



## This Issue

OVIS Annual Meeting	P. 1
Tree Planting Update	P. 1
Alt US-19 Roundabout	P. 1
Shore Drive Bridge Project	P. 1
President's Message	P. 2
Schedule of Events	P. 2
OVIS Board Members	P. 2
Village Hall Improvements	P. 3
Holiday Golf Cart Parade	P. 3
Village Hall Rental	P. 4
OVIS Membership	P. 5
2024 Membership Form	P. 6
OVIS Website Information	P. 7
OVIS Sponsors	P. 8-10

## OVIS Annual Meeting Set For May 6

The Annual Meeting of OVIS is set for May 6 at 7 PM at the Village Hall. The meeting will include an election of officers for the coming year along with an update on several subjects of interest to the community. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend. A meeting agenda will be distributed a week before the meeting.

## Tree Planting Update

This past year OVIS initiated a community tree planting program with 25 trees planted in several installations in Ozona. That program was successful with a lot of participation in the community. There was a challenge with respect to the drought at the time, but most of the trees survived that situation.

This is intended to be an annual effort, and therefore, discussions are being renewed for a second year. This effort will be designed around what was learned from the first year. The intention is that this program will replace and preserve some of the tree canopy that is so well-recognized in Ozona. Needless to say, this is an on-going challenge, but with the support of the community, we will continue to be successful!

## Alt US-19 Roundabout Update

The roundabout on Alternate US-19 at Florida Avenue is undergoing some beautification improvements. It should be noted that this is a Florida Department of Transportation project that is being done in cooperation with Pinellas County. Palm trees have been added, along with some other landscaping, to improve the appearance of this facility. And they have been installed in a way, where there will not be any visibility problems. The struts supporting the palm trees are a temporary feature that will be removed once the trees are established. This is a signature, aesthetic improvement and is intended to provide a calming atmosphere for the drivers maneuvering through the facility.

## Shore Drive Bridge Replacement

Approximately a year ago on April 18, 2023, Pinellas County held an information meeting on a replacement of the Shore Drive Bridge in Ozona. The bridge was originally built in 1923 and has been in continuous operation since then for over 100 years. It has been a year since that information meeting, and Pinellas County has been filling in the details of the final design that was presented to the community at that meeting. Since construction is scheduled to begin in early 2025, it would be useful to briefly review the design and schedule for this important facility.

The new bridge will be a significant improvement over the existing design. The current facility has substandard 10-foot wide lanes in each direction, and no provision for pedestrians. The new design will have 11-foot lanes with shoulders and a 6 foot wide sidewalk on the southside.

Another new feature would be that the sidewalk would extend from the bridge east to Orange Street, which is a significant pedestrian safety feature.

## President's Message...

This past year has seen a lot of activity in our community. The most significant one was the resurfacing of the roads within Ozona. This was a much-needed project and was accomplished efficiently by Pinellas County. We also initiated our Tree Canopy Program for the community. That went very well with excellent participation by the people and businesses of Ozona. We also received a grant for much-needed improvements to the Village Hall.

As we go forward this coming year, there continues to be things that need to be done. OVIS will continue to provide leadership and support for those activities. This is what makes Ozona so special. This is a community, where we appreciate and understand that you cannot take for granted what is around you.

— *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 2024 schedule along with other community events are as follows:

**OVIS Annual Meeting — May 6 7PM**

**Summer Recess — May-July**

**OVIS Meeting — August 26 7PM**

**OVIS Meeting — September 23 7PM**

**OVIS Meeting — October 28 7PM**

**Halloween Open House — October 31**

**OVIS Meeting — November TBA**

**Holiday Golf Cart Parade — December 8 6-8 PM**

**Holiday Potluck — December 10 6:30-8PM**

**Community Clean-up — TBA**



## 2023-2024 OVIS Board Members

**President**—Brian Smith•781-8472

**Secretary**—Julie Longen•656-5154

**Vice President**—Todd Guarino•251-9333

**Treasurer**—James Wiesner•871-6901

### Board Members:

Connie Rieben—787-9777

Dave Ennis—743-7041

Susan White—793-8299

Diane Williams—951-283-5035

Steve Krout—771-8650

### Standing Committees:

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

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

## Village Hall Improvements

The Board of County Commissioners has approved an MSTU grant to fund some improvements to the Ozona Village Hall. On the inside of the hall, the floors will be refinished. This work will include some repairs. There is a section on the floor, where there is wood rot damage that will be replaced. It is amazing that this is the original flooring installed in the hall in 1900.

On the outside of the hall, the hall will be repainted. Some sections that have shown the wear of time will be replaced. This siding work will be in accordance with historic protocols for the design and replacement materials.

This work will take several weeks, and OVIS will work around any scheduled hall rentals. The total project cost will be \$18,782.50.

## Ozona Holiday Golf Cart Parade Update

The Ozona Holiday Golf Cart Parade was held on Sunday, December 10. Although the weather started out rainy earlier in that afternoon, the rain stopped just before the parade started, and kudos to all the 37 carts that braved the weather to participate! Everyone did a great job with early registration too with 83 carts signed up before the event, which helped make the setup and progress for the parade go very smoothly. It was a festive time celebrated with the entire community of family and friends! The followings winners of the Best Decorated Golf Carts are:

1st Place - "Christmas Surprises" by The Joe Stout Family

2nd Place - "Rocking' Christmas" by The Rob Hoffert Family

3rd Place - "Merry & Bright" by Adam Reister

Honorable Mention - "Elf in the Chimney" (would have placed if they stayed around for the judging to complete)



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place

More photos of the parade can be seen on our website as well as on our Facebook page:

<https://www.ozonavillagefl.us/annual-ozona-holiday-parade>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.758201023019773&type=3>

Congratulations to all the winners and to everyone that participated in the event! It was an amazing event enjoyed by the entire community! There were numerous outstanding golf carts decorated this year, and we look forward to seeing many more next year!

# 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 \$500 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>.

# Spring is here

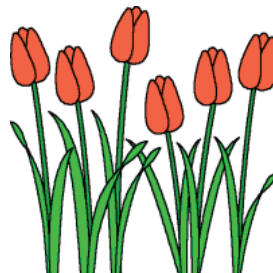


## OVIS Membership and Sponsorship



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>.



# OZONA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY 2024 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

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.

**PLEASE PRINT:**

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Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Please make your check payable to:*  
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*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](http://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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