Issue

Edition Fall 2019





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Halloween at the Hall

This year Halloween is on a Thursday. There will be many scary little and big characters walking the streets of Ozona. They will be trick-or-treating door to door. And as you know, it is quite common these days that golf carts are used to transport them and their booty. If you find yourself on Bay Street, stop by the Village Hall. It will be open that night for trick-or-treaters. There will be crafting activities at the Hall, if the trick-or -treaters want to visit a while at the Hall. The Hall should be open around 6 PM for this Open House.

Community Cleanup

For a number of years OVIS has sponsored and conducted two cleanups - one in the Fall and one in the Spring. In recent years the activity support for the Fall cleanup has dropped off, while the Spring cleanup has increased in popularity and participation. Based upon this, it was decided to have one organized community cleanup a year in the Spring. For the balance of the year we would rely on individuals as they walk through the community along the roadways and the trail to do a simple pickup of items they come across. We live in a very clean community where this kind of pickup goes on all the time. However, it is good to have at least one organized pickup during the year not only to ensure that we maintain a clean community, but also as a reminder of the need to do this on a regular basis. With that said, our next community cleanup will be in the Spring. We will indicate the date in an upcoming newsletter.

Reminder on Golf Cart Rules

Ozona is lucky to be a designated golf cart community. There are not many of these communities in Pinellas County or in the State. There are some rules and responsibilities that go with this designation by the County Commission. There are rules based upon safety for all. As an example, golf carts that are designed for the golf course do not have the safety features needed to be on the road. So those golf carts must be modified to be acceptable. A key rule or responsibility concerns the driver of the cart. Although the golf cart looks casual and informal, it is still a highway vehicle, and therefore requires a legal driver. It should be noted that the law enforcement people take the approach that if a non-licensed (underage) person is caught driving the vehicle, the responsibility for a traffic violation or accident is applied to the responsible adult and their license. That's where the penalty will apply. In addition, the insurance may not be effective, if there is an underage driver. These points are mentioned to assist those in the community that may not realize the risk of permitting an underage driver to get behind the wheel of a golf cart on the road. Again, these rules have been established for safety!

President's Message...

We are now beginning another year for our community with activities starting in September at the Hall. This year we will have our usual events including the Ozona Holiday Golf Cart Parade, Holiday Potluck Dinner, Halloween Open House, a workshop on the Neighborhood Watch, and of course, our regular OVIS meetings. At our meetings we will talk about some of those community projects. This year we will also focus on some improvements to the Hall to make sure that it is well-maintained.

Everyone is welcome to join us in our meetings and our other activities.

I am so thankful that we have a unique combination of community businesses and residences that have a compatible viewpoint!

We have a new restaurant, Surf Thyme, on Orange Street that is becoming well accepted and broadens our menu opportunities. There is also talk of a small brewery in our community district area on Orange Street. This is in addition to the fine choices we have with the other restaurants in our community.

So it should be a good year, and I look forward to seeing you at the Post Office or at one of our community events!

— 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 2019/2020 schedule along with other community events are as follows:

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 6PM

OVIS Meeting — November 25 (tentative)

Holiday Golf Cart Parade — December 8

Community Potluck — December 10

OVIS Meeting — January 27 7PM

OVIS Meeting — February 24 7PM

OVIS Meeting — March 23 7PM

OVIS Annual Meeting — April 27 7PM

Community Clean-up — TBA



2019-2020 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

Standing Committees:

Neighborhood Watch—Dolly Swallow•787-6470 Membership—Open

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, October 19

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 pick up was in May 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 Refurbished

This past year work was completed on the Pinellas Trail overpass where the trail goes over Alternate US 19 and Orange Street. That project replaced the big beams that go over both Alternate US 19 and Orange Street. Once the project was completed the trail was reopened for use. However, the overpass then had a mixture of old and new to it. The parts of the overpass that had not been improved continued to show their age, even though the trail was safe. The County scheduled and completed work on these old cage sections during the last couple of months by replacing the fencing on the two approaches (ramps) and the middle section. The overpass is now not only safe, but clean and attractive, and good for many years of use!

Waste Connections New Trash Pricing Change

For those OVIS members who use Waste Connections for their residential trash service, we have just received a rate increase notification from Waste Connections. These new rate increases take effect September 1, 2019, and they will immediately impact all Waste Connections customers, even if you have are on an annual billing with Waste Connections. All customers will receive updated bills reflecting the new rate increase after September 1, 2019.

This rate increase is a result of the new tipping fee that all trash services in Pinellas County will be assessed starting in 2020. Below is the article from earlier this year that shows that Pinellas County was approving a 6% increase each year for the next 3 years on the tipping charge.

https://www.tbnweekly.com/pinellas county/article 78712d20-39ea-11e9-8989-c35fdbf2317e.html

The breakdown for the Waste Connections monthly billing will be \$26.50 for OVIS Members receiving the trash discount, and it will be \$30.50 per month for non-OVIS Members. There is a slight decrease in pricing if you choose to pay annually. The new annual rate will be \$298.92 for OVIS Members and for non-OVIS Members the new price is \$366.00.

Although OVIS does not have any control over rate increases nor does it have an master contract with Waste Connections for the non-profit discount that is afforded to OVIS Members, the OVIS Board did want to send out a notification on the rate increase as soon as possible, so that everyone would be aware of it before they received their next invoice. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Waste Connections Customer Service Contact Jennifer Cooke at 727-572-6800 Ext. 3218. There is nothing that the OVIS Board will be able to assist with on this matter, since everyone has individual contracts for trash service with Waste Connections.

To better understand the impact that is occurring for all trash services, OVIS Treasurer Jim Wiesner did a survey of the companies that provide trash collection in Ozona. The survey results of the various trash services quarterly costs include the comparative pricing for twice per week pick-up (6-8 cans per pick-up) including recycling.

Of course, some of the trash services either don't have large garbage receptacles or charge you for the receptacles, but Waste Connections of Florida doesn't charge for those containers.

Below is the new quarterly pricing comparison, which gives the OVIS discount with Waste Connections ranging between \$37.68 - \$174.00 per year savings compared to other trash collection services in this area, excluding Superior Trash Service (Pricing quoted in August 2019 and Superior Trash Service has not added the new tipping fee rate into their pricing):

*Waste Connections of Florida - \$79.50 (\$91.50 without OVIS membership discount => \$24.90 per quarter increase from 2018 with the membership and \$6.50 per quarter increase from 2018 without the membership)

Waste Management - \$116.66 (\$33.56 per quarter increase from 2018, and fluctuates based upon fuel charges)

Waste Pro - \$88.92 (\$19.92 per quarter increase from 2018, and fluctuates based upon fuel charges)

Solar Sanitation - \$101.55 (no garbage receptacles) (\$2.55 per quarter increase from 2018)

DisposAll - \$123.00 (\$42.00 per guarter increase from 2018)

Superior Trash Service - \$59.85 (<u>no</u> garbage receptacles <u>or</u> recycling (would add \$15 on top of price per quarter); 3 cans maximum) (equivalency of \$3.00 per guarter increase from 2018)

As we mentioned above, each resident is responsible for their own residential trash service, but the OVIS Board wanted to be sure to provide everyone with all the details for the various trash services in the area, since all of them are, or will be soon, increasing all of their pricing, so that you will be able to make your own evaluation of pricing and which trash service is best for your household.

Old Elementary School

The original building of the Ozona Elementary School is still standing on school property on Pennsylvania Avenue. The building was built in 1916. As with all historical structures there are some things that need to be done to keep the building in good repair. Clint Hembric of the school system staff indicates that activity will be going on this year. A cafeteria that was added later to the school building has had water problems, and they will be removing that and getting the building back to its original (historic) configuration. The building will then be used for school staff offices and may include a meeting room that would be made available to the community.

Holiday Potluck Dinner - Tuesday, December 10

Ozona has a long tradition of community gatherings and networking. A community potluck dinner at the Village Hall is part of that tradition. Therefore, as part of the holiday season a potluck is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10 at the Hall. This is an event that has full participation of our local community restaurants. This is an opportunity to sample what they have to offer. Also, this is an opportunity to sample what your neighbors can provide. The Hall will be decorated for the holiday season with much cheer. Ozona families and guests are invited to participate and to network with others. There will be more details in our next newsletter.

Molly Goodheads' 34th Anniversary Party - Wednesday, September 18th

Get ready to celebrate in Ozona at Molly Goodheads. Their restaurant is celebrating its 34th Anniversary in business. The owner, Laurel Flowers, & staff would like to thank their neighbors of Ozona and their loyal customers for all the support they have shown over the years. Come join the annual FAMOUS ANNIVERSARY PARTY to enjoy and relax in their "Key West" atmosphere.

Share in the celebration with live music from Chris McCarty, free food sampling, "Happy Hour" all night long, face painting for the kids, prizes and giveaways, such as their "I Survived" t-shirts. An Anniversary Party for the whole family! Check out their Weekly Specials, Molly's Drink Menu, Wine List, & Draft or Bottled Beers.

So, put a note on your calendar and make plans to head over to... **Molly Goodheads, Wednesday, September 18th**. The Party starts at **6:00 PM until ???** They hope to see you all there for a day of fun and laughter at the party!

400 Orange Street, Ozona, FL Phone: 727-786-6255

Directions: Take Tampa Road (West) over Alt. 19 to the end. Make a right on Orange Street, Molly's is on the right.

Brewery in Ozona

There are discussions underway to have a Brewery in the Ozona community district on Orange Street. It would be in the building across the street from Molly Goodhead's. OVIS will host a preliminary review of this proposal at its August 26 Meeting, and the County's Board of Adjustment takes the matter up on September 5. So, more information to follow!

Holiday Golf Cart Parade Set for December 8





The Annual Ozona Holiday Golf Parade is set for the second Sunday of December (December 8). OVIS sponsors the event and provides for the logistics. This is a popular event for both the golf cart participants and for the people along the parade route.

OVIS will submit the needed documentation for permits and process steps and following that will publish the resulting route map and specifics. There is a cost to OVIS to obtain the permits, buy event insurance, and contract with the Sheriff's Office for services. So there is a fee of \$10 online for entering your golf cart in the parade. The fee is \$20 if you wait to register your cart until the time you go to the event. OVIS will confirm this arrangement at the August meeting.

Once the online registration is set up on the OVIS website, we will send out a notice. So, more details will be forthcoming about the parade, but for now be sure to mark your calendar for December 8.

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.

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- 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.
- Save between \$37 \$174/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
PLEASE PRINT:	rganization. Your contribution is tax-dedu	

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

Ozona Village Improvement Society, Inc. P.O. Box 81

Ozona, Florida 34660-0081



BOXHOLDER Ozona, Florida 34660

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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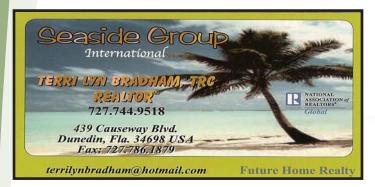
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