

Ocean Ridge Tidings

A monthly email newsletter for the residents of Ocean Ridge

2010 Municipal Election Information

The 2010 Municipal Election will be held on March 9, 2010 from 7am to 7pm in the Town Hall Community Room. One Commission seat is open for a three-year term. Candidate filing dates run from January 29, 2010 through February 12, 2010. Should you have any questions or need additional information please call Town Hall at 561-732-2635.

Art Comes to the Ocean Ridge Town Hall

By John Wootton

Since its official inauguration in October 7, 2008, the walls of the new Town Hall of Ocean Ridge have been bare. That is about to change.

A small group of Ocean Ridge residents have gotten together and have found three area artists who will be showing their work and the walls will be bare no more, at least for two months. In December of 2009 the Town Commissioners unanimously voted to purchase a gallery rail system that will be added to the walls in the entrance as well as the Commission chambers.

Olga Moore's watercolors and a number of Max Matterson's oils will go on display as well as Steven Greenhut's sculpture. Ms. Moore and Mr. Matteson have shown their work both nationally and internationally. All of their pieces will be available for sale with the exception of Mr. Greenhut's bronzes which are sold out in limited edition.

The official opening on February 25, 2010 is open to the public from 6pm to 8pm. Wine will be served and the artists will be present to answer questions and talk about their work. Ms. Moore and Mr. Matteson have offered works for silent auction that evening. All proceeds will be tax deductible and go to the support of public art in Ocean Ridge. Contributions will be accepted with gratitude.

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New Police Chief

On March 31, Police Chief Ed Hillery will be retiring after 17 years. Both Chief Hillery and Town Manager Ken Schenck recommended Lt. Chris Yannuzzi as Chief Hillery's replacement and the Town Commission confirmed the appointment at the February 1, 2010 Regular Town Commission Meeting.



In the 3.5 years that Lt. Yannuzzi has been with Ocean Ridge he has proven his value and abilities in (continued on page 3)



February 2010

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<p><i>1</i></p> <p><i>Regular Town Commission Mtg</i> 6pm</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p><i>Code Enforcement Hearing (tentative)</i> 10am</p>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p><i>Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup, Blood Drive, Pie Giveaway</i> 8-10:15am</p>	
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	
<i>14</i>	<p><i>15</i></p> <p><i>President's Day</i> - Town Hall Closed</p> 	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	
<p><i>Happy Valentine's Day</i></p> 	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<p><i>25</i></p> <p><i>Art Exhibit Event at Town Hall</i> 6pm-8pm</p>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i>							

FPL Line Clearing

Over the next few weeks, FPL will be clearing lines in the Town. They will be clearing branches and limbs that can potentially become safety hazards and cause power outages by leaning on or falling upon the power lines. The trees will be trimmed in a way that redirects new growth away power lines. Select palms and other fast growing vegetation that cannot be effectively maintained by trimming may also have to be removed. (FPL VM Letter Jan. 8, 2010)

Please provide FPL access to trees near the power lines behind your property. If access to your property is required, a contractor will contact you personally or leave a note at your door in advance of any work. Please do not attempt to trim any trees or vegetation growing on or near the power lines as they are trimmed by specially-trained line clearing professionals. (FPL VM Letter Jan. 8, 2010)

If you would like to learn about FPL's Vegetation Management program go to www.FPL.com/trees. If you have any questions about this article please call Vegetation Management at 866-274-9098. Also, please see page 6 for information regarding Florida Law as it pertains to yielding to construction workers.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

Get your 2009 income taxes prepared for free at one of United Way of Palm Beach County's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites. This free tax service is available to those who earn \$49,000 or less a year.

Last year, more than 9,500 Palm Beach County residents used VITA site to file their taxes, and received more than \$15 million in refunds, including \$5.6 million in Earned Income Tax refunds. In addition, the VITA Program saved Palm Beach County residents \$1 million in fees that would have gone to tax preparation companies.

VITA sites are staffed by IRS-trained and certified volunteers. Some VITA sites offer weeknight and weekend hours. Tax returns are e-filed so you can have your refund checks within 10-14 days.

To find a VITA site, call 2-1-1, the county's information and referral line. An updated list of VITA sites is posted at www.unitedwaypbc.org. Click on the "Taxes Done Free" image.

(continued from page 1)

numerous ways including but not limited to:

- being primary liaison with the architect and contractor during construction of the new Town Hall and Police Complex,
- overseeing computer/telephone systems
- as former primary investigator cleaned up old cases and effectively handled new cases

-assisted the Chief in daily operations of the Police Dept.

-promoted to Lieutenant and has taken on more duties with the pending retirement of Chief Hillery

Lt. Yannuzzi's 36 years experience in police work have made him extremely qualified in all aspects of police work to assume the position of Police Chief.

Permit Penalties Increase

At the February Regular Town Commission meeting, the Commission approved Ordinance 585, amending Chapter 67, Article III, Section 67-58©, providing penalties for commencing any work on a building or structure before obtaining the necessary permits. This means that if a permit is required to do work in your home or multi-family unit, then you (if applicable) or your contractor must obtain permit prior to beginning work. If work begins without a permit then the following penalties will apply:

(c) If any person commences any work on a building or structure before obtaining the necessary permit under this article, the fee for the permit, when obtained, shall be double the total amount of the permit fee otherwise required plus \$200.00 if the total cost of the work on a building or structure is equal to or less than \$5,000, and four times the total amount of the permit fee otherwise required if the total cost of the work on a building or structure exceeds \$5,000.

In last months newsletter, we included the General Permitting Information flyer that provided information on some types of work that required permits. If you would like to view that flyer, please click [here](#). If you have any questions on permitting, please call Town Hall at 561-732-2635.

Fish & Wildlife Reports & Violations

Report any fish and wildlife violations to 888-404-3922 or myfwc.com/contact. You may also use the following numbers for specific reporting:

- * For bird entanglements call 888-404-3922. For aquatic toxins call 888-232-8635.
- * For fish kills call 800-636-0511.
- * To report fish tags call 800-367-4461.
- * To report nuisance alligator call 866-392-4286.
- * To report a violation online go to: http://myfwc.com/About/LE/About_LE_Alert.htm and click on report violation.



Street Light Out?

Reporting street lights that are not working properly or not at all is as easy as calling 800-4OUTAGE (1-800-468-8243) or reporting it online at http://www.fpl.com/customer/report/streetlight_single.shtml. The online form asks only a few questions including the type of light (usually open bottom or cobrahead), location of the light, and contact information. You should receive a confirmation email and status updates.

Ask the Town Manager!

The Town Manager would like to answer your questions pertaining to the Town. This is a new column that will be added to the newsletter each month or as often as there are questions submitted. Just send your question to ocean-ridge@comcast.net.



The questionnaire below was mailed along with garbage/trash and alarm bills. If you did not receive one and would like to express your vote for/against the Natural Gas Program, please fill out and return to Town Hall.

Questionnaire on Natural Gas

The Town Commission is considering applying for a State energy grant to bring natural gas lines into the Town. The estimated cost of the project is \$900,000. This will enable us to construct the main lines in the streets of the Town. The connections to the homes and any conversions required in the home will be the responsibility of the homeowner. The average connection cost is estimated between \$500 and \$1,000. Additional costs to make the necessary changes in the home will vary depending on the individual needs. There may be rebates available to assist the homeowner with the cost. These vary depending on what utilities are actually being connected.

As the grant will not pay for the entire construction cost the remainder would be funded through the Town's reserves or a loan. Therefore, the Commission is requesting your input on the interest in the Town to provide this additional service.

We anticipate the grant cycle will begin in March but the State hasn't set a definitive timetable. As this is a short time frame we would appreciate your comments as soon as possible. You may respond by mail, telephone or email. We greatly appreciate your input as this is a major undertaking for the Town. On behalf of the Town Commission, thank you.

Sincerely,
Ken Schenck
Town Manager

I'm interested in the natural gas program and desire the Town to pursue the project.

I'm not interested in the natural gas program.

Address: _____

Ocean Ridge Town Hall
6450 N. Ocean Blvd.
Ocean Ridge, Fl. 33435

561-732-2635

Email: info@oceanridgeflorida.com

Census Workers Identification Information

HOW TO VERIFY EMPLOYMENT

Each temporary decennial Census employee will have an official identification card with the employee's signature and an expiration date. Identification cards for temporary decennial employees do not include a photograph (Sample 1). Regional level employees' identification cards will have the bearer's photograph and expiration date. In addition, Field office managers will have the bearer's photograph and expiration date (Samples 2 & 3).

TEMPORARY DECENNIAL FIELD / OFFICE EMPLOYEES



TO VERIFY AN EMPLOYEE WITH THIS TYPE OF ID:
U.S. Census Bureau, Regional Census Center
One Beacon Street, 7th Floor
Boston, MA 02108-3107
(888) 715-2301

PERMANENT / TEMPORARY REGIONAL LEVEL STAFF AND TEMPORARY FIELD OFFICE MANAGERS



TO VERIFY AN EMPLOYEE WITH THIS TYPE OF ID:
U.S. Census Bureau, Regional Office
4 Copley Place, Suite 301 / P.O. Box 9108
Boston, MA 02117-9108
(617) 424-4501

SHOULD THE PUBLIC BE CONCERNED/HOW ARE CENSUS DATA PROTECTED?

Federal law protects your privacy and keeps your answers confidential (Title 13, United States Code, Sections 9 and 214). The answers you give on the census form cannot be obtained by law enforcement or tax collection agencies. Your answers cannot be used in court. They cannot be obtained with a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. As allowed by law, census data becomes public after 72 years (Title 44, United States Code, Section 2108).

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

United States
Census
2010

Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup, Blood Drive & Pie Give-Away!

Saturday February 6, 2010

Beach Cleanup: Sand Sifters Volunteers

"Be Green, Start Clean, Don't Litter"

Monthly Beach Cleanup

Blood Drive: Community Blood Center of South Florida

"Give a Heart Save a Life!"

All Blood Donors will Receive

Iron & Cholesterol Screenings

Mini Physicals, Plus GREAT GIVEAWAYS!

Free Pie Give-Away!: Commemorate "National Pie Day"

"Beautify for a Pie"

30 Pies to Give-Away!

Receive a Ticket at Registration Table

Drawing Promptly at 10:15am.

Where: Oceanfront Park

6415 N. Ocean Blvd. (A1A)

Ocean Ridge, Fl.

Just north of the Ocean Avenue Bridge.

Meet at the Pavilion in the Lower
parking Lot

Sign In 8:00-9:00am

Your Promptness is Greatly Appreciated.

Event Ends 10:15am

Community Service Hours Awarded.

Pre-Registration:

GSolomon@SandSifters.org

(561)734-9128

Visit our Website:

www.SandSifters.org

Sponsors:

Sand Sifters Volunteers

City of Boynton Beach Recreation & Parks Department

Town of Ocean Ridge

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation Department

American Pie Council (www.PieCouncil.org)

Publix Supermarkets

Community Blood Centers of South Florida

Police Department News from Lt. Yannuzzi

Criminal Activity

In recent weeks, residents of Ocean Ridge have been victimized by an Auto Burglar who had struck locations in the south end of the Town, in Briny Breezes and in parts of Boynton Beach – a total of approx. 20 crimes. Each of these cases involved unlocked vehicles – a problem that I have written about on a number of occasions. The majority of the stolen property included GPS devices and cash. When ORPD Inv. Hal Hutchins received the reports, he began an in depth review of all of these incidents. Utilizing our connectivity to available computer records from other jurisdictions, Inv. Hutchins located several GPS devices that had been pawned by one person: Benjamin Friedman, 21 yoa, of 5000 N. Ocean Blvd., #A-5, a Briny Breezes mobile home.

Inv. Hutchins contacted detectives with the Boynton Beach Police Department and provided them with the results of his research. Within a matter of hours, Friedman was located by Inv. Hutchins and taken into custody. This eventually led to his being charged with several felony crimes.

As of this writing, the joint investigation by ORPD and BBPD continues; however, two Ocean Ridge resident/victims have been advised of the recovery of their property. Additional charges are pending against Friedman and others.

In closing it should be noted that forced entry into these vehicles was not necessary. During his interview, Friedman indicated that he simply tried door handles and only entered those vehicles that were left open. Those vehicles that were locked were left alone.

PLEASE HELP US HELP YOU BY LOCKING YOUR DOORS.

FPL: Routine Maintenance

During the next 2-4 weeks, FPL will be conducting routine maintenance along A1A (North Ocean Blvd.). Travelers along this route may experience delays as the work being performed involves large trucks from Asplundh Tree Experts. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Please remember that under Florida Law, you must follow the directions of the flagperson when encountering such construction areas:

316.079 Duty to yield to highway construction workers.--

(1) Every driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian worker and flagperson engaged in maintenance or construction work on a highway whenever the driver is reasonably and lawfully notified of the presence of such worker by a flagperson and a warning sign or device.

This is a moving violation: Fine \$166.00 and 3 Points.

Police Department News from Lt. Yannuzzi

Unauthorized Charges Showing Up on Bank Statements Across The Country

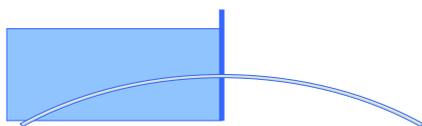
Scores of consumers are opening their monthly checking account statements to find that their accounts have been debited electronically without their consent. These charges come in the form of electronic checks and range from \$10.00 to \$40.00. So far, the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) has received more than 400 complaints from unsuspecting consumers nationwide.

On the electronic check is the name of a business, an 800 number to call and a reference number. When the victim calls the number, an operator claiming to be based in Nicosia, Cyprus informs him or her that the charge was levied by an adult website. Fortunately, most victims who call to refute the charges are usually refunded their money. Many victims, however, fail to even notice the bogus transactions, let alone call to contact them.

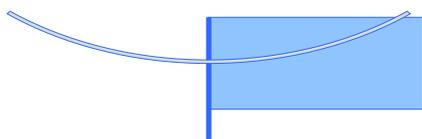
The victims' computer may have been compromised by some form of malware (i.e.: hijacker, keylogger, etc.) which allowed unauthorized users to gain access to private bank account or other information. To help eliminate the threat, the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) urges consumers to avoid clicking on any email attachments delivered to either work or home addresses from unknown sources. They should also closely monitor their monthly bank statements for any irregularities.

If you have been victimized by this scam, NW3C recommends that you contact your local police department and then file a complaint with IC3 at www.ic3.gov IC3 works with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to follow-up on such complaints.

(Article courtesy of NW3C: Released January 5, 2010)



**Call the Citizen Information
Line at 561-738-ORFL (6735)
for alerts and updates.**



Pet Owners: For your animal's safety and the safety of your neighbors, please remember to secure your pets by a collar and leash as you walk them around the Town and especially on Old Ocean Blvd. where pedestrian traffic is heavy. Thank you.

Volunteer Opportunities

Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup: “Beach Clean Up, Blood Drive, & Pie Giveaway”

What: Join the Sand Sifters for beach cleanup. All Blood Donors will receive iron & cholesterol screenings, mini physicals, plus great giveaways! 30 Pies to Give-Away! Receive a ticket at the registration table. Drawing promptly at 10:15am.



When: First Saturday of every month. Next cleanup: **February 6th**

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: 8-10:15am

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: Marshmallow Cherries

Source: kraftfoods.com

Ingredients

1pkg Baker's semi-sweet chocolate (8oz)

16 maraschino cherries with stems

16 marshmallows

Directions

Melt chocolate in small saucepan on low heat, stirring occasionally. Place in small bowl; cool slightly. Meanwhile, drain cherries and thoroughly dry.

Make an indentation in each marshmallow with your finger, then insert 1 of the cherries into the hole, leaving 1/3 of the stem end of the cherry exposed. Using a fork to support the bottom of the marshmallow, dip the marshmallow into the chocolate, turning to evenly coat the cherry. Gently shake off excess chocolate.

Place on wax paper-covered baking sheet; cover. Refrigerate 20 to 30 minutes or until set. Store in airtight container in refrigerator.

