

# Ocean Ridge Tidings



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

## Town Manager News...

It's been a little over 6 months for me now here at the helm of the Town and I am so pleased with our staff, elected body and all our residents. Everyone is involved, personable and make the Town a pleasurable environment in which to work, live and play. We are working on improving organizational process, always striving for a positive, can-do attitude as we aim to deliver best practice governance and exemplary customer service for all our residents and guests.

Here are some updates going on around Town to brief you on these days:

**Annual Audit:** Nolan, Holt & Miner PA will present the Town's FY15 CAFR (audited financial report) at the June Commission meeting. The draft shows a strong fiscal picture and proper practices deployed in the Town.

**Records Management:** We have been updating the Town's record management system (ongoing) and now house the archives consolidated under one roof. We hope the efficiency of locating and producing public records will lead us more quickly to a digital system to tame the "Paper Tiger" though we'll never be paperless.

**Ocean Avenue Bridge Restoration 2017:** Town staff officials recently met with representatives of FDOT contractors to begin review of the refurbishment, repainting project of the Ocean Avenue Bridge scheduled in early summer 2017. Partial lane closures and some limited night time work will be part of the restoration plan. More complete information and details will be presented as developed formally by FDOT contractors. A full closure will not occur during restoration.

**Ocean Avenue Trees:** Tree industry experts are assisting us to assess Ocean Avenue's collection of hardwoods and other signature treescapes. Many of our mature hardwood trees are aged, damaged and diseased and may likely need to be removed. We are working on developing a proposal to address and remove the most critical trees and will be communicating with adjacent homeowners. The Town has stepped up trimming of trees in many the Town's right of ways as well for better aesthetics and safety for storm season.

**Beach Erosion:** We've experienced seasonally high beach erosion recently, which is cyclical. We had to temporarily cordon off the Edith Street Beach Crossover so the stair system could be repaired. Being Turtle Season and with the beach/dune under DEP and Army Corps jurisdiction, our restoration options are limited.

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## General Information

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

[www.oceanridgeflorida.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:jtitcomb@oceanridgeflorida.com)

### Town Clerk

Tracey Stevens

[tstevens@oceanridgeflorida.com](mailto:tstevens@oceanridgeflorida.com)

### Police Chief

Hal Hutchins

[hhutchins@oceanridgeflorida.com](mailto:hhutchins@oceanridgeflorida.com)

### Mayor

Geoffrey Pugh

### Vice Mayor

Richard Lucibella

### Commissioners

Gail Adams Aaskov

James Bonfiglio

Steve Coz

### Mayor & Commissioners email

[info@oceanridgeflorida.com](mailto: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

### May:

- 2: Regular Town Commission meeting begins 6PM in chambers
- 4: Book Club meeting from 5:45PM-7PM in community room
- 7: Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup at Oceanfront Park from 8AM-11:30AM
- 28: Sea Angels Beach Cleanup from 8AM-10:30AM at Ocean Inlet Park
- 30: Memorial Day—Town Hall closed, no contractor work, no inspections

### June:

- 1: Book Club meeting from 5:45PM-7PM in community room
- 4: Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup at Oceanfront Park from 8AM-10:15AM
- 6: Regular Town Commission meeting begins 6PM in chambers
- 7: Code Enforcement Hearing begins 10AM in chambers (tentative)
- 28: 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.*

**Regular Town Commission meetings in July 2016, September 2016, and January 2017 have changed from the first Monday of the month to the following due to federal holidays:**

**July 11, 2016**

**September 12, 2016**

**January 9, 2017**

**Please make note of the new dates.**

## 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](http://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."

## May's Regular Town Commission Meeting Summary

The following is a list of actions taken at the May 2, 2016 Town Commission meeting:

1. Approved the Regular Town Commission Meeting Minutes of April 4, 2016.
2. Held a moment of silence, and authorized the donation of \$100 to Muscular Dystrophy Association in Memory of former employee Michael Tait.
3. Presented a plaque to former Town Commissioner Lynn Allison in appreciation for her years of service to the Town.
4. Adopted a Proclamation declaring the week of May 15-21, 2016 as "National Police Week" and May 15, 2016 as "National Peace Officers' Memorial Day".
5. Announced that Town Administrative Offices will be closed on Monday, May 30, 2016 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.
6. Introduced Bobby Santana and Joel Freundt of Clarke Environmental to the citizens of Ocean Ridge and discussed the process of noseem spraying and mosquito control.
7. Appointed Hans Kahlert to the Board of Adjustment as a regular member for a three year term.
8. Appointed Susan Hurlburt and Bob Sloat to the Board of Adjustment as alternate members for a one year term.
9. Consensus of the Commission to direct the Town Engineer to review the Town's current flood plan and current issues regarding drainage, as well as the information submitted by Don McGruder regarding the retention/detention pond, and bring information back to the June Town Commission meeting.
10. Moved the July 4<sup>th</sup> meeting date to July 11<sup>th</sup>; the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting date to September 12<sup>th</sup>, and the January 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting date to January 9<sup>th</sup> due to upcoming holidays.
11. Authorized the Town Manager to expend funds not to exceed \$1,000 to reimburse Dr. Weege for the Town Hall koi pond repairs and maintenance, and authorized the expenditure of up to \$250 per month out of town funds for maintenance of the koi pond.

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

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**Storm Season Is Coming – Look for your sight-line Triangles:** Trimming of landscaping is a never ending cycle. We encourage our residents to keep ahead of this, even though we all enjoy the lush, tropical and green environment. It is about to turn into Hurricane Season and we want those trimmings already done for obvious safety and security reasons. Power lines being free and clear is critically important as well as cutting down on the amount of debris that can end up in our storm drains, which can create real problems ridding the flood waters that come with summer tropical storm cell rains. Besides, we also here a lot from residents about the visibilities (sight lines) when trying to navigate from side roadways and driveways onto main thoroughfares for traffic, bicycle and pedestrian safety! Please take a moment to assess your property and surroundings to see if there is something you can do to contribute to a well-manicured and safer town streets and right of way system.

**Advocacy and Learning:** This month I will travel briefly away to participate with other local municipal officials for Federal advocacy on municipal favorable legislation and funding with the Florida League of Cities' F.A.S.T. committee to Washington DC. In early June, I attend the FCCMA (City/County Managers Association) conference to build upon my professional skillsets and network among statewide peers on important trends and best practices in municipal management and leadership to bring back to the Town.

We are here to provide you smooth, efficient operations always and the delivery of quality Town services. We will always do our best to assist you, so get to know your staff. Please don't hesitate to come by, call or email us if you need special attention on anything important to you.

## Various Board Appointments

At the May 2, 2016 Regular Town Commission meeting, the Commission appointed Hans Kahlert as a regular member to the Board of Adjustment for a three year term and Susan Hurlburt and Bob Sloat as alternate members for a one year term.

At the April 4, 2016 Regular Town Commission meeting, the Commission re-appointed

Dr. Richard Bajakian and Mauro Walker as regular members to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a three year term and David Hutchins and Kimberlee Duke Marshall as alternate members for a one year term.



After Mayor Pugh presented a plaque of outstanding service as Commissioner, former Commissioner and Vice-Mayor Dr. Lynn Allison spoke to the Commission and audience relaying her appreciation for serving the town for 12 years.



# 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 **April 2016** 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>   |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Burglary to Vehicle     | 4/6/2016           | Between 4/5/2016 @ 4:30 pm            | 6415 North Ocean Blvd.     | Delayed report of burglary to vehicle. Suspect identified. Warrant for arrest issued. |
| Theft of Bicycle        | 4/7/2016           | Between 3/31/2016 and 4/6/2016        | Mallard Dr. Briny Breezes  | Unsecure Bicycle taken from residence.  |
| Domestic Battery        | 4/7/2016           | 4/7/2016 @ 3:30 pm                    | 6415 North Ocean Blvd.     | Battery resulting in arrest of suspect.   |
| Theft of Bicycle        | 4/8/2016           | 4/8/2016 Between 10:30 am and 9:00 pm | Ruthmary Dr. Briny Breezes | Unsecure Bicycle taken from residence.  |
| Domestic Battery        | 4/22/2016          | 4/22/2016 @4:00 pm                    | Oceanview Dr.              | Battery resulting in arrest of suspect.   |
| Theft                   | 4/24/2016          | 4/24/2016 @ 3:00 pm                   | Briny Breezes Beach        | Theft of wallet and phone left unattended on beach.                                   |
| Identity Theft          | 4/25/2016          | Between 4/19/2016 and 4/25/2016       | Island Dr.                 | Unlawful use of personal information to take over bank account.                       |
| Criminal Mischief       | 4/30/2016          | Between 4/28/2016 and 4/30/2016       | 6415 North Ocean Blvd.     | Window broken at snack bar.   |



## **May's Crime Prevention Information From Lieutenant Richard Jones**

### **INTERNET BASED AUTOMOTIVE PURCHASE SCAMS**

A fairly new crime trend is on the rise throughout the United States. This new scam involves vehicle sales and purchases negotiated via the internet. We have begun to see some of these cases reported within Palm Beach County over the last several months.

Most of these scams involve scammers who seem to be in a hurry to initiate the purchase due to Military Leave, Unexpected Moving Plans, New Job Acceptance and various other reasons that may seem legitimate to the potential victim.

The scammers will usually initiate contact by email or via text. Although scammers like to use email and text, they have also made contact with the victim by phone. If a face to face meeting is requested by the victim, the scammer will usually make a number of excuses that prevent this from taking place and offer to do everything by email, mail or fax.

Once an agreement is reached regarding the purchase, the scammer will send the victim what appears to be a legitimate Cashier's Check or Personal Check with the understanding that the victim will provide the automobile prior to the check clearing the bank.

As most of you are aware, checks can take up to 7 days to clear. If the victim maintains a balance to cover the check, the bank will cash or allow immediate access to the funds at time of deposit. The scammer will then immediately re-title or change ownership legally before the check is found to be fraudulent. Once this ownership change takes place, the automobile will be re-sold to a legitimate third party individual for cash.

This type of scam is becoming much more prevalent and is very difficult for Law Enforcement because of the multiple transactions and individuals involved by the time the check is found to be fraudulent. Many times, the courts are not able to order that the vehicle be returned to the victim because the new owner legitimately purchased the vehicle and is now considered the rightful owner.

Please use caution when completing any on-line transaction as there are many risks associated with these types of sales/purchases.

If you have additional questions or concerns regarding this scam or any other matter, please feel free to contact me directly.



# Ocean Ridge Police Department News

By Hal C. Hutchins, Chief of Police



## Hurricane Season Is Approaching

June 1<sup>st</sup> will mark the start of another Hurricane Season! Past severe storms caused tremendous damage in Ocean Ridge. This resulted in the Town Commission taking action and enacting an Ordinance to protect our utility lines and poles from similar damage in the future. In addition, FPL, AT&T and Comcast have worked to strengthen the entire utility system in our area.

The enacted Ordinance (66-151 (b) (7)) speaks to the required trimming of vegetation and trees located near or under, "...power or other utility lines or facilities..." that are suspended above the ground. This includes the individual services lines directly attached to your house.

Shortly, members of your Police Department will begin to conduct a thorough inspection of the Town to identify vegetation and trees that are in a position or condition to constitute a threat to our power and utility system. We will be seeking the assistance of the utility companies in clearing these lines to avoid disruption of services during a storm caused by vegetation taking down utility lines. We respectfully request that you also conduct a survey of your own property and assist us by eliminating any trees or branches that are encroaching into or touching any utility lines. In addition, we ask that you maintain these areas throughout the entire storm season (June 1<sup>st</sup> thru November 30<sup>th</sup>).

As always, it is our desire to obtain voluntary compliance so as to make the Town safer for all first responders and the citizens we serve. We are counting on your cooperation, as all residents of the Town share the power and utility system, and everyone depends upon it for our mutual health, safety, and wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued assistance in this matter.

## Hijacked Computer: What To Do

The following information is provided by the National Cyber Security Alliance, which builds strong public/private partnerships to create and implement broad-reaching education and awareness efforts to empower users at home, work and school with the information they need to keep themselves, their organizations, their systems and their sensitive information safe and secure online and encourage a culture of cybersecurity.

If your account has been compromised or hacked, there are ways to regain control.

How do I know if my email or social network account has been hacked?

- There are posts you never made on your social network page. These posts often encourage your friends to click on a link or download an App.
- A friend, family member or colleague reports getting email from you that you never sent.
- Your information was lost via a data breach, malware infection or lost/stolen device.

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If you believe an account has been compromised, take the following steps:

- Notify all of your contacts that they may receive spam messages that appear to come from your account. Tell your contacts they shouldn't open messages or click on any links from your account and warn them about the potential for malware.
- If you believe your computer is infected, be sure your security software is up to date and scan your system for malware. You can also use other scanners and removal tools.
- Change passwords to all accounts that have been compromised and other key accounts ASAP. Remember, passwords should be long and strong and use a mix of upper and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols. You should have a unique password for each account.

If you cannot access your account because a password has been changed, contact the web service immediately and follow any steps they have for recovering an account.

**Protect Yourself with these STOP. THINK. CONNECT. Tips:**

- Keep a clean machine: Having the latest security software, web browser, and operating system are the best defenses against viruses, malware, and other online threats.
- Make passwords long and strong: Combine capital and lowercase letters with numbers and symbols to create a more secure password.
- Unique account, unique password: Separate passwords for every account helps to thwart cyber-criminals.
- When in doubt, throw it out: Links in email, tweets, posts, and online advertising are often the way cybercriminals compromise your computer. If it looks suspicious, even if you know the source, it's best to delete or if appropriate, mark as junk email.

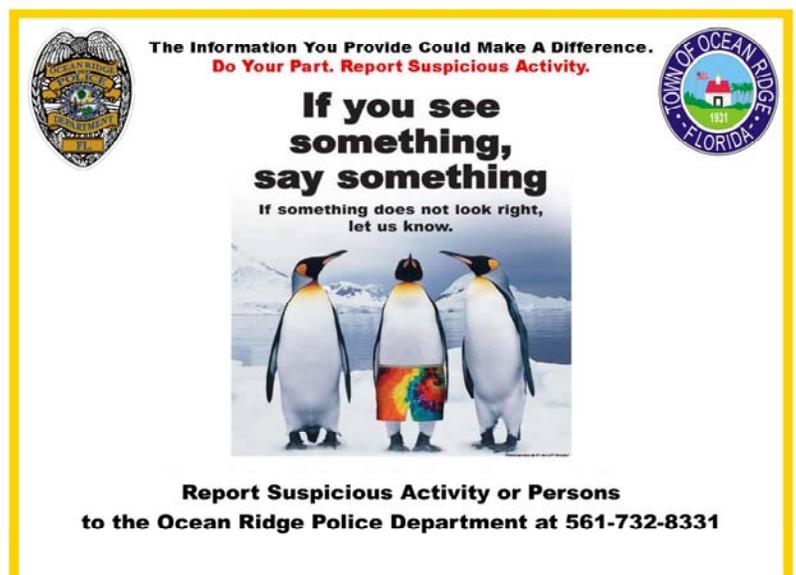
SOURCE: <http://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/keep-a-clean-machine/hacked-accounts>

**FINALLY**

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

Please be safe and alert, and thank you for your help by reporting suspicious activity in the Town.

Sincerely,  
Chief Hal C. Hutchins



## 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](mailto:vinasfam@aol.com) or James Titcomb at [jtitcomb@oceanridgeflorida.com](mailto: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 cleanup!

**When:** First Saturday of every month. Next cleanup: **May 7**

**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:** 8-11:30AM

**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](mailto:JeffLev02@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.SandSifters.us](http://www.SandSifters.us)

### Sea Angels Beach Cleanup

**What:** Join the Sea Angels for beach cleanup!

**When:** Last Saturday of every month. Next cleanup: **May 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](mailto:info@seaangels.org)

**Website:** [www.seaangels.org](http://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.

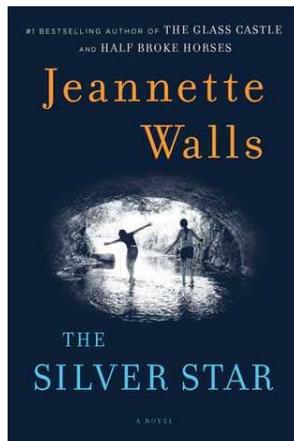
**Who:** Residents of all ages welcome. Those with library experience are encouraged to volunteer.

**What's provided:** School and community service volunteer credit available.

**Contact:** Town Hall 561-732-2635

### Book Club Meeting

The Book Club will be meeting on Wednesday, June 1 at 5:45pm in the Town Hall Community Room to discuss *The Silver Star* by Jeanette Wells. Residents are encouraged to join the discussion.



### Follow Us On Social Media

In addition to the newsletter and email blasts, the Town of Ocean Ridge utilizes the following social media platforms to provide information to our residents:

[Twitter](#) @OceanRidgeFL

[YouTube](#) (audio of meetings only)

[NextDoor](#) (click link to join)