



Town of Shalimar

Tidbits

Summer 2015

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

During the April Town Commission meeting, two new Commissioners (Kevin Grohoske and Brad Gable) were sworn in by our Town Attorney, Mike Chesser. The Town Commission then approved two new volunteers (John Henderson and Cleo Battle) to fill two vacant Town Planning and Zoning Board positions. The Town Commission says good-bye and thank you to Commissioner Tim Smith, who served selflessly for the past 4 years. When you see the volunteers around the neighborhood and Town Hall, please thank them for their volunteer service. Town staff is making great progress on a total revision of our Code of Ordinances and Land Development Code to include rezoning of all property in the Town. Our goal is to have a draft out to all Town officials sometime in May. The entire code will be reviewed, updated, and revised. During this year, we will be advertising several workshops to allow everyone ample opportunity to influence how the Town will be regulated for the foreseeable future. If there is a particular Town ordinance you don't like, this will be your opportunity to influence a revision.

One of the first actions of your new Town Commission was to lower taxes on home businesses in Shalimar. If you now own a home business or start one, the new 2015 rate is \$10 per year versus the past \$50 per year. In addition, the Town Commission approved a Town parking agreement for the Dana Court subdivision.

If you have a lawn service, please make sure they do not blow yard debris into our streets. With the upcoming storm season, no one wants to clog the storm water drains in the Town. Of course, blowing yard debris into our streets is a violation of our ordinances and the FDOT fine is large – please don't be the first resident in Shalimar to pay this fine!

I remain committed to maintaining our community as a safe, beautiful, and prosperous Town. Please help me, by reporting to staff anything which might detract from these goals.

NOTES FROM THE POLICE CHIEF

Only 5 weeks of School left before summer vacation. Remember more kids will be out playing in the neighborhoods so obey the posted speed to ensure safety. Also, if you travel make sure that a house watch form is completed. You can do this by stopping by Town Hall or visit the Town's website www.shalimarflorida.org. The police will check your home and property during your time away.

If you have family or guest coming to visit please contact Town Hall or the Police Department so we can notate that vehicles may be parking on the right of way. Please report any suspicious activity when you see it. This will assist the police department in identifying the problem and promptly investigating the activity.

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.

FLOOD AND HURRICANE INFORMATION FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM

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.

Severe Weather Center Emergency Shelter Information

Okaloosa County does not automatically open all emergency shelters during an evacuation. Several factors determine which shelters will be open. Listen to local radio stations for updates.

The Emergency Broadcast System stations in Okaloosa County are: AM 1260, AM 1050, FM 105.5, FM 104.7, and FM 99.5. Listen to one of these stations during a hurricane alert for important information.

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Familiarize yourself with evacuation directions at www.co.okaloosa.fl.us any time there is a tropical system in the Gulf of Mexico or off the Atlantic coast of Florida. Compare the directions to a road map, and trace your route to shelters or to a point outside this area. Keep your vehicle's fuel tank topped off, and get some extra cash from the bank. Make sure you have enough prescription medications to last at least a week without refill. Hotels in Alabama fill up fast during an evacuation. Leave early to beat the traffic jams and to increase your chance of finding a hotel. Shelters do not allow pets, but many hotels will allow small pets in the room.

Shelter Locations: (Please note that this is just a convenient name for Evacuation Centers. Okaloosa County cannot guarantee any particular level of safety at a shelter. They are selected because they are outside of hurricane surge zones and are of generally sturdy construction.)

The public should listen for public announcements as to shelter openings and times.

Antioch Elementary School
Antioch Road
Crestview, FL

Riverside Elementary - 2415 spaces
3400 Redstone Avenue
Crestview, FL 32536

Davidson Middle School
6261 Old Bethel Road
Crestview, FL

Kenwood Elementary -School
15 NE Eagle ST
Fort Walton Beach, FL

Baker School
1369 14th Street
Baker, FL
(Access off Rte. 4 in Baker - look for signs on right side of road when you get into Baker. If you miss the sign, turn right at the caution light in Baker, then right again.)

Shoal River Middle School - 1980 spaces
3200 Redstone Avenue
Crestview, FL 32536

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

FROM THE STAFF

Reminder of Shalimar's leash law - please be a responsible pet owner.
Ordinance Sec. 10-82. - Restraint and confinement to property.

- (a) Restraints on owner's or custodian's property.** Owners and custodians of dogs and cats will exercise diligence and reasonable care to prevent their animals from leaving their premises. Restraint exists when the animal is:
 - (1) Enclosed within a house, building, fence, pen or other enclosure where the animal cannot climb, dig, jump or otherwise escape. Such enclosure must be securely fastened any time the animal is left unattended.
 - (2) On a leash held by a competent person.
 - (3) Off a leash but under voice control and obedient to such person's commands and such person is present with the animal at all times.
- (b) Restraint while off owner's or custodian's property.** Owners and custodians of dogs and cats will exercise diligence and reasonable care to keep their animals under restraint while off the owner's or custodian's premises. The only acceptable methods of restraint are:
 - (1) Inside a vehicle, parked or in motion.
 - (2) Confined within a secure enclosure with permission of the occupant of the property where the animal is temporarily located.
 - (3) On a leash held by a competent person.
 - (4) In a securely fastened cage or animal carrier with adequate ventilation and room for the animal.

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