



Town of Shalimar

Tidbits

Fall 2015

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

If you did not know, there are regulations throughout the State of Florida related to saving the natural forestation of our beautiful state. Both Okaloosa County and the Town of Shalimar have laws which protect several types and sizes of native trees – particularly large oaks. Recently, two Shalimar residents contracted with individuals to remove protected trees from their property without first obtaining a permit to remove the trees. The fine for removing a protected tree without obtaining the permit can be up to \$500 per tree. Neither resident paid the full \$500, but the Town Commission did fine one of the residents. Enforcing rules and imposing fines to a resident is a difficult task for the Town Commission, please don't place us in this position in the future. I encourage you to talk to the Town staff whenever you want or plan to remove a tree in the Town.

We continue to make progress on a total revision of our Town's Code of Ordinances. The draft is currently in review and revision. Soon, we will be advertising workshops to allow everyone ample opportunity to influence how the Town will be regulated for the foreseeable future.

I remain committed to maintaining a safe, beautiful Town. Please help the Town Commission by reporting to staff anything which might detract from this goal. If you notice areas in Town which need more attention, even if they are private property, please let staff or myself know and we will attempt to quickly remedy the situation.

NOTES FROM THE POLICE CHIEF

School year for 2014-2015 is here. Please be vigilant on the neighborhood streets as there will be an influx of vehicles and pedestrian traffic. Also, School zones will be patrolled by law enforcement to ensure safety for the children that utilize designated cross walk areas. The posted speed limit in an active school zone is 20mph and the fines increase during this time.

The Police Department is still gathering information from residents who wish to register their pets with the Department. We've located several stray animals and were not able to locate the owner. Our current policy is that we pick the animal up and take it back to the office. We'll keep the animal at the office until all resources are used to locate the owner. By registering your pet, the officer will be able to return the animal to you quickly. You can register your animal by contacting the Department by email [jcash@shalimarflorida.org](mailto:cash@shalimarflorida.org), call (850) 651-1115, or (850) 651-5723.

The Department has taken a few identity theft reports. The following is a description of identity theft and what you can do to prevent becoming an identity theft victim:

- What is Identity (ID) Theft?

Identity Theft occurs when an unauthorized party uses your personally identifying information, such as your name, address, Social Security Number (SSN), or credit card or bank account information to assume your identity in order to commit fraud or other criminal acts.

- What can you do to prevent ID theft?

Identity theft is on the rise. While there are no guarantees that your identity will not be stolen, there are steps you can take to minimize your risk. Use passwords on all your credit card, bank and phone accounts. Never keep passwords, "PINs" or your SSN card in your wallet or purse. Learn about security procedures in your work place. Never give out personal information on the phone, through mail, or over the internet unless you know the receiver and have initiated the contact. Guard your mail and trash from theft. Shred or destroy discarded financial statements in your trash. Give your SSN only when absolutely necessary. Keep your purse or wallet in a safe place at work. Please report any suspicious activity regarding identity theft immediately.

You have any questions or concerns about the Police Department; please do not hesitate to call Town Hall (651-5723) or the Police Department (651-1115). Refer to 225-1272 to speak to an officer directly.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) provides Standard Flood Insurance Policies (SFIPs) which are designed for properties lying within special flood zones (usually zones AE and VE on the Flood Rate Map). Those of you who may have one of these policies on property that is outside the special flood zones (in areas designated zone X -the old zone C) may well be eligible for what FEMA calls a Preferred Risk Policy (PRP). Premiums for a PRP policy are less than for the Standard Policy, and policies may now be changed anytime during a policy's term. In addition, there is a new V-Zone Risk Factor Rating Form that may provide maximum insurance discounts for properties that are built (or modified) according to best construction practices as outlined in the updated Coastal Construction Manual. Contact your flood insurance provider or Town Hall for additional details.

LOCALIZED FLOODING

If you are concerned about localized flooding on your property, please contact the Town Manager. He can provide mitigation assistance based on many successful projects and also can provide guidance from the Town's engineering firm – Poly-Engineering, Inc.

FLOOD AND HURRICANE INFORMATION

Okaloosa County Public Safety has an automated flood warning system. In the event of a flood hazard, this system will call to warn you of an impending flood danger in your area. The National Weather Service issues flood advisories six (6) hours prior to expected heavy rainfall that can potentially cause flooding conditions. In the event of flood hazards, tune into local Radio (AM 1260, FM 105.5 and FM 99.5) and TV Stations for information. In addition, a NOAA weather radio will provide this information. In large or severe events, Emergency Officials sometimes go into the potentially affected areas to inform the residents of any danger. Sign onto <http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/gm/crs-flood-facts> for complete county information on disasters and to sign up for automatic notifications.

The evacuation shelters and routes are listed with directions and phone numbers.

Print out the Okaloosa County Disaster Evacuation Map and store copies in your vehicle and your Disaster Supply Kit.

*The Town Staff wishes a safe and happy Halloween
and Thanksgiving holiday to all of our residents!*

*** Visit www.shalimarflorida.org for upcoming meeting agendas ***