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Welcome to the City of Keystone Heights

Not Your Typical Sleepy Little Hometown!

THINGS TO DO & SEE

- Military Museum
- Camp Blanding Museum
- The FIRM, Rally Race Car Course
- Single Vision, Wildlife Education Facility
- Belmont State Forest
- Goldhead State Park
- Keystone Heights Recreation Park,
 Official Dog Park
- Keystone Beach & Pavilion,
 Family Picnic Area & Playground
- Keystone Heights Trailhead

Keystone Heights ~ with its unique experiences and natural beauty,

matched with the friendly faces you'll see most

everywhere you go ~

is a place you'll want to visit again and again.



Charlie Van Zant City Manager Keystone Heights

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Veterans Day Ceremony

Nov. 11 @ 11am at Keystone Heights Theme Park

2024 Christmas Tree Festival

Begins Nov. 30 @ 6pm at Keystone Heights Nature Park

Kiwanis Christmas Parade

Dec. 14 @ 6pm on South Lawrence Blvd.

Wreaths Across America

Dec. 16 @ 11am at Keystone Heights Memorial Garden

Easter Sunrise Service

April 20 @ 6am at Keystone Beach

CONNECT TO KEYSTONE HEIGHTS 555 S. Lawrence Blvd., Keystone Heights, FL 32656 (352) 473-4807

www.keystoneheights.us

CLAY COUNTY VISITORS GUIDE FALL/WINTER 2024 • 5



HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & SUITES ORANGE PARK - WELLS ROAD

Discover warm hospitality and award-winning service at the Holiday Inn & Suites Hotel Orange Park - Wells Road, centrally located off exit 10 of I-295 and U.S. 17.

Whether you are staying local in the Town of Orange Park or venturing out to explore greater Jacksonville, you'll find this hotel close to what matters most.





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Book your next stay with us at the Holiday Inn & Suites Orange Park - Wells Rd! We look forward to welcoming you.

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RIGHT

TO BE

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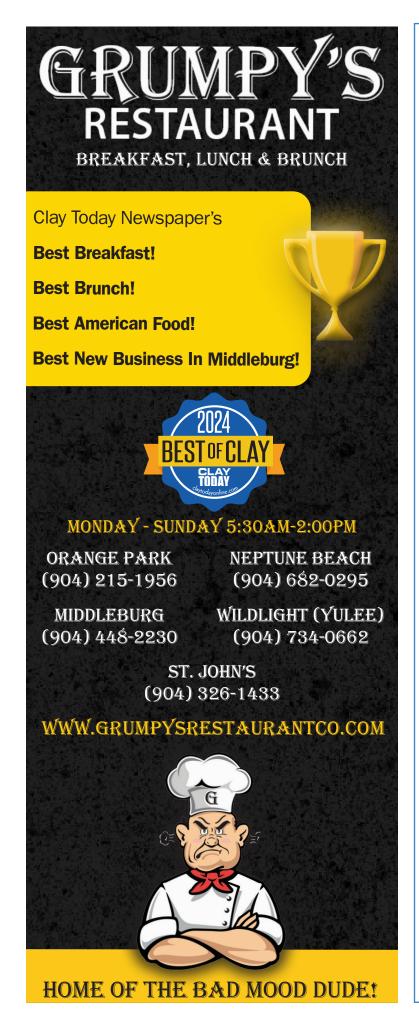
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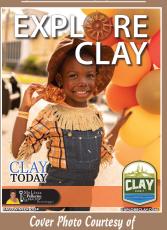
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CLAY TODAY

ClayTodayOnline.com p. 904-264-3200

ON THE COVER



Orange Park Fall Festival



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Every effort is made to avoid errors, misspellings and omissions. If, however, an error comes to your attention, please accept our sincere apologies and notify us. Thank you.

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Board of County Commissioners

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Mike Cella District 1

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Jim Renninger District 3

Betsy Condon District 4

Kristen Burke, DC District 5

www.claycountygov.com



As Chair of the Clay County Board of Commissioners, let me be the first to extend a warm welcome to you. Clay County, Florida, a place with small towns and big passions is located in Northeast Florida, lies southwest of Jacksonville with the entire eastern border nestled along the banks of the scenic St. Johns River. Within the county's 640 square miles, you will discover natural beauty, rich history and a vast array of natural and agricultural resources minutes away from vibrant business environments.

Founded in 1858, our county has developed into a diverse mixture of suburban and rural areas resulting in a vivid panorama of productive, modern living; superior, grade "A" schools; a well-trained, skilled workforce; bustling retail centers and economic vitality. Clay County is a haven for those who love nature and the outdoors, while being home to some of the region's best golf courses, public parks and hiking & bicycling trails. Add the enjoyment of boating, fishing, canoeing or kayaking on our waterways and you can see why people love Clay County.

While you are in Clay County, we invite you to explore the many experiences we have in our small towns. Be sure to enjoy:

- Our rich military history. Whether a historical marker siting the 1716 Fort San Fransisco
 de Pupo, or our Civil War actions including sinking of the Maple Leaf; the multiple locations
 used in World War II, like Lee Field, Reynolds Industrial Park and Camp Blanding. We stand
 by our military's strength, honor and history. Be sure to visit one of our area military
 museums that will engage you in our military story.
- Exploring our more than 93,000 acres of parks, 35 miles of trails, and 39 square miles of navigable waterways. You are sure to find some great picture spots.
- Shopping and dining at many of our area small businesses. Delicious coffee from local roasters, unique entrees and familiar favorites are served at our locally owned eateries. Looking for that perfect gift or souvenir to remember your visit? Our local retailers feature locally made products, repurposed vintage ware, antiques and specialty gifts.
- Make memories at one-of-a-kind events. Whether you enjoy the Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games, Clay County Agricultural Fair, Amazing Grace Family Farms Sunflower or Crop Maze Festival, RiverFest, Orange Park Fall Festival, holiday events or sporting events like MotoSurf, you will experience Clay County's charm.

If you run out of time, this trip, please come back to enjoy the uniqueness of the place I call home. I hope you enjoy your time here and look forward to seeing you exploring the small towns and big passions Clay County has to offer throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Jim Renninger, Chair

Clay County Board of Commissioners



DISTRICT Highlights

- 🐆 Graduation rate is 95% for the District's seven traditional high schools.
- 🐆 Named Academically High Performing School District by the Florida Department of Education.
- 🌟 Ranked #1 County with Best Public Schools in Florida by Niche in 2023.
- 🐆 CCDS offers 34+ Career and Technical Education programs.
- 🐆 All junior high and senior high schools have accelerated learning programs.
- 🐆 Seven CCDS schools are recognized as a Purple Star School of Distinction by the Florida Department of Education.
- 🌟 Enhanced and increased security measures to keep students and
- > Secured over \$1.2 million in grant funds for fine arts programs across all schools.
- 🐆 All students have digital access through Chromebooks and Wi-Fi at every school.

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WELCOME TO CLAY COUNTY!

Let us be your guide. Download the **Explore Clay app** to build your own tour of shopping, dining, and more!



FEATURES



PLAN YOUR STAY

Discover ideas to make your stay even more exciting. Save your ideas and map out your itinerary.



THINGS TO DO

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DINING

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2024 Fall/Winter Events

DISCLAIMER: Events are subject to change at any time. Please contact the event coordinator directly to confirm event details. The Clay County Tourism Department is not responsible should event information be incorrect in any way in the Visitors Guide, on ExploreClay.com or on the ExploreClay app. Visit ExploreClay.com/events for a full calendar of events.

Regularly Scheduled Events

The first day of each month - 9:00 am - Moccasin Slough Nature Hike - Moccasin Slough, 4393 Raggedy Point Rd, Fleming Island - Explore Moccasin Slough Park on a guided tour from one of our camp naturalists. Bring bug spray, bottled water, and closed-toe shoes. You can register for this free event by completing the reservation form.

First Friday of each month - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Fountain Pen Friday - Anemoia Mercantile, 868

Blanding Boulevard, Ste 116, Orange Park - Join us this and every first Friday of the month for Fountain Pen Friday! Get your fountain pens cleaned and re-inked by our knowledgeable staff, ask questions, get hands-on demos, get double points on all pen & ink purchases, and score some stationery swag! Plus, join us for our ongoing game of Mystery Ink Bingo, and be entered to win a year of free ink.

First Friday of each month (March - October) - 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm Food Truck Friday in Green Cove Springs - Spring Park, 200 Spring Street, Green Cove Springs - Green Cove Springs Food Truck Friday is held the first Friday of the month from March to November. Each evening features a different selection of local food trucks around Spring Park and a Northeast Florida area band playing live on the banks of the St. Johns River in Spring Park. Beer and wine are allowed to be brought in coolers and consumed in a designated area in front of the band.

First Saturday of each month - 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Fleming Island Saturday Market - Village Square Shopping Center 2245 Plantation Center Dr, Fleming Island - Come check out the Fleming Island Saturday Market at the Village Square Shopping Center across from the Fleming Island High School.

First and Third Sunday of each month (September – June) - 10:00 am - 3:00 pm - **Orange Park Farmers' & Arts Market** - *Orange Park Town Hall, Park 2042 Park Avenue, Orange Park* - We regularly have over 75 vendors that offer a variety of homemade and homegrown products from local merchants, music, food trucks, and a great family atmosphere! The market

is located on the busy corner of US17 and Kingsley Ave.

Second Sunday of each month - 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Clarke House Tours - Clarke House Park, 1039 Kingsley Ave, Orange Park - Sunday afternoons are the perfect time for a leisurely tour of the Clark House, built in 1912. You can tour both upstairs and downstairs.

Third Saturday of each month (September – June) - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm - **3rd Saturday Market in the Park**, *City Hall*, *321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs*- Join us on Walnut Street in front of Spring Park for 3rd Saturday Market in the Park. Organized by Green Cove Springs Business League, each month features a variety of local vendors selling fresh produce and other freshly made goods. Live entertainment or music is also featured every month. The market is pet friendly.

August

August 3 – 3:00 pm – Screening: Searching for Augusta Savage – City Hall, 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs - Join us for the Green Cove Springs presentation of Searching for Augusta Savage, the new documentary about visionary artist, educator, and leader Augusta Savage. Savage was a leading figure during the Harlem Renaissance and beyond. The documentary offers an introduction to her life and practice. Savage was born in Green Cove Springs.

August 16 - 6:00 am - 8:00 pm - **Friday Night at the Museum** - ,*Middleburg Museum, 3912 Section Street, Middleburg* – Enjoy a guided tour of the Middleburg
Museum on Friday Night!

August 16 - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Sunflowers Painting Class - The Art Room, 408 Walnut St., Green Cove Springs - Join local fine artist Sophie Dare Designs! Each design is from Sophie's personal collection of photos and paintings. We will be painting Sunflowers on a 11×14 canvas with a traceable template for those who wish to use it. Feel free to bring your own water, coffee, tea, wine, beer. Local restaurants may even deliver!

August 17 - 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm - The Ultimate Elvis Celebration — Thrasher-Horne Center, 283 College Dr, Orange Park - Step back in time and experience the magic of "The Ultimate Elvis Celebration"! Join us as we pay tribute to the King of Rock 'n' Roll, Elvis Presley, 47 years after his passing. Witness the incredible talent of Ultimate Elvis Champion Cote Deonath as he embodies the spirit and charisma of Elvis on stage.

September

September 7 - 10:00 am - 3:00 pm - **Charming Sisters Fall Harvest Festival** - *Clay County Fairgrounds, 2463 FL-16, Green Cove Springs* - Vendors, food trucks, and more at the Clay County Fairgrounds.

September 14 - 11:00 am - 1:00 pm **Kidx Club Event: Turtle Time** *Orange Park Mall 1910 Wells Rd, Orange Park -* Join us for an unforgettable adventure into the fascinating world of turtles at our KidX Club event, Turtle Time! Thanks to our wonderful partners at Reptile Encounters, kids will have the unique opportunity to get up close and personal with local turtle species. Embark on an educational journey as you learn about these amazing creatures, their habitats, and conservation efforts to protect them. Our knowledgeable experts will be on hand to share intriguing facts and answer all your turtle-related questions. Dive into the creative side with fun turtle-themed crafts and activities, guaranteed to spark imagination and creativity in every young explorer.

September 14 - September 15 - Jacksonville Fall Junior Open - Eagle Harbor Golf Club, 2217 Eagle Harbor Pkwy, Fleming Island - A Hurricane Junior Golf Tour Tournament

September 28 - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm - **3rd Annual Almost Fall Festival** - *Keystone Height's Woman's Club 6747 Woman's Club Dr., Keystone Heights* - The Woman's Club of Keystone Heights presents the 3rd Annual Almost Fall Craft & Vendor Festival! Last year there was over 60 vendors and this year will be bigger and better than ever!

September 28 – Clay County Touch-A-Truck - 9/28/24 – Touch A Truck Event - Clay County Fairgrounds, 2463 FL-16, Green Cove Springs

October

Each Friday and Saturday in October – Amazing Grace Family Farms Fall Festival - 4251 SR-21, Green Cove Springs - Amazing Grace Family Farms is the perfect place to celebrate Fall with the ones you love! Enjoy Fall photo ops, test your skills in our crop maze and most of all, create priceless family memories you'll remember for years to come.

October 5 - 6 – 2024 Master's World Championship Scottish Highland Games - Clay County Fairgrounds 2463 FL-16, Green Cove Springs - Over 200 athletes from across the globe who are 40 years old and above will participate in the championship to win the title of World Champion in their respective

age divisions. The event will also feature a festival with vendors, entertainment, and Clans. We want to extend an invitation to you to take part in this unique event, whether you want to attend as a spectator, participate as a vendor or volunteer, or represent your Clan.

October 5 - 8:00 am - Whistling Death 5K & 10K - Military Museum of North Florida 1 Bunker Ave, Green Cove Springs - This race celebrates the F4U Corsair of WWII, which was nicknamed "Whistling Death" by the Japanese. It was the Marine Corps main fighter in the Pacific. Many of the pilots were trained in Green Cove Springs!

October 5 @ 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Soul Food Festival 2024 - Vera Francis Hall Park 1503 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Green Cove Springs - This event includes the Soul Food Parade at noon that runs along Palmetto Avenue and west on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, and features local foods, dance, contests, children's activities, entertainment, and fun.

October 11 - 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm - 1964 The Tribute - Thrasher-Horne Center, 283 College Drive, Orange Park -"1964" focuses on the quintessential moment in history, when The Beatles actually played before a LIVE audience. The Beatles toured the world in the early 1960's, but now only a precious few remain who actually saw them LIVE. Who actually felt the "mania" that brought them to world acclaim. Today, all that remains are a few scant memories and some captured images in pictures and on poor quality film and video. "1964" meticulously re-creates the "MAGIC" of those LIVE Beatles' performances with artful precision and unerring accuracy.

October 13 - 14 - First Coast Rugby Classic 2024 -

Thunderbolt Park, 5700 Hwy 17, Fleming Island - This year's tournament expands to host more men's teams but also calls all local women's teams to the pitch in the newly



forged Women's Division. 10s Rugby has grown in popularity as a great way to prepared XV sides who may not have the full numbers to practice effectively. It also provides a wonderful format for the speed of 7s but also the hard contact of 15s.

October 13 - 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Joe Nichols - Thrasher-Horne Center, 283 College Drive, Orange Park -Multi-platinum Quartz Hill Records' Joe Nichols is

2024 Fall/Winter Events

one of country music's most-lauded recording artists. A 21st century traditionalist, Nichols is an artist who is both timely and timeless – one who has racked nearly 2 billion music streams including a half-dozen Number 1 singles and ten Top 10 hits with a sound that blurs the boundaries between country music's past and present.

October 19 – 20 - Town of Orange Park 42nd Annual Fall Festival - Orange Park Town Hall Park 2042 Park Avenue, Orange Park - The Town of Orange Park Fall Festival is Clay County's oldest and largest Arts and Crafts Festival! The Fall Festival began in 1982 with roughly twelve craft booths and a couple guitar players. Forty-two years later, this two-day festival has over 200 artists & vendors and two stages packed with entertainment from regional and local artists! The kids can bounce on inflatables in the Kids Zone. And, of course, the shopping is second to none with art, unique gifts, handmade quilts, jewelry, pottery, and even treats for your furry friends. What's a festival without great food?! Our 30+ food vendors have it covered! Attendees will enjoy a wide variety of food from barbecue and local seafood to funnel cakes and turkey legs. Farmer's Market fans can even pick up some fresh produce! Admission is free!

October 19 – 20 - **NAS Jax Air Show** - Naval Air Station Jacksonville 6801 Roosevelt Blvd., Jacksonville - The NAS Jax Air Show, Birthplace of the Blue Angels, has free admission and parking, no tickets are required to attend. The gates open at 9 am and the show will begin at 11 am. At the NAS Jax Air Show you will witness thrills like never before from a variety of military and civilian demonstrations. The grand finale will be the Navy's flight demonstration team: The Blue Angels. While you are at the show, enjoy military and civilian aircraft displays, shop at novelty, food and beverage booths, or head to the Kids Zone for games and activities for all ages.

October 19 - 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Art Gone Wild! – 150 Fox Valley Drive, Orange Park - Don't miss a night of safari themed art and fun! Stroll outdoor tents to enjoy: Art Sales Art Demonstrations Safari/Africa Talks Music Silent Auction Caricature Portraits Photos Incredible Food, Drinks & Desserts Cash Bar Come on the "Art Gone Wild" adventure in festive safari dress! Purchase Online at https://artguildoforangepark.org/specialevents

October 25 - 26 - 5:00 pm - The Balloon Glow &



Laser Show - Clay County Fairgrounds, 2463 FL-16, Green Cove Springs - Get the whole family out for a great family fun time! See incredible hot air balloons, check that bucket list and get a ride on an actual hot air balloon! We will have a Kids Zone, with games and rides including trains, bounce house's, rock and much more! Live music for your entertainment from a variety of artists. Craft & retail vendor booths with tons of cool and interesting stuff for sale! Food vendors with bunches of fantastic festival style food to choose from! Bucket List!! Tethered hot air balloon rides will be available for purchase during the event for \$25 per person. While supplies last and weather dependent. Announcements on rides will be made at the event. For the Grand Finale each night after dusk... about 9pm we will have the fantastic Hot Air Balloon Glow & Laser show where we will light up all the balloons in unison with crowd participatory "Count Downs"! This show incorporates Music and visually stunning coordinated burns by the hot air balloons & lasers - creating a glow! Bring your blankets, chairs and umbrellas and set up your own "perfect" viewing spot!

October 25 - 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm - **Steve Solomon: My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm in Therapy** - Thrasher-Horne Center 283 College Drive, Orange Park - Prepare to laugh, prepare to cry, prepare to join Steve

- Prepare to laugh, prepare to cry, prepare to join Steve on stage in his new, updated and funnier than ever: My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm in Therapy. More than twenty wacky characters— brought to life by Steve's talent with accents, dialects and hilarious storytelling in this side splitting one-man show.

October 26 - 7:30 pm - **Night Ranger at Thrasher- Horne Center** - Thrasher-Horne Center, 283 College
Drive, Orange Park - Having sold over 17 Million albums worldwide, performed across more than 4000 stages, and captivated a radio audience that exceeds 1 Billion,

Night Ranger has both epitomized and transcended the arena rock sound and style well beyond that era. Their popularity is fueled by an impressive number of instantly recognizable hit singles and signature album tracks such as "Sister Christian," "(You Can Still) Rock In America," and "Don't Tell Me You Love Me" among many others.

November

November 2 - 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Green Cove Springs 150th Anniversary Celebration Food Truck Friday in Green Cove Springs - Spring Park, 200 Spring Street, Green Cove Springs - Each evening features a different selection of local food trucks around Spring Park and a Northeast Florida area band playing live on the banks of the St. Johns River in Spring Park. Beer and wine are allowed to be brought in coolers and consumed in a designated area in front of the band.

November 8 – 10 - **Rolling Red Golf Pro-Am & Classic** - Eagle Harbor Golf Club, 2217 Eagle Harbor Pkwy, Fleming Island - More information coming soon!

November 9 – **Moosehaven Chili Cook-Off** – Moosehaven, 1701 Park Avenue, Orange Park,

Northeast Florida get 'fired up' over the weekend at Moosehaven's 'hottest' event of the season! Many chili lovers, flavor fanatics, and car enthusiasts attended the 14th annual Chili Cook-Off & Car Show. It is sure to be a sizzling celebration of hot cars and hotter chili!

November 10 - 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Rock The Box 4 Feat. Aaron Lewis - Thrasher-Horne Center 283 College Drive, Orange Park - St. Michael's Soldiers presents Rock the Box 4, a Night of Music for our Heroes. St. Michael's Soldiers is dedicated to the support of the Deployed Men & Women of our United States Military.

November 15 – 17 - Vintage Market Days Holiday 2024 - ,Clay County Fairgrounds, 2463 FL-16, Green Cove Springs - Vintage Market Days® is an upscale, vintage-inspired, indoor/outdoor market featuring original art, vintage, furniture, boutique clothing, jewelry, handmade treasures, home décor, outdoor furnishings, food trucks, seasonal plantings, and a little more. The market is a three day event held twice a year. Our event partners with non-profits to give back to the local area.

November 11 – Various Veterans Day Ceremonies and Celebrations – check <u>www.ExploreClay.com</u> for more details.

November 23 – 24 - **Northeast Florida Fall Junior Open at Eagle Landing -** Eagle Landing at OakLeaf
Plantation 3989 Eagle Landing Pkwy, Orange Park - A
Hurricane Junior Golf Tour Tournament

November 29 – December 31 – A Night of Wonder – Experience thrilling amusement rides for all ages, ice skating amidst twinkling lights, live performances, live nativity and spectacular Christmas décor.

November 30 – **AMP Monster Truck Tour** - Two shows: 1:30pm and 7:30pm - Clay County Fairgrounds, 2463 FL-16, Green Cove Springs - Monster truck event for all ages. For more information, go to www. monstertrucktour.com

December

December 1 – 31 - 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Parade of Trees in Spring Park - Spring Park, 200 Spring Street, Green Cove Springs - Walk through a holiday wonderland as Spring Park glows with 225 lit Christmas Trees every night until 10 pm from December 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. Each tree is decorated by families, organizations, or local businesses, and many are dedicated to loved ones. Parade of Trees is free and open to the public. Don't miss this Green Cove Springs Christmas tradition and community display!

December 1 - 31 - A Night of Wonder – Experience thrilling amusement rides for all ages, ice skating amidst twinkling lights, live performances, live nativity and spectacular Christmas décor.

December 3 - 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm - Lighting of the Park - Orange Park Town Hall Park 2042 Park Avenue, Orange Park - Join us as we kick off the holiday season! Lighting of the Park is held on the first Tuesday of December. We begin at 5pm with free cookies and hot chocolate and festive musical performances. Approximately 6:15pm we will read "It was the Night Before Christmas". We flip the switch to turn on the lights shortly after that. Walk around and enjoy the lights in Town Hall Park.

December 7 - 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm - 2024 Christmas on Walnut Street & Parade - Spring Park, 200 Spring Street, Green Cove Springs - The Annual Christmas on Walnut Street Festival is held on the first Saturday of December in Green Cove Springs FL! There are many food and craft vendors, a kids' zone, and live entertainment. The afternoon begins with a visit from Santa at his workshop (organized by the GCS Elks

2024 Fall/Winter Events

Lodge Number 1892) in the Spring Park pool pavilion where he spends a few hours hearing all the kids' wish lists! The day concludes with a 1-mile Jingle Bell Fun Run organized by the Florida Striders and a beautiful night <u>Christmas Parade</u> organized by the Green Cove Springs Business League, right down Highway 17! This city-wide Christmas tradition is something you don't want to miss!

December 14 - 10:00 am - 3:00 pm - Charming Sisters The Christmas Market - Clay County Fairgrounds, 2463 FL-16, Green Cove Springs - Vendors, food trucks, and more at the Clay County Fairgrounds.

December 13 - 14 - 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Hometown Holiday 2024 - Clarke House Park, 1039 Kingsley Ave, Orange Park - The Town of Orange Park and The Historical Society of Orange Park team up to bring you an old fashioned holiday celebration! This event features a shopping village, hay rides through our decorated trail of lights, live entertainment, Clarke House tours, photos with Santa and more! It may even snow! Admission and many activities are free! This event will be held on December 13th and 14th from 5-9pm at Clarke House Park.

December 14 - 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm - 2nd Annual Oakleaf Christmas Parade - Vendors, Food Trucks, Hot Cocoa & More!

December 14 - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm - **Keystone Heights 2024 Christmas Parade**

Keystone Heights Historic Pavilion at Lake Geneva 565 S Lawrence Blvd, Keystone Heights - Sponsored by The Lake Region Kiwanis Club. More information coming soon.

Be sure to check <u>www.ExploreClay.com</u> for more information. Also, see various events and performances at:

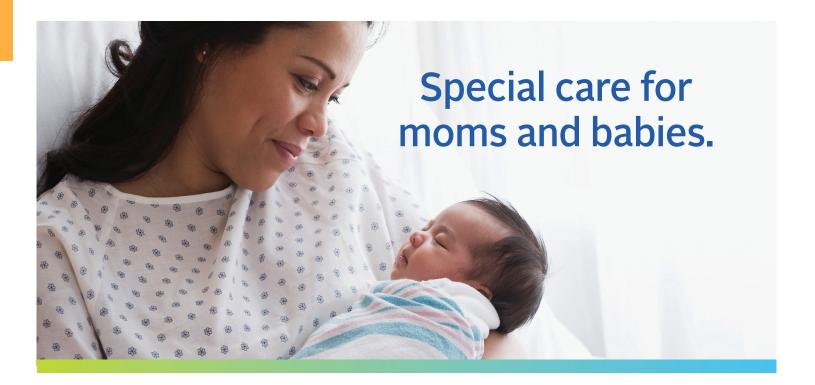
- The Island Theater
- Orange Park Community Theater
- Spotlight Center







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Baptist Clay has 20 large and comfy L&D suites.

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For more information about delivering at Baptist Clay, visit bapitstjax.com/claybabies.

To find an OB who delivers at Baptist Clay, call **202.4HER**.

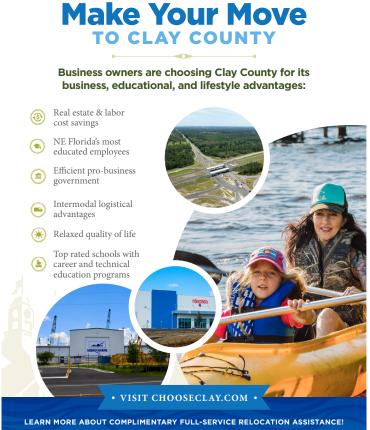
Baptist Medical Center Clay

1771 Baptist Clay Drive Fleming Island, FL 32003











Holiday Events

By Carrie McLaren

The holidays are here and there are plenty of festive activities on the horizon this season. Gather the family for holiday parades, meet and greets with Santa, holiday cheer and more.

Here's a look at the joyous celebrations taking place in Clay County –

Celebrate the Season in Orange Park

The Town of Orange Park and The Historical Society of Orange Park team up to bring you an old-fashioned holiday celebration – **Hometown Holidays** - on the evenings of December 13 and 14 from 5 to 9 p.m. at Clarke House Park. Explore the shopping village, enjoy family hayrides through a decorated trail of lights, live entertainment, Clarke House tours, photo opportunities with Santa and more. It may even snow! Admission and many activities are free!

Get Ready for Holiday Shopping

At the Orange Park Mall, **visit the big man himself - Santa!** Celebrate his arrival on Saturday, November 16th at 11:00 a.m. The Salvation Army Band will kick off the festivities along with reindeer pony rides from Pinto Farms and holiday goers can enjoy a cookie cake from Great American Cookies and the Grinch's Hot Cocoa Bar.

For children with autism and related sensory sensitivities, visiting Santa can often mean crowded spaces, long lines and competing noise causing an overstimulating and upsetting environment. **Sensitive Santa®** provides a magical experience for guests and takes place on Sunday, December 1 and Sunday, December 8 from 10 am to 12 p.m. at the Orange Park Mall. Activities include crafts with Mrs. Claus, a cereal bar and a special gift from Santa. Advance registration is required.

Wrap up your holiday shopping at the **Orange Park Farmer's Market** held the first and third Sunday in December at Orange Park Town Hall. With over 100 vendors featured each week, visitors can find homegrown items like fresh produce and honey, along with arts and crafts, live music and plenty of options for a bite to eat too.

Shop until you drop as the **Vintage Market Days** returns to the Clay County Fairgrounds November 15-17, 2024. This shopping extravaganza features upscale vintage-inspired market featuring original art, antiques, clothing, jewelry, handmade treasures, home décor, outdoor furnishings, treats, seasonal plantings and more.

Time for a Holiday Show

Whether you choose a lunchtime matinee or a dinner show, don't miss seeing "A Christmas Carol: The Musical" at the Spotlight Center with shows from November 7 through No-

vember 23. Also, enjoy the Spotlight Kids in their production of "A Year Without Santa Claus" with performance dates ranging from December 5 through December 24. This show is the theater's own stage adaptation of the classic Rankin Bass stop motion movie!

Celebrate the holidays at the Island Theater in Fleming Island for a performance of Irving Berlin's "White Christmas: The Musical" with shows taking place on select dates between December 13 through December 21.

Holiday Fun in Green Cove Springs

On Saturday, December 7, get ready for the **Green Cove Springs Christmas Parade**, sponsored by the Green Cove
Springs Business League. The parade features 80 groups
and area organizations marching their way through the city
streets. The parade starts at the intersection of Houston
Street and Highway 17 and will travel south on Highway 17. It
will then do a U turn at Walnut Street and travel back North
on Highway 17 giving everyone a great view from both sides
of the street. The parade steps off at 6 p.m., so be sure to get
there early for a great seat.

Get ready for a day of shopping local at the **Christmas on Walnut Street** event in Green Cove Springs. The fun takes place on December 7 from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. with local makers and businesses helping you wrap up your holiday shopping. Santa will also be there meeting children at his workshop at the Spring Park pavilion. Enjoy food and craft vendors, live entertainment and a kids zone. The day wraps up with a 1-mile Jingle Bell Fun Run and the popular Christmas parade through town.

Take a stroll through the lights at the City of **Green Cove Springs' Parade of Trees** in Spring Park. Each evening from December 1 through December 31 until 10 p.m., admire 225 lit Christmas trees decorated by families, organizations and local businesses. The Parade of Trees is free and open to the public.

Discover more trees on display in Keystone Heights for the holiday season at the town's **Festival of Trees**. Local businesses and organizations will have their decorated trees on display at Keystone Heights Natural Park.

More Parade Fun in Clay County

Get ready for more parade fun as the Oakleaf Christmas Parade takes place on December 14th. In Middleburg, the community comes together to celebrate the season on December 14th with the **Middleburg Christmas Parade**. And that evening, make your way to Keystone Heights for their Christmas Parade on December 14th stepping off at 6 p.m.

New to Clay County This Holiday Season

For a night of family-fun surrounding the holiday season, get ready for "A Night of Wonders" taking place on select evenings from November 29 to December 31, 2024. Enjoy amusement rides and ice skating under twinkling lights and spectacular Christmas decorations. Enjoy live entertainment and roaming holiday entertainers throughout the venue and experience an enhanced live nativity experience. At the time of publication, an outdoor location has not been announced, stay tuned to ExploreClay.com and social media for more details.

Have fun making memories together with your family, however you choose to celebrate this holiday season in Clay County. To learn more about the cheerful fun taking place in Clay County this December, check out the Explore Clay Calendar of Events.















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Milestones and Anniversaries

By Carrie McLaren

Over the next few years, Clay County will celebrate numerous milestones commemorating the founding of many communities. Local events throughout the upcoming years will celebrate the history, people and places of Clay County.

In 2024, Green Cove Springs will celebrate 150 years, in 2025 the community of Keystone Heights will celebrate 100 years and in 2026 residents will celebrate 100 years of the Penney Retirement Community. In 2027, the Town of Penney Farms will mark its 100th anniversary and in 2029, the Town of Orange Park commemorates their 100th anniversary.

Here's a look at the Clay County communities celebrating in 2024 and 2025 -

Green Cove Springs Celebrates Its 150th Anniversary in 2024

As the quaint, small town that serves as the county seat, Green Cove Springs has always been a gathering place. From the 1870s around the spring pool or today enjoying a festival in Spring Park, here are just a few reasons why people still enjoy relaxing and



exploring in this friendly community.

It all builds up to our 150th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday Nov. 2, 2024, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. throughout downtown Green Cove Springs. In partnership with Green Cove Springs Food Truck Friday, our 150th Anniversary Celebration features food trucks, live bands, a car show by Clay County Cruzers, a Children's Entrepreneur Market and more, ending the evening with the largest fireworks display the City has put on to date.

For those visiting Green Cove Springs, don't miss spending time at Spring Park. Home to the Green Cove Springs spring pool, one of the oldest in the country, dating back to 1871 when Dr. Joseph Applegate made it accessible to the public for medicinal purposes. Today, the spring is part of the newly renovated park providing residents and visitors with waterfront access to the St. Johns River, pavilions, gazebos and numerous playgrounds. The spring pool stays at a consistent 77 degree temperature throughout the year.

At nearby Camp Chowenwaw visitors can explore the outdoors with birding, fishing, hiking trails and camping beneath the stars. Dating back to 1933, Camp Chowenwaw County Park was once Florida's first Girl Scout Camp. Today, the public park offers 150 acres for exploring along popular

Black Creek. At the Bayard Conservation Area, discover the outdoors within this resource-based park encompassing 10,371 acres.

Military buffs can visit the Military Museum of Northeast Florida, once home to Lee Field during World War II, the area served as an airfield and port. The museum continues to keep those stories alive with a hellcat engine, a Blackhawk simulator and more on display for visitors. At the county's historic triangle near the Old Jail and Courthouse, stop to pay your respect to the 62 Clay County veterans who lost their lives during combat dating back to the Civil War.

Unleash your passion for the arts in Green Cove Springs shopping for antiques along Walnut Street, celebrate Augusta Savage, the African-American art trailblazer during the Harlem Renaissance when you visit the Augusta Savage Arts & Community Center.

For a taste of local cuisine, stop in for a cup of locally-brewed Brass Tacks Roasters coffee at Spring Park Coffee. For a funloving atmosphere or to catch up on sports scores, Roger That Wings and Things just steps from Spring Park. You'll also find Italian favorites at D'Fontana and tangy Pan Asian Cuisine Sushi Bar. For a sweet treat, stop in for a delicious treat from Sweet Sensations. Try the new Pink Peony for specialty treats and a lunch menu that changes weekly to keep you coming back for more.

Keystone Heights: Thrilling Adventures and Authentic Outdoor Exploring

Keystone Heights celebrates its history with a special event coming in May 2025. Stay tuned in the coming months for news from the Keystone Heights Heritage Commission as a celebration is in the works for visitors and the entire community.

Home to Clay County's only airport, Keystone Heights Airport serves as a take-off and landing site for private aircraft and corporate jets.

Take in the area's rich military history with a stop in at Camp Blanding Museum both home to memorabilia and first-hand stories from veterans and volunteers that are a part of our destination's pride.

After strolling through history, test your skills on the Rally Race Car Course – FIRM, also located at the Keystone Heights Airport. From defensive driving classes to training how to drive rally cars or bring your own car for open course day, it is all about racing for your bragging rights.

Spend time with nature at the Belmore State Forest, just north of Keystone Heights and home to gopher tortoises, Sherman's fox squirrel, Florida black bears, American alligators and more. At Gold Head Branch State Park, hike down ravines and stay overnight at the park's primitive camp sites or bring your own RV. With hiking and cycling trails and canoe and kayaking launch sites, this makes the park an enjoyable place to enjoy the outdoors.

Bring along your four-legged family members for adventures at the Keystone Heights Recreation Park, the only official dog park in the Clay County. For family fun, Keystone Beach offers an expansive playground encompassed by canopy oak trees and a large picnic area.

For a bite to eat, stop in for local, southern eats at Orange Blossoms open for breakfast and lunch. Enjoy a slice or two of authentic New York-style pizza and Italian favorites at Brooklyn Boys Pizza. Catch up on the day's sports scores and socialize with the locals at Stone's Irish Pub.

Keystone Heights, with its unique experiences and natural beauty matched with friendly faces, will having you wanting to return again and again.

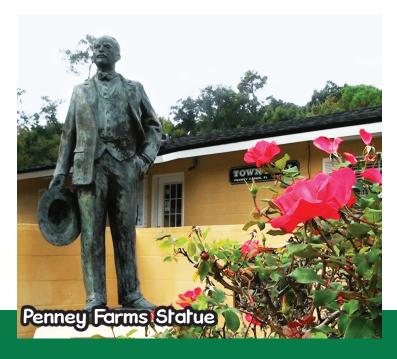
Celebrate with the Community of Penney Farms

Get ready for two years of celebrating in Penney Farms as in 2026 residents will celebrate 100 years of the Penney Retirement Community. And the fun continues into 2027 as the Town of Penney Farms will mark its 100th anniversary.

Expect two years of unique and exciting events to be announced as the anniversary dates get closer!

Learn More of Clay County's History

To learn more about Clay County's history, plan a visit to the <u>Clay County Historical Archives</u> in Green Cove Springs. The Archives Center is a great, local resource for genealogical enthusiasts and researchers, too.













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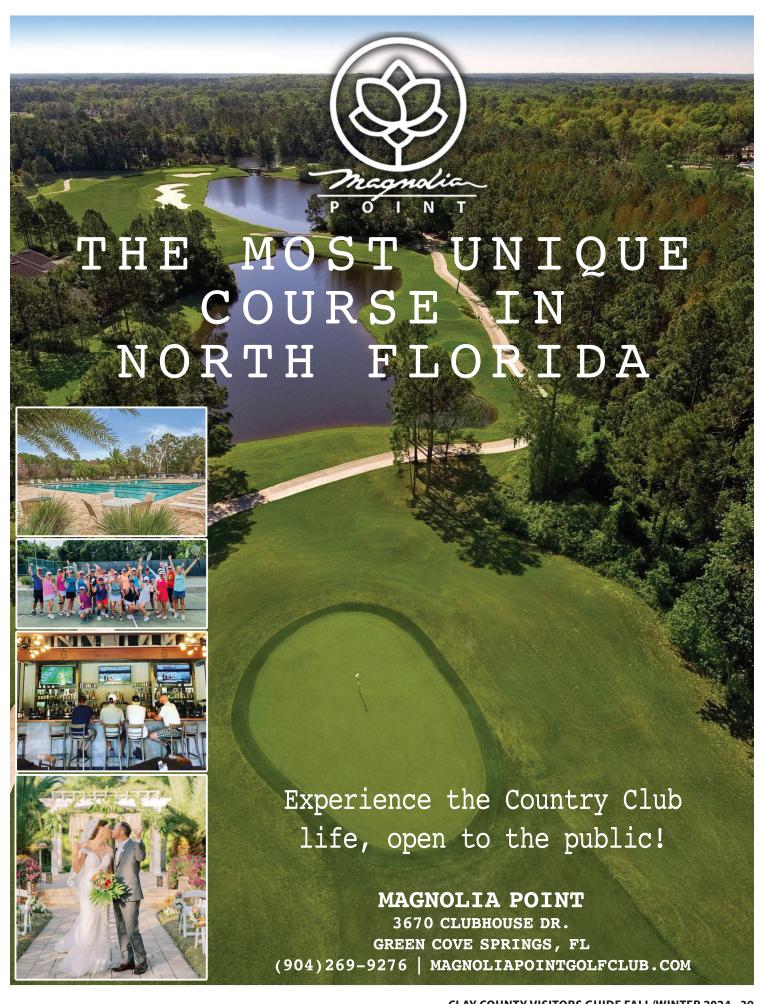
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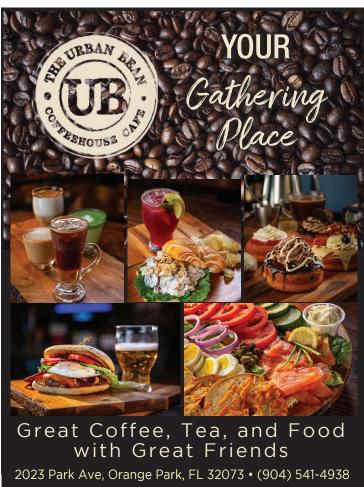


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Leaderboard 904-276-2776	1760 Wells Rd. Orange Park, FL 32073	American		~	~		~				
Little Caesars Pizza 904-276-2075	661 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32073	Italian		~	~					~	
Little Saigon Café 904-375-0061	1975 Wells Rd Orange Park, FL 32073	Vietnamese		~	~					~	
Locals Pub 904-278-8227	1580 Wells Rd., Ste 1 Orange Park, FL 32073	Sports Bar			~	~	~			~	
Lola's Filipino Café 904-375-0208	1241 Blanding Blvd. #21 Orange Park, FL 32065	Filipino			~	~					
Luca's Italian Restaurant 904-375-9191	1339 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32065	Italian		~	~					~	
The Lunch Box Deli 904-579-4918	1890 Kingsley Ave. Orange Park, FL 32065	Varied		~						~	
Mackey's Munchies 904-458-4246	868 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32065	Cajun		~	~				V	~	
Metro Diner 904-375-8548	2034 Kingsley Ave. Orange Park, FL 32073	Varied	~	~	~	~			V	~	
Midori Sushi & Grill 904-272-8813	2151 Lock Range Blvd. #5 Orange Park, FL 32073	Japanese cuisine		~	~	~			~	~	
Miller's Orange Park Ale House 904-278-4600	1756 Wells Rd. Orange Park, FL 32073	Varied		~	~	~	~		V	~	
Nakama Anime Bar 904-644-8967	1540 Wells Rd., Ste 12 Orange Park, FL 32073	Bar/Lounge		~	~	~	~	~			
Nicole's on the River 904-251-9977	1101 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32073	American	~	~						~	
No Manches Wey 904-579-4853	174 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32073	Mexican		~	~		~	~	V	~	
No. 1 China 904-272-6860	305 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32065	Chinese		~	~					~	
One Night Taco Stand 904-644-8254	1861 Wells Rd. Orange Park, FL 32073	Mexican		~	~	~	~			~	
OP Fish House & Oyster Bar 904-579-3931	636 Kingsley Ave. Orange Park, FL 32073	Seafood		~	~	~		~	V	~	~
Orange Buffet 904-276-7886	475 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32073	Chinese		~	~						~
Panda Express 904-272-3417	901 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32065	Chinese	~	~	~				V	~	
Panda Express 904-215-1963	1907 Wells Rd. Orange Park, FL 32065	Chinese	~	~	~				V	~	
Palermo Puerto Rican Restaurant (904) 269-6935	556 Kingsley Ave. Orange Park, FL 32073	Puerto Rican		~	~	~		V	V	~	
Red Owl Coffee Company 904-579-4742	208 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32073	Coffee	~	~	~					~	
Sabor Mix Ceviche & Grill 904-375-1244	661 Blanding Blvd., Suite 505 Orange Park, FL 32073	Varied		~	~	~				~	

904-298-2728

Scooter's Coffee 904-579-4742	151 Park Ave. Orange Park, FL 32073	Coffee	~	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	 	\)		\	~	
Shrimp Shack 904-276-7425	646 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32073	Seafood		~	~				V	~	
Sol De Cuba Café 904-644-7211	195 Blanding Blvd. Ste 6 Orange Park, FL 32073	Cuban	•	~	~					~	
Sonic Drive In 904-276-3686	908 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32065	Fast Food	•	~	~				~	~	V
Sonny's Bar-B-Q 904-272-4606	1976 Kingsley Ave. Orange Park, FL 32073	Bar-B-Que		~	~	•				~	V
Steak 'N Shake 904-264-2649	1681 Wells Rd. Orange Park, FL 32073	Varied		~	~					~	
Tequila & Acordeon 904-579-3579	1635 Wells Rd. Orange Park, FL 32073	Mexican		~	~		~			~	
Texas Roadhouse 904-213-1000	550 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32073	Varied		~	~		~			~	V
T.G.I. Fridays 904-215-7030	1910 Wells Rd. (OP Mall) Orange Park, FL 32073	Varied		~	~		~			~	
Thai Cafe 904-541-0204	1177 Park Ave, Ste. 4 Orange Park, FL 32073	Thai		~	~	•				~	
Thai To The Mooon 904-541-4363	10 Blanding Blvd., Suite B Orange Park, FL 32073	Thai		~	~	/			~	~	
The Lab Bakery 904-375-1416	1580 Wells Rd., Units 7&8 Orange Park, FL 32073	Bakery		~	~	~				~	
The Roadhouse 904-264-0611	231 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32073	Sports Bar		~	~	~	~	~		~	
Tom & Betty's 904-375-1965	2134 Park Ave. Orange Park, FL 32073	American		~	~	~	~	~	~	~	
Top Pot & BBQ 904-580-8888	1780 Wells Rd. Orange Park, FL 32073	Korean		~	~		~				
Tropical Smoothie 904-644-7353	266 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32073	Healthy	~	~	~				~	~	
Tunis Seafood Wings & Subs 904-579-4567	290 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32073	Varied		~	~					~	
Two Sisters and A Deviled Crab 904-505-8144	1910 Wells Rd. (OP Mall) Orange Park, FL 32073	Seafood		~	~					~	
YOUR Gathering Pla					Y			Và			
Gathering Pla	ce										
2023 Park Ave, Orange Park, FL 32073 • (90 Valentina's	330 College Dr.	Italian		V	V	V	~				
904-375-0910 Vito's Pizzeria	Orange Park, FL 32065 1101 Blanding Blvd. # 112	ltalian		_		v				_	
904-272-9119	Orange Park, FL 32065										
Whit's Frozen Custard 904-579-4705	10 Blanding Blvd., Ste A Orange Park, FL 32073	Dessert		~	~					~	
Carteboan			THE STATE OF THE S	yun	•	Ora 90	nge 4-54	ding Par 11-4 (cari	k, F 811	L	com
Zaxby's 904-298-2728	390 Blanding Blvd.	Varied		~	~					~	

Orange Park, FL 32073

FLEMING ISLAND

Ben's Soft Pretzels	(inside Walmart)
004 (02 5625	

904-602-5625

Bono's BBQ Eagle Harbor

904-269-8870

Brew-Bakers Café & Co

904-602-5355

Brick Oven Pizzeria & Gastropub

904-278-1770

Chick Fil A

904-264-3644

Corks & Barrels 904-264-3644

Chili's Grill & Bar 904-264-8412

Cold Stone Creamery

904-284-1379

Corky Bells Seafood & Steaks

904-284-1379

1505 County Rd. 220
Fleming Island, FL 32003

1765 Town Center Blvd. Fleming Island, FL 32003

1831 Golden Eagle Way Ste. 23 Fleming Island, FL 32003

1811 Town Center Blvd. Fleming Island, FL 32003

1541 County Rd. 220

Fleming Island, FL 32003

1824 Town Center Blvd., Ste 1010 Fleming Island, FL 32003

2005 East-West Pkwy Fleming Island, FL 32003

1810 Town Center Blvd. #10 Fleming Island FL, 32003

1049 Floyd St. Fleming Island FL, 32003

FLEMING ISLAND

1803 East-West Parkway

(904) 375-2559



Snack

Bar-B-Que

Varied

Italian

American

Cocktails

Varied

Dessert

Varied



= WINGIN' IT SINCE '94= Firehouse Subs Eagle Harbor

904-592-4896

Five Guys

904-592-4896

Hibernia Pub at Fleming Island Golf Club

904-269-1440

Hop Shing

904-637-0088

Hot Wok

904-278-4088

Hurricane Grill & Wings

904-644-7315

IHop

904-215-9564

Jeremiah's Italian Ice

904-592-7049

La Nopalera

904-215-2223

Lanna Thai

904-375-1868

Longhorn Steakhouse

904-278-6320

The Loop

904-375-9293

Maple Street Biscuit Company

904-375-2219

Mellow Mushroom Pizza

904-541-1999

1581 County Rd 220 #115 Fleming Island, FL 32003

1571 County Rd. 220 #130 Fleming Island, FL 32003

2260 Town Center Blvd Fleming Island, FL 32003

5000 Hwy 17 S., Unit 21 Fleming Island, FL 32003

1615 County Rd 220 #155

Fleming Island, FL 32003 1810-1 Town Center Blvd. Fleming Island, FL 32003

1825 East – West Pkwy Fleming Island, FL 32003

1811 Golden Eagle Way Ste 20 Fleming Island, FL 32003

1571 C.R. 220 Fleming Island, FL 32003

1605 C.R. 220 #180 Fleming Island, FL 32003

1605 C.R. 220 Fleming Island, FL 32003

1960 East-West Pkwy, Ste. 110 Fleming Island, FL 32003

1960 East West Parkway, Ste. 103 Fleming Island, FL 32003

1800 Town Center Blvd Fleming Island, FL 32003 Sandwiches **Burgers** Sports Bar

Chinese

Chinese Varied

Varied Dessert

Mexican Thai

Varied Pizza/Varied

American Italian

RESTAURANTS **Moe's Southwest Grill** 1544 C.R. 220 Mexican 904-637-0080 Fleming Island, FL 32003 Mojo Smokehouse 1810 Town Center Blvd. Bar-B-Que 904-264-0636 Fleming Island, FL 32003 Mr. Chubby's Wings 2349 Village Square Parkway #101 American/Sports Bar 904-272-9464 Fleming Island, FL 32003 Mr. Gordo's Tacos and Cantina 3535 Hwy 17 #8 Mexican 904-579-3488 Fleming Island, FL 32003 1811 Golden Eagle Way #25 **New York Pizza** Italian 904-375-0500 Fleming Island, FL 32003 **Panera Bread** 1510 Country Rd 220 Varied 904-215-9056 Fleming Island, FL 32003 **Parlor Doughnuts** 1524 County Road 220, #4 **Donuts** 904-579-4585 Fleming Island, FL 32003 Pepper's Cocina Mexicana 1560 Business Center Dr # 14 Mexican 904-375-0500 Fleming Island, FL 32003 **Peterbrooke Chocolatier** : 1560 Business Center Dr #3 Dessert 904-278-8828 Fleming Island, FL 32003 **Poke Bowl** 1647 County Rd 220 #102 **Japanese** 904-644-7755 Fleming Island, FL 32003 **Ruby Tuesday** 1521 C.R. 220 Varied 904-269-6900 Fleming Island, FL 32003 Saigon Wok 1647 County Rd 220 #102 Vietnamese 904-375-0083 Fleming Island, FL 32003 Salomas Panamanian Cuisine 1810 Town Center Blvd, Ste 13 **Panamanian** 904-592-7303 Fleming Island, FL 32003 Santioni's 3535-15 Highway 17 American 904-264-1331 Fleming Island, FL 32003 Sushiya 1615-150 C.R. 220 **Japanese** V Fleming Island, FL 32003 904-215-7988 1581-100 C.R. 220 E **Sweet Frog** Yogurt 904-215-1300 Fleming Island, FL 32003 **Talons Restaurant at Eagle Harbor Golf Club** 2217 Eagle Harbor Pkwy American V 904-269-1953 Fleming Island, FL 32003 Tijuana Flats 1647 County Rd 220 #103 Mexican 904-264-1766 Fleming Island, FL 32003 4311 Hwy 17 Site #2 **Time Out Deli** Middle Eastern 904-637-0012 Fleming Island, FL 32003 5000 U.S. Highway 17 **Tropical Smoothie** Healthy 904-375-0959 Fleming Island, FL 32003 V Pizza 4477 US Highway 17 Pizza/Italian 904-579-4530 Fleming Island, FL 32003 Whitey's Fish Camp 2032 C.R. 220 Varied 904-269-4198 Fleming Island, FL 32003 **Your Pie** 1545 C.R. 220 Pizza 904-375-9771 Fleming Island, FL 32003 Zaxby's 1525 C.R. 220 Varied Fleming Island, FL 32003 904-269-2911 GREEN COVE SPRINGS/ LAKE ASBURY **Around The Corner Diner** 14 Magnolia Ave. N American

Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

1600 Idlewild Ave.

904-284-1992

904-813-0446

Chef X

Varied

China Wok 904-529-8668	1305 N. Orange Ave. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	Chinese		~	•					~	
Crystal Dining Room at Magnolia Point Golf Club 904-269-9276	3670 Clubhouse Dr. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	American	/		•		~			~	
D'Fontana 904-529-5515	324 Ferris Street Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	Italian		/	/	~				~	
The Deli (Inside Shell Gas Station) 904-531-5086	410 S. Orange Ave. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	Deli	1	~	•					~	
manaeo's RICK O OFE PYZZA UC Weacoldii betterwith brids			ngeosbrid	ck	28	New 851 F en C	Have lenle ove S		yle P I. Sui gs, F	izza ite 10 L 32	01
Hardee's of Green Cove Springs 904-529-9437	1323 N. Orange Ave. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	Fast Food		/	/					~	
La Casita 904-529-9985	20 N. Orange Ave. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	Mexican		/	V					~	
Mariachi's Mexican Restaurant 904-531-9380	1301 N Orange Ave Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	Mexican		~	/		~			~	
Master Wok 904-406-4266	2851 Henley Rd. Lake Asbury, FL 32003	Chinese		~	'					~	
Pan Asian Cuisine Sushi Bar & Grill 904-529-5153	1305 N. Orange Ave. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	Chinese		~	~					~	
Pelican SnoBalls 904-352-1200	1100 Idlewild Ave Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	Dessert		~	~			~		~	
Pizza Hut 904-284-2244	1367 N. Orange Ave. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	Italian		~	/					~	
Present Tense Coffee and Books 904-406-0836	2851 Henley Road #103 Lake Asbury, 32043	Coffeehouse	ر ا	~	/					~	
The Pub at Magnolia Point Golf Club 904-269-9276	3670 Clubhouse Drive Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	Varied	·	~	~	~	~			~	~
Red's Wine Bar 904-531-5619	414 Walnut St Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	Varied			~	~					~
Roger That Wings And Things 904-284-4728	232 Walnut St Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	Varied			'	~				~	~
The Shiek 904-531-5460	422 S. Orange Ave. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	Sandwiches	·	~	/					~	
The Turmeric Kitchen 904-863-3904	3075 Hwy 17 Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	Indian		~	/					~	
Spring Park Coffee 904-531-9391	328 Ferris St. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	Varied	·	/	/					~	
7a-7p SEPTEMBER C	BOUT THISSATURDAYS AI DN BRUNCH-HAPPY HOU ILY 618 N. ORANGE AV GCS	RS-DINNER 904 531 9624	3	S 50	nr, to	56 70					
Sweet Sensations	25 N. Orange Ave.	Varied	_	~						~	
904-529-8554 Woody's Bar B Q	Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 1301 N. Orange Ave #103	Bar-B-Que		,	~					,	
904-284-1014 Zac's Pizza Restaurant 904-406-0161	Green Cove Springs, FL 3204 2851 Henley Rd. Green Cove Springs, FL 3204	Italian	1	,	v				~	~	



MIDDLEBURG

4 Tree BBQ 904-214-3041	1948 Henley Rd. Middleburg, FL 32068	Bar-B-Que	~	~		~	
Asian Paradise 904-278-7778	2223 County Rd 220, Ste 201 Middleburg, FL 32068	Asian	~	~		~	
Benito's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria 904-589-3110	2219 County Rd 220 Ste 317 Middleburg, FL 32068	Italian	~	~		~	









Local favorite hometown diner with daily specials



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Bono's BBQ 904-282-4288	2640 Blanding Blvd., Ste 211 Middleburg, FL 32068	Bar-B-Que		V	~			~	
Chick Fil A 904-291-8220	1710 Blanding Blvd, Middleburg, FL 32068	American	V	~	~		~	V	
China Café 904-282-9988	1545 Brannan Field Rd. Middleburg, FL 32065	Chinese		~	~			V	
China Wok 904-291-6988	2640 Blanding Blvd. Middleburg, FL 32068	Chinese		~	~			V	

Ontown **Culver's of Middleburg** 1767 Blanding Blvd Middleburg, FL 32068 (904) 203-2071





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Dreamette Ice Cream 904-606-2129	2620 Blanding Blvd #1 Middleburg, FL 32068	Dessert		~	~			~	
First Wok 904-272-7738	2574 C.R. 220 Middleburg, FL 32068	Chinese		~	~			~	
Fushimi Sushi 904-282-8900	1786 Blanding Blvd #13 Middleburg, FL 32068	Japanese		~	~			~	
Grumpy's 904-448-223	1805 Blanding Blvd., #107 Middleburg, FL 32068	Varied	~	~			~	'	~
Hardee's of Middleburg 904-282-1889	2730 Hwy 21 Middleburg, FL 32068	Drive In	~	~	~			'	
Huddlehouse 904-291-3850	4094 C.R. 218 West Middleburg, FL 32068	Varied	~	~	~			'	
Kelly's Country Kitchen 904-413-7271	2216 S Mimosa Ave Middleburg, FL 32068	American	~	~	~			V	
La Catrina 904-214-3016	2710 Blanding Blvd #16 Middleburg, FL 32068	Mexican		~	~	-		'	
La Sabrosa 904-644-8887	2590 County Rd 220 Middleburg, FL 32068	Mexican		~	~			~	
Love Donuts & Smoothie 904-884-1482	2475 Blanding Blvd Middleburg, FL 32068	Donuts	~	~				'	
Maggie D's Ice Cream 904-999-9466	2219 County Rd 220, Ste 310 Middleburg, FL 32068	Dessert		~	~			~	

RESTAURANTS **Royal Moose Coffee Company** Coffeehouse 2441 Blanding Blvd 904-406-9523 Middleburg, FL 32068 2574 County Rd 220 Salsa's Mexican 904-375-0494 Middleburg, FL 32068 1803 Blanding Blvd Ste 105 Siam Sushi & Thai Japanese Middleburg, FL 32068 904-606-7198 **Stone E Cabin** 4430 County Rd 218 Bar-B-Que 904-291-5858 Middleburg, FL 32003 Tony's Pizza 2219 CR 220 Pizza 904-375-9925 Middleburg, FL 32003 1782 Blanding Blvd. **Tropical Smoothie** Healthy 904-282-8777 Middleburg, FL 32068 Yama Sushi & Bento 2569 C.R. 220 **Japanese** Middleburg, FL 32068 904-375-9777 Yume Fusion Sushi & Grill 2640 Blanding Blvd #204 **Japanese** 904-406-0865 Middleburg, FL 32068 **KEYSTONE HEIGHTS** Brooklyn Boys/The P.I.G. 205 NE Commercial Circle Italian 352-478-8140 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 **Cedar River Seafood** 7414 State Rd 21 Seafood Keystone Heights, FL 32656 352-478-8210 Clyde's Cozy Corner Café 195 S Lawrence Blvd. Varied 352-478-8358 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 **Fire Power Coffee** 322 SE State Road 100, Ste. D Coffeehouse 352-478-8174 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 Hardee's of Keystone Heights 7401 State Rd. 21 Drive In 352-473-7745 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 Johnny's Bar-B-Q 7411 State Rd. 21 Bar-B-Que 352-473-4445 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 **Keystone Inn Family Restaurant** 208 State Rte 100 American 352-473-3331 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 **Laredo Mexican Restaurant** 7380 State Rd. 100 352-473-7878 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 Varied **Nutrition Retreat** 185 S Lawrence Blvd Tea 352-231-3902 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 **Orange Blossoms** 7154 SE County Rd. 21b Varied 352-473-9873 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 Papa's Pizza & Ice Cream Shoppe 190 S Lawrence Blvd. American 352-478-8154 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 Stone's Irish Pub 323 NE Commercial Circle 352-473-3000 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 Varied The Tea Room 7433 State Rd 21 Tea 352-535-8510 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 **OAKLEAF** Akaya Grill & Sushi 1075 Oakleaf Plantation Pkwy, Ste 106 Asian 904-291-9388 Orange Park, FL 32065 1075 Oakleaf Plantation Pkwy #305, **Thai Basil** Chinese/Thai 904-282-6880 Orange Park, FL 32065 The Landing Bar & Grill 3989 Eagle Landing Pkwy American 904-291-5600 Orange Park, FL 32065 The Players Grille 1075 Oakleaf Plantation Pkwy American 904-579-1401 Orange Park, FL 32065

Clay County Event & Meeting Venues

In need of a venue to host your next event? Whether you are a planning a wedding, family reunion or need a banquet hall for your organization's next meeting, Clay County has a variety of meeting spaces perfect for your group.

Choose from golf course and riverfront views to quiet, boardroom settings, Clay County can accommodate most sized groups with a variety of budgets, including catered meals and assistance with event planning too.

These businesses can help you plan a successful event for your group.

ALL 4 ONE FARMS

904-673-1813 • all4onefarms.com 5935 John Wilkinson Road • Jacksonville

BAR J RANCH

www.thebarjranch.com 4564 Crazy Horse Ave • Middleburg

BESTBET

904-646-0001 ext. 4412 www.bestbetjax.com 455 Park Ave. • Orange Park

CAMP CHOWENWAW PARK

904-529-8058 ext. 3 campchowenwaw.claycountygov.com 1517 Ball Road • Green Cove Springs

CHAPEL OAKS

828-226-0700 • www.chapeloaksvenue.com 1453 Brown Road • Green Cove Springs

CLAY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

904-284-6378 ext. 2

 $www. {\it clay} county {\it gov.com/community/clay-county-fair-grounds}$

2463 SR 16 West • Green Cove Springs

CLAY COUNTY SHRINE CLUB

833-374-7463

2471 Russell Rd • Green Cove Springs

CLAY THEATRE

904-419-7094 • ClayTheatre.com 326 Walnut Street Green Cove Springs

CLUB CONTINENTAL

904-264-6070 • www.clubcontinental.com 2143 Astor Street • Orange Park

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT

904-854-1500

www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/jaxco-c ourtyard-jacksonville-orange-park/overview 610 Wells Road • Orange Park

EAGLE HARBOR GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

904-269-9300 • www.eagleharborgc.com 2217 Eagle Harbor Parkway Fleming Island

FLEMING ISLAND GOLF CLUB

904-269-1440

www.flemingislandgolfclub.com 2260 Town Center Blvd • Fleming Island

HAMPTON INN JACKSONVILLE/ ORANGE PARK

904-278-6140 www.hilton.com/en/hotels/jaxorhxhampton-suites-jacksonville-orange-park 141 Park Ave. • Orange Park

HILLTOP CLUB

904-272-5959 • https://hilltop-club.com 2030 Wells Road • Orange Park

HILTON GARDEN INN

904-458-1577

https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/jaxobgi-hilton-garden-inn-jacksonvilleorange-park 145 Park Avenue • Orange Park

HOLIDAY INN ORANGE PARK

904-562-7400

www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/ orange-park/jaxwr/hoteldetail 620 Wells Road • Orange Park

LAKE ASBURY COMMUNITY CENTER

904-282-1090

www.thelakelighter.net/ community-center.html 282 Branscomb Road • Lake Asbury

MAGNOLIA POINT GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

904-269-9276

www.magnoliapointgolfclub.com 3670 Clubhouse Drive • Green Cove Springs

MIDDLEBURG CIVIC CENTER

904-370-0152

middleburgcivicassociation.com 2102 Palmetto St • Middleburg

OAKLEAF PLANTATION GRAND BAN-OUET & GRAND LAWN

904-375-9285 • www.oakleafresidents.com 845 Oakleaf Plantation Parkway • Orange Park

ORANGE PARK GARDEN CLUB

904-654-2016 • www.gardencluboforangepark.org/rentals-1

1820 Smith Street • Orange Park

ORANGE PARK LIONS CLUB

904-264-5866

e-clubhouse.org/sites/orangeparkfl 423 McIntosh Ave. • Orange Park

ORANGE PARK WOMEN'S CLUB

904-264-8269 or 904-269-4041 orangeparkwomansclub.com 130 Kingsley Avenue • Orange Park

REYNOLDS PARK & YACHT CENTER

904-284-4667 • www.reynoldspark.com 1063 Bulkhead Rd • Green Cove Springs

SNIKTAW FARM

904-386-7289 • sniktaw-farm.square.site 2579 Russell Rd • Green Cove Springs

SPOTLIGHT CENTER

904-375-9547 • www.spotlighteventscenter.com 1809 East-West Pkwy • Fleming Island

THE MANOR AT TWELVE OAKS FARM

904-657-2290 • themanor12oaks.com 5255 County Road 209 South • Green Cove Springs

THE OAKS RANCH

904-284-1793 • www.TheOaksRanchBarnWed.com 5779 Hogarth Road • Green Cove Springs

THE PARTY PLACE BANQUET & EVENTS VENUE

904-707-7315 • /www.partyplacecenter.com 2156 Park Avenue, Suite 1, Gates of Park Avenue Shopping Plaza • Orange Park

THE PARTY PLACE OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS

352-535-8510 • thelearningwheel.us/the-party-place 7433 SR 21 • Keystone Heights

THRASHER-HORNE CENTER

904-276-6815 • thcenter.org/event-rental-info 283 College Drive • Orange Park

TOWN HALL EVENT CENTER

904-335-1519 • www.flemingislandvenue.com 2300 Market Dr • Fleming Island

TUCKER'S FARMHOUSE

904-699-6295 • www.tuckersfarmhouse.com 3417 Brown Rd • Green Cove Springs

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

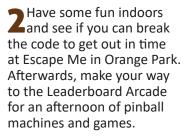
904-806-0397 • gfwcvia.com 17 N. Palmetto Ave. • Green Cove Springs

WINTERBOURNE INN

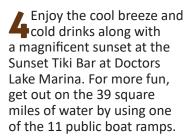
904-982-2827 • winterbourneonthestjohns.com 2143 Astor Street • Orange Park

Top 10 Things to Do in Clay County

Stay in a Camp Chowenwaw Treehouse. Located at the intersection of Black Creek and the St. Johns River, this 150-acre county-owned park was home to a regional Girl Scout camp for over 70 years.



Cool off in one of the country's oldest spring-fed swimming pool in Spring Park in Green Cove Springs; it's been around since 1871 and is known to be a constant temperature of 77 degrees. The pool is open to the public for a nominal fee May through September.



Make your way to the new Clay County Adventure Park, a 158-acre complex near Camp Blanding featuring a 200-yard gun range. This is the first facility constructed for visitors looking to enjoy outdoor adventure. The range has 45 shooting bays, including 24 pistol bays, four

of which have steel targets, 15 rifle bays with steel targets on the 50, 100, and 200-yard lines, 2 shotgun bays, 2 tactical bays, and 2 speed steel lanes for pistol and pistol carbine rifles.

Dive into the unique history of Clay County with a visit to the Town of Penney Farms Historic Museum. With a focus on the pre-1920s through the 1940s,











TOWN OF PENNEY PARMIN
HISTORIC MUSEUM

the museum begins with the stories of a small group of African American sharecroppers that settled in what is now the New Hope community in 1920.

Thmmerse yourself in the arts at the Thrasher-Horne Center with live concerts, performances and their adjacent art gallery featuring local artists. Local community theatre favorites include The Island Theatre in Fleming Island, the Orange Park Commu-



nity Theatre and the Spotlight Center in Fleming Island, home to Clay County's only dinner theater.

Take a hike. Known as one of Florida's First State Parks, Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park in Keystone Heights is home to 2,000 acres with 5.44 miles of trails along the Florida National Scenic Trail. In Jennings State Forest, the Pioneer



Trail features ten miles of trail with varying difficulty of terrains and overlooks along Black Creek.

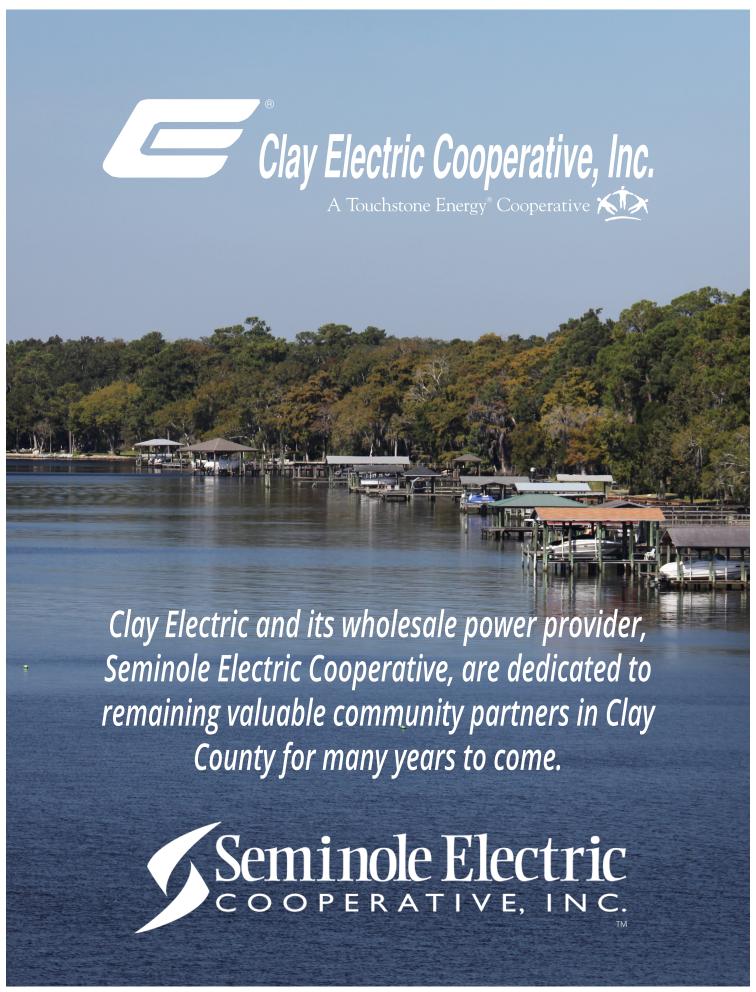
Dine local and experience unique cuisines throughout Clay County. Try bold spices at Siam Sushi & Thai in Middleburg, experience Jamaican flavors at the locally-owned Irie Diner and take a trip down to New Orleans with the Cajun cuisine of Mackey's Munchies in Orange Park.



For those ready to shop, 'go local' at 5th & Paisley Boutique, YUM – A Southern Market and House of Dazzle Boutique. Local thrift, vintage and antique shops in the area include Lux Upscale Resale and Now & Then Antique Mall. Stop by Anemoia Mercantile for the latest in stationary and fountain pen needs. Fishing enthusiasts –



don't miss stopping by Reseller's Reef for new and used fishing gear.



Barley and Pie







Whats New in

By Carrie McLaren

From new restaurants and a brewery to history tours, new shops and unique events, learn where families can experience a getaway with local flavor and plenty of fun too.

Here's a look at what's already on tap for Clay County in the season – Clay County's Own Barley & Pie Brewing Company
Opening in June 2024

Barley & Pie Brewing Company has opened its first location in Clay County's Fleming Island neighborhood on June 1, 2024. Co-founded by Clay County resident Philip Maple, former brew master of Jackson-ville's Wicked Barley Brewing Company, this is Fleming Island's first craft brewery. The brewery is home to 20 taps and features a full liquor bar. In addition to drinks, Barley and Pie serves food and is North Florida's first sourdough neo-Neapolitan pizzeria. www.barleyandpie.com.

Cuban Cuisine Comes to Clay County

Fleming Island welcomes the arrival of the 1928 Cuban Bistro. Located across from Fleming Island High School, this quaint café serves breakfast and lunch with favorites such as Cuban empanadas, Cuban coffee and pastries too. Choose from a variety of sandwiches, rice plates and don't forget Tres Leches and Guava cake for dessert!

With numerous locations across Northeast Florida, 1928 Cuban Bistro is a welcome addition to the growing food scene in Clay County! www.1928bistro.com.

Clay County Regional Sports Complex Now Open

Clay County is proud to announce the addition of new Clay County Regional Sports Complex, located one mile north of the SR 16 and SR 21 intersection. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on April 5, 2024 with elected officials and Clay County leaders on hand to mark the occasion.

The property consists of 250 acres with phase one of the complex home to eight multipurpose fields, lighting, a walking trail, shade structures, ample parking, and restroom facilities. Each rectangular field is equipped for soccer, lacrosse, flag football, field hockey, spike ball, and ultimate frisbee.

While initial field use will be reserved for tournament usage, there are plans to eventually welcome local groups for weekday, recreational practices. The future development of the sports complex will take place in phases.

Past events at the complex include the Jacksonville Jaguars Flag Football competition in April 2024, The Scorch Challenger Roundnet Tournament featuring hundreds of participants in June 2024 and the Florida Sunshine State Games Ultimate with two days of competition in June 2024.

Upcoming events include the United Flag Football League's (UFFL) tournament October 26-27, 2024 and the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association has also booked the Clay County Regional Sports Complex for events in December 2024.

For the latest sports complex news, go to http://claycountygov.com/regionalsportscomplex.

1 Clay County

For those interested in renting the park for a tournament, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (904) 284-6378 or via email at athletics@claycountygov.com.

Experience History with the New Clay County History Passport

The Clay County History Passport Tour is an interactive tour inviting visitors and residents to discover the stories of 25 historic locations in Clay County, Florida. Located on the new Explore Clay mobile app, the History Passport is accessible via mobile devices.

The passport is a virtual game and works based on geo-position/location. Once visitors arrive at the location, they can virtually check-in to the location once they are within an addresses' set radius.

This new, mobile History Passport was created in partnership with the Clay County Archives, the Clay County School District and Clay County Tourism to encourage visitors and local residents of all ages to explore Clay County and learn about the region's history. www.ExploreClay.com

New Guided, History Tours Available in Orange Park

Get ready to learn the history of Orange Park including the mysterious stories of the monkey farm when you sign up for a one-hour guided tour with Bob Scallan of Orange Park History Tours. A member of the Orange Park Historical Society, Mr. Scallan hosts tours of Magnolia Cemetery on Kingsley Avenue and a separate one-mile walking tour through Orange Park where guests are transported back to 1877 and the early days of the town with founder Washington Gano Benedict. Younger guests can take part in a digital scavenger hunt during the one-hour tour, all while learning about the area's history. www.orangeparkhistorytours.com

The Balloon Glow and Laser Show Comes to Clay County

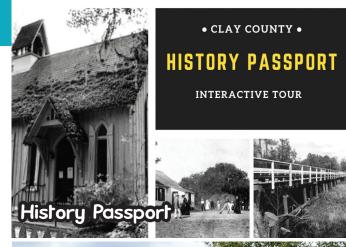
Get ready for a night of glowing, hot air balloons and an electric laser light show on October 25 and 26 at the Clay County Fairgrounds when the Balloon Glow and Laser Show comes to Clay County. This nighttime event includes food trucks and local vendors at this festival style event.

If a hot air balloon ride is on your bucket list, here's your chance! Tethered balloon rides will be available both nights, so plan ahead and get ready to mark this fun activity off of your list! At 9 p.m., the sky ignites with the laser show and glowing balloons. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs and find the perfect spot to watch this fun show. www.freshtix.com/events/claycountyballoons.

Explore with Valiant Outfitters

New to Clay County, get ready to explore the backwoods of the area with Valiant Outfitters. Choose from beginning backpacking trip, survival course, or guided adventures from your hands-on guides.

Sign up for the Intro to Wilderness Survival Course held in Jennings State Forest this October and January. In November 2024, take part in their guided Intro to Backpacking course that takes place over two days in Jennings State Park. Opportunities for private floating adventures and private wilderness adventures are also available. valiantoutfitters.com.









Staying in Clay County

Let Clay County be your 'home away from home' with a variety of accommodations and amenities for every budget.

Treat yourself to a stay at one of Clay County's **vacation rentals** with water views or just a convenient location. For a resort-like atmosphere, try the **River Suites at Club Continental**, it was once the Palmolive Estate. **Azaleana Manor**, a brand new luxurious boutique hotel is a 10,000 square foot mansion featuring 6 rooms, lots of amenities, four acres of land to explore and stunning St. Johns River views.

For a full-service stay, the Courtyard by Marriott Jacksonville Orange Park, Hilton Garden Inn Orange Park and the Holiday Inn & Suites Orange Park - Wells Rd. offer guests an affordable stay near restaurants, shopping and more.

If you want to know what the Hampton Inn of the future looks like, stay at the **Hampton Inn Middleburg.**

The Days Inn by Wyndham Orange Park/Jacksonville, the Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Jacksonville Orange Park, Hampton Inn & Suites Jacksonville/Orange Park and the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Fleming Island offer easy access to Interstate 295 and connecting roadways.

For an extended stay in our area, the Siegel Select Orange Park - Orange Park, InTown Suites of Orange Park, and Zen Living Suites offer weekly and monthly rates along with amenities for a longer stay in Clay County.

Traveling by RV or interesting camping? Explore the possibilities at Camp Blanding Recreation – James E. Johnson Memorial RV Park, Camp Chowenwaw, Goldhead State Park, Clay County Fairgrounds and Whitey's Fish Camp.

More information about these properties and vacation rentals in the area can be found at www.ExploreClay.com.

Accomodations

Azaleana Manor

12 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park 904-375-8389

Courtyard by Marriott Jacksonville/ Orange Park

610 Wells Rd., Orange Park 904-854-1500 Full-service dining • Pool

Days Inn

4280 Eldridge Loop, Orange Park 904-385-5582 www.daysop.com Comp Breakfast • Pool

Fairfield Inn Orange Park

450 Eldridge Ave., Orange Park 904-278-7442 Comp Breakfast • Pool

Hampton Inn Jacksonville/Orange Park

141 Park Ave., Orange Park 904-278-6140 Comp Breakfast • Pool

Hampton Inn Middleburg

1735 Jeremiah Street, Middleburg 904-406-6424 Comp Breakfast • Pool

Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville/ Orange Park

145 Park Ave., Orange Park 904-458-1577 Full-service dining • Pool

Holiday Inn & Suites

620 Wells Rd., Orange Park 904-562-7400 Full-service dining • Pool • Pet Friendly

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Fleming Island

1815 E. West Parkway, Fleming Island 904-215-8900 Comp Breakfast • Pool

InTown Suites

442 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park 904-272-7299

Penney Retirement Community

3495 Hoffman St., Penney Farms 904-284-5994 Full-service dining • Pool • Pet Friendly

River Park House

103 S. Magnolia, Green Cove Spring 904-284-2994

River Suites at Club Continental

2143 Astor St., Orange Park 904-264-6070 Comp Breakfast

Seigel Select Orange Park

1656 Wells Rd., Orange Park 904-606-6817

The Inn at Palmetto

555 SE Palmetto Ave, Keystone Heights 904-755-6831

WoodSpring Suites

1539 Wells Rd., Orange Park 904-830-0857

Zen Living Suites

335 Eldridge Ave., Orange Park 904-458-4299

Camping/Cabins/RV Parks

Camp Blanding Recreation - James E. Johnson Memorial RV Park

Starke 904-682-3104

Camp Chowenwaw

1517 Ball Rd, Green Cove Springs 904-529-8058

Fairgrounds RV Park

2497 State Road 16, Green Cove Springs 904-284-1615

Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park

6239 State Road 21, Keystone Heights 352- 473-4701

Whitey's Fish Camp RV Park

2032 County Road 220, Fleming Island 904-269-4198







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www.GCSBL.com

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Unique Stays in Clay County

By Carrie McLaren

For those in search of unique, overnight accommodations, Clay County offers a variety of out-of-the-ordinary spots to call home for a night or two during your getaway.

From quiet, quaint spots in Keystone Heights to nightlife right outside your door, you've got options here in Northeast Florida. Choose from a night on a boat, a treehouse under the stars or even a glamourous night overlooking the St. Johns River.

Let's take a look at some of the unique accommodations available here in Clay County –

It's a Boatiful Life

Get ready to spend the night on the shores of Doctors Lake in a lovely houseboat that is now a luxury vacation rental. Known as 'It's a Boatiful Life', this houseboat is easily accessible off of Highway 17 at the Doctors Lake Marina, the houseboat is just a short walk from the onsite Sunset Tiki Bar.

This stationery houseboat features a fully equipped kitchen, a washer and a dryer, a queen sleeper sofa, two, twin beds in the loft and a queen bed in the master bedroom along with vaulted ceilings and surrounding window views that make this property feel large and open with views of the water just outside.

Sleep Under the Stars

Dating back to 1933, Green Cove Springs' Camp Chowenwaw County Park was once Florida's first Girl Scout Camp. Today, the public park offers 150 acres, a swimming pool and numerous trails for exploring and pristine conditions for overnight camping too. From one of the many onsite cabins to a night in one of the nine treehouses that sleep four people, families can sleep under the stars at this historic campground.

Other popular spots for overnight and rustic camping in Clay County include Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park in Keystone Heights, home to 2,000 acres with 5.44 miles of trails along the Florida National Scenic Trail. As a full-facility campground with 73 camp sites, overnight accommodations are available for RVs, tents and cabin rentals.

At nearly 24,000 acres, Jennings State Forest located just outside of Oakleaf is open daily during daylight hours for visitors interested in hiking, bicycling, canoeing and horseback riding throughout the land. There are three hiking trails ranging from 1.7 miles to 5-mile loops taking visitors along area waterways and primitive areas in the forest. Overnight camping and primitive campsites are available at the Hammock Campground.

Stay in an Esteemed Mansion

Located in Orange Park near River Road, Club Continental was once known as the Palmolive Estate (yes, like the soap). In the 1880's, B.J. Johnson, owner of the Palmolive Soap Company, was looking to escape the harsh winters of Wisconsin and moved his family to Orange Park for the winter months.

The home was host to many, riverfront parties throughout the 1920's ranging from social events, equestrian meets, yacht parties and more.

Today, Club Continental is home to a fine dining restaurant, twenty-two guest rooms, seven tennis courts and three swimming pools. The pristine lawns, along with 300-year-old Live Oaks, Magnolia trees and formal gardens are carefully maintained as part of Club Continental's deep history.

Seven of the twenty-two rooms on the property are located within the main mansion. All rooms feature a private bath, cable TV and free Wi-Fi, along with a complimentary continental breakfast each morning. Guests also have access to the property's tennis courts and three swimming pools.

Each of the main mansion's rooms feature views of the St. Johns River with some rooms offering balconies. The property's Continental Suite is luxuriously appointed with a mahogany antique king size bed, hardwood floors and French doors that lead to an oversized private deck overlooking the gardens, pool and river.

The property's impressive one- and two- bed River Suites all feature a private balcony overlooking the St. Johns River.

Escape to The Treehouse on Black Creek

Bring your boat to the 30-acre oasis along Black Creek known as The Treehouse in Middleburg. This vacation rental offers peaceful views of the woods and sightings of deer, turkeys and other native Florida creatures.

With access to Black Creek, this is a fisherman's delight with the home offering small boats, kayaks and canoes direct access to the waterways. For those with larger boats, the home is a short drive from Middleburg's Main Street Boat Ramp. After a day of fishing, enjoy the home's 'man cave' with a great seating area, TV with antenna, a barbecue grill, refrigerator/freezer, cornhole, dart board and canoes.

Upstairs, the home features an open concept living area with full kitchen, stainless steel appliances - including dishwasher; dining area for four along with bar counter seating. The open living area with Queen sleeper sofa, two recliners and a cozy King size Corda-Roy Bean Bag that also opens into a King mattress.

Ready to explore more about Clay County, Florida? Pack your bags and get ready for a vacation that stands out from all of the rest. We invite you to experience a side of Clay County that allows you to experience your surroundings and enjoy a great night's sleep too!

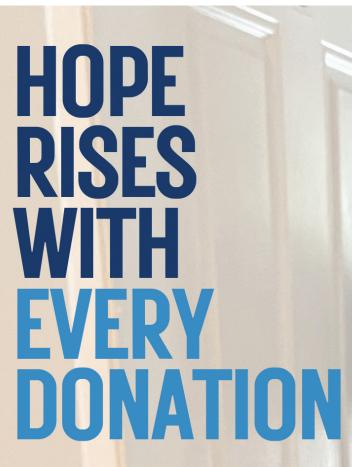












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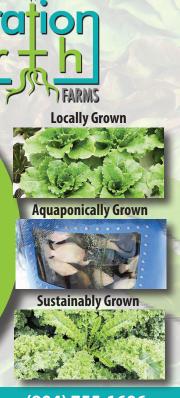
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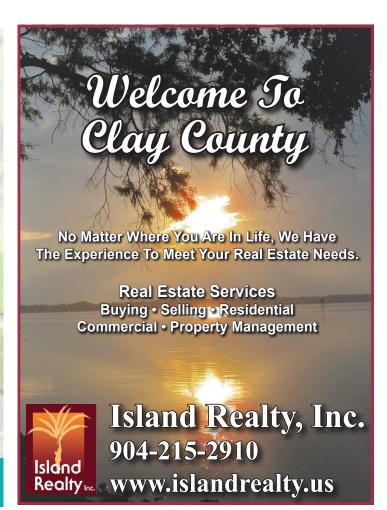


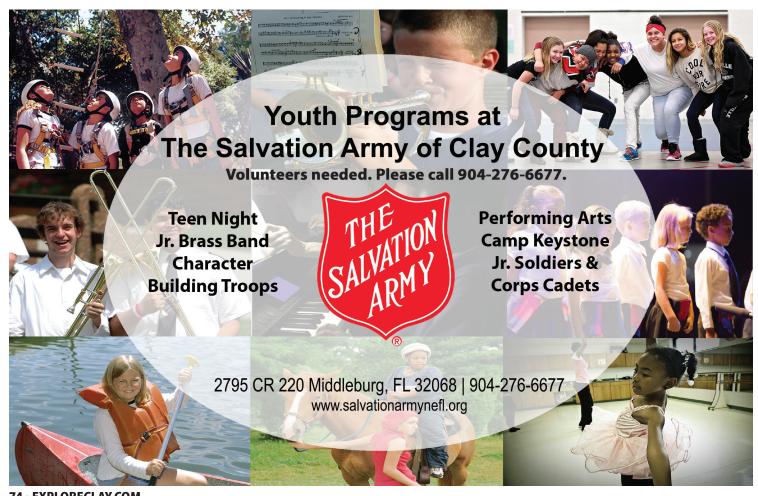
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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(Circa 1847) 3925 Main Street

This building is one of the oldest Methodist churches in continuous use in Florida. It is a frame vernacular Church built of Hand-wrought lumber and nails. Mr. George Branning later donated the bell which was forged in New York and shipped by steamboat. One early use of the bell was to toll the death of his son, Robert Branning, who died in 1861 at 20 years of age.

THE HOUSES OF HISTORIC MIDDLEBURG



OLD MASONIC LODGE

(Circa Late 1800-1889) 3893 Main Street
This building was moved to its present site from

where the present Masonic Lodge is now. It is often called "the old lodge." It has an open side gable frame vernacular building built in the federal-period style. It has a one bay gable roof entrance porch on the east side. This yellow painted two-story building is balanced or symmetrical in appearance. It is beside the Clark-Chalker house.



THE BARDIN HOME

(Circa 1888) 3881 Main Street
This is Middleburg's only example of Italian architecture. This style is more common in other areas of the country that in the South. There is a central cupola which is a small structure built on to the house. It is often used as a lookout and for air supple ventilation. Mr. Henry Bardin's house has two wide porches across the front of the hoe. It also has Victorian style gingerbread trim. The Bardins used to have square dances there many Saturday nights.



THE FROSARD BUDINGTON HOME

(Circa 1910) 3916 Main Street

This is Historic Middleburg's only example of Queen Anne architecture. It is unusual in that it is a single story with a rounded corner on the veranda porch. The rounded columns are called ionic. The interesting shape of the left-hand gable window when facing the front of the house is called Palladian. In 1927, Mr. and Mrs. F. Budington gave a deed to the Middleburg United Methodist Church which later added the Budington Educational Building. This home is now owned by Mrs. Pat Mueller.



THE STEWART HOME

(Circa 1890-1911) 3895 Main Stree

This is Middleburg's only example of center gable frame vernacular architecture. It is a white two-story home with a porch. It has a front facing gable wall dormer window. The home was built by George Chalker. As Mr. Chalker had a home on wharf Street, he rented this house to Mr. and Mrs. G.P, Stewart. The Stewarts moved from the Gin House Landing area where they had a turpentine mill.



THE BUDINGTON HOME

(Circa Late 1800's)

Originally at 3913 Main Street
This is a white two-story house with a wide L-shaped porch
which extends out to an area which can be used now as a
carport. The shutters on this home are functional. This frame
vernacular home is thought to have been moved to its present sit by rolling it on logs from across the street where the F.
Budington home is now. This home is simpler in appearance
on the outside than the Frosard Budington house across the
street. This house has been relocated to the Main Street Park.



THE GEORGE CHALKER HOME

(Circa Late 1800's) 2160 Wharf Street
This white two-story home sits on a large area of land. It is
Colonial Revival architecture which features a flat roofed
porch with a railing above which is supported by square
columns. There is a dormer window on the roof on the front of
the house. A vine-covered retaining wall fronts the home on
Wharf Street. The Chalker family was related to many families
in Middleburg. It is presently under-going renovation and

restoration.



DR. G.E. ADAMS & DR. STONE HOME

DR. STONE HOME
(Circa Early 1900's) 2145 Wharf Street

This building is a small frame vernacular home. It has decorative wooden trim on it. There is wooden "gingerbread" trim at the top of the porch columns. The porch with railing is on the left side of the house when facing the front. This building served as a Doctor's office and home in 1914. Later, the house became a private residence.



THE GEORGE

(Circa Late 1800's) 3894 Main Street

This frame vernacular home was built by Mr. Haskell as a replica of his home in Salem Mass. He was stationed with the Union troops during the Civil War in the area. He was attached to the Paymaster Corps. He later acquired 500 acres of land. The house is three stories and has been remodeled and kept in good condition. It is white with a decorative eagle on it.



THE CLARK-CHALKER HOUSE

(Circa 1835) 3891 Main Street
This is the oldest building in Middleburg. It is a white

In is is the oldest building in Middleburg. It is a white two-story columned house with a white picket fence. This open side gable frame vernacular home was built for Capt. Matthew Clark and his staff. They were with the U.S. 2nd Dragoons stationed at Ft Heilman. During the Second Seminole Indian war, the house was headquarters for General Winfield Scott. Martha Ann Chalker later occupied the house for 82 years until her death in 1936.



THE BARTHLOW HOME

(Circa 1800's) 3884 Main Street

This is a frame vernacular home, which is a typical wood frame home of the period. It is a small home with a tin roof and green metal awnings over the porch. Homes during this period were built with fireplaces for heat as is this one. This home has a metal fence. Some of the other homes have wooden, brick, metal or stone fences in front of their homes. Some do not have fences. This home remains in the Barthlow family to this day.



THE HADDEN HOME

(Circa 1912) 3887 Main Street

This is a colonial revival home with a balanced front called a symmetrical façade. This is a two-story home with round columns. It has a tin roof like several of the historic homes in the historic district. An interesting aspect of this home is that the decoration above the front door was originally made from an old bed headboard. This is called a decorative entrance Pediment.



LONG HOUSE

(Circa 1890) 3858 Main Street

This home was purchased by Edward Long for his parents in 1896. It was an example of the open side gamble frame vernacular style. This building features drop siding exterior wall fabric and an exterior field stone chimney stack.

Green Cove Springs Historic Walking Tour

Spring Park - The Spring tapers down with clear visibility to a depth of 31 feet up from which flows 78 degree mineral water filling the pool at 1300 gallons per minute for chemical free swimming in the summer. In the late 1800's many came to partake of the medicinal waters and some even stayed. Today the park includes the pool, the spring, playground, cooking pavilion, numerous gazebos, picnic tables, a stream, fishing pier and boat slips with water and electricity on the St. Johns River.

2 215 Spring Street - City Hall is seen west of the park. It was completed in 2004 on the site of the Qui Si Sana Hotel which faced the spring (c. 1907 meaning "Here is Health"). The architectural features of City Hall have similarities of the Qui Si Sana. Prior to the Qui Si Sana, the same site was occupied by the Clarendon Hotel (1870 – 1900). Guests of the Clarendon had exclusive use of the spring.

3 103 S. Magnolia Avenue – This frame vernacular style is characteristic of one of the most popular building styles in this region during the late 1800's. This building was used as a cottage for the Clarendon Hotel as well as the residence of Dr. Joseph Applegate who prescribed and dispensed the "medicinal" spring water to his wealthy northern clientele. It is in current use as the River Park Inn Bed and Breakfast.

219 Spring Street – Built in 1887, this home was, for many years, in the family of Judge Rivers. Notice the design pressed into the metal roof and the wonderful wrap around porch.

Footbridge – Across Spring Run connecting the North and South sides of the park, this bridge was built in 1988 by a Hungarian immigrant and Vietnam War Army veteran, Antal Molnar and his son Antal Jr. Note the replica of the old city seal in the center of the intricate iron work.

6 Spring Run is the stream from the outflow of the springfed chemical-free community pool. "Friends of the Park" were responsible for the large riverfront gazebo built in 1984 and still used regularly today for weddings and other events. Cross the bridge and take the sidewalk along St Johns Avenue.

14 North St. Johns Avenue – Built circa 1897 and known as the home of Captain C. E. Garner of the Independent Line Steamers that operated the May Garner riverboat between here and Jacksonville in the early 1900's, this home has been lovingly restored in the Italian Renaissance style by its current owners.

8 15 N. St. Johns Avenue – the winter residence of the Carl Schultz family of NY; it was later known as the Hallock Hotel.

218 Palmer Street - The original home of Dustin Page is still maintained as a private residence.

115 St. Johns – Built in the Italian Renaissance style as his family's first residence, W. M. Hoyt, a Chicago grocery chain magnate was one of many wealthy northerners who invested in real estate in Green Cove Springs in the late 19th century. It later became known as the Riverview Hotel.

200 N. St. Johns – Having the means to do so, W. M. Hoyt later built this house designed by architect, Mellon Greeley, in 1917 for his family in the Mediterranean Revival style with features such as the stucco exterior and tile roof. The building has now been converted to condominiums.

400 St. Johns Avenue – St. Mary's Episcopal Church, built in 1979, continues to serve an active parish today. It is built in Carpenter Gothic Style. Note the small doors beneath each window. They are more often used for ventilation but they would provide escape in case of fire. On the same property notice the Fellowship Hall. It was originally one of 5 army chapels at Camp Blanding built in the early 1940's and later relocated to this site for the church.

405 St. Johns Avenue – The rectory for St. Mary's Episcopal Church, circa 1906, was erected with funds from the Morton Fox Memorial Fund, according to the historical marker on the left eve of the house.

208 Park Street – One of three still existing homes in town originally built for members of the Borden family of condensed milk fame.

502 North Magnolia Avenue – Called "Villa Cottage", this home was built in 1880 by John C. Borden, son of the inventor of condensed milk. The tower on the right was used for judging the horse races which occurred on Magnolia Avenue. It was later used as the first home of the Women's Club better known as the Village Improvement Association (VIA).

300 Gum Street – First Presbyterian Church, circa 1892, is a detailed carpenter gothic style church. Designs on the hand forged hinges as well as the shapes and colors of the windows have special meanings. The Friendship Hall was completed as an addition in 1995.

303 North Magnolia Avenue – Circa 1884, Queen Anne style, rumors have circulated for many years about the ghosts in residence!

312 Center Street – This beautifully restored 1890's residence was most recently an art studio.

326 Walnut Street – Green Cove Springs got its own Art Deco style theater in the mid 1930's. The owner in 1936, R. C. Wilson, relocated the business from 420 Walnut Street where it was known as the Palace Opera House and Motion Picture Show. In 1939 a license permit was issued for the Clay Theater to Frank Bryant. Today it is the Clay Theatre, An Event Venue.

400 Block of Walnut Street - Walnut Street developed early as the main street for business in town because it led to the town's general landing at the east end where the fishing pier is now located. In 1882 there was a barbershop, a cobbler, several grocery stores, 2 churches, a bakery, a photography shop and several hotels on Walnut Street.

21 17 North Palmetto Avenue – Built in 1915, this is the most significant social building in Green Cove Springs. This land was donated to the VIA for the building in 1885 by Penelope Borden, of condensed milk fame. It is Spanish Colonial Revival style, designed by architect Mellon Greeley. A Florida Heritage Site, it still serves the community as the Village Improvement Association.

22 509 Walnut Street - is preserved as the home-place of Ma and Pa Gustafson of Gustafson Milk fame.

604 Walnut Street – (Council on Aging) Grady Smith bought the Coca Cola Operation from E. E. Geiger and moved it to this location which was built in 1946. At the time of the plant closure in 1971, 1,160 cases of the 6.5 ounce bottles were produced in an 8 hour day compared to 12,000 cans of canned coke per hour in the Jacksonville plant. Since the 1970's the building has a center for Clay County seniors.

615 Walnut Street – First Baptist Church was constituted in 1889 and this church was constructed 1916. The stained-glass windows were imported from

25 700 Walnut Street. Built in 1890, this residence is the best example of the Queen Anne style in town. Note the intricate stick and spindle work on the porches and gable ends.

Germany prior to WWI.

demolition in 2005 when the county purchased the property next to the Council on Aging for parking, this building, circa 1890, was moved diagonally across the street. It was formerly the home of Senator Slater Smith.

27 715 Walnut Street – Originally a residence, this 1909 frame vernacular has been restored and used over the years for a number of commercial purposes.

28 23 S. Green Street & Walnut – Now home to the Clay County School Board, the H. D. Long Building was a WPA Project in 1937 designed by architect, Roy A. Benjamin. It served as Clay High School for many years.

915 Walnut Street – The Historic Triangle Complex includes the restored Italian Renaissance style courthouse, circa 1890, which has been restored for the use of Family and Teen Court. The Annex on the left houses the Clay County Historical Museum. The museum also houses a fine railroad collection, train station and caboose.

On the north end of the triangle is the 1894 Jail. The jailer's quarters have been restored to house the Clay County Archives and Sheriff's Museum.

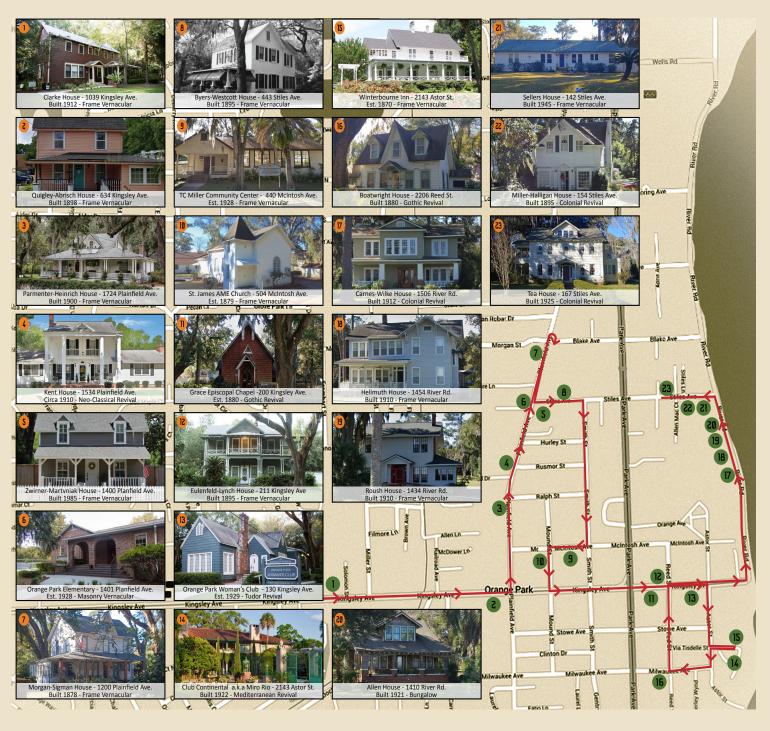
627 Spring Street Circa - Typical construction from the late 1800's this home has a regular rectangular floor plan and a balloon frame structural system with two stories and a steep roof to accommodate a sizeable attic. Note the porches here. Porches were a common feature and decoration often included ornamental woodwork, brackets, patterned shingles, turned porch columns and exposed rafter ends under the eaves. The original balcony porch here has interesting, upturned detail on the upper rail.

501 Spring Street - Thought to have been built about 1845, the architecture is Frame Vernacular with elements of 2nd Empire with mansard roof and shingle siding. Known for years as the Jensen house where a local eye doctor practiced his craft, the building was renovated in 1993 for commercial use as a funeral home. The chapel was added in 1997.



TOWN OF ORANGE PARK HISTORIC DRIVING TOUR

The Town of Orange Park was founded in 1877 by the Florida Winter Home and Improvement Company. The property was subdivided into building lots and small farm tracts, and the present street system was laid out which included Kingsley Avenue, River Road and Plainfield Avenue. Enjoy a glimpse of the past on this historic driving tour. Please remember most locations are private residences and should be viewed from the street. To learn more about this history of the Town, visit ophistory.org.



The Keystone Heights Hertitage Commission presents:

Walking Tour of Historical Homes

Keystone Heights was established in 1923 by the Lawrence Developing Company. Its owner, J. J. Lawrence, was from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The town was to be a vacation spot and health benefits from recreational opportunities, climate and clean water were highly emphasized in sales brochures. Key-stone Heights was on the Chatauqua RR Circuit. Citrus and pecan trees were also touted as good investment possibilities. Frank Walrath, a cousin, was head of sales for the development company.



The town was laid out in 1923 by an unrelated C. Ray Lawrence, also from Pennsylvania, who was a retired civil engineer. Streets and alleys as planned then, exist today.

Keystone's earliest homes, including that of J. J. Lawrence, are thought to be mail order catalogue homes. Some evidence exists in the form of handwritten labels and model numbers on framing. The homes in this tour are from the first building period (1921-1929). Initial development stopped when the stock market fell.



3. Caughey House - 450 Magnolia Ave. Built: 1925 - Craftsman Bungalow



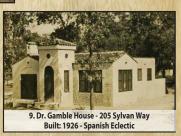




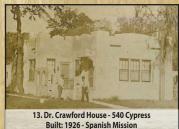




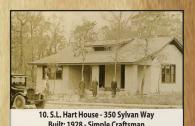






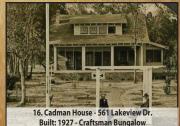






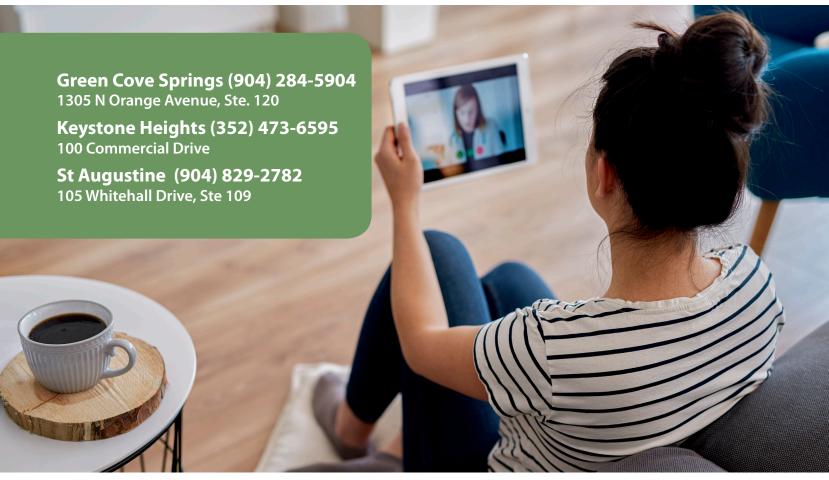


14. Houser House - 250 Lakeview Street Built: 1925 - Craftsman





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