



An Ozona Village
Improvement
Society Publication

OZONIA

COMMUNITY NEWS



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Ozonia Annual Holiday Golf Cart Parade

Our traditional holiday golf cart parade in Ozona is set to go Sunday, December 10. This will be the 22nd year that we have had this parade. The first parade had five golf carts in it, and now for the past few years we have had over 100 participating. With this large number of carts participating, it has become necessary for our community to formally organize this event. That means that a permit is needed. OVIS agreed to be the sponsor for this event, and to handle the various administrative functions connected with such a permit. Event insurance was required and obtained. Also, an agreement with the Sheriff's Office for traffic management was put in place.

Over the years, not only has the event improved in its function, but the golf carts have as well. In the beginning, the golf carts were limited in the decorations as the focus of the cart was basic transportation on the golf course. However, now there are retro-fit packages available for people to upgrade their golf cart electrical system to handle this new décor functioning. This has opened the door for some elaborate decorations.

The gathering area for the parade is the section of Orange Street between Tampa Road and Bay Street. This area functions as a community center because it contains the Post Office and some community restaurants. There is a graphic in this newsletter that defines the route of the parade. Participation in the parade requires that the golf cart be registered with OVIS, and there is a separate article about how to participate, which is included in this newsletter.

The parade officially starts at 6 PM with a Sheriff's vehicle with its lights on, heading north on Orange Street. It has become a tradition also that County Commissioner Dave Eggers participates by riding in this Sheriff's vehicle. The parade participants with their carts then follow. Another Sheriff's vehicle is at the end of the parade. This parade has become a premier event for the Ozonia community and is enjoyed by not only the residents of Ozonia, but our many visitors as well.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone and all the decorated carts on Sunday, December 10!

President's Message...

We are now entering the part of the year where holiday festivities are initiated. This includes special events, community events and family gatherings. There are, of course, the special opportunities to sometimes have conversations at the post office or other locations in the community. We are lucky to have such a unique community providing these opportunities.

The Potluck dinner that is hosted by OVIS at the Village Hall is one of these opportunities, and I would encourage you all to come to the Hall on Tuesday, December 12 to participate. This is a very casual event and is a good opportunity to get caught up with other people you know or could get to know in our community. We also enjoy the participation of our community restaurants in this event with their contributing dishes.

The second significant event in this season is the Ozona Holiday Golf Cart Parade. This is always held on the second Sunday in December. So, the parade is scheduled for Sunday, December 10 to begin at 6 PM in the restaurant area on Orange Street. The parade will weave through the community on a pre-approved route engaging in the community along the route. A roadmap for this parade is included in this newsletter.

We live in a wonderful place!

I look forward to seeing you around in the community.

Happy Holidays!

— *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 2023/2024 schedule along with other community events are as follows:

Holiday Golf Cart Parade — December 10 6-8 PM

Holiday Potluck Dinner—December 12 6PM

OVIS Meeting — January 22 7PM

OVIS Meeting — February 26 7PM

OVIS Meeting — March 25 7PM

OVIS Annual Meeting — April 22 7PM

Neighborhood Watch (Sheriff) Workshop — TBA

Community Clean-up — TBA



2023-2024 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

Diane Williams—951-283-5035

Steve Krout—771-8650

Standing Committees:

Neighborhood Watch—Open
Hall Oversight—Dennis Green•741-2903
Hall Rental—Donna Green•741-2904

Membership—Open
Historical/Records—Terry Fortner•786-2837

Community Potluck — Tuesday, December 12

The traditional Ozona Community Potluck gathering at the Village Hall is set for Tuesday, December 12. This is a time when people gather at the Hall in recognition of the holidays. A potluck dinner is an old tradition where people gather together bringing food they have prepared or have obtained, and then share this food with others during conversation and networking. In Ozona we also have restaurants as neighbors. They, too, participate in this Potluck, providing some selection from their menu. This does make the Potluck unique for Ozona.

The Hall will be decorated for the holidays and the potluck will begin at 6 PM. Everyone in the community is invited to participate and to bring guests, if you have them. In addition to food, there will be beverages (wine, beer, water and soft drinks), or you can bring your own brand! So, come join your neighbors, network, and get caught up on what is happening in your community.

Resurfacing the Streets of Ozona

The County has just completed the resurfacing project of the community roads within Ozona. Considering the magnitude of this project, it went very smoothly and had limited impact on the community and our daily functioning. This was a follow-up to an earlier resurfacing project, where the County did improvements on the collector roads, which included Orange Street, Tampa Road, and Pennsylvania Avenue. This was a much needed project and very well done. Now we shouldn't have to deal with potholes for many years.



Community Tree Program

This past summer the community initiated its first tree planting effort. This included 25 large trees being planted in strategic places as part of a tree canopy concept. There have been some challenges with this, because of the very dry weather we have had. People in the community have been encouraged to water these trees. Three locations where the trees have been planted are: Pennsylvania Avenue (between the church and the school); Orange Street on the south west corner of Pennsylvania Avenue, and in the Pinellas Trail area south of Florida Avenue and Orange Street. With that said, OVIS plans to continue sponsoring this program because there is a considerable interest in the community in this mission. A section has been added to the OVIS website (www.OzonaVillageFL.us/fundraisers) to give people an opportunity to donate to this tree canopy program. This will be an ongoing program and once enough money has been accumulated in this fund, then another round of tree planting will be scheduled.



Village Hall Improvements to be Considered

The Ozona Village Hall is one of the oldest buildings in the County. It was built by the community in 1889 with donated labor and materials. The following year, in 1900, OVIS was established to own and operate the Hall. As with any structure, care is needed to maintain the building, especially considering its age. With that said, OVIS will be seeking a community grant with the County to make some needed improvements under the heading of maintenance. These improvements are expected to include refurbishment of the hall floor and painting the exterior of the hall. Care will be taken to schedule this work around the renting of the hall for events.



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>.



Holiday Golf Cart Parade Details

Here are some specifics about the parade. This year's registration donation fee is \$20.00. You can purchase the registration fee online at <https://www.ozonavillagefl.us/annual-ozona-holiday-parade> or by scanning the QR code below.

We are asking that if you want to participate in the prize contest for the best decorated golf cart, then you will need to register online. If you register and pay at the time of the event, then you will not be eligible for the best golf cart contest. Also, if you pay online, it will only cost \$20.00, but if you pay at the event, it will cost \$30.00. Online registration is currently open and allowed until Thursday, December 7, 2023. You can pay online with PayPal along with your registration, or you can pay in person to Donna Green at Green and Associates Real Estate at 410 North Orange Street in Ozona. In-person payments can be made Monday thru Friday during their normal business hours and will only be accepted until Thursday, December 7, 2023. Once your payment has been confirmed, then the OVIS Village Treasurer will send you a PDF of your registered Golf Cart Number, which you will need to print out and attach visibly to the front of your golf cart for the event. Your Golf Cart Number is not only needed to show your registration for the event but also for the judging process for the best golf cart contest. ***Be sure to complete the entire parade route and return to the Downtown Ozona area to receive your trophy and any related prizes!*** Any questions, inquiries or follow-up on registration confirmation can be addressed to the OVIS Village Treasurer at james.wiesner@yahoo.com.

The golf carts should come to the start / gathering area around Molly Goodhead's and the Ozona Pig (*designated by the large Red Star on the map*), where they will prepare to get into position for the parade line-up. Golf carts should be there by 5:30 PM, and the parade will start promptly at 6:00 PM. Please go to the area between Molly's Goodheads and the US Post Office to register golf carts for the parade, if you have not done so online beforehand. A judges table with trophies will be set up along that corridor to register.



Ozona Annual Holiday Golf Cart Parade

Sunday, December 10, 2023

**Golf Carts Arrival / Check-In Location:
Area around Molly's & Ozona Pig**

Golf Carts Arrival / Gathering Time: 5:30 PM

Golf Cart Parade will start promptly at 6:00 PM



OZONA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY 2024 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:

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Society Membership</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individual & Family Membership - \$20.00/year</p> <p>Currently a Waste Connections of Florida customer:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Donations</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donations help maintain the Ozona Village Hall, do special projects, and host village events</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ozona Newsletter Ad Sponsorship</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Business Sponsorship – 3 business card ads/year plus a listing in the website “Sponsors” section</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00/year</p>
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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>

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 \$500 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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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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