

**JUNE 2020 EDITION OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND
LEASEHOLDERS NEWSLETTER, THE OIL LANTERN**
Page 1 of 10 Pages



P.O. Box 4323 OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION,
Ft Walton Beach.FL 32549

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

For the safety of our members and to comply with CDC and State of Florida guidelines, our next OILA meeting will be conducted on Tuesday, June 23 starting at 6:30 pm **over the internet by Zoom**. In a few days OILA members will receive a meeting invitation by e-mail, with instructions on how to join the meeting.

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- ◆ Double “Quarantine” Wuzzle Puzzle Answers

**ISLAND PIONEER,
MIKE MITCHELL,
PASSED AWAY ON
JUNE 8 AT THE
AGE OF 91. HIS
OBITUARY IS IN
THIS NEWSLETTER**



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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – DAVID SHERRY

Mike Mitchell - It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Mike Mitchell. Mike and his wife Ginny called Okaloosa Island home for nearly 50 years, and are long standing OILA members with Mike serving as Chairman of the Architectural Review Committee. After his Air Force career Mike served as an Okaloosa County Commissioner for 16 years. He was a strong advocate for Okaloosa Island, and was always available with good advice, insights, and Island history. It was a pleasure and an honor to have known Mike Mitchell. He was 91. He will be missed.



June 23, 2020 OILA Meeting – For the safety of our members and to comply with CDC and State of Florida guidelines, our June 23 OILA meeting will be conducted over the internet by Zoom. In a few days OILA members will receive a meeting invitation by e-mail, with instructions on how to register and join the meeting by Zoom.

This meeting will be to conduct the election of directors. The terms of Kathy Foster, Dave Miller, and Jim Simpson expire at the June 23 meeting. I'd like to thank them for their service, and give a special thanks to Jim for his service as Treasurer and Editor of the OIL Lantern for roughly 21 years. It is my hope that Jim will stay on as Treasurer and Editor. Four members are running for the 3 open seats.

The ballots will be counted in the Lounge at El Matador condominium, 909 Santa Rosa Blvd. Any member who has not voted by mail is eligible to vote in-person between 6:30 PM and 7:00 PM in the Lounge. The polls will close at 7:00 PM and no ballots will be accepted after 7:00 PM.

We will be broadcasting from the Lounge via Zoom. The Zoom connection will stay open from 6:30 PM until the ballots are counted and the election results announced.

Per CDC guidelines we will be respecting people's social distance in the Lounge and recommend personal protective equipment (PPE) for those entering the Lounge. CDC's current guidelines recommend face coverings when outside the home.

David Sherry
President, Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association

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June 2020 OILA Meeting Agenda;

DATE: Tuesday, June 23, 2020

TIME: 6:30 PM

PLACE: Virtual meeting via Zoom (Ballot count and In-Person voting for those who have not already submitted a ballot will be at the El Matador Lounge, 909 Santa Rosa Blvd.)

I. Call to Order 6:30 PM

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Moment of Silence in Honor of Mike Mitchell

IV. Roll Call of Board Members

V. Members who have not already submitted a ballot may vote from 6:30 PM until 7:00 PM

VI. Designated ballot counters assemble and start the election process

VII. Polls Close: 7:00 PM

VIII. Votes tabulated

IX. Election results announced

X. Swearing in of new board members (deferred to organizational meeting)

ISLAND RAINFALL FOR MAY 2020: 1.4 INCHES



May 17.....1.1 inches

May 20.....0.3 inches

Avg Rainfall for May4.0 inches

Variance to Average..... -2.6 inches

June Avg Rainfall.....6.1 inches

June Record High.....102° F (1969)

June Record Low 48° F (1984)

June Avg Water Temperature.....81° F

July Avg Rainfall.....8.5 inches

July Record High.....107.°F (1980)

July Record Low 55 ° F (1967)

July Avg Water Temperature.....83° F

YTD Variance -9.7 inches

Year to Date Rainfall..... 14.6 inches

Avg Annual Rainfall65.1 inches

**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



ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT FOR MAY 2020 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>
May 21		9	940 Santa Rosa Blvd Somerset Apts - #1523	Occupational License	Yes
May 28	149	7	756 Seahorse Paula Previte	Replace & Repair Fence	Yes

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – JUNE



June 2, 1924: United States citizenship granted to all American Indians.

June 6, 1933: First drive-in movie theater opened in New Jersey.

June 10, 1652: The first United States Mint was established in Boston.

June 14, 1922: William Harding became the first United States president heard on radio, on Baltimore station *WEAR*.

June 20, 1893: Lizzie Borden was found innocent by jury in New Bedford, Massachusetts, of the ax murders of her father and stepmother.

June 22, 1954: The antacid Roloids was trademark registered.

June 22, 1970: President Nixon signed a measure lowering the voting age to eighteen.

June 25, 1876: Lt. Colonel George Armstrong Custer and his 7th Cavalry were massacred by Sioux & Cheyenne Indians at the Battle of Little Big Horn.

June 28, 1917: The Raggedy Ann doll was invented.

June 29, 1915 - Juicy Fruit chewing gum was trademark registered.

MAY 22 BLOOD DRIVE A BIG SUCCESS - 14 UNITS DONATED! SEE BLOOD DONOR HONOR ROLL BELOW

The following note was received from OneBlood:

“We are pleased to share with you that the recent blood drive resulted in 14 units of blood. Remember, each donation can save up to three lives so that means 42 patients could benefit from the lifesaving efforts of blood donors at Okaloosa Island Fire Department. We encourage you to share the drive results with the rest of your team and pass along our gratitude for their life saving efforts.”



Blood Donor HONOR ROLL

Thank you for participating in the blood drive at Okaloosa Island Fire Department on Friday, May 22, 2020

DOUGLAS BRIANNA
BOWEN CHARLES
MCRAE DONNA
HUDSON GARY
THOMAS-TILLMAN
JAMIE
PAUL JOHN
MARTIN LAURA
MICHAEL MICHELE

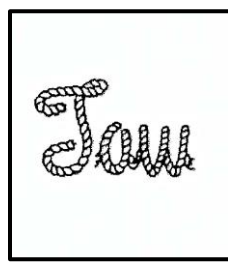
DAVIS CAROL
DUNLAP CONNIE
JETER ELIZABETH
SIMPSON JAMES
GRAHAM JASON
HAGAN JULIE
STRAWN MICHAEL
METZ PHILIP

DOUBLE “QUARANTINE” 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 the last page of this newsletter.

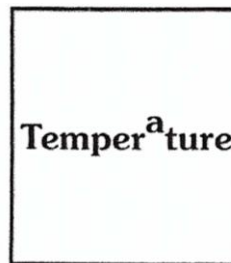
Wuzzle No. 1



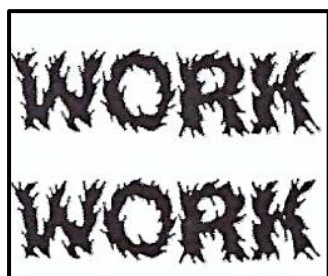
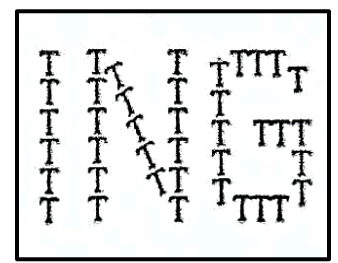
Wuzzle No. 2



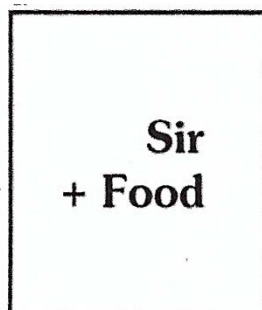
Wuzzle No. 3



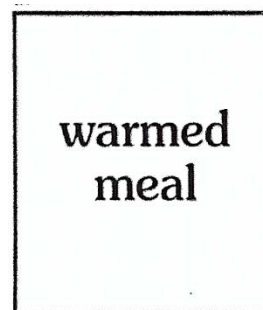
Wuzzle No. 4



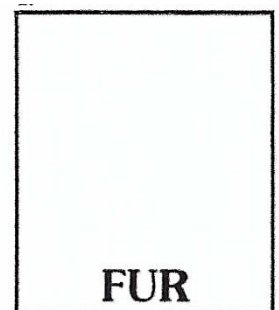
Wuzzle No. 5



Wuzzle No. 6



Wuzzle No. 7



Wuzzle No. 8

OKALOOSA ISLAND FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Building a Pedestrian Crossing
Across Santa Rosa Blvd Directly
Connecting Sound Side Access
No. 1 to Beach Side Access No. 1.



Breaking Gound



Forms for Concrete



DONE!



South Side Handicapped Ramp
to the Beach Side Parking Area



Okaloosa Island Flag Girls – BETH JETER & CONNIE DUNLAP - Did Their Jobs for Memorial Day, May 25, 2020. Check Out the Above “Flagged” Entrance to the Island. Flags Were Also Placed Along Santa Rosa Blvd. Beth & Connie Are Members of the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association.



**THE NEW HANDICAPPED FRIENDLY PEDESTRIAN CROSS WALK
AFTER THE OKALOOSA ISLAND FLAG GIRLS FOUND IT**

BOOMER IS BACK!

In the October 2019 edition of The OIL Lantern, we did a local interest article (below) about “Boomer” a land tortoise (**African Sulcata**) owned by Okaloosa Island resident, Syd (the Doctor Doolittle of Okaloosa Island). She got “Boomer” when he was 4 months old at a farm in Okaloma (Boomer-Sooner?) Note: Syd is an Okie 😊. At the time of the October 2019 article Boomer was six years old and weighed around 30 lbs. He eats fruits and veggies - around a gallon a day. He is a burrowing tortoise and doubles in size every year.



Syd With Boomer – Oct 2019

“BOOMER” IS A SOONER

And Yes, Syd does take him for walks!

LOOK AT HIM NOW! 7 YEARS OLD, 45 POUNDS AND GROWING! CHECK OUT THAT GROUND SALAD!



World's Tallest Paper-Cup* Tower

Employees of the Haier Washing Machine Company in China erected this 33 ft sculpture made out of paper cups on June 28, 2017. It took 4 hrs and 15 minutes to construct the lofty tower.

***Are they Solo Cups?**

Scale Marker



The lady is 6 feet tall

OKALOOSA ISLAND FIRE CHIEF KEVIN CARVALHO TO RETIRE THIS MONTH

Following is his farewell letter to the members of the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association

To the members of the Okaloosa Island Leaseholder's Association:

Earlier in the year, I underwent total left hip surgery for a decade long aggravated traumatic hip injury. During my rehabilitation from the surgery, my wife and I discussed retirement and that the timing seemed right; then a 'Global Pandemic' hit. Some of these factors and a few others have caused me to submit my paperwork for retirement. We are moving out of the area while our daughter moves into our small condo and starts the Radiography Program at NWFSC in August. When she finishes and moves on, we will become "snowbirds" and travel back to beautiful Okaloosa Island the winters and stay in our little studio unit near the beach. We will continue to support the Island and its residents as we have made this place our home for nearly a quarter century.



Thank you for always supporting me throughout the nearly twenty five years I have been with the organization. Please know the department is in great hands and that I have a tremendous amount of respect and admiration for the men and women with whom I have had the pleasure of serving. It truly has been an honor and a very humbling experience to be your Fire Chief. I recently explained to my wife that I became a firefighter through a calling I heard when I was young (5 years old) and had never thought of it further and that when I moved to Florida, by happenstance on a Friday a week after arriving, I told my brother "I want to be a fireman" I was enrolled in the Fire Academy that was starting on the following Monday and then, shortly thereafter, was hired by the Okaloosa Island Fire District by Chief Hooks. It was my first job out of the fire academy and I only heard of it when my father told me about this single station fire department right by the beach. I applied in December of 1995 and tested in June of 1996 and started October 11, 1996. I was so happy to be a firefighter and that never has changed one moment throughout my career. I am leaving with nothing but the greatest of memories of my time at the department. Thank you again for all of the support.

We will be traveling back to the area here later in the year for an official send off and will always remember the wonderful memories shared throughout my career when I stop in again to the station. Until then...

Be safe,

Kevin Carvalho
Fire Chief (Ret.)

OKALOOSA ISLAND WELCOMES THE NEW INTERIM FIRE CHIEF, MICHAEL RAY STRAWN

Following is a letter of introduction from Chief Strawn

I would like to thank the residents of Okaloosa Island for the opportunity to serve as your Fire Chief. It is an honor and a privilege to serve with all the members of the Okaloosa Island Fire District.

I am a long-time resident of Okaloosa county and a 1990 graduated Baker High School. I served in the United States Army from 1993 through 1997. During this time, I was assigned to the Military Intelligence Corps where my primary job was electronic warfare.

I have been in the fire service since 2000, the year I began the fire academy. I began my career with North Okaloosa Fire Rescue where I worked from 2001 until 2006, receiving Airport Fire Fighter training and certification. I was hired by the Okaloosa Island Fire District on September 1, 2006



(New Interim Fire Chief, Richard Ray Strawn Continued on Next Page)



In the years since I have received training and certification on Emergency Response to Terrorism, Incident Safety Officer, Incident Command System, as well as receiving Fire Officer 1 and Fire Officer 2 certifications. I also continued my formal education, receiving my degree in Fire Science from Pensacola State College in 2010.

During my time with the District, I served in the rank of firefighter for two years, Firefighter/Engineer for two years, Lieutenant for four years, Captain for five years, and Assistant Chief for two years. As assistant

chief I also served as Fire Marshall. I have been a Paramedic since 2006 and became a Certified Tactical Medic in 2009. I have also been employed part-time as a flight medic. During my time with the District I have served as the Union Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President, and President. I have also served on the Firefighters Pension Board as Secretary and then Chairman.

I am very proud of our fire department. We have a very talented group of 18 Firefighters, 14 of whom are paramedics, along with three Emergency Medical Technicians. Eleven of the District's firefighters are certified by the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) as Open Water Lifesavers. The District has also been named by USLA as an Aquatic Rescue Response Team. This certification allows the District to officially train and maintain the (USLA) standards for our firefighter lifeguards. I am particularly pleased with our fire department having this certification because back in 2008 I worked part time as a Lifeguard/Paramedic on the beaches of Okaloosa island. Firefighters at that time performed swim rescues just as we do now, but training opportunities were limited. Being named a USLA training Center now takes this training to the highest level possible. It is steps like this that allow your fire department to be as ready as possible to respond to emergencies to the best of our ability.

On a personal level, my wife Valerie and I are Okaloosa Island residents. Together we have three adult children: Hannah, Austin, and Evan. We also have one granddaughter, Jade.

On behalf of myself and all the firefighters here at the Okaloosa Island Fire Department I would like to thank the Okaloosa Island residents for your support throughout the years and look forward to your continued support.

Michael Ray Strawn
Interim Fire Chief

**OKALOOSA ISLAND
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Certified As An

**Aquatic Rescue
Response Team**

- By the United States Lifesaving Association (USLF)
- (Copy of the Certificate To the Right)
- The USLA found the OIFD in compliance with their recommended guidelines for aquatic rescue.

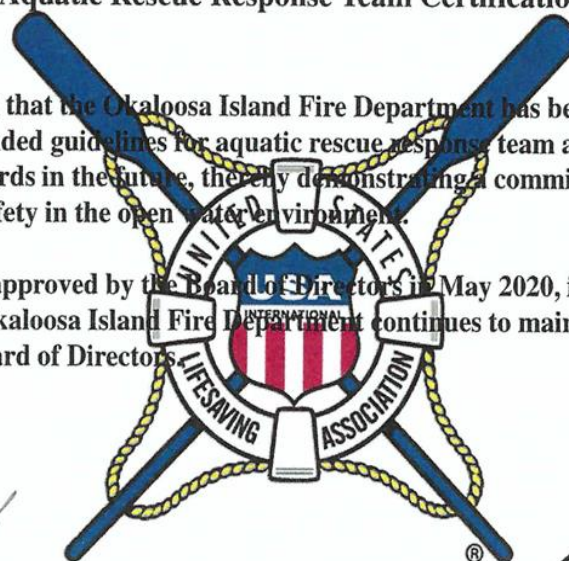
This is very important for a Fire Department with miles of public beach.

WAY TO GO OIFD!

**United States Lifesaving Association
Aquatic Rescue Response Team Certification**

Be it hereby known that the Okaloosa Island Fire Department has been found in compliance with USLA recommended guidelines for aquatic rescue response team and has agreed to maintain these standards in the future, thereby demonstrating a commitment to providing a high level of public safety in the open water environment.

This certification, approved by the Board of Directors in May 2020, is effective through May 2023, so long as the Okaloosa Island Fire Department continues to maintain the standards represented to the Board of Directors.



Gus Avila
USLA President

B. Chris Brewster, Chair
Certification Committee

IN MEMORY OF ISLAND ICON, PIONEER & LEADER, MIKE MITCHELL

Michael “Mike” Murray Mitchell, age 91, passed away peacefully on June 8 in the home he built with his devoted wife by his side.

Born in Fresno, California, Mike obtained his pilot’s license before he could drive a car. He joined the Air Force and began a lifetime of public service. He flew F-80 fighter jets in the Korean War and was awarded The Silver Star Medal for valor in combat. After Korea, Mike was one of the original drone pilots at Eglin AFB before drones were cool.

He enthusiastically agreed to a blind date in the mid 50’s and married Ginny, the love of his life in 1956.

Mike earned a Master’s degree in Geodesy from The Ohio State University. He then authored a textbook entitled “Introduction to Geodesy” which is, at the current time, sold out on Amazon. Together, they toured the globe and added four children to the world born in Louisiana, Germany, Florida, and Japan.

In 1971, Mike retired to Okaloosa Island at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, after a 21-year Air Force career. After his retirement, Mike served under State Representative Jerry Melvin. In 1976 Mike was the first Republican ever elected in Okaloosa County, serving as a commissioner for 16 years. He won his first election by a landslide of 26 votes. Mike continued to serve on many civic and community organizations in the area throughout his life. He was always willing to engage in a political debate, respectfully and with good humor. He was a regular parishioner at St. Simons on the Sound, and his talents produced paintings, murals, and PVC sculptures that adorn the grounds of many family homes. He was a true Renaissance man.

To say Mike lived a full life is an understatement. He taught his children to windsurf, sail and fish. He patiently taught his grandsons to fish and drive a motorboat. He showed his granddaughters how to do a back flip off the diving board when he was almost 80. He survived 60 years with Type 1 Diabetes. He was often seen tooling around the island in his convertible with his bride as his copilot. In recent weeks, he loved nothing more than the weekly happy hour video chats with his family all over the country.

He will be remembered as an aviator, an artist, an author but most importantly as a wonderful husband, beloved father, grandfather and friend.

Mike is survived by his wife of 63 years Virginia (Toelke), his children Craig (Beth), Scott (Gail), Mary-Margaret (Tab Tollett) and John (Donna), his five grandchildren Justin, Tyler, Ella, Camille, and Delaney as well as many relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held at a later date at St. Simons on the Sound.

Last year he was honored with the naming of the No. 6 beach access on Santa Rosa Blvd. as “Mike Mitchell Beachwalk.” As you pass by today, please pause to raise a glass and salute a life well-lived and extremely well-loved.

MIKE, OUR FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR, WAS INVOLVED IN EVERYTHING ON THE ISLAND

Mike, “Patriot” dressed to the “T’s” for the 4th of July block party (Pelican, Pompano & Porpoise). He never missed a 4th and stood proudly behind the Air Force banner when the services were recognized



Mike, Chairman of the Leaseholders Architectural Review Committee



Mike, Dumpster Boss, OILA Island Clean-up Project in 2008

Mike, at the Dedication Last Year of the 6th Beach Access in his name: the “Mike Mitchell Beachwalk”



DOUBLE "QUARANTINE" WUZZLE PUZZLES ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



Cleaning Up in the Market

Wuzzle No. 2



Tow Ropes

Wuzzle No. 3



"A" Rise in Temperature

Wuzzle No. 4



"T"easing

DOUBLE "QUARANTINE" WUZZLE PUZZLES ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 5



Fire Works

Wuzzle No. 6



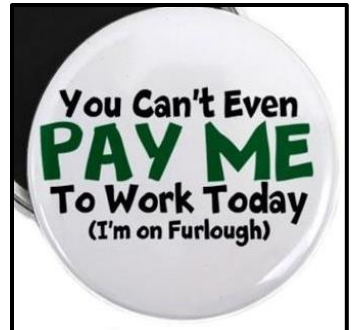
Surplus Food

Wuzzle No. 7



Warmed Over Meal

Wuzzle No. 8



Furlough