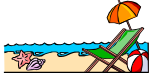


APRIL 2017 EDITION OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND
LEASEHOLDERS NEWSLETTER, THE OIL LANTERN

Page 1 of 8 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, **April 10, 2017.** **PARKING:** Please park behind the Fire Station next to the water tank

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- ◆ Message from the President – **David Hancock**
- ◆ Fire Department Report for Feb 2017
- ◆ Derelict/Beautification Committee Report – **Kathy Foster**
- ◆ Draft Minutes- March 2017 Meeting
- ◆ Architectural Committee and Rainfall Reports for March 2017
- ◆ Wuzzle Puzzles
- ◆ Welcome Firefighter: **Ryan Adams**
- ◆ Brooks Bridge Replacement Study Update
- ◆ Commissioner **Carol Ketchel** Article *“Sand Creates its Own Storm”*
- ◆ Welcome Wagon Report
- ◆ OILA to Provide Street Banners!

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 24 at 6:30 pm - Okaloosa County Workshop on the new FEMA maps No location has been set yet. ALL Okaloosa Island property owners need to be there.

April 25 at 1:30 pm - County Admin building in Shalimar. The subject of the meeting is beach sand. The attorney hired by Okaloosa County to review this issue and make recommendations going forward will present his report.

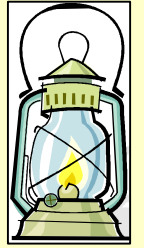


OILA TO PROVIDE THESE STREET BANNERS (left & right) FOR DISPLAY ON Santa Rosa Blvd





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

APRIL 2017

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sanleanna@cox.net

Meeting Agenda

DATE: Monday, **April 10, 2017**

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

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

IV. MINUTES

March 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes (Draft)

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

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Architectural Report – See Newsletter
- B. Membership Liaison: **Jim Simpson**
- C. WebSite: **Bob Seitz**
- D. Boat Basin: **Carol Edlund**
- E. Street Lighting MSBU: **Paula Hudson**
- F. Derelict Property Committee Report – See Newsletter

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Minimum Wake Zone – **Dave Hancock**
- B. Banner Procurement – **Kim Haines**
- C. Public Information Meeting on Pending Changes in Flood Zone Map – **Jim Simpson**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Appointment of a Nominating Committee to make Recommendation for 3 Board Members whose terms expire in June 2017 – **Dave Hancock**

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – David Hancock

There are two important dates that all OILA members need to put on their calendar:

- Okaloosa County Workshop on the new FEMA maps – April 24, 2017 at 6:30 PM. No location has been set yet. ALL Okaloosa Island property owners need to be there.
- Okaloosa County Commissioners Workshop – April 25 at 1:30 PM at the county administration building in Shalimar. The subject of the meeting is beach sand. The attorney hired by Okaloosa County to review this issue and make recommendations going forward will present his report. **Please plan to attend.**

Support for the Leaseholders proposal to move the minimum wake zone sign continues to build. The March 21 Public hearing held by the FWC, was a great success; besides three from FWC there were 17 individuals from Okaloosa County in attendance; the majority of those were Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association Members. **Every citizen who was there was in favor of moving the sign to the west!** At this writing we have support from Okaloosa County Commissioners, the Fort Walton Beach City Council, Indianola Condominiums in Fort Walton Beach, and also the Okaloosa Island Fire Department. Additionally numerous businesses and individuals have sent comments to the FWC supporting this. Here is the address for sending comments to the FWC: Waterway.Management@myfwc.com The more comments supporting moving the sign the better; please send them in! Right now the ball is in FWC's court – they have to develop a new proposal in light of the hearing results and comments and get it back to us for review.

Finally have some progress on the bike paths for Santa Rosa Boulevard - Specific action at this time is the engagement of design/permitting consulting firm. Once a design is done the bidding process can start.

On March 30 met with Matthew Z. Leopold, the attorney hired by the Okaloosa County Commissioners to coordinate the citizen board to look at sand to find a match should restoration ever be seriously considered, that the residents and business owners could agree on. It was a great meeting. The commissioners to their credit are taking steps to settle the sand issue once and for all.

Finally I cannot wait for the the light pole banners to go up on Santa Rosa Boulevard. Funding was approved for this at the March meeting. Volunteers will be needed to put these up.



ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR MARCH 2017 for permits submitted to them for consideration. The following information provided by the Architectural Committee.

SPECIAL NOTICES: 1) The Committee meets every Thursday from 9:00 am to 9:30 am at the Tourist Development Center building. 2) ASK BEFORE YOU ACT.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot(s)</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Owner/Contractor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Mar 2	5	247	540 Dorado Ave	Luis Marcial	Construct Attached Shed	Approved
Mar 16	6	320	631 Pelican Drive	Otmar Yakaboski	Repair/Replace Existing Deck	Approved
Mar 30	4	162	451 Caviar Drive	Sheila Weese	Install Pool	Approved

ISLAND RAINFALL FOR MARCH 2017: **2.0** Inches

March 7.....**0.5** inches
 March 8.....**0.1** inches
 March 13...**0.3** inches
 March 25...**0.5** inches
 March 30...**0.6** inches



Average Rainfall for March.....**5.8** inches
 Variance to Average.....**- 3.8** 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**38° F** (1971)
 May Avg Water Temperature....**78° F**

Rainfall Total Year to Date..... **13.3** inches

Year Date to Variance **- 3.3** inches

Avg Annual Rainfall **65.1** inches

OKALOOSA ISLAND FIRE DEPT RESPONDS TO **95** CALLS IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2017

Fire Calls..... **9**
 EMS/Rescue/MVA.....**59**
 Alarm Activations.....**16**
 Other.....**11**



(90 calls were responded to in February 2016)

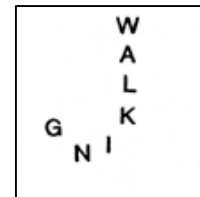
WUZZLE PUZZLES

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 at the bottom of the last page of this newsletter.

No. 1



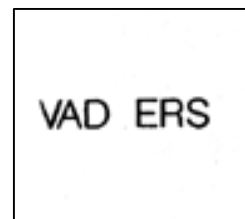
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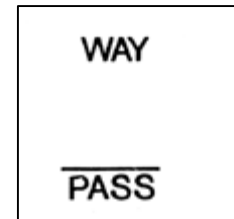
No.3



No. 4



No. 5



OKALOOSA ISLAND FIRE DEPT WELCOMES NEW FIREFIGHTER **RYAN CARLSON ADAMS**



Birthplace: Key West, Florida

Age: 25 - Not married. No kids

Rank: Probationary Firefighter

Years of Service: 1 month of service to OIFD. Ryan finished Midway fire academy in June 2016 and was employed by the City of Pensacola Fire Dept. before coming to OIFD. Before the fire service Ryan was a senior lifeguard with Okaloosa County Beach Safety since 2010.

Achievements: Firefighter II certified, Current EMT certified and currently enrolled in fire hydraulics and apparatus.

General Information: Ryan enjoys all things water related, camping, hiking and pretty much anything outdoors.

Education: Ryan attended Choctaw high school and Northwest Florida State College where he is currently enrolled.



Sand Creates its Own Storm

Those of us who have lived on the Florida Panhandle for a long time clearly remember the devastation caused by past hurricanes, including Erin and Opal in 1995, George in 1998, Isidore in 2002, Ivan in 2004, and Dennis in 2005. I will never forget when Hurricane Opal sent the Gulf of Mexico washing over Okaloosa Island into the Sound and stranding hundreds of boats on Highway 98 in Fort Walton Beach. The devastation to the Island and our community was shocking. Highway 98 between Destin and Brooks Bridges was washed away. The only means of travel was the Mid-Bay Bridge. Residents were unable to return to their homes on Okaloosa Island because of safety issues. Businesses were disrupted. And tourism, well it ceased as we begun the process of rebuilding.

So what do these historical events have to do with the recent discussions in various news outlets regarding reauthorization by the Okaloosa Board of County Commission to allow a 15-year permit required by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for any beach re-nourishment project? Everything.

Authorizing this permit now is necessary because we need to be able to address infrastructure issues immediately after a serious storm. The calamity would be not to pursue a permit at this time. As citizens you would rightly consider the County Commission to be derelict in our duties if we had not secured this permit ahead of any tropical events. Without this permit any necessary re-nourishment projects, even emergency projects, would be delayed many months until the required permits were obtained. We have been blessed not to have a storm for over a decade. But history tells us that we will be hit again someday.

So what exactly does the reauthorization of this U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit provide to the County? It gives the Board of County Commission the ability to conduct beach re-nourishment, on an as-needed basis, to maintain the beach design template. The reauthorization of this permit does not mean that any beach re-nourishment is planned or anticipated. The intent of the permit at this time is to make sure we have such permits to allow us to take future action in a timely manner, but only if necessary. ANY re-nourishment project would require a future affirmative vote of the Board of County Commission.

Before any beach restoration was approved, the Board of County Commissioners would consider cumulative impacts including AESTHETICS of sand color and quality, conservation, economics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply,, water quality, energy needs, safety, food, and fiber production, mineral needs, and considerations of property ownership.

I stated during our recent BCC meeting that if such any re-nourishment was required due to beach erosion as a result of a storm, that as the Commissioner that represents Okaloosa Island, I would strongly oppose any such project unless the sand placed on our beaches was of equal quality that matched the beauty of our Island. Nothing less! To that end, the BCC voted to create a citizen board to look at sand to find a match should restoration ever be seriously considered, that the residents and business owners could agree on. The steps taken by the Board of County Commission were proactive and prudent measures to protect the most valuable nature resource in Okaloosa County, our sugar white beaches.

The members of this appointed committee are as follows: Mr. Mike Mitchell, former Okaloosa County Commissioner and Dave Hancock, representatives from the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association, Mr. Vince Brunner, Esq. and Mr. Joe Guidry, representatives from the business community, Dave Sherry and Larry Bush, Esq representatives from the Condo Alliance of Okaloosa Island. This committee is tasked with reporting to the Commissioners at the April BCC meeting on the satisfaction of the quality of sand if needed for future re-nourishment.

Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel is the Chairman for the Okaloosa County Commission.

She can be reached at cketchel@okaloosa.fl.us or 850-651-7105

WELCOME WAGON REPORT

The Okaloosa Island Leaseholder's Association Welcome Wagon has been busy this past month welcoming new neighbors to our Awesome Island!!



A Welcome Wagon bag was delivered to **Al and Missy Black at 763 Sailfish Drive**. They are moving here from Navarre and are very excited to be coming back to the Island after living here previously several years ago.

We also left cards for **Shelia and Charles Weese on 451 Caviar** and **Jonathan and Jennifer Bellio on 639 Pompano**.

The Welcome Wagon as always appreciates any comments and ideas. We are excited to be getting new neighbors who are making the Island beautiful!!

-- **Kim Haines & Kathy Foster**

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.



**Welcome
to
Okaloosa
Island**

**Okaloosa Island
Leaseholders
Association**

LEASEHOLDERS PURCHASE 10 STREET LIGHT POLE BANNERS TO BE DISPLAYED ON SANTA ROSA BLVD

The Beautification Committee is happy and excited to announce that we have ordered 2 banners (left & right) that will be placed on each of 10 light poles on the Island. The banners and all hardware to install them will be arriving on April 3rd. We will be asking for help to install them in the coming weeks. Thank you to everyone who has participated in this endeavor so far.

-- **Kim Haines**, Beautification
Committee



YOUR PROPERTY AND THE PENDING NEW FEMA FLOOD ZONE MAP – Jim Simpson

The current FEMA Flood Zone Map for Okaloosa County went into effect on December 6, 2002.

A new, updated, pending Flood Zone Map to replace the current map is presently under a 90 day review period (February 22 to May 22, 2017) prior to implementation.

In my discussions with Mr. Mike Ruzowski, GIS Analyst Planner, Growth Management Department and from my review of the proposed flood map changes, many properties on Okaloosa Island are facing a significant increase in higher risk flood zones designations; therefore higher insurance premiums.

Considering the potential financial impact of these pending changes, and many questions about such issues as grandfathering, elevation surveys and disputing your rating, at the March 13 meeting of the Leaseholders Association I recommended a public information meeting for the purpose of answering these questions. The membership agreed.

I contacted Okaloosa County Commissioner **Carolyn Ketchel** about setting up a meeting. She immediately took action and a Public Information meeting on the new flood map has been scheduled on April 24, 2017 at 6:30 PM. The location will be either the Emerald Coast Convention Center or the Shalimar Administration Building and Mrs. Ketchel will advise once it is determined. Of course, the Leaseholders will inform you immediately of the location selected. I highly recommend that all Island property owners attend this meeting. **P.S. Thank you Commissioner Ketchel!**

BROOKS BRIDGE REPLACEMENT STUDY PROJECT UPDATE

(Editor's Note: This update transmitted by email on March 31, 2017 by the Florida Department of Transportation in reference to FDOT Financial Project Identification Number: 415474-2-22-010 - aka Brooks Bridge)

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) continues to work towards completing the Brooks Bridge Replacement Study, a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study of State Road 30 (U.S. 92) over Santa Rosa Sound. The intent of the study is to evaluate replacement alternatives for the existing Brooks Bridge.

An Alternatives public workshop was held last May to present the bridge replacement and intersection alternatives developed by the study team. Over 250 people attended the meeting at the Emerald Coast Convention Center.

FDOT used the public input received at the workshop and over the course of the study to help compare the various alternatives and select a Recommended Alternative for more detailed analysis. The study team has since developed several technical studies and reports related to traffic, engineering, social, and environmental issues. These studies will be made available for public review at a public hearing tentatively scheduled for fall 2017. FDOT is continuing to work with the project's Stakeholder Advisory Group, the City of Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa County and the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization to develop the best possible solution. Please continue to check the project website at www.nwflroads.com and Facebook page at [Brooks Bridge Replacement Study](#) for additional updates.

ISLAND GARDEN CLUB REPORT

– BELLINGRATH GARDENS/HOME & APRIL 12 MEETING

The March 23 'meeting' was a road trip to Bellingrath Gardens and Home. Club members were delighted to walk the grounds and see the tulips, delphiniums and daffodils blooming and to visit the various theme gardens (photos posted at the bottom of this page). The home perched above the river was exquisitely decorated, and the view enthralled everyone. **Connie Herring** made the bus trip fun with games and raffles and super prizes.

On April 12 members will again meet at El Matador Condominiums. Socializing at 9:30, meeting promptly at 10:00 a.m. The club will purchase decorating supplies (plastic table covers, glue, silk flowers, greenery, etc.) and Program Chair **Marty Houston** will oversee our creations of Easter bonnets or visors. These chapeaus can then be worn, or adorn a door or a dining table. Members and guests should bring their own hats, glue guns if they are available, and any embellishments to personalize.

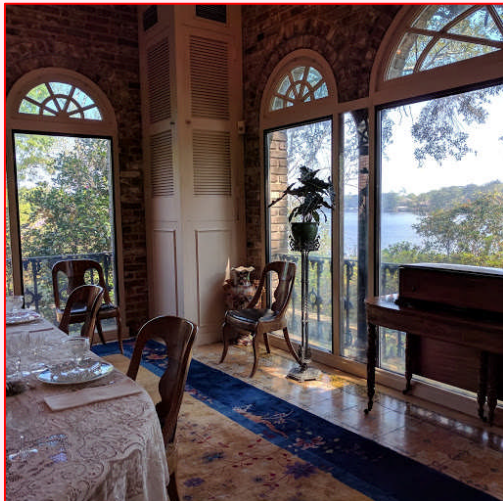
\$10 annual dues are payable in April and all islanders are invited to join. Membership provides a wonderful opportunity to meet new neighbors and make new friends. We look forward to welcoming YOU!

Kathy Foster, President
Island Garden Club
850-244-4490



Flowers whisper what words cannot say

ISLAND GARDEN CLUB PHOTOS FROM VISIT TO BELLINGRATH GARDENS & HOME ON MARCH 23, 2017



DINING ROOM OF THE BELLINGRATH HOME.



THE ASIAN THEME GARDEN.

**MINUTES - OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION - MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MARCH 13, 2017**

Meeting Location: Okaloosa Island Fire Station, 2nd Floor Training Room Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Board Members Present: Dave Hancock, Dean Hanson, Kim Haines, Lynn Dominique, Jim Hendricks

President Dave Hancock advised the membership of the FWC Public Workshop on rule amendments reducing the vessel speed limits in Santa Rosa Blvd will take place on March 17 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Emerald Coast Convention Center. He encouraged all to attend and to support OILA's position to improve safety and to reduce damage by reducing speeds. He extended his appreciation to the Beautification Committee for all the good work they have done. Also, he noted that the engineering drawing for improvements to the 3 undeveloped beach accesses were completed and were pending being sent out on a RFP for bids.

Draft Minutes, February 13, 2017 Meeting: David Sherry made a motion to correct his motion which was reported under item no. 2, New Business, in the draft Feb 13, 2017 minutes as follows:

2. Based on a motion by David Sherry and seconded by Rebecca Sherry to resolve that the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association will ask the Okaloosa County Commission to commit to conduct a search for better quality sand for any future beach renourishment. The resolution was approved.

Corrected motion to read: That OILA ask the Okaloosa County Commissioners to immediately begin searching for a better quality sand source to insert in the permit for use in any beach restoration on Okaloosa Island.

This correction to the minutes was seconded and approved. After approval of the correction, the entire minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: MARCH 13, 2017

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 244

FEBRUARY 13, 2017 TOTAL BALANCE: \$38,605.54

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF February 13, 2017..... \$ 35,822.08

RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT:

Purchase of Surplus 2017 Mardi Gras Moon Pies (at OILA's cost) by Bob Seitz who donated them to Caring & Sharing (Thank You Bob).....\$ **305.00**

EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT:

Payment of Administrative Fee to Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office for Employment of Deputy to provide Safety and Security for Christmas Caroling in December 2016.....\$ **9.00**

EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT:

Reimburse Jim Simpson for stamps to mail the February 2017 OIL Lantern.....\$ **22.05**

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES

& EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT AS OF February 13, 2017..... \$ 35,882.08

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF February 13, 2017.....\$ 1,421.28

BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF March 13, 2017.....\$ 1,421.28

CHRISTMAS DECORATING PROJECT 2016 BALANCE AS OF February 13, 2017.... \$ 1,362.18

CHRISTMAS DECORATING PROJECT 2016 EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT.....No Expenditures

CHRISTMAS DECORATING PROJECT 2016 BALANCE AS OF March 13, 2017.....\$ 1,362.18

SUMMARY: March 13, 2017 Fund Balances

-- Association's Discretionary Fund Balance.\$ **36,096.08**

-- Beautification Fund Balance.....\$ **1,421.28**

-- Christmas Decorating Fund Balance (Donations).....\$ **1,362.18**

TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE....\$ 38,879.54

A motion was made, seconded to approve the Treasurer's report and to reimburse Jim Simpson a total of \$22.05 to mail the March 2017 newsletter. The motion was approved.

Continued on Next Page

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Architectural Report: The Architectural Committee Reported No Activity for the Month of February, 2017

Membership Report – Jim Simpson: Jim advised that the membership was 244

Boat Basin - Carol Edlund: Carol reported that pilings had been replaced and that Spring Clean-up would start soon. She also advised that two slots were open. Dave Hancock asked if Carol would get together with Webmaster Bob Seitz and post the openings on the OILA webpage. They agreed to do so.

Website – Bob Seitz: Bob advised that he has posted information about the March 17 FWC Workshop on the OILA webpage and that he also posted Commissioner Ketchel article, *Sand Creates its Own Storm*. He also noted that he has set up a category on the website under the index name “Government Links” which will provide you with the email address for public officials all the way from the White House to the Court House.

Street Lighting MSBU – Paula Hudson:

Island Lights MSBU - Dept 1602 Revenues & Expenditures – As of Feb 28, 2017

Revenues:	Expenditures	Year to Date
Street Lighting Fees \$4,393.00	Electrical Services \$ 647.54	2016 Fund Balance \$247,063.13
	Lighting Services \$ 2,472.80	Year-to-Date Fund Balance..... \$247,108.17
Total Revenue \$4,393.00	Billing Charges \$ 219.65	
	Total Expenditures \$ 3,339.99	Estimated Net Change..... \$45.04

Derelict Property Committee – Kathy Foster: Kathy advised that covenant violation letters were sent to two Island properties, 640 Pompano Ave and 647 Porpoise Ave, and the owners did not respond. The committee recommends taking the owners to court and Kathy Foster made a motion to allocate \$2,000 for attorney fees to file the necessary, legal paperwork. Discussion was held. Paula Hudson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no Old Business

NEW BUSINESS:

Jim Simpson advised that his discussions with Mr. Mike Ruzowski, GIS Analyst Planner, Growth Management Department and from his review of the proposed flood map changes, properties on Okaloosa Island are facing a significant increase in higher risk flood zones designations. He advised the membership that he would attempt to set up a Public Information meeting so property owners could get more guidance on their options from the experts if they are placed first time in a flood zone or in a higher risk flood zone. Areas of interest would be elevation surveys, grandfathering and disputing the classification.

Kim Haines and Kathy Foster presented a proposal for OILA to fund the purchase of 10 light pole banners which will be displayed along Santa Rosa Blvd. The banners would be 30” X 60”, made of vinyl and mounted 10 to 12 feet off the ground. They estimated the cost at about \$3,800 (includes the banners, mounting hardware and shipping). The town of Cinco Bayou has the same type banner mounted on their street poles. A motion was made to allocated \$4,000 out of the discretionary fund for this project. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8 pm. (Editor’s note: These minutes extracted from a Podcast of the March 13, 2017 meeting)

WUZZLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



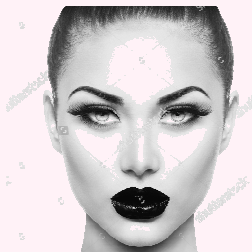
Just in Case

Wuzzle No. 2



Jay Walking

Wuzzle No. 3



**“Forget It!”
(and get over it!)**

Wuzzle No. 4



“Space” Invaders

Wuzzle No. 5



Highway Over Pass