



## Town of Shalimar

# *Tidbits*

Summer 2019

### NOTES FROM THE MAYOR



Hello Town of Shalimar residents, my name is Mark Franks and I am proud to say that I am your new Mayor! I was sworn in during the April 9<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting along with Commissioners Brad Gable and Jerry McCallister. I want to congratulate both of them on their re-election and thank them for all their hard work.

Here's a little background on me:

I was born and raised in Okaloosa County and graduated from Fort Walton Beach High School in 1989. My family has deep roots in the area going back to the 1930's. My Great-Grandfather James Hayes built several small businesses in Fort Walton Beach during the 40's and 50's which included Goofy Golf (1959), a miniature golf course that has become a local landmark and is still in operation today. I have been involved in Government and politics for over two decades and currently chair the Community Perspectives/Government Affairs Committee for the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce.

I have been employed with Eglin Federal Credit Union for just under twenty years and I manage the mortgage services department at the EFCU main branch by the Shalimar Bridge. I earned a BS degree in Management followed with an MBA from Troy University. Besides being the new Mayor of Shalimar, I will also serve as a board member on the Executive Board of the Okaloosa County League of Cities (OCLOC).

Luoma, my wife of 24 years, along with our Olde English Bulldogge, "Harley" live on Sunset Bay Court. Luoma was born in Colorado and grew up in the bluegrass state in a suburb of Lexington, Kentucky. In our free time, Luoma and I like to garden, ride our Harley –Davidson, enter our 1971 Mustang Mach 1 (all original) in local car shows, travel to historical sites and shop for antiques. We also love to stay active in the community and are members of the Shalimar United Methodist Church.

How did we end up in Shalimar? My wife and I lived in Fort Walton Beach and we needed more room (everybody likes to come visit us or maybe it's the beach??). We saved up our money for over a decade to purchase a bigger home and as we looked around the county, I always found myself looking again and again in Shalimar. **There's something special about this town.**

It's kind of hard to explain, but I believe it comes down to the people who live here. People who truly care and put so much of their time and energy in making Shalimar the best it can be.

Yes, we are small, but we have a lot of pride and I personally believe this is the best municipality in the county. We have Gary Combs (Mayor for the past 20 years) and the Commission to thank for the excellent quality of life and the low mileage rate that we enjoy in Shalimar. I also want to thank Gary and the staff for the way they have helped throughout this transition. They have bent over backwards to help me wherever needed and I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate it.

I want to let you know that I did attend the Triumph Gulf Coast Board Meeting in late April at the Okaloosa Commission Chambers in Shalimar, and the board gave conceptual approval to the county's request for \$64.1 million in Triumph money for the southwest Crestview bypass. This will have a positive impact on all the municipalities in Okaloosa by reducing traffic congestion, supporting Eglin's mission and enhancing economic development. This has been a long time coming and when we leverage these Triumph resources with the FDOT and half-cent surtax funds, we will finally be able to transform the infrastructure of Okaloosa County which will benefit the beautiful town of Shalimar.

**\*\*\*SCHOOLS OUT WATCH FOR CHILDREN WHILE DRIVING\*\*\***

## FLOOD AND HURRICANE INFORMATION

Check our website at [www.shalimarflorida.org](http://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.myokaloosa.com](http://www.myokaloosa.com) 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.