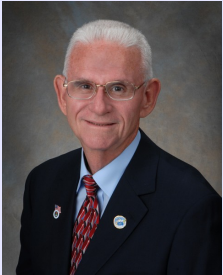


District 2 News



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Out & about...

A Message From Your Commissioner

Greetings from your District 2 Commissioner:

There is a lot going on in District 2: Multiple Road Projects; the Request for Proposal (RFP), for the Okaloosa Island Golf Property; Water and Sewer work; and the Pilot Program for enhanced residential recycling.

There are many road projects either underway or soon to be started on District 2 roadways that are funded by the Florida Dept. of Transportation (FDOT). I'm sure you are all aware of the Hwy 85/123 project near the Northwest Florida Regional Airport. This project is moving along well. Since we are getting to the phases of final pavement finishes and installing the overpass for Hwy 123, we need to be alert to lane changes and closures.

FDOT has also started the resurfacing of Lewis Turner Blvd from Roberts Blvd (near Mama Rosa's) to the interchange with Hwy 85 near Eglin AFB. Most of this work is being done on weekends and at night, so please allow extra time for travel during these periods. The resurfacing of Hwy 98 across Okaloosa Island by FDOT is progressing well. This work is also being done primarily during the lower traffic nighttime hours.

FDOT work will soon start on the resurfacing of Eglin Parkway between Hwy 98 (Miracle Strip) in Fort Walton Beach and 12th Avenue in Shalimar. The portion in Shalimar between 9th Avenue and Cherokee will also include stormwater work and will require some extended lane closures and turn restrictions, so be alert in this area also. Throughout the Eglin Parkway project, many of the sidewalks at intersections will be made ADA accessible by installing wheelchair ramps.

At the County level, we will soon start the FY2012 overlay program. The main road for overlay in Dist. 2 will be on South Ave between Woodham and Bella Vista. Our County road crews will also be doing some road striping, particularly in the unincorporated Shalimar area. As funding allows, we may add some other areas to the overlay program for this year.

The RFP for the Okaloosa Island "Golf Property" was advertised on Feb. 2, and will close for bid submissions on May 4. Proposals must be compatible with the projects the County Commission has already approved (expanded boat parking, outdoor concrete slab behind the Convention Center, boardwalk along Choctaw Bay, Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge, and the central "natural area.") The purpose of the RFP is to provide a "non-tax dollar" revenue source for the County's improvements and maintenance of this park, and hopefully, other parks on Okaloosa Island.

The County Water and Sewer Dept. has completed the teardown of the Garnier's Sewer Plant off Essex Road. There is still some work to be done to finish the crushing and haul off of the concrete, but this should finish before long. The two-story building still standing is being renovated by the County Facility Maintenance Department to be an EMS ambulance dispatch station and EMS supply warehouse.

Your Board of County Commissioners has budgeted to begin expanding the Don Stillwell Park later this year, and the Parks Department has moved back into their maintenance facility at this location. Water and Sewer has started work to replace the Okaloosa Island lift station, as well as painting water tanks for preventative maintenance.

The Pilot Program for enhanced residential recycling has started on two routes in the Shalimar area. The new recycling containers were delivered the week of Jan. 30. Two objectives of this program are to reduce our costs of garbage going to landfills and to increase our income from the sale of recyclable materials. The Pilot Program will run six months, and be evaluated during and at the end, for amounts of decreased garbage and increased recycling, as well as the associated costs and revenues.

I hope everyone is off to a good start in 2012 for prosperity and happiness,

Dave Parisot