



The Historical Society of Orange Park

August 2022 Newsletter

We hope everyone is having a good summer. The Society has been active on several projects. Cindy Cheatwood has been researching the history of Club Continental and will present her findings at our next meeting on August 8. Work has also continued at the Veterans Memorial and we are kicking off our annual Veterans Day Essay Contest for Clay County students. We also continue to host an open house at the Clarke House on the second Sunday of the month.

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
August 8, 2022	5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Member Meeting	Orange Park Library
August 14, 2022	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Open House	Clarke House
September 11, 2022	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Open House	Clarke House

Additional information on these events and the activities described above can be found below.

August Meeting – Orange Park’s Castle

Have you ever wondered how Club Continental came to Orange Park? What’s the story with Winterbourne and Azaleana Manor?

Since the founding of the town, the Johnson/Ferguson/Massee family has contributed to the climate and character of Orange Park. There have been a lot of changes over the decades and many stories can be told. Come hear about the property and its place in our history as Cynthia Cheatwood presents research findings in a public program entitled, “Orange Park’s Castle”. Even long-time locals will be interested in learning some of the connections introduced to our area through the family of Orange Park’s Castle.



Join us at 5:30 PM, Monday, August 8, at the Orange Park branch library meeting room, at 2054 Plainfield Ave, Orange Park, FL. Copies of the book, "Images of America: Orange Park" will be available for sale and special guests will be in attendance.

Veterans Memorial Update

We are happy to let everyone know that our plans for maintenance at the Veterans Memorial of Orange Park continue to move forward. We have received an update on the status of delivery of the marble bench seat that was damaged by vandalism on June 10. The current estimated date of arrival is August 30 and it will be installed as soon as possible after it is delivered to the memorial. The Town of Orange Park and Jacksonville Memory Gardens are doing all they can to resolve this awful attack on the memorial.



The project to replace the existing pavers at the memorial continues. An order for Phase One consisting of 280 pavers was submitted on July 30. The pavers are expected to be delivered in late September. Our goal is to have them installed in October and ready in time for the Veterans Day Ceremony to be held on November 11, 2022.

Our fundraising efforts thru the GoFundMe website kicked off on June 30 and we can really use your support. The link to access this site is:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/veterans-memorial-of-orange-park-fl?qid=a8c654f9a33ee6c7465f472a816acd47>

Of course, check donations can always be mailed to:

Historical Society of Orange Park, PO Box 08, Orange Park, FL 32067

Some very exciting news is that we have a generous supporter who will match all contributions received from this fundraising campaign. That means that every dollar you donate will be matched and we will need all of that to reach our goal.

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We will continue to keep you updated on all activities concerning the Veterans Memorial Project in future newsletters.

Veterans Memorial Essay Contest

All Clay County students in grades 4 – 12 are invited to participate in the Historical Society’s annual Veterans Day Essay Contest. As in previous years, students are invited to submit an essay on a veteran-related topic.

The topics are as follows:

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Word Limits:</u>	<u>Prize Offered</u>	<u>Prompt</u>
4th –6th	300-500	\$50	Why are veterans special?
7th –8th	400-700	\$75	Write about an American who served in the United States military who inspires you.
9th -12th	500-1000	\$100	Why are the words “Duty, Honor, Country” important today?

Essays must be received no later than September 30, 2022. The student submitting the winning essay in each category will receive a cash prize and be invited to present their essay at the Veterans Day Ceremony, 11 AM, Friday, November 11 at the Veterans Memorial in Magnolia Cemetery.



Entry forms and contest instructions can be downloaded by clicking the following link: [Veterans Day Essay Contest 2022.pdf \(wsimg.com\)](#) or from the Veterans Memorial page of our website, [Veterans Memorial \(ophistory.org\)](#).

Art Guild of Orange Park

The Art Guild of Orange Park will host Bella Notte, An Evening of Art, on September 15, 2022, from 6:00 PM until 10:00 PM at the Azaleana Manor Orange Park, Florida. For more information, please visit their website at [BELLA NOTTE - Art Guild of Orange Park](#).

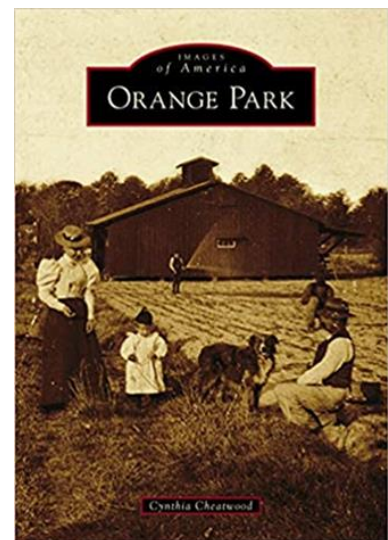


Images of America - Orange Park

Would you like to learn more about the history of Orange Park? If so, please consider purchasing a copy of Images of America – Orange Park. This book, written by Society President, Cynthia Cheatwood, shares the history of our town through archival photographs and stories collected from a variety of sources.

The Historical Society of Orange Park has copies for sale. Copies can be purchased through the Society for \$20 each (\$15 each for Society members). *This book is also available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, CVS or various other outlets online.*

For more information, please email us at info@ophistory.org. All author royalties for the sale of this book will go toward historical preservation in Orange Park.



Clarke House Tours



The Clarke House is open for tours on the second Sunday of each month. This month, the house will be open Sunday, August 14 from 2 PM to 4 PM. If you have not yet visited the house or, if it has just been a while, we invite you to stop by to look around. The slower pace of a Sunday afternoon provides an opportunity to tour the entire house, both upstairs and down. We hope to see you there.

Look For Us on Online

Look for the Historical Society of Orange Park online via our website, www.ophistory.org, or the next time you visit Facebook. Check for updates on society news and activities.

