

Ocean Ridge Tidings

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



Election News

The March municipal election resulted in the election of two commissioners: Martin Wiescholek, an incumbent who was re-elected and Carolyn Cassidy, who was elected for the first time. Both were sworn in at the April 3, 2023 Regular Town Commission meeting. Also during the meeting, Geoff Pugh was appointed Mayor and Steve Coz was appointed Vice-Mayor by the Commission.



Town Clerk Avery swears in Commissioner Carolyn Cassidy

On April 3, 2023, two (2) Town of Ocean Ridge Commissioners resigned from their positions as Town Commissioners. Pursuant to the Town's Charter, section 3.06(c), the remaining three (3) Town Commissioners are required to appoint replacement Commissioners by majority vote. The appointed Commissioners shall serve until the next Town election "when a Commissioner[s] shall be elected for the remainder of the term vacated."

Since this provision in the Charter allows for the appointment by "majority vote of the remaining members of the Commission", the vote to appoint the new Commissioners may be unanimous vote or by a vote of 2 to 1. Please note, pursuant to section 3.07(a) of the Town Charter, "A majority of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. No action of the Commission shall be valid or binding unless adopted by the affirmative vote of three members, except as otherwise set forth in this charter."

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Election News (cont)

The next Town election is March 2024, wherein normally two (2) Commissioner seats would be up for election. The recently vacated Commission seats include a Commissioner whose term would normally expire after the March 2024 election and a Commissioner whose term would expires after the March 2026 election. Thus, there will be three (3) Commissioner seats up for election at the March 2024 election: Two (2) seats for a term of three (3) years; and, one (1) seat for a term of two (2) years.

Pursuant to section 5.05 of the Charter, the two (2) candidates that receive the largest and next largest number of votes cast at the March 2024 election will be declared to be elected to the two (2) Commission seats that have expired in an ordinary manner (i.e., for three (3) year terms) and the candidate receiving the third largest number of votes cast will be declared elected for the Commission seat vacated (i.e., the remaining two (2) year term).

Under the Town Commission's Rules of Order and Procedure, Rule 10, the Town will need to announce the two (2) Commission seat vacancies on the Town Commission agenda and the Town's website. "All interested persons shall submit a letter of interest and resume to the Town Clerk by the deadline stated in the announcement." The Town Clerk determines whether the interested person(s) is a "qualified elector" of the Town and submit that information to the Town Commission. The Town Commission will then make the appointments in a public Town Commission consistent with the process set forth in Rule 10 (i.e., by ballot). No nominations from the floor are allowed in the appointment of the two (2) vacant Commission seats.

Please note pursuant to section 5.01 of the Town Charter, to be a "qualified elector of the Town", a person must be a resident of the Town and qualified as an elector of the State of Florida and the Town.

At the April 18, 2023, special Town Commission meeting, the Town Commission will discuss setting the deadline to receive letters of interest and resumes from persons interested in being appointed as a Town Commissioner and the date for the public Town Commission meeting to make the appointments.

Town News

FY 2023-2024 BUDGET CALENDAR

June 5, 2023	Special Town Commission Meeting – Budget Workshop 2 pm
July 10, 2023	Special Town Commission Meeting – Budget Workshop 2 pm
Aug 7, 2023	Special Town Commission Meeting – Budget Workshop 2 pm
Sept. 5, 2023	Tentative Budget Hearing – Regular Town Commission Meeting 6 pm – <u>This is a Tuesday due to Labor Day</u>
Sept. 6, 2023	<i>Palm Beach County Schools Final Budget Adoption Hearing</i>
Sept. 7, 2023	<i>Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners 1st Public Budget Hearing</i>
Sept. 15, 2023	Publish Required Budget Notices – Hearing and Summary or Notice of Increase
Sept. 18, 2023	Public Hearing to adopt final millage rate and budget – Special Town Commission Meeting 6 pm
Sept. 26, 2023	<i>Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners 2nd Public Budget Hearing</i>

Published 4/6/23



Town News



In the month of April, we celebrated the following employee's Birthday's!

- Town Clerk Kelly Avery
- Sgt. Richard Ermeri
- Treasurer/Hr Jean Hallahan
- Disp. Taylor Moore

In the month of April, the following employees have anniversaries with the Town, and we thank them for their dedication to the Town of Ocean Ridge:

- Debra Boyle, Police Officer— 6 years!
- Mike Parkerson, Police Officer— 5 years!
- Alex Sasov, Police Officer— 3 years!



Solid waste is collected on Tuesdays and Fridays. Garbage including bulk items and vegetation is collected on Tuesdays only. Garbage and recycling is collected on Fridays only.

As per Chapter 42 in the Town's Code of Ordinances, it is unlawful for any person to place any solid waste or any obstruction of any kind upon any street, sidewalk, alley, park, lane or other public grounds of the town or upon any publicly dedicated right-of-way or on the land of another without his consent, except that properly containerized garbage, waste and yard trash may be placed no greater than six feet from the street or road abutting the property generating the subject garbage, waste or yard trash to effectuate proper municipal refuse, garbage and yard trash collection. All waste will be properly containerized and placed in an orderly fashion.

Yard trash shall consist of vegetation only, including, but not limited to grass clippings, bush or tree trimmings, leaves, and weeds, and shall be placed near the street no sooner than 36 hours, or the Sunday prior to the regularly scheduled day of collection (please do not block storm drains). Yard trash (other than normal weekly vegetation) generated by lawn care companies will not be collected by the Town's trash collector and should be properly removed by the vendor who generated it. Any questions please call Town Hall at 561-732-2635.



TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE

FREE ANNUAL DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT

BRINY
BREEZES
RESIDENTS
WELCOME!



The Town of Ocean Ridge will be hosting FREE document shredding event.

WHERE: REAR PARKING LOT AREA OF TOWN HALL

WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023

TIME: 9:00AM – 12:00PM

WHO: Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes residents only — photo identification required.

HOW MUCH: Residents are limited to shredding of up to three office storage boxes of personal documents.

PLEASE: Remove all papers from three ring binder type folders. File folders, staples, and paper clips do not need to be removed.

KEEP IN MIND: The event is on a first-come, first-served basis and no pre-registration is required.

If you have any questions, please call Town Hall at 561-732-2635.

General Information

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

@OceanRidgeFL - Twitter
OceanRidgeFL—Facebook

Town Hall

561-732-2635 (main) ♦ 561-734-7031 (fax)
561-738-6735 (Citizen Information Line)
General Email: info@oceanridgeflorida.com
Town Hall Hours: 8:30am-3:00pm

Police

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

Town Administrative Officials

Town Manager

Lynne Ladner
Lladner@oceanridgeflorida.com

Town Clerk

Kelly Avery
kavery@oceanridgeflorida.com

Acting Police Chief

Scott McClure
smcclure@oceanridgeflorida.com

Interim Building Official

Scott Wadowski
swadowski@oceanridgeflorida.com

Town Commission

Mayor

Geoff Pugh
gpugh@oceanridgeflorida.com

Vice Mayor

Steve Coz
scoz@oceanridgeflorida.com

Commissioners

Carolyn Cassidy
ccassidy@oceanridgeflorida.com

Numbers to Know

EMERGENCY

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

OTHERS

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) 561-245-2118
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 (report outage) 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
Palm Beach County Inspector General 877-283-7068
Palm Beach County Mosquito Control 561-642-8775
Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation 561-966-6600
Palm Beach County Property Appraiser 561-355-3230
Palm Beach County Tax Collector 561-355-2266
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

CLIP AND SAVE!

Town Manager's Report—April Commission Meeting

Town Commission Agenda Memorandum

Office of the Interim Town Manager, Lynne Ladner

Meeting Date: April 3, 2023
Subject: Town Manager's Report

Mayor, Commissioners & Residents of Ocean Ridge:

It was a sad day this week as we said our farewells to Chief Richard Jones. Over the course of his tenure with Ocean Ridge Chief Jones has worked diligently to advance the department as an officer, command staff, and chief through professionalism, respect, and honor. He assisted the department in launching the accreditation process, implemented the paperless initiative for the police department, oversaw the upgrade and renovations of the 911 dispatch center, and mentored many individuals in the police department and on the regular town hall staff.

In the month of March, we recognized Rob Blanchette for completing his first year of service to the Town of Ocean Ridge. This is a milestone event for any employee and we are excited to have him continue with us into the future.

Joining the town hall staff this month was Lindsay Winters, our new Building Clerk. Lindsay joins us from Highland Beach where she has been working in the clerk and building departments for the last four years. She is an ICC Certified Permit Technician, and we are happy to have her join our team. We have temporarily contracted with CapGov to provide Building Official Services to the Town while we are in the process of hiring a full-time Building Official. Scott Wadowski has been assigned to Ocean Ridge full-time and is working with Rob Blanchette, Lindsay, and Susan to move the building department forward. We will continue to contract inspections to HyByrd as needed but it is the goal of town staff to diligently eliminate the backlog of permit application approvals that has occurred recently and return to the level of service that the residents deserve and expect.

This month marked the beginning of Sea Turtle nesting season in the Ocean Ridge area. It is important to remember that from now to November turn off all unnecessary lights and if the lighting is necessary use amber sea turtle-friendly LED bulbs or lighting. Be careful when digging at the beach or placing umbrellas to avoid disturbing nests, clear the beach of furniture every night, and reduce/eliminate litter to prevent entanglement hazards for nesting turtles.

Respectfully,



Lynne Ladner
Interim Town Manager & Finance Director

Ocean Ridge Police Department News

By Scott McClure, Acting Chief of Police



Police Activity:

Here is a listing of significant crime/code enforcement/suspicious activity reported to ORPD in March 2023 for both Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes:

<u>Type of Incident</u>	<u>Report Date</u>	<u>Time Frame</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
Animal Complaint	03/03/2023	03/303/2023 @6:16pm	5400 Blk N. Ocean Blvd.	Investigation Complete
Missing Person	03/04/2023	03/04/2023 @ 4:00pm	Harbour Dr. N	Person Found
Petit Theft	03/06/2023	03/26/2023 @7:16am	Briny Breezes	Active Investigation
Petit Theft	03/09/2023	03/09/2023 @ 12:30pm	6000 Blk. Old Ocean Blvd.	Inactive Investigation No Leads
Petit Theft	03/10/2023	03/03/2023-3/10/2023	6800 Blk. N. Ocean Blvd.	Inactive Investigation No Leads
Warrant Arrest	03/12/2023	03/12/2023 @3:55am	6000 Blk N. Ocean Blvd.	Proactive Police Activity resulting in arrest
Fraud	03/13/2023	02/23/2023 @ 3:00pm	5615 N Ocean Blvd.	Active Investigation
Felony Traffic Arrest	03/26/2023	03/26/2023 @8:10 pm	6400 Blk N. Ocean Blvd.	Proactive Police 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.



Ocean Ridge Police Department News

By Scott McClure, Acting Chief of Police



MESSAGES AND REMINDERS FROM YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

From Scott McClure, Interim Chief of Police:

FRAUD TIPS

Certain scams, like the Nigerian Prince email scams have been around for years. But in the digital age there has been an explosion of new scams that fraudsters have begun using. In addition, many of these scams can now be conducted instantaneously via apps and services like PayPal, Zelle, CashApp, and many more. To make matters worse, scammers are using new forms of currency and transactions to make tracing the stolen funds more difficult. One example would be having victims buy crypto currency or gift cards which are then sent to digital wallets. Having said all of that, let's go over some of the most common forms of fraud that law enforcement is seeing across the country.

❖ Advance Fee Scams

- With these scams offenders often will dangle some sort of prize in front of the victim, claiming an advanced fee is needed before the offender can give the prize.
 - A common example would be someone claiming they are calling to tell you about a grant which will help homeowners get free impact doors and windows, however an application fee is required or taxes for this grant are needed to be paid upfront. Once these fees are paid the fraudster never provides any grant and leaves with the money.

❖ Tech Support Scams

- These scams have become very common and involve offenders acting like they work for a company such as Amazon, Bank of America, or Microsoft. They will often ask for personal information such as social security number or they may even ask for remote access to your computer. Once they have your personal identification information the offender can use it to commit identity theft and other crimes. If they gain access to your computer, they can sign into your accounts and send money to themselves.

❖ Emergency Scams

- In this scam offenders will call victims claiming to be a friend or family member who needs financial assistance for an emergency such as medical bills or bail for an arrest. This type of fraud is most typical with elderly victims who have grandchildren out of state/country. It is becoming more common for offenders to ask the victim to send crypto currency or other forms of digital currency rather than cash.

❖ IRS or Government Imposter Scams

- These scams involve offenders who claim to be with the IRS or other government agency and often times they will threaten victims with legal action if a fee is not paid. They may also claim that bail money is needed similarly to the emergency scams.

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5 Signs of a Scam

If you spot any of these tactics, stop and walk away. You're probably being scammed. If you want further guidance, call The Ocean Ridge Police Department.

1. *They contacted you*

When you contact a business, you know who is on the other end of the line. But when someone contacts *you* first, you can't be certain they're telling the truth. You don't know if they are whom they say they are. And remember, email addresses and caller ID information can be faked.

2. *They dangle bait—usually money*

Let's face it: People simply don't give away large sums of money easily. If someone dangles bait in front of you—a big prize, a shopping spree, an easy loan — for nothing, they're probably lying.

3. *They want your personal information*

Anytime *anyone* asks for your personal information — bank accounts, social security number, etc. — you should be on alert. Don't give it away quickly or easily, especially to someone you don't know. You may become a victim of identity theft.

4. *You have to pay them first*

If someone offers you a prize, debt relief, or employment — but first you have to pay an upfront fee to get it —you're probably being scammed.

5. *You have to wire money, send gift cards, or buy crypto*

If you're about to wire money, send gift cards to someone or buy crypto in order to receive a prize, or pay off a debt collector that contacts you ... **STOP!** This may be a scammer trying to take your money.

In closing, we are still seeing check washing cases come in and this has become one of the biggest scams in the community (to include other jurisdictions). This has been a continued problem over the last several months. Theft of mail throughout the county has been rampant with perpetrators stealing from private mailboxes, USPS drop boxes, robbing mail carriers, and stealing bins of mail at sorting centers. Even postal employees have been involved in allegations of mail theft. **With that being said The Ocean Ridge Police Department strongly urges all residents to cease sending checks through the mail whenever possible.** It is also a good practice to utilize a **FREE** service provided by USPS called informed delivery, via their mobile app or website. Informed delivery lets you track and manage your packages and even provides pictures of incoming letter sized mail. This is a good tool to know if any important packages have been intercepted along the mailing process.

Follow these steps and you have a good chance of avoiding fraud. As always if there are any questions or concerns about a potential fraud, please contact The Ocean Ridge Police Department and we will assist you in determining if a fraud has occurred.



Ocean Ridge Police Department News

By Scott McClure, Acting Chief of Police



Yield to Pedestrians

When driving please remember to yield to pedestrians crossing at an intersection crosswalk. Specifically, stopping at a red light while making a right or left turn at the Ocean Ave. and Woolbright Rd. intersections. Officers are enforcing/educating vehicles not coming to a complete stop on a red light while making a right or left turn and not yielding to pedestrians. Lastly please do not forget to stop for pedestrians at the many mid road pedestrian crosswalks throughout town.



Ocean Ridge Police Department News

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CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND YOUR ASSISTANCE

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.

As always, "See Something-Say Something."

Report all suspicious behavior to the Police Department at 561-732-8331 or 911



Ocean Ridge Police Department News

By Scott McClure, Acting Chief of Police



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.

