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Ozona Annual Holiday Golf Cart Parade

Ozona has several traditions that have been established over the years. One of these is the Ozona Village Holiday Golf Cart Parade, which is set to go on Sunday, December 14. This will be the 24th 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 became necessary for our community to formally sponsor and organize this event. That meant that a permit was required. 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 carts at that time was basic transportation on a golf course. However, now there are retrofit packages available for people to upgrade their golf cart's electrical system to handle this new décor functioning. This has opened the door for some elaborate decorations.

The parade starts and ends at the gathering area on Orange Street where the restaurants are. There is a graphic in this newsletter that defines the route of the parade. To participate in the parade, a golf cart must be registered, and there is a separate article about how to participate that is included in this newsletter. The parade officially starts at 6 PM with a Sheriff's vehicle with its lights flashing, 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 Ozona community and is enjoyed by not only the residents of Ozona, but also our many visitors as well. There is a \$20 donation required for a golf cart to participate, and that transaction can be made on the OVIS website. (See *Holiday Golf Cart Registration article*)

Community Potluck at the Ozona Brewery

A Potluck Dinner is where a community of people gather together for a social evening with each bringing a dish from home. OVIS has hosted an event like this in December at the Hall for many years. Due to the damage of the Hall, that facility is temporarily not available to do this. However, the Ozona Brewery is closed every Monday and is receptive to providing their venue for a community Potluck. Derek and Courtney, the owners of the Ozona Brewery, graciously agreed to make their place available for our community potluck. The potluck is set for Monday, December 8 and will be conducted in the same manner as if it was being conducted in the Hall. This is where people will bring their dishes from home and our restaurants will also participate with a selection of their signature food. Since the Ozona Brewery is closed that day, the Brewery will not be providing its menu of food and drinks.

OVIS is truly thankful to Derek and Courtney for their generosity and community support.

So, everyone in the community is invited to attend and participate in our Holiday Potluck Monday, December 8 starting at 6 PM. There is no charge for attending; however, donations are always welcome.

President's Message...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of our community, both residents and businesses, for all they do to make Ozona a truly wonderful place to experience. During this season, I hope to see you at the post office, one of our restaurants or brewery to wish you best wishes of the season.

Thank you for making Ozona the community that it is!

Happy Holidays!

— *Brian Smith, OVIS President*



Schedule of Events

While the Village Hall is being restored, OVIS will meet at infrequent dates to discuss the restoration process of the Hall. Meeting Minutes will be sent out to the Ozona News email distribution list and posted on the OVIS Website. The 2025-2026 schedule of other community events are as follows:

Holiday Potluck — December 8 6PM-???

Holiday Golf Cart Parade — December 14 6-8PM

OVIS Meeting — January 26 7PM

Hall Fundraiser — February 7 Time TBA

OVIS Meeting — February 23 7PM

OVIS Meeting — March 23 7PM

OVIS Annual Meeting — April 27 7PM

Neighborhood Watch Workshop — TBA

Community Cleanup — TBA

Reopening the Village Hall — 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

Holiday Golf Cart Parade Registration

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 11, 2025. This year we will only be doing online payments for pre-event registrations and in-person cash payments at the event registration. 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.



Sunday, December 14, 2025

Golf Carts Arrival / Gathering Time: 5:30 PM

Golf Cart Parade will start promptly at 6:00 PM



2024 Ozona Holiday Golf Cart Parade Winners

The following are last year's winners of the Best Decorated Golf Carts are:

1st Place - "Ozona Christmas"
by The Joe Stout Family



2nd Place - "The Nutcracker"
by The Rob Hoffert Family



3rd Place - "Polar Bear Express"
by The Gregory Smith Family



Thank You to Molly Goodhead's

When the two storms hit our community the Village Hall was taken out of action temporarily as a meeting place for OVIS. During this time, Molly Goodhead's has provided meeting space for the OVIS Board and others that sit in on the meetings. The OVIS Board would like to thank Steve and Laurel for their willingness to support the community in this way. **Thank You!!!**

Shore Drive Bridge Update

As you may recall over a year ago, Pinellas County Public Works was reviewing with the community the design for a bridge replacement on Shore Drive. The project is now moving forward, and they will be scheduling construction soon. It appears this process may start in the Spring of next year. During part of the construction, the bridge may not be available for use. This is a project that we will need to follow very carefully with respect to scheduling because of the impact that it will have on the traffic movement within our community.

Considering the age of the bridge, there's no question that it needs to be replaced. It is one of the oldest bridges in the county - probably over 100 years old. As part of the bridge replacement, improvements will be made to Shore Drive by adding pedestrian features to the bridge and roadway up to Orange Street. This will make Shore Drive a safer area for pedestrians. In addition, there may be a connection to the Pinellas Trail where Shore Drive terminates at Orange Street.

Village Hall Repairs

The Hall Repair Project is proceeding very smoothly. It just takes a lot of time to do these things. OVIS has completed all the requirements and approved the contract with the state for funding. OVIS now has a contract with Above All Structures to move the building to the other side of the property, away from the drainage area and to raise the building four feet to minimize future flooding, while still preserving its historic appearance within the community. OVIS has to complete a procedure called a certificate of appropriateness or COA. The COA process is administered by the County's Historic Preservation Board. The challenge is to make improvements that are necessary, but also reasonable within the context of the historic designation that the building has. It will be several months into next year before we will have this project completed. The important thing is we do have a path to get the Hall back functioning as a community fixture.

Village Hall Fundraiser

As everyone is aware, the Ozona Village Hall was severely affected by the two storms last year with water actually inside the Hall, damaging not only the building, but also its contents, some of which were historically significant. OVIS was able to receive funds from the State legislature to cover the cost of moving the Hall to minimize future flooding, to raise the Hall's height, and re-configuring the driveway and other such improvements. However, there is still significant funding needed to make the Hall functional once the basic improvements are made. It is agreed by all that the Village Hall is the heart of the community, and because of that, other improvements are needed to make the Hall complete and function as a viable facility for the community. With that said, OVIS is in the process of making plans for a special fundraiser event at Pop Stansell Park on Saturday, February 7. The specifics of this fundraiser are in the planning stage now and will be available as we get closer to the event.



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:**Society Membership**

☐ Individual & Family
Membership - \$20.00/year

Would you like to be more
involved in the Ozona
Community activities?

☐ YES ☐
☐ NO ☐

Donations

☐ Additional Donations help
restore 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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