

Ocean Ridge Tidings

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



Town Clerk Karen Hancsak Retiring

On January 31, 2016, Karen Hancsak will be retiring from the Town of Ocean Ridge after 35 years of service. Karen began serving the Town in 1981 as a Dispatcher for seven years. She later served as Deputy Town Clerk for two years before becoming the Town Clerk when Rita Taylor vacated the position. Karen has been a valuable asset to the Town and wonderful person to work with. Please stop by and wish Karen farewell on or before Friday, January 29, 2016.

At the December Regular Town Commission meeting, the Commission confirmed the hiring of Tracey Stevens with a start date of Monday, January 4, 2016 as the new Town Clerk. Tracey comes to us from the Town of Melbourne Beach and has over ten years municipal clerk experience. Please visit Town Hall in January to meet our new Town Clerk.

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 Supervisor of Elections at 561-656-6200. Election reminders will be provided.

Old Ocean Blvd. Workshop Meeting

The Workshop Meeting to discuss possibly converting Old Ocean Blvd. to one way and also possibly closing several streets to Old Ocean Blvd. has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 6PM in the chambers. An agenda will be posted on the town's website when available.

Ordinances 612 and 613

The Commission adopted Ordinance 612, amending Section 66-117, extending the prohibition for planting invasive plants to single family and duplex residences (the entire town will now be uniform). The Commission also adopted Ordinance 613, amending Section 67-51, to include requirements relative to partial demolition and the prevention of blight. Both ordinances are on the town's website.



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

Karen Hancsak

khancsak@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

December:

- 1: Code Enforcement Hearing begins at 10AM in chambers (tentative)
- 2: Book Club meeting from 5:45PM-7PM in community room
- 4: Holiday Celebration from 5:30-7:30PM at Town Hall
- 5: Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup at Oceanfront Park from 8AM-10:15AM
- 7: Regular Town Commission meeting begins at 6PM in chambers
- 25: Christmas Day—Town Hall closed, no inspections, no contractor work, no trash collection
- 26: Sea Angels Beach Cleanup from 8Am-10:30AM at Ocean Inlet Park

January:

- 1: New Year's Day—Town Hall closed, no inspections, no contractor work, garbage/trash & recycling will be collected
- 2: Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup at Oceanfront Park from 8AM-10:15AM
- 4: Regular Town Commission meeting begins at 6PM in chambers
- 5: Code Enforcement Hearing begins at 10AM in chambers (tentative)
- 6: Book Club meeting from 5:45PM-7PM in community room
- 14: Lecture Series begins at 7PM in chambers
- 18: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—Town Hall closed, no inspections but contractors may work
- 26: Public Workshop/Old Ocean Blvd begins at 6PM in chambers
- 30: 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."

December's Regular Town Commission Meeting Summary

Mayor and Town Commissioners:

The following list is actions taken at the Dec. 7, 2015 meeting/s:

1. Approved the Regular Town Commission Meeting Minutes for Nov. 2, 2015
2. Continued the Re-plat Application for Lots 92-94 Island Drive So. to the Jan. 4, 2016 Regular Town Commission Meeting
3. Consensus for the Commission to submit a shortlist of potential legal representation firms/ individuals from the 7 received prior to the Jan. 4th meeting at which time a special meeting for interviews will be discussed
4. Authorized an additional amount not to exceed \$1,000 to purchase additional pilons, paint etc for the temporary closing of Midlane Road at Woolbright Rd.
5. Directed staff to present the proposed agenda format for the Jan. 26th Workshop Meeting regarding Old Ocean Blvd. at the Jan. 4th Regular Meeting
6. Confirmed the Hiring of Tracey Stevens as the new Town Clerk with an approved salary and starting date of Jan. 4, 2016
7. Approved the purchase of 3 fully equipped police vehicles at a cost not to exceed \$113,000 from the lowest vendor
8. Authorized \$13,000, from the Contingency Account, as an increase for the additional duties assigned to the current Town Clerk to compensate for the two month training for the finance and clerk training
9. Authorized an amount not to exceed \$10,000 from the Contingency Account to fund the Town's portion of a combined fire district study with neighboring barrier island communities
10. Approved an Addendum to the Town Attorney contract to extend his employment through March 7, 2016
11. Adopted Ordinance No. 612; Amending Article IV, Division 1, Section 66-117 of the Code of Ordinances to Make the Landscape Provisions of division 1, Parking Are Landscape, Applicable to Single Family and Duplex Dwelling Units (Second Reading and Adoption)
12. Adopted Ordinance No. 613; Amending Section 1-3, Definitions, of the Code of Ordinances to Include Partial Demolitions of Improvements; and Further Amending Article III, Technical Codes and Other Construction Standards, Division 2, Administration and Enforcement, Section 67-51, Permit Required, to Include Requirements Relative to Partial Demolition Permits and the Prevention of Blight (Second Reading and Adoption)

REMINDER - THE WORKSHOP MEETING TO DISCUSS CONVERTING OLD OCEAN BLVD. TO A ONE WAY STREET AND CLOSING ENTRANCES TO OLD OCEAN BLVD. ON SEVERAL STREETS WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 26TH, 2016 AT 6 PM

Employee Anniversary Dates

Below is list of current employees and their anniversary dates:

Karen Hancsak, Town Clerk	January 26, 1981
Lt. Steve Wohlfiel	February 1, 1993
Jessica Simpson, Dispatch Coordinator	February 15, 2005
Ofc. Nubia Plesnik	March 5, 2013
Sgt. Bill Hallahan	June 13, 1988
Ofc. Bob Massimino	July 6, 2009
Bill Armstrong, Public Works/Maintenance II	July 12, 2010
Jean Hallahan, Dep. Town Clerk	July 28, 2005
Courtney Hammond, Dispatcher	August 12, 2014
Inv. Richard Jones	September 8, 2014
Ofc. Bob McAllister	October 1, 2002
Courtney Barreca, Dispatcher	October 1, 2013
Ofc. John Giardino	October 13, 2009
David Johnson, Public Works/Maintenance I	October 17, 1995
Ofc. David Kurz	October 18, 2010
Sgt. Gary Roy	November 7, 2011
Chief Hal Hutchins	November 15, 2005
Lisa Burns, Receptionist	December 9, 2002
Ofc. Mario Galluscio	December 13, 2004
Sgt. Rick Stang	December 10, 2013

Town Hall Library

Ocean Ridge's library has a large selection of donated fiction and non-fiction books available for residents to sign-out. Checking out books is based on an honor system. We ask that you sign out the books at Town Hall and date when returned. Please have proof of residency available. We also accept only fiction hardcover books during business hours. Library operating hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30AM to 3:00PM.

Sign up to receive e-newsletter and news alerts

If you would like to receive the e-newsletter, news alerts, and other information emailed to you from the town please send an email to [Lisa Burns](mailto:Lburns@oceanridgeflorida.com) at Lburns@oceanridgeflorida.com with your name and email address.

[Privacy Policy.](#)



CATCH THE
Holiday
Spirit
 IN BOYNTON BEACH

BOYNTON BEACH
HOLIDAY PARADE
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Holiday
 2015

HOLIDAY
 BOAT PARADE
 Boynton Beach

HAPPY HOUR
 FRIDAY!

**MUSIC ON
 THE ROCKS**



Friday,
 December 4th, 2015
 5:30 PM to 10:00 PM
 44th Annual Boynton Beach
 Holiday Tree
 Lighting & Concert
**129 EAST OCEAN
 AVENUE**

Ocean Ave Amphitheatre



Saturday,
 December 5th, 2015
 3:00 PM
 45th Annual Holiday Parade
 featuring Holiday Floats,
 Marching Units, Bands
 and Dance Troops
**FEDERAL HWY BETWEEN
 WOOLBRIGHT RD
 & OCEAN AVE**

Downtown Boynton Beach



Friday,
 December 11th, 2015
 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM
 43rd Annual Boynton Beach
 Holiday Boat
 Parade
**735 CASA LOMA
 BOULEVARD**

Boynton Harbor Marina



Friday,
 December 18th, 2015
 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
 Join us for a
 FREE
 music performance!
**129 EAST OCEAN
 AVENUE**

Ocean Ave Amphitheatre



OR OCEAN RIDGE COASTAL ARTISTS

Winter 2016-Ocean Ridge Town Hall
6450 N. Ocean Blvd., Ocean Ridge FL

December 1, 2015

Announcement of 2016 Ocean Ridge Coastal Artist Exhibition.

I'm writing to share the "**NEWS**" that the 2nd Annual OR Coastal Artists Exhibit will be held during the month of March, 2016 in Ocean Ridge Town hall. We learned a lot and promise you that this year the process of show participation will be much smoother. The Town of Ocean Ridge has reduced the percentage of sales commission from 30% to 20%.

There will be an exhibit brochure available that will include: *Painting Number, Artist's Name, Painting Name, Material/Medium, Size (unframed) and Artist Phone Number.*

Only the painting number will appear on the Artwork. The artist will be responsible for providing the Ocean Ridge Commission to Nancy Flinn.

Any artist who had two pieces accepted last year, but had only one displayed, will be exempt from paying an entrance fee for the 2016 show. Judged winners, prize money and cost associated with administration, advertising, promotion, judging etc. will be taken from the entrance fee collected from each artist.

We very much hope all the wonderful participants from 2015 will again join with us to assure an even more successful 2016 exhibit.

Two paintings were sold in 2015 of the 24 shown. One for: \$850.00 and the other for: \$999.00. We intend to do more aggressive promotion and marketing for the 2016 exhibit beginning in November of this year to increase the sales potential for participating artists.

The six artists that were recognized as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, in 2015 and three honorable mentions are displaying, multiple pieces of their art for sale as part of the pre-2016 exhibit promotion in Ocean Ridge Town Hall. Additionally, the judges from the 2015 show are also displaying their artwork. Please visit from mid-November through January.

First Place: Irwin Goldman, **Second Place:** Louise Loranger, **Third Place:** Roxene Sloate.

Judges: Beth Sloat and Max Matteson

The attached "**CALL TO ARTISTS**" will be available in all local artists' environments from Boca Raton to North Palm Beach. We sincerely invite you to participate in this exciting event.

Nancy Flinn,
Show Director

5900 Old Ocean Blvd.,
Ocean Ridge, FL 33435

Phone: 561-336-2948
Email: nancym7@yahoo.com

OR

OCEAN RIDGE COASTAL ARTISTS

Winter 2016-Ocean Ridge Town Hall
6450 N. Ocean Blvd., Ocean Ridge FL

CALL FOR ARTISTS - JURIED ART SHOW

Exhibit Dates: March 3rd to March 31st, 2016

AN ARTIST MAY SUBMIT ONE ENTRY - \$20 PER ENTRY FEE ♦ FEE NON-REFUNDABLE

The show was developed to enhance the cultural experience in Ocean Ridge. In affiliation with the Delray Art League and Coastal Area Artists, the event will be held at Ocean Ridge Town Hall. Proceeds will be donated to the Delray Art League Scholarship Fund and to the Town of Ocean Ridge for Art in Public Places.

CALENDAR:

Monday, February 15th 2016...Deadline to submit Entry Fees and Art Work

Monday, February 29th 2016...Deliver of Selected Art Work to Ocean Ridge Town hall 10AM to 11AM

Thursday, March 3rd 2016...OPENING PARTY AND AWARDS PRESENTATION AT OCEAN RIDGE TOWN HALL 6PM to 8PM

Friday, April 1st 2016...Pickup of ALL Art from 9AM to 10AM

(NOTE: THESE PICKUP & DELIVERY TIMES MUST BE OBSERVED.)

Eligibility:

Art Work is subject to judged approval; up to 80 pieces will be selected for the show. All Art Work must be no larger than 30" x 40" (including Frame), properly framed, or gallery wrapped (no staples showing on the canvas sides), wired, and ready to hang. Wire should be placed on the upper third of frame to hang close to the wall or rack grid. All Art Work must be labeled (on the back, upper right-hand corner) with artist's name, title, address, medium, and price PRIOR TO DELIVERY. The Maximum value of Art Work must not exceed \$1,000. All Art Work in this exhibit must remain for the duration of the show, even if sold. Anyone that removes their exhibit will be prohibited from entering future shows unless authorized by the committee. All Art Work sold will be subject to a 30% donation to the Town of Ocean Ridge for Art in Public Places.

ORIGINAL ART WORK ONLY - NO PRINTS OR GICLÉES!

CASH PRIZES:

1st PLACE \$300

2nd PLACE \$200

3rd PLACE \$100

Honorable Mention: 2 @ \$50 ea. (\$100)

To download these forms use the link:

<https://db.tt/FBwrkw1y>

For more information call:

Nancy Flinn at 561-336-2948 or email:

Nancym7@yahoo.com

RETURN OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM and \$20

Check (per submission) made payable to:

OCEAN RIDGE COASTAL ARTISTS

Mailed to:

Nancy Flinn at 5900 Old Ocean Blvd.

Ocean Ridge, FL 33435

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

OR COASTAL ARTISTS 2016

Nancy Flinn

5900 Old Ocean Blvd., Ocean Ridge, FL 33435

\$20 Entry Fee (per art submitted for consideration) NON-REFUNDABLE

DEADLINE FOR ART ENTRY FORMS/PHOTOS:

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016

Artist: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (C) _____

Email: _____

Title: _____

*PLEASE SEND A DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH OF
ARTWORK SUBMISSION BY 2/15/2016
FOR JUDGING TO:*

ORCOASTALARTISTS@GMAIL.COM

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING YOUR
SUBMISSIONS PLEASE CONTACT NANCY FLINN BY**

EMAIL: NANCYM7@YAHOO.COM

OR TEL. 561-336-2948



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 **November 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>
Town Code Violation	11/6/2015	11/6/2015	11 Tropical Dr.	Conversion to multiple units without permit.
Theft	11/7/2015	11/6/2015 between 12:00 noon and 2:00 pm	6415 North Ocean Blvd.	Theft of unattended bag and contents from Boynton Public Beach.
Traffic Arrest	11/7/2015	11/7/2015 @3:00 pm	5505 North Ocean Blvd.	Fraudulent use of personal information to obtain credit.
Identity Theft	11/9/2015	Between 10/10/2015 and 11/9/2015	6990 North Ocean Blvd.	Traffic stop results in drug arrest of two individuals.
Domestic Violence	11/14/2015	11/14/2015 @2:05 am	Dolphin Dr.	Domestic Violence resulting in arrest.
Town Code Violation	11/16/2015	11/16/2015 @11:00 am	6115 North Ocean Blvd.	Construction beyond scope of permit.
Theft from Vehicle	11/19/2015	11/19/2015 Between 4:00 pm and 5:30 pm	6415 North Ocean Blvd.	Vehicle window smashed. Purse taken.
Theft from Vehicle	11/20/2015	Between 11/19/2015 and 11/20/2015	5615 North Ocean Blvd.	Two vehicles entered overnight by breaking windows.
Theft from Vehicle	11/20/2015	Between 11/19/2015 and 11/20/2015	5900 North Ocean Blvd.	Two vehicles entered overnight by breaking windows.

Holiday Fire Safety Reminders

Deck the Halls: Fire Safe Edition

Holiday decorations may be visually appealing, but they also increase your risk for a home fire. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), [electrical problems](#) cause 38 percent of home Christmas tree fires.

As you deck the halls of your home this season, [follow these tips](#) from NFPA and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) to prevent serious electrical and fire hazards:

- Check light sets for frayed or damaged wiring before using;
- Connect no more than three mini light sets for decorating;
- Keep your tree at least three feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, candles or heat vents;
- If you have a live tree, remember to add water to the tree stand daily; and
- Always turn off holiday lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Deep Fryer Dangers

Thinking about what to prepare for your holiday feast? If your menu plans include deep frying a turkey, there's important safety information to keep in mind.

Keep your festivities from going up in flames; only use turkey fryers outdoors.

USFA wants to remind you of the [dangers that exist](#) when deep frying a turkey, including:

- Turkey fryers can easily tip over, spilling hot cooking oil over a large area;
- A partially frozen turkey will cause cooking oil to splatter when put in the pot;
- Even a small amount of cooking oil spilling on a hot burner can cause a large fire; and
- The sides of the cooking pot, lid, and pot handles can get dangerously hot.

With the Addition of Holiday Lighting to Your Home and Landscape, Now is a Good Time to Ask? What's Your Extinguisher Type?

In an emergency, a portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property when used to put out a small fire. However, when it comes to extinguishers, one type **does not** fit all.

(Continued on next page)

Did you know there are [several types](#) of fire extinguishers? Each one is designed to extinguish different kinds of fires:

- A:** For use with materials like cloth, wood, and paper;
- A-B-C or B-C:** Multi-purpose fire extinguishers best suited for home use. Most home improvement stores carry fire extinguishers that cover class A through class C;
- B:** For use with combustible and flammable liquids like grease, gasoline, oil and oil-based paints;
- C:** For use with electrical equipment like appliances, tools, or other equipment that is plugged in;
- D:** For use with flammable metals like aluminum, magnesium, and titanium; and
- K:** For use with vegetable oils, animal oils, and fats in cooking appliances.

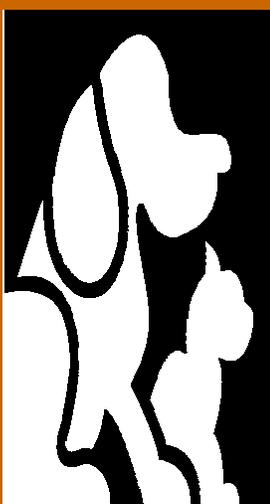
Before using an extinguisher, please keep in mind that the [U. S. Fire Administration recommends](#) that only people trained in the proper use and maintenance of fire extinguishers consider using them when appropriate! Contact your local fire department for training information.

Public Service Announcement from the Ocean Ridge Police Department

From Wednesday, December 16th, 2015 to Friday, January 1st, 2016 the Ocean Ridge Police Department will be participating in a National DUI Enforcement Crackdown. We will be alert for intoxicated drivers and actively enforcing all traffic laws in the towns of Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes.

The Ocean Ridge Police Department encourages you to drink responsibly, have a designated driver and buckle up.

Remember, *"They'll see you before you see them."*



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

FPL Outage Reporting

Did you know that it is easy to report a power outage or a street light that is out in your neighborhood? To report an outage or to get updates on an outage, call 1-800-4OUTAGE (800-468-8243). You may also dial this number to report any hazardous conditions. To report street light issue, simply click on this [link](#) and fill out the information or go to [fpl.com](#). You will receive a confirmation email and updates from FPL.



December's Crime Prevention Information From Investigator Richard Jones

Vehicular Burglary Prevention

In recent months, the majority of Palm Beach County Law Enforcement Agencies have been reporting an increase in vehicle burglaries. Although our crime rates in Ocean Ridge are minimal, we are also prone to an increase in those same or similar crimes reported by other agencies.

Over the last several weeks, we have experienced an increase in vehicle burglaries and would like to offer some guidance to our residents on the best practices that can be taken to prevent becoming a victim.

The first and most important step that you can take is to remove all valuables from your vehicle. Believe it or not, criminals are picky and they prey on easy targets or targets of opportunity.

The second step you can take is to park your vehicle inside your garage. If you do not have a garage, park your vehicle in a well-lit area that allows for officers on patrol to clearly see all your vehicle doors.

The third step is to roll up your car windows and lock your car doors whenever your vehicle is not attended.

The fourth step is to avoid keeping an extra vehicle key inside the vehicle. Many people choose to place a spare key inside their vehicle for emergency purposes. I do not suggest that a spare key be left in the vehicle. If you choose to keep a spare key inside the vehicle, it should not be hidden in the center console, glove box or under the floor mat as these are common locations.

Not all crime can be prevented, but we should all strive to deter as much crime as possible through prevention.

Product/Service Alert

A resident recently obtained a notice from a company, National Theft Search & Recovery which is located in Boca Raton, Florida. This company is a newly opened business that is offering "DNA Stickers" for vehicle tracking in the event your vehicle is stolen. The marketing letter states that these stickers are used to assist law enforcement in locating your vehicle.

The purpose of this email is to inform you that these stickers do not in any way assist law enforcement in locating your vehicle. The VIN Number which is assigned to your vehicle is the only method used by law enforcement for vehicle identification. Although we do not endorse companies, the only nationally recognized companies that truly track stolen vehicles are On-Star and Lo-Jack.

When researching the National Theft Search & Recovery company, I found a very clearly written report published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration discussing vehicle identification numbers and vehicle part tracking. The last paragraph of this article states; "In conclusion, it appears that parts marking and other provisions of the 1984 and 1992 Acts have given the law enforcement community tools they can use to deter thefts, trace stolen vehicles and parts, and apprehend and convict thieves."

The entire report can be viewed using the link below if you are interested.

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/cars/rules/regrev/evaluate/808761.html>



Ocean Ridge Police Department News

By Hal C. Hutchins, Chief of Police



Your Personal Safety

With the many recent incidents of violence being reported in the news; such as the events in Paris France, Colorado Springs Colorado and San Bernardino California, personal safety is often the topic of discussion. In addition, now is the time of year when many people are very busy and making preparations for the holidays. Many will become hurried and disengaged from the things that are going on around them. This is especially true when conducting holiday shopping, using automated teller machines, and during unpacking activities as they arrive home.

We urge you to be extra cautious, vigilant of your surroundings, and aware of those around you during this time to avoid becoming a crime victim. Many criminals prey on unsuspecting shoppers and those returning from shopping during this time of the year.

As for your personal safety, should you find yourself in a location where an incident such as those in Paris France, Colorado Springs Colorado, or San Bernardino California happens; please have a personal safety plan.

The nationally recommended response to a violent incident is provided below:

Run

When confronted with violence or an active shooter is in your vicinity, run.
If there is an escape path, attempt to evacuate.
Evacuate whether others agree to or not.
Leave your belongings behind.
Help others escape if possible.
Prevent others from entering the area.
Call 9-1-1 when you are safe.

Hide

If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide.
Lock and/or barricade the door.
Silence your cell phone.
Turn out the lights.
Hide behind large objects.
Remain very quiet.
Your hiding place should be out of the aggressor's view, provide protection if shots are fired in your direction and not trap or restrict your options for movement.

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Fight

As a last resort, if your life is in danger, fight back.

Attempt to incapacitate the aggressor.

Act with physical aggression.

Improvise weapons, such as using a chair or fire extinguisher to strike the aggressor.

Commit to your actions.

Finally, when law enforcement arrives, remain calm and follow directions; keep your hands visible at all times; avoid pointing or yelling; and know that help for the injured is on the way. The first responders on the scene are not there to evacuate or tend the injured. They are well trained and are there to stop the violence.

We hope you are never confronted with such an event, but we wanted to prepare you with some important information should you ever find yourself in this situation.

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

And finally,

Please report any suspicious person or activity as soon as possible.

REMEMBER



**The Information You Provide Could Make A Difference.
Do Your Part. Report Suspicious Activity.**

If you see something, say something

If something does not look right, let us know.



**Report Suspicious Activity or Persons
to the Ocean Ridge Police Department at 561-732-8331**

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 cleanup!

When: First Saturday of every month. Next cleanup: **December 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: **December 26**

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

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)

Please Note:

Garbage/Trash & recycle will not be collected on Friday, December 25. Garbage/trash/bulk & vegetation will be collected on Tuesday, December 29 and garbage/trash & recycle will be collected on Friday, January 1.