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OVIS Annual Meeting Set For April 24

The OVIS Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 24 at the Village Hall at 7 PM. This is referred to as the Annual Meeting because it is when the officers and board members are elected for the coming year. At this meeting, OVIS will also define the tree canopy program that is beginning to emerge as a very interesting project and very timely. Since this meeting will follow the Shore Drive bridge information meeting that the County is conducting there could be further discussion on that project by the community. County Commissioner Dave Eggers will also be in attendance to swear in the new board and to be available for any questions that people might have.

Following this meeting, OVIS will be in summer recess with no regularly scheduled meetings unless necessary. This tradition was established many years ago previous to air conditioning the Hall.

Driving Golf Carts In The Community



Ozona is it designated golf cart community. There are some rules and responsibilities that go with this designation by the County. These rules are based upon safety for all. They were developed through several community workshops in Ozona. It should be noted that golf carts are designed for the golf course and do not have safety features that are normally needed for the road. Thus, the traditional golf cart must be modified to be acceptable. In addition to that, a key rule concerns the driver of the cart. Although the golf cart looks casual and informal, it is still a highway vehicle when it is on the road, and therefore, requires a legal driver. It should be noted that law enforcement people take the approach that if a non-licensed (under age) person is cited for driving a cart, the responsibility for the traffic violation or incident is applied to the responsible adult and their license. That is where the penalty will apply.

Replacing the Tree Canopy in Ozona

The Ozona community is blessed with a large number of historic live oak trees that serve as a canopy for the roads in the community. This is one of the major amenities contributing to the character of Ozona. However, over time a number of these trees are gradually dying or being cut down for development reasons. OVIS is going on the initiative to reverse this situation by developing a tree planting program along the roadways of our community. This program is in the beginning stages now, and will be a long-term commitment by OVIS. The specifics of this program are being developed now and will be refined at the April 24 OVIS Annual Meeting.

Shore Drive Bridge Replacement

The County is doing an evaluation of the Shore Drive bridge design in Ozona with the intent of replacing it. The bridge was originally built in the 1920's and is one of the oldest bridges in the County. A public information meeting is scheduled for April 18 at the Harbor Hall in Old Palm Harbor at 1190 Georgia Avenue. The meeting is set for 5:30 to 7 PM.

The replacement is proposed to have more vertical clearance under the bridge, possibly 2 feet more. In addition, there would be a sidewalk on the south side of the bridge with that sidewalk extending to Orange Street.

Needless to say, during a significant part of this project, the bridge will not be usable for vehicular traffic and alternative routes will be needed for the people that normally use this bridge for access and egress. For people seeking information about the project attendance at the meeting at Harbor Hall would be encouraged. In addition, information can be obtained at <https://pinellas.gov/Shore-Drive-Bridge>. People can also contact Amin Vosouli at avosouli@pinellas.gov or 727-464-8889.

President's Message...

Over the past few months, OVIS has made some progress with several subjects of interest to the community. We met with the County traffic management people to get a handle on the speeding and traffic management issues on Orange Street. We were able to come up with some successful initiatives that the County is now putting the final touches on. We had the Village Hall tented for termites. And we are now developing a tree canopy planting program for Ozona. We could not have accomplished these, and other things, without the help of the Pinellas County staff, who were and continue to be very cooperative.

It is such a pleasure to be in a community, where people just don't take things for granted, and they are willing to think of the future and improvements that would make the community better!

Thank you all for participating with us!

— *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 2023 schedule along with other community events are as follows:

OVIS Annual Meeting — April 24 7PM

Summer Recess — May-July

OVIS Meeting — August 28 7PM

OVIS Meeting — September 25 7PM

OVIS Meeting — October 23 7PM

Halloween Open House — October 31

OVIS Meeting — November TBA

Holiday Golf Cart Parade — December 10 6-8 PM

Holiday Potluck — December 12 6:30-8PM

Community Clean-up — TBA



2022-2023 OVIS Board Members

President—Brian Smith•781-8472

Secretary—Donna Green•741-2904

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

Diane Williams—951-283-5035

Julie Longen—656-5154

Steve Krout—771-8650

Standing Committees:

Neighborhood Watch—Dolly Swallow•787-6470

Membership—Open

Hall Oversight—Dennis Green•741-2903

Historical/Records—Terry Fortner•786-2837

Hall Rental—Donna Green•741-2904

Village Hall Tenting

The Village Hall was tented for termites in March. This was a very important event because the hall is over 100 years old, and we plan to keep it as an operating building for many years to come. The Hall was built in 1900 by volunteers and with donated materials and is the oldest Community building in continuous-use in the County.

OVIS Joins CNCN

At the March meeting, OVIS joined the Council of North County Neighborhoods (CNCN). This will give Ozona an opportunity to be informed and participate in discussions of mutual interest among the North County neighborhoods. CNCN meets monthly, and their agenda includes the regular engagement of a number of county agencies that function in the unincorporated area.

Ozona Holiday Golf Cart Parade Update

The Ozona Holiday Golf Cart Parade was held on Sunday, December 11. The parade was a great success as usual with over 120 golf carts participating, and 85 signed up before the event!

All of the participating golf carts were decorated for the holidays following various and innovative themes. To recognize what some people had done in terms of effort and creativity, OVIS gave out three awards for first, second, and third place. First place went to the "Candy Cane Express" by Gary & Michelle Banlowe. Second Place went to the "Polar Express" by Laurel Martel. Third place went to the "Fish Cart" by Adam Reister. Honorable Mention went to "Cupcake Float" by Joseph Stout, who would have placed if they stayed around for the judging to complete. These were difficult decisions because there were so many wonderful carts! All Clear Pools provided the trophies that were awarded. To see pictures of the parade and the awards you can go to the OVIS website: <https://www.ozonavillagefl.us/annual-ozona-holiday-parade>.



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place

Spring is here

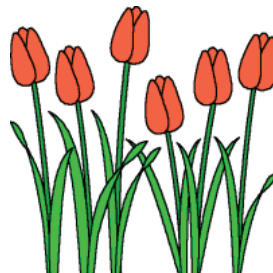


OVIS Membership and Sponsorship



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. 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>.



OZONA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY 2023 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

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

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. 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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