

Ocean Ridge Tidings

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

Municipal Election Information

The 2018 Municipal General Election will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 from 7AM-7PM in the Town Hall Community Room. Two commission seats are open for a three-year term. Candidates are Gail Adams Aaskov, Philip Besler, and Kristine de Haseth. For vote-by-mail ballots and other inquiries, please call the Supervisor of Elections at 561-656-6200. / La Elección General Municipal de 2018 se llevará a cabo el martes 14 de marzo de 2018 de 7 a.m.-7 p.m. en la Sala Comunitaria del Ayuntamiento. Dos puestos de comisión están abiertos por un período de tres años. Los candidatos son Gail Adams Aaskov, Philip Besler y Kristine de Haseth. Para boletas de votación por correo y otras consultas, llame al Supervisor de Elecciones al 561-656-6200.

Concept Plan Review

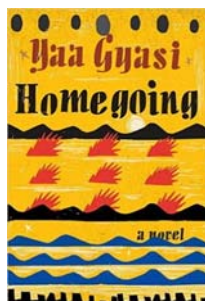
On November 6, 2017, the Town Commission passed a mandatory Concept Plan Review process via Ordinance No. 627 for new construction of one and two story structures and construction involving increases of greater than 50% of the same structure. The ordinance will become effective on January 1, 2018. To apply for the concept plan review in front of the Planning & Zoning Commission, download the Land Development Form on our website, or call the Town Clerk at 561-732-2635 to discuss the process.

Town's New SeeClickFix App!

Want to report a non-emergency issue such as solid waste collection issues, potholes, overgrown lots, and more? Report it by using the Town's SeeClickFix app! Staff will respond during regular business hours and you should expect an update to the issue within 72 hours. To download the app and more, please visit oceanridgeflorida.com/seeclickfix.htm.

Book Club Meeting

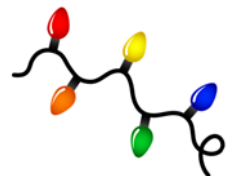
The Book Club will be meeting on Wednesday, January 3 at 5:45pm in the Town Hall Community Room to discuss *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. Residents are encouraged to join the discussion.



Annual Holiday Celebration

Town Commission and Staff would like to thank everyone who attended the annual holiday celebration. The event was well attended and the children had a lot of fun visiting with Santa.

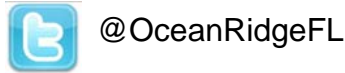
We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday!





General Information

6450 N. Ocean Blvd.,
Ocean Ridge, FL 33435
www.oceanridgeflorida.com



Town Hall

561-732-2635 (main) ♦ 561-737-8359 (fax)
561-732-ORFL (Citizen Information Line)
General Email: info@oceanridgeflorida.com
Town Hall Hours: 8:30AM-3:00PM

Police

Non-emergency: 561-732-8331
Emergency: 9-1-1
Public Records Hours: 8:30AM-2:30PM

Town Officials

Town Manager

James Titcomb
jtitcomb@oceanridgeflorida.com

Town Clerk

Tracey Stevens
tstevens@oceanridgeflorida.com

Police Chief

Hal Hutchins
hhutchins@oceanridgeflorida.com

Mayor

Geoffrey Pugh
gpugh@oceanridgeflorida.com

Vice Mayor

James Bonfiglio
jbonfiglio@oceanridgeflorida.com

Commissioners

Gail Adams Aaskov
gaaskov@oceanridgeflorida.com

Steve Coz
scoz@oceanridgeflorida.com

Don MaGruder
dmagruder@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: Annual Holiday Celebration from 5:30PM-7:30PM at Town Hall
- 2: Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup begins at 8AM at Oceanfront Park
- 4: Regular Town Commission meeting begins at **5PM** at Town Hall ***note time change***
- 4-8: Candidate Qualifying Period from 12/4 at 12PM to 12/8 at 12PM
- 5: Code Enforcement Hearing begins at 10AM in the chambers
- 6: Book Club meeting begins at 5:45PM in the community room
- 25: Christmas Day—Town Hall Closed—no contractor work or inspections
- 30: Sea Angels Beach Cleanup from 8AM-10:30AM at Ocean Inlet Park

January:

- 1: New Year's Day—Town Hall Closed—no contractor work or inspections
- 2: Code Enforcement Hearing begins at 10AM in the chambers (tentative)
- 3: Book Club meeting begins at 5:45PM in the community room
- 6: Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup begins at 8AM at Oceanfront Park
- 8: Infrastructure Surtax Committee meeting begins at 8:30AM in the chambers
- 8: Regular Town Commission meeting begins at 6PM in the chambers
- 15: Martin Luther King, Jr Day—Town Hall closed—no inspections but contractors may work
- 27: 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 on the second Monday of the month at 8:30AM. 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."

Town Manager's Report



Garden Club Annual Seasonal Event: Ocean Ridge Garden Club stages a rummage/garden show type event typically each February entitled “Estate Sale for the Ocean Ridge Garden Club” (see attached) asking permission to use our community room, limited staff logistical assistance and temporary signage to stage the event in Town Hall facilities. The Garden Club is a 50+ year organization with a long history of direct support to the Town, its residents and projects. *Seeking Town Commission consensus to deem this a “town sanctioned” event in order to assist the Garden Club members further in its hosting a successful community based event.*

FY18 “Phase Two” Paving Update: Phase 2 scheduled streets for milling/repaving has been completed (see attached). Our contract company M&M/All County Paving is finalizing the process and performing additional repairs, signage, striping and finishing restoration steps under the Town contract. Still to be installed are two “traffic calming” speed tables (PBC approved Seminole hump design) in-line along Beachway with markings and signage required for installation. This is done several weeks after paving operations allowing the under-base pavement to set properly. Additional reported finishing repairs are added to a “punch list.”

Inlet Cay Drainage Maintenance & Inspection: In November we deployed extensive inspections, camera-scoping, issue identification, cleaning services and minor repairs to assure that our underground drainage infrastructure on Inlet Cay Island functions in as optimal condition as the engineering allows. Seasonally extreme high tides, combined with saturated grounds and heavy spells of tropical rain produced some of the most problematic temporary flooding we’d seen in this area. These emergency services improved the functionality of the current systems installed and identified numerous issues to address moving forward.

Tonight’s agenda contains action items on a proposed “piggyback” contract with TeleVac South, Inc. for ongoing rotational maintenance of all the drain systems in town on a quarterly schedule; and a proposed “Inlet Cay Island Drainage Study” scope of work contract with Higgins Engineering, Inc. to identify and make long term recommendations addressing this Island’s acute water issues.

Tropical Drive Pumping Station: Since Tropical Storm Phillipe, the Tropical Drive Pumps System has been aggressively watched and maintained to avoid failure from any electrical power and, or system control issues until FPL contractors complete their retrofit and hardening of the power grid to that area. Direct fail-safe wiring, operational measures and protocols have been implemented temporarily until we retrofit the control box, generators and pump switching features to permanent status at this installation collaborating with specialty contractors for each of these functions. Consideration in the future should be given to long-term lifespan prediction for equipment replacements and engineering upgrades.

Hurricane Irma Update: Hurricane Irma recovery efforts by storm contractors, town staffing and other emergency related expenditures are being processed working under FEMA rules with their process liaisons for future reimbursements to the Town. Coincidentally, the Town just received a State/FEMA reimbursements check for about \$27K from Hurricane Matthew (Sept. 28 – Oct. 10, 2016) for Town Emergency Operations efforts in Matthew.

FY17 Year-End Closing Operations: November 30th officially closes our town budget for year-end financial adjustments, which now move into preparation toward annual auditing operational functions by Town staff and our contract auditors. Typically, the State of Florida releases FRS Pension and other required data soon after January, then the auditors produce our Annual Financial Audit Report for projected early-spring presentation to the Town Commission for official review and release to the State prior to the June 30th deadline. We are also assisting/performing Palm Beach County Inspector General Office Capital Asset auditing and FEMA eligible reimbursements auditing concurrently in cooperation with those government agencies.

December's Regular Town Commission Meeting Summary

The following is a list of actions taken at the December 4, 2017 Regular Town Commission Meeting:

1. Adopted the Regular Town Commission Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2017.
2. Announced that Town Hall will be closed on Monday, December 25, 2017 in observance of Christmas Day.
3. Announced that Town Hall will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2018 in observance of New Year's Day.
4. Announced that due to the New Year's Day Holiday, the Town Commission will hold its Regular Meeting on January 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
5. Announced that the Municipal Election will be held on March 13, 2018. There are two Town Commission Seats Open for a Three Year Term. Candidate Filing Dates run from Noon on December 4, 2017 through Noon on December 8, 2017. / Las elecciones municipales se celebrará el 13 de marzo de 2018. Hay dos ciudad Comisión asientos abierto por tres años. Fechas de presentación de candidatos se ejecute desde el mediodía en 04 de diciembre de 2017 a través de mediodía en 08 de diciembre de 2017.
6. Deferred until the January 8, 2018 Town Commission meeting the HVAC upgrades for Town Hall.
7. Deferred until the January 8, 2018 Town Commission meeting the gas pump replacement for Town Hall.
8. Authorized the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Higgins Engineering for the Inlet Cay Island Engineering Drainage Study with a 120 day term in the agreement conditioned upon Mr. Higgins providing a revised scope of services for items #4-7 to be presented to the Commission at the next meeting in January.
9. Authorized the Town Manager to move forward with the proposal from Revize for a new Town website subject to a written contract.
10. Authorized the Town Manager to enter into a contract with Televac South for storm drain maintenance.
11. Adopted Resolution No. 2017-22: A Resolution of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Revising the Building Permit Fee Schedule, as amended.
12. Adopted Resolution No. 2017-23: A Resolution of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Amending the Ethics Training Policy.

**THE NEXT REGULAR TOWN COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M.
AT TOWN HALL.**



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 2017** for Ocean Ridge:

Type of Incident	Report Date	Time Frame	Location	Synopsis
Town Code Violation	11/8/2017	11/8/2017 @9:00 am	19 Eleuthra Dr.	Construction site violation.
Driving Under the Influence	11/4/2017	11/4/2017 @2:40 pm	Adams Rd.	Driver arrested for Driving Under the Influence.
Town Code Violation	11/14/2017	11/14/2017	Oceanview Dr.	Violation of Maintenance Standards.
Town Code Violation	11/13/2017	Between 11/8/2017 and 11/13/2017	5505 North Ocean Blvd.	Rental for less than 30 day period.
Vandalism	11/13/2017	11/13/2017 Between 6:00 pm and 11:00 pm	Harbour Dr. South	Report of scratches on vehicle.
Attempted Burglary	11/14/2017	Between 11/14/2017 and 11/15/2017	Harbour Dr. North	Burglar alarm and video show subject attempting to enter rear of home.
Theft	11/17/2017	11/17/2017 @12:50 pm	Tropical Drive	Cell phone and back pack stolen by trash hauler. Recovery of property and arrest made in Boynton Beach.
Drug Arrest	11/18/2017	11/18/2017 @11:30 pm	Thompson Street	Driver of vehicle arrested for narcotics violation during traffic stop.
Theft from Vehicle	11/19/2017	11/19/2017 Between 2:00 pm and 4:00pm	6415 North Ocean Blvd.	Two vehicles entered by breaking windows. Items then taken.
Identity Theft	11/21/2017	Between 11/8/2017 and 11/14/2017	6400 North Ocean Blvd.	Personal Information used to commit fraud and theft.
Burglary to Residence	11/27/2017	11/27/2019 Between 12:45 pm and 4:15 pm	6400 North Ocean Blvd.	Front door to residence kicked in. Safe taken.

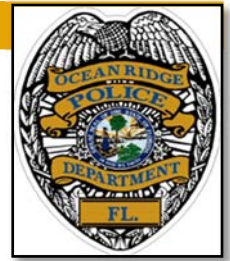
In addition to the above activity, officers assisted other agencies in the arrest of 2 individuals with outstanding arrest warrants as well as conducting normal traffic, security and code enforcement activities.

Please note: The above listed activity is just a snapshot and not a total accounting of the activity of officers of your police department engage in on a monthly basis. This snapshot is to help raise awareness and prevent crime through information sharing and proactive involvement with security, such as locking vehicle doors, closing garage doors and using alarms.



Crime Prevention Information

By Lieutenant Richard Jones



Know Who You Hire And Who Accesses Your Home Holiday Season

During the last year, our agency investigated a theft that involved a large quantity of jewelry. Initially, it appeared as though the jewelry may have been stolen as part of a burglary. However, this was not the case. The homeowner had hired someone to clean their home and had become very comfortable and trusting of that person, but what the homeowner did not know was that the person who had been hired to clean the home took it upon herself to hire additional staff to assist with the cleaning project. The homeowner did not know or trust the additionally hired staff.

It is very important for you to know and clearly define who has access to your home. Do your homework on the companies and individuals that you hire to complete work on your home. In addition to this, make sure that you also do your homework on everyone who is going to be in your home.

Your homework can be as simple as identifying and meeting the people or as elaborate as completing background checks, using the Florida Department of Law Enforcement as well as conducting public records requests from local law enforcement agencies. Most local law enforcement agencies maintain records management systems that allow them to provide the general public with information about law enforcement encounters with people. These encounters may help you to determine whether or not you want to allow this person into your home.

Remember that many people are looking for easy targets. Why burglarize a home when you are invited by the owner or even given the keys and alarm passcode?

Most people have personal belongings that are not just valuable, but also has sentimental value and cannot be easily replaced. Don't risk leaving your home unprotected, spend the time and effort doing your homework in the beginning and it will save you more time and money in the long run.

Holiday Fire Safety Reminders

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.



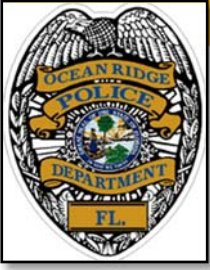
What's Your Extinguisher Type?

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.

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.



Ocean Ridge Police Department News

By Hal C. Hutchins, Chief of Police



Your Personal Safety

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 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.

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.

(continued on next page)

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**

Volunteer Opportunities

Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup

What: Join the Sand Sifters for beach cleanup!

When: First Saturday of every month. Next cleanup: **January 6**

Where: Oceanfront Park, 6415 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: Jeff at JeffLev02@gmail.com / **Social Media:** [facebook.com/SWATJIL](https://www.facebook.com/SWATJIL)

Sea Angels Beach Cleanup

What: Join the Sea Angels for beach cleanup!

When: Last Saturday of every month. Next cleanup: **December 30**

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:** seaangels.org

Anthrax Committee

What: Should Ocean Ridge be exposed to an aerosolized airborne anthrax event, Ocean Ridge and FL Dept. of Health will provide needed antibiotics at no cost as part of a program under the auspices of the CDC. Residents are encouraged to become dispensing volunteers.

When: Attend two hours of meetings per year.

Where/Time: TBD.

Who: Ocean Ridge Residents—no experience necessary

Contact: Terri Vinas at vinasfam@aol.com / [Volunteer Form](#)

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, Monday—Friday.

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