

No. 53  
BCC 10-18-05  
3:03 P.M. Fickley/Kennare/SMITKE

#53 Resolution No. 05-245 adopted permitting the use of golf carts, with conditions, west of Alternate U.S. Highway 19 for the areas of Ozona and Crystal Beach.

Public Works Director of Transportation Peter J. Yauch indicated that a petition with 130 names has been received from residents in the Crystal Beach area, as well as letters from the Ozona Village Improvement Society representing approximately 65 golf cart owners, requesting the designation as Golf Cart Communities. He conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which has been filed for the record, and provided statutory definitions of *golf cart* and *low-speed vehicle*, applicable state statutes, and local traffic data; whereupon, he recommended denial of the request based on traffic safety concerns.

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Commissioner Stewart returned to the meeting at 8:33 P.M.

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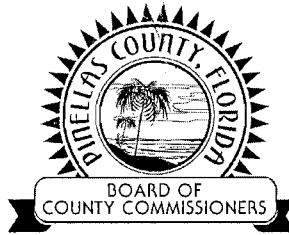
Sergeant Glenn Luben, Sheriff's Traffic Enforcement Unit, presented the Sheriff's Office position in opposition to the request; referred to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NTSA) standards; and responded to queries by the members.

With the permission of the Chairman, comments were received from the following individuals:

- Neal Valk, Crystal Beach
- Pet Mahara, Crystal Beach
- David Dunbar, Ozona
- Ann Wickstrom Neyrey, Ozona
- Brian St. Andrew, Crystal Beach
- JoAn Totty, Palm Harbor

During discussion and responding to queries by the members, Mr. Yauch, Attorney Churuti, and Ms. Mahara provided input.

- Motion - Commissioner Latvala
- Second - Commissioner Harris
- Vote - 5 – 2 (Commissioners Welch and Stewart dissenting)



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**DATE:** October 18, 2005

**AGENDA ITEM NO.** 53

**Consent Agenda**

**Regular Agenda**

**Public Hearing**

**County Administrator's Signature:** 

**Subject:**

Request for Designation as Golf Cart Communities - Crystal Beach and Ozona Areas

**Department:**

Public Works

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Jan R. Herbst, P.E., Director

**Recommended Action:**

I RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BCC) DENY THE REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION OF THE CRYSTAL BEACH AND OZONA AREA AS GOLF CART COMMUNITIES BASED UPON TRAFFIC SAFETY CONCERNS.

**Summary Explanation/Background:**

The BCC has received a series of requests to allow golf carts to be used along the roadways of Crystal Beach and Ozona. These include a petition signed by approximately 130 residents of Crystal Beach; a letter from the President of the Ozona Village Improvement Society (OVIS), written on behalf of over 65 golf cart owners in Ozona; and a subsequent letter from OVIS, dated May 24, 2005, to Commissioner Latvala, which proposed a draft BCC resolution that would permit, with certain restrictions, golf cart usage in Ozona and Crystal Beach. This agenda item has been developed to respond to these requests.

The primary concern with golf carts on public streets is safety related. Golf carts are exempt from almost all of the safety standards applying to automobiles. They are not required to have doors or bumpers, and are not subject to any crashworthiness testing. While the use of the golf carts can have a positive impact on mobility, fuel usage, and pollutant emissions, their safety is in question when mixed with typical automobile traffic.

Section 316 of Florida Statutes (F.S.) addresses the traffic laws pertaining to the use and operation of motor vehicles in the State of Florida. In general, F.S. 316.212 prohibits the use of golf carts on public roads. However, a county may designate certain roads for use by golf carts, but to do so must first determine that golf carts may safely travel on the road, considering factors including the speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic using the road.

Both Crystal Beach and Ozona have participated in the County's Residential Traffic Program, indicating that speeding has been a concern. With the speeds and volumes within the desired cart use areas, County staff cannot determine that golf carts can be used safely along these roadways, as required under F.S. 316.212.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) staff and the County Attorney's Office staff also recommend against this designation.

The attached Staff Review and Recommendations Report is an informational report, which expands upon both the benefits and the drawbacks of permitting the use of golf carts on County Roads in the Crystal Beach and Ozona areas. A Discussion section is included within the report, which addresses a variety of questions that have been raised about the issue.

In conclusion, the Pinellas County Department of Public Works / Transportation Department recommends against the designation of either the Crystal Beach or Ozona communities as Golf Cart Communities. Golf carts should not be permitted to be operated along the County's roadways in this area.

**Fiscal Impact/Cost/Revenue Summary:**

No fiscal impacts are anticipated.

**Exhibits/Attachments Attached:**

Staff Review and Recommendations Report  
Petition from Crystal Beach  
Letters from Ozona  
Memo to Sheriff Jim Coats  
E-mail Memo to Commissioner Latvala  
Article on Neighborhood Electric Vehicles  
Power Point Presentation

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**BCC AGENDA ITEMS**  
**REVIEW / INFORMATION SHEET**

CATS # 9262

**BCC Submittal Subject:** Request for Designation as Golf Cart Communities -  
 Crystal Beach and Ozona Areas

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**Proposed BCC Agenda Date:** ~~August 16, 2005~~ October 4, 2005

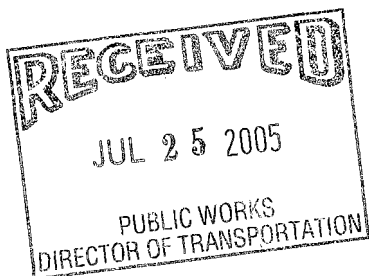
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**Approval Request Date:** ~~July 25, 2005<sup>all</sup>~~

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**Division Submitting Agenda Item:** Transportation

<u>Submitted To:</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Date Submitted</u>
Karen Marcellus, CPPB Sr. Dept. Admin. Manager	<u>ICSM</u>	<u>7/27/05</u>
Barbara A. Kuhl, C.P.M. Director of Financial Services	<u>BK</u>	<u>7/27/05</u>
Pete Yauch, P.E. Director of Transportation	<u>PY</u>	<u>7/25/05</u>
Jan R. Herbst, P.E. Director of Public Works	<u>JRH 8/25/05</u> <u>for Jan Herbst</u>	<u>7/28/05</u>
J. Keith Wicks, P.E. Assistant County Administrator	<u>JKW 8/25</u>	<u>8/1</u>



**RESOLUTION NO. 05-245**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PERMITTING THE USE OF GOLF CARTS, WITH CONDITIONS, WEST OF ALTERNATE US HWY 19 FOR THE AREAS OF OZONA AND CRYSTAL BEACH.**

WHEREAS, the Board has received requests from representatives of the communities of Ozona and Crystal Beach to permit the use of golf carts on community streets in those areas, and

WHEREAS, Golf carts provide an alternative for in-neighborhood local trips that is quieter and less intrusive than passenger vehicles, as well as if electric, the carts are emissions free; and

WHEREAS, State Statutes 316.212 authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to permit the use of golf carts with conditions and for designated areas in any unincorporated area; and

WHEREAS, Golf carts by State Statute definition are vehicles that are incapable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, Golf carts are not permitted unless authorized by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Ozona and Crystal Beach communities have established a community use for golf carts within their community street system; and

WHEREAS, for the purpose of this resolution the southern boundary of Ozona is the intersection of Orange Street and Alternate 19 and the northern boundary of Crystal Beach is Ulelah Avenue and Alternate 19; and

WHEREAS, there are no posted speed limits in this designated area higher than 30 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, the communities have identified a reasonable proposal to permit the use of golf carts on the community street system; and

WHEREAS, this proposal includes the provisions as noted to require the standard safety devices, to be operated by licensed drivers only, use limited to authorized area and limited to vehicles that are incapable of exceeding 20 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, it is the Boards intent by action of this resolution to authorize the use of golf carts in these communities with the identified limitations in this proposal, and in accordance with other State law provisions, and

WHEREAS, the policy for the Pinellas Trail will continue to be a non-motorized facility to preserve this corridor as a safe environment for pedestrians and cyclists; and

WHEREAS.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY that in a regular session duly assembled on this 18 day of October, the Board finds that golf carts equipped in the manner prescribed by this Resolution may safely travel on or cross the public roads or streets within the geographic boundaries described in this Resolution, considering factors including the speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic using these roads or streets, and hereby permits the use of golf carts in the Ozona and Crystal Beach Communities with the stipulations to include the following provisions:

- A. Required equipment for the golf carts are headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields and seatbelts.
- B. The golf cart operators must possess a valid driver's license.
- C. The areas encompassed by this authorization are the community areas of Ozona and Crystal Beach located west of Alternate 19, north of Orange Street and south of Ulelah Avenue.
- D. The golf carts authorized for use are incapable of exceeding 20 miles per hour.

This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

Commissioner Latvala offered the foregoing resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Harris, and upon roll call the vote was

AYES Morrone, Harris, Seel, Latvala, and Duncan.

NAYS Welch and Stewart.

Absent and not voting None.

MAILED 23 1998  
PINELLAS COUNTY  
CLERK OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
OFFICE OF COUNTY ATTORNEY

By Michelle M. Laro  
Attorney

**Staff Review and Recommendations**

**Request for Designation as Golf Cart Community  
Crystal Beach and Ozona Areas**



**Pinellas County Department of Public Works / Transportation**

**October 2005**



**Staff Review and Recommendations  
Request for Designation as Golf Cart Community  
Crystal Beach and Ozona Areas  
Pinellas County Department of Public Works / Transportation  
October 2005**

**Introduction**

The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners has received a series of requests to allow golf carts to be used along the roadways of Crystal Beach and Ozona. These include a petition signed by approximately 130 residents of Crystal Beach and from the President of the Ozona Village Improvement Society, written on behalf of over 65 golf cart owners in Ozona.

The correspondence from these communities describes golf carts as environmentally friendly and compatible with the surrounding area. The writers note that golf carts are already in widespread use in the area, although the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office has been warning users of golf carts that their use on the road system is against current traffic laws.

This discussion paper is intended to review the key issues and to make recommendations toward the resolution of these requests.

**Florida Law**

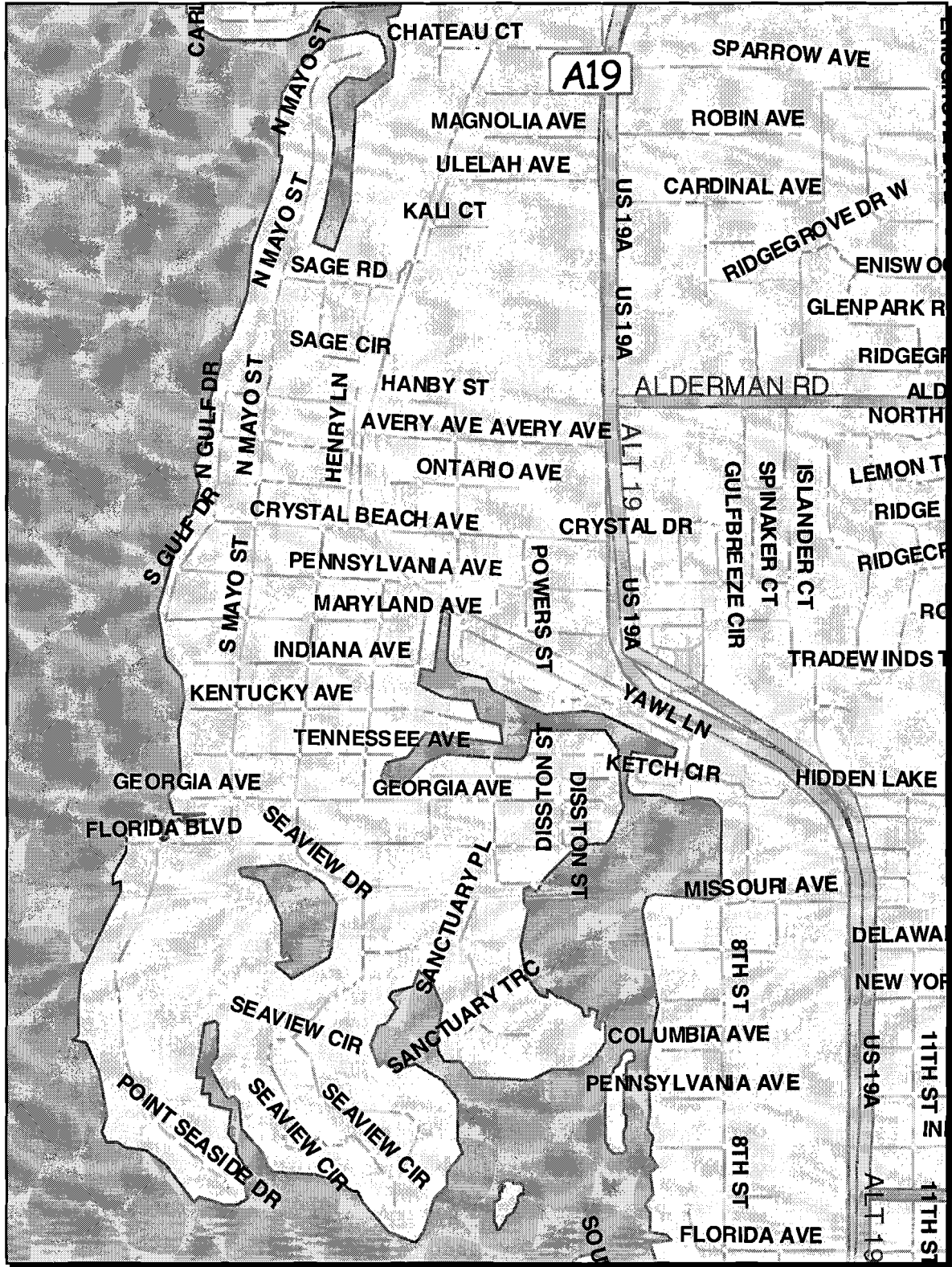
Florida law makes a distinction between two types of vehicles that are similar in function but significantly different in design – “golf carts” and “low-speed vehicles”. These are both defined in Florida Statutes, subsection 320.01:

"Golf cart" means a motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour.

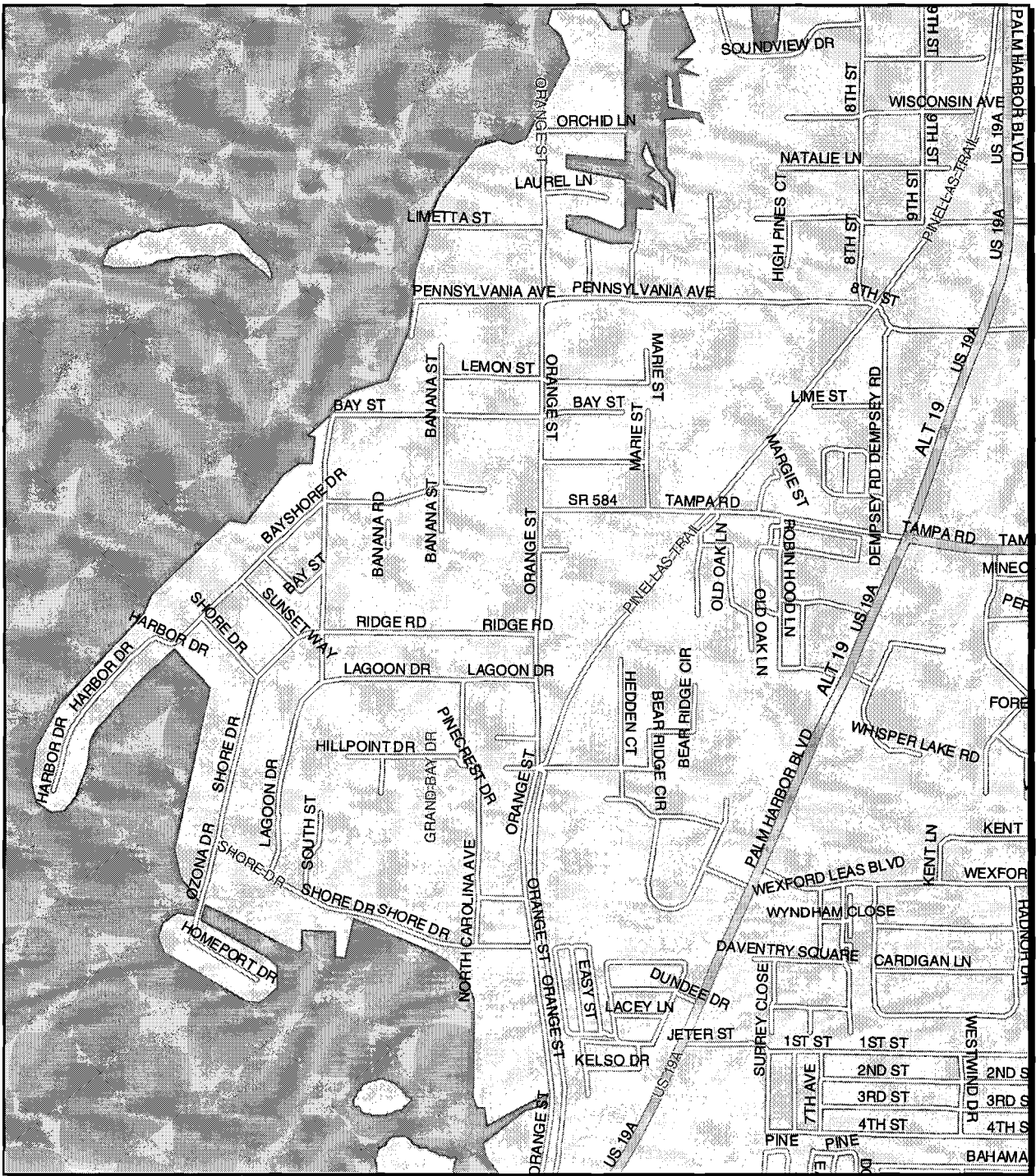
"Low-speed vehicle" means any four-wheeled electric vehicle whose top speed is greater than 20 miles per hour but not greater than 25 miles per hour, including neighborhood electric vehicles. Low-speed vehicles must comply with the safety standards in 49 C.F.R. s. 571.500 and s. 316.2122.

Section 316 of Florida Statutes addresses the traffic laws pertaining to the use and operation of motor vehicles in the State of Florida. Two subsections specifically address the use of “golf carts” by the public; the sections of particular relevance to the request have been highlighted in italics:

# Crystal Beach Area



# Ozona Area



**316.212 Operation of golf carts on certain roadways.**--*The operation of a golf cart upon the public roads or streets of this state is prohibited except as provided herein:*

*(1) A golf cart may be operated only upon a county road that has been designated by a county, or a city street that has been designated by a city, for use by golf carts. Prior to making such a designation, the responsible local governmental entity must first determine that golf carts may safely travel on or cross the public road or street, considering factors including the speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic using the road or street. Upon a determination that golf carts may be safely operated on a designated road or street, the responsible governmental entity shall post appropriate signs to indicate that such operation is allowed.*

(2) A golf cart may be operated on a part of the State Highway System only under the following conditions:

(a) To cross a portion of the State Highway System which intersects a county road or city street that has been designated for use by golf carts if the Department of Transportation has reviewed and approved the location and design of the crossing and any traffic control devices needed for safety purposes.

(b) To cross, at midblock, a part of the State Highway System where a golf course is constructed on both sides of the highway if the Department of Transportation has reviewed and approved the location and design of the crossing and any traffic control devices needed for safety purposes.

(c) A golf cart may be operated on a state road that has been designated for transfer to a local government unit pursuant to s. 335.0415 if the Department of Transportation determines that the operation of a golf cart within the right-of-way of the road will not impede the safe and efficient flow of motor vehicular traffic. The department may authorize the operation of golf carts on such a road if:

1. The road is the only available public road along which golf carts may travel or cross or the road provides the safest travel route among alternative routes available; and

2. The speed, volume, and character of motor vehicular traffic using the road is considered in making such a determination.

Upon its determination that golf carts may be operated on a given road, the department shall post appropriate signs on the road to indicate that such operation is allowed.

(3) Any other provision of this section to the contrary notwithstanding, a golf cart may be operated for the purpose of crossing a street or highway where a single mobile home park is located on both sides of the street or highway and is divided by that street or highway, provided that the governmental entity having original jurisdiction over such street or highway shall review and approve the location of the crossing and require implementation of any traffic controls needed for safety purposes. This subsection shall apply only to residents or guests of the mobile home park. Any other provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, if notice is posted at the entrance and exit to any mobile home park that residents of the park utilize golf carts or electric vehicles within the confines of the park it shall not be necessary that the park have a gate or other device at the entrance and exit in order for such golf carts or electric vehicles to be lawfully operated in the park.

*(4) A golf cart may be operated only during the hours between sunrise and sunset, unless the responsible governmental entity has determined that a golf cart may be operated during the hours between sunset and sunrise and the golf cart is equipped with headlights, brake lights, turn signals, and a windshield.*

*(5) A golf cart must be equipped with efficient brakes, reliable steering apparatus, safe tires, a rearview mirror, and red reflectorized warning devices in both the front and rear.*

*(6) A golf cart may not be operated on public roads or streets by any person under the age of 14.*

(7) A violation of this section is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable pursuant to chapter 318 as either a moving violation for infractions of subsection (1), subsection (2), subsection (3), or subsection (4), or as a nonmoving violation for infractions of subsections (5) and (6).

### **316.2125 Operation of golf carts within a retirement community.--**

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 316.212, the reasonable operation of a golf cart, equipped and operated as provided in s. 316.212(4), (5), and (6), within any self-contained retirement community is permitted unless prohibited under subsection (2).

(2)(a) A county or municipality may prohibit the operation of golf carts on any street or highway under its jurisdiction if the governing body of the county or municipality determines that such prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

(b) The Department of Transportation may prohibit the operation of golf carts on any street or highway under its jurisdiction if it determines that such prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

Subsection 316.2122 addresses the use of “low-speed vehicles”:

**316.2122 Operation of a low-speed vehicle on certain roadways.**--The operation of a low-speed vehicle, as defined in s. 320.01(42), on any road as defined in s. 334.03(15) or (33), is authorized with the following restrictions:

- (1) A low-speed vehicle may be operated only on streets where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. This does not prohibit a low-speed vehicle from crossing a road or street at an intersection where the road or street has a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.
- (2) A low-speed vehicle must be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, taillamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields, seat belts, and vehicle identification numbers.
- (3) A low-speed vehicle must be registered and insured in accordance with s. 320.02.
- (4) Any person operating a low-speed vehicle must have in his or her possession a valid driver's license.
- (5) A county or municipality may prohibit the operation of low-speed vehicles on any road under its jurisdiction if the governing body of the county or municipality determines that such prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.
- (6) The Department of Transportation may prohibit the operation of low-speed vehicles on any road under its jurisdiction if it determines that such prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

In summary, the County can designate specific County roads for use by golf carts, based upon a study that considers the safety aspects of doing so, with considerations toward the speeds, volumes and characteristics of the other vehicles already using the roadways.

Low speed vehicles (including neighborhood electric vehicles), as defined in the Florida Statutes, are already permitted to use any street with a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less, unless the governing body of the County determines that their use should be prohibited in the interest of safety.

### **Benefits of Golf Cart and Low Speed Vehicle Usage**

Golf carts and low speed vehicles have been widely used in some retirement communities, such as Sun City Center, in Hillsborough County, and some planned communities, such as Peachtree City, Georgia. Peachtree City was mentioned in some of the correspondence received from the Ozona proponents; it has been reported that there are over 9,000 registered golf carts in Peachtree City, which also has nearly 100 miles of paved golf cart paths.



**Typical “Golf Cart”**



**Typical Low Speed Vehicle /  
Neighborhood Electric  
Vehicle**

In 1998, the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida looked at the use of golf carts, noting that they and other neighborhood electric vehicles “...show great promise for use as an alternative mode of local transportation, especially for senior citizens, children, and people with disabilities who may not have access to personal automobiles.” They noted that the use of golf carts also contribute to reductions in noise and air pollution.

### **Concerns with Golf Cart Usage**

The primary concern with golf carts on public streets is safety related. Golf carts are exempt from almost all of the safety standards applying to automobiles. They are not required to have doors or bumpers, and are not subject to any crashworthiness testing. A typical golf cart weighs (without batteries) about 600 pounds; a medium size SUV

weighs about nine times that much – a collision between the two would not fare well for the golf cart.

Low speed vehicles have additional safety features, as required by Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 500 (49 CFR 571.500), including headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields, seat belts, and vehicle identification numbers. Typically, they may weigh about twice the weight of a golf cart – but still not a good match for collision survival with a larger vehicle.

The Traffic Enforcement Team of the Pinellas County Sheriffs Department has noted that most of the carts currently in use in the areas requesting the golf cart designation do not include the basic safety devices that would be required by law.

### **Review of Traffic Characteristics in Ozona and Crystal Beach**

Per F.S. 316.212, prior to designating a roadway acceptable for golf cart usage, Pinellas County must first determine that golf carts may safely travel on the public road or street, considering factors including the speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic using the road or street.

Both the Ozona and Crystal Beach areas are relatively self-contained communities. Bounded on the west by the Gulf, and the east by Alternate US 19, they are primarily residential in nature, with some small commercial areas, including restaurants and shops. Most of the roadways are asphalt, and most do not have curb-and-gutter. Generally, there is no street lighting within the areas. Speed limits throughout are 25 miles per hour, with the exception of the southern end of Orange Street, which is 30 miles per hour.

Residents in both the Ozona and Crystal Beach areas have requested the County's Residential Traffic Management (RTM) program staff to address vehicle speeds and volumes. A summary of the traffic studies performed in the Ozona area is shown in Table 1, and the studies in the Crystal Beach area are summarized in Table 2. On the streets studied in Ozona, the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds varied from 29 to 43 miles per hour (in 25 mile per hour speed zones), and volumes ranged up to 2,745 vehicles per day. In Crystal Beach, the measured 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds varied from 35 to 39 miles per hour (25 mile per hour speed limit), and volumes ranged up to 4,726 vehicles per day.

Under the RTM program, speed humps were placed along Ridge Road and Lagoon Road in the Ozona area, and speed humps and a four-way Stop were installed on Avery Avenue in the Crystal Beach area. In addition, to help relieve traffic volume concerns, a connection to the signal at Alderman Road and U.S. Alternate 19 was made from Avery Street via Bruce Drive.



**Table 1 – Ozona Area RTM Data**

Roadway	24-Hour Traffic Counts	85 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Speeds	
		NB or WB	SB or EB
Shore Drive West of North Carolina Avenue	1,102 vehicles / day	34 mph	38 mph
Ozona Drive North of Shore Drive	755 vehicles / day	32 mph	29 mph
Pennsylvania Avenue West of High Pines Court	2,046 vehicles / day	41 mph	43 mph
Lagoon Drive* East of North Street	357 vehicles / day	34 mph	30 mph
Ridge Road* East of North Street	720 vehicles / day	30 mph	34 mph
Orange Street South of Lagoon Drive	2,745 vehicles / day	32 mph	35 mph

\* Speed Humps have since been installed on Ridge Road and Lagoon Drive.

**Table 2 – Crystal Beach Area RTM Data**

Roadway	24-Hour Traffic Counts	85 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Speeds	
		NB or WB	SB or EB
Crystal Beach Avenue East of Hanby Street	4,726 vehicles / day	38 mph	36 mph
Vincent Street South of Maryland Avenue	2,155 vehicles / day	39 mph	38 mph
Georgia Avenue East of Broadus Street	756 vehicles / day	36 mph	33 mph
Mayo Street South of Maryland Avenue	950 vehicles / day	38 mph	36 mph
Mayo Street North of Avery Avenue	791 vehicles / day	35 mph	35 mph

The Ozona Village Improvement Society's President, Peg Mahara, in a May 24, 2005 memo to Commissioner Latvala, offered four considerations:

- Equipment that would be required for the golf carts are headlights, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields, and seatbelts.
- The golf cart driver would be required to have a driver's license.

- The area encompassed by the authorization would include the community areas of Ozona and Crystal Beach, west of U.S. Alternate 19.
- All golf carts that would be utilized in the community would be required to provide ownership contact information to OVIS and the appropriate Crystal Beach Community Organization. Only golf carts with a top speed of 20 mph would be permitted.

## **Crash History**

There is not a significant crash history within the limits of either Ozona or Crystal Beach.

Accident data to identify any trends for golf cart or low speed vehicle crashes are unavailable, either state wide or locally. The standard crash report does not have a field to identify a vehicle as either a golf cart or low speed vehicle, and due to the very low number of these vehicles on the roadway, crash numbers are minimal.

However, there has been a fatal crash involving a golf cart in Pinellas County. In July 1999, an 82-year old golfer was killed at the intersection of Cinnamon Hill Boulevard at Shelly Drive, in the Highland Lakes area of Palm Harbor, when he turned left in front of an on-coming car. The local condominium owners' association had allowed golf carts to use the roadways when traveling to and from the golf course, apparently based on an older version of F.S. 316.212 which, at the time, included the provision "A golf cart may be operated within a 1-mile radius of a bona fide golf course and only when being used to transport the owner or operator between his residence and the golf course".

A second golf cart fatality occurred in March 1986, also in the Highland Lakes area of Palm Harbor. However, this fatality was not caused by a crash; supporting materials collapsed while a resident was working on his cart.

## **Discussion**

During the preparation of this agenda item, first as this issue was discussed internally by County staff, and later through comments from the public following media attention, a number of discussion questions were identified. It seems appropriate to include these discussion items as part of this paper:

**Why is there a concern about golf carts?** *The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) investigated the use of golf carts in 1999, noting that the on-road use of golf carts had already resulted in some deaths and serious injuries. As input to this investigation, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimated an average of 222 on-road golf cart injuries per year over the period from 1993 through 1997. During the same time period, NHTSA's Fatal Analysis Reporting System (FARS) showed a total of nine deaths of golf cart occupants in on-road crashes – eight of the nine*

*due to collisions with other vehicles; one due to leaving the road and ejecting the passenger.*

*Is this high? In terms of raw numbers, you would have to say "no". In 2003, there were 42,643 persons killed and 2,889,000 persons injured in motor vehicle crashes in the United States. Golf cart injuries and fatalities account for a very small percentage of injuries and fatalities nationwide.*

*The dilemma is determining the relative exposure of crashes involving golf carts to all crashes. Nationally, the fatality rate for all crashes is 1.48 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel. We have nowhere near that exposure for golf carts. A good analogy is the question "What's a safer pet – a dog or a crocodile?" Pet dogs kill far more people than pet crocodiles. But, most people would agree that the crocodile would not make a safe pet.*

**But what about other lightweight vehicles? Bicycles, motorcycles, motorscooters, and mopeds all weigh less than golf carts, and they're permitted on the roads. Why not golf carts?** *There are indeed lighter weight vehicles that are legal on the roads. But, the key difference is that they are already legal. And, their use comes with a price -- of the 103 motor vehicle fatalities in Pinellas County in 2003, 5 were bicyclists and 22 rode motorcycles, motorscooters, or mopeds. In addition, there were 27 pedestrians killed. And, this is with statutes that deal specifically with bicycle, motorcycle, and pedestrian safety. If golf carts were permitted to be used on roadways, the exposure, and most likely the injuries and fatalities, would increase.*

**But you build bike lanes...** *Yes, in an effort to provide greater separation between motor vehicles and bicyclists. We also have built an extensive trail system to try to separate bicyclists from motor vehicles.*

**The small motorized skateboards – they're illegal. Do the law enforcement agencies enforce their use?** *Yes; the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office reports that they routinely ticket operators of go-carts, go-peds, and the small motorized skateboards for illegal operation on public roads.*

**Why permit a Low Speed Vehicle and not a Golf Cart? It's small and lightweight too.** *The Low Speed Vehicle falls under NHTSA's jurisdiction as a motor vehicle, and is covered by specific safety requirements in its design and construction. It does still suffer from the same low-mass design, and probably would not hold up well in a collision with a larger vehicle. But, it does have higher conspicuity and crash avoidance requirements (headlights, taillights, turn signals, brake lights, mirrors, etc.) and factory designed seatbelts. It's already legal on roadways with speed limits of 35 mph or less, unless the County decides to prohibit them along specific roadways.*

**If there is a concern about speeding in the area, why not just reduce the speed limit to 15 mph to reduce the average actual speeds and make it safer?** *The speed limits within both the Ozona and Crystal Beach area are 25 mph. Many traffic engineering*

*studies, conducted over several decades in all parts of the country, have shown that a driver's speed is influenced more by the appearance of the roadway and the prevailing traffic conditions than it is by the posted speed limit. Therefore, some drivers will obey the lower posted speed while others will feel it's unreasonable and simply ignore it. This has been the basis for the positive traffic calming measures used in our residential Traffic Management program, instead of just reducing speed limits.*

**What has been the experience in local areas that permit golf carts?** *As mentioned earlier in this report, there has been a fatal crash involving a golf cart in Pinellas County. In July 1999, an 82-year old golfer was killed at the intersection of Cinnamon Hill Boulevard at Shelly Drive, in the Highland Lakes area of Palm Harbor, when he turned left in front of an on-coming car.*

*Residents in Sun City Center, in southern Hillsborough County, have about 4,000 carts that are used on the local streets. They have regulations on their use, including prohibitions against use at night and on crossing State Road 674 (permitted at only four locations; driving a golf cart along SR 674 is prohibited. A Hillsborough County Sheriff's spokesperson indicated that he thought that golf carts were a positive in Sun City Center; the very wide roads help the dual use. He said that they have very few crashes considering the amount of use that they get on the roads. But, he noted that they have had two recent fatalities – one where someone fell out of a cart, and one where a cart was impacted by another vehicle. He said that they did not really have a speeding problem within the residential areas.*

**Is there a compromise position that would allow golf carts to be used in Ozone or Crystal Beach?** *The goal of the prohibition is to maximize the safety of the public. Three primary areas related to safety include:*

- *The reduction of exposure. The reduction of exposure consists of minimizing the opportunities for a crash with a motor vehicle to occur. For example, the Pinellas Trail system, with its exclusive right-of-way and limited roadway conflict points, reduces the exposure for bicyclists and pedestrians to have a crash involving a motor vehicle. Special golf cart paths have been used extensively in Peachtree City, and to a lesser extent in Sun City Center, to minimize the exposure to motor vehicle crashes.*
- *The avoidance of crashes. Where conflicts between golf carts and motor vehicles do exist, it is important to maximize the avoidance of crashes. This can be accomplished through driver education (OVIS' proposed requirement to limit golf cart usage to licensed drivers helps to ensure some level of driver training and maturity); increased conspicuity of the vehicle (lights and reflectors are proposed by OVIS, but already required by state law for night operation); special traffic control restrictions (lane designations, similar to bicycle lanes, might be an option); and speed management techniques (such as the County's Residential Traffic Management program) might all help to avoid crashes.*
- *The crash-worthiness of the vehicle. Should a crash occur, how well does the vehicle protect its occupants? The golf cart provides minimal protection in*

*comparison to automotive standards. The Low Speed Vehicle, with its Federal Safety requirements, is better, but still not up to automotive standards. But, it is legal without any County action.*

*Any compromise position would have to be reviewed on its merits of enhancing safety in one or more of these areas. Staff is willing to review and make recommendations upon any proposed compromise positions to see if the safety issues are enhanced.*

## **Recommendations**

The Pinellas County Department of Public Works / Transportation Department recommends against the designation of either the Crystal Beach or Ozona communities as Golf Cart Communities. Golf carts should not be permitted to be operated along the County's roadways in this area.

While the use of the golf carts can have a positive impact on mobility, fuel usage, and pollutant emissions, their safety is in question when mixed with typical automobile traffic. Both Crystal Beach and Ozona have participated in the County's Residential Traffic Program, indicating that speeding has been a concern.

With the speeds and volumes within the desired cart use areas, County staff cannot determine that golf carts can be used safely along these roadways, as required under F.S. 316.212.

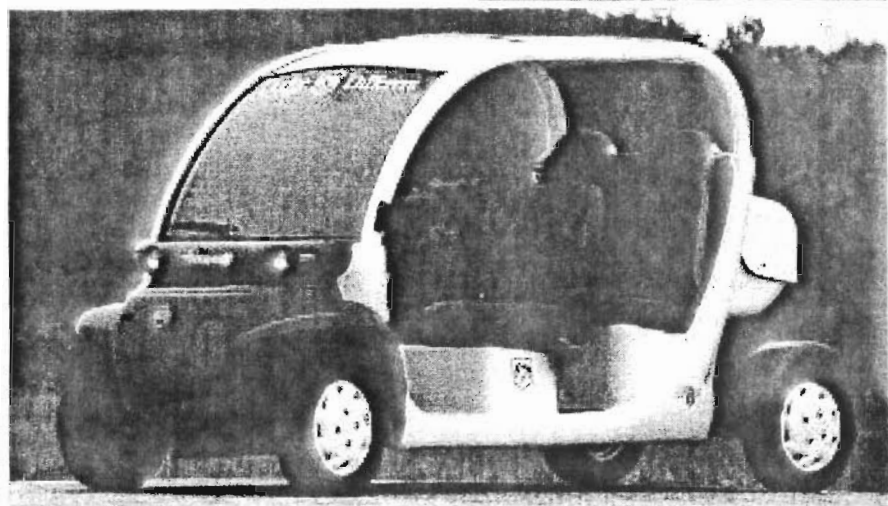
However, the use of low speed vehicles (including neighborhood electric vehicles), with their additional safety features and increased mass, is already permitted by Florida Statute. The Public Works / Transportation Department recommends continuing to allow their use as permitted by law until such time that additional experience with their use identifies more significant safety concerns.

## Souped-up golf carts hit the streets

Golf carts used to be just for the links. About a decade ago, resort and retirement communities in Arizona, California, Nevada and elsewhere started to experiment with allowing golf carts on the streets. Then new environmental incentives began encouraging manufacturers to introduce a whole new class of golf cart-like vehicles marketed expressly for on-road use.

They're known as neighborhood electric vehicles (NEVs), and what's different about them is their higher speed and dressed-up exteriors. Basically they're glorified electric golf carts, and the concern is that significant numbers of them are going to end up on public streets instead of controlled environments.

Clean air laws are pressuring for dramatically increased sales of electric vehicles



including NEVs, and many states aren't adequately controlling where the NEVs can be used. Several states have passed laws essentially allowing such vehicles on streets with speed limits up to 35 or even 40 mph.

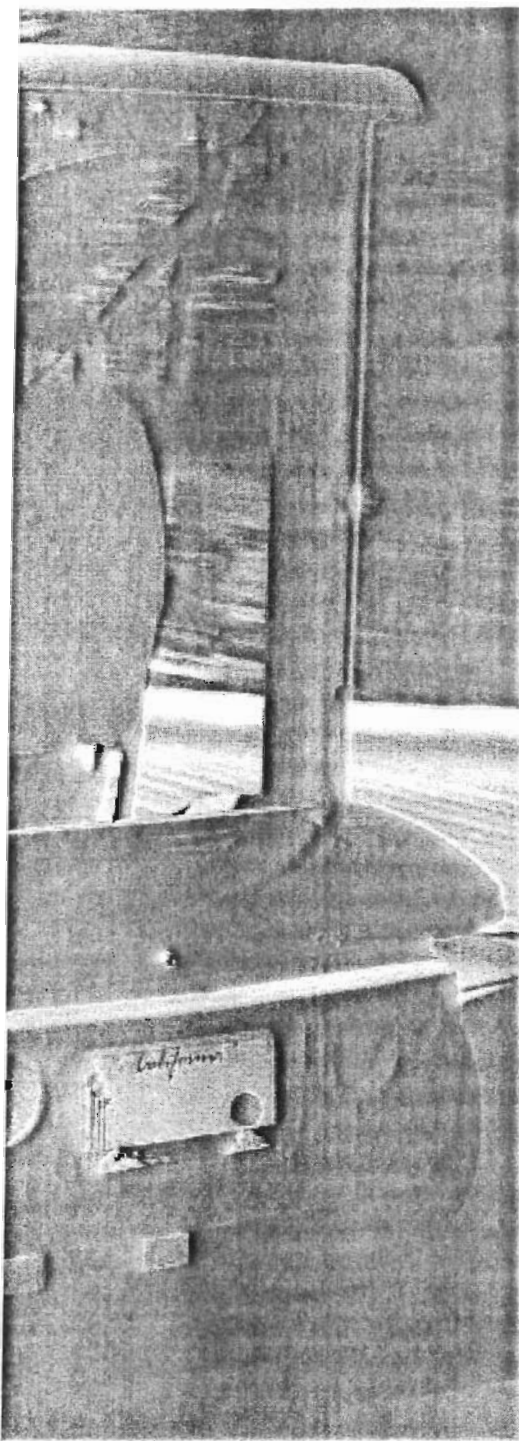
Under federal safety standards, NEVs belong in the class of "low-speed vehicles," which the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration defines as having top speeds of 20 to 25 mph. Any golf cart or other four-

wheeled motorized vehicle with a top speed in that range qualifies for the class. (Golf carts typically have top speeds below 20 mph, although it's possible to get ones that go about 25 mph.)

Low-speed vehicles including NEVs are exempt from almost all safety standards applying to cars. All that's required is some basic safety equipment — windshield, mirrors, headlights, signal lights, tail and brake

lights, reflectors, safety belts, and a parking brake. Low-speed vehicles don't have to have doors or bumpers, and they're not required to meet any crashworthiness tests.

In other words, NEVs aren't going to do much to protect their occupants in any kind of crash. It's easy to imagine what would happen if such a vehicle weighing 1,300 pounds were to get hit by a sport utility vehicle weighing three or four times as much. The NEV wouldn't even fare well in a collision with a small car, which still would outweigh the NEV by a thousand pounds or more.



**State emissions laws are spurring sales:** Although NEVs aren't cars, they're being pushed on the market along with electric cars under California's mandate for zero emissions vehicles. (The mandate goes into effect next year, and similar laws have been enacted in Massachusetts and New York.) To comply with this law, electric vehicles must account for 2 percent of an automaker's total car sales in California. NEVs count toward the quotas, and any electric vehicle sold before 2003 earns extra credits. So there's an incentive to sell NEVs in volume

— and do it soon, perhaps selling tens of thousands this year alone.

So far two major automakers have gotten into the business. DaimlerChrysler is selling vehicles called GEMs through its recently acquired subsidiary, Global Electric Motorcars. Ford has the Think Neighbor. Independent manufacturers including Lee Iacocca's Lido Motors, Western Golf Car, and Columbia ParCar also are producing NEVs.

Besides zero emissions laws, tax incentives for electric vehicles in California and other states are helping to spur NEV sales. Close to 6,000 NEVs were sold in Arizona, for example, when the state briefly offered a \$10,000 tax credit toward the purchase of zero emissions vehicles.

**Street legal doesn't mean street safe:** The problem with all this pressure is that many states don't have adequate NEV laws. California and 12 other states have laws allowing low-speed vehicles or NEVs on streets with speed limits of 35 mph or less. Kansas allows these vehicles on streets with speed limits up to 40 mph. Other states haven't enacted any specific laws.

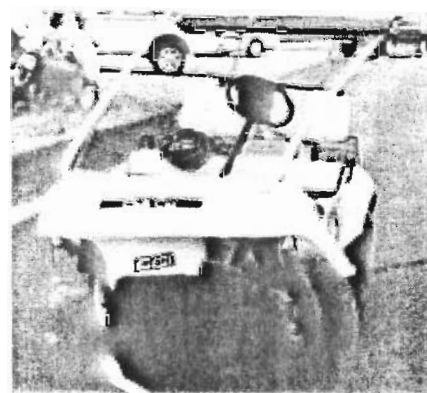
Light and flimsy NEVs would be out of their league in crashes with other vehicles going 35 mph. Besides, actual speeds on streets with 35 mph limits frequently are a lot higher. Speeding is widespread, and when drivers speed they often exceed posted limits by a significant margin. For example, 30 percent of drivers in a recent District of Columbia survey were exceeding posted limits by at least 11 mph.

"NEVs are a safety problem waiting to happen," says Institute president Brian O'Neill. "Souped-up golf carts aren't cars, and they don't belong on streets and roads with regular traffic. If they really start catching on, we'll have to run some crash tests to demonstrate their lack of protection."

**GM petitions for federal action:** General Motors' executive director of safety integration, Bob Lange, points out that this is a "huge problem for highway safety. If we

presume a collision rate equal to that of cars and trucks, there will be a couple of thousand crashes annually involving low-speed vehicles. That could result in several hundred serious or fatal injuries, none of which would happen if the states would behave responsibly and limit the operating environments of these vehicles."

General Motors has taken the lead among automakers to bring this issue to government attention, lobbying California officials to change state laws to restrict low-speed vehicles to streets with 25 mph speed limits or less. The company also recently petitioned the federal government to change the safety standards. General Motors wants two new requirements — labels identifying the safety hazards associated with operating low-speed vehicles in mixed traffic and additional conspicuity features that would make these vehicles more visible. Another request is to monitor crashes and inform state agencies of the potential for a safety problem.



There still aren't many NEVs on the streets, so their crash experience is limited. However, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has looked at golf cart crashes, finding at least nine deaths on public roads between 1993 and 1998. Eight of the nine deaths occurred when the golf carts collided with cars or trucks. The young male driver of the cart shown above died when his vehicle was struck in the side by a sport utility vehicle.



### Golf Cart Community Designation Requests: Ozona and Crystal Beach



## Definition

"Golf Cart" means a motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour.

From Florida Statute 320.01



## Golf Carts



## Definition

"Low-speed vehicle" means any four-wheeled electric vehicle whose top speed is greater than 20 miles per hour but not greater than 25 miles per hour, including neighborhood electric vehicles. Low-speed vehicles must comply with the safety standards in 49 CFR 571.500 and F.S. 316.2122.

From Florida Statute 320.01



## Low-Speed Vehicles (Neighborhood Electric Vehicles)



## Applicable Florida Statutes

- 316.212 - Operation of golf carts on certain roadways
- 316.2125 – Operation of golf carts within a retirement community
- 316.2122 – Operation of a low-speed vehicle on certain roadways





### 316.212 – Operation of Golf Carts on Certain Roadways

- Golf carts are prohibited on public roads, except:
  - A county may designate a county road for golf cart usage, after determining that golf carts can safely travel on the road, considering factors including speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic using the road.
  - Within a mobile home park



### 316.212 – Operation of Golf Carts on Certain Roadways (continued)

- Golf carts may be operated between sunrise and sunset.
  - If permitted by the responsible government agency, night operation of golf carts with headlights, brake lights, turn signals, and a windshield is allowable.



### 316.212 – Operation of Golf Carts on Certain Roadways (continued)

- Golf carts must have efficient brakes, reliable steering, safe tires, a rearview mirror, and red reflectors on front and back.
- Golf carts may not be operated on public roads or streets by any person under the age of 14.



### 316.2125 – Operation of Golf Carts Within a Retirement Community

- Golf carts with safety equipment defined in 316.212 may be operated within any self-contained retirement community.
- A county may prohibit the operation of golf carts on any street or highway in its jurisdiction in the interest of safety.



### 316.2122 – Operation of a Low-Speed Vehicle on Certain Roadways

- Low-speed vehicles are permitted on streets with posted speed limit of 35 mph or less.
- Low-speed vehicles must have headlights, stoplights, turn signals, taillights, reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshield, seatbelts, and a vehicle identification number.



### 316.2122 – Operation of a Low-Speed Vehicle on Certain Roadways (continued)

- Low-speed vehicles must be registered and insured.
- Operators of low-speed vehicles must have a valid driver's license in their possession.
- A county may prohibit the use of low-speed vehicles on any road in the interest of safety.



## Benefits of Golf Carts and Low-Speed Vehicles

- Widely used in retirement communities
  - Sun City Center, Florida
- Usage in some planned communities
  - Peachtree City, Georgia
- Provides alternative mode of transportation, especially for senior citizens
- Reduced noise and air pollution



## Concerns with Golf Carts

- Golf carts are exempt from almost all automobile safety standards
  - Doors and bumpers not required
  - No crashworthiness testing
- Lower speeds = greater difference in speed with other motor vehicles
- Less mass = lower survivability in collision

*Low-speed vehicles have additional safety features as required in 49 CFR 571.500*



## Relative Vehicle Weights

Vehicle Type	Weight (typical)
Golf Cart	600 pounds
Low-Speed Vehicle	1200 pounds
Medium Size SUV	5500 pounds
Hummer H2	8600 pounds



## Current Requests for Golf Cart Designation

- Crystal Beach
- Ozona Area



## Crystal Beach

- Petition received with 130 signatures
- Requested golf cart designations on all roads west of US Alt 19 in the Crystal Beach area



## Crystal Beach



## Crystal Beach

Roadway	Volumes	85 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Speeds
Crystal Beach Ave. E of Hanby St.	4726 vehicles / day	38 mph westbound 36 mph eastbound
Vincent St. S of Maryland Ave.	2155 vehicles / day	39 mph northbound 38 mph southbound
Georgia Ave. E of Broadus St.	756 vehicles / day	36 mph westbound 33 mph eastbound
Mayo St. S of Maryland Ave.	950 vehicles / day	38 mph northbound 36 mph southbound
Mayo St. N of Avery Ave	791 vehicles / day	35 mph northbound 35 mph southbound

All Speed Limits 25 mph



## Crystal Beach

- RTM Measures installed on Avery Avenue (speed humps and four-way Stop)
- Connection to Alderman signal via Bruce Drive



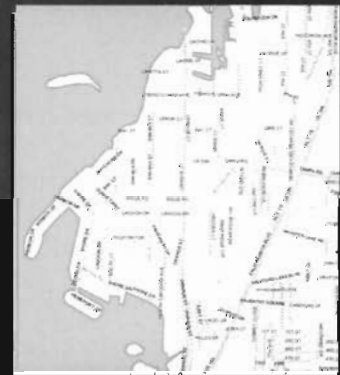
## Crystal Beach

- Recommend against golf cart usage
  - Can not determine that golf carts could safely use these roads, as required in F.S. 316.212.
  - Past participation in Residential Traffic Management program due to speeding and volume concerns.



## Ozona

- Letter from Ozona Village Improvement Society
- Requested golf cart designations on all roads west of US Alt 19 in the Ozona area



## Ozona



## Ozona

Roadway	Volumes	85 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Speeds
Shore Drive W of North Carolina Ave.	1102 vehicles / day	34 mph westbound 38 mph eastbound
Ozona Drive N of Shore Dr.	755 vehicles / day	32 mph northbound 29 mph southbound
Pennsylvania Ave. W of High Pines Ct. *	2046 vehicles / day	41 mph westbound 43 mph eastbound
Lagoon Drive E of North St. *	357 vehicles / day	34 mph westbound 30 mph eastbound
Ridge Road E of North St. *	720 vehicles / day	30 mph westbound 34 mph eastbound
Orange St. S of Lagoon Drive *	2745 vehicles / day	32 mph northbound 35 mph southbound


Speed Limits 25 mph

\*Residential Traffic Management Measures have since been installed.




## Ozona

- RTM Measures:
  - Ridge Road and Lagoon Road (speed humps);
  - Orange Street (multi-way Stop signs);
  - Pennsylvania Avenue (multi-way Stop signs)




The map shows a street network in Ozona, Florida. Several streets are highlighted with black dots and lines, indicating the locations of RTM measures. Ridge Road and Lagoon Road are marked with speed humps, while Orange Street and Pennsylvania Avenue are marked with multi-way stop signs.




## Ozona

- Recommend against golf cart usage
  - Can not determine that golf carts could safely use these roads, as required in F.S. 316.212.
  - Past participation in Residential Traffic Management program due to speeding and volume concerns.



## Questions?



# PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT CARD

Agenda Date 10/18/2015

Agenda Item (NOT Case) No. 53

I Agree  Disagree

With Staff's Recommendation.\*

The Board of County Commissioners values your participation.



On the regular Board agenda, there are "**Scheduled Public Hearings.**" If you want to speak about a Public Hearing item, **please fill out this blue card at the beginning of the meeting, and give it to the Board Secretary at the Staff Table. NOTE:** In the **upper right hand corner**, complete the agenda's date, agenda's item number (**NOT** the case number), your position on the item, and **towards the bottom of the card**, your contact information, and some key words to help identify the Public Hearing item. **Copies of the agenda are available** in the shelf at the front of the podiums on the 1st and 5th Floors, near the elevators. \*In order to determine your position and understand staff's recommendation to the Board, **copies of the Public Hearing items are numerically filed by agenda item number (NOT by case number) in the black binders on top of the podiums, and available for public review. Please adhere to the guidelines noted in the Public Participation and Decorum Rules and those noted on the reverse side of this card.**

NAME NEIL VALK  
ADDRESS P.O BOX 829 CITY Crystal Bch ZIP 34681  
CHECK INCORPORATED  OR UNINCORPORATED  TOPIC GOLF CARTS.

# PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT CARD

Agenda Date 10/18/05

Agenda Item (NOT Case) No. 53

I Agree  Disagree

With Staff's Recommendation.\*

The Board of County Commissioners values your participation.



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NAME Peg Mahara  
ADDRESS 312 Bay St CITY Ozona ZIP 34660  
CHECK INCORPORATED  OR UNINCORPORATED  TOPIC Golf Cart Resolution

# PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT CARD

Agenda Date 10.18.05

Agenda Item (NOT Case) No. 53

I Agree  Disagree

With Staff's Recommendation.\*

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NAME DAVID DUNBAR

ADDRESS 80 SHORE DR CITY OZONA ZIP 34660

CHECK INCORPORATED  OR UNINCORPORATED  TOPIC GOLF CARTS

# PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT CARD

#53

Agenda Date 10/18/2005

Agenda Item (NOT Case) No. 53

I Agree  Disagree

With Staff's Recommendation.\*

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NAME Ann Wickstrom Neyrey  
ADDRESS 295 Orange St CITY Ozona FL ZIP 33460  
CHECK INCORPORATED  OR UNINCORPORATED  TOPIC Request for Ozona Golf Course



# PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT CARD

Agenda Date 10.18.05  
Agenda Item (NOT Case) No. 53  
I Agree \_\_\_\_\_ Disagree   
With Staff's Recommendation.\*

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NAME Brian St. Arnold Brian St. Arnold  
ADDRESS 502 Oceanview Ave CITY Crystal Beach ZIP 32683  
CHECK INCORPORATED \_\_\_\_\_ OR UNINCORPORATED  TOPIC Golf Cart

# PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT CARD

53

Agenda Date \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item (~~NOT~~ Case) No. \_\_\_\_\_

I Agree \_\_\_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_\_\_

With Staff's Recommendation.\*

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NAME Jas Amy Tally

ADDRESS 10100 Mable Rd CITY P.A. ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK INCORPORATED \_\_\_\_\_ OR UNINCORPORATED  TOPIC 53

PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
INTER-OFFICE MEMO

Herbats  
ET  
12/14/04

11-19-04

DATE: November 15, 2004  
TO: Sheriff Jim Coats, via Chain of Command  
Office of the Sheriff  
FROM: Sgt. Timothy W. Pelella #52610  
Special Operations Division  
Selective Traffic Enforcement Program

MSB  
concern

RECEIVED  
DEC 13 2004  
PUBLIC WORKS  
DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: GOLF CART OPERATION, CRYSTAL BEACH, FLORIDA

On November 5, 2004 I was instructed by my supervisor, Lieutenant Dioquino, to evaluate the feasibility of authorizing the use of Golf Carts, on the county roadways, within the Crystal Beach community. Based on my review of the Florida State Statutes, our directed patrol requests, and my knowledge of other such requests, I must recommend the authorization to operate golf carts on the public streets, of the Crystal Beach community, be denied.

Currently, Florida State Statute 316.212 prohibits the operation of golf carts on any state, county, or local roadways unless such state, county, or local roadway has been designated by the individual governmental entity, for use by golf carts. However, prior to this designation, "the responsible governmental entity must first determine that golf carts may safely travel on or cross the public road or street". Factors such as speed, volume, and types of vehicles using these roads must be considered. Based on a traffic study completed in 2003, by Pinellas County's Residential Traffic Management Program, a speeding problem was identified on several of their streets.

Since 2001 to present day, the Traffic Enforcement Unit has documented complaints of speeding in the Crystal Beach area, and has generated directed patrols for each complaint. Since 2001 the Traffic Enforcement Unit has responded to the Crystal Beach area 41 times and issued a total of 94 citations. These citations encompassed both speeding and stop sign violations, which are primary causes of motor vehicle crashes. The Traffic Enforcement Unit continues to monitor vehicular traffic within this community in hopes of changing driver behavior.

The Crystal Beach community is not the first community to request authorization to operate golf carts on the roadways of Pinellas County. The Highland Lakes community, in North Pinellas, requested their roadways be designated for use by golf carts, however, this request was denied by the Board of County Commissioners. Unlike the Crystal Beach community, the Highland Lakes community does encompass a golf course that residents are utilizing. However the Highland Lakes community's roadways have a higher volume of motor vehicle traffic on them than does Crystal Beach. If one

11/16/04

PAT04-2304

MAJ. D.K.  
Sizel  
11/17/04

0124-710

D. CV. 0330

community is granted authorization then other communities would follow suite shortly thereafter. Also, if citizens were granted authorization to operate a golf cart on the roadways within their community, I would fear that the boundaries of the community would eventually be broken thus causing a violation of Florida State Statute, subjecting the operator to a \$114.50 moving violation.

Based on my evaluation I do not believe golf carts can be operated, safely, on the roadways of the Crystal Beach community. Secondly, by authorizing such use of the roadways and allowing golf carts to interact with motor vehicle traffic the potential for a crash is increased. Based on this thought I would recommend that General Counsel for both the Sheriff's Office and Pinellas County evaluate this topic for any possible liability.

## Barclay, Dawn

---

**From:** Reed, Linda  
**Sent:** Monday, October 17, 2005 8:09 AM  
**To:** Barclay, Dawn; Anderson, Velyn D.  
**Subject:** FW: #53, BCC 10.18.05 Regular Public Meeting Agenda, Golf Carts in Crystal Beach, FL

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Rose, Nancy  
**Sent:** Monday, October 17, 2005 7:20 AM  
**To:** Reed, Linda  
**Cc:** Yauch, Pete; Wicks, Keith; Klug, Della A; Ramaciere, Kelly  
**Subject:** Re: #53, BCC 10.18.05 Regular Public Meeting Agenda, Golf Carts in Crystal Beach, FL

Good morning, Linda, happy Monday. Just wanted to forward you the email below from a citizen regarding item #53 on tomorrow's agenda to incorporate into the record, many tx, n

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Spratt, Stephen  
**Sent:** Friday, October 14, 2005 6:13 PM  
**To:** Wicks, Keith; Yauch, Pete; Rose, Nancy  
**Subject:** FW: Golf Carts in Crystal Beach, FL

-----Original Message-----

**From:** jr282@msn.com [mailto:jr282@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 14, 2005 9:34 AM  
**To:** Spratt, Stephen; Roiland, Michael R; public, af; Latvala, Susan; Welch, Kenneth T; public, af; Morroni, John  
**Subject:** Golf Carts in Crystal Beach, FL

This information is the result of an online customer service form submission from the Pinellas County web site.  
general\_information is the nature of this e mail message\_text Crystal Beach is no longer a quaint community & is not a golf course community. If people want to use golf carts they need to move to a golf community. The growth over the years in Crystal Beach has grown immensely & you need to consider that each home in Crystal Beach has at least 2 vehicles. The speed limit is 25 & most people go even faster. Driving golf carts in Crystal Beach are accidents just waiting to happen. We drive on streets in Crystal Beach; not golf cart lanes. If residents want to drive golf carts in Crystal Beach the carts need to meet the 25 mph speed limit, should be required to have tags & meet all requirements that a registerd vehicle must have; otherwise we are going to have unlicensed drivers behind the wheel. Do you want the responsibily of a child falling off the back of a golf cart onto a public road!!

email jr282@msn.com

The following recipients received this information.

County Administrators Office sspratt@co.pinellas.fl.us Commissioner Susan Latvala slatvala@co.pinellas.fl.us Commissioner Kenneth T Welch ktwelch@co.pinellas.fl.us Commissioner John Morroni jmorrone@co.pinellas.fl.us

**Kennedy, Brenda**

---

**From:** Meaders, Jerry  
**Sent:** Monday, July 26, 2004 9:34 AM  
**To:** Latvala, Susan  
**Subject:** Fwd: Re: Crystal Beach Golf Cart designation petition

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Red

Dear Commr. Latvala:

Attached is the response I have received to my inquiry in connection with Mr. Valk's petition. Based on this information, my legal recommendation would be against going forward with approving a golf cart community designation in Crystal Beach. I would be glad to discuss this matter further, and would be glad to frame a response to Mr. Valk's correspondence if you prefer that I should do this rather than yourself.

>>> Winston Needham 7/26/2004 8:24:20 AM >>>

Jerry:

We are of the opinion that the designation of a roadway for golf cart usage should be reserved for those roadways where traverse by golf carts makes logical sense, e.g. roadways that:

1. Run adjacent to or in close proximity to a golf course,
2. Divide a mobile home park.

We are not aware of any such conditions existing in Crystal Beach. The closest golf course would be at Alt.19 and Curlew Road. Golf cart operators are unlikely to drive their carts that far to play a round of golf.

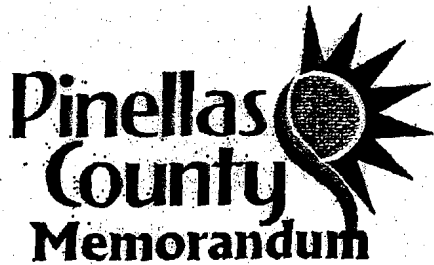
Furthermore, we do not believe golf carts should interface with traffic on arterial roadways such as Alt.19. Vehicles are more prone to traffic conflicts when there is a substantial difference in the speeds of the moving vehicles. In a community, such as Crystal Beach, where drivers would not normally expect to see golf carts, (there are no golf courses there) the designation would be contrary to normal driver expectation. If drivers do not expect a roadway condition to exist, the likelihood for traffic conflicts increases: this would be a compromise to traffic safety. In recent studies, we documented excessive speeds on a number of the roadways in Crystal Beach: this includes the community's primary access Crystal Beach Avenue.

We do not think that the proposed designation as a "Golf Cart Community" is the way to go.


>>> Jerry Meaders 7/22/2004 2:14:38 PM >>>

Jim and Winston:

I have received signed petition for designation of Crystal Beach, "on all roads west of palm harbor Boulevard a/k/a Alt. 19, as a Golf Cart Community". As I discussed with Winston not long ago, we can provide, by ordinance I believe, for designation of a road as traversible by golf cart. Please let me know how we should proceed. It may be that the issue of safety should at least be looked at, as well as the position of law enforcement within the municipality, if there is one at this location. thanks. I need to hear something as soon as possible to respond back to Commr. Latvala.



TO: SUSAN CHURUTI  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

FROM: COMMISSIONER SUSAN LATVALA 

RE: GOLF CART COMMUNITIES

DATE: JULY 20, 2004

Attached is a petition submitted by Mr. Neil Valk and signed by residents of Crystal Beach requesting that the BCC designate Crystal Beach as a "Golf Cart Community". Can you please let me know what further action must be taken to accomplish this, if possible, for the Crystal Beach community? Thanks.

PETITION

10

14

We, the undersigned, do hereby make a request to Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners to designate Crystal Beach, Florida as a Golf Cart Community, permitting the use of golf carts on all roads west of Palm Harbor Boulevard a/k/a Alt. 19 in the community named Crystal Beach as per attached drawing

<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>PRINT NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TEL #</u>
	MARK WHITTLE	606 Maryland Ave	727-786-0600
	KAREN FRALEY	610 Maryland Ave	787-8420
	Phil Fraley	610 Maryland Ave	215-954
	STEVEN R. HULTGREN	608 Maryland Ave	727-787-0065
	Brandon Hultgren	608 Maryland Ave	727-787-0065
	Francis Gorman	603 Maryland Ave	789-1011
	MATT Bowser	510 Tennessee Ave	727-781-250
	Alan Nammann	512 Maryland Ave	727-878321
	Lynn Whittle	606 Maryland	727-786-0600
	Henry W. Ramirez	205 Broadus St	727-785-8826
	TRACY Ramirez	205 Broadus St	727-785-8826
	JENNIFER FRIESEN	401 KENTUCKY AVE	770-403-7108
	KATHLENE HULTGREN	608 Maryland	787-0065
	Shirly McChewis	602 Maryland Ave	403-4314
	Steve DeFeir	602 "	787-4334314
	H. Agnes CARSON	611 Maryland Ave	789-2996



PETITION

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<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>PRINT NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TEL #</u>
	ALICIA DONOHUE	100 TENNESSEE CRYSTAL BCH	785-1252
	Todd Sondgerath	240 Grace Street <sup>Crystal Beach</sup>	781-0856
	JUSTIN GENTNER	130 Florida Blvd	784-8872
	Megan Bowser	520 Tennessee Ave	781-2525
	Robin Abbeier	530 Tennessee Ave <sup>Crystal Beach</sup> Pinellas	786-2007
	Paul Scagnelli	525 Tennessee Ave CB	787-6618
	DEBORAH HEIL	607 TENNESSEE AVE	785-3133
	Nick Manoloudis	613 Tennessee Ave	781-9371
	Bob Clark	815 GUY RD	780-6884
	Ed Larson	415 INDIANA	784-8883
	Mary Wheeler	134 Kentucky	772-0346
	Scott Wheeler	100 Kentucky Ave	786-6852
	Kathleen Zbesko	" " " "	" "
	LANCE FOX	393 Georgia Ave.	784-4729
		601 MAYO ST	224-8953

PETITION

3

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SIGNATURE

PRINT NAME

ADDRESS 200 Grace St. TEL #

*[Handwritten Signature]*

KALLAUGHTER

P.O. Box 645

786 8030

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Ruth Grell

P.O. Box 106 (405 Georgia)

784-6314

*[Handwritten Signature]*

MARY CAMPBELL

P.O. Box 867

781-7247

Lined area for additional signatures and contact information.





PETITION

9

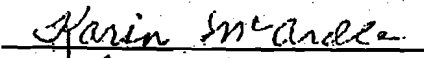
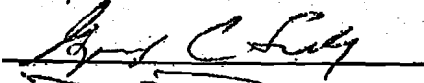
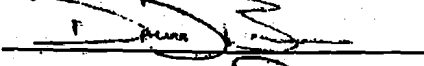
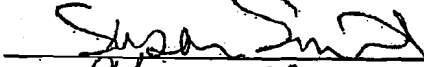
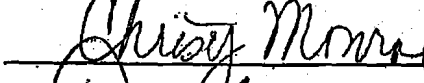

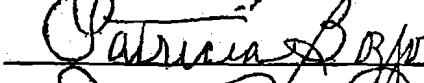


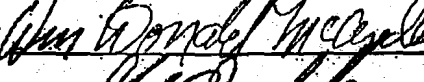
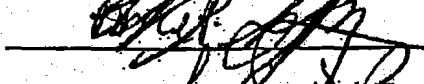
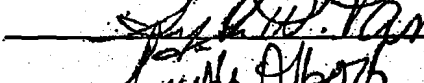
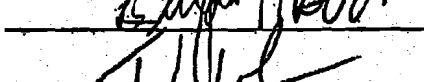
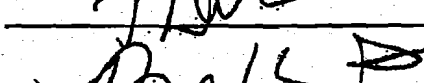
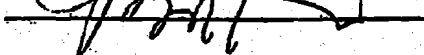
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<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>PRINT NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TEL #</u>
	GARY A. MEADE	318 Crystal Bch	787 7678
	Donna Bisaha	139 Georgia Ave.	785-6139
	John E. Himmelman	139 Georgia Ave	785-6139
	Lori A. Medlock	137 Georgia Ave	787-2423
	Art Medlock	137 Georgia Ave	787-2423
	Dusty Rhodes	775 Disston Ave	789 2764
	Melani Rhodes	775 Disston Ave	789 2764
	Betty Gentry	130 Florida Blvd.	784 8872
	Bruce Gentry	130 Florida Blvd.	784.8872
	Tammy Skolnick	1051 Pt. Seaside Dr.	789 6584
	Mark Skolnick	1051 Pt Seaside Dr	789-6584
	DONNA WACHTLER	518 GEORGIA AVE	789-1615
	MIKE WACHTLER	518 GEORGIA AVE	789-1615
	ARVIE KNABLE	519 GEORGIA AVE	787-5321
	Elizabeth Kircher	135 Florida Blvd	789-2654

PETITION

15

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<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>PRINT NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TEL #</u>
	KARIN MCARDLE	503 BROADUS ST.	784-5339
	Gregory C. Smith	382 Tennessee Ave	772-7016
	DAVID BOWEN	394 Kentucky Ave.	278-6054
	Susan Smith	105 Vincent Ave	773-8960
	Christy Monroe	414 Tennessee Ave.	786-5181
	Donald W. Vinson	306 Vincent St	786-7560
	PATRICIA BOZZONE	591 MAYO ST. So.	786-2135
	Jane Reese Powell	748 16th Lane PH	789-5136
	MIKE POWELL	508 ONTARIO AVE.	784-2360
	Wm. DONALD MCARDLE	503 BROADUS ST.	784-5339
	Bruce Perry	PO Box 572 PH 34682	688-8647
	Sylvia Landa	2322 Tallyho Dr, PH 34683	773-2291
	LINDA BOCK	800 MISSOURI AVE	773-0532
	Teron Dahn	303 VINCENT ST.	771-7812090
	Barbara Knight	129 Maryland Ave	727-285296

PETITION

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<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>PRINT NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TEL #</u>
	TRACY SULLIVAN HALL	240 Georgia Ave - CB, FL 34681	(727) 644-4404
	SCOTT A. TROGLIN	401 Maryland Ave - CB, FL 34681	(727) 709-3154
	SCOTT E. HARE	240 Georgia Ave - CB - 34681	(727) 643-1907
<del></del>	<del>PENNY A. SONDGERATH</del>	<del>240 Grace St., CB, FL 34681</del>	<del>781-0856</del>
<del></del>	<del>R. Todd Sondgerath</del>	<del>240 Grace St., CB, FL 34681</del>	<del>781-0856</del>
	Lisa Williams	95 Georgia Ave	7
<del></del>	<del>Dale Williams</del>	<del>128 Crystal Beach Ave</del>	<del>631-5070</del>
	Diana Minuto	128 CRYSTAL BEACH AVE	631-5071
<del></del>	<del>Frank Minuto</del>	<del>953 GEORGIA AVE.</del>	<del>781-7566</del>
	Judy Pocklington	302 GEORGIA AVE	
<del></del>	<del>Bill Hernandez</del>	<del>707 Georgia Ave</del>	
	RENEE HERNANDEZ	707 GEORGIA AVE	
<del></del>	<del>JOHN WORMAN</del>	<del>228 GEORGIA AVE</del>	<del>641-8434</del>
	KAREN WORMAN	228 GEORGIA AVE	641-8434
<del></del>	<del>DAVID BINGHAM</del>	<del>314 BEDFORD ST. - CB, FL 34681</del>	<del>224-0496</del>
	JEANIE BINGHAM TROGLIN	401 Maryland Ave CB, FL 34681	709-3154

# PETITION

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<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>PRINT NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TEL #</u>
	MIKE KALLAUCHER	800 Grace St.	786-8030
	RIKI KALLAUCHER	" "	" "
	Wade HOOPER	9 Grace Street.	(?) Woodby's interpen
	SAM HART	224 Georgia Ave.	781-0104
	JULIE HART	224 Georgia Ave.	781-0104
	STEPHEN INNOCENZI	148 Sage Circle	781-0319
	JENNIFER INNOCENZI	148 Sage Circle	781-0319
	ED BRASHERS	<del>138</del> <sup>Kentucky</sup> Sage Circle Ave.	781-9001
	QUEEN BRASHERS	132 Kentucky Ave.	781-9001
	BEN GILLEN	FLORIDA AVE,	(?)
	CHRISTOPHER WILCOX	215 Powers Street.	786-2791
	JUSTIN GENTRY	<del>130 Florida Blvd</del>	<del>784-8872</del>
	Richard McManus	271 Sanctuary Drive	786-7860
	Carrette Sondgraft	240 Grace Street	781-0856

ALREADY SIGNED





PETITION

4

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SIGNATURE

PRINT NAME

ADDRESS

TEL #

Brian Blair

Brian Blair

129 Crystal Beach Ave

878-781-6573

Lindsay Blair

Lindsay Blair

129 Crystal Beach Ave

781-6573

Beth Blair

Beth Blair

129 Crystal Beach Ave

781-6573

Lee Navickas

Lee Navickas

132 Maryland Ave

772-2597

~~Lee Navickas~~

~~Lee Navickas~~

1512 FL AVE Palm Harbor  
34683

543-5100

Amanda Mattioli

Amanda Mattioli

705 Mayo St

773-2312

Anthony Mattioli Jr.

ANTHONY MATTIOLI JR

705 Mayo St

cell 560-7811

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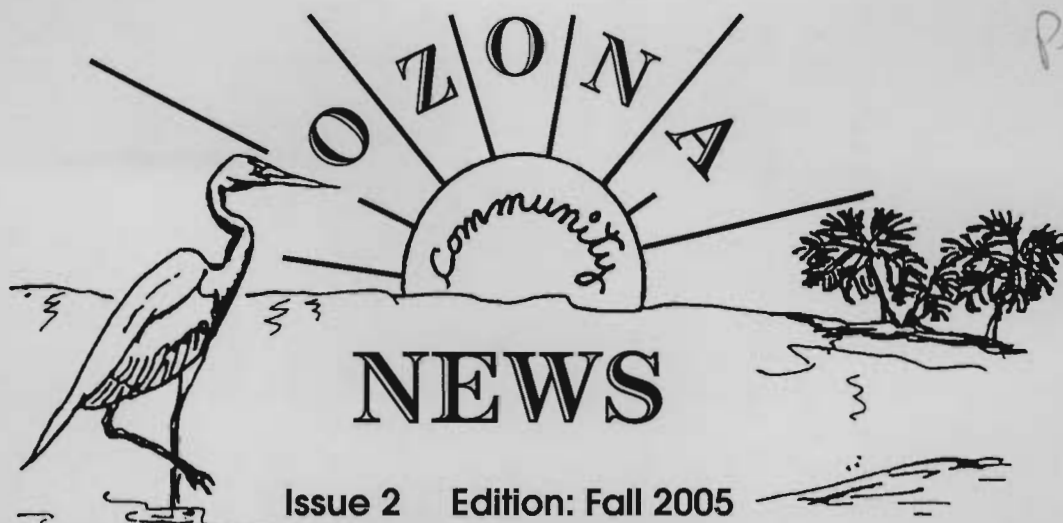
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An O.V.I.S.  
Publication



Issue 2 Edition: Fall 2005

Sub by  
Peg. m.  
10/18

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

In order to continue your OVIS  
"Recycling/Trash Pick-up Benefit"

for 2006, which amounts to a

**\$108 per year savings**

per household, you

**MUST RENEW**

your OVIS membership for 2006 by

**December 1, 2005.**

Please send your \$10.00 family  
membership dues payable to

OVIS

P.O. Box 81 • Ozona, FL 34660

*By adhering to the December 1, 2005 renewal  
deadline, you will have a smooth, uninterrupted  
"OVIS Benefit" continuation with your  
waste service billing.*

*The purpose of OVIS is to promote, protect, and enhance the unique quality of Ozona.  
A very special thank you to the OVIS Board Members for their ongoing  
support and efforts in our community.*

## Elves Wanted



for the  
**6th Annual  
Golf Cart  
Holiday Parade**

**Sunday • December 18**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Meet at the Ozona Pig**

The more elves the merrier!!!  
Decorate your cart and  
join us in this annual  
tradition.

## *President's Message*

School has begun, busses are transporting kids, and we Ozonians are warmly moving into the Fall season! As we journey through 2005, our Ozona OVIS community dreams and goals are becoming a reality.

For example, the \$10,00 Trail Landscaping Grant awarded OVIS is now completed providing Ozona with 20 new white crepe myrtles, 20 new live oaks and five new palm trees along the Pinellas Trail between Alt. 19 and Orange to Pennsylvania/Virginia.

Your OVIS membership "Re-cycling / Trash Pickup" benefit for 2005 has collectively saved Ozona residents over \$16,000.00. This is a wonderful way to both save money individually on an essential service to collectively provide financial support locally to your community organization. Your OVIS Board members appreciate and thank you for your membership and your many kind donations.

The \$120,000.00 Ozona Village Hall Grant is unfolding. The planning, bidding and permitting processes are completed. A contract for the renovation work has been awarded. The next phase involved our actual building repairs. We feel fortunate to have this opportunity to renovate our 106 year old historical community building. Now, we'll get to create our legacy and contribution to Ozona's history. For instance, we will soon have central AC and a ADA compliant rest room!

Our traffic calming initiatives continue and we caution all our residents to be slow and careful while driving in our community. We have many walkers, joggers, children and animals sharing our streets!

Both Ozona and Crystal Beach have held community meetings, written our County commissioners and signed petitions requesting a "Golf Cart Friendly" designation. Safety issues include that only licensed drivers be allowed to drive them. As a community, we must adhere to the golf cart safety issues as we move forward.

Our dreams are becoming realities! We are so fortunate to live in Ozona – our isolated and quaint coastal community. Thank you for supporting and contributing to Ozona.

Sincerely,

*Peg Mahara*

OVIS President

### **OLIVERI ARCHITECTS**

AA - 0002921

**Joseph L. Oliveri, AIA**

Principal Architect  
AR0014028

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Palm Harbor, FL 34684

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Fax 727•781•6623

Email: design@oliveriarch.com



**Peg Mahara**  
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*Peg - Barb - Judy*

**Walt Anderson**

727-789-5275

Director of Operations

FAX 727-786-0022

## **F.E.A.S.T., INC.**

32756 US Hwy. 19 North  
Palm Harbor

P.O. Box 2154  
Palm Harbor, FL 34682

9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon  
Tuesday-Friday

## Molly Goodheads Invites You To Attend Their 20th ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Wednesday • September 14, 2005

Ozona is one of the oldest towns in Florida. The town of Ozona was established in 1885 and 100 years later, in 1985, Laurel Flowers came into town and opened a small bar and restaurant called Molly Goodheads.

On Wednesday, September 14, Miss Molly Goodheads invites everyone to her **20th Anniversary Party**. You know nowadays it is rare to celebrate any anniversary, because of your patronage, Miss Molly is throwing a party to specially thank all her patrons over the past 20 years for their loyalty and support – as well as her staff, who has been with her for many years, Chef Fox, who has always kept up the the quality of her food – to the servers, who have served many plates of her food and always kept a smile and greeted her guests – to the bartenders, who have served many a drink over the years, Miss Molly is almost 21 years old and next year they will be able to serve her a drink in her own place.

So, mark your calendar, and head over to Molly

Goodheads on September 14th, the party starts at 6:00 p.m.....? There will be live entertainment by *Two Week Notice* (no pun intended). Complimentary food, drink specials, face painting by Lacey the Clown, prizes and giveaways like our famous *I Survived Molly's Anniversary Party* t-shirts. Come join us, fun for the entire family and have the kids meet "Miss Molly" in person.

Just a reminder – in keeping with Molly's tradition, we are having our Annual Fishing Tournament in October (date to be announced).



400 Grange Street • Ozona, FL  
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.

Email: eileennewsome@verizon.net

Telephone: 727.785.4444

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## To Ozona: In Search of My Grandmother's Childhood

by Rosemary Franklin

Mother repeatedly told me as a child: "Your great-grandfather and Mr. Whitehurst settled the west coast of Florida and grew oranges." Somehow my mother, Mary Elizabeth, remembered the name "Mr. Whitehurst" after her mother, Rosa Lee Futrell, told her the story.

Crucial names: William V. Futrell, my great-grandfather, Mary Elizabeth Futrell, the wife he deserted in Mississippi, leaving her one daughter, Annie, and taking my grandmother Rosa, age four, on a long trip to the west coast of Florida and to a little settlement called "Yellow Bluff", probably in the year 1878. Walton Whitehurst had preceded him after the War by about 10 years.

In 1878, the orange was a delicacy, and Futrell had a vision of developing the fruit, planting hundreds of the trees, and making a fortune. Since then, the "developing" fever has struck thousands of entrepreneurs like by great-grandfather.

Futrell bought a considerable number of acres, perhaps from Whitehurst, and decided to lay out, on forty of these, "town lots." Another vision of development had struck him: attracting people with

health problems to settle here or at least to visit. A few years later, Mr. Eavy built "The Magnolia Inn" for that purpose.

After his arrival in Yellow Bluff, W.V. Futrell soon "married" a woman named Ellen. They had a child in 1880 named Emma Wayne, who died in 1885. I can only wonder how my grandmother accepted Ellen as her mother, but she was only four when she was taken from her birth mother, and she must have grieved over the death of Emma. In my recent visit to Ozona, I uncovered these facts about Ellen and Emma, facts that my grandmother never told my mother. Evidently, Ellen was a pianist, for Rosa matured and became a splendid pianist, earning a bachelor's degree in music from Stetson University and eventually going on for study in Berlin, Germany prior to WW I.

Rosa's is a much longer story. Briefly, she and her father and Ellen left Florida, probably after the "Great Freeze" of 1895, and settled in Albuquerque, NM, a new frontier. He built a furniture store in "new" Albuquerque, and Rosa opened a studio. Teaching was the work of her life as it was my mother's and mine. Now I am making a journey to Albuquerque to unearth more information for my work in progress, a novel about Rosa, whom I never new.

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**Pine Island Florida Getaway**

Contact  
Larry Guilbault  
**(727) 781-4779**  
P.O. Box 783  
Ozona, FL 34660-0783  
email: larryguilbault@hotmail.com  
www.pineisland-florida.com

Phone: (727) 784-7911  
Reverend Robert Fortner



**Unity Church of Palm Harbor**  
"On Earth as it is in Heaven"

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Palm Harbor, FL 34682

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- TRIMMING AND TOPPING
- ALL WORK GUARANTEED
- STUMP REMOVAL

## Ozona Welcomes The Conscious Connection

Most of us have seen the sign out front. The one that says, you know, Conscious something or other. If you take a closer look, the sign is actually an invitation of sorts. It reads "Make the Conscious Connection with Spirit for mind and body wellness." The Conscious Connection, a holistic healing center is located in downtown Ozona. Located next to the Ozona post office, the center is comprised of several free-standing buildings, quaint cottages, and a cozy cafe.

This creative co-op houses many different businesses. Upon entering the center you will discover an eclectic gift shop filled with items designed to create balance ritual and special meaning into your daily life. A brochure is offered in the reception area that list the services offered and if you would like, a tour of the center is given. Many of the services are related to alternative health and wellness such as acupuncture, massage and yoga. But upon further mingling, you will discover businesses such as the DelMonte Art Studio where you can paint your own pottery or masterpiece. Search a little further and you'll discover a tranquil inviting spa. Each business owner at the center donates time in the reception area to meet and greet visitors and offer personal tours of the forever growing facility.

The Practitioners offer a variety of services in full and half day Retreat Packages that are custom tailored to the individual with much attention to

detail. Each retreat is designed to heighten awareness and sooth the soul. All services are also available in single sessions.

The Center is becoming well known for the classes and workshops offered. The focus of all of the workshops and classes are to empower individuals through self discovery, innate abilities to encourage healing and optimal wellness.

The mission of The Conscious Connection is to provide a safe environment where individuals and families can explore a little deeper and transform to a lifestyle that balances spirit, mind, and body.

The Conscious Connection staff is offering a special gift certificate to Ozona residents. Stop in for a tour and pick up your gift certificate to be used towards many of the services offered or a custom wellness Retreat Package. Visit online at [www.makethecc.com](http://www.makethecc.com) for a complete list of classes and services offered.

**The Conscious Connection**  
204 & 306 Orange Street  
Ozona, FL 34660  
727.785.4444




PHONE: (727) 464-3276  
FAX: (727) 464-3022

**SUSAN LATVALA**  
CHAIRMAN

PINELLAS COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

315 COURT STREET  
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756

E-Mail: [slatvala@co.pinellas.fl.us](mailto:slatvala@co.pinellas.fl.us)



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369 Bayshore Dr. (Ozona) Wet Slips/Boat & Trailer  
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400 ORANGE AVENUE  
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OZONA, FL 34660



## OVIS Highlights...

### ■ Making The Trail Green

OVIS sponsored a landscaping grant for the Pinellas Trail for Ozona. This was a County community enhancement grant for \$10,000. The project includes the planting of live oak trees, sable palms, and crepe myrtles between Pennsylvania Avenue at the north end of the overpass at Alt. US 19. The project is now complete. It should be noted that live oaks are the type of oak tree found naturally in Ozona, and get to be a very large, mature tree. It should also be noted that the typical oak planted as part of these projects is much smaller, and is not found naturally locally. The palm trees have been planted along the pond just south of Florida Avenue and will add to the views. The crepe myrtles will have a white flower and have been planted at several locations at both the south end of the Trail segment, and also mixed with the palm trees. This landscaping should add not only beauty to the Trail, but will also for the long haul, add shade.

### ■ Stop Signs

#### *Making Traffic Calmer*

Over the past few years, OVIS has hosted several community workshops with the County staff concerning making traffic calmer in Ozona. As a result of those meetings a number of projects were implemented. However, no traffic calming changes were permitted on Pennsylvania Avenue and Orange Street, because they were designated as collector roads, carrying community traffic. The community had desired to add stop signs at several locations, to provide for safer entry unto these roads, and also to slow the traffic down. Recently these roads were

re-designated in a way where some limited traffic calming, such as stop signs, are now permitted. Therefore, the County Commission was able to consider several stop sign proposals that had been developed through earlier community workshops. At its July 26th meeting the BCC approved the following stop signs, that will soon be installed. The locations are:

Pennsylvania Avenue and Ryan Woods Lane  
 Orange Street and Tampa Road  
 Orange Street and Florida Avenue  
 Orange and Shore Drive

The Pennsylvania stop sign should slow the traffic down along this roadway, and also make it safer for the children and others that are at the Ozona Elementary School, which is located on this roadway. The stop sign to be installed on Orange and Tampa Road will not only make this intersection easier for the people to enter Orange Avenue from Tampa Road, but this will also slow the traffic down in the business area to the north, where there is considerable pedestrian traffic. The other two stop signs on Orange Street at Florida Avenue and Shore Drive will make it easier for people to more safely enter the roadway from adjacent residences and businesses, and will also slow traffic down on the roadway itself. These new stop signs should complete the traffic calming program that was begun several years ago by the Ozona Community in cooperation with the County.



**Penny L Jakubas**  
 Assistant Vice President  
 Branch Manager FL

**SUNTRUST**

**SunTrust Bank, Tampa Bay**  
 Mail Code FL-Dunedin-0266  
 1010 Curlew Rd  
 Dunedin, FL 34698  
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 Fax 727.736.7205  
 Toll Free 800.786.8787  
 penny.jakubas@suntrust.com



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 www.charlieearhart.com

2032 Bayshore Blvd.  
 Dunedin, Florida 35698

# Chef's Corner



## Raw Apple Cake

- 1/2 lb. butter or oleo
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 4 cups sliced raw apples  
(peeled and cored)
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 cup chopped nuts

Cream butter and sugar, add eggs  
and beat till fluffy.

Sift dry ingredients together and  
add to first mixture.

Beat till batter is creamy.

Fold in (by hand) apples, nuts and raisins.

Pour into a greased and floured  
9"x13" pan.

Bake at 350° for 1½ hours.

- Submitted by Nancy Hart

## Household/Business Electronics and Chemical Mobile Collection

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 22, 2005. The mobile collection unit of the Pinellas County Utilities will be at the Palm Harbor/Countryside Home Depot located at 30144 US Hwy. 19 N. For more information on this and other mobile collections or the permanent location, contact Pinellas County Utilities at (727) 464-7500 or visit [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities).

The HOUSEHOLD MOBILE COLLECTION  
is **FREE** for residents.

### *What to bring:*

**Chemicals:** automotive fluids, cleansers, fertilizers, florescent bulbs and other mercury containing devices, fungicides, herbicides and pesticides, household batteries, paint, paint remover, paint thinner, pool chemicals, solvents, wood preservatives.

**Electronics:** TVs, VCRs, cell phones, computers, copiers, fax machines, monitors, printers, stereo equipment, telephones, etc.

### *What NOT to bring:*

Automotive batteries, biological waste, empty paint cans, explosives, fire extinguishers, propane tanks, radioactive waste, smoke detectors.

### *How to package and transport chemicals:*

1. Do not mix chemicals together.
2. Keep products in original containers if possible.
3. Place containers into cardboard boxes, use crumpled newspaper to prevent breakage.
4. Place leaky containers in clear plastic bags and transport in boxes with newspaper padding.
5. Put boxes in the trunk or in back of vehicle away from passengers.

**Ozona Village  
Improvement Society, Inc.**  
P. O. Box 81  
Ozona, Florida 34660

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 7103  
Tampa, FL

*Secrets of Happiness*

Learn from the past, plan  
for the future,  
and live in the present.

Cultivate good manners.  
Be humble. Get organized.

Strive for excellence,  
not perfection.  
Be even kinder to unkind people.

Every day take a 30 minute  
walk in your neighborhood.

**Ozona Village Improvement Society Membership Dues**

*Please use this page  
and make  
your check payable to:  
O.V.I.S.*

*Mail check and form to:  
O.V.I.S.  
P.O. Box 81  
Ozona, FL 34660*

Your dues help support the  
distribution of the *Ozona News*  
and the upkeep of the  
Ozona Village Hall.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email Address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership – \$5.00       Family Membership – \$10.00

Other Donation – Please Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**TO OUR SPONSORS...**

*We thank you, our sponsors, for your cooperation and continued support.*

If you would like to be a sponsor in our fall newsletter  
please make your check payable to: O.V.I.S. and mail to  
O.V.I.S. at P.O. Box 81 • Ozona, FL 34660



**PINELLAS COUNTY  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

600 Cleveland Street Suite 750 Clearwater, Florida 33755

(727) 464-8200 Phone

(727) 464-8201 Fax

October 18, 2005

Ann Wickstrom Neyrey  
P.O. Box 937  
Crystal Beach, FL 34681

RE: Golf Cart Crashes in Ozona & Crystal Beach  
▶ Location - Ozona & Crystal Beach

Dear Ms. Neyrey:

Enclosed are the crash reports you have requested.

**\*NOTE:** Information will reflect only data entered in our system and not all incidents that may have occurred!

Should you have any questions, please contact Jackie Zakrzewski at (727) 464-8200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gina Harvey', written over a large, hand-drawn oval scribble.

Gina Harvey  
Principal Planner

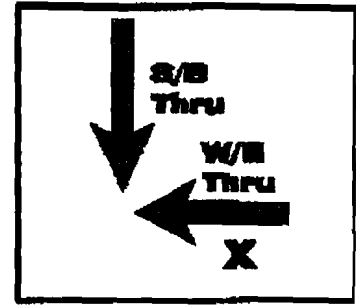
Enclosure

cc: Beth Winger  
Risk Management

**PINELLAS COUNTY COUNTYWIDE CRASH DATA CENTER  
INCIDENTS BY INTERSECTION**

10/18/2005

<b>Intersection ID</b> 40029	<b>Street 1</b> US 19A 04621	<b>Street 2</b> MARYLAND AVE 02847
	<b>Street 3</b>	<b>Street 4</b>



**DATE:** 10/29/2004    **TIME:** 12:10    **HSMV NO:** 75284686    **MUNICIPALITY:** 25    **INV:** 00

**DISTANCE:** 530    **DIRECTION:** S    **INJURIES:** 1    **FATALITIES:**

**VEHICLE :** 1    **VEHICLE TYPE:** Other  
**DRIVER - AGE:** 62    **SEX:** M  
**DRUG USE:** 5    Had Been Drinking  
**DIRECTION:** w  
**MOVEMENT:** 01    Straight Ahead  
**ROADWAY LOCATION:** 03    Shoulder  
**CONTRIBUTING CAUSE:** 03    Failed to Yield Right-of-Way

**HARMFUL EVENT:** 03    Col w/ MV in Trans (Angle)

**VEHICLE :** 2    **VEHICLE TYPE:** Pickup/Light Truck (2 rea  
**DRIVER - AGE:** 52    **SEX:** M  
**DRUG USE:** 1    Not Drinking or Using Drugs  
**DIRECTION:** s  
**MOVEMENT:** 01    Straight Ahead  
**ROADWAY LOCATION:** 01    On Road

**CONTRIBUTING CAUSE:**

**HARMFUL EVENT:**

**TRAFFIC CONTROL:** 01    No Control  
**SITE LOCATION:** 01    Not At Intersection/RR/Xing/Bridge  
**ROAD CONDITIONS:** 01    No Defects  
**ROAD SURFACE:** 01    Dry  
**LIGHTING:** 01    Daylight  
**VISION OBSTRUCTED:** 01    Vision Not Obscured

August 19, 2004

TO: Commissioner Susan Latvala, Chairman  
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners

CC: Members, Board of County Commission

FROM: Peg Mahara, President, Ozona Village Improvement Society

RE: Designating Ozona a Golf Cart Community

On the behalf of over 65 Golf Cart owners in Ozona, I have been asked to write and request that you, our County Commissioners, designate Ozona as a Golf Cart Community.

Recently, several Golf Cart owners' state that they have been threatened with \$150.00 tickets from the Sheriff's patrolling the area and rudely treated. I was one who experienced this as well. Surely, there are more important criminal issues for these officers to do than to spend their time and effort giving Ozona golf cart residents a hard time.

Residents of Ozona have been using golf carts for over 8 years to pick up their mail at the Post Office, visit neighbors and eat at local restaurants. Ozona residents view these activities as environmentally wise and less polluting for such short excursions.

On three occasions when emergency vehicles including fire-truck, ambulance and a police car could not find an address, my leading them to the house via my golf cart was welcomed and appreciated!

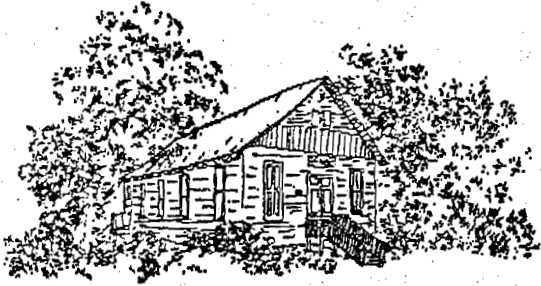
Another example, during last week's hurricane scare, the golf carts assisted people moving their cars to high ground, helped carry plywood for storm preparations and helped transport people during the hurricane evacuation.

Each December for five years, the "Ozona Golf Cart Holiday Parade" has been a source of great community spirit, pride and creativity. The local press writes newspaper articles and takes pictures and many spectators line the parade route to enjoy two hours of pure joy. Last year, the Sun City Golf Cart parade coordinator even called to encourage our holiday tradition and encouraged us to continue to offer such positive community involvement activities.

We are a safe, low density, special and isolated village. Our financial investment in our Golf Carts as an alternate electric form of neighborhood travel is valid and environmentally advantageous.

Please give our Ozona community the right to be a Golf Cart Friendly village.

Thank you, Peg Mahara



*Ozona Village  
Improvement Society  
O.V.I.S.*

P.O. Box 81 • Ozona, Florida 34660

May 24, 2005

*cc: Da Comm*

TO: Commissioner Susan Latvala  
FROM: Peg Mahara *Peg Mahara, President of OVIS*  
CC: Members of the Board of County Commissioners

As you may be aware, there has been considerable community interest in recognizing the use of golf carts in our community. Specifically, this discussion has been underway within the communities of Ozona and Crystal Beach. Last fall you hosted a workshop meeting with OVIS at our Hall with the subject being golf cart use. There were several dozen people in attendance who provided an excellent sounding board for crafting a workable proposal. It was recognized that the County Commission, by resolution, can permit golf cart use in a community. Our workshop group believed that such a resolution would provide a vehicle for defining safe practices for such golf cart use. Therefore, the meeting resulted in a set of conclusions that were acceptable to the community if golf carts were permitted. The conclusions were as follows:

- A. Required equipment for the Golf Carts are headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields and seatbelts.
- B. The Golf Cart driver would be required to have a driver's license.
- C. The area encompassed by this authorization are the community areas of Ozona and Crystal Beach, west of Alt. US Hwy 19.
- D. All Golf Carts that would be utilized in the community must provide ownership contact information to OVIS and the appropriate Crystal Beach Community Organization.

Point A would ensure that the golf carts have all the appropriate safety equipment to ensure that the vehicle itself was not deficient in that regard.

Point B ensures that the only people driving the golf carts are of legal age with a drivers license. We do believe this is an important initiative and would remedy some concerns people have with under age driving.

Point C defines the area to be encompassed, which includes the very easily definable communities of Ozona and Crystal Beach, west of Alternate 19. This would ensure that the golf carts would be used for community destinations.

Point D limits the authorization to golf carts that are incapable of exceeding 20 mph. This provision is important and ensures that the resolution is in conformance with Federal rules on the subject.

To assist you in taking this to the BCC for consideration, I am attaching a draft resolution that we have reviewed and find acceptable. We do believe such a resolution would make the use of golf carts in our community safer, since it defines a set of rules that must be followed. We as a community would be comfortable with enforcement of these rules. If there is anything we can do to assist you in gaining consideration by the Board of this matter, we would be more than willing to be of assistance.

**TO:** Commissioner Susan Latvala, Chairperson  
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners

**CC:** Members, Board of Pinellas County Commission

**FROM:** T. Richard and Denna V. Bennett  
48 Bay Street  
Ozona, FL 34660

**DATE:** August 20, 2004

**RE:** Designating Ozona as a Golf Cart Community


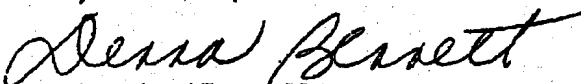
Dear Ms. Latvala:

This letter is to encourage you, and all members of the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners, to endorse and approve designating Ozona, FL as a Golf Cart Community. As you know, Ozona is a safe, low density, "Old Florida" village. Golf carts have become part of Ozona's landscape, and add to the charm and character of the neighborhood. Many residents and visitors have commented to us that they were attracted to the community because of the many golf carts in use. Friends gather and meet by carts and each December Ozona sponsors a golf cart parade with dozens of golf carts decorated for Christmas.

Not only do golf carts add to the quality of life in Ozona, they are adding to the quality of our environment. We think the county commissioners would well serve the community by encouraging golf cart use. Everyone would agree that reducing the number of cars on county streets could have significant impacts in reducing pollution and road taxes. There is a community in Peachtree City, Georgia that has some 6,000 golf carts and 300 miles of golf cart trails. Most days there are more golf carts in the super market parking lot than cars. Perhaps a worthwhile effort for the county would be to commission a study of the costs and benefits of opening the Pinellas trail to golf carts. Adding just a few golf cart crossings would allow people to grocery shop, and to pick-up videos or prescriptions and the like. At the very least we would like to see use of carts on the trail between Ozona, Palm Harbor and Crystal Beach.

Please designate Ozona as a golf cart community and carefully consider what you can do beyond Ozona concerning golf carts. Let's be kind to the environment and help to make Pinellas County a better place to live and work.

Sincerely,

  
  
T. Richard and Denna V. Bennett



Mr. And Mrs. Timothy Morrissey  
316 Lagoon Drive  
Post Office Box 461  
Ozona, Fl 34660

August 21, 2004

Attention; Ms. Susan Latvala, Chairperson  
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners  
315 Court Street  
Clearwater, Florida

RE: Ozona Village and Golf Cart transportation

Dear Ms. Latvala:

We are residents of the quaint Pinellas County town called Ozona, we were also fortunate to meet with you last year at our town hall in regards to the speed humps installed on Ridge Road and Lagoon Drive. Our home is located on Lagoon Drive and we own a Golf Cart currently used strictly for recreation and as means to do "in town" traveling. We visit friends and neighbors on our golf cart, check our mail at the post office, park and use the Marina (when boating or swimming) and last school year we drove to and from Ozona Elementary in our cart as parking is a MAJOR issue there. The school line is typically backed up to Alt 19 for as long as 30 minutes. Golf cart use in Ozona is both environmentally friendly and part of the Ozona charm, since we are not a main thoroughfare or heavily traveled town I believe our community and its environment would benefit by the legal use of Golf Cart transportation within a planned area and/or for specific uses. I also imagine some common-sense rules and guidelines would be applicable to "keep it safe" so to speak. Perhaps with your help we could implement a SAFE, FUN and LOGICAL Golf-Cart program considering such things as ...

1. Age requirements for safe operation of all golf carts to discourage abuse and unsafe travel by underage children whose parents may not be aware of the dangers or may not be aware their child is operating one of these carts while visiting a friend or relative.
2. Use in a responsible manner (i.e. ... yielding to traffic, safe speed, lights, mirrors, reflectors, etc...).
3. If necessary "tagging" or purchasing a "permit for use", some way for the State and/or County to benefit financially from our choice to use such vehicles.

4. Permission for our annual Holiday Parade of Carts, which is similar to the Holiday Boat Parade, put on each year, even if such permission would require written notice to the County providing the details of such event.

We are open to any REASONABLE solution to the "Cart Dilemma" allowing the legal and safe use of such carts, as roadside ticketing by officers seems inevitable. Negative reinforcement (ticketing) doesn't seem beneficial to either officers or the citizens of Ozona.

We respectfully request your review and careful thought as to our next compliance step toward legal use of our electric Golf Carts. Perhaps a community vote or petition could be considered.

We respect and appreciate any feedback you may have, thanking you in advance for your consideration.

The Morrissey's  
Tim and Richelle  
316 Lagoon Drive, Ozona  
727-787-2469 or 727-647-0015



P.S. - PROPOSED Golf-Cart traffic area could include all of "Legally described" Ozona with a possible restriction of time for our main drag "Orange Street" (i.e. a curfew type situation for safety purposes due to out-of-town travelers visiting the restaurants along Orange St. — NO CARTING AFTER 10PM or something agreeable). A sign at each entrance to our community noting for safety purposes that our town has "Golf Cart" shared roads would be helpful.

BCC Meeting Date 10/18/05

Item # 53

Please see BCC Meeting Date 10/18/05, item #

52g for advertising information.