



WELCOME TO DESTIN



Mayor Mel Ponder

- Hospitality**
- Opportunity**
- Generations**
- Family**
- Honor**

On behalf of the Destin City Council, I welcome you to the beautiful City of Destin, Florida, a wonderful place to live, work and play. I am thrilled that you have chosen Destin as your place to call home.

Our great city has so much to offer its residents. While Destin is well known for its emerald waters and sugar-white sands, we are also proud of our community and family-oriented atmosphere, filled with citizens who care.

We are a progressive city with incredible real estate selections, as well as one of the top school systems in Florida. Business opportunities abound with the thousands of people who consistently come to enjoy Destin's beaches every year.

If you are looking for recreational activities, you are in the right place. Our beautiful parks and recreation facilities provide a remarkable quality of life for residents. You will find a state-of-the-art public library, 11 public beach accesses, miles of beaches, world-class golf courses, amazing restaurants and a variety of shopping opportunities. Known as "The World's Luckiest Fishing Village," Destin has a fleet of charter boats ready to take you on the fishing excursion of a lifetime.

I also encourage you to learn about our city committees. We are always looking for good volunteers to guide Destin into the future.

Again, thank you for choosing Destin as your home!

GETTING STARTED

There are a few things to know as you get settled in your new home here in Destin. The city partners with independent agencies to provide utility services to residents and businesses. This includes **water/sewer, electricity, natural gas and garbage service**. Please note that garbage service is mandatory and it is the responsibility of the property owner to ensure this service is established. Below is contact information for major utility services:

Destin Water Users
218 Main St.
Destin, FL 32541
(850) 837-6146
<http://dwiinc.com>

Okaloosa Gas District
20 NE Hughes St.
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548
(850) 729-4700
www.okaloosagas.com

Gulf Power
140 Hollywood Blvd.
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548
(800) 225-5797
www.gulfpower.com

Waste Management
108 Hill Ave.
Ft. Walton Beach 32548
(800) 862-7141
www.wm.com

Cox Cable
34904 Emerald Coast Pkwy.
Destin, FL 32541
(850) 796-1269
www.cox.com

CITY DEPARTMENTS

The **City Administration** is responsible for the daily general operations of the city in accordance with local ordinances, laws and policies prescribed by the city council. The Administration Office includes the city manager, city clerk, finance, human resources, grants/projects, CRA/development, information technology, geographic information systems and public information.

Greg Kisela
City Manager
(850) 837-4242

The **Community Development Department** provides building, code enforcement, and planning/development services in a professional and friendly manner to enhance and protect the quality of life, sense of community, well-being and prosperity of the city's residents, businesses and visitors.

Ken Gallander
Director
(850) 837-4242

The **Destin Library** provides quality, professional information services and recreational reading materials to our community.

Jurate Burns
Director
(850) 837-8572

The **Public Services Department** provides technical and compliance review of private construction projects affecting the city's right-of-way and infrastructure and public Capital Improvement Projects. The department is also responsible for the maintenance of all publicly owned streets, public grounds and public facilities, and oversees contracted city services such as sidewalk installation, road resurfacing and striping.

David Campbell
Director
(850) 837-4242

The **Parks & Recreation Department** provides professionally managed recreational opportunities, services and facilities for all ages and ability levels through well-trained, professional staff and partnerships. The department maintains and operates 30 properties including three sports complexes, two indoor facilities, one boat launch, rental pavilions, and 11 public beach access points.

Lance Johnson
Director
(850) 837-4242

City Hall
General Administration
4200 Indian Bayou Trail
(850) 837-4242

City Hall Annex
Community Development
4100 Indian Bayou Trail
(850) 837-4242

Destin Library
150 Sibert Ave.
(850) 837-8572

Community Center
101 Stahlman Ave.
(850) 654-5184

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Okaloosa County Property Appraiser
JG Plaza
73 Eglin Pkwy. NE, Suite 202
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548
O: (850) 651-7240
F: (850) 651-7244

Every person who owns and resides on real property in Okaloosa County, Florida, on January 1 and makes the property their permanent residence is eligible to receive a homestead exemption up to \$50,000. The first \$25,000 applies to all property taxes including school district taxes. The additional exemption up to \$25,000, applies to the assessed value between \$50,000 and \$75,000 and only to non-school taxes. This represents a substantial savings on the taxes levied against your property by the various taxing authorities. For a checklist of what is needed to apply, visit www.okaloosapa.com/exempt.html.

LICENSES AND REGISTRATIONS

Okaloosa County Tax Collector
Henderson Beach Business Complex
4012 Commons Drive W, Suite 122
Destin, FL 32541
(850) 651-7527

Most licenses and registrations are obtained through the Okaloosa County Tax Collector. These include driver license, vessel registration, voter registration, and hunting and fishing licenses. The Okaloosa County Tax Collector has an office conveniently located in Destin. Many services are also available online at www.okaloosatax.com.

DESTIN SCHOOL ZONE

Destin Elementary School
630 Kelly St.
Destin, FL 32541
(850) 833-4361
www.okaloosaschools.com/destines

Destin Middle School
4608 Legendary Marina Drive
Destin, FL 32541
(850) 833-7655
www.okaloosa.k12.fl.us/destinm

Ft. Walton Beach High School
400 Hollywood Blvd. SW
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548
(850) 833-3300
www.fwbvikings.com

OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Okaloosa County Clerk of Court
1940 Lewis Turner Blvd.
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548
(850) 651-7200
www.okaloosaclerk.com

Destin Post Office
175 Main St.
Destin, FL 32541
(850) 837-6312
www.usps.com

Sheriff's Office Substation
107 Stahlman Ave.
Destin, FL 32541
(850) 609-2094
(850) 651-7400 (Dispatch)

Destin Fire Control District
848 Airport Road
Destin, FL 32541
(850) 837-8413
www.destinfire.com

WWW.CITYOFDESTIN.COM

An abundance of information can be found on the city's website, www.cityofdestin.com. City staff has taken time over the years to create this comprehensive site that provides residents, businesses and visitors with a one-stop shop for almost any need. We encourage you to take some time to get familiar with the site, as it may save you a phone call or trip to a city facility just to get an answer to your questions. That said, our helpful and knowledgeable staff is always ready and willing to assist you! You can sign up for notifications (*email and/or text messages*) from the city website. Here is a list of available notifications:

Emergency/Hurricane Alerts • News • Newsletters • Bids • City Jobs • Calendars • Council Agendas

The "City Help Desk" located on the home page of the website is also a useful feature. If you can't find the information you are looking for or if you need to report an issue in the city, the help desk provides a tool to make your inquiry and receive a response from the city in a timely manner.



SOCIAL MEDIA

The City of Destin is using social media heavily to provide timely messages to residents, businesses and visitors. While the city website is the primary venue for news and updates, the city's **Facebook** page (*City of Destin Government*) provides news and updates, as well as additional information that may be of interest. The Destin Library and Destin Parks & Recreation Department also use **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Pinterest** to interact with the public. Additionally, the city posts videos and clips from its segment of Okaloosa Today (aired on Cox Cable 6) to **YouTube** (*CityofDestin*).

