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OVIS Annual Meeting Set For April 25

The OVIS Annual Meeting is set for April 25 at the Village Hall. The meeting agenda will include the election of officers, the swearing in of the officers by County Commissioner Dave Eggers, and an update on the drainage project adjacent to the Village Hall. Also on the agenda is a report by Nancy McKibben, who is the Community Liaison for the County. Recently, people have had questions about the survey work being done on Shore Drive. That survey work is part of the County evaluation of a replacement project for the Shore Drive bridge. That bridge was built in the early 1920s and is approximately 100 years old. Nancy will be prepared to provide information about that project.

Driving Golf Carts In The Community

Ozona is it designated golf cart community. There are some rules and responsibilities that go with this designation by the County. These rules are based upon safety for all. They were developed through several community workshops in Ozona. It should be noted that golf carts are designed for the golf course and do not have safety features that are normally needed for the road. Thus, the traditional golf cart must be modified to be acceptable. In addition to that, a key rule concerns the driver of the cart. Although the golf cart looks casual and informal, it is still a highway vehicle when it is on the road, and therefore, requires a legal driver. It should be noted that law enforcement people take the approach that if a non-licensed (under age) person is cited for driving a cart, the responsibility for the traffic violation or incident is applied to the responsible adult and their license. That is where the penalty will apply.

Speckled Trout Marina Variance

The Speckled Trout Marina is requesting a variance to permit the construction of an additional 10 slips with boat lifts at the marina. That proposal will go before the Board of Adjustment of the County at a Public Hearing on May 4 at 9 AM at the Pinellas County Courthouse. This was originally scheduled for action at the April 6 meeting of that Board, but it was continued.

Short History Of Roads And Bridges In Ozona

When Pinellas County was established and separated from Hillsborough County in 1912, transportation became a priority. In 1913 a limited number of road improvements were authorized and built primarily in the community areas, but that did not deal with connectivity, which remained with unpaved roads. However, in 1923 Pinellas County established two bond programs that provided that connectivity with road improvements and bridge improvements. These two bonds totaled almost 9 million dollars. In Ozona, this connectivity included not only road improvements to Dunedin and Clearwater, but also three bridges. One was located on Orange Street in the vicinity of Homeport. The second was on Shore Drive crossing the lagoon entrance. And the third was on Tampa Road just west of Alternate US 19. There are two plaques on the Shore Drive bridge documenting that particular bridge improvement. One plaque with the 1923 date indicates the bridge was built by the Luten Bridge Company of York, PA. The second plaque recognizes the County Commission that authorized this road and bridge program and this specific bridge.

President's Message...

As I listen to the ospreys overhead and the hooting of an owl or the call of a woodpecker, I am reminded of how close to nature Ozona is. Last week I observed the tall seagrass, planted at the end of Bay Street, part of the Living Shoreline Project. This project was the result of many community volunteers coming together, in partnership with the County, to lay the barrier and plant the grass.

Ozona's mission focuses not only on the preservation of the environment, but also its rich history. Our Village Hall on Bay Street was built in 1900 by volunteer labor with donated materials. The Hall has been maintained continuously since then by community volunteers.

As we wrap this year up with our Annual Meeting this month, we are making plans for the coming year. I look forward to participating in those community activities and events as we gradually normalize. I do hope to see you at one of these activities or at the post office, as we maintain our contact within Ozona and with the rest of the world.

- Brian Smith, OVIS President

Schedule of Events

OVIS regularly meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 P.M. in the Village Hall on Bay Street. The 2022 schedule along with other community events are as follows:

OVIS Annual Meeting — April 25 7PM

Summer Recess — May-July

OVIS Meeting — August 22 7PM

OVIS Meeting — September 26 7PM

OVIS Meeting — October 24 7PM

Halloween Open House — October 31

OVIS Meeting — November TBA

Holiday Golf Cart Parade — December 11 6-8 PM

Holiday Potluck — December 13 6:30-8PM

Community Clean-up — TBA



2021-2022 OVIS Board Members

President—Brian Smith•781-8472

Vice President—Dennis Green•741-2903

Secretary—Donna Green • 741-2904

Treasurer—James Wiesner•871-6901

Board Members:

Connie Rieben—787-9777

Susan White—793-8299

Julie Longen-656-5154

Dave Ennis—743-7041

Todd Guarino-251-9333

Standing Committees:

Neighborhood Watch—Dolly Swallow•787-6470 Membership—Open

Hall Oversight—Dennis Green•741-2903 Hall Rental—Donna Green•741-2904 Membership—Open

Historical/Records—Terry Fortner • 786-2837

Large Trash Items Pickup

OVIS has an agreement with Waste Connections, which is one of the companies that provide trash pickup in the Ozona community. In addition to providing a discounted rate to those households that are members of the Ozona Village Improvement Society, the company also provides a special pickup of large trash items on a select day for its customers. That day this year is Saturday, May 21. This is an opportunity to get rid of those larger items that are in your garage or possibly yard, but which require some special arrangement to get rid of them.

There are a few ground rules for this community pickup. The pickup includes furniture, appliances and items such as that, but does not include roofing materials, hazardous materials, tires, or other car parts. Also, refrigerators and air conditioning units must be tagged by a licensed repair man that freon has been removed. Brush has to be tied in bundles of 50 pounds or less and be no longer than 4 feet long. It would be a good idea to place these items in the front of your property the evening before the pickup date, since Waste Connections may come early for the pickups. The final point is that you must be a Waste Connections customer.

Ozona Holiday Golf Cart Parade Update

The Ozona Holiday Golf Cart Parade was held on Sunday, December 12. The parade was a great success as usual with approximately 120 golf carts participating. Due to COVID-19, there was no parade event in 2020. Considering that, this event was the 20th time that the community has had a golf cart parade. OVIS sponsors this event and obtains the county permit and insurance and contracts with the Sheriff's Department for assistance. The parade follows a predefined parade route that loops through the community. To participate, people donate \$10 online or \$20 at the event. These funds then cover the cost to OVIS for setting up the event.

All of the participating golf carts were decorated for the holidays following various and innovative themes. To recognize what some people had done in terms of effort and creativity, OVIS gave out three awards for first, second, and third place. First place went to the "Fishing Cart" by Adam Reister. Second Place went to the "Tiki Bar" by Ryan McMullen. Third place went to the "Grinch" by Melody Gurley. These were difficult decisions because there were so many wonderful carts! All Clear Pools provided the trophies that were awarded. To see pictures of the parade and the awards you can go to the OVIS website: https://www.ozonavillagefl.us/annual-ozona-holiday-parade.







Golf Carts Allowed In Old Palm Harbor

The County Commission has authorized golf carts in the Old Palm Harbor area. The general boundaries of the area are Delaware Street on the north, 16th Street on the east, Virginia Street on the south, and Alternate US 19 on the west.

The compliance rules are basically the same as those in place in Ozona. A golf cart crossing for Alternate US 19 from and to Ozona is being permitted at Georgia Street with signs recognizing that.

It should be noted that the existing golf cart ordinance permits golf carts in Ozona and Crystal Beach west of Alternate US 19. This will increase the destinations for the people in Ozona. The challenge will be to take care when crossing Alternate US 19.

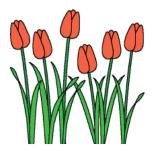


OVIS Membership and Sponsorship

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.





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Society Membership

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Donations

PLEASE SELECT:

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Additional donations are GREATLY ap Note: OVIS is a 501(c) (3) non-profit of PLEASE PRINT:	preciated! organization. Your contribution is tax-dedu	actible to the extent allowed by law.
Name:		

Your contact information will not be shared, but enables us to keep you informed regarding news and events.

Please make your check payable to:
Ozona Village Improvement Society (OVIS)

Mail to: PO Box 81 • Ozona, FL 34660

To Join/Renew Online, Go To: http://www.OzonaVillageFL.us/membership

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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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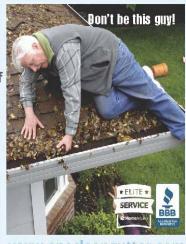
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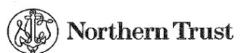


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