

JUNE 2024 EDITION OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS NEWSLETTER, THE OIL LANTERN

Page 1 of 8 Pages



P.O. Box 4323
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32549

OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
ASSOCIATION

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Our June 2024 meeting will be held on **Monday, June 17, 2024** starting at 7 pm. For our June meeting, members will have the option of attending the meeting in-person at the Okaloosa Island Firehouse (104 Santa Rosa Blvd) or attending over the internet by Zoom. In a few days OILA members will receive a Zoom meeting invitation by e-mail, with instructions on how to join the meeting.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- Message from the President
- June 17, 2024 Meeting Agenda
- Rainfall for May 2024
- Wuzzle Puzzles
- Architectural Report – May 2024
- Draft Minutes – May 13, 2024
OILA Owners Meeting
- Island Garden Club Open Meeting
Invitation- Patriotic Meet & Greet,
Sept 11, 2024
- Meet Okaloosa Island Firefighter –
Kevin Jacobs
- Wuzzle Puzzles Answers
- This Month in History – June
- Two Ways to Join the
Leaseholders!

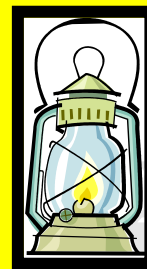


GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE JUNE MEETING
Mr. Jason Autrey, Director, Okaloosa County
Department of Public Works



THE OIL LANTERN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND
LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION, Inc
P.O. Box 4323, Fort Walton Beach, FL 3254
Editor: Jim Simpson, (850) 585-2116
Association Website: www.oilaweb.com
June 2024



OILA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2024

President:

Brian Harrington
604 Pelican Drive
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
850-420-8410
Haibiss01@yahoo.com

Vice-President

Louis Belanger
1800 Butternut Ave
Metairie, LA 70001
504-453-4575
Louis.belanger@bellsouth.net

Director

Jerry Boggess
8202 Persimmon Lane
Long Beach, MS 39560
228-323-0264
Jerry.w.boggess@gmail.com

Director

Stanley King
2485 Oakleigh Ct NE
Atlanta, GA 30345
404-931-9693
Skling3@mindspring.com

Director

Dr. Frank Adcock
8596 Rockcreek Pkwy
Cordova, TN 38016
901-484-9391
fadcock1@comcast.net

Director

David Jones
P.O. Box 1029
Andalusia, AL 36420
334-488-1773
beachhaven203@gmail.com

Director

Dylan Hunt
628 Pelican Drive
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
353-562-4700
dylan.l.hunt@gmail.com

Treasurer/Newsletter Editor

Jim Simpson
240 Brooks St, Unit B302
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
850-585-2116
sanleanna@cox.net

Secretary

John S. Donovan
5135 Trumbull Court
Atlanta, GA 30338
770-686-5646 (Cell)
770-393-4993 (Atl Land Line)
850-244-5792 (El Mat Land Line)
Donovanjyd41@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – Brian Harrington

This month we're going to have Mr. Jason Autrey, the Director of Okaloosa County's Public Works Department as our guest speaker. Mr. Autrey has agreed to provide our members with a much-needed update regarding Okaloosa County's plan to overhaul Santa Rosa Boulevard. As you know, this plan has been the cause of serious concern for all Islanders as it affects our quality of life and the safety of our families, guests, and visitors.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive a briefing from Mr. Autrey and this forum is not going to be a "town hall" style session—it is intended only to be an information update. I do not intend for him to stand and answer questions from the room as he has limited time. At a date to be determined after this briefing, the OILA membership will discuss any new information and following this discussion, our members will decide on what actions should be taken.

The OILA Board of Directors has compiled the following list of questions for Mr. Autrey:

Q. *Why can't we retain 4 lanes of traffic on Santa Rosa Boulevard (SRB) that will ensure optimum safety as to ingress and egress for routine residential traffic (to include school buses, delivery vans, utility repair, evacuation and military traffic) and for the emergency vehicles of fire, police, EMS ambulance and beach rescue vehicles?* Currently SRB is approximately 78 ft. wide from the north edge of the current sidewalk to the south edge of the eastbound lane. The county's easement along SRB is 100ft wide. The current four vehicle lanes are 10ft wide each and the median is 17ft wide—that only accounts for 57ft, and in SRB's current configuration this still leaves room for a 12ft multi-modal path and 9 feet of additional space for a south sidewalk or drainage as required—or does the current plan somehow now include vehicle parking along SRB?

Q. *Regarding public safety along SRB--assuming the speed limit remains 35mph, how exactly is the proposed plan safer for motorists, pedestrians & cyclists vs. the current configuration, and are emergency response times somehow shortened under the proposed plan?* Several individual groups and professionals (including OILA's President, Past-President other OILA members and Island property owners, an Emergency Physician/Paramedic Medical Director, and a Forensic Structure/Traffic Engineer) testified to the dangers and consequences of reducing the lanes of traffic on SRB. *What do you say to these individuals and to the 90% of OILA voters who voted against any lane reduction?*

Q. *What official written support have you received from Eglin AFB's Command Group in regard to the SRB plan?* What concerns has the Eglin AFB commander shared with the design team in regard to limiting the travel lanes to the Santa Rosa Range Complex? *Does the county have a formal Memorandum of Understanding or other legal written permission from Eglin AFB's Command Group to reduce any lanes of traffic on Santa Rosa Boulevard?*

Q. *How is this plan going to improve drainage along SRB & how much green space is required to achieve this goal?* Assuming this drainage channels its way into the beach freeways & eventually the sound, *are there any future plans for the beach freeways other than drainage?*

Q. *Can you share the construction timeline for the new water mains along SRB?* We understand that Halff Associates has the design contract for both the SRB improvement project as well as the water main replacement plan. *The county commissioners have also hinted that underground power lines may accompany the SRB plan--can you elaborate on this?*

Q. *How far along are we in the process?* How much of the \$610k that was approved in April of 2023 has been spent? What is the timeline for construction--will we see shovels in the dirt before the Brooks Bridge's projected completion date--or after its completion & how long after? *Can an OILA director attend any of the scheduled monthly coordination & progress meetings and can OILA be made aware of what individual property owners are agreeing to?*

We're looking forward to hearing the answers to these questions--make sure to clear your calendar and be sure to attend this meeting.

OILA - We're stronger together!



JUNE 2024 Meeting Agenda Date: Monday, June 17
Time: 7:00 p.m.

SPEAKER: Jason Autrey, Director, Okaloosa County Public Works Department

I. PLACE: For our June 2024 meeting, members will have the option of attending the meeting in-person at the Okaloosa Island Firehouse (104 Santa Rosa Blvd) or attending over the internet by Zoom.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call of Board Members: Brian Harrington

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: John Donovan - Draft minutes, May 13, 2024, Meeting (copy in this newsletter)

V. Treasurer's Report for June 2024 - Jim Simpson, Treasurer

VI. Standing Committee Reports: Nick Hall: Architectural Review Committee Report for May 2024 (printed in this newsletter)

VII. New and Unfinished Business

- 1. Santa Rosa Boulevard update provided by Mr. Jason Autrey
- 2. OILA Officer positions announced for 2024-2025

VIII. Announcements, Speakers and Programs

XI. Adjournment

May 2024 Rainfall 8.5 Inches



May 1.....**0.4** inches May 14.....**1.6** inches
May 2.....**0.1** inches May 17....**0.3** inches
May 10.....**1.6** inches May 18....**2.8** inches
May 13.....**1.8** inches

Avg Rainfall for May.....**4.0** inches
Variance to Average.....**+4.5** inches

June Avg Rainfall.....**6.1** inches
June Record High.....**102° F** (1969)
June Record Low **48° F** (1984)
June Avg Water .Temperature...**81° F**

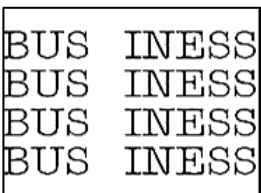
July Avg Rainfall.....**8.5** inches
July Record High.....**107.°F** (1980)
July Record Low **55 ° F** (1967)
July Avg Water Temperature.....**83° F**

YTD Variance **- 0.9** inches
Year to Date Rainfall.....**23.4** inches
Avg Annual Rainfall**65.1** inches

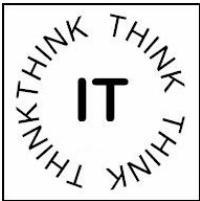
WUZZLE PUZZLES - What is a Wuzzle Puzzle? It is a puzzle consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures, or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, etc. Are you ready to take the challenge and figure out the “disguised” meaning of these wuzzles? Good luck. The answers are available on page 7 of this newsletter.



Wuzzle No. 1



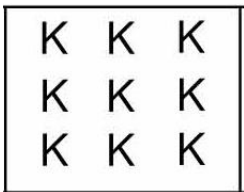
Wuzzle No. 2



Wuzzle No. 3



Wuzzle No. 4



Wuzzle No. 5

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT FOR MAY 2024: The OILA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) received and reviewed the following during the month of May and upon review and adherence to the OILA Covenants, has approved the following project(s):

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lot(s)</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Owner/POC/Address</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>In-Compliance & Approved</u>
4 May		3	D. Sullivan 321 Bream Ave, Unit U510 Palm Court Yacht Club	Boat Lift	Yes
13 May	405	7	J. Morrow 730 Sailfish Drive	Pool	Yes
30 May		3	J. Agulto 312 Bream Ave Sandy Pointe Condo	Exterior Update, Paint, Replace Windows, Repair Decking	Yes

Special Notes: The OILA ARC instructions for your project are located on the OILA website: <http://www.OILAweb.com/ArchitectureReview.html>
Please read and follow the instructions for submission of an OILA ARC application:

- 7. OILA ARC review package:
 - 7.1. Completed OILA ARC application,
 - 7.2. Survey plat of the property,
 - 7.3. Overlaid illustration of the project on a copy of the survey plat.
 - 7.4. Other supporting documents* (drawings, plans, specifications, etc.) (*If these are large files, they can be submitted separately). (Combine the files into one file for submission to the ARC, either in MS Word or Adobe PDF format.)
- 8. Email the completed ARC application file to the OILA ARC for review at OILAARC@yahoo.com.
The ARC applications will be reviewed in the order they are received and the review will be completed within 2 weeks of a completed application. (Note: The ARC no longer holds meetings in-person/zoom meetings the 1st and 3rd Thursday's of the month).

Draft Meeting Minutes OILA May, 13th 2024

Board members in attendance: Brian Harrington, Frank Adcock, Louis Belanger, David Jones, Stan King

Board members not present: Dylan Hunt, Jerry Boggess

Officers present: Jim Simpson (Treasurer), John Donovan (Secretary)

Meeting started 7pm. Pledge of allegiance recited by membership.

John Donovan requested modification to the April minutes regarding Frank Adcock's comments discussing the SRB lane reduction. Change requested (below) was adopted and minutes approved.

"Frank Adcock – Frank asked if there had been any further communication from or to OILA with the Military (Brigadier General Geraghty) concerning the planned reduction of traffic lanes from four lanes to two on the Western one-mile of Santa Rosa Blvd? Frank repeated a phrase used in Brig Gen Geraghty's written communication to OILA that he stated he has no public position on this matter 'at this time'. This implies he may have something further to say at a future date about Okaloosa County's plan to narrow the only beachfront Eastern access to the 15 mile long Military Fly-In and Training area. Frank also mentioned the new beachfront Restaurant being built on the Island at its extreme Western end that would bring more traffic to that area not only from Island residents and vacationers but from local permanent residents of the Fort Walton area in general because this location would be a unique attraction in the history of Okaloosa Island."

Treasurers Report provided by Jim Simpson. Motion to approve reimbursement of postage was approved. Treasury report approved (see attachment 1 for a copy of the approved report)

ARC Report out (Nick Hall) – 1 approval on April 18th for the Beal House hotel to add exterior slate screening.

Guest Speaker from Okaloosa County Coastal Resources: (Jessica Valek, Coastal Resources Coordinator)

- Funded under the TDD
- Jessica runs the sea turtle nesting program.
- 4 of 7 sea turtle species are found in the Gulf.
- May 1st – Oct 31st is nesting season where turtles come onto beach to lay eggs.
- Typically lay 80 to 100 eggs at a time.
- Turtle will bury the eggs and return to the gulf and not return to the nest. The eggs are left in the ground for 25 to 45 days until they hatch. They crawl back to the water and use the moonlight to guide them.
- Turtles will return to the area where they hatched.
- Temperature determines the sex of the turtle.
- Turtles depend on Sargassum for food and protection by way of camouflage.
- All sea turtles are protected, and the nesting program monitors the beach each day for new nests. New nests are marked with stakes and flagging with a sign posted to not disturb.
- After the eggs hatch, Sea Turtle Patrol evaluates the nest to determine how many eggs hatched.
- Things we can do:
 - Filling in holes on the beach, knocking down sandcastles.
 - Pick up all items off the beach.
 - Reduce the amount of light on the beach during the evening as turtles like the dark.
 - Utilize red light instead of white flashlights as they impact the turtles.
 - For more information go to the Fort Walton Beach Sea Turtle Patrol Facebook page.

Santa Rosa Blvd Update:

Topic 1 Water main line replacement:

During the May 7 BBC meeting, Mike Hackett from water and sewer requested \$127k to design the replacement of the water main on the south side of SRB. Currently an iron line that was likely from the 50s. Requested to upgrade this line from 6' to 12'. The same company that will be upgrading the SRB roadway has been selected to replace the pipe. Do not know the timeline to complete the work, likely the end of the year. This request for design funding was approved by the County.

Topic 2 Bridge to Bridge Path

Brooks to Marler bridge path has been stalled and started repeatedly. One of the issues is this is federal land where there had to be agreement between Eglin and other federal entities. About two months ago this was approved. Jason Autry requested \$3.73M for the construction of the path. It will be 12' wide and 4.7 miles long. It does have the support of Eglin Airbase. The total timeline of the construction is projected at 270 days with 60 additional days for planning: 330 total days.

Topic 3 Discussion with Mr. Autry from public works cable boxes and lane reduction

Old cable boxes that you see along SRB where there are many that are not maintained, rusted, and opened with wires exposed. This issue was brought forward to Brian Harrington by an OILA member. Brian had a discussion with Mr. Autry on this topic. Asked if these would be addressed as part of the SRB improvement plan? Mr. Autry explained that Century link has been unresponsive to fixing and there is a legal issue as they have ownership of that property. Brian asked if this will be part of the SRB planning? He mentioned that they are at the 60% phase of the SRB planning process. He then mentioned that the 2-road lane reduction is no longer a part of the plan, “it is off the table”. The current plan is 3 lanes from Brooks bridge to El Matador with an east and west bound lane with one center turn lane. It will also include a 6’ walking path. Brian asked when we’ll know the official plan. Mr. Autry then offered to talk with the OILA membership to clarify the status of the SRB project.

Frank Adcock - provided comments about the necessity to ensure emergency services can provide necessary services and not be impacted by reducing from 4 to 3 lanes. In addition, with the added landscaping plans with Palm trees on both sides of the road will impact driver’s ability to safely enter/exit SRB. The county also allowed a commercial business at the end of the Island that will also increase the volume of traffic utilizing SRB. Mr. Autry should have questions provided to him prior to the OILA membership meeting so he can completely address all membership concerns.

Brian Harrington opened discussion up to the membership on the venue & date for Mr. Autrey to speak to the membership. Frank Adcock offered to find out if there was room available at the El Matador. Brian Harrington stated he will contact Mr. Autrey’s office and attempt to have him speak to the membership at the earliest availability and confirm the venue.

Upcoming Meetings:

May 21st 8:30am BBC south meeting; Agenda TBD

May 22nd TDC meeting; Agenda TBD

Motion to adjourn; motion seconded.

END

Attachment 1 – May 13, 2024 Treasurer’s Report

TREASURER’S REPORT: May 13, 2024

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 265

April 8, 2024 TOTAL BALANCE: \$27,105.53

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF April 8, 2024.....\$ 25,684.25

RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT:

Membership Dues.....	\$	12.00
U.S. Mail Fees.....	\$	<u>6.00</u>
Total Receipts: \$		18.00

EXPENDITURES

Payment to Gilmore Insurance & Bonding to Renew Commercial General Liability Coverage
With Southern Owners Insurance Company for May 16, 2024 to May 16, 2025\$ 2,006.87

EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT:

Reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of postage to mail the May 2024 issue of the OIL Lantern... ..\$ 47.60

**ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES
& EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT AS OF May 13, 2024\$ 23,647.78**

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF April 8, 2024.....\$ 1,421.28

BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF May 13, 2024.....\$ 1,421.28

SUMMARY: May 13, 2024 Fund Balances

-- Association’s Discretionary Fund Balance.\$ 23,647.78
-- Beautification Fund Balance.....\$ 1,421.28

Respectfully submitted, Jim Simpson, Treasurer **TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE.....\$ 25,069.06**

ISLAND GARDEN CLUB OPEN MEETING INVITATION - PATRIOTIC MEET & GREET, SEPT 11, 2024

You are invited to attend the Island Garden Club meeting on September 11 for a Patriotic Meet & Greet with the Gloryland Singers as we honor the fallen and remember 9-11. We would be pleased to welcome you as a guest and hopefully continue as a member.

The Island Garden Club was established in 1965 by early island residents in an effort to *beautify the island*. This purpose remains our goal today. When the island was first platted, the streets were called First, Second, Circle A, Circle B, etc. The Island Garden Club's first president had the privilege of naming the streets (alphabetically) as they are known today. Her daughter, Paula Hudson, serves as our Treasurer.

Membership in the club is composed of island residents, winter island visitors, and locals and it is a wonderful opportunity to become involved in the neighborhood and make new friends. The annual dues are \$15.

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month, September through May at El Matador Condominium 1st floor Lounge, 909 Santa Rosa Boulevard. Members usually begin arriving at 9:30 for refreshments and socialization beforehand and the meeting begins promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Programs this coming year will feature fall holiday decorating, a gardening trip, growing with hydroponics, Christmas party, plant/seed swap, fascinating speakers, etc. Lots of fun activities.

We look forward to getting to know you and having you get to know us. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Kathy Foster fosterpk@gnt.net

Maryann Purvis mpurvis16@cox.net

Paula Hudson pnh2859@aol.com

Ivonne Earle typlus4@aol.com



P.S. Let us help your garden grow.

**It may be difficult in the sand, but visit a garden club meeting
And we'll give you a helping hand. And a plant!**

MEET NEW OKALOOSA ISLAND FIREFIGHTER KEVIN JACOBS



Kevin Jacobs

Age: 33

Years of service: 4 Total years, 3 years at Ocean City Wright Fire Control District. 1 year at Seminole County Fire Department.

Birthplace: Winter Park, Florida

Achievements: Ranger school. Ranger Tab. Combat infantry Badge. Airborne school.

General information: Grew up in Florida playing football and riding motorcross. Entered the US Army in 2011 and served 4 years attached to 3rd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Deploying twice to Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. After his separation with the Army he obtained his Fire Fighter/ EMT certifications at The Florida State Fire College. Entered the Fire service in 2019. He enjoys Spending time with his Girl Friend Hannah and their Silver lab named Beau. Hobbies include going to the gym, hunting and dabbles in paranormal investigation.



WUZZLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



Travel Back in Time

Wuzzle No. 2



Open for Business

Wuzzle No. 3



Think About It

Wuzzle No. 4



Offsides

Wuzzle No. 5



Canine

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – JUNE

June is named after the Roman Goddess Juno who was the patroness of marriage and the well-being of women.

June 2, 2004 – Ken Jennings begins his 74-day winning streak on the television game Show Jeopardy.

June 7, 1892 – George T. Sampson of Dayton Ohio patents the first clothes dryer, using a Rack and heat from a stove.

June 13, 1884 – The first roller coaster ride opens at Coney Island in Brooklyn, NY. It cost 5 cents a ride.

June 16, 600 – Pope Gregory the Great issues a decree saying “God Bless You” is the proper response to a sneeze.

June 20, 1867 – President Andrew Johnson announces the Alaska purchase from the Russian Empire. The price tag: \$7.2 million.

June 23, 1981 – The longest game in Professional Baseball is completed. Pawtucket Red Sox beat Rochester Red Wings 3-2 in 33 innings (game began 18th April)

June 25, 1630 – Governor John Winthrop of Massachusetts introduced the fork to American dining. At first, its use was considered sacrilegious.

June 28, 1820 – Colonel Robert Gibbon eats a tomato on the step of the courthouse in Salem, MA. to prove that they are not poisonous.

June 30, 1908 – A giant fireball, most likely from an air burst of a large meteoroid or comet flattens 80 million trees near the Stony Tunguska River in Yeniseysk Governorate, Russia.



Roman Goddess
Juno

**TWO WAYS TO JOIN THE OKALOOSA ISLAND
LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION – FOLLOWING PAGE.**

**PLEASE SHARE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WITH FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WHO MIGHT
BE INTERESTED IN JOINING OILA**

There are now **two ways to join the Leaseholders OILA**: 1. You can join online. Click on this webpage: <http://www.oilaweb.com/Membership.html> (please note that NO donation to Zeffy – our free payment hosting platform is required) or 2. You can join by mail by utilizing the following membership form.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE
OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION
(OILA)**

{If you have any questions concerning membership, dues or this form, call Jim Simpson, Treasurer, at (850) 585-2116}

NAME: (Please Print): _____
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

OKALOOSA ISLAND

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

(Please note: You must hold a land lease, a fee simple title or own a condominium or a co-operative dwelling unit on Okaloosa Island to be eligible for membership)

(Street) (City)

(State) (Zip Code) Telephone No. _____

MAILING ADDRESS:

(Street) (City)

(State) (Zip Code) Telephone No. _____

Membership dues are **twelve (\$12)** a year. With this subscription, your monthly issue of the OIL Lantern, OILA's newsletter, will be distributed to you by email. Please enter your email address on the following line:

(Please enter your email address here)

If you wish to receive your copy of the OIL Lantern by U.S. Mail (in addition to distribution by email) there is an addition postage fee of **six (\$6)** a year.

Please check the block which identifies the level of membership you desire:

\$12 – Annual membership

\$18 – Annual membership (\$12) plus (\$6) U.S. mail delivery. If you select this option, your newsletter will be sent to mailing address you designated above.

Please check the block for the membership category you desire, make your check payable to the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association or OILA and mail your remittance (**\$12 or \$18**) to the following address:

Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association, P.O. Box 4323, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549.

I request membership in the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association. I am eligible for membership, have completed the application form and have remitted my dues: