September 2018 Volume 11, Issue 9

Ocean Ridge Tidings

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

Building Permits:

Does the work I am doing to my home or condo require a permit?
If you are unsure of what requires a permit or have any questions, please call Town Hall at 561-732-2635. It is better to make sure than to incur a fine. See link below for General Permitting information along with examples of work that needs a permit.

Town Commission

Budget Meeting Schedule

Monday, Sept. 24: Special Meeting—2nd Budget Public Hearing and Final Budget Hearing@ 5pm

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

When can I start the work on my property?
Work should not commence until permit has been approved, picked up and placed on job site. Should an owner and/or contractor begin work without a permit, additional fees will be imposed; See Ordinance 585.

If you would like more information regarding permits, please see our General Permitting Information sheet by clicking here or by calling Town Hall at 561-732-2635.

Fun Fact:

Who is next in line for the presidency after the vice president?

Order of Presidential Succession. According to the Presidential Succession Act of 1792, the Senate president pro tempore 1 was next in line after the vice president to succeed to the presidency, followed by the Speaker of the House.

Events in Palm Beach County: Adventure Awaits

Celebrate. Autumn. Outdoors By: Palm Beach County

SEPTEMBER

9/19 MEET SFL SNOWBIRDS - BIRDWATCHING, Frenchman's Forest Natural Area in Palm Beach Gardens **REGISTER**

9/22 PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP, Ocean Ridge Natural Area in Ocean Ridge **REGISTER**

9/24 FULL MOON BIKE RIDE, Cypress Creek Natural Area in Jupiter Farms **REGISTER**

OCTOBER

10/3 THREE MILE TRAIL RUN, Seacrest Scrub Natural Area in Boynton Beach **REGISTER**

10/4 SWAMP TROMP, Sweetbay Natural Area in Palm Beach Gardens **REGISTER**

10/13 HIKE WITH THE BUTTERFLIES, Yamato Scrub Natural Area in Boca Raton **REGISTER**

General Information

6450 N. Ocean Blvd.,
Ocean Ridge, FL 33435

www.oceanridgeflorida.com

@OceanRidgeFL

Town Hall
561-732-2635 (main) ◊ 561-737-8359 (fax)
561-732-ORFL (Citizen Information Line)
General Email: info@oceanridgeflorida.com
Town Hall Hours: 8:30am-3:00pm

Police
Non-emergency: 561-732-8331
Emergency: 9-1-1
Public Records Hours: 8:30am-2:30pm

Town Officials

Town Manager
James Titcomb
jtitcomb@oceanridgeflorida.com

Town Clerk
Tracey Stevens
tstevens@oceanridgeflorida.com

Police Chief
Hal Hutchins
hhutchins@oceanridgeflorida.com

Building Official
Wayne Cameron
wcameron@oceanridgeflorida.com

Mayor
James Bonfiglio
jbonfiglio@oceanridgeflorida.com

Vice Mayor
Don MaGruder
dmagruder@oceanridgeflorida.com

Commissioners
Phil Besler
pbesler@oceanridgeflorida.com

Steve Coz
scoz@oceanridgeflorida.com

Kristine de Haseth
kdehaseth@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

17: Joint Meeting of Planning and Zoning & Town Commission begins at 9:30 am in the Chambers.
24: Special Town Commission Meeting/Final Budget Hearing begins at 5pm in the Chambers.
27: Charter Review Committee meeting begins at 6 pm in the Chambers.
29: Sea Angels Beach cleanup from 8am– 10:30am at Ocean Inlet Park.

October

1: Regular Town Commission meeting begins at 6 pm in the chambers.
2: Code Enforcement Hearing begins at 10 am in the Chambers. (Tentative)
3: Book Club meeting begins at 5:45 pm in the Community Room.
6: Sand Sifters Beach clean up begins at 10 am in Oceanfront park
8: Columbus Day — Town Hall is closed.
15: Planning and Zoning meeting begins at 8:30 am in the Chambers.
27: Sea Angels Beach cleanup from 8am– 10:30am at Ocean Inlet Park.

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

Meeting Information

Regular Town Commission meetings are generally held on the first Monday of every month at 6:00pm. Code Enforcement 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 second Monday of the month at 8:30am. Any special meetings added to the calendar, date and time changes, as well as agendas and minutes will be updated on the Town's website at www.oceanridgeflorida.com and on Twitter @OceanRidgeFL as they occur.

Privacy Policy

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

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

Town Manager's Report

Below is The Town Manager's Report—September's Commission Meeting:

PBA Police Collective Bargaining

Multiple sessions were held to negotiate a 2019-2021 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for covered police department members. Commission "Shade" meetings provided direction toward final temporary agreement (TA), next the union members vote, then the CBA comes to the Commission to adopt. Contract cost values are modeled into the FY19 budget presented at this first public hearing.

RSF LDA Moratorium Ordinance Update

The Ordinance 630 providing a "Moratorium of RSF Land Development Applications" continues to place heightened pressures upon the Town staff, increases costs and curtails revenue flows. Applicants seeking "Administrative Exemption" on plans to exceed current Town Code, and contemplated provisional thresholds are having a difficult time receiving clearance to proceed to P&Z "Concept Plan Review". Staff urges the Commission and advisory boards to implement progress on the issues, definitions and amended code language that will address Town concerns, allowing the moratorium component to be lifted as soon as is practicable. Any incremental adjustments will positively affect current concerns, where future modifications may fix any glitches unforeseen.

Oceanfront Park Operations & Requests

The City of Boynton Beach voted to consider a "Dog Day at the Beach" event sometime this Fall, presumably after the close of Turtle Season (October 31st). Their stated aim is to flush out the logistics of how future uses of this nature may occur. Staff from each municipality have long conversed on this matter and both understand that Town Code of Ocean Ridge formally prohibit dogs on the beach.

Town Administration stated a Special Event Permit may be an appropriate avenue to deploy for the Boynton's current proposal, which has yet to be presented officially to our Town. A Special Event application helps us to define the scale, scope and vet impacts a proposal may have so that the Town can assess proper resources mandated to be in place to limit liabilities should this event take place.

The town wishes to avoid any legal or logistical conflicts that may be unintended as a result of moving forward on staging the event. I have asked the Town Attorney and the Town Engineer to look more closely into the boundary issues this may raise. Determination of the official boundaries and historical agreements in place with the city of Boynton Beach on Oceanfront Park operations may have implications on other activities beyond the current proposed "dog day" event proposed.

We urge the Commission to give staff, and our contract professionals, clear direction on our parameters moving forward and how to best communicate with officials at Boynton Beach on this matter.

Storm Season is here

Please keep vegetation properly trimmed and away from utility lines, help us to keep the ROW drain systems and grates clear from debris and obstructions at all times, protection against high tides and tropical flooding affecting your properties depend upon it… Thank you!

Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida
Office of the Town Clerk
Town Commission Meeting Summary
September 6, 2018

The following is a list of actions taken at the September 6, 2018 Regular Town Commission Meeting:

1. Announced that Actor Burt Reynolds passed away and directed Town Staff to send a condolence letter to the family.

2. Announced that the next Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z) meeting will be held on Monday, September 17 at 8:30 a.m., and a Joint Meeting with the Town Commission and P&Z will begin at 9:30 a.m.

3. Announced that the next Charter Review Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 27th at 6:00 p.m.

4. Announced that the Town of Ocean Ridge Computed Millage Rate is Higher Than the Rolled Back Rate by 5.88%. The millage to be levied is 5.35.

5. Adopted Resolution No. 2018-08, adopting the tentative levying of ad valorem taxes for fiscal year 2018/2019, with a tentative operating millage rate of 5.35 mils, which is greater than the rolled back rate of 5.0527 mills by 5.88%.

6. Adopted Resolution No. 2018-09, adopting the tentative budget for fiscal year 2018/2019, setting forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the budget for fiscal year 2018/2019 in the amount of $7,084,574.

7. Announced that the second/final hearing on the FY2018/19 budget will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 24, 2018.

8. Adopted the Minutes of the following meetings: Regular & Special Town Commission Meetings of August 6, 2018; Special Town Commission Meeting of August 24, 2018; and Special Town Commission Meeting of August 29, 2018.

9. Adopted the CRS Floodplain Management Plan & Annual Progress Report for NFIP/CRS Re-Certification.

10. Approved the lien reduction request for Gerald Wismer of 110 Bonito Drive, reducing the lien amount to $20,000.

11. Renewed the Town Engineer contract for FY19.

12. Heard a report from the Charter Review Committee Chair and determined that Ordinances will come before the Town Commission regarding the Charter Amendments at the October 1st meeting for first reading.

13. Rejected Resolution No. 2018-07: A Resolution of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Providing for the Town to Become a Member of the American Flood Coalition.

14. Adopted on second reading Ordinance No 632: An Ordinance of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Providing for Adoption of Amendments to the Florida Building Code by Resolution of the Town Commission.

15. Adopted Resolution No. 2018-10: A Resolution of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Adopting Amendments to the Florida Building Code.

16. Adopted on second reading Ordinance No 633: An Ordinance of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Amending Language to Remove Specific Fees to a Fee Schedule Adopted by Resolution of the Town Commission.

(Continued on next page)

17. Adopted Resolution No. 2018-11: A Resolution of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Adopting a Town Fee Schedule, as amended.

18. There was consensus to have Town Staff review the newly adopted fee schedule and come back next month with any other necessary changes.

19. Adopted on first reading Ordinance No. 634: An Ordinance of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Amending Its Code of Ordinances by Amending Chapter 63, "General and Administrative Provisions", Article IV, "Site Plan Review Procedures:, Section 63-56 "Concept Development Plan Review", to Clarify the Notice Requirements; Providing for Codification, Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances, Severability, and an Effective Date.

20. Adopted on first reading as amended Ordinance No. 635: An Ordinance of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Amending Its Code of Ordinances by Amending Chapter 63, "General and Administrative Provisions", Article III, "Development Review Procedures", Section 63-31 "Planning and Zoning Commission Established; Powers and Duties" and Section 63-34 "Board of Adjustment", To Modify the Date Requirements Regarding Appointments to the Boards, to Clarify Who Administers Oaths, Quorum Requirements, Removal From Office and Required Time Periods Between Submitting Applications; Providing for Codification, Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances, Severability, and an Effective Date.

21. Directed Town Attorney Shutt to amend Ordinance No. 635 as discussed and present the amended version to the Town Commission for second reading on October 1, 2018.

22. Set a Special Town Commission meeting on October 4, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. to Discuss Sewer Utilities with the City of Boynton Beach Staff.

23. Directed Town Attorney Shutt to draft ordinances pertaining to the building moratorium after the September 17th Joint Meeting with the Planning & Zoning Commission, to be presented to the Town Commission at its October 1st meeting for first reading, to be presented to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a recommendation at its October 15th meeting (or an earlier meeting as determined by P&Z), and presented to the Town Commission at its November 5th meeting for second reading and adoption.

24. Directed Town Staff to do a Boundary Survey for the Town and report back as to whether a change needs to be made to the Town Charter regarding the Description of Corporate Limits.

THE TOWN COMMISSION WILL HOLD A JOINT WORKSHOP WITH THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 AT 9:30 A.M. AT TOWN HALL; A SPECIAL TOWN COMMISSION MEETING & FINAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M. AT TOWN HALL, AND A REGULAR TOWN COMMISSION MEETING ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M. AT TOWN HALL

Criminal Activity

Here is a listing of significant crime/code enforcement/suspicious activity reported to ORPD in August 2018 for Ocean Ridge:

Type of Incident	Report Date	Time Frame	Location	Synopsis
Drug Overdose	8/6/2018	8/6/2018 @ 5:00 pm	Oceanview Dr.	Subject overdoses on opiates. Narcan deployed.
Fleeing Police Agg. Assault	8/7/2018	8/7/2018 @ 04:09 am	Woolbright and A-1-A	Traffic stop leads to driver intentionally striking police vehicle and fleeing. Suspect apprehended in possession of narcotics and firearm in West Palm Beach.
Battery	8/11/2018	8/11/2018 @ 11:40 pm	Harbour Drive South	Report of simple battery. Victim declined prosecution.
Recovered Stolen Vehicle	8/12/2018	8/12/2018 @ 1:00 pm	6415 North Ocean Blvd.	Tag reader in Manalapan alerts to stolen vehicle entering Town. Vehicle located /recovered and driver arrested. Missing Juvenile recovered in vehicle.
Fleeing Police	8/21/2018	8/21/2018 @ 3:00 am	Sabal Island Dr.	Unlicensed Driver attempts to flee and elude police. Subject arrested.
Fraud	8/24/2018	8/24/2018	6415 North Ocean Blvd.	Lost wallet from May 2018 results in identity theft and fraud.
Recovered Missing Person	8/25/2018	8/25/2018 @ 8:00 am	6100 North Ocean Blvd.	Observation of traffic infraction leads to locating missing endangered adult.
Fraud	8/25/2018	Between 8/2/2018 and 8/4/2018	Beachway North	Personal information used to obtain banking accounts and false license.
Recovered Missing Person	8/25/2018	8/25/2018 @ 2:50 pm	Tropical Drive	Report of suspicious person results in locating missing endangered adult.
Theft from Vehicle	8/25/2018	Between 8/23/2018 and 8/24/2018	5505 North Ocean Blvd.	Wallet removed from center console of vehicle.
Theft of Bicycle	8/26/2018	8/26/2018 between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm	5510 North Ocean Blvd.	Bicycle removed from locked bike room.

In addition to the above activity, officers conducted 2 warrant arrests, 3 drug related arrests, 2 traffic arrests and conducted normal traffic, security and code enforcement activities.

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

Ocean Ridge Police Department News

By Hal C. Hutchins, Chief of Police

Don't let your guard down. As I write this we are at the peak of the Atlantic Hurricane Season. With three major areas of concern in the Atlantic it is a good time to check our hurricane supplies and make sure we are prepared should we be directly threatened with a storm.

Below is some information from the American Red Cross on preparation and readiness for such events:

Be Red Cross Ready

Get a kit. Make a plan. Be informed.

American Red Cross

It's important to prepare for possible disasters and other emergencies. Natural and human-caused disasters can strike suddenly, at any time and anywhere. There are three actions everyone can take that can help make a difference...Get a kit. Make a plan. Be informed.

Be Red Cross Ready Checklist

- ❑ I know what emergencies or disasters are most likely to occur in my community.
- ❑ I have a family disaster plan and have practiced it.
- ❑ I have an emergency preparedness kit.
- ❑ At least one member of my household is trained in CPR/AED use.
- ❑ I have taken action to help my community prepare.

Get a kit

At a minimum, have the basic supplies listed below.

Keep supplies in an easy-to-carry emergency preparedness kit that you can use at home or take with you in case you must evacuate.

• Water: one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home) • Food: non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home) • Flashlight • Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible) • Extra batteries • First aid kit • Medications (7-day supply) and medical items • Multi-purpose tool • Sanitation and personal hygiene items • Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies) • Current digital photos of loved ones, updated every six months, especially for children • Cell phone with chargers • Family and emergency contact information • Extra cash • Emergency blanket • Map(s) of the area

Consider the needs of all family members and add supplies to your kit. Suggested items to help meet additional needs are:

• Medical supplies (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, cane) • Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers) • Games and activities for children • Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl) • Two-way radios • Extra set of car keys and house keys • Manual can opener

Additional supplies to keep at home or in your kit based on the types of disasters common to your area:

• Whistle • N95 or surgical masks • Matches • Rain gear • Towels • Work gloves • Tools/supplies for securing your home • Extra clothing, hat and sturdy shoes • Plastic sheeting • Duct tape • Scissors • Household liquid bleach • Entertainment items • Blankets or sleeping bags • Sunscreen • Insect Repellent

Make a plan

- Meet with your family or household members.
- Discuss how to prepare and respond to emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live, learn, work and play.
- Identify responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team.
- If a family member is in the military or engages in extended business travel on a regular basis, plan how you would respond if they were away.
- If you or a member of your household is an individual with access or functional needs, including a disability, consider developing a comprehensive evacuation plan in advance with family, care providers and care attendants, as appropriate. Complete a personal assessment of functional abilities and possible needs during and after an emergency or disaster situation, and create a personal support network to assist.

Plan what to do in case you are separated during an emergency

- Choose two places to meet—
  1. Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, such as a fire.
  2. Outside your neighborhood, in case you cannot return home or are asked to evacuate.

  Consider any transportation challenges that might be encountered by individuals that use mobility assistive equipment.

- Choose an out-of-area emergency contact person. It may be easier to text or call long distance if local phone lines are overloaded or out of service. Everyone should memorize emergency contact information and have it in writing or programmed into their cell phones.
- Identify alternative ways to communicate (email, text, call, mail, through a third party, etc).

Plan what to do if you have to evacuate

- Decide where you would go and what route you would take to get there. You may choose to go to a hotel or motel, stay with friends or relatives in a safe location or go to an evacuation shelter if necessary.

Download the Red Cross Emergency App or, go to redcross.org and search emergency app.

This app provides expert advice on how to prepare and respond to disasters and includes a map with open Red Cross shelters.

- Have at least one alternate location if the preferred location is not accessible.
- Practice evacuating your home twice a year. Drive your planned evacuation route and plot alternate routes on your map in case roads are impassable. Ensure all household/family members know the evacuation route, alternate routes, primary and alternate meeting destination.
- Plan ahead for your pets. Keep a phone list of "pet friendly" motels/hotels and animal shelters that are along your evacuation routes.

Be Informed

Learn what disasters or emergencies may occur in your area.

These events can range from those affecting only you and your family, like a home fire or medical emergency, to those affecting your entire community, like an earthquake or flood.

- Identify how local authorities will notify you during a disaster and how you will get information, whether through local radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio stations or channels.
- Know the difference between different weather alerts such as "watches" and "warnings" and what actions to take in each.
- Know what actions to take to protect yourself during disasters that may occur in areas where you travel or have moved recently. For example, if you travel to a place where earthquakes are common and you are not familiar with them, make sure you know what to do to protect yourself should one occur.
- When a major disaster occurs, your community can change in an instant. Loved ones may be hurt and emergency response is likely to be delayed. Make sure that at least one member of your household is trained in first aid and CPR and knows how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED). This training is useful in many emergency situations.
- Share what you have learned with your family, household and neighbors and encourage them to be informed too.

Emergency Contact Cards for All Household Members

Get your cards online here or, go to redcross.org and search emergency contact.

- Print one card for each family member.
- Write the contact information for each household member, such as work, school and cell phone numbers.
- Ensure contacts for relatives include familiar names (grandma, aunt, etc.) as well as actual names when making cards for children.
- Fold the card so it fits in your pocket, wallet or purse.
- Carry the card with you so it is available in the event of a disaster or other emergency.

Let Your Family Know You're Safe

Tell your loved ones about the American Red Cross Safe and Well Website or access through redcross.org by searching safe and well. This internet-based tool should be integrated into your emergency communications plan. People within a disaster-affected area can register themselves as "safe and well" and concerned family and friends who know the person's phone number or address can search for messages posted by those who self-register. If you don't have internet access, call **1-800-RED CROSS** to register yourself and your family.

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For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, visit redcross.org.

Reprinted from the Palm Beach Post for your information/ A new Scam

New Medicare cards bring out scam artists

HEALTHCARE

Ann Carrns
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As people across the country receive new, safer Medicare cards in the mail, advocates are warning about fraudulent callers who try to dupe people into paying money or divulging personal information.

The government is gradually replacing Medicare cards for the 60 million people covered by the federal health plan. Previously, the cards used the recipient's Social Security number as his or her Medicare number, which posed a risk of identity theft. Congress mandated a change in 2015.

"It took a very long time, but it's in the works," Sue Greeno of the nonprofit Center for Medicare Advocacy said.

The new cards use an 11-character Medicare identifier that contains both numbers and letters, according to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the agency that runs Medicare.

While the cards are safer, criminals are always alert to new ways of scamming people, said Amy Nofziger, a fraud expert with AARP. Recent calls to the group's fraud help line indicate that some people have received calls asking for a fee in order to deliver a new Medicare card, or asking for personal information before a new card can be issued.

Such calls are bogus. "The card is free," Nofziger said, and will be mailed automatically.

According to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, "Medicare will never call you uninvited and ask you to give us personal or private information to get your new Medicare number and card."

Suspicious calls can be reported by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800633-4227), the agency said. Consumers also can call thenlocal Senior Medicare Patrol, a federally funded service for people on Medicare and their families.

The government began mailing the cards this spring. But because mailings are staggered in 10 "waves," people shouldn't be alarmed if a friend or a relative in a different state receives a new card first, Medicare administrators said. The agency is about halfway through its mailings and, in "Wave 5," recently began sending cards to people in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Mailings to New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and the rest of New England began in July.

You can check a special section of the Medicare.gov website to see where cards have been mailed, and you can enter your email to be notified when mailings begin in your state.

(Continued on next page)

Here are some questions and answers about the new Medicare cards:

Q. The Medicare website says new cards were mailed to my state, but I don't have mine yet. What should I do?

A. It takes time for the cards in each wave to be mailed, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services said. The agency suggests checking your MyMedicare. gov account to see if one was mailed. (You'll need to establish an account if you don't have one.) If it was mailed, you can print a new official card. Or call 1-800-MEDICARE to see if your information, like your mailing address, needs to be updated.

It's a good idea to check that the Social Security Administration has your current mailing address, since that's the one Medicare uses, said Paul Stephens, director of policy and advocacy at the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse. He recommends doing so by creating an online "my Social Security account" if you haven't already. Or call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213.

Everyone on Medicare should have a new card by April. But to allow for a transition period, doctors can accept the old cards until Dec. 31, 2019, the services agency said.

Q. What should I do with my old Medicare card?

A. Once you receive the new card, you can start taking it to your doctor visits and destroy your old card, the agency advises. Nofziger of AARP recommends using a "confetti" shredder to destroy the old card.

Q. What if I am signing up for Medicare for the first time?

A. New enrollees will receive cards with the new, unique Medicare numbers.

NEW PARKING FINES IN EFFECT

After careful consideration, the Town Commission has ratified the increase in fines for illegal parking violations within the Town. At the September Town Commission meeting, the fines for improper parking were adjusted to reflect the nature of the offense and its impact on the Town residents. Below is a listing of the newly enacted fee schedule for review. Please be mindful of where you park so as to avoid being cited and having to pay these fines!

POLICE			
PARKING TICKET, NO PARKING AS POSTED	$	30.00	54-2
PARKING TICKET, VIOLATION OF TOWN ORDINANCE	$	30.00	54-2
PARKING TICKET, BLOCKING FIRE HYDRANT YELLOW ZONE	$	75.00	54-2
PARKING TICKET, PARKING WITHIN 15' OF FIRE HYDRANT	$	75.00	54-2
PARKING TICKET, PARKING WITHIN 15' OF CORNER	$	75.00	54-2
PARKING TICKET, PARKING WITHIN 15' OF STOP SIGN	$	75.00	54-2
PARKING TICKET, BLOCKING RIGHT OF WAY	$	75.00	54-2
PARKING TICKET, PARKING ON SIDEWALK	$	75.00	54-2
PARKING TICKET, HANDICAP	$	250.00	54-2
PARKING TICKET LATE FEE AFTER 10 DAYS, OTHER THAN HANDICAP	$	10.00	54-2
PARKING TICKET LATE FEE AFTER 10 DAYS, HANDICAP	$	50.00	54-2

SEPTEMBER CRIME PREVENTION INFORMATION FROM LIEUTENANT RICHARD JONES

CONTRACT SERVICES

I am sure that many of you have services completed at your home or business. These services may include cleaning, lawn care, pest control, or any other service that may interest you. While most of the companies that provide these services operate legally and with the right intentions, many do not.

Some of these companies offer you the ability to sign a contract up front, while others do not require a contract.

If you are asked or required to sign a contract, complete your homework about the business you are engaging. Find out if a contract is normally required for that particular service. Once you know the answer to that question, find out if the contract has a clause that requires you to pay early termination fees or not. In addition, check the company's status with the Better Business Bureau (https://www.bbb.org/). I would also suggest that you conduct a search for reviews on the company you are considering. If the reviews are not satisfactory or they tend to have unfavorable complaints with the Better Business Bureau, find a more suitable company in the beginning.

If you conduct your homework as outlined above, this will minimize your exposure to a company that is likely to treat you negatively. I ask that you take these steps to prevent you from being locked into a contract unhappily and to prevent a financial loss.

The reason I chose to address this topic is because I would like to caution each of you of an emerging tactic by these types of companies that can affect you civilly and financially. Some of these companies will provide these types of services initially without a contract, but will later try to convince you that the service will be enhanced or better provided if you sign a contract and provide your debit card or checking account information with an auto payment feature.

What they don't clearly inform you is that the contract also includes the early termination fee or payment for a certain number of services after you terminate the contract. If you do not clearly read these contracts, you will sign them assuming that it is a good decision. Once the contract is signed, the service will likely decrease or become second best and you will likely decide to cancel the service. Once you cancel the service, the company will auto bill you as outlined in the contract.

Although this is a horrible business practice, it is not illegal and becomes a civil matter that restricts the intervention of Law Enforcement. This means that you will likely have to take the company to civil court if you want to recuperate your financial loss.

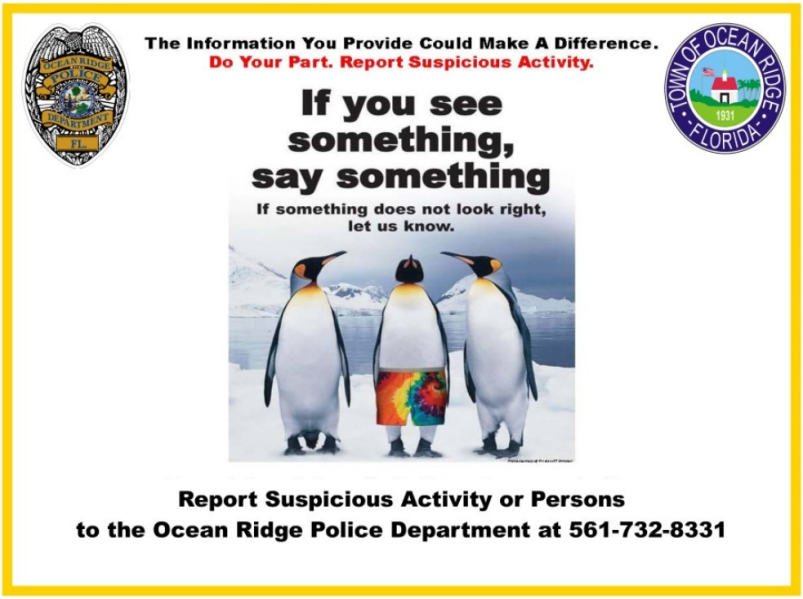
These types of issues can all be avoided through good homework, review processes and dealing with reputable businesses/companies that have a good standing with the Better Business Bureau.

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

And finally,

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

REMEMBER



Volunteer Opportunities

Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup

What: Join the Sand Sifters for beach cleanup!
When: First Saturday of every month. Next cleanup**: October 6**
Where: Oceanfront Park, 6415 N. Ocean Blvd. On A1A, just north of the Ocean Ave. bridge in Ocean Ridge. Meet at the pavilion in the lower parking lot.
Time: 8-10:30AM
Who: Individuals, schools, churches, clubs, businesses, organizations, and families are all encouraged to participate. All ages.
What's provided: Free parking, bags, gloves, and refreshments available to participants only. School and community service volunteer credit forms available.
What to bring: Please bring water, sunscreen and a hat.
Contact: Jeff at JeffLev02@gmail.com / **Social Media:** facebook.com/SWATJIL

Sea Angels Beach Cleanup

What: Join the Sea Angels for beach cleanup!
When: Last Saturday of every month. Next cleanup: **September 29**

Where: Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N. Ocean Blvd. Check in is at the picnic tables next to the snack bar.
Time: 8-10:30AM
Who: Individuals, schools, churches, clubs, businesses, organizations, and families are all encouraged to participate. All ages. Volunteer hours awarded for students.
What to bring: Please bring water, sunscreen and a hat.
Contact: info@seaangels.org / **Website:** seaangels.org

Anthrax Committee

What: Should Ocean Ridge be exposed to an aerosolized airborne anthrax event, Ocean Ridge and FL Dept. of Health will provide needed antibiotics at no cost as part of a program under the auspices of the CDC. Residents are encouraged to become dispensing volunteers.
When: Attend two hours of meetings per year.
Where/Time: TBD.
Who: Ocean Ridge Residents—no experience necessary
Contact: Terri Vinas at vinasfam@aol.com / Volunteer Form

Town Hall Library

What: Shelve and organize books in the Town Library.
When: **Ongoing**
Where: 6450 N. Ocean Blvd. at Town Hall.
Time: Any time between 8:30AM—3PM, Monday—Friday.
Who: Residents of all ages welcome. Those with library experience are encouraged to volunteer.
What's provided: School and community service volunteer credit available.
Contact: Town Hall 561-732-2635