

APRIL 2025 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 April meeting will be held on **Monday, April 14, 2025** starting at 7 pm. For our April 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
- Agenda for the April 2025 Membership Meeting
- Rainfall for March 2025
- Architectural Review Committee Report for March 2025
- Wuzzle Puzzles
- Master Gardener Lecture Series Reclaimed Water
- Island Garden Club Activities for April and May.
- Draft Minutes – March 10, 2025 OILA Membership Meeting
- This Month in History – April
- Wuzzle Puzzle Answers
- Island Blood Drive – April 10

BLOOD DONATION DRIVE

OKALOOSA ISLAND FIRE DEPT

TIME & DATE: Thursday, April 10: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

All donors will receive:

- \$20 eGIFT card
- One-Blood T-Shirt
- Wellness Checkup including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening

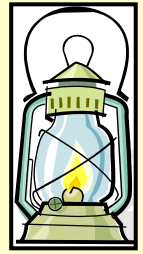
Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code 36112.





The OIL Lantern

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OKALOOSA
ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION, Inc
P.O. Box 4323, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549,
Editor: Jim Simpson, (850) 585-2116
Association Website: www.oilaweb.com
April 2025



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – Brian Harrington

Wild Weather-- Okaloosa Islanders are no strangers to severe weather. April is here and it has already brought some ferocious weather to the island. We've been heavy thunderstorm warnings and tornado watches over the last two weeks. This year's hurricane prediction comes in with a 35% chance of a major hurricane coming within 50 miles of Florida — *now is the time to review or develop your response plan.*



Spring Break—As of this writing, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has issued nearly 500 citations for underage possession of alcohol during Spring Break 2025. Until April 20th, the Sheriff's Office has tripled the number of deputies on duty, dedicating them specifically to spring break patrol, with officers working extended hours on both the beach and surrounding areas. Over the break we've seen an increase in vehicle break-in attempts. As a reminder—lock your vehicle and don't leave anything of value in sight including sunglasses, wallets, or spare keys. Oftentimes handguns are stolen from the glove boxes of unlocked vehicles and potentially used to commit crimes.

New Deputy County Administrator Position--The Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved Jason Autrey as the new Deputy County Administrator for Development Services on April 1. The newly established position, approved by commissioners in February as part of an organizational restructuring, will oversee the county's Growth Management, Public Works, and Water and Sewer departments.

Public Beaches—Our neighbors in Walton County just advanced Senate Bill 1622. If passed, this legislation would restore public beach access in Walton County, where conflicts between beachfront property owners and visitors have escalated following a 2018 law that privatized large stretches of previously public beaches. In keeping with our By-Laws, OILA will always strive to preserve the public lands on Okaloosa Island and keep our beaches open to the public for everyone to enjoy.

OILA—We're stronger together

HISTORICAL FACTS CRAWLER ABOUT OKALOOSA ISLAND

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.

In **1975**, legislation was passed by the State of Florida which abolished the Okaloosa Island Authority and transferred the duties and responsibilities of the Authority to the County Commissioners of Okaloosa County.

In **1995**, the County Commissioners approved allowing leaseholders to obtain fee simple title to their property. Island residents & Association members Sam and Joyce Hester were the first individuals to receive quit claim deeds to Okaloosa Island property.

- I. **PLACE:** For our April 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, March 10, 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 March 2025 (printed in this newsletter and for info only)
- VII. **New Business**
 - A. Nominating Committee Selection
 - B. Santa Rosa Blvd Update
 - C. Website Tutorial

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

MARCH 2025 RAINFALL
4.3 Inches



March 5...0.1 inches
March 8...0.4 inches
March 9...2.7 inches
March 17...0.1 inches
March 24...0.8 inches
March 30...0.1 inches
March 31...0.1 inches

Avg Rainfall for March5.8 inches
Variance to Average..... - 1.5 inches

April Avg Rainfall.....3.7 inches
April Recor High.....92° F(1985)
April Record Low20° F(1987)
Apr Avg Water Temperature...72°

May Avg Rainfall.....4.0 inches
May Record High.....101° F (1953)
May Record Low8° F (1971)
May Avg Water Temperature... 78° F

2025 Total Rainfall.....7.5 inches
2025 Variance to Average.. - 9.1 inches
Avg Annual Rainfall65.1 inches



ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR MARCH 2025. The OILA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) received and reviewed the following building permits during the month of February 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
3/2			M. Macchia 3217 Tallship Lane Pensacola, FL	Veteran’s Park Shoreline Reconstruction and Boardwalks	Yes
3/19			M. Hayes Hermitage Condos	Replace Pilings and paint to match	Yes
3/19	456	8	A. Hopper 805 Tarpon Dr	Re-roof	Yes

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

<http://www.OILAwed.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 Thursdays of the month).

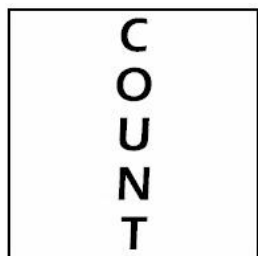
DID YOU KNOW THAT:

Okaloosa means "black water" (oka means "water" and lusa means "black") in the Choctaw language.

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.



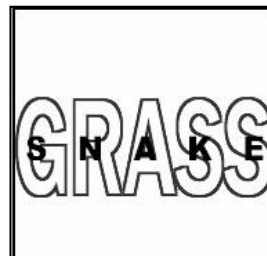
Wuzzle No. 1



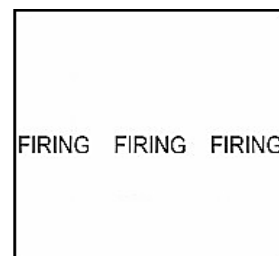
Wuzzle No. 2



Wuzzle No. 3



Wuzzle No. 4



Wuzzle No. 5

RECLAIMED WATER LECTURE – April 14, 2025

Following lecture information courtesy of the Island Garden Club.

This is likely the most impactful program to attend in 2025. Reclaimed water is already in use in Destin. It is in the works for Niceville, Valparaiso, and Crestview at the Shoal River Ranch. Pipes were being installed in Santa Rosa on April 4th. The future is now. Please share this information with your friends and bring your questions for Dr. Unruh. RSVP at MGLecture@yahoo.com



MASTER GARDENER LECTURE SERIES

JOIN US AS DR. BRYAN UNRUH
EXPLAINS THE PROS AND CONS OF
THE COMING CHANGE IN IRRIGATION
FOR OUR HOME LANDSCAPES



RECLAIMED WATER: PURPLE PIPES ARE IN OUR FUTURE



Raising awareness about our water source

April 14, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Okaloosa County
Extension Office
3098 Airport Road
Crestview, FL 32539

Learn how to:

- ◆ Manage Droughts
- ◆ Conserve Water
- ◆ Build resiliency for the future



Working together understanding water quality and water quantity

MGLecture@yahoo.com | **RSVP REQUIRED** | Questions: 850-244-4490

ISLAND GARDEN CLUB ACTIVITY UPDATE: FIELD TRIP TO CRESTVIEW NURSERY ON APRIL 9, OKALOOSA ISLAND NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE AT THE FIRE STATION PARKING LOT ON APRIL 12, PICNIC LUNCH & INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS AT MARLER PARK ON MAY 14

Members of the Island Garden Club continue to learn and explore various facets of gardening. A Field Trip to Crestview Nursery with a garden overview and tour by employee Stacey Taylor is scheduled for April 9. This is one of our favorite nurseries and with Stacey's guidance members will be able to make purchases that will not only survive harsh island conditions but will thrive.



On April 12 the club will participate in the Okaloosa Island Neighborhood Garage Sale. **Chief Ray Strawn** has graciously permitted us to set up in the fire station parking lot to sell our 'treasures.' Folks who would like to take part by cleaning out their unwanted goodies, but who do not want to sell at their home or condo, may donate and drop off items at 7:30 on Saturday.

It will be *All Hands On Deck* as we close out the gardening year on May 14 with a Picnic Lunch and Installation of Officers at Marler Park. This beautiful setting is the perfect location to share friendship and welcome new officers for 2025-2026... Secretary **Susan Wall**, Treasurer **Yvonne Earle**, and Vice President **Connie O'Neal**.

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

DRAFT MINUTES, MARCH 10, 2025 MEETING

Date: March 10, 2025 **Time:** 7:00 PM **Attendees:** Directors Harrington, Jones, King, Adcock & Hunt

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 7:02 PM.

4. Treasury Report (Jim Simpson) (see attachment 1)

- Discussion on fees for the **legal discretionary fund**.
- Motion to reimburse Jim Simpson – **Approved**.

5. ARC Report

- **Fence on Dolphin** reviewed and approved.

6. MSBU Discussion

- Future discussion with **Paula Hudson** regarding MSBU funds.
- **Street lighting** is currently owned by **FPL** (Florida Power & Light).
- MSBU matters tabled for a future meeting.

7. ARC & County Code Clarification

- ARC met with the President and the **county** to clarify county code and **grey areas in ordinances**.
- Covenants take precedence where ordinances are unclear.

8. Construction Regulations & Infrastructure Updates

- **Flood Zone Construction:**
 - **Sheds and other structures** in flood zones require **county approval for elevation compliance**.
 - **Setback for pools** on the **Intracoastal Waterway (ICW)** is **25 feet** (federally regulated).
 - **Fences:** No county permit needed unless using **concrete columns**; **wood and vinyl** require **ARC approval**.
 - **Sheds under 200 sq. ft.:** Must be **within 5 feet** of property lines.
- **Road & Sewer Work:**
 - **Sailfish Drive** paving scheduled for **next week**.
 - **Sewer lines** to be reinforced with **new lining**.
 - **P-Streets** scheduled for repaving in the **fall**.
- **Website Team:** Regulations to be added to the website under the **Regulations tab**.

9. Lift Station & Utility Updates

- **Lift Station 38 at Beach Access Four** has been **rebuilt**.
- **Main lift station near FUBAR** has also been **rebuilt**.

10. Code Enforcement & Short-Term Rentals

- **Order of dismissal** issued by **Judge John Brown** due to plaintiff's absence.
- **Moorehead Law Group** confirmed **code enforcement** will proceed with **restrictions against short-term rentals**.
- Discussion on tracking **past code enforcement cases** to evaluate county success, especially for **serious violations**.

11. Complaint Submission Process

- Discussion on how complaints are submitted and whether they remain **anonymous**.
- **Process will be developed** and implemented **via the website**.

12. Short-Term Rental Application Discussion

- Further discussion on the application and regulation of **short-term rentals**.

13. Membership & Involvement

- Discussion on **increasing involvement** and expanding **membership base**.

14. Covenant Amendments

- Associate member asked about amending covenants.
- "Lease" and "fee simple" are considered **synonymous** under **county regulations**.

15. Santa Rosa Blvd & Bridge Project

- Discussion on how **Santa Rosa Blvd** will be affected by the **bridge project**.

16. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn at 8:18 PM.

Attachment 1:

TREASURER'S REPORT: March 10, 2025

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 257

February 10, 2025 TOTAL BALANCE: \$26,954.11

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF February 10, 2025.....\$ 25,532.83

Deducton of \$1,500 from the discretionary fund to be allocated and identified as funding for legal fees (Set aside approved at the February 10, 2025 meeting).....\$ **(1,500.00)**

RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT:

Membership Dues.....	\$	108.00
U.S. Mail fee.....	\$	<u>12.00</u>
Total Receipts....	\$	120.00

EXPENDITURES

Payment to reimburse Nancy Hunt for the cost of gift boxes to present the prizes for 2024 Christmas Decoration to the Winners (payment approved at the Feb 10, 2025 meeting).....\$ **21 40**

EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT

Reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of postage to mail the March 2025 issue of the OIL Lantern.....\$ **51.10**

**ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER ALLOCATION,
RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES & EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT
AS OF March 10, 2025.....\$ 24,080.33**

LEGAL FEE ALLOCATION BALANCE AS OF MARCH 10, 2025.....\$ 1,500.00

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF February 10, 2025, 2024.....\$ 1,421.28

BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF March 19, 2025.....\$ 1,421.28

SUMMARY: March 10, 2025 Fund Balances

-- Association's Discretionary Fund Balance.	\$	24,080.33
-- Legal Fee Allocation Balance.....	\$	1,500.00
-- Beautification Fund Balance.....	\$	<u>1,421.28</u>

TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE... ..\$ 27,001.16

Respectfully submitted, Jim Simpson, Treasurer

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – APRIL

The Romans gave the month the Latin name Aprillis, but the derivation of this name is uncertain. The traditional etymology is from the verb *aperire*, "to open", in allusion to its being the season when trees and flowers begin to "open".

April 1, 1976: Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs founded Apple Computer.

April 2, 1513 - Spanish explorer Ponce De Leon sighted Florida and claimed it for the Spanish Crown after landing at the site of present-day St. Augustine, now the oldest city in the continental U.S.

April 3, 1887 - The first woman mayor was elected in the U.S. as Susanna M. Salter became mayor of Argonia, Kansas.

April 7, 1927: U.S. Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover's Washington speech was seen and heard in New York in the first long-distance television broadcast.

April 21, 1910: Samuel Clements (Mark Twain), author of *Huckleberry Finn*, died at the age of 74.

April 14, 1828 - The first dictionary of American English was published by Noah Webster as the *American Dictionary of the English Language*.

April 25, 1901: New York became the first state to require license plates on cars.

April 26, 1789: Fletcher Christian led the mutiny aboard the British ship *Bounty* against Captain William Bligh.

April 27, 1865 - On the Mississippi River, the worst steamship disaster in U.S. History occurred as an explosion aboard the *Sultana* killed nearly 2,000 passengers, mostly Union soldiers who had been prisoners of war and were returning home.

WUZZLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



Shake It All About

Wuzzle No. 2



Count Down

Wuzzle No 3



Bags Under the Eyes

Wuzzle No. 4



Snake in the Grass

Wuzzle No. 5



Firing Line



DONATE BLOOD

Okaloosa Island Fire Department

**Thursday, April 10
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

All donors receive*:

- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **OneBlood T-Shirt**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

Fact: Only 3% of those who are eligible actually donate blood.



Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use **sponsor code 36112**

ID REQUIRED

*One offer per donor per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/details.

Donors
Receive



- PLUS -



- PLUS -



oneblood
Share your power.