

District 4 News



Commissioner Don Amunds

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Connecting



Communities!

Co. Radio Show: 3rd Thurs. WFTW 1260, 7:30 AM

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Okaloosa County at Work ... 2012

Current Millage is 3.2899.

- A Community Development Block Grant will provide for design and construction of streets overlay and minor roadside drainage improvements in Sylvania Heights.
- Annual resurfacing list is expected to begin in February 2012
- Numerous road & bridge construction projects will be completed in District 1 & 3 in 2012.

A Message From Your Commissioner

Happy New Year Okaloosa County! As Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, I thought I would talk about the year ahead. Progress is already being seen in Public Works, Airports, Water and Sewer Departments and others.

Water and Sewer crews just completed an upgrade in Fort Walton Beach in the Beachview and Middle Drive area that increases water pressure and improves fire hydrant water pressure in that area, as well. There are other areas planned for this upgrade, along with some larger projects scheduled for 2012 below:

Clifford Street Lift Station Improvements (construction) – replace pumps, wet well, and electrical equipment for one of our largest and oldest sewer lift stations. This project is fully funded by a Florida Department of Community Affairs - Community Development Block Grant.

Rocky Bayou Force Main (construction) – replace an aging 14” sewer force main transmitting all flow from the East County Service Area (Bluewater Bay) to the NVOC Regional Sewer Plant. Project would also eliminate the Post Office Lift Station.

Main Island Lift Station (design & construction) – a new lift station is needed to replace the lift station servicing all of Okaloosa Island. This lift station is approximately 30 years old, is in very poor condition and badly needs replacement.

Aging infrastructure is on many department capital improvement plans in these departments to include Public Works. In 2012, West Plympton Road will be cold-mixed, Old Antioch Road will be rehabilitated and the resurfacing list will be completed each year. Stormwater is reviewed and improved with each project, as needed.

Year 2012 will be another exciting year for our airports, with major upgrades already occurring and increased economic development anticipated. Also, we will dedicate the USS Okaloosa bell at the airport on April 26, adding a Navy dedication to our Army and Air Force displays. I hope you will plan to join us for this historic event!

I am also looking forward to the progression of the pristine Okaloosa Island property to allow for more active enjoyment of this area for boaters, beach and park visitors and nature lovers. Additional boat parking at Marler Park and a board walk from the park to the east, as well as the addition of the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge will begin this year.

Another exciting venture will be breaking ground – the new Okaloosa County Extension office or Agriculture center at the Bob Sikes Airport this year. Additionally, the county is also looking at excess county property acquired over the years in order to sell or use.

A decision on the Shalimar Annex Reverter Clause will be announced in February, and if Okaloosa County is able to continue with the renovation, it will save us and taxpayers almost a million in rental costs in upcoming years.

We are monitoring new public safety regulations, the corrections department challenges, and overall quality of life issues. Please contact me anytime with your ideas and concerns.

Cordially,
Commissioner Don Amunds, chairman
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↓ **L-R: Qwest Air Parts ribbon cutting & Women Veterans Plaque Dedication at NWF Regional Airport**

