

Ocean Ridge Tidings

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



Town of Ocean Ridge

COVID19 UPDATE- Mayor Edition

May 8, 2020



Are the Beaches Open?

The Beaches remain Closed.

Palm Beach County Commissioners voted to tentatively re-open private and public beaches on Monday, May 18 and will meet on May 15 to discuss details. Please stay tuned.

Should I be Wearing a Face Covering?

Federal, State and County governing boards recommend wearing Face Coverings while in public places.

How Do I Stay Updated?

Please Sign Up for the Town's News and Alerts through CivicReady. The Town's Emergency Operators, Town Manager Stevens and Police Chief Hutchins, have been issuing updates regularly.

Dear Residents,

Many of you could choose to live anywhere in the world. We chose to live in Ocean Ridge because it is a small, welcoming and tightknit community. We love the beach, we love interacting with our neighbors, we love our freedom and we love our safety. I ask that we embrace these strong core values as the Town continues to transition to our "new normal".

Today the Palm Beach County Commissioners approved Emergency Order #6 to tentatively re-open both private and public beaches on Monday, May 18. The Commission will meet again on Friday, May 15 to review the order and could approve as written, amend the order, or rescind it based on the data that is available at that time.

Until then, we ask all residents to remain vigilant and patient. Our goal is and always will be the safety of our residents and staff. We are a strong commUNITY!

Stay Safe and Be Well.

Warm regards,

Kristine
Mayor, Ocean Ridge

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

Wayne Cameron
wcameron@oceanridgeflorida.com

Town Commission

Mayor

Kristine de Haseth
kdehaseth@oceanridgeflorida.com

Vice Mayor

Steve Coz
scoz@oceanridgeflorida.com

Commissioners

Phil Besler
pbsler@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

May—With the exception of the Town Commission meeting, all events dates and formats are subject to change due to COVID-19.

- 4: Goal Setting Budget Workshop begins at 2PM in Commission Chambers
- 4: Regular Town Commission Meeting begins at 6PM

All Board & Committee meetings are cancelled for May due to COVID-19.

June—With the exception of the Town Commission meeting, all events dates and formats are subject to change due to COVID-19.

- 1: Budget Workshop begins at 2PM in Commission Chambers
- 1: Regular Town Commission Meeting begins at 6PM
- 2: Code Enforcement Hearing begins at 10AM in the Commission Chambers
- 15: Planning & Zoning Commission meeting begins at 8:00AM in the Commission Chambers.
- 18: Septic to Sewer Citizens' Advisory Committee begins at 8:30AM 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 second 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—May Commission Meeting



Mayor & Commissioners:

Municipal Clerks Week held on May 3-9 and National Police Week held on May 10-16 gives us an opportunity to recognize our Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, and all of our Police Officers in Ocean Ridge. If you speak with them, please thank them for all they do for the Town.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our Building Official, Building Clerk, and Town Engineer for all of their efforts in ensuring that the Town produced a successful outcome for our annual Credit Rating System Audit. The audit manager mentioned that he considers the quality of work in preparation for the audit to be remarkable. Because of their tireless efforts, residents can expect a positive impact on insurance rates in the future. Kudos to the team!

The majority of our work at Town Hall and the Police Department over the past two months has been focused on combating coronavirus and keeping the residents and employees of the Town of Ocean Ridge safe and healthy. The first phase of limited recreational re-openings began on April 29th in our county which includes the opening of boat ramps, marinas, golf courses, parks (excluding beach parks), natural areas, tennis courts and community pools with strict restrictions. All beaches and beach parks remain closed at this time.

County Officials warned residents that if the restrictions and CDC guidelines are not followed including social distancing, they will be forced to close recreational areas once again. Please do your part in educating yourself regarding the restrictions by reading the County Order, including all attachments. Palm Beach County Order Number 2020-005 may be viewed on the County's website at www.pbcgov.org or the Town's website at www.oceanridgeflorida.com. County orders are enforced by the Palm Beach County Sheriff and all local law enforcement agencies in Palm Beach County.

While we know everyone is anxious to get back to normal, our goal continues to be the safety of our residents. We are working with County Officials on safe procedures for easing restrictions in other areas such as our beaches, and we thank you for your patience as we work through these delicate procedures.

We have been updating the Town's website frequently with new information regarding coronavirus, and encourage our residents to review the information. Although Town Hall remains closed, staff is fully available to assist the public with normal Town business and questions.

Stay safe and healthy!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracey L. Stevens'.

Tracey L. Stevens, Town Manager & Finance Director

Goal Setting and Regular Town Commission Meeting Summary

Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida Office of the Town Clerk Goal Setting & Regular Commission Meeting Summary May 4, 2020

The following is a list of actions taken at the May 4, 2020 Goal Setting Special Meeting and the 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 Goals & Fiscal Priorities for FY21:
 2. a. Budget to retain current staffing and avoid any layoffs. There was Commission consensus to not explore a move to the Sheriff's Department for Police coverage.
 - b. Prioritize Drainage Projects to Address Flooding Issues
 - c. Investigate Refinancing the Town's Debt and Opportunities for Borrowing to Complete Capital Projects While Interest Rates are Low
 - d. Explore "No Wake" Zones for Ocean Ridge in Conjunction with Surrounding Municipalities.
 - e. Review Building Department & Police Department Job Descriptions and Processes to Enhance Public Safety and the Town's Code Enforcement Program
 - f. Continue to Advocate Home Rule to Preserve the Integrity of Single Family Neighborhoods
 - g. Provide a Narrative for the Monthly Revenue & Expenditure Reports
 - h. Address Traffic Congestion and Population Pressures on our Beaches
 - i. Continue Engaging the Planning and Zoning Commission to Close Loopholes in Town Code and Develop Town Codes that are Fair and Enforceable. There was Commission consensus to have P&Z explore Code Amendments Related to Blight and Property Maintenance, Dune Protection, Unity of Title for Dune Properties, Streetscapes & Protecting Our Canopy
 - j. Explore Historic Tree Inventory & Planning Services Contingent on Analyzing Revenue Loss and Increased Expenditures Related to COVID19
 - k. Continue Exploring Septic to Sewer Conversion Contingent on Analyzing Revenue Loss and Increased Expenditures Related to COVID19
 - l. Focus on Sustainability by Providing a Cost Analysis Regarding our Potable Water Infrastructure
 - m. Focus on Environmental Protection for our Town and Utilize the Coastal Resilience Partnership Vulnerability Assessment
 - n. Explore Options and Create a Plan for Street Sign Replacement. Prioritize replacements and add money to a contingency fund to plan for staggered replacement.
 - o. Maintain Fiscal Responsibility in Calculating the FY21 Budget by Showing the Ad Valorem Revenue Collection Percentages of 97%, 97.5%, 98% and 98.5%; Calculating a Maximum Mil Rate of 5.35 and Showing the Impacts of Lower Mil Rates; Providing Conservative Revenue Projections; and Reducing Expenses as Appropriate
 - p. Remove the Following Items from the Proposed FY21 Capital List: #12 A/C Unit Replacement for Town Hall, #14 Town Hall Facility Drain Field Replacement, and #15 Street Name Sign Replacement Program, and provide for a percentage to be set aside in the contingency allocation. Delete Equipment & Training to Implement an EMT Program from the FY21 Capital List, and provide for immediate expenditure for Town Hall Parking Lot Light Upgrades.
 - q. Increase the Contingency Line Item in the Budget to Support Emergency Repairs for the Town Hall Facility
 - r. Directed Town Manager and Police Chief to provide detailed information on the two Police Vehicles proposed to be replaced

Goal Setting and Regular Town Commission Meeting Summary

2. Announcements:

- (a) The next Regular Town Commission meeting will be held on June 1st at 6:00 PM at Town Hall, and a Budget Meeting will be held on June 1st at 2:00 p.m. at Town Hall. The next Planning & Zoning Commission meeting will be held on June 15th at 8:00 AM at Town Hall. The next Septic to Sewer Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on June 11th at 8:30 AM at Town Hall.
 - (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. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, now is the time to sign up.
3. Adopted the Minutes of Regular Town Commission Meeting of April 6, 2020.
 4. Adopted the Minutes of Special Town Commission Meeting of April 21, 2020.
 5. Adopted Public Works Supervisor Job Description.
 6. Approved Expenditure for Stormwater Pipe Repairs Near 54/55 Spanish River Drive.
 7. Approved Expenditure for Hudson Ave Flap Gate Repair.
 8. Approved Expenditure for Repair to Drainage Lines at Tropical Pump Station.
 9. Deferred Resolution No. 2020-13, Amending the Town Commission Rules of Order & Procedure, to June's Regular Town Commission Meeting.
 10. Appointed the following citizens to the Planning & Zoning Commission as Regular Members: Penny Kosinski, Mark Marsh, and Neil Hennigan; and Appointed Matt Gracey as an Alternate Member.
 11. Appointed the following citizens to the Board of Adjustment as Regular Members: Elizabeth Bingham, Mary Ann Cody, and Bruce Hindin; and Appointed John Lipscomb and Nicholas Arsali as Alternate Members.
 12. Approved a permit refund request for 4 Osprey Court in the amount of \$1,493.00 with the consideration of a possible permit fee reduction when the permit is re-applied if the site plan is the same as previously submitted.
 13. Approved a six month time extension on the land development permit for the Kerrigan property on Thompson Street.
 14. Approved a Contract with Foster Marine for Public Works Construction Services.
 15. Approved a Contract with Hinterland Group for Storm Water Infrastructure Maintenance & Repair Services.
 16. Authorized Town Manager Stevens to suspend vacations along with the vacation and comp time accrual cap of 210 as needed due to COVID-19 and allow employees to accrue up to 250 hours of vacation and comp time. Those employees exceeding 210 hours of vacation and comp time accruals could be authorized to cash in up to 80 hours during this fiscal year if needed.
 17. Consented to allow Commissioner Wiescholek to be present in the interviews for a new Building Official.
 18. Consented to have the Planning and Zoning Commission review the Town Code of Ordinances in Regards to Construction Fences and Demolition Permits.

THE NEXT BUDGET MEETING FOR THE TOWN COMMISSION WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 1, 2020 AT 2:00 P.M.

THE NEXT REGULAR TOWN COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. AT TOWN HALL.

Community News



**The Town of Ocean Ridge
congratulates our
newly-elected Mayor,
Kristine de Haseth!**

On April 7, 2020, Kristine de Haseth, who has served as a Commissioner in the Town of Ocean Ridge for the past two years, was elected Mayor for the Town of Ocean Ridge.

Mayor de Haseth is an active community member of the Ocean Ridge Garden Club, McCormick Mile Beach Club, and the Ocean Club of Florida. She serves on the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council and the Palm Beach County and Florida League of Cities, as well as serving as Executive Director of the Florida Coalition for Preservation.

We look forward to continuing the Town's mission with Mayor de Haseth's coastal community knowledge and perspective.

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.)



Census 2020—

Your response matters!

Health clinics. Fire departments. Schools. Even roads and highways. The census can shape many different aspects of your community.

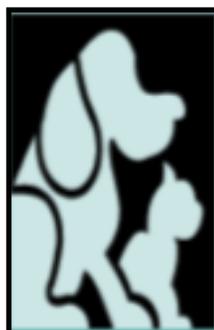
Learn more at www.2020census.gov

Community News

TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE FULL COST ACCOUNTING DISCLOSURE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES 403.7049

RESIDENTIAL COSTS CHARGED TOWN RESIDENTS FOR BI-WEEKLY GARBAGE, WEEKLY TRASH AND RECYCLING SERVICE. DISPOSAL COSTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 WERE ASSESSED ON THE TAX ROLL BY THE SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY OF PALM BEACH COUNTY.

<u>COST FOR</u>	<u>SINGLE FAMILY UNIT</u>	<u>MULTI-FAMILY UNIT</u>
COLLECTION/RECYCLING	\$190.80	\$165.24
ADMINISTRATION	<u>\$ 69.20</u>	<u>\$ 16.76</u>
TOTAL	\$260.00	\$182.00



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.

Community News



As part of the Town's vulnerability assessment, Mayor de Haseth and Town Manager Stevens attended the Coastal Resilience Partnership Mayor's Roundtable with the CLEO Institute on March 12, 2020 along with Officials from neighboring communities.

The Coastal Resilience Partnership represents a collaboration between the county as well as the municipalities of Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Highland Beach, Lake Worth Beach, Lantana and Ocean Ridge. By coordinating and pooling resources, the governments have been able to save money and time by commissioning a consulting agency to prepare a single climate vulnerability assessment for the entire micro-region, rather than each municipality spending money to duplicate the same study. The partnership will also open the opportunity to coordinate responses to the collective climate threats.

Energy-saving tips while spending more time at home

During this unprecedented COVID-19 crisis, while so many in our communities are either working from or confined to the home, Florida Power & Light Company is here to help customers by providing useful tips to help you manage energy use.

<p>Set it and forget it.</p>  <p>AIR CONDITIONER EFFICIENCY Each degree you raise the thermostat can help you save up to 5% on cooling costs.</p>	<p>Everyone loves privacy.</p>  <p>AIR CONDITIONER EFFICIENCY Keep bedroom and other doors open if possible – closed doors can block the airflow.</p>	<p>Who left the lights on?</p>  <p>LIGHTING EFFICIENCY Keep lights off in unoccupied rooms. Leaving on lights or a lamp can run up your bill.</p>
<p>Clean each time.</p>  <p>DRYER EFFICIENCY Clean the lint filter in your dryer before every load, not just once it fills up, to minimize drying time.</p>	<p>Use fans wisely.</p>  <p>FAN EFFICIENCY When you leave a room, turn off the fan. Fans cool people, not rooms.</p>	<p>Weekly meal prep.</p>  <p>COOKING EFFICIENCY Make several dishes at a time and use the smallest appliance you need to get the job done.</p>
<p>Turn off to save.</p>  <p>FAN EFFICIENCY Turn off ceiling, bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans when you leave the room or after use.</p>	<p>Counter top convenience.</p>  <p>COOKING EFFICIENCY Use the smallest appliance you need to cook – like a slow cooker, microwave or toaster oven.</p>	<p>Go ahead and unplug.</p>  <p>ENTERTAINMENT EFFICIENCY Make sure TV and systems are turned off or unplugged when not in use.</p>
<p>Fire up that grill!</p>  <p>COOKING EFFICIENCY Using an outdoor grill instead of the oven can help lower your bill.</p>	<p>Use the <u>FPL Mobile App</u></p>  <p>DOWNLOAD NOW View your daily, weekly and monthly energy use. Available on the Apple App store or Google Play, or text "App" to MyFPL.</p>	<p><u>FPL Energy Analyzer</u></p>  <p>ACTIVATE TODAY This free tool provides an itemized breakdown of energy use and offers simple energy saving tips.</p>



For customers experiencing hardship as a result of COVID-19, FPL has resources available to help and will continue to connect customers with resources from federal, state and local agencies. FPL has also implemented measures to help during this crisis, such as suspending electrical disconnections, providing payment extensions and waiving certain late payment fees for customers in a hardship situation – policies that will remain in effect while Florida is under a state of emergency. Customers are encouraged to pay their electric bill balance each month to avoid building up a large balance, which they will continue to bear responsibility for. However, if they are having difficulty paying the monthly bill, FPL encourages them to view available resources online at [FPL.com/Help](https://www.fpl.com/Help) or contact FPL directly at 1-800-225-3545.



COVID-19

Protection, Planning & Care for Older Adults

Florida Department of Health • FloridaHealth.gov

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, older adults may have a greater chance for serious illness from COVID-19—especially people with weak immune systems or underlying chronic medical conditions like heart, lung, diabetes or kidney disease.

- Symptoms include: fever, coughing, and shortness of breath. If you develop symptoms, stay home and call your health care provider. You may be able to recover at home.
- You need emergency help if symptoms become more severe, there is chronic chest pain, breathing is difficult or your lips turn bluish.



Protection

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Wash after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. Wash after spending time in a public place. Wash before and after touching people you're caring for. If soap and water aren't available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Cover your coughs and sneezes. Use a tissue or your sleeve when coughing.

Practice Social Distancing:

- Avoid crowds and large gatherings, especially in venues with poor ventilation.
- Don't shake hands with people.
- Keep at least 6 feet between you and other people.
- Stay away from people who may be sick.
- Try shopping during off-hours—later on weeknights or earlier on weekends—when crowds at stores are lower.
- Avoid touching “high-touch” surfaces: elevator buttons, door handles, handrails, etc.
- Find out if family or friends have been sick in the past two weeks BEFORE they visit. If they have been sick, reschedule at least two weeks out.

Planning

Get a flu shot if you are showing no symptoms of illness.

If you depend on regular medical treatment like dialysis, wound care, etc., talk to your health care provider about special arrangements.

Create a contact list of family, friends, neighbors, health care providers, community assistance programs and drivers. Make sure phone numbers are up-to-date.

Stay in touch with the people on your list and let them know you may need them for help if you become sick.



Have a two–three week supply of the following:

- Non-perishable food
- Medical and health care supplies
- Prescriptions: make sure they are up-to-date



Care

Caregivers, help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

If the person you're caring for lives in a facility:

- Know the facility's outbreak protocol.
- Ask daily about the health of the other residents.
- Monitor visitors. Ask if they've been ill over the past two weeks or if they currently have a fever. A “yes” answer means the visit needs to be postponed for at least two weeks.

If you're caring for someone at home, you'll need to prepare a separate bedroom and bathroom for them. Learn more about this type of at-home care: [CDC.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html)

HYGIENE
IS IMPORTANT.
FOLLOW
PROTECTION
GUIDANCE
ABOVE.

The Florida Department of Elder Affairs is holding multiple weekly calls with the Area Agencies on Aging and the Aging Network lead and local service providers. The Comprehensive Assessment and Review for Long-Term Care Services is providing evaluations, 24-hour notices of appointments and remote medical files for individuals in homes, nursing facilities and assisted-living facilities.

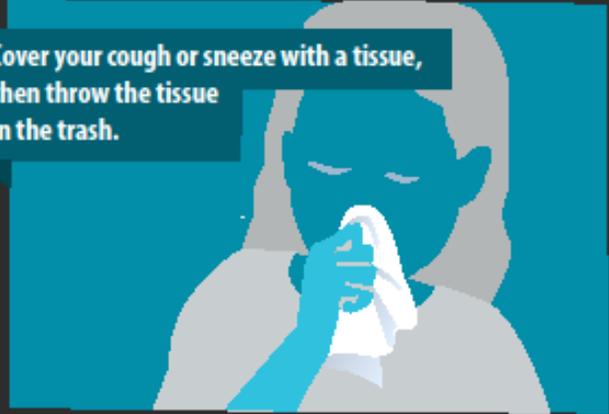
STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

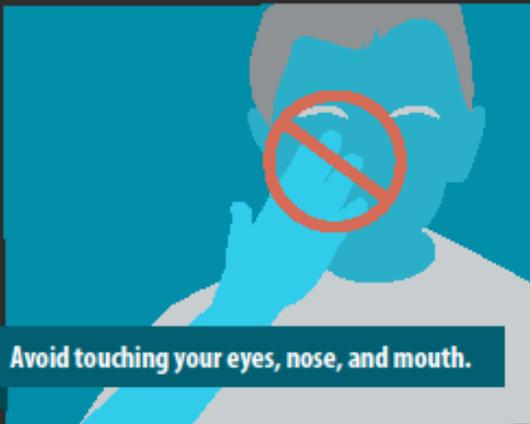
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



For more information: [FloridaHealth.gov/COVID-19](https://www.FloridaHealth.gov/COVID-19)
and tinyurl.com/u7oyx4s



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.





South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) NEWS RELEASE

SFWMD Issues Strict Guidelines for Landscape Irrigation Amid Drier Conditions

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has issued an order on water conservation measures with strict guidelines to property owners to follow irrigation schedules that conserve water amid drier than average conditions.

The District has [lawn watering restrictions all year](#). Amid recent dry conditions, property owners should take additional measures to conserve water including:

- Water lawns only two days per week between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- Apply no more than 3/4-inch to 1 inch of water per week on their lawns and landscapes and only as needed to supplement rainfall.

The Order states that plants may be watered using low volume irrigation, micro-irrigation, low volume hand watering methods, and rain barrels, cisterns, or other similar rain harvesting devices without regard to the watering days or times. It also does not limit irrigation when using treated reclaimed water.

Rainfall has been approximately 6.5 inches below average from November of 2019 to March of this year, groundwater levels are decreasing Districtwide and the U.S. Drought Monitor lists all of South Florida as experiencing at least "Moderate Drought" conditions with portions of Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade counties and the Lower East Coast being classified as "Abnormally Dry."

The District reminds residents that hand washing uses very little water, and residents are encouraged to continue frequent hand washing to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) [according to CDC guidelines](#). The order does not in any way restrict residents from following those CDC guidelines.

Residents can also conserve water by following [SFWMD's simple water conservation tips](#). Tips to conserve water include:

- Ensuring rain sensors are operating properly. Irrigating during or after significant rainfall is a major cause of outdoor water waste and can cost you money.
 - Replacing aerators in kitchen and bathroom sinks with models rated for 1.5 gallons per minute or less.
 - Switching to WaterSense labeled products including indoor showerheads, bathroom facets and toilets to save hundreds of gallons of water a week.
 - Implement Florida-Friendly landscaping and principles by using low maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices.
 - Consider updating appliances like dishwashers and washing machines to Energy Star rated products.
 - Using the shortest clothes washing cycle for lightly soiled loads; normal and permanent press wash cycles use more water.
 - Thawing frozen food in the refrigerator or microwave, not under running water.
 - Scraping your dishes before loading in the dishwasher without rinsing.
- Installing high-efficiency showerheads, faucets and toilets.

Simple Steps to SAVE WATER

Outdoors & In



TEST WITH TRACKS

Water your lawn and landscape only when it is actually needed, such as when footprints are left when you walk across the grass.

AVOID BUZZ CUTS

Cut your grass at the highest recommended height for your turf species or the highest setting on your lawn mower. Cut no more than one-third of the grass length at one time to encourage grass roots to grow deeper.



SPRINKLE WITH CARE

Apply moderate amounts of water to create a healthy, drought- and stress-tolerant lawn. For most Florida soils, applying no more than three-quarters of an inch of water per application is enough to revitalize the grass. Use spray heads designed for planting beds. Position the sprinkler so that you water only the lawn and shrubs, not paved areas.



OUTDOORS



PLANT FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LAWN

Plant native or drought-tolerant vegetation that thrives in the native soil and local weather conditions. Go native, and resist the urge to water it and just let it go brown during the dry season. It will come back, as nature intended, when the rains come.



FERTILIZE RESPONSIBLY

Excessive nutrients flowing into our waterways do not only come from big industry or agriculture. The use of fertilizer and pesticides on our yards results in pollutants contaminating the waterways in stormwater runoff when it rains. Residents are encouraged not to use fertilizers or pesticides during the warmer months and to use them in the correct amounts during other times of the year.

INDOORS



COLOR YOUR WATER

Detect a leaking toilet by adding a few drops of food coloring to the tank. If the tank is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 30 minutes. Replace the bad parts or consider upgrading to water-efficient toilets. Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other such waste in a trash can rather than in the toilet.

NOZZLE THE NOSE OF YOUR HOSE

Equip hoses with automatic shut-off nozzles for car washing, hand watering, etc.



CHECK YOUR WATER METER

Check for leaking pipes by reading your meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the readings are different, you have a leak.



TURN IT OFF

Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.



LOAD IT UP

Set clothes washing machines that have variable settings for water volume at the minimum amount required per load. If load size cannot be set, operate the washer with full loads only.



TIME YOUR SHOWERS

By timing your showers to keep them under five minutes and installing low-flow shower heads, you can save water. The older the shower head, the more water it uses. New low-flow shower heads use only 2 gallons of water per minute or less. Older fixtures use as much as 5 gallons per minute.

Ocean Ridge Garden Club

Revised Press Release

For Immediate release: April 21, 2020
Please note revised text, on April 22, 2020



The Ocean is Our Garden

Garden Club Members Make Face Masks for Ocean Ridge Residents.

Summary: Ocean Ridge Garden Club members are making face masks as a service project for town officials and staff. The project has been extended to offer face masks to all residents of Ocean Ridge, with the goal of providing a mask for every resident who needs one.

OCEAN RIDGE, April 21, 2020 - In response to a recent State-wide order urging all Floridians to wear a face covering when venturing outside their homes, members of the Ocean Ridge Garden Club (ORGC) saw a need and are filling it. With no beach access and condo community pools closed, a daily walk is an important outlet for town residents, and masks may allow pedestrians to pass each other safely along Old Ocean Blvd and elsewhere.

Since the use of N95 and other medical-grade masks should be reserved for first responders and healthcare workers, ORGC seamsters are stepping up and making cloth masks for distribution within the town. After first ensuring that all Ocean Ridge police officers, officials and staff had masks for their off-duty hours, Community Policing Officer Debra Boyle distributed masks to elderly and infirm residents with whom she regularly checks in. Next, ORGC members and many other Ocean Ridge residents were given a mask for each family member in their homes.

The masks are made with two layers of 100% cotton, as recommended by the CDC for cloth face coverings, with ear loops or ties. The fabrics are a variety of fun colorful prints, but, of course, neither fun nor fashion is the goal. The CDC has recommended that the public wear such masks to help prevent spreading of the coronavirus, which is particularly important since asymptomatic individuals may not be aware they have been infected and can pass it to others without precautions such as wearing a mask.

The project was led by ORGC members Kristine de Haseth (also mayor of the Town of Ocean Ridge) and Stella Kolb. Stella had the sewing skills to complement Kristine's logistical and communication skills, and a plan soon took shape. Stella acquired the

needed materials and recruited another dozen members to help her construct the masks, while Kristine reached out to the town officials, ORGC members and community to offer the masks free of charge. The team effort has produced and distributed over 300 masks so far. But they were not expecting the response they have received from the mask recipients. "We have been absolutely overwhelmed by the expressions of gratitude and generous donations we have received," said Stella. "The need for these was bigger than we had even anticipated."

The work continues, with more members getting involved, with the goal of providing face masks to residents of Ocean Ridge until they are no longer needed. "The Ocean Ridge Garden Club does many things for the Town, and we are happy to work together to do what we can in this uncertain time to unite and keep our community safe," said Mayor de Haseth.

Additional Notes to Editor:

1. Over 300 masks have been hand-made and distributed to town officials and staff, ORGC members and residents of McCormick Mile Beach Club, Inlet Cay Homeowners Association, Sabal Island Civic Committee, Crown Colony, Colonial Ridge and Ocean Ridge Yacht Club, among others.
2. Ocean Ridge Garden Club has received donations from many mask recipients and sponsors that helped to support this service project. At least 15 ORGC members have been active participants.
3. Mask recipients available for comment include George Lettis (410-279-3807) of Colonial Ridge in Ocean Ridge, and Tana (561-234-5643) of Crown Colony, also in Ocean Ridge. Persons quoted in this press release include Kristine de Haseth (561-445-5094) and Stella Kolb (732-221-1979).
4. The ORGC President is Mary Ann Cody, mcginnma@nycap.rr.com, (518) 506-2578.

About Ocean Ridge Garden Club:

Ocean Ridge Garden Club (ORGC), a 501(c)(3) non profit organization, was founded in 1996 and is the only service club located in Ocean Ridge. The mission of ORGC is to further the education of the members and the public in the fields of gardening, horticulture, floral design, garden-related art, civic outreach, environmental awareness, conservation of natural resources and civic beautification while instilling the love of gardening and respect to protect our natural environs.

Press Contact:

Jackie Reed, Publicity Secretary

drjareed@gmail.com

(571) 225-2773

The screen shot below is a selfie and text message from Sunny (recovering from surgery) and Steve Otto, showing off their masks made by ORGC members. Sunny's telephone number is 215-850-8083.



The masks are our ticket out of the house many thanks and my new hip is great.

Ocean Ridge Police Department News

By Hal C. Hutchins, Chief of Police



Hurricane Season Begins on June 1st

As if it is not bad enough that we are still dealing with the Coronavirus and its associated restrictions, we are about to enter the Atlantic Hurricane Season (June 1 through November 30). Please remember, now is the time to prepare, especially this year since we are experiencing unusual times before the Hurricane season even begins. In addition to having 3 -5 days of supplies on hand to be self-sufficient should we be impacted by a storm please remember:

The Town has enacted ordinances regarding trees in wires and the removal of Coconuts from all coconut trees no later than July 1 of each year. The associated ordinances are always available online at ocean-ridgeflorida.com and are cited below for easy reference

Sec. 66-151. - Tree permits

b) Tree removal, replacement, conditions and exemptions

(7) *Tree trimming and maintenance.* Notwithstanding any other provisions contained in [chapter 66](#), article IV, all trees shall be trimmed and maintained so as not to come in contact or otherwise obstruct or interfere with power or other utility lines or facilities. Property owners shall be responsible for complying with this subsection with respect to all trees located on their property, on privately granted utility easements for which their property exists as the servient estate and on any adjacent rights of way upon which the property owner has sought permission or a license from the town to plant or maintain landscaping including trees. No permit will be required from the Town for such trimming or maintenance provided, however, that such trimming or maintenance shall comply with the provisions of subsection (6) above.

Ordinance 2019-11 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.

COVID-19 Important Information

As of the writing of this newsletter, we do not have a timeline on the “full reopening” of Florida. While we are as anxious as everyone else to get back to normal we have been advised by many experts that the conditions and restrictions placed upon us are in our best interest. We are continuously looking for ways to “fully reopen” and get life back to the “new normal” as soon as possible. Thank you for all of your patience and understanding.

Please be aware of the scams and cons that are going on as a part of this pandemic. Below is just another example of one of the latest:

ONLINE EXTORTION SCAMS INCREASING DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) has seen an increase in reports of online extortion scams during the current "stay-at-home" orders due to the COVID-19 crisis. Because large swaths of the population are staying at home and likely using the computer more than usual, scammers may use this opportunity to find new victims and pressure them into sending money. The scammers are sending e-mails threatening to release sexually explicit photos or personally compromising videos to the individual's contacts if they do not pay. While there are many variations of these online extortion attempts, they often share certain commonalities.

SCAM COMMONALTIES:

Online extortion schemes vary, but there are a few common indicators of the scam. The following characteristics are not all-inclusive but should serve as red flags. It is important to remember that scammers adapt their schemes to capitalize on current events such as the COVID-19 pandemic, high-profile breaches, or new trends involving the Internet, all in an attempt to make their scams seem more authentic.

1. The online extortion attempt comes as an e-mail from an unknown party and, many times, will be written in broken English with grammatical errors.
2. The recipient's personal information is noted in the e-mail or letter to add a higher degree of intimidation to the scam. For example, the recipient's user name or password is provided at the beginning of the e-mail or letter.
3. The recipient is accused of visiting adult websites, cheating on a spouse, or being involved in other compromising situations.
4. The e-mail or letter includes a statement like, "I had a serious spyware and adware infect your computer" or, "I have a recorded video of you" as an explanation of how the information was allegedly gathered.
5. The e-mail or letter threatens to send a video or other compromising information to family, friends, coworkers, or social network contacts if a ransom is not paid.
6. The e-mail or letter provides a short window to pay, typically 48 hours.
7. The recipient is instructed to pay the ransom in Bitcoin, a virtual currency that provides a high degree of anonymity to the transactions.

TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF:

- Do not open e-mails or attachments from unknown individuals.
- Monitor your bank account statements regularly and your credit report at least once a year for any unusual activity.
- Do not communicate with unsolicited e-mail senders.
- Do not store sensitive or embarrassing photos or information online or on your mobile devices.
- Never provide personal information of any sort via e-mail. Be aware that many e-mails requesting your personal information appear to be legitimate.

- Ensure security settings for social media accounts are activated and set at the highest level of protection.
- Verify the web address of legitimate websites and manually type the address into your browser.

The FBI does not condone the payment of online extortion demands as the funds will facilitate continued criminal activity, including potential organized crime activity and associated violent crimes.

VICTIM REPORTING:

If you believe you have been a victim of this scam, reach out to your local FBI field office, your local police department and file a complaint with the IC3 at www.ic3.gov. Please provide any relevant information in your complaint, including the online extortion e-mail with header information and Bitcoin address if available.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE SENIORS

On behalf of all of the members of the Police Department: To all of our graduating college and High School Seniors, Congratulations! We know you are missing out on an in person graduation ceremony during the current pandemic, but want to assure you we are still proud of all of your accomplishments and you are in our thoughts. Go forward and do wonderful things!!

REMINDER: PLEASE SECURE YOUR VALUABLES INCLUDING YOUR CAR

As always, please remember to secure your valuables. Yes, even lock your car. Do not leave valuables in your vehicle and please lock your doors.

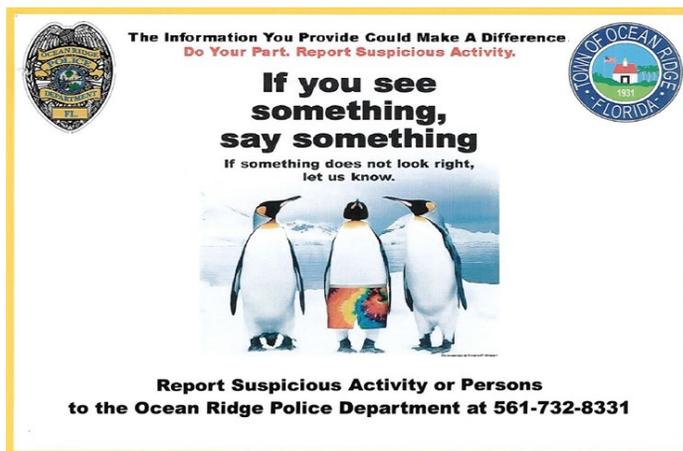
Many crimes such as the vehicle listed as stolen in our April synopsis can be prevented by simply securing items of value, including your car, from opportunistic thieves. Please be safe and do not leave valuables in your vehicle or unsecured at your residence especially if you are inviting unknown workers into your home.

In the meantime, 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 - If you see something, say something!



H S I

S.T.O.P. COVID-19 FRAUD STRATEGIC TARGETED OUTREACH PROGRAM

Recognize • Protect • Report | COVID-19 Crime

FOR **SECURE** ONLINE SHOPPING

- ✗ DO NOT CLICK ON UNSOLICITED EMAILS OR TEXTS.
- ✗ ENSURE A SECURE BROWSER CONNECTION: HTTPS ONLY.
- ✗ VERIFY WEBSITE TRUST SEALS BEFORE PLACING AN ORDER.
- ✗ OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT WEBSITES END IN .GOV
- ✗ INSPECT THE URL OF THE WEBSITE AND VERIFY THE DESTINATION.

FINANCIAL **RED FLAGS** RELATED TO COVID-19

- ✗ BEWARE OF E-MAILS, TEXT MESSAGES OR CALLS OFFERING GOODS, SERVICES, LOANS, OR DEBT RELIEF.
- ✗ BEWARE OF REQUESTS FOR UNUSUAL PAYMENT METHODS, SUCH AS CRYPTOCURRENCY, PREPAID DEBIT CARDS, GIFT CARDS, MONEY SERVICE BUSINESSES (MSB) TRANSFERS, OR WIRE TRANSFERS.
- ✗ GOVERNMENT AGENCIES DO NOT CALL, TEXT OR E-MAIL: CHECK YOUR MAIL, DO NOT FOLLOW LINKS ON SOCIAL MEDIA, AND USE GOVERNMENT WEBSITES DIRECTLY.
- ✗ GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WILL NOT CALL OR E-MAIL ABOUT ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENTS AND WILL NOT REFER TO IT AS "STIMULUS" - DO NOT OPEN SUCH E-MAILS OR CLICK ON ATTACHMENTS.

PROHIBITED PHARMACEUTICALS AND MEDICAL DEVICES **RED FLAGS**

- ✗ BEWARE OF WEBSITES OR INDIVIDUALS SELLING PRODUCTS CLAIMING TO PREVENT, TREAT, DIAGNOSE OR CURE COVID-19.
- ✗ BEWARE OF INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING PERSONAL OR BANKING INFORMATION IN EXCHANGE FOR COVID-19 PRODUCTS.
- ✗ BEWARE OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCT INFORMATION WRITTEN IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE OR WITH MISSPELLINGS.
- ✗ DO NOT BUY PRESCRIPTION PHARMACEUTICALS FROM THIRD PARTY MARKETPLACES OR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS.

DID YOU KNOW?



Thousands of COVID-19 related web domains have been identified as fraudulent.



Government agencies will not contact anyone to verify or expedite payments.



Bad actors often advertise using photos stolen from legitimate websites to deceive consumers.

ONLINE SHOPPING TIPS

- 📺 IF A DEAL SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS.
- 📺 BE AWARE OF PRICE GOUGING.
- 📺 VERIFY PURCHASES ARE FROM LEGITIMATE, TRUSTED SOURCES.
- 📺 REPORT COVID-19 FRAUD TO COVID19FRAUD@DHS.GOV.

FINANCIAL TIP

- 💰 REACH OUT TO YOUR ELDERLY FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS AND WARN THEM ABOUT THESE SCAMS.

PROHIBITED ITEMS TIP

- 🌐 ENSURE YOUR ONLINE PHARMACY IS CERTIFIED BY CHECKING: WWW.SAFEMEDSONLINE.ORG.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT
WWW.ICE.GOV

REPORT COVID-19 FRAUD TO
COVID19FRAUD@DHS.GOV



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement



REPORT FRAUD

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 April 2020 for both Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes:

<u>Type of Incident</u>	<u>Report Date</u>	<u>Time Frame</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
Dog Bite	4/7/2020	4/7/2020 @ 10:00 am	5900 Old Ocean Blvd.	Dog Bite reported by walker. Turned over to Animal Control.
Found Narcotics	4/7/2020	4/7/2020 @ 7:00 am	Adams Road on Beach	Cocaine found on beach. Turned over to Drug Enforcement Administration.
Damage to Town Property	4/10/2020	4/10/2020 @ 9:15 am	5600 Blk. Old Ocean Blvd.	Subject damages Town COVID sign replaced and warning issued. Subject trespass warned from Old Ocean.
Violation of Emergency Order	4/16/2020	4/16/2020 @ 9:10 am	6000 Old Ocean Blvd.	Violation of Emergency order regarding beach closure. After multiple warnings, case filed with State Attorney for Prosecution.
Theft of Vehicle	4/23/2020	4/23/2020 @ 4:00 am	Island Drive	Vehicle taken from driveway. Suspects identified using License Plate Capture System. Vehicle recovered in Lauderdale Lakes 5/1/2020
Flee and Elude	4/25/2020	4/25/2020 @ 12:55 pm	Woolbright Road	Motorcycle with no tag fled officer. Stopped and arrested for felony fleeing and operating w/o proper license.
Theft	4/26/2020	Between 4/26/2020 and 4/27/2020	Spanish River Drive	Subject entered rear yard and porch for the purpose of stealing fishing rods and reels.
Theft	4/29/2020	Between 4/25/2020 and 4/28/2020	River Drive	Theft of fishing rods and reels from rear patio

In addition to the above listed activity and regular patrols of the beaches and roadways; officers conducted traffic enforcement activities, code enforcement activities, were heavily engaged in patrol and education regarding the response to Coronavirus and investigated 4 traffic crashes.

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.

Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup

What: Join the Sand Sifters for beach cleanup!

When: First Saturday of every month. Next cleanup: **TBA (May cleanup canceled)**

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](https://www.facebook.com/SWATJIL)

Sea Angels Beach Cleanup

What: Join the Sea Angels for beach cleanup!

When: Last Saturday of every month. Next cleanup: **TBA (May cleanup canceled)**

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](https://www.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

Town Hall Library

What: Shelve and organize books in the Town Library.

When: Ongoing (temporarily closed to public due to COVID-19)

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

