



# WELCOME TO DESTIN

## GETTING STARTED

On behalf of the City of Destin, we want to welcome you to the World's Luckiest Fishing Village. While Destin is known for its sugar-white sands and emerald green waters, we are also proud of our tight-knit, family-first community.

We are a progressive city with incredible real estate selections, top-notch school systems, and abundant strong businesses.

If you're looking for recreational opportunities, you've come to the right place. We have a state-of-the-art library, many public beach accesses and miles of gorgeous beach, amazing restaurants and shopping, world-class golf courses, and a fleet of charter boats ready to take you on the fishing excursion of a lifetime.

Quality of life is what we're about, and we hope you join us in volunteering your time and expertise to keep our area the cleanest, environmentally sound place for residents, businesses and visitors.

### Welcome Home!

Mayor of the City of Destin Bobby Wagner  
Public Information Manager Tamara L. Young, PhD

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.

#### Okaloosa Gas District

20 NE Hughes St.  
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548  
(850) 729-4700  
[www.okaloosagas.com](http://www.okaloosagas.com)

#### Gulf Power

140 Hollywood Blvd.  
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548  
(800) 225-5797  
[www.gulfpower.com](http://www.gulfpower.com)

#### Waste Management

108 Hill Ave.  
Ft. Walton Beach 32548  
(850) 301-2822  
[www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com)

#### Destin Water Users

218 Main St.  
Destin, FL 32541  
(850) 837-6146  
<http://dwiinc.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, and public information.

**Lance Johnson**  
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.

**Louis Zunguze**  
Director  
(850) 654-1119

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

**Wen Livingston**  
Library Director  
(850) 837-8572

The Public Works 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.

**Michael Burgess**  
Director  
(850) 837-6869

The Parks & Recreation Department provides professionally managed recreational 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.

**Lisa Firth**  
Director  
(850) 654-5184

Text **BEACH** to 44144  
for daily beach warning  
flag updates.



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

City Hall Annex  
Community Development  
4100 Indian Bayou Trail  
(850) 654-1119

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

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

## HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

### Okaloosa County Property Appraiser Mack Busbee

1250 Eglin Parkway N., Suite 201  
Shalimar, FL 32579  
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 <https://okaloosapa.com/real-property/#Homestead>.

## DESTIN SCHOOL ZONE

Destin Elementary  
School 630 Kelly St.  
Destin, FL 32541  
(850) 833-4361

Destin Middle School  
4608 Legendary Marina  
Dr Destin, FL 32541  
(850) 833-7655

Destin High School  
4325 Commons Dr W  
Destin, FL 32541  
(850) 204-4044

Fort Walton Beach High School  
400 Hollywood Blvd. SW  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548  
Phone: (850) 833-3300  
Fax: (850) 833-3311

## OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Okaloosa County Clerk of Court  
1940 Lewis Turner Blyd.  
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548  
(850) 651-7200  
[www.okaloosaclerk.com](http://www.okaloosaclerk.com)

Destin Post Office  
175 Main St.  
Destin, FL 32541  
(850) 837-6312  
[www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com)

Sherif'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](http://www.destinfire.com)

## 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](http://www.okaloosatax.com).

## WWW.CITYOFDESTIN.COM

An abundance of information can be found on the city's website: [www.cityofdestin.com](http://www.cityofdestin.com).

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 and Instagram to interact with the public.



@cityofdestinofficial



[www.facebook.com/cityofdestin/](http://www.facebook.com/cityofdestin/)

### DESTIN CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Jim Bagby, Dewey Destin, Torey Geile, Terésa Hebert, Johnny King, Kevin Schmidt, Matthew Sweetser