



Town of Shalimar

Tidbits

Winter 2017

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

According to the US Census Bureau, the Town of Shalimar has an estimated 2016 population of 805 citizens. My guess is this is a fairly accurate estimate. The Town has 9 full-time employees and one part-time police officer with a FY2018 budget of \$633,600 and \$393,159 of this budget is planned to be expended on salaries. Accordingly, employee 2018 salary expenditure is 62% of the budget. The FY2017 budgeted salary was \$386,017.56. Lots of personal actions occurred during the past couple years to include the loss of three long term full-time employees. The Town hired five new full-time employees in the past two years – two clerks, two maintenance persons and one policeman. This is the first time I have voted against the Town's fiscal year budget. In the past six months, I have been very vocal about my concern over unjustified salary increases. The Commission is attempting to address a more structured process to justify employee salary increases and benefits and I hope it works. So, that's my two cents on this year's budget. The good news is the Town's millage rate, for FY2018, remains at two mills.

On a more positive note, I need to compliment the past year's efforts of our Maintenance Department. The two new full-time maintenance employees have accomplished more in the past year than I can recall being accomplished in the past 10 years. Accomplishments include in-house trimming of palm trees, repair of sidewalks, too numerous park repairs to list, upgrading of all the building facilities, landscaping, shop reorganization, beautiful dumpster enclosure and repair of equipment. Also, these two employees always display over-the-top positive attitudes. Look around Town, if you see anything (private or public area) that needs attention, please let us know – you are welcome to [email me](#) or Roads and Grounds Commissioner Garcia ([email address](#)).

In closing, please be aware that parking on the right-of-way, in many cases, is a safety concern in our neighborhoods. The Town Commission has ordinance authority to approve specific instances to allow parking on the right-of-way and there are some agreements already in existence. Please note that without an agreement, our police officers will equitably enforce local traffic safety laws.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

The Annual Christmas Parade and Pot Luck Party will be on Friday, December 15, 2017 and is open to everyone. The parade will start at 5:30 and will take about an hour to get through the town. The Christmas Party will start at Town Hall immediately after the parade ends. Please bring a dish to share.

NOTES FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Holiday Season is approaching. Many residents will be traveling out of town to visit family. Others will have family visiting our wonderful Town. Tip for those traveling; contact the Police Department, Town Hall, or visit our website to complete a house watch form. An officer will conduct security checks of the residence. Tip for those coming to visit our wonderful Town; due to our "No parking on the right-of-way" ordinance, we encourage residents to contact the Police Department or Town Hall for guidance on accommodating guest parking. While shopping, be vigilant to your surroundings. Secure your vehicle, place valuables in areas of the vehicle that aren't in the open, and avoid hiding an extra key inside or outside the vehicle. Limit debit or credit card use to avoid compromise of those cards. It's recommended using credit option without a pin to avoid compromise. The best alternative is utilizing cash. Phone scams continue to rise, never give personal information over the phone if you feel the conversation is suspicious.

The State of Florida, local law enforcement agencies, and other agencies outside the State conduct extra patrols to combat DUI's and other violations during the Holiday Season. If you consume too many alcoholic beverages please call a taxi service, have a designated driver, or contact the non-emergency number (428-0148) to have a Shalimar officer assist you with arriving home safely.

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). Call to 428-0148 to speak to an officer directly.

Reminder of Shalimar's **leash law** - please be a responsible pet owner.
Ordinance Sec. 5.07.02. - 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.

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!*

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.