



Town of Shalimar

Tidbits

Winter 2019

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

I'm sure you have noticed there's a lot going on in the town of Shalimar! We have new businesses coming in, updates and improvements are being made and the Commission has approved plans for several future projects. We also have completed our budget process for FY2020, and I'm happy to report the town's mileage rate will remain at 2 mills.

I want to take this opportunity to tell you more about the exciting things happening around town, but first let me congratulate the Meigs Middle School football team on their perfect regular season and for the incredible effort they put into the championship game against Pryor! I attended all the home games and let me say how impressed I was with these young athletes.

They showed themselves to be a disciplined team with great sportsmanship, and we all know that starts at home and also comes from the dedicated coaches who put so much time into these students. A big thanks to you, all the staff, volunteers, cheerleaders, band and dance team. Thanks for all you do, and we are proud of each one of you!



I want to encourage you to stop by and say hello to some new businesses in Town. I want to welcome Trinity Signs, Personalization Market (Gifts & Art), Yarbros Moving Center (U-Haul business) and I'm happy to say that the old Food Max has new tenants and they are currently cleaning out the inside of the building. This commercial property has been derelict for over a decade, so it will be wonderful to see it cleaned up as a new business comes in.

The Town Maintenance Department has been busy, and I want to thank them for all they have accomplished. Under the direction of Mayor Pro-Tem/Roads and Grounds Commissioner Ricardo Garcia, the department has cleaned out the Shalimar Drive pond discharge line and removed sand from the outlet box which was deposited during the unusual high tide. I'm sure many of you were very happy to see the standing water finally go down. They also replaced the deteriorated center section of our marquee sign. This included repainting the seal and letters as well as weatherproofing the back of the sign. Jeff Adams used his artistic skills to repaint our town seal and it looks fantastic! Two new flashing speed monitor signs have also been installed and placed at each end of town on Eglin Parkway. This was all accomplished-on top of their other day to day responsibilities so thank you so much for all your hard work.

Future projects: The Commission has approved the installation of 40 new LED streetlights. As I stated in the fall tidbits, the plan is to remove the existing HID lighting along Eglin Parkway from the base of the bridge to Richbourg Ave and install LED lighting. This will give us an additional 13 streetlights and will benefit us in the areas of safety, energy conservation and a more favorable business environment. We will also be repainting the traffic lines on our town roadways and as of now we are still looking for contractors.

Again, I want to say how happy and proud I am to serve as your Mayor, and I want to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Mark Franks, Mayor

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

The Annual Christmas Parade and Potluck Party will be on Thursday, December 12, 2019 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.

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.

CONTRACTORS – Please make sure that all contractors you hire have a *license from the Town of Shalimar*. We keep records of each licensed contractor's Liability and Worker's Compensation Insurance, along with a copy of the contractor's Okaloosa County Occupational License. A contractor's unwillingness to secure a very inexpensive Town license may very well be the first RED FLAG indicating possible unscrupulous business practices. It happens in Shalimar more often than many realize. Sometimes, contractors are only unaware of Shalimar's licensing requirements and once informed of this requirement will readily complete the very easy process to help keep those who are not correctly insured or don't have correct licenses out of Shalimar. Please feel free call Town Hall before entering into any contractor agreement and avoid being a victim of illegal contractors.

BUILDING PERMITS – Most building projects require a building permit from the Town. This Town building permit is very inexpensive and allows us to review projects for zoning requirements that might exist, and also creates a record of the project that is stored in the Town's records. Those projects that require inspection from a State certified building inspector also require a permit from Okaloosa County as the County provides inspection services for the Town. The County also verifies various building material requirements such as fire ratings and wind load ratings that are required by State building codes. Property owners can pull permits themselves at the Town Hall (especially for self-help projects), but it is recommended that contractors pull these permits as they are most familiar with permit requirements. A quick call to the Town Administrator or the Town Clerk at 651-5723 will get you all the info on a specific project or answer any questions you may have.

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.

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