

NOVEMBER 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 November 2025 meeting will be held on **Monday, November 10** starting at 7 pm. For our November 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 Nov 10, 2025
- Rainfall for September 2025
- Architectural Review Committee Reports for October 2025
- Draft Minutes – Oct 13, 2025,
- This Month in History - November
- Help Take a Child Christmas Shopping with an Okaloosa Island Fire Fighter
- Bridge to Bridge Multi-Use Path Opens
- Okaloosa Island Fire Fighter, Corry Moore, Certified as a Paramedic
- Two new Statues to be Unveiled at the Women's Veterans Park on Okaloosa Island on Nov 11 at 1:00 pm



VETERAN'S DAY
Let Us Never Forget
Their Sacrifice!



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
November 2025



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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

Phase 1 of the Santa Rosa Boulevard Improvement Plan is coming soon.



Five years ago the County's proposal to improve Santa Rosa Boulevard became a highly charged subject with OILA. This plan was originally born from the need to improve the sidewalks along the north side of the boulevard. As the plan took form, a 14ft wide multi-purpose bike path was included along the north side of the roadway, and this path comes at the cost of reducing traffic lanes down most of the island. When this plan was first briefed to OILA, the majority of our voting members took issue with the thought of reducing the number of traffic lanes on Okaloosa Island and rejected the plan with a formal vote against any lane reduction. However, it is important to note that at the time of that vote, there was scant information available regarding critical details such as pedestrian and bicyclist safety measures, improved storm water drainage, the possibility of underground power, improved water and sewer, project funding sources, and a construction timeline.

Over the following years and at OILA's request, representatives from Okaloosa County spoke to OILA on multiple occasions in an effort to explain the positive aspects of this proposal and were met with mixed opinions. Once the Santa Rosa Boulevard plan was finally complete, the County's Office of Public Works forwarded a copy to OILA's leadership and that plan was uploaded to our website for the membership to view--that was over 2 years ago.

As I have mentioned during our meetings, the County bore a responsibility to *consult OILA* regarding their plan—and they have met that responsibility. In contrast, it must also be noted that Okaloosa County *does not require OILA's consent* to place their plan into action, as Santa Rosa Boulevard is a county roadway.

At last month's Board of County Commissioner's meeting, Scott Bitterman—the County's Public Works Director, formally requested approval of a funds-matching grant for phase 1 of the Santa Rosa Boulevard Improvement Plan. This phase of the roadway project will begin at the Fire Station and end at Beach Access #1. Part of the agreement between the County and the State to secure this grant is that the *County has until October 31st of 2026 to complete this portion*. The cost of phase one is 3.8M with 2.8M to be taken from the half-cent sales tax reserves, and 1M coming from a State Appropriation Local Transportation Grant Award. This cost does not include the addition of underground power, which Florida Power & Light is working on separately.

Before finalizing a personal opinion of this project, I highly encourage members who are interested in learning more about this subject to visit:

<http://www.oilaweb.com/index.html> and click on the "Projects, Maintenance and Events" tab and then the "Santa Rosa Boulevard" link.

Only after the plan has been understood, can one have an informed opinion. OILA's leadership will make every effort to engage with the County and provide updates regarding the construction timeline as they become available. In the meantime, members who are interested in forming a Santa Rosa Boulevard advisory committee to make recommendations to the Board of Directors are encouraged to do so.

OILA—One neighborhood, stronger together

October 2025 Meeting Agenda Date: Monday, Nov 10 Time: 7:00 p.m.

I. PLACE: For our November 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, October 13, 2025 Meeting (printed in this newsletter)

V. Treasurer's Report for November, 2025 – Jim Simpson, Treasurer

VI. Standing Committee Reports: Nick Hall, ARC Chairman
Architectural Review Committee Report for October 202

VII. New Business

- A. Member Vote to Amend By-Law Changes Proposed by the Directors
- B. Santa Rosa Blvd Update
- C. Holiday Decorations for the Upcoming Season
- D. Member Interest in Forming New Committees

Old Business:

VIII. Announcements, Speakers and Programs

XI. Adjournment



OCT 2025 RAINFALL: 3.1 INCHES

Oct 8.....**0.2** inches Oct 26.....**0.5** inches
Oct 19....**0.9** inches Oct 27.....**1.5** inches

Oct Avg Rainfall.....**4.3** inches
Variance to Average..... **- 1.2** inches

Nov Avg Rainfall.....**4.1** inches
November Record High**89° F** (1998)
November Record Low**18° F** (1950)
Nov Avg Water Temperature...**72° F**

Dec Avg Rainfall**4.8** inches
Dec Record High.....**84° F** (1968)
Dec Record Low..... **8° F** (1962)
Dec Avg Water Temperature **.64° F**

YTD Variance **- 27.4** inches
Year to Date Rainfall.....**30.0** inches
Avg Annual Rainfall**65.1** inches



ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT OCTOBER 2025:

The OILA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) received and reviewed the following during the month of October 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>
10/12	460	8	L. Harris 850 Tarpon Dr.	Pergola	Yes
10/17		3	B. Costa Island Gardens Condo 304 Barracuda Ave.	Replace Fire Alarm System	Yes
10/28		6	C. Hightower The Palms Condo 670 Nautilus Ct.	Re-Roofing	Yes

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

<http://www.OILAwab.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).

DRAFT MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2025, MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association (OILA)

Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2025

Directors Present: Harrington, Hunt, Boggess, King, Scott

7:00 PM – Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance.

7:01 PM – Treasurer’s Report (Atch 1) presented by Jim Simpson. Reimbursements were approved for:

- Mark Waschak (Zoom expenses)
 - Jim Simpson (OILA mailing expenses)
 - President Harrington (Moorehead Law Group – covenant research work)
- All reimbursements approved unanimously.

7:07 PM – Discussion on the **MSBU** deferred to future meetings with Paula Hudson.

7:08 PM – Review of letters sent to negligent homeowners, including a neglected pool on Dorado and a home on Sailfish. Additional letters sent regarding the pool barn on Pelican and two short-term rentals. Moorehead Law Group continues to provide several pro bono hours and the association is prepared for next year’s legal retainer.

7:11 PM – ARC Report with Nick Hall:

- Pools on Amberjack and Dolphin approved
- Room addition on Dolphin approved

7:14 PM – Continued discussion of **member-driven committees**. The board reviewed proposed committees and current interest levels, focusing on ways to increase community engagement and participation.

7:31 PM – Coastal Resources Update:

Newsletter snippet covered topics including Beasley Park, Beach Access #3, and the spoil islands. Discussion included mention of the solitary bee and an endangered lichen species possibly located within common areas of the island.

7:36 PM – Bylaws Review: Updated bylaws were reviewed in preparation for a November vote.

8:06 PM – County Developments:

- Ribbon cutting held for the new bike path
- Discussion of proposed US 98 expansion

8:15 PM – Update on **underground utilities survey**, approved as part of \$8 million earmarked for Santa Rosa Boulevard improvements.

8:21 PM – Motion to adjourn.

TREASURER'S REPORT: October 13, 2025**MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 262****September 8, 2025 TOTAL BALANCE: \$24,179.96****ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF Sept 8, 2025.....\$ 21,258.48****RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT:**

Membership Dues.....	\$ 864.00
U.S. Mail Mail Fees.....	\$ 136.00
Donation: Frank & Shelia Adcock.....	\$ 80.00
Total Receipts: \$ 1,080.00	

EXPENDITURES:

Reimbursement to Mark Waschak for payment of the OILA Meeting Zoom service from Sept 10, 2025 to September 9, 2026.....	\$ 159.90
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EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT

Reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of postage to mail the October 2025 issue of the OIL Lantern. \$	59.40
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Reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of postage to mail out the October 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.....	\$ 37.44
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Expenses Pending Approval for Payment Total: \$	96.84
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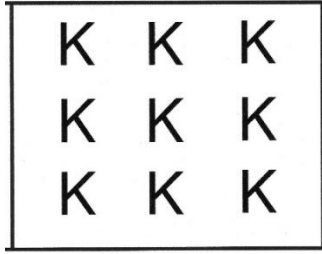
**ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER ALLOCATION,
RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES & EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT
AS OF October 13, 2025.....\$ 22,081.74****LEGAL FEE ALLOCATION BALANCE AS OF Sept 8, 2025.....\$ 1,500.00****LEGAL FEE ALLOCATION EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT:**

Reimbursement to Brian Harrington for payment of Moorhead Law Group Invoice No. 121592, dated 09/01/2025 (Payment to Moorhead Law Group for Okaloosa Island Covenants & Resrictions research).....	\$ 257.50
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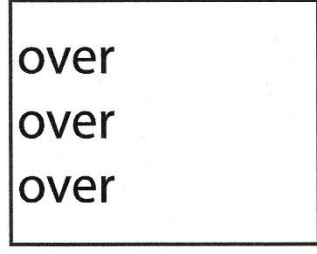
LEGAL FEE ALLOCATION BALANCE AS OF October 13, 2025.....\$ 1,242.50**BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF Sept 8, 2025, 2024.....\$ 1,421.28****BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures****BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF October 13, 2025.....\$ 1,421.28****SUMMARY: October 13, 2025 Fund Balances**

-- Association's Discretionary Fund Balance.	\$ 22,081.74
-- Legal Fee Allocation Balance.....	\$ 1,242.50
-- Beautification Fund Balance.....	\$ 1,421.28
TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE...	\$ 24,745.52

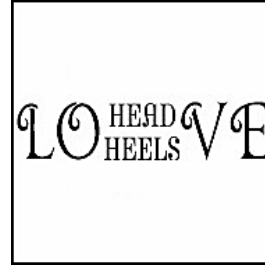
WUZZLE PUZZLES - What is a Wuzzle Puzzle? It is a puzzle consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures, or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, etc. Are you ready to take the challenge and figure out the “disguised” meaning of these wuzzles? Good luck.



Wuzzle No. 1



Wuzzle No. 2



Wuzzle No. 3



Wuzzle No. 4

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – NOVEMBER

Nov 1, 1950 – President Harry S. Truman was the target of an unsuccessful assassination attempt by two members of a Puerto Rican nationalist movement.

Nov 4, 1922: King Tutankhamen’s (Tut) intact tomb was discovered by Howard Carter in Egypt’s Valley of the Kings. Tut was pharaoh of Egypt from 1333 B.C. to 1324 B.C.



Nov 14, 1666 - The first experimental blood transfusion took place in Britain, utilizing two dogs.

Nov 15, 1926 - Radio network National Broadcasting Company (NBC) launches with a radio network of 24 stations and one of the earliest remote musical broadcasts.



Nov 15, 1867 - On this day in 1867, the first stock ticker is unveiled in New York City. The advent of the ticker ultimately revolutionized market by making up-to-the-minute prices available to investors around the country.



Nov 17, 1869 - The Suez Canal was formally opened after more than 10 years of construction.

Nov 28, 1942 - Fire erupted inside the Coconut Grove nightclub in Boston killing nearly 500 persons who had become trapped inside.

Nov 29, 1975: Bill Gates used the term “Microsoft” for the first time in a letter to his business partner Paul Allen, signaling the start of the tech giant.



HELP US TAKE A CHILD CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WITH AN OKALOOSA ISLAND FIREFIGHTER



This year, the Okaloosa Island Fire Department (OIFD) is teaming up with Children in Crisis, a local nonprofit organization which provides homes for abused, neglected and abandoned children, to provide a merry Christmas to children and families in need. Our Union Local 2617 will be receiving monetary donations until Monday, December 15, 2025, for our annual Shop With a Firefighter event, located at Walmart on Saturday, December 20, 2025. Donations can be made by cash or check, with all checks made payable to Union Local 2617. Donations can be mailed to OIFD, Local 2617, 104 Santa Rosa Blvd, Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548 or dropped off at the station house. Currently, there are approximately 8 to 12 children available to sponsor, and we would like to bring joy to as many of them as possible. In case there are funds left over, all will be allocated to next year’s Shop With a Firefighter event. Donations of any kind are greatly appreciated!!!

*(Editor’s Note: I have contributed to **Shop With a Firefighter** since it started in 2019. It is an excellent program which permits a child in foster care to go Christmas shopping with a Firefighter who serves as a guide and as an adult role model. Also, the child gets to pick their own stuff – and, in many cases that is clothes AND items for their brothers and sisters! Children in Crisis has provided a safe and nurturing environment to over 1,000 children since 2008 - Jim Simpson)*

WUZZLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



K-NINE

Wuzzle No. 2



LEFT OVERS

Wuzzle No. 3



HEAD OVER HEELS
IN LOVE

Wuzzle No. 4



GET IN SHAPE



Okaloosa County District 2 Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel Cuts the Ribbon Opening the Multi-Use Path

**OKALOOSA
ISLAND
BRIDGE
TO BRIDGE
BIKE MULTI-
USE PATH
IS OPEN.**

**ON
OCTOBER
23, 2025 THE
RIBBON
WAS CUT
TO
OFFICIALLY
OPEN THE
PATH**



Bikers Waiting to Conduct the First Official Caravan to Travel the New Multi-Use Path



The Start of the 4.3-Mile-Long Bridge to Bridge Multi-Use Path at Beasley Park on Okaloosa Island

HOW THE BRIDGE-to-BRIDGE PATHWAY CAME TO BE

- Kathy Foster

The genesis for the Bridge-to-Bridge Pathway began in 2015 by OILA Past Presidents Dave Hancock and Kathy Foster and island resident Jill Higgins.

SAFETY was the primary reason. Although we also recognized the benefit to ecotourism.

The three of us met with and solicited support from the Fort Walton Beach Chamber, the Destin Chamber, TPO, Great Northwest Coastal Trail Corridor, TDC, Air Force Realty, DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails, bicycle shops, etc. It was after meeting with Okaloosa County Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel that the project gained traction. Without her support and that of Deputy County Administrator Jason Autrey and Public Works Director Scott Bitterman this path would not have been built.

The Bridge-to-Bridge Pathway is proof that citizen-initiated ideas can be more than a dream if folks are willing to put in the effort to achieve a goal.

Enjoy the ride!

OKALOOSA ISLAND FIRE FIGHTER CORY MOORE CERTIFIED AS A PARAMEDIC



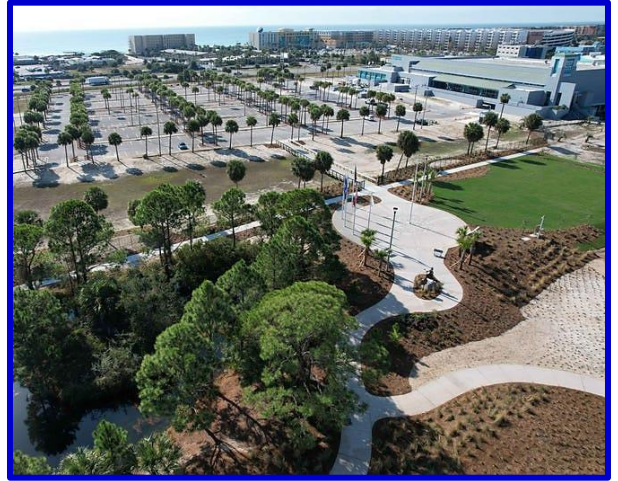
CORY MOORE

On Aug 5, 2025, after a full 1 year of training, 700 hours of classroom, 300 hours of clinical hours and countless more hours studying, Okaloosa Island Fire Fighter Cory Moore successfully completed the Northwest Florida State College Paramedic Program. Then after all that he had to perform a full month (10 shifts) of

rides with the paramedics here at the Okaloosa Island Fire Dist. During that time, he also had to do a clearance meeting with Dr. Bell who is our medical director for Okaloosa County. On October 3, 2025, Firefighter (now Paramedic) Moore became an acting paramedic for your Okaloosa Island Fire District. To say we are proud of FF/Paramedic Moore would be an understatement. It is through his hard work and dedication to this district that sets us apart from everyone else. Please join us in congratulating the newest paramedic in Okaloosa County.

Island Trivia: Here are some of the first condos built on Okaloosa Island by year: **1970:** Villas Capri, Vista Del Mar, Bayou Dwellers Cabana Colony, Santa Rosa Condos, Seaspray, Water Way, Waymar. **1971:** El Matador. **1972:** Aqua Villa. **1973:** Venus. **1974:** Emerald Isle, Island Echo, Island Surf.

OKALOOSA COUNTY TO UNVEIL NEW STATUES HONORING WOMEN VETERANS



Okaloosa County will pay tribute to service members on Veterans Day with an unveiling ceremony for two new life-sized women veteran statues that will be added to Women Veterans Monuments at Veterans Park.

The event will take place at 1 p.m. on Nov. 11 at the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center on Okaloosa Island.

This gathering will feature veteran speakers, followed by the unveiling of the statues that will recognize women veterans Nicole L. Gee of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit and an Iroquois warrior woman who served in the War of 1812.