



The Historical Society of Orange Park

August 2017 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

Saturday, August 12, 2017

Clarke House

1039 Kingsley Avenue

Orange Park, FL 32073

Please join us at 10 AM, Saturday morning, August 12 as we resume our regular monthly meetings. Our featured speaker will be Mrs. Faye Irvin. Faye will relate the results of her latest research on the history of the Orange Park Woman's Club. The Woman's Club was founded in 1910. It has a long history of community involvement and activities to improve the quality of life in Orange Park. The story of the club's founding and of the challenges its members have met and overcome to remain a vibrant, vital organization over 100 years later is one you won't want to miss.

Upcoming Events

Fall Events

Just a reminder that fall is not too far away although it might not seem like it on some of these hot days. The Society will host and participate in several events during the fall months. Coming up the weekend of October 21 and 22 will be the Town of Orange Park's Fall Festival. Planning is well under way and this event looks to be bigger than ever. The following weekend on Saturday, October 28, we will host Moonlight on Magnolia at Magnolia Cemetery. We did not hold this event last year so we expect a good turnout this year. These events will be followed by Veterans Day on Saturday,



Fall Festival

November 11 and Hometown Holiday on Friday, December 8 and Saturday, December 9. Each of these events appeals to a different group but they all have one thing in common – we get to share the story of our community with others. Volunteers will be needed for each of these events. Please mark your calendars and plan to join in.

Mandarin Museum and Historical Society

Upcoming Events:

August 5 Historic Store and Post Office Open
August 6 “Under the Oaks” music jam – 2-4
August 19 Meet the Maple Leaf Divers – 12-4
August 17 Third Thursday Lecture 6:30 pm

The Mandarin Museum and Historical Society is located in Walter Jones Park at 11964 Mandarin Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32223.

Veterans Day Essay Contest

In conjunction with the Veterans Day Ceremony, the Society will conduct our annual Veterans Day Essay Contest. The contest is open to all Clay County students from 4th grade through 12th grade. The theme for the contest is to explain the importance of Veterans Day. Essay categories are broken down by grade as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Word Limit</u>	<u>Topic</u>
4 th -6 th	300-500	Why do we have a holiday called Veterans Day?
7 th -8 th	400-700	What does it mean to be a Veteran?
9 th -12 th	500-1,000	What does the phrase, “Duty, Honor, Country”, mean to you and to military veterans?

All entries must be received by September 29th. Cash prizes will be awarded to each category winner. Please visit our website, www.ophistory.org, for additional information and to download an entry form.

Other News

Veterans Memorial

The Veterans Memorial Committee continues to receive orders for inscribed brick pavers to be installed at the site. We plan to order and install additional pavers by Veterans Day. Order forms for pavers are available at the memorial site, in the Orange Park Library or may be downloaded from the HSOP website www.ophistory.org. The cost of the pavers is \$50 each.

Another way to show your support is through the purchase of an



ornament commemorating our Orange Park Veteran's Memorial. Cost of these ornaments is \$10 each. Ornaments can be purchased at the Clarke House during regularly scheduled events.

Green House Committee Report



The Town of Orange Park approved the Rehabilitation Plan shown below at the Town Council meeting held July 18. This allows us to move forward with initial rehabilitation work on the Green House. Fundraising efforts continue in conjunction with planning and renovation. We expect to hear soon from the state regarding our matching grant and feel confident that the additional \$6500 they offer will be granted. Other grant applications are being completed as well.

If you would like to contribute to the "Green House" fund, checks can be sent to the Historical Society of Orange Park with the designation "Green House" noted. Similarly, if you know of providers of the services listed below who might want to contribute in-kind, please let Cindy Cheatwood (ckcheatwood@htomail.com) or Van Hogan (vhogan@bellsouth.net) know. Thanks for your continued support as we save this piece of Orange Park history.

"Green House" Rehabilitation Plan

Step One-Secure the building to prevent unwanted entry or deterioration. This will involve boarding up a glass-less window in the living room. The Town will assume this responsibility.

Step Two-Shore up unsafe areas. This will include removal and replacement of damaged wood including floor joists. The funding for this has been secured through a donation from the Clay County Preservation Board and from miscellaneous donations from the general public who attended Carrie Clarke Day.

Step Three- Front porch lattice will be removed, a hand rail installed and any repairs needed will be made including rescreening. A Boy Scout has indicated an interest in this step as his Eagle Scout project.

Step Four- Evaluate damaged kitchen wall and establish what is needed to secure it and make the entry usable there. Funds left from Step Two should cover the evaluator's expense.

Step Five- Plumbing repairs to make the bathroom ADA compliant. This is funded through a donation of parts and labor up to \$4,000 by WW Gay Mechanical.

Step Six-Broken windows will be replaced with age-similar rescued glass. Funding for this is still being determined.

Step Seven- A new ADA exterior entrance ramp will be added including a short sidewalk extension to the parking space. This step will be completed by a member of Boy Scout Troop #892 as his Eagle Scout project.

Step Eight- Existing electrical will be reviewed and brought up to code as necessary. Funding/in-kind donation for this step is still being sought.

Step Nine- A security system will be applied. Funding is being sought.

Step Ten-Minor wall and ceiling repairs will be done and a mini-split HVAC system added. Funding is still needed for this.

Step Eleven- Painting and finishes will be applied. Funding/in-kind donation still being sought.

Step Twelve- Possible landscaping, depending on funding.

After preservation efforts are complete the space can be used for non-profits in the town as part of the larger Clarke Park. There will be panels placed on the walls that tell the story of the town's history. A space will be provided for community access to information about the town's businesses and organizations for public information. Boy Scouts, 4H and other civic groups will use the space for meetings and projects. Given its location, central to the town and the park, this space is ideal for ongoing nature and water studies as well as historical activities.

Quilt Raffle

This year's quilt, a 60" x 52" Hopscotch pattern, was generously donated by Janice McGilton. The quilt will be raffled off and all donations will support the many community programs of the Society. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Tickets will be available at our general meetings.



Corporate Sponsor

Thank you to **Nix Construction Company**, our first Corporate Sponsor. We thank them for their support.

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 encourage you to support our mission to preserve the history of Orange Park and share that history with the community by becoming a member of the Historical Society of Orange Park. We also ask your support and participation for the many community activities we undertake during the course of the year. You can visit our website, www.ophistory.org, to download a membership form.

