



NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

Notes from the Mayor

Throughout my time as Mayor, I have used this forum to make sure you are aware of significant events related to the Town. As you already know, your new Town commission is now in place, and all three of the new commissioners are actively involved and quickly learning their jobs.

I can tell you the Town's Personnel and Administrative manuals are being reviewed and updated. The Town's ordinance section relating to Animals has already been approved. The commission is currently reviewing the Town's Environment code section especially related to nuisances. There is an ongoing discussion within the commission related to what will be declared a nuisance and the Town's remedy or enforcement of whatever is approved. Since I have been Mayor, the Town's enforcement of nuisance related issues has been "complaint driven". In other words if a resident, property owner or business has identified to the Town Administrative Staff, Police Department or Commission, a condition within the Town, which they feel is a nuisance, then appropriate action is initiated. The Town does not have a code enforcement patrol, which specifically identifies nuisance related violations. In fact, the Town, in the past, has worked with many identified property owners to mitigate issues without a threatening letter or legal action. Yes, we have on occasion sent threatening letters, but no legal action has yet occurred.

There is also discussion that I have not required strict enforcement of all ordinances especially related to parking. Whenever there was a complaint, the Town has (in my opinion) addressed the particular issue. Yes, the police department and the Town's administrative staff have worked with residents to resolve short term or special event parking situations. We cannot resolve long-term parking issues even though the past Commission tried with the trailer storage initiative. We do strictly enforce parking on the Town's right of way when there is a safety issue or neighbors complain. I am okay with what has occurred over the years related to code enforcement. I cannot tell you what will occur by the end of this year; however, I can tell you that code enforcement (not my idea) will be a hot topic in future commission meetings.

I continue to encourage everyone to be aware of what is happening on the local level. You can influence the direction of Town government. My personal cell phone is 217-5180. At work, I am not allowed a cell phone in the area. If you need my work number, call Town Hall and I have instructed them to provide it to any Shalimar resident.

In closing, you recently voted in favor of the Town adopting legal language to cap our millage rate at the present 2.0 mills. In the next meeting, I plan to sponsor an ordinance change to at least make it more difficult for any future commission to raise the millage without input from all of us.

NOTES FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

School ends May 19, 2011, which means more kids on neighborhood streets. In addition, we usually see increases in two areas. First, vehicle burglaries increase so it is very important to lock your vehicle doors and conceal all valuable items in your trunk or inside your home. Second, criminal mischief increases to include busted streetlights, targeting of parks, and graffiti. If you see any suspicious activity or person(s) call 651-7400 or 225-1272.

I will be sending out notices referencing 'meet your police officers'. This meeting will be an opportunity to familiarize you with the services we provide. In addition, you can let us know areas you would like us to improve or ideas you would like us to implement. The location of this meeting will be at the Town Hall. The police are here to service you and I want to provide the most efficient, professional, and dedicated department for the town residents.

To get up to date information about traffic conditions, recent crimes, and information about the police department please follow us on **Twitter** at twitter.com/shalimarpd. The link can be found at the Town of Shalimar website (shalimarflorida.org).

Parking on the right a way continues to be a problem. If you see a vehicle in violation of this ordinance contact town hall at 651-5723 or police department at 651-1115 or 225-1272.

FLOOD AND HURRICANE INFORMATION

Familiarize yourself with the Okaloosa County web site (www.co.okaloosa.fl.us) before a hurricane threatens. There is a lot of helpful information about shelters, evacuation routes, Emergency phone numbers and radio stations, etc. Below is just some of the information available:

Handicapped and elderly persons seeking shelters and who are in need of transportation should call Okaloosa Coordinated Transport at 833-9168 as soon as it has been announced that shelters have opened. Please remember to take your medications with you.

The Emergency Broadcast System stations in Okaloosa County are: AM1260, AM1050, FM105.5, FM104.7 and FM99.5. Listen to one of these stations during a hurricane alert for important information.

SHELTER INFORMATION: Okaloosa County does not automatically open all emergency shelters during an evacuation. Several factors determine which shelters will be open. Listen to local radio stations for updates.

Antioch Elementary School - Antioch Road; Crestview, FL

Baker School - 1369 14th Street; Baker, FL (*Access off of Rte. 4 in Baker - look for signs on right side of road when you get into Baker. If you miss the sign, turn right at the caution light in Baker, then right again.*)

Davidson Middle School - 6261 Old Bethel Road; Crestview, FL

Kenwood Elementary School - 15 NE Eagle St; Fort Walton Beach, FL

Riverside Elementary (2415 spaces) - 3400 Redstone Avenue; Crestview, FL 32536

Shoal River Middle School (1980 spaces) - 3200 Redstone Avenue; Crestview, FL 32536

Mosquito season will be here in the next few weeks (night temperatures routinely above 67 degrees F) and now is the time to police your property for any items or areas that will hold standing water (rain or irrigation). The county will be spraying by truck between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. on a routine schedule. Please go inside if you see the truck, as they will stop spraying in areas where people are obviously outside. If you see any areas containing standing water, please report them to town hall.

FEMA Flood Insurance Reminders

Residents can stop by the town hall and check out flood maps for specific flood zone determinations. A library of information about the Federal Flood Insurance Program as well as flood mitigation materials is kept at the Town Hall. The Town CRS coordinator is also available for mitigation inspecting of property. Copies of elevation certificates for structures located in special flood zones should be on file at Town Hall and applications and instructions for elevation certification are available.