

**MAY 2022 OIL LANTERN
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**P.O. Box 4323
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32549 OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
ASSOCIATION**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Our May 2022 meeting will be held on **Monday, May 9, 2022** starting at 7 pm. For our May 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.

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On April 16, about 450 volunteers (Okaloosa County staff, Okaloosa Islanders, and other Okaloosa County citizen volunteers) planted about 200,000 Sea Oats and Panic Grass over nearly 3 miles of Okaloosa Island Beach frontage!



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, May 9. We bought a better webcam / microphone so the Zoom participants can better see and hear comments from the in-person attendees.

Okaloosa Island Fire Chief weighs in on Santa Rosa Blvd changes and lane reduction – If you only have time to read one item in this edition of the OIL Lantern, make sure it is Chief Ray Strawn's article on page 8. The article includes the Chief's letter to Okaloosa County Commissioners on the topic of Santa Rosa Blvd and the County's proposed reduction in driving lanes.

Okaloosa Island Dune Planting a huge success – Thank you to everyone who helped make the Okaloosa Island volunteer dune planting a huge success on and around April 16. About 450 volunteers (Okaloosa County staff, Okaloosa Islanders, and other Okaloosa County citizen volunteers) planted about 200,000 Sea Oats and Panic Grass over nearly 3 miles of beach frontage. The vast majority of the planting was completed in one day. See photos from the dune planting on the next page.

At the May membership meeting, we will be introducing a resolution for OILA to thank Okaloosa County for the Dune Planting Project, including special thanks to Okaloosa County employee Alex Fogg who led the project for the County. OILA's membership passed a similar resolution thanking Okaloosa County for the Temporary Beach Groin Project at our February, 2022 meeting.

Temporary Groin Project – The temporary groins were removed from Okaloosa Island this April, save for one stray post as of this writing. The preliminary monthly beach survey results are encouraging. Anecdotally, the section of beach that contained the temporary groin field appears to have accreted more sand both horizontally and vertically than other areas of the beach. The final survey will be completed in early June, followed by a more scientifically rigorous analysis. Okaloosa County has retained the used materials for possible re-deployment in subsequent years, depending on the results of the final analysis.



May 9, 2022 Meeting Agenda

DATE: Monday, May 9, 2022 **TIME:** 7:00 p.m **PLACE:** For our May 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

- April 11, 2022 membership meeting minutes (draft) Printed in this newsletter.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Jim Simpson

- Membership report.

- Treasurer's Report - 1) May 9, 2022 report and 2) Treasurer's Reimbursement and Approval

V. Standing Committee Reports:

- Architectural Review Committee Report for April 2022 (printed in this newsletter)

- Nominating Committee

VI. New Business:

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 Okaloosa Island Dune Planting Project, and in particular, appreciation for the hard work on the Project by Alex Fogg of the Okaloosa County staff.

VII. Announcements; Speakers and Programs

VIII. Adjournment

Thank You to Okaloosa Island Dune Planting Volunteers – April 2022



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THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – MAY

May 5, 1961 – Astronaut Alan Shepard completed a 15-minute suborbital flight, thus becoming the first American to fly in space.

May 10, 1869 – The Union Pacific and Central Railroads join at Promontory Point, UT (symbolized by driving golden spike into the roadbed), creating the Transcontinental Railroad, which linked the entire US.

May 14, 1853 - Gail Borden invented her process for condensed milk.

May 15, 1718 - James Puckle, a London lawyer, patented the world's first machine gun.

May 18, 1830 - Edwin Beard Budding of England signed a licensing agreement for the manufacture of his invention, the lawn mower. (see below photo)

May 20, 1830 - D. Hyde patented the fountain pen.

May 21, 1881 – Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross.

May 24, 1844 – Samuel Morse, inventor of the telegraph, transmitted the first telegram (“What hath God wrought?”).

May 27, 1937 – The Golden Gate Bridge opened in San Francisco.

May 30, 1783 – The Pennsylvania Evening Post became the first newspaper to be published in the US on a daily basis.

APRIL 2022 Rainfall: 1.9 Inches

April 2.....**0.1** inches April 18.....**0.6** inches
 April 5.....**0.5** inches April 26.....**0.1** inches
 April 14.....**0.6** inches

April Rainfall.....**3.7** inches
 Variance to Average.....**- 1.8** inches

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

June Avg Rainfall.....**6.1** inches
 June Record High.....**102° F** (1969)
 June Record Low**48° F** (1984)
 June Avg Water .Temperature...**81° F**

YTD Variance **- 8.3** inches
 Year to Date Rainfall.....**13.0** 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

WORLD’S FIRST LAWN MOWER

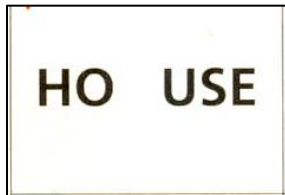
Licensed in 1830 by English Inventor, Edwin Beard Budding



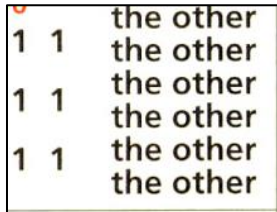
WUZZLE PUZZLES - What is a Wuzzle Puzzle? It is a puzzle consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures, or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, etc. Are you ready to take the challenge and figure out the “disguised” meaning of these wuzzles? Good luck. The answers are available on page 9 of this newsletter.



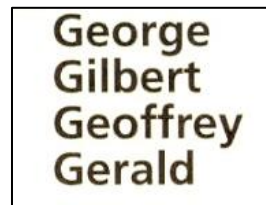
Wuzzle No. 1



Wuzzle No. 2



Wuzzle No. 3



Wuzzle No. 4

DRAFT MINUTES – OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION – APRIL 11, 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), John Donovan (Secretary), Brick Bradford, Ed Henderson, Jack Pous.**

III. MINUTES: Secretary John Donovan stated there were no March 14 meeting minutes as a technical difficulty at the Fire House prevented conducting the Zoom portion of the meeting. Secretary Donovan made a motion, seconded by Director Ed Henderson, to approve the draft February 14, 2022 membership meeting minutes with one correction requested by Director Jesse Hunt. Under Old Business, insert “Director Jesse Hunt said this issue was a problem with OILA Covenants not being provided and filed when a property is purchased during titling.” and remove “Director Jesse Hunt said this issue was a problem with OILA membership not being mandatory.” Motion passed 16 – 4 (Dave Hancock, Lynda Hanson, Charlene Hargrove, and Desley Parker opposed).

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by Treasurer Jim Simpson (See Attachment 1). OILA has 254 members. Paula Hudson made a motion, seconded by Director Jack Pous, to approve the combined February and March 2022 Treasurer's Report and to reimburse Jim Simpson for expenses. Motion passed 21 – 0.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Standing Committees

Architectural Report: President David Sherry stated the March ARC report is in the OIL Lantern.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

1. President David Sherry read a resolution for membership adoption proposed by Director Jack Pous at the February OILA meeting and on the April 11 membership meeting agenda, “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. Director Jack Pous made a motion, seconded by Rebecca Sherry, passed 26 – 0.

2. President David Sherry named the OILA board nominating committee members: John Donovan, Cynthia Henderson, Jack Pous, Rebecca Sherry, and Brian Smith.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. President David Sherry thanked everyone who has been working hard to make Saturday's volunteer dune planting a success. He has blank Hold Harmless forms in the front of the room, and the form is printed in the OIL Lantern, for those who want to volunteer. President Sherry played a 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. President Sherry led a discussion on the inclusion of paid local ads in the OIL Lantern as a revenue raiser. President Sherry said he had discussed this issue with Treasurer and Newsletter Editor Jim Simpson, and Jim had graciously agreed to this additional task if approved by the membership. Jim Simpson, Tyler Herndon and Mary Walton supported the idea. Jim said he doesn't mind raising money, and added we can control the content. Tyler added he is a local businessman, and would be willing to help. Desley Parker and Dave Hancock opposed the idea, with Desley suggesting only Leaseholders be allowed to place ads. Paula Hudson said the idea had been considered in the past.

3. President Sherry began a discussion on Electric Vehicle charging stations on Okaloosa Island. Kevin Mallek said more charging stations could bring higher quality rentals, and Tyler Herndon agreed. Director Jack Pous suggested OILA approach Okaloosa County to use TDD funding at one or more existing beach accessways to install public EV stations.

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

5. President Sherry played a 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.

6. Director Brick Bradford spoke in support of increasing OILA membership, stating our collective Island voices are our power.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Rebecca Sherry made a motion, seconded by Mary Walton, to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM.

John S. Donovan, OILA Secretary



OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
 P.O. BOX 4323
 FORT WALTON BEACH, FL 32549
 Webpage: www.oilaweb.com

TREASURER'S REPORT: April 11, 2022

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 254

February 14, 2022 TOTAL BALANCE: \$ 28,031.70

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF February 14, 2022..... \$ 26,522.37

RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT

Membership dues.....	\$	46.00
U.S. Mail.....	\$	<u>3.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$	49.00

EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT

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

EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT:

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

**ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER RECEIPTS,
 EXPENDITURES & EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT AS OF
 APRIL 11, 2022\$ 26,523.81**

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

BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 11, 2022, \$ 1,421.28

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

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND BALANCE AS OF April 11, 2022\$ 88.05

SUMMARY: March 14, 2022 Fund Balances

-- Association's Discretionary Fund Balance.	\$	26,523.81
-- Beautification Fund Balance.....	\$	1,421.28
-- Christmas Decorating Fund Balance (Donations).....	\$	<u>88.05</u>
TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE.....	\$	28,033.14

Respectfully submitted
 Jim Simpson, Treasurer



ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT FOR APRIL 2022: The OILA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) received several applications for review during April 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>
04/03	407	7	Phillip and Patricia Pruitt 728 Sailfish Drive	Pool and Pavers	Yes
04/05	389	7	Stephen Dejoie 1010 Miracle Strip Pkwy	Privacy Fence	Yes
04/20	n/a	n/a	Clipper Cove Townhomes 228 Amberjack Drive	Fence	Yes
04/28	5-A	n/a	OCWS AT&T 105 SRB	Temp Cell on Wheels	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).

OKALOOSA ISLAND FIREFIGHTERS ASSIST BAY & CALHOUN COUNTIES FIGHT WILDFIRES



Okaloosa Island Fire Department assisted Bay and Calhoun Counties for a series of wildfires that burned for almost 2 weeks. The Adkins Avenue Fire, Star Avenue Fire, and Bertha Swamp Fire totaled over 34,000 acres. Efforts to extinguish made difficult from the large amount of tree debris still present after Hurricane Michael.

OIFD crews assisted with personnel and command roles overseeing fire departments from as far as Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. Our units were tasked as Structural Task Force 3101 whose primary role was to maintain a defensive posture against an oncoming wildfire. Other agencies including the Department of Forestry, National Guard, Florida Fish and Wildlife, State Trooper, Local Police and Sheriff

all worked together to help mitigate the massive incident.

GREETINGS FROM MICHAEL RAY STRAWN, FIRE CHIEF, OKALOOSA ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT



Michael Ray Strawn
Fire Chief
Okaloosa Island Fire
District
104 Santa Rosa Blvd.
Fort Walton Beach
FL 32548
850-244-5373
850-244-3911 fax

A lot has happened since the beginning of the year. I would like to share some information and provide an update concerning equipment purchases, grants, wildfire deployments. I would also like to share an email that I sent to the Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners concerning the Santa Rosa BLVD project.

The Department has ordered a Fire Engine to replace the 14-year-old Engine. Due to supply shortages and build time, we are not scheduled to take delivery until November of 2023. We were able to sign the contract for the Fire Engine in December of 2021 which allowed the department to avoid the 10% cost increase in January 2022.

The Department has also applied for a Safer Grant for one additional Firefighter per shift for a total of three. If received the cost of the new firefighters would be 100% covered for three years. We were awarded a grant for purchase and installation of an exhaust system in the engine bay to avoid diesel fumes from building up inside the fire station. The Fire Department must cover 100% of the cost up front. The State will refund the Department 75% of the cost within 30 days of project completion.

I'm sure you have noticed the increased pedestrian traffic over the last year. Crosswalks have been installed which is a better option for pedestrians. However, I have noticed many pedestrians not looking or checking traffic before walking out into the crosswalk. I personally have had to come to quick stop 3 separate times at the access 1 Crosswalk due to pedestrians walking on the sidewalk and then turning to the crosswalk and walking into the road with no regard for the vehicle traffic. From 2006 until last year, I do not recall any vehicle vs pedestrian accidents on Santa Rosa BLVD. We have

had three tragic vehicle vs pedestrian accidents on Santa Rosa Blvd in the last year. One vehicle vs Skateboard incident at the intersection of Santa Rosa and Bluefish and two vehicle vs pedestrian incidents at the access one crosswalk. Please use extreme caution in the crosswalk areas.

Concerning the Santa Rosa BLVD project. There are arguably many Pros and Cons to the project depending on who you talk to. I have based my decision on a safety issue that must be taken into consideration. The email to the Board of Commissioners is provided below.

EMAIL SENT BY FIRE CHIEF RAY STRAWN TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ADDRESSING THE SANTA ROSA BLVD PROJECT

Honorable Commissioners

I am in favor of the Santa Rosa Blvd improvement project. Residents and tourist would definitely benefit from the improvements concerning pedestrian traffic, water drainage and beautification, However I have serious concerns about the reduction from four (4) lanes down to two (2). The concerns I wish to address include the creation of more traffic congestion on Santa Rosa Blvd which will increase the likelihood of motor vehicle accidents which will increase emergency call volume and delay emergency response time. It is very important to remember that Santa Rosa Blvd has one way onto the island and one way off. It's a dead end Blvd in which you must make a U-turn to leave.

We often have incidents that close at least two lanes of Santa Rosa Blvd, such as power pole incidents that require power company representatives to arrive and mitigate the problem which could take several hours, or Grass fires on Santa Rosa Blvd that can easily take an hour or more. Motor vehicle accidents (MVA) are common on Santa Rosa Blvd in which time would be taken not only to mitigate the initial incident but also time spent waiting for a tow company to remove vehicles to open the road. When you have a fatality from a MVA, additional time will be spent waiting for the proper authorities to arrive, investigate the scene and remove the body before the road is reopened. This takes several hours. At present when we have an incident that closes two (2) lanes of traffic we have two (2) other lanes to mitigate the traffic congestion created by the incident. If the lanes are reduced from four (4) lanes down to two (2) lanes any road blockage immediately west of Caviar Dr ,Pelican DR or Sailfish Dr will stop all traffic on Okaloosa Island coming or going because there is NO alternative route. In other areas the only option would be to route **ALL** traffic coming or going through narrow side street residential neighborhoods where there is a lot of streetside parking and pedestrian traffic. Heavy two way traffic on these streets will be very difficult which will create its own hazards. Now add a 911 call west of the incident that blocked the road, which creates a situation that requires emergency response through side street residential neighborhoods that already have **ALL** the traffic overflow caused by the incident that blocked the road. This will delay response times by minutes. The minutes lost will cost someone their life.

This situation will not only affect the residents and tourists of Okaloosa Island and my department, but will also affect any need for emergency response onto or off of the Eglin property which may have a negative impact on any mission operations at the time of the road blockage.

As I understand it, this project is still in the development stage and no plans have been finalized. I understand that many issues are trying to be addressed including pedestrian traffic, water drainage, beautification and traffic mitigation. I understand that this project has challenges and I hope this project will be a success. I appreciate the effort that has already been put into this project. However, I respectfully oppose the traffic lane reduction portion of the project and ask that this option not be considered moving forward from a public safety position. I have confidence that a better solution can be found.

WUZZLE PUZZLES ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



Tight Wad

Wuzzle No. 2



A House Divided

Wuzzle No. 3



Six of One, Half Dozen of the Other

Wuzzle No. 4



G-Men