



The Historical Society of Orange Park

November 2021 Newsletter

We hope everyone enjoyed the cooler weather of October and had a good Halloween. As we move into November, we prepare to honor our veterans on November 11 and give thanks for our many blessings on Thanksgiving Day. This is a nice time of year, so we hope you are able to get out to be with friends and enjoy life in northeast Florida.

Our calendar remains busy. Since Clarke Park has re-opened, parking has been at a premium so proceed slowly and be patient when you visit Clarke House Park. Keep in mind that the Clarke House is open for tours on the second Sunday of this month. More information on the open house and other events are available in this newsletter.

Historical Society of Orange Park Calendar of Events

Date		Time	Event	Location
November 11, 2021		11 AM	Veterans Day Ceremony	Veterans Memorial at Magnolia Cemetery
November 14, 2021		2 PM – 4 PM	Open House	Clarke House
December 10-11, 2021		5 PM – 9 PM	Hometown Holiday	Clarke House Park

Additional information on these events can be found below.

Fall Festival

On Saturday, October 16 and Sunday, October 17, the Town of Orange Park held its 39th Annual Fall Festival at Town Hall Park. The weather could not have been better. People were anxious to be outside ready to have a good time. Attendance at the festival was very heavy both days. The festival was filled with music, dance, food and unique crafts.



The Historical Society's booth was busy with visitors all weekend long. It was great to share our local history with visitors and catch up with old friends that stopped by. Our thanks to Kathleen Coulter, Kenny Radwanski, Zachary Power, Jimmy and Alice Grisham and Joe and Mary Katherine Demarco for helping to staff the booth over the weekend. Your participation was much appreciated. Our thanks also to the Town of Orange Park and Festival Manager Emily Dockery for putting on an outstanding festival.

Moonlight on Magnolia

On Saturday, October 23, the Historical Society hosted Moonlight on Magnolia at Magnolia Cemetery. We missed this event last year due to the COVID virus, so it was especially nice be back at Magnolia Cemetery. We were blessed with another perfect weekend to be outside. Over 200 visitors toured the cemetery to learn about the Town's history and visit with "former Residents" of Orange Park. Everyone had a good time and it was a fun way to share the history of our town with others.

Our thanks to First Baptist Church for allowing us to use their parking lot for this event.

Scenes from Moonlight on Magnolia





Veterans Day Ceremony 2021

November 11, 2021 is the day America will celebrate Veterans Day this year with ceremonies stretching across our great country. The Historical Society of Orange Park, in cooperation with the Town of Orange Park, will once again host its Veterans Day Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial located inside the main gates at Magnolia Cemetery, located at 1040 Kingsley Avenue, directly across from Clarke Park. The ceremony will begin promptly at 11 AM.

This year's ceremony marks the 10th anniversary of the official Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Memorial on November 11, 2011. It will be nice to gather again in person this year to celebrate our veterans. The program includes remarks by Mayor Randy Anderson, Regent Barbara Voi, Sophia Fleming Chapter of the DAR and our featured speaker, Commander Christopher S. Casne, USN. Also featured will be the winning essays for the Society's essay contest, musical selections by Payten Tison, appearances by the OPHS NJROTC Color Guard and the First Coast Highlanders and a flyover by the Dreamland Squadron.

We are looking forward to honoring our veterans in person this year so please plan to join us. Parking is available at the First Baptist Church, just west of Magnolia Cemetery on Kingsley Avenue. Seating is limited so please bring a chair to be sure you have a seat.



Middleburg Museum

The Middleburg Museum is hosting speaker programs for the remainder of 2021. Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month, 6:30 PM, at the Middleburg Civic Association. 2102 Palmetto Street.

Also, the Middleburg Museum will host their annual Historic Festival on Saturday, November 6th from 11 AM -3 PM. Visit their Facebook Page for more information ([The Middleburg Museum - Home | Facebook](#)).

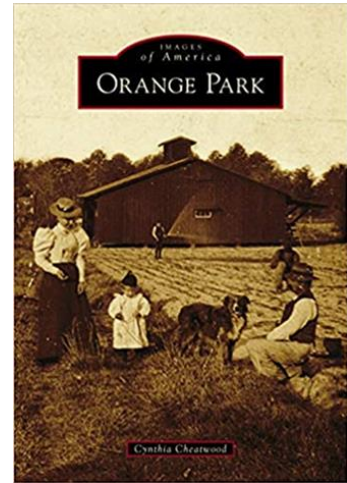
The Middleburg Museum is open Sundays from 2 PM to 4 PM. Currently, the museum is featuring a rotating display prepared by



Dr. Cynthia Stone. Dr. Stone is also available to open the museum for special tours as well. She can be contacted at (904) 860-0960 to make arrangements for your group.

Images of America - Orange Park

Would you like to learn more about the history of Orange Park? If so, you should pick up 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 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.

Orange Park Woman's Club

The Orange Park Woman's Club has note cards for sale to benefit the children of W.E. Cherry and Grove Park Elementary Schools. President Kay Earhart will be giving one book to each teacher in each grade to add to the children's classroom libraries. This is the President's Choice fundraiser. The notecards are \$14 for a dozen cards and envelopes and are printed on fine linen. Contact Linda Fonferik at 803-4599 to order.



Clarke House Tours



The Clarke House is once again open for tours on the second Sunday of each month. This month, the house will be open Sunday, November 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 Facebook

Look for the Historical Society of Orange Park the next time you visit Facebook. Check our page for updates on society activities and updates on the Veterans Memorial. Don't forget to click "Like" on our page.

Membership in the Historical Society of Orange Park

We are grateful for the support our members have provided over the years through membership and participation. We ask that you continue to support our mission to preserve the history of Orange Park and share that history with the community. Ask a friend to join us as well. You can visit our website, www.ophistory.org, to download a membership form there.

