

Holiday Potluck - December 6

The Ozona community enjoys gathering together and recognizing events. This is true of the holiday season where OVIS will host a potluck dinner at the Village Hall on Tuesday, December 6.

This is an event that has full participation of our local community restaurants. This is an opportunity to sample what they have to offer. Also, this is an opportunity to sample what your neighbors can provide. You don't necessarily have to cook something or buy something to participate. Everyone is welcome with or without a dish as there will be plenty of food for all.

The Hall will be decorated for the holiday season with much cheer. Ozona families and guests are invited to participate and to network with others. This is a time to get caught up with what is going on, not only in the community, but also with people you know or will meet.

The event is set within one of the oldest buildings within Pinellas County. The Village Hall was built in 1900 with volunteer labor and donated materials and was recently recognized by the County with a historic preservation designation.

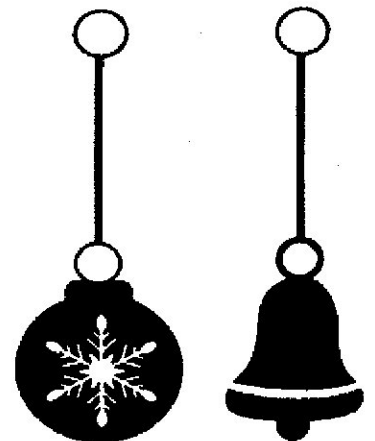
To increase the ambience of the holiday spirit, at the end of the food tables there will be choices of wine, beer, soda and of course, water. Everyone in the community is invited to participate and to bring their friends.

Holiday Golf Cart Parade - December 11

Ozona has a long tradition of celebrating the holiday season with a golf cart parade. This will be the 16th year for this event. It should be noted that Ozona is a golf cart community. The event is set for Sunday, December 11. The parade will assemble in late afternoon by 5:30 in the post office and restaurant area on Orange Street and may be able to start moving around 6:00. The route is included on the OVIS website: www.OzonaVillageFL.US and it is also included in this newsletter. Better details will be found on the website.

In recent years, there have been over 100 golf carts participating that were decorated for the season with holiday lights and an occasional costume. People spend weeks and sometimes months, preparing their golf cart for this parade. The parade length is carefully structured to allow for the amount of time a typical golf cart can run when it is lit for the holiday season. The parade weaves through selected streets in the community where they are recognized with holiday cheers.

See Golf Cart Parade Page 2



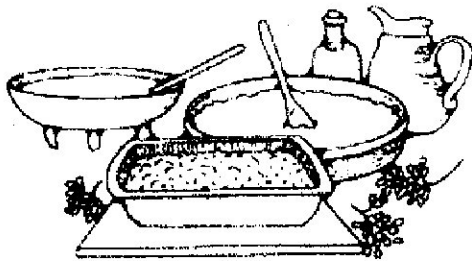
President's Message...

We are now in the holiday season of the year. This is a time when we are thankful and giving and when we get with others for good cheer.

We are in Ozona, a community that provides opportunities for networking and seasonal recognition. We have a Potluck Dinner on Tuesday, December 6 and the Holiday Golf Cart Parade on Sunday, December 11. Information on these events are included in the newsletter. Everyone in the community and visitors are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

This has been a good year for the community and much has been accomplished. As we approach the New Year, we can have discussions about objectives that both preserve the community as we know it, and also further or enhance things we like about our community. I look forward to getting with you in these events and other opportunities as we continue to work together in the name of Ozona!

Brian Smith
O.V.I.S. President



Golf Cart

Parade Continued...

The Ozona Improvement Society (OVIS) is sponsoring the event and has obtained the necessary permit and contracted the Sheriff's Office for assistance with the traffic in the startup area. The Sheriff's Office is also participating on a ceremonial basis at the front of the parade with a 1961 Dodge Fury. Ozona residents and visitors can participate by either being in a golf cart in the parade or by residing or visiting someone who lives on the parade route.

If someone is going to participate with a golf cart in the parade, they are encouraged to be there sometime after 5:00 so they can register their cart with contact information. Awards will be made on the best decorated carts with \$25 gift certificates from Ozona restaurants. This year OVIS will be asking for a small donation (suggesting \$15) from the participants to cover the cost of the event and also to help with repairs that are needed with the Ozona Village Hall. Needless to say, the donation is optional.



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Terry Fortner • 786-2837

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Wall Springs Park Improvements

Pinellas County has several improvements planned for Wall Springs Park. This is at the Park that is just north of Ozona and Crystal Beach and can be accessed by either the Pinellas Trail or Alternate US-19.

The first improvement is to the observation tower on the island at the west part of the Park. The tower had been recently rebuilt after it had been destroyed by a fire. However, before it could be open to the public, ADA access provisions needed to be made. The project is now scheduled for the Fall of next year. This will be a major asset once the tower is made available to the public as the views of the surrounding environment are stunning.

The second set of improvements encompass expansion into the additional 150 acres that are part of the Park presently undeveloped. This is the area that is north and west of the Wai Lani Girl School Camp. These improvements will include one mile of paved trails and two miles on unpaved trails. Other improvements of a passive nature will also be included. These improvements are scheduled to begin in the Fall of 2017.

Neighborhood Watch Workshop

The Ozona community is officially enrolled in the Neighborhood Watch Program that is operated by the Sheriff's Office. There are signs throughout the community recognizing this designation.

Neighborhood Watch is a program where people in the community stay alert to anything suspicious. If they do see something suspicious, they can report it to the the Sherriff's Office.

OVIS hosts a workshop each year where a representative from the Sheriff's Office comes to the community and explains the program and how people can participate. This year's workshop was held October 25 at the Hall. Sheriff Deputy Skipper conducted the program explaining how it works and citing examples of incidents and how the Watch

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program responded.

Dolly Swallow is the Ozona community contact for this program. If you would like information about the Neighborhood Watch Program and if you would like to be placed on the Neighborhood Watch email list, you may contact Dolly at dollys@winntech.net.

Successful Community Cleanup

On the morning of Saturday, November 5, there was a community cleanup in Ozona. This effort is co-chaired by Bob Fortner and Dave Ennis.



This was a successful event with 14 people involved. Using golf carts, they comprehensively covered the community.

The group collected 20 bags of trash and several other assorted pieces that did not fit into the bags. This effort included

people from the community, people from the Ozona Community Church, and people from Ozona Elementary School. Ozona is a participant in the County's Community Cleanup Program. It is recognized that people in their daily or weekly walks in the community pick up trash regularly, and this comprehensive approach in conjunction ensures that we have a fully clean environment.

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Halloween Open House at the Hall

As has become tradition, the Village Hall was open on Halloween, October 31, for trick-or-treating. Susan White says that over 50 people dropped by the Hall for their trick-or-treats as they followed a circuit that included Bay Street.

As part of this open house, Susan conducts a mini workshop for small trick-or-treaters where they make decorations for their tree at home. This craft project is usually a stick with a spider or ghost or other theme selected for that year. This season it was an owl on a stick.

Coincidentally, we have an article on owls in Ozona in this edition of the newsletter.

So, if you are visiting someone in Ozona during this season, and you notice something hanging up on

a stick, there is a good possibility it was made by little hands in the Village Hall.



Honeymoon Island State Park to get a Trail


Most everyone in Ozona knows that there is a community trail that starts at the Pinellas Trail intersection with Curlew Road, which then proceeds west along the causeway to Honeymoon Island State Park.

The Trail runs along the Dunedin Causeway, which is located on the south side of that roadway, and is used by many people to get exercise in a beautiful environment. When people reach the entrance to the Park and desire to continue their bike or pedestrian experience, they have to use the Park roads.

That will change this year. The State legislature has provided funding for a trail to continue within the State Park in a big loop connecting to various destinations within the Park. This will make it much safer for those people that are entering the Park with their bike or as a walker. Visitors will be able to be on their own safe space free of motor vehicles. So look for the changes to the Trail this coming year.



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Beginning Membership and Sponsor 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 Waste Connections of Florida (formerly 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 began open enrollment in September to allow for the logistics of the program. It should be noted however, that membership or sponsorships 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.

Village Hall to be Fixed

During the summer when the stairway on the side door of the Village Hall was being repaired, it was discovered that there was wood rot in one of the support beams under the Hall. An interim stairway was installed while OVIS developed a solution to this problem.

After OVIS went through a careful process of what needed to be done, Matthew Tierman, a general contractor, who lives in Ozona agreed to do the project. He will repair the support beam underneath the Hall and reinstall the stairway on the side door. It is expected that this work will be done before the end of the year.

The Village Hall is one of the oldest buildings in Pinellas County. It was built in 1900 with volunteer labor and donated materials.

The Hall was recently recognized by the Board of County Commissioners as a historic structure under the County's Historic Preservation Program. OVIS owns the Hall which is used not only for community functions, but is also made available on a rental basis for private events.



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Schedule of Events

Holiday Potluck

Tuesday, December 6 6:30 p.m.

Holiday Golf Cart Parade

Sunday, December 11 Begins at 6:00 p.m.

OVIS Meeting

Monday, January 23 7:00 p.m.

OVIS Meeting

Monday, February 27 7:00 p.m.

*There will be a community program
in the Spring - TBD*

OVIS Meeting

Monday, March 27 7:00 p.m.

OVIS Annual Meeting

Monday, April 24 7:00 p.m.

Community Cleanup

May Date TBD



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Owls in Ozona

During the last few weeks in Ozona, you may have noticed some hooting or screeching in the night. That very likely is an owl in your neighborhood.

So far, there have been three different types of owls that have been heard. There is the Great Horned Owl making a very spooky sound. Matching its name, this is a very big owl. There is the Barred Owl, and there is the Florida Screech Owl who have also been spotted. You can go on to a bird call website and hear their calls so that if you are not watching TV or asleep, you will be able to identify one of our community owls.



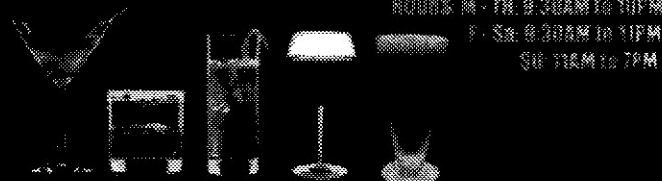
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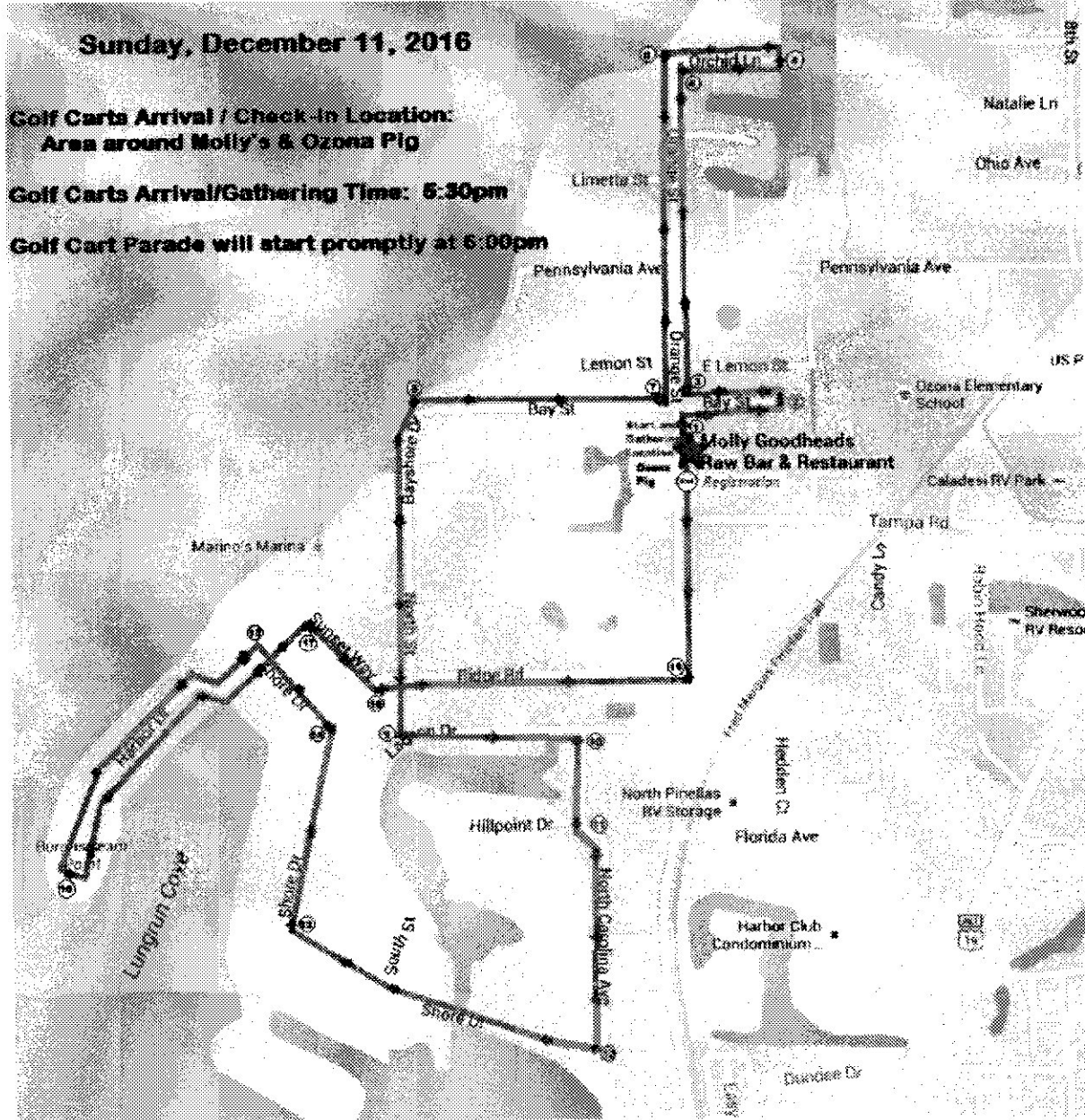
*OZONAS would like to recognize
Susan Babcock
for her contributions as a sponsor,
but also for her contributions to the
Ozona community. Susan passed
away on June 14, 2016.*

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Holiday Golf Cart Parade Route



Sunday, December 11, 2016

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

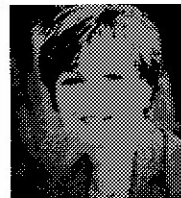
Golf Carts Arrival/Gathering Time: 5:30pm

Golf Cart Parade will start promptly at 6:00pm

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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 above or on the OVIS website.

Ozona Village Improvement Society 2017 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.
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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.