

MAY 2026 EDITION OF THE OKALOOSA ISLANDE 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 2026 meeting will be held on **Monday, May 11** starting at 7 pm. For our May 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

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- Wuzzle Puzzles
- Draft Minutes – April 13, 2026 Meeting
- This Month in History – May
- Wuzzle Puzzle Answers

April 2026 Photo of Brooks Bridge

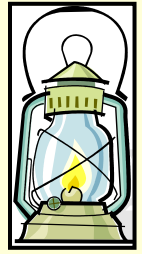


The new 3 lane east bound road section of the Brooks Bridge is close to being completed. The completion date for the bridge is the Summer 2027



THE OIL LANTERN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND
LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION, Inc
P.O. Box 4323, Fort Walton Beach, FL 3254
Editor: Jim Simpson, (850) 585-2116
Association Website: www.oilaweb.com
May 2026



OILA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026

- Brian Harrington**
president@oilaweb.com
- Lori Waschak**
vicepresident@oilaweb.com
- Jesse Hunt**
directors@oilaweb.com
- Eddie Wall**
directors@oilaweb.com
- Jerry Boggess**
directors@oilaweb.com
- Steve Scott**
directors@oilaweb.com
- Stan King**
directors@oilaweb.com
- Mark Waschak**
secretary@oilaweb.com
- Jim Simpson**
treasurer@oilaweb.com

By-Laws of the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association Article 1, Section 3

The general nature of the corporation shall be: to coordinate affairs between leaseholder members and the Board of County Commissioners in their role as heirs to the obligations and privileges of the Okaloosa Island Authority, to preserve the public lands on Santa Rosa Island, Okaloosa County, to advise and assist the county in the application of the protective covenants that affect leasehold members and to advise leaseholders and the public in general in their rights and obligations under said leases.

Message from the President – Brian Harrington



The Vote-- OILA, in concert with our legal counsel has unanimously chosen to move forward and seek a court judgment that defines our rights and those of Okaloosa County in regards to the Island’s Protective Covenants and Restrictions. This action is long overdue and should serve as the foundation for a long-standing and positive relationship between OILA and the County. I’d like to thank everyone who turned out to vote at last month’s meeting.

*Beach Freeway Update—*The plan to pave over Beach Freeway #1 has been **suspended indefinitely**. Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel—having read OILAs objections, intervened in the process and the engineering firm that proposed the plan has formally withdrawn their request to construct an overflow parking lot. Your vote last month seeks to ensure that our Beach Freeways will remain as they were intended in the covenants:

“Beach Freeways are to serve pedestrians—to open all vistas from water to water where pedestrian traffic flows after being collected from walkways at the Garden Fronts of individual properties. No encroachment otherwise is to be allowed in these areas.”

Sea Turtles-- Sea turtle nesting season has begun and continues until October 31st. The beach patrol team will be out every morning looking for new nests, marking them and monitoring them until the turtle’s hatch. You can help protect nesting sea turtles by filling in holes, flattening sandcastles and removing all belongings from the beach at the end of the day. You can also help by shutting off external lights at beachfront properties.

*The Island’s Fire Department Changes Command—*We bid a fond farewell to Chief Michael Ray Strawn whose moving retirement ceremony was held last week at the Island’s Fire Station. Chief Strawn was a long-time resident of Okaloosa County who selflessly served our community for twenty-six years. He’s held many leadership positions during his career and finished up as the Island’s Fire Chief starting in the summer of 2020. As Chief, he sought to teach, coach and mentor Okaloosa Island’s firefighters—constantly training and encouraging them to seek self-improvement. Chief Strawn symbolically passed the fire axe to Chief Sean Mast on the morning of April 30th.

*Guest Speaker—*Newly Promoted Fire Chief Sean Mast will be present at May’s meeting where he’ll provide our membership information about the Island Fire Department’s capabilities. Please join us in welcoming Sean to his new leadership position!

OILA—We’re stronger together

May 2026 Meeting Agenda Date: May 11, 2026 Time: 7:00 p.m.

I. PLACE: For our May 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, April 13, 2026, meeting (printed in this newsletter)

V. Treasurer's Report for May 2026 – Jim Simpson, Treasurer

VI. Standing Committee Reports: Nick Hall, ARC Chairman
Architectural Review Committee Report for April 2026

VII. New Business

- A. Legal Update
- B. Nominating Committee Results
- C. OILA Directors' Election Procedures

Old Business:

VIII. Announcements, Speakers and Program

XI. Adjournment



April 2026 Rainfall
0.7 inches

April 6.....**0.4** inches April 19...**0.1** inches
April 26...**0.2** inches

April Avg Rainfall**3.7** inches
Variance to Average.....**- 3.0** inches

May Avg Rainfall.....**4.0** inches
May Record High.....**101° F** (1953)
May Record Low**8° F** (1971)
May Avg Water Temperature... **78° F**

June Avg Rainfall.....**6.1** inches
June Record High.....**102° F** (1969)
June Record Low **48° F** (1984)
June Avg Water .Temperature... **81° F**

YTD Variance **- 14.1** inches
Year to Date Rainfall..... **7.0** inches
Avg Annual Rainfall**65.1** inches

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT APRIL 2026



The OILA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) received and reviewed the following during the month of April 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>
4/1	306	6	A. McDonald 616 Pelican Drive	Swimming Pool	Yes
4/8		9	R. Fassett El Matador	Exterior repairs, Sealant and paint	Yes

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

<http://www.OILAweb.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.

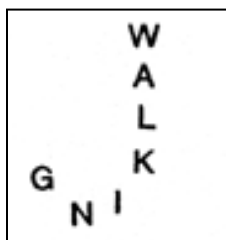
The ARC applications will be reviewed in the order they are received, and the review will be completed within 2 weeks of a completed application. (Note: The ARC no longer holds meetings in-person/zoom meetings the 1st and 3rd Thursday's of the month).

National Hurricane Center Releases Names of Storms for 2026



They are: Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gonzalo, Hanna, Isaias, Josephine, Kyle, Leah, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paulette, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky, Wilfred,

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.



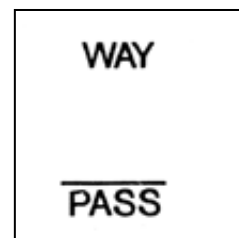
Wuzzle No. 1



Wuzzle No. 2



Wuzzle No. 3



Wuzzle No. 4

Draft Membership Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2026

Directors Present: Harrington, Waschak, Scott, King, Wall, Hunt, Boggess

7:00 PM – Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance.

7:03 PM – Meeting formally called to order. **Attorney Jay Frasier** (Moorehead Law Group) in attendance to discuss covenant law.

7:04 PM – Approval of prior meeting minutes. Motion passed.

7:05 PM – **Treasurer’s Report** presented by Jim Simpson and approved. View approved report at attachment 1 to these minutes.

- Motion approved to reimburse Jim Simpson for expenses, including the annual renewal of OILA’s **non-profit status with the State of Florida.**

7:08 PM – ARC Report:

Applications reviewed and approved for:

- 518 Dorado Drive
- 424 Caviar Drive
- 540 Santa Rosa Boulevard
- John Beasley Park
- Ross Marler Park

7:10 PM – Legal Update:

- The county issued a response that included Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel withdrawing her proposal to pave **Beach Access #1.**
- The commissioner’s email and the President’s response were read into the record and will be posted on the OILA website for documentation.
- OILA will proceed with legal action through Moorehead Law Group to **enforce island covenants and address potential county overreach.**

7:15 PM – Legal Discussion with Counsel:

- Attorney Jay Frasier, a property and covenant law specialist, outlined the legal context.
- The issue originated with the county’s pre-approval processes and has evolved into seeking a **clear legal determination of the county’s authority relative to established covenants.**
- No legal strategy details were discussed due to attorney-client privilege.

(Draft Minutes Continued on Next Page)

- The purpose of the discussion was to assess **member support for funding litigation**.
- Members expressed strong support for preserving current island conditions.
- Counsel indicated the case appears **strong**, though historical variances may be considered.
- Discussion included prior attempts to establish a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** with the county, which had been unsuccessful until recent communication.
- Counsel recommended maintaining momentum and prioritizing the issue.

7:39 PM – Motion for Legal Action:

- Initial motion to pursue legal action against the county received majority support (one dissent).
- Motion revised to:
 - Authorize legal action with a budget **up to \$10,000**,
 - Continue **fundraising efforts**,
 - Revisit funding and strategy at future meetings,
 - Focus on obtaining legal determination and interpretation of covenants between OILA and Okaloosa County.
- Revised motion passed with **all in favor**

7:59 PM – Legal Committee Formation:

- Kevin Jones, Jay Waschak, and Brian Harrington appointed to serve on the legal committee.

8:00 PM – Nominating Committee Announced:

- Members: King, Boggess, Waschak, Bonnie Bentley, Richard Milivich
- Three candidate applications have been received to date.

8:02 PM – County Communication:

- Jim Simpson will notify membership via email of any relevant **Board of County Commissioners (BCC)** agenda items affecting OILA.

8:05 PM – Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

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TREASURER’S REPORT (ATCH 1): April 13, 2026

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 246

March 9, 2026 TOTAL BALANCE: \$24,330.67

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF March 9, 2026.....\$ 21,190.49

RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT:

Membership Dues.....	\$	<u>12.00</u>
Total Receipts: \$		12.00

EXPENDITURES:.....No Expenditures

EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT

Reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of postage to mail the April 2026 OIL Lantern	\$	54.60
Reimburse Jim Simpson for the fee for filing the annual 2026 Non Profit annual report with the State of Florida Division of Corporations for the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association... \$		<u>61.25</u>
Total Expenses Pending Approval for Payment \$		115.85

(Treasurer’s Report Continued on next page)

**ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER RECEIPTS,
EXPENDITURES & EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT
AS OF April 13, 2026**.....

\$ 21,086.64

LEGAL FEE ALLOCATION BALANCE AS OF March 9, 2026.....**\$ 1,718.90**

LEGAL FEE ALLOCATION EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT

Reimbursement to Brian Harrington for payment to Moorhead Law Group..... **\$ 35.00**

Reimbursement to Brian Harrington for payment to Moorhead Law Group.....**\$ 550.00**

Total Legal Fee Expenditures **\$ 585.00**

LEGAL FEE ALLOCATION BALANCE AS OF April 13, 2026 **\$ 1,133.90**

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF March 9, 2026.....**\$ 1,421.28**

BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT**No Expenditures**

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF April 13, 2026..... **\$ 1,421.28**

SUMMARY: April 13, 2026 Fund Balances

-- Association's Discretionary Fund Balance.**\$ 21,086.64**

-- Legal Fee Allocation Balance.....**\$ 1,133.90**

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

TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE... \$ 23,641.82

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – MAY

May (in Latin, *Maius*) was named for the Greek goddess Maia, who was identified with the Roman era goddess of fertility, Bona Dea, whose festival was held in May.



May 7, 1992 - The 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, prohibiting Congress from giving itself pay raises.

May 13, 1865 – The Battle of Palmito Ranch is fought near Brownsville, Texas - the last land battle of the Civil War. After the Texans' victory, they learned the Western Rebel states had authorized the disbanding of armies, and accepted a truce with the Union forces a few days later.

May 14, 1607 - The first permanent English settlement in America was established at Jamestown, Virginia, by a group of royally chartered Virginia Company settlers from Plymouth, England.

May 15, 1972 - George Wallace was shot while campaigning for the presidency in Laurel, Maryland. As a result, Wallace was permanently paralyzed from the waist down.

May 18, 1980 - Mount St. Helens volcano erupted in southwestern Washington State spewing steam and ash over 11 miles into the sky. This was the first major eruption since 1857.

May 21, 1881 - The American Red Cross is formed.

May 22, 1972 - President Richard Nixon became the first American president to visit Moscow. Four days later, Nixon and Soviet Russia's leader Leonid Brezhnev signed a pact pledging to freeze nuclear arsenals at current levels.

May 29, 1453 - The city of Constantinople was captured by the Turks, who renamed it Istanbul. This marked the end of the Byzantine Empire as Istanbul became the capital of the Ottoman Empire.

WUZZLE PUZZLES ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



JAY WALKING

Wuzzle No. 2



**(FORGET IT!)
plus "GET OVER IT!"**

Wuzzle No. 3



JUST IN CASE

Wuzzle No. 4



HIGHWAY OVERPASS