



Town of Shalimar

Tidbits

Summer 2018

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

As I have said in the past: "The most difficult task for me as an elected official is determining how to efficiently expend tax dollars". So, I tend to think about the Town's budget like my own personal finances. The cost of living always increases, and you will soon see a modest increase in monthly garbage fees. The Commission recently awarded a new contract to the lowest cost bidder which is our current provider – Waste Management. There was no change to services. Just like everything else, the Town's cost of just maintaining the current level of services is also increasing, and we anticipate lower property tax revenues with pending approval of the new Homestead Tax Exemption referendum (H.R. 7105). I really don't want our county or Shalimar property tax rates to increase, so, I am in favor of a proposed ½ cents sales tax in Okaloosa County. A significant portion of this tax will be paid by tourists and it's a more equitable tax since all residents and tourist help defray the cost of the government services they enjoy and need! This sales tax is distributed based on population and the Town is small so our portion is also small, but this small amount will offset the Town's loss of revenue due to the increase in the new property tax exemption. You personally can decide if you had rather help pay for government with a sales tax increase or a property tax increase. When the sales tax increase does come to a vote, please consider this fact when you are marking your ballot.

Lots of changes/improvements are happening in the Town. If you transit Gardner Drive, you will notice two new speed bumps on this street. In my opinion, they are working – most drivers are at least slowing down for the bumps. Since installation, the average speed is noticeably lower and I think there is a significant reduction in non-resident through traffic. Speed bumps are only one method for traffic control and the Commission is considering other methods. In conjunction with an Eagle Scout project, a painted virtual speed bump is being planned for Plew Avenue. Please contact Town Hall if you think a speed bump might be beneficial on your street. On a commercial front, Shalimar Yacht Basin is under new management and now called: "Two George's Marina". George and his son George are upgrading the facility and I encourage everyone to stop by and say hello to George. The gravel parking surfaces of the Town Hall facility will soon be resurfaced along with engineered storm water runoff enhancements. The Commission has approved procurement of a new police SUV as the old Charger fleet has a record of extremely higher than advertised maintenance costs. There is not enough room in this small publication to tell you everything that is happening, just know we are fortunate to live in Paradise.

NOTES FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT

Yard waste is picked up curbside every **Monday** and includes tree limbs, leaves, lawn clippings, etc. Total volume of Yard Waste for each collection day shall not exceed (4) cubic yards (approximately the amount which can be placed in the bed of one standard pick-up truck). If total volume exceeds these specifications, the remainder will be picked up on the next scheduled yard waste service day. If you receive a notification tag, your yard waste may not meet the following requirements. Please call (850) 862-7141 for more information.

- Yard Trash must be in a separate container from other waste, bagged, and/or stacked and shall not weigh more than fifty (50) pounds per container or stack, and shall not be in excess of six (6) feet in length or four (4) inches in diameter.
- Large branches, tree trunks, stumps, or other bulky or non-combustible materials not susceptible to normal loading and collection in "load packer" type sanitation equipment used for regular collections from domestic households and Yard Trash generated by commercial companies, including tree-trimmers and yard maintenance companies are not included in this definition.
- Bulk waste and recycling will be picked up on **Thursday**.

***** Please do not leave any items beside our dumpster or hazmat trailer***
If they are full, please drop off when they have room.**

FLOOD AND HURRICANE INFORMATION

Check our website at www.shalimarflorida.org for updated flood information and links to State and County information. Be sure to print out the Okaloosa County Disaster Evacuation Map and store copies in your vehicle and Disaster Supply Kit.

FEMA Flood Insurance Reminders:

Residents can stop by the town hall and check out flood maps for specific flood zone determinations. Copies of elevation certificates for structures located in special flood zones should be on file at the Town Hall and applications and instructions for elevation certification are also available.

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 and after a hurricane for important information.

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 one week without refill. Leave early to beat the traffic jams and to increase your chance of finding a hotel. Some 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*
4700 Whitehurst Lane
Crestview, FL

Riverside Elementary – 2415 spaces
3400 Redstone Avenue
Crestview, FL

Davidson Middle School**
6261 Old Bethel Road
Crestview, FL

Laurel Hill School
Building 8
8078 4th Street
Laurel Hill, FL

Northwest Florida State College – Raider Stadium*
90 College Blvd. East
Niceville, FL

Crestview High School
Building 11
1304 North Ferdon Blvd.
Crestview, FL

Baker School
1369 14th Street
Baker, FL

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

Kenwood Elementary School
15 NE Eagle Street
Fort Walton Beach, FL

*Pet Friendly

**Special needs/pets (Note: pets are not kept with populace)

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 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.

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 or find us on facebook***

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.