

December 2009



A monthly email newsletter for the residents of Ocean Ridge

Volume 2, Issue 12

Ocean Ridge Tidings



Calendar of Events: December

4	Light-the-Lights Celebration commences at 5:30pm for the residents of Ocean Ridge. There will be Santa, a bounce house and clown for the children, light snacks and beverages will be served.
5	Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup & Toy Drive 8:00-10:30am
7	Regular Town Commission Meeting at 6pm
9	Board of Adjustment Meeting at 8:30am
12	Hanukkah Begins (begins sundown the eve before)
25	Christmas Day -Town Hall Closed -No inspections; Contractor work is NOT permitted -No trash collection Friday. Next scheduled trash pick-up is Tuesday, Dec. 29.
26	Kwanzaa Begins
1	New Year's Day -Town Hall Closed -No inspections; Contractor work is NOT permitted -No trash collection. Next scheduled trash pick-up is Tuesday, Jan. 5th

Inside every issue

*Calendar of Events
Town News
Police News
Volunteer Opportunities
And more!*

Pick up your copy of Leisure Times Fall/Winter 2009/10 edition at Town Hall today! Available while supplies last.



New Election Date

At the December 7th Regular Town Commission Meeting, the Commission will adopt on second reading Ordinance 584 which will change the Town's election day from the second Tuesday in February to the second Tuesday in March. Filing dates will be announced in the January newsletter. Please call Town Hall if you would like additional information.

Island Drive Bridge Update

The replacement of the Island Drive Bridge is proceeding on schedule. The north side should be completed in December and then they move to the south side. Traffic has been moving smoothly and no adverse impacts are expected. They will not be working from December 25th through January 4th.

Holiday Safety Tips

With winter upon us, we'd like to take this opportunity to remind residents of a few safety tips listed below as well as holiday shopping safety tips on page 4.

Fire Safety: Do not overload circuits or use frayed electrical extension cords. Do not run cords under rugs and make sure all candles are extinguished before leaving a room. Now would be a good time to test your smoke detector.

Fireplace: If you have a fireplace, do not place your tree in front of the fireplace or flammable material on the mantel. Do not burn charcoal indoors as that gives off dangerous amounts of carbon monoxide. Before you leave the house or go to sleep, please make sure fireplace fire is completely out.

Also, watch your step when you carry trees in and out of your home.



Fish & Wildlife Reports & Violations

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

* For bird entanglements call 888-404-3922. For aquatic toxins call 888-232-8635.

* For fish kills call 800-636-0511.

* To report fish tags call 800-367-4461.

* To report nuisance alligator call 866-392-4286.

* To report a violation online go to:

http://myfwc.com/About/LE/About_LE_Alert.htm and click on report violation.



Ask the Town Manager!

The Town Manager would like to answer your questions pertaining to the Town. This is a new column that will be added to the newsletter each month or as often as there are ques-



tions submitted. Simply email your questions to the Town Manager at oceanridge@comcast.net and include the subject line as "Ask the Town Manager".



*Have a wonderful
and safe holiday!*

*From everyone at
Town Hall and the
Police Department.*

Light-the-Light

Friday, December 4th, 2009

5:30pm—7:30pm

- *Beverages
- *Light snacks
- *Santa
- *and more!



Ocean Ridge Residents only

Police Department News from Lt. Yannuzzi

“Light-the-Lights” Parking

On Friday, December 4, 2008 between 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM, Town Hall will be the site of the annual “Light the Lights” festivities. Arrangements have been made for additional parking across the street in the lower lot of Oceanfront Park. ORPD Officers will direct you to the designated area and assist you in crossing North Ocean Blvd.

Representatives from the Police Support Group will be on hand to provide popcorn and, in appreciation for your continued support, the members will be handing out water bottles & refrigerator magnets for the adults and plastic badges for the children.

SEE YOU THERE!

Holiday Shopping Safety

The stress of the Holidays can cause us to drop our guard. It is very important for you remain aware of your surroundings. As you shop, remember to park in areas that are well lit. As you pack your sleigh (the car) with gifts, make sure they are hidden from view. During your travel from store-to-store or the drive home, pay attention to anyone who might be following you. Once inside the house, don't advertise your purchases by storing them where they can be easily seen through a window or an open door. Remember, while most people will shop at the mall, if given the chance, the criminal will “shop” in your vehicle or home.

For added piece of mind, why not take this time to have your alarm system serviced. Perhaps upgrades are in order, such as: a radio backup in case the phone lines are cut, motion detectors to add another layer of protection, or simply an opportunity for general maintenance and battery replacement. A defective alarm does little to deter criminal activity and prevents early detection & apprehension. **Don't forget, set the alarm every time you leave the house!**

10 Tips for Smart Holiday Shopping Online

(Courtesy of the Federal Trade Commission)

- * Check out the seller: If you're unfamiliar with the site, do independent research.
- * Read return policies: Date of purchase usually prevails, not the date of gift giving.
- * Know what you're getting: “Knock Offs” are counterfeit, that's why their cheap!
- * Don't fall for a false email or pop-up! Red Flag – Any Unsolicited message
- * Look for signs a site is safe: Is your info going to a secure site?
- * Secure your computer: Install anti-virus and anti-spy software and keep it updated.
- * Consider how you'll pay: Some credit cards extend warranty & delivery protection.
- * Know the full price and check out incentives: Don't forget Shipping & Handling
- * Keep a paper trail: Print & Save your online transactions. Get a tracking number.
- * Turn your computer off when finished shopping: and whenever you're not using it.

“Gypsies”, “Tramps”, and “Thieves”!

Not just lyrics to a song, many times these terms have been misused to label all members of certain ethnic groups as criminals. This broad brush is inappropriate. However, recent training attended by Lt. Chris Yannuzzi and Inv. Hal Hutchins proved that there are teams of people who continue to pray upon the vulnerable. This is especially true in Florida during this time of year.

The upbringing of the “Gentlemen Generation” – older folks raised to be polite and to trust everyone – has created a sea of potential victims. Those focused on taking advantage of this benevolence will do so with the precision of a surgeon; often escaping long before the “target” even realizes they have been victimized. They take advantage of the 3 “G’s”; Goodness, Greed and Gullibility.

The “Traveler” or “Nomad” criminal may present a deal that appears to be “too good to be true” AND IT IS; like needing your help to claim lottery winnings and offering a share of the proceeds. Or the contact could be in the form of a fictitious utility worker needing to check a meter or the property line, a contractor who “was doing work in the area” and happened to have leftover roofing or driveway materials, or even a woman with a child needing to use the phone/bathroom or requesting a drink of water. Unfortunately, the child has been trained and is a part of the scam.

Whenever you are approached by a person or group when you did not initiate the contact, be very skeptical. This “approach” can come in many forms: an unsolicited knock at the door, an unexpected phone call/letter/email or someone walking up to you while you are at the mall, the bank or elsewhere.

If they claim to be a utility worker, ask for identification. FPL, AT&T, etc. employees have ID and their company vehicles are properly marked. Questionable activity can include vehicles with a missing/covered/obscured license plate and/or magnetic signs.

Before you Invest, INVEST-igate! Also, keep an eye out for your neighbors; they may not get this newsletter. **Report suspicious incidents to the Police when they happen!**

Gene Rosenberg Set to Retire



Our last part-time Officer, Gene Rosenberg, is set to retire on December 12, 2009. He has been a hardworking and dedicated Police Officer with the Department for 16 years. Even though he is retiring, he will be a Reserve Officer as well as remain a member of the Ocean Ridge Support Group.

New Police Officers

There are two new faces in the Ocean Ridge Police Department: Officers John Giardino and Vincent Mollica. Officer Giardino brings 20 years experience



Officer Giardino

as a Massachusetts state trooper. Officer Mollica has 16 years experience from the New York City Police Department as a narcotics detective. The Police Department is now fully staffed with 15 Officers.



Officer Mollica

**Remember, “Over the Limit, Under Arrest!”
Please don’t drink and drive.**

Volunteer Opportunities



Sand Sifters “Beach Cleanup & Toy Drive” (click link for drive details)



What: Join the Sand Sifters for beach cleanup.

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

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: 8-10:30am

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: Gary Solomon at 561-734-9128

Town Hall Library



What: Shelve and organize books in the Town Library.

When: As needed.

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

Time: Any time between 8:30am—3pm.

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

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

Recipe: Red Velvet Cupcakes

Source: kraftfoods.com



Ingredients

- 1 pkg (2-layer size) red velvet cake mix
- 1 pkg (3.9oz) chocolate instant pudding
- 1 pkg (8oz) cream cheese, softened
- 1/2cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- 1 pkg (16oz) powdered sugar (4 cups)
- 1cup whipped topping, thawed
- 1 square Baker's white chocolate, shaved into curls

Directions

Prepare cake batter and bake as directed on package for 24 cupcakes, blending dry pudding mix into batter before spooning into prepared muffin cups. Cool. Meanwhile, beat cream cheese and butter into large bowl with mixer until well blended. Gradually beat in sugar. Whisk in whipped topping. Spoon 1.5 cups into small freezer weight plastic bags and seal. Cut small corner off bottom of bag. Insert tip of bag into top of each cupcake to pipe about 1 Tbsp. frosting into center of cupcake. Frost cupcakes with remaining frosting. Top with chocolate curls. Keep refrigerated. Makes 24.

