September 2020 Volume 13 Issue 9

Ocean Ridge Tidings

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

WE ARE OPEN!

Town Hall Lobby is open to the public for in-person visitors and for Town Commission and Board meetings. Facial Covering is required when in Town Hall and social distance is being practiced. To find out all safety measures in place for Town Hall, please call our office at 561-732-2635.

PHASE 2 OF RE-OPENING HAS BEGUN!

The Palm Beach County's Incremental Phase 2 plan can be viewed here: PBC Phase 2 Plan

For the latest information regarding COVID-19 in Palm Beach County, please visit here and here.

We appreciate everyone's vigilance to ensure a safe and healthy community!

The Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County (DOH-Palm Beach) is advising residents that there has been an increase in mosquito-borne disease activity in areas of Palm Beach County. To learn more, please click here to read the full advisory, and click here for mosquito bite prevention tips.

Shape your future START HERE > | United States® Census 2020

United States Census Response Rates for 2020

Ocean Ridge	43.1% - 47.5%
National	55.6% - 60.4%
Florida (state)	53.3% - 57.9%
Palm Beach County	54.1% - 58.8%

Participating the Census helps provide grants and programs for communities. We still have time to increase our response rate!

Responses can be made online, via phone or by paper. **Complete yours by September 30!**

Responding online is safe, secure and easy, please visit https://my2020census.gov/ to participate today.

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
Hal Hutchins
hhutchins@oceanridgeflorida.com

Building Official
Durrani Guy
dguy@oceanridgeflorida.com

Town Commission

Mayor
Kristine de Haseth
kdehaseth@oceanridgeflorida.com

Vice Mayor
Steve Coz
scoz@oceanridgeflorida.com

Commissioners
Phil Besler
pbesler@oceanridgeflorida.com

Susan Hurlburt
shurlburt@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	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

September-

1: Code Enforcement Hearing begins at 10AM in the Commission Chambers

7: Labor Day—Town Hall closed

8: Regular Town Commission Meeting and 1st Public Budget Meeting begins at 6PM in the Commission Chambers. **Note: Meeting is held on Tuesday, not Monday due to the holiday.**

14: Town Hall will be open by Appointment only or by phone call.

21: Planning & Zoning Commission meeting begins at 8AM in the Commission Chambers.

21: Special Meeting – Final Public Hearing & Adoption of Budget begins at 6PM in the Commission Chambers

October-

5: Regular Town Commission Meeting begins at 6PM in the Commission Chambers.

6: Code Enforcement Hearing begins at 10AM in the Commission Chambers.

19: Town Commission and Planning & Zoning Joint Workshop begins at 5PM 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 8:30am 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—September Commission Meeting

Mayor & Commissioners:

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate our Building Clerk, Lisa Burns, along with Kim Kile from Engenuity Group, on their recent extensive efforts in the NFIP/CRS audit. The ISO Auditor is recommending that Ocean Ridge increase from a class 7 to a class 6 which means our residents' flood insurance discount in the Special Flood Hazard Area will increase from 15% to 20%, and will increase from 5% to 10% in the non-Special Flood Hazard Area once approved by FEMA. New rates should become effective May 1, 2021. Kudos to Lisa and Kim!

The Town signed an agreement with the Palm Beach County Health Department in 2014 to become a Closed Point of Dispensing location. This agreement was recently extended and may become important in the coming year when a vaccine is available for COVID-19. However, the program may not be successful if we don't have enough volunteers to perform the work. Residents interested in becoming a volunteer should notify Town Hall as soon as possible. Volunteers will receive training through the Health Department and will have the first access to a vaccine for themselves and their families when it becomes available.

The Town Commission and Planning & Zoning Commission Joint Workshop has tentatively been set for Monday, October 19th at 5:00 p.m. Town Clerk Armstrong is reaching out to members of both Commissions to ensure availability of the members, and once that is completed, we will confirm the date.

In the month of August, the following employees had anniversaries with the Town, and we thank them for their dedication to the Town of Ocean Ridge: Dispatcher Courtney Hammond, 6 years with the Town; and Police Officer Stetson Marsh, 1 year with the town.

The Charter Amendment Referendum Question to Preserve the Town's Police Department passed with a vote of 493 to 74. In order for the Town to outsource its Police Department in the future, it will now take a supermajority vote (at least 4 out of 5) of the Town Commission to pass an ordinance sending the question out to the voters. The voters will now have the final authority to either preserve the Police Department or outsource to another agency.

Palm Beach County extended the emergency order until September 22nd that mandates facial coverings be worn in all businesses and establishments, in all county and municipal buildings, on Palm Tran, and in any outdoor public places where social distancing cannot be accomplished. We ask that our residents and visitors continue to do your part in wearing a facial covering, maintaining proper social distancing, and washing hands frequently to help slow the spread of this deadly virus. Emergency Orders and other information related to COVID-19 may be reviewed on the Town's website at www.oceanridgeflorida.com. We hope you all continue to remain safe and healthy!

Respectfully,

Tracey L. Stevens, Town Manager & Finance Director

Budget and Regular Town Commission Meeting Summary

The following is a list of actions taken at the September 8, 2020 Regular Town Commission Meeting. We hope this helps keep our residents informed in a timely fashion regarding Town Commission and Staff activities.

1. Announcements:

a. A Special Town Commission Meeting will be held on Monday, September 21st at 6:00 p.m. for the final budget hearing for FY21. The next Regular Town Commission Meeting will be held on October 5th at 6:00 PM at Town Hall. The next Planning & Zoning Commission meeting will be held on September 21st at 8:00 AM at Town Hall. The next Septic to Sewer Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting is to be determined.

b. 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.

c. The 2020 Census is coming to a close at the end of September, and the response rate for the residents in the Town of Ocean Ridge is still low. This is a reminder that responding to the 2020 Census online, by phone, on paper, or in person with a census taker is extremely important and helps secure vital resources for our community.

d. Contractors will be replacing the entrance doors of Town Hall on September 14, 2020. Staff will be available to assist the public by appointment only on September 14, 2020. Please call Town Hall at 561-732-2635 if you wish to make an appointment.

2. Adopted the Minutes of Special Town Commission Meeting of July 31, 2020.

3. Adopted the Minutes of Regular Town Commission Meeting of August 3, 2020.

4. Adopted the Minutes of Special Town Commission Meeting of August 3, 2020.

5. Adopted CRS Floodplain Management Plan & Annual Progress Report (NFIP/CRS Re-Certification)

6. Approved Annual Employee Benefit Insurance Renewals.

7. Approved Expenditure of up to $12,000 to install soft-starts on the Tropical Pump Station.

8. Approved Expenditure of $70 to Jones Foster for Legal Services for July 2020.

9. Approved Expenditure of $4,112.50 to Roberts, Reynolds, Bedard & Tuzzio PLLC for Legal Services for July 2020.

10. Approved Expenditures of $33,585.52 out of the contingency account for COVID-19 Response.

11. Presented the Tentative Budget for FY21 and Held a Public Hearing.

12. Announced the Town of Ocean Ridge Computed Millage Rate is Higher Than the Rolled Back Rate of 5.1703 by 3.48%. The millage to be levied is 5.3500.

13. Adopted Resolution No. 2020-18: Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

14. Adopted Resolution No. 2020-19: Adoption of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

15. Announced the second/final hearing on the FY 2020/2021 Budget will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2020.

16. Adopted on Second Reading Ordinance 2020-04: Granting to Florida Power & Light Company, Its Successors and Assigns, an Electric Franchise, Imposing Provisions and Conditions Relating Thereto, Providing for Monthly Payments to the Town of Ocean Ridge.

(continued on next page)

17. Adopted on Second Reading Ordinance No. 2020-05: Amending Chapter 64 “Zoning”, Article I “District Regulations”, Section 64-1 “RSF and RSE Single-Family Residential Districts”; Amending Chapter 66 “Environmental Regulations”, Article II “Flood Damage Prevention”, Division 3 “Flood Resistant Development”, Section 66-26 “Buildings and Structures”; Amending Chapter 67 “Buildings and Building Regulations”, Article II “Coastal Construction”, Section 67-17 “Coastal Construction and Excavation Setback Line” and Creating Section 67-18 “Coastal Construction Setback Line” to Provide Further Regulations for Structures Constructed East of the Coastal Construction Control Line.

18. Adopted on First Reading Ordinance No. 2020-06, as Amended: Amending Chapter 1 “General Pro visions”, Section 1-3 “Definitions”; Chapter 64, “Zoning”, Article III “Supplemental Regulations”, Section 64-41 “Accessory Uses, Buildings and Structures Generally” To Provide for More Specific Regulations Regarding Sheds and Dune Crossovers.

19. Adopted on First Reading Ordinance No. 2020-07: Amending Chapter 67, “Buildings And Building Regulations”, Article III, “Technical Codes And Other Construction Standards”, Division I “Generally”, Section 67-32 “Floor Elevations”, To Provide for the Use of the Latest FEMA Map Elevations.

20. Adopted on First Reading Ordinance No. 2020-08: Amending Chapter 18, “Emergency Management”, To Clarify, Modify and Remove Outdated Provisions Regarding How the Town Deals With Emergency Situations.

21. Adopted Resolution No. 2020-20: Amending the Town’s Adopted Schedule of Fees for Various Services.

22. Postponed Discussion Regarding A Building Permit Extension Request for 6273 N. Ocean Blvd to the October 5, 2020, Regular Town Commission Meeting.

23. Approved the continuation of live audio feed for all future public meetings after Executive Order No. 20-69, issued by Governor Ron Desantis expires. The one-way live audio feed will allow the public to continue to listen to the live public meetings remotely. If the public wishes to participate in the meeting by providing public comment, comments will either need to be submitted to the Town Clerk prior to the meeting, or the public may attend in-person at Town Hall.

THE SECOND/ FINAL BUDGET HEARING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 AT 6 P.M., AND THE NEXT REGULAR TOWN COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 5, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. AT TOWN HALL.

Community News

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. Should any property owner fail to comply with this section, he/she shall be guilty of a violation of this Code.

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

Town Hall Open by Appointment Only on Sept 14

Contractors will be replacing the entrance doors of Town Hall on September 14, 2020, and staff will be available to assist the public in person by appointment only on September 14, 2020 or by phone.

Town Commission

Goal Setting & Budget Meeting Schedule

Monday, May 4 :Goal Setting Workshop @ 2pm

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

Monday, Jul 6: Budget Workshop: Set Maximum Millage @ 2pm

Monday, Aug. 3: Budget Workshop: Commission Vote on Finalized Budget for Presentation to Public @ 2pm

Tuesday, Sep 8: 1st Budget Public Hearing & Regular Town Commission Meeting @ 6pm

Monday, Sep 21: Special Meeting—Final Public Hearing & Adoption of Budget @ 6pm

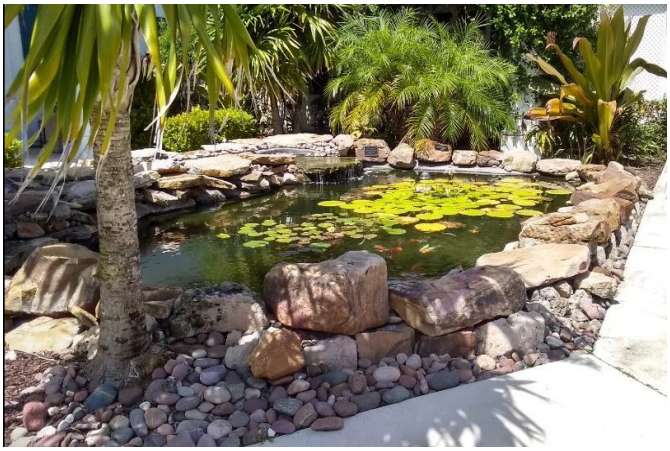
****All Meetings to be Held in the Commission Chambers at Town Hall****

(Please note that the Property Appraiser certifies the property values by July 1. The vote to set the maximum millage needs to occur within 35 days of the certification of values.)

Town News

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

- Courtney Hammond, Police Dispatcher – 6 years
- Stetson Marsh, Police Officer – 1 year



Come visit our Koi pond! We've recently added lily pads to give our fish friends much-needed shade. If you're taking a quick walk or visiting Town Hall, stop by for a quiet, calming moment.

If you would like to support the pond, we accept monetary donations inside Town Hall.

New Employee Spotlight

Alex Sasov, Police Officer

ALEX SASOV

Officer Sasov joined our Police Department in April 2020. He holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Alex was inspired to work in law enforcement after serving our country in the U.S. Marines. He typically works the day shift throughout the week and on weekends. If you see Alex in town, please be sure to introduce yourself and thank him for his service!

"My most memorable interaction to date as a police officer was helping the Sabal Island Civic Committee and townspeople repair and update the bridge."

Durrani Guy, Building Official

DURRANI GUY

Durrani Guy joined our Building Department in July 2020. "Guy" has vast experience in the construction industry at many levels and a passion for the trade.

One part of his new role that excites Guy is interacting with the community to create a solid foundation. He finds speaking and learning from long-time residents is delightful.

Two accomplishments Guy has made since being hired are reducing permit backlogs to create a current turnaround time of one week for general permitting applications, and posting inspection times on our website to save contractors time.

In his off time, Guy enjoys watching the New England Patriots. His favorite football player is Tom Brady.

He works Monday through Friday. Guy has already made effective changes to better serve the Town and we look forward to working with him in the future!

Community News

Biodiversity Starter Plant Kits Available

The Restoring the Gold Coast program, run by The Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) in collaboration with many partners including The Town of Ocean Ridge, aims to restore native biodiversity along the coast in South Florida. As the barrier islands were largely urbanized by the 1970s, much of the historic biodiversity was removed and lost as only a few species were planted in their place in the late 1900s and early 2000s. Restoring the Gold Coast is working to restore this important biodiversity through public planting events, private dune restorations and by making BIodiversity Starter Plant Kits available to the residents on the barrier island in South Florida. There are 4 kits to choose from – 1. Beach Dune and Coastal Grasslands Starter Plant Kits, 2. Coastal Strand and Shrubland Starter Plant Kits, 3. Tropical Hammock Forest and Coastal Garden Starter Plant Kits and 4. Butterfly Attracting Starter Plant Kits. Each kit comes with five species of hand-selected native plants that are perfect for enhancing your native beach dune system or coastal garden. The plants in these kits help build on the biodiversity hot spots Restoring the Gold Coast is creating on public beaches in south Palm Beach County and help support the wide variety of native wildlife that call the barrier islands home. Detailed information on each kit can be found here: https://www.regionalconservation.org/DonationRGC.html. Pick up dates and delivery options will be provided to each person who purchases a kit. Ocean Ridge residents' point of contact for more information: Kimberlee Pompeo (kimberleeinflorida@gmail.com), Florida Federation of Garden Club's District X Vice Chair for the Barrier Islands. Additionally, questions about Restoring the Gold Coast can be sent to IRC's Education and Outreach Coordinator, Cara Abbott at abbott@regionalconservation.org.

Town Hall Note: A dune planting permit is required when using the biodiversity starter plant kits. Please contact Town Hall at 561-732-2635 to learn more.

Community News

Learn more about COVID-19 including health tips, news, and local and state resources, please visit: http://discover.pbcgov.org/coronavirus/pages/resources.aspx

Saving water is easy and economical. Here are many ways to conserve water both inside and outside your home: https://www.sfwmd.gov/community-residents/water-conservation-how-to

To learn more about recycling and how to order bins, please visit:

https://swa.org/149/Recycling

Our District has lawn watering restrictions all year. Amid recent dry conditions, property owners should take additional measures to conserve water, please visit South Water Management District to learn more: https://www.sfwmd.gov/community-residents/water-conservation

The Solid Waste Authority (SWA) has extensive hurricane information, please visit: https://swa.org/hurricane

SWA also has great YouTube videos on many topics:

Keep a Tree Trimming Plan to Reduce Storm Damage - https://youtu.be/aKgPxBC8WKk

Safety Tips as a Storm Threatens - https://youtu.be/PEOyEvDtKO0

Waste Tips for After a Storm - https://youtu.be/idlwGeVYU64

To report Lost & Found Pets: Call & Email Photo with Additional Information

Call 561-732-8331
dispatch@oceanridgeflorida.com

Need to close a building permit before selling a home?

In order to close permits, homeowners must submit a Change of Permit Status form with the Town.

Keep in mind, these requests can take a minimum of two weeks to research & process.

Answers to tough questions about flood insurance

"Since I don't live in a flood zone, I don't need flood insurance, right?"

Wrong. Everyone is at risk for flooding. Floods can happen anywhere, at any time. Residents who live in and outside of a high-risk area, also known as Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), should know their risk and consider protection.

More than 20 percent of all flood claims are filed by people outside of mapped high-risk areas. If you live outside of a high-risk area, you might be eligible for the low-cost Preferred Risk Policy (PRP), which includes coverage for your building **and its contents** .People outside of high-risk flood areas filed 40% of all flood insurance claims between 2015 and 2019.

"I have flood insurance, but after a recent flood, my personal belongings weren't covered. Why?"

Flood insurance is available for building only, contents only **(renters take note!),** and building and contents. A standard flood policy for a building will cover structural, water heater, and air-conditioner damage; flood debris cleanup; and floor surface damage, such as to carpeting and tile.

However, unless you also purchase **contents coverage**, items such as furniture, collectibles, clothing, jewelry and artwork (up to $2,500), computers, electronics will not be covered. You should talk to your insurance agent to make sure your flood policy adequately protects your home and belongings in the event of a flood.

With flood insurance, you can insure your home for up to $250,000 for the building and up to $100,000 for the contents.

If you're a business owner, you can insure your commercial property for up to $500,000 for the building and up to $500,000 for the contents.

"Why should I purchase a flood insurance policy if the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) makes disaster assistance available after a flood?"

Disaster assistance is only available if the President declares a Federal disaster. If you qualify for disaster assistance funds, it will most likely be a loan that must be repaid, with interest, or a FEMA disaster grant, which is about $9,000 on average. By comparison, the average flood insurance claim payment in 2017 was more than $90,000. Flood insurance claims are paid even if a disaster is not declared by the President.

Flood insurance is a surefire way to protect your home or business, and its contents, even when it doesn't face the obvious risks for flooding. You can call your insurance agent for more information, call the National Flood Insurance Program at 877-996-2627 or visit **FloodSmart.gov** to find an agent in your area. The Town strongly recommends that everyone purchase a flood insurance policy.

SEPTEMBER CRIME PREVENTION INFORMATION FROM LIEUTENANT RICHARD JONES

WORK AT HOME BUSINESS SCAMS COME BACK DURING COVID PANDEMIC

I am sure that many of you have seen and heard the ads that promise big earnings and a great life for those who choose to work from home. I would caution you to not simply take their word for it as many of these promises and job offers are scams or simply do not deliver on their promises.

Since a work from home setting may benefit your busy lifestyle and allow you to make the money that your lifestyle requires, you may find this tempting. Many people may think they have nothing to lose since the company offers a money back guarantee or refund if you don't succeed. The reality is that the majority of these offers are scams and you will likely not get a refund.

These types of scams could cost you thousands of dollars. Not only do many people lose thousands of dollars trying these ventures, they also end up wasting a lot of their time and energy working towards their new business goals.

The most common types of Work-At-Home Scams include; Internet Business, Envelope Stuffing, Assembly or Craft Work, Rebate Processing, Medical Billing, Mystery Shopping and Multilevel Marketing. If you are confronted with one of these opportunities, please be very cautious.

One of the most common ways to know that the opportunity is actually a scam is by the promise of a big income and the fact that the process involves up-front money from you. Just because the ad appears legitimate and involved a website, newspaper or other trusted media source does not make the opportunity legitimate.

If you decide to move forward with an opportunity like this, do your homework! Research the company and/or the promoter. This can be as simple as contacting the Better Business Bureau http://www.bbb.org/central-florida/get-consumer-help/, The Florida Attorney General http://myfloridalegal.com/pages.nsf/Main/81bf89afaf04dbeb85256cc6006ff6bf, or even conducting internet searches using the company name followed by "reviews", "scam" or "complaint".
These kinds of scams remind me of the old saying; "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is". Continue to use your better judgement and your gut feeling followed by good research and you will avoid being a victim to these types of crimes.

For more information on scams like this, feel free to contact the Federal Trade Commission at 877-FTC-HELP or by visiting their website at ftc.gov or contact me at the Ocean Ridge Police Department.

SOME REMINDERS FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY DURING STORM SEASON

Keep Your Cool in Hot Weather

Summer is in full swing and temperatures are heating up across the nation. According to the National Weather Service (NWS), heat is one of the leading causes of weather-related deaths in the United States, resulting in hundreds of fatalities each year and even more heat-related illnesses such as heat stroke, heat cramps, and heat exhaustion.

The best line of defense against these illnesses is prevention. The *Ready* Campaign offers the following tips to stay safe when the mercury rises:

Stay indoors as much as possible and limit exposure to the sun;

Stay on the lowest level out of the sun if air conditioning is unavailable;

Eat well-balanced, light, and regular meals;

Dress in loose-fitting, lightweight, and light-colored clothes that cover as much skin as possible; and

Avoid doing strenuous work outside during the warmest part of the day.

When necessary, NWS issues heat-related alerts to help you prepare for extreme weather conditions. To learn more about these alerts and how they impact you, visit: www.nws.noaa.gov/om/heat/ww.shtml

Know Your Alerts & Warnings

Receiving timely information about emergencies can make all the difference in knowing when to take action to protect yourself and your family. Local police and fire departments, emergency managers, the National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Communications Commission, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration work together to make sure you can receive alerts and warnings quickly through several different technologies no matter where you are.

If you've ever noticed a unique sound and vibration coming from your cell phone, you probably just received a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) - a nationwide emergency alert system notifying you of a pending emergency in your area. These messages provide information about extreme weather, local emergencies, AMBER Alerts™, and Presidential Alerts during a national emergency.

WEAs look like a text message and show the type and time of the alert, any action you should take, and the agency issuing the alert. If you receive a WEA, follow the directions advised by the message and seek additional information from local media or authorities.

Carbon Monoxide Safety during Power Outages

According to the National Weather Service, carbon monoxide poisoning is a leading cause of death after storms in areas experiencing power outages. Using alternative sources of power can cause carbon monoxide to build up in your home and poison your family. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas created by burning fuel when using portable generators, gas ranges, burning wood, or by running your car.

While deaths occur each year in the U.S. from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning, this tragedy is preventable. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers these tips for staying safe when the power goes out:

Never us a generator inside your home or garage, even if the doors and windows are open;

Keep generators at least 20 feet from your home;

Install battery-operated or battery back-up carbon monoxide detectors near every sleeping area in your home; and

Check detectors every six months to be sure they are working properly.

The most common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are headache, dizziness, nausea, and confusion. If you think you are experiencing carbon monoxide poisoning, get fresh air and seek immediate medical attention!

CODE ENFORCMENT AND COMPLIANCE REMINDER: PERMITS

Permits are required **BEFORE the START of most jobs**. Please contact Town Hall at (561) 732-2635 if you are not absolutely sure that the repair or project you are about to begin does not require a permit. It is much easier to know the answer and start your project properly than it is to be delayed, sometimes for up to several months, and have to pay additional fees that would not be necessary if things were done correctly in the beginning.

Depending upon the nature of the job/project, permitting may be as easy as making application to the Town Manager, even without any fees! Why chance having to delay a project you want to complete and having to pay extra for it also?

Permitting is required under both Town Codes and The Florida Building Code. These rules are in place to assure our safety as a community and to make sure structures and projects are completed in a safe and proper manner.

Section 105.1 of the Florida Building Code, as well as Town Code Section 67 are excellent places to begin checking for requirements. But, easier yet, call the staff at Town Hall during regular hours (561) 732-2635 and they will be happy to guide you through the process. In addition, they will be happy to let you know about the restrictions on hours of work and parking regulations that will help you get through your project faster.

Please remember, both the Building Official and all Police Officers are charged with enforcement of these regulations. Please help us with voluntary compliance.

ALLOW US TO HELP YOU REMAIN SAFE

Ocean Ridge Police Department News

By Hal C. Hutchins, Jr., Chief of Police

Please remember to lock your doors and use your alarm system. The best defense against crime is a good offense. Please take the initiative to make sure you do not become the victim.

Though using your intuition and being aware of your surroundings is a great start, to reinforce the information provided by Investigator Jones, using other tools available is often necessary to assure you remain safe and do not become a victim.

I would like to remind everyone of some of the services that are available to help maintain the safe environment we all enjoy and desire.

1. The Town, through your Police Department, offers direct monitoring services for your burglar alarm system to enhance our response time in the event of an emergency. Stop by or call Town Hall for details!
2. The Town offers resident vehicle decals to help officers identify those vehicles that belong to our residents so we may better serve you. Stop by the Police Department lobby with your vehicle registration information and the on-duty dispatcher will be very happy to assist you!
3. The Police Department will be more than happy to meet with you and discuss or perform a security survey of your property to help you better protect yourself from becoming a crime victim. This may be done by appointment and at a time convenient for you!
4. The Police Department offers vacation watch for your home. We are more than happy to keep an eye on your home while you are away. To arrange for this service please call the desk at (561) 732-8331 any time of the day or night. WE ARE OPEN 24 HOURS EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR/ RAIN OR SHINE!

Finally, we are here to assist you! We will always try to help. If we do not have the answer to your question, we will try to assist you in locating the person or agency that does.

Your well-being is our primary concern.

COVID-19 Important Information

Thank you all for your help and understanding with this continuing effort! As Palm Beach County moves into a phased reopening, we remind you that social distancing and wearing of facial coverings is still the best way to protect yourself from this virus.

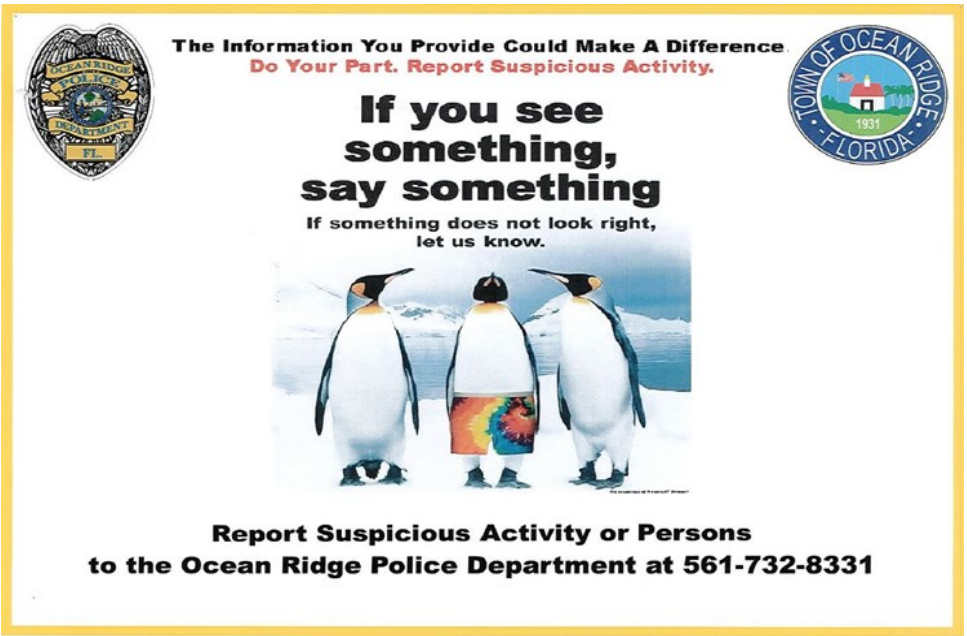
Remember, we are also moving into flu season. So be safe, protect yourself and your loved ones. Get a flu shot if able and continue to practice “Covid-19 Safety” measures.

Please remember; the officers and staff of the police department are here to address your concerns 24 hours every day all year long. Do not hesitate to call upon us.

And finally,

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

REMEMBER



SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

OCEAN RIDGE PD
BACK TO SCHOOL
SUPPLIES DROP OFF

WHEN: AUGUST 12TH – SEPTEMBER25TH

WHERE: 6450 N OCEAN BLVD.
LOBBY OF THE POLICE DEPT.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

Ocean Ridge Police Department News

By Hal C. Hutchins, Chief of Police

Police Activity:

Here is a listing of significant crime/code enforcement/suspicious activity reported to ORPD in August 2020 for both Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes:

Type of Incident	Report Date	Time Frame	Location	Synopsis
Theft of Bicycle	08/04/2020	Between 08/03/2020 and 08/04/2020	Ocean Ave.	Bicycle stolen from back porch.
Domestic Violence	08/06/2020	08/06/2020 @ 4:00 am	5000 Blk. N. Ocean Blvd.	Joint combatant fight/ domestic violence.
Mental Health Intervention	08/06/2020	08/06/2020 @ 8:30 pm	Corrine Street Beach Access	Mental Health Intervention provided to suicidal subject.
Drug Overdose	08/07/2020	08/07/2020 @ 5:45 pm	6800 Blk. N. Ocean Blvd.	Drug overdose results in crash. Driver revived by Officers on arrival.
Theft from Vehicle	08/08/2020	Between 08/07/2020 and 08/08/2020	Spanish River Dr.	Unlocked vehicle entered overnight. Contents taken.
Stolen Vehicle/ Battery	08/08/2020	08/08/2020 @ 4:00 pm	Ocean Ave.	Vehicle reported stolen from Delray Beach discovered. Driver rams police vehicle and flees by jumping open bridge.
Sexual Battery	08/06/2020	09/2019	Oceanfront Park	Delayed report of sexual battery by known assailant.
Violation of Town Code	08/13/2020	Between 07/21/2020 and 08/13/2020	Spanish River Dr.	Viol. Town Code / Right of way encroachments
Disturbance	08/14/2020	08/14/2020 @ 7:45 pm	Cordova Rd. Briny Breezes	Disturbance between male and female.
Violation Town Code	08/20/2020	08/20/2020 @ 1:30 pm	6900 Blk. N. Ocean Blvd.	Work started without proper permitting.
Theft of Vehicle	08/29/2020	8/29/2020 @ 5:30 pm	6415 N. Ocean Blvd.	Keys taken from beach used to steal vehicle. Vehicle recovered in Boynton Beach.
Theft from Beach	8/30/2020	8/30/2020 between 6:30 am and 10:00 am	6415 N. Ocean Blvd.	Unattended beach bag taken from beach.

In addition to the above listed activity and regular patrols of the beaches and roadways; officers conducted traffic enforcement activities, made one warrant arrest, opened numerous code enforcement investigations, and were engaged in patrol and education regarding Coronavirus, the wearing of facial cover and social distancing.

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.

Sea Turtles
of Palm Beach County

- Five of the seven species of sea turtle in the world can be found in Palm Beach County's (PBC) coastal waters, reefs and lagoons.
- Between March 1st and October 31st, sea turtles are the most active on PBC's beaches where they come ashore to lay eggs.
- Loggerheads nest most frequently on PBC beaches; followed by green, leatherback and occasionally hawksbill and Kemp's ridley.
- After mating offshore, females return to the same region from where they hatched when it is time to nest.
- At night, they crawl out of the ocean, dig a hole 1 to 3 feet deep, lay their eggs, and cover them with sand.
- Nests are typically located above the high tide line and sometimes up in the dune vegetation.
- Each species of sea turtle makes unique crawl patterns in the sand allowing researchers to identify the type of turtle that laid the nest.
- For six to eight weeks 80-120 eggs in the nest (clutch) develop into baby sea turtles.
- When the eggs hatch (most often at night), baby sea turtle hatchlings crawl out of the sandy nest all at once.
- The hatchlings head east guided by natural light, waves, and magnetic cues to the sargassum seaweed beds in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.
- Lights along the coast from buildings and inland (sky glow) can disorient hatchlings guiding them away from the ocean.
- REMEMBER: *Lights Out During Nesting Season*
  March 1st to October 31st
- Additional sea turtle facts:

  Leatherbacks are the largest
  Kemp's ridleys are the smallest
  Green turtles enjoy swimming in Lake Worth Lagoon
  Sea Turtles may live 50 to 80 years
  Sand temperature can determine gender.
  Cooler temperatures tend to produce male hatchlings.

Palm Beach County's Highlights

2,000,000 hatchlings emerge on our beaches each year!

We have more sea turtle nests per mile than anywhere else in the United States.

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
Environmental Resources Management
2300 N. Jog Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33411
561-233-2400 www.pbcgov.com/erm **Follow us @pbcerm**

Ocean Ridge Residents only. Please join the Department of Health's CLOSED POD Program.

Florida HEALTH
Palm Beach County

Program Benefits:

- Arrangement for a closed POD, medicine, and supplies at your organization free of charge, courtesy of DOH-Palm Beach.
- Exclusive access to only you, your fellow employees, and their families.
- A convenient location in either a building or community where people live and work.
- A much faster and more convenient way for you and your employees to protect yourself, your other employees, and their families.
- Ensure your community can continue a smooth operation during an emergency.
- POD staffing by those who work or live in the same location as the closed POD.
- Avoiding any dangerous environment elements, traffic, or long lines that the public may experience when going to an open POD.
- Members of the DOH Cities Readiness Initiatives (CRI) program. guidance and training to operate your closed POD.

I, _____, wish to volunteer.

My address is:

_____

_____

_____

My email address is:

_____

_____

_____

My phone number is: _____

Best time to call is: _____ Morning _____ Evening

THIS FORM SHOULD BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL ALONG WITH QUESTIONS TO TERRY VINAS AT VINASFAM@AOL.COM

VOLUNTEER

Sea Angels Beach Cleanup

What: Join the Sea Angels for beach cleanup!
When: Last Saturday of every month. Next cleanup: **TO BE ANNOUNCED, SEE WEBSITE**

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

Closed POD Program 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: Terry Vinas at vinasfam@aol.com

You may also obtain a form at Town Hall to be a part of the Closed POD Program Committee.

Town Hall Library

What: Shelve and organize books in the Town Library.
When: **Ongoing (Open to the public, with one person allowed at a time)**
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