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OZONA COMMUNITY NEWS

An Ozona Village Improvement Society Publication

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OVIS Annual Meeting April 22

The OVIS Annual Meeting is set for Monday, April 22 at 7:00 P.M. in the Village Hall on Bay Street. This is the final meeting before summer recess. The meeting includes the election of officers, an update on community activities, and a presentation by the Clearwater Audubon Society including live birds. County Commissioner Dave Eggers will also be in attendance to review things the County is doing both in our immediate area and countywide. This is a time for people to get informed on activities and projects in the community while also networking with others in the neighborhood. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Honeymoon Island State Park

Attend the March 25 OVIS Meeting and find out about the Honeymoon Island State Park and all that it has to offer. Pete Krulder, the Director of the Park, will make a presentation of the facilities and programs available at the Park. This Park is one of the most popular parks in the State. There are extensive and beautiful beaches with readily accessible parking. There is a Nature Center on the quiet side of the island. There is also a ferry available at Honeymoon to shuttle people over to Caladesi Island State Park. There is now a trail within the park for people, who are biking or walking to the park or moving around within it. This park trail begins at the park entrance connecting to the Dunedin Causeway Trail. The park trail is 1.3 miles long and connects to all the key destinations in the park. Pete Krulder will review these and other programs and opportunities. The meeting begins at 7:00 P.M. at the Village Hall on Bay Street, and everyone is welcome to attend and not only listen to the presentation, but also ask any questions about to park.

Live Birds at the Village Hall

The Clearwater Audubon Society will be our guest at the April 22 OVIS Meeting. Barb Walker, the Society President, will make a presentation about what Audubon does in terms of their mission and programs. Audubon is not only a national organization, but it is also involved within our community. An example is how Barb has worked with the installation of platforms for ospreys throughout our community. She is also knowledgeable about the procedures connected with eagles and how to work with them in the community. She will be assisted with this presentation by several birds, which have taken up residence at the City of Clearwater's Moccasin Lake Park. They are birds that have been injured and can no longer function in the wild. Audubon takes care of them at the park. Barb Walker's favorite bird will be with her. That is a peregrine falcon! So come to the April 22 OVIS Meeting and find out about what Audubon does for the community and for nature. And also come to meet the birds that Barb will have with her. This is the annual meeting of OVIS and begins at 7 PM at the Village Hall on Bay Street. Children are also welcome to attend and benefit from this very informative program.

President's Message...

Ozona is a unique community. Not only does it have historical roots and heritage, but it also has a sense of community in the present. OVIS provides the vehicle for both of these. OVIS owns and operates the Village Hall, which is a historical landmark built in 1900 and has been used by the community continuously without a break since then. OVIS also provides a forum for community issues and programs. In fact, we have two very interesting programs in March and April. We will have Pete Krulder, the Director of Honeymoon Island State Park, talking about the park at our March meeting and then Barb Walker of the Clearwater Audubon Society doing a program with live birds at our April meeting.

In this newsletter there are articles explaining other activities in our community. The community does have one special feature, and that is our Post Office. If you don't already have one, I would encourage you to rent a box at the Post Office. There are a number of benefits to having a PO box. A prime example is when you have mail or a package that requires a signature for receipt. You can arrange with Postmaster Linda to have the Post Office receive that mail for you, and then you can pick it up at your leisure. Another benefit to the Post Office engagement is that you can get caught up on the latest community news from your neighbors you meet there.

So - see what's at the Post Office sometime!

— Brian Smith, 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 2019 schedule along with other community events are as follows:

OVIS Meeting — March 25 7PM

OVIS Annual Meeting — April 22 7PM

Community Clean-up — Early May 8:30AM

Large Item Trash Pickup — May 18

Summer Recess

OVIS Meeting — August 26 7PM

OVIS Meeting — September 23 7PM

Large Item Trash Pickup — October 19

OVIS Meeting — October 28 7PM

Neighborhood Watch (Sheriff) Workshop — TBA

Halloween Open House — October 31

OVIS Meeting — November/December TBA

Community Potluck — December TBA

Holiday Golf Cart Parade — December 8

2017-2018 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

Jerry Edmonds—784-3711

Standing Committees:

Neighborhood Watch—Dolly Swallow•787-6470
Hall Oversight—Dennis Green•741-2903
Hall Rental—Donna Green•741-2904
Membership—Open
Historical/Records—Terry Fortner•786-2837

Next Large Item Trash Pickup Is Saturday, May 18

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 select days for its customers. The company performs two pickups each year. It should be noted that this year the company is changing their pickups from Monday to Saturday. Therefore, the first pick up is Saturday, May 18, of this year. The second large item trash pickup for this year is set for Saturday, October 19. This is an opportunity to get rid of those larger items that are in your garage or possibly yard, which require some special arrangements to get rid of those items.

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, to show that Freon has been removed. Brush has to be tied in bundles of 50 pounds or less and be no longer than 4 feet. It would be a good idea to place those items in front of your property for pickup the evening before, since Waste Connections may come early for the pickups. The final point is that you must be a Waste Connections' customer.

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.

Trail Overpass Status

After months of being closed, the Orange Street Overpass for the Pinellas Trail is now open. Since this was a repair job, the entire overpass was not replaced. However, as the new sections were installed, the old appearance of the unimproved sections is now underscored. Recognizing that there was pressure to complete the project so that it could be open for use, there are some follow-up needs with respect to maintenance and appearance. The County is presently evaluating those follow-up initiatives to make the project complete. So – stay tuned!

Proposed Developments in the Community

First, there is a rezoning proposed for five acres, which are north of Pennsylvania Avenue and immediately east of Ryan's Wood. The property has currently two structures on it and has single-family R-3 zoning designated on the property. The proposal is to increase that zoning and density to RM-5, which would allow multi-family residential units. There is considerable concern in the community about this proposal due to its environmental, transportation, and community impacts. OVIS has gone on record as opposing the proposal and recommending to the County that the zoning remain as it is and not be changed. This proposal goes before the County's planning board on Thursday, March 14 at 9:00 A.M. in the courthouse. There will be a public hearing followed by the planning board action to either recommend approval or denial to the County Commission. The County Commission will then take the matter up at their April 23 meeting at 6:00 P.M. in the courthouse.

Next is another self-storage development being proposed just south of Sherwood RV Park on Alt US-19. The development had originally proposed a set of variances, which were scheduled for Board of Adjustment action, but that proposal for variances was withdrawn probably because of the opposition that was developing. The developer is now trying to see if they can do the project without variances.

Finally, there is a third project being considered. This is a 5-acre vacant parcel at the northwest corner of Missouri and Alt US-19, which was the site proposed for a different self-storage structure previously, but it had been withdrawn due to community opposition. It appears there is maybe a proposal to put a residential project at this location now; however, nothing has been filed yet.

Community Clean-up Update

It has been a regular practice for a number of years that Ozona would have two community clean-ups a year. One would be in the Spring (May) and the second would be in the Fall (October}. Recently, the community participation was minimal in the Fall and then moderate in the Spring. Based upon this information, the OVIS Community Clean-up Committee felt the program should be refocused to get better participation. While we do have a clean community, there is still the need to occasionally get out there and pick things up. It was felt that this should be done once a year and at a time when people could most participate. Based on past experience, there appears to be the most interest in a clean-up in the Spring. Thus, we will do that once a year in the Spring. Things will be defined at the next OVIS meeting.

Rent the Village Hall

The Ozona Village Hall is a perfect spot for all different types of special events.
For more information, call Donna Green at (727) 741-2904.

Book Your Special Events & Family Reunions Today!

The Village Hall in Ozona is located on Bay Street and has served as the facility for community events over the years. The Hall is owned by the Ozona Village Improvement Society (OVIS), which uses the Hall for community events and meetings during the year.

In addition to that, OVIS does make the Hall available for rental for private events as well. While the Hall has a heritage and appearance of its vintage construction of 1900, the Hall does have the modern conveniences of central heat and air conditioning, restrooms, and a kitchen area (without a stove).

Folding tables and chairs are also included in the Hall rental. The Hall rents for $300 for a private event. If someone is an OVIS member, there is a reduced rate of $250. If you wish to rent the Hall, the contact information is available above or on the OVIS website: **http://www.ozonavillagefl.us**.

OZONA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY 2019 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 $57 - $178/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 Ad Sponsorship

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

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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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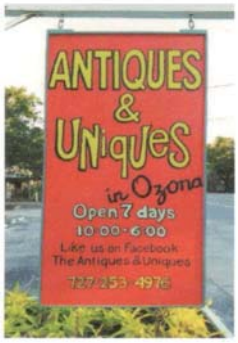

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