

STATE OF THE TOWN MESSAGE

May 1, 2012

MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY! That is not a distress signal unless you are on the verge of receiving a nuisance citation. April showers have brought May flowers and weeds, weeds, and more weeds. I must implore you to keep your property in compliance with our ordinances.

It has almost been a year since I took office and I think you, my fellow residents, are entitled to a status of where our town is right now. When I ran for mayor, I said it would require a lot of energy, patience and responsibility to effectively run this office. It has! There have been some surprises and some mountains that I had to move in order to comfortably say that being the Mayor of Shady Shores this first year of my term has been exactly what I expected. The surprise resignation of one of our long term alderman and our town secretary were surprises that made my hair turn a bit grayer. In addition, the special election in November and the resurrection of Middle School 7 were unexpected treats. And, of course, seeing our town in the national news due to an assault involving a national sorority person was not what I was expecting when I took office. But, hey, as the previous mayor would say, "that's something else then."

I am very proud to be the Mayor of Shady Shores and I thought I would just briefly touch on events under my watch in the past year. To begin with, I am so fortunate to have fantastic aldermen and planning and zoning members to guide me. They are the Heart of this Town.

In addition, my first attempt at providing our town with a realistic budget has been very rewarding as we are funding all of our requirements and receiving revenues just as we forecast. Furthermore, the vision of our strategy committee for the next five years will give the town a goal with which to continue prospering and maintain a comfortable integrity.

Obviously, our roads are our biggest asset and, yet, liability. I have spent most of my time trying to grasp the essence of our weaknesses and strengths regarding the best approach in maintaining and repairing these thoroughfares. I had our engineer and John Reedy, our strategy committee chairman, ride with me all day on April 20, 2012 as we perused the town in order to formulate a cost plan to present to the council during our budget work sessions. I am afraid that we will have to budget a considerable amount of funds to fix our aging and decaying roads. The drought and traffic patterns have taken their toll.

One of the most admiring traits of being mayor is to be involved with events such as our clean up days, our Christmas gala and our community events visions. The hard work and energy of

our volunteers really amazes me and creates a feel good atmosphere in the town. My hat is off to all of the residents who give of their time to participate in these events.

Unfortunately, there are some aspects of this position that are very vexing to me. I am a “move fast” person. I like to tackle an obstacle and get it resolved. This is just not possible in the natural flow of a general law town. We must follow protocol and allow due process using our council and commissioners to ensure health, safety and welfare of town residents. This is standard in all municipalities. I have learned to be patient and be resourceful in completing the process legally. Also, it vexes me to see citizens in distress around town regarding items that I cannot fix. I wish I had a magic wand and could make all of the drainage problems go away. I wish I could say abracadabra and all of the nuisance issues would disappear. Most of all, I wish I could convince all of us to get along with our neighbors. While these may be troublesome, I will continue to do my best to shrink these mountains so that they are passable.

In addition, the most challenging job is trying to do code enforcement. I assure you that I have been diligent and energetic in trying to address all of the issues that exist in our town today as well as those that have existed for some time. I drive the town as often as possible and record the violations and send the letters or make personal calls on the violators. I am pleased to report that most of our residents do comply with the ordinance violation when advised of them. There is still much work to be done in this area and I will strive to be on top of it.

I am happy to report that our investments are now all at one financial location and they are earning the highest rate of interest possible. In addition, the Investment Committee, which is composed of aldermen, will consider investing some of the funds into variable Certificates of Deposit. We know the aggressive approach to road repair is going to deplete a substantial amount of our fund balance in the 2012-2013 Budget, so the committee is using caution in reserving the funds.

In conclusion, I believe it is the responsibility of the mayor to make the residents of their town feel comfortable and confident in their town infrastructure. I will continue to seek ways to make this happen. When I took office, I pledged to keep the status quo which we all revere. I do not intend in the second year of my term to jeopardize the reason we all live in Shady Shores. I think we have a wonderful Town as it exists today. If there are changes in the future, they will only occur because the health, safety and welfare of the Town demand the changes.

Let's move on to what's happening in May. We have our regular council meeting on Monday May 7th at 7PM. The Corinth Police will be in attendance to explain some of the advantages to passing a Title 36 Ordinance. We have our election on Saturday May 12th from 7AM to 7PM at the Community Center. I encourage all of the registered voters to take a few moments to vote in this very important election. Also, we are now on Facebook and welcome your involvement.

One final reminder regarding those residents who live on the lake shoreline, you may not mow more than 50 feet from your property line onto Federal land. The Corps of Engineers will be stepping up their patrol of the area beginning in May.

I hope you have a very pleasant month of May. I will be in the office from 2:30 to 5 everyday, or I can meet you any evening or on the weekend if you need to speak in person.

Mayor Jerry Williams