

**SEPTEMBER 2021 EDITION OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
NEWSLETTER, THE OIL LANTERN
Page 1 of 11 Pages**



P.O. Box 4323 OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION,
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32549

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Our September meeting will be held on **Monday, Sept 13, 2021** starting at **7 pm**. For our September 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

- ◆ President's Message - **David Sherry**
- ◆ Sept 13, 2021 Meeting Agenda
- ◆ Island Garden Club Invitation
- ◆ Architectural Review Committee Reports (June thru August 2021)
- ◆ Island Rainfall Report for Aug 2021
- ◆ Out-of-District Call Responses & Okaloosa Island Fire Department Policy – OIFD Chief **Michael Ray Strawn**
- ◆ Patents/Trademarks/Copyrights Issued in the Month of September
- ◆ OIFD – Fire Fighters and Commissioners
- ◆ Draft Minutes – May 10, 2021
- ◆ Draft Minutes – June 14, 2021
- ◆ International Coastal Beach Clean-up Saturday – Sept 18, 8 to 11 am

OILA DUES FOR THE 2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP YEAR DUE ON OCTOBER 1, 2021

Membership dues for the coming year are due October 1. A membership renewal notification letter along with a stamped, return-addressed envelope will be mailed this month to members who are due renewal. Membership dues are **\$12** a year. If you elect to receive the newsletter by U.S. Mail, the total due is **\$18 (\$12 membership plus a \$6 newsletter subscription fee)**. If you have any questions concerning membership, please contact Jim Simpson, Treasurer, at (850) 585-2116 or by email at:
: sanleanna@cox.net.



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



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - David Sherry

I hope everyone had a great summer recess. Here are the latest news and events for Okaloosa Island.

September OILA Meeting Available In-Person and by Zoom – You may attend the September 13, 2021 OILA membership meeting in-person at the firehouse or via Zoom. Covid-19 restrictions limited OILA to Zoom only monthly meetings last year, but now the Okaloosa Island Fire Department will let us use their meeting room again. A Zoom link will be provided for members wanting to attend remotely.



Okaloosa Island Fire Department (OIFD) Tax Increase and Budget Meeting – The OIFD has proposed a 28.6% budget increase (from \$3.71 million to \$4.78 million) for 2022. OIFD is funded by Okaloosa Island property taxes. Okaloosa Island fire taxes will be \$370 per \$100,000 of taxable value, up about \$70 per \$100,000. Chief Strawn is hosting a meeting to discuss the budget on Tuesday, September 7 at 5:30 PM in the 2nd floor meeting room of the Firehouse on Okaloosa Island. Email adminasst@OIFD.org to reserve your seat.

Proposed Changes to Santa Rosa Blvd (SR Blvd) on Okaloosa Island – Okaloosa County is proposing major changes to SR Blvd which would reduce the number of driving lanes from the current 4 lanes to 3 or 2 lanes depending on location, eliminate the center median between oncoming lanes, add a bike path, and turn the 4 foot wide sidewalk on the north side of SR Blvd into a 14 foot wide multi-use (walking, bikes, golf carts) path, plus other sidewalks. The initial cost estimate is about \$10 million.

In August of 2020, the County held a workshop and conducted a survey on possible SR Blvd changes. The County's 2020 survey showed 89% of Okaloosa Islanders opposed any reduction in driving lanes, yet here we are again with a proposed reduction in driving lanes.

There is a 100-foot right of way for Santa Rosa Blvd on Okaloosa Island. The current driving lanes are each 10 feet wide, for a total of 40 feet. The County can achieve all of its pedestrian, biking, and multi-use goals without reducing driving lanes.

The County proposed project creates more paved surface (impermeable to water) than the existing road and sidewalk, so the project may increase storm water drainage problems. Comparing the current roadway to the County proposal:

Current 100 foot wide right of way: 49 feet of width is paved surface (road, bike lane, sidewalk) with the rest natural / permeable. This stretch is about 2.03 miles long. Slightly more is paved in the remaining 0.06 miles closest to the new bridge tie-ins.

County proposed 100 foot wide right of way: Starting closest to the new Brooks Bridge tie-ins and going west toward El Matador the specific driving lane changes are as follows (5 segments):

1. From Brooks Bridge tie-ins to around AJ's Restaurant, 0.05 mile long segment, 4 lanes, 86 feet of width is paved surface, has a center turn lane.
2. From around AJ's Restaurant to the First Beach Freeway (west end of Stewby's), 0.21 mile long segment, 3 lanes, 75 feet of width is paved surface, 2 west bound and 1 east bound lane plus center turn lane. No more center turn lanes west of this point.
3. From First Beach Freeway to the Fourth Beach Freeway (east of Nautilus / Pelican Dr) 3 lanes, 60 feet of width is paved surface, 0.82 miles long segment, 2 west bound and 1 east bound lane.
4. From Fourth Beach Freeway to Park Drive (near El Matador entrance), 2 lanes, 53 feet of width is paved surface, 0.92 miles long segment, 1 lane each way.
5. From Park Drive to the Eglin base entrance, 2 lanes, 31 feet of width is paved surface (more paved surface if you account for the round-a-bout and cul-de-sac at the end), 0.09 miles long segment, 1 lane each way, no bike path or 14 foot path on this segment.

Message from The President Continued on Next Page

Message from the President Continued

To see a maps and sketches of the proposed SR Blvd changes go to <https://myokaloosa.com/sites/default/files/users/piouser/Santa%20Rosa%20Blvd%20PDF%20Share%208-31-21.pdf>

Beach Clean-up – Okaloosa County's next semi-annual beach cleanup is Saturday, September 18 from 8 – 11AM. See the flyer on the last page in this newsletter for details and how to sign up.

Northside Second Beach Accessway (Boat Basin) – Okaloosa County has solicited bids, due September 29, for construction at this accessway. Design plans include paved parking and a kayak launch on the sound.

LED Street Lights – Okaloosa County recently approved replacement of many Okaloosa Island street lights (those paid via the Okaloosa Island Street Lights MSBU) with LED fixtures. If you have street lights you pay via separate bill, Gulf Power will replace your fixtures upon your request.

Volunteer Dune Planting – Okaloosa County *estimates* new Okaloosa Island sand fencing will be installed at the toe of the dune in October. Then volunteer dune planting will be scheduled. If you have already signed up, you will be e-mailed the planting details. If you would like to be added to the volunteer dune planting list, contact me. The Okaloosa County Tourist Development Department is paying for the sand fence and the plants.

Temporary Beach Groins – The Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners (“BCC”) approved temporary beach groin installations for Okaloosa Island (Island Princess through the Wyndham hotel) and in Destin (James Lee Park). The groins are designed to trap sand and rebuild the beach. The project, paid by Okaloosa County Tourist Development Tax, is planned for November 1- May 1.

YOU ARE INVITED TO VISIT, AND HOPEFULLY JOIN, THE ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

- Kathy Foster, President, 850.244.4490, fosterpk@gnt.net

Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of each month at El Matador Condominium 1st floor party room, 909 Santa Rosa Boulevard. Socializing is at 9:30 a.m with meeting promptly at 10:00 a.m.

The club was established in 1965 by early island residents to beautify the island. It is a wonderful opportunity to become involved in the neighborhood and make new friends. Programs have included how-to demonstrations, container gardening, holiday decorating, cultivating and cooking with herbs, tea party, tour of island gardens, landscaping, native wildflowers, growing tomatoes, etc.

Programs for this year are caring for orchids, floral design, a bus trip to Mobile Festival of Flowers, Christmas party, etc. We hope you will attend the **September 8th** meeting as a guest and stay as a member. Renowned floral designer Kirby Holt, AIFD, is the guest speaker. Club dues are \$15 a year which includes a name badge and membership directory.



ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC) REPORTS FOR JUNE, JULY & AUGUST 2021 for permits submitted to them for consideration. The following information provided by the Architectural Review Committee. **SPECIAL NOTICES:** 1) The ARC will meet the **1st** and **3rd** Thursdays of each Month at 9:00 a.m. **The meetings are held via Zoom with in person meetings available as needed. You can reach the ARC at: OilaArc@yahoo.com.** 2) **ASK BEFORE YOU ACT.**

For the month of **June, 2021** the ARC approved the following project(s):

1. 765 Sailfish; Block 7, Lot 375; Addition to single family home; In Compliance and approved.

For the month of **July, 2021** the ARC approved the following project(s):

1. 713 Sailfish; Block 7, Lot 390; Swimming Pool; In Compliance and approved.
2. Gulfarium; Block 10, Lot 2; Dolphin Encounter project; In Compliance and approved.

For the month of **August, 2021** the ARC approved the following project(s):

1. 434 Cardinal Ave.; Block 4, Lot 170; Repair docks, seawalls, and piers; In Compliance and approved.
2. 623 Pelican Dr.; Block 6, Lot 313; Swimming Pool; In Compliance and approved.

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September 13, 2021 Meeting Agenda

DATE: Monday, September 13, 2021 **TIME:** 7:00 p.m
PLACE: For our September 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

- I. Pledge of Allegiance**
- II. Roll Call of Board Members: David Sherry**
- III. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: John Donovan**
 - May 10, 2021 membership meeting minutes (draft). Printed in this newsletter.
 - June 14, 2021 meeting

IV. Treasurer's Report: Jim Simpson
 - **Membership report.**
 - **Treasurer's Report**
 June 14, 2021 thru September 13, 2021
 (Cumulative for these months)
 - Treasurer's Reimbursement and Approval

V. Standing Committee Reports:
 - Architectural Review Committee June 2021 to August 2021 reports (printed in this newsletter)

VI. New and Unfinished Business:
New Business Agenda Item 1: Santa Rosa Blvd Resolution:
 "Whereas, the latest Okaloosa County Project to "upgrade" Santa Rosa Boulevard, includes a proposed reduction of Boulevard driving lanes from four, then to three, then to two, East to West on the Boulevard; and

"Whereas the Project is being presented to the public as though it has the overwhelming support of Okaloosa Island residents, when in fact, 89% of 150 written responses by Okaloosa Islanders from the August 27, 2020 county workshop oppose any reduction in driving lanes;

"Now therefore be it resolved that the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association formally notify Okaloosa County that as long as the Project contains the Boulevard lanes reduction feature, the Project does not have the support of the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association."

New Business Agenda Item 2: Kathy Foster requests that OILA donate \$1,000 to the Okaloosa Island Fire Department toward the purchase of two laryngoscopes.

VII. Announcements; Speakers and Programs
VII. Adjournment

ISLAND RAINFALL FOR August 2021:

10.7 Inches

August 2021 Rainfall:



Aug 2..... 0.1 inches	Aug 23..... 1.9 inches
Aug 3..... 0.1 inches	Aug 25..... 0.7 inches
Aug 4..... 0.1 inches	Aug 26..... 0.1 inches
Aug 5..... 0.6 inches	Aug 29..... 1.9 inches
Aug 18..... 0.1 inches	Aug 30..... 0.8 inches
Aug 21..... 2.0 inches	Aug 31..... 2.3 inches

Aug Avg Rainfall.....**7.2** inches
 Variance to Average.....**+ 3.5** inches

Sept Avg Rainfall.....**7.2** inches
 Sept Record High.....**102° F** (1954)
 Sept Record Low**37° F** (1967)
 Sept Avg Water Temperature. **85° F**

Oct Avg Rainfall.....**4.3** inches
 Oct Record High..... **99° F** (1954)
 Oct Record Low **27° F** (1989)
 Oct Avg Water Temperature..**81° F**

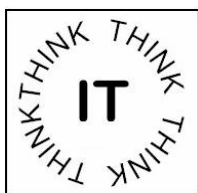
YTD Variance **+ 5.9** inches
 Year to Date Rainfall.....**36.6** inches
 Avg Annual Rainfall**65.1** inches



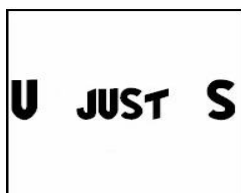
BROOKS BRIDGE - 1946

WUZZLE PUZZLES
Answers on Page 6

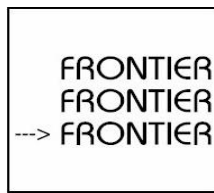
Wuzzle No. 1



Wuzzle No. 2



Wuzzle No. 3



Wuzzle No. 4



Wuzzle No. 5



Patents, Trademarks, and Copyrights Issued in the Month of September

September 1, 1456: The Republic of Venice issued the first known copyright. It gave an author exclusive control over a book and imposed a fine of 500 ducats to anyone who printed his work without permission.

September 4, 1888: George Eastman patented the roll film camera for Kodak.

September 8, 1994: Microsoft gave Windows 95 its new name. Previously, the operating system had been referred to by its code name of "Chicago."

September 10, 1891: The song "Ta-Ra-Ra-Boom-Der-E" by Henry J. Sayers was registered.

September 14, 1993: "The Simpsons" television show was registered by Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation.

September 16 1857: The words and music to the famous Christmas song "Jingle Bells" were registered by Oliver Ditson and Company under the title "One Horse Open Sleigh."

September 20, 1938: Patent Number 2,130,948 was granted for "synthetic fiber" (nylon) to Wallace Carothers.

September 23, 1930: Johannes Ostermeier was issued a patent for the flash bulb used in photography.

September 27, 1977: Anacleto Montero Sanchez received a patent for a hypodermic syringe.



OUT-OF-DISTRICT CALL RESPONSES AND OKALOOSA ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT POLICY

--by Michael Ray Strawn, Fire Chief, Okaloosa Island Fire Department

As some of you may know, The Okaloosa Island Fire Department (OIFD) has mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire departments. This agreement means that if we have an incident on Okaloosa Island that requires more resources than what we have staffed, we will get resources from other fire departments and visa versa. About six years ago we stopped other departments from responding to our fire alarms here on Okaloosa Island. The reason for this change is because we have two (2) fire apparatus on every fire call. So, we didn't need another apparatus from another fire department for fire alarms. As it stands now, we only call for resources from other fire departments if there is a verified emergency such as a structure fire, or if there is a probability of an incident such as a fire alarm that does not have an immediately known cause. As far as OIFD response to other districts, we respond to structure fires out of district and for fire alarms we send one fire apparatus non-emergency response to the FWB area. This leaves one of our apparatuses here on Okaloosa Island for coverage at all times. There are also rare occasions where OIFD will respond to medical emergency calls in other areas if all their units are tied up on calls.



OIFD Chief Ray Strawn

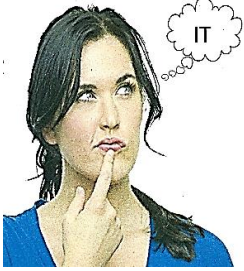
When you see OIFD apparatus going East with lights and sirens on, most of the time we are going toward the Coast Guard station for an emergency or for a motor vehicle accident along the seawall. We do occasionally go to Destin for emergencies only. If you see OIFD going across Brooks bridge with lights and sirens we are going to an emergency in the FWB area.

If you look at total calls where we go out of district compared to calls which other departments come to us, we go out of district approximately 3 to their 1. This is primarily into FWB for fire alarms activations. Concerning this, I met with Chief Perkins of FWB this week and we agreed to change the responses into FWB. OIFD will not be responding to fire alarm activations in FWB unless they do not have units available. This change will have an immediate effect on the number of calls into the city. When you consider the upcoming Brooks Bridge replacement construction project and the traffic issues that it will bring it only makes sense to limit the number of trips over the bridge.

Finally, a reminder that the Okaloosa Island Fire Department will be hosting another workshop concerning a tax increase for the upcoming year on September 7th, 2021, at 5:30 pm. I encourage anyone interested to please attend. Please RSVP at adminasst@oifd.org.

WUZZLE PUZZLES ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



THINKING ABOUT IT

Wuzzle No. 2



JUST BETWEEN US

Wuzzle No. 3



THE FINAL FRONTIER

Wuzzle No. 4



GOOD TO THE LAST DROP

Wuzzle No. 5



TALKING A MILE A MINUTE

OKALOOSA ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT – MEET ALL THE FIRE FIGHTERS AND THE FIRE BOARD



(left to right) **Kathy Foster**, Vice Chairperson, **Paula Hudson**, Secretary/Treasurer, **Beth Jeter**, Commissioner, and **Dr. George Edlund**, Chairperson. Not shown in the photo – **Steven Scott**, Commissioner..

ABOVE PHOTO: The first and only group photograph of all of the Okaloosa Island Fire Fighters (aka **The Magnificent Seven**(teen)

PHOTO TO THE LEFT: Proudly displaying their copies of the fund raising Okaloosa Island Fire & Rescue 2022 calendars are the Commissioners of Okaloosa Island Fire Fighting District.

The Island Garden Club is spearheading a calendar sale fund raiser to purchase auxiliary equipment for the Okaloosa Island Fire Department which serves the residents as well as visitors with Advanced Life Support care on all calls.

The fundraiser is to provide \$6,000 to purchase two video laryngoscopies ... specifically the Rusch Airtraq A-390 WiFi Camera which offers flexible viewing options to facilitate intubation from any position. This is time saving, especially important with difficult airways.

The calendars feature professional photographs of OIFD firefighters and their pets as well as pertinent safety information such as the beach flag warning system. The cost of this calendar is \$20.

To place an order or to have a question answered contact

Kathy Foster (fosterpk@gnt.net or 850-244-4490)

or

Paula Hudson (pnh2859@aol.com or 850-321-2043)

DRAFT MINUTES – OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION – MAY 10, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by **President David Sherry** via Zoom due to Covid-19.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Pledge of Allegiance led by **President David Sherry**.

II. ROLL: Board Members Present: **David Sherry (President), Rick Deckert (Vice President), John Donovan (Secretary), Brick Bradford, Ed Henderson, Jesse Hunt, Jack Pous**.

III. MINUTES: Secretary John Donovan made a motion, seconded by Director Ed Henderson, to approve the draft April 12, 2021 minutes (passed 11-0).

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by President David Sherry on behalf of Treasurer Jim Simpson (See Attachment 1). OILA has 280 members. A motion to approve the April 12, 2021 Treasurer's report and to pay reimbursements was made by Kathy Foster, seconded by Secretary John Donovan (passed 14-0).

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Standing Committees:

Architectural Report: President David Sherry stated the ARC April report is in the OIL Lantern. There were four approvals in April; a new home, a home addition, and two replacement signs.

VI. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS:

President David Sherry stated we have an agenda item for a potential guest speaker, however, since the last membership meeting there was a special board meeting. At that meeting the board named Director Ed Henderson to contact Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel to ask her, with perhaps County staff, to speak to the membership.

Dave Hancock requested the minutes of that special board meeting. President David Sherry said the meeting was 6 days ago, and that draft minutes are not yet available nor yet approved by the OILA board. Dave Hancock was asked why he did not share any board meeting minutes from his tenure as OILA President. Mr. Hancock responded there were no board of directors meetings nor meeting minutes produced while Dave Hancock was OILA President. President Sherry pointed out former President Hancock's actions were in conflict with the OILA Bylaws which require board meetings for board action including to appoint ARC members, to establish the OILA meeting rules committee created during the Hancock tenure, etc. Secretary John Donovan said approved board meeting minutes will be made available after approval by the OILA Board.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. President David Sherry gave a dune planting update. Okaloosa County needs to get new sand fence installed before volunteers plant the dunes, and staff are considering hiring alternate contractors due to the labor shortage. There is still a chance we will plant in the Spring, but the planting may be delayed until the Fall. Please email him if you want to help. He said we will continue to keep everyone updated, and added that Okaloosa County has been very good in keeping us up to date.
2. President David Sherry said his President's Report in the OIL Lantern describes the temporary groin project Okaloosa County plans to install in November.
3. Carey Sue Beasley objects to the groin project and to the OIL Lantern project description. She stated Okaloosa County only added the section between beach accessways 3 and 4 because the Sherrys threatened to sue and file a "conjunction (sic) in Jacksonville" if this area was not included. President Sherry disagreed with her claims and asked for the name of the Okaloosa County employee who made that statement. Mrs. Beasley said she had written proof of this statement and other Okaloosa County documents substantiating her positions, and promised to provide them. President Sherry thanked Mrs. Beasley for her input, and asked Mrs. Beasley to provide her e-mail documentation, and said he would post project documents on the OILA website after checking with Okaloosa County for approval. The Secretary takes notice that no substantiation of Ms. Beasley's assertion regarding threatened litigation in Jacksonville has been provided.
4. Carey Sue Beasley stated "the experiment" had no data to back it up and there had been no public support for it. President David Sherry said there was public support from beachfront property owners whom Okaloosa County asked him to contact. President Sherry stated the Surf Dweller condo board voted unanimously in support. President Sherry added an Island Princess Director is on this call, and Mr. Sherry believes that board voted believes that board voted unanimously in support after a call with Okaloosa County staff and the groin vendor. President Sherry said he had made the offer to Okaloosa County to add Island Princess and remove Waters Edge where Mrs. Beasley owns. President Sherry stated Vince Bruner supports the project for his properties.

5. Director Brick Bradford asked what year the project would be done. President Sherry responded November 2021 to March 2022. Director Brick Bradford asked if it worked would the project be done along the entire beach. President Sherry responded it would not but that the location would rotate.
 6. Dave Hancock wants the project done at El Matador. President David Sherry said he asked the County to include El Matador. President Sherry was told Okaloosa County wants to use properties between public accessways and with owner support, and El Matador borders Eglin Air Force land on the west.
 7. After a lengthy discussion, President Sherry asked to move on. Director Brick Bradford made a motion, seconded by Paula Hudson to continue discussion, passed 14-3 (Director Jack Pous, President David Sherry, Brian Smith opposed).
 8. Carey Sue Beasley stated that you will not be able to reach your shoreline if "the experiment" is in place. She stated you will not be able to walk the beach. President David Sherry disagreed, and said photos in the reports from the vendor show people enjoying the beach between the temporary groins. He added they only put enough fence on shore to keep the groin from being flanked in storms.
 9. Carey Sue Beasley said Okaloosa County is only doing this "experiment" because of David and Rebecca Sherry. President David Sherry disagreed, and again asked Mrs. Beasley to provide proof of her assertion. President Sherry said Okaloosa County approached him with a proposition: if you can get the support of beachfront property owners spanning 1500 feet, preferably between accessways then Okaloosa County will include those properties in the project. President Sherry said he gained support of property owners spanning over 2600 feet before the County asked him to stop.
 10. Carey Sue Beasley said Okaloosa County is doing this project to get FEMA dollars. She continued Okaloosa Island does not qualify for FEMA dollars because the Sherrys blocked beach restoration. President David Sherry and another member countered that Okaloosa Island has received FEMA dollars in the past after storms including after Hurricane Ivan. President Sherry asked Carey Sue Beasley to read the 2001 and 2005 temporary groin reports. She claimed the reports were inconclusive. The Secretary takes notice that there is NO relationship between availability of FEMA assistance to Okaloosa Island, and the status of beach restoration on Okaloosa Island.
 11. President David Sherry reminded the membership of the OILA membership priorities survey. Five of the top six out of about forty five membership priorities are beach related, including "Coastal or offshore structures to preserve Okaloosa Island beach" which includes the proposed groins.
 12. Carey Sue Beasley opposes "the experiment" as a rental property manager because of the financial hardship it will impose. President Sherry asked Mrs. Beasley not to kill the groin project, and for her to think of all those who want it.
 13. Farley Street asked when meetings will resume at the Fire Station. President Sherry stated the Fire Chief has advised him the room will likely be available in the Fall.
 14. Farley Street stated, and Dave Hancock concurred, that beach vendors are not respecting the 25 foot from the surf "no umbrella" line per the County ordinance. President Sherry said he was aware of a 25 foot setback from the dune for emergency vehicles, but not aware of a 25 foot setback at the water line. President Sherry asked for Mr. Street and Mr. Hancock to identify and send him where the ordinance lists a surf setback. Both agreed to send it. The Secretary takes notice that, after research, he finds there is no 25 foot water line setback affecting beach vendors on Okaloosa Island.
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:04PM (motion by Rebecca Sherry, seconded by Secretary John Donovan) and passed 17-1 (Director Brick Bradford opposed).

ATTACHMENT 1: TREASURER'S REPORT: May 10 2021

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 280

April 12, 2021 TOTAL BALANCE: \$ 28,810.32

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF April 12, 2021..... \$ 26,574.99

RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT:Membership dues..... \$ 12.00
U.S. Mail..... \$ 1.50

TOTAL RECEIPTS.....\$ 13.50

EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT

Payment to Gilmore Insurance & Bonding to Renew Commercial General Liability Coverage
with Southern Owners Insurance Company for May 16, 2021 to May 16, 2022.....\$ 1,331.00

EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT:

- Reimburse Jim Simpson for postage to mail the May 2021 OIL Lantern.....\$ **27.50**
 (50 copies at 55 cents each)

**ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER RECEIPTS,
 EXPENDITURES & EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT AS OF**

May 10, 2021\$ **25,229.99**

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF April 12, 2021..... \$ **1,421.28**

BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT**No Expenditures**

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF May 10, 2021..... \$ **1,421.28**

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND BALANCE AS OF April 12, 2021 -.....\$ **814.05**

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT.....**No Expenditures**

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND BALANCE AS OF May 10, 2021\$ **814.05**

SUMMARY: May 10, 2021 Fund Balances

-- Association's Discretionary Fund Balance.\$ **25,229.99**

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

-- Christmas Decorating Fund Balance (Donations).....\$ **814.05**

Respectfully submitted
 Jim Simpson, Treasurer

TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE.....\$ **27,465.32**

DRAFT MINUTES – OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION – JUNE 14, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: President David Sherry called to order at 7:00 PM a combined in-person and via Zoom membership meeting at the Okaloosa County Convention Center.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Pledge of Allegiance led by **President David Sherry**.

II. ROLL: Board Members Present: **David Sherry (President), Rick Deckert (Vice President), John Donovan (Secretary), Brick Bradford, Ed Henderson, Jesse Hunt, Jack Pous**.

III. SPEAKER: Okaloosa County Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel with Okaloosa County supporting staff, and NuShore company representatives gave presentations then answered audience questions.

Commissioner Ketchel stated Brooks Bridge replacement will begin in 2022. She said currently there is no plan to develop northside accessways beyond accessway #2, the boat basin.

Commissioner Ketchel invited those present to attend a 2 PM November 11, 2021 statue unveiling ceremony at Veterans Park.

Dr. Charles Benedict, President of Nushore, gave a slide presentation on the temporary groin project planned for two sections of Okaloosa Island and at James Lee Park in Destin from November to May 2022. He said their groins mitigate beach erosion. The planned project is paid by Okaloosa County Tourist Development Department taxes. Nushore installed similar groins at Eglin a few years ago. That project was successful in building beach.

Scott Bitterman of Okaloosa County said crepe myrtles will be planted along Santa Rosa Boulevard in a few weeks. He added construction at the former boat basin area is awaiting a Corps of Engineers permit.

OILA President David Sherry stated audience questions would be taken alternating between in-person and Zoom participants.

Lisa Johnson via Zoom commented that regarding Santa Rosa Boulevard, many residents just want existing roads repaired, not the 30A vision that had been previously stated by Commissioner Ketchel. Commissioner Ketchel responded, the County has no plan to overtake your island.

Scott Bitterman said a lot of people are worried about the County's proposed southside sidewalk. He said FDOT ("Florida Department of Transportation") had pressured the County to move forward on the southside sidewalk after the county accepted a grant. He added the County's southside sidewalk design has been paused.

Commissioner Ketchel said she hears mixed messages on Island sidewalks, and that if Okaloosa Islanders don't want sidewalks, she can take them to Shalimar.

Rebecca Sherry clarified that at OILA and at Condo Alliance of Okaloosa Island meetings proposals for repairing, replacing, or expanding the northside sidewalk along Santa Rosa Boulevard are very popular, but adding a southside sidewalk is opposed. Rebecca said these Islander positions have been consistent at meetings she has attended since 2016.

Dave Hancock via Zoom supports temporary groins, and wants the project expanded. Craig Coffey of Okaloosa County responded the planned groins can be reused 3-4 times, and if the project is successful, groins may be used on all of Okaloosa Island beach over time.

Vince Bruner favors reducing Santa Rosa Boulevard from 4 lanes to 2 lanes. He supports the NuShore temporary groin project for all his properties.

Carey Sue Beasley opposes the temporary groin project.

President David Sherry asked Dr. Charles Benedict if there is an optimal length for temporary groins. Dr. Benedict stated the longer the project, the greater impact it will have on trapping sand and rebuilding beach. Dr. Benedict considers 1500 feet length and 6 months duration minimum quantities for success.

Director Jack Pous asked Commissioner Ketchel what can be done to get an Okaloosa Island owner or OILA representation on the Okaloosa County Tourist Development Council. Craig Coffey of Okaloosa County stated Jackie Blue, an Island Hotel employee, is the Okaloosa Island representative, and that the city of Fort Walton Beach also represents Okaloosa Island. Jack responded that an Okaloosa Island property owner or OILA member would better represent Okaloosa Island. He said the city of Fort Walton Beach representative does not have the same interests as an Okaloosa Island representative.

President David Sherry said that under the County's proposed Tourist Development Tax ("TDT") expansion the city of Destin has been granted a special carve out exception to guarantee their interests are represented on the Council. President Sherry asked Commissioner Ketchel to negotiate for Okaloosa Island to have a similar exception, adding Okaloosa Island property owners remit the County's second highest bed taxes.

Commissioner Ketchel responded Okaloosa Islanders do not get to vote on the expanded TDT district, only those outside the existing TDT district get that vote.

Kathy Foster asked and had confirmed that crepe myrtle expenses will be paid from the Island Lighting MSBU fund all Okaloosa Islanders pay instead of from Okaloosa County Tourist Development Taxes per the OILA membership vote. Kathy thanked Commissioner Ketchel for taking the money from the Island MSBU fund instead of the TDC. The OILA Secretary takes notice here, that any County action purportedly taking funds from the Island Lighting MSBU fund to pay for Santa Rosa Boulevard Median crepe myrtles is a violation of the Island Lighting MSBU Ordinance which requires OILA participation before any such taking of funds.

Jay Juliano commented it was far more important to get burnt out street lights repaired than to plant crepe myrtles in the medians.

Michelle Seitz asked for pushbuttons at Santa Rosa Boulevard crosswalks like Highway 98 in Destin.

Jim Bengier wants a water taxi between Fort Walton Beach and Okaloosa Island.

Nancy Hunt opposes all water taxi proposals between Fort Walton Beach and residential northside neighborhoods. Okaloosa County officials have proposed water taxis to increase tourism, and to further develop northside accessways.

Director Jesse Hunt asked if Okaloosa County had commissioned a hydrodynamic study to alleviate Santa Rosa Boulevard flooding. Commissioner Ketchel said the County held town hall meetings on that subject.

Director Brick Bradford asked when is enough tourism enough? He opposes northside accessway development.

Lisa Johnson complained persistent beach vendor issues were ignored as Islanders sent e-mails and photos last season per the County program, yet no one acknowledged receipt nor took action. Craig Coffey of Okaloosa County admitted that program fell through the cracks.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS: President David Sherry thanked the speakers, and announced the next OILA membership meeting will be 7 PM September 13, 2021.

Free!!! International Coastal Beach Cleanup

Keeping our coastal community beautiful with week long cleanup activities!!

COASTAL CLEANUP KICK-OFF Saturday, September 18th • 8-11am

Join us at our host locations with a fun family-friendly cleanup kick-off, offering cleanup prizes & educational information. B.Y.O.B (Bring Your Own Bucket), & Cleanup Supplies. Post-Cleanup Breakfast is offered at select locations from 9:30am-10:30am (see below). Limited number of breakfast's & t-shirts.



****PRE-REGISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED****



All pre-registered participants are secured a post-cleanup breakfast ticket and given t-shirt priority, but are first come, first serve basis

FORT WALTON	MIRAMAR BEACH
The Boardwalk/Newman C. Brackin 1450 Miracle Strip Pkwy., Fort Walton Beach, Florida Post-Clean Up Breakfast at: The Crab Trap, Okaloosa Island	The Surf Hut 551 Scenic Gulf Drive, Miramar Beach Florida Post-Clean Up Breakfast at: The Surf Hut, Miramar Beach
WEST DESTIN	EAST DESTIN
Norriego Point, Destin Access on Gulf Shores Drive *LAND, SHORE, & PADDLE PICK-UP*	Henderson Beach State Park 17000 Emerald Coast Pkwy., Destin
Mattie Kelly Park & Joe's Bayou 800 Beach Drive, Destin, Florida Post-Clean Up Breakfast: on-site	The Crab Trap/James Lee Park 3500 Scenic Hwy. 98, Destin, Florida Post-Clean Up Breakfast at: The Crab Trap, Destin

DIY COASTAL CLEANUP WEEK

September 19th - 25th

HAVE A SPECIAL COASTAL SPOT? THIS IS FOR YOU!

Go Coastal with your cleanup all week long!

Join the cleanup, at your leisure, along any of your favorite coastal spots in Okaloosa County!

POST A PIC OF YOUR CLEANUP ON DIY EVENT PAGE & TAG YOUR LOCATION!!! *breakfast & t-shirts not applicable*

PIER DIVE CLEANUP

Sunday, September 26th • 6a-12p

Grab your dive gear & get tanked!

Join Destin Fort Walton Beach, The Gulfarium, and The Island Pier for a down & dirty scuba dive cleanup at the Okaloosa Island Pier.

CURRENT SCUBA CERTIFICATION & PERSONAL GEAR REQUIRED!!! *breakfast not applicable*



Make your cleanup efforts swell by downloading the CLEAN SWELL App & help us collectively track the trash you pick up.

Pre-Registration Now Open!



EVENTBRITE.com: 2021 COASTAL CLEANUP

must select your desired location to secure t-shirt pick-up & breakfast ticket (at select locations)

