



An Ozona Village
Improvement
Society Publication

OZONA

COMMUNITY NEWS



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Our Historic Hall

While we are in the process of fixing the Village Hall due to the storms, it would be good to have a refresher on the Hall and its heritage. In the late 1890's the community realized there was a need for a community facility where people could gather, and where functions could be held. The concept of a community hall came forward and was accepted. The community in the year 1900 built the hall with volunteer labor and donated materials. When the hall was completed, OVIS was incorporated as an organization to own and operate the hall.

Over the years, the Hall has been used for many purposes with the community. The importance of the hall to the community was highlighted last year with two storms that impacted the community and the Hall. The importance of having a meeting place for not only OVIS, but also for weddings and birthday parties and special workshops on subjects of interest to community was highlighted. It was recognized that the Hall was the heart of the community. The Hall is the oldest community structure that has been in continuous use in the County. Due to the historic nature of the structure, there are challenges with respect to the treatments needed to fix the Hall. Thank goodness, there are also waiver procedures that are available, so that the well-intended procedures are adjusted to permit the needed improvements to not only fix the hall, but also preserve its historic character.



The Steps Taken to Obtain Funding for the Hall

With the two storms last September, there was approximately 3 feet of water within the Hall. Ironically, just two months before this event, OVIS had completed a major improvement to the Hall with a County grant. That work included painting the Hall inside and out and replacement of the floors, in accordance with historic procedures. This flooding ruined the contents of the Hall, with the result that the Hall had to be cleared out of all its fixtures, such the historic Bailey piano, all of the tables and chairs, kitchen appliances, and such. OVIS held a community event, where the contents of the Hall were removed completely. It was clear that a major improvement was needed to get the Hall back into shape for use. OVIS defined a plan for a comprehensive repair, including refurbishing the Hall floor and pursued a grant option with the County for \$80,000, with the intent that state funding would be pursued to raise the Hall several feet to put it out of harm's way. That County grant was deemed not possible by the County, since it did not meet the guidelines of that program. OVIS then realized that the only real option now was to go for the state funding, which would include not only the repair of the Hall as developed for the County grant, but also raise the Hall, so it was not as vulnerable to future flooding. OVIS made contact with State Senator Ed Hooper, who agreed to sponsor State funding as an earmark for the comprehensive improvement to the Hall, including raising its elevation. Since an earmark requires approval of both the House and Senate, a House sponsor was also needed. Representative Adam Anderson agreed to be the sponsor in the House for this proposal. That funding proposal then passed through the legislative process and was included in the final state budget. The state funding was approved for \$389,500.

OVIS is now in the process of pursuing the required permits and working through the process of the State Department for the State funding.

Entering the Permit Process for the Hall

OVIS has entered the permit process for the County to move and repair the Hall. The first step was to have an Early Assistance meeting with the various responsible county staff to identify what actions are to be taken to meet the permit requirements. That step was taken, and OVIS is working with historic preservationist consultant Paul Palmer on meeting those requirements. Also, on board to assist OVIS is the engineer Dustin Rood and the contractor Mark Roesch. These people have the expertise to accomplish the project, since it does require special knowledge. The team is currently working on developing a plan that will be followed in the coming months to get the job done. In summary, the Hall is located adjacent to a drainage way on the west side of the property. The objective is to move the hall east to the other side of the property, and then relocate the driveway to be between the drainage way and the Hall. The hall would then be elevated by 4 feet to reduce the potential of flood damage in the future. Once the Hall is relocated and elevated, the actual improvements to the Hall will be carried out. This process should take several months, and we will know better about the timing in the next few weeks.

President's Message...

This past year has been challenging with the focus of the community with individual homes being flooded, also the Hall itself being a challenge. I would like to thank everyone for all of their efforts and commitment in moving forward together.

As we have worked through the permit process for the hall repairs, I am reminded of how important it is to have the state funding committed and available to us. When I met with Senator Hooper on our funding request several months ago, State funding was the only option we had. I am so appreciative of the support he has provided as we move forward.

— *Brian Smith*, OVIS President

Schedule of Events

While the Village Hall is being restored, OVIS will meet at infrequent dates to discuss the restoration process of the Hall. Meeting Minutes will be sent out to the Ozona News email distribution list and posted on the OVIS Website. The 2025-2026 schedule of other community events are as follows:

OVIS Meeting — September 29 7PM

OVIS Meeting — October 27 7PM

OVIS Meeting — November TBA

Holiday Golf Cart Parade — December 14 6-8PM

Holiday Potluck — TBA

OVIS Meeting — January TBA

OVIS Meeting — February TBA

OVIS Meeting — March TBA

OVIS Annual Meeting — April 27 7PM



2025-2026 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

Skip LeFleur—743-7547

Steve Krout—771-8650

Barry Salus—871-5107

Standing Committees:

Neighborhood Watch—Open

Membership—Open

Hall Oversight—Open

Historical/Records—Terry Fortner•786-2837

Hall Rental (On Hold)—Donna Green•741-2904

State Funding for the Hall

OVIS and the Ozona Community wish to thank our legislators from this area for shepherding through the legislative process a state funded earmark for the Village Hall. This funding is much needed to cover the cost of not only repairing the Hall due to the storm damage, but also equally important moving the Hall on the property to put it in a better position away from a drainage ditch and at the same time raising it several feet so that it is not as much at risk for future flooding.

The state money will go a long way to cover the improvement cost for this beloved community hall. Specifically, the state money is in the amount of \$389,500. This may look like a lot of money, but when you consider the significance of this project which is underway, we are keeping our fingers crossed that all the needed work can be done within that amount. Since there are some things that may not be covered by the state grant, we are keeping the donation program open until the Hall is fully repaired and functioning. All of this could not have been feasible without the support of Senator Ed Hooper and Representative Adam Anderson, who obtained this State funding.

Thank You - Senator Ed Hooper and Representative Adam Anderson!!!

Continued Thanks to HoneyDo Landscaping!

A Big Thank You to John Thurmond of HoneyDo Landscaping. He continues to support the Ozona community and OVIS by regularly mowing the land around the Village Hall. He has done this as a commitment to the community for many years and does not get reimbursed for the effort. Its commitments like this that make the Ozona community a special place.

Holiday Golf Cart Parade Sunday, December 14

Based on a well-established tradition, Ozona rolls out the golf carts for the holidays in a parade through the community in December. This year's date will be on December 14, which is a Sunday. The parade starts in the downtown area on Orange Street approximately at 6 PM and proceeds along an approved serpentine route through Ozona. The parade is held in after-hours in order for people to fully appreciate the lights and decorations on the carts. It should be noted that the golf cart owners have to specially configure their carts to produce the extra electricity that is needed for electric light displays in the carts. The parade has always followed a general route, which covers the front yards of almost the entire community. Needless to say, there are many parties that are organized along the route to watch the parade go by. And then, there is the end of the parade parties, which usually have more than one venue in the community. So, mark your calendars and join in the fun recognizing the holidays and Ozona's special, four-wheeled tradition.



LORDY, LORDY, Look Who's 40!!! Molly Goodhead's 40th Anniversary

Molly Goodhead's is celebrating their 40th Anniversary with a party on **Wednesday, September 17th** from **6 pm - 10 pm**.

Live music • 🍷 Food • 🎁 Giveaways • 🧜 Mermaids & memories in the making! Cheers to 40 more 🍷🍷 40 YEARS STRONG 🍷🍷 Live music by Soul Head 🍷🍷 Food samples & all-night happy hour 🍷🍷 Giveaways + gifts raining from the SECOND FLOOR 🎁🍷🍷 It's not just a party... it's HISTORY in the making 🍷🍷 #MollyGoodheads40

They are thankful for the support of their customers over their many years in business in beautiful Ozona.

Location: 400 Orange Street, Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Visit us on Facebook and online at **Mollygoodheads.com**

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. 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). There is also a page in this newsletter devoted as 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 2026 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>

Events Around the Community

Friends of the Island Parks

A Citizen Support Organization serving Honeymoon and Caladesi Island State Parks

<https://www.friendsoftheislandparks.org/events>



Honeymoon Island Bluegrass Festival

Date: Dec 6, 2025
Time: 11 am to 5 pm

Honeymoon Island State Park
Dunedin, Florida

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Events Around the Community

Palm Harbor Museum Presents:

<https://www.palmharbormuseum.com/palm-harbor-museum-presents.html>

- Wed., October 1, 2025, 6:30 PM | PALM HARBOR LIBRARY

PALM HARBOR MUSEUM PRESENTS: Palm Harbor Historical Society President, BOB FORTNER

The Many Palm Harbors: Defining Place in our Beautiful Space. Discover things you never knew about the seven histories and historic spots in the seven communities that comprise Palm Harbor. No charge / donations accepted.

- Wed., November 5, 2025, 6:30 PM | PALM HARBOR LIBRARY

PALM HARBOR MUSEUM PRESENTS: Best-selling author/journalist, MICHAEL GROSS

Madman: The Incredible True Story of the Heinous Crime and Manhunt That Terrified Central Florida in 1949. Discover the fascinating and horrific story of Pinellas County's biggest manhunt—when a 1,000-volunteer posse, local pilot, and the National Guard combed the Palm Harbor woods and searched aerially for killer John Calvin "Rastus" Russell, whose cold-blooded, brutal murders in Crystal Beach sent Pinellas County residents into a panic. No charge / donations accepted.

- Wed., December 3, 2025, 6:30 PM | PALM HARBOR LIBRARY

PALM HARBOR MUSEUM PRESENTS: North County Assistant to the County Administrator NANCY McKIBBEN *Wall Springs Then and Today.* This dive into Wall Springs history will tell the story of this one-time spa and swimming hole, now a 210-acre Pinellas County Park. No charge / donations accepted

Palm Harbor Museum is excited to bring you their next 2025 Family Intergenerational Discovery Day on Saturday, December 13th from 11 AM to 2 PM.

<https://www.palmharbormuseum.com/family-fun-days.html>

Palm Harbor Museum's
2025

*Show your support
to the museum
on this vintage night!*



<https://www.palmharbormuseum.com/wine-around-palm-harbor.html>

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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.





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