August 2022 Volume 15, Issue 8

Ocean Ridge Tidings

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





HOW TO REPORT DOWNED LINES & OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION DURING HURRICANE SEASON:

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).

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

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.





HURRICANE SEASON BEGAN JUNE 1

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

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

Town Hall News

PROPERTY FRAUD ALERT!

What is property fraud?

Scammers file fake deeds, making it appear as if they own homes that are not actually theirs. These scammers then trick people into giving them money to rent or buy homes.

Click here for more information and to register to receive free alerts!

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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Building Department will soon have an online system to submit documents electronically. This system will be located in the Town Hall Lobby. We are currently looking for a few volunteers to assist applicants when our system is in place. Stay " tuned for any updates!

 For any questions, please call Town Hall, 561-732-2635 and dial ext. 49 to $_{\scriptscriptstyle \square}^{\scriptscriptstyle \sqcup}$ reach the Building Official.



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."



Town Commission Budget Meeting Calendar

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

All meetings to be held in the Commission Chambers at Town Hall



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

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

Kelly Avery

kavery@oceanridgeflorida.com

Police Chief

Richard Jones

Rjones@oceanridgeflorida.com

Building Official

Durrani Guy

dguy@oceánridgeflorida.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 Solid Waste Authority 561-640-4000 Supervisor of Elections **Tides** CLIP AND SAVE!

Calendar of Events

August

- 1: Budget Workshop—begins at 2pm in the Commission Chambers.
- 1: Regular Town Commission Meeting begins at 6pm in the Commission Chambers.
- 8: Special Town Commission Meeting begins at 6pm in the Commission Chambers
- 15: Planning and Zoning Commission meeting begins at 8am in the Commission Chambers

September

- 6: Code Enforcement Hearing beings at 10am in the Commission Chambers.
- 6: Regular Town Commission Meeting & 1st Budget Public Hearing combined begins at 6pm in the Commission Chambers.
- 19: Planning and Zoning Commission meeting begins at 8am in the Commission Chambers
- 19: Special Meeting Final Public Hearing & Adoption of Budget begins at 6pm in the Commission Chambers

Agendas, minutes, and updates to the calendar are available on the town's website and will be posted as they become available.

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 - August Commission Meeting

Mayor, Commissioners & Residents of Ocean Ridge:

In the month of July, we celebrated the following employee anniversaries: Jean Hallahan, Treasurer, 17

years of service; Durrani Guy, Building Official, 2 years of service; Billy Armstrong, Public Works Supervisor, 12 years of service; Scott McClure, Lieutenant, 6 years of service; Richard Ermeri, Sergeant, 7 years of service; and Jimmy Pilon, Sergeant, 7 years of service. We thank them for their service and dedication to the Town of Ocean Ridge!

The Crown Colony crosswalk installation has been completed; however, we are still waiting for FPL to install the necessary lighting. They estimate that the parts for the lighting will arrive in September. I recommend that we place "closed" signs at both entrances to the crosswalk until the necessary lighting upgrades are completed and permit finalized by FDOT.

The repairs to the Inlet Cay, Sabal Island, and Island Drive bridges have been completed and inspection reports submitted to the town, along with a field observation report submitted by our Town Engineer. FDOT will be following up with their inspections in the near future.

Respectfully,

Tracey L. Stevens

Town Manager & Finance Director





- Message from the Mayor -

Hello, Neighbors,

Please know that our Town Manager, Tracey Stevens, will be leaving us in September for the opportunity to work as the new Town Manager of Haverhill. Although we are losing one of the most hard-working, ethical, and dedicated, Town Managers a municipality could hope to have had, I'm sure we can all wish her the very best of luck in her new position.

The Town Commission will be working with the Florida City and County Management Association Senior Advisor Program to oversee the search for our new Manager. This professional group has excellent background and experience working with municipalities and the League of Cities. They will also be assisting us in hiring an Acting Town Manager to aid with the transition.

As many of you might already know, our Town Clerk, Karla Armstrong, has also recently moved on from Ocean Ridge to begin Law School. I know we couldn't be happier for her.

The good news for Ocean Ridge is that we have hired a new Town Clerk, Kelly Avery. She has excellent background experience that includes Deputy City Clerk for City of West Palm Beach and also a former Deputy Town Clerk for our neighbor, Gulfstream. Kelly is currently finishing up her Masters in Public Administration. She will begin her training under Tracey's wing August 1st. Make sure to give Kelly a warm welcome next time you drop in Town Hall.



Regular Town Commission Meeting Summary

Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida Office of the Town Clerk Budget and Regular Commission Meeting Summary August 1, 2022

The following is a list of actions taken at the August 1, 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. Approval of a 5.5% stipend for Public Works, Administration, Building Dept, Police Chief and Lieutenant payable in this current fiscal year.
 - b. Approval of the proposed salary ranges for the Police Chief, Lieutenant, Dispatchers and Dispatch Manager.
 - c. Addition of a part-time Administrative Assistant for the Building Department.
 - d. Change in hiring policy to give the Town Manager the ability to offer 15% over the minimum salary to new hires.
 - e. Authorized staff to begin the purchasing process for the Town Hall Generator and Dispatch furniture to prevent further price increases, and to move forward with other capital improvements projects if necessary due to pricing. Although ordering may occur now, expenditures will be made after October 1, 2022.

2. Announcements:

- a. The meeting schedule for the next month is as follows: Regular Town Commission Meeting Tuesday, September 6th at 6:00 PM which will include the first public hearing on the proposed FY23 budget; and Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Monday, August 15th at 8:00 AM.
- b. There will be no Building Official's forum in the month of September.
- 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.
- 3. Approved the Consent Agenda including:
 - a. Acceptance of the Revenue & Expenditure Reports for June 2022.
- 4. FCCMA Senior Advisor Dan Kleman presented information regarding the Town Manager search.
- 5. Chief Jones recognized Investigator Aaron Choban and Police Officer Nubia Savino for their recent efforts in helping to keep the community safe.
- 6. Vice Mayor de Haseth addressed the public regarding a comment she made via email.

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- 7. Approval of a reduction of the building permit penalty fees for 6550 N. Ocean Blvd, Unit 10 in the amount of \$500. The amount to be refunded is \$475.
- 8. Adopted on second Reading Ordinance No. 2022-09 An Ordinance of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Amending Its Code of Ordinances, Specifically the Land Development Code, to Extend the Architectural Requirements for Front Elevations to All Elevations for Single Family Dwellings and Accessory Structures and to Permit Flat Roofs With Restrictions on Single-Family Residential Dwellings and Accessory Structures by Making Revisions to Chapter 64, Zoning, Article I, District Regulations, Section 64-1, RSF And RSE Single-Family Residential Districts, Section 64-3, Ocean View Special Area, Article III, Supplemental Regulations, Section 64-50, Location of Exterior Residential Equipment and Accessories, and Section 64-60, Decks, Patios, Driveways, Parking Areas, Steps, Stoops, and Terraces (Unenclosed and Uncovered); Chapter 67, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article III, Technical Codes and Other Construction Standards, Division 1, Generally, Section 67-37, Roof Systems; Providing for Codification, Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances, Severability, and an Effective Date.
- 9. 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>
- 10. The following additional Staff & Committee Reports were presented: Police Department and Building Department.

THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL TOWN COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2022, AT 6:00 P.M. AT TOWN HALL FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERVIEW-ING INTERIM TOWN MANAGER CANDIDATES.

THE NEXT REGULAR TOWN COMMISSION MEETING AND FIRST PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY23 BUDGET WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022, AT 6:00 P.M. AT TOWN HALL.



Police Activity:

Here is a listing of significant crime/code enforcement/suspicious activity reported to ORPD in July 2022 for both Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes:

Type of Incident	Report Date	Time Frame	<u>Location</u>	Synopsis
Habitual Traffic Of- fender (Felony)	07/01/2022	07/01/2022 @ 6:10 pm	Ocean Ave	Proactive arrest resulting from a traffic stop
Fleeing & Eluding	07/04/2022	07/04/2022 @ 3:10 pm	Ocean Ave	Proactive arrest resulting from a traffic stop
Drug Law Violation	07/05/2022	07/05/2022 @ 7:45 pm	Woolbright Rd	Proactive arrest resulting from a traffic stop
Molest Turtle Eggs	07/09/2022	07/09/2022 @ 10:45 am	6300 Blk N Ocean Blvd on beach	Felony Arrest for Disturbing Tur- tle nest and resisting arrest
Package Theft	07/11/2022	07/02/2022 – 07/04/2022	Beachway Drive	Package was allegedly delivered to home, but never received
Drug Law Violation	07/13/2022	07/13/2022 @ 1:52 pm	6400 Blk N Ocean Blvd	Proactive arrest resulting from a traffic stop
Fraud/Identity Theft	07/13/2022	04/28/2022 - 04/29/2022	Flamingo Drive	Check Washing/Fraud
Drug Law Violation	07/14/2022	07/14/2022 @ 3:06 pm	6600 Blk N Ocean Blvd	Proactive arrest resulting from a traffic stop
Fraud/Identity Theft	07/17/2022	07/13/2022 - 07/17/2022	Sabal Island Drive	Credit Card Fraud
Criminal Mischief	07/18/2022	07/18/2022 @ 6:34 pm	6415 N Ocean Blvd	Attempted Vehicle Burglary with damage to door lock
Domestic Violence	07/19/2022	07/18/2022 - 07/19/2022	Island Drive	Primary Aggressor Undeter- mined – No Arrest
Drug Law Violation	07/27/2022	07/27/2022 @ 9:07 am	Ocean Avenue	Proactive arrest resulting from a traffic stop
Aggravated Battery	07/26/2022	07/26/2022	Bamboo Drive	Active Investigation
Bicycle Theft	07/27/2022	07/11/2022 @ 9:10 pm	6100 Blk N Ocean Blvd	Bicycle stolen from back porch
Vehicle Burglary	07/28/2022	07/26/2022 8:00 am- 12:08 pm	6415 N Ocean Blvd	Vehicle Burglary with damage to door lock
Stolen Tag Recovery	07/28/2022	07/28/2022 @ 4:14 pm	6900 Blk No Ocean Blvd	Proactive arrest resulting from a traffic stop



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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.

MESSAGES AND REMINDERS FROM YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT From Richard Jones, Chief of Police:

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

I wanted to take an opportunity to thank each of you for your support of the police department and of me. Over the last several months, the police department has made many changes and improvements in the way we serve you. These changes are the result of listening to your desires and community feedback while monitoring the events that are happening in nearby areas. We have continued to expand our scope of services to make sure that we provide each of you with the utmost service.

Additionally, we have started the process of professionalizing the police department through the development of modern police policies and practices. Part of this process involved the development of an Agency Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Core Values and even an Agency Moto. We are now sharing these statements, values, and moto with you.





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IF YOU LEAVE IT, LOCK IT!

Over the last several years, I have consistently sent out this notice and message to the residents of Ocean Ridge. This year, we would love to have the opportunity to prevent any crime from occurring in Ocean Ridge, but we also want you to be alert and aware when you park your vehicle outside the boundaries of our Town.

The entire State of Florida has continued to see an increase in vehicle thefts and vehicle burglaries. These numbers continue to rise higher and higher each year. Our experience shows that this type of crime usually increases during summer months. I contribute these increases to the fact that school is not in session during some summer months and many juveniles are unsupervised during this time.

As you all know, the Ocean Ridge Police Department and been putting forth a huge amount of effort to reduce crime within our community and the efforts have been successful. Although we have seen a decrease in these types of crimes within Ocean Ridge, our statistical numbers remain much lower than many other communities within Palm Beach County. Our numbers are also much lower than the average, but even one crime is too many.

The vast majority of the cases we have investigated in Ocean Ridge result when vehicles are left unattended, unlocked and with an ignition key left inside. Surprisingly, many times in plain sight or even in the ignition.

In addition to the vehicle being unattended, unlocked and having keys present inside them, many of these thefts have also resulted when valuables were left inside the vehicle in plain view.

With all these factors being known, the best way to reduce these crimes is by preventing it from happening in the first place. So the campaign of, "IF YOU LEAVE IT, LOCK IT" is simply that.

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When you leave your vehicle unattended, lock it. In addition to that, please do not keep or leave any vehicle keys or other valuables inside your vehicle when it is parked or otherwise unattended. Keys and Valuables are enticing to the criminal element and believe it or not, but it takes only seconds for these crimes to occur.

As discussed in previous crime prevention tips, opportunity is what a criminal thrives on. If we take away the opportunity, the criminal is left powerless.

FRAUD & WIRELESS SECURITY

With technology today, Fraud has become the primary way for criminals to take advantage of us all without much effort.

Although, we cannot prevent all Frauds from taking place, we are able to safeguard ourselves to help prevent Fraud and Fraud type crimes. One of the most common areas for thieves to target potential victims is through wireless internet connections.

If you currently have wireless internet in your home or office, you should consult with your Internet Provider and/or your IT Vendor about implementing the following security measures:

- 1. Turn off sharing services.
 - In your own home, sharing is okay but you must remember to disable these settings before using a public Wi-Fi service.
- 2. Begin Using a VPN or Virtual Private Network that is encrypted.
 - Using a VPN is the best and most secure way to browse the internet, check your email or make on-line purchases.
- 3. Avoid using the auto-connect feature to Wi-Fi hotspots.
 - When using the auto-connect feature, it seriously endangers the safety of your personal information. Wi-Fi networks can be replicated by hackers causing you to auto connect to their network in place of your own.
- 4. Use HTTPS rather that HTTP.
 - Using HTTPS connections create a secure and encrypted connection while HTTP connections are done using plain text.
- 5. Use two factor authentication when possible.
 - This is a security method that requires two separate types of verifications to allow a secure log-in or connection. Most often this takes the form of a password you remember as well as a one-time code sent to your personal cell phone.

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- 6. Confirm the network name of the network you are connecting to.
 - As previously mentioned in bullet #3, many hackers replicate Wi-Fi networks in an effort to steal your personal information. Many times, these networks are misspelled or slightly different than the network you actually intend to connect to. By verifying the name of the network you are connecting to, you are insuring that you are connecting to the correct network.
- 7. Protect your passwords and do not share passwords or use generic passwords.
 - Never share your password! Do not use generic passwords under any circumstances. Generic passwords are those which a certain group of people share when connecting to a specific service or network.
- 8. Use a Firewall Device.
 - Microsoft Windows has built in firewall settings that you should enable for your own protections. In addition to those services, you should consider using a commercial Firewall Device such as Sonicwall, Cisco or Linksys. These devices protect hackers from getting access to your network and ultimately those devices on your network.
- 9. Run Anti-Virus and Malware Software.
 - Every device you use to connect to the internet should contain some form of Anti-Virus and Malware Software. This includes smartphones, tablets, and any other computer type device you may use. This type of software prevents viruses and malware from infecting your computer and ultimately stealing your personal information.
- 10. Avoid using Public Wi-Fi Networks when at all possible
 - Instead of using public Wi-Fi Networks, use a private Wi-Fi Device that you can purchase from any major cell phone carrier. These devices are much more secure than any public Wi-Fi Network.

If you would like additional information on any of these services, software or configuration changes, you should consult with an IT Professional or visit the internet and conduct your own research free of charge.



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BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We sincerely appreciate and thank everyone who participated in this years Back To School Supply Drive. It was a huge success and because of your kindness, many under privileged children will be able to return to school with the supplies they need to be successful.

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

