

**JUNE 2025 EDITION OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
NEWSLETTER, THE OIL LANTERN
Page 1 of 6 Pages**



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

**OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
ASSOCIATION**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Our May meeting will be held on **Monday, June 9, 2025** starting at 7 pm. For our June meeting, members will have the option of attending the meeting in-person at the Okaloosa Island Firehouse (104 Santa Rosa Blvd) or attending over the internet by Zoom. In a few days OILA members will receive a Zoom meeting invitation by e-mail, with instructions on how to join the meeting.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- Message from the President
- Agenda for the June 2025 Meeting
- Rainfall for May 2025
- May Architectural Review Committee Report
- Draft Minutes – May 12 OILA Meeting
- This Month in History – June
- Master Gardner Lecture Series - Planting for Small Places – Monday, June 16, 10:00 a.m.
- Island History Dates

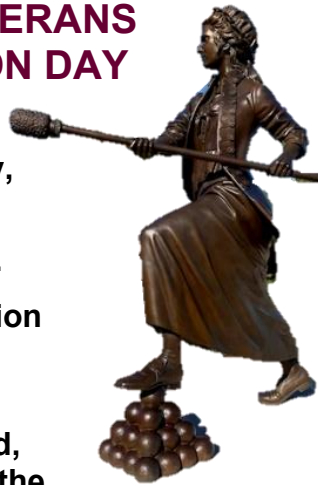
**WOMEN VETERANS
RECOGNITION DAY
CEREMONY**

**Date: Thursday,
June 12**

Time: 8:00 a.m.

**Place: Convention
Center**

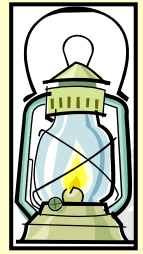
**Speaker: Col.
Kristen N. Wood,
Commander of the
1st Special
Operations Group,
Hurlburt Field**





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
June 2025



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – Brian Harrington

OILA Leadership Changing of the Guard—I'd like to begin this newsletter by welcoming *Lori Waschak, Steve Scott, Jesse Hunt and Eddie Wall* to OILAs board of directors. All of your new directors are full-time island residents with an excellent history of involvement in matters that concern Okaloosa Islanders. As you know, OILAs Board of Directors consists of 7 members. Every 3 years OILA nominates four directors, and the following year the remaining 3 directors are chosen either by nomination or by election. Leadership change is a bittersweet moment as we also bid a fond farewell to OILA directors *Frank Adcock, David Jones, Dylan Hunt and Vice President Louis Belanger*. It was rewarding to work with people who were both engaging and passionate about maintaining and improving the quality of life for all island residents and their guests—I'm looking forward to working together in the future.



Women Veterans Day—Okaloosa County will hold its 3rd Annual Ceremony on June 12 at 8 a.m. at the Convention Center, where two new bronze statues honoring Army Captain Linda Bray and Florence Ebersole Smith Finch will be unveiled. The ceremony will feature keynote speaker Col. Kristen Wood, Commander 1st Special Operations Mission Support Group. A wreath-laying ceremony will follow at Veterans Park. In addition to Bray and Finch, two statues are being commissioned to honor an Iroquois Woman Warrior from the War of 1812 and Nicole Gee, a Marine who served during the evacuation of Afghanistan.

Water and Sewer Upgrades continue down Pelican Dr. and Dorado Ave as the island's infrastructure continues to improve. Contract companies are currently installing sewer clean outs along the roadways. Later this summer, the sanitary sewers will be relined with a membrane designed to reduce cross contamination and improve the flow of wastewater.

Tourist Development Council and Property Tax Legislation Update-- Florida House Bill 1221 which called for a change of tourist development taxes from limited use revenue to general revenue was *indefinitely postponed and withdrawn* from consideration by the Florida Senate. A **Companion Bill HB 7033** proposed \$4.9 billion in total tax cuts, driven by a reduction in the general sales tax rate—from 6 percent to 5.25 percent. This bill is currently being discussed as Florida's Legislative and Executive Branches are divided on how to address property tax reform. Governor DeSantis has proposed a two-pronged approach to long-term property tax relief. The first step is comprised of a \$1,000 statewide homestead property tax rebate beginning in tax years 2025 and 2026. The second step under the governor's plan is to double or triple the current \$25,000 homestead property tax exemption for all *full-time Florida residents*. The Governor has extended the legislative session until June 6th in an attempt to resolve the differences.

Have A Great Summer! There are no scheduled meetings for the months of July and August. However, be assured that your new board of directors will be working hard to ensure that OILA continues to work in the best interests of our members.

OILA—We're stronger together

I. PLACE: For our June 2025 meeting, members will have the option of attending the meeting in-person at the Okaloosa Island Firehouse (104 Santa Rosa Blvd) or attending over the internet by Zoom.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call of Board Members: Brian Harrington, President

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: Mark Waschak, Secretary
Draft minutes, May 12, 2025, meeting (printed in this newsletter)

V. Treasurer's Report - Jim Simpson, Treasurer

VI. Standing Committee Reports: Nick Smith, ARC Chairman
Architectural Review Committee Report for May 2025 (printed in this newsletter and for info only)

VII. New Business

- A. Installation of New OILA Directors
- B.
- C.

Old Business:

VIII. Announcements, Speakers and Programs

XI. Adjournment



MAY 2025
Rainfall 6.8 Inches

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| May 3.... 1.5 inches | May 11... 0.2 inches |
| May 7.... 0.1 inches | May 12... 0.2 inches |
| May 8.... 0.1 inches | May 26... 0.2 inches |
| May 9.... 1.8 inches | May 28... 1.0 inches |
| May 10... 0.2 inches | May 29... 1.5 inches |

Avg Rainfall for May.....**4.0** inches
Variance to Average.....+ **2.8** 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**

2025 Total Rainfall.....**14.7** inches
2025 Variance to Average.... **- 9.6** inches
Avg Annual Rainfall**65.1** inches



ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR MAY 2025. The OILA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) received and reviewed the following building permits during the month of May and upon review and adherence to the OILA Covenants, has approved the following project(s):

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Lot(s)</u> | <u>Block</u> | <u>Owner/POC/Address</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>In-Compliance & Approved</u> |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5/13 | 421A | 7 | F. Street 742 Sailfish Dr | Pool | Yes |

Special Notes: The OILA ARC instructions for your project are located on the OILA website:

<http://www.OILAwab.com/ArchitectureReview.html>

Please read and follow the instructions for submission of an OILA ARC application:

1. OILA ARC review package:
 - 1.1. Completed OILA ARC application,
 - 1.2. Survey plat of the property,
 - 1.3. Overlaid illustration of the project on a copy of the survey plat.
 - 1.4. Other supporting documents* (drawings, plans, specifications, etc.) (*If these are large files, they can be submitted separately).
(Combine the files into one file for submission to the ARC, either in MS Word or Adobe PDF format.)
2. Email the completed ARC application file to the OILA ARC for review at OILAARC@yahoo.com.

The ARC applications will be reviewed in the order they are received and the review will be completed within 2 weeks of a completed application. (Note: The ARC no longer holds meetings in-person/zoom meetings the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month).

WUZZLE PUZZLES - What is a Wuzzle Puzzle? It is a puzzle consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures, or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, etc. Are you ready to take the challenge and figure out the "disguised" meaning of these wuzzles? Good luck. The answers are available on [page 6](#) of this newsletter.

COFFEE

Wuzzle No. 1

gnikool

Wuzzle No. 2

STAND
ICU

Wuzzle No. 3

Sister

Wuzzle No. 4

DRAFT MINUTES, MAY 12, 2025, MEETING

Date: May 12, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Attendees: Directors Harrington, King, Jones, Hunt, Bogess

1. *Call to Order*

- Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM.

2. *Pledge of Allegiance*

- Led at 7:01 PM.

3. *Approval/Correction of Previous Minutes*

- Correction noted: **Chief Strawn's name** was misspelled in the April minutes.

4. *Treasury Report (Jim Simpson) (see attachment 1 to these minutes)*

- Discussion of reimbursement related to **OILA lantern mailing**.
- **Motion to reimburse Jim Simpson – Passed unanimously.**

5. *MSBU Update (with Paula)*

- No concerns regarding **lighting repairs** or associated costs.
- Leadership has been in contact with the county regarding **irrigation issues** in common areas and why it is not functioning.

6. *ARC Report (Nick Hall)*

- Reviewed two items:
 - **Aqua Villa Condo stair addition**
 - **Shed on Sailfish**
- No questions raised regarding either application.

7. *Nominating Committee Report*

- Four candidates presented:
 - Jesse Hunt
 - Steve Scott
 - Lori Waschak
 - Edward Wall
- President read candidate bios aloud.
- Floor was opened for nominations; **none were offered.**

8. *Little Adventures Discussion*

- Brief discussion with the Secretary regarding the **Little Adventures** program.

9. *Guest Speaker Suggestion*

- A suggestion was made to invite **Jennifer Adams** from the **Tourist Development Council (TDC)** or another guest speaker to discuss current legislation.

10. Upcoming BCC Meeting

- Next Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting is scheduled for **May 20, 2025**.
- Agenda is expected to be released the **Thursday before** the meeting.

11. Local Political Inquiry

- A question was raised about whether **anyone is running against Carolyn Ketchel** for the district's BCC seat.

12. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn at **7:31 PM**.

Attachment 1:

TREASURER'S REPORT: May 12, 2025

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 257

April 14, 2025 TOTAL BALANCE: \$26,984.70

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF April 14, 2025.....\$ 24,063.42

RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT:

Membership Dues..... \$ 36.00

U.S. Mail fee:.....\$ 8.00

Total Receipts: \$ 44.00

EXPENDITURES

Payment to Auto-Owners Insurance (thru Gilmore Insurance & Bonding) to Renew Commercial
General Liability Coverage for May 16, 2025 to May 16, 2026\$ 2,763.36

EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT

Reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of postage to mail the May 2025 issue of the OIL Lantern.....\$ 50.58

**ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER ALLOCATION,
RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES & EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT
AS OF May 22, 2025.....\$ 21,293.48**

LEGAL FEE ALLOCATION BALANCE AS OF April 14, 2025.....\$ 1,500.00

LEGAL FEE ALLOCATION EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT.....No Expenditures

LEGAL FEE ALLOCATION BALANCE AS OF May 12, 2025.....\$ 1,500.00

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF April 14, 2025, 2024.....\$ 1,421.28

BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF May 12, 2025.....\$ 1,421.28

SUMMARY: May 12, 2025 Fund Balances

-- Association's Discretionary Fund Balance.\$ 21,293.48

-- Legal Fee Allocation Balance.....\$ 1,500.00

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

TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE... ..\$ 24,214.76

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – JUNE

June 4, 1919 – Congress passes the 19th Amendment which gives women the right to vote.

June 5, 1783 - The first sustained flight occurred as a hot-air balloon was launched at Annonay, France, by brothers Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier.

June 6, 1933: The first drive-in theater opened in Camden, New Jersey.

June 14, 1951 - Univac 1, the world's first commercial electronic computer was unveiled in Philadelphia. It was installed at the Census Bureau and utilized a magnetic tape unit as a buffer memory.

June 18, 1861: The first American fly-casting tournament was held in Utica, NY.

June 19, 1885 – The Statue of Liberty arrives from France.

June 22, 1847: Doughnuts are created.

June 27, 2003: Registration begins for the Do Not Call List with nearly 3/4 million phone numbers registered on the first day providing consumers with an opportunity to limit telemarketing calls. Enforcement on telemarketing begins on October 1.

June 30, 1936 – The book “Gone With The Wind” was published.

PLANTING FOR SMALL SPACES

These days many people have smaller planting areas. And some are simplifying their gardens but do not wish to sacrifice the joy of beautiful spaces. We receive many inquiries as to what plant will be 'well-behaved' and not outgrow their space. Here is a program that is certain to help! Hope you can attend.

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



MASTER GARDENER LECTURE SERIES

PLANTINGS FOR SMALL SPACES

Featuring: Beth Bolles
Escambia County Horticulture
Extension Agent

Planting solutions for small spaces
& dwarf varieties for tight spaces.

Free Event:

To register, please email (your name,
phone number, and the number attending)
to MGLecture@yahoo.com

Where?

3098 Airport Road
Crestview, FL 32539

More Information

☎ 850-244-4490

✉ MGLecture@yahoo.com

The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. For disability accommodations such as sign language interpreters and listening devices, please contact this office at countyextinfo@myokaloosa.com, or 850-689-5850, at least 1 week in advance. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs. Equal Opportunity Employer

Monday
June 16
10 am



WUZZLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



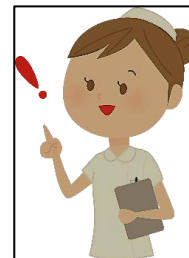
Coffee Break

Wuzzle No. 2



Looking Backwards

Wuzzle No 3



I See You Understand

Wuzzle No. 4



Little Sister

ISLAND HISTORY INFORMATION

10 Years Ago: Wild Wiley's Adventure Zone opened on May 29, 2015. The opening of this \$5 million business gave a major boost to the Island and to the area tourist industry. Wild Wiley's has expanded significantly since this opening date.

5 Years Ago: Island pioneer and resident, Mike Mitchell, passed away on June 9, 2020, at the age of 91. Mike was a decorated, retired Air Force pilot with 21 years of service. He served as an Okaloosa County Commissioner for 16 years (1976-1992). In 2019 the 6th Beach Access was named in his honor in recognition of his community service.