

SEPTEMBER 2015 ISSUE OF THE OKALOOSA
ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
NEWSLETTER, THE OIL LANTERN

Page 1 of 7 pages

OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.



P.O. Box 4323
FT WALTON BEACH,
FL 32549

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Next Meeting: LOCATION: Okaloosa Island Fire Station, 2nd Floor
Meeting Room TIME: 7:00 p.m. **DATE:** Monday, **September 14, 2015.**
PARKING: Please park behind the Fire Station next to the water tank

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- ◆ Message from the President –**Vince Bruner**
- ◆ Fire Department Report for July 2015
- ◆ Rainfall Report for August 2015
- ◆ OILA Vice-President, **Kathy Foster**, Inducted Into the Okaloosa County Women’s Hall of Fame
- ◆ **Kim Haines** Appointed by the OILA BOD to Fill Vacancy on the Board
- ◆ District 2 August 2015 Newsletter from County Commissioner **Carolyn Ketchel**
- ◆ Draft Conceptual Plan for Veteran’s Park at Baywalk is on the September OILA Agenda – See Inside Map and Article
- ◆ How to Answer Questions by Using the OILA Website & Facebook Page
-- **Bob Seitz**

OILA DUES FOR THE 2015-2016 MEMBERSHIP YEAR DUE ON OCTOBER 1, 2015

Membership dues for the coming year are due October 1.

A membership renewal notification letter along with a stamped, return-addressed envelope will be mailed on September 15 to members who are due renewal. **Members may also renew at the September 14 meeting.**

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

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



SEPTEMBER 2015

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vince Bruner
President
110 Eglin Pwky SE
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
243-2222
vince@brunerfirm.com

Kathy Foster
Vice-President
849 Tarpon Drive
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
244-4490
fosterpk@gnt.net

Desley Parker
Secretary
890 The Masters Blvd
Shalimar, FL 32579
651-8197
Desley.parker@gmail.com

Tripp Tolbert
1500 Miracle Strip Pkwy NE
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
243-9161
tripp@tolbertgroup.com

Kim Haines
723 Sailfish Drive
490-7947
kimfhaines@live.com

David Hancock
113 Brooks Street - Unit 401
Ft Walton beach, FL 32548
376-5923
dshancock49@cox.net

Jim Hendricks
846 Tropic Ave
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
850-543-0516
imhendro1@gmail.com

ASSOCIATION WEBMASTER
Bob Seitz
709 Sailfish Drive
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
243-1399
webmaster@oilaweb.com

ASSOCIATION TREASURER
Jim Simpson, Treasurer
624B Pelican Drive
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
301-3547
sanleanna@cox.net

Meeting Agenda

Date: Monday, **September 14, 2015**

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Okaloosa Island Fire Station, 2nd
Floor Meeting Room

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recognition of **Kathy Foster** for her Induction into the Okaloosa County's Women's Hall of Fame

Swearing in of new OILA Board Member **Kim Haines**.

If you speak, please state your name, address and if you are a member.

IV. MINUTES

June 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes (Draft)

V. TREASURER'S REPORT - Treasurer, **Jim Simpson**

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Architectural Committee: (see Newsletter)
- C. Membership Liaison: **Jim Simpson**
- D. WebSite: **Bob Seitz**
- E. Boat Basin: **Cathy Taylor**
- F. Street Lighting MSBU: **Maryl Bednar**

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Bridge to Bridge Pathway- Dave Hancock & Kathy Foster

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Vote on the Conceptual Plan for Veteran's Park at Baywalk

IX. ADJOURNMENT



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

-- Vince Bruner

Even though it won't seem like it, the average temperature is on the seasonal decline, finally!

With the conclusion of the two hottest summers in recorded history, back to back, throughout the world, we can take comfort in seeing the average daily temperature start to fall.

Jim Simpson's records do a great job of keeping us informed on our seasonal and historical averages here on the Island. Cooler weather will be warmly welcomed!

SEPTEMBER MEETING AGENDA ITEM:

CONSIDERATION BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE BCC FOR THE DRAFT CONCEPTUAL PLAN FOR VETERAN'S PARK AT BAYWALK



A conceptual plan for Veteran's Park at Baywalk will be presented in October to the Board of County Commissioners.

OILA has participated in the design discussions and stressed minimal development of the dedicated recreational park land of Block 14. The plan is a passive park, with nature walkways and observation areas with benches. The primary path will accommodate viewing a veteran's memorial, while a secondary path and a primitive path will traverse inward toward the denser vegetation.

Some of the features are offshore breakwaters with salt marsh and oyster seeding, a 500' public dock with 20 slips for day visitors, a gazebo at the water's end of the dock, more parking spaces near Marler Park, two additional boat launches, a launch dock for kayaks and paddle boards, planting of native vegetation to prevent erosion and a future linear park along the bay

At the September 14 OILA meeting, members will be asked to approve a letter of support to the BCC for this design. If this concept receives Board of County Commissioners' approval at their October meeting, then offshore permits and storm water permits will be sought.

See page 6 to view the draft conceptual plan which will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners.

ISLAND RAINFALL FOR AUGUST 2015: 5.1 INCHES

Aug 1.....**0.5** inches
 Aug 8.....**0.4** inches
 Aug 12....**0.3** inches
 Aug 15....**0.2** inches
 Aug 16...**0.8** inches
 Aug 17...**0.9** inches
 Aug 18...**0.5** inches
 Aug 19...**0.1** inches
 Aug 23...**0.2** inches
 Aug 24...**0.3** inches
 Aug 25...**0.1** inches
 Aug 29...**0.5** inches
 Aug 30...**0.3** inches



August Average Rainfall..... **7.2** inches
 Variance to Average..... **-2.1** inches

Sept Avg Rainfall..... **7.2** inches
 Sept Record High..... **102° F** (1954)
 Sept Record Low **37° F** (1967)
 Sept Avg Water Temperature.. **85° F**

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

YTD Variance to Avg..... **-21.7** inches
 Rainfall Year-to-Date..... **16.6** inches
 Avg Annual Rainfall **65.1** inches

OKALOOSA ISLAND FIRE DEPT RESPONDS TO A RECORD 177 CALLS FOR AUGUST. BACK TO BACK RECORDS SET*

Fire Calls.....**3**
 Alarm Activations.....**11**
 EMS/Rescue/MVA.....**104**
 Other.....**59**
TOTAL CALLS:.....177



*The previous record of 172 responses was recorded in the month of July 2015.

HISTORY: THIS DAY IN SEPTEMBER

September 8, 1900 - A hurricane with winds of 120 mph struck Galveston, Texas, killing over 8,000 persons, making it the worst natural disaster in U.S. history.

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

September 29, 1789 - Congress created the United States Army, consisting of 1,000 enlisted men and officers.



Kathy Foster

KATHY FOSTER – OKALOOSA ISLAND RESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION - INDUCTED INTO THE OKALOOSA COUNTY WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

The Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women has welcomed four new members to the County's Women's Hall of Fame. Michelle Anchors, Lisa Jo Spencer, **Kathy Foster** and Shawnea Tallman were honored Tuesday (August 25)

at a ceremony in conjunction with Women's Equality Day and the 20th anniversary of the Hall of Fame. The hall recognizes women who through their lives and efforts make significant contributions to the quality of life in Okaloosa County. Following is the citation which accompanied Kathy's induction:

Kathy Foster – Community Service Award

Kathy is a lady who recognizes community needs and is willing to step up, a true leader full of enthusiasm and positive activism. She moved to Okaloosa Island in 2000, joined the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association and served as president. Her approach increased membership and created an active Beautification Committee. Her current project is working to fund a safe corridor for cyclists, runners and walkers from Brooks Bridge to Marler Bridge. She has also been active with the Island Garden Club and a vital part of the Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated since 2001. In 2008 she joined the Sons of Italy, which is now the Sons and Daughters of Italy and has been the lodge president since 2011. She also serves on Okaloosa Citizens Alliance, educating citizens on taxes and spending.

CONGRATULATIONS KATHY!



Kim Haines

KIM HAINES APPOINTED TO THE OILA BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO FILL A VACANCY DUE TO THE DEPARTURE FROM THE ISLAND BY SITTING DIRECTOR JILL HIGGINS

The Leaseholders welcome Kim Haines to the Board of Directors and appreciate her willingness to serve.

Following is a history by Kim about herself and her family:

My husband Bob and I moved to the island over a year ago. Bob is an associate broker at Pelican Real Estate and I am also involved as a Sales Associate. I am from North Alabama and have two sons, Andrew and Nick, both in college. Andrew is a senior at Auburn University majoring in Computer Engineering. Nick is a sophomore at the University of South Florida in Tampa on a football scholarship. He is majoring in Health Science. I am currently attending Liberty University finishing up my Master's Degree in Professional Counseling. Bob and I enjoy kayaking and traveling to college and professional football games. We love our new home and look forward to staying on the island for a very long time.



District 2 News – August 2015 Newsletter

Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners

A Message From Your Commissioner, Carolyn Ketchel



Email: CKetchel@co.okaloosa.fl.us

Phone: 850.651.7105 Fax: 850.651.7142

Address: 1804 Lewis Turner Blvd, Suite 100
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547

OKALOOSA COUNTY TRANSIT SYSTEM IS A KEEPER

As your County Commissioner I have tried from time to time to share the workings of your County government in more depth on selective issues. Upon taking office, I sought to identify areas we as a community can most efficiently improve upon critical services while keeping true to the shared values of Northwest Florida. One area that I have found often to have confusing or conflicting information is concerning our Okaloosa County Transportation System. I hope that by sharing what I have learned about this system will allow the citizens to be able to discuss their views with the County Commission on this important issue.

We actually have not one, but two interrelated public transportation systems. Okaloosa County operates ten fixed bus routes, including five that serve the greater Fort Walton Beach area, four that serve the Okaloosa Island and Destin Tourism area, as well as a connector between Crestview and Fort Walton Beach. In addition, our county provides for a "paratransit" system where the customers can call in advance to set up an appointed time for service and are willing to pay more for this service.

Both of these systems frequently serve the same individuals, many of whom are working families employed to provide services to our vital hospitality industry. Riders also include the most vulnerable citizens in our county—those without sight, the disabled who are either mentally or physically challenged, and the elderly who can no longer drive. Other reasons for using public transportation include trips to buy groceries, shopping, education, day care and recreation. In short, our public transportation allows many of our fellow citizens to remain independent, employed or both. For these families, the elimination of these services would be catastrophic.

Although most citizens I speak with understand the important function provided by the public transportation system in our county, many have voiced concerns over the cost and utilization of the system. To this end, we have endeavored to identify a new, more efficient and cost saving system to address the usage and cost for the system while still providing this valuable service to our citizens.

The number of riders last year on our fixed bus routes was just under 150,000 rides, while the paratransit system provided 88,736 rides. Over half of these paratransit system rides, 47,477, were for medical trips and 27,984 were for employment. And we are exceeding these numbers so far in 2015.

But what about the funding? First of all it is critical to understand that having both of these two complimentary systems are necessary to obtain the state and federal funds that provide a very large portion of the funding for our system. The bulk of the revenue that pay for our system comes from federal and state grants that include: Urbanized Area Grants, Rural Area Grants, Transit Corridor Program, Transportation Disadvantaged Trip and Equipment Grant, Public Transportation Block Grants. Additionally, the following moneys help pay for our transportation system: Non-Emergency Medical Transportation, Older Americans Act, Vocational Rehabilitation, Access2Care and Bus Advertising Proceeds.

The total cost of the Okaloosa County Transit system for fiscal year 2016 is \$ 2.6 million while the amount that comes from the Okaloosa County budget for fiscal year 2016 is only \$224,612 which is the required amount to receive the match for state and federal funds. Not a bad deal when you see the entire picture.

Based upon the input from county citizens regarding the public transportation system, the county has embarked on ways to improve the efficiencies of the system and to make it more available to all of our citizens. An outcome of last year's hearing before the Board of County Commission was a desire to work with our municipalities to create a more cooperative system fiscally as well as more user friendly. As the liaison for this committee, we have successfully come up with some ways to improve the system. One improvement has been the agreement for some of the cities involved to create covered bus stops for the routes. Another improvement is that we are working with Destin to place more stops in heavily used shopping and entertainment districts to make the system more available to tourists and locals alike, and also to reduce traffic in Destin.

Perhaps most importantly, the County Commission has voted to transfer the contract for provision of the Okaloosa County Transportation System to the company (Murati) that manages the transportation system for Disney World in Orlando. The goal is to provide this valuable service as efficiently as possible with the introduction of private sector elements to best serve our community. With this new partnership with a world renowned private sector leader in transportation efficiency, we have full confidence that our transportation system will become close to or entirely self-sufficient. The County Commission believes that we need to provide this valuable service as efficiently as possible, and it continues to be our hope that over time the system will become close to or entirely self-sufficient without any funding from general revenue paid for by advertising.

I would be remiss if I did not give thanks and credit to Ruth Lovejoy, Executive Director of Elder Services for her vision twenty years ago to create this transportation service for our county. She has been a champion for those most vulnerable who walk among us.

In closing, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your County Commissioner and would appreciate any thoughts you may have to continue to improve our Okaloosa County Transportation System. I can be reached at cketchel@co.okaloosa.fl.us or by calling 850-651-7105.

OPEN INVITATION! BUS EXCURSION TO TALLAHASSEE



Governor's Mansion – Tallahassee

Island neighbors and friends are invited to an October 14 outing in Tallahassee. The group will experience a guided tour of the Governor's Mansion; dine at A la Provence Restaurant followed by a program and opportunity to shop at Tallahassee Nurseries.

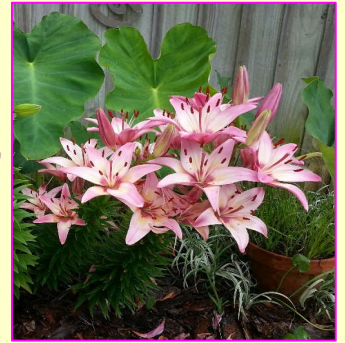
The cost of the bus ride and the three course luncheon is \$62. (includes tax & tip)

Guarded parking is available at El Matador Condominiums, 909 Santa Rosa Boulevard. The bus will depart from this destination at 7:00 a.m. with an expected return at 6:00 p.m.

We hope you can join us. Reserve early as the bus accommodates only 55 passengers and the last time we took this trip it was sold out.

Questions? Contact Kathy Foster 244-4490 or Kim Haines 1-850-490-7947

ISLAND GARDEN CLUB INITIATES 2015-2016 ACTIVITY YEAR WITH MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9



The summer hiatus for the Island Garden Club has ended and the first meeting of the 2015-16 year is Wednesday, September 9th. It

would be a pleasure to have you visit and possibly join the Island Garden Club. Membership in the club is composed of island residents and winter island visitors who reside here for more than two months. Membership provides a wonderful opportunity to become involved in the neighborhood, help with beautification projects and make new friends.

Yearly dues are \$10.00 which includes a membership directory. Meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month at the El Matador first floor party room. The members usually begin arriving around 9:45 to socialize beforehand and the meeting begins promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Programs for 2015-2016 include demonstrations, holiday table decorating, edible flowers, tour of the Governor's Mansion, Christmas Party luncheon with spouses and guests, road trips, fund raiser, etc. A wide variation of fun activities.

We invite you to attend as a guest and hope you remain as a member.

HOW TO ANSWER QUESTIONS BY USING THE OILA WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE

by Webmaster Wizard Bob Seitz



The Website and the Facebook page get inquiries in the form of "How do I do ...", "What are rules pertaining to ...", and "How do I report a violation ...". The place to start is the "About Us" page on the website. Here you will find the "Covenants and Restrictions" for the Island and a "Map" which helps to understand the "blocks" on the Island. You need to read and understand the Covenants and Restrictions and how they apply to the different areas (or blocks) on the Island. If you are planning some type of construction and/or remodeling, then the Architecture Review Committee has jurisdiction and you will need to meet with them at their weekly meeting on Thursdays


















at 9:00 am at the Visitor's Welcome Center next to Beasley Park on Highway 98. There is a Permit Guide for projects on the Island and this is available on the website. The committee is very helpful and can guide you through the permitting process. Remember to "ask before you act". If you want to report a violation, (e.g. make a complaint) go to the "Got a Complaint?" page on the website. There you will find detailed information on how to file a complaint with the Code Enforcement Officers. Their office is conveniently located in the Island Fire Station if you wish to discuss your concern with them or find out additional information. You will need to supply specific details and pictures to document your complaint. Code enforcement is not proactive and responds only to complaints.

OILA WEBSITE: WWW.OILAWEB.COM

OILA FACEBOOK PAGE: www.facebook.com/pages/Okaloosa-Island-Leaseholders-Association-OILA/541206789267225

CONCEPTUAL PLAN FOR VETERAN'S PARK AT BAYWALK

LEGEND

- | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|
|  | PRIMARY ENTRY GATEWAY |  | EXISTING POND BRIDGE SEGMENT PROPOSED FOR REMOVAL |  | PROPOSED NATIVE VEGETATION RESTORATION AREAS |
|  | SECONDARY ENTRY GATEWAY |  | PRIMARY OBSERVATION AREAS |  | WETLAND BOUNDARY |
|  | PROPOSED 8' PRIMARY PATHWAY |  | SECONDARY OBSERVATION AREAS |  | WOODLAND AREA PERIMETER |
|  | PROPOSED 6' SECONDARY PATHWAY |  | BLUE HERON NESTING HABITAT |  | POTENTIAL SITE FOR VETERANS MEMORIAL |
|  | EXISTING SECONDARY PATHWAY (MAINTAIN EXISTING ALIGNMENT) |  | EXISTING LIGHT POLES (PROPOSED OSPREY NESTING PLATFORM SITE) |  | PROPOSED OPEN-AIR DOCK PAVILION |
|  | EXISTING SECONDARY PATHWAY (REMOVE AFTER USEFUL LIFE) | | | | |
|  | PROPOSED KAYAK LAUNCH | | | | |



OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION JUNE 8, 2015 MINUTES (DRAFT)

(editor's note: These minutes were extracted from the podcast of the June 8 meeting)

BOARD MEETING: June 8, 2015

LOCATION: Okaloosa Island Fire Station Meeting Room

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Vice President Kathy Foster at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge followed.

ROLL: Board members present: Kathy Foster, Jim Hendricks and David Hancock,

MINUTES: May 11, 2015 minutes approved as printed in the June 2015 newsletter

TREASURER’S REPORT: Jim Simpson

June 8, 2015 Treasurer’s Report

Discretionary fund balance as of May 11, 2015.....	\$ 33,367.80
Reimbursement:	
- Reimburse Jim Simpson for stamps (June 2015 OIL Lantern)..	\$ 21.56
Discretionary fund balance after reimbursement	\$ 33,346.54
Beautification fund balance (unchanged since last report).....	\$ 1,421.28
Total Fund Balance as of June 8, 2015.....	\$ 34,767.52

Motion made, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer’s Report and to reimburse Jim Simpson \$21.56 for mailing the June 2015 OIL Lantern.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHITECTURAL REPORT FOR MAY – Printed in the June 2015 Newsletter

MEMBERSHIP LIAISON: Jim Simpson. Jim reported the membership total to be 257.

WEBSITE: Bob Seitz (No report)

STREET LIGHTING MSBU (May Report) - Maryl Bednar

Revenues:.....	\$ 6,131.35
Expenditures:.....	\$ 3,708.46
Net Change:.....	\$ 3,422.89
2014 fund balance:.....	\$ 214,995.69
Year To Date Fund Balance:.....	\$ 223,348.41

BOAT BASIN – Cathy Taylor (No report)

BEAUTIFICATION – Kathy Foster: Kathy reported that letters had been sent to Lisa Payton, County Code Enforcement, about code violations for the following properties: 641 Porpoise, 640 Pompano and 756 Sea Horse. It was also noted that the 641 Porpoise property had an open (no fence) in ground swimming pool.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dave Hancock reported on the Brooks Bridge to Marler Bridge Trail project. He advised that Eglin Air Force Base had determined the project will not impact their mission. He also advised that the project had made the first cut for consideration of a \$90,000 BP grant.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dave Hancock reported that if a property owner is having a problem with trespassers, the owner(s), under Florida statute can designate the Sheriff’s office as an agent for the property. Under this authority, deputies can arrest person(s) found trespassing on your property without being called.

Discussion was held about asking property owners on the North and South sides of Santa Rosa Blvd if they would be willing to adopt a median(s) for landscaping and maintenance. Several medians are currently being maintained by adjacent property owners and they look great. It is understood that any contributions from condo associations would have to be voluntary by individual condo owners. Condo associations cannot make such contributions. On the other hand, single owner properties such as home owners, hotels or businesses may do so. A motion was passed to send letters asking if adjacent properties would be interested in volunteering for this purpose.

Paula Hudson reported during the recent Billy Bowlegs event there was a problem with high volume music and vulgarity coming from anchored boats in the Sound. The Association agreed to send a letter to the Chamber of Commerce expressing concern over this situation and ask for it to be remedied for future Billy Bowlegs Festivals.

Jim Simpson announced that the Association does not meeting in July and August and that the next meeting will be on Monday, September 14.

AJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm. – Regards, Jim Simpson