

**SUMMER 2019 SPECIAL EDITION OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND  
LEASEHOLDS NEWSLETTER, THE OIL LANTERN**  
Page 1 of 10 Pages

OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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**SIX NEW OILA BOARD DIRECTORS ELECTED AT THE JUNE 10, 2019 MEETING**

Six new members were elected to serve on the OILA Board of Directors at the June 10, 2019 meeting. They are: **Brick Bradford, Rick Deckert, John Donovan, Kathy Foster, David Sherry & Jim Simpson.** Current Director, **Dr. Dave Miller**, term expires in June, 2020.

At the June 14, 2019 Organizational meeting (minutes in this newsletter) of the new Board, officers were elected as follows for 2019-2020

- **David Sherry** as President
- **Rick Deckert** as Vice President
- **Jim Simpson** as Treasurer
- **John Donovan** as Secretary

Contact information for the new Board of Directors is provided in the Board of Directors box in this newsletter.

**OILA DOES NOT MEET IN THE MONTHS OF JULY & AUGUST. THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON SEPT 9. THIS MEETING DATE AND A BUSINESS AGENDA WILL BE IN THE SEPT 2019 OIL LANTERN.**



# 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](http://www.oilaweb.com)



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

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### Secretary

**John S. Donovan**

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### Director

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### Director

**Kathy Foster**

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## ASSOCIATION WEBMASTER

### Bob Seitz

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850-243-1399

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – David Sherry

It has been a good summer on Okaloosa Island and the June bloom has been light this year.

Six new members were elected to the OILA board at the June membership meeting. For details and election of the officers, please see the minutes of the organizational meeting in this edition of the OIL Lantern, written by our new OILA secretary, John Donovan.

New board member Brick Bradford wrote an article in this edition of the OIL Lantern about beach vending (umbrella and chair setups) on Okaloosa Island. Okaloosa County modified the ordinance governing beach vending and use of the beach on Okaloosa Island, and increased enforcement, in order to address public concerns. Many of those concerns came from fellow leaseholders.

The fight for Okaloosa Island to keep receiving her natural sand supply from the East Pass inlet continues. East Pass cuts off the natural flow of sand, which moves east to west along the beach in our area. When East Pass is dredged, the sand removed from the navigation channel needs to be bypassed to the west of the inlet, so Okaloosa Island beaches can renourish themselves as nature intended. Cutting off the natural flow of sand causes beach erosion on Okaloosa Island. The Eglin facility roughly 14,000 feet west of East Pass has already eroded back to its seawall.

The city of Destin has applied to dredge East Pass and take all the sand removed from the channel to the east, to use on beaches within the city. John Donovan, Tom Wilson, my wife Rebecca, and I have filed challenges to stop the city and anyone else, from taking this sand east and starving Okaloosa Island of its natural sand supply. A hearing was conducted to address the first of these challenges in Tallahassee in late July.

The new board has received a few inquiries this summer from neighbors concerned about construction or modifications to some single family homes on Okaloosa Island. If you plan to build, or make a modification, please be sure to contact the OILA Architectural Review Committee (ARC). These volunteers are familiar with the Island's Protective Covenants and Restrictions. ARC members can help you with the Covenants and the process. They are available every Thursday morning at 9:00 AM at the TDC Welcome Center on Okaloosa Island.

The Okaloosa County Commission approved spending approximately \$700,000 in TDC funds for a Women's Veterans Memorial at Veteran's Park on Okaloosa Island. The memorial will include a gateway, a fountain, and eight to ten life-size bronze statues of women who served our country. The project was championed by Commissioner Ketchel.

David Sherry



**ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT FOR JUNE & JULY 2019** 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>Lot(s)</u>     | <u>Block</u> | <u>Owner/Address</u>  | <u>Description</u>     | <u>In Compliance and Approved?</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|---|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| June 27     | 506 & 509-514     | 8            | Blu Condo<br>858 Scallop Ct   | Free Standing Sign     | Yes                                |
| July 11     | 95                | 3            | Jim Morris<br>354 Billfish  | Occupational License   | Yes                                |
| July 25     | 74-75             | 3            | Doug Shephard Construction<br>95 Lang Rd, Ft Walton Beach<br>Commodores Landing | Repair Floor Trusses   | Yes                                |
| July 25     | Conference Center | 14           | Alan Lassiter, Okaloosa<br>County Conference Center                             | Update Security System | Yes                                |

**ISLAND RAINFALL FOR JUNE 2019: 7.0 INCHES AND FOR JULY 2019: 3.2 INCHES**

June 1.....**0.1** inches  
 June 6... **2.0** inches  
 June 7.... **1.1** inches  
 June 8... **1.1** inches  
 June 10.. **1.0** inches  
 June 18...**0.5** inches  
 June 19...**1.2** inches



July 8.....**0.5** inches July 22....**0.1** inches  
 July 9.....**0.6** inches July 23....**1.1** inches  
 July 20.....**0.9** inches

Avg Rainfall for June.....**6.1** inches  
 Variance Avg Rainfall June...**+0.9** inches

Avg Rainfall for July.....**8.5** inches  
 Variance to Avg Rainfall July - **5.3** inches

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

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

Year to Date to Variance - **3.5** inches  
 Year to Date Rainfall..... **23.7** inches  
 Avg Annual Rainfall ..... **65.1** inches

**BUG IN THE EAR? HOW ABOUT A FISH?**



On Wednesday July 17, 2019 a 14 year old female was swimming in the Gulf of Mexico behind the Hilton Garden Inn / Holiday Inn on Okaloosa Island when a small fish (Silver Minnow) swam into the girl's ear and became stuck. The girl had a natural reaction to grab the fish by the tail and pull it out causing the fish to break in half leaving a large portion of it lodged in her ear canal. Okaloosa Island Fire crews were called out to assist with a reported "fish stuck in ear" call. Upon arrival Captain Michael Simmons obtained some tweezers and removed the fish from her ear. The girl and her family were very thankful. This call illustrates some of the strange and unusual calls the Okaloosa Island Fire District responds to every day.



**Okaloosa Island Fire Fighters to the Rescue for Any Thing and Every Thing!!**



# FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS OKALOOSA ISLAND



**CONNIE & BETH: FLAG LADIES OF OKALOOSA ISLAND**



Okaloosa Island residents and members of the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders, **Connie Herring** (left) and **Beth Jeter** (right) planted over 300 U.S. Flags in the medians of Santa Rosa Blvd to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Way to go Ladies! Plus, your layout patterns were very creative!



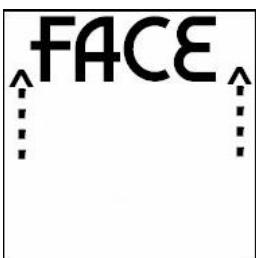
A TIP OF THE HAT TO **ERA AMERICAN REAL ESTATE** FOR DONATING THE FLAGS.



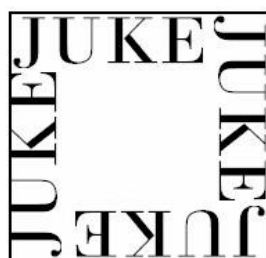
Shalimar, Florida (850) 651-2454

**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 wuzzle puzzles? Good luck. The answers are available on page 6 of this newsletter.

**Wuzzle No. 1**



**Wuzzle No. 2**



**Wuzzle No. 3**



**Wuzzle No. 4**







## ISLAND GARDEN CLUB UPDATE – Paula Hudson, President

The summer has flown by so fast. It seems that we were getting too much rain for our plant or too much heat and not enough rain. However, we are thankful that we have not been scared by any tropical disturbance.

The Island Garden Club is ramping back up with our fall schedule starting September 11th, our meetings are lively and informative. Membership is open to anyone interested in plants for our area and dues are only \$15 a year.

Please join us.



### PSA: OKALOOSA COUNTY EXTENSION MONTHLY PLANT CLINIC

Okaloosa County Extension Horticultural Agent Larry Williams and a team of Master Gardeners will be at the monthly **Plant Clinic** on **Friday, August 9, 9:00 a.m. to noon** at the County Extension Annex, **127 Hollywood Boulevard NW, Fort Walton Beach**. The clinic provides a place to bring samples of lawn, landscape and garden plants for diagnosis, including weeds and insects for identification. To participate, bring a fresh sample of the weed, plant, insect, etc., to the clinic. This may include a plant stem with several leaves, a 4-inch square of grass with roots attached, etc.



You also may bring a sample of soil for pH testing. Use a clean shovel, trowel or soil probe to collect a representative sample by taking thin slices or cores of soil to a depth of six to eight inches from ten different spots throughout the plant bed, lawn or garden. Thoroughly mix all the small soil slices/cores together in a clean bucket. Place one to two cups of this dry mixture in a closable plastic bag or small throwaway plastic container and bring to the clinic for testing. Attach a slip of paper with your name, phone number and where the sample was taken (e.g. lawn, vegetable garden, flowerbed, etc.)

### THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – JULY

**July 1, 1862** - President Abraham Lincoln signed the first income tax bill, levying a 3% income tax on annual incomes of \$600-\$10,000 and a 5% tax on incomes over \$10,000. Also on this day, the Bureau of Internal Revenue was established by an Act of Congress.

**July 5, 1937** – SPAM, the luncheon meat, was introduced into the market by the Hormel Foods Corporation.

**July 5, 1946** - French designer Louis Reard unveils a daring two-piece swimsuit at the Piscine Molitor, a popular swimming pool in Paris. Parisian showgirl Micheline Bernardini modeled the new fashion, which Reard dubbed "**bikini**" inspired by a news-making U.S. atomic test that took place off the Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean earlier that week.

**July 12, 1943** – During World War II, the largest tank battle in history took place outside the small village of Prohorovka, Russia. Between the Russians and the Germans, an estimated 1,800 tanks took part in the fray.

**July 21, 1969** - The Eagle lands on the moon and US astronaut Neil Armstrong is the first man in history to walk on its powdery surface.

**July 24, 1982** - "Eye Of The Tiger" from "Rocky III" tops the U.S. pop charts.

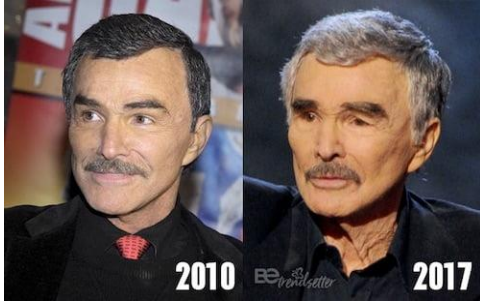
**July 31, 1790** - The U.S. Patent Office first opened its doors. The first U.S. patent was issued to Samuel Hopkins of Vermont for a new method of making pearl ash and potash. The patent was signed by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.





## Wuzzle Puzzles Answers

Wuzzle No. 1



FACE LIFT

Wuzzle No. 2



JUKE BOX

Wuzzle No. 3



TALKING A MILE  
A MINUTE

Wuzzle No. 4



LOWER BACK  
PAIN



**JOIN THE LEASEHOLDERS! LET YOUR OPINIONS BE HEARD!**

FOR A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION CLICK  
ON THE ASSOCIATION'S WEBPAGE:

[WWW.OILAWEB.COM](http://WWW.OILAWEB.COM) -- OR

CONTACT JIM SIMPSON AT (850) 585-2116 OR BY EMAIL  
AT [SANLEANNA@COX.NET](mailto:SANLEANNA@COX.NET)



## RECOMMENDATION FOR ALLOWING THE FREE FLOW OF PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC ALONG OKALOOSA ISLAND BEACH WITH A 10 FOOT SETBACK FROM THE HIGH TIDE MARK

Beach Vendors: Is This a Problem for You???

As you may already know the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) revisited several issues concerning how Beach Vendors conduct their business on county beaches earlier this year. In fact, the April edition of the OILA Newsletter lauded the County Commissioner's approval of various statutes beneficial to local residents with the caveat that Beach Vendor compliance would be enforced by the County Sheriff's Department Deputies.

However, the BCC appears to have overlooked one area that may be of particular concern to island residents and local visitors. Specifically, there is no requirement for Beach Vendors to set up their umbrellas and beach chairs in such a way that allows public access to walk (or run) along the beach parallel to the water's edge without being forced into the water or to navigate the slope between the soft sand and hard pack sand immediately adjacent to the water's edge.

While not all Beach Vendors place their long line of umbrellas and beach chairs immediately beyond the surf zone, a few frequently do. In fact, I recently had a conversation with one Beach Vendor's representative who was surprised by my suggestion that having access to walking along the beach next to the water's edge was of greater importance than his preferred placement of chairs.

Interestingly, the language of Okaloosa County Ordinance 2019-03, section 16-48 (d) (5) requires Beach Vendors to provide a statement as follows: "A statement as to why and how the proposed activity will not annoy, harass, intimidate or interfere with the public and their enjoyment of the area involved." I submit for your consideration that a Beach Vendor's long line of umbrellas and beach chairs constitutes an interference with the public's access and enjoyment of the public beaches. However, the only clear setback requirement mandated by the County is for a "beach safety corridor" not less than 25 feet from the dune side of the beach (subsection 16-43: g).

Although Beach Vendors offer a fair argument concerning the threat of private parties placing their own beach chairs and umbrellas in front of their setup if a setback is mandated, I believe it is reasonable to require a minimum setback of 10 ft from the high tide mark on any given day. Such a setback would allow the free flow of pedestrian traffic along the beach, while preserving the Beach Vendor's business interests.



**BRICK BRADFORD**  
Director, OILA BOD



## **A special way to honor women veterans**

There are over 18 million Veterans living in America today. Our great State of Florida is home to many of our nation's veterans, over 1.5 million in fact, consistently a top destination for where our nation's brave men and women decide to live when their call to duty is complete. And within our Sunshine State, Okaloosa County is especially important when it comes to our veteran population, leading the country in total share of our local population.

We honor our Veterans here in Okaloosa. We honor their bravery, sacrifice, and commitment to protecting our way of life. I believe we have a special opportunity and story to tell the world about the women who have served our county since its founding in uniform.

Starting with the Revolutionary War, women fought bravely alongside their husbands. One patriot, Margaret Corbin, took over the cannon when her husband died in battle to continue the fight against the Hessian soldiers. Many people are unaware that over 500 women served on both sides of the Civil War dressed as men and were only discovered when wounded and in need of treatment.

Women flew during World War II (WASP) but were not recognized or compensated for their service for many years afterward. Jacqueline Cochran, a native of Northwest Florida was the first woman to break the sound barrier and the first woman during World War II to fly a bomber across the Atlantic Ocean.

And yet, it is very difficult to find statues that honor these brave women in the United States. Most public statues in the United States are of men. Of the estimated 5,193 public statues depicting historic figures on display on street corners and parks throughout the United States, only 394 are of women.

It's past time to honor and elevate these women veterans, and Okaloosa County is in a unique position do so.

Last week, the Okaloosa County Commission voted unanimously to authorize the use of Tourist Development Council funds to honor Women's Veterans Service in Veterans Park located on Okaloosa Island. This will be done with a gateway into the park, a fountain and eight to ten life size bronze statues of women who have served our country, lining the path as we tell their stories. These stories will be of actual women who have served and represent every branch of the military.

Veterans, men and women alike, have already spoken and written in support of this initiative; once before the Tourist Development Council and twice before the Board of County Commissioners. Those who spoke were passionate about this idea. Some had served and felt it was time to recognize women in uniform.

This is a fitting use of the land on Okaloosa Island which locals will recognize as the old par three golf course. It was originally 35 acres but is now 17 acres as some of the land has been transitioned to commercial and environmental uses.

The County Commission seeks to keep this property as close as possible to Old Florida. Currently the land that is on the bay side, has a Rookery with 35 nesting Herons, Great Horn Owls and Osprey. The Audubon society uses this property for its bird sightings and this year found over 220 plus species of birds. In the fall, it has Monarch butterflies that rest until they take flight for their final leg of their migration across the Gulf of Mexico.

This project has been supported by the Tourist Development Council, The Defense Support Initiatives Committee and The Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce. Because it is so unique, it is the belief that many will want to travel here to visit it.

Women achieved the right to vote in 1920 in the United States, only 100 years ago. This is a wonderful way for Okaloosa County to recognize the contributions women have made to our nation, especially in an area surrounded by military and their families.

If you wish to donate make a check payable to the Eglin Air Force Association and mail to Candace Lovell, President, 210 West Hollywood Blvd., Suite 137, Mary Esther, Florida 32569, designated to the Women's Veterans Monument.

***Carolyn Ketchel is an Okaloosa County Commissioner and a member of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.***



**Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association, Inc. (OILA) Board of Directors  
Organizational Meeting Minutes**

June 14, 2019

776 Sundial Court #501

Attendees: Directors Brick Bradford, Rick Deckert, John Donovan, David Sherry, and Jim Simpson. Absent: Directors Kathy Foster and David Miller.

At 2:05 PM a quorum was established and the meeting was called to order.

The order of business was briefly discussed, and then nominations for President commenced. John Donovan nominated David Sherry and Rick Deckert seconded. David Sherry was then unanimously elected by the Board as the 2019-2020 President of OILA.

**Swearing in:**

The next order of business was the swearing in of the new Directors. As President, David Sherry administered the Oath to new board members Brick Bradford, Rick Deckert, John Donovan and Jim Simpson. Then David Sherry was sworn in by Director John Donovan. The Directors who could not attend, Kathy Foster and David Miller, will be sworn in at the next Directors' Meeting or earlier if possible.

The Directors' Oath reads as follows: "Do you solemnly swear and affirm that you will faithfully discharge your duties as a Director of OILA, Inc., and that you will uphold the By-Laws of OILA; the Okaloosa Island Protective Covenants and Restrictions of record; and that you will act only in the best interests of Okaloosa Island and the Members of OILA?" All answered in the affirmative.

**Remaining Officers Nomination and Election:**

Rick Deckert was unanimously elected Vice President after nomination by John Donovan, seconded by David Sherry. Jim Simpson was unanimously elected Treasurer after nomination by Rick Deckert, seconded by John Donovan. John Donovan was unanimously elected Secretary after nomination by Rick Deckert, seconded by David Sherry.

**Director Terms Review:**

The Directors reviewed the prior-year's OILA Board's Nominating Committee's declaration of candidates for three-year terms and one-year terms. The Directors unanimously concluded that Directors with three-year terms were Brick Bradford, Rick Deckert, John Donovan, and David Sherry; and Directors with one-year terms were Kathy Foster and Jim Simpson.

Secretary John Donovan was assigned the task of communicating newly elected officers to outgoing Secretary Paula Hudson to include in the June meeting minutes.

President David Sherry was assigned the task of informing each Okaloosa County Commissioner of the new OILA Directors and Officers, and to inform each Commissioner that OILA will need advance notice regarding any Okaloosa Island issue with respect to which the BCC should receive input from Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association. OILA is a membership organization, and its Board must involve its membership in OILA's decisions.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 PM.

John S. Donovan  
Secretary

**TRIVIA CRAWLERS**

1. The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.
2. On average, 100 people choke to death on ball point pens every year, so be careful.
- 3..In every episode of Seinfeld there's a superman somewhere.
4. The shortest 5 syllable word in the english language is ideology (i-de-ol-o-gy).
5. Before Columbus arrived in the Americas, no native american had type B blood.
6. 'Stewardesses' is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.
7. If Barbie were life size her measurements would be 39-23-33.
- 8.. Pinocchio is Italian for pine eye (Pino is Italian for pine, Occhio is Italian for eye).
9. Checkmate comes from the Persian phrase "shah mat" which means the king is dead.
10. Donald duck comics were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear pants.
11. The chance of you dying on the way to get lottery tickets is actually greater than your chance of winning.
12. A Swedish woman lost her wedding ring, and found it 16 years later- growing on a carrot in her garden.



**Green**

Conditions are favorable for swimming



**Yellow**

Medium hazard



**Red**

High hazard



**Red over Red**

Danger - the water is closed to public use



**Purple**

Marine pests are present

Whether it's old glory or thrown as a penalty at a football game, flags make us stop and think. That's why it's important to check which flags are out when you arrive at the beach, and to know what they represent. Even if it's a beautiful, sunny day, currents and surf could still pose varying levels of danger.

- **Green** indicates low hazard and means calm conditions, but swimmers should exercise caution
- **Yellow** indicates medium hazard and means moderate surf and/or currents. Knee deep is too deep.
- **Red** indicates high hazard and means high surf and/or currents. Avoid swimming.
- **An additional red flag** means the water is closed to the public.
- **Purple** indicates dangerous marine life.



