SEPTEMBER 2022 OIL LANTERN Page 1 of 12 Pages



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION

Our September 2022 meeting will be held on **Monday, September 12** 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

- ♦ Report from the President **Ed Henderson**
- ◆ New Bridge Right of Way Clearance-Prop's Brewery & Grill
- ♦ Okaloosa Island Garden Club **Susan Wall**
- ♦ OIIA Welcomes New OIFD Firefighter Carl Richardson "CJ"
- ♦ Can you Fall Out of an Airplane without A Parachute and Survive?
- ♦ Agenda, September 12, 2022 Meeting
- ◆ Renovated Island Boat Basin to Open on Thursday, September
- ♦ This Month in History—September
- ♦ International Coastal Clean-up Saturday, Sept 17, 2022
- ♦ Draft Minutes May 10, 2022 Meeting
- ◆ Architectural Review Committee Reports for July & August 2022
- ◆ Opinion Article on the Proposal to go from 4 Lanes to 2 Lanes on Santa Rosa Blvd - by OILA Director, Dr. Frank Adcock
- ♦ OILA Voting Membership Requirements from the By-Laws

2022-2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE ON OCT 1, 2022

Membership dues for the coming year are due October 1. A membership renewal notification card 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 - SEPTEMBER 2022

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



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REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT – Ed Henderson

OILA, its Board and its membership are faced with a less than pleasant situation. In fact, many might characterize it as a monumental problem. In the recent past the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) envisioned a road-storm waterlandscaping project for Santa Rosa Boulevard (SRB). While storm water on SRB is a major problem during and after storms, and landscaping improvements along SRB are on many wish lists, the BCC has envisioned, voted unanimously, and formalized the design plan, that has a <u>reduction</u> in the number of lanes along SRB. The planned lane reductions are viewed by many as an uncalled for and unnecessary disaster. Few, if any, can provide a meaningful basis for such proposal.

OILA, many of its members, and even the Okaloosa Fire Chief have objected to the BCC's Lane reduction proposal. From a safety standpoint, which should be first and foremost on everyone's list, the proposed lane reductions should be a nonstarter. This is especially true given the Fire Chiefs letter to the BCC stating in part "... minutes lost will cost someone their life..." if the lane reduction proposal actually takes place.

So, you might be asking yourself at this point why does this letter start with "OILA, its Board and its membership are faced with a less than pleasant situation." This less than pleasant situation -- is what do we do NOW? In spite of OILA's position, the position of the Fire Chief, and that of many citizens who took the time to speak in person to the BCC, the BCC voted 5-0 to proceed with the project! The County has sent out a Requests for Proposal for an engineering firm to design and perform the work. In fact, a contract is being written and may even be executed between the County and an engineering firm by the time you are reading this letter.

Do we draw a line in the sand and hold steadfast to our position knowing the BCC has rejected it. One might say that is the only right position, especially given the stated position that "... minutes lost will cost someone their life..." if the lane reduction proposal actually takes place. OR – do we recognize the changed circumstances that we are faced with -- the BCC voted 5-0 to proceed with the project and try and see if a compromised alternative can be formulated and implemented. This is the less than pleasant situation that we should not be faced with, but, we are.

So, you are being asked to set emotions aside and ponder whether to stick with the right solution and most likely be sadly ignored, or propose options that may try and extend 4 lanes further westward, retaining a minimum of 3 lanes rather than 2 lanes on the west end of SRB, phasing in the project so that maybe only half is done so that everyone can see how it looks and actually works, etc.

Please attend the <u>September 12</u> OILA meeting and let each of your voices be heard.

DEMOLITIONS CONTINUE TO PREPARE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW BROOKS BRIDGE



Shown above is the current, on-going demolition of the southern tip of Prop's Brewery & Grill restaurant building located at 225 Miracle Strip Pkwy in the Paradise Point Shopping Center.

As noted in the photo most of the Prop's business remains (on the north side of the above demolition) and please note: Prop's is and will remain open at its present location. The section being removed only involves Prop's outdoor tables and chairs on the far south side of the restaurant.

Other properties taken down were the Tropical Waves (1251 Miracle Strip Pkwy and the Waffle House (1251-A Miracle Strip Pkwy). See below photo. The remains of Tropical Waves are on the right and the Waffle House are on the left



All that is left of Tropical Waves and the Waffle House.



July 2022 Rainfall: 8.4 Inches

July 1 1.2 inches	July 18 0.5 inches
July 4 0.1 inches	July 20 0.5 inches
July 10 1.1 inches	July 21 0.7 inches
July 11 1.1 inches	July 22 0.1 inches
July 12 0.7 inches	July 27 0.5 inches
July 14 0.3 inches	July 29 0.3 inches
July 16 1.3 inches	
July Avg Rainfall	8.5 inches
Variance to Average.	0.1 inches

August 2022 Rainfall: 6.7 Inches

Aug 2 0.1 inches Aug 20 0.4 inches				
Aug 10 1.0 inches Aug 21 0.1 inches				
Aug 11 0.5 inches Aug 24 1.3 inches				
Aug 12 1.1 inches Aug 25 0.5 inches				
Aug 16 0.8 inches Aug 26 0.1 inches				
Aug 18 0.6 inches Aug 27 0.2 inches				
Aug Avg Rainfall				
Variance to Average 0.5 inches				
Sept Avg Rainfall				
Sept Record High 102º F (1954)				
Sept Record Low 37º F (1967)				
Sept Avg Water Temperature. 85° F				
YTD Variance – 10.0 inches				

Year to Date Rainfall......45.6 inches

Avg Annual Rainfall65.1 inches

JOIN THE LEASEHOLDERS! LET YOUR OPINIONS BE HEARD!

FOR A MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION

CLICK ON THE ASSOCIATION'S WEBPAGE:

WWW.OILAWEB.COM

OR

CONTACTJIM SIMPSON at (850) 585-2116

or by email at SANLEANNA@COX.NET





Okaloosa Island Garden Club

Okaloosa Island Garden Club is gearing up for an exciting new year.

We closed last year out with a beautiful picnic at Marler Park. This year we plan to have lots of informative speakers from the Master Garders Association in our area to teach us planting in our area of paradise.

Whether you love digging in the dirt, or just want to make new friends and eat good food, please come join us.

We meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the El Matador at 9:30 AM.

If you need more information please call Susan Wall. 205-907-0393



Carl Richardson "CJ"

OILA WELCOMES NEW OIFD FIREFIGHTER - Carl Richardson "CJ"

Carl comes to Okaloosa Island from Ocean City Wright Fire where he Worked for 2 years as a fire-fighter. Carl is an EMT, Hazmat Tech, USAR certified, and state certified driver/pump operator. Carl is a "true local" being born and raised in FWB and graduated FWB high in 2007. Carl attended college at Lees Mcrae in North Carolina on a track scholarship. Carl has two children named Riley (13) and Carver (2) which he adores as well as his girlfriend Jayme. Carl has a passion for coffee and FSU football. He comes from a very large family with his grandfather retiring here from the U.S. Airforce and was a certified Tuskegee Airmen. In his off time, he enjoys spending time with his family, drawing, playing guitar and drinking coffee while he watches the weather channel.

SSgt Alan McGee B-17 Ball Turret Gunner. 360th Squadron, Army Air Corps, WW II

CAN YOU FREE FALL OUT OF AN AIRPLANE WITHOUT A PARACHUTE AND SURVIVE?

Following is the unbelievable story of SSgt Alan McGee, a ball turret gunner on a B-17 Bomber (the "Snap, Crackle and Pop") who fell out of his bomber at an altitude of 22,000 feet without a parachute and SURVIVED!

His plane, along with others from the 360th Squadron, was sent to bomb German torpedo stores in St. Nazaire, France on Jan. 3, 1943.



During the mission, the plane was shot by anti-aircraft guns and became a ball of flames. Magee climbed into the fuselage to get his chute and bail out, but it had been shredded by the flak. As Magee was trying to figure out a new plan, a second flak burst tore through the aircraft and then a fighter blasted it with machine gun fire.

Magee was knocked unconscious and thrown from the aircraft. When he woke up, he was falling through the air with nothing but a prayer. Magee told God, "I don't wish to die because I know nothing of life," according to reports from the 303rd Bomb Group.

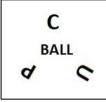
Magee, struggling with a shortage of oxygen and likely in shock from the events of the past few minutes, passed out again and God seemingly answered his prayer. The young sergeant fell into

the town of St. Nazaire and through the glass roof of the train station. He was later found dangling on the steel girders that supported the ceiling. The glass had slowed his fall and he regained consciousness as German soldiers took him to medical care. Magee's right leg and ankle were broken, he had 28 wounds from shrapnel and glass, and his right arm was cut nearly the whole way off. He had also suffered numerous internal injuries.

Magee was able to keep his arm and eventually made a full recovery. He spent most of the rest of the war as a POW. In 1995, Magee was invited back to France as part of a ceremony sponsored by French citizens to thank Allied servicemembers for their efforts in the war.

Alan McGee died at the age of 84 on December 20, 2013 in San Angelo, Texas, Sixty of his years was a gift.

WUZZLE PUZZLES - "DUFFER SPECIAL"



Wuzzle no. 1



Wuzzle no. 2



Wuzzle no. 3



Wuzzle no. 4



September 12, 2022 Meeting Agenda

DATE: Monday, September 12, 2022 **TIME**: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: For our September 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: Ed Henderson

III. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: John Donovan

- May 9, 2022 membership meeting minutes (draft) Printed in this newsletter.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Jim Simpson

- Membership report.
- Treasurer's Report –
- 1) September 12, 2022 report
- 2) Treasurer's Reimbursement and Approval

V. Standing Committee Reports:

- Architectural Review Committee Report for June thru July 2022 (printed in this newsletter)

VI. New and Unfinished Business

1. Discussion of Proposed Reduction from Four Lanes to Two Lanes of the Westerly Segment of Santa Rosa Boulevard.

VII. Announcements; Speakers and Programs

VIII. Adjournment

The Newly Renovated \$1.1 Million Okaloosa Island Boat

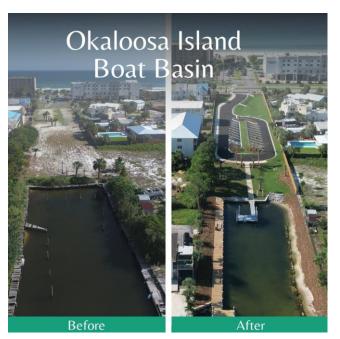
Basin to Open Next Week



Sound Side Entrance from Santa Rosa Blvd



ADA Accessible Kayak Launch Platform





Parking (18 spaces)



View of the Dock Area

On Thursday, **September 1**, **2022**, the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners announced the completion and grand opening of the Okaloosa Island Boat Basin and ADA accessible kayak launch.

- The Okaloosa Island Boat Basin is located at Sound side Access Two off of Santa Rosa Boulevard, between Bluefish Drive and Caviar Drive.
- A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 9 am.

"This \$1.1 million project was funded entirely by our tourist development tax revenue and a \$150,000 Boating Improvement Program Grant administered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission," said Okaloosa County Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel. "While funded by tourists, this newly refurbished Okaloosa Island amenity will be enjoyed by locals and visitors of our area."

According to a Thursday press release, this construction project has remained on time and on budget. Additionally, the boat basin features new decking, landscaping and paved parking.

Parking will be available directly across Santa Rosa Boulevard at Beach Access two. The public is welcome to attend.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY - SEPTEMBER

Sept 2, 1969 - ATM Makes Its Debut In The United States: The first automated teller machine (ATM) began its operation in America in 1969. The ATM was installed at the Chemical Bank in Rockville Center, New York.

Sept 5, 1997 - Mother Teresa died in Calcutta at age 87, after a life of good works spent aiding the sick and poor in India through her Missionaries of Charity order.

Sept 5, 1836 - Sam Houston is elected President of the Republic of Texas.

Sept 9, 1776 - The United States came into existence as the Continental Congress changed the name of the new American nation from the United Colonies.

September 18, 1947 - The U.S. Air Force was established as a separate military service.

September 27, 1825 - The first passenger locomotive is operated by George Stephenson in England.

September 30, 1949 - The Berlin Airlift concluded after 277,264 flights carrying over 2 million tons of supplies to the people of West Berlin, who were blockaded by the Soviets.



International Coastal Cleanup

Saturday, September 17, 2022 8:00AM-10:00AM

Join us for our annual International Coastal Cleanup event that's perfect for the whole family! We'll have clean up contests with fun prizes, free event t-shirts, and a free post cleanup breakfast served at some of our favorite local restaurants.

T-shirts and breakfast will be limited in quantity, so make sure you register online and show up on time!

How to Register:

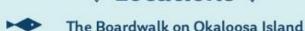
Scan the QR code or visit https://www.destinfwb.com/international-coastal-cleanup-rsvp/













The Surf Hut

Norriego Point

Mattie Kelly Park + Joe's Bayou

Henderson Beach State Park



Post Cleanup Breakfast

The Crab Trap, Okaloosa Island

The Crab Trap, Destin

The Surf Hut, Miramar Beach



Don't Forget!

Bring your own bucket, mesh bag, gloves, and trash grabber.

Also, download the Clean Swell app to document debris you collect!

Don't have plans after? Join us at The Boardwalk on Okaloosa Island for the Choctawhatchee Bay Family Fun Fest! For more information, visit https://bit.ly/3Ak3yph

As noted above, A post-cleanup breakfast will be available at The Boardwalk, The Crab Trap, and Surf Hut. Volunteers should bring their own bucket, mesh bag, gloves, and trash grabbers. Volunteers also need to make sure that they bring plenty of water to stay hydrated, wear sunscreen, And dress appropriately for the weather.

DRAFT MINUTES - OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION - MAY 9. 2022

- Submitted by OILA Secretary – John Donovan

CALL TO ORDER: Hybrid in-person and Zoom meeting called to order at 7:00 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, Rick Deckert, Ed Henderson, Jesse Hunt, Jack Pous.
- **III. MINUTES:** Secretary Donovan made a motion, seconded by Vice President Rick Deckert, to approve the draft April 11, 2022 membership meeting minutes. Motion passed 29 0 (Paula Hudson abstained).
- **IV. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Presented by Treasurer Jim Simpson (See Attachment 1). OILA has 265 members. Paula Hudson made a motion, seconded by Director Jack Pous, to approve the combined April 2022 Treasurer's Report and to reimburse Jim Simpson for expenses. Motion passed 38 0.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Standing Committees

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

Nominating Committee: Secretary John Donovan read the committee OILA board candidate nominations; Dr. Frank Adcock, Louis Belanger, David Jones, and Brian Smith, and noted all four candidates were in attendance at the meeting. Rebecca Sherry, a committee member, read candidate OILA membership experience and qualifications, and cited 5 OILA membership positions to which each nominating committee recommended candidate agrees: to support the Okaloosa Island Protective Covenants and Restrictions; support East Pass dredge sand being placed to the West (Okaloosa Island) side; support using only East Pass sand quality or better should Okaloosa Island need beach restoration; oppose Santa Rosa Boulevard lane destruction; and oppose development of Northside Beach Accessways.

Four candidates were nominated from the floor then introduced themselves: Keith Manley (nomination Mel Mattison, second Desley Parker), Tyler Herndon (nomination Pat Salvatore, second Carey Sue Beasley), Brian Harrington (nomination Director Brick Bradford, second Paula Hudson), and Richard Johnson (nomination Paula Hudson, second Paul Beasley). Floor nominated candidates were asked about their lack of OILA experience and their positions on issues.

President Sherry announced an election will be held 7 PM Monday, June 27, 2022. Candidates will be given until Sunday, May 15, to submit a candidate bio for the mailing. Treasurer Jim Simpson said candidates will be given a 4-inch by 8-inch block for their bio. Ballots will be U.S. mailed to all OILA members. The ballot tabulation will be live streamed via Zoom, and be conducted at the Fire Station.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

1. President David Sherry read a resolution for membership adoption proposed by Rebecca Sherry and on the May 9 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 Okaloosa Island Dune Planting Project, and in particular, appreciation for the hard work on the Project by Alex Fogg of the Okaloosa County staff. Rebecca Sherry made a motion, seconded by Paula Hudson, passed 37- 0. Director Jack Pous suggested President Sherry also submit a Northwest Florida Daily News letter to the editor expressing appreciation to Okaloosa County. Rebecca Sherry agreed to the addition of a newspaper submission, Paula Hudson withdrew her second, then Cheryl Trapnell seconded the motion. Motion passed by consensus of the room and Zoom with no objections.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1. Treasurer Jim Simpson has 400 miniature U.S. Flags from ERA Realty to be placed along Santa Rosa Boulevard by Connie Herring and Beth Jeter for Memorial Day and July 4.
- 2. David Hancock stated he was surprised at Okaloosa Island Fire Chief Strawn's letter opposing Santa Rosa Boulevard lane elimination. Mr. Hancock asked when the letter was written, and President Sherry answered February.
- 3. Paula Hudson asked President Sherry about a disclaimer for the meeting being recorded. President Sherry answered those attending via Zoom must confirm a disclaimer when they join the meeting. He mentioned OILA meeting audio recordings are available on the OILA website.
- 4. Paula Hudson asked President Sherry about the recently painted Welcome Triangle near the Tom Thumb gas station. President Sherry responded Vince Bruner had called him about the condition of the sign, and that President Sherry had arranged for Okaloosa County to paint the sign.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Rebecca Sherry made a motion, seconded by Director Ed Henderson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 PM. Motion passed 34 - 0.

TREASURER'S REPORT: May 9, 2022

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 265

April 11, 2022 TOTAL BALANCE: \$ 28,033.14

April 11, 2022 TOTAL BALANCE: \$ 28,033.14		
ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF April 11, 2022\$		
RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT		
Membership dues U.S. Mai		169.00 <u>14.00</u>
Total Receipt	s: \$	183.00
EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT		* .
Payment to Gilmore Insurance & Bonding to Renew Commercial General Liability Coverage with Southern Owners Insurance Company for May 16, 2022 to May 16, 2023	\$	1,668.60
Payment to reimburse David Sherry for the purchase of a webcam for OILA to improve the audio and video for Zoom meeting participants. Approved by the OILA BOD	\$	55.64
EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT:		
Payment to reimburse Jim Simpson for postage to mail the May 2022 Oil Lantern (54 copies at 58 cents each)	\$	25.52
ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES & EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT AS OF MAY 9, 2022	\$	24.957.05
BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES ONCE LAST DEPORT		
BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF May 2 2022		
BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF May 9, 2022,		
CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 11, 2022	\$	88.05
CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT		o Expenditures
CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND BALANCE AS OF May 9, 2022	\$	88.05
SUMMARY: May 9 2022 Fund Balances		
Association's Discretionary Fund Balance Beautification Fund Balance Christmas Decorating Fund Balance (Donations).	\$	1,421.28
TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE	\$	26,466.38

Respectfully submitted Jim Simpson, Treasurer

WUZZLE PUZZLES ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



Ball in Cup



Sand Trap



Right Hook



Short Putt

Putt





Wuzzle No. 5



ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT FOR <u>July and August 2022:</u> The OILA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) received several applications for review during July and August 2022 and upon review and adherence to the OILA Covenants, has approved the following project(s):

Date	Lot(s)	Block	Owner/POC/Address	Description	In-Compliance & Approved
08/05			Commodores Landing 330 Bluefish Drive	Repair Stairs	Yes
08/17	307	6	Richard Martin 617 Pelican Drive	Pergola	Yes
08/22	236	5	Paula Hudson 529 Dolphin Drive	Solar Panels	Yes
08/30	390	7	Brian and Lesa Smith 713 Sailfish Drive	Attached Covered Entrance	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)

MY POSITION ON THE ISSUE OF REDUCING SANTA ROSA BLVD FROM 4 TO 2 LANES --- by Dr. Frank Adcock, Director, Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association

Santa Rosa Boulevard, 4 Lanes or 2, What If The Victim Was You?

My name is Frank Adcock, a retired Emergency Medicine physician and EMS Paramedic Medical Director, a newly elected member of your Board and an OILA supporter for 3+ decades, who has been vacationing in the area since age 12. Sheila and I have been El Matador supporters/owners since 1973 and we, and our 19-member family, are in our 4th generation enjoying the Paradise known as Okaloosa Island. Eight of my nine grandchildren made their 1st trip before age one. I get a few 'goose bumps' as I reflect on the memories.

I write you this note because I believe that OILA and the owners/visitors of Okaloosa Island are being challenged in a most serious way and perhaps like never before....ON A BASIC ISSUE. The issue is <u>response times</u> of Okaloosa County Emergency Personnel (Fire, Police, EMS Ambulances, Evacuation) to emergency conditions on the Island. County Officials have produced a plan to narrow Santa Rosa Blvd to two lanes for the westernmost one-mile of its deadend route to the Military Gate in front of El Matador. This is problematic.

When this plan became public your OILA representatives, David Sherry and Brick Bradford, made a personal plea (August 2021 at a televised County hearing) to your legislative representative Carolyn Ketchel, and to Jason Autrey and Scott Bitterman (County Officials in charge of the project) to restore all four lanes of traffic on SRB in the final plans. As of the writing of this note (08/27/22) despite two of our very competent, dedicated OILA Board Members meeting with the main County Official, there has been no official change in the reduced lane design of SRB for its most Western mile. There has been a discussion of compromise for a 3rd westerly lane mid-way down SRB but no finality at this moment. It is my experience and opinion that a 3-Lane plan does not sufficiently solve the major issues.

The County's position in reducing the lanes of traffic is to widen sidewalks for walkers, joggers, bicyclers and perhaps golf cart traffic... and to provide drainage work that needs to be done at the extreme Western end of the Island. These examples are used to support the 'narrowing of SRB' even though an additional 10-12 feet of space will be created when the medians and center turn lanes are removed (part of the Master Plan) and an additional 6-8 feet of grassy width is already available along the present sidewalk.

Objectively there is plenty of room for everyone to stay safe which is the primary goal of your dedicated OILA representatives who are focusing on the safety of all Islanders in requesting that the four-lanes of traffic be preserved. Okaloosa Island Fire Chief Ray Strawn, in addressing the County's plans for lane reduction on SRB sent a February 2022 letter (See May Issue of The Lantern) to all Five County Commissioners, and to Mr. Autrey and Mr Bitterman in which he gave numerous examples of traffic incidents that for many years have delayed or stopped traffic on SRB even with its present four lanes. These included not only issues of life-threatening trauma and those of medical importance but of traffic and power line incidents as well. I am advised that incidents of assault, robbery and burglary also occur. In summarizing his opposition to traffic lane reduction that will retard response times Chief Strawn wrote, "THE MINUTES LOST WILL COST SOMEONE THEIR LIFE."

Chief Strawn is familiar with a term used in the practice of Emergency Medicine called "THE GOLDEN HOUR" which accurately describes the amount of time that EMS personnel have (from the time they leave their Base Station to the time they actually deliver their patient to the nearest Emergency Department) to ensure the maximum chance of avoiding unnecessary mortality or excessive morbidity of their patients. Anything that retards the time of ingress or egress to or from the medical scene decreases the odds of a satisfactory outcome. Any narrowing of SRB will contribute to this exposure. As a past 'ambulance riding' EMS Medical Director...... I am concerned.

An incomplete list of Medical Emergencies commonly seen by our EMS Ambulance personnel includes heart attacks, life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias, strokes, asthmatic attacks, pediatric fevers, drug overdoses, acute psychiatric incidents, major allergic reactions, major falls (head injuries and major fractures), drownings/near drownings and other types of trauma.

It is my belief that OILA and its Board should stand firm on its request for maintaining four lanes of traffic on SRB.....BUT DO SO IN A RESPECTFUL WAY. There is no reasonable way to compromise on this issue especially when OILA Members have voted TWICE to maintain the integrity of our four-lane Santa Rosa Blvd.

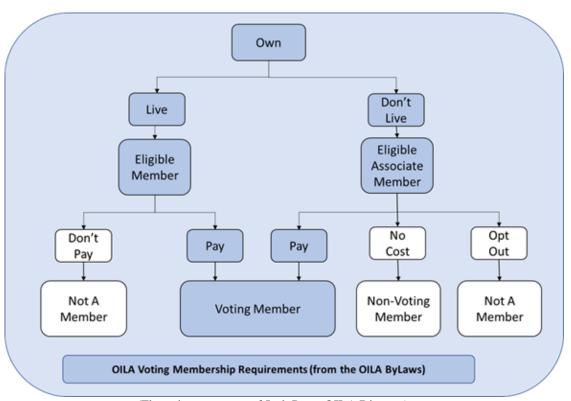
Thanks for reading.

Frank J Adcock, MD

OILA Voting Membership Requirements from the By-Laws

by Brian Smith, OILA Vice-President

OILA voting membership requirements have been a focus of discussion before, during, and after the recent election of the OILA Board of Directors. This article is intended to clarify the requirements to be an OILA Voting member. Based on the OILA By-Laws, Article II, the following flowchart shows pictorially the requirements that an owner needs to follow to become a Voting Member.



(Flow chart courtesy of Jack Pous, OILA Director)

The OILA By-Laws, Article II, are included here for reference, which explain the voting membership requirements:

<u>Section 1.</u> All persons holding land leases, fee simple titles, or owning condominiums or co-operative dwelling units on Santa Rosa Island, Okaloosa County, shall be eligible for membership or associate membership.

<u>Section 2.</u> Membership shall be established by application, proof of eligibility, and payment of annual dues. Membership renewal is automatic with the payment of annual dues for the fiscal year. The fiscal year shall be September 1 through August 31.

<u>Section 3.</u> Associate Membership shall include all out of county or out of state property holders. This is an automatic membership (unless they opt. out or refuse) at no cost for the non-voting and non-paying associate member. They will receive e-mail information such as newsletter, etc. and if a mailed copy is requested, they will pay the same fee as other subscribers.