

**OCTOBER 2022 EDITION OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND
LEASEHOLDERS NEWSLETTER, THE OIL LANTERN**

Page 1 of 8 pages



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

OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
ASSOCIATION

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Our October 2022 meeting will be held on **Monday, October 10** 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**
- ◆ October Speaker – District 4 Okaloosa County Commissioner **Trey Goodwin**
- ◆ OILA Christmas 2022 Programs – **Nancy Hunt**
- ◆ Okaloosa Island Garden Club – **Susan Wall**
- ◆ Meet “The Welcome Strand Nugget
- ◆ Rainfall for September 2022
- ◆ Four Lanes to Two Lanes Analysis and Petition by **John Adcock**
- ◆ Agenda, October 10, 2022 Meeting
- ◆ Architectural Review Committee Report for October 2022
- ◆ Application for Membership in the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association (or, an opportunity to sign-up a new member)



District 4
Okaloosa
County
Commissioner,
Trey Goodwin,
will address
OILA at the
October 10,
2022 meeting.

**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR
OILA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2022-2023.
RENEWAL NOTICES WERE SENT OUT
ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2022.**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT
RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP,
CONTACT JIM SIMPSON AT
850.585.2116 OR BY EMAIL AT:**

SANLEANNA@COX.NET



THE OIL LANTERN – OCTOBER 2022
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND
LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION, Inc
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REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT – Ed Henderson

It's been a very busy month for OILA members working on The Santa Rosa Blvd proposed lane reduction, attending and making presentations to the County Commission regarding our concerns and preparing for the Holiday Decorations and Food Drive.

I have asked Frank Adcock to lead a newly formed committee (pending BoD approval) to represent the Membership on the Santa Rosa Blvd 4 Lanes 4 Life effort. This committee will include members not serving on the Board who have volunteered their services to talk to their neighbors regarding the BCC's planned lane reduction and its impact on Okaloosa Island residents and guests.

This will also allow the Board to work on the top OILA membership concerns from a poll conducted last year.

OILA needs to increase its voice and increase our membership. It's the best deal on the island, \$12 for a yearly membership, to keep your island easily accessible to Emergency Vehicles while still being able to enjoy an expanded pedestrian and bicyclist's sidewalk with no dangerous cracks.

I had a tentative agreement for a speaker for our group and recently learned they were not available. Many thanks to Dave and Rebecca Sherry for getting an outstanding speaker, Commissioner Trey Goodwin, to address our group. His background is most interesting (please see his Bio) and I am certain you will enjoy his presentation. I look forward to seeing you at this very important meeting.



District 4 - Commissioner Trey Goodwin

EMAIL: tgoodwin@myokaloosa.com

Robert A. "Trey" Goodwin III is an Okaloosa native who attended local schools and graduated from Choctawhatchee High School. He earned his bachelor's degree in Building Construction from the University of Florida in 2001, and his Juris Doctor degree from the Florida State University School of Law in 2005.

Trey founded the law firm of Robert A. Goodwin III, P.A., and represents clients in the areas of real estate, construction, estate planning, and probate law. Trey also gained significant experience in public service leadership as a member of the Fort Walton Beach City Council (2011 – 2014); and as County Commissioner for District 4 since November 2014.

Trey lives in Fort Walton Beach with his wife, Krystle and their children, daughter Alexia and son Robert. Trey and his family worship at Wright Baptist Church.



**Commissioner
 Trey Goodwin**

CHRISTMAS IS APPROACHING: TIME TO START PLANS TO: 1. DECORATE THE ISLAND, 2. SET UP A LIGHT DECORATING CONTEST AND 3. CONDUCT A FOOD DRIVE

Christmas is just around the corner. Not sure what is possible for Okaloosa Island due to bridge construction or what is appropriate considering the devastation from Ian in our state. The past 7 years, we have had great volunteers to help decorate the Island, have a light decoration contest, and a food drive for our local food bank. It might be nice if OILA could come up with a way to help a sister island for Christmas. If interested in helping or brainstorming, we can organize committees to discuss. This goal will be on the November 7, 2022 OILA agenda. If you can't make this meeting, you may contact **Nancy Hunt** at 850-855-9635. May we count our blessings every day!



THE WORLD'S LARGEST GOLD NUGGET

"THE WELCOME STRANGER"



Considered by most authorities to be the biggest gold nugget ever found, **the Welcome Stranger** was found at Moliagul, Victoria, Australia, in 1869 by John Deason and Richard Oates. It weighed gross, over 2,520 troy ounces (78 kg; **173 lb**) and returned over 2,284 troy ounces (71.0 kg; **156.6 lb**) net.

Editor's Note – at todays prices, Welcome Stranger is worth \$4.3 million dollars.

TOTAL RAINFALL FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

7.0 Inches



September 3.....**1.4** inches
September 4.....**0.7** inches
September 9.....**2.1** inches
September 10.....**1.5** inches
September 11.....**1.3** inches

Sept Avg Rainfall.....**7.2** inches
Variance to Average..... **- 0.2** inches

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

Nov Avg Rainfall.....**4.1** inches
November Record High..... **89° F** (1998)
November Record Low**18° F** (1950)
Nov Avg Water Temperature..**72° F**

YTD Variance **- 10.2** inches
Year to Date Rainfall.....**52.6** 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**



Okaloosa Island Garden Club

The next meeting for the Island Garden Club will be held Oct. 12 at 9 am. at El Matador.

This month we welcome Janet Hayes, Master Gardener to our meeting. Ms. Hayes will be teaching us how to plant a butterfly garden.

Come join us for fun, food, and garden education.

For more information call Susan Wall 205-907-0393

TO ALL OWNERS OF OKALOOSA ISLAND PROPERTY DO NOT TWO-LANE SANTA ROSA BOULEVARD

THE PROBLEM CREATED BY THE BBC - *The Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) recently voted 5-0 to CLOSE TWO LANES OF TRAFFIC ON SANTA ROSA BOULEVARD (SRB) on its western-most mile beginning near Pelican Dr and dead-ending at the Military Gate. This action has been included by the County as part of its Revitalization Project for the Island.*

THE SWORN MISSION STATEMENT OF THE BCC - All Members of the Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners are sworn to their Mission Statement, which reads, “*OUR MISSION: The Purpose of Okaloosa County Government is to be responsive to citizens in providing an appropriate level of accessible services on a cost effective basis. Critical County values include the following: Continual improvement of infrastructure, health, safety, and well-being of the citizens; preservation of natural resources; responsible economic development; leadership; and stewardship.*”

MISSION STATEMENT CONTRADICTIONS OF THE BCC - Closing 50% of the lanes of traffic on the western-most end of Santa Rosa Blvd contradicts this Mission Statement in several areas with SAFETY being the foremost factor.

FACTS ON THE GROUND - Along this single western-most mile of SRB there are 16 Gulf-Front Hi-Rise buildings on the Beach side (with over 2,000 condos) serviced by 21 SRB entrances/exits on the Beach Side and at least 140 single-family homes on the Residential Side with 14 SRB entrances/exits.

COMMON SENSE PUBLIC OPINION - THIS IS NOT A SECTION OF ROAD WHOSE LANES OF TRAFFIC SHOULD BE REDUCED BY 50%. The two-mile dead-end stretch of SRB is the only beachfront road in FWB. Be also reminded of Police, Fire, EMS Ambulances, School Buses, Delivery Trucks, and Traffic Accidents.

RECENT TESTIMONIALS FROM PUBLIC OFFICIALS - Several of your fellow Citizens and Public Officials have written letters and testified in front of the BBC asking that the two-lane plan for SRB be abandoned in the name of public safety.

Okaloosa Island Fire Chief Art Strawn wrote all County Commissioners a February 2022 letter stating this plan would result in “increasing the likelihood of motor vehicle accidents.” and he also stated, “This (lane reduction) will delay response times (of all emergency vehicles) by minutes. THE MINUTES LOST WILL COST SOMEONE THEIR LIFE.” His assessment is applicable for all Emergency Medical Services in which time is critical including Fire, Rescue and Police.

OILA President Ed Henderson, who recently testified directly to the BBC, wrote in the recent issue of The Lantern (The OILA Newsletter) that the BCC has created, “A MONUMENTAL PROBLEM”. He reiterated the “LIVES WILL BE LOST” assessment of Chief Strawn. He also stated, “From a safety standpoint, which should be first and foremost on everyone’s list, the proposed lane reductions should be a non-starter”.

OILA Immediate Past-President David Sherry passionately testified to the Board of County Commissioners in disfavor of any part of SRB being reduced to two lanes. Mr. Sherry asked the Commissioners, “What is so great about this plan (SRB lane reduction) that it’s worth dying over?”

Dr Frank J Adcock, Emergency Physician/Paramedic Medical Director, also testified directly to the BCC in disapproval of any two-lane SRB plan. He discussed a well-known concept called, “The GOLDEN HOUR”, whose timed goal starts with a 911 call and ends when the patient is delivered to the nearest Emergency Department, hopefully within an hour, such that morbidity and mortality rates can be reduced. The proposal by the BCC regarding one-lane in and one-lane out on SRB is the antithesis of safety/common sense and can result in EMS Ambulance delays and higher morbidity and mortality.

WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A RESIDENT/OWNER OF PROPERTY ON OKALOOSA ISLAND TO PROTECT YOUR HOMES, SAFETY AND FINANCIAL INTERESTS?

- 1. Please fill out the enclosed Petition to the Board of County Commissioners and mail it to the OILA address on the Application. (Copy of the petition available on the following page)**
- 2. Optional: Support OILA (Copy of the OILA Membership application form printed on the last page of this newsletter)**

To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners of Okaloosa County

The Okaloosa County website myokaloosa.com/bcc/home states the following regarding the duties of the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners.

“Our Mission: The purpose of Okaloosa County Government is to be responsive to citizens in providing an appropriate level of County Services on a cost-effective basis. Critical County values include the following: Continual improvement of infrastructure, health, safety and well-being of citizens; preservation of natural resources; responsible economic development; leadership and stewardship”.

I, the undersigned, submit that any plan by the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners (BCC) that results in reducing any portion of Santa Rosa Boulevard (SRB) from its present four lanes to two lanes significantly jeopardizes the “infrastructure, health, safety and well-being of the citizens”, and is not “responsible development, leadership and stewardship”.

Okaloosa Island Fire Chief Art Strawn has expressed his opinion, publicly in writing, to all five (5) County Commissioners as follows:

“This (two-lane) plan will delay (emergency) response times by minutes. The minutes will cost some their life”, due to slower response times of Police, Fire and Paramedic EMS Ambulances.

Chief Strawn has also described the multiple roadway delays that already exist on SRB with its present four-lane design: power pole incidents, grass fires, motor vehicle accidents, tow truck access, and lengthy police investigations of accidents before vehicles can be removed.

As a property owner on Okaloosa Island I am OPPOSED to ANY traffic lane reduction on any portion of Santa Rosa Boulevard.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELE/EMAIL
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_____	_____	_____
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Please Mail your completed Application Form along with any Comments to:

Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association
PO BOX 4323
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549

You make duplicate this form for other Okaloosa Island Property Owners.

October 10, 2022 Meeting Agenda

DATE: Monday, October 10, 2022 **TIME:** 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: For our October 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

Introduction of Our Speaker, District 4 Okaloosa County Commissioner, TREY GOODWIN

III. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: John Donovan Approval of the draft Minutes of the Members' Meeting of September 12, 2022 is being deferred to the next Members Meeting in order to provide maximum time for our Speaker."

IV. Treasurer's Report: Jim Simpson: The Treasurer's Report is being Deferred to the next Members Meeting in order to provide maximum time for our Speaker."

V. Standing Committee Reports:

- Architectural Review Committee Report for October 2022 (printed in this newsletter and for information only)

VI. New and Unfinished Business: New and Unfinished Business is being Deferred to the next Members Meeting in order to provide maximum time for our Speaker."

VII. Announcements, Speakers and Programs: Announcements, Speakers and Programs Deferred to next Members Meeting order to provide maximum time for our Speaker."

VIII. Adjournment



ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT FOR September 2022: 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):

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lot(s)</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Owner/POC/Address</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>In-Compliance & Approved</u>
09/22			Beach Bum Management 464 & 465 Abalone Ct	Two Pools & Dune Walkover	Yes
09/20	313	6	Edward & Susan Wall 623 Pelican Drive	New Pool	Yes
09/17			Best Western 380 Santa Rosa Blvd	Interior Renovation	Yes
09/15	420	7	Eugene Wright 745 Seahorse Ave	New Construction	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:

- OILA ARC review package:
 - Completed OILA ARC application,
 - Survey plat of the property,
 - Overlaid illustration of the project on a copy of the survey plat.
 - 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.)
- 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).

