



An Ozona Village
Improvement
Society Publication

OZONA

COMMUNITY NEWS



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Important Thoughts on Golf Carts

Golf carts are not permitted on public roads in our communities, unless they are permitted by a local government by ordinance. That ordinance must put in place the ground rules by which golf Commission took that action by ordinance in 2006 County officials, hosted several community rules to make this initiative as safe as possible.



were no examples to follow upon which to base this program. People in Crystal Beach were also interested in having golf carts permitted, so they were included in these workshops. That ordinance was updated last year. A copy of the County Ordinance is on the OVIS website. That ordinance defines the area that is included, spells out the safety equipment that must be included on the golf cart, and, more importantly, who is permitted to operate the golf cart. This last point about the golf cart operator was discussed quite a bit in the workshops. It was agreed to by all parties that in order to drive a golf cart in the community a driver's license would be required. This was necessary to not only ensure a responsible person was behind the wheel, but that that person was aware of all the rules connected with driving a vehicle on the road. Education and outreach were considered extremely important on this point of the driver's license requirement. It is important for people to be aware that this has been an enforced provision of the ordinance. There are a number of households in Ozona that have experienced the consequences of a citation by law enforcement. Due to the personal nature of the citations, they are not be cited in a newsletter or other public media. However, the important thing to note is that there is accountability to someone in the household if there is a citation. We need to continually remind people of this driver provision to ensure the safety of not only the golf cart riders, but for the safety of everyone in our community. With that said, Ozona is lucky to be one of the few communities in the County where golf carts are permitted. This, among other things, makes Ozona very special.

carts are to operate. The County for Ozona. OVIS, in conjunction with workshops to define the necessary Since this was a new concept, there

President's Message...

These are unusual times, where we are not doing things we are used to doing, or we are doing them differently. I'm sure that we all are looking forward to a time when things are more settled down. There are some benefits to the COVID experience we have all had. The concept of virtual meetings and connections and virtual experiences have now become more refined and available to more people. On balance, we are having less in-person contact outside our community and are more focused on our immediate area. This is when we can appreciate what we have in Ozona, where there is such a strong sense of community and opportunity to interact with others. With that said I wish you all good health in all you do in our community and with others.

— *Brian Smith, President*

Upcoming Events Status

In light of COVID-19, OVIS is responding with scaled-back program events. Such events such as the Community Potluck, the Halloween Open House, and the Sheriff's Workshop for Neighborhood Watch are on hold until the situation improves. The Ozona Holiday Golf Cart Parade on the second Sunday in December is still set for December 12. The parade is an outdoor event, and warmly welcomed and enjoyed by all as the Parade travels through the community. This is a long-standing tradition for Ozona. The first parade was held 20 years ago. There will be more specifics on this event as we get closer to the event time. OVIS is now holding its regular meetings at the Village Hall on the fourth Monday of the month with masks requested. Those upcoming dates are September 27, October 25, and November 22.

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

Residential Trash Service Update

One of the benefits of being a member of the Ozona Village Improvement Society is that Waste Connections of Florida gives a discount to OVIS members.

To better understand that benefit, OVIS Treasurer Jim Wiesner did a survey of the companies that provide trash collection in Ozona. The survey results of the various trash services' (which provide service to the Ozona area) quarterly costs include the comparative pricing for twice per week pick-up (6-8 cans per pick-up) including recycling.



Of course, some of the trash services either don't have large garbage receptacles or charge you for the receptacles, but Waste Connections of Florida doesn't charge for those containers.

Below is the quarterly pricing, which gives the OVIS discount ranging between \$60.00 - \$125.40 per year savings compared to other trash collection services in this area, and comparative adding \$15 monthly recycling fees on the Superior Trash Service quoted price (Pricing quoted in July 2021):

***Waste Connections of Florida - \$96.00** (\$126.00 without OVIS membership discount => \$7.50 per quarter **increase** from 2020 with the membership and \$10.50 per quarter **increase** from 2020 without the membership)

Waste Pro - \$118.59 (\$6.84 per quarter **increase** from 2020, and fluctuates based upon fuel charges)

Orion Waste Solutions - \$127.35 (\$24.00 per quarter **increase** from 2020)

Superior Trash Service - \$87.00 (no garbage receptacles or recycling; 3 cans maximum) (\$2.85 per quarter **decrease** from 2020)

The comparison shows that Waste Connections of Florida is the overall best-priced option for residential trash collection as an OVIS member.



Keeping the Community Clean



Due to the COVID-19 situation, OVIS has not had the opportunity to provide for organized community cleanups. However, the community continues to have the occasional littering with plastic bottles and such. So when you take your next exercise walk or stroll through the community with family and friends, please consider noting where there is litter and you can pick up later, or you can pick it up when you see it. Thanks in advance for your time and assistance with this continuing effort!

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.

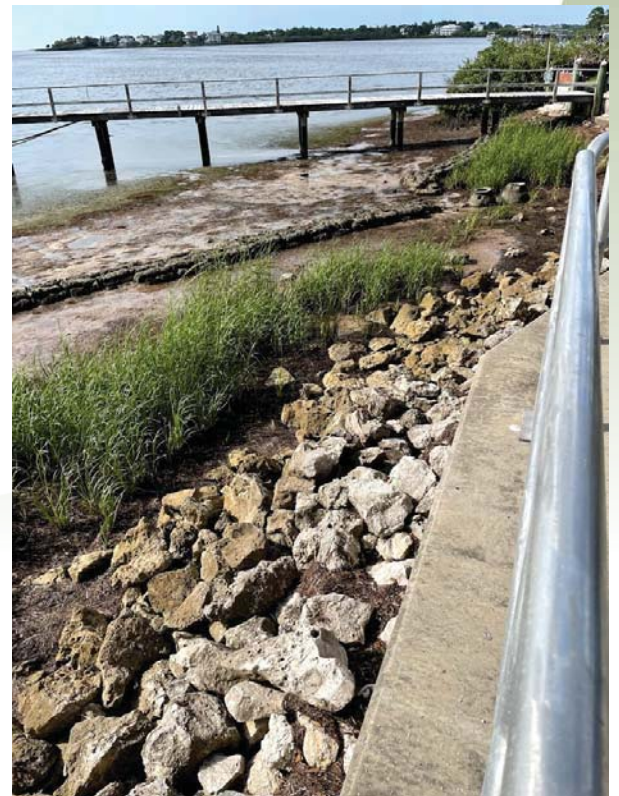
In addition to that, OVIS does make the Hall available for rental for private events as well. While the Hall has a heritage and appearance of its vintage construction of 1900, the Hall does have the modern conveniences of central heat and air conditioning, restrooms, and a kitchen area (without a stove).

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>.

Living Shoreline in Ozona

Last year the County initiated a living shoreline project in Ozona at the end of Bay Street. This was a demonstration project and a first in the County. There were 30 volunteers including environmental experts and Ozona residents assisting in the plantings and site work. Stacey Day was the County organizer and has provided an update on the project a year later. She says the County team are happy with how the project is growing and holding up through the various storms. There were two types of grass planted. The Spartina (cordgrass) has done very well. The Juncus (needlerush) hasn't done as well, but there are still a few clumps of that holding on. This was an important thing to test - which species will do best in various environments. She says they now know that Spartina is more likely to survive in that area versus Juncus.

There has not been obvious oyster recruitment, but other species of mollusks will use the oyster shell bags to grow on. The team will continue to monitor the site to see what colonizes there. The photos below show the site on December 9, 2020 (left), about a month after the planting event, and on July 9, 2021 (right). This shows there is a lot more habitat diversity now than there used to be. Stacy says this is great for wildlife, since it provides shelter and food, in addition to giving the seawall another layer of protection. Stacy says the County considers this project a really nice demonstration site and has sent various entities out to see it. She thanks the Community for all their support. They hope to do a similar demonstration in the coming year at Crystal Beach, but Ozona was the first.



Bagels in Ozona

We would like to introduce, if you don't already know, that there is a service in Ozona that provides fresh-baked bagels. The service is delivery or pick-up only. Kat Bonfiglio runs the service from her house on Pinecrest Drive. The details of her service are spelled out in the graphic below. Under a state law referred to as the Cottage Food Law, someone is permitted to produce certain food products in their own kitchen for sale to others. This state law is designed to support cottage businesses by alleviating them from some state requirements that would be cumbersome for a small operation. Kat has such a small service that can provide customized New York-style bagels. There are classic bagel choices that you can choose from and a number of specialty flavors as well. Just give Kat a call or text her at (727) 742-8219 and you're in for something special.

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*Ozona Bagels, LLC is a home-based Florida Food Cottage Business

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>.

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:

<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 <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 <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 <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:

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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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