

APRIL 2026 EDITION OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
NEWSLETTER, THE OIL LANTERN

¹Page 1 of 6 Pages



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

OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
ASSOCIATION

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Our April 2026 meeting will be held on **Monday, April 13** 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
- Meeting Agenda for April 13, 2026
- Rainfall for March
- Architectural Review Committee Report for March 2026
- Wuzzle Puzzles
- Draft Minutes – March 9, 2026 Meeting
- Wuzzle Puzzles Answers
- This Month in History - April
- Invitation: Okaloosa Island Fire Dept Change of Command Ceremony – Thursday, April 30
- Link for Past Copies of The OIL Lantern

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE USE AND APPEARANCE OF THIS PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The Okaloosa County Department of Growth Management is in receipt of a Development Order application which may authorize the development of this property. The development under consideration is:

BEACH ACCESS ONE OVERFLOW
PARKING

For further information contact the Department of Growth Management at either one of the following locations.

North Okaloosa County

Crestview Office
402 Brookmeade Drive
Crestview, FL 32539
Phone: (850) 689-5080
FAX: (850) 689-5512

South Okaloosa County

1250 N. Eglin Pkwy
Shallmar, FL 32579
Phone: (850) 651-7180
FAX: (850) 651-7706



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
April 2026



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

April 2026 President's Message...a Line in the Sand

The County intends to pave over Beach Freeway #1.

Throughout the entirety of my time in OILA, we have suffered a relentless “death of a thousand cuts,” as county officials willfully and intentionally ignore the Island’s Protective Covenants and Restrictions.

They have proven themselves deaf to our voice as we endure a continuous assault on the Island’s Covenants. To make matters worse, often times these transgressions come directly from the officials who are charged with the duty to support the very laws that protect the property of *all* of their constituents.

What's the Solution?

For years our membership has pleaded for someone to legally stop this government overreach. During our April 13th regular 7pm meeting, the Board of Directors will open a discussion for our membership to pursue the option to file a legal case that seeks to declare our rights and the enforceability of the Island’s Protective Covenants. If the membership chooses to advance this case, we will also seek a court order that would require the county to abandon its plan to pave over Beach Freeway #1.

Why is This Case so Important?

This potential case calls into question the reason for our existence. As stated in our by-laws, OILA exists 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. Put simply, OILA exists because of the covenants-- *and without them, there is no need for our organization.*

April's Guest Speaker—

OILA's attorney, Jay Frasier of Moorhead Law Group, will be our guest during the members' meeting and he will inform us of the results of his initial research, the nature of our case, and answer questions and address concerns from the membership at large.

What can you do?

You can vote! At last month's straw poll there was unopposed support for litigation against paving our Beach Freeways. Following Mr. Frasier's briefing, our members will decide if they want to follow a course of action that has the potential to put a stop to these infractions.

What else can you do about it?

Voice your displeasure to your commissioner. Engage with the media. Contribute to OILA's legal fund. As litigation does not come cheaply, we've already added a donation link on OILAs webpage.

OILA—One Neighborhood, Stronger Together!



April 2026 Meeting Agenda Date: April 13, 2026 Time: 7:00 p.m.

I. PLACE: 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.

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 9, 2026 Meeting (printed in this newsletter)

V. Treasurer's Report for April 2026 – Jim Simpson, Treasurer

VI. Standing Committee Reports: Nick Hall, ARC Chairman Architectural Review Committee Report for March 2026

VII. New Business

1. Legal Update
2. Request for Volunteers to Serve on the Legal Committee
3. Vote to File Suit to Stop Developing the Beach Freeways
4. OILA Director Nominating Committee

Old Business:

VIII. Announcements, Speakers and Programs

XI. Adjournment



MARCH 2026 RAINFALL
1.0 INCHES

March 8..**0.7** inches March 12..**0.3** inches

March Avg Rainfall**5.8** inches
Variance to Average.....**-4.8** inches

April Avg Rainfall.....**3.7** inches
April Recor High.....**92° F**(1985)
April Record Low**20° F**(1987)
Apr Avg Water Temperature...**72°**

May Avg Rainfall.....**4.0** inches
May Record High.....**101° F** (1953)
May Record Low**8° F** (1971)
May Avg Water Temperature... **78° F**

YTD Variance **-10.1** inches
Year to Date Rainfall..... **6.3** inches
Avg Annual Rainfall**65.1** inches

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT MARCH 2026



The OILA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) received and reviewed the following during the month of March 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>
3/4	225	5	R. Olson 518 Dorado Avenue	Fence Replacement	Yes
3/6	152	4	M. Thompson 424 Caviar Dr.	Seawall and Dock Replacement	Yes
3/14	255,256, 282	5	V. Bruner 540 Santa Rosa Blvd.	Sun Deck	Yes
3/16			S. Gold John Beasley Park	Parking Expansion and Exercise Pad	Yes
3/16			S. Gold Ross Marler Park	Parking Expansion and Stormwater Mgmt.	Yes

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

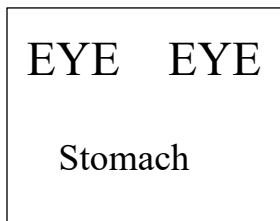
<http://www.OILAweb.com/ArchitectureReview.html>

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

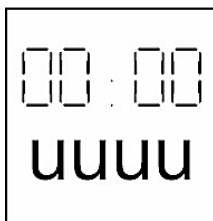
1. OILA ARC review package:
 - 1.1. Completed OILA ARC application,
 - 1.2. Survey plat of the property,
 - 1.3. Overlaid illustration of the project on a copy of the survey plat.
 - 1.4. Other supporting documents* (drawings, plans, specifications, etc.) (*If these are large files, they can be submitted 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).

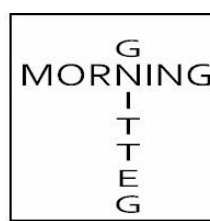
WUZZLE PUZZLES - What is a Wuzzle Puzzle? It is a puzzle consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures, or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, etc. Are you ready to take the challenge and figure out the “disguised” meaning of these wuzzles? Good luck.



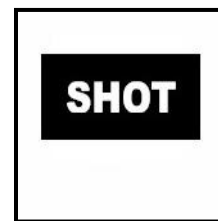
Wuzzle No. 1



Wuzzle No. 2



Wuzzle No. 3



Wuzzle No. 4

Draft Membership Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2026

Directors Present: Harrington, Waschak, Scott, King

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

7:01 PM – Approval of prior meeting minutes. Motion passed.

7:02 PM – **Treasurer’s Report** (See Atch 1 to these minutes) presented by Jim Simpson and approved.

- Motion approved to reimburse Jim Simpson for association expenses.

7:06 PM – **ARC Report:**

Applications reviewed and approved for:

- Driveway extension and shed at **547 Dorado**
- **703 Sailfish** demolition and rebuild
- Fence replacement at **518 Dorado**
- Shed at **532 Dolphin Drive**
- Seawall replacement at **808 Tarpon Drive**

7:11 PM – **MSBU Report** with Paula Hudson:

- Current fund balance: **\$370,000**.
- The fund has increased approximately **\$5,000 per month** over the past several months.
- President Harrington asked about the **broken irrigation pump at the Beach Access #4 crosswalk**; it appears the repair may fall under another organization’s responsibility.

7:15 PM – **Director Election Process:**

- Upcoming OILA director elections discussed.
- The President appoints a **nominating committee**, which then selects a **chairperson** and proposes nominees for vacant positions.
- The process is outlined in detail within the **OILA bylaws**.

7:21 PM – **Beach Access #1 Paving – Legal Discussion:**

- The proposal remains an **agenda item request for the Board of County Commissioners (BCC)**.
- While it could appear on a future agenda, timing is uncertain given the current schedule.
- President Harrington gauged audience support for potential legal action if necessary; a **straw poll indicated unanimous support**.
- Discussion with OILA’s attorney included funding considerations. Attorney Jay Frasier recommended maintaining a **single legal fund** rather than separating lawsuits.
- Costs will depend largely on the extent of opposition from the county.

- A **change of venue** may be requested to avoid potential local influence.

7:33 PM – Vendor Activity on Leaseholder Land:

- Discussion regarding vendors operating on property classified as Leaseholder Land on the island plat.

7:38 PM – Future Meeting:

- OILA’s attorney will be **invited to attend a summer meeting** to address legal questions.

7:44 PM – Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Attachment 1 to Draft March 9, 2026, Membership Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2026, Treasurer’s Report:

TREASURER’S REPORT: March 9, 2026

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 246

February 9, 2026 TOTAL BALANCE: \$24,233.27

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF Feb 9, 2026.....\$ 22,593.09

Transfer of \$1,500 from the discretionary fund to be allocated and identified as funding for legal fees (Transfer approved at the February 9, 2026 meeting). This is in addition to the remaining balance of \$218.90 in the Legal Fee Allocation amount of \$1,500 approved for transfer on February 10, 2025\$ **(1,500.00)**

RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT:

Membership Dues:\$ **144.00**

U.S. Mail Fees:.....\$ **8.00**

Total Receipts: \$ 152.00

EXPENDITURES.....No Expenditures

EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT

Reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of postage to mail the March 2026 OIL Lantern\$ **54.60**

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES & EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT AS OF March 9, 2026.....\$ 21,190.49

LEGAL FEE ALLOCATION BALANCE AS OF February 9, 2026.....\$ 218.90

LEGAL FEE ALLOCATION EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT.....No Expenditures

LEGAL FEE ALLOCATION BALANCE AS OF March 9, 2026 (includes transfer of \$1,500 from Discretionary Fund).....\$ 1,718.90

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF February 9, 2026.....\$ 1,421.28

BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF March 9, 2026.....\$ 1,421.28

SUMMARY: March 9, 2026 Fund Balances

-- Association’s Discretionary Fund Balance.\$ **21,190.49**

-- Legal Fee Allocation Balance.....\$ **1,718.90**

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

TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE... \$ 24,330.67

Respectfully submitted - Jim Simpson

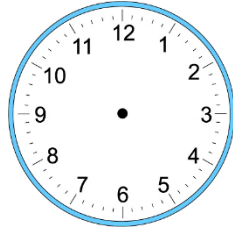
WUZZLE PUZZLES ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



Eyes Bigger Than Stomach

Wuzzle No. 2



No Time For You!

Wuzzle No. 3



Getting Up in the Morning.

Wuzzle No. 4



Shot in the Dark

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – APRIL

April is called April because its name likely derives from the Latin word "aperire," meaning "to open," reflecting the season when flowers and trees begin to bloom.

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 7, 1933 – Beer goes on sale again in 19 of the 48 states and the District of Columbia.

April 9, 1867 - By a single vote, the U.S. Senate ratifies the treaty to complete the purchase of Alaska from Russia.

April 13, 1997 - Tiger Woods becomes the youngest golfer to win golf's Masters Tournament

April 21, 1836 – The Battle of San Jacinto between Texans led by Sam Houston and Mexican forces led by Santa Anna took place near present day Houston. The Texans decisively defeated the Mexican forces thereby achieving independence.

April 25, 1901 - New York becomes the first U.S. state to require automobile license plates.

April 29, 1913 - Gideon Sundback of Hoboken, N.J. patents the zipper.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND THE CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY FOR THE OKALOOSA ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT



Chief Strawn

The Okaloosa Island Fire Department is inviting the public to attend the Change of Command Ceremony for the Okaloosa Island Fire Department. Fire Chief **Michael Ray Strawn** is retiring and the current acting Chief, **Sean Mast** will officially assume duties as the new Fire Chief. **Date:** Thursday, April 30. **Time:** 10:00 am, **Place:** The Okaloosa Island Fire Department building located at 104 Santa Rosa Blvd, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548. Note: Parking may be an issue; so please prepare accordingly.



COPIES OF PAST EDITIONS OF THE OIL LANTERN ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

Copies of past issues of the OIL Lantern, the newsletter of the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association, are available online dated back to December 2015. The link for these newsletters is:

<https://oilaweb.com/NewsletterArchive.html>