Ocean Ridge Tidings Volume 16 Issue 3

A monthly e-newsletter for the residents of Ocean Ridge, Florida

SWA's Household Hazardous Waste Tip: Put Some Spring in Your Clean by Recycling Home Chemicals

Save your *shelf* this spring by cleaning out home hazards from sheds, garages and under sinks! But remember that any cleaners, paints, pesticides



and automotive products you may want to get rid of don't belong in the regular trash or down storm drains where they can expose people, pets and our environment to harm.

Instead, Palm Beach County residents can dispose of their unwanted chemicals at any of the SWA's seven <u>Home Chemical and</u> <u>Recycling Center</u> drop-off locations for FREE!

owns Library

Ocean Ridge's library has a large selection of donated fiction and non-fiction books available for residents to sign-out. Checking out books is based on an honor system. We ask that you sign out the books at Town Hall and date in the log book when returned. Please have proof of residency available when checking out books.

> Library operating hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30AM to 3:00 PM

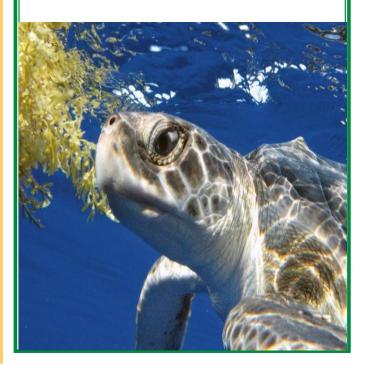


If you would like to know if a property is in the SFHA, please visit the Town's website at www.oceanridgeflorida.com

Sea Turtle Season Has

Begun! (March 1st through October 31st)

March 1st marks the beginning of Turtle Nesting season.... Please be aware it is illegal to harass, harm or kill any turtle or it's eggs or nest.





In the month of February & March, the following employees had anniversaries with the Town, and we thank them for their dedication to the Town of Ocean Ridge:

> Dispatch Manager - Jessica Simpson 18 years Police Investigator - Aaron Choban, 5 years Dispatcher - Valentina Clouse, 2 years Dispatcher - Kristen Moretti, 2 years Police Officer - Nubia Savino, 13 years Inspector - Robert Blanchette, 1 year



In the month of February & March, we celebrated the following employee's Birthday's!

- Res. Officer Gene Rosenburg
- Sgt. Frederick Stang
- Sgt. Gary Roy
- Inspector Robert Blanchette
- Officer William Ranta

Did You Know?

Town Hall Staff provides residents with notary services at no charge during



office hours. Please bring photo ID.

*Appointments are recommended for documents that take longer than 10 minutes to notarize

As a reminder, landscaping clippings must be disposed of by landscaper providing service. For residents performing their own trimming, vegetation can be disposed of once weekly on Tuesday. Do not place at your curb prior to noon on Sunday. Please see Town code <u>42-1</u> for more information.



General Information

6450 N. Ocean Blvd., Ocean Ridge, FL 33435 www.oceanridgeflorida.com

@OceanRidgeFL - Twitter OceanRidgeFL—Facebook

<u>Town Hall</u>

561-732-2635 (main) \diamond 561-737-8359 (fax) 561-732-ORFL (Citizen Information Line) General Email: info@oceanridgeflorida.com Town Hall Hours: 8:30am-3:00pm

<u>Police</u>

Non-emergency: 561-732-8331 Emergency: 9-1-1 Public Records Hours: 8:30am-2:30pm

Town Administrative Officials

Interim Town Manager Lynne Ladner Iladner@oceanridgeflorida.com

Town Clerk Kelly Avery KAvery@oceanridgeflorida.com

Acting Police Chief Scott McClure SMcClure@oceanridgeflorida.com

Building Official TBD

Town Commission

<u>Mayor</u> Susan Hurlburt shurlburt@oceanridgeflorida.com

<u>Vice Mayor</u> Kristine de Haseth kdehaseth@oceanridgeflorida.com

<u>Commissioners</u> Steve Coz scoz@oceanridgeflorida.com

Geoff Pugh gpugh@oceanridgeflorida.com

Martin Wiescholek mwiescholek@oceanridgeflorida.com

Numbers to Know						
EMERGENCY	011					
Police, Fire, Ambulance	911					
NON-EMERGENCY						
Ocean Ridge Police Dept.	561-732-8331					
Boynton Beach Fire Dept.	561-742-6600					
TOWN HALL						
Building Dept., Town Clerk, Town Mgr.	561-732-2635					
Fax	561-737-8359					
<u>OTHERS</u>						
Abuse Hotline	800-962-2873					
Animal Control	561-233-1200					
Army Corp of Engineers	561-683-1577					
Beach Conditions	561-966-6600					
Boynton Beach City Hall	561-742-6000					
Boynton Beach Water Dept.	561-742-6300					
Clarke Environmental Services	800-203-6485					
Comcast	800-266-2278					
Declare Domicile	561-355-2962					
Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP)						
DEP—Christian Lambert	561-313-9007					
Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV)	561-681-6333					
Elder Affairs	866-882-2991					
FEMA	800-621-3362					
FL Dept. of Transportation (DOT)	866-374-3368					
FL Dept. of Transportation Traffic Line	511					
Florida Fish & Wildlife Comm.	888-404-					
FWCC Florida Power & Light (FPL)	561-697-8000					
Florida Power & Light (PPL)	800-4-OUTAGE					
Marriage Licenses & Ceremonies	561-355-2986					
Oceanfront Park Beach Conditions	561-742-6775					
Oceanfront Park Events/Weddings	561-742-6240					
Palm Beach County Building Dept.	561-233-5100					
Palm Beach County EOC	561-712-6400					
Palm Beach County Health Dept.	561-					
840-4500	001					
Palm Beach County Inspector General	877-283-7068					
Palm Beach County Mosquito Control	561-642-8775					
Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation						
Palm Beach County Property Appraiser	561-355-3230					
Palm Beach County Tax Collector	561-355-2264					
Palm Beach County White Fly	561-276-1260					
Waste Pro USA (trash collection)	561-688-8912					
So. FL Water Management	561-686-8800					
Solid Waste Authority	561-640-4000					
Supervisor of Elections	561-656-6200					
Tides	561-742-6776					
	001 142-0110					

CLIP AND SAVE!

Mayor, Commissioners & Residents of Ocean

The new year is keeping staff on our toes and the office is humming along. There have been a few bumps in the road with the town hall being short-staffed, but we hope to resolve that by the end of February as we onboard new staff members. In the near term, we will have temporary employees assisting in the town hall to ensure that we can provide the customer service our residents deserve. We recently have had Shanae Davis join us from Robert Half Temporary Staffing to assist Town Hall with answering phone calls, accepting permits, and payments, all other duties as needed until the new Deputy Clerk is able to begin work. We are also working with Robert Half to get some short term accounting assistance for Jean so that she is able to get caught up on her work as she has been overwhelmed with doing her work while also covering the front of town hall duties in the last quarter of 2022 and through January as we experienced a period of time where the front office was severely understaffed due to staff illnesses and absences. It is our hope that with the beginning of the new year, some transition in staff with new hires that operations will once again become a smoothly operating team of professionals that serve the residents and customers of Ocean Ridge.

I have been working throughout January to identify individuals that can provide financial advising for the Town of Ocean Ridge, we have adopted a new Investment Policy and at the February meeting will be considering the resolution to enter into an interlocal agreement to join the Florida Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System (FLCLASS) to invest the towns cash reserve funds in a liquid interest-earning investment pool that will benefit the town by significantly increasing our monthly interest income. Currently, our money market rate is 1%, and the investment pool is paying over 4.5% monthly in interest on funds invested. The financial advisor will also ensure that the town, has the best advice on the next step for how to move forward with the Town Hall loan which must be refinanced due to the phase-out of the LIBOR portion of the loan by June 23, 2023

I have met with the property owners for a few of the areas that the town has identified as necessary to obtain drainage easements to ensure that proper stormwater drainage projects are completed for the benefit of the community as a whole. We are in the process of initiating land surveys to identify the specific legal description and any current structures or vegetation located in the areas where the easements are needed. We are also speaking with the property owners to determine if they have any issues or concerns that may need to be addressed in order to obtain their cooperation for the easement. Additionally, we are working to ensure that areas where infrastructure easements were to have been exercised in the past, infrastructure piping was placed but not all paperwork was completed that we are able to work with the property owners to ensure that we are able to resolve those issues for the benefit of the town and the property owner moving forward.

The plans for the ARPA water project have been submitted to the state and to the SWFWMD for review and approval so that we can begin moving forward on getting permits if they are approved and finalizing the next steps. We have identified that due to rising costs, the ARPA funds will most likely no longer be able to cover the full cost of the project and it may be necessary to apply either for a legislative appropriation, grant funding or another financing mechanism to fully fund the project.

Town Clerk Avery and I have had several phone calls and a meeting with our FEMA and State representatives about our reimbursement needs for Hurricane Ian and will be meeting with them hopefully soon regarding the needs for Hurricane Nichole. They have asked for the full after-action report from Nichole so that they can forward the concerns about the Ocean Ave evacuation route flooding to be elevated to FEMA to be able to place it at a higher level of concern for both FEMA and FDOT

Town Manager's Report—March Commission Meeting

In the month of February, we recognized the following employees for their years of service to the town: Dispatch Manager Jessica Simpson – 18 years, Detective Aaron Choban – 5 years and Officer Valentina Clouse – 2 years. We want to thank all of them for their service to the town.

Joining the town hall staff this month was Katrina Pinder our new Deputy Town Clerk. Trina joins us from Mangonia Park where she has been working in the clerk's department for thirteen years. She has completed her training for the Certified Municipal Clerk designation and is currently awaiting her certificate.

You may have noticed what seems like a lot of large machinery and activity going on around town hall this month. Progress is moving forward on a couple of major capital projects. The new generator for the town hall has arrived and been installed. The old generator has been sold and removed from our location. The public works storage building is progressing with the new foundation in place at the back of the parking lot of the town hall property.

We are saying good by this month to Building Official Durrani Guy who has submitted his resignation effective March 13th. The building department is extremely important to Ocean Ridge and the town will work to fill this position permanently, in the short term we will be seeking to fill the position with a qualified interim Building Official to prevent any additional disruptions in the building department.

We will also soon be saying goodbye to Chief Richard Jones, the town has been seeking to fill the position with a permanent replacement, but I will not be moving forward with that process at this time. I will work with Chief Jones to identify a qualified interim Chief for the Commission to approve so that the new manager can build the leadership team that works best for their vision and management style.

Respectfully,

Lynne Ladne

Lynne Ladner Interim Town Manager & Finance Director



Regular Town Commission Meeting Summary

Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida Office of the Town Clerk Town Commission Meeting Summary March 6, 2023



The following is a list of actions taken at the March 6, 2023, Regular Town Commission Meeting. We hope this helps keep our residents informed in a timely fashion regarding Town Commission and Staff activities. All recordings of the meeting activities are available online at https://www.oceanridgeflorida.com/government/ minutes.php.

PRESENTATIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

- Government Finance Professionals Week March 20-24, 2023- Presented by Town Clerk
 Avery
- Let's Move Palm Beach County Month March 1ST Through March 31st Presented by Town Clerk Avery
- Grant Funding Opportunities: Trevor Fleming Outreach Coordinator, Congresswoman Lois Frankel's Office – Mr. Fleming gave presentation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Read into record

- a) The meeting schedule for the next month is as follows: Regular Town Commission Meeting Monday, April 3rd at 6:00 PM; Board of Adjustment Meeting Wednesday, March 15th at 9:00 AM, Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Monday, March 20th at 8:00 AM And the Infrastructure Surtax Committee will meet immediately following the Planning and Zoning Commission on Monday, March 20th.
- b) The Annual Municipal Election will be held on March 14, 2023. There are two Town Commission seats open for a three-year term. Qualified Candidates Appearing on the Ballot are: Carolyn Cassidy, Susan Hurlburt and Martin Wiescholek. / Las Elecciones Municipales Anuales se celebrarán el 9 de marzo de 2021. Hay dos asientos de la Comisión de la Ciudad abiertos por un período de tres años. Los candidatos calificados que aparecen en la papeleta son: Carolyn Cassidy, Susan Hurlburt, Martin Wiescholek.
- c) Residents who wish to sign up to receive important Town notifications and news through Civic Ready should sign up on the Town's website or call Town Hall for assistance.
- d) Statement by Chief Richard Jones Chief Jones announced resignation date & Acting Chief

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - All Passed

- 1. Adoption of the Minutes of October 12, 2022, Special Town Commission Meeting
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes of October 19, 2022, Special Town Commission Meeting

Regular Town Commission Meeting Summary—Page 2

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- 3. Adoption of the Minutes of December 5, 2022, Regular Town Commission Meeting
- 4. Approval of MOU with PBA regarding wages and vehicle
 - a. Approval of Amendment to the Police Chief Contract
 - b. Approval of Acting Police Chief Appointment
 - c. Approval of Stipend & Salary Increase for Town Clerk
 - d. Approval of Salary Increase for Public Works Director

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

5. Approval of unbudgeted expenditure for the construction of a small deck and stairs to the beach at the public beach access at Beachway Street crossing point in the amount of \$12,152.00 (Removed from Agenda)

5.Discussion of the condition of the public access beach crossing point (Added to Agenda) – Consensus to place signs at entryway of crossing point to warn of hazard temporarily

5a. Discussion and approval of the Cap Gov Supplemental Building Services Agreement – Consensus to have an emergency agreement and work on a more specific agreement.

STAFF & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 6. Planning & Zoning Commission Chair Marsh & Vice Chair Carey updated on denial of proposed amendment
- 7. Town Manager Report Provided
- 8. Town Attorney
 - a. Receipt/Transmission of electronic messages during Town Commission Meetings -Explained the issue.
- 9. Police Chief Presented Report
- 10. Town Engineer & Public Works Report Provided
- 11. Building Official
 - a. Discussion of SB-4D Explained the new bill and mentioned Condos that were affected.

TOWN COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- 12. Mayor's Update (By: Mayor Hurlburt) Gave updates
- 13. Discussion about adding a Referendum to the next possible Election to change our comprehensive plan language and procedure as to either Super Majority Vote or full Referendum requirements for changes to Height, FAR (Floor Area Ratio) and Density of any property that lies within the Town Limits. (By: Commissioner Wiescholek)) – Consensus to have P & Z discuss
- 14. Discussion regarding long-term infrastructure water distribution and potable water, septic to sewer, raising sea walls and increasing general height of road infrastructure (By: Commissioner Wiescholek) Consensus to have engineering & staff review the strategic/long-range plan (workshop)

Regular Town Commission Meeting Summary—Page 3

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15. Discussion of creating a 180 Day work plan based upon Town priorities (By: Vice-Mayor De Haseth) - Reviewed the timeline of the Town Manager Search

THE NEXT REGULAR TOWN COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 3RD AT 6:00 P.M. AT TOWN HALL.





MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Happy March! A lot going on in Town, so some quick updates for you.

We had both Greg Weiss, Mayor of Palm Beach County as well as Trevor Fleming from Representative Lois Frankel's office speak at the last two Commission Meetings. I asked them to speak to us regarding Environmental and Infrastructure Funding for priority issues i.e., Stormwater Drainage/ Septic>Sewer progress as well as Conservation and Protections for our fragile barrier Island. I also attended a Florida League of Cities meeting with regards to the National Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and was made aware of the \$1.3 Trillion available for projects. We will be working towards claiming some of this funding, but a lot of work must be in place before we can officially apply.

There was a joint workshop between the Planning & Zoning Board and the Town Commission. Topics such as Seawalls/ Pave projects/ Floor Area Ration and an updating of Landscape Ordinance with concerns for Dune, Mangrove & Canopy Protections on the Agenda.

Last month there was a Crime Prevention Seminar Event put together by our Police Department, which was overseen by Officer Nubia Savino. We had reps from approx. 9 different entities, including Boynton Beach Fire Rescue who discussed safety programs and gave tours through their individual trucks. A wonderfully informative program.

Police Chief Richard Jones formally announced his desire to resign and move on to Gulf Stream during our March Commission meeting. And our Building Official, Durrani Guy also announced his resignation and will be moving on to work in Westlake.

The Chief has shown grace under pressure during his time here, as well as his never wavering Sense of Duty that has made him the finest leader we could have hoped for. I expressed these same sentiments to my very lucky friends in Gulf Stream, Mayor Scott Morgan and Town Mgr. Greg Dunham.



And speaking of Grace under Pressure, I want to wish Durrani Guy the very best in his future endeavor. He worked diligently to bring much needed order and enforcement to our Bldg. Dept., working with our Town Planner, Planning & Zoning Board & Town Staff to improve our process, - which is what gives Ocean Ridge the 'Small Town Charm' that the residents appreciate.

While I'm throwing out much deserved praise for our over-worked and dwindling staff, let me include Town Clerk Kelly Avery, Billy Armstrong & Chris Sorrell from our Maintenance Dept, Rob Blanchette Building Inspector as well as rest of our fine office Staff and all of our Police Officers. So, when and if you find yourself in Town Hall, please extend your gratitude to those you meet for all they do to make this Town run. Support from the residents is important!

A reminder that Turtle Nesting Season began March 1st. Sea Turtles are a protected species and know that the County has the densest nesting beaches in the State. Palm Beach County asks that your residential lighting be 'turtle friendly' - which means not visible from anywhere on the beach and that there is no furniture stored on the beach between sunset and sunrise. Keep your eyes open for Turtle tracks & contact Palm Beach County, ERM, (Environmental Resource Management), our local friends at Sea Turtle Adventurers and/ or Gumbo Limbo Park with any questions you may have.

As you all know, with our changes in Staff we are in a bit of a 'Transition' period, so I ask for your patience and courtesy. Folks from all over are listening to our meetings and reading our Town's business in the local press. We can all do our part as we move forward and encourage qualified candidates to consider working here, whether for CEO or receptionist, by showing our very best and most respectful side. I have been speaking with a multitude of residents lately, and the overwhelming majority love Ocean Ridge and are happy to reside here.

Working together towards a great future should be our collective goal.

Ocean Ridge Police Department News By Richard Jones, Chief of Police



Police Activity:

Here is a listing of significant crime/code enforcement/suspicious activity reported to ORPD in January and February 2023 for both Ocean Ridge and Briny Breeze monthly basis. This snapshot is to help raise awareness and prevent crime through information sharing and

<u>Type of Incident</u>	<u>Report</u>	<u>Time Frame</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
	<u>Date</u>			
Battery/ Domestic Ar- rest	01/05/2023	01/5/2023 @1:24 am	Ocean View	Battery Arrest
Burglary	01/06/2023	01/06/2023 @1257pm	6000 Blk N. Ocean Blvd.	Active Investiga- tion
Criminal Mischief	01/07/2023	01/07/2023 12:45pm- 2:30pm	5530 N. Ocean Blvd.	Active Investiga- tion
Burglary/ Unlocked vehicle	01/08/2023	01/08/2023 1230pm- 3:30pm	6415 N. Ocean Blvd.	No Leads resulting in no investigation
Petit Theft	01/10/2023	01/10/2023 @6:00pm	6300 N. Ocean Blvd.	Active Investiga- tion
Disturbance	01/16/2023	01/16/2023 @8:16pm	Intracoastal Wa- terway	Active Investiga- tion
Weapons Law/Traffic Arrest	01/16/2023	01/16/2023 @1:13am	Ocean Ave.	Proactive Police Activity resulting in arrest.
Drug Law Arrest	02/02/2023	02/02/2023 @ 10:03pm	5200 Blk N. Ocean Blvd	Proactive Police Activity resulting in arrest.
Disturbance	02/02/2023	02/02/2023 @ 10:03 am	6000 Blk N. Ocean Blvd.	Unfounded
Burglary Attempt	02/07/2023	02/07/2023 @1:30am	Harbor Dr.	Unlocked vehicle/ Nothing Taken
Bicycle Theft	02/07/2023 @8:00am	02/08/2023 @12:00pm	Palm Dr.	Two unlocked bicy- cles
Wire Fraud	02/13/2023 @2:30pm	02/13/2023 @5:01pm	5000 Blk N. Ocean Blvd.	Active Investiga- tion

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Ocean Ridge Police Department News

By Richard Jones, Chief of Police



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MESSAGES AND REMINDERS FROM YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Drug Law/Traffic Arrest	02/19/2023	01/19/2023	6800 Blk N Ocean	Proactive Police
		@4:03am	Blvd	Activity resulting
				in arrest.
Obstruction/ Traffic Ar-	02/14/2023	02/14/2023	6800 Blk N Ocean	Proactive Police
rest		@9:30pm	Blvd.	Activity resulting
				in arrest.
Resisting Arrest	02/17/2023	02/17/2023	5800 Blk N Ocean	Proactive Police
		@10:39pm	Blvd.	Activity resulting
				in arrest.
Drug Law Arrest	02/17/2023	02/17/202	Ocean Ave.	Proactive Police
_		@1:00pm		Activity resulting
				in arrest.
Weapons Law/ Drug Law	02/27/2023	02/27/2023	Wool-	Proactive Police
		@12:14am	bright/Midlane	Activity resulting
				in arrest.

In addition to the above listed activity and regular patrols of the beaches and roadways; officers conducted traffic enforcement activities and completed numerous code enforcement investigations.

Please note: The above listed activity is just a snapshot and not a total accounting of the activity officers of your police department engage in on a monthly basis. This snapshot is to help raise awareness and prevent crime through information sharing and proactive involvement with security, such as locking vehicle doors and closing garage doors when away from these areas.

TELECOMMUNICATOR APPRECIATION

In the Town of Ocean Ridge, our Telecommunicators are the ones who answer emergency and non-emergency calls for service. Additionally, they are the ones who greet you when you visit our police department in person. These men and women are the backbone of our organization and as without them, our response times and ability to assist you would be diminished.

During the second week in April, we honor and thank our Telecommunicators for all they do to flawlessly serve this community. If you happen to call or stop by, please take a moment to thank them for what their service in such a demanding profession.





MESSAGES AND REMINDERS FROM YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT From Scott McClure, Acting Chief of Police:

DEA National RX Take Back

Reminder

April 22,2023

Take advantage of the program, clean your cabinets of any unwanted, unused, or expired medication. Please keep them in a sealed bag or container when dropping them off. Our lobby is open 24/7 and you may bring your medication starting now until April 22,2023.

- No needles may be accepted.
- In Halers and other compressed air cylinders may NOT be accepted.
- Vape pens and e-cigarettes MUST have the battery pack removed prior to dropping off.







CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND YOUR ASSISTANCE

We have recently seen an increase in criminal activity, specifically related to vehicle thefts and vehicle burglaries. We ask that you help protect yourself from becoming a victim by securing your vehicles and valuables. This is your first line of defense.

Lock your doors and use your alarms. We would much prefer responding to a false alarm than to take the report of a crime from you.

Please lock your cars and take the keys inside. Please do not leave valuables in your car when not absolutely necessary and you are not in the car.

BLOONATE

Town of Ocean Ridge Friday, March 24 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM Saturday, March 25 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM

All donors will receive*:

- \$20 eGift Card
- OneBlood T-shirt
- Wellness Checkup including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening.

Fact: A single car accident victim can require 100 pints of blood.



Appointments are encouraged, please visit **oneblood.org/donate-now** and use **sponsor code #63824.**

ID REQUIRED

One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/details.





SEA TURTLE ADVENTURES

LIGHTING INFORMATIONAL MEETING

An informational session for coastal properties to learn more about turtle-friendly lighting

Wednesday April 5th 2023 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm 235 SW 6th Ave, Boynton Beach, FL 33435

If you own or manage a coastal property along our 3-mile section of beach (Woolbright Rd. to George Bush Blvd), please come join us for an informational session about how you can make your property sea turtle friendly! By attending this meeting, your property can receive a free sea turtle friendly light bulb, as well as a free hatchling release for up to 20 members of your staff or guests.

To register, please email lexie@seaturtleadventures.com