Issue

Edition Fall 2018





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## Halloween at the Hall

This year Halloween is on a Wednesday. There will be many scary little and big characters walking the streets of Ozona. They will be trick-or-treating door to door. And as you know, it is quite common these days that golf carts are used to transport them and their booty. If you find yourself on Bay Street, stop by the Village Hall. It will be open that night for trick-or-treaters. There will be crafting activities at the Hall, if the trick-or-treaters want to visit a while at the Hall. The Hall should be open around 6 PM for this Open House.

## Community Clean-up - Saturday, November 3

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 3. That is the date for the next community clean-up in Ozona. This will give us the chance to clean up the community after the Halloween trickor-treating. OVIS sponsors two clean-ups in the community each year. One is done in May and the second is done in the Fall. Bob Fortner and Dave Ennis co-chair this effort and have done this for several years. On that Saturday people will meet at the Village Hall at 8:30 AM to get started. People are encouraged to bring their golf carts, since that does help 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 Village Hall to start things off with, so everyone will have plenty of energy to start. Come join us at the Village Hall on Saturday, November 3, and let's keep our community clean! All ages are welcome!

## **Electronic Newsletter Update**

This is the second edition of the electronic version of the Ozona News Newsletter! Many individuals were involved to make this possible, and special thanks goes out to John Rieben, who helped design the above new header for the newsletter! If you haven't provided an updated email address to OVIS, please do so to receive future newsletters, meeting minutes and other community notifications.

Additional features available within the newsletter will be active links to take you to webpages or articles as well as being able to scan QR codes with your cell phone's barcode reader to take you to those pages. We want to post additional QR codes around community businesses to take people quickly to this newsletter and sponsors. Please let us know if you have any other helpful suggestions to include!

Be sure to sign up for OVIS Membership (in this newsletter) to receive these e-newsletters going forward!

ozona news Fall 2018

# **President's Message...**

As we begin our new activity year for the community, I look back on our past year and the accomplishments. The Village Hall drainage system now works very well with no standing water under the Hall. The Boy Scouts have done several projects which have improved the landscaping around the Hall and have installed a new sign in the front for messaging. We have upgraded the airconditioning system in the Hall to better accommodate the functions that we have there. And we are supporting the County with their living shoreline project at the end of Bay Street.

I might also say that I was quite impressed with the full engagement of the community in a rezoning proposal in August. A developer had proposed a rezoning to permit a large commercial industrial building on Alternate US 19 that would have been totally out of character with the area and not a good idea for many other reasons as well. Even though the developer withdrew the proposal following a recommendation of denial by the county planning board, community representatives still proceeded to the County Commission with a request that the property be considered for public open space. And the County Commission members began to discuss positively how this could happen and the need for a program to facilitate that.

These are all good things, and I am very pleased to be part of this community!

Brian Smith, President

# **Schedule of Events**

OVIS regularly meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Village Hall on Bay Street. The schedule is sometimes adjusted to work around the holidays. With that said, the schedule for the end 2018 / beginning 2019 is:

OVIS Meeting — September 24 7PM Large Item Trash Pickup — October 8 OVIS Meeting — October 22 7PM

Halloween Open House — October 31 6PM

Community Cleanup—November 3 8:30 AM

OVIS Meeting — November 26 7PM (Includes Sheriff's Community Workshop)

Holiday Golf Cart Parade — December 9 6PM

Community Potluck — December 11 6:30 PM

OVIS Meeting — January 28 7PM

OVIS Meeting — February 25 7PM

OVIS Meeting — March 25 7PM

OVIS Annual Meeting — April 22 7PM



## 2017-2018 OVIS Board Members

**President**—Brian Smith•781-8472

Secretary—Donna Green•741-2904

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

**Treasurer**—James Wiesner•871-6901

#### **Board Members:**

Connie Rieben—787-9777

Dave Ennis—743-7041

Susan White—793-8299

Todd Guarino—251-9333

Julie Longen-656-5154

Jerry Edmonds—784-3711

#### **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

## **Sheriff's Neighborhood Watch Workshop November 26**

Ozona has an established Neighborhood Watch Program. This program is operated by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. This is an outreach program by the Sheriff to assist communities through education and Information. Dolly Swallow is the Ozona community contact for this program. Through this program community members are made aware of things to look out for to keep their community safe. OVIS hosts a workshop each year, where a representative from the Sheriff's Office comes to the Village Hall and reviews how people can be informed and participate. This year's workshop is set for Monday, November 26. Deputy Skipper will present the program and then be available for questions and comments from people in attendance. The regular meeting of OVIS is scheduled for 7 PM that evening with the neighborhood workshop being the main item. Everyone is encouraged to attend this workshop. If you cannot attend and would like to be part of the neighborhood watch email list, then you may contact Dolly at dollys@winntech.net.

#### Molly Goodheads' 33rd Anniversary Party - Wednesday, September 26th

Get ready to celebrate in Ozona at Molly Goodheads. Their restaurant is celebrating its 33rd Anniversary in business. The owner, Laurel Flowers, & staff would like to thank their neighbors of Ozona and their loyal customers for all the support they have shown over the years. Come join the annual FAMOUS ANNIVERSARY PARTY to enjoy and relax in their "Key West" atmosphere.

Share in the celebration with live music from VooDoods Band, free food sampling, "Happy Hour" all night long, face painting for the kids, prizes and giveaways, such as their "I Survived" t-shirts. An Anniversary Party for the whole family! Check out their Weekly Specials, Molly's Drink Menu, Wine List, & Draft or Bottled Beers.

So, put a note on your calendar and make plans to head over to... **Molly Goodheads**, **Wednesday**, **September 26th**. The Party starts at **6:00 PM until ???** They hope to see you all there for a day of fun and laughter at the party!

400 Orange Street, Ozona, FL Phone: 727-786-6255

Directions: Take Tampa Road (West) over Alt. 19 to the end. Make a right on Orange Street, Molly's is on the right.

## The Wall Springs Park Tower is now OPEN!

The Tower in Wall Springs Park is now open to the public. You can get a three-story view of the entire environmental area with mostly trees and water in all directions. The new refurbished tower includes an ADA ramp which is an attraction in and of itself!

# **Unpopular Rezoning Denied**

There has been a vacant five-acre property at the northwest corner of Missouri at Alternate 19 for sale for a number of years. The property was the subject for a rezoning this the summer. A developer proposed a large three-story self-storage building complex, which required a change in zoning from low-density residential to commercial industrial. There was major public opposition to such a proposal for a multitude of reasons, and following a very well-attended public hearing the County Planning Board recommended denial of the rezoning. Subsequently, the developer with-drew the proposal. As a follow-up to that, there continued to be public interest in the parcel and its acquisition as open space. Community representatives appeared before the County Commission with that request, and the County Commission appeared to be receptive to the idea and actually the need for such community-level public space acquisition program. OVIS has taken action to send a letter to the County Commission in support of such a program.

### **New Honeymoon Island Trail**

For years people have walked and ridden their bikes on the Dunedin Causeway, and when they would reach the Honeymoon Island State Park entrance they would either turn around or proceed into the park on the park roads with the motor vehicles. Now there is a better option for trail-users to continue into the State Park. The State has a trail under construction at this time, which begins at the park entrance and proceeds through the park to the north connecting all the key destinations. This trail is a paved surface separate from motor vehicles and is 1.3 miles long. The park entrance fee will still be the two dollars for a pedestrian or bicycle to enter the park. This trail should be completed well within the year and probably will only take a few months to construct.

# Next Large Item Trash Pickup Is Monday, October 8

OVIS has an agreement with Waste Connections, which is one of the companies that provide trash pickup in the Ozona community. In addition to providing a discounted rate to those households that are members of the Ozona Village Improvement Society, the

company also provides a special pickup of large trash items on select days for its customers. The company performs two pickups each year. The first pickup is in May, and the second is in October. It should be noted that this year the company is changing their pickups from Wednesday to Monday. Therefore, the second large item trash pickup for this year is set for Monday, October 8. This is an opportunity to get rid of those larger items that are in your garage or possibly yard, which require some special arrangements to get rid of those items.

There are a few ground rules for this community pickup. The pickup includes furniture, appliances and items such as that, but does not include roofing materials, hazardous materials, tires, or other car parts. Also refrigerators and air conditioning units must be tagged by a licensed repair man, to show that Freon has been removed. Brush has to be tied in bundles of 50 pounds or less and be no longer than 4 feet. It would be a good idea to place those items in front of your property for pickup the evening before, since Waste Connections may come early for the pickups. The final point is that you must be a Waste Connections' customer.

# **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 on the calendar year 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 <a href="http://www.ozonavillagefl.us/membership">http://www.ozonavillagefl.us/membership</a>.

**Pinellas Trail Overpass Status** 

Almost a year ago now the Pinellas Trail Overpass at Orange St. and Alt. 19 was closed, since it did not pass the State's bridge inspection program. As it turns out, the County had already scheduled an improvement in the budget to replace this structure, so that project was accelerated. During the interim an at-grade pushbutton pedestrian crossing on Alt.19 was installed by the County while the replacement project is scheduled and constructed. Most of the work is being done off-site. This would include the cage structure that sits on top of the stanchions. The on-site portion of the project will soon begin, which would include the installation of the cage structure and related construction. This is expected to occur in October with some work beginning in September. This work should take several weeks, and so we may have to put up with some inconvenience during this time. If and when there is any need to further re-route trail users during this period, we will make a point of getting the word out. It should be noted this is a popular section of the Trail with 20,000 to 30,000 trail-users a month depending on the time of year.



# ozona's refined by the corner of the corner

We have started a new section in our newsletter citing previous articles that provide descriptions from Ozona's past. Go to this link <a href="http://www.ozonavillagefl.us/ozona-history-corner">http://www.ozonavillagefl.us/ozona-history-corner</a> to see an article written in 1985 about Ozona at that point in time! Thanks to **Sage Piotrowski** and **Chris Noell** for researching and providing articles and videos for this new section!

We will be maintaining a history section on our website where these articles and videos will be placed for future reference. If you have an article or video you would like to share, please send an electronic copy of the article or video to james.wiesner@yahoo.com.

Holiday Golf Cart

Parade Set for

**December 9** 





In accordance with the longstanding tradition in Ozona, the Holiday Golf Cart Parade is set for the second Sunday of December (December 9). OVIS sponsors the event and provides for the logistics. This is a popular event for both the golf cart participants and for the people along the parade route.

OVIS will submit the needed documentation for permits and process steps, and following that OVIS will publish the resulting route map and specifics. There is a cost to OVIS to obtain the permits, buy event insurance, and contract with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office for services. Thus, there is a fee of \$10.00 online for entering your golf cart in the parade. The fee is \$20.00 if you leave cart registration until the time you go to the event.

Once the online registration is set up on the OVIS website we will send out a notice. So, more details will be forthcoming about the parade, but for now mark your calendars for December 9.

# Holiday Potluck Dinner - Tuesday, December 11

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 11 to attend the holiday potluck dinner at the Village Hall. 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. 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. There will be more in our next newsletter.

# **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 \$300 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: <a href="http://www.ozonavillagefl.us">http://www.ozonavillagefl.us</a>.

#### OZONA VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY 2019 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 \$57 \$178/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:

Email Address:

Society Membership	<u>Donations</u>	Ozona Newsletter Ad
☐ Individual & Family Membership - \$20.00/year  Currently a Waste Connections of Florida customer:  ☐ YES ☐ NO	☐ Additional Donations help maintain the Ozona Village Hall, do special projects, and host village events ☐ \$10.00 ☐ \$25.00 ☐ \$50.00 ☐ \$100.00	Sponsorship  Business Sponsorship – 3 business card ads/year plus a listing in the website "Sponsors" section  \$100.00/year
PLEASE PRINT:  Name:  Mailing Address:  Street 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:
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Mail to: PO Box 81 • Ozona, FL 34660

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#### **OVIS Website Information**

The official website of OVIS can be found at <a href="www.OzonaVillageFL.us">www.OzonaVillageFL.us</a>. 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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