



The Historical Society of Orange Park

October 2022 Newsletter

This past week, we watched Hurricane Ian pass 100 miles off the east coast of our state on its way to South Carolina. Early forecasts predicted the storm would come ashore around St. Mark's over in the panhandle. As time passed, subsequent forecast tracks moved east and, at one time, the storm was forecast to move directly over our area. However, the storm ignored all forecasts and came ashore at Punta Gorda, moved across the peninsula and back out to sea. Looking at photos of the devastation the storm brought to southwest Florida brings into focus just how fortunate we were. The coastal islands in the vicinity of Ft. Myers and Punta Gorda were scoured by the storm. Here in Orange Park, we were spared the full wrath of the storm, enduring a couple of days of rough weather but not the devastation of South Florida. We often take for granted that we can come home to a comfortable home, have a nice meal and spend time with our loved ones. However, we should not take those things for granted. They are gifts for which we should be grateful. Let us celebrate our families, friends and the place we call home.

As we move into October, we have several opportunities to enjoy our town. The Town of Orange Park will host its 40th Annual Fall Festival and the Historical Society will host Moonlight on Magnolia. Come out, participate in these events, appreciate what the town has to offer and get to know its history and the people that made it a special place to live.

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
October 9, 2022	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Open House	Clarke House
October 15 & 16, 2022	10:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Fall Festival	Town Hall Park
October 29, 2022	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Moonlight on Magnolia	Magnolia Cemetery
November 11, 2022	11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Veterans Day Ceremony	Veterans Memorial
November 13, 2022	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Open House	Clarke House
November 14, 2022	5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Member Meeting	Orange Park Library
December 9 & 10, 2022	5:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Hometown Holiday	Clark House Park

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

Orange Park Fall Festival

This October, the Town of Orange Park will host its 40th Annual Fall Festival. This year's festival will be held Saturday, October 15 and Sunday, October 16 at Town Hall Park. The event will be open from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day. As always, the festival will have something for everyone including music, crafts, food and fun activities. The festival is always very well-attended. The festival's popularity means that parking can be a challenge so the Town has arranged for parking at Moosehaven with a free shuttle to transport people to and from the festival. Come out, enjoy the weather and have a good time. We hope to see you there!

The Historical Society will be hosting a booth at the festival. Volunteers are always appreciated at our booth to share the history of our town with visitors. Please contact us at info@ophistory.org if you can help out for a few hours Saturday or Sunday.



Scenes from Fall Festival 2021

Moonlight on Magnolia returns October 29th!

Please join us Saturday, October 29, for Moonlight on Magnolia. This event features tours through the Town's historic Magnolia Cemetery, located at 1040 Kingsley Avenue, across from Clarke House Park. This event is a community favorite and a great way to learn the history of

Orange Park. Visitors will meet the “former residents” that shaped our town and paved the way for those to follow. Tours will begin at 4 PM and the last tour starts off at 6 PM. One night only! Tours will follow the paved roads within the cemetery and take approximately 45 minutes so please plan accordingly. This is a free, community event. Donations are appreciated and will be used to further the work of our Society. Parking will be available at First Baptist Church of Orange Park located at 1140 Kingsley Avenue, just a short walk west of the cemetery.

Society members are encouraged to try their hands at acting as they share short stories about people buried in Magnolia Cemetery. If you are interested in participating, please contact Cindy Cheatwood (ckcheatwood@myoneclay.net).



Moonlight on Magnolia 2021

Veterans Day Ceremony

The Historical Society of Orange Park and the Town of Orange Park invite you to join us for the town’s much beloved Veterans Day Ceremony to be held at the Orange Park Veterans Memorial on November 11, 2022, at 11 AM. The Memorial is located just inside the gates of the town’s historic Magnolia Cemetery, directly across the street from Clarke House Park on Kingsley Avenue.

As part of this national holiday, this solemn ceremony honors America’s veterans. As we gather on this date, set aside each year, we thank the men and women of our Armed Forces for their service.

The program for this year’s recognition will include a wreath-laying by the mayor of Orange Park, presentation of the colors by the Orange Park High School NJROTC Color Guard and bagpipes of the First Coast Highlanders. Also included will be local students who have written winning essays in the 2022 Veterans Day Essay Contest, along with participation by the American Legion Post #250 Riders and the Sofia Fleming Chapter of the DAR, as well as a flyover by the Dreamland Squadron from Haller Airfield.

This year's ceremony promises to be well attended. Seating at the ceremony is limited therefore, it is recommended that visitors bring folding chairs. We will do our best to accommodate anyone with mobility issues. Parking for the ceremony will be at the First Baptist Church of Orange Park at 1140 Kingsley Avenue, a very short walk from the Memorial. The ceremony will begin promptly at 11 AM and last about an hour. At the conclusion of the ceremony, all participants and guests are invited to share refreshments at the historic Clarke House.

Veterans Memorial Update

Progress continues on the restoration of the engraved pavers for the Veterans Memorial. The delivery of the first order of new, laser-engraved pavers was scheduled for late September however, Hurricane Ian changed those plans. The pavers are now scheduled to be delivered the first week in October. We look forward to receiving them and getting them installed. We anticipate having this first phase completed prior to the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11.

We continue to be pleased with the progress of the Fundraiser we started on June 30 to fund the replacement of the faded, illegible pavers is making great progress. However, help is still needed. Our first order of pavers will only replace about half of the pavers on site so, out of over 500 pavers, we still have a way to go. You can help in any one of three ways:

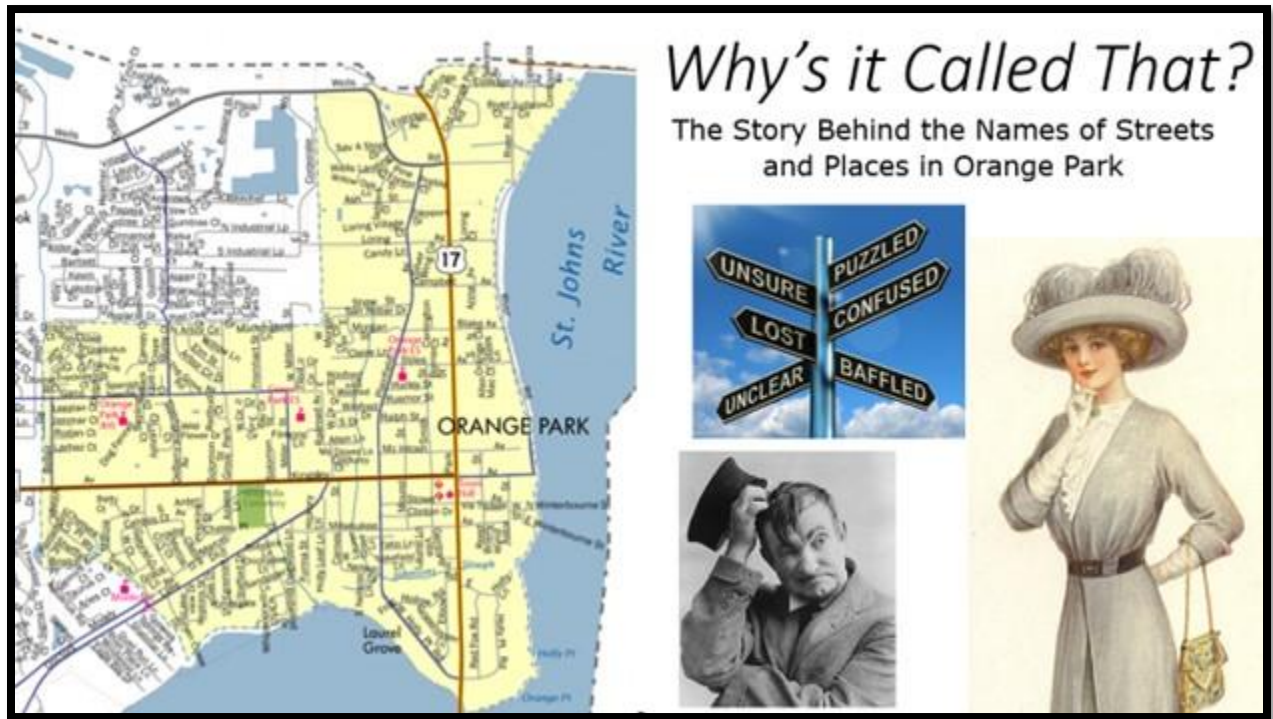
1. Go to the HSOP GoFundMe site and make a contribution at : <https://www.gofundme.com/f/veterans-memorial-of-orange-park-fl?qid=a8c654f9a33ee6c7465f472a816acd47>.
2. Mail a contribution check directly to the Historical Society at: Historical Society of Orange Park, PO Box 08, Orange Park, FL 32067.
3. Honor a Veteran by purchasing a new paver for installation. Paver purchase information is available on our website at: www.ophistory.org

Remember that we have a donor who will match your contribution dollar for dollar! We are hoping to fully fund this paver replacement project with donations from our community.

Phase Two of paver replacement will begin after our Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11, 2022. We will keep you updated on progress in future newsletters.

November Meeting: Why's It Called That?

Join us on November 14th at 5:30 PM in the meeting room of the Orange Park Branch Library as we explore the stories behind the names of places you find on the map of Orange Park. It's a story of history and a reflection of changes over time. Cynthia Cheatwood will present some curiosities and interesting information gained from recently chronicled research. You are sure to leave with a new view of our town's history!

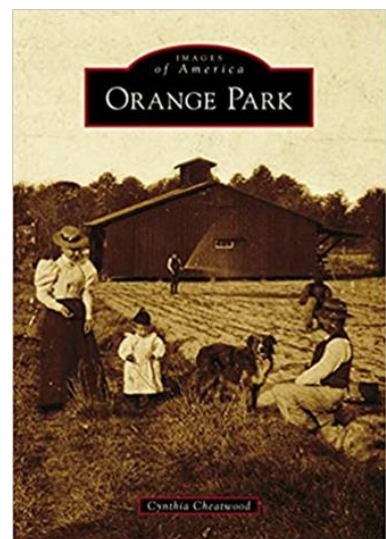


Images of America - Orange Park

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, October 9 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.

