



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Our November meeting will be held on **Monday, Nov 8, 2021** starting at **7 pm**. For our November 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.

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DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR OILA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021-2022. RENEWAL NOTICES WERE SENT OUT ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2021.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP, CONTACT JIM SIMPSON AT 850.585.2116 OR BY EMAIL AT:

SANLEANNA@COX.NET

**OKALOOSA ISLAND
NEEDS**

YOU!

**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
TODAY!**



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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – DAVID SHERRY

I hope you can join us in person at the Okaloosa Island Firehouse or via Zoom for our next membership meeting, 7 PM Monday, November 8.

Santa Rosa Blvd Driving Lane Reduction – At its October 19, 2021 meeting, the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners (BCC) voted 5-0 (motion Commissioner Boyles, second Commissioner Mixon) to solicit engineering bids using the design that eliminates driving lanes on Santa Rosa Blvd. This occurred despite Okaloosa Islanders' overwhelming opposition to taking away our driving lanes, both written and in person, at this meeting and throughout the process. This was the County's and our Commissioner's position from the outset, and public opposition seemed to matter little, if at all.



David
Sherry

Thank you to all who wrote, attended, and spoke at the October 19 BCC meeting. Okaloosa Islanders overwhelmingly wrote and spoke against the plan to reduce Santa Rosa Boulevard driving lanes from 4 to 3 to 2, eliminate the center median, and create more paved surface (impermeable to water) than the existing road and sidewalk.

The primary support for the project voiced at the meeting came from the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) board and its' members. We can't say whether the Chamber's support for the project influenced the Commissioners' decision, or merely proved much needed cover for what Commissioners wanted all along.

This is not the final vote; no money was approved for the project. However, this vote is a significant step toward taking away half of our driving lanes.

A copy of the letter OILA sent to the Commissioners opposing any reduction in driving lanes, per the September OILA membership vote, is included in this OIL Lantern – as requested by OILA members.

Temporary Beach Groins On Okaloosa Island – Installation of the temporary beach groins on Okaloosa Island, from Island Princess condo through the Wyndham Hotel, is scheduled to begin the week of November 15. You will soon see activity around Beach Accesses 3 and 4 as installation equipment and supplies are staged there. The groins are being installed to stabilize and extend the beach (see graphic in this newsletter).

New Sand Fence and Dune Planting – Sand fence installation is also scheduled for November. The County plans to stage materials for the new sand fence at the beach accessways on Friday, November 5, and begin installation on November 6, weather permitting.

The County will arrange for sea oats delivery when the sand fence is nearing completion. We will notify dune planting volunteers as soon as the planting date is set. If you haven't already contacted Rebecca Sherry or me, and you would like to volunteer to help plant sea oats on the dunes, please contact me at beach_boy_dave@yahoo.com or 850-244-2744.

David Sherry
President, Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association



OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 4323
FORT WALTON BEACH, FL 32549
Webpage: www.oilaweb.com

September 17, 2021

Subject: OILA Formally Opposes Any Driving Lane Reduction on Santa Rosa Blvd

Dear Commissioner,

The latest Okaloosa County Project to "upgrade" Santa Rosa Boulevard, includes a proposed reduction of Boulevard driving lanes from four, then to three, then to two, East to West on the Boulevard.

OILA formally opposes any reduction in driving lanes on Santa Rosa Boulevard.

At its Monday, September 13, 2021 Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association (OILA) meeting, the OILA membership voted overwhelmingly (by a margin of 46 to 5) *"that the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association formally notify Okaloosa County that as long as the Project contains the Boulevard lanes reduction feature, the Project does not have the support of the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association."*

The County's return with yet another proposal to take away driving lanes is especially puzzling because:

1. Okaloosa Islanders overwhelmingly (89% of 150 responses) opposed lane reduction in their written responses to the County survey conducted as part of the August 27, 2020 County workshop;
2. Several Commissioners expressed support for keeping the current number of driving lanes (four) at the January 19, 2021 BCC meeting when instructing staff on this matter; and,
3. We believe the County can accomplish all stated goals for the project while keeping all four driving lanes – and for considerably less money.

Sincerely,

David Sherry
President, Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association
850-244-2744

Beach Enrichment Project

NuShore Temporary Groyne Project
Supports Beach Resiliency

DESTIN
FORT
WALTON
BEACH
FLORIDA
DestinFWB.com

The objective of the NuShore project is to use a temporary groyne system to capture sand that is suspended in the water as it moves down the shore. This will result in sand accumulation that will widen the beach and extend the shoreline seaward. In addition to renourishing the beaches, this project will increase coastal resiliency to storms and other erosive events.

- The porous groynes consist of a semi-rigid webbing that is arranged in ten-foot-long panels extending perpendicular to the shoreline.
- A groyne will be spaced every 100 feet along the beach and will extend approximately 150 feet seaward from the mean high waterline.
- The webbing consists of larger holes in the upper section and smaller holes in the lower section to streamline water flow, reduce turbulence, and accumulate sand.
- The groynes are temporary structures that can be adjusted or removed quickly and safely. They are an alternative and less expensive approach compared to dredging offshore sand to renourish the beach.
- The first project will begin November 2021 and conclude April 2022. It will occur during the “off-season” to avoid visitor and wildlife interference such as shorebird and sea turtle nesting.
- Similar projects in the area have demonstrated success with accumulating sand. Extensive monitoring and analysis will provide direction for future potential NuShore projects in Destin – Fort Walton Beach.



GROYNE SYSTEM LOCATIONS



For any questions,
please contact
Destin-Fort Walton Beach's
Coastal Resources team at
coastalresources@destinfwb.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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November 8, 2021 Meeting Agenda

DATE: Monday, November 8, 2021 TIME: 7:00 p.m

PLACE: For our November 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

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call of Board Members: David Sherry

III. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: John Donovan

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

IV. Treasurer's Report: Jim Simpson

- Membership report.
- Treasurer's Report for November 8, 2021
- Treasurer's Reimbursement and Approval

V. Standing Committee Reports:

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

VI. New and Unfinished Business:

1. **Resolved**, that the Resolution adopted at the OILA Members Meeting of September 13, 2021, approving a donation of \$1,000 to the Okaloosa Island Fire Department for the purchase of two laryngoscopes, is hereby rescinded, because the donation is no longer needed or wanted.

2. **Resolved**, that because the Northwest Florida Daily News newspaper has not been willing to print OILA's letter objecting to the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners' decision to proceed with the Santa Rosa Boulevard lanes reduction project, OILA is authorized to pay up to \$1,000 to purchase advertising in the newspaper in support of the OILA membership's position against the said lane reduction project.

VII. Announcements; Speakers and Programs

VIII. Adjournment

RAINFALL FOR SEPT 2021: 5.5 Inches



| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sept 2... 0.1 inches | Sept 16... 0.1 inches |
| Sept 8... 0.8 inches | Sept 17... 0.6 inches |
| Sept 14... 0.2 inches | Sept 18... 0.2 inches |
| Sept 15... 2.6 inches | Sept 19... 0.9 inches |

Sept Avg Rainfall.....**7.2** inches
Variance to Average..... **-1.7** inches

RAINFALL FOR OCT 2021: 9.3 Inches

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Oct 3... 0.4 inches | Oct 7... 0.9 inches |
| Oct 4... 2.1 inches | Oct 24... 0.9 inches |
| Oct 5... 1.4 inches | Oct 27... 1.3 inches |
| Oct 6... 1.5 inches | Oct 28... 0.8 inches |

Oct Avg Rainfall.....**4.3** inches
Variance to Average.....**+ 5.0** inches

Nov Avg Rainfall.....**4.1** inches
Nov Record High **89°** F (1998)
November Record Low**18°** F (1950)
Nov Avg Water Temperature..**72°**F

YTD Variance **+ 9.2** inches

Year to Date Rainfall.....**50.8** inches
Avg Annual Rainfall**65.1** inches

What is Triskaidekaphobia?

13 13
13 13



Triskaidekaphobia (also being referred to as 13-digit phobia) is the irrational fear of the number Thirteen (13).

If you have an irrational fear of the number 666, then you are afflicted with:

Hexakosioihexekonta-hexaphobia

"BOOMER" -TORTOISE UPDATE



Syd, the owner of Boomer, has reported that he now weighs in at 75 pounds. Also, she advised that the tortoise species Boomer belongs to hibernates in the winter. Syd has informed me that Boomer started sleeping a couple of days ago in the 2 foot deep, 10 foot long tunnel he burrowed earlier and that he will sleep intermediately until mid-March.

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

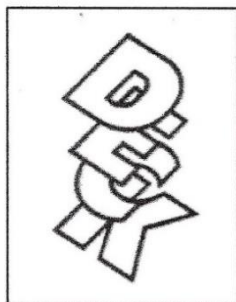


WUZZLE PUZZLES
Answers on Page 10

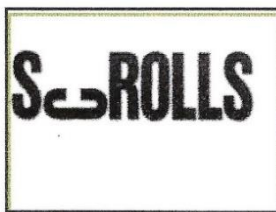
Wuzzle No. 1



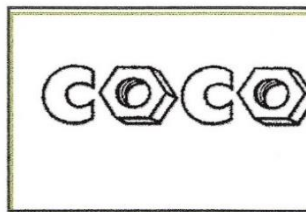
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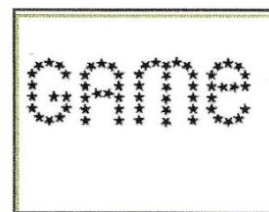
Wuzzle No. 3



Wuzzle No. 4



Wuzzle No. 5



ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT FOR October 2021 for projects submitted to them for consideration. The following information is provided by the Architectural Committee (ARC). Mr. David Sherry has stepped down from his leadership role of the ARC to pursue his Other Okaloosa Island interests. The OILA Board of Directors has voted to approve Mr. Nicholas Hall to become the new member of the ARC team.

SPECIAL NOTES: 1) Instructions for preparing and submitting your project for review to the ARC are posted on the OILA website. 2) The applications will be reviewed in the order they are received. 3) The ARC review will be completed within 2 weeks. 4) ASK BEFORE YOU ACT.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Lot(s)</u> | <u>Block</u> | <u>Owner/POC/Address</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>In Compliance and Approved</u> |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10/10 | 225 | 5 | Mr. Richard Olson (518 Dorado Dr) | Fence Repair | Yes |
| 10/16 | | | Mr. Mathew Townes (Hampton Inn) | Remodel | Yes |
| 10/16 | | | Mr. Allen Lassiter (Convention Center) | Remodel | Yes |
| 10/23 | 389 | 7 | Mr. Stephen Dejoie (713 Sailfish Dr) | Covered Deck | Yes |

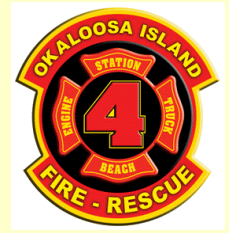


**GOD
BLESS
OUR
VETERANS!**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE – VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021

OKALOOSA ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES TWO NEW FIRE FIGHTERS:



CHRISTIAN RUHE AND GEORGE WARD



Christian Ruhe is an Air Force veteran serving six years as a C-17 Loadmaster. He earned eight Air Medals and Operation Enduring Freedom Medal with two service stars.

He has completed an Associates Degree in Aviation Operations and a Bachelors Degree in Information and Computer Science: Networking & Security. He enjoys time with his family , raising animals, growing food, and playing the banjo. His favorite show is "The Addams Family."



George Ward comes to us as a 30+ year Okaloosa County resident. He graduated from Fort Walton Beach High School and the University of West Florida with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

He comes from a background of sales positions but enjoys working with his hands and serving his community more. On his days off, he enjoys spending time with his wife and two sons, fishing, and being a skydiving instructor Skydive Panama City. He also enjoys spending time organizing and cleaning his Nintendo and Beanie Baby collection.

**OKALOOSA ISLAND RESIDENTS, PROPERTY OWNERS AND VISITORS WELCOME
CHRISTIAN AND GEORGE. YOU ARE VALUABLE ASSETS TO OUR COMMUNITY.**

THINGS WHICH COME IN GROUPS OF SEVEN

7 WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD:

1. Great Pyramid of Cheops at Gaza.
2. Hanging Gardens of Babylon.
3. Statue of Zeus at Olympia.
4. Temple of Artemis at Ephesus.
5. Mausoleum at Hallicamassus.
6. Colossus of Rhodes.
7. Pharos (Lighthouse) of Alexandria.

7 DEADLY SINS: 1. Pride
2. Envy 3. Wrath 4. Sloth
5. Avarice 6. Gluttony 7. Lust
(For graphic details see the movie Seven)

7 VIRTUES: 1. Faith 2. Hope
3. Charity 4. Fortitude 5. Prudence
6. Justice 7. Prudence

7 SEAS: 1. Red 2. Adriatic
3. Black 4. Persian Gulf
5. Caspian 6. Mediterranean
7. Indian Ocean

7 DAYS OF THE WEEK:

1. Sun's Day 5. Thor's Day
2. Moon's Day 6. Frig's Day
3. Twi's Day 7. Saturn's Day
4. Woden's Day

7 ANCIENT RIVERS:

1. Nile 2. Tigris 3. Oxua 4.
Indus 5. Euphrates 6. Yaksart
7. Arax

7 METALS OF ALCHEMY: 1. Iron
2. Gold 3. Silver 4. Lead
5. Quicksilver 6. Copper 7. Tin

7 LIBERAL ARTS:

1. Grammar 5. Geomety
2. Rhetoric 6. Music
3. Arithmetic 7. Astronomy
4. Logic

7 HILLS OF ROME:

1. Palatine 5. Esquiline
2. Capitoline 6. Caelian
3. Quirinal 7. Aventine
4. Viminal

7 SISTERS (PLEAIDES):

1. Alcyone 5. Maia
2. Asterope 6. Merope
3. Celaeno 7. Taygete
4. Electra

EVER HAVE ONE OF THOSE “WOW! – I DIDN’T KNOW THAT!” MOMENTS?”



★ New London, Texas

Being a native born son of the Great State of Texas, I always thought I knew just about everything that happened there.. Then I discovered information about a deadly gas leak explosion that took place on March 18, 1937 in New London, Texas. Following is the story.



New London School Building After Gas Leak Explosion

It was the worst school disaster in U.S. history. On March 18, 1937 a gas leak in the basement of the 1,200-student Consolidated School in New London, Texas caused a massive explosion that killed almost 300 children and teachers. So chaotic was the scene that an exact count of the dead was impossible, although the tally of the injured was pegged at 184. In a grim irony, the blast was caused by a petroleum product that had greatly enriched the small town just east of Tyler. In the rubble, rescuers found a blackboard still bearing one teacher’s message for the day: “Oil and natural gas are East Texas’ greatest mineral blessings. Without them this school would not be here and none of us would be here learning our lessons.” On March 18, students in the first through fourth grades had been dismissed as usual at two-thirty. Shortly after three o’ clock, according to witnesses, “the ground bounced” and they saw “a giant cloud rising” and heard “a terrible roar.”

Hundreds of horrified relatives rushed to the school; some 1,500 oil workers helped clear debris, recover bodies, and search for survivors. Garages, churches, and even the roller rink were used as makeshift hospitals and morgues.

Thousands of people turned out to help, to gawk, to sell tombstones and insurance, and—in the case of a young Walter Cronkite—to cover the story. Governor James Allred declared martial law to regulate traffic and rescue efforts.

Horror stories abound. One family lost all three children; one mother could positively identify her ten-year-old’s body only because the little girl, while playing dress-up the night before, had used a crayon to color her toenails red.

Critics leveled charges of negligence against the school’s officials, who had eliminated its monthly gas bill by tapping, with permission, into a Parade Gasoline Company line. Ultimately, though, federal investigators blamed a faulty connection and inadequate ventilation in the basement, where the flipping of an electrical switch in the shop room was believed to have ignited the gas.

Although dozens of grieving families filed lawsuits against the school district, a judge dismissed those that came to trial; no official was held liable and no fine was ever levied. Within two months, however, the Texas Legislature had passed a law requiring refiners to add a scent to natural gas, which is otherwise odor-free. Today, because of the familiar stink of a chemical called mercaptan, another tragedy like New London is far less.

After reading the story about the horrific New London school disaster, my first reaction was “Wow! I didn’t know that”. From talking about it to others, not a single person had ever heard of it. Neither did I know the good reason why natural gas which might be leaking from burner on the gas stove in my home stinks. Thank goodness it does.

DRAFT MINUTES – OCTOBER 11, 2021 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES – OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION – OCTOBER 11, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by **President David Sherry** at the Okaloosa Island Firehouse and by **Secretary John Donovan** via Zoom.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: **President David Sherry** leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

III. MINUTES: There was a brief discussion on the revised May 10 and June 14 membership meeting minutes. President Sherry said John Donovan edited both sets of minutes after receiving comments. Paula Hudson said the draft meeting minutes provide too much detail. Secretary John Donovan made a motion, seconded by Rebecca Sherry, to approve the May 10, 2021 membership meeting minutes. The motion passed 23-1 (Carey Sue Beasley opposed). Secretary John Donovan made a motion, seconded by Rebecca Sherry, to approve the June 14, 2021 membership meeting minutes. The motion passed 22-2 (Carey Sue Beasley, Paula Hudson opposed). Secretary John Donovan made a motion, seconded by Mel Mattison, to approve the September 13, 2021 membership meeting minutes. The motion passed 24-1 (Paula Hudson opposed).

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by President David Sherry on behalf of Treasurer Jim Simpson (See Attachment 1). OILA has 291 members.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Standing Committees

Architectural Report: President David Sherry stated the ARC September report is in the OIL Lantern.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Dave Hancock objected to the May 10, 2021 membership meeting minutes passed earlier in this meeting before he joined late via Zoom. He requested the minutes be posted on the OILA website. President Sherry said he would upload approved minutes onto the website.
2. Paula Hudson said OILA is not subject to the Florida Sunshine Law. She said there was an old legal letter in the file cabinet with that determination.
3. Dave Hancock started a discussion on the upcoming volunteer sea oat planting. Directors Brick Bradford and Ed Henderson thanked everyone who helped with this effort.
4. Al Bills mentioned last month OILA overwhelmingly approved a resolution in support of preserving 4 driving lanes on Santa Rosa Boulevard. He asked about the next steps, and mentioned writing letters, getting t-shirts, and holding rallies like we did to defeat the Wright Parkway bridge planned for Okaloosa Island. Al asked if President David Sherry had sent the letter supporting 4 driving lanes to the Okaloosa County Commission. David said the letter was sent on OILA letterhead three weeks ago, and that he received no acknowledgment from any of the five County Commissioners. David agreed to include the Santa Rosa Boulevard membership letter in the next OIL Lantern. President Sherry was asked if any County Commissioner was on "our" side. David responded at the last BCC meeting on this topic Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel (represents Okaloosa Island) and Commissioner Mel Ponder (represents Destin) asked staff to keep all 4 driving lanes on Santa Rosa Boulevard. David continued that at the August workshop Commissioner Ketchel had changed her mind and now called the reduced driving lane design "better". David said not to underestimate the power of a large volume of constituent e-mails. Director Ed Henderson asked about the position of the Okaloosa Island Fire Chief on the Santa Rosa Boulevard reduced driving lane proposal. President Sherry said the last time he spoke with Chief Strawn, he told David that "he could live with it" after he previously opposed lane reduction.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: Rebecca Sherry made a motion, seconded by Mel Mattison, to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 PM. Motion passed 24-3 (Al Bills, Pittsburgh Puskarich, Dave Hancock opposed).

John S. Donovan, OILA Secretary

Attachment 1: Treasurer's Report – October 11, 2021

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 288 (TENTATIVE NUMBER – MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS STILL COMING IN)

September 13, 2021 TOTAL BALANCE: \$ 27,102.92

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF Sept 13., 2021 \$ 24,867.59

RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT: Membership dues..... \$ 1,710.00
 U.S. Mail.....\$ 180.00
 Donation (Note 1)... ..\$ 72.00
 Total.....\$ 1,962.00

Note 1: Donation made by Dr. and Mrs. Frank Adcock

EXPENDIURES SINCE LAST REPORT

Donation to the Okaloosa Island Fire Department towards the purchase of two laryngoscopes (Expenditure approved at Sept 13, 2021 meeting)..... \$ 1,000.00

EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT:

- Payment to reimburse Jim Simpson for postage to mail the October 2021 OIL Lantern (50 copies at 58 cents each).....\$ 29.00
 - Payment to reimburse Jim Simpson for postage (\$295.80) and for envelopes, printing and labels (\$78.11) to mail the 2021-2022 membership renewal notices.....\$ 373.91
 Total..\$ 402.91

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES & EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT AS OF September 13, 2021\$ 25,426.68

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2021..... \$ 1,421.28

BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF OCTOBER 11, 2021.....\$ 1,421.28

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND BALANCE AS OF SEPTEMBER 13,2021 \$ 814.05

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

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND BALANCE AS OF October 11, 2021\$ 814.05

SUMMARY: October 11,2021 Fund Balances

-- Association's Discretionary Fund Balance. \$ 25,426.68
 -- Beautification Fund Balance.....\$ 1,421.28
 -- Christmas Decorating Fund Balance (Donations).....\$ 814.05

TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE.....\$ 27,662.01

Respectfully submitted
 Jim Simpson, Treasurer

WUZZLE PUZZLES ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



Spinal Cord

Wuzzle No. 2



Stacked Deck

Wuzzle No. 3



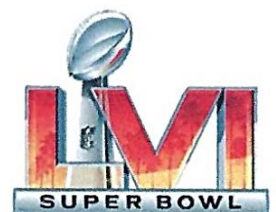
Dead Sea Scrolls

Wuzzle No. 4



Coconuts

Wuzzle No. 5



All Star Game