

October 2009



A monthly email newsletter for the residents of Ocean Ridge

Volume 2, Issue 10

Ocean Ridge Tidings



Calendar of Events: October

3	Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup 8-10:30am "Be Green, Halloween Clean"
5	Regular Town Commission Meeting at 6pm
6	Code Enforcement Hearing at 10:00am
12	Columbus Day—Town Hall Closed -Contractor work is permitted -No inspection
31	Halloween -There is no start time in the Town. You may begin trick-or-treating at your own discretion.



Inside every issue

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And more!*

Budget

On September 17, 2009 the Commission adopted its Annual Budget commencing on October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010 which includes General Operating expenditures totaling \$5,222,864 (last year's budgeted amount was \$5,488,484) and a \$160,000 transfer to the Capital Projects Fund to fund drainage improvements on Oceanview/Douglas and also valley gutters on Spanish River Drive. In addition to these drainage improvements the Capital Projects Fund also includes monies to complete the Island Drive Bridge Replacement and Coconut Lane improvements. The Commission reduced the millage that originally appeared on your proposed tax bills from 5.50 to 5.40 for the General Operating Budget. The budget can be reviewed on our website at www.oceanridgeflorida.com

Garbage/Trash Services

Beginning October 1st, Republic Services will begin collecting garbage and trash within the Town limits.

The days for trash collection remain the same as described below:

- * Tuesdays: Regular, vegetation and bulk
- * Fridays: Regular and recycle

If for some reason your trash has not been collected on Tuesdays/Fridays, please call Town Hall immediately at 561-732-2635. The holidays that they do not collect trash are on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Should you need schedule a special pick-up, please call Republic Services directly at 561-478-9590 to arrange.



Activity 510: Floodplain Management Plan Annual Progress Report for the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida August 2009

The purpose of this report is to explain the progress that occurred this past year (2008-2009) in implementing the Town's Stormwater Drainage Plan and what improvements are planned for 2010. As the Town's consulting engineer, Engenuity Group, Inc. prepared this report in conjunction with the Town's NFIP Coordinator. The report briefly reviews the enforcement and maintenance of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, Stormwater Management Plan, and Drainage System Maintenance Standard Operating Procedure.

The Town of Ocean Ridge is a small coastal community in Palm Beach County. The Town adopted the Countywide Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) with Palm Beach County and in 1993 adopted its own Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. The Town's goals have been to educate the residents to become aware of flood warnings, to be more aware of flood safety procedures, enhance flood insurance awareness, and to mitigate drainage issues within the Town.

The Town is an active participant in the County Wide Community Rating System (CRS) and attends monthly meetings. Ocean Ridge continues to update the flood information section on their website, in their newsletters, as well as provide literature at Town Hall. The Town of Ocean Ridge has been verified as a Class 7 rating in the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) as of May 2009 (a positive increase in rating from previous Class 8). NFIP policies issued or renewed for properties in the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) will receive a 15% premium discount.

Copies of the Town's Stormwater Drainage Plan and previous annual progress reports can be found at Town Hall. The report for 2008-2009 will be made available at Town Hall, published on the Town's website www.oceanridgeflorida.com, published in the Ocean Ridge Reporter newspaper, and in the Ocean Ridge Tidings email newsletter. In addition, Palm Beach County is responsible for notification of the LMS to the public and media.

Drainage improvements on Bimini Cove Drive, Eleuthera Drive, and Spanish River Drive were completed in October 2008. The work consisted of replacement of six inlets, 425 feet of pipe, and two outfall valves.

For 2009, planned improvements include construction of a drainage pump station at the west end of Coconut Lane and minor drainage improvements on Harbour Drive.

All catchment grills, basins, outfalls, pipes, swales, ditches and the pump station within the Town are thoroughly inspected quarterly by Engenuity Group, Inc. and recorded in the Ocean Ridge NPDES Inspections booklet by Engenuity Group, Inc. The Town's Public Works Department conducts daily visual checks of catchment grates, swales, ditches, and the two pump stations during their rounds. The Town Hall notifies the Police Department (as needed), Public Works Department and Town Engineer (as needed) when residents notify the Town of any drainage, illicit discharge, and dumping issues. If any action is required, the Town Manager, Public Works Department, and/or the Police Department will inspect, coordinate with the Town Engineer and results annotated on the Drainage System Maintenance Log and recorded by the NFIP/CRS Coordinator. Other inspections and maintenance (NPDES, etc.) logs are kept on file with the Town Engineer.



Street sweeping is conducted quarterly by a contractor. The contractor sweeps a total of 18 curb miles of the total right-of-way (9 miles on each side) and removes an estimated 6 cubic yards of debris each quarter. This is disposed of in the designated Town dumpster which is located behind the Public Works facility.

Approximately 63,360 linear feet of swales/ditches are inspected and maintained.

At the end of the calendar year, an annual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) report is submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

On behalf of the Town, Engenuity Group, Inc. continues to review new construction permit applications for compliance with Town ordinances for drainage, swale construction, and finish floor elevations. Projects increasing their impervious area by over 10 percent are also reviewed to meet the code. The Town's Building Official, Hy-byrd, Inc., also continues to enforce the requirements of our Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance including freeboard of one foot above base elevation.

This report will be presented to the Town Commission at the September 2009 Regular Town Commission Meeting for review and approval. (Update: approved at meeting)

To view the Drainage
Maintenance System
Problem Areas, you may
do so by clicking here,
visiting Town Hall, or
via www.oceanridgeflorida.com.



Police Department News from Lt. Yannuzzi

“Tis the Season”

October marks the beginning of the pilgrimage of those returning from the “Great White North”. As they rush to escape the cooler temperatures, their presence will be felt via the volume of vehicular traffic, lines at our favorite eateries & attractions (even in a slow economy), and increased Calls for Service. The Police Department would ask those who have been getting this monthly newsletter to tell their neighbors about the crime prevention tips that we have shared and to contact Town Hall to subscribe. The extra eyes and ears being watchful for suspicious activity will be beneficial to all. Remember call us immediately when you see something that just doesn’t look right.

Unsolicited Email

In the middle of all the number crunching that was going on during the Town’s Budget process, the Police Department was ecstatic to learn that we were to receive £1,000,000,000 as winners of Britain’s “Microsoft Internet Promotional Lottery”. In a second email, we found out that we had been selected to participate in a business transaction by Lloyds Banking Group, Plc for which we would be awarded £30,000,000 pounds. The final windfall was the offer to assist the “Federal Government of Nigeria Contracts Review Panel” in developing a partnership where we would receive \$400,500,000. **NOT!**



If only it were true. Even the Police Department email system is not immune to receiving these bogus offers; all of which were received within a 2 day period in September. Add to this the criminal intelligence information we receive daily from other law enforcement agencies wherein victims have come forward to report being duped into believing they had won so they actually sent money.

I hate to harp on this topic every month, but unsolicited email is electronic junk mail. What do you do with your junk mail? That’s right; you throw it away without even opening it. Do it with email, too, and do it immediately. Don’t worry, it OK. The Recycle Police won’t come knocking at your door because you put it in the wrong color bin either. The “**key**” to avoiding being victimized is right in front of you and marked **“DELETE”**.



One Year Anniversary

On October 7, 2008, staff moved in the new Town Hall and Police Complex. Everyone is enjoying the new building and we have received many compliments on the architecture. If you have not seen the new building please stop in. Also, the library is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 3pm. You may sign out books and return at your leisure.

Halloween Safety Tips & Tricks

Source: LAFD <http://www.lafd.org/hween.htm>

BEFORE HALLOWEEN:

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.
- Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and trick-or-treat bags for greater visibility.
- When shopping for costumes, wigs and accessories, purchase only those with a label indicating they are flame resistant.
- Think twice before using simulated knives, guns or swords. If such props must be used, be certain they do not appear authentic and are soft and flexible to prevent injury.
- Obtain flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts.
- Plan ahead to use only battery powered lanterns or chemical lightsticks in place of candles in decorations and costumes.
- Teach children their home phone number and to how call 9-1-1 (or their local emergency number) if they have an emergency or become lost. Remind them that 9-1-1 can be dialed free from any phone.
- Review with your children the principle of "Stop-Drop-Roll", should their clothes catch on fire.
- Openly discuss appropriate and inappropriate behavior at Halloween time.
- Take extra effort to eliminate tripping hazards on your porch and walkway. Check around your property for flower pots, low tree limbs, support wires or garden hoses that may prove hazardous to young children rushing from house to house.



BEFORE NIGHTFALL ON HALLOWEEN:

- A good meal prior to parties and trick-or-treating will discourage youngsters from filling up on Halloween treats.
 - Consider fire safety when decorating. Do not overload electrical outlets with holiday lighting or special effects, and do not block exit doors.
 - Agree on a specific time when revelers must return home.
 - Along with flashlights for all, older children and escorts should wear a wristwatch and carry coins for non-emergency phone calls.
- Confine, segregate or otherwise prepare household pets for an evening of frightful sights and sounds. Be sure that all dogs and cats are wearing collars and proper identification tags. Consult your veterinarian for further advice.
- Remind all household drivers to remain cautious and drive slowly throughout the community.
- Adult partygoers should establish and reward a designated driver.

WHEN TRICK-OR-TREATING:

- A Parent or responsible Adult should always accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds.
- Remind Trick-or-Treaters:
 - Only trick-or-treat in well known neighborhoods at homes that have a porch light on.
 - Never enter a stranger's home or car for a treat.
 - Only cross the street as a group in established crosswalks (as recognized by local custom).
 - Never consume unwrapped food items or open beverages that may be offered.
 - No treats are to be eaten until they are thoroughly checked by an Adult at home.



Halloween Safety Tips

No Scaredy Cats This Halloween: Top 10 Safety Tips for Pet Parents

Attention, companion animal caretakers! The ASPCA would like to point out these common-sense cautions that'll help keep your pets safe and stress-free this time of year. If you do suspect your pet has ingested a potentially dangerous substance, please call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435.



1. No tricks, no treats: That bowlful of candy is for trick-or-treaters, not for Scruffy and Fluffy.

- Chocolate in all forms—especially dark or baking chocolate—can be very dangerous for dogs and cats. Symptoms of significant chocolate ingestion may include vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, increased thirst, urination and heart rate—and even seizures.
- Candies containing the artificial sweetener xylitol can be poisonous to dogs. Even small amounts of xylitol sweetener can cause a sudden drop in blood sugar, which leads to depression, lack of coordination and seizures. In cases of significantly low blood sugar, liver failure has been known to occur.
- Ingesting tin foil and cellophane candy wrappers can pose a choking hazard or cause intestinal blockage.

2. Popular Halloween plants such as pumpkins and decorative corn are considered to be relatively nontoxic, yet they can produce gastrointestinal upset should pets ingest them. Intestinal blockage could even occur if large pieces are swallowed.

3. Keep wires and cords from electric lights and other decorations out of reach of your pets. If chewed, your pet could experience damage to his mouth from shards of glass or plastic, or receive a possibly life-threatening electrical shock.

4. A carved pumpkin certainly is festive, but do exercise extreme caution if you choose to add a candle. Pets can easily knock a lit pumpkin over and cause a fire. Curious kittens especially run the risk of getting burned or singed by candle flames.

5. Dress-up can be a big mess-up for some pets. Please don't put your dog or cat in a costume UNLESS you know he or she loves it (yup, a few pets are real hams!). For pets who prefer their "birthday suits," however, wearing a costume can cause undue stress.

6. If you do dress up your pet, make sure the costume isn't annoying or unsafe. It should not constrict the animal's movement or hearing, or impede his ability to breathe, bark or meow. Also try on costumes before the big night. If your pet seems distressed, allergic or shows abnormal behavior, consider letting him go au naturel or donning a festive bandana.

Volunteer Opportunities



Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup: “Be Green, Halloween Clean”



What: Join the Sand Sifters for beach cleanup.

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

Where: Oceanfront Park, 6451 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: Gary Solomon at 561-734-9128

Town Hall Library

What: Shelve and organize books in the Town Library.



When: As needed.

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

Time: Any time between 8:30am—3pm.

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.

Recipe: Frightening Witch Finger Cookies

Source: kraftfoods.com

Ingredients

- 1.25 cups sliced almonds, divided
- 4oz cream cheese, softened
- .5 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1tsp almond extract
- 1/4tsp salt
- 1.5 cups flour

Directions

Heat oven to 325F. Reserve 60 almonds for later use; process remaining nuts in food processor until finely ground. Beat cream cheese, butter, sugar, extract and salt in a large bowl with mixer until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in flour. Stir in almonds. (Dough will be stiff.)

Roll dough into 60 (3inch) fingers, using 1 Tbsp dough each.

Place 2 inches apart on baking sheets sprayed with cooking spray. Press 1 of the reserved almonds into dough 1 end of each finger for the fingernail. Use sharp knife to make 3 crosswise slits in top of each finger for the knuckles.

Bake 15-20 mins or until lightly browned. Cool 3 minutes on baking sheet; carefully transfer to wire racks. Cool completely. Makes 5dozen or 20 servings, 3 cookies each.

