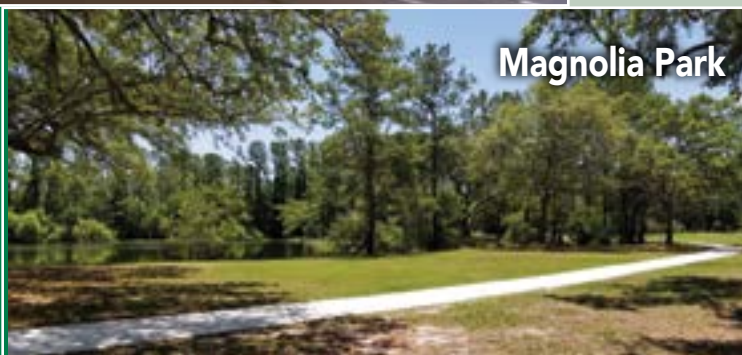
Located at 415 Lemon Street, the gym is part of the Augusta Savage Social Services Center. It is open to the public Monday through Sunday, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Current programs include basketball and pickleball.

THM Gym



Magnolia Park

Located at 3617 Harbor Road, across from the entrance to Magnolia Point, this small park includes a paved sidewalk path that circles around the lake and picnic areas dotted along the path.



Magnolia Park

Shands Pier Boat Ramp

Shands Boat Ramp is located just north of the Shands Bridge, off State Road 16 at Old Shands Bridge Boat Launch Road. The water at the boat ramp is very shallow and only the smallest of boats can use the boat ramp without encountering problems.

Bayard Conservation Area

The Bayard Conservation Area is operated by the St. Johns River Water Management District. With just over 10,000 acres, Bayard offers cycling, hiking, fishing, horseback riding, bank fishing, boating access, canoeing and wildlife viewing. Primitive camping is available. For more information, call the District's Bureau of Land Management at (386) 329-4404. www.floridaswater.com/recreationguide/bayard/

Bayard - photo courtesy of St. Johns Water Management District



Clay County Fairgrounds

Throughout the year, a multitude of events are held on the, including a variety of horse shows and events, 4-H activities, auctions, Scottish-Highland games and a haunted house.

The Early Florida Village Exhibit opened in 1991. Antique cars displayed throughout the village will please the auto enthusiast.

For more information, call (904) 269-6378 or visit <http://claycountyfair.org>.

Governor's Creek Boat Ramp

This County-owned facility is located just outside the City's northern boundary along US 17 at Governor's Creek. It features a large covered picnic area, fishing pier and a two-lane public boat launching facility. Call 904-284-6378.

Knights Boat Ramp

This County-owned facility is located north of the City along U.S. 17 at Black Creek. For additional information, contact Clay County at 904-284-6378.

Carl Pugh Park

This County-owned facility is leased to the Green Cove Springs Baseball/Softball Association (GCSBSA). It is located at 317 S. West St. (behind the Clay County Health Department). For additional information, contact Clay County at 284-6378.

Camp Chowenwaw Park

A 150-acre site that Clay County purchased in 2006 from the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council. The Girl Scouts operated the camp for more than 70 years before deciding to relocate. The parcel, which has 100 acres of wetlands and 50 acres of uplands, is located at the mouth of Black Creek. The trail systems through the uplands and the wetlands offer scenic tracts for the hiking enthusiast. Camping facilities include treehouse cabins.



Governor's Creek Boat Ramp



Knights Marina - Green Cove Springs FL
photo courtesy of Clay County Tourism Dept



Carl Pugh Park - Green Cove Springs FL
photo courtesy of Clay County Tourism Dept



Camp Chow
photo courtesy of Clay County Tourism

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VFW: Veterans helping Veterans



Across America, the initials VFW are a familiar sight and symbolize a commitment to the nation both at home and abroad.

In 1899 veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home wounded or sick.

There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves.

In their misery, some of these veterans came together and formed organizations that would eventually band together and become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. After chapters were formed in Ohio, Colorado and Pennsylvania, the movement quickly gained momentum. Today, membership stands at nearly 1.7 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary.

The members were instrumental in establishing the Veterans Administration, developing the national cemetery system, fighting for compensation for Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange and for veterans diagnosed with Gulf War Syndrome. In 2008, they won a long-fought

victory with the passing of a GI Bill for the 21st Century, giving expanded educational benefits to America's active duty service members, and members of the guard and reserves, fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. They were the driving force behind the Veterans Access and Accountability Act of 2014, and continually fight for improved VA medical services for women veterans.

Besides helping fund the creation of the Vietnam, Korean War, World War II and Women in Military Service memorials, in 2005 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to contribute to building the new Disabled Veterans for Life Memorial, which opened in November 2010. And in 2015, the VFW became the first supporter of the National Desert Storm War Memorial which is planned for construction at our nation's capital.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) is a nonprofit veterans service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, guard and reserve forces.

The mission of the VFW is to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts, to serve our veterans, the military and our communities and to advocate on behalf of all veterans.

The VFW has many

programs and services that work to support veterans, service members and their families locally, as well as communities worldwide.

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The Green Cove Springs Post 1988 will dispose of the United States of America Flag with dignity, with the proper procedures designated by the United States Government. So please give your old American Flag to Post 1988 for appropriate disposal.

Post 1988 supports the high school athletic department, scouts and ROTC programs. The post also participates in the VFW national scholarship essay program that awards \$10,000.00 annually.

The members also support the Ft. McCoy Veterans Village near Salt Springs for ambulatory veterans and Paws for Patriots to provide service animals to veterans.

At Green Cove Springs Post 1988 it is all about "Veterans helping Veterans". The Green Cove Springs VFW welcomes anyone who has served on foreign soil to join them at 421 Orange Avenue.

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Fraternal Order of Eagles



The F.O.E. traces its history back to 1898 when six theatre owners gathered in a Seattle shipyard to discuss a musician's strike. After a lengthy discussion they decided to "bury the hatchet" and form "The Order of Good Things." As time passed and membership increased, the Bald Eagle was chosen as the official emblem and the name was changed to "The Fraternal Order of Eagles."

Nationally, more than \$10 million a year is donated to local communities, fundraisers, charities and more. As part of its philosophy, the F.O.E. gives back 100 percent of monies raised in the form of grants. Fundraisers are conducted for eight major charities, Diabetes Research Center, Kidney Fund, Heart Fund, Diabetes Fund, Cancer Fund, Spinal Cord Injury Fund, Children's Fund, Alzheimer's & Neurological Fund, Parkinson's Fund, Muscular Dystrophy Fund, Memorial Foundation and the Golden Eagle Fund. The FOE also pledged \$25 million for the creation of a Diabetes Research Center on the University of Iowa's medical campus and in 2014 the facility opened its doors.

Historically, the FOE claims credit for establishing the Mother's Day holiday in the United States as well as the "impetus for Social Security. Distributed Ten Commandments monoliths across the United States and helped end age based job discrimination with their "Jobs After 40" program.

The clubs are known as "aeries". The Green Cove Springs Aerie is known as the little Aerie with "the Big Heart". Membership is just a little over a hundred members. This year we celebrated our 12th year of being an Aerie here and we have raised over \$160,000.00 for charity and still increasing our totals. In addition to national charities, many local charities are also supported including Charles E Bennett Elementary, Friends of the Library, Green Cove Food Pantry, Green Cove Springs Athletic Association, and Governors Creek Nursing Home to name a few.

The Eagles' Aerie is located at 424 Walnut Street in Green Cove Springs. We welcome visitors that might want to see what we are all about. We also invite anyone to participate in any of our activities; we play Meat Bingo, dice games, pool and bowling. Plus we have started having karaoke every Saturday. Give our organization a try; we know you will like it! Our motto is "People helping People"

Rotary Club of Green Cove Springs



Rotary's name came from the group's early practice of rotating meetings among the offices of each member. Established by Paul Harris in Chicago in 1905 as a service organization and forum where people from diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form friendships, it has become an international organization throughout Asia, Europe/Africa, and the Americas.

One of the greatest achievements has been the Rotary's worldwide campaign against polio that began in 1979. Additionally, the Rotary sponsors thousands of projects throughout the world that promote peace, fight disease, provide clean water, save mothers and children, support education, and grow local economies.

Annual Club fundraisers include a 65-mile bike ride, a golf tournament and serving as host of the Clay High School Invitational Wrestling Tournament. Other local outreach includes the Quarterly First Responder award, given to a local police or fireman and the Virgil Fox Memorial Scholarships to seniors at Clay High.

Local partners include Charles E. Bennett Elementary School, Augusta Savage Arts and Community Center, Green Cove Springs Food Pantry, Friends of the Green Cove Springs Library, Challenge Enterprises, Clay County Council on Aging, Salvation Army, Way Clinic and the YMCA.

The Rotary Club meets at Magnolia Golf and Country Club. The Club is meeting temporarily at the Council on Aging every Monday, while renovations are being made at the Country Club.

Military Museum of Northeast Florida



The mission of the Military Museum of North Florida, located in Green Cove Springs, Florida, is the preservation and respectful presentation of the rich military history of our citizen servicemen and women in order to honor their sacrifices to maintain our freedom.

Educational aspects of The Military Museum of North Florida

While the mission of the Military Museum of North Florida is to honor those whom have served their country in the Armed Forces, one of the goals of the museum is to ensure that our youth understand the dedication and sacrifices that those veterans demonstrated and endured.

A significant number of military oriented events have shaped the foundation and direction of this country, from the American Revolution to the Civil War, the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and our current actions in Iraq and Afghanistan. All of these actions have caused significant changes in the direction of the American political and social scene. The museum is prepared to coordinate with the Clay County School System

to provide student visits oriented toward the era that their history classes are studying. We are prepared to provide guided, narrative tours emphasizing the period that the class is studying.

The museum is also developing a "Living History" library videotaping veterans who have served their country giving their views of the war in which they were involved. These first-hand recollections, particularly of World War II, Korea and now Vietnam are fast becoming unavailable. All these interviews will be available to serious students.

themilitarymuseumofnorthflorida.com

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Elks (BPOE 1892)



The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) will soon be celebrating their 150th anniversary. During periods of challenge, war, and upheaval, the Elks have always met the needs of the community. The Elks created a field hospital for the victims of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, as well as field hospitals for the American Forces in WWI.

The Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge continues this strong tradition of benevolence and protection today with ongoing service and contribution to veterans, special needs children, and a drug awareness campaign. They, along with other local lodges, support the Lassen Veterans Nursing Home in St. Augustine. Members of the lodge hold monthly bingo sessions at Lassen, and also bring veterans to the lodge for an afternoon of fishing and lunch. Members of the lodge support the Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services, partner with the local elementary school and library, provide a scholarship for local high school students, organize Santa's Workshop after the city Christmas Parade, and participate in various other charitable and community activities.

Members of the Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge, which is located at 702 South Orange Avenue, enjoy a beautiful riverfront location with a screened porch, a great menu nightly, and wonderful camaraderie. The public is invited every Tuesday night for charity bingo. If you would like to stop by and learn more about the benefits of becoming a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the lodge is open every Saturday morning serving breakfast to current and prospective members.



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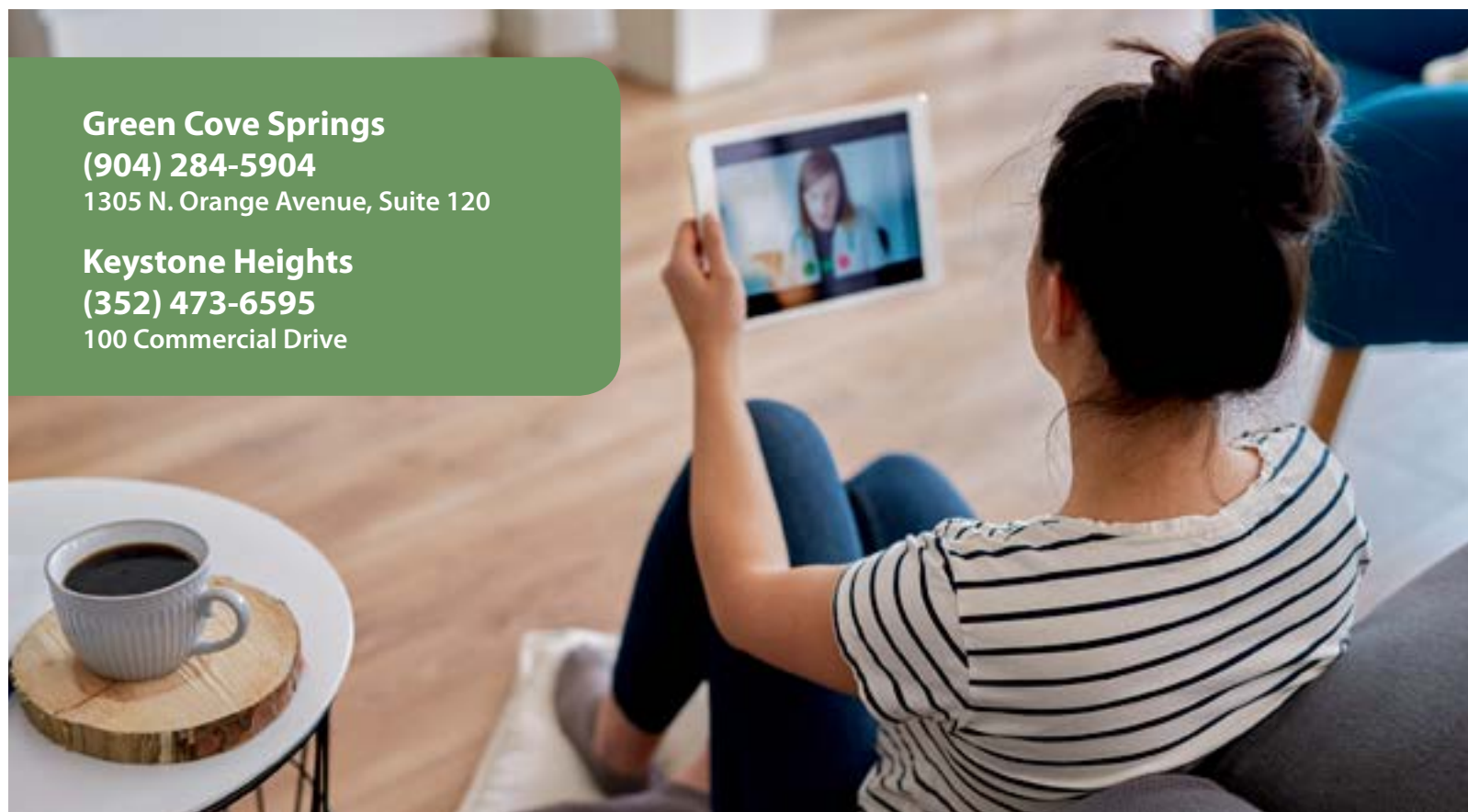
Set realistic into – and st

By Kylie Cordell
For Clay Today

CLAY COUNTY – The New Year often means starting a weight loss plan, eating a more nutritious diet and building healthier habits. However, 80% of resolutions fail within the first few months. Why is that? Many set unrealistic goals, and their confidence takes a huge hit when they fail to reach them. Others become overwhelmed when they set out...



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