

SUMMER 2023 (JULY & AUGUST) OIL LANTERN
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P.O. Box 4323
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32549

**OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
ASSOCIATION**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The Association does not hold meetings during the months of July and August. The next membership meeting will be held on September 11, 2023. The September 2023 OIL Lantern will provide the September meeting agenda. This newsletter is a Summer Special and contains no agenda.

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**OKALOOSA ISLAND
FIRE DEPARTMENT
ADDS TO THEIR
FLEET OF RESCUE
EQUIPMENT!**

**See article on the
front page.**



THE OIL LANTERN- SUMMER 2023

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION, Inc
P.O. Box 4323, Fort Walton Beach, FL 3254

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July/August 2023



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REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT – Brian Harrington



I'm both honored and surprised to be writing this letter--*I hadn't envisioned myself as OILA's new president.* Silvia and I fell in love with Okaloosa Island in the early 90s when we first heard about it through friends in the military. We always dreamed that we'd build our home and retire here once we left the Army. We truly love this island and its community and could never imagine living anywhere else.

The board of directors' top priority is to build a strong membership body. We're currently setting the conditions to do exactly that through the construction of a new website. With much-appreciated help from member Jay Waschak, the website is nearly complete. OILA's new site contains links for **online membership renewal, with an option for auto-renewal.** It will become a hub for current OILA information including meeting agendas, community info, social media, weather alerts, upcoming events and island regulations. We're also contacting all of our distant property owners and encouraging them to visit us online and register their membership. Our website will remain OILAweb.com.

We've long-needed a legal opinion regarding the Island's Protective Covenants and Restrictions. Moorehead Law Group of Pensacola has provided at *no cost to OILA* an opinion memorandum concluding that the 1955 PC&Rs are "**In fact valid and may not be changed to any extent unless there is consultation or the consent of OILA.**" This opinion reinforces the significance of OILA's legal status.

We are one Island Community. Regardless of geographic location, be it on the North or South side of Santa Rosa Blvd--*all of us are Okaloosa Islanders.* OILA represents over 3,000 island property owners, all of whom are members. Unfortunately, less than 10% of us are actively involved at the moment, and that needs to change. Encourage your neighbors to join OILA--the only organization that represents their interests to our local government.

I'm confident that our community will grow stronger as we continue to come together as Islanders.

OKALOOSA ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT ADDS TO THE FLEET

– By Chief Ray Strawn

July 1st, 2023 marked an important milestone for Okaloosa Island Fire Department as we welcomed Boat 4 to our fleet. The vessel is a 22-foot Xpress Bay boat that was provided by Adventure Marine here locally on Okaloosa Island. Adventure Marine is also kind enough to provide a slip for the vessel to stage which allows quicker response times in the event of an emergency. The vessels' primary role is to provide rapid search and rescue capabilities to our area. Its shallow draft allows passage into shallower and more remote areas that other emergency vessels in Okaloosa County cannot access. During its first month in service the boat made over 100 contacts (preventable emergencies) and called 5 times for incidents in the area. The boat is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

MINUTES - OILA DIRECTORS' MEETING 16 JUN 2023

Members in attendance: Brian Harrington, Louis Belanger, Frank Adcock, Jerry Boggess, Chris Miller, Stan King, David Jones

This meeting was held via ZOOM on 16 June at 1200CST. A quorum was established at 12:13 with all 7 board members being present. The order of business was discussed involving the internal and external issues that OILA is facing. Among these issues was the perception of a difference of opinions and goals between members in the B-1 Zone and members in the B-2 Zone. Also discussed were the issues posed by low membership, tourism, infrastructure development and commercialization of Okaloosa Island.

Following this discussion, Stan King nominated Brian Harrington for president and was seconded by Jerry Boggess. A vote was held and Brian Harrington was overwhelmingly elected for president. The board then voted unanimously for the following: Frank Adcock nominated Louis Belanger to hold the position of vice president and was seconded by Jerry Boggess. Jim Simpson was nominated by Brian Harrington to remain as treasurer and was seconded by Stan King. John Donovan was nominated by Brian Harrington to remain as secretary and was seconded by Louis Belanger. Chris Miller was nominated to be the assistant secretary by Brian Harrington and was seconded by Louis Belanger.

1. Stan King was tasked with gaining the contact information for the Hurlburt and Eglin AFB Commanders in order to seek their official position regarding the proposed land reduction on SRB.

The meeting was adjourned at 14:27CST



**June 2023 Rainfall
3.8 Inches**

June 4.....**0.3** inches
 June 12.....**0.1** inches
 June 15.....**0.2** inches
 June 16.....**0.3** inches
 June 17.....**0.9** inches
 June 18.....**0.6** inches
 June 19.....**0.3** inches
 June 26.....**1.0** inches

Avg Rainfall for June **6.1** inches.
 Variance to Average: **- 2.3** inches

July 2023 Rainfall 6.0 Inches

July 5.....**0.4** inches July 15...**0.1** inches
 July 10...**0.1** inches July 16...**0.1** inches
 July 13...**1.6** inches July 23...**1.3** inches
 July 14...**2.4** inches

Avg Rainfall for July.....**8.5** inches
 Variance to average..... **- 2.5** inches

Aug Avg Rainfall.....**7.2** inches
 Aug Record High.....**103° F** (1980)
 Aug Record Low**59° F** (1989)
 Avg Water Temperature.....**85° F**

YTD Variance **- 13.3** inches
 Year to Date Rainfall.....**25.6** inches
 Avg Annual Rainfall**65.1** inches



ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT FOR JUNE/JULY 2023: The OILA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) received and reviewed the following during June and July 2023 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>
13 July			B. Sutton, Visitor Welcome Center	Sign Refurbishment	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:

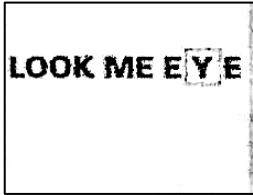
1. OILA ARC review package:
 - 1.1. Completed OILA ARC application,
 - 1.2. Survey plat of the property,
 - 1.3. Overlaid illustration of the project on a copy of the survey plat.
 - 1.4. Other supporting documents* (drawings, plans, specifications, etc.) (*If these are large files, they can be submitted separately).

(Combine the files into one file for submission to the ARC, either in MS Word or Adobe PDF format.)

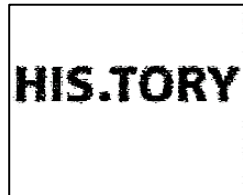
2. Email the completed ARC application file to the OILA ARC for review at OILAARC@yahoo.com.

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)

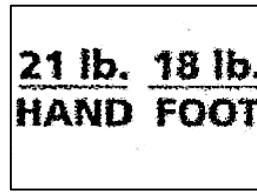
WUZZLE PUZZLES - What is a Wuzzle Puzzle? It is a puzzle consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures, or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, etc. Are you ready to take the challenge and figure out the “disguised” meaning of these wuzzles? Good luck. The answers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



Wuzzle No. 1



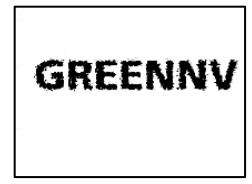
Wuzzle No. 2



Wuzzle No. 3



Wuzzle No. 4



Wuzzle No. 5

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – JULY

July 9, 1795 – The U.S. debt is paid off. The total: \$2,024,899. (*National debt today: \$31.3 Trillion*)

July 12, 1909 – The 16th Amendment, the power to tax income, is passed by Congress. 😞

July 13, 1835 – Swedish-American inventor John Ericsson files for a patent of his screw propeller design.

July 16, 1969 – Apollo 11 is launched, carrying the first men to step foot on the surface of the moon.

July 16, 2004 – Martha Stewart is sentenced to five months in prison plus five months of home confinement, after being convicted of lying to federal investigators.

July 17, 1902 – The air conditioner was invented. 😊

July 20, 1976 – Hank Aaron hits his 755th and last home run.

July 18, 1925 – Nadia Comăneci becomes the first gymnast in Olympic Games history to score a perfect 10 score at the Montreal Games.

July 25, 1944 – The first fighter jet, a German Messerschmitt 262, is used in combat.



July 27, 1858 – The first use of fingerprints  as a means of identification is used by Sir William James Herschel of the Indian Civil Service.

July 30, 2003 – The last old-style Volkswagen Beetle rolled off the assembly line in Mexico.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – AUGUST

August 2, 1876 – Wild Bill Hickock is killed during a poker game. He was holding a “Dead Man’s Hand”, two pair aces, and 8’s.



August 6, 1945 – The Atom bomb is dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.

August 10, 2017 – 100-year-old fruit cake by Huntley & Palmers was deemed “almost edible” after being discovered in a hut in Antarctica.

August 11, 1866 – The world’s first roller skating rink opens in Newport, RI.

August 15, 1911 – Proctor and Gamble create Crisco shortening.

August 20, 1897 – British doctor Sir Ronald Ross. discovers the link between mosquitos and the transmission of malaria was discovered.

August 21, 1841 – Venetian blinds are patented.

August 24, 79 – The infamous Mount Vesuvius eruption buries the city of Pompeii



August 25, 1904 – The Banana Split was invented by David Strickler at a soda fountain in Latrobe, Pa.



August 29, 1893 – First baby born in the White House to a sitting president. President and Mrs. Grover Cleveland. The little girl is named Esther.

UPDATE ON OUR PICKLES, THE FT WALTON BEACH PUBLIX STORE GREETER CAT

Editor's Note: The OIL Lantern has featured several articles about "Pickles" the stray cat who sits outside the front doors of the Publix store located in the Paradise Point shopping center and greets customers. Pickles has performed this duty for around 5 years. Recently, Pickles was taken and the following story was filed by the Fort Walton Beach Daily News. The good news is that Pickles was returned. Presently, she is being cared for at the home of a Publix employee. A Go Fund me page for Pickles has been set up for her care and maintenance. If you would like to help, click on the following website:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/pickles-purring-protection>.

More information on helping is contained in the following article. Bottom Line: **We love Pickles.**

Pickles is doing great - July 10, 2023 - Collin Bestor, Northwest Florida Daily News USA TODAY NETWORK

FORT WALTON BEACH — If you have visited the Publix on Miracle Strip Parkway at any point during the past five years, you may have seen a brown and red-tinged feline named Pickles. Pickles, for many, has become the unofficial mascot for the area surrounding the store, with employees taking care of her on a regular basis.

But the feline recently became the center of a social media firestorm that was created when it was announced that she was taken from the area. Although she is now safe, citizens in Fort Walton Beach who have taken care of her are now wondering whether she would be safe to return to the nest she has made for herself.



What happened? It all started June 30, when a couple came to the area on vacation from Louisiana. During their trip to the Emerald Coast, the couple went to Publix and saw Pickles lying on her side. They then took her, gave her water and a bath, and planned to take her to a cat sanctuary where Pickles could live the rest of her nine lives in peace. But the next day, the community erupted on social media with hundreds of comments on both of Pickles' Facebook fan pages. In total, about 4,000 people were interested in Pickles' whereabouts.

"I got a frantic message Friday morning," said 99 Rock host and Pickles fan Kevin McKay. "It was a shock that anyone would take her from her home...that's our cat." "She may be a stray, but she is our stray," said Betty Tarbuck on Facebook.

Also, at one point, a community member offered a \$500 reward for Pickles' safe return.

On July 2, after the significant show of support from the online community, a post on one of the Pickles fan pages on Facebook said that the couple who had taken Pickles would return her to the local area. The fan pages also announced that Dr. Heather Hartley of the Companion Animal Hospital and Boarding Center in Fort Walton Beach is temporarily housing the cat for a medical check-up.

Pickles update?

"Pickles is doing great," Hartley said. "Her bloodwork came back perfect, and she appears in good health, besides being overweight." Hartley also started a fundraiser on GoFundMe and raised \$1,720 of the \$1,000 goal as of Friday afternoon. "This page has been set up regarding the care of Publix Pickles," the GoFundMe post said. "Many individuals have reached out wanting to donate towards her care and any other Pickles awareness media/signs that we get approval for. I was planning to cover the cost myself and will cover anything that isn't covered. Any money that is donated above and beyond her needs will be used to start a Fort Walton Beach Stray Cat Community Fund, with Pickles being the face of the Fund and story. We often have stray cats come in and need medical care, and this will cover those costs. We will create an additional FB page to keep the community updated on what the funds are being used for. We will be very transparent regarding Pickles' care and cost. We want the community's support in helping Pickles and her feline friends!"

Hesitation on the return

The original plan for Pickles was to keep her at the hospital until after the Fourth of July celebrations had concluded. But after some vitriolic comments were made on social media that seemed to threaten Pickles' well-being, Hartley and her caretakers at Publix are hesitant to return her to the Publix that she made her home.

"With all the publicity, we are questioning if she should return," Hartley said. "The risk of her being taken or harmed is high, and the caretakers of her are collaborating on this to determine what her future holds and where she will live."

**THE OKALOOSA
MONARCH
PROJECT IS**



**ISLAND
BUTTERFLY
UNDERWAY**



FREE SEEDS ↑

The milkweed is the exclusive nursery plant for the caterpillar of the Monarch butterfly. By planting its seeds on the Island, the hope is to attract Monarchs during their annual migration to Florida. To accomplish this objective, starting Wednesday, July 26 FREE packets of milkweed seed were made available for pick-up from the lobby of the Okaloosa Island Fire Department, 104 Santa Rosa Blvd. If you have a place (or a pot) where you can plant some seeds, drop by the Fire

Department and pick-up free seed packets. Also, arrangements were made with the Okaloosa County Parks Department to plant over 130 germinated milkweed plants at the entrance to the Women Veterans Monuments & Veteran's Park on Okaloosa Island. With the generous help of a County Landscaping Crew this was completed on July 25 (see photo on the right) Please advise your neighbors of the availability of the free seeds at the Fire Department. **BRING BACK THE MONARCHS!**



Okaloosa County Parks & Facilities Grounds Crew
Left to right: **Joseph, AJ, Teresa, Michael and Randall.**

This outstanding team planted milkweed seedlings at the entrance to the Women Veterans Monument Park on Okaloosa Island. Thanks to Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel for her help and to Parks Manager Matt Davidson for his coordination. Also, thanks to Michael Clarke (pictured above) for supervising the job. Let's hope the plants grow and the Monarchs show!

ISLAND NEWS: ISLAND BUSINESSMAN AND COLORFUL CHARACTER, CASH MOORE, PASSES AWAY

Local legend, William "Cash" Moore, the charismatic liquor magnate and philanthropist, peacefully passed away on July 20 at the age of 85. He owned the Red Rose social club and a liquor store on the Island in addition to other businesses in the area. "Cash" was known for his "colorful" billboards and signage in the area and was an "institution" on the Island. Our condolences to Cash and his family.

WUZZLE PUZZLES ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



Look Me Square in the Eye

Wuzzle No. 2



A Period in History

Wuzzle No. 3



Waited on Hand & Foot

Wuzzle No. 4



Sign on the dotted Line

Wuzzle No. 5



Green with Envy