



Town of Shalimar

Tidbits

Winter 2018

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

By the time you read this article, the November 2018 election will be over. Two of the November Election Ballot Amendments effect tax rates for almost everyone in Florida. I am predicting that Amendment One which provides an additional \$25K property tax exemption for most Shalimar residents did indeed pass, and the Town's general funds will be negatively impacted. I have no idea how you might have voted on Amendment 14, but if it passed, the Town's general fund will benefit, and hopefully, Okaloosa County commissioners will not raise your county property taxes for several capital improvement projects which they feel necessary. Amendment One negatively impacts all government funds while Amendment 14 positively impacts government funds. Regardless of the outcome of the election, I plan to endorse the lowering of Shalimar property taxes in Fiscal Year 2020. The Town's millage rate has been 2.0 mills for several years; however, your property taxes have continued to increase due to rising property values. My goal is to reduce the Town's millage rate by 25% to 1.5 mills. If Amendment 14 passed, this rate is absolutely possible. Even if Amendment 14 didn't pass, I still favor a reduction in your Shalimar property tax rate and hopefully, the decrease will be significant. So, no Boston Tea party will be necessary!

Two years ago, the Commission updated the Code of Ordinances, and the Commission is still working further necessary updates. The Commission's goal is to set the standard for all of Okaloosa County. Most of Shalimar residents and commercial business owners are responsible and abide by the Code of Ordinances. Yet, there are still a few residents and business owners who harbor breeding grounds for rats and mosquitos. Personally, I have zero tolerance for rats and mosquitos, so I label each as a pest! Piles of trash debris and unattended vessels which hold stagnant water are breeding sites which attract either rats or mosquitos. Even protective covers or tarps covering an item can develop voids which hold stagnate water. Please be responsible and eliminate any debris piles or standing water vessels on your property. In closing, please be safe, healthy and enjoy the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. If you see anything in your neighborhood which is suspect, please contact me personally, or a Town Hall employee or any elected official ASAP. The Town of Shalimar is a one-of-its kind Florida municipality; please help us keep it that way!

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

The Annual Christmas Parade and Pot Luck Party will be on Thursday, December 13, 2018 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.

We hired a new part-time officer, Ryan Twiddy. If you see him patrolling the neighborhoods, welcome him to the Department.

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.