

**FEBRUARY 2025 EDITION OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
NEWSLETTER, THE OIL LANTERN**

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

**OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
ASSOCIATION**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Our February meeting will be held on **Monday, February 10, 2025** starting at 7 pm. For our February 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.

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- Local Trivia Crawler
- This Month in History – February
- Alabama Lady Hit by a Meteor in 1954 and survived.
- Two Ways to Join the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association



FEBRUARY 14



FEBRUARY 17



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
February 2025



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – Brian Harrington

Record Snowfall on Okaloosa Island!

For those of us who were lucky enough to be here on January 21st—we got to witness as nearly 8 inches of snow blanked Okaloosa Island! For two days, we enjoyed the moment and watched kids get out their boogie boards and sled down the banks of the beach freeways and the hillside next to the Brooks Bridge—a truly once-in-a-lifetime event!



Project Updates

The Brooks Bridge replacement project appears to be on track with an ETA of Summer 2027. You can follow the progress and sign up for email updates at the My Brooks Bridge Facebook Page--<https://www.facebook.com/MyBrooksBridge>

Have you been wondering what was going on with the new construction along the south side of Hwy 98? The 4-mile-long Bridge-to-Bridge bike path is underway and is expected to be complete by early summer. No lane closures are expected during this construction.

Okaloosa County Water and Sewer (OCWS) is continuing to replace our nearly 70-year old water lines. On the west end of the island OCWS has been installing water lines that cross under Santa Rosa Blvd in order to supply the single family homes on the north side.

During this month's Board of County Commissioners' Meeting, the Public Works Department has requested a 29K advance payment to Florida Power and Light (FP&L). This payment is for an Electric Facilities Conversion cost estimate to move the overhead power distribution, cable television, broadband/internet utilities *underground* as part of the Santa Rosa Blvd Improvements project...more to follow during the members' meeting.

A brief history--Where does OILA come from?

In 1953, by special act of the Florida Legislature, the Okaloosa Island Authority was created as an instrumentality of the County and vested with administrative authority over the portion of the Santa Rosa Island owned by the County. Two years later on Nov 21st, 1955, the Island Authority adopted Okaloosa Island's protective covenants. These covenants called for the creation of OILA whose stated purpose is to coordinate affairs between property owners/leaseholders and the Okaloosa County government. Within OILA, the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) advises and assists Okaloosa County in affairs of the Protective Covenants that affect leaseholders/landowners. The Island Authority was dissolved in 1975 and the Board of County Commissioners has taken over the responsibility to maintain and enforce the Island's Protective Covenants and Restrictions. OILA's responsibilities have remained the same since 1955.

OILA—We're stronger together

Brian Harrington

February 2025 Meeting Agenda Date: Monday, Feb 10, 2025 Time: 7:00 p.m.

- I. **PLACE:** For our February 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, January 13, 2025 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 January 2025 (printed in this newsletter and for info only)
- VII. **New Business**
 - A. Reimburse Nancy Hunt a total of \$21.40 for the cost of gift boxes to present the prizes for 2024 Christmas Decoration to the Winners.
 - B. Vote to commit \$1,500 toward future legal fees
 - C. **Projects Updates:**
 - Brooks Bridge
 - Bike Path
 - Water and Sewer Line
 - Underground Power

Old Business: Further discussion regarding how to address covenant violations
- VIII. **Announcements, Speakers and Programs**
- XI. **Adjournment**

JANUARY 2025 RAINFALL: 0.5 INCHES



Jan 5...**0.1** inches
 Jan 10...**0.3** inches
 Jan 18...**0.1** inches
 Jan 31...**0.1** inches

Avg Rainfall for January....**5.0** inches
 Variance to Average..... **- 4.5** inches

Feb Avg Rainfall.....**5.8** inches
 Feb Record High.....**80° F** (1980)
 Feb Record Low**11° F** (1951)
 Feb Avg Water Temperature. **64° F**

March Avg Rainfall.....**5.8** inches
 March Record High.....**80° F** (1957)
 March Record Low**4° F** (1985)
 Mar Avg Water Temperature..**66° F**

2025 Total Rainfall.....**0.5** inches
 2025 Variance to Average.. **- 4.5** inches
 Avg Annual Rainfall**65.1** inches



ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR JANUARY 2025. The OILA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) received and reviewed the following building permits during the month of January 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>
1/17		1.	Weidenbach 1209 Miracle Strip Pkwy	Rebrand signage to Cumberland Farms	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:

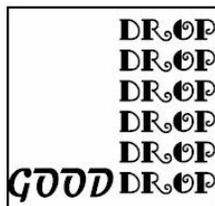
1. OILA ARC review package:
 - 1.1. Completed OILA ARC application,
 - 1.2. Survey plat of the property,
 - 1.3. Overlaid illustration of the project on a copy of the survey plat.
 - 1.4. Other supporting documents* (drawings, plans, specifications, etc.) (*If these are large files, they can be submitted separately).
(Combine the files into one file for submission to the ARC, either in MS Word or Adobe PDF format.)
2. 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).

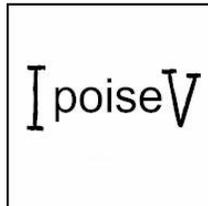
WUZZLE PUZZLES - What is a Wuzzle Puzzle? It is a puzzle consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures, or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, etc. Are you ready to take the challenge and figure out the "disguised" meaning of these wuzzles? Good luck. The answers are available on [page 6](#) of this newsletter.



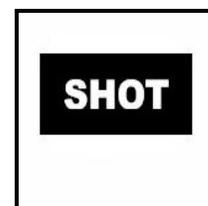
Wuzzle No. 1



Wuzzle No. 2



Wuzzle No. 3



Wuzzle No. 4

Draft Minutes, JANUARY 13, 2025 Membership Meeting of the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association

Date: January 13, 2025 **Time:** 7:00 PM **Location:** Okaloosa Island Firehouse **Directors Present:** Harrington, Jones, Hunt, Adcock, Bellinger

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

- Led at 7:01 PM.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved at 7:03 PM.

4. Treasury Report (Jim Simpson) - (COPY ATTACHED – see attachment 1 next page)

- Treasury report presented and approved.
- Three expenses were reviewed and approved.

5. Food Drive Update

- 356 pounds of food collected.
- Total food collected since 2017: 2,754 pounds.

6. Membership Fee Discussion

- Current membership fee: \$18.
- Discussion on whether this fee sufficiently covers USPS mailing costs.
- Potential for a future meeting to reassess membership costs.

7. ARC Report (Nick Hall)

- One approval granted for an existing resident on Cardinal.

8. ARC Procedures Update

- President provided an update based on legal review.
- OILA attorney reviewed covenants and legal precedent.
- Current covenants and legally adopted amendments will be used moving forward.

9. Covenant Violations & Enforcement

- Discussion on actions for covenant violations.
- Reviewed potential use of Moorehead Law Group and county attorney for enforcement.
- Cost of sending notices: \$150 per letter.
- Complaints should be filed through the ARC to initiate enforcement.
- County has a legal obligation to follow up on covenant violations.
- OILA must approve expenses related to enforcement.
- Per bylaws, approval can be made in a meeting with assembled voters.
- Vote must be placed on the agenda with at least five days' notice.
- Next meeting agenda to include this topic for a vote.
- Web team tasked with adding a covenant enforcement flowchart to the website.

10. Membership & Renewal Concerns

- Discussion on lagging membership renewals.
- Consideration of lifetime membership options.
- Informal poll conducted by the President: 60-70% support for the option.

11. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn at 8:41 PM.

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Attachment 1: TREASURER'S REPORT: January 13, 2025

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 272

November 11, 2024 TOTAL BALANCE: \$26,254.26

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF November 11, 2024.....\$ 24,832.98

RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT:

Membership Dues.....	\$	748.00
U.S. Mail Fee.....	\$	96.00
Total Receipts.....		\$ 844.00

EXPENDITURES:No Expenditures

EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT:

Reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of postage to mail the Dec 2024 issue of the OIL Lantern.....	\$	51.10
Reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of postage to mail the Jan 2025 issue of the OIL Lantern.....	\$	70.70
Reimburse Jim Simpson for the fee for filing the annual 2025 Non Profit annual report with the State of Florida Division of Corporations for the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association.....	\$	61.25
Total Expenses Pending Approval		\$ 183.05

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES & EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT AS OF January 13, 2025.. \$ 25,493.93

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

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BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF January 13, 2025.....\$ 1,421.28

SUMMARY: January 13, 2025 Fund Balances

-- Association's Discretionary Fund Balance.	\$	25,493.93
-- Beautification Fund Balance.....	\$	1,421.28

TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE.....\$ 26,915.21

Respectfully submitted, Jim Simpson, Treasurer

OPEN INVITATION - ISLAND GARDEN CLUB MEETING, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

What a cold snap we had in January... and with snow! Many plants are looking sad, with brown leaves, but don't be too quick to remove dead vegetation as it now acts as an insulation for the roots. And there might be another cold spell. Wait to do severe pruning until new growth appears. If you have any questions about YOUR plants, please come to the February 12 Island Garden Club meeting at El Matador Condominium first floor party room. The invited speaker is from Wildwood Garden & Nursery in Shalimar. Socializing at 9:30, meeting promptly at 10:00.



Kathy Foster, President, 850-244-4490, fosterpk@gnt.net

LOCAL TRIVIA CRAWLER: Did you know that Niceville, FL started out with the name "Boggy"? When mail service began on July 21, 1868, the city was known as Boggy, and on November 5, 1910, the name was officially changed to Niceville. The name Niceville was selected by the postmaster's daughter. Think it was a good decision to change the name? Bet the Boggy Chamber of Commerce thought so

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – FEBRUARY

February is named after an ancient Roman festival of purification called Februa.

February 1, 1944 – Jim Simpson is born in Galveston, TEXAS. 

February 1, 2003 - Sixteen minutes before it was scheduled to land, the Space Shuttle *Columbia* broke apart in flight over west Texas, killing all seven crew members.

February 3, 1913 – The 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, granting Congress the authority to collect income taxes. 

Feb 11, 1812: Massachusetts governor Elbridge Gerry signs a redistricting law favoring his party -- giving rise to the term "gerrymandering."

February 12, 1924: First presidential radio address: Calvin Coolidge

February 15, 1842 - The Post Office uses adhesive postage stamps for the first time.

February 19, 1473 - Astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543) was born in Torun, Poland. Considered the founder of modern astronomy, he theorized that the sun, not the earth, was the center of the solar system.

February 20, 1962 - Traveling aboard the "Friendship 7" spacecraft, Astronaut John Glenn became the first American launched into orbit.

February 23, 1942 - During World War II, the first attack on the U.S. mainland occurred as a Japanese submarine shelled an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing minor damage.

February 23, 1896 - The Tootsie Roll goes on sale in America.



WHO WOULD HAVE BELIEVED IT? IN 1954 A LADY IN ALABAMA WAS HIT BY A METEOR AND SURVIVED!

November 30, 1954. At about 2:46 p.m. in the afternoon, a space rock comes plummeting through the roof of a house in Sylacauga, Alabama. It bounces off a standup radio, ricochets around the living room, and collides with the thigh of Mrs. Ann Hodges, who's been napping on the couch. Newspapers declare: "experts agreed unanimously that Mrs. Hodges was the first person known to have been struck by a meteorite."



The above photo, which was published in Life magazine, shows the bruise on her left side Mrs. Hodges sustained from the meteor hitting her. She was examined by a doctor who determined that although her hip and hand were swollen and painful, there was no serious damage.



A close-up photo of the meteor

The meteor sitting on the radio it hit. The meteor was the size of a grapefruit and weighed 8.5 pounds

WUZZLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



HAND IT OVER, NOW!

Wuzzle No. 2



GOOD UNTIL THE LAST DROP

Wuzzle No. 3



POISON IVY

Wuzzle No. 4



SHOT IN THE DARK

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)
_____ Telephone No. _____
(State) (Zip Code)

MAILING ADDRESS:

_____ (Street) _____ (City)
_____ Telephone No. _____
(State) (Zip Code)

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: