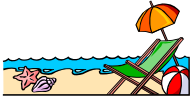


**APRIL 2021 EDITION OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS  
NEWSLETTER, THE OIL LANTERN  
Page 1 of 9 Pages**



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

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

For the safety of our members and to comply with CDC and the State of Florida guidelines, our April meeting will be held on **Monday, April 12, 2021** starting at **7 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.

**IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

- ◆ President's Message - **David Sherry**
- ◆ This Month in History – April
- ◆ STREET LIGHT OUT! HOW TO REPORT IT!
- ◆ April 12, 2021 Meeting Agenda
- ◆ Island Rainfall Report – March 2021
- ◆ OIFD Fire Training at Destin West (photos)
- ◆ OIFD Thanks to Island Garden Club for Beautifying the 9-11 Memorial
- ◆ Wuzzle Puzzles “Football Special”
- ◆ Article by OILA Director, **Brick Bradford**
- ◆ Architectural Review Committee Report for March 2021
- ◆ Minutes (Draft) March 8, 2021
- ◆ Wuzzle Puzzles Answers



**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)

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – DAVID SHERRY**



**More Snorkel Reefs Coming To Okaloosa Island** – You may have noticed a strange looking vessel working about 400 feet offshore near the 6<sup>th</sup> Beach Freeway (see photo below). The vessel is deploying snorkel reefs for Okaloosa County. Once these reefs are in place near the 6<sup>th</sup> Beach Freeway, the vessel will move to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Beach Freeway and install reefs there too. The County previously placed similar reefs at the 4<sup>th</sup> Beach Freeway and near Beasley Park on Okaloosa Island. This will finish the project for Okaloosa Island. The County deployed / is deploying similar reefs in Destin.

**Dune Planting Update** – Volunteers are needed to help plant sea oats and panic grass on the dunes on Okaloosa Island (see photo below). Okaloosa County has moved back its *estimated* starting date for dune planting to no sooner than Saturday, April 24. The project has been delayed due to Covid-19 related shortages. The County now has the sand fence but is still waiting for the poles to anchor them in place. Dune plants won't be added to a section of dune until after the sand fence is installed there. Please contact OILA President David Sherry if you would like to volunteer to help plant the dunes. If you have a location preference for where you want to plant, please include that information. As with the beach clean-ups, volunteers will need to sign a liability waiver. Volunteers should wear comfortable clothing and shoes. More details will follow as the date draws closer.

**ARC Application Deadline** – OILA's Architectural Review Committee (ARC) has had a few applicants submit project applications for review the day before, and even a few minutes before, the ARC meeting. This does not allow adequate time for review. To have your project reviewed by the ARC, please submit your completed application and all supporting documents, plans and drawings no later than noon on the Monday before the Thursday ARC meeting. The ARC meets by Zoom at 9 AM on the first and third Thursday of each month.

**Brooks Bridge Replacement Workshop Update** – Thursday, April 8 is the last day to provide comments related to The Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT's) Brooks Bridge Replacement virtual aesthetic workshop. The information and the survey can be accessed anytime, anywhere at <https://nwflroads.com/virtualmeetings>. You can also provide comments to Project Manager Alaina Webb at [alaina.webb@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:alaina.webb@dot.state.fl.us), or toll free at (888) 638-0250, ext. 1447. All statements must be postmarked or received on or before Thursday, April 8, 2021.

**Snorkel  
Reef  
Deployment  
Vessel  
Off of  
Okaloosa  
Island**



**Volunteers  
Planting  
Sea Oats  
And  
Panic Grass  
On  
Okaloosa  
Island**

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY - APRIL

**April 1, 1945** - The official start of the Battle of Okinawa. On the morning of April 1st, US navy ships rained a pre-landing bombardment of 44,825 shells, 33,000 rockets and 22,500 mortar shells plus napalm attacks by carrier planes on the invasion beaches.

**April 4, 1969** - Dr. Denton Cooley implants the first temporary artificial heart.

**April 8, 1974** - Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hits his 715th home run to surpass Babe Ruth's 714 home run record.

**April 15, 1952** - The Boeing B-52 Stratofortress' takes off for the first time. The Boeing B-52 Stratofortress' was a bomber of the 'United States Air Force' (USAF) that had the capacity to carry arms weighing about 70,000 pounds.



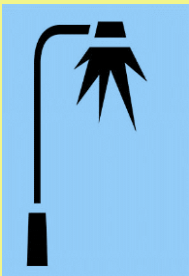
**April 20, 1999** - The deadliest school shooting in U.S. history occurred in Littleton, Colorado, as two students armed with guns and explosives stormed into Columbine High School at lunch time then killed 12 classmates and a teacher and wounded more than 20 other persons before killing themselves.



**April 23, 1985** - The Coca-Cola Company announced it has changed its formula for Coke and it will be known as New Coke.

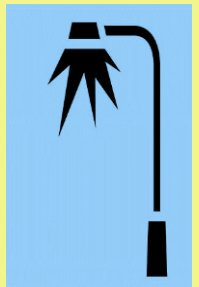


**April 27, 1865** - On the Mississippi River, the worst steamship disaster in U.S. history occurred as an explosion aboard the Sultana killed nearly 2,000 passengers, mostly Union soldiers who had been prisoners of war and were returning home.



## ISLAND STREET LIGHT OUT?

**HELP KEEP OUR STREETS SAFE AND WELL LIT.  
IF YOU SEE A STREET LIGHT NOT WORKING PROPERLY,  
REPORT IT TO GULF POWER**



## CHOOSE ONE OF THE BELOW METHODS TO REPORT A LIGHT OUT TO GULF POWER

Call at 1-800-225-5797

Email: [lightout@gulfpower.com](mailto:lightout@gulfpower.com)

Use the Gulf Power interactive map at the following website:

: <https://www.gulfpower.com/outage/report/streetlight/report-an-outage.html>

(Editor's Note: The use of the interactive map is an excellent method to use to report outages. Zoom in on the Okaloosa Island part of the map several times until you reach the view which shows the green street light icons is displayed. These icons identify the location of the streetlights. Click on the icon which needs repair and the pole will be automatically identified by Light ID and Pole Tag Number; then click on "Report It". Job done!) You can also find this site by searching on "Gulf Power report street light outage" with your favorite search engine. Whatever method of notification you use, give your name, contact information, the malfunction of the light, and the specific location. A pole number is very helpful if available. Also, state that the light is paid by the Okaloosa Island MSBU. This ensures that repair orders are issued from the correct account.

**REMEMBER:** Our MSBU dollars pay for the streetlights whether they are lit or not, and Gulf Power fixes lights that are out at no additional charge.

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## April 2021 OILA Meeting Agenda

**DATE:** Monday, April 12, 2021  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Virtual meeting via Zoom  
Call to Order / Zoom Meeting Protocols

### I. Pledge of Allegiance

### II. Roll Call of Board Members: David Sherry

### III. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: John Donovan

- March 8, 2021 membership meeting minutes (draft). Printed in this newsletter.

### IV. Treasurer's Report: Jim Simpson - Membership report.

- Treasurer's Report for April 12, 2021

- Treasurer's Reimbursement and Approval.

### V. Standing Committee Reports:

- Architectural Review Committee March 2021 report (printed in this newsletter)

### VI. New and Unfinished Business:

### VII. Announcements; Speakers and Programs

### VII. Adjournment

## ISLAND RAINFALL

**MARCH 2021 Rainfall: 3.7 Inches**



March 1.... **0.5** inches    March 23... . **1.4** inches  
March 2.....**0.4** inches    March 24..... **0.7** inches  
March 18.. **0.7** inches

March Avg Rainfall..... .. **5.8** inches  
Variance to Average..... **- 2.1** 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**

YTD Variance ..... .. **- 2.9** inches

Year to Date Rainfall..... **12.9** inches

**JOIN THE LEASEHOLDERS!**

**LET YOUR OPINIONS BE HEARD!**

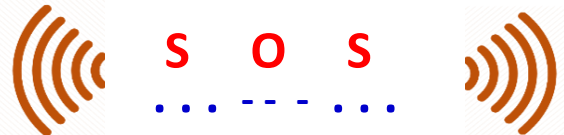
FOR A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION CLICK ON THE ASSOCIATION'S

WEBPAGE:

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



### TRIVIA CORNER

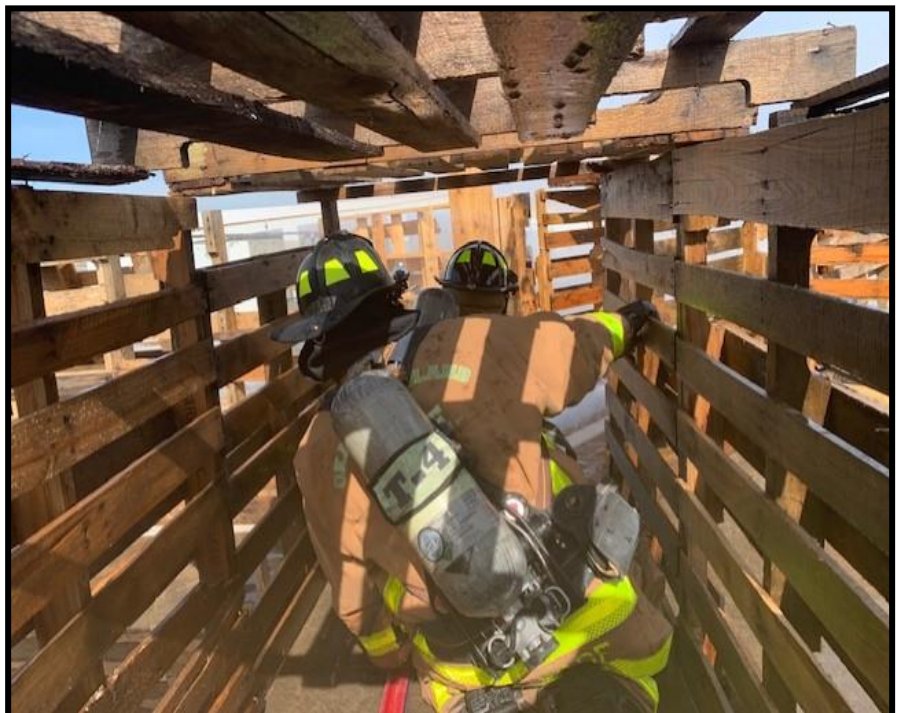
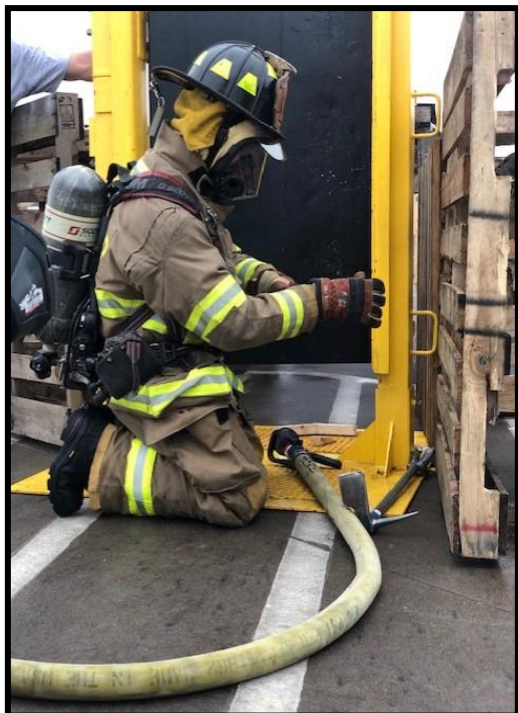


The letters "SOS" don't actually stand for "Save Our Ship". In fact, they were only selected because they translate into a simple Morse code message of three dots, three dashes and three dots. The letters never meant anything more.

## Fire Training at Destin West

Okaloosa Island Firefighters recently participated in a training event at Destin West Gulfside parking garage. The training included multiple agencies across the county including Ocean-City Wright Fire Rescue, Destin Fire Department, and Fort Walton Beach Fire Department.

The training focused on aerial water supply operations during standpipe failure, extended hose line stretches, and condominium fire evolutions. All departments participated in the training over the course of the week in all conditions. OIFD would like to give a special thank you to the HOA for allowing this training to happen.



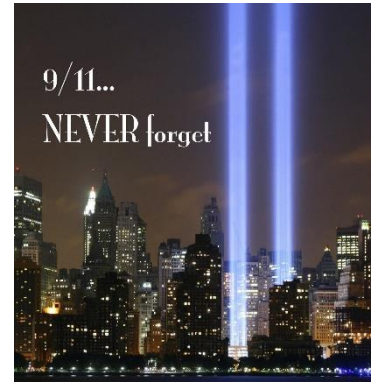


**THANK YOU NOTE TO THE ISLAND GARDEN CLUB**

This September will mark the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy which took the lives of many. The Okaloosa Island Fire Department would like to thank and recognize The Okaloosa Island Garden Club for their efforts beautifying the 9/11 Memorial in front of the fire station. Your efforts and continued support are greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Michael Ray Strawn  
Fire Chief  
Okaloosa Island Fire District



**TRIVIA CRAWLERS**



**BIBLICAL MEASUREMENTS**

- **Cubit** – About 18 inches, represented by the length of an adult arm from the point of the elbow to the tip of the middle finger. (**Editor’s Note:** Measured the distance from my middle finger to my elbow. It was 18.5 inches)
- **Talent** – 75 pounds, the Bible’s largest unit of measurement
- **A Days’s Journey** – Roughly 20 to 30 miles, half that when traveling in a large Company (with women and children).
- **Shekel** – Approximately 58 cents; 3,000 shekels equal a talent.
- **Handbreath** – On an adult hand, three to four fingers held together, or three to four inches. (**Editor’s Note:** Measured the width of my 4 fingers held together; the width was 4 inches)



**SHEKEL**

**EDITOR’S FOOTBALL WUZZLE PUZZLES SPECIAL**



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.



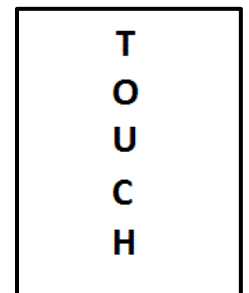
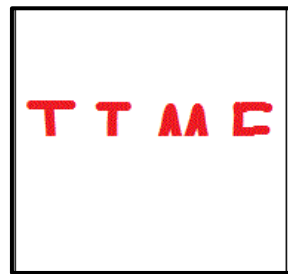
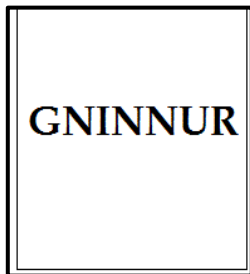
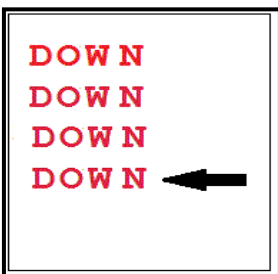
Wuzzle No. 1

Wuzzle No. 2

Wuzzle No. 3

Wuzzle No. 4

Wuzzle No. 5



## OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS FROM OILA DIRECTOR, BRICK BRADFORD



Neighbors,

At the 19 Jan 2021 BCC meeting, the director of Public Works for Okaloosa County Jason Autrey briefed the County with the purpose of requesting \$100,000.00 to support an expanded artistic Rendering of the entire length of Santa Rosa BLVD (SRB). His goal is to provide an overarching graphic view of each intersection along SRB to provide Island residents with various alternatives noting that one approach may not necessarily work best at all intersections.

There were two issues discussed during the BCC meeting that I found disturbing. First was Commissioner Ketchel stating that whatever is finally determined regarding any improvements along SRB, she wants both public parking and storm water addressed. While addressing the habitual flooding along SRB is a necessary endeavor and I applaud our Commissioner's support for stormwater improvement, I believe there are alternative options for increasing public access to our beaches without desecrating our Northside Freeways. The second issue were comments made by Mr. Autrey and Commissioner Boyles regarding the need for four lanes along SRB. Mr. Autrey explained that current traffic counts do not substantiate four lanes. Commissioner Boyles also stated that he did not see a need for four lanes all the way to the end of SRB and newly elected Commissioner Paul Mixon agreed.

I met with Commissioner Ketchel and Mr. Autrey on 3 Feb to further discuss the vision and options for improving SRB. We discussed the issues above and much to her credit, Commissioner Ketchel unequivocally stated that SRB will remain four lanes because that is what her constituents want! I also encouraged Commissioner Ketchel to consider alternative options for public parking. I specifically cited our Protective Covenants and Restrictions regarding the limitations cited therein for our Northside Freeways. Mr. Autrey agreed that the County would only gain no more than an additional 120 public parking spaces if they were to proceed to pave all our Northside Freeways. I suggested alternative public transportation strategies could include a Water Taxi from the Brooks Street Landing, Marler Park, and perhaps create a public access point at Northside Freeway access 1 as it is zoned accordingly. We also talked about public beach bus transportation that could connect visitors from their hotels along HWY 98 and various points on Okaloosa Island.

The timeline for initiating and completing the scope of work for improving SRB was also considered. Mr. Autrey noted that FDOT's schedule for replacing the Brooks Bridge is ahead of where the County is now for making and completing improvements on SRB. This means that it may be **at least six more years** before we see any tangible improvements along SRB. Citing the ongoing flooding that occurs along SRB and the horrible state of our sidewalks, I asked if were possible to begin improving drainage and the existing sidewalk as soon as possible.

Mr. Autrey explained that depending on what work is decided for SRB, it is possible that work could end either before or after the Brooks Bridge project. He also remained hopeful that once a vision is developed, we could find ways to incorporate projects along the SRB corridor sooner than the forecasted timeline. We also discussed improving our Beach Access Crosswalks with Flashing Signals. Unfortunately, Mr. Autrey suggested that studies show flashing signals do not offer any meaningful improvement to increase awareness. I disagree. My bride and I travel the downtown corridor almost twice daily and those visual aids work. If you are concerned over timelines or increasing the visual awareness of our crosswalks, I encourage you to communicate with our County Commissioner.

Your neighbor, Brick Bradford

**ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC) REPORT FOR March 2021** for permits submitted to them for consideration. The following information provided by the Architectural Review Committee. **SPECIAL NOTICES: 1)** The ARC will meet the **1st** and **3rd** Thursdays of each month at 9:00 a.m. **The meetings are held via Zoom with in person meetings available as needed. You can reach the ARC at: [OilaArc@yahoo.com](mailto:OilaArc@yahoo.com).** **2) ASK BEFORE YOU ACT.**

<u>Lot(s)</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Owner/Address</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>In Compliance and Approved?</u>
20-23	2	Stewby's Seafood Shanty 235 Santa Rosa Blvd	Add roof on existing rear deck	Yes

**DRAFT MINUTES – OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION – March 8, 2021**

**DRAFT MINUTES – OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION – MAR 8, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by **President David Sherry** via Zoom due to Covid-19.

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Pledge of Allegiance led by **President David Sherry**.

**II. ROLL:** Board Members Present: **David Sherry (President), Rick Deckert (Vice President), John Donovan (Secretary), Brick Bradford, Ed Henderson**.

**III. MINUTES:** Secretary John Donovan made a motion, seconded by Vice President Rick Deckert, to approve the draft February 8, 2021 minutes (passed 12-0).

**IV. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Presented by President David Sherry on behalf of Treasurer Jim Simpson (See Attachment 1). A motion to approve the February 8, 2021 Treasurer's report and to pay reimbursements was made by Secretary John Donovan, seconded by Director Ed Henderson (passed 12-0).

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Standing Committees**

**Architectural Report:** President David Sherry stated the ARC report is in the OIL Lantern, and that one application was approved in February, with the proviso of the applicant needing County approval for a two-story home.

**VI. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS:**

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- President Sherry stated the Okaloosa County volunteer dune planting will *tentatively* be held around Saturday, April 3. He thanked everyone who has volunteered, requested additional volunteers and asked those interested in planting to contact him.
- President Sherry stated FDOT (“Florida Department of Transportation”) will hold a virtual Brooks Bridge aesthetics workshop on March 18, with public comments due by April 8. He praised FDOT for their willingness to listen and to incorporate public input into past designs. He said he will ask Treasurer Jim Simpson to send an e-mail blast to the membership closer to the date.
- Director Brick Bradford stated he has seen the Okaloosa Island master plan but does not have a copy. Brick agreed to send Secretary John Donovan a screen shot of the front page. John has previously researched Okaloosa Island historical records for OILA.
- Kathy Foster stated Paula Hudson and she have reported 26 lights out on Okaloosa Island. President Sherry thanked Kathy and Paula for reporting the outages. David said he has found the Gulf Power website makes it easy for him to report outages, and that users can pull up a map and click on a light to get it fixed.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM (motion by Rebecca Sherry, seconded by Secretary John Donovan and passed 12-1 (Dave Hancock opposed)).

**ATTACHMENT 1:**

**TREASURER’S REPORT: March 8, 2021**

**MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 275**

**February 8, 2021 TOTAL BALANCE:..... \$ 28,850.32**

Treasurer’s Report for March 8 continued on next page...



**TREASURER'S REPORT: March 8, 2021 (continued)**

**ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF February 8, 2021..... \$ 26,614.99**

**RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT: .....Membership dues \$ 24.00**

**TOTAL RECEIPTS .....\$ 24.00**

**EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT ..... No Expenditures**

**EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT:**

Reimburse Jim Simpson for postage to mail the March 2021 OIL Lantern..... \$ **27.50**  
(50 copies at 55 cents each)

**ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES & EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT AS OF March 8, 2021 ..... \$ 26,611.49**

**BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF February 8, 2021..... \$ 1,421.28**

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

**BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF March 8, 2021..... \$ 1,421.28**

**CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND BALANCE AS OF February 8, 2021 ..... \$ 814.05**

**CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT..... No Expenditures**

**CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND BALANCE AS OF March 8, 2021 ..... \$ 814.05**

**SUMMARY: March 8, 2021 Fund Balances**

-- Association's Discretionary Fund Balance. .... \$ **26,611.49**

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

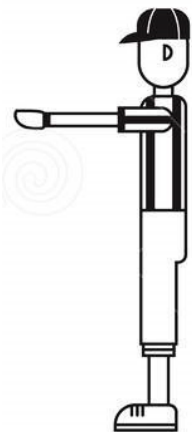
-- Christmas Decorating Fund Balance (Donations)..... \$ **814.05**

**TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE..... \$ 28,846.82**

Respectfully submitted  
Jim Simpson, Treasurer

**WUZZLE PUZZLES ANSWER**

**Wuzzle No. 1**



**First Down**

**Wuzzle No. 2**



**Running Back**

**Wuzzle No. 3**



**SafeTand**

**Wuzzle No. 4**



**Time Out**

**Wuzzle No. 5**



**Touchdown**