

APRIL 2023 OIL LANTERN
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P.O. Box 4323
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32549

OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
ASSOCIATION

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Our April 2023 meeting will be held on **Monday, April 10, 2023** 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.

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- Island Garden Club April 12 Meeting



Can You Believe It!

This Is The

**240th Issue
OF THE OIL LANTERN!**

**FAITHFULLY PROVIDING
ISLAND NEWS &
INFORMATION TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE
OKALOOSA ISLAND
LEASEHOLDERS
ASSOCIATION (OILA) SINCE
DECEMBER 1999**



THE OIL LANTERN- APRIL 2023

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION, Inc

P.O. Box 4323, Fort Walton Beach, FL 3254

Editor: Jim Simpson, (850) 585-2116 Association Website: www.oilaweb.com



REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT – Ed Henderson

The first days of spring are upon us, and it is so great to see the flowers, warmer weather; and heck, even the greening of yards soon needing mowing.

This season also brings the start of the major Brooks Road Project where we've already observed preparatory work completed leading to construction of the new bridge for the next 5 years.

To help us better understand the process The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is hosting a Brooks Bridge Replacement Project Open House on April 13, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM. You may attend at the Convention Center on Okaloosa Island or via Zoom (meeting handouts attached).



Pre-register :<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/c10ac94726f54ca5a0a07d846a5cf37a>

For those planning on attending, please wear your 4 Lanes 4 Life Santa Rosa Blvd TSHIRTS. It is my understanding the Sherry's have some still available if you need one; Email beach_boy_dave@yahoo.com.

This also presents an excellent time to contact State Representatives regarding your feelings of the Santa Rosa Blvd reduction of the westernmost mile from 4 to 2 lane's approved by The County Commission.

89% of OILA opposed this waste of taxpayers' money at an August 27, 2020 Okaloosa County public workshop, 90% opposed during a membership vote at the September 13, 2021 Okaloosa Island Leaseholder (OILA) meeting, and 96% opposed at September 10, 2022 OILA meeting.

Please make your stance regarding the Santa Rosa Blvd to FDOT either online:

<http://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/c10ac94726f54ca5a0a07d846a5cf37a?item=4>

Or via letter or email to:

Jack Harrison, FDOT District 3 Project Manager, 1074 Highway 90, Chipley, FL 32548, jack.harrison@dot.state.fl.us

Ian Satter, FDOT District 3 Public Information Director, (888) 638-0250, ext1205, ian.satter@dot.state.fl.us

Florida State Senators and Representatives

State Senator Doug Broxson (district office in Pensacola (850) 595-1036, Tallahassee office (850) 487-5001, Republican, lives in Gulf Breeze, 2023 Chairman of Appropriations Committee), to e-mail copy link and click on Email this Senator button, lower left side of screen <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/s1?pref=full>

State Senator Jay Trumbull (district office in Panama City (850) 747-5454, Tallahassee office (850) 487-5002, Republican, lives in Panama City, newly elected to Senate after 8 years in State House), to e-mail copy link and click on Email this Senator button, lower left side of screen: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/s2?Tab=Personal>

State Representative Patt Maney (represents south Okaloosa county, submitted 2022 request for \$2 million state funding for the bad SR Blvd project, district office in Fort Walton Beach (850) 833-3713, Tallahassee office (850) 717-5004, Republican, lives in Shalimar), to e-mail copy link and scroll down:

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/contactmember.aspx?MemberId=4764>

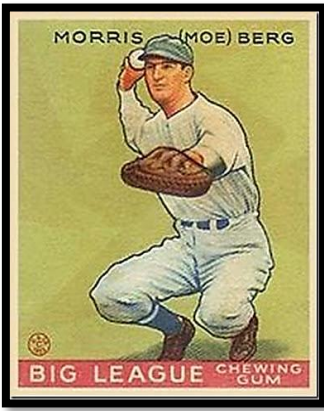
State Representative Dr. Joel Rudman (newly elected 2022, represents north Okaloosa County, Tallahassee office (850) 717-5003, Republican, medical doctor, lives in Navarre), to e-mail copy link and scroll down:

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/contactmember.aspx?MemberId=4861&SessionId=99>

Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners: County office (850) 651-7105, "Chairman Mel Ponder" <mponder@myokaloosa.com>, "Vice-Chairman Nathan Boyles" <nboyles@myokaloosa.com>, "Carolyn Ketchel" <cketchel@myokaloosa.com>, "Trey Goodwin" <tgoodwin@myokaloosa.com>, "Paul Mixon" <pmixon@myokaloosa.com>,

It is important to remember the BCC has voted for the Santa Rosa Blvd lane reduction however they have not obtained funding from the state. Your correspondence to the above persons is needed now more than ever.

I look forward to seeing you at our April 10 OILA, 7 pm meeting at the Okaloosa Island Firehouse or via Zoom (invitation to follow via separate email).



**YOU CAN'T KNOW A MAN BY JUST
LOOKING AT HIS BASEBALL CARD -- THE
AMAZING LIFE OF CATCHER MORRIS
(MOE) BERG**

Although Moe Berg played with five major-league teams from 1923 to 1939, he was a very mediocre ball player. Yet, he spoke 15 languages and graduated magna cum laude from Princeton and from Columbia Law School. Following is the list of the fifteen (15) languages he spoke: Latin, Greek, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Sanskrit, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Indian, Arabic, Portuguese and Hungarian.

Why did 3rd stringer Moe Berg accompany Babe Ruth on a trip to baseball crazy Japan in 1934? Simple answer: He was a U.S. spy working with the Office of Strategic Services (predecessor to the CIA). While in Tokyo, dressed in a kimono and sandals, he gained access (he spoke Japanese) to the tallest building in the city and photographed strategic areas. This information was later used by Jimmy Doolittle to identify targets for his attack on Tokyo. He infiltrated a meeting being held in December 1944 in neutral Switzerland to listen to a lecture by German physicist Werner Heisenberg who was leading the Nazi effort to build an atomic bomb. He talked to Heisenberg and determined that the Germans were nowhere near achieving a bomb (in fact, many believe that Heisenberg secretly sabotaged the German effort) and he accordingly advised Churchill and FDR. FDR replied to the information by saying "Give my regards to the catcher." Bottom line: Moe Berg was much more than a baseball card. But then, his card is on display at CIA Headquarters in New York City.



**TOTAL RAINFALL
FOR MARCH 2023:
3.4 Inches**

March 12...**0.9** inches
 March 15...**0.5** inches
 March 17...**0.7** inches
 March 19...**0.7** inches
 March 25...**0.1** inches
 March 28...**0.5** inches

Avg Rainfall for March..... **5.8** inches.
 Variance to Average: **-2.4** 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 **8° F** (1971)
 May Avg Water Temperature.....**78° F**

YTD Variance **-7.7** inches
 Year to Date Rainfall..... **8.9** inches
 Avg Annual Rainfall**65.1** inches

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT FOR MARCH 2022: The OILA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) received and reviewed the following during November 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>
03/09	124	3	R. Walton Beal House	Replace Existing Signs and Lettering	Yes
03/09			V. Bowman The Palms	Replace Boardwalk	Yes
03/17	312	6	S. McCormack 622 Pelican Dr.	Install Hurricane Shutters	Yes
03/30	229	6	K. Schad 522 Dorado Ave	Retaining wall and Patio	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:

3. OILA ARC review package:
 - 3.1. Completed OILA ARC application,
 - 3.2. Survey plat of the property,
 - 3.3. Overlaid illustration of the project on a copy of the survey plat.
 - 3.4. Other supporting documents* (drawings, plans, specifications, etc.) (*If these are large files, they can be submitted separately).
 - 3.5. (Combine the files into one file for submission to the ARC, either in MS Word or Adobe PDF format.)
4. 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)

DRAFT MINUTES – OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION – January 9, 2023 Membership Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: Hybrid in-person and Zoom meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by President Ed Henderson at the Okaloosa Island Firehouse with Secretary John Donovan moderating via Zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Director Cynthia Henderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. ROLL: Board Members Present: Ed Henderson (President), Dr. Frank Adcock, Louis Belanger, David Jones, Jack Pous and Jesse Hunt. President Ed Henderson announced the presence of a quorum.

II. MINUTES: Secretary John Donovan made a motion, seconded by Frank Adcock, to approve the draft November 14, 2022 Membership Meeting Minutes. The Motion to approve the November 14, 2022 Minutes was passed unanimously

III. TREASURER'S REPORT: Please see Attachment 1 for the full Treasurer's Report, presented by President Ed Henderson in the absence of Treasurer Jim Simpson. David Sherry moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and to reimburse Jim Simpson for his Treasurer's expenses, which was seconded by Jack Pous and unanimously adopted. In order to correct the \$200.00 Island Christmas Decorations Budget adopted at the November 14, 2022, Membership Meeting, to the actual Budget of \$400.00, a motion was made by David Jones, seconded by Barbara Secondi and unanimously adopted.

IV. JIM SIMPSON PROGRAMS AT CHRISTMAS: Christmas Food Drive and Firefighters' Foster Child Shopping Trip: The Members were informed that the Food Drive was an all-time record.

V. NANCY HUNT ISLAND RESIDENCE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS PROGRAMS: Triangle/Median Display, Fundraiser and Awards: Nancy Hunt advised the members that the 2022 Christmas Decorations Program went very well. Nancy Hunt advised the Membership she had no idea who would cover this Program at Christmas 2023.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Standing Committees Architectural Committee Report: ARC members Nick Hall and Brian Harrington summarized the ARC Report from the OIL Lantern. There was a discussion led by David Sherry clarifying that OILA cannot decide anything regarding exceptions to enforcement of the Protective Covenants and Restrictions (PCRs), but neighboring Leaseholders/Owners can. David Sherry further mentioned that the ARC can't issue approvals for two story structures in the section of the Island zoned for single family residences, but the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) can.

VII. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Short Term Rentals in the Island's B1 Zone; The Relationship Between OILA and Okaloosa County; The Status of the Island's Protective Covenants and Restrictions; And the Okaloosa County Lane Reduction Plan For Santa Rosa Boulevard: President Ed Henderson introduced Director Jack Pous, who led a membership discussion of where OILA stands with respect to the above complex of issues. Jack Pous stated that the BCC does not regard OILA or the PCRs favorably, but the BCC does concede that the PCRs' prohibition on Short Term Rentals in the section of the Island zoned for single family residences, is valid. Jack Pous then turned to a discussion of the "Mike Mitchell Tape" referenced by Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel as relevant to the PCRs, at the end of a recent BCC Meeting. Mike Mitchell was a well-known long-time Island resident and former BCC member. Jack Pous, after submitting a Open Records Request, got a recorded copy of that Tape, which basically was Carolyn Ketchel interviewing Mike Mitchell in the presence of Greg Kisela, then a County administrator, with an unknown female, possibly an attorney, present. The Tape turned out to be more a sounding board for Commissioner Ketchel, as she predicted big changes coming to the Island, triggered by high developer interest in the Island, over the next 5 to 10 years. Brick Bradford stated that he believed the Tape was recorded in early 2021. This led to a discussion of OILA possibly obtaining legal representation, including the expected legal fees, and the possibility of increasing OILA voting member dues in order to build up a sufficient "war chest" to cover those legal fees. Brick Bradford warned that paving of all Northside Accessways, in contravention of specific provisions of the PCRs, is at the planning stage at the BCC, and is another risk that OILA needs legal advice on. The risk of OILA perhaps not having legal standing to pursue these remedies in court, was another topic on which OILA needed legal advice. Frank Adcock advised the members that raising the money by increasing dues would take a long time, and we don't have that kind of time. Jesse Hunt discussed the dues remaining at \$12 per voting member all this time, had ignored inflation, and Jesse's calculations suggested the possibility of increasing annual dues to \$120 per voting member. The conclusion of several members, led by Frank Adcock, was that dues increases would not get us there in time, and a member education program, in the hopes of locating "sugar daddies to help cover legal fees, and dramatically increasing membership so that the BCC would pay more attention to OILA. The possible cost of an Island property owner education program was then presented by Louis Belanger. There were about 4500 parcels of property on Okaloosa Island, but OILA had at most 275 voting members. The County tax database has the names and addresses of all those parcel owners, and it would not be very expensive to send an educational card to all those parcel owners. Concern over the BCC working with developers to ignore the PCRs; acquire parcels north of Santa Rosa Boulevard; and turn those parcels into condominiums so that the north side looked like the south side, and bed tax collections from Okaloosa Island would compete with Destin bed tax collections. David Sherry brought up OILA v. Hayes, a court case where it was held that the BCC did not have the power to modify the covenants. The BCC may have engaged counsel to try to find a way around the PCRs, but David Sherry expressed that he had no idea how an attorney could get around that

case. Jack Pous stated that it would be better to be prepared with OILA’s own attorney, so we aren’t fighting from behind. John Donovan suggested to the Members that while he did not disagree with Jesse’s, Brick’s and Frank’s (Draft Minutes, January 9, 2023 Membership Meeting Continued)

warnings, but still the BCC had taken no position against the validity of the PCRs, so that as of yet John Donovan could not see an issue on which the BCC could be challenged by OILA. The exception to that could be the BCC’s position in support of the Lane Reduction Plan despite the PCRs’ prohibition against restricting access to the Brooks Bridge. John Donovan concluded by advising that “sugar daddies” would likely be hard to come by, as, despite an extensive search for help with legal fees, we could not find any “sugar daddies” to join the Sherrys and myself when we did battle in support of Gulf Beach sand quality over 10 years ago. Next, there was an extended discussion of possible OILA access to the approximately \$300,000 in the Island’s Street Lighting MSBU Fund for legal fees. Paula Hudson confirmed the amount. David Sherry advised the Members that the BCCs’ consent would be necessary to disburse the funds in the MSBU, and he was pretty certain that the BCC would not consent to using the Fund to pay counsel to sue the County.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Ed Henderson made a motion, seconded by Brick Bradford to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM, which motion was unanimously adopted by those members still present. John S. Donovan OILA Secretary

Attachment 1: **TREASURER’S REPORT: JANUARY 9, 2023**

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 273

November 14, 2022 TOTAL BALANCE: \$ 28,300.65

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF November 14, 2022..... \$ 26,791.32

RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT

Membership dues.....	\$	586.00
U.S. Mail.....	\$	<u>18.00</u>
Total... .	\$	604.00

EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT:

Reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of stamps to mail the December 2022 OIL Lantern (60 copies at .60 per copy)	\$	36.00
Reimburse Jim Simpson for th cost of stamps to mail the January 2023 OIL Lantern (60 copies at .60 per copy).....	\$	<u>36.00</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT: \$ 72.00

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES & EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT AS OF JANUARY 16, 2022 \$ 27,323.32

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

BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 16, 2023.....\$ 1,421.28

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

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 16, 2023 \$ 88.05

SUMMARY: January 16, 2023 Fund Balances

-- Association’s Discretionary Fund Balance.	\$	27,323.32
-- Beautification Fund Balance.....	\$	1,421.28
-- Christmas Decorating Fund Balance (Donations).....	\$	<u>88.05</u>

TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE.....\$ 28,832.65

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Simpson, Treasurer

NOTE: DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 13, 2023, MEETING DEFERRED TO THE MAY 8, 2023 MEETING.

Following is the Treasurer's Report for February 13, 2023/March 13, 2023
which was approved at the March Meeting

Treasurer's Report, February 13,2023 /March 13, 2023

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 279

January 16, 2023 TOTAL BALANCE: \$ 28,832.65

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF January 16, 2023.....\$ 27,323.65

RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT

Membership dues.....	\$ 66.00
U.S. Mail.....	\$ 14.00
Contribution by Frank Adcock towards <u>Postage</u> cost for an Island-wide membership Dive ...	\$ <u>500.00</u>
Total.....	\$ 580.00

EXPEDITURES:

Payment to Nancy Hunt for materials purchased for Christmas 2022 Decorating of SRB.....	\$ 300.66
Payment to Alan Parker for materials purchased for Christmas 2022 Decorating of SRB.....	\$ 71.30
Payment to the U.S. Postal Service for 6 month rental of P.O. Box 4323.....	\$ <u>88.00</u>
Total Expenditures: \$	459.96

EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT:

Reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of stamps to mail the February 2023 OIL Lantern	\$ 31.50
Reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of stamps to mail the March 2023 OIL Lantern.....	\$ 31.50
Reimburse Jim Simpson for personal credit card payment of the OILA 2023 Annual Report Renewal free with the State of Florida, Department of Corporations.....	\$ <u>61.25</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT: \$ 124.25

**ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES
& EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT AS OF MARCH 13, 2023\$ 27,319.44**

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 16, 2023..... \$ 1,421.28

BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF MARCH 13, 2023.....\$ 1,421.28

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 16, 2023.....\$ 88.05

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND BALANCE AS OF MARCH 13, 2023\$ 88.05

SUMMARY: March 13, 2023 Fund Balances

-- Association's Discretionary Fund Balance.....	\$ 27,319.44
-- Beautification Fund Balance.....	\$ 1,421.28
-- Christmas Decorating Fund Balance (Donations).....	\$ <u>88.05</u>

TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE.....\$ 28,828.77

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Simpson, Treasurer

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – APRIL

April 2, 1513 – Spanish explorer Ponce De Leon sighted Florida and claimed it for the Spanish Crown after landing at the site of present-day St. Augustine, now the oldest city in the continental U.S.

April 4, 1818: Congress adopted a U.S. flag with one star for each state.

April 18, 1942 - The first air raid on mainland Japan during World War II occurred as Gen. James Doolittle led a squadron of B-25 bombers taking off from the carrier Hornet to bomb Tokyo and three other cities. Damage was minimal, but the raid boosted Allied morale following years of unchecked Japanese military advances. *(Editor's Note: Doolittle's crews secretly trained in making short take-offs at Eglin Field for two weeks --March 9-25, 1942)*

April 23, 1791 - James Buchanan (1791-1868) the 15th U.S. President and only life-long bachelor to occupy the White House was born in Cove Gap, Pennsylvania. He served just one term from 1857 to 1861.

April 25, 1901: New York became the first state to require license plates on cars.



April 27, 1865 - On the Mississippi River, the worst steamship disaster in U.S. History occurred as an explosion aboard the *Sultana* killing nearly 2,000 passengers, mostly Union soldiers who had been prisoners of war and were returning home.



UPDATE ON THE FOREVER BURNING LIGHT BULB aka "WATT-A-BULB"

In the October 2012 OIL Lantern, the Centennial Light (photo on the left) was identified as the world's longest-lasting light bulb. It is in use at 4550 East Avenue, Livermore, California, and maintained by the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department. At the time of the 2012 OIL Lantern article, the light has been burning continuously for 113 years. It is a hand blown bulb with a carbon filament which burns at 4 watts. It has been burning continuously in the firehouse as a nightlight over the fire trucks. The bulb was donated to the Fire Department in 1901 by Dennis Bernal who owned the Livermore Power & Light Co.

Now, it is 2023 and the bulb is still burning; so bump up the continuous in-service time to **124** years. Since modern bulbs are good for about 1,000 hours of burn time; this means the "Watt-A-Bulb" has outlasted almost 1,000 current day bulbs.

Many theories have been advanced to explain the bulb's longevity. They are: 1) Its perfect seal (which maintains the vacuum and keeps the filament from disintegrating), 2) Its low wattage (which keeps it from burning hot) and (3) That it is not subject to being turned on and off.

The OIL Lantern editor will report to the OILA membership in the year 2033 if the light (and of course, himself) is still in service. The editor hopes to report that both are still burning hot!.

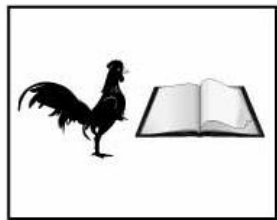
WUZZLE PUZZLES - What is a Wuzzle Puzzle? It is a puzzle consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures, or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, etc. Are you ready to take the challenge and figure out the "disguised" meaning of these wuzzles? Good luck. The answers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



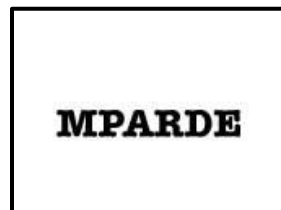
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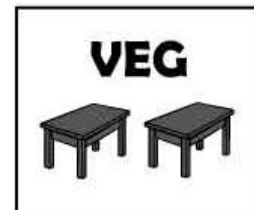
Wuzzle No. 2



Wuzzle No. 3



Wuzzle No. 4



Wuzzle No. 5

WUZZLE PUZZLES ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



MICROSCOPE

Wuzzle No. 2



BLANKET

Wuzzle No. 3



COCKTAIL

Wuzzle No. 4



PARDON ME

Wuzzle No. 5



VEGETABLES

REP. MATT GAETZ MEETS WITH OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION

Editor's Note: At the March 13, 2013 meeting of the Okaloosa Island Leaseholder's Association, **Congressman Matt Gaetz** addressed the membership and accepted questions from those in attendance and those on Zoom. Following is the article about this meeting which was extracted from Congressman Gaetz's online message site dated March 18, 2023.



Given Florida's First Congressional District is home to the country's largest military district and the stunning Emerald Coast, it is my responsibility as Congressman to represent Northwest Floridians accordingly. Monday night's meeting with the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders' Association allowed me to listen to Northwest Floridian's concerns.

I share the same concern many residents of Okaloosa County have about offshore Florida's Beauty and strategic training areas. In addition to blocking harmful Legislation, I introduced an amendment

to the Strategic Production Response Act that would maintain a 10-year prohibition on oil and gas leasing off the coast of Florida, which was adopted by the House of Representatives. I won't back legislation that uses a few barrels of oil as a justification to destroy our beautiful Northwest Florida beaches, and I refuse to harm critical mission test sites, like Eglin Air Force Base.

Additionally, members expressed their widespread concerns about the Biden Border Crisis, curbing federal spending, and the weaponization of the FBI. I take pride in relaying to my community how my colleagues and I plan to fight back. We must audit the auditors, ensuring we are funding our government responsibly. Far too much money and resources have been allocated to "woke" government agencies that hold ulterior motives against the American people. I will continue to stand up in Congress to oppose legislation that fails to take Northwest Floridians' concerns into account. The answer remains the same whether I'm in the Sunshine State or the Swamp — I will continue to keep putting my community and America First!



SAVE THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY
Monarchs need your help.
Plant Milkweed everywhere!



Note from Ed Henderson, President, OILA: I've noticed a great decrease in the number of Monarchs during their migration and have notified Alex Fogg at the county. He agreed and I hope to see a program for the dunes. I did a search a few months ago and found this company ([Live Monarch](https://www.livmonarch.com/extra)) who will send free seeds if those requesting them adds a small donation to cover postage. For additional information on how you can obtain seeds and help save monarch butterflies, click on the following Live Monarch website <https://www.livmonarch.com/extra> . Will keep you posted on any Okaloosa County action. (**Editor's Note:** See a photo of Monarch butterflies on the Island in 2005 on the last page).

April 10, 2023 Meeting Agenda

DATE: Monday, April 10, 2023 **TIME:** 7:00 p.m.

- I. PLACE:** For our April 2023 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.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Roll Call of Board Members:** Ed Henderson
- IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:** John Donovan – draft Minutes for the January 9, 2023 meeting.
- V. Treasurer's Report for April 2023 -** Jim Simpson, Treasurer
- VI. Standing Committee Reports:**
 - Architectural Review Committee Report for March 2023 (printed in this newsletter and for information only)
- VII. New and Unfinished Business**
 - A. President Ed Henderson Names the Nominating Committee For OILA Board of Director Vacancies For OILA's 2023-2024 Fiscal Year.
 - B. Be It Resolved, that Upon Motion, Second, Discussion and Membership Vote, the OILA ad hoc Committee For Okaloosa Island Property Owners Education and New Member Recruitment, Moves and Makes A Request For An Expenditure Out of OILA's General Funds, In Amount of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00), to Cover The Estimated Cost of Printing And Circulating by US Mail, a Postcard For the Purpose of Education and OILA Membership Recruitment, To All Okaloosa Island Property Owners, With the Draft Contents of Such Postcard which immediately follow this meeting agenda below.
- VIII. Announcements, Speakers and Programs:**
- XI. Adjournment**

DRAFT COMMENTS: Proposed Postcard Comments for Circulation by U.S. Mail to All Okaloosa Island Property Owners. Reference Item VII. B in the Agenda for the April 10, 2023 Meeting

Okaloosa Island Property Owners: Are you aware of some of the current threats to both the value and the enjoyment of the property that you own on Okaloosa Island? • Replacing our durable four-lane, with-median Santa Rosa Blvd (SRB) with one mile of no-median, two-lane road and one mile of no-median, three-lane road. • Attacks on the Okaloosa Island Protective Covenants and Restrictions (also known as the “Covenants” or as the “PC&R’s”) which benefit all owners of property on the island. • Paving our northside freeways (the six natural habitat areas that drain storm water adjacent to the neighborhoods north of SRB) to add public parking. • Attacks on the prohibition of short-term rentals in the single-family neighborhoods north of Santa Rosa Blvd. The elected Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) has unanimously ignored testimony and polls about preserving all four lanes of Santa Rosa Blvd and is pursuing the project. Despite what the BCC is willing to accept regarding emergency response times, reducing four lanes to two lanes has serious public safety impacts – think of fire, medical, and lifeguard emergency responders whose responses will be delayed. Such delays could result in loss of life. Reducing lanes will result in more accidents and traffic back-ups from tourist buses, public transportation, delivery, trash, food and beverage trucks, etc., which will frustrate both tourists and locals. SRB is the only road for driving onto and off the island. Single-family homeowners wanted to keep the northside freeways natural and unpaved. Against their wishes and in violation of the Covenants, the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners paved one northside freeway. Result: This is now a public parking lot right next to residential homes. Update: The BCC recently discussed paving the remaining northside freeways. We, the property owners, are the little guys in these battles against big business interests and the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Boyles said, “Okaloosa Island is a fractured world” and that he sensed disunity among Islanders. He repeatedly advocates for changing our Covenants, abolishing the county’s formal relationship with OILA, and paving our freeways. Sadly, the BCC continues to place its goals above our interests. When united against prior threats, property owners have prevailed. An example of this was the opposition to the proposed extension of Wright Parkway via a new bridge to the western end of Santa Rosa Blvd (to replace Brooks Bridge on Hwy 98) – this would have put Hwy 98 traffic on Santa Rosa Blvd. How

could anyone favor that? What's the best way to protect ourselves from the county's latest threats? Unite again! Join the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association (OILA) to get involved, to stay informed, to make your voice louder, and to protect your property value and enjoyment of the island. OILA is looking out for you, but if you're not currently a member, then OILA needs you to become a member to give more weight to the views it expresses to the county. OILA is unique among organizations that represent property owners. Its existence is mandated by Part G of the Covenants, so OILA has legitimate standing and a formal relationship with the county. OILA's mandate includes (1) coordinating affairs between leaseholders and the county, (2) advising and assisting the county in the application and enforcement of the Covenants, and (3) preserving the public lands on the island. Whether you own a home or a condo, protecting your investment in and the enjoyment of your property on Okaloosa Island is definitely worth joining OILA. If you're not currently a member, please consider joining today. Read more at <http://www.oilaweb.com/> Join at <http://www.oilaweb.com/membership/> Begin making your voice heard now – send an e-mail message opposing SRB lane reductions to each commissioner today: mponder@myokaloosa.com (Mel Ponder) pmixon@myokaloosa.com (Paul Mixon) cketchel@myokaloosa.com (Carolyn Ketchel) nboyles@myokaloosa.com (Nathan Boyles) tgoodwin@myokaloosa.com (Trey Goodwin) From: Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association P. O. Box 4323 Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549.

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OKALOOSA ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Our next meeting is April 12 at El Matador. Come early for social and refreshments at 9:30. Our speaker is Destin Garden Club President Mr Lee Vanderpool speaking on Container gardening. Just what we need this time of year!

NEW BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC ALERT

Starting on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, a portion of Brooks Street in downtown Fort Walton Beach was realigned and converted to **one-way traffic**. According to the Florida Department of Transportation, the section of Brooks Street affected will be from Perry Avenue to Florida Blanca Place, near the southeast entrance to Publix in the Shoppes at Paradise Point. The one-way direction will east to west, allowing traffic to flow into the downtown area. This configuration is expected to be in place while crews construct the new westbound bridge. Detour signage will be in place to direct drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.



This photo ties into the article, **SAVE THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY** by Ed Henderson in this newsletter. The editor took a photo of this group of monarchs (called a **akaleidocope**) resting on his fig tree in 2005 when he lived on Pelican Drive.