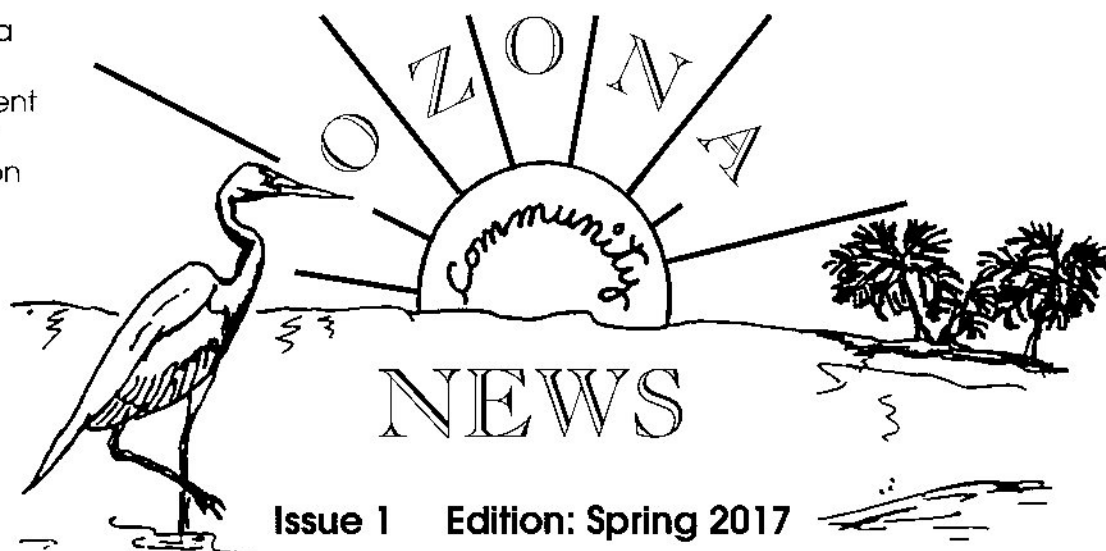


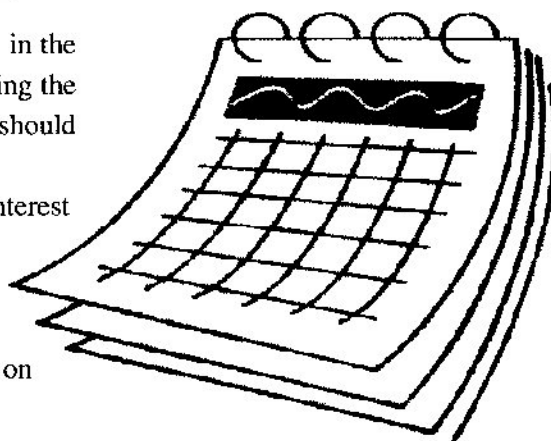
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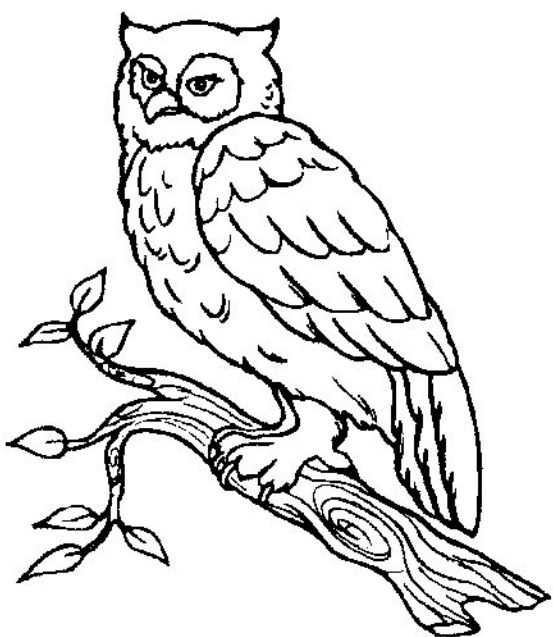
OVIS Annual Meeting April 24

The OVIS annual meeting is set for Monday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall on Bay Street. There will be a short business agenda including the election of officers and reporting on some events in the community that should be of interest to all.

The main agenda item will be a special program that should be of interest to all family members. The program will be about owls in the community and will actually include live owls as part of the program. Refreshments will also be served that will include beer, wine, soda and some things to munch on. This is an opportunity to not only be informed on what is happening in the community, but also to network with other members of the community and get caught up on things. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Owls to Visit the Village Hall



Every year, as part of the Annual Meeting, OVIS has a special program of interest to the residents of Ozona. This year, the meeting on April 24, will include a special program about owls in the community.

Barbara Walker, with the Audubon Society and in affiliation with Moccasin Lake Park in Clearwater, will present this program which will include several live owls at the Hall. There are several species of owl that are common or at least observed in our area. These include the Great Horned Owl, the Barred Owl and the Florida Screech Owl. Barbara is an expert birder and says her program will focus on the various species of owls that live in the Bay Area and what people can do to ensure their safety. Barbara goes on to say, that if you don't like roaches and rats, then this program is for you. To help her convey this message, she'll be bringing along owls from the Moccasin Lake Park. Needless to say, this program should be of interest to the younger members of the community, so you are welcome to bring the entire family.

Refreshments will be served at this meeting.

President's Message...

As you review this edition of the *Ozona News*, you will notice that not only are there a number of community activities going on, but you will also be reminded of the fact that we have considerable heritage within our community.

The character of our community is based upon not only the people that live here today, but also the people that have lived here a 100 years ago. This character is symbolized by the Village Hall built by the people of the community in 1900 which will soon be recognized with an official State and County historic plaque in the front of the Hall.

In addition to this heritage, we are a coastal community with not only fine restaurants, neat shops and community conscious marinas, but in the middle of our community, we have an eight acre environmental preserve that is publicly owned. This preserve is home to a family of eagles. There are other residents of the preserve that we will find out about when we receive a presentation at our Annual Meeting about owls in the community.

All of this adds up to the fact that Ozona is a cool place to live! I look forward to running into you at the post office or somewhere else in our community.

Brian Smith
OVIS President

Community Cleanup Saturday • May 6

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 6. This is the date for the next community cleanup in Ozona. OVIS sponsors two cleanups in the community each year. One is done in May and the second is done in the Fall. Bob Fortner and Dave Ennis chair this effort and have done this for several years.

On that Saturday, people will meet at the Village Hall at 8:30 a.m. to get started. Participants are encouraged to bring their golf carts since that does facilitate the moving around to destinations where cleaning is needed. At the Hall, assignments are made along the various streets and the teams are sent out to do their work. Usually, this effort does not take much more than an hour to an hour and a half to complete. We will have some coffee at the Hall to start things off, so everyone will have plenty of energy to start.

We invite you to join us at the Hall on Saturday, May 6 - *let's keep our community clean*. All ages are welcome.

Linda Is Recognized

In the Fall issue of the *Ozona News*, we described how Linda Hagan, our Ozona Postmaster, helped an elderly person in Ozona who appeared to be at risk of being taken advantage of. Based on Linda's initiative and quick action, whatever might have happened was prevented.

In recognition of Linda's performance to help others, Sheriff Gualtieri, at a March 11 formal event, presented her an award of recognition citing her as an example for others to follow. (*Back issues of the Ozona News are available on the website and the story was in the Fall 2016 edition.*)

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Next Large Item Trash Pickup Is May 17

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. The first is Wednesday, May 17 and the second large item trash pickup is set for Wednesday, October 18. 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 dispose of.

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

Draining the Village Hall

Last year OVIS initiated a project to improve the drainage from the Hall property that runs into the Ozona Preserve. There is a swale on the west side of the Hall that continues south down the side of the property that carries the water not only from the Village Hall property, but also from Bay Street.

This swale was not draining correctly due to the extensive overgrowth of vegetation that was blocking the flow of water creating a situation of standing water under the Hall during the wet season.

The County has agreed to take this project on and to clear the swale area. OVIS first approved an



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easement for the property along the swale area permitting the County to do the work. Following that, the County has obtained the needed permits. Once the County was ready to proceed, it was noted that it was eagle season! As we know, there is an eagle nest that is active in the Ozona Preserve and the Hall falls within the impact zone of that nest. Therefore, the County had to put the project on hold until May 15, which is the end of the eagle nesting season. So, following that date, the County indicates they will proceed with the project which is good timing with the wet season coming in shortly after that.

A Generous Tree Removal

On the side of the Village Hall, there are two large trees within the driveway. One of these trees has died and was becoming a concern to OVIS because either the tree or part of the tree, could possibly damage the Hall during a storm this coming season.

O'Neill's Tree Service, which is an operation based within Ozona, agreed to remove the tree at no cost to OVIS on the assumption that if the job was done well, a positive review would be filed by OVIS within its Facebook connections. O'Neill's Tree Service has successfully removed the tree, ground the stump, and cleared vegetation from the Hall in a very professional manner. OVIS will be logging a very positive review in connection with this work and is pleased to have partnered with such a community conscious company.



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Historic Plaque for Hall

Last year, the Ozona Village Hall was recognized by the Board of County Commissioners as a historic structure under the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance. This designation was in recognition of the fact that the Hall was built in 1900 and has been maintained by the community ever since.

Following that action, the County submitted a proposal to the State Historic Preservation Office to have an official designation plaque produced and installed at the Hall. That plaque, with the approved text, has been approved by the State and the County has proceeded to order the plaque which is expected to arrive in the next few weeks. This plaque will be the first one that the County has done in the

unincorporated area. It will be placed in front of the Hall and will convey a message of the historic significance of the Hall to the community and to the County.



Ozona Community Church Spring Golf Cart Event Report

Was anyone faster than the pastor?

Most were, but he did come out on top in one event. Investigation into potential cheating is ongoing...


There were two main golf cart events: an autocross course and a blindfolded driving course. Both of these were tons of fun, bringing lots of laughter, but none as much as when the pastor tried completing the blindfolded course with a navigator who talks with her hands.

In our children's area, a new game was invented, utilizing bowling pins, traffic cones, and bats. This was a huge success, if the number of people waiting to play was any indication.

We had nearly 70 neighbors in attendance, with support from Capital Golf Carts and Ozona Pig, both of which committed to participating again next year.

Plans are already in place to make next Spring a bigger, better, bolder and braver event! Stay tuned!

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New Reclaimed Water Schedule

On April 19, the use of the reclaimed water in North County, which includes Ozona, was reduced to one day a week for customers to manage the available County water supply.

This change means that the even-numbered addresses will have access to the system on Saturday. The odd-numbered addresses will have access to the system on Wednesday. On those days you can use the water from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.

This once a week restriction will be in place through June 30 and following that, will return to three days a week.

New Retail Store to Open

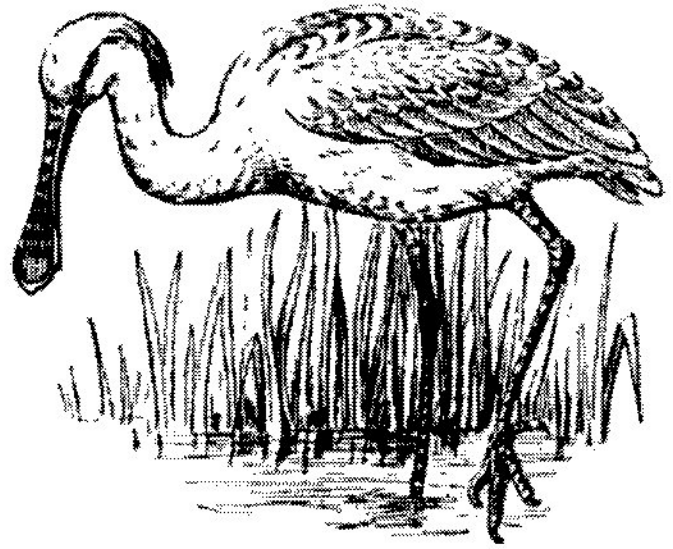
April's Collective is a new shop coming to Ozona this month. April Hayes started this business venture with the Safety Harbor Galleria nine years ago. Now she is moving that business to Ozona and will be located at 408 Orange Street (in the Plaza just north of Bay Street).

April's Collective is a working studio focusing on

local artists, handmade jewelry, clothing, accessories, art cards and other things of a similar nature.

April says, "I am looking forward to becoming part of this great little village!"

April's Collective is scheduled to open this month.



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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 next meeting is April 24, which is the Annual Meeting. This schedule is sometimes adjusted to work around holidays. With that said, the schedule for the balance of 2017 is:

May 22 - Meeting

Summer Recess

August 28 - Meeting

September 25 - Meeting

October 23 - Meeting

November 27 - Tentative Meeting Date

December 5 - Community Potluck

December 10 - Golf Cart Parade



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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 \$225 for a private event. If someone is an OVIS member, there is a reduced rate of \$175. If you wish to rent the Hall, the contact information is available above or on the OVIS website.

Courtyard Cafe Opens

The Conscious Connection has done it again! Another organic cafe. Keeping in kind with a holistic concept, Courtyard Cafe prides itself with serving healthy food that is made with little to no preservatives, locally bought and as organic as possible.

The menu changes daily, so you can always expect creative, fresh, locally grown and organic yummys. Courtyard Cafe serves healthy soups, salads, sandwiches, smoothies and spritzA's - along with to-go dinners.

Dine in their courtyard, under the canopy of oaks or take it with you. Either way, the freshly prepared dishes are sure to nourish the soul. Don't have time for a sit-down meal, but still want to enjoy the Cafe's healthy foods, then be sure to call early or take advantage of the online ordering system for "To-Go" dinners for the family. Pick up between 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Be sure to check out the website at CourtyardCafeOzona.com. The phone number to the Cafe is 727.940.9197.



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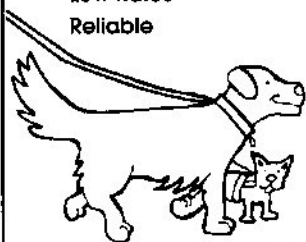
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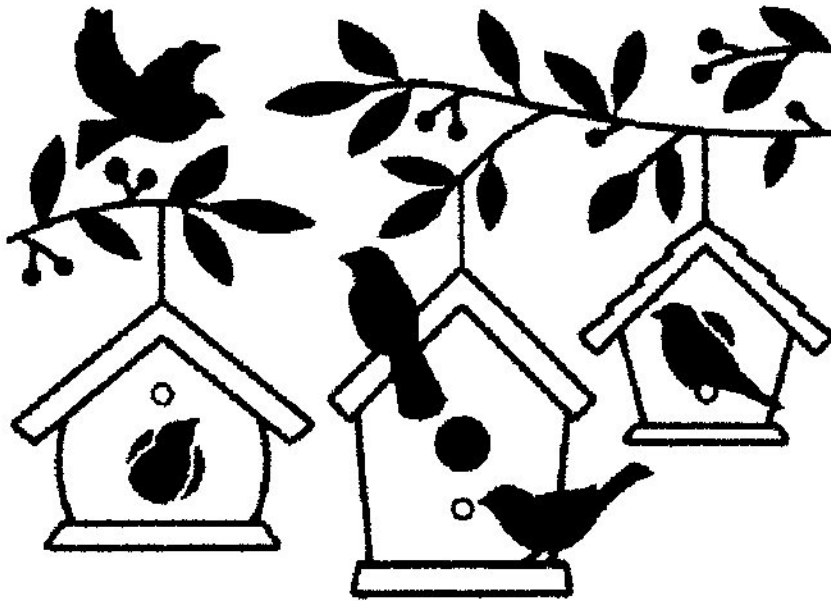
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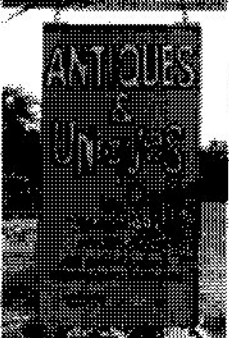
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OVIS Website Information

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 Golf Cart Parade, the Holiday Potluck, 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.