



An Ozona Village  
Improvement  
Society Publication

# OZONA

## COMMUNITY NEWS



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## Ozona Annual Holiday Golf Cart Parade

It is amazing to think that the Ozona Golf Cart Parade for the holidays is going on its 20<sup>th</sup> year. It all started back on December 23, 2000 with an informal initiative including five carts. Those participants were Peg Mahara, Steve Grannan (with 2 carts), Dianna Runyon, and Ann & Jay Poppleton. Bobbie Painter provided food and drinks at her house after the parade.

Last year in 2020 we were not allowed to have a parade because of COVID-19, so technically this is the 20<sup>th</sup> year for the event. This year's parade is set for Sunday, December 12. Over the years the participating carts have significantly increased to over 100 carts. With that many carts on the streets, it became necessary to formally organize this event. A permit was required by the County, which triggered the need for a permit with an event description, community notice, liability insurance, an approved route map, and an agreement for services with the Sheriff's Department. OVIS agreed to be the event sponsor and provide these event logistics. This is now the way the parade has been conducted for the last several years.

Over this same time, the ability to decorate the carts with lights and other décor has improved considerably. Needless to say, the original golf carts were limited in the decorations, as the focus was basic transportation on the golf course. But now retrofitted packages are available for people to upgrade their golf cart's electrical system to handle this new décor function.

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. Participation in the parade requires that the golf cart be registered with OVIS. This registration can be accomplished online on the OVIS website with PayPal payments. That can be done easily with a donation to OVIS of \$10. If you are not registering online, then the registration is \$20 and can be done at the event. The link to the website is here: <https://www.ozonavillagefl.us/annual-ozona-holiday-parade>

The Sheriff's Deputies assist with the traffic management and provide an overall security presence to the gathering area. The Sheriff also participates by having the lead vehicle for 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 by the many visitors as well.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone and all the decorated carts on December 12!

## President's Message...

We are now entering the holiday season with many opportunities to celebrate the holidays.

This is the time of the year where we get with friends and family. It is also the time of the year where we can look to the future with its opportunities and make plans.

I do wish you all the very best, and I look forward to seeing you at the Post Office, possibly the parade, or some other venue in the community to wish you a holiday greeting!

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 2021/2022 schedule along with other community events are as follows:

**Community Clean-up — November 13 8:30 AM**

**OVIS Meeting — November 22 7PM**

**Neighborhood Watch (Sheriff) Workshop — TBA**

**Holiday Golf Cart Parade — December 12 6-8 PM**

**OVIS Meeting — January 24 7PM**

**OVIS Meeting — February 28 7PM**

**Ozona Spring Potluck — TBA**

**OVIS Meeting — March 28 7PM**

**OVIS Annual Meeting — April 25 7PM**



## 2021-2022 OVIS Board Members

**President**—Brian Smith•781-8472

**Secretary**—Donna Green•741-2904

**Vice President**—Dennis Green•741-2903

**Treasurer**—James Wiesner•871-6901

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Connie Rieben—787-9777

Dave Ennis—743-7041

Susan White—793-8299

Todd Guarino—251-9333

Julie Longen—656-5154

### 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

## Halloween in Ozona

As Halloween has evolved over time, so has the Ozona community. It wasn't that long ago that the parents would follow their children through the neighborhood as their costumed kids go door-to-door collecting treats. Fast forward to 2021, and the children no longer go door to door the same way. Mostly neighbors now have tables on the driveway for the trick-or-treaters as they move along their collective route. There are usually adults at these tables, who not only dispense treats to the children, but they also engage the parents that are following behind the treaters.

In Ozona there is the added dimension of the golf cart that used to be in the background. Now the golf carts are decorated for the holiday season with lights and sometimes spooky music. Walking through the neighborhood as an observer you might notice clusters of illuminated golf carts engaged in adult conversations, while the children are waiting to make the next stop. It is truly a festive time with everyone happily engaged – both adults and children!

## Community Cleanup — November 13



Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 13. That is the date for the next Community Cleanup in Ozona. OVIS sponsors cleanups in the community each year. Bob Fortner and Dave Ennis co-chair this effort and have done this for several years. This Fall cleanup is intended to do a pick up following Halloween! On that Saturday people will meet at the Village Hall at 8:30 in the morning to get started. People are encouraged to bring their golf carts, since that does facilitate the moving around to destinations where cleaning is needed. At the Hall, assignments are made along the various streets and the teams are sent out to do their work. Usually, this effort does not take much more than an hour to an hour and a half. We will have some coffee at the Hall to start things off with, so everyone will have plenty of energy to start. So join us at the Hall Saturday, November 13, and let's keep our community clean. All ages are welcome!



## Crossing Guards Needed



As everyone knows there are crossing guards stationed at various intersections to provide for the safe crossing of children going to school. This program is run by the County Sheriff. That office has indicated that there is currently a serious shortage of these guards in our Palm Harbor area. Specifically, there is a deficit of 65 guards. Therefore, the Sheriff is reaching out to community organizations for assistance in recruitment. These are paid positions with a rate of \$17.50 per hour. The assignment is two hours a day with a split of that time to cover children going to school and returning. Training, uniforms, and equipment are included. This is for a 180-day school year with summers and holidays off. If anyone is interested, then they can contact the Sheriff's Office at 727-582-5641. Or you can contact them by email with the address [dpecora@pcsonet.com](mailto:dpecora@pcsonet.com). The crossing guards program is very important to ensure the safety of the children in our community!

## Golf Carts Allowed In Old Palm Harbor

The County Commission has authorized golf carts in the Old Palm Harbor area. The general boundaries of the area are Delaware Street on the north, 16th Street on the east, Virginia Street on the south, and Alternate US 19 on the west.

The compliance rules are basically the same as those in place in Ozona. A golf cart crossing for Alternate US 19 from and to Ozona is being permitted at Georgia Street with signs recognizing that.

It should be noted that the existing golf cart ordinance permits golf carts in Ozona and Crystal Beach west of Alternate US 19. This will increase the destinations for the people in Ozona. The challenge will be to take care when crossing Alternate US 19.



## 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

This year's registration donation fee is \$10.00. You can purchase the registration fee online at <https://www.ozonavillagefl.us/annual-ozona-holiday-parade> or by scanning the QR code below. There are also other posters in the area restaurants and the Post Office. Roadside signs will be put up a week before the event.

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 \$10.00, but if you pay at the event, it will cost \$20.00. Online registration is currently open and allowed until Thursday, December 9, 2021. 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 408 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 9, 2021. 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](mailto: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 5:30pm, and the parade will start promptly at 6:00pm. 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 in front of the Ozona Brewery to register.



# Ozona Annual Holiday Golf Cart Parade

**Sunday, December 12, 2021**

**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 2022 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.
5. Save between \$60.00 - \$125.40/year on your trash service comparatively to most other trash services – twice per week pick-up including recycling – Waste Connections of Florida discounts their fee for members of our organization.

***PLEASE SELECT:***

<u>Society Membership</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual & Family Membership - \$20.00/year  Currently a Waste Connections of Florida customer:  <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

<u>Donations</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donations help maintain 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Your contact information will not be shared, but enables us to keep you informed regarding news and events.*

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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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