

# Ocean Ridge Tidings

July 2012

Volume 5, Issue 7

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

## Ordinance Adoption

At the July 9 Regular Town Commission meeting, the Commission adopted on second reading Ordinance No. 598 which amends the Code of Ordinances, at Chapter 67, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article VIII, Building Standards, and at Chapter 66, Environmental Regulations, Article IV, Landscaping, Section 66-119, Installation; Maintenance; Plant Material, and at Chapter 34, nuisances, Article I, in General, Section 34-6, Removal of Rubbish, Noxious Plants, Stagnant Water and Weeds, Making in Unlawful and Constituting a Nuisance for any Person Owning Land Within the Town to Have or Permit Thereon any Dead, Dying or Defoliated Hedges or Trees and/or Hedges, Trees or Other Plants Infested with any Type of Exotic Pest Such as White Fly.

## Day At The Beach!



Beautiful 2.5 year-old Josephine "Joey" playing in the sand on Ocean Ridge beaches.  
~ Photo submitted by Terry Brown.

## Ocean Ridge Koi Garden Fund By Dr. James Weege

I am sure that by now most residents of Ocean Ridge have visited the new Town Hall and Police Department and observed the Koi pond and garden. If you have, I am equally convinced that you feel it adds a special ambience to the entryway of the new town buildings.

What you may not know is that the maintenance funds for the Koi garden come out of the town's general budget account. With the shortage in our town budget, this does not leave a lot to maintain the pond and garden when something arises. That is why it was drained in December and kept empty for four months before funds were available to repair leaks and get the pond up and running.

Several residents and I feel the garden and Koi pond adds uniqueness to our town and the new town hall. We have started a fund — The Ocean Ridge Koi Garden Fund—to keep the garden and pond at its finest. With this fund we will be able to help the town maintain the garden should problems arise that need repair. These funds would be used exclusively for the garden and be overseen by a committee of interested residents.

We are actively seeking residents who share our enthusiasm regarding the Koi garden and invite you to contribute whatever you can to the Ocean Ridge Koi Garden Fund. Please contact Dr. James Weege at 561-523-5705.



# July Calendar of Events

- 4-Independence Day—Town Hall Closed, No contractor work, no inspections
- 7-Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup from 8am-10:15am at Oceanfront Park
- 9-Regular Town Commission Meeting at 6pm in chambers
- 20-Special Town Commission Meeting/PBA—Closed Executive Session at 8:30am
- 25-Budget/Proposed Millage Meeting at 8:30am in chambers
- 28-SeaAngels Beach Cleanup from 8:00am to 10:30am at Ocean Inlet Park



\*The next Book Club Meeting will be on October 3 at 5:45pm to discuss Tom Franklin's The Crooked Letter.

*Agendas, minutes, and updates are available on the town's website and will be posted as they become available.*

## General Information

6450 N. Ocean Blvd., Ocean Ridge, FL 33435  
[www.oceanridgeflorida.com](http://www.oceanridgeflorida.com)

**Town Hall**

561-732-2635 (main) ♦ 561-737-8359 (fax)  
[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**

Kenneth Schenck  
[kschenck@oceanridgeflorida.com](mailto:kschenck@oceanridgeflorida.com)

**Town Clerk**

Karen Hancsak  
[khancsak@oceanridgeflorida.com](mailto:khancsak@oceanridgeflorida.com)

**Police Chief**

Christopher T. Yannuzzi  
[cyannuzzi@oceanridgeflorida.com](mailto:cyannuzzi@oceanridgeflorida.com)

**Mayor**

Geoff Pugh

**Vice Mayor**

Dr. Lynn Allison



**Commissioners**

Gail Adams Aaskov  
 Ed Brookes  
 Zoanne Hennigan

**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
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
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
Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission	888-404-FWCC
Florida Power & Light (FPL)	561-697-8000
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 Parks & Recreation	561-966-6600
Palm Beach County Property Appraiser	561-355-3230
Palm Beach County Tax Collector	561-355-2266
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!**



# Ocean Ridge Police Department News

By Chief Christopher T. Yannuzzi

## Criminal Activity

Here is a listing of the crimes/suspicious activity reported to ORPD in June 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>
Trespass	06/07/12	5:29 PM	4900 blk Old Ocean Blvd.	Two subjects found on Briny Breezes Club-house property. Both turned over to Border Patrol.
Identity Theft	06/20/12	4:47PM	Fayette Dr.	Unknown person attempted to open credit card account in resident's name.
Theft	06/27/12	7:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Oceanfront Park	I-phone removed from unattended backpack at the beach pavilion
Identity Theft	06/27/12	8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	5700 blk Old Ocean Blvd	Unsolicited phone call from an AT&T imposter who talked victim into providing personal info that resulted in the "hacking" of phone and email accounts.
Identity Theft	06/30/12	06/29/12 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Spanish River Dr.	Unknown person attempted to open credit card account in resident's name.

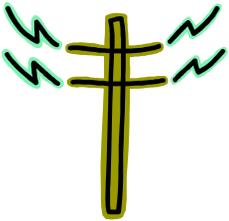
## Crime Prevention Tips

- \* Please do not leave valuables unattended and/or in sight; especially in parked cars.
- \* Any unsolicited knock at the door, phone call, email should be considered suspicious until proven otherwise. DO NOT provide any personal information or get duped into a false sense of security by con artists (male, female, young or old). It is their profession, and they are very good at it. Report such activity immediately to the Police.
- \* Please keep an eye out for unusual activity at your neighbor's home. Many are away for the season or on vacation. You know what should and should not be going on in your neighborhood. Report suspicious activity immediately to the Police.

## Beware of Utility Scam

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is warning consumers to be aware of a multi-state scam targeting utility customers. The scam claims that President Obama is providing credits or applying payments to utility bills. The scammers contact consumers through posted flyers, social media, texting and/or visiting consumers in person. The scammers ask for the consumer's social security number and then provide a phony Federal Reserve Bank routing number to use to receive the credit or bill payment. The routing number is fake and no payments are posted to the consumer's bill.

Consumers are warned not to provide personal information to strangers who come to your door or in response to unsolicited emails or social media posts. Question anyone who presents themselves as a representative of a utility company and ask for identification before allowing anyone inside your home or onto your property.



For additional information, contact the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at [www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com) or by calling 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) within Florida, 1-800-FL-AYUDA (352-9832) en Español or (850) 410-3800 from outside of Florida.

## New Dispatcher/Clerk

On July 10, 2012, the Town Commission confirmed the hiring of Rebecca Moore for the vacant position of Dispatcher/Clerk. Ms. Moore's prior experience has been offered an opportunity to civilianize a task that is currently being done by one of the Police Sergeants; specifically the custodial duties associated with Evidence & Recovered Property. Ms. Moore served for 6 years as an Evidence/Property Technician with the Boynton

Beach Police Department until position was eliminated 2011. Prior to that, she was an Inspector with the FL Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles for 20 years and a Dispatcher for 6 years. Her combined 26 years of service with the State allowed her to retire in 2004. A background investigation has uncovered glowing remarks about her work ethic, dedication to public service, and "bubbly" personality.



## Letter of Commendation

On June 28, 2012, Dispatcher Brandi Gonsman, received a phone call from a person who indicated that a female friend had called him and told him that she had slit her wrists and was bleeding profusely. The complainant could only provide limited information about the female and despite the minimal facts provided, Ms. Gonsman was able to immediately identify a possible location and dispatch officers and medical assistance. As such, aid was rendered and the woman was transported to the hospital for emergency medical and psychological treatment. Ms. Gonsman's demeanor throughout the call was calm, compassionate, and mission-focused.



## The Town of Ocean Ridge Police Department

— Emergency 911 — Business (561) 732-8331 — Fax (561) 732-8676 —

6450 N. Ocean Blvd.  
Ocean Ridge, FL 33435-5297

Christopher T. Yannuzzi  
Chief of Police

June 21, 2012

Sheriff Ric Bradshaw  
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office  
3228 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Dear Sheriff Bradshaw,

On behalf of our residents and visitors, we write this letter seeking your assistance in reducing the criminal activity that is occurring in the County parks located in and around the Town of Ocean Ridge.

By way of background, we offer the following:

· On June 11, 2010, ORPD Chief Yannuzzi sent you and PBSO Major Al Musco an email by expressing concern over the proposal that the Parks Deputy program was possibly going to be eliminated as a part of your Fiscal 2010/2011 Budget plans. Specifically, the email stated:

*"... if the current Parks deputies are eliminated would regular Road Patrol deputies take their place in terms of routine patrol and calls for service? Currently, when an incident (i.e.: a auto burglary) occurs at Hammock Park or Ocean Inlet Park, we direct the victim to PBSO. If available, a Parks deputy responds to handle the case. If not available, a Road deputy responds. In any event, PBSO handles the crime, the resulting investigation, and the subsequent UCR statistic. Is this process going to continue? If not, an unfunded burden will be placed upon any municipality with a County park within its boundary."*

· Within hours, Chief Yannuzzi received a phone call from a PBSO Captain who assured him that, if the program was eliminated, Road deputies would not only handle the calls but would conduct patrols of the County Parks.

· In July 2010, you personally appeared before the Palm Beach County Association of Chiefs of Police and reiterated the fact that if the program were dissolved, the Parks Deputies would be reassigned to the road and response/patrols would not be negatively impacted.

· In August 2010, Chief Yannuzzi and ORPD Lt. Hal Hutchins were contacted by Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation Department officials (Thomas Brydon, then Chief of Parks Security and Director Eric Call) to discuss their concern regarding the potential PBSO issue. Both officials were assured that regardless, ORPD routine patrols would not be reduced. In addition, they were advised of our understanding that PBSO would still be responding to calls.

- In September 2010, Chief Yannuzzi received correspondence from Chief Deputy Michael Gauger requesting we sign an Agreement to have ORPD supply Mutual Aid by providing law enforcement within the County parks that are in, or adjacent to, Ocean Ridge. After careful consideration and for the reasons stated in June, Chief Yannuzzi declined to enter into such an agreement. Additionally, ORPD was suffering (and continues to suffer) the same budgetary woes PBSO was facing. Our staff was reduced, we went thru a reorganization process, and we could not absorb the expense/time associated with the initial report, follow up investigations & prosecution of County cases. It is our understanding that, while some police agencies agreed, others likewise declined – many for the same reasons.

- In October 2010, as a part of the new fiscal year budget, the PBSO Parks Deputy Program was dissolved. In addition, and without ORPD prior notice/knowledge, the decision was made to relocate the PBSO Marine Unit; thereby moving their office out of Ocean Inlet Park to Phil Foster Park in West Palm Beach.

Immediately thereafter, ORPD Dispatchers began receiving phone calls from PBSO Dispatchers attempting to hand off calls for service in Ocean Inlet and Ocean Hammock parks. In response, ORPD personnel advised your staff that ORPD would not handle such calls, but would respond and stand by if the nature of the call required us to do so. Research at the time indicated that PBSO Dispatch personnel had been instructed that law enforcement inside a County park located within any municipality was the responsibility of the local agency. Although it took several months, this issue was eventually resolved through correspondence/conversations between PBSO and ORPD Staff-level personnel.

However, County parks-related activity and/or response by ORPD officers have increased since October 2010. More importantly, since July 2011, the level of violent crime – especially at Ocean Inlet Park – has raised serious concern among the Ocean Ridge residents, Town officials, and the members of the Police Department. A copy of the May 2012 article from the local Coastal Star newspaper is enclosed as further evidence that even folks outside Ocean Ridge are concerned about activity that has been occurring at area County parks.

Based on a review of PBSO and ORPD records, here is a table that outlines the activity. Each column represents the fiscal year (October - September):

	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012 *
<b>PBSO Calls</b>				
Ocean Inlet	221	371	139	79
Hammock	146	208	49	42
<b>ORPD Calls</b>				
Ocean Inlet	19	8	40	20
Hammock	6	6	10	5

\* As of May 15, 2012

An initial review of the last two columns may provide the inexperienced observer with an impression that there has been a reduction in calls/crime since the Parks Deputy program was disbanded. Less PBSO calls might be misconstrued to mean less disorderly/criminal activity. To the contrary, the absence of routine patrols and/or a physical presence by PBSO road/marine personnel would provide a better explanation; especially in terms of self-initiated events. This opinion is further supported by the resulting increased need for ORPD response that has been documented and the below information.

With regard to the recent increase in violent crime over the last year, we are aware of at least 2 armed robberies, 2 sexual assaults (the most recent on June 20, 2012), and several physical altercations – 1 involving a gun and 1 between a victim over 65 & a suspect in his 20's.

Based on PBSO records, there has also been an increase in Auto Burglary/Theft cases:

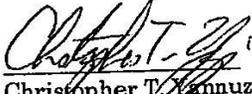
	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012 *
PBSO Calls				
Ocean Inlet	1/3	1/3	1/2	3/0
Hammock	15/0	11/0	27/1	10/2

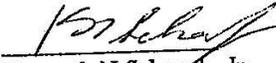
\* As of May 15, 2012

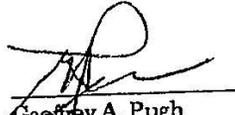
As if the above comments and statistical information were not enough, the fact that Ocean Inlet Park is not entirely within any municipality adds another obstacle – jurisdiction – as neither area immediately adjacent to the actual inlet is in either Ocean Ridge or Manalapan. Furthermore, the section immediately adjacent to the south side of the inlet is open 24/7 for fishing and, therefore, the A1A entrance in Ocean Ridge must remain open.

We look forward to having an action plan in place quickly so that we can disseminate some information at our July Town Commission meeting. Thank you for your time and attention to these issues and we remain available for further discussion.

Sincerely,

  
Christopher T. Cannuzzi  
Chief of Police

  
Kenneth N Schenck, Jr.  
Town Manager

  
Geoffrey A. Pugh  
Mayor

Cc: Major Al Musco  
Captain Marty Bechtel

# Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup



Join the Sand Sifters for their monthly beach cleanup!

**When:** First Saturday of each month

**Time:** Beach Cleanup sign-in at 8am ; Event ends at 10:15am

**Where:** Oceanfront Park, 6415 N Ocean Blvd (A1A)  
Just north of the Ocean Avenue bridge.  
Meet at the pavilion in the lower parking lot.

Community Service Hours Awarded

**Pre-Registration:**

therecipeexchange@comcast.net  
or 561-734-9128

**Website:**

www.SandSifters.us

**Sponsors:**

- Sand Sifters Volunteers
- Town of Ocean Ridge
- City of Boynton Beach
- Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
- Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation Department
- Dave Wagner Realty, Coldwell Banker
- RecipeExchange.com



## Are You A

Grandparent Raising Grandchildren?

## 2012 Educational Program Series

### Daytime Workshops 10:00am ~ 1:00pm (Brown Bag Lunch)

January 11 & 25	April 11 & 25	July 11 & 25
February 8 & 22	May 9 & 23	August 8 & 22
March 14 & 28	June 13 & 27	September 12 & 26

All Workshops are FREE



### Evening Workshops ~ 6-8 pm



January 26	April 26	July 26
February 23	May 31	August 30
March 29	June 28	September 27

Childcare will NOT be provided

Learn about: legal issues, guiding children's behavior & discipline, computers, resources, support, managing stress and much more.

Location:

Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service  
University of Florida / IFAS  
559 N. Military Trail  
West Palm Beach



Call 561-233-1742 to sign up and for more information

# Sea Angels



SeaAngels are dedicated to help in cleaning up our beaches, waters and parks from the continual litter that threatens our wildlife and natural environment.

Come join the SeaAngels for a beach cleanup. We do give volunteer hours for students.

**WHEN:** Every last Saturday of the month

**TIME:** 8:00-10:30am

**WHERE:** 6990 N. Ocean Boulevard, Ocean Ridge

(Check in is at the picnic tables next to the snack bar)

For more information go to [www.seaangels.org](http://www.seaangels.org)

or e-mail us at [info@seaangels.org](mailto:info@seaangels.org)

*Please join us so we can make a difference one piece of litter at a time.*

# Lost & Found Pets

*Please help your neighbors recover their missing pets...*



## Found Cat

This beautiful, friendly cat has been visiting your neighbor on Coconut Lane. The resident would like to find its owners or re-home as soon as possible. If you are the owner, know the owners, or if you'd like to give this kitty a "forever" home, please call dispatch at 561-732-8331 or town hall 561-732-2635 and we will put you in contact with your neighbor.



## Missing Felines



**Muffin** has been missing since Thursday, March 29 from River Drive. He is a 1.5 years old, long-haired with white and large reddish brown patches. He is wearing a collar with a bell. He is neutered and up-to-date on all of his shots.



**Peanut** is a small female tiger-striped cat went missing around February 20th on Island Drive aka "Harbour Island" (north end of town).



**Scooby & Kiki** A male orange tabby cat has been missing since 12/20 from Sailfish Lane. He wears an orange collar with tags and his name is Scooby. **UPDATE!** The same owners are now missing their 16-year-old, all black, shy female cat with a saggy belly. Kiki went missing at the end of 01/12. Kiki is wearing a pink collar with tags.



Also still missing are **Oliver & Bailey** from Dolphin Drive (pictured below). They were last seen on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. They are both male and have been neutered. The black tabby cat is called Oliver/Ollie and the orange /white long haired Maine coon cat is called Bailey. Neither was wearing a collar.

**If you happen to see any of these missing kitties please call dispatch at 561-732-8331 or town hall at 561-732-2635.**

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup

**What:** Join the Sand Sifters for beach cleanup!

**When:** First Saturday of every month. Next cleanup: **August 4**

**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

**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: **July 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

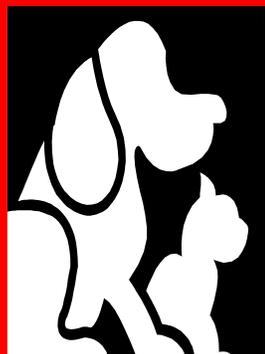
**Where:** 6450 N. Ocean Blvd. at Town Hall.

**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



**Lost or Found A Pet?**  
Call 561-732-8331 to  
report a  
lost or found pet.

**Oceanfront Park Beach  
Conditions**  
Call 561-742-6775