



# THE CHATTERBOX

GFWC SUN CITY CENTER WOMAN'S CLUB

**MARCH 2026**

**EDITOR, CELESTE FENTON**



## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

### **Caroline D'Antonio**

Dear Members,

March brings the promise of Spring with fresh beginnings and new opportunities to serve our community. This month also gives us a reason to celebrate a bit of Irish cheer on St. Patrick's Day - may your days be filled with good fortune, friendship, and plenty of green.

Special congratulations to everyone who participated in the District 8 Arts and Culture contest. Brenda Swank won first prize for her machine embroidered table runner. Also on display were crafts by Carina Faneuf - paper flowers, Shawna Wainright - crocheted stole, and Valesca Lopez-Brown - jewelery. We are all proud of each of you for sharing your creativity and artistic talents with our organization.

Shawna Wainright our Volunteer of the Year was recognized by our District with flowers and a bracelet. Shawna exemplifies the true spirit of service and commitment to our club and community.

Our March meeting will focus on gardening in Florida . We are fortunate to have two master gardeners give a presentation on how to successfully grow plants and flowers in Florida. Our first speaker, Teri Brockway, is a retired teacher as well as a master gardener for the last 10 years. She will cover the topic of butterfly gardening and the plants needed for pollination. Donna McAvene, also a master gardener for 10 years and former teacher, will discuss edible landscaping and vegetable gardening. Don't miss this meeting - it should be a very informative and educational session. Bring your questions!

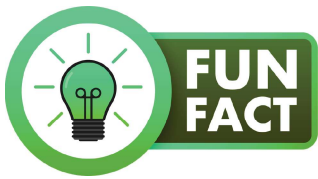
In keeping with our mission of service we will be helping newborn babies. We are collecting donations of diapers, wipes, baby clothing, blankets, and other essential infant items will help support families in need. Your generosity will help give our community's newest little ones a healthy and comfortable start.

Thank you for your continued enthusiasm, kindness and dedication to our club and community.

Wishing you a joyful March and Happy St. Patrick's Day

Warm Regards,  
Caroline D'Antonio





### March Was Originally the First Month of the Year

- In the ancient Roman calendar, March kicked off the new year. It was named after Mars, the Roman god of war. So technically, March energy is “new beginnings... but make it dramatic.”

### Daylight Saving Time Begins (Most Years)

- In the U.S., we “spring forward” in March. The idea was first proposed by Benjamin Franklin (yes, that Benjamin Franklin). Whether we love it or grumble about it is still... under debate.

### The Spring Equinox Happens in March

- Around March 20–21, the Spring Equinox brings nearly equal hours of day and night in the Northern Hemisphere. It marks the official start of spring – and the moment we collectively decide it’s time to clean something.

### It’s Women’s History Month

- In the U.S., March honors the achievements and contributions of women throughout history. International Women’s Day falls on March 8 – a global celebration of progress, resilience, and power.



## MARCH 19, 2026

### MEETING AGENDA

SCC Community Hall, North Campus

Attire: Green

Sign-in and Social 11:00

Opening/Business Meeting 11:30

Luncheon 12:00

Program 12:45

#### Master Gardener Teri

**Brockway will cover the topic of butterfly gardening and the plants needed for pollination.**

**Donna McAvene, also a master gardener, will discuss edible landscaping and vegetable gardening.**

## Meeting Reservations

### Required

**see page 13 for details**



# MEETING RECAP- FEBRUARY 2026

***Always be aware of scams is the message from our Sheriff's department!***


The guest speakers at the February SCC Woman's Luncheon were Master Deputy Jeff Merry and assistant Ashley Stewart, both specializing in white collar crime, fraud, and the dark web. Scammers play on our emotions pretending to be from the court system with jury duty, acting as a grandson in jail, a romance partner, toll payments due, cryptocurrency, or as a virus on your computer. After age 65, one out of three seniors are affected by scams. Bad guys are after your wealth, beware!



**Officer Jeff Merry also suggested that you should freeze your credit.**

To fully protect yourself, you must contact each of the three bureaus individually. You can do this online (fastest), by phone, or by mail.

Credit Bureau Online Link Phone Number

- Equifax [Equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/](https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/) 1-800-349-9960
  - Experian [experian.com](https://www.experian.com) 1-888-397-3742
  - TransUnion [TransUnion.com/credit-help](https://www.transunion.com/credit-help) 1-888-909-8872
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## **Key Facts About Freezing Credit from AARP**

- What it does: It prevents lenders from accessing your credit report, which stops scammers from opening new accounts in your name.
- No impact on score: Freezing or unfreezing your credit does not affect your credit score.
- Existing accounts: It does not affect your current credit cards or loans; existing lenders can still access your report.
- Lifting the freeze: If you need to apply for a loan or new card, you can "thaw" the freeze temporarily. Online requests must be fulfilled within one hour, while phone/mail requests can take up to three business days.
- AARP Support: If you suspect you've been targeted by a scam, you can call the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline at 1-877-908-3360 for free guidance.

# MEETING RECAP- FEBRUARY 2026 - contd.



**VerifyDial**  
Community Call Verification Pilot

**What is VerifyDial?**  
VerifyDial was founded to create the 811 for scams, a universal "Call Before You Click" service designed to help people safely verify suspicious messages and phone calls. It acts like an inbound Identity Firewall, giving users a trusted way to check whether a communication is legitimate before they respond or take action.

**Worried about a suspicious message?**  
You are invited to participate in VerifyDial's Community Call Verification Pilot. This program helps you check suspicious phone calls before responding, so you can stay safe and confident.

When to use this number	How to use the number
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>If a caller is urgent, threatening, or unusual</li><li>If they ask for money, personal information, or sensitive details</li><li>If you are unsure whether the call is real</li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hang up on the suspicious caller.</li><li>Call this number: <b>(361) 880-9487</b></li><li>Listen to the instructions and follow the prompts.</li><li>Leave feedback if asked, to help improve the program.</li></ol>

**Important safety notes**

- We will never ask for your Social Security number, bank information, or payment.
- This number is for testing and educational purposes only.
- If you feel unsafe or in immediate danger, call 911.

**Pilot disclaimer:** This is a trial program being tested, with community safety and awareness.

Space for notes

## Fraud Prevention Workshop from 10 to 11:45 a.m., March 5

Officer Merry invited us to the March 5 community-wide Fraud Prevention Workshop from 10 to 11:45 a.m., March 5, at Community Hall, 1910 Pebble Beach Blvd. S, Sun City Center. Doors open at 9 a.m.

Please note that last year they had to close the doors/entrance early to the meeting room because of the fire code. So plan on getting there early.

Observer News Article:

<https://www.observernews.net/2026/02/19/hcso-fraud-workshop-stay-informed-on-latest-scam-tactics/>



On Feb. 21, at the Tampa Bay Golf and Country Club, numerous GFWC women's clubs came together to celebrate their "Volunteer of the Year".

Our representative from SCC was Shawna Wainright, far left.

# RECAP- FEBRUARY 2026 - contd.

## GFWC SCC Share Their Hearts

Members from the SCC Woman's Club visited Sun Towers assisted living residents and made Valentine hanging heart decorations. The residents and members had a fun, creative craft session together.



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## SCC Woman's Club Supports Mary & Martha House

During our February ladies luncheon, members of our SCC Woman's Club, collected new sheets, pillows, bedding, towels, blankets and toiletries for Ruskin's Mary & Martha House non-profit organization. Their mission is to offer a sanctuary of safety and support to women and their children who have experienced the challenges of domestic violence and homelessness. The total value of the donations was \$1,000.

## Director at Large Virginia Kimball

Hello Ladies,

When thinking about March 1, remember the days when we would go to the park and fly kites? See the spring flowers popping out of the ground? And when the grass turned green, we looked for 4-leaf clovers? March 17 th is St. Patricks Day!

For Newborns in Need of a baby shower, please bring diapers, pacifiers, clothes, shoes, baby blanket, hats, etc. We know all you grandmas and great-grandmas love shopping for little ones. Don't forget about our next Fundraiser on March 22 in the Florida Room 2:30-4:00 p.m. Bring your egg as your ticket and you may win a prize.

### Mark your calendars for some fun activities this month.

March 5 - Birthday Lunch  
March 12 - Board Meeting  
March 14 - FunFest  
March 19 - General Meeting  
March 22 - Eggstravaganza Fundraiser  
March 25 - Bunco  
March 26 - Arts & Culture Meeting (Room 3 Community Hall)

### St. Patricks Day Trivia Questions

1. Why is St. Patrick celebrated on March 17?
2. Where and when was the first St. Patricks Day Parade?
3. Where and when was the first St. Paddy's Day celebration in the British American colonies?
4. According to Irish lore, what animal did St Patrick drive out of Ireland?
5. What are the odds of finding a 4 leave clover?
6. What is the highest number of leaves ever recorded on a single clover stem?

### ANSWERS

1. It is the day St Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland died in 461 AD.
2. St. Augustine, Fl. In 1601. The area was then a Spanish colony, but had an Irish Vicar.
3. Boston in 1737. It was a dinner held by the Charitable Irish Society, the oldest Irish society in America, which still holds a dinner on March 17 today.
4. Snakes he stood a top of a hillside and banished all serpents to slither away into the sea.
5. 1 in 10,000.
6. 56, according to the Guinness Book of World Records and was discovered by Shigeo Obara of Japan





Leanna  
Maurer

During our last Environmental Committee meeting we discussed Soles for Souls. Unfortunately, we are no longer able to receive free shipping labels to send our shoe donations. Since mailing is too expensive for our women's club, we will not be doing the Soles for Souls shoe drive. The Environmental Committee is looking into other community projects. If anyone has any suggestions for future potential projects, please feel free to share them. My email address is [Lokemup88@aol.com](mailto:Lokemup88@aol.com) or send me a text 410-271-8700.



Do you know how important bees are to our society? Bees contribute to pollination, food production, economic contribution, and maintain biodiversity. We all need to protect the bee populations to safeguard our food security and maintain our eco systems. Pesticides and habitat loss contribute to the declining bee population. Bees pollinate about 75 per cent of the world's flowering plants. They are responsible for pollinating nearly 90 percent of fruits, vegetables, and nut crops. Bee pollination is crucial in plant reproduction which assists food production and biodiversity.

If bees did not pollinate our crops, our food supply could diminish, potentially resulting in a less nutritious diet and higher food prices. It is estimated that one in three bites of food that we eat is made possible due to busy bees.

How can you help sustain honeybees? Grow pollinating plants in your garden such as mint, basil, chives or marigolds.



We are collecting Campbell Soup labels for Wimauma Elementary School for our monthly collections



*Shawna  
Wainright*

## **GFWC SCC Woman's Club Spring Egg-Stravaganza Fundraiser**

**Remember the fun and joy of an Easter egg hunt in your childhood?  
Are you looking for something fun and unique to do in March?**

**Join our Club's Spring Egg-stravaganza' fundraiser event on  
Sunday, March 22 at the SCC Atrium Florida Room 2:30 to 4:00pm.**



Stop by the Atrium during **March on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays** to purchase your plastic eggs for only \$10 each with cash or a check. The more eggs you buy the more chances of winning. Invite your friends! Limited tickets at the door.

Each egg has a hidden message and candy. Bring the egg back to the event as your entrance admission. Visit sponsors, watch entertainment, partake in a 'scrambled egg' scavenger hunt and raffles, enjoy fresh fruit and yummy desserts.

**Prizes galore including a \$100 grand prize.**

Sponsors include: Grease Monkey, United Healthcare, SC Senior Care, John Moore Flooring, AARP and many more.

Contact: Shawna at the SCC Woman's Club at 302-740-4098 for more fun information.

**LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR SCC Woman's Club Royal  
Caribbean Cruise starting Sept 21st.  
\$50 deposit to Cruise Planners required by March 8th.  
Contact Matthew - 717-856-2646**



*Shawna  
Wainright*

## The Health and Wellness Team collecting:

### March Health and Wellness Baby Shower



A special gift-giving time is to share our love with young, low income moms and their precious babies. In March we are having a Baby Shower for Newborns in Need, a non-profit organization located in Valrico. We are collecting baby blankets, baby caps, booties, boys or girls clothes for newborns, powdered formula, newborn diapers, pacifiers, or anything cute for a bundle of joy.

Thank you for sharing your love.

### Important - Please note

If you bring items for donation please fill out the **IN KIND SLIP** located on the donation table:

- fill in who is recipient
- fill out the value on with the amount

This does not apply to egg cartons, eye glasses etc. If you were lucky enough to buy it on sale or a BOGO, it would be the total value, not what you paid.

This will greatly help with reporting.

Thank you.



*Carina  
Faneuf*

## **Sun City Center Fun Fest!** **March 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Join us for a full day of fun featuring Arts Crafts, Food, Club and Vendor Exhibits, a Health Fair, and non-stop entertainment.

It's one of Sun City Center's most exciting community events—and you won't want to miss it!

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FUN FEST!**

We'll be hosting a room in the Atrium (possibly) or a booth/table, and we're looking for friendly volunteers to spend just one hour talking with guests about our club at the Fun Fest.

Volunteer times available:

Setup begins at 8:00 a.m.

Hourly shifts available throughout the day

Cleanup until 2:30 p.m.

Even giving one hour helps—and still gives you plenty of time to enjoy the festival, explore other clubs and vendors, and grab a bite to eat!

Email: [sccwcmembership@gmail.com](mailto:sccwcmembership@gmail.com) OR Text: 727-510-0123

Please reach out with any time you're able to help—we'd love to have you be part of the fun!

# March **BIRTHDAYS!**

**Karen Hardy - March 6**

**Regina McCain - March 8**

**Norma Ebner - March 16**

**Aine Paik - March 21**

**Pamela Cummings - March 22**

**Valesca Lopez-Brown - March 26**

**March 5**

**Summer Ramen & Sushi in Wimauma**

**5113 FL 674-Suite 114**

**Dress: Green**

## **Monthly Birthday Lunch**

Club members meet once a month at various local restaurants to celebrate birthdays. You don't need to be a member of the SCC Woman's Club or be celebrating a birthday to join us—everyone is welcome!

To attend, please make a reservation with Valesca Lopez-Brown by texting or calling (909) 499-9885.

The luncheon takes place on the 1st Thursday of each month. You'll order from the restaurant's menu and pay for your own meal at the time. Cancellations are accepted at any time, but advance notice is appreciated since we make restaurant reservations. This is a great chance to introduce the Woman's Club to your friends!



2026		MARCH					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31					

- Mar. 5 Fraud Prevention Workshop - Community Hall
- Mar. 5 Birthday Luncheon
- Mar. 9 Fundraising Planning Meeting 11:00 to noon
- Mar. 12 Board Meeting
- Mar. 14 FunFest
- Mar. 19 General Meeting & Lunch
- Mar. 22 Egg-stravaganza Fundraiser, Florida Room 2:30
- Mar. 25 Bunco 9:30-11:30 AM Sandpiper Room
- Mar. 26 Arts & Culture Meeting 9:30-11:30 AM Rm 3

**LOOKING AHEAD TO THE APRIL LUNCHEON MEEING:**  
 Remembering the Titanic April 15, 1912  
 For April's luncheon, come dressed up in dinner/evening attire and enjoy a lunch, artifacts, and history. Member Jeanne Naish will perform and re-enact a play portraying a survivor from the Titanic.



# LUNCHEON RESERVATION POLICY

## MEETING RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

- Reservations for members and guest(s) MUST be made in advance - this applies whether you are eating, not eating, or bringing your own lunch.
- Reservation must be made no later than Sunday night by midnight before the Thursday General Meeting.
- If you need to cancel your reservation, you must cancel by the Sunday before the Thursday meeting.
- **For reservations or cancellations:**  
Email: [suncitywomansclub@gmail.com](mailto:suncitywomansclub@gmail.com)
- All reservation requests will be confirmed. If you do not get a response by the cutoff date, you do not have a reservation.
- Standing reservations can be made by calling the Hospitality Director, Lucille Flatt (973) 288-4136
- **No-Show Policy:** reservations are considered a binding agreement between the Club and the Caterer. A member who makes a reservation for herself and/or a guest and does not cancel by the deadline stated above, will be required to reimburse the Club for the cost incurred within 30 days or no further monthly meal reservations will be accepted until payment is received. A member in arrears may not renew her membership until payment is received.
- **COST:** \$20 for buffet, dessert and gratuity included. Entrees will be announced each month in the Club newsletter.
- **Payment:** Checks are the preferred method of payment. If you pay cash, please provide the correct amount. If you pay by credit card, a 3% service fee will be added to the payment.
- If you come with no reservation, you will not be able to partake of the lunch buffet. However, you are welcome to bring your own lunch and utensils, and stay and enjoy the program.