December 2019 Volume 12 Issue 12

Ocean Ridge Tidings

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

The Municipal Election Candidate Qualifying period will be from noon on Monday, December 2 until noon on Friday, December 13. There are two at-large Commissioner seats available for a 3-year term.

The Municipal General Election will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 from 7AM-7PM in the Community Room.

For additional information, please contact Karla Armstrong, Town Clerk, at 561-732-2635.

The Institute for Regional Conservation and the Town of Ocean Ridge held a “Restoring the Gold Coast” Event at Town Hall on November 16th. There was an educational workshop followed by a biodiversity planting on the dune. Below are photos from the planting. Thank you to everyone who participated!

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
Steve Coz
scoz@oceanridgeflorida.com

Vice Mayor
Don MaGruder
dmagruder@oceanridgeflorida.com

Commissioners
Phil Besler
pbesler@oceanridgeflorida.com

Kristine de Haseth
kdehaseth@oceanridgeflorida.com

Susan Hurlburt
shurlburt@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

December

2: Regular Town Commission meeting begins at 6PM in the Commission Chambers.
3: Code Enforcement Hearing begins at 10AM in the Commission Chambers.
4: Book Club meeting begins at 5:45PM in the Community Room.
6: Annual Holiday Celebration 5:30PM—7:30PM
7: Sand Sifters Beach clean-up begins at 10AM in Oceanfront Park.
7: Garden Club Holiday Fundraiser—Poinsettia Sale & Pet Photos with Santa from 2-4PM
9: Planning & Zoning Commission meeting begins at 8:00AM in the Commission Chambers.
20: Parents Night Out Event from 6PM—9PM Registration Required by December 13.
24: Christmas Eve - Town Hall will be closing at noon.
25: Christmas Day - Town Hall closed. There will be no contractor work nor inspections on this day.
28: Sea Angels Beach cleanup from 8AM–10:30AM at Ocean Inlet Park.

January

4: Sand Sifters Beach clean-up begins at 10AM in Oceanfront Park.
6: Regular Town Commission meeting begins at 6PM in the Commission Chambers.
7: Code Enforcement Hearing begins at 10AM in the Commission Chambers.
8: Book Club meeting begins at 5:45PM in the Community Room.
9: Septic to Sewer Citizens' Advisory Committee begins at 8:30AM in the Commission Chambers.
13: Planning & Zoning Commission meeting begins at 8:00AM in the Commission Chambers.
22: BBFD—CPR & Stop the Bleed training begins at 6PM at Town Hall (RSVP by 12/20 dboyle@oceanridgeflorida.com)
25: BBFD—CPR & Stop the Bleed training begins at 9AM at Town Hall (RSVP by 12/20 dboyle@oceanridgeflorida.com)
25: 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 8:00am. 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—December Commission Meeting

Mayor & Commissioners:

The drainage project on Spanish River Drive will resume in early December, as the Town's contactor is unable to properly install the new drainage pipe during periods of extreme high tides, such as the tides we are experiencing now.

Regretfully, we had to say goodbye to our newest Public Works employee, Tim Milligan. He resigned recently due to personal reasons and will be sorely missed, as he did a fantastic job for the town as was well-liked by staff and the residents. We have advertised for the position through several of our resources and are awaiting applications at this time.

We received our compliance letter from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity in reference to our Comprehensive Plan amendments. The compliance letter states that our comp plan amendments meet the requirements of Chapter 163, Part II of the Florida Statutes as defined in Section 163.3184(1)(b) F.S. This will be deemed the final order of compliance unless an affected party challenges it within the timeframe allowed.

Staff has been fielding many phone calls over the past several weeks from concerned residents regarding the severity of beach erosion on their properties. As you know, Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management (ERM) will be conducting a beach restoration project in February that will extend from the Ocean Mews in the North section of the town, to just south of Edith Street in the center of town. I will be actively working with ERM to research long term solutions to the erosion problems. For private property solutions, we are recommending to residents that they hire an Engineer for solutions to protect their property such as installation of a seawall and other dune strengthening projects.

Waste Pro began servicing Ocean Ridge on Tuesday, November 19th for garbage and recycling services and their service thus far has been excellent. They will be rolling out a new notification tool for Town staff to use to communicate with them regarding issues we may have, and the Operations Manager that has been assigned to Ocean Ridge will be stopping by Town Hall each week to check-in with us to make sure everything is running smoothly.

The Septic to Sewer Citizens' Advisory Committee voted at their last meeting to make a presentation to the Town Commission at the January 6th meeting regarding their recommendation to transfer ownership of the Town's potable water infrastructure to the City of Boynton Beach.

Respectfully,

Tracey L. Stevens, Town Manager

Regular Town Commission Meeting Summary

The following is a list of actions taken at the December 2, 2019 Regular Town Commission Meeting. We hope this helps keep our residents informed in a timely fashion regarding Town Commission and Staff activities.

1. Announcements:

- The next Planning & Zoning Commission meeting will be held on December 16th at 8:00 AM at Town Hall. The next Regular Town Commission meeting will be held on January 6th at 6:00 PM at Town Hall.
- Town Hall will close at Noon on December 24th in observance of Christmas Eve, and will be closed on December 25th in observance of Christmas Day. Town Hall will also be closed on January 1st in observance of New Year's Day.
- The Town's Annual Holiday Celebration will be held on Friday, December 6th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall. All Ocean Ridge residents are welcome to attend.
- The second annual toy drive is now underway. Toys can be dropped off in the Police Department lobby until December 9th, and then will be distributed to the children through the Guardian ad Litem Program of Palm Beach County.
- The Town will be hosting "Parent's Night Out" on December 20th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Whether you have last minute holiday shopping to do or just want a night out to yourself, children ages 4 and older are welcome to hang out with us at Town Hall while you do so.
- The Municipal Election will be held on March 17, 2020. There are two Town Commission seats open for a three-year term. Candidate filing dates run from Noon on December 2, 2019 through Noon on December 13, 2019 in the Town Clerk's Office. / La Elección Municipal se celebrará el 17 de marzo de 2020. Hay dos asientos de la Comisión de la Ciudad abiertos por un período de tres años. Las fechas de presentación de candidatos se extenderán desde el mediodía del 2 de diciembre de 2019 hasta el mediodía del 13 de diciembre de 2019 en la Oficina del Secretario de la Ciudad.
- The Town has launched the new alert system Civic Ready. Residents who wish to sign up to receive Town notifications should sign up on the Town's website or call Town Hall for assistance.

2. Adopted the Minutes of the Regular Town Commission Meeting of November 4, 2019.

3. Adopted Resolution No. 2019-26: Approving a Utility Easement for 94 Island Drive South.

4. Approved the Budgeted Expenditure of up to $12,750 for the Annual Coconut Trimming on Public Property and Town Rights-of-Way.

5. Approved the Budgeted Expenditure of up to $7,000 for the Purchase of an ATV for the Police Department.

6. Approved Beach Sign Option #4 to be installed on the beach South of Ocean Inlet Park; North of Hammock Park; South of Oceanfront Park; and North of Briny Breezes. The sign will state "End of Public Beach. Please respect private property. Thank you" along with Town logo underneath.

7. Adopted Resolution No. 2019-23: Amending the Employee Handbook.

8. Adopted Resolution No. 2019-24: Expressing the Town of Ocean Ridge's Opposition to Offshore Drilling Activities, Including Seismic Air-gun Blasting.

9. Adopted Resolution No. 2019-25: Moving the Date for the Municipal Election to be Held Concurrent with the Presidential Preference Primary Election.

10. Authorized staff to process the Release of Unity of Title Covenant for 94 Island Drive South conditioned upon the owner complying with all the Town's requirements as stated in the project narrative, with the understanding that the last two items listed in the project narrative will be completed during the building process after a building permit is issued, and prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy by the Building Official.

11. Approved the Legal Services Agreement with Roberts, Reynolds, Bedard & Tuzzio, PLLC to defend the Town of Ocean Ridge in a lawsuit once the town's insurance policy maximum expenditure is met.

12. Adopted the First Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-14: Clarifying the Maximum Finished Floor Elevation.

13. Directed Town staff to work with the Town Planner to address comments regarding Ordinance No. 2019-15: Providing For Regulations Regarding Artificial Turf/Synthetic Grass, and to re-submit the ordinance to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Regular Town Commission Meeting Summary

14. Approved the Department of Environmental Resource Management's Request to work 24/7 during the Ocean Ridge Protection Project scheduled to occur in February 2020.

THE TOWN COMMISSION WILL HOLD A REGULAR TOWN COMMISSION MEETING ON MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. AT TOWN HALL.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DECEMBER 19TH, 2019 SEPTIC TO SEWER CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS BEEN CANCELLED. THE NEXT SCHEDULED SEPTIC TO SEWER CITIZENS' ADVISOY COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 9TH, 2020 BEGINNING AT 8:30AM.

Community News

The Palm Beach County Bookmobile is coming to Town Hall

Browse through more than 3,000 books – adult and children's, fiction and nonfiction, regular and large-print.

Starting every other Monday, 3:45-4:15pm

Nov 12 (Special Tuesday stop), Nov 25, Dec 9, Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 2, Mar 16, Mar 20, Apr 13, Apr 27

Learn More: www.pbclibrary.org

Community

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

Call 561-732-8331
dispatch@oceanridgeflorida.com

Rental Registrations

In 2014, the Town Commission adopted Ordinance 608 which requires anyone renting their property, other than those with governing boards and/or homeowner's associations, to register with the Town.

Renewal letters were mailed at the beginning of November to owners currently on the rental registration list. All new rental properties will need to register at this time. All properties being rented can be included on the same registration form. The annual fee (January 2020-December 2020) is $35.00 (cash or check only). The ordinance and rental registration form are available on the Town's website. If you have any questions, please call Town Hall at 561-732-2635.

Ocean Ridge Garden Club News

Holiday Fundraiser
Poinsettia Sale

Saturday, December 7th from 2- 4

Ocean Ridge Town Hall
6450 North Ocean Blvd.

6" / $8.00 ea or 2 for $15.00

10" / $25.00 ea or 2 for $40.00

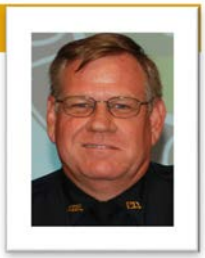
17" will be available for special order

"BRING YOUR PETS FOR FUN PHOTOS WITH SANTA"

We will also have a opportunity during the event for pet photos with Santa. The charge for this is discretionary and by donation

Ocean Ridge Police Department News

By Hal C. Hutchins, Chief of Police



Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Veteran's Day Celebration and the Dessert Social in the month of November!

Both events were a huge success. Special thanks go out to the Ocean Ridge Garden Club and Ocean Ridge Public Safety Support Group volunteers for making the Veteran's Day Celebration a great success.

Special thanks to Officer Boyle for organizing the event; and especially for, the homemade desserts that were the highlight of our Ocean Ridge PD desert Social on November 13th.

We look forward to many more events like these in the future.

THE SEASON IS HERE

The season is upon us. For all of you, who have been away, welcome back!

As always, we like to remind everyone that now is a great time to update your information with the Police Department regarding emergency contacts and any other changes that may have occurred over the summer. Please feel free to call or stop by the dispatch center at your convenience should you need to update information or a key we may have on file. We are open twenty-four hours a day to serve you.

CRIME PREVENTION

Over the past several weeks, we have experienced an uptick in crimes as a result of folks being scammed over the internet, telephone, in person and having packages stolen. Please be especially vigilant this time of year, as we know everyone seems to be in a hurry and tend to let their guard down.

KEEPING OUR TOWN BEAUTIFUL

With the upcoming season, we are seeing an increase in garbage and trash placed roadside. Please be aware that garbage and trash should be placed as close to the curbside as possible **on the property from which the trash and garbage was generated** so as not to obstruct the roadway or public right of way. Yard trash created as the result of yard services or contractors should be removed by the contractor.

Please remember that it is your responsibility as a property owner to maintain your property in accordance with all town codes especially those relating to maintenance and appearance standards.

Additional information on these and many other subjects is available on the Town website at http://www.oceanridgeflorida.com in the new resident information handbook. This handbook is also a great source of information regarding many activities and goings on within the Town.

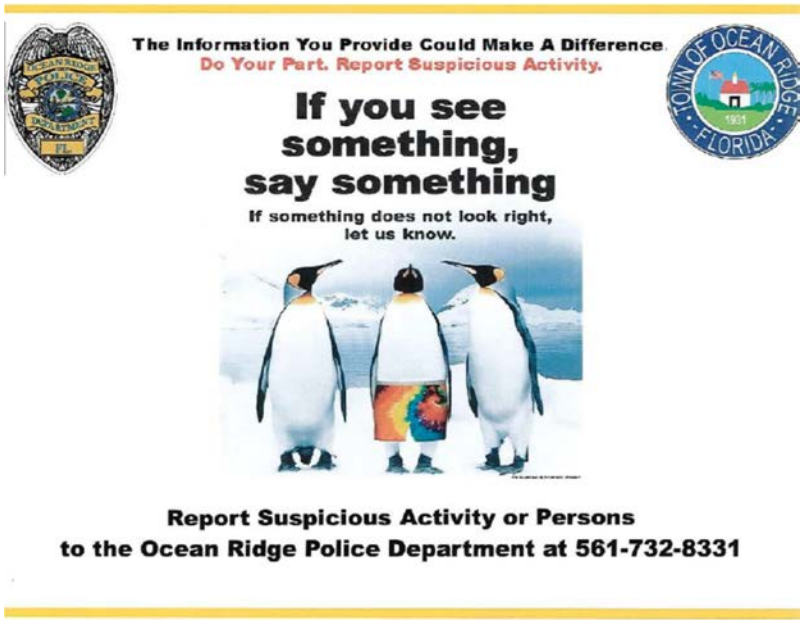
As always, should you have questions or concerns, I and every member of your Police Department are available and you are welcome to call or stop in anytime and visit.

And finally; As Always,

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

REMEMBER

“IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING”



December's Crime Prevention Information From Lieutenant Richard Jones

KNOW WHO YOU HIRE AND WHO ACCESSES YOUR HOME

As the New Year approaches so very quickly, I just want to remind you about the importance of home security. None of us would intentionally allow strangers in our home, but how much do you really know about the people you hire to care for your home, animals or even your children?

It is very important for you to know and clearly define who has access to your home. Do your homework on the companies and individuals that you hire to complete work on or within your home. In addition to this, make sure that you also do your homework on everyone who has access to your home.

Your homework can be as simple as identifying and meeting the people or as elaborate and completing background checks, using the Florida Department of Law Enforcement as well as conducting public records requests from local law enforcement agencies. Most local law enforcement agencies maintain records management systems that allow them to provide the general public with information about law enforcement encounters with people. These encounters may help you to determine whether or not you want to allow this person into your home.

Remember that many people are looking for easy targets. Why burglarize a home when you are invited by the owner or even given the keys, gate code and alarm code?

Most people have personal belongings that are not just valuable, but also have sentimental value and cannot be easily replaced. Don't risk leaving your home unprotected, spend the time and effort doing your homework in the beginning and it will save you time and money in the long run.

Ocean Ridge Police Department News

Hal C. Hutchins, Chief of Police

Criminal Activity

Here is a listing of significant crime/code enforcement/suspicious activity reported to ORPD in November 2019 for both Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes:

Type of Incident	Report Date	Time Frame	Location	Synopsis
Fraud	11/5/2019	11/5/2019 @11:15am	5900 Blk. Old Ocean	Telephone scam for $10,000.00. Money recovered due to quick thinking resident.
Juvenile Trouble	11/10/2019	11/10/2019 @11:00pm	Briny Breezes Beach	Juveniles discovered with contraband. Turned over to parents.
Dog Bite	11/14/2019	11/14/2019 @9:00am	6100 North Ocean Blvd	Walker bitten by dog. Investigation turned over to Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control.
Vacation Rental Violation	11/26/2019	11/26/2019	120 Dolphin Road	Home rented for less than 30 days. Repeat offender. Owner cited to appear before Magistrate.
Fraud Identity Theft	11/26/2019	11/26/2019	River Dr.	Driver License and Comcast account compromised and taken over for purpose of fraud.

In addition to the above listed activity and regular patrols of the beaches and roadways; officers conducted traffic and code enforcement activities throughout the Town.

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 and closing garage doors when away from these areas.

OCEAN RIDGE PD

2ND ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS TOY DROP OFF

TOYS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE
OCEAN RIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT LOBBY
OCT 14 – DEC 9

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

LAST YEAR WAS A HUGE SUCCESS THAT BROUGHT MANY BRIGHT SMILES, THANKS TO OUR WONDERFUL RESIDENTS

THE TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE

Invites you to our

ANNUAL HOLIDAY EVENT

Friday, December 6, 2019
5:30PM – 7:30PM

Ocean Ridge Town Hall
6450 N. Ocean Blvd

Ocean Ridge Residents Only

Snow
Santa
Food & Beverages
and More!

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT HOLIDAY EDITION

AT OCEAN RIDGE TOWN HALL

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH • 6 – 9PM

Whether you have to get some last minute shopping done or you just want a night to yourself, this is your opportunity!

Kids ages 4 and older welcome!

Ocean Ridge Residents Only

EVENING INCLUDES

Pizza, dessert, and Beverage!

Movie, crafts, games!

To register contact

dboyle@oceanridgeflorida.com or

jsimpson@oceanridgeflorida.com

Proof of residency will be required

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

Ocean Ridge P.D.

Invites You to CPR & Stop the Bleed Training

When: January 22, 2020 @ 6pm or
January 25, 2020 at 9am

Where: Town Hall
6450 N Ocean Blvd

Taught by: Boynton Beach Fire Dept.

Please RSVP to:
dboyle@oceanridgeflorida.com
By: December 20, 2019

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

Program Benefits:

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

I, _____, wish to volunteer.

My address is:

_____

_____

_____

My email address is:

_____

_____

_____

My phone number is: _____

Best time to call is: _____ Morning _____ Evening

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup

What: Join the Sand Sifters for beach cleanup!
When: First Saturday of every month. Next cleanup**: December 7**
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: **December 28**

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

Closed POD Program Committee

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

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