

Ocean Ridge Tidings

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

Municipal Election Information

The 2018 Municipal General Election will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 from 7AM-7PM in the Town Hall Community Room. Two commission seats are open for a three-year term. Candidates are Gail Adams Aaskov, Philip Besler, and Kristine de Haseth. For vote-by-mail ballots and other inquiries, please call the Supervisor of Elections at 561-656-6200. / La Elección General Municipal de 2018 se llevará a cabo el martes 14 de marzo de 2018 de 7 a.m.-7 p.m. en la Sala Comunitaria del Ayuntamiento. Dos puestos de comisión están abiertos por un período de tres años. Los candidatos son Gail Adams Aaskov, Philip Besler y Kristine de Haseth. Para boletas de votación por correo y otras consultas, llame al Supervisor de Elecciones al 561-656-6200.

★★★★★

Ocean Ridge Town Commissioner
Candidates Forum

Wednesday, February 21, 2018
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

OCEAN RIDGE TOWN HALL

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters &
the Town of Ocean Ridge

| | |
|--|---|
| Moderated by the League of Women Voters | Candidates: Gail Adams Aaskov Philip Besler Kristine de Haseth |
| Open to All Ocean Ridge Residents | |

★★★★★

Balloon Ban on Beaches

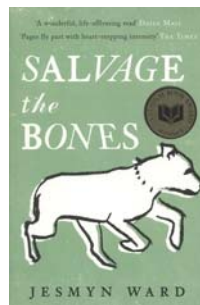
Article from PBC Commissioner Steve Abrams' Email Newsletter 1/18/18

The county's Parks and Recreation Department recently prohibited balloons at any of the 11 Palm Beach County beaches from Boca Raton to Jupiter. The focus is to protect sea turtles that nest on our beaches. The balloons that end up in the ocean resemble jellyfish, which the sea turtles eat. Recently, the Loggerhead Marinelife Center in Juno Beach has found deflated balloons and other marine debris in the stomachs of hatched sea turtles that have died.

The new rule only applies to 11 county beaches. In South County they include South Inlet Park in Boca Raton, Gulf Stream and Ocean Inlet Park in Ocean Ridge. Violating Palm Beach County Park rules can carry a fine of up to \$500. Please enjoy your visit to our beautiful beaches but leave the balloons at home!

Book Club Meeting

The Book Club will be meeting on Wednesday, February 7 at 5:45pm in the Town Hall Community Room to discuss *Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward. Residents are encouraged to join the discussion.



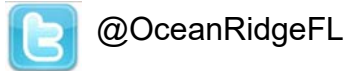
Town's New SeeClickFix App!

Want to report a non-emergency issue such as solid waste collection issues, potholes, overgrown lots, and more? Report it by using the Town's SeeClickFix app! Staff will respond during regular business hours and you should expect an update to the issue within 72 hours. To download the app and more, please visit oceanridgeflorida.com/seeclickfix.htm.



General Information

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



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 Officials

Town Manager

James Titcomb
jtitcomb@oceanridgeflorida.com

Town Clerk

Tracey Stevens
tstevens@oceanridgeflorida.com

Police Chief

Hal Hutchins
hhutchins@oceanridgeflorida.com

Mayor

Geoffrey Pugh
gpugh@oceanridgeflorida.com

Vice Mayor

James Bonfiglio
jbonfiglio@oceanridgeflorida.com

Commissioners

Gail Adams Aaskov
gaaskov@oceanridgeflorida.com

Steve Coz
scoz@oceanridgeflorida.com

Don MaGruder
dmagruder@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
Republic Services (trash collection) 561-478-9590
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

January:

- 1: New Year's Day— Town Hall Closed—no contractor work or inspections
- 2: Code Enforcement Hearing begins at 10AM in the chambers (tentative)
- 3: Book Club meeting begins at 5:45PM in the community room
- 6: Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup begins at 8AM at Oceanfront Park
- 8: Infrastructure Surtax Committee meeting begins at 8:30AM in the chambers
- 8: Regular Town Commission meeting begins at 6PM in the chambers
- 13: Ocean Ridge Beach Cleanup from 8AM-10AM at Hammock Park
- 15: Martin Luther King, Jr Day— Town Hall closed—no inspections but contractors may work
- 27: Sea Angels Beach Cleanup from 8AM-10:30AM at Ocean Inlet Park
- 30: Special Primary Election—State Senator, District 31—from 7AM-7PM in the community room

February:

- 3: Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup begins at 8AM at Oceanfront Park
- 6: Code Enforcement Hearing begins at 10AM in the chambers (tentative)
- 7: Book Club meeting begins at 5:45PM in the community room
- 7: ORPD's Public Presentation from 7PM-8:30PM in the chambers
- 8: Infrastructure Surtax Committee meeting begins at 8:30AM in the chambers
- 12: Planning & Zoning Commission meeting begins at 8:30AM in the chambers
- 12: Regular Town Commission meeting begins at 6PM in the chambers ***note date change***
- 19: President's Day – Town Hall closed—no inspections but contractors may work
- 21: Candidate's Forum hosted by League of Women Voters will be from 6PM-8PM in the chambers
- 24: Sea Angels Beach Cleanup from 8AM-10:30AM at Ocean Inlet Park

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 Hearings meet on demand on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00AM. Board of Adjustment meets on demand on the second Wednesday of the month at 8:30AM and the Planning & Zoning Commission meets on demand on the second Monday of the month at 8:30AM. 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 and on Twitter @OceanRidgeFL 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

Town Drainage Systems

Working with new contractor TeleVac South, we scheduled accelerated cleaning and maintenance frequency to our stormwater drain systems, except A-1-A ROW drainage which falls separately under FDOT jurisdiction. We are examining repair projects and engineering for attention, priority based upon findings during ongoing maintenance operations and recommendations to improve issues as discovered. We've spent budgeted maintenance and more to bring the system into the best operable condition. Later in the fiscal year we may recommend additional appropriation considerations for ongoing stormwater related project services once engineering drainage studies, field reports and the commission has a chance to review and prioritize additional infrastructure investment moving forward.



Tropical Drive Pumping Station

Hurricane Irma & Tropical Storm Philippe had “zapped” our Tropical Drive Pump System Controls causing extensive damage. Staff and system contractors have analyzed and made recommendations for repairs for direct fail-safe wiring, improved operational protocols and proposed retrofit of the control box, generator and pump switch features at this installation. On Wednesday, December 27th, we toured the installation with Town’s Insurance underwriters through PGIT for damage claims being submitted for insurance coverage on repairs and subsequent FEMA application funding if warranted.

Infrastructure Surtax Citizen Oversight Committee Meeting

Our Infrastructure Surtax Citizen Oversight Committee (P&Z Board with Alternate members seated) are scheduled to meet the morning of January 8th to perform an obligatory annual review of compliance and recommendations for Capital Projects expenditures eligible to be funded from the Palm Beach County Penney Sales Tax for Infrastructure. Their report will be provided as adopted.

Certified Building Official Update

To date, we received 3 applications from interested candidates, in response to our advertising for a full time in-house CBO (Certified Building Official). One applicant is from out of state, one out of the area, and one local. We are in the process of setting interview appointments over the next week or so, with the intent to select and present a finalist candidate at the February Commission meeting to ratify hire.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie Titus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Town Manager

January's Regular Town Commission Meeting Summary

The following is a list of actions taken at the January 8, 2018 Regular Town Commission Meeting:

1. Adopted the Regular Town Commission Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2017.
2. Authorized the Un-Budgeted Expenditure/Insurance Claim of up to \$52,000 to Sullivan Electric & Pump, Inc. for Tropical Drive Pump Station Repairs Due to Storm Damages.
3. Authorized the Budgeted Expenditure of up to \$41,500 to Bartow Ford for the Purchase of One Fully Equipped Police Vehicle.
4. Authorized the Budgeted Expenditure of up to \$15,500 to Beck Auto Sales, Inc. for the Purchase of One Low Speed Vehicle for the Police Department.
5. Announced that Town Hall will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2018 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
6. Announced that the Municipal Election will be held on March 13, 2018. There are two Town Commission Seats Open for a Three Year Term. Qualified Candidates Are: Gail Aaskov, Philip Besler, and Kristine de Haseth. / La eleccion municipal se celebrará el 13 de Marzo del 2018. Hay dos asientos disponible, con un period de tres años, para la Comisión de la Ciudad. Los candidatos calificados son: Gail Aaskov, Philip Besler y Kristine de Haseth.
7. Gave consensus to have the Planning & Zoning Commission develop a mechanism to transfer the liability and/or costs of drainage pipe inspection and repair to contractors using the drainage systems and parking heavy vehicles on the drainage pipes.
8. Confirmed the Hiring of Police Dispatcher/Clerk Wendy Ghamary.
9. Authorized the Town Manager to perform HVAC Upgrades for Town Hall as recommended by the Town Manager including corrosion protection and warranty provisions.
10. Authorized the Town Manager to move forward with Gas Pump Replacement at Town Hall as detailed by the Town Manager, including warranty provisions.
11. Adopted the updated Scope of Services submitted by Higgins Engineering, Inc.

PLEASE NOTE MEETING DATE CHANGE:

**THE NEXT REGULAR TOWN COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M. AT TOWN HALL**



Ocean Ridge Police Department News

Hal C. Hutchins, Chief of Police

Criminal Activity

Below is a listing of the crime/code enforcement/suspicious activity reported to ORPD in **December 2017** for Ocean Ridge:

| <u>Type of Incident</u> | <u>Report Date</u> | <u>Time Frame</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Synopsis</u> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Burglary Attempt to Storage Area | 12/01/2017 | Between 11/22/2017 and 12/01/2017 | 5900 Old Ocean | Unknown persons attempted to enter locked storage area. |
| Theft of Bicycle | 12/14/2017 | 12/13/2017 Between 6:20pm and 6:30pm | 6800 Blk North Ocean Blvd. | Bicycle taken from in front of residence |
| Hit and Run Crash | 12/15/2017 | 12/15/2017 | 6897 North Ocean Blvd. | Vehicle struck wall and trees then fled. Vehicle located in Miami Fl. |
| Trespass | 12/17/2017 | 12/17/2017 | 60 East Ocean Ave. | Subjects discovered trespassing in vacant house while officer on property check. |
| Simple Battery | 12/27/2017 | 12/25/2017 | 6415 North Ocean Blvd. | Report of delayed fight and battery at park. Warrant requested. |

In addition to the above activity, officers assisted other agencies in the arrest of 2 individuals with outstanding arrest warrants, initiated 6 narcotics related arrests, 2 traffic related arrests, assisted an adjoining agency in multiple vehicle theft investigations and conducted normal traffic, security and code enforcement activities.

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



Ocean Ridge Police Department News

By Hal C. Hutchins, Chief of Police



Thanks for all of Your Assistance in Our Beach Cleaning Efforts

The second Town beach cleanup was conducted on January 13, 2018 with the help of over 40 volunteers. We made a great progress in ridding our local beaches of trash and debris. In addition to the many bags of plastic, cans, water bottles and cigarette butts, we were able to remove several yards of netting and washed up landscape barrier cloth from the south-end beach area. All of these items pose a hazard to not only us humans who use the beach, but wildlife as well.

Thanks to all who were able to help. We look forward to making this a regular event.

A special thanks goes to Officer Salm as our organizer, Town staff who participated, all of the cheerleaders and their parents who came out on a chilly Saturday morning and especially the Ocean Ridge Garden Club members who assisted. We hope to make these events a regular activity in Ocean Ridge.



Welcome to Our Newest Employee

Please help us welcome Wendy Ghamary to the Town. Wendy joined us in the PD Dispatch Center on January 6th. She originally hails from the northeast and has a background in banking, customer service and security operations.

Welcome Wendy!



Are You Going to Become a Victim of a Scam or a Con-Man?

The answer to this question is usually up to you. Many people fall prey to phishing attacks and con men during this time of year, as these scams seem to be more prevalent after the holidays and during the beginning of the tax season.

There are far too many individual scams to outline in this newsletter; however, a couple recent examples come to mind:

- **Telephone and Internet “Phishing”**- These are generally the result of social engineering attacks that come from unsolicited emails or telephone calls. The caller or person emailing will make an attempt to gain your trust and then steal your money and personal information. The best defense is a good offense. Don't answer calls from numbers you do not recognize (let your answering machine or voicemail handle this). If you did not initiate a call, meeting or email thread be very cautious and “Trust but Verify” even if you feel the caller may be legitimate.
- **Tax and refund Scams**- Now is the season. Watch your accounts for persons filing false returns using your personal information. If you suspect any suspicious activity or compromise please contact the IRS at www.irs.gov. or call the IRS at the numbers on your tax forms. THE IRS DOES NOT CALL PEOPLE AND DEMAND PAYMENT, nor will they call and ask for personal information such as date of birth or social security numbers (they already have your information). If you receive a call from someone claiming to be an IRS representative hang up and report the call to the IRS.
- **Home Repair and Contractor Scams**- If someone comes to your door or calls you offering to perform unsolicited work, be very wary. Many criminals pose and dress as workers for legitimate companies and utilities to gain trust and a sense of legitimacy. Generally, if you did not initiate the request for service the individual should be considered suspicious and you should verify their authenticity or call law enforcement. We will respond! It is important to insure the safety and security of the whole community.

Vacation Rentals and Town Ordinances

Please remember, the Town of Ocean Ridge requires that rental properties be registered with Town Hall annually. In addition, it is a prohibition to rent any property in the Town for less than thirty consecutive days at a time.

If you have questions, please contact Town Hall at 561-732-2635 or check the Town's website at www.oceanridgeflorida.com for more information such as code and forms. Rentals of properties are highly regulated and often result in additional tax issues, such as State sales tax and Palm Beach County bed tax requirements.

Again, if you are renting, or considering doing so, please gather all necessary information needed to comply through Town Hall. Avoid the dreaded knock or letter from a code officer by preparing and meeting all of the requirements that come with being a landlord before renting your property.

PLEASE JOIN US WEDNESDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 7, 2018 FROM 7:00pm—8:30pm

Please join us for a brief presentation on the state of the Town from a policing perspective, as well as a review of the latest scams and crime trends. We hope to be able to provide you with some very useful information, as well as answer your individual questions in a small group setting. Light refreshments will be provided.



Our next coffee with a cop is scheduled for Wednesday March 14th from 7:30am—10:00am. Please save the date.

As always, should you have questions or concerns, I and every member of your Police Department are available and you are welcome to call or stop in anytime and visit.

And finally,

Please report any suspicious person or activity as soon as possible.


REMEMBER



**The Information You Provide Could Make A Difference.
Do Your Part. Report Suspicious Activity.**

If you see something, say something

If something does not look right, let us know.



**Report Suspicious Activity or Persons
to the Ocean Ridge Police Department at 561-732-8331**

Volunteer Opportunities

Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup

What: Join the Sand Sifters for beach cleanup!

When: First Saturday of every month. Next cleanup: **February 3**

Where: Oceanfront Park, 6415 N. Ocean Blvd. On A1A, just north of the Ocean Ave. bridge in Ocean Ridge. Meet at the pavilion in the lower parking lot.

Time: 8-10:30AM

Who: Individuals, schools, churches, clubs, businesses, organizations, and families are all encouraged to participate. All ages.

What's provided: Free parking, bags, gloves, and refreshments available to participants only. School and community service volunteer credit forms available.

What to bring: Please bring water, sunscreen and a hat.

Contact: Jeff at JeffLev02@gmail.com / **Social Media:** facebook.com/SWATJIL

Sea Angels Beach Cleanup

What: Join the Sea Angels for beach cleanup!

When: Last Saturday of every month. Next cleanup: **January 27**

Where: Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N. Ocean Blvd. Check in is at the picnic tables next to the snack bar.

Time: 8-10:30AM

Who: Individuals, schools, churches, clubs, businesses, organizations, and families are all encouraged to participate. All ages. Volunteer hours awarded for students.

What to bring: Please bring water, sunscreen and a hat.

Contact: info@seaangels.org / **Website:** seaangels.org

Anthrax Committee

What: Should Ocean Ridge be exposed to an aerosolized airborne anthrax event, Ocean Ridge and FL Dept. of Health will provide needed antibiotics at no cost as part of a program under the auspices of the CDC. Residents are encouraged to become dispensing volunteers.

When: Attend two hours of meetings per year.

Where/Time: TBD.

Who: Ocean Ridge Residents—no experience necessary

Contact: Terri Vinas at vinasfam@aol.com / [Volunteer Form](#)

Town Hall Library

What: Shelve and organize books in the Town Library.

When: Ongoing

Where: 6450 N. Ocean Blvd. at Town Hall.

Time: Any time between 8:30AM—3PM, Monday—Friday.

Who: Residents of all ages welcome. Those with library experience are encouraged to volunteer.

What's provided: School and community service volunteer credit available.

Contact: Town Hall 561-732-2635