

An Ozona
Village
Improvement
Society
Publication



Issue 2 Edition: Fall 2015

Village Hall Proposed for Historic Designation

The Ozona Village Hall has provided the community a focal point for meetings for well over a century. The Hall was built in 1900 and is currently owned and operated by the Ozona Village Improvement Society (OVIS).

The Board of County Commissioners established a historic preservation program in 2012 that functions both countywide and also for the unincorporated area. To administer this program, the County Commission appointed a Historic Preservation Board. Among its responsibilities, that Board can recommend historic structures to be designated under County Ordinance by the County Commission. Such a designation for the Hall has been discussed for several years by OVIS. Therefore, at its June meeting, OVIS took action to make a proposal that the Hall, based on its heritage and its role in the community, be designated and recognized by the County as a historic structure.

The proposal was finalized at the August 24 OVIS meeting and has been submitted to the County Historic Preservation Board. That Board will then take this proposal up at their September 16th or October 21 meeting. A copy of the proposal can be found on the OVIS website. As mentioned earlier, the Hall has been in the center of the community events in Ozona for over a century.

By the 1880s and 1890s, Ozona was a viable functioning community with an active fishing industry. In the late 1890s, it became clear that there was a need for a meeting hall to house the various functions that were going on.

Therefore, the Ozona Village Ladies Improvement Society, led by Susan Whitford, organized the project to build the Hall. Some property was provided on Bay Street which was in the middle of the community. The Society then conducted bake sales and other fundraisers, obtained donated building materials, commitments of volunteer labor and then proceeded to build the Hall.

The Hall was completed in 1900. It should be noted that the Society went through a formal incorporation with Articles of Incorporation that were filed on January 4, 1900. This was necessary so the the Society could own and manage property such as the Hall.

The Hall served many purposes over the years in Ozona. Not only was the Hall a place for people to meet, but it has housed many interesting functions.

See Historic Page 2

Neighborhood Watch Workshop

On Monday, November 2, at 6:30 p.m., OVIS will host a workshop conducted by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office at the Village Hall.

The focus of the workshop will be on the Neighborhood Watch Program. Ozona has had an active program for many years, but now it is time for a refresher in the community.

Sherriff's Deputy, Charles Skipper, will conduct the workshop. He will review, among other things, crime prevention techniques. He will also cover a program called *Community Policing*. The concept is to keep Ozona a safe community!



President's Message...

This edition of the newsletter, begins another year of community activities. One of the featured activities will be the proposal to have the Village Hall recognized by the County under their historic preservation program.

When we see so much around us as new in Pinellas County, we can sometimes lose track of our heritage. I believe everybody accepts the idea that people's lives are better these days than they were a hundred years ago. However, there were things done and programs carried out a 100 or 200 years ago which set things up for us to have the lives we have now. I believe recognizing the Village Hall is a vehicle for that thought process not only for our community, but also by our County leaders.

Brian Smith
O.V.I.S. President

Historic Continued...

These include: official meetings, weekly dances, church services, plays and other performances, social gatherings, a meeting place for organizations, a library and a post office.

So, therefore, the Hall is to be recognized not just because it was built over a century ago, but also, because of the events, the people and the organizations that have passed through it and contributed to Ozona during this period.

Beginning Membership and Sponsorship Drive

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 Progressive Waste Solutions 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 January 1, but OVIS begins open enrollment in September to allow for 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 www.ozonavillagefl.us.

Join Today...

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Hall Oversight Dennis Green • 741-2903

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Hall Rental Donna Green • 741-2904

OVIS Event Schedule

OVIS meets monthly on the fourth Monday at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall on Bay Street – OVIS special events and programs are sometimes scheduled on other days.

The 2015/2016 meeting and event schedule is as follows:

- August 24**
OVIS Meeting
- September 28**
OVIS Meeting
- October 26**
OVIS Meeting
- October 31**
Halloween Open House
at the Hall
- November 2**
Neighborhood Watch Program
- November 7**
Community Cleanup
- November 23**
OVIS Meeting
- December 8**
Holiday Potluck
- December 13**
Holiday Golf Cart Parade
- January 25**
OVIS Meeting
- February 22**
OVIS Meeting
- March 28**
OVIS Meeting
- April 25**
OVIS Annual Meeting



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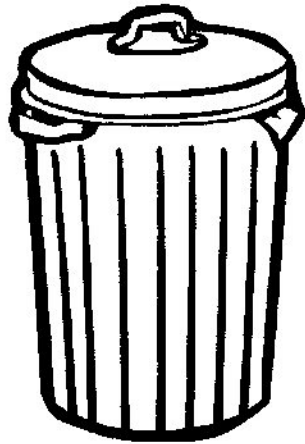
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Survey of Trash Pickup Companies

Since there are several companies that provide trash collection pickup in Ozona, OVIS occasionally conducts a survey of the companies available and what their prices are. OVIS has an agreement with Progressive Waste Solutions, where OVIS members obtain a discount documented below. This survey was performed this August (2015) and the breakdowns are:



1. **Progressive Waste Solutions – \$52.00** (\$71.00 without OVIS discount = \$4.50 per quarter increase from 2014).
2. **Waste Management – \$77.10** (\$4.20 per quarter increase from 2014)
3. **Waste Pro – \$87.50** (\$0.15 per quarter decrease from 2014)
4. **Solar Sanitation – \$94.50** (\$19.50 per quarter increase from 2014)
5. **DisposAll – \$91.50** (same price as 2014)
6. **Superior Trash Services – \$59.85** (no garbage receptacles or recycling / 3 cans maximum) (\$12.00 per quarter decrease from 2014)

Community Cleanup Saturday • November 7

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 7. That 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 October.

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. People 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. We will have coffee at the Hall to start things off so everyone will have plenty of energy to start.

Please join us at the Hall and let's keep our community clean. All ages are welcome.

Bobbi Painter Proprietor

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Next Large Item Trash Pickup

October 14

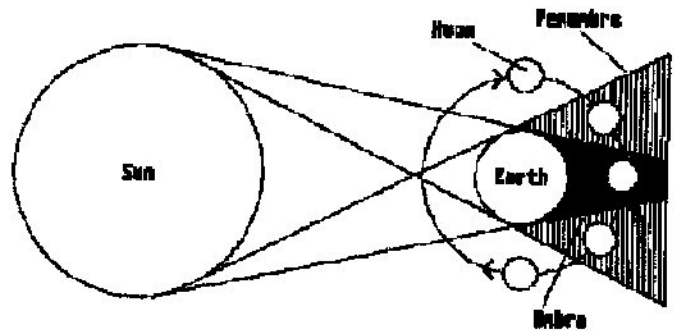
OVIS has an agreement with Progressive Waste Solutions which is one of the companies that provide trash pickup in the Ozona community. In addition to providing a discounted rate to those households that are members of the Ozona Village Improvement Society, the company also provides a special pickup of large trash items on select days for its customers.

The company performs two pickups each year. The first was in May of this year. The second large item trash pickup for this year is set for October 14. This is an opportunity to get rid of those larger items that are in your garage or possibly yard which require some special arrangements for disposal.

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 freon has been removed. Brush has to be tied in bundles of 50 pounds or less and 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 Services may come early for pickups. The final factor is that you must be a Progressive Waste Solutions customer.



Total Lunar Eclipse September 28

This total lunar eclipse will be visible from most of North America, South America, Europe, west Asia and parts of Africa.

In the Americas, the eclipse will begin on the evening of September 27.

The eclipse will last for three hours and twenty minutes from beginning to end. The moon will be totally eclipsed (totality) for about one hour and twelve minutes.

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New Businesses In Town

Earlier this year, **Ozona Cycles** opened at 408/410 Orange Street (next to Ozona Pizza). The owner, Chris, has over 20 years experience in the bicycle field working on all kinds of bikes – from BMX to high end road racing and everything in between.

Chris has worked as a team mechanic and has owned his own shop prior to relocating to Pinellas County. He decided to open this business in Ozona because there wasn't a shop here and it seemed like the perfect community for one.

He offers professional bicycle repair at affordable prices along with a selection of new bicycles for sale and also offers bicycle rentals. Ozona Cycles caters to the every day rider, commuters, and people who just ride for fun and fitness. See him for your bicycling needs!

Another business that opened this year is the **Ozona Barkhouse**. They're located at 304 Orange Street (just south of the Post Office and Ohana Cafe). Here you can find healthy dog food, treats, bones, collars and leads, bowls, beds, toys, knick-knacks as well as gifts for the pet lover.

The owner, Gina, has unique items you won't often find at other pet stores. Your dog is welcome to

help you browse. There's a kitty "kornor" too!

OT Resaturant: Another Choice

Chris and MaryJane Gunning have been running OT Restaurant on Orange Street for over a year now. OT stands for Ozona Tavern and Wine Bar. Chris says the focus of the restaurant is Italian American with a good choice of wines and a family-friendly atmosphere.

Even though he is the owner, Chris spends time in the kitchen, being the portable bartender, and hosting the diners with MaryJane.

The food is excellent with reasonable prices and a very pleasant ambiance. At the last Ozona holiday potluck, Chris was the chef, personally serving the dishes that he brought to the Ozona party. He is working on ways to engage with the Ozona community.

In late September, Chris and MaryJane plan to have an Ozona Day and will be inviting people in the community to come to the restaurant and sample a variety of fresh, homemade foods. This will be an opportunity to experience all that the OT Restaurant and Wine Bar has to offer. Look for more specific information soon.



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Pinellas Trail Overpass to be Reworked

The Pinellas Trail was built between the years 1990 and 1992. The Trail connected St. Petersburg and Tarpon Springs along an abandoned railroad corridor that became a safe place to bike and walk that 34.5 miles.

As part of the original program, three overpasses over busy roads were included following that theme of safety. One of those overpasses was the Orange Street Overpass over Alternate US 19 taking people safely in and out of Ozona to Dunedin. That structure is now showing its age and although it continues to be a safe structure, there is much rust that must be reworked and refinished on the metal caging.

Therefore, the County staff performed a thorough evaluation and concluded it was more cost effective to replace the superstructure rather than rework it. The project is now in design with construction scheduled for 2016. During construction there will be provisions for alternate (safe) crossing of Alternate US 19.



Halloween at the Hall

This year, Halloween is on a Saturday. As in the past, there will be many scary little and big characters walking the streets in 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 and there will be treats for ALL!!!

Follow-up on Cats

In the last couple of newsletters, we have had articles about community cats. The articles explained the County's program and also indicated other community programs where services were available.

As a follow-up to that information, if anyone needs assistance with community cats, they may contact Barbara and Sam Feldstein at (727) 744-1535.

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Molly Goodheads

30th Anniversary Party

Wednesday • September 16

Molly Goodheads Restaurant is celebrating their 30th Anniversary in business. The owner, Laurel Flowers and staff would like to thank their neighbors of Ozona and their loyal customers for all the support they have shown over the years. They would like to invite everyone to their **FAMOUS ANNIVERSARY PARTY** to enjoy and relax in their "Key West" atmosphere.

Come and enjoy the celebration with live music with "The Voodoo", free food samplings, "Happy Hour" all night long, prizes and giveaways, such as their *I Survived* t-shirts.

Check out their weekly "Specials". Have a glass of wine from the "Wine List, "Craft Beer" or an "IPA Beer" on the porch. There is always something "NEW" at **Molly's** and you will not be disappointed.

So, put a note on your calendar and make plans to head over to...

MOLLY GOODHEADS

on

WEDNESDAY • SEPTEMBER 16

The PARTY starts at 6:00 p.m. till....?

They hope to see you all there for a day of fun and laughter at the party.

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Phone: 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.

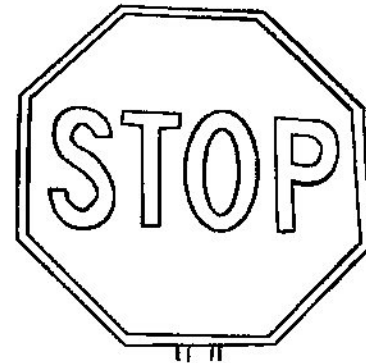
Traffic Matters

As it was reported earlier, the petition effort on the Ozona Traffic plan was not successful. Although several people put a good effort into this, we had needed 240 executed petitions, but were only able to generate 72 by the program deadline.

The benefit of that plan through petition would have been traffic measures installed without having to meet specific engineering requirements. However, OVIS is proceeding forward supporting County initiatives with traffic concerns in the community through the normal process.


You will note there is a new stop sign installed on Bay Street at Banana which is halfway between the waterfront and Orange Street. This should have a calming effect there. In addition, the County has signed off on locating a four way stop sign at Orange and Bay Streets. This should help in the pedestrian intensive area with the restaurants and shops north of there on Orange Street. The County is also considering solar powered speed indicators for such locations as Shore Drive.

There is a residential project proposed south of Tampa Road and west of the Pinellas Trail. This is approximately a six acre area with the project accessing Tampa Road. This will be a rezoning with public hearings by the County before the Planning Board and the County Commission. This should put a focus on traffic concerns on Tampa Road and how they can be responded to.



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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 next to the photo above or on the OVIS website.

A Great Fall Recipe

Pumpkin Crunch Cake

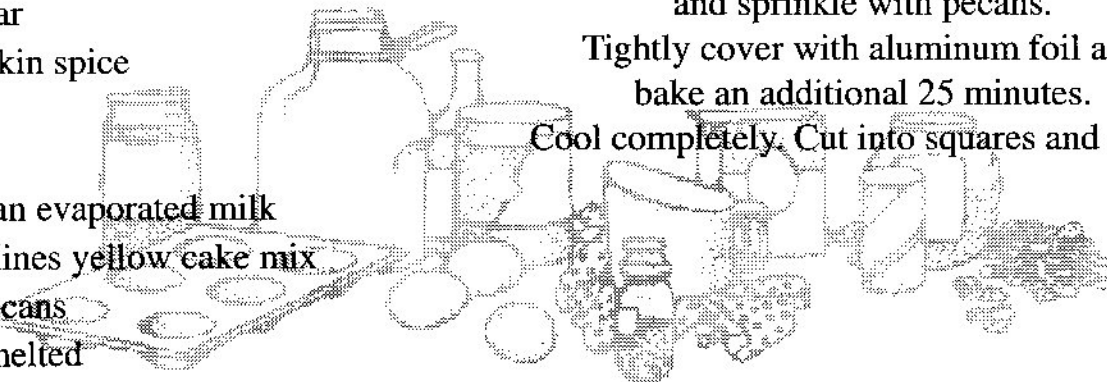
- 1 (16 oz.) can pumpkin
- 1 1/2 c. sugar
- 4 tsp. pumpkin spice
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3 eggs
- 1 (12 oz.) can evaporated milk
- 1 Duncan Hines yellow cake mix
- Chopped pecans
- 1 c. butter melted

Mix first six ingredients and pour into prepared 8x2x13 inch dish. Sprinkle dry cake mix evenly over mixture. Drizzle with butter.

Bake 25 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle with pecans.

Tightly cover with aluminum foil and bake an additional 25 minutes.

Cool completely. Cut into squares and serve.



Ozona Village Improvement Society 2016 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 at least \$100/year on your trash service comparatively to other trash services – twice per week pick-up, including recycling – Progressive Waste Solutions discounts their fee for members

Thank You for Your Support!

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP	DONATIONS	OZONA NEWS AD SPONSORSHIP
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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.
