



## Leesburg Heritage Society, Inc.

111 South 6<sup>th</sup> St., Leesburg, FL 34748

352-315-1800

Hi all,

We will meet again November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Rogers Park Pavilion. Beyers, as always, will provide refreshments at 3:30 and the meeting will begin promptly at 4:00.

Sanna has lined up Mayor Jimmy Burry to speak. With all the new growth headed Leesburg's way this should be an interesting meeting.

Last month we heard about the Rosenwald School in Okahumpka. It was a very interesting program. Be sure to read Sue's minutes of the meeting. It's amazing how she can capture the gist of a meeting on just one page.

Also, you will want to read the Frank's report, which he wrote himself. When he agreed to be our volunteer manager, it was with the condition that he not have to write anything, as he is extremely dyslexic. So, I have been writing it for him. Full disclosure, he did admit that he had a proof reader.

Glorianne seems to be in the museum more and more these days. She is such a valuable asset to Leesburg.

Long live the Queen!

We hope to see you all on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Jim Miller, President  
352-250-2948 text/cell

## Museum and Mote Morris House, Manager Frank Stivender's Report

by Frank Stivender

### September & October Number

September      Mote Morris House # 57      Museum # 136

October          Mote Morris House #15      Museum # 175

Only open one Saturday, closed on the 28 due to the City of Leesburg Haunted House.

### **Museum:**

1. We received a wood trophy case from the Skellie Morris Estate that we will be putting to good use. Originally was in the main building at Leesburg High School. It needs a little cleaning up and repairing, Larry Bailey has volunteered to do the repairs.
2. We are changing our days of opening starting in November. The museum will be open Tuesday thru Saturday from 10 to 2. Opening on Saturday will give the opportunity for school age children a chance to see Leesburg History, it will also help the Mote Morris House.
3. I also want to put what is called a "sandwich sign" on Main Street pointing down to the Museum on 6<sup>th</sup> street. If anyone has one please call me, cell 352-787-1870. I turned my land line into my cell number.

### **Mote Morris House:**

1. Christmas decoration will be going up on the first floor by the DAR ladies on November 4. The Second floor will be decorated by a group of volunteers from the Baker house in Wildwood, on November 6. Drive by or drop in to see the wonderful jobs.
2. Open houses November 11 & 25 December 9<sup>th</sup> closes on the 23. The house will also be open the evening of December 2 for self-guided tours. The Leesburg Christmas parade is that evening and the staging area is in front of the house on Magnolia Street.
3. The Haunted House had 216 visitors over three days at \$5.00 each.

### **Lone Oak Cemetery note:**

The Moon Light Tour on Thursday October 26, had over 200 guests, Glorianne and I invited all guests to visit the Museum. On Friday October 27 the Museum had a record number one day 35 visitors. Save the date, Thursday October 17, 2024, Moon Light Tour and a full moon.

**Leesburg Heritage Society**  
**Minutes - Regular Meeting – October 3, 2023**

The Leesburg Heritage Society assembled for the “season opener” meeting at the Rogers Park building. The 33 members and guests were able to enjoy refreshments and other items provided by Beyers Funeral Homes, and we thank them once again for their generosity.

President Jim Miller called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM. He asked Woody Wagner to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, and then Sanna Henderson gave the invocation. Donna Young was introduced as a new member, and we welcomed her.

Jim invited Joe Branham to the podium to introduce us to the Rosenwald Schools, and the school in Okahumpka in particular. Julius Rosenwald was born in 1862 in Springfield, IL to Jewish immigrants from Austria. He became a clothing businessman, and eventually was CEO of the Sears Roebuck Company. As he became extremely wealthy, he undertook a very ambitious project to build schools for black children.

Charles Fields from the Okahumpka Community Club took the podium to further focus on Rosenwald's story. In 1896 the law of the land for education was “separate, but equal”. After meeting and joining forces with Booker T. Washington, Rosenwald donated 30 million dollars to build black schools across the south. Between 1917 and 1932 over 5000 schools were built. Ten schools were built in Lake County, with only the Okahumpka and Mount Dora schools remaining.

Chip D'Amico, project leader for the restoration of the Okahumpka School, discussed the history of the school construction and the early educator Virgil Hawkins. In 1970 the Okahumpka Community Club was able to buy the building, then in much disrepair. In 2021 the school was designated an endangered historic site, and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For more information, contact [www.okahumpka.org](http://www.okahumpka.org).

We thank Joe, Charles and Chip for a most informative presentation.

Wanda Keegan and Patrick Fulton from Beyers invited everyone to their Veteran's Day Celebration.

Sanna announced that next month's speaker will be Leesburg mayor Jimmy Burry.

Jim thanked everyone for attending, and adjourned the meeting at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Turner, Secretary