

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

Page 1 of 6 Pages



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

OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
ASSOCIATION

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Our October 2025 meeting will be held on **Monday, October 13** starting at 7 pm. For our October 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
- Meeting Agenda for October 13, 2025
- Rainfall for September 2025
- Architectural Review Committee Reports for September 2025
- Draft Minutes – Sept 8, 2025 Membership Meeting
- Wuzzle Puzzles
- Island Garden Club 60th Year Anniversary
- This Month in History – October
- Wuzzle Puzzle Answers

OCTOBER BREAST CANCER



Awareness month



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
October 2025



OILA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026

Brian Harrington
president@oilaweb.com
Lori Waschak
vicepresident@oilaweb.com
Jesse Hunt
directors@oilaweb.com
Eddie Wall
directors@oilaweb.com
Jerry Boggess
directors@oilaweb.com
Steve Scott
directors@oilaweb.com
Stan King
directors@oilaweb.com
Mark Waschak
secretary@oilaweb.com
Jim Simpson
treasurer@oilaweb.com

By-Laws of the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association Article 1, Section 3

The general nature of the corporation shall be: to coordinate affairs between leaseholder members and the Board of County Commissioners in their role as heirs to the obligations and privileges of the Okaloosa Island Authority, to preserve the public lands on Santa Rosa Island, Okaloosa County, to advise and assist the county in the application of the protective covenants that affect leasehold members and to advise leaseholders and the public in general in their rights and obligations under said leases.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – Brian Harrington

2-Year Update on the Gulf Coast Solitary Bee:

Promising news for the Island's ecosystem—In the November 2023 newsletter we brought the conservation status of this rare and imperiled species of bee to our members' attention. This month the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners is taking action, as the county's natural resources team will be conducting environmental research surveys in the dunes of Beasley Park and on the spoil islands in Santa Rosa Sound. The intent of the surveys and monitoring is to learn more about the Gulf Coast solitary bee—*Hesperapis Oraria*, which lives underground and only emerges in late September and October. The bee has a mutually beneficial relationship with the coastal plain honeycomb head flower. These flowers are prevalent in the natural area on the north side of the island, most notably—beach access way #3. You can help OILAs' mission of preserving public lands on Santa Rosa Island by emailing photos of the bees and honeycomb head flowers to the board of directors. *The presence of this species of bee on Okaloosa Island may help make the difference between paving paradise and allowing these areas to remain undeveloped, as nature—and the Island's Protective Covenants intended.* You can learn more and find the full description of bees and flowers in our archived November 2023 newsletter: <http://www.oilaweb.com/NewsletterArchive.html>



Halloween celebration on Okaloosa Island

The Boardwalk on Okaloosa Island will host its 10th Annual Tricks & Treasures Halloween celebration on October 31 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., offering families a safe environment for trick-or-treating and entertainment. The free event will feature live entertainment, carnival games, costume contests and a treasure map activity for participants. The celebration will conclude with an outdoor screening of the Halloween movie "Hocus Pocus" on a large screen at 8 p.m.

Okaloosa Island Fishing Pier:

The underwater camera at the fishing pier has reached nearly 2 million viewers in its first month of operation, drawing a global audience that has surprised even the project's creators. **Since going live in late August**, the camera has recorded 1.9 million unique views from 183 countries, with viewers spending a total of 1.9 million hours watching marine life beneath the pier.

Coastal Clean Up:

Special thanks goes out to the 300 volunteers who participated in September's very successful International Coastal Cleanup. Through the volunteers' supporting efforts, the Florida-based company, *4ocean* has now removed a total of over 43 million pounds of plastic and trash from the ocean, rivers and coastlines worldwide

OILA—One neighborhood, stronger together

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

I. PLACE: For our October 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, Sept 8, 2025 Meeting (printed in this newsletter)

V. Treasurer's Reports for October, 2025 (printed in this newsletter) and
September 8, 2025 - Jim Simpson, Treasurer

VI. Standing Committee Reports: Nick Hall, ARC Chairman
Architectural Review Committee Report for September 2025

VII. New Business

A. Membership Interest in forming new committees

B. Website Update and Tutorial

Old Business:

VIII. Announcements, Speakers and Programs

XI. Adjournment



SEPT 2025 RAINFALL: 1.2 INCHES

Sept 25...**0.7** inches

Sept 26...**0.5** inches

Sept Avg Rainfall.....**7.2** inches

Variance to Average....- **6.0** inches

Oct Avg Rainfall.....**4.3** inches

Oct Record High.....**99° F** (1954)

Oct Record Low**27° F** (1989)

Oct Avg Water Temperature...**81° F**

Nov Avg Rainfall.....**4.1** inches

November Record High**89° F** (1998)

November Record Low**18° F** (1950)

Nov Avg Water Temperature...**72° F**

YTD Variance- **26.2** inches

Year to Date Rainfall.....**26.1** inches

Avg Annual Rainfall**65.1** inches



ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT SEPTEMBER 2025:

The OILA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) received and reviewed the following during the month of September 2025 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>
9/22	29	2	A. McDonald 215 Amberjack Dr	Pool	Yes
9/22	234	5	T. Connor 527 Dolphin Ave	Pool	Yes
9/30	235	5	P. Hudson 529 Dolphin Ave	Room Addition	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).

DRAFT MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Date: September 9, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Attendees: Directors Harrington, Waschak, Hunt, Scott

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at **7:00 PM**.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

- Led at **7:01 PM**.

3. Approval of Minutes

- Draft minutes were **reviewed and approved** at **7:02 PM**.

4. Treasury Report

- Distributed and **approved** at **7:03 PM**. See attachment to these minutes for a copy of the report.

5. ARC Report (Nick Hall)

- At **7:06 PM**, ARC approved:
 - **Alvin's Island modifications**
 - **New two-story residence on Dolphin**
 - **Tom Thumb replacement/rebranding changes**

6. MSBU Report (Paula Hudson, read by President Harrington)

- Delivered at **7:07 PM**.
- Explanation provided to new visitors about **fund usage**:
 - **Island lighting**
 - **Beautification projects**
 - **Repairs**

7. Member Engagement & Committees

- At **7:13 PM**, discussion held on **OILA's direction** and ways to **increase member involvement**.
- Floor opened for suggestions on **committees and engagement projects**.
- Examples included **holiday decorations** and working with county resources (e.g., establishing a **county liaison**).
- Proposal to form **4–5 committees** with directed goals for future meetings.
- **Five proposed committees**:
 - Beautification
 - Santa Rosa Boulevard
 - County Liaison
 - Public Relations
 - Covenant Review

8. Community Events & Activities

- **7:28 PM**: Special Forces group planning a **run on the island** – December 6th. OILA expressed interest in supporting.
- **7:30 PM**: Coastal Cleanup scheduled for **Saturday, September 27th** – OILA encouraged to participate.

9. Legislative Update

- **7:31 PM**: **HB 1221 did not advance**; therefore, TDC will not be affected.
- Reminder: TDC spending remains **restricted at the state level**.
- Okaloosa County's current TDC budget is **\$90 million per year**.

10. Communications

- **7:37 PM**: Noted that **Jim sends a copy of the OILA newsletter** to the **Board of County Commissioners**.

Attachment: TREASURER'S REPORT: September 8, 2025**MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 262****June 9, 2025 TOTAL BALANCE: 24,275.76****ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF June 9, 2025.....\$ 21,354.48****RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT:**

Membership Dues.....	\$	144.00
U.S. Mail Fee	\$	<u>48.00</u>

Total Receipts: \$ 192.00

EXPENDITURES

Payment to the USPS for six months rental (Sept 2025 thru Feb 2026) rental of P.O. Box 4323.....\$ 96.00

EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT

Reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of postage to mail the Summer 2025 issue of the OIL Lantern. \$ 54.60

Reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of postage to mail the Sept 2025 issue of the OIL Lantern.....\$ 54.60

Reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of postage to mail out the September 2025 OILA membership renewal notices for members who have selected to renew their annual membership by U.S. Mail. A membership renewal notice also includes a stamped, return-addressed envelope for the member to return their payment.....\$ 82.80

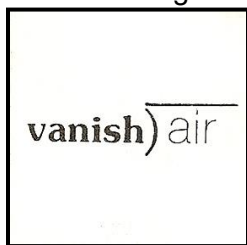
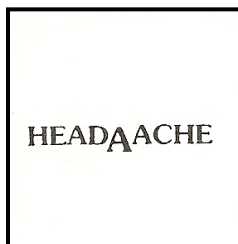
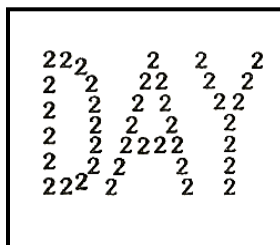
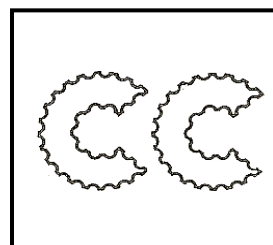
Expenses Pending Approval for Payment Total: \$ 192.00

**ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER ALLOCATION,
RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES & EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT
AS OF September 8, 2025.....\$ 21,258.48****LEGAL FEE ALLOCATION BALANCE AS OF June 9, 2025.....\$ 1,500.00****LEGAL FEE ALLOCATION EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT.....No Expenditures****LEGAL FEE ALLOCATION BALANCE AS OF September 8, 2025.....\$ 1,500.00****BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF June 9, 2025, 2024.....\$ 1,421.28****BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures****BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF September 8, 2025.....\$ 1,421.28****SUMMARY: September 8, 2025 Fund Balances**

-- Association's Discretionary Fund Balance.	\$ 21,258.48
-- Legal Fee Allocation Balance.....	\$ 1,500.00
-- Beautification Fund Balance.....	<u>\$ 1,421.28</u>

TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE... \$ 24,179.96

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.

**Wuzzle No. 1****Wuzzle No. 2****Wuzzle No. 3****Wuzzle No. 4**

Celebrating our 60th Year



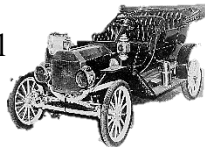
Thirteen women joined the Island Garden Club as Charter Members in 1965 with dues of 50¢ a month. In 1967 the first annual club directory was published. The directory included not only growing information, but suggested plants known to thrive on the island and included addresses of the properties where they could be viewed. Thank you to Paula Bogan Hudson for sharing a copy of this booklet which belonged to her mother, Gene, a charter member. The club is still going strong although the dues are now \$15 a year. Still a bargain! Please accept our invitation to attend the October 8th meeting at El Matador Condo for 9:30 social, 10:00 meeting. Speaking on Herbs & Vinegars is Margaret Stewart, Okaloosa County Extension Program Assistant and Master Gardener.

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

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – OCTOBER

October 1, 1863: Thanksgiving was named an official holiday by President Abraham Lincoln.

October 1, 1908 - Henry Ford's Model T, a "universal car" designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time.



October 6, 1846: Engineer and inventor George Westinghouse (1846-1914) was born in Central Bridge, New York. He developed air brakes for trains and was later responsible for the adoption of alternating current (AC) systems for electric power transmission in the U.S. He was also the first employer to give his employees paid vacations.

October 6, 1927 - The first "talkie" opened in New York. *The Jazz Singer* starring Al Jolson was the first full-length feature film using spoken dialogue

October 10, 1913: The Panama Canal officially joined the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean when the Gamboa dike was demolished with charges of dynamite

October 16, 1978 - Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Poland was elected Pope. He was the first non-Italian Pope chosen in 456 years and took the name John Paul II.

October 17, 1931: Scarface Al Capone well known gangster is found guilty of income tax evasion. One week later he was sentenced to 11 years in prison and a fine of \$50,000.

October 26, 1881: The gunfight at OK Corral occurs. Wyatt Earp, his two brothers, and "Doc" Holliday, have a shootout with the Ike Clanton gang.

October 29, 1929 - The stock market crashed as over 16 million shares were dumped amid tumbling prices.

WUZZLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



Vanish Into Thin Air

Wuzzle No. 2



A Splitting Headache

Wuzzle No. 3



Tuesday

Wuzzle No. 4



Rough Seas

TRIVIA CRAWLER: CONDO COUNT FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY

According to the Okaloosa County Property Tax Appraiser, there are 270 residential condos with 13,505 units located in Okaloosa County along with 458 timeshare/fractional condo units.