



The Space Coast Comet

Plastic Free July

Living in Florida, we have a special relationship with our environment. We are proud of our beaches and wetlands and the animals and humans that live in and around them. We realize that we must protect our world in order to keep us all healthy and happy. According to earthday.org, each year “we produce 400 million tons of plastic waste and less than 8 percent is recycled. Every minute, every day, we buy one million plastic bottles, and each year we use five trillion plastic bags, almost all of which end up in our rivers, oceans, our food, and our landfills. Plastic is now in our blood stream, attaching itself to our heart, lungs, kidneys, and brains. Plastic particles can last for thousands of years.”

What can we do to help? Take a pledge to join Plastic Free July. Plastic Free July was founded in 2011 by Rebecca Prince-Ruiz as a grassroots campaign to raise awareness about plastic pollution. Since then, the movement has grown, and in 2021, participants reduced 2.1 million tons of waste. Will you be part of Plastic Free July by choosing to refuse single-use plastics?

Membership Meeting

There will not be a membership meeting in July. The club's Board of Directors will be meeting this month for summer planning sessions to prepare for the upcoming club year. Please watch our website and Facebook page as well as your email for more information on upcoming meetings and events. Have a great July!



Take the challenge...visit PlasticFreeJuly to join the movement and to get more ideas on how to reduce your use of single-use plastics, to learn how others are helping, and to get resources to share with your friends and neighbors.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Bring or borrow a reusable coffee cup or dine-in at your local café
- Skip the plastic bags and containers when purchasing fruits and veggies
- Bring your own reusable shopping bags
- Refuse plastic straws when buying a drink – or BYO reusable alternative.
- Use a reusable water bottle instead of buying plastic bottles or water.
- Avoid single-use plastic bags when packing lunches or putting away leftovers.



President's Message

Happy Independence Day! July is my favorite month. I love 4th of July parties, flags waving in the breeze, colorful bunting hung from porches and railings, and of course, fireworks bursting overhead. I love the pride for our country that is renewed in each of us...the feeling that we live in the greatest country in the world.

I recently had the opportunity to support Honor Flight New Mexico at the Albuquerque Sunport. The mission of Honor Flight is to “celebrate America’s veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation’s memorials.” As a military spouse, I’ve seen countless returns and reunions. But this “welcome home” was different. The heroes are older now. They’re tired and worn. They’ve seen so much through their life and they know they don’t have much more time left to share their stories and experience. They’re thankful for the opportunity to see the memorials to “their” war, to honor those who didn’t make the trip home from the battlefield, and to honor the heroes of other conflicts in far-off lands. Many of them didn’t receive a warm welcome home when they returned from war, so they were humbled and awed by the outpouring of people that showed up to welcome them home and to honor them.

Greeting these special Honor Flight vets with fanfare upon their return home is an experience that I will not forget and one that I hope to do again, and as often as possible. I will keep these heroes in my heart and think of their sacrifice in service to our country as I celebrate our Independence Day.

~Sarah Anthony

"We can't all be heroes. Some of us have to stand on the curb and clap as they go by."

~Will Rogers

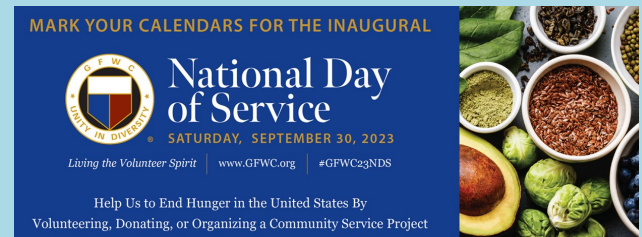


1st Vice-President's Message

I hope everyone is having a great summer. It’s the time to enjoy family and friends. I am excited to share that we have a very special day in the planning stages for our GFWC National Day of Service on September 30. Stay tuned for additional details.

As always, please remember to send me your volunteer hours and in kind donations. All of that information is extremely helpful when writing reports at the end of the year. Hours can be sent to me via email.

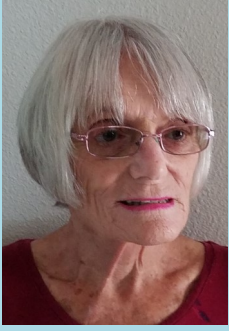
~JoAnne Post



Save the date!

Our club has registered and will be participating in the GFWC National Day of Service.

Watch for more information!



2nd Vice-President's Message

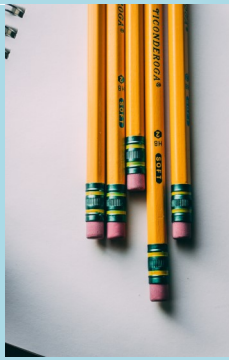
Do you have a great idea for a club fundraiser? Be sure to send me your ideas.

If you would like to be on a fundraising planning committee send me an email and let

me know. We would love to have your help on our next fundraising event.

Have a wonderful summer!

~Judy Bissel



Shoe & School Supply Drive

Every parent knows that purchasing school supplies and clothing each year can really stress a family's budget. For families that struggle to even put food on the table, school

supplies are a luxury that they often can't afford. That's where our club hopes to make a difference this month!

Through the month of July, our club will be collecting donations of school supplies and new sneakers. Donations will be given to the Sharing Center of Central Brevard, Friends of Children of Brevard, and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. Be sure to ask your friends and neighbors to participate so we can increase our donations.

The Sharing Center of Central Brevard's "KICKS FOR KIDS" campaign collects new sneakers to give to elementary students in Central Brevard. The recipients are identified by local principals and teachers as in-need and the Sharing Center ensures those kids receive brand new shoes within the first few weeks of school. The Sharing Center is asking for good quality, closed toed sneakers. The GIRLS need sizes 1 through 6 (size 4 and size 5 are most needed) and the BOYS need sizes 1 through 6 (size 2 and size 3 are most needed).

Friends of Children of Brevard raises funds to provide for the unmet needs of abused, neglected or abandoned children in Brevard County.

Their mission is to "improve the lives of the abused, abandoned and neglected children of Brevard County Florida and to support their advocates from the Guardian Ad Litem Program." School supply donations will help foster families provide for the children in their care.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren of Brevard County Florida's mission is "to reduce the number of at-risk children and ensure permanency by providing advocacy, support, training, and referral services to relative care families." They "work directly with relative families to develop and demonstrate practical solutions to safely reduce the need for foster care, to improve the well-being of every child in their care."

Donations can be delivered to Linda G. or Sally K. until the 31st of July. Refer to your club directory for their addresses or [contact our club](#) if you would like someone to pick up your donation.

Let's help local families prepare their students for a successful school year!

Did you know...



150 million hot dogs are consumed on the 4th of July!

Community Service Programs (CSPs)

Arts & Culture CSP

Chairman: Available

The GFWC Arts & Culture CSP hopes to expand the understanding of arts and cultures on every level, from local and regional to national and international. The goal is to create projects and opportunities that develop skills, awareness, and appreciation of both art and culture. It is designed to inspire clubwomen and ignite within them a desire to make the world a more beautiful, thoughtful, and caring place. (GFWC manual 2022)

Check this out...[Google Arts and Culture](#) provides virtual tools to explore works of art and tour famous sites and landmarks. This is perfect for planning trips and vacations as well as for just seeing what an amazingly beautiful world we live in! What will you explore first?



Club Participation

A note to members: Our club offers many opportunities for our members. Whether its volunteer service, donations to worthy organizations, collection of various items or social events, “Walk & Talks”, and leadership positions, there is something for everyone.

The leadership team wants to make it very clear that we know your time is valuable. We know that you have other obligations, financial commitments, and interests outside of club work. We understand that all members won't be able to participate in every opportunity. That's OK!

Our goal is to encourage every club member to participate in what they want to do and in a way that is beneficial to them. Project support comes in many forms and we hope you'll find something that's just right for you!

Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP

Chairman: Available

Before you proudly fly your American flag this month, here are a few reminders about how to properly display your flag:

- Only all-weather flags should be displayed during inclement weather.
- When not flown on a staff, display vertically (or horizontally or vertically against a wall) with the union (blue field) to observers left.
- Illuminate during hours of darkness.

For more information and to order a flag, visit the [American Legion's website](#).

Community Service Programs (CSPs)



Education & Libraries CSP Chairman: Sally Kramer

I will be starting a book club for members of our club. We would meet once a month to discuss the book we just read. The book choice will be rotated through the group in alphabetical order. The first meeting will be to decide which day of the month we would like to meet, what time we would meet, and where we would meet. The date of the organizational meeting will be **Monday, August 14, 2023 at 1:00** at my house. (Please check the directory for my address or [contact our club](#) for more information.)

Our club will also be collecting school supplies for Brevard Family Partnership and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. Please see the article on page three of this publication for more information.



GFWC Signature Program: Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention Chairman: Taylor Malishenko

Thank you for a Special Mother's Day from Serene Harbor.

“Serene Harbor would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to GFWC Space Coast Women's Club, specifically the CSP Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention program, for their incredibly generous donation during the month of May. Your support and contribution to our center have made a profound impact on the lives of the mothers receiving services at our shelter, especially on Mother's Day.

Your care and support have provided these brave women with a glimmer of hope and a re-

newed sense of strength as they navigate the challenging journey toward a life free of abuse. Your donation has not only uplifted their spirits but also helped them continue their important work in breaking the cycle of violence.

We are deeply grateful for your commitment to making a positive difference in our community. Your generosity has allowed us to provide crucial resources and support to those who need it the most. By standing beside us, you have become an integral part of our mission to create a safer and healthier environment for everyone.”

Community Service Programs (CSPs)



Environment CSP
Chairman: Nancy Brown

Happy Summer Solstice – the beginning of summer and the longest day of the year was June 21. How did you enjoy the extra daylight?

I am very excited to be serving as your Environment CSP chairman. I hope that we can find ways for all of us to help our local environment and have fun while doing it. We are very fortunate to have many local organizations such as Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB), Florida Wildlife Hospital, Brevard Zoo, Sea Turtle Preservation Society, and Florida Native Plant society, along with many other organizations that work tirelessly to protect Florida's environment and the plants and animals who live in it.

I am interested in hearing from all of you. I will be looking for your input in determining which organizations and activities are of interest to you. Be on the lookout for a short survey which will help me to put together the best Environment program for our club.

July's Environmental Fun Fact:

Did you know that dragonflies are a great method of mosquito control? Adult dragonflies can eat more than one hundred mosquitos every day. Planting some native flowering plants around your yard such as coreopsis leavenworthii (common tickseed) Galliardia pulchella (Blanketflower), Salvia coccinea (Tropical Sage) will encourage dragonflies to visit your yard and naturally eliminate pesky mosquitos.



Health & Wellness CSP
Chairman:
Linda Greenstein

July is Social Wellness Month. You can celebrate by planning an activity with friends, making a new friend, or volunteering where you will get a chance to interact with new people. Watch for information on our club's social wellness celebration later this month!

Our Charity Miles team, the GFWC Space Coast-COMETs, blasted off on June 1st, 2023! Our Comets are streaking to the 1,000-mile goal for our first month in support of the Alzheimer's Association. Way to go team!!! On July 1st our charity will be "**The REACH Institute**," an organization that is dedicated to ensuring that the most effective, scientifically proven mental health care reaches all children and families. Lack of social and emotional well-being can significantly impact a person's mental health. According to The Reach Institute website, "adolescent girls are facing many challenges from ramifications of COVID-induced isolation, to the escalating prevalence of online harassment and the alarming rise in incidents of sexual violence." GFWC Space Coast-COMETs can make a difference for these young ladies and others that need mental health care by adding miles throughout the month.

This month we will be supporting The Sharing Center of Central Brevard's "KICKS FOR KIDS" campaign that collects new sneakers to give to elementary students in Central Brevard. Our club will be having a "Sneaker Drive" this month, collecting shoes for this campaign. Please see the article on page 3 for more information.

Our July Walk & Talk event will be Wednesday, July 12th at Suseda Park (5805 Murrell Road at 8:30am. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, slather on some sunscreen and bring some water. Hope to see you there.



GFWC History

The seventh International President of GFWC was Anna Pennybacker of Texas. She served GFWC from 1912-1916.

Born Anna J. Hardwicke on May 7, 1861 in Petersburg, Virginia, she moved with her family to Texas when she was seventeen years old. After graduating from the Normal Institute of Huntsville, Anna taught at Bryan Grammar School.

On October 31, 1884, Anna married Percy Pennybacker and they moved to Tyler, Texas, where he became school superintendent and appointed her as history teacher and principal at Central High School. In 1888, she published *A New History of Texas for Schools*, which was adopted as the official text for public schools.

Mrs. Pennybacker began her woman's club involvement in Texas as one of the first members of The First Literary in Austin. She was the Texas State President for two years. During that time, she helped clubs raise \$3,500 for the endowment of a free scholarship at Texas University to ensure that in each class there would be a representative of the Texas Federation. Anna went on to serve GFWC as treasurer and auditor before becoming International President in 1912.

In 1913, she stated at the American Peace Conference that the current method of celebrating Independence Day in the United States was a "travesty." Anna suggested that "children form floral processions at school buildings, march to some central point which would be made the scene of a general celebration, in which places of honor would be given to young men who have arrived at the age of 21 within the year." She further advocated that speeches should be made to these young men and that civic oaths containing peace clauses should be administered. The committee also agreed that fireworks would not be a part of the festivities. They were declared too great a menace to life and property and the money spent would not offset the "unpleasantness."

Also in 1913, she urged that measures be taken to enforce the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act. At the GFWC Convention in Nebraska she

stated that "We have the law but the agricultural department has no police authority to enforce it. Enforcement is the one thing lacking to obtaining clean meat, bread, and milk. These are big problems and worthy of the best efforts of women's clubs." GFWC was instrumental in the passage of the original Pure Food and Drug Act and continued to push for food and drug standards to help keep citizens safer.

Anna Pennybacker died on February 4, 1938, in Austin, Texas. Governor James V. Allred ordered the flag over the State Capitol to be lowered to half-staff to honor her "as a woman who has endeared herself to the hearts of all Texans."

1895 Society

Did you know that GFWC Florida has a headquarters building? Located in Lakeland, Florida, the current headquarters building designed specifically for the needs of GFWC Florida, was dedicated in May 1990. Clubs and individuals donated furniture and furnishings for the building that includes office and work space, a kitchen, and space for records storage.

Support and maintenance of this building necessitated the start of the 1895 Society, appropriately named after the year that the Florida Federation was formed. This society raises the "money needed to preserve and protect GFWC Florida's history and headquarters."

Any member can join the 1895 Society by making a donation through the [GFWC FL Marketplace](#), starting at \$18.95.

July Events

July 1-31:

School Supply & Shoe Drive

July 4:

Happy Independence Day!

July 10:

10:00 am— Board Summer Planning
(Zoom)

July 12:

8:30 am—Walk & Talk (Suseda Park)

July 17:

10:00 am—Board Summer Planning
(Zoom)

What We're Collecting

This is a list of on-going collections for items that will be donated to various organizations in our area.

- **Pull-tabs** (soda and soup can tabs) - will be donated to Ronald McDonald House charities. (Health & Wellness)
- **Eyeglasses** - will be donated to the Lions Club. (Health & Wellness)

More items will be added as projects are developed.

Membership

Our club is actively seeking new members who would like to join us!

To learn more, please email:

gfwcspacecoast@gmail.com

Contact Us!

To contact any member of our club's leadership team, please email us at:

gfwcspacecoast@gmail.com

Your email will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

