

JANUARY 2025 EDITION OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS NEWSLETTER, THE OIL LANTERN

Page 1 of 12 Pages



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

OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
ASSOCIATION

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Our January 2025 meeting will be held on **Monday, January 13, 2025** starting at 7 pm. For our January 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
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- Rainfall for December 2024 and Total for the Year 2024
- Architectural Review Committee Report for December 2024
- Minutes – December 2025 Directors Meeting
- Draft Minutes – November 11, 2024 Membership Meeting
- This Month in History – January
- Food Pantry Drive Success! 356 Lbs
- Okaloosa Island 2024 Christmas Decorations Winners
- **PSA:** Okaloosa Island OIFD Community Connect Registration



Dylan Hunt sets up a Snowmen photo stand-in board on SRB for the Island Christmas 2024 display.



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
January 2025

OILA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025

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
Skimg3@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/Assistant Secretary
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
Mark Waschak
716 Sailfish Dr
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
440-315-1682
mwashchak@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – Brian Harrington

Welcome to 2025!

I'd like to begin this newsletter with a quote that I find especially applicable to life in our Island Community:

I've always thought New Year's Day was an especially American tradition, full of the optimism and hope we're famous for in our daily lives -- an energy and confidence we call the American spirit. Perhaps because we know we control our own destiny; we believe deep down inside that working together we can make each new year better than the old.

Ronald Reagan --January 1st 1983

This American spirit is reflected on our Island. Through your energy, optimism and confidence, OILA was instrumental in improving our community over the past year. Our members advocated for new water supply lines—a long-overdue project that is currently underway. Our members achieved their desire for the addition of non-vending locations on our public beaches. We also helped achieve the vision of a bike path from the Brooks Bridge to the Marler Bridge—and construction of that path is currently underway. Additionally, OILA has now gained the services of an attorney who is actively working to protect our interests.

We closed out the year with a successful pantry food drive and OILA's annual Christmas decoration contest. Thanks to all who donated food and brought hope to those who are less fortunate. Thanks to the families who took the time to decorate Santa Rosa Boulevard, you've helped provide cheerful optimism to everyone who lives and everyone who visits Okaloosa Island.

We are in control of our own destiny. Let's work together to make 2025 even better than last year!

OILA—We're stronger together

Brian Harrington



January 2025 Meeting Agenda Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 Time: 7:00 p.m.

- I. **PLACE:** For our January 2025 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, President
- IV. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Mark Waschak, Secretary
Draft minutes, November 11,2024 meeting (printed in this newsletter)
- V. **Treasurer's Report** - Jim Simpson, Treasurer
- VI. **Standing Committee Reports:** Brian Smith, ARC Chairman
Architectural Review Committee Report for November 2024 (published in the December 2024 OIL Lantern) and for December 2024 (printed in this newsletter and for info only)
- VII. **New Business**
 - A. Updated Architectural Review Committee procedures
 - B. Covenant Violation Legal Actions
 - C. Increasing OILA's Membership

Old Business:
- VIII. **Announcements, Speakers and Programs**
- XI. **Adjournment**

DECEMBER 2024 RAINFALL: 1.7 INCHES



Dec 10...0.4 inches
Dec 11...0.3 inches
Dec 25...0.1 inches
Dec 29...0.9 inches

Avg Rainfall for Dec.....4.8 inches
Variance to Average..... - 3.1 inches

Avg Rainfall for January.....5.0 inches
January Record High.....80° F (1957)
January Record Low4° F (1985)
Jan Avg Water Temperature....64° F

Feb Avg Rainfall.....5.8 inches
Feb Record High.....80° F (1980)
Feb Record Low11° F (1951)
Feb Avg Water Temperature. .64° F

2024 Total Rainfall.....57.8 inches
2024 Variance to Average.. - 7.3 inches
Avg Annual Rainfall65.1 inches



ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR DECEMBER 2024. The OILA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) received and reviewed the following building permits during the month of December and upon review and adherence to the OILA Covenants, has approved the following project(s):

Date	Lot(s)	Block	Owner/POC/Address	Description	In-Compliance & Approved
12/11	175	4	B. Bradford 439 Cardinal Ave	Extend existing block wall along property line	Yes

Special Notes: The OILA ARC instructions for your project are located on the OILA website:

<http://www.OILAweb.com/ArchitectureReview.html>

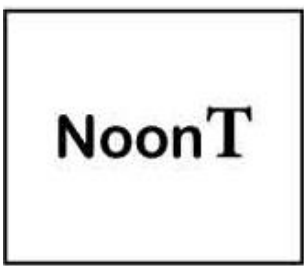
Please read and follow the instructions for submission of an OILA ARC application:

- OILA ARC review package:
 - Completed OILA ARC application,
 - Survey plat of the property,
 - Overlaid illustration of the project on a copy of the survey plat.
 - 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.)
 - 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).

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 5](#) of this newsletter.



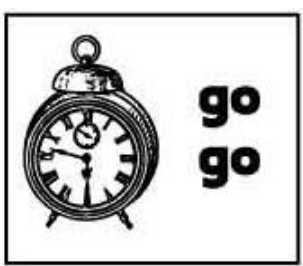
Wuzzle No. 1



Wuzzle No. 2



Wuzzle No. 3



Wuzzle No. 4

OILA Directors' Meeting December 20, 2024

Directors Present: Harrington, Adcock, Hunt, Belanger, Jones, King

9:00 - Call to order

9:02 – Discussion regarding historical and current use of the Protective Covenants and Restrictions by the OILA ARC. OILA's ARC has been using the 1955 version of the PC&Rs to adjudicate project applications. However, the Island's PC&Rs have been modified by Okaloosa County multiple times over the years and OILA had previously rejected these modifications based on the opinion of previous leadership. OILA's attorney has looked into the PC&R changes and determined that they are legally applicable, as OILA had never contested the changes within the 5-year statute of limitations. Therefore, the ARC will begin using the updated and legally binding version of the PC&Rs.

9:37 – Discussion about possible legal actions taken to deter non-observance of the Protective Covenants and Restrictions. OILA's attorney, Morehead Law Group has offered to send a letter to persons in violation for a fee of \$150/ incident with a copy of the letter furnished to the County Attorney's office. Observed & documented violations of the PC&Rs would be initially sent to the ARC for confirmation. The membership would be notified during a regular meeting and a vote conducted to approve any expenditure of OILA funds.

10:04 - Discussion of methods to increase OILA's membership sponsored by Frank Adcock. Recommendations include direct mail, recruitment of neighbors & advantages gained by joining OILA.

10:25 - Motion to adjourn.

Draft Minutes, November 11, 2024 Membership Meeting of the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association

Directors Present: Harrington, Adcock, Hunt, Bellinger, Boggess

7:00 - Call to order

7:02 - Welcome to veterans

7:03 - Pledge of Allegiance

7:04 - Motion to approve minutes; passed unanimously

7:05 - Treasury Report from Jim Simpson

- Detailed report given. (copy attached to these minutes)
- Motion to accept the report and reimburse Jim Simpson; passed unanimously.
- Discussion:
 - Loss of two long-term members.
 - Review of balance, expenses, and receipts.
 - Expenses paid to Moorehead Law Group and for mailing of OILA Lantern.
 - Discussion of mailing costs at the current rate.

7:12 - ARC Update

- Nick Hall is absent; President Harrington provided the update.
- Emerald Isle renovation (117-page application).

7:13 - Letter of support for the fire department.

7:16 - Discussion on replacement of corroded iron pipes with modern lines on Sailfish (including pictures).

7:29 - Endangered species discussion

- Reindeer Lichen and Florida Solitary Bee.

7:33 - Monarch butterfly support

- Discussed supporting OILA with milkweed seeds (with Jim Simpson)

(Minutes continued next page)

7:35 - Holiday Food Drive

- Jim Simpson discussed past successes and plans for this year.

7:37 - Holiday decorations

- Discussion of supplies and decorating. Volunteers needed for this year's holiday decorations.

7:55 - Reminder to review documentation on OILA Web.

7:57 - Discussion on two lanes of Santa Rosa Blvd (presented by Frank Adcock).

8:19 - Motion to adjourn.

Attachment:

TREASURER REPORT: November 11, 2024

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 271

October 14, 2024 TOTAL BALANCE: \$26,227.36

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF September 9, 2024.....\$ 24,806.08

RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT:

Membership Dues..... \$ 492.00

U.S. Mail Fee.....\$ 48.00

Donations:

Dave & Kathy Jones\$ 100.00

Shelia Adcock..... 88.00

Total Receipts.....\$ 728.00

EXPENDITURES:

Payment to Moorhead Law Group for 2025 Annual Legal Retainer\$ 650.00

EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT:

Reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of postage to mail the Nov 2024 issue of the OIL Lantern.....\$ 51.10

**ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES
& EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT AS OF November 11, 2024\$ 24,832.98**

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF October 14, 2024.....\$ 1,421.28

BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF November 11, 2024.....\$ 1,421.28

SUMMARY: November 11, 2024 Fund Balances

-- Association's Discretionary Fund Balance.\$ 24,832.98

-- Beautification Fund Balance.....\$ 1,421.28

TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE.....\$ 26,254.26

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – JANUARY

January 1, 1892 - Ellis Island in New York Harbor opened. Over 20 million new arrivals to America were processed until its closing in 1954.

January 9, 2007: The first iPhone was announced by Steve Jobs during the Macworld conference in San Francisco. This event marked a significant milestone in the tech industry, introducing a device that combined a mobile phone, an iPod, and an internet communicator into one.



January 12, 1991 - Congress authorized President George Bush to use military force against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait.

January 13, 1930: Mickey Mouse, a Disney cartoon character, debuts in a comic strip.



January 17, 1929: Popeye the Sailor makes his first appearance as a minor character in Elize Crisler Segar's long-running Thimble Theater comic strip.



January 24, 1935: The first canned beer, "Krueger Cream Ale," was sold by the Krueger Brewing Company of Richmond, Virginia.

January 27, 1880: Patent No. 223,898 was granted to Thomas A. Edison for "an electric lamp for giving light by incandescence."

January 28, 1915: President Woodrow Wilson signed the Act to Create the Coast Guard. The act combined the Life-Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service to form the Coast Guard.

January 30, 1948: Mohandas Ghandi is assassinated on his way to prayer in New Delhi, India.



OKALOOSA ISLAND FOOD PANTRY DRIVE SUCCESS! 356 POUNDS OF FOOD DONATED!

This year's Okaloosa Island Food Pantry Drive achieved a total of 356 pounds of donated food. The food was delivered to the local Ft Walton Beach food bank, Sharing and Caring, on December 22.



In the photo to the left, this year's Donations were loaded up by Okaloosa Island Fire Fighters, Ryan Adams (left) and Carl Richardson (right).



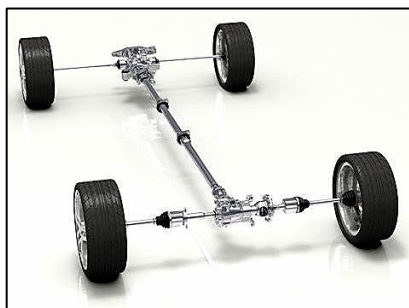
Tips of the hat to the Okaloosa Island residents and OILA members who donated and to the Okaloosa Island Fire Department for providing the use of the Fire Station as a drop off point for donations.

WUZZLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 2

Wuzzle No. 3

Wuzzle No. 1



Four Wheel Drive



Afternoon Tea



Long Time No See

Wuzzle No. 4



Time to Go

WINNERS: BEST OKALOOSA ISLAND 2024 CHRISTMAS HOME DECORATIONS

FIRST PLACE

708 Sailfish
Drive



SECOND PLACE

619 Pelican
Drive



THIRD PLACE

709 Sailfish
Drive



4th PLACE

908
Santa
Rosa
Blvd



BEST OKALOOSA ISLAND 2024 CHRISTMAS HOME DECORATIONS (continued)



Most Original:
756 Seahorse Ave



Honorable Mention:
710 Sailfish Drive

**MOST
WHIMSICAL**

**645
Porpoise
Ave**



**GRISWALD
AWARD**

**841
Santa
Rosa
Court**



**REASON FOR THE
SEASON**

**408
Cobia
Ave**



**MOST
ARTISTIC**

**623
Pelican
Drive**



**HALLMARK
HOME**

**514
Dory
Ave**



**HONORABLE
MENTION**

**702
Sailfish
Drive**



THE FOLLOWING ISLAND AND LOCAL BUSINESSES DONATED PRIZES FOR THE CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

AJs.....\$25 gift card
Anglers..... Tee shirt, \$20 gift card, cup
Boogies..... 4 tickets Glass Bottom Boat
Burrito del Sol..... Gift card \$30
Cash's..... 2 bottles of wine
Cattywampus..... 2 tickets
Crabtrap..... Gift cards - \$25, \$50
Cruisin Tikis..... 4 tickets
Emerald Coast Zoo..... 4 tickets
Floyd's..... Gift cards - \$25, \$50
Gulf Coast Seafood ... \$50 certificate
Gulfarium..... 4 tickets

High Tide..... Gift cards 4@\$25
Jake and Henry's Gift card \$50
Mattie Kelly 4 tickets
Old Bay Steamer Gift card \$100
Rockin Tacos Gift cards \$25, \$50
Science Center Gift basket
Sinfonia 4 tickets
Southern Star 4 pirate tickets
Surge 2 passes, 2 tee shirts
Tailfins Adventure... Gift card \$40
Wild Willy's Gift cards 3@50
TDD 4 logo hats, 2 tumblers,
2 luggage tags



Left to Right: Eliza, Jay (back row), Benjamin, Genevieve, Sabrina and Lori

**MEET THE
SANTA ROSA
BLVD
MEDIANS
PALM TREE
CHRISTMAS
2024
DECORATING
FAMILY.**

**THE
WASCHAK
SNOWFLAKE
ELVES**

**THANK YOU
WASCHAK'S**



Left to Right: Eliza, Lori, Benjamin & Diane

ISLAND GARDEN CLUB TO BEGIN 2025 WITH A PLANT CLINIC ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8 CONDUCTED BY MASTER GARDNER ANDY DONATELLI

Island Garden Club membership is available to anyone interested in gardening and establishing new friendships. Annual dues remain at \$15. Please consider this your invitation to come and give us a 'test drive' as we think you'll want to return and possibly join.



On December 11 Island Garden Club members enjoyed a delightful December celebration with games, gifts, and lunch at Clemenza's. We begin 2025 with a Plant Clinic on Wednesday, January 8 conducted by Master Gardener Andy Donatelli. Bring your questions, pictures, problems, or samples with you to the meeting for advice and solutions. The Garden Club meets at the El Matador Condominium at 9:30 a.m. to socialize with the meeting starting at 10:00 a.m.

Kathy Foster, President
Island Garden Club



The Original Barbie Doll (aka "No. 1 Ponytail") - photo to the left - Went on The Shelves In 1959 at a Price of \$3.00. This Same Doll Sold at Auction for \$27,450 in 2006. Lesson Learned: Keep Your Toys Forever!

Released in 1959, the first-ever Barbie doll, also known as "No. 1 Ponytail," features golden hair, a black-and-white bathing suit and blue eyeshadow. With its original packaging, this rare Barbie is estimated to be worth thousands or even tens of thousands of dollars. In fact, a mint condition doll sold at auction for \$27,450 in 2006, and there is currently one available for \$25,000. You can tell if yours is a first edition model by checking for holes in the bottom of her feet (the second edition had solid feet).

PUBLIC SERVICE NOTICE: OKALOOSA ISLAND COMMUNITY CONNECT

Following you will find the Community Connect registration link that we are rolling out to better connect the citizens of Okaloosa Island. The information will provide vital information to responders during an emergency. The information is only for property owners, property managers, and business owners of Okaloosa Island. -- Sean Mast, Assistant Chief, Okaloosa Island Fire Department, 850-244-5373, ext 203



Okaloosa Island Community Connect

Together, Building a Safer Community Through
Prevention, Preparedness & Response



CREATE OR UPDATE YOUR PROFILE TODAY

www.communityconnect.io/info/fl-okaloosaisland

1 Create account

Sign in for free and get started doing your part. It just takes your email, phone number and address.

2 Enter the info that matters most

Enter valuable information that can help us assist more effectively during an emergency.

3 Help your Fire Department when seconds count

That's it. Just keep us updated when things change overtime so we can always be prepared.

WHAT KINDS OF INFORMATION CAN I PROVIDE?

For Households

Any information you provide through Community Connect is completely voluntary and based on what you are comfortable sharing. We have made it easy for you to know what may be important by organizing your secure portal into buckets of information you can enter.

For Businesses

Enable your business, school, age-care facility or other public location First Responders with critical information, valuable emergency plans and more - available at a moment's notice in the event of an incident. Stay aware with notifications from First Responders through text messages in the event they are ever dispatched to your property.



Your Property



Your People



Your Plans



Your People



Your Needs



Your Pets



Your Property



Your Contact Info

HOW SECURE IS MY DATA AND HOW IS IT USED?

Data that you provide Community Connect is secure and is used only for the purpose of better serving you during emergency situations. Your information is never used for any other purpose. All logins are password protected with bank level encryption and security. If you're comfortable logging in to your online bank you'll be comfortable logging in to Community Connect.



Community Connect is
Safe & Secure

**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: