

APRIL 2022 OIL LANTERN
PAGE 1 OF 12 PAGES



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Our April 2022 meeting will be held on **Monday, April 11, 2022** 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

- ◆ President's Message - **David Sherry**
- ◆ Agenda April 11, 2022 Meeting
- ◆ Local Tom Thumb Stores to be Re-Branded as "Cumberland Farms"
- ◆ Wuzzle Puzzles
- ◆ Draft Minutes –February 14, 2022 Meeting
- ◆ This Month in History – April
- ◆ Architectural Review Committee Report for March 2022
- ◆ Women Veterans Memorial–Veterans Park
- ◆ Doolittle Raiders and Eglin Field – 1942
- ◆ Okaloosa County Population 1920 to 2020
- ◆ Rainfall Report for March 2022
- ◆ All About the Lionfish Invasion
- ◆ Wuzzle Puzzles Answers
- ◆ Opinion – "Why Does OILA Exist?" by Brick Bradford
- ◆ Island Garden Club Meeting – April 13



THE LIONFISH INVASIVE AND DESTRUCTIVE!

Yet Delicious to Eat.
To get the facts on this fairly recent arrival off the Florida coast, see the article on page 10.



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 you can join us either in person at the Okaloosa Island Firehouse or via Zoom for our next membership meeting, 7 PM on Monday, April 11. Please see the agenda later in this newsletter. Here are the latest news and events for Okaloosa Island.



The March OILA Meeting – The firehouse lost its internet service the evening of our March 14 OILA meeting, so OILA members relying on Zoom to attend had no means of attending or voting. No effective votes of OILA members were possible under those circumstances, so none were taken at the firehouse, and there will be no March minutes. Our April meeting will include the videos and votes planned for the March meeting. I'm sorry for any inconvenience this caused.

One casualty of the March meeting internet outage was our vote to honor Jim Simpson for his hard work and dedication to OILA. Please come to the April meeting to help us thank Jim.

Volunteer Dune Planting is Here – The Okaloosa County / Okaloosa Island volunteer dune planting event is upon us, with planting scheduled for Saturday, April 16, and a backup date of Saturday, April 23. If you are planning to participate, please help the County plan by pre-registering at destinfb.com/sea-oat-planting-rsvp/. You can either go to the Convention Center to sign a release form, or bring a copy from this OIL Lantern (copy on next page) with you to any Beach Accessway and hand it to the Team Leader. Our sincere thanks goes to Okaloosa County for this project. If you are able, please volunteer to help make this project a success.

Temporary Groin Project – The County plans to survey the beach on or about April 4, and then remove the groins starting around April 7. The ability to survey and do some of the work is wave and weather dependent, so the above dates may vary. After the groins are removed the County will survey again in early May and June. The beach has been surveyed monthly since before the groins were installed. The groins are reusable and will be saved for possible future use. The preliminary beach survey results are encouraging. Our sincere thanks goes to Okaloosa County for this project.

Santa Rosa Blvd. – The re-design of Santa Rosa Blvd., including reducing the number of driving lanes, went out for engineering bids on March 21, with the bids to be opened on April 21.

New Brooks Bridge – Demolition has begun to make way for the new Brooks Bridge. Pat's Bait Shop, which is nearly under the old bridge on Brooks Street in Fort Walton Beach, has been leveled. New bridge construction is scheduled to begin late 2022 or early 2023.

Air Force Flyover of Okaloosa Island, April 18 – The United States Air Force will conduct a 20+ aircraft flyover of the beaches of Okaloosa Island to both honor the Doolittle Raiders and commemorate the Air Force's 75th Anniversary. The flyover will begin at 5 PM and should be visible from many parts of Okaloosa Island. For the details of the 1942 connection between Eglin Air Force base and Doolittle's Raiders, see the article, "Doolittle Raiders And Training at U.S. Army Air Force Base – Eglin Field" on page 9 of this newsletter.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS

Event: Okaloosa Island 2022 Gulf Beach Dune Planting

In return for being allowed to participate in the above-referenced event, I hereby release and hold harmless Okaloosa County, the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association, and the Condo Alliance of Okaloosa Island, and their officers, directors and employees ("Event Organizers") from all present and future claims, liabilities, damages, injuries, losses, and costs, arising as a result of my participation in the event. I am voluntarily participating in the event with knowledge of any danger involved and agree to accept all risks of participation. I state that I am of lawful age and legally competent to sign this liability release, or that I have acquired written consent of my parent or guardian.

Signature

Date Signed

Guardian's Signature

Date Signed

Participants Name : _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell No.: _____

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
David Sherry
554 Coral Court, Unit 511
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
850-244-2744 (Land Line)
Beach_boy_dave@yahoo.com

Vice-President
Rick Deckert
274 Ventura Court N.W.
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
850-699-0060 (Cell)
850-862-2675 (Land Line)
Richarddeckert@yahoo.com

Secretary
John S. Donovan
5135 Trumbull Court
Atlanta, GA 30338
770-686-5646 (Cell)
770-393-4993 (Atl Land Line)
850-244-5792 (El Mat Land line)
jdonovan1@yahoo.com

Director
Brick Bradford
439 Cardinal Ave
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
brickmbradford@yahoo.com

Director
Ed Henderson
529 Santa Rosa Blvd, Unit 716
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
901-292-1473
rehenderson1@aol.com

Director
Jack Pous
118 Lisa Marie Place
Shalimar, FL 32579
512-796-896
jpous@ducinc.net

Director
Jesse Hunt

Treasurer & Newsletter Editor
Jim Simpson
240 Brooks St, Unit B302
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
850-585-2116
sanleanna@cox.net



April 11, 2022 Meeting Agenda

DATE: Monday, April 11, 2022 **TIME:** 7:00 p.m

PLACE: For our April 2022 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
- February 14, 2022 membership meeting minutes (draft) Printed in this newsletter.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Jim Simpson
- Membership report.
- Treasurer's Report - 1) April 11, 2022 report and 2) Treasurer's Reimbursement and Approval

V. Standing Committee Reports:- Architectural Review Committee Report for March 2022 (printed in this newsletter)

VI. New Business

1. Be it Resolved, that the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association (OILA) wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to Jim Simpson for his many years of dedication and tireless service to OILA as its trusted Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Director, and dependable provider of other valuable behind-the-scenes volunteer services; and for the spirit of friendship and camaraderie he brings.

2. President Names Nominating Committee

VII. Announcements; Speakers and Programs

1. Recorded presentation on the April 16 volunteer dune planting and update on the temporary groin project by Alex Fogg of the Okaloosa County Tourist Development Department.

2. OIL Lantern discussion.

3. Discussion of Electric Vehicle charging stations on Okaloosa Island.

4. Video clip from the January 25, 2022 TDC meeting, featuring Okaloosa County Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel discussing some of her future plans for Okaloosa Island, including a possible shopping center in the area of Okaloosa Island she calls Pottersville.

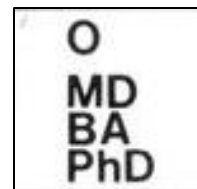
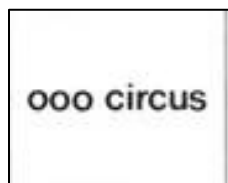
5. Video clip from the February 22, 2022 TDC meeting, featuring Okaloosa County Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel discussing her desire to put affordable housing in the area of Okaloosa Island she calls Pottersville.

VIII. Adjournment



Convenience store giant EG Group plans to begin "re-bannering" its Tom Thumb stores as Cumberland Farms this spring. Plans call for all 113 Tom Thumb c-stores in the Florida Panhandle and southern Alabama — acquired from The Kroger Co. in 2018 — to be converted to Cumberland Farms locations starting in May, with the transition expected to take 18 to 24 months, Westborough, Mass.-based EG Group said yesterday. Impacted Tom Thumb employees will remain employed under the Cumberland Farms brand. The converted stores will have Cumberland Farms' latest design, equipment and food menu, including a wide range of hot grab-and-go food options and the chain's premium Farmhouse Blend coffee, according to EG Group. Users of the SmartPay Rewards app also will continue to receive their fuel savings benefit of 10 cents per gallon.

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 10 of this newsletter.



DRAFT MINUTES – OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION – FEBRUARY 14, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: Hybrid in-person and Zoom meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by **President David Sherry** at the Okaloosa Island Firehouse with **Secretary John Donovan** moderating via Zoom.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: **President David Sherry** leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

III. MINUTES: Secretary John Donovan made a motion, seconded by Director Ed Henderson, to approve the draft January 17, 2022 membership meeting minutes. Lynda Hanson and Desley Parker objected that OILA draft minutes contain meeting discussion and details, and objected to their names and their comments said at the meeting being published in the draft minutes. Lynda Hanson objected that OILA minutes do not follow Robert's Rules of Order. President David Sherry, Vice President Rick Deckert, Secretary John Donovan, and other members responded to Lynda and Desley. President David Sherry said he has attended OILA meetings for 15 years and if OILA now adopts a minimalist format, he believes that would be a disservice to the membership. He believes most members appreciate knowing the reasoning behind members' votes. Vice President Deckert said in his 40 years of OILA involvement he is unaware of OILA deleting any names from draft minutes. He added factual discrepancies can be corrected. Secretary John Donovan explained that the OILA Bylaws do not strictly follow Robert's Rules of Order. After a 15 minute discussion, Rebecca Sherry called the question. Motion passed 15-3 (Lynda Hanson, Jesse Hunt, Desley Parker opposed).

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by President David Sherry on behalf of Treasurer Jim Simpson (See Attachment 1). OILA has 249 members. Secretary John Donovan made a motion, seconded by Director Jack Pous, to approve the January 2022 Treasurer's Report and to reimburse Jim Simpson for expenses (passed 17-0).

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Standing Committees

Architectural Report: President David Sherry stated the January ARC report is in the OIL Lantern. Director and ARC member Ed Henderson said the committee was working well, and had recently approved an El Matador renovation project and projects for 4 or 5 residences.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

President David Sherry read a resolution for membership adoption proposed by Nancy Hunt at the December OILA meeting and on the February 14 membership meeting agenda, "Be it Resolved, that the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association, by its President David Sherry, issue a letter to ECAR, the Emerald Coast Association of Realtors, clarifying the Island's Protective Covenants and Restrictions' prohibition on Short-Term Rentals in the Island's B-1 Zone, and attaching a copy of the applicable sections of the Protective Covenants." Nancy Hunt requested a friendly amendment to her original resolution to add asking Realtors to disseminate a copy of the Okaloosa Island Protective Covenants and Restrictions to all buyers. Nancy said new Realtors are unaware of the Covenants. Director Jack Pous said providing all chain of title documents is a Realtor responsibility, and was surprised the Covenants were not being included in real estate transactions. Some members said the Covenants were included in their purchase documents, and Barbara Secondi said she did not receive them with her purchase. Director Jesse Hunt said this issue was a problem with OILA membership not being mandatory. President David Sherry said some documents are posted on the OILA website, and others are recorded by book and plat in the public records of Okaloosa County. The resolution was modified to add, "We request that Realtors include in all pertinent transactions a copy of the Okaloosa Island Protective Covenants and Restrictions". Motion by Nancy Hunt, second by Barbara Secondi, passed 15-2 (Jerry Boggess, Desley Parker opposed).

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

President David Sherry read a resolution for membership adoption proposed by Dave Hancock at the January OILA meeting and on the February 14 membership meeting agenda, "Be it Resolved, that the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association, by its President David Sherry, issue a letter to the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners, expressing the appreciation of the Association and its Members with respect to the Gulf Beach Temporary Groins Project, and in particular, appreciation for the hard work on the Project by County officials Craig Coffey and Alex Fogg." Rebecca Sherry made a motion, seconded by Nancy Hunt, passed 15-0.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. President David Sherry gave an update on the Okaloosa Island volunteer dune planting scheduled for Saturday, April 16, with a back-up date of April 23, if needed for completion or due to weather. He said if you have not yet signed up and want to volunteer, contact Rebecca Sherry or him.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS - continued:

2. Director Jack Pous requested the OILA membership pass a resolution of support for OILA Treasurer Jim Simpson, recognizing Jim for his important and long tenured service. President David Sherry agreed Jim provides a valuable service, and David said he would place a resolution on the next membership meeting's agenda.
3. Director Jesse Hunt asked about the process, timeline, and number of openings for the upcoming OILA election of directors. President David Sherry explained the President names a nominating committee at the April membership meeting, and the committee presents their nominations to the board at the May meeting. If at the May meeting there are no others nominated from the floor, then those nominees are confirmed as new directors at the June meeting. If at the May meeting there are other candidates nominated from the floor, an election is held with votes counted at the June meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Rebecca Sherry made a motion, seconded by Director Jack Pous, to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 PM (passed 16-0).

John S. Donovan, Secretary

Attachment 1: TREASURER'S REPORT: FEBRUARY 14, 2022

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 249

January 17, 2022 TOTAL BALANCE: \$ 28,157,73

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2022..... \$ 26,648.40

RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT:Membership dues..... \$ 42.00

Total..... \$ 42.00

EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT

Payment to U.S. Postal Service for the rental of P.O. Box 4323 (six months).....\$ **83.00**

EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT:

Payment to reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of paying the fee for 2022 the Florida Not For Profit Corporation Annual Report.....\$ **61.25**

Payment to reimburse Jim Simpson for postage to mail the February 2022 Oil Lantern (41 copies at 58 cents each).....\$ **23.78**

Total Expenditures and Expenses Pending\$ 168.03

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES & EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT AS OF FEBRUARY 14, 2022\$ 26,522.37

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2022..... \$ 1,421.28

BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF FEBRUARY 14, 2022..... \$ 1,421.28

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2022\$ 88.05

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND BALANCE AS OF FEBRUARY 14, 2022\$ 88.05

SUMMARY: February 14, 2022 Fund Balances

-- Association's Discretionary Fund Balance.....\$ **26,522,37**

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

-- Christmas Decorating Fund Balance (Donations).....\$ **88.05**

TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE..... \$ 28,031,70

Respectfully submitted
Jim Simpson, Treasurer

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – APRIL

April 1, 1976 - Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak found Apple computer from the garage of Job's parent's home in Cupertino, CA.

April 6, 1917 - United States enters World War I on the side of the Allies.

April 8, 1879 - Milk is sold in glass bottles for the first time.

April 12, 1945 - Franklin D. Roosevelt dies. Vice President Harry S. Truman becomes the President of The United States

April 12, 1934 - Mount Washington Observatory records the highest surface wind ever measured, anywhere on earth--- 231 miles per hour!

April 18, 1981 - Longest game in professional baseball history: Pawtucket Red Sox tie the Rochester Red Wings 2-2 in 32 innings. The game was finished on June 23, Pawtucket won 3-2 in 33 innings.

April 24, 1908 - Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Murdock are the first to travel across the U.S. in a car. They drove their Packard from LA to NYC in 32 days 5 hours and 25 minutes.

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.

April 29, 1851 - Elias Howe applies for a patent for the "Continuous Clothing Closure", later called the Zipper.



ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT FOR MARCH 2022: The OILA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) received several applications for review during March 2022 and 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>
03/13	n/a	n/a	Island Echos 676 Santa Rosa Blvd	East & West Stairwell Replacement	Yes
03/27	n/a	n/a	Gulfarium 1010 Miracle Strip Pkwy	Shade Structure for Turtle CARE Center	Yes

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

[Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association - OILA - Architecture Review](#)

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).

VETERAN'S PARK

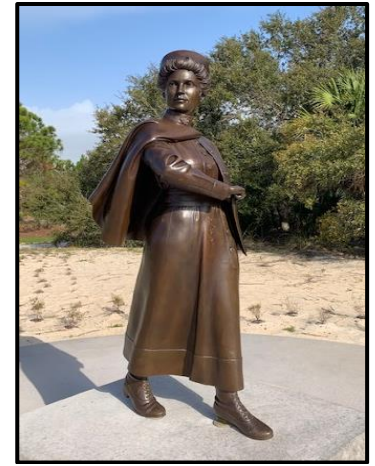
WOMEN VETERANS MEMORIAL



Margaret Corbin
Revolutionary War, Army



Cathay Williams
Civil War, Army



Lenah Higbee
World War 1, Navy



Jacqueline Cochran
Air Force Reserves

Editor's note: I suggest you set aside some time to visit the Women's Veteran Memorial at Veterans Park on Okaloosa Island. The park features eight statues (displayed as part of this article) in honor of women who have sacrificed for our country as true patriots.

The eight statues are arranged along a 1,700 foot picturesque trail of ADA accessible paved sidewalks and wooden boardwalks. Veterans Park is located at 1300 Miracle Strip Pkwy and is easily accessible from the parking lot of the Emerald Coast Convention Center.



Jonita Ruth Bonham-Bovee
Korean War, Army Air Corps



Sharon Ann Lane, Vietnam
U.S. Army Nurse Corps Reserve



Leigh Ann Hester, Persian
Gulf, Army National Guard



Naseema, War in Afghanistan
U.S. Air Force



.....AND TRAINING AT UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCE BASE, EGLIN FIELD



By early March 1942, 140 men from the 17th Bombardment Group, recently reassigned from Pendleton AAF, Ore., to Columbia AAB, S.C., had arrived at Eglin Field, Fla. They were there to prepare for one of the most daring and famous air missions of World War II, an air attack on Japan. The mission was to raise American morale after months of doom-and-gloom news from the war fronts. Later known as the Doolittle Raiders, the men would spend three weeks at Eglin Field in preparation for their famous mission against Japan.

Their most important task at Eglin was to learn how to launch a fully loaded B-25 (31,000 pounds—aircraft, crew, fuel, and bombs) from a standing start in less than 500 feet. Normally, a fully loaded B-25 needed about 3,300 feet at sea level with zero wind to take off safely. However, the B-25s that would launch from the carrier USS Hornet would have about 450 feet, the front half of the carrier's flight deck, for their takeoff since the B-25s would take up the rear half.



For the short takeoff training, white lines, simulating a carrier flight deck, were painted onto the runways of several auxiliary fields. Flags were placed at the 250-foot markers and at 50-foot intervals from 400 to 700 feet to help the crews judge their takeoff distances. The pilots started out with a light aircraft, weighing 27,000 pounds, and tested combinations of takeoff speed, application of brakes, flap positions, and throttle positions to find the right combination to achieve a takeoff in less than 350 feet without stalling. . By March 24, all of the crews could lift a fully loaded B-25 off the ground with a speed of 55 to 60 mph with full flaps in less than 500 feet without stalling. At the start of this training, the average takeoff distance was 800 feet, but by the end the shortest takeoff roll was 287 feet.

On **April 17, 1942** (only 5 months after the attack on Pearl Harbor) Doolittle'Raiders launched from the aircraft carrier, the USS Hornet, and bombed the Japanese cities of Tokyo, Yokohama, Yokosuka, Nagoya and Kobe. Mission accomplished and essential training for it's success took place in the Florida Panhandle.



Japanese Officers Inspect Damage from Doolittle's Raid

After the attack, the Japanese captured eight crew members and executed three as war criminals. One died in captivity from sickness. In retaliation for aiding 65 Raiders to safety, the Japanese Army executed up to 250,000 Chinese. The Soviet Union interned one five-man crew after they landed their B-25 in Soviet territory. The raid had little tactical impact, but it did significantly raise American morale in the dark days of early 1942 and led directly to the strategic American victory at the Battle of Midway, June 5-7, 1942. It also foreshadowed the Strategic Bombing Campaign of Japan, 1944-45.

Editor's Note: Colonel Richard Cole, the last surviving member of the Doolittle Raiders, a group of 80 crew members, died on April 19, 2019 at the age of 103. Colonel Cole was Doolittle's co-pilot in the lead B-25 aircraft during the mission. Colonel Cole was in Fort Walton Beach Parade of Heroes on April 20, 2013 held on Eglin Parkway to honor and to celebrate Doolittle's Raiders 71st Anniversary Reunion and to recognize all those who serve. In the photo to the right, Colonel Cole is being greeted by a local citizen. It was during this parade that I had the honor of shaking his hand and thanking him for his incredible courage and service. Two other Doolittle survivors (who predeceased Col Cole) Lt Col Ed Saylor and Staff Sgt. David Thatcher were part of this parade.



**Population of Okaloosa County*
1920 to 2020 Census Results**

Year	Population
1920	9,360
1930	9,897
1940	12,900
1950	27,533
1960	61,175
1970	88,197
1980	109,920
1990	143,776
2000	170,498
2010	180,822
2020	211,668

MARCH 2022 Rainfall: 4.5 Inches



March 8...**0.7** inches March 18...**0.7** inches
 March 9...**0.4** inches March 23...**0.7** inches
 March 11...**0.2** inches March 31...**1.3** inches
 March 15...**0.5** inches

March Avg Rainfall.....**5.8** inches
 Variance to Average.....**-2.3** inches

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

May Avg Rainfall.....**4.0** inches
 May Record High.....**101° F** (1953)
 May Record Low**38° F** (1971)
 May Avg Water Temperature....**78° F**

YTD Variance **-6.5** inches
 Year to Date Rainfall.....**11.1** inches
 Avg Annual Rainfall**65.1** inches

**JOIN THE
LEASEHOLDERS!
LET YOUR OPINIONS BE
HEARD!**

**FOR A MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION CLICK ON THE
ASSOCIATION'S WEBPAGE:**



WWW.OILAWEB.COM

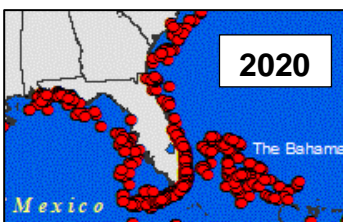
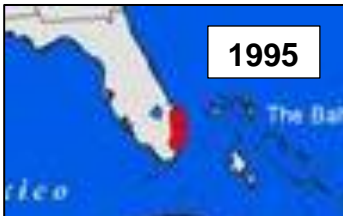
OR

**CONTACT JIM SIMPSON
at (850) 585-2116 or by email at**

SANLEANNA@COX.NET



**Lionfish Infestation
In Florida by Year** ↓



**ALL ABOUT FLORIDA'S UNWANTED VISITOR – THE INVASIVE AND
DESTRUCTIVE; YET DELICIOUS TO EAT – LIONFISH**

Lionfish are native to the Indo-Pacific, but are now established along the southeast coast of the U.S., the Caribbean, and in parts of the Gulf of Mexico. Lionfish are an invasive species that have a potential negative impact on native wildlife and habitat. Due to the lack of natural predators, their populations have exploded (see the adjacent 1995 and 2020 infestation maps to see the explosion). One suspected source of “introduction” to our environment is attributed to aquarium owners dumping their tanks in water ways. Invasive lionfish are disastrously out-breeding, out-living, out-eating and out-competing every other native fish in the Western Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. If left unchecked lionfish will ultimately cause the destruction of the reefs, native fish stocks and the livelihoods of everyone that depend upon them. A misconception is that lionfish are poisonous, but they are not.

Fortunately, there is a two word solution for the Lionfish problem – **Eat Them!** Following is how to clean a lionfish for cooking: Once the fish has died, the venom in the spines remains active for up to an hour, so be cautious when handling and preparing the fish. This venom is **ONLY** in the spines however, not in the flesh. There are two ways to clean a Lionfish: First, you can simply filet the fish and remove the skin, throwing the rest of the carcass away. The second option is to grab the fish at his eyeballs with a pair of pliers, then take a filet knife and cut the head and belly of the fish off in one slice. Cut the remaining fins off with a pair of kitchen shears and scale the fish. The scales come off so easily that you can remove them by spraying the scales backwards with a water hose. You now have beautiful white meat that is completely safe to eat.

Note from the Editor and Mrs. Julia Child: *Bon Appetit!*

WUZZLE PUZZLES ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



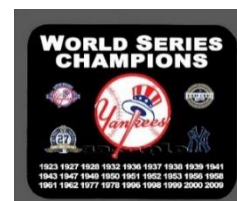
THREE RING CIRCUS

Wuzzle No. 2



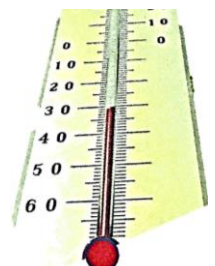
SQUARE DANCE CONTEST

Wuzzle No. 3



WORLD SERIES

Wuzzle No. 4



**Three Degrees
Below Zero**

WHY DOES OILA EXIST? - by Brick Bradford

Have you ever wondered why the Okaloosa Island Leaseholder's Association (OILA) exists? According to OILA's Bylaws, Section 3 explains: "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." In short, OILA exists to:



1. Coordinate the affairs between leaseholder members and the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). *Brick Bradford*
2. To preserve the public lands on Santa Rosa Island.
3. To advise and assist the county in the application of the protective covenants that affect leasehold members.
4. To advise leaseholders and the public of their rights and obligations under said leases.

Interestingly, Okaloosa Island's Protective Covenants and Restrictions (PC&R's), which Okaloosa County is charged with implementing and enforcing recognizes OILA's purpose as outlined in the PC&R's as follows:

Part G—General Covenants and Restrictions:

3. Leaseholder's Association

The leaseholders will be represented by a Leaseholders Association, properly incorporated and operated by themselves, for the purpose of coordinating all affairs between the lessees and Okaloosa County.

Okaloosa County will request a committee of three from the Leaseholders Association to be known as the Architectural Committee. Duties of this committee will be to advise and assist Okaloosa County in affairs of protective covenants that affect the leaseholders.

Part G: Subsection 8. "Rights to Prescribe Other Restrictions, Zoning, etc." provides additional areas where the County is formally required to coordinate with OILA as well.

In fact, the PC&R's applies equally to everyone who lives or operates a business on Okaloosa Island and OILA's role is to ensure those PC&R's are honored as written.

Moreover, protective covenants enforce a standard of uniformity across a development or in our case, zoning boundaries listed as follows:

- Zone B-1 – Private Residential Areas
- Zone B-2 – Apartment, Hotel Court and Hotel Areas
- Zone B-3 – Light Commercial & Concession Areas
- Zone B-4 – Parks, Beaches and Freeway Areas

Most importantly, PC&R's give buyers peace of mind when they purchase a home by allocating restrictions that would otherwise undermine both property values and the character of the community they chose to invest in. In many ways restrictive covenants obligate the property owner to refrain from some specific activity or use on their property. Equally important, they also require the County to refrain from some specific activity or use on their property that would otherwise undermine the property values of the homes impacted by such activities. Okaloosa Islanders have the right to expect the protections provided them in the PC&R's.

Yet, understanding why OILA exists leaves the question of why the original architects who developed Okaloosa Island chose not to create a mandatory Leaseholder's Association. No, I am not clamoring for a Homeowner's Association that forces membership, rather I find this unanswered question perplexing given the formal nature of OILA's purpose.

What I do know is that the voluntary nature of OILA makes it most challenging to communicate and acquire consensus in matters most important to the diverse interests of OI residents. Indeed, the uniqueness of Okaloosa Island can be seen in the contrast of building type, purpose, and lifestyle between South and Northside of Santa Rosa Blvd (SRB). The 2-mile stretch on the Southside of SRB is dedicated to Condos and Hotels that accommodate vacation business interests while 1.5 miles of the Northside was dedicated to single-family residential neighborhoods where vacation rentals are prohibited. The Okaloosa Island Authority established the PC&R's to protect their vision of a true mixed-use community. That was the design, that was the intent, and that is what our PC&R's say.

Accordingly, the legitimate power of OILA's voice rests solely upon its membership. The Board of Directors has virtually no authority to act beyond or outside the will of its membership. But our membership rolls have hovered around 300 for the last three years. While condo owners may not share the unique interests of single-family residents and vice-versa, the power of our collective voice increases our leverage among the BCC. For example, many Okaloosa Islanders on both sides of SRB have shared their disappointment that Commissioner Ketchel reversed her promise not to make changes to SRB that the majority of Island residents did not support.

Last November, the BCC unanimously tasked County Attorneys to look for ways to dissolve the formal relationship with OILA.

(continued on next page)

WHY DOES OILA EXIST? - by Brick Bradford (continued)

The question then becomes, can the County be trusted with honoring, protecting, and enforcing our PC&R's on their own and as they are written? In a word, No! That is like a fox being trusted to watch the chicken coup! In fact, Commissioner Boyles explained during this same meeting that he senses the proverbial blood of disunity among Islanders, and he seeks to exploit this disunity for the BCC's insatiable desire to develop every square inch of land to promote destination tourism. Bottom line is that our BCC's enduring agenda places their goal of increasing tourism revenues at any cost over the interests of their own tax paying citizens. Whether it is the endless sea of Beach Vendor chairs and umbrellas or putting public parking lots right behind our residential homes, we all have a vested interest in protecting our unique lifestyle and quality of life. Said differently, who do you trust more, the BCC's agenda or OILA's goal of looking out for you?

The saying "united we stand, but divided we fall" couldn't be truer! Regardless of whether you own a condo or a house, if you call Okaloosa Island home, I strongly encourage you to become a member of OILA and increase our collective voice that seeks to safeguard our unique lifestyle, property values, and quality of life.



ISLAND GARDEN CLUB APRIL 13 MEETING – BUNNIES TO BONNETS

The Island Garden Club meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through May – usually at El Matador Condominium with gathering at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting promptly at 10:00 a.m. Guests are welcome to attend and hopefully to join. Annual dues \$15.

April 13th promises to be a light-hearted gathering for a Bunnies to Bonnets program arranged by **Carmen Parker** and **Ricki Roberts**.

Hats may be decorated at home beforehand or at the meeting. There will be a minimum of decorations provided although we are encouraged to bring items to personalize our chapeau.

Installation of Officers will take place at the May 11th meeting at Marler Park under the pavilion. The event will be catered by Corner Cafe and the cost is \$11 per person. Please see **Ricki Roberts** to reserve your place and to pay. The deadline to RSVP is May 6th.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kathy Foster, President
Island Garden Club
fosterpk@gnt.net



BEST EVER ANSWER TO A QUESTION

Question: What is the difference between ignorance and apathy?

Best Ever Answer: "I don't know and I don't care".

