June 2022 Volume 15, Issue 6

Ocean Ridge Tidings

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



HURRICANE SEASON BEGAN JUNE 1

Solid Waste Authority provides general information about how to prepare for a hurricane. The guidelines can be viewed by clicking here.

Please read important Flood Hazard Info for Hurricane Preparedness by clicking here.





If you see a downed power line or other damaged electrical equipment, be sure to stay far away and immediately call 911 or FPL at 1-800-4OUTAGE (1-800-468-8243).

Did you find drooping wires, downed lines, or AT&T equipment in a yard or on the street? Call anytime at 800.288.2020.

Click <u>here</u> to see how to report lines without an account.





Be Prepared. Pre-register with Palm Beach County for a Pet Friendly Shelter

Please click here for the application.

Please read important Flood Hazard Info for Hurricane Preparedness by clicking here.

REMINDER: Trim your coconut trees by July 1st!!

Coconut Tree Trimming

On July 1, 2019, the Commission approved Ordinance 2019-11 which reads: "Sec. 66-152. - Duty to trim coconut trees. In order to protect life and property during periods of high winds and hurricanes and to protect pedestrians and vehicular traffic where coconut trees overhang walkways and streets, all coconut trees in the town shall be required to be trimmed annually by July 1 of each year, so that on July 1 of each year all coconut trees in the town shall be free of coconuts, coconut blooms, and dead or 2 dying fronds. Residents are responsible for trimming coconut trees that are in the Town's right of way adjacent to their property.

Please be aware of this ordinance and pass the word onto those who may not read the newsletter or Town website.



Town Hall News



In the month of May, we celebrated the following employee anniversaries:

- Town Clerk, Karla Armstrong, who has served the Town for the past 5 years
- Public Works I employee, Chad Armstrong, who has served the Town for 2 years.



We thank them for their service and dedication to the Town of Ocean Ridge!

Town Commission Budget Meeting Calendar 2022

Monday, Jun. 6: Budget Workshop— Presentation of 1st Budget Draft & Commissioner Discussion @ 2pm

<u>Tuesday, Jul. 5:</u> Budget Workshop— Commissioner Discussion Set Maximum Millage Rate @ 2pm

Monday, Aug. 1: Budget Workshop— Commission to Vote on Finalized Budget for Presentation to the Public @ 2pm

Tuesday, Sept. 6: 1st Budget Public Hearing & Regular Meeting @ 6pm

Monday, Sept. 19: Special Meeting – Final Public Hearing & Adoption of Budget @ 6pm

OCEAN RIDGE FLORIDA TOWN HALL, 1962

Small building with signs declaring it as the town hall, police station at 802 E. Ocean Avenue. Published in the Boynton Beach Star, 28 June 1962, with the caption: "Smallest town hall in the state."



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.



Lost or Found
A Pet?
Call 561-732-8331
to report a
lost or found pet.

For Volunteer Opportunities in the Town of Ocean Ridge, please click here.

General Information

6450 N. Ocean Blvd., Ocean Ridge, FL 33435 www.oceanridgeflorida.com @OceanRidgeFL - Twitter OceanRidgeFL—Facebook

Town Hall

561-732-2635 (main) ◊ 561-737-8359 (fax) 561-732-ORFL (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

Tracey Stevens tstevens@oceanridgeflorida.com

Town Clerk

Karla Armstrong karmstrong@oceanridgeflorida.com

Police Chief

Richard Jones Rjones@oceanridgeflorida.com

Building Official

Durrani Guy dguy@oceanridgeflorida.com

Town Commission

Mayor

Susan Hurlburt shurlburt@oceanridgeflorida.com

Vice Mayor

Kristine de Haseth kdehaseth@oceanridgeflorida.com

Commissioners

Steve Coz scoz@oceanridgeflorida.com

Geoff Pugh gpugh@oceanridgeflorida.com

Martin Wiescholek mwiescholek@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 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 561-355-2264 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

CLIP AND SAVE!

Calendar of Events

June

- 6: Budget Workshop—1st Budget Draft Review begins at 2pm in the Commission Chambers.
- 6: Building Official's Open Forum begins at 5pm in the Commission Chambers.
- 6: Regular Town Commission Meeting begins at 6pm in the Commission Chambers.
- 20: Town Hall Closed in Observance of Juneteenth. No inspections performed.
- 21: Planning and Zoning Commission meeting begins at 8am in the Commission Chambers

July

- 1 & 2: OneBlood blood drive at Town Hall the 1st 9:00am—3:00pm; 2nd 10:00am—4:00pm
- 4: Town Hall Closed in Observance of Fourth of July. No construction work allowed. No inspections performed.
- 5: Budget Workshop—begins at 2pm in the Commission Chambers.
- 5: Building Official's Open Forum begins at 5pm in the Commission Chambers
- 5: Regular Town Commission Meeting begins at 6pm in the Commission Chambers.
- 18: Planning and Zoning Commission meeting begins at 8am in the Commission Chambers

Agendas, minutes, and updates to the calendar are available on the town's website and will

Meeting Information

Regular Town Commission meetings are generally held on the first Monday of every month at 6:00pm. Code Enforcement Special Magistrate holds hearing on demand on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00am. Board of Adjustment meets on demand on the third Wednesday of the month at 9:00am and the Planning & Zoning Commission meets on demand on the third Monday of the month at 8:00am. Any special meetings added to the calendar, date and time changes, as well as agendas and minutes will be updated on the Town's website at www.oceanridgeflorida.com as they occur.

Privacy Policy

The following is the Town's privacy policy that is noted in Town email signatures and a variation is on the Town's website.

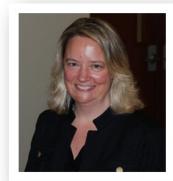
"Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from the Town of Ocean Ridge officials and employees regarding public business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your e-mail communications may be subject to public disclosure. Under Florida law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing. The views expressed in this message may not necessarily reflect those of the Town of Ocean Ridge. If you have received this message in error, please notify us immediately by replying to this message, and please delete it from your computer. Thank you."

Town Manager's Report - June Commission Meeting

Mayor, Commissioners & Residents of Ocean Ridge:

I was recently elected by my peers to serve as a Director on the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Government Finance Officers' Association. We are currently working on additional training opportunities for Government Finance Professionals in the County to earn continuing education credits toward certification. We will be meeting with the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser at our next meeting, and will receive the preliminary valuations for budgeting purposes.

Approximately two weeks ago, the Town was the subject of a check fraud case in the amount of \$29,100. This incident involved several pieces of US Mail that were actually hand delivered to the mail carrier, leading us to be-



lieve that the compromise took place within the postal service system. Since that time, the Police Department has seen an increase in mail related thefts from residential mailboxes. These thefts are now related to bank account take overs and check washing activities. These illegal activities involve a person stealing checks from the mail and altering the check amount and payee before cashing them. Due to the increase in these types of crimes, which are happening all over the county, we urge our residents to take immediate action to prevent this from happening. If the Police Department's theory of postal compromise is accurate and it is an inside job within the postal service, nothing you do will protect your mail from compromise. However, we have also seen a recent increase in cases that involve thefts from residential mailboxes. In order to limit these types of thefts from taking place, and to assist the Police Department with its ongoing criminal investigations, we're asking that residents do the following:

- Do not leave mail in your mailbox for postal pick-up, deliver your mail to the Town Hall mailbox or to the post office directly as these areas are under video surveillance.
- Consider purchasing and installing a lockable mailbox at your home.
- Consider the installation of a new video camera that views your mailbox or relocate an existing camera (where possible).
- Work with neighbors that may be retired or work from home and ask them to collect your mail immediately upon delivery.
- Frequently check your bank accounts for suspicious activities.
- Sign up for USPS Informed Delivery https://informeddelivery.usps.com/box/pages/intro/start.action
 This service allows you to digitally preview your mail and packages which are scheduled to be delivered soon. This will help you more efficiently manage missing and stolen mail without delay so that you can take steps immediately to notify your bank or financial institution to flag your account prior to becoming a victim of fraud.
- Lastly, we ask that you view your surveillance system for any recorded video from May 16, 2022 between the hours of 12:30 pm and 12:45 pm. If you locate any vehicles or suspicious activity involving your mailbox during this time, we ask you to contact the Police Department immediately.

Our federal appropriation request to Congresswoman Lois Frankel's office to fund our potable water infrastructure improvements project along A1A was not selected. The Congresswoman received many funding requests and could only select a certain number of projects for funding. The Congresswoman's staff is going to continue to search for funding on our behalf and will let us know if they find any additional funding opportunities.

Respectfully,

Tracey L. Stevens

Regular Town Commission Meeting Summary

Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida Office of the Town Clerk

Budget and Regular Commission Meeting Summary June 6, 2022

The following is a list of actions taken at the June 6, 2022, Budget and Regular Town Commission Meeting. We hope this helps keep our residents informed in a timely fashion regarding Town Commission and Staff activities.

- 1. The Town Commission consented to the Following Budget Items for FY23:
 - a. Maintain the Flat Mil Rate of 5.50 to incorporate into the next version of the budget
 - b. Maintain the Ad Valorem Revenue Collection Percentage of 97.5%.
 - c. Approved the following capital items: Item #2 Town Hall A/C units, Item #3 Sealcoat & Striping Town Hall Parking Lot, Item #4 Wet Well Maintenance for Pump Stations, Item #5. a. Tropical Pump Station Infiltration & Backflow (increase to \$75,000), Item # 5.b. Inlet Cay Island Pipe Grouting, Item #5. c. Catch Basins Upgrades & Valve Replacements on Spanish River, Item #6 Pump Repair or Replacement at Tropical and Woolbright, Item #7 Replace All Terrain Vehicle, #8 New Fully Equipped Fleet Vehicles (1) Police, (1) Building Department, (1) Public Works, Plus FY22 Payment Plan, Item #9 Woolbright Pump Station Upgrade to Smart Controls, Item #10 Replace Outdoor Lighting at Town Hall, and Item #12 Dispatch Consoles.
 - d. Rejected the following capital items: #1 Replace Drain Field at Town Hall and Item #11 Install Arm Gate at Town Hall/ Police Department.
 - e. Expand the Capital Improvements Plan from 5 to 10 years.
 - f. Allocate \$7,000 toward the signage replacement program.
 - g. Increase the Town Functions & Promotions line to \$15,000.
 - h. Decrease the contracted arborist proposed budget to \$5000
 - i. Increase the contingency line item to account for the difference in ad valorem projected reve-
 - j. Town Engineer Tropepe to investigate the cost of constructing a seawall at the Town's Right of Way on Hudson Avenue and to raise the seawall at Inlet Cay Drive to see if it can be done in FY23.
 - k. Town Engineer Tropepe to provide the latest paving plan report.
 - I. Town Manager Stevens to explore the cost of a lobbyist.
 - m. Town Manager Stevens to explore the cost of adding natural gas throughout the Town.
 - n. Town Manager Stevens to report the number of Iguanas caught by Iguana Control.
 - o. Town Manager Stevens to provide a comparison of a part-time Public Works position versus a full-time position.
 - p. Directed Town Manager Stevens to expend \$3,800 in the current budget year (FY22) to remove vegetation on the first five (5) feet of the Town's right of way on the east side of Old Ocean Blvd

2. Announcements:

a. The meeting schedule for the next month is as follows: Budget Meeting Tuesday, July 5th at 2:00 PM followed by the Regular Town Commission Meeting at 6:00 PM; Community Standards Hearing Tuesday, June 7th at 10:00 AM; and Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Tuesday, June 21st at 8:00 AM. All meetings are held in the Commission Chambers at Town Hall.

Regular Town Commission Meeting Summary—Page 2

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- b.The Town is hosting a blood drive event with One Blood on Friday, July 1st from 9am 3pm and Saturday, July 2nd from 9am 3pm. The bus will be parked behind Town Hall. All those who wish to donate blood, can sign up through a link posted on the Town's website. All donors will receive a \$20 Egift Card, a T-Shirt, and a wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, and iron count.
- c.Town Hall will be closed on Monday, June 20, 2022 in observance of Juneteenth, and on Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.
- d.Please join us each month prior to the Town Commission meeting at 5:00 p.m. for the Building Offi cial Educational Forum in the Commission Chambers at Town Hall. Details including topics to be discussed each month are on the Town's website.
- e.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.
- f. The Town approved a Special Event application for a walkathon on June 12, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please expect to see heavy foot traffic on the sidewalk of A1A from Woolbright to Oceanfront Park during those times.
- 3. Approved the Consent Agenda including:
 - a. Adopted Minutes of the Special Town Commission Meeting of April 18, 2022
 - b. Adopted Minutes of the Regular Town Commission Meeting of May 2, 2022
 - c.Ratify Emergency Expenditures to Madsen Barr and LineTec for Water Line Break Repairs at 12 Inlet Cay Drive
 - d.Approved Solid Waste Authority's Piggyback Storm Debris Management Contracts with Thompson Consulting, Ashbritt, Crowder Gulf, DRC, and Phillips & Jordan
 - e. Approved Land Development/Building Permit Extension for Palm Beach County's Ocean Inlet Park Marina Project and Waived Fees
 - f. Approved Building Permit Extension Request for 24 Hudson Ave and Waived Fees
 - g. Approved Refund of \$1,500 for 33 Hersey Drive Variance Application for Dune Crossover Construction
 - h. Approved First Amendment to Interlocal Agreement for Law Enforcement Services for the Town of Briny Breezes
- 4. Approved the following recommendations from the Concerned Citizens for Public Safety on or Near Old Ocean Blvd:
 - a. Post the speed limit at 13 mph on Old Ocean Blvd. Utilize the portable speed sign to collect data once the speed limit is reduced in order to determine whether or not speed humps will be necessary or not.
 - b. Directed Staff to present a plan regarding signage. The plan should reduce sign pollution while accomplishing the goals of pedestrian safety.
 - c. Clear the Town's rights-of-way on the dune side of Old Ocean Blvd up to five feet in a manner that will provide enough space for a pedestrian to safely step off the roadway.
 - **d.** The Commission directed Town Manager Stevens to add an item to the agenda in 6-months to evaluate the recommendations are working.
- 5. Approved the construction duration extension agreement for 6273 N Ocean Blvd.

Regular Town Commission Meeting Summary—Page 3

(Continued from previous page)

- 6. Approved the agreement for Benchmark Painting & Carpentry to repair the Porter Street crossover in the amount of \$59,844 under the Best Interest Acquisition Provision in the Town Code.
- 7. Approved the agreement for Hartzell Construction to complete the Ocean Avenue sidewalk repairs in the amount of \$27,025.71 under the Best Interest Acquisition Provision in the Town Code.
- 8. Town Manager Stevens presented the monthly Town Manager's Report. Important information in the Town Manager's Report may be found on the Town's website by <u>clicking here</u>.
- 9. The following additional Staff & Committee Reports were presented: Planning & Zoning Commission, Police Department, Town Engineer, Public Works, and Building Department.
- 10. Removed the following Items from the Agenda: Item #12 Referendum to Preserve Conservation Land; and Item #13 Growth Management Considerations.

THE NEXT TOWN COMMISSION BUDGET MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2022 AT 2:00 P.M. AT TOWN HALL, WITH THE REGULAR TOWN COMMISSION MEETING TO FOLLOW AT 6:00 P.M. AT TOWN HALL.



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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 May 2022 for both Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes:

Type of Incident	Report Date	Time Frame	Location	Synopsis
Drug Law Violation	05/03/2022	05/03/2022 @9:01 pm	5400 Block North Ocean Blvd	Proactive policing resulting from a traffic stop
Package Theft	05/01/2022	05/03/2022 @10:34 am	<u>Island Drive</u> <u>South</u>	Proactive policing resulting from a traffic stop
Resist/Obstruct	05/10/2022	05/10/2022 @ 08:25 am	Ocean Avenue East	Proactive policing resulting from a traffic stop
Check Fraud	05/11/2022	04/28/2022 @ 11:00 pm	Town Hall	Mail Theft resulting in check fraud
Burglary/Theft	05/13/2022	05/13/2022 @07:45 am	6415 N Ocean Blvd	Lifeguard Tower entered and leaf blower stolen
Mail Theft/Fraud	05/18/2022	05/18/2022 @ 4:59 pm	Bonito Drive	Mail Theft resulting in Fraud
Mail Theft/Fraud	05/18/2022	05/18/2022 @ 11:48 am	Sabal Island	Mail Theft resulting in Fraud
Mail Theft/Fraud	05/18/2022	05/18/2022 @ 10:00 am	Bonito Drive	Mail Theft resulting in Fraud
Forgery	05/19/2022	04/28/2022 @ 9:00 am	<u>Hudson Avenue</u>	Check Fraud and Forgery
Battery (on person 65 or older)	05/22/2022	05/21/2022 @ 8:42 pm	5900 Block N Ocean Blvd	Domestic Disturbance
Mail Theft/Fraud	05/22/2022	05/16/2022 @ 8:29 am	Bonito Drive	Mail Theft resulting in Fraud
Forgery	05/23/2022	04/13/2022	Osprey Drive	Check Fraud and Forgery
Forgery	05/23/2022	04/20/2022 @ 9:00 am	6500 Block N Ocean Blvd	Check Fraud and Forgery
Sexual Battery	05/24/2022	04/01/2020	Protected Data	Delayed reporting and victim refused to cooperate
Indecent Exposure	05/25/2022	05/25/2022 @ 15:45 pm	Oceanfront Park	Subject was arrested
Mail Theft/Fraud	05/26/2022	05/09/2022	<u>Island Drive</u> <u>South</u>	Mail Theft resulting in Fraud
Identity Theft	05/28/2022	03/20/2022 - 05/27/2022	Bonito Drive	Identity theft likely related to mail theft cases

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 Richard Jones, Chief of Police

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MESSAGES AND REMINDERS FROM YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

From Richard Jones, Chief of Police:

MAIL THEFT & FRAUD

Mail theft has been on the rise in South Florida and across the nation for the last several years. The investigative struggle has been tracking the mail to determine whether the mail was stolen prior to being collected by the Postal Service or whether the thefts were the result of a postal service member. The Town of Ocean Ridge has had its fair share of these theft and fraud cases over the last 10 years, but we are seeing a steep increase in these types of cases over the last 30 -45 days.

As many of you will remember, I recently sent out a notice via CivicReady and the Ring Neighborhood App alerting you to the increase in this criminal activity. Within those notifications, I offered a few suggestions to assist with keeping your mail safe thus preventing fraud from taking place. These recommendations include, but are not limited to:

- Do not leave mail in your mailbox for postal pick-up, deliver your mail to the Town Hall mailbox or to the post office directly as these areas are under video surveillance.
- Consider purchasing and installing a lockable mailbox at your home.
- Consider the installation of a new video camera that views your mailbox or relocate an existing camera (where possible).
- Work with neighbors that may be retired or work from home and ask them to collect your mail immediately upon delivery.
- Frequently check your bank accounts for suspicious activities.
- Sign up for USPS Informed Delivery https://informeddelivery.usps.com/box/pages/intro/start.action This service allows you to digitally preview your mail and packages which are scheduled to be delivered soon. This will help you more efficiently manage missing and stolen mail without delay so that you can take steps immediately to notify your bank or financial institution to flag your account prior to becoming a victim of fraud.

In addition to these common suggestions, I would encourage each of you to avoid using the Postal Service altogether. Consider alternative options, such as DHL, UPS and FedEx as those private vendors have a much better tracking system in place than does the Postal Service.



Ocean Ridge Police Department News



NEW PROGRAMS

The Ocean Ridge Police Department will soon be launching its new R U OK Senior Program as well as the Combat Auto Theft Program. These new and innovative ideas were spearheaded by Police Officers to enhance the comfort and safety of our community while offering our residents the best services possible.

Coming Soon is the R U OK Senior Program. This program offers seniors, who reside alone within the Town of Ocean Ridge with a regular check-up by phone. If for some reason, the senior fails to answer the phone, a police officer will be dispatched to check on the resident. This program provides residents with independence and peace of mind knowing that they are being monitored and assisted by the Police Department on a regular basis. Once this program is launched and ready to go, we will notify you in case you are interested.

Starting August 1, 2022 the Combat Auto Theft Program (CAT) was designed to reduce Auto Theft within our community. This is completely voluntary for any resident who wishes to sign up. Once signed up, you will be assigned a reflective decal to place on your vehicle. If a police officer observes your vehicle on the roads after 1 am, but before 5 am the officer will stop the vehicle and check to ensure that the operator is the resident. If the operator is not the owner, the officer will detain the operator and check the welfare of the resident to make sure that the resident was not the victim of an Auto Theft or other crime.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND YOUR ASSISTANCE

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

LEAVE IT, LOCK IT, KEEP IT!

As always, I and every member of your Police Department welcome you to call or stop in anytime and visit with us. Bring your four-legged friend with you so we can share a treat with them.

As always, "See Something-Say Something"

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