



Town of Shalimar

Tidbits

Spring 2019

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

Everyone in the Town of Shalimar needs to know that I believe they live in the best government municipality in all of Florida. Yes, we are small, but the Town services are enormous. You have enjoyed one of the lowest property tax rates (2 mills) in Florida for the past 10 years while the Town has been operating with zero debt, improving municipal facilities, while amassing an almost one-million-dollar contingency fund. Some might say our contingency fund is too large, but its conservative (per our Financial Auditors) compared to what the Town might have incurred if Hurricane Michael had not made the last few hours turn toward the Panama City area. This contingency fund also allows us to pay upfront for any and all infrastructure needs. The Town has a great financial position, and I pray we never need to use this contingency fund for storm damage recovery or any other disaster recovery. Additionally, I think we may be the smallest Florida municipality with our own Police force. And, find me one other Town that allows residents to borrow some equipment? What about transparency? All ordinances, polices and administrative documents are current and most completely revised in the past 3 years. The Town's website provides more detailed information than any of the other nine Okaloosa County municipalities. All our official records are digitized – and most official documents are posted on the Town employee maintained website.

Looking back twenty years, the Town's millage rate was 3.23 mills in 1997, there were no real contingency funds and the Town was making payments on an infrastructure improvement loan. The Town Hall facility was a 1950's era slightly remodeled brick home with a single bath and half the conference room space it currently enjoys. The 3 lots next to Town Hall did not belong to the Town. The trailer storage lot did not belong to the Town. The Snug Harbor extended parking area did not belong to the Town. The maintenance shop was a temporary storage shed. Several areas of the Town had serious storm water flooding issues. The Town had an aging equipment fleet. Police vehicles were Sherriff's Department hand me downs and the Town's maintenance truck and tractor were functional beaters! Additionally, ordinances were outdated and expensive to update. Few official manuals and policies existed. Bottom-line – the Town Commission has fixed all these conditions and, the Town's future is bright. When Mayor-Elect Mark Franks approached me to volunteer to take the position – I immediately endorsed him. It is time for new blood to take over the reins and continue to improve the governmental services provided to Town residents. I will continue to offer my services to help Mark and all the other Commissioners with whatever arises in the future. Thank you for your support for the past 20 years!

NOTES FROM THE POLICE CHIEF

Hello Spring, Goodbye Winter! The Shalimar Police Department has updated its vehicle fleet. All officers are operating marked Ford SUV patrol vehicles. Please be observant this spring season and don't be a victim of theft. Residents should always have their vehicles locked and keep items out of view and secure in the trunk of their vehicle.

Please remember to abide by the "No Parking on Right-of-Way" Ordinance. If you have guests and need to utilize the right-of-way, please contact Town Hall or the Police Department. The Police Department needs to approve this and, if we are not notified, a citation may be written.

If 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 428-0148 to speak to an officer directly.

Please watch the Town marquee, Town Website and Facebook Page
for the New Mayor's Meet and Greet!

*****Sunday, March 10 -- Daylight saving time will start at 2:00 AM*****

SPRING CLEANUP 2019!

Two dumpsters will be located in the Town for disposal of household items and yard waste - no household garbage please. One will be placed in the lot next to Town Hall and the other will be on the corner of Shalimar Drive and Erwin Fleet.

DUMPSTERS WILL BE IN PLACE FROM APRIL 13 - APRIL 22.

These dumpsters are NOT for Hazardous Materials (HazMat).

There will be a pallet for HazMat somewhere near each dumpster designated as the HAZMAT DISPOSAL AREA. Please ONLY PUT HAZMAT IN/ON POSTED RECEPTACLE. If it is full, you may lay your item next to the HAZMAT DISPOSAL AREA, drop it off at Town Hall behind the green dumpster, or call us and someone will come pick it up. (The Town pays approx. 700% more if HazMat is found in spring clean-up dumpsters.)

Hazardous Materials include:

smoke alarms	paint thinners	engine degreasers	fluorescent bulbs	pesticides	paint strippers
brake fluid	used oil filters	oil	furniture polish	anti-freeze	gas cylinder
solvents	tar	pool chemicals	explosives	gasoline	fire extinguishers
insecticides	flares	paint	batteries	ammo	TVs & ACs

Please refer Hazardous Materials questions to Waste Management at (850) 862-7141.

Please visit The Town of Shalimar's website www.ShalimarFlorida.org. There is information under the tab "FAQ" it's a section that answers frequently asked questions that Town residents may have.

For Example:

- Will the Police Department watch my house while I'm on vacation?
- What is the garbage schedule and how do I report any problems?
- What services does the Town provide?

LOCALIZED FLOODING

If you are concerned about localized flooding on your property, please contact the Town Administrator at 850-651-5723. The Town Administrator can also visit your property and provide mitigation assistance based on many successful projects and also provide guidance from the Town's engineering firm – Poly-Engineering, Inc.

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 (850-651-5723) for information on the floodplain, historical flooding, or elevation certificates.

Reminder: Shalimar ordinances state that no person shall throw or place any debris in any drainage ditches, drainage easements, catch basins, or any part of the storm water management system. It is also illegal to dispose of any pollutants that may end up in any of these areas. These include yard trash, earthen fill, and all trash/litter. Please notify Town Hall if you observe any illegal dumping in our storm water drainage systems – *let's stay high and dry and help keep coastal waters clean!*

*****Visit www.ShalimarFlorida.org for upcoming meeting information*****