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## OVIS Annual Meeting Set For April 27

The Annual Meeting of OVIS is set for April 27 at 7 PM at the Ozona Brewing Company. The meeting will include an election of officers for the coming year along with an update on several subjects of interest to the community. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend. A meeting agenda will be distributed a week before the meeting.



### Community Trees

Trees are an important feature of the Ozona community. Recognizing that, OVIS had started a tree planting program a couple of years ago. The first round of tree installations went smoothly with the planting, but then there was a dry Spring / Summer that had affected a number of the trees planted. Following that, the community was impacted by the storm events, and the program went on hold. However, OVIS plans to reinstate the program and will be making plans in the coming months to set things up.



### Shore Drive Bridge Project Update

After being on hold because of the storm impact and other factors, the County is now reactivating the project to replace the Shore Drive Bridge. The bridge is one of the oldest ones in the County and was built over hundred years ago. Since the purpose of the project is to replace the bridge with an updated design, the actual dimensions will not have changed that much. The Bridge will be a little wider, which will accommodate space for a sidewalk on the south side of the bridge. This is an important safety feature. The project will start at South Street on the west end of project and continue across the bridge to Orange Street. The sidewalk feature will be incorporated for the entire length of this project. The County is considering a Trail connection on that end of the project because there is no pedestrian facility on Orange Street at that location. The County is going through the contractor selection process in the next few months with the intent of starting construction during this Summer. As the project proceeds there will be needed bridge closures, which will impact how people circulate within our community. Hopefully, this impact will be kept to a minimum.

## President's Message...

There is so much to say about how the Ozona community has responded to the challenges we have had with the recent storm impacts. I just want to say thank you to everyone as we press forward working together maintaining and preserving our community!

— *Brian Smith, OVIS 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 2024 schedule along with other community events are as follows:

**OVIS Meeting — March 30 7PM**

**OVIS Annual Meeting — April 27 7PM**

**Summer Recess — May-July**

**OVIS Meeting — August 24 7PM**

**OVIS Meeting — September 28 7PM**

**OVIS Meeting — October 26 7PM**

**OVIS Meeting — November/December TBA**

**Holiday Potluck — December TBA 6:30-8PM**

**Holiday Golf Cart Parade — December 13 6-8 PM**

**Community Clean-up — TBA**



## 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

Skip LeFleur—743-7547

Susan White—793-8299

Barry Salus—871-5107

Steve Krout—771-8650

Ron Girard—(603) 361-2468

### Standing Committees:

Neighborhood Watch—Open

Membership—Open

Hall Oversight—Open

Historical/Records—Terry Fortner•786-2837

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

## The 125 Year Club

The Ozona Village Hall is a very unique structure with considerable heritage associated within its walls. It was originally built in 1900 with volunteer labor and donated materials and has been a key fixture in the community from that time forward, which is 125 years. After the storm passed through, flooding the Hall and creating a lot of damage, the community realized the value of the Hall. It was realized that the Village Hall was the heart of the community. For that reason, the Club has been formed to support the continued life of the Village Hall for the community. To be a member of the 125 Year Club, a \$125 donation is requested. The people that donate will become a member of this club and be recognized in the Hall with their names on a plaque set up for that purpose and can participate in other special programs for the Club at Hall. If you desire more information on the Club and becoming a member, you will find that information on the OVIS website, at this link: <https://www.ozonavillagefl.us/fundraisers>.

## Ozona Holiday Golf Cart Parade Update

Although this year has been a busy "rebuilding" year for our village, that hasn't stopped the Ozona Community from coming out in strong force to celebrate the holiday season with the Annual Ozona Holiday Golf Cart Parade and end the year in a joyful mood! We had 75 golf carts register and participate in the golf cart parade this year! Thanks to all the participants and spectators for being active in this event! As usual, everyone did a great job with early registration, and we improved the online payment options to help facilitate that process. It was a very festive time celebrated with the entire community of family and friends!

The followings winners of the Best Decorated Golf Carts are:

- 1st Place - "Fishing Boat Float" by Kurt Rasmussen Family
- 2nd Place - "Grinch Float" by Gregory Smith Family
- 3rd Place - "Reindeer Christmas Sleigh" by Gary & Michelle Banlowe Family
- Honorable Mention: "Tiki Bar Float" by Randy & Maria Pauley



More photos of the parade can be seen on our website as well as on our Facebook page:

<https://www.ozonavillagefl.us/annual-ozona-holiday-parade>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=ozonaflorida&set=a.1294258159414054>

Congratulations to all the winners and to everyone that participated in the event!

## The Ozona Post Office: A Small but Important Community Hub

Located in the historic coastal community of Ozona, Florida, the Ozona Post Office serves as a vital resource for residents and local businesses. Though modest in size, this branch of the United States Postal Service provides essential services and remains a key part of daily life in this small village in Ozona.

### A Community-Focused Post Office

The Ozona Post Office offers the core services residents depend on, including mailing letters and packages, purchasing stamps, and maintaining post office boxes. For many residents and small businesses, having a reliable mailing address through a PO Box is an important convenience.

### Staff and Local Service

One of the long-time employees associated with the Ozona Post Office is Rob Schultz, who serves as a Sales and Service Associate. With approximately 14 years of service, Schultz has become a familiar face to many residents who regularly visit the post office.

We have a Post Master named Aaron Cooper, who is currently on a temporary assignment in Bradenton Beach.

### Post Office Box Options and Costs

The Ozona Post Office offers three sizes of PO Boxes available for annual rental. These boxes provide a secure and reliable way for residents to receive mail and packages.

The current annual PO Box rental rates are:

Box Size	Annual Cost
Size 1	\$188
Size 2	\$230
Size 3	\$376

These options allow customers to choose the box size that best fits their needs, whether they receive only occasional mail or frequent packages.

### Hours of Operation

The retail service hours for the Ozona Post Office are:

Monday – Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

This schedule allows residents to handle mailing needs during the day while still providing regular access to services.

### A Small Office with a Big Role

While larger cities often have expansive postal facilities, smaller communities rely on neighborhood branches like the Ozona Post Office to keep communication flowing. From everyday letters to important packages, the post office continues to connect Ozona residents with the rest of the country.

Beyond its practical purpose, the Ozona Post Office remains a place where neighbors meet, local information is exchanged, and the traditions of small-town life continue.



## **A New Traffic Signal on Alt 19**

If you have not noticed, there is a new traffic signal being installed on Alternate US 19 at Virginia Street, in the vicinity of the Palm Harbor Post Office. All of the equipment for the signal has been installed, and all that remains is unwrapping the signals, and turning on the software. This will assist the people, who prefer to make left-hand turns at this location onto Alt 19 when heading eastbound on Virginia Street.

### **Current Chronological Summary of Steps to Repair, Relocate, and Elevate the Village Hall**

1. Hall is damaged due to storm events.
2. Community event to clear debris from the Hall.
3. Worked with Hall insurance firm, and it was determined that Hall did not have coverage for flooding damage.
4. Researched grants, but no funds were available.
5. Determined the Hall should be relocated on site and elevated and then repaired.
6. Contacted Senator Ed Hooper who agreed to sponsor a State funding earmark for the hall repair and elevation, and contacted Representative Adam Anderson for a matching House sponsorship, which he agreed to.
7. Developed and submitted documentation for State funding earmark through the legislature.
8. Monitored State funding earmark through legislative session.
9. State Legislature approves the earmark and the Governor did not veto.
10. Worked with Department of State on agreement for the State funding earmark.
11. Entered the County Permit program with participation in the early review process to identify issues.
12. Early process review completed.
13. Held fundraiser events for the Hall last summer and this past February.
14. Proceeded through the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA).
15. COA was approved by the County Historic Preservation Board with site plan.
16. Proceeding with Type 2 Use application with inclusion of site plan.

Spring is here

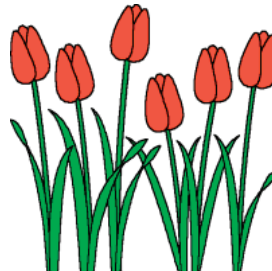


## OVIS Membership and Sponsorship



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:**

<u>Society Membership</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual & Family Membership - \$20.00/year	
Would you like to be more involved in the Ozona Community activities?	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Donations</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donations help restore 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"/>	\$_____

<u>Ozona Newsletter Ad Sponsorship</u>	
<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.

**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>

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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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