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# The Resurfacing of Orange Street and Tampa Road

Orange Street and Tampa Road are the main arteries in Ozona. They receive a lot of traffic and as a result are showing a lot of wear. That will soon change. The County has scheduled a resurfacing project for both roads for early next year.

When the County does such a project, they usually work with the utility agencies so that they have an opportunity to upgrade any facilities before the road work has begun. That is why we have seen a lot of utility work over the past few months. Since both of these roads are two lanes with one lane in each direction, the construction will be phased. The County will keep one lane open while the other lane is being resurfaced. We have already received a taste of this procedure with the utilities work.

The County indicates that part of the project may take a week or two, so we need to be prepared to allow extra time on our trips when this phase of the project is going on. The project is anticipated to begin in late March or early April. The resurfacing of Orange Street will begin at Alternate US 19 and proceed north with a termination at Pennsylvania Avenue. Tampa Road resurfacing will begin at Orange Street on the west and proceed out of our community across Alternate US 19 terminating at County Road One. When the project is complete there will be no more potholes, and the shoulder of the roads will be more friendly.

Since the project is in the early stages, more information may become available. Therefore, as this information becomes available, OVIS will include that in upcoming newsletters or through special announcements.

## President's Message...

As we proceed into December in these very unique times, I would like to wish you a very Happy Holidays and a Merry Christmas. This past year has been challenging to us all with the pandemic dominating our activities. Things that we once took for granted, such as social gatherings and in person meet-and-greets, have led to creative opportunities for working, playing, and simply staying connected. Thanks to Zoom and other platforms, families are still holding reunions, and businesses are still conducting business. And if you need more than a virtual interaction, put on your mask and head down to the Ozona Post Office, which is still the community's networking center.

Walking through Ozona at dusk, I have admired the spirit of our neighbors who have gone all out in decorating for the holidays. The lights add color and beauty at a time when we especially need and appreciate the hope they represent. Roxie and I are so glad to be living in this marvelous and unique community.

Happy Holidays!

— *Brian Smith, OVIS President*



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## Living Shoreline Update

The Living Shoreline Project event at the end of Bay Street was a major success. This is the first living shoreline project for Pinellas County. It was unique not only in its design and purpose but also with its inclusion of volunteers. The project event on the morning of September 19 included 30 community volunteers, 4 Marine Discovery staff and volunteers, 5 County staff and one Tampa Bay Watch staff.

The project included 350 oyster bags and planted two different types of marsh grass – 90 cordgrass and 90 needle rush. Stacey Day, the County person responsible for the project, says that a few more plants may be added in the Spring to replace those that did not make it. The Shuck and Share program has a great website with information about the oyster bags that were installed. That website is <http://shuckandshare.org>.

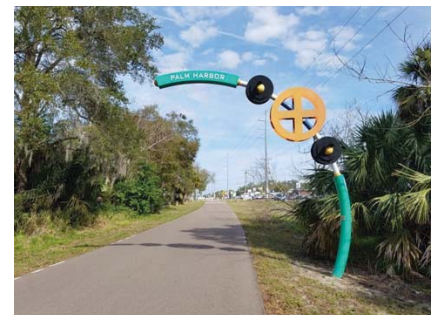
Signs describing the shoreline project are being installed on the railing above the project on Bay Street. Stacey says this is the first demonstration project that the County has installed as part of a larger initiative to promote living elements in front of seawalls and along the coast to protect against rising seas and stronger storms. Also, it makes the shoreline healthier and more attractive.

Below are some pictures from the event. Thanks again to all those who participated in the event!



## Pinellas Trail Use Increases

During this pandemic period, use of the Pinellas Trail has doubled. The estimated number is 250,000 for the highest month for the St. Petersburg to Tarpon Springs section. Another interesting fact is the fact that 90% of the people on the trail are riding bikes. A couple of years ago it was more evenly split between pedestrians and bicycles.



## Golf Carts Now Allowed In Old Palm Harbor

The County Commission has now 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 Ozone. A golf cart crossing for Alternate US 19 from and to Ozone is being permitted at Georgia Street with signs recognizing that and are in the process of being installed now.

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



## OVIS Membership and Sponsorship



Ozone 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>.

## Keeping the Community Clean



Due to the COVID-19 situation, OVIS has not had the opportunity to provide for organized community cleanups. However, the community continues to have the occasional littering with plastic bottles and such. So when you take your next exercise walk or stroll through the community with family and friends, please consider noting where there is litter and you can pick up later, or you can pick it up when you see it. Thanks in advance for your time and assistance with this continuing effort!



## OZONA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY 2021 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 \$5.40 - \$93/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:

<u>Society Membership</u>	<u>Donations</u>	<u>Ozona Newsletter Ad Sponsorship</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual & Family Membership - \$20.00/year  Currently a Waste Connections of Florida customer:  <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donations help maintain the Ozona Village Hall, do special projects, and host village events  <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Business Sponsorship – 3 business card ads/year plus a listing in the website "Sponsors" section  <input type="checkbox"/> \$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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## Winter Holidays



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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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