

Ocean Ridge Tidings

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

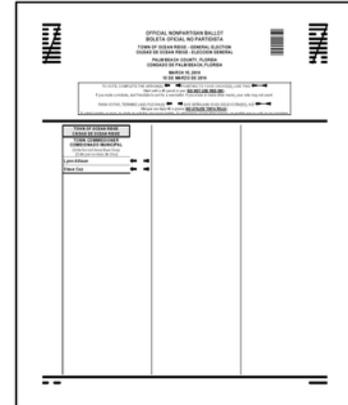


Municipal Election Information

The 2016 Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, coinciding with the Presidential Primary Election handled by the PBC Supervisor of Elections. Polls will be open from 7:00AM to 7:00PM in the Town Hall community room. Lynn Allison (incumbent) and Steve Coz qualified as candidates for the one open seat prior to the Dec. 8th deadline. The qualifying period was earlier this year due to the federal and state requirements relating to absentee ballot mailing requirements. For absentee ballots and other voting inquiries, please call the County Supervisor of Elections at 561-656-6200. For full size version of sample ballot:

<http://bit.ly/1KWNuMo>

SAMPLE BALLOT - MUESTRA DE BOLETA



YOUR POLLING LOCATION is listed on your Voter ID Card. You must notify the Elections Office if you move from the address listed on your Voter ID Card. If you are unsure of the polling location of your new Precinct, call 561-656-6200.
The polls are open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P. M. on Election Day.
 SU CENTRO ELECTORAL está nombrado en su Tarjeta de Identificación Electoral. Tenga que informar a la Oficina de Elecciones si se muda de la dirección nombrada en su Tarjeta de Identificación Electoral. Si no está seguro del lugar donde debe votar en su nuevo distrito electoral, llame al 561-656-6200.
LAS URNAS ESTAN ABIERTAS DE LAS 7 AM A LAS 7 PM EL DIA DE LAS ELECCIONES.
 CURRENT AND VALID PICTURE AND SIGNATURE ID IS REQUIRED when you go to your polling place to vote. Each elector is required to present a current and valid Florida Driver's License, a Florida Identification Card or any other acceptable picture ID listed under F.S. 101.043.
 SE REQUIERE IDENTIFICACION VALIDA Y VIGENTE CON SU FOTOGRAFIA Y FIRMA cuando usted va a su centro de votación a emitir su voto. Cada elector deberá presentar la licencia de conducir de la Florida, Tarjeta de identificación de la Florida válida y vigente o cualquier otra identificación con foto aceptable bajo la regla del FS 101.043.

Old Ocean Boulevard Workshop Meeting

The Town Commission Workshop Meeting to discuss possibly converting Old Ocean Blvd. to one way and also possibly closing several streets to Old Ocean Blvd. was held on January 26, 2016. The Commission wants to thank the residents of the Town of Ocean Ridge for the wonderful participation in this workshop. Staff has gathered information from the meeting and will be making recommendations at an upcoming Town Commission meeting.

Public Hearing

The Town Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 6:00 PM at Town Hall regarding an application submitted by, Everlast Realty LLC, a Massachusetts Limited Liability Co., and John Lauring, Mark Lauring, James Lauring, and Mayanne Seibold, as Successors Co-Trustees of the Sunshine Estate Trust, 23 Brigham Rd., Worcester MA 01609 and 94 Island Drive So., Ocean Ridge FL 33435, requesting a Public Hearing regarding the provisions of the Land Development Code at Chapter 64; Zoning, Article 5; Subdivisions; Sections 64-100 through 64-105 pertaining to replatting requirements. The applicants are requesting to replat 3 single family lots into 3 new reconfigured single family lots. All 3 lots will meet the zoning requirements for the RSF – Residential Single Family District. The 3 properties are comprised of (a) Lot 92 and a portion of Lot 93 and (b) the remaining portion of Lot 93 and Lot 94 in the McCormick Mile Add No 1 Subdivision or 92-94 Island Drive South (exact legal description located at Town Hall). The request will also require a Release of Unity of Title and Release of a Recorded Easement/s. (Continued from the Nov. 2, 2015 Regular Meeting.)



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

Mayor

Geoffrey Pugh

Vice Mayor

Dr. Lynn Allison

Commissioners

Gail Adams Aaskov

James Bonfiglio

Richard Lucibella

Mayor & Commissioners email

info@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

February:

- 1: Regular Town Commission meeting begins 6PM in chambers
- 3: Book Club meeting from 5:45PM-7PM in community room
- 6: Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup at Oceanfront Park from 8AM-10:15AM
- 11: Lecture Series begins at 7PM in chambers
- 15: President's Day—Town Hall closed, no inspections but contractors may work
- 17: Coffee with a Cop from 7:30AM-9:30AM at Town Hall
- 27: Sea Angels Beach Cleanup from 8AM-10:30AM at Ocean Inlet Park

March:

- 1: Code Enforcement Hearing begins 10AM in chambers
- 2: Book Club meeting from 5:45PM-7PM in community room
- 3: Coastal Artists Exhibit & Reception from 6PM-8PM at Town Hall
- 5: Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup at Oceanfront Park from 8AM-10:15AM
- 7: Regular Town Commission meeting begins 6PM in chambers
- 10: Lecture Series begins at 7PM in chambers
- 13: Daylight Saving Time Begins (turn clock forward one hour)
- 14: Planning & Zoning meeting begins at 8:30AM in chambers
- 26: 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 Hearings meet 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. 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."

February's Regular Town Commission Meeting Summary

The following is a list of actions taken at the February 1, 2016 Town Commission meeting:

1. Approved the Regular Town Commission Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2016.
2. Approved the Special Town Commission Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2016.
3. Announced that the Administrative Offices will be closed on Monday, February 15, 2016 for the official President's Day Holiday.
4. Announced the Municipal Election to be held on March 15, 2016/Anunció la elección Municipal que se celebrará el 15 de marzo de 2016.
5. Signed a Proclamation declaring February 22-28, 2016 as "Eating Disorders Awareness Week".
6. Continued the Re-plat Application for Lots 92-94 Island Drive South to the March 7, 2016 Regular Town Commission Meeting.
7. Approved Resolution No. 2016-02; Approving an Agreement with the Law Firm of Torcivia, Donlon, Goddeau & Ansay, PA for Town Attorney Services.
8. Approved Resolution No. 2016-03; Appointing Jennifer Ashton, Esq. as the Ex-Officio Code Enforcement Special Magistrate for the Town of Ocean Ridge, and Appointing all other Attorneys of the law firm Corbett, White, Davis & Ashton, P.A. as Alternate Ex-Officio Special Magistrates to serve and preside over Code Enforcement hearings in the absence of Jennifer Ashton.
9. Passed Ordinance No. 614; Changing the date of the Town's Election in 2016 from the second Tuesday of March to March 15, 2016 which is the date of the Presidential Preference Primary Election Date/Aprobada Ordenanza N° 614; Cambiar la fecha de la elección de la ciudad en 2016 de los segundo martes de marzo a Marzo 15, 2016 que es la fecha de la fecha de la elección primaria de preferencia presidencial.
10. Police Chief Hutchins gave an update on the LPR cameras, and will gather more information for the next budget cycle.
11. Staff to follow up on complaint by Justice Brown regarding Republic Services removing his garbage bin and replacing it with a recycling bin.
12. Town Manager Titcomb will be following up on research regarding who will be paying for the water main issues due to the tornado that hit Ocean Ridge last week.
13. Consensus of the Commission to co-sponsor the Palm Beach County League of Cities meeting to be held in February in Atlantis in the amount of \$500, to be taken from GL 519.106.504.900, Other Current Charges.
14. Town Manager Titcomb to bring more information back to the Commission regarding the County sales tax increase.
15. Commissioners to meet with Town Manager Titcomb one-on-one regarding their thoughts on the Old Ocean Boulevard project. Manager Titcomb will analyze all information and present recommendations to the Commission an upcoming meeting.

THE NEXT REGULAR TOWN COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M. AT TOWN HALL.

Welcome to Our New Town Attorney & Special Magistrate

The Town Commission, at its February 1, 2016 meeting, appointed Glen Torcivia with the law firm Torcivia, Donlon, Goddeau & Ansay, P.A. as the Town's new Town Attorney.

The Town Commission also appointed Jennifer Ashton of the law firm Corbett, White, Davis & Ashton, P.A. as the Town's new Ex-Officio Code Enforcement Special Magistrate.

Please give Mr. Torcivia and Ms. Ashton a warm welcome to the Town of Ocean Ridge!

Ocean Ridge Coastal Artists: Hello Art Lovers!

By Nancy Flinn

The Ocean Ridge Coastal Artists will launch the 2016 Art Exhibit and Opening Reception on Thursday, March 3 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The art exhibit will only be available for viewing for the month of March at Ocean Ridge Town Hall.

The event has drawn over 25 well known and respected artists from Palm Beach including Ocean Ridge Artists Beth Sloat and Max Matteson. Judging the art presented for financial prizes is the well known and highly respected Ellen Roberts, American Art Curator from the Norton Museum.

Ocean Ridge residents are encouraged to attend the opening reception. This is a wonderful opportunity for the public to meet the artists, enjoy the beautiful fine art, and network with your neighbors.



Painting by Beth Sloat

March's Lecture: The War in Vietnam, Caring for the Wounded

By Al Naar

The Vietnam War officially ended 40 years ago. Ocean Ridge resident Al Naar was a Navy medic in Vietnam attached to the U. S. Marines. During his tour of duty, he was assigned to 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Marine Division and worked the operating room assisting Navy surgeons who operated on Marines wounded in battle. His presentation will take us back to that time with a rare glimpse of what it was like, including views choppers landing with casualties quickly brought into triage and then rushed into surgery. During that time, new surgical procedures were developed which are used to save the lives of our men and women serving today.

Over the past 8 years, Mr. Naar has been invited twice each year to the U. S. Naval War College in Newport, RI where he gives this presentation. His lecture and color slides are shown to career officers from all branches of the military studying the war in Vietnam. In addition, some of his material is on permanent display at the Vietnam Veterans' Educational Center in Holmdel, NJ. This will be an opportunity to experience a part of military history never before seen by the public. Out of respect, all graphic material has been edited out for this special viewing. A question and answer period will follow.

Lecture begins on Thursday, March 10 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall.

PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Commission of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida will hold a public hearing on Monday, the 7th day of March, 2016 at a Commission Meeting at 6:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the Town Hall, Ocean Ridge, Florida to consider the following:

An application submitted by Randall Stofft Architects, 42 N. Swinton Ave Suite 1, Delray Beach, FL 33444, representing the owner, John Zessin, 6029 Old Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge, FL 33435, requesting a Land Development Permit from the provisions of the Land Development Code, Article 2; COASTAL CONSTRUCTION, Section 67-17; Coastal Construction and Excavation Setback Line; Sub-Paragraph (a); Setback Line Established; and Sub-Paragraph (h) Existing Structures to permit the construction of a one story addition of a 1-car garage (13' 8" x 20' 0") and a living room (14' x 19'), the garage floor to be at 19.0 NGVD with the living room floor at 22.0 NGVD to match the rest of the existing 2-story house. The addition is to be at a maximum of 137'-10 1/2" east of the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) of 1997, and the addition of a swimming pool (17' 6" x 33' 0") that is to be at a maximum of 158' 1 3/4" east of the 1997 CCCL. Property located at 6029 Old Ocean Blvd, or legally described as Lot 8 and the south half of Lot 7, Block 4, of amended plat of part of Boynton's Subdivision (exact legal description located in the Town Clerk's Office).

An application submitted by Marc T. Pulte of Marc Timothy, Inc., 41 SE 5th St, Boca Raton, FL 33432, representing the owner, Donna M. Sotillo, Trustee, Ocean Ridge 6161 N. Ocean LLC, 6605 South Dixie Hwy Suite 200, West Palm Beach, FL 33405, requesting a Land Development Permit from the provisions of the Land Development Code, Article 2; COASTAL CONSTRUCTION, Section 67-17; Coastal Construction and Excavation Setback Line; Sub-Paragraph (a); Setback Line Established; and Sub-Paragraph (h) Existing Structures to permit the construction of a new two story residence with a four car garage with the furthest extension of the structure at 173' 10" (+/-) east of the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL), the pool, deck and spa will extend a maximum of 186' 7" (+/-) east of the CCCL, and also repairing the existing dune crossover. The house finished floor slab elevation will be 19.5' NAVD which is slightly lower than the structure demolished in 2013). Property located at 6161 North Ocean Blvd, or legally described as Lot 3, 4, and 5, Block 3, and Lots 3, 4, and 5, Block 10, of the amended plat of blocks 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Boynton's Subdivision (exact legal description located in the Town Clerk's Office).

ALL PERSONS INTERESTED in these matters may appear before the Town Commission at the time and place aforesaid and be heard. Prior to the hearing the application may be reviewed at the Clerk's Office.

IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING OR HEARING, HE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT, FOR SUCH PURPOSE, HE MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED. PERSONS WHO NEED AN ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO ATTEND OR PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING SHOULD CONTACT TOWN HALL AT 732-2635 AT LEAST 2 DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING IN ORDER TO REQUEST SUCH ASSISTANCE.

Dated: February 16, 2016 TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE, FLORIDA

Publish: Palm Beach Post-Times Tracey L. Stevens

1st Publication: February 22, 2016 Tracey L. Stevens

2nd Publication: March 2, 2016 Town Clerk

THIS NOTICE IS PUBLISHED PURSUANT TO THE TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES AND THE FLORIDA STATUTES AND IS POSTED IN FOUR CONSPICUOUS PLACES WITHIN THE TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE, FLORIDA.

PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida will hold a public hearing on the 14th day of March, 2016 at 8:30 A.M. in the Commission Chambers of the Town Hall, Ocean Ridge, Florida to consider the following:

An application submitted by Bradley Miller, Miller Land Planning, Inc., 508 E. Boynton Beach Blvd, Boynton Beach, FL 33435, representing the owner Ronald Kerrigan, 30 Engleton St, Tenafly, NJ 07670, requesting a Public Hearing regarding the provisions of the Land Development Code at Chapter 64; Zoning, Article 5; Subdivisions; Sections 64-100 through 64-105 pertaining to re-platting requirements. The applicants are requesting the approval of a final plat for a 5.176 acre property located on the north side and at the terminus of Thompson Street which was originally platted as Lot 44 and Lot 39 in Plat Book 18, Page 45 recorded in 1938; proposing a reconfiguration of the two lots to allow for two developable lots and re-plat. The two new lots are configured so that both contain upland areas that meet Town code regulations for the development of a single family home on each lot. The two lots will meet the zoning requirements for the RSF – Residential Single Family District.

ALL PERSONS INTERESTED in these matters may appear before the Town Commission at the time and place aforesaid and be heard. Prior to the hearing the application may be reviewed at the Clerk's Office.

IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING OR HEARING, HE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT, FOR SUCH PURPOSE, HE MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED. PERSONS WHO NEED AN ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO ATTEND OR PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING SHOULD CONTACT TOWN HALL AT 561-732-2635 AT LEAST 2 DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING IN ORDER TO REQUEST SUCH ASSISTANCE.

Dated: February 16, 2016

TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE, FLORIDA

Publish: Palm Beach Post-Times

1st Publication: February 29, 2016

2nd Publication: March 9, 2016

Tracey L. Stevens, Town Clerk

THIS NOTICE IS PUBLISHED PURSUANT TO THE TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES AND THE FLORIDA STATUTES AND IS POSTED IN FOUR CONSPICUOUS PLACES WITHIN THE TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE, FLORIDA.



Ocean Ridge Police Department News

Hal C. Hutchins, Chief of Police

Criminal Activity

Below is a listing of the crime/code enforcement/suspicious activity reported to ORPD in **January 2015** for both Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes:

<u>Type of Incident</u>	<u>Report Date</u>	<u>Time Frame</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
Theft from Vehicle	1/2/2016	Between 1/1/2016 and 1/2/2016	Briny Breezes	Multiple unlocked vehicles entered. Items taken.
Theft from Vehicle	1/2/2016	Between 1/1/2016 and 1/2/2016	Douglas Drive/ Tropical Drive/ 5500 Blk Old Ocean/ 6100 Blk N. Ocean Blvd.	Multiple unlocked vehicles entered. Items taken.
Theft from Vehicle	1/2/2016	Between 1/2/2016 @ 1:30 pm and 1/2/2016 @ 10:00 pm	6849 N. Ocean Blvd.	Vehicle entered by breaking window. Items taken.
Stolen Vehicle	1/3/2016	1/3/2016 between 8:00 am And 8:45 am	6800 N. Ocean Blvd.	Vehicle stolen from driveway. Recovered in Lake Worth.
Theft from Vehicle	1/4/2016	Between 12/31/2015 and 1/4/2016	5100 Blk N. Ocean Blvd.	Theft of items from 2 unlocked vehicles.
Identity Theft	1/4/2016	1/2/2016	Sabal Island	Fraudulent use of credit to open account.
Viol. Town Code Work without Permit	1/8/2016	1/8/2016	5510 N. Ocean Blvd.	Construction commenced without proper permits.
Theft of Bicycle	1/8/2016	Between 1/1/2016 and 1/2/2016	Juniper Dr. Briny Breezes.	Theft of bicycle.

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Drug Arrest	1/6/2016	1/6/2016	Ocean Avenue	Traffic stop results in arrest for illegal drugs.
Arrest	1/8/2016	1/8/2016	6620 N. Ocean Blvd.	Traffic stop results in warrant arrest.
Medical Assist	1/11/2016	1/11/2016 2:15 pm	6897 N. Ocean Blvd.	Suicidal subject taken for mental health evaluation and treatment.
Viol. Town Code Work without Per- mit	1/11/2016	1/11/2016	3 Hersey Dr.	Fence work commenced prior to issuance of permit.
Burglary to Resi- dence	1/11/2016	1/11/2016 @ 7:20PM	136 Island Dr.	Subject entered residence w/o permission resulting arrest for burglary.
Vehicle Burglary Attempt	1/16/2016	1/16/2016 @ 2:50PM	Ridge Blvd.	Subject caught on video camera trying car doors.
Theft from Vehicle	1/17/2016	Between 1/16/2016 and 1/17/2016	6700 and 6800 Blocks of N. Ocean Blvd.	Numerous unlocked vehicles entered. Small items taken.
Domestic Vio- lence	1/18/2016	1/18/2016	Anna Street	Fight results in arrest for Battery.
Fraud	1/18/2016	Between 4/2015 and 1/2016	5540 N. Ocean Blvd.	Contractor took money as deposit. Failed to begin any work.
Arrest	1/20/2016	1/20/2016	6990 N. Ocean Blvd. Ocean Inlet Park	Arrest of two subjects for illegal drugs and warrants.
Arrest	1/26/2016	1/26/2016	6400 N. Ocean Blvd.	Subject arrested for openly displaying semi-automatic pistol.
Theft from Vehicle	1/28/2016	Between 1/27/2016 and 1/28/2016	1 Ocean Ave.	Unlocked vehicle entered. Items taken.



February's Crime Prevention Information From Investigator Richard Jones

On the Road

One of the best methods to combating crime is prevention. One of the places we think the least about security is when we are on the road. This can include traveling to far-away places or simply going to Boynton to purchase groceries or to use an ATM.

To be best prepared, you should plan in advance. Planning includes preparation and knowledge of your surroundings. Planning should include purchasing or creating a standard safety kit which includes the following items; a battery operated flashlight, extra batteries, jumper cables, traffic safety triangles, at least one can of "fix a flat" or similar tire inflation solution.

Your safety kit should also include a copy of your car insurance company's phone number, your roadside assistance provider's phone number and a list of emergency contact numbers for immediate family or friends. These items will help you stay safe and be prepared in the event of an emergency.

Frequent scheduled service on your vehicle is also another great way to prevent a dangerous situation from occurring. Service should include frequent tire inspections as well as safety equipment checks (such as your hazard lights, air compressor, etc).

Aside from maintenance and general safety, you should always maintain adequate fuel levels in your vehicles. You should never let your vehicle's fuel supply drop below $\frac{1}{4}$ tank.

Now that we have covered basic safety topics, let's talk about security. When in your vehicle, you should always keep your vehicles doors locked and your windows rolled up at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way. This prevents quick access to your vehicle when stopped at traffic lights or stop signs. When stopping or preparing to stop, you should be very alert and aware of your surroundings.

Do not carry large sums of cash on your person. If you carry cash inside your vehicle, make sure it is in a safe and secure location which is out of sight. I would also caution you to not leave cash in your vehicle unattended at any time.

When using cash at fast food restaurants, gas stations, convenience stores and even grocery stores you should avoid displaying large bills or a large quantity of any denominations.

If you should experience car problems or your vehicle breaks down, try to make it to a populated, well-lit and known location. Safer places include; Police Stations, Fire Stations, Hospitals or large 24 hours shopping centers such as Wal-Mart. If these places are not nearby or you are unable to make it to one of these locations, the next best location would be well-lit rest area with security, a turnpike service plaza or a 24 hour convenience store that is manned 24 hours a day and allows their customers to enter the store rather than doing business through an after-hours or walk-up window.

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Avoid the use of after-hours or walk-up windows as these locations place you in a vulnerable and un-safe environment. This includes walk-up ATM locations.

When using ATM Machines, the safest locations to use include those that you can access without leaving the safety of your vehicle or those that are located within a secure area of a bank. If you are unable to locate one of these ATM locations and need cash immediately, you should search for one that is located inside a convenience store or shopping center and is under the direct supervision of a clerk/employee. These are less likely to be compromised than those which are unsupervised.

While driving, avoid engaging in aggressive driving which can lead to "road rage". If someone becomes aggressive or displays "road rage" with you, you should become concerned and immediately contact law enforcement before the situation gets out of control. If you do not know the phone number for your local law enforcement agency, use 911 or *FHP for assistance.



Ocean Ridge Police Department News

By Hal C. Hutchins, Chief of Police



Newly Hired in the Police Department

The Police Department is pleased to welcome our latest new employee:

Thomas Story was sworn in as Dispatcher/Clerk on February 1, 2016. Thomas comes to us from the City of Delray Beach where he worked in the parks division. Thomas has recently graduated from the Palm Beach State College 911 PST Program and is in training at the front desk.



It Is That Time of the Year

Once again it is tax season. We all know what that means; someone wants our money. Sometimes it is the IRS for taxes and other times it is just criminals posing as the IRS, or some other government agency, to take it.

Please be vigilant and mindful of the use of your personal information, especially during this time. Many people are experiencing an increase in fraudulent solicitations, telephone calls, and emails. All trying to get you to part with your hard earned money.

Please be assured, that legitimate concerns, such as the IRS, Federal, State and Local Governments will not call you and ask for personal identifying information. Legitimate businesses and government offices will never threaten you with arrest over the phone, and none will ever ask you for your banking information or to send them money using prepaid gift cards. All of these things should be a red flag. Don't be fooled by an email address or faked caller ID display: Hang up and notify the proper agency of the attempt.

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As an example: Just the other day, I received a telephone inquiry as to whether a call should be considered legitimate. The person inquiring told me they accepted a call from the U.S. Government (according to the caller and caller ID) and received an automated message advising they owed late fees, additional taxes, and penalties on last year's tax return. The caller was then said to demand payment with a credit card and banking information over the phone by calling a separate 800 number, failing such within 24 hours, "local U.S. agents would be coming to your door with an arrest warrant". My smart inquiring person became alarmed and inquired with the police department. I immediately was able to dispel their alarm and confirm the call was a scam. I asked them to consider what was being asked of them, and then to consider the last time the U.S. or local police announced that they were on the way to arrest someone (Sorry, we usually show up unannounced to serve warrants. It's usually a surprise. Yes, just like on TV). When I presented the information in a calm controlled environment the inquiring party immediately recognized they were being scammed.

Please be assured, No one from the IRS, Sherriff's Department, Police Department or other Government agency is going to call you to settle a debt or serve a warrant over the telephone or internet.

We at the Police Department are asking for your assistance. Please be vigilant and mindful of suspicious persons and activities, secure your property by locking your vehicles and houses, and use your alarm. If you observe something unusual, no matter the hour of day, please call us right away. Please use your intuition: If something does not seem right, it probably is not. Remember if you did not initiate the contact on the telephone, at your front door with a solicitor, or on the internet, you really do not know the person on the other end nor their true intentions.

NW3C is taking this opportunity to pass along critical information related to ongoing efforts to prevent losses to U.S. taxpayers at the hands of IRS impersonators.

According to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), the Office "continues to receive reports of thousands of contacts every month in which individuals fraudulently claiming to be IRS officials make unsolicited calls and 'robocalls' to taxpayers and demanding that they send them cash."

To combat this widespread problem, TIGTA has expanded its outreach efforts to include video public service announcements in English and Spanish. As part of its efforts TIGTA is "working with its partners in the public and private sector to help get the word out, both through traditional law enforcement channels and through direct outreach to associations, nongovernmental organizations, and the media."

TIGTA officials note that they have "received reports of roughly 896,000 contacts since October 2013 and has become aware of over 5,000 victims who have collectively paid over \$26.5 million as a result of the scam."

The text of the full TIGTA press release is included below:

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J. Russell George Urges Taxpayers to Remain on "High Alert"

Expanded Outreach Effort Announced to Prevent More Losses to IRS Impersonators

WASHINGTON - The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) urged taxpayers to remain on "High Alert" and announced additional outreach efforts to prevent them from falling victim to criminals who impersonate Internal Revenue Service and Treasury employees this filing season.

"The phone fraud scam has become an epidemic, robbing taxpayers of millions of dollars of their money," said J. Russell George, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. "We are making progress in our investigation of this scam, resulting in the successful prosecution of some individuals associated with it over the past year," he said, adding that over the summer, a ringleader was sentenced to more than 14 years in federal prison. "However, this is still a matter of high investigative priority."

TIGTA continues to receive reports of thousands of contacts every month in which individuals fraudulently claiming to be IRS officials make unsolicited calls and "robocalls" to taxpayers and demanding that they send them cash, he said.

"As the tax filing season begins, it is critical that all taxpayers continue to be wary of unsolicited telephone calls and e-mails from individuals claiming to be IRS and Treasury employees," said the Inspector General. "This scam has proven to be the largest of its kind that we have ever seen. The callers are aggressive and relentless," he said. "Once they have your attention, they will say anything to con you out of your hard-earned cash," George added. "We will be very aggressive in pursuing those perpetrating this fraud," the Inspector General said. "In the meantime, we need to do even more to warn taxpayers not to fall for it," he added.

TIGTA's expanded outreach initiative includes video Public Service Announcements in English and in Spanish that warn taxpayers about the scam. In addition, TIGTA is working with its partners in the public and private sector to help get the word out, both through traditional law enforcement channels and through direct outreach to associations, nongovernmental organizations, and the media.

TIGTA has received reports of roughly 896,000 contacts since October 2013 and has become aware of over 5,000 victims who have collectively paid over \$26.5 million as a result of the scam, in which criminals make unsolicited calls to taxpayers fraudulently claiming to be IRS officials and demanding that they send them cash via prepaid debit cards, money orders or wire transfers from their banks.

"The number of people receiving these unsolicited calls from individuals who fraudulently claim to represent the IRS is growing at an alarming rate," George said. "At all times, especially around the time of the tax filing season, we want to make sure that taxpayers are alerted to this scam so they are not harmed by these criminals," he said, adding, "Do not become a victim."

"This is a crime of opportunity, so the best thing you can do to protect yourself is to take away the opportunity," the Inspector General added. "If someone unexpectedly calls claiming to be from the IRS and uses threatening language if you do not pay immediately, that is a sign that it is not the IRS calling, and your cue to hang up," he said. "Again, do not engage with these callers. If they call you, hang up the telephone."

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Inspector General George noted that the scam has hit taxpayers in every State in the country. Callers claiming to be from the IRS tell intended victims they owe taxes and must pay using a pre-paid debit card, money order or a wire transfer. The scammers threaten those who refuse to pay with being charged for a criminal violation, a grand jury indictment, immediate arrest, deportation or loss of a business or driver's license.

Here is what you need to know. The IRS generally first contacts people by mail - not by phone - about unpaid taxes and the IRS will not ask for payment using a prepaid debit card, a money order or wire a transfer. The IRS also will not ask for a credit card number over the phone. The callers who commit this fraud often:

- Utilize an automated robocall machine.
- Use common names and fake IRS badge numbers.
- May know the last four digits of the victim's Social Security Number.
- Make caller ID information appear as if the IRS is calling.
- Aggressively demand immediate payment to avoid being criminally charged or arrested.
- Claim that hanging up the telephone will cause the immediate issuance of an arrest warrant for unpaid taxes.
- Send bogus IRS e-mails to support their scam.
- Call a second or third time claiming to be the police or department of motor vehicles, and the caller ID again supports their claim.

If you get a call from someone claiming to be with the IRS asking for a payment, here's what to do:

- If you owe Federal taxes, or think you might owe taxes, hang up and call the IRS at 800-829-1040. IRS workers can help you with your payment questions.
- If you do not owe taxes, fill out the "IRS Impersonation scam" form on TIGTA's website, www.tigta.gov, or call TIGTA at 800-366-4484.
- You can also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at www.FTC.gov. Add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments in your complaint.

TIGTA encourages taxpayers to be alert to phone and e-mail scams that use the IRS name. The IRS will never request personal or financial information by e-mail, text, or any social media. You should forward scam e-mails to phishing@irs.gov. Do not open any attachments or click on any links in those e-mails.

Taxpayers should be aware that there are other unrelated scams (such as a lottery sweepstakes winner) and solicitations (such as debt relief) that fraudulently claim to be from the IRS.

Read the U.S. Attorney's Office Press Release.

Read more about tax scams on the official IRS website at www.irs.gov.

Volunteers Needed

Your Anthrax Committee needs volunteers to distribute antibiotics on the remote chance that the Town of Ocean Ridge is exposed to an aerosolized airborne anthrax event. No special knowledge is required. All that is required is attendance at about two hours of meetings per year.

Aerosolized Airborne Anthrax is a bioterrorist weapon. Unfortunately, there have been several anthrax episodes in the United States, including one fatal attack in Palm Beach County in 2001. While death occurs in 50% to virtually all exposed individuals, the disease can be prevented by rapid administration of appropriate antibiotics. It is strongly recommended that everyone be provided and take these antibiotics for his/her protection against exposure.

The Town of Ocean Ridge has signed an Agreement with the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County who will provide the needed antibiotics at no cost, as part of a program under the auspices of the Center for Disease and Prevention. We will be a dispensing site for our community. Our own trained and credentialed resident-volunteers will perform the necessary dispensing duties. (In absence of this Agreement other will have to line up at large public dispersal centers.)

You are urgently requested to sign up as a volunteer to assist with this challenge. We plan to have a Training Update very soon and would like to get as many of our residents as possible to share in this important program.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Terri Vinas at vinasfam@aol.com or James Titcomb at jtitcomb@oceanridgeflorida.com. Or, you may drop off this Form at the Town Hall, addressed to Anthrax Committee c/o Terri Vinas.

Thank you.

I, _____ wish to be a volunteer

My Address is: _____

My Email address is: _____

My Phone number is: _____

Best Time to Call: [] Morning [] Evening

Volunteer Opportunities

Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup

What: Join the Sand Sifters for beach clean-up!

When: First Saturday of every month. Next cleanup: **March 5**

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: Jeff at JeffLev02@gmail.com

Website: www.SandSifters.us

Sea Angels Beach Cleanup

What: Join the Sea Angels for beach cleanup!

When: Last Saturday of every month. Next cleanup: **February 27**

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: www.seaangels.org

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.

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



Remember:
Daylight Saving Time
Begins on March 13
Set your clocks
ahead one hour.

Book Club Meeting

The Book Club will be meeting on Wednesday, March 3 at 5:45pm in the Town Hall Community Room to discuss Karen Joy's *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*. Residents are encouraged to join the discussion.

