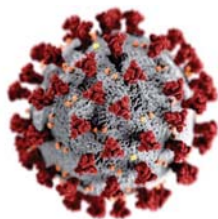




This Issue



Minimizing Social Interaction

As the Nation and State of Florida grapple with the COVID-19 situation, communities and individuals have also needed to make adjustments. The intent is to minimize social interactions until eventually a vaccine can be introduced to remedy the situation. OVIS has in turn scaled back its activities with respect to minimizing social interaction. In the coming months we will not be having regular public meetings or such events as the Holiday Potluck Dinner. The Holiday Golf Cart Parade is a little different situation, and we will delay that decision on doing that event based upon how the COVID-19 situation evolves. Traditionally, the Holiday Golf Cart Parade has been on the second Sunday of December, which this year is December 13th. The decision to have the parade will be delayed until the first or second week of October. This would allow time for the permit and the parade's logistics to get worked out as well as for people to get ready to participate. More details to come in the upcoming months.

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Reminder on Golf Cart Rules

Ozona is lucky to be a designated golf cart community. There are not many of these communities in Pinellas County or in the State. There are some rules and responsibilities that go with this designation by the County Commission. There are rules based upon safety for all. As an example, golf carts that are designed for the golf course do not have the safety features needed to be on the road. So those golf carts must be modified to be acceptable. A key rule or responsibility concerns the driver of the cart. Although the golf cart looks casual and informal, it is still a highway vehicle, and therefore requires a legal driver. It should be noted that the law enforcement people take the approach that if a non-licensed (underage) person is caught driving the vehicle, the responsibility for a traffic violation or accident is applied to the responsible adult and their license. That's where the penalty will apply. In addition, the insurance may not be effective, if there is an underage driver. These points are mentioned to assist those in the community that may not realize the risk of permitting an underage driver to get behind the wheel of a golf cart on the road. Again, these rules have been established for safety!

President's Message...

Our Ozona community has lost a valuable member. Ron DeFerrari died August 7. In 1994 he connected with Laurel Flowers, who established Molly Goodheads. The style of that restaurant and bar set a pattern for community activities in that section of Orange Street. Molly's became a well-known destination for those seeking good food in a community with a touch of heritage. Ron also bought other properties in that area to continue that community pattern, which has become a part of Ozona's identity! Ron DeFerrari and his community focus will be greatly missed. As a community we have much to thank him for.

— *Brian Smith, President*

Wall Springs Park Is Expanded

There is a large vacant area to the north of the existing Wall Springs Park that was used for cattle grazing many years ago. The County had acquired that land with the intent of expanding the park, but did not have the funds to do so until recently. However, the needed improvements have been completed, and this new section was opened officially on August 1st. This new section, in addition to the usual park amenities, includes a paved trail of over a mile from the current parking lot to the new waterfront, where there is an elevated platform. As everyone knows, you can access this park by car from Alternate US 19 or from the Pinellas Trail.

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Todd Guarino—251-9333

Julie Longen—656-5154

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Membership—Open

Hall Oversight—Dennis Green•741-2903

Historical/Records—Terry Fortner•786-2837

Hall Rental—Donna Green•741-2904

Community Road Improvements

The Penny for Pinellas program, which was recently re-approved, includes funding for community roads. The Ozona community will benefit from this program. People have been concerned about the continuous patch-work along Orange Street and Tampa Road. That is about to change. A resurfacing project is scheduled for next year (2021) for Orange Street from Alternate US 19 on the south end to Pennsylvania Avenue on the north end. In addition, Tampa Road will be resurfaced from Orange Street all the way to County Road One. Small projects in advance of this work are being performed in the community now. So stay tuned for more information!

Living Shoreline Update

The County has received the necessary permit approvals for the living shoreline project in Ozona. This is a project to rejuvenate the environment where dilapidated seawalls exist and nothing is growing. The County will be planting oyster beds and seagrass as a demonstration project for what can be done to improve such areas. The project site is at the west end of Bay Street. The County will be looking for volunteers to assist in this planting project and this will probably be a Saturday event this Fall. Stay tuned for more information if you would like to participate.

OVIS Membership and Sponsorship



Ozona Village Improvement Society (OVIS) functions primarily from funds obtained through membership dues and sponsorships. OVIS membership is \$20 annually and a sponsor donation is \$100 annually. It is noted that if you are a Waste Connections' customer you will receive a discount if you have an OVIS membership. Also, if you are an OVIS sponsor, your business card is included in the newsletter and on the community website.

The membership and sponsorship run from January 1 to December 31, but OVIS begins open enrollment in September to allow for the logistics of the program. It should be noted, however, that membership or sponsorship actually start from the time of enrollment (there is no delayed effective date). The last page of the newsletter is devoted to an enrollment form, or you can go to the OVIS website and enroll or renew there using PayPal. The website is <http://www.ozonavillagefl.us/membership>.

Keeping the Community Clean



Due to the COVID-19 situation, OVIS has not had the opportunity to provide for organized community cleanups. However, the community continues to have the occasional littering with plastic bottles and such. So when you take your next exercise walk or stroll through the community with family and friends, please consider noting where there is litter and you can pick up later, or you can pick it up when you see it. Thanks in advance for your time and assistance with this continuing effort!

Waste Connections New Trash Pricing Change

For those OVIS members who use Waste Connections for their residential trash service, we have just received a rate increase notification from Waste Connections. These new rate increases take effect September 1, 2020, and they will immediately impact all Waste Connections customers, even if you have are on an annual billing with Waste Connections. All customers will receive updated bills reflecting the new rate increase after September 1, 2020.

This rate increase is in addition to the new tipping fee that all trash services in Pinellas County had incurred this year.

The breakdown for the Waste Connections **monthly** billing will be **\$29.50** for **OVIS Members** receiving the trash discount, and it will be **\$38.50** per **month** for **non-OVIS Members**. There is a slight decrease in pricing if you choose to pay annually. The new **annual** rate will be **\$332.76** for **OVIS Members** and for **non-OVIS Members** the new price is **\$428.64**.

Although OVIS does not have any control over rate increases nor does it have an master contract with Waste Connections for the non-profit discount that is afforded to OVIS Members, the OVIS Board did want to send out a notification on the rate increase as soon as possible, so that everyone would be aware of it before they received their next invoice. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Waste Connections Customer Service Contact Jennifer Cooke at 727-572-6800 Ext. 3218. There is nothing that the OVIS Board will be able to assist with on this matter, since everyone has individual contracts for trash service with Waste Connections.

To better understand the impact that is occurring for all trash services, OVIS Treasurer Jim Wiesner did a survey of the companies that provide trash collection in Ozona. The survey results of the various trash services quarterly costs include the comparative pricing for twice per week pick-up (6-8 cans per pick-up) including recycling.

Of course, some of the trash services either don't have large garbage receptacles or charge you for the receptacles, but Waste Connections of Florida doesn't charge for those containers.

Below is the new quarterly pricing comparison, which gives the OVIS discount with Waste Connections ranging between \$5.40 - \$93.00 per year savings compared to other trash collection services in this area. (Pricing quoted in August 2020):

***Waste Connections of Florida** - \$88.50 (\$115.50 without OVIS membership discount => \$9.00 per quarter **increase** from 2019 with the membership and \$8.00 per quarter **increase** from 2019 without the membership)

Waste Management - \$103.66, *but no longer offering service to new customers in our area.*

Waste Pro - \$111.75 (\$22.83 per quarter **increase** from 2019, and fluctuates based upon fuel charges)

Solar Sanitation - *No longer offering service to new customers in our area.*

DisposAll / Orion Waste Solutions - \$103.35 (\$19.65 per quarter **decrease** from 2019)

Superior Trash Service - \$89.85 (**no** garbage receptacles **or** recycling (adjusted \$15 included in price per quarter); 3 cans maximum) (equivalency of \$30.00 per quarter **increase** from 2019)

As we mentioned above, each resident is responsible for their own residential trash service, but the OVIS Board wanted to be sure to provide everyone with all the details for the various trash services in the area, since all of them are, or will be soon, increasing all of their pricing, so that you will be able to make your own evaluation of pricing and which trash service is best for your household.

ART in the Ozona Preserve

The Ozona Preserve is an approximate 10-acre natural area in the middle of Ozona, which was purchased by the County due to its natural features. On the side of the preserve facing North Street, there is a large display board for community use. Susan White would like to initiate an art project for children in the community where art they have created with an environmental theme could be displayed in this community board. If you would like to work with Susan on this project, she can be contacted at sglick333@yahoo.com.

OZONA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY 2021 MEMBERSHIP INVITATION

BENEFITS:

1. Get to know your neighbors.
2. Preserve the historic Ozona Village Hall building on Bay Street.
3. Participate in fun activities for families – golf cart parades, seasonal parties and potluck dinners.
4. Support the unique community identity of Ozona and our nature preserve.
5. Save between \$5.40 - \$93/year on your trash service comparatively to most other trash services – twice per week pick-up including recycling – Waste Connections of Florida discounts their fee for members of our organization.

*PLEASE SELECT:*Society Membership

☐ Individual & Family
Membership - \$20.00/year

Currently a Waste Connections
of Florida customer:

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

Donations

☐ Additional Donations help
maintain the Ozona Village Hall,
do special projects, and host
village events

- ☐ \$10.00
☐ \$25.00
☐ \$50.00
☐ \$100.00
☐ \$ _____

Ozona Newsletter AdSponsorship

☐ Business Sponsorship – 3
business card ads/year plus a
listing in the website
“Sponsors” section

- ☐ \$100.00/year

Additional donations are GREATLY appreciated!

Note: OVIS is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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OVIS Website Information

The official website of OVIS can be found at www.OzonaVillageFL.us. On the website, you will find updates to current community initiatives, such as OVIS Programs, the Annual Holiday Golf Cart Parade, the Holiday Potluck Dinner, Community Cleanups, Community Workshops, and notice of upcoming events or other such community interests.

You'll also find:

- A link to OVIS membership information and how you can join, renew or be a sponsor.
- A page on the Village Hall and how to reserve the Hall for your upcoming event you might be planning.
- Historical photos of Ozona.
- OVIS meetings and downloads of previous Ozona News newsletters.
- You'll also find a link to our sponsor section where you can find contact information to our wonderful sponsors.

This website also offers a way to communicate comments you would like to make to OVIS concerning the community.





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