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OZONA COMMUNITY NEWS

An Ozona Village Improvement Society Publication

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The Tradition of the Holiday Parade of Golf Carts

Ozona as a community has much heritage beginning with fishing and citrus. That was back in the 1880's and continued and adjusted to changing times. The most recent community focus is associated with how people travel about. Over 20 years ago golf carts appeared on the scene. The Ozona community took to this new transportation mode. In a short period of time, it became obvious that there needed to be some rules for this mode as it operated on the streets of the community. Several workshops were held in the community and identified the rules for how this transportation mode would function. Based upon those workshops, an ordinance was passed by the County Commission that established Ozona as a golf cart community. Not long after that, a small group came up with the idea of having a holiday parade with their golf carts. They would travel through the community with decorated carts in recognition of the holidays. It wasn't long before this became a tradition associated with Ozona. It was not long before there were so many carts, that organization was needed to ensure the parade was a safe event. OVIS agreed to provide the sponsorship for such a parade, so that this community event could continue. Now there are over 100 golf carts that typically participate.

The Origin of the Potluck Tradition

For many years, there were two community organizations that functioned within the Ozona community. In the beginning in the 1890s, there was the Ozona Ladies Improvement Society. This was the group that spearheaded the building of the Ozona Village Hall in 1900. A formal organization was needed to actually own and operate the Hall. Therefore, the Ozona Village Improvement Society was incorporated and given the responsibility of ownership and operation of the Hall. In the 1930s that responsibility was transferred to the Ozona Recreation Club, who had become the more active community organization in Ozona. This is the group that established the tradition of the community potluck dinners at the Hall. In the late 1990s that group's membership was waning, and the ownership of the Hall was transferred back to OVIS. OVIS has since continued that Potluck tradition.

Community Potluck at the Ozona Brewery

Everyone in the community, including visitors, are invited to a potluck dinner hosted by OVIS. The event is set for December 7 at 6 PM. Traditionally this event is held in the Ozona Village Hall. However, that is not available right now due to renovations from storm damage.

Therefore, the Ozona Brewing Company has graciously stepped forward and is making their facilities available for the traditional potluck dinner for the community. The Brewery is not open on Mondays, and therefore, their space is available for the potluck event. The potluck dinner has been a tradition in Ozona for decades. It provides an opportunity for people to network and reconnect. Typically, people are encouraged to bring a dish. However, that is not a requirement to participate. We also have several restaurants in our community that participate in this potluck event with signature dishes from their menu.

So, there will be plenty of food on the table. So please come and participate with us in this annual holiday event.

President's Message...

As we enter these holiday activities, I am reminded of how special our community is.

There is the networking at the post office and other locations where we can get caught up on what others are doing. Also, the more formal opportunities such as our OVIS Meetings, participation in the golf cart parade, and participation in the traditional potluck dinner.

I look forward to seeing you at one of these events or with informal contact, but in case I don't have that opportunity, let me wish you all an enjoyable holiday season.

Happy Holidays!

— Brian Smith, OVIS President



Schedule of Events

While the Village Hall is being restored, OVIS will regularly meet on the fourth Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Ozona Brewing Company. Meeting Minutes will be sent out to the Ozona News email distribution list and posted on the OVIS Website. The 2026-2027 schedule of other community events are as follows:

Holiday Potluck at Ozona Brewing Co — December 7 6PM

Holiday Golf Cart Parade — December 13 6-8PM

OVIS Meeting — January 25 7PM

OVIS Meeting — February 22 7PM

OVIS Meeting — March 22 7PM

OVIS Annual Meeting — April 26 7PM

Neighborhood Watch Workshop - TBA

Community Cleanup - TBA



2026-2027 OVIS Board Members

President—Brian Smith•781-8472

Vice President—Todd Guarino•251-9333

Secretary—Julie Longen•656-5154

Treasurer—James Wiesner•871-6901

Board Members:

Connie Rieben—787-9777

Susan White—793-8299

Steve Krout—771-8650

Skip LeFleur—743-7547

Barry Salus—871-5107

Ron Girard—(603) 361-2468

Standing Committees:

Neighborhood Watch—Open
Hall Oversight—Open
Hall Rental (On Hold)—Donna Green•741-2904

Membership—Open
Historical/Records—Terry Fortner•786-2837

Holiday Golf Cart Parade Registration

Here are some specifics about the parade. This year's registration donation fee is $20.00. You can purchase the registration fee online at **https://www.ozonavillagefl.us/annual-ozona-holiday-parade** or by scanning the QR code below.

We are asking that if you want to participate in the prize contest for the best decorated golf cart, then you will need to register online. If you register and pay at the time of the event, then you will not be eligible for the best golf cart contest. Also, if you pay online, it will only cost $20.00, but if you pay at the event, it will cost $30.00. Online registration is currently open and allowed until Thursday, December 10, 2026. This year we will only be doing online payments for pre-event registrations and in-person cash payments at the event registration. Once your payment has been confirmed, then the OVIS Village Treasurer will send you a PDF of your registered Golf Cart Number, which you will need to print out and attach visibly to the front of your golf cart for the event. Your Golf Cart Number is not only needed to show your registration for the event but also for the judging process for the best golf cart contest. ***Be sure to complete the entire parade route and return to the Downtown Ozona area to receive your trophy and any related prizes!*** Any questions, inquiries or follow-up on registration confirmation can be addressed to the OVIS Village Treasurer at james.wiesner@yahoo.com.

The golf carts should come to the start / gathering area around Molly Goodhead's and the Ozona Pig *(designated by the large Red Star on the map)*, where they will prepare to get into position for the parade line-up. Golf carts should be there by 5:30 PM, and the parade will start promptly at 6:00 PM. Please go to the area between Molly's Goodheads and the US Post Office to register golf carts for the parade, if you have not done so online beforehand. A judges table with trophies will be set up along that corridor to register.





Ozona Annual Holiday Golf Cart Parade

Sunday, December 13, 2026

Golf Carts Arrival / Check-In Location:
Area around Molly's & Ozona Pig

Golf Carts Arrival / Gathering Time: 5:30 PM

Golf Cart Parade will start promptly at 6:00 PM



OZONA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY 2027 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.

PLEASE SELECT:

Society Membership

☐ Individual & Family Membership - $20.00/year

Would you like to be more involved in the Ozona Community activities?

☐ YES ☐
☐ NO ☐

Donations

☐ Additional Donations help restore 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.

PLEASE PRINT:

Name:_____

Mailing Address: _____

Street Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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.

OVIS Proudly Supports Our Sponsors

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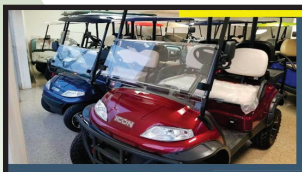
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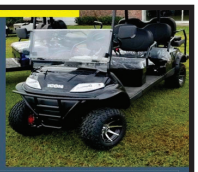
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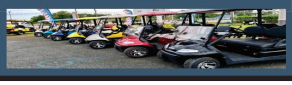

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