

## DECEMBER 2015

It is December and everything changes. The Ferry schedule is now M-W-F 8:30 off the island and 4:00 back with more trips on Sat/Sun. There are no ferries on Tuesday or Thursday. Their Facebook page has been great in keeping us informed of last minute changes due to weather. No more calling the Store to see if the ferry is running. Volunteers spent the morning decorating the park for Christmas and it was lights-on the day after Thanksgiving. Wow, Christmas is just around the corner. Like the squirrels, the winter residents are stocking up on supplies. How many chickens do I need to get through pot luck season? Pat and Lori Hayes at The Inn, held the last Audubon gathering of the season and the Christmas pot luck will be the last community party of the year.

## KI HISTORY MUSEUM

Those hard-working volunteers at the Kelleys Island Historical Assoc. are already planning for next year. The website ([www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org](http://www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org)) has been expanding as a result of suggestions made by its users. About 70% of the collection and archives are now online (click on Our Collection) and about a dozen people have requested items to flesh out their family histories. Leslie Korenko wrote the grant and KIHA received \$500 from the Ohio Records Advisory Board (part of Ohio History) as a result of her efforts in bringing the collection online. Jeri Yoest has completed several oral histories and wow is there some interesting stuff in them. Teri Betzenheimer and Cindy Herndon landscaped around the church, and so much more. Next year, Patti Fresch is working on a Bars & Saloons exhibit, KIHA plans a really unique fund-raising event, and Janet Killam is working on a beefcake calendar.

## SCHOOL NEWS

The school, once again, requested that 11.5 mills of school levy money (this is inside millage that is not subject to a ballot vote) should not be collected. This will result in the school not collecting \$870,000 for 2016 and is the 16th year of doing so. Property owners will realize an approximate 64% in savings on the school portion of their tax bill. Our thanks to Board Members: Dr. Pete Legere, Jim Watkins, Charles Burns, Cindy Herndon and Fred Walcott.

## ELECTION RETURNS

Amid accusations of buying votes, dirty politics, and flaming Facebook posts, the final election results are in (although they probably won't be 'certified' until the end of November. There were 11 provisional votes cast (people who failed to make the regular deadline for registering to vote). One provisional ballot was refused (because the person was not registered previously in Ohio, which is a requirement). We had the highest percentage of voters at the polls in Erie County with 337 voters registered and 290 votes cast. Arden B. Cooper will be our new Mayor with 192 votes over Rob Quinn's 97 votes. The Clerk and two Council seats were unopposed with Claudia Brown receiving 212 votes, Ronald Ehrbar-245 and Michael Feyedelem-205 votes. All three levies passed: Operating Expenses 233/52, Streets & Roads 240/48 and Fire and EMS 254/34.

## COUNCIL

It is amazing that anything gets done since there are no reports from most of the committees. It looks like Council will meet in January and February this winter. A proposal was made to cancel the meetings (as usual) but incoming Mayor, Arden Cooper, said the meetings will be held. The Village is going to revisit the three problem drainage areas (bottom of the Division St. Hill, Chappel where the utility pole is in the drainage pipe, and Bookerman Rd. to the Church). This was on the list of things to be done a few years ago, but got lost in the shuffle. The Water Dept. is under the gun again. After a couple of years of operating in the black, it is anticipated that this year will result in a shortfall. In addition, the last bills that were issued using a new program, had errors. Some customers were overcharged and some were undercharged, but almost every bill was affected. Billing for water usage is pretty cut and dried, but that pesky Peak charge that changes every year is always is a problem. Adjustments should show up on the next quarter billing.

## POLICE DEPT. NEWS

The Police Dept. reported that from September 12 to November 14 there were 2 arrests (OVI, Disorderly Conduct and resisting arrest), several issues with speeding, running stop signs and open containers, and 2 accidents, one a hit skip. The two older police vehicles, a 2008 Impala with a blown engine and the 1996 red blazer which needs some major repairs, will be offered for sale. Council approved the purchase of a 2009 Dodge Charger for only \$2000 from the Perkins Police Dept. which was paid for out of the PD Donation Fund. Remember to fill out your house check and senior check in forms. The KIPD is watching out for you, but in a good way.

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays from Kelleys Island to the World!

## NOVEMBER 2015

The weather has been an interesting combination of cold with high winds and beautiful sunny days. The ferry shut down the morning of October 1 as gale force winds battered the Island. It was a bit surreal riding around. The south shore looked calm, but the north side was wildly turbulent. Wind, coupled with low water, made for an exciting ride that morning. Someone on Facebook posted some terrifying action shots. There was just one ferry that day and the few people who took the ride said they would never do it again in that kind of weather. The ferry finally began service again on the 4th.

The Kelleys Island Audubon Club had their potluck, and our paramedic and master gardener Sharon Devine did a presentation on those mighty pollinators – bees. The club has a new website (<http://www.kelleysislandnature.com>) which is more colorful than the old one. They are also more active on Facebook (Bird-Kelleys Island). There has been a lot of interesting posts about birds, and butterflies. Be sure to ‘Like’ them to keep up with all the news.

CANDIDATES FORUM - Even though the ferry had shut down that morning, the Candidates Forum attracted about 120 people, a huge crowd. While the School Board, Council and Clerk seats are uncontested, the Mayor’s race was the major event of the evening with former mayor Rob Quinn (2002-2011) and Arden Cooper vying for the Mayor’s seat.

THE ELECTION – You can download the list of voters from the Erie Co. Board of Elections (BOE) website. At one point, an old list appeared and it looked like over a hundred people had registered and a bunch of people who had not voted since 1998 or had moved also appeared. A week later another, a cleaner list was posted. For those interested; in 2013 (the last big local election) there were 317 registered voters and 199 votes cast. There are now 337 voters. While some dropped off, 51 persons have registered who never voted here before. There have been several inquiries at the BOE office about provisional ballots which would be filed by people who failed to register before the deadline. Their votes may or may not be counted, after a review by the BOE. Also on the ballot will be three village levies: 1.75 mills for Operating Expenses, 1 mill for Fire and EMS, and 3 mills for Roads. All are 5-year levies.

PORT AUTHORITY – The issue of a Port Authority has come up several times during this election with concerns expressed over the loss of revenue and opportunities relating to the failure of the Village to establish this position. However, according to the Code of Ordinances, the Port Authority was actually established by Ordinance no. 2006-O-10 on June 27, 2006. Council had concerns about the broad powers that came with this board, which included condemnation and acquiring of property, and as a result it restricted the powers of the board, requiring that any actions must be first approved by Council. The 5-person board is appointed by the Mayor but these positions were never filled. The Code of Ordinances is on the Village Website ([www.KelleysIsland.us](http://www.KelleysIsland.us)), just click on Code of Ordinances and the section is 98.13, Village of Kelleys Island Port Authority Established.

MASTER PLAN – Another issue that came up was the Master Plan. After years of work, a new Zoning Master Plan was adopted on December 13, 2003, Ordinance 2003-O-24. This was to be the new plan for the Village that defined neighborhood types geographically replacing the current zoning districts, randomly spread across the Island. But while the Master Plan was officially adopted by this action, no further work has been done since 2003 to bring the Zoning Code in line with the Master Plan. As a result, we have a bright new, shiny, expensive Master Plan, but we are still using the zoning code adopted in 1993 (but occasionally updated to patch holes, and clarify definitions and sections that were unclear). This study cost the Village well over \$50,000 and took several years to complete, but has gone nowhere.

## OCTOBER 2015

*Please note that the two photos that were inserted in the Gazette article were placed there by the PIBG editor.*

We are now approaching the end to most of the tourist madness. Many businesses close during the week and open only on the weekends. Things are slowing down as we look forward to Halloween activities and Thanksgiving. COUNCIL MEETINGS move to the second Saturday each month at 10 am at Kelley's Hall. The Audubon Potluck is Thursday Oct. 15 at 6 pm. October still brings some interesting events including Oktoberfest, Chili Cook-off, Wine & Art festival, Zombie Bar Crawl and the Landowners Assoc. Family Hayride on October 17. Still lots to do.

THE ELECTION - This year's election is heating up already with a challenge to Rob Quinn's eligibility to run for the office of Mayor. The Erie Co. Board of Elections found that Quinn was eligible to run and his name will appear on the ballot. The challengers claimed that with his extensive investments, rental properties and businesses, he does not spend enough time on the Island to be considered a resident. What was unusual about this hearing was that witnesses were subpoenaed and asked to give their personal opinion on whether Quinn was a resident or not. Ironically, some of those were either hired (or recommended) by Quinn when he was Mayor or who will indirectly report to him if he is elected. Somehow, that doesn't seem fair. The Board allowed these personal opinions to be presented and cross-examined, but generally the Board deals only with facts that prove or disprove eligibility. These proceedings, of course, ignited a firestorm of Facebook posts and comments to the newspaper. The register covered the event, BUT attributed the challenges to an opposition candidate. Several days later they said that the challengers acted independently. Many people believe the Register should admit that it was sloppy reporting or name the person who gave the information to the reporter. This type of backstabbing and careless reporting does not do anybody any good.

SUPERHEROES invaded the Island. Driving down the street, imagine the surprise when you see a golf cart Bat Mobile coming towards you, filled with several Batmen, complete with masks and capes flapping in the wind. Other reports came in about sightings of Superman! It was all part of a day of activities for a group that included a Superhero golf cart poker run.

Speaking of Superheroes, JENI HAMMOND AND CINDRA MIELKE did their annual swim, although because of the Algae bloom they changed it to a kayak run from Starve Island to Portside. They also held a golf cart poker run which attracted 310 participants. So far they have raised over \$32,000 this year and over \$750,000 in 21 years. You go girls!

Good bye FUN FINDERS! The CHAMBER will, instead, concentrate their advertising money in the Shore & Island books, which are geared to attracting new visitors to the Islands. For those people who are already on the island, there will be a photocopied handout.

THE STORM - The first big storm of early Sept. lit up the night skies and seemed so close that almost everyone thought lightning had struck something near their house. Some parts of the Island were without power for four hours, while others had no disruption. Some televisions and

modems were fried from storm related surges and Wi-Fi was doing some really odd things. Some transformers blew up sending DSL haywire. The library was jammed with people trying to get online, but while the Wi-Fi was not working for laptops, the desktop computers worked just fine.

The HANCOCK WOOD OPEN HOUSE attendance was surprising small this year, despite some great food. There were displays about the energy effectiveness of various types of light bulbs, samples of the various cables that served the Island and a raffle for two \$100 gift cards for the Kelleys Island Ferry Boat Line. There was also a booth staffed by Frontier Telephone people, who were making every effort to connect with people who are still having trouble with the DSL lines. The person to contact is Stephen Euton at 419-663-8088. There was even entertainment. Wish we would have gotten the name of the guitar player, he was great.

COUNCIL NEWS - The meetings keep getting shorter, as there are few reports from the committees and very few ordinances. The POLICE DEPT. continues to enforce the laws and has issued quite a few warnings and citations. There have been foot chases through yards, speeding (really 51 miles an hour here?), and the usual fights and OVIs. Most of the lesser violations are still heard in Mayor's Court, but quite a few are being sent over to the mainland for hearings.

### SEPTEMBER 2015

September is my favorite time on the Island. Things slow down nicely during the week, but there are still activities on the weekends. Sept. 10-Council meets at 7 at Kelley's Hall, Sept 12-The Island Wide Yard Sale and at 11 am Pat Hayes does his presentation on Monarch Butterflies at the museum. Sept. 17-The Audubon Club meets for its potluck and speaker, and Sept. 20 The Inn shows off their gorgeous and really, really large dahlias from 1-3. There is also a tour of their home. Sept. 26-a new event, Harvest Fest downtown. It looks like there will be square dancing but no details yet on the website.

AUDUBON - Audubon pot luck-Sept. 17 with speaker BERNIE PLACE of Wild Birds Unlimited-Toledo, speaking on the vast refuge in your own back yard. TOM BARTLETT does a winter bird count every year and last winter was no exception. Even though it was colder and snowier than usual, Island counts were pretty close to normal. A total of 84 species (up from 75 in 2014) were observed including 20 species of waterfowl, 7 different raptors, 5 gulls, and 4 owls, 5 woodpeckers and 5 different sparrows. There were some UNUSUAL SITINGS including: a Harlequin Duck, Turkey Vultures who wintered over, Long-eared Owl, Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker (and I thought that was a made up name!), a Brewer's Duck, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon and Gray Catbird.

ALGAE BLOOM – On July 23, there was a green line in the blue water heralding the arrival of the algae bloom. The next day it surrounded the Island and the lake took on that same transparent green glow of a Lime Margarita. Surprisingly, the toxic algae has come and gone several times and the lake generally looks very murky. This too shall pass as the weather and the lake gets cooler.

THE CANDIDATES - For Mayor - Arden B. Cooper and Robert J. Quinn; for Clerk - Claudia M. Brown, and for Council (2 seats) - Ronald Ehrbar and Michael Feyedelem. The Mayor's race will be interesting. Rob Quinn was ousted by Kyle Paine at the last election in 2011 and looks to make a comeback.

INTERNET SERVICE – According to Frontier they “are excited to let you know...Frontier has installed new internet equipment on Kelley's Island. The new equipment has higher internet speed levels available.” Note that they did not say that they fixed the incredibly slow and unresponsive service we have, but if we pay more, speeds up to 40 Mbps are now available.

COUNCIL NOTES - This had to be a record short meeting – less than one hour. There were few reports. The POLICE DEPT. has stepped up enforcement making 11 arrests for: Domestic Violence (this one made the newspapers), (2) criminal damaging, OVI, burglary, robbery, vandalism, theft, (5) assault (also made the papers), receiving stolen property, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, physical control and failure to control. There seem to be more fights at the bars this year. They also issued citations for speeding, failure to stop at a stop sign, open containers and APV plates (to use your Kubota or similar vehicle in the summer, you must have auto license plates, not APV/All Purpose Vehicle plates). There was 1 boat and 3 traffic accidents. Several years ago the Dept. posted the POLICE LOG at the Post Office each month. That policy was halted, but has now started up again. You can find the Report on the clipboard that holds the Ordinances. The stepped up enforcement must be working, we have seen far fewer people letting their children drive, or holding their children on their laps while they drive. People don't realize how dangerous that is. A sudden stop with a child in your lap and the child is crushed against the steering wheel by the driver's body.

The WATER DEPT. has had several visits from the EPA and Erie Co. Health Dept. There was just one detection of toxic algae which was BELOW the tolerances set and was well within the safe levels. The water was immediately treated. So far we are clean. There were complaints about the group that had rented the pavilion involving vulgar language and loud music. Apologizes were offered indicating that the party simply got out of hand. The Village will be looking at revising the ITINERANT BUSINESS PERMIT section of the code. There are multiple overlapping definitions, 3 different rates, for 4 different durations. The AIRPORT COMMITTEE is looking at whether we need lights on the N/S runway, which is closed, but is occasionally used because the big X at each end has faded.

#### **AUGUST 2015**

July was a wild ride weather-wise. One day the fireplace was cooking, the next you had the air conditioning on, and then it was storming, damp and cold again. Mosquitoes are having a banner year! It always amazes me how we can go from plenty of time to not enough time in the blink of an eye. How can we possibly get so busy? And the odd part is, by the end of July there are only a few weeks of this hectic activity left before school preparations begin and we suddenly wind down!

There are two things that everyone is talking about. First is the upcoming election and who is going to run for what office. Every year, four elected officials run; this year it is the Mayor, the Clerk and two council persons. Speaking of elections, there will be three tax levies on the ballot: A tax levy renewal of 1.75 mills for current operating expenses; a renewal of 3.00 mills for roads; and another renewal of 1.00 mills for fire protection purposes. The second popular topic is the terrible internet service that we have been suffering with. Frontier assures us that the fix is on its way. They plan some service outages in the night time hours in order to improve internet service levels and availability to Islanders. They are installing new equipment which, they say, will improve their current service levels and provide for higher levels of service. All this by mid-August. They are offering some higher speed packages too. We would be happy with just regular speeds.

EVENTS – By the time this comes out in print, the CIRCUS will have come and gone, ISLANDFEST is just a memory (but a glorious one with the fireworks and all); the Historical Assoc. ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW (with 15+ participants) will have sold out and the FILM FESTIVAL would have been a smashing success. MUSIC FEST was rained on, but was held anyway. Crowds were understandably small. PICKLE BALL is coming to the Island, at the tennis courts at the pavilion, and there was JAZZ IN THE VINEYARD with local Mark Gridley and his troupe. But there are still some great events coming up: The HANCOCK WOOD OPEN HOUSE will be August 28; September 5-the ISLAND SINGERS celebrate American music in a show at historic Kelley's Hall, and COUNCIL meets on August 13 at 7 p.m. The KI HISTORY MUSEUM holds their Annual Meeting on August 8 with GUEST SPEAKER Tory Gabriel (Sea Grant/OSU)

presenting a talk about the history of Lake Erie fishing (at 1:00 at the stone church) and a dedication of their new HISTORIC PLAQUE for the Church and parsonage (right after Tory's talk). AUDUBON CLUB meets on August 20 for a potluck dinner and speaker. And HOMECOMING is August 15 – all day. Still so much to do and all these are free events.

**PUBLIC LOCKERS** – Excess funds from the Tall Ships celebration are being rolled back to the community in the form of public lockers. 30 lockers, similar to those at bus stations, will be installed in Caddy Shack Square. The cost is about \$6400 and the Village will receive 20% of the income from these lockers. The Square will provide the space and manage the income, expenses and liability for these units for 80% of the income. The KI Historical Assoc. has been the keeper of these funds until all the event expenses were paid and a suitable project could be found.

#### COUNCIL

It was a fast meeting, with hardly any reports. The EMS SQUAD has 68 runs and 6 clinic patients. The FIRE DEPT. responded to one false alarm. Village officials are discussing ideas for improving the look of the MUNICIPAL BUILDING. The Water Dept. has a contingency plan in case the ALGAE BLOOM reaches us. There were 6 responses to the request for qualifications for the road paving job. SUE MARCHKY is retiring from working in the Village office on August 1. She has been a valued employee for many years. The POLICE DEPT. reported 5 arrests (assault, disorderly conduct, intoxication persistence); 4 tickets for possession of marijuana, reckless operation, riding outside motor vehicle, parking tickets and open container. There was one accident, 6 vehicle lockouts, and 10 assists with other agencies (mostly EMS). During the last month several trees went down on roadways. Bobby Skeans and Hancock Wood assisted the police in cleaning-up several of these areas.

#### JULY 2015

The Muffleheads leave and the Mayflies arrive along with the tourists as the high season comes to the Island. It seems like we have had more rain this year than ever, but records indicate it is similar to last year's May/June period. But the big news was the storm that shut down the ferry. One enterprising person filmed the ferry in an impressive video that showed waves crashing over the pilot house. This went viral and Cleveland's Fox 8 news ran it on every broadcast for a couple of days. So many people were stranded for the night. The next day it took to early afternoon to clear out the backlog.

**MISC. ITEMS - BIKE WEEK** is often called the loudest week on the Island. This year it was estimated that well over 1500 bikes came to the island on one day. They were lined up at the Marblehead ferry dock, past the building, out into the street and reportedly up to the Dairy Dock. The police report an extraordinarily well-behaved group of people. The roads were full of traffic and it was frustrating to find yourself behind six bikes, who were following one golf cart, two cars and a family on bicycles around a blind curve. What a big way for the businesses to start the season.

Real estate **TAX BILLS** are now out. If you did not get your bill, contact the Erie Co. Treasurer (419-627-7701). Sometimes a wrong address will be entered. You don't want any late charges on these bills.

The annual **PERCH FISHING COMPETITION** was cancelled twice, the first because of bad weather, the second because they could not get any minnows. Minnows are beginning harder to find every year. Our ice fishermen had to buy their minnows last winter and have them shipped over.

**SCHOOL PROGRAMS EXPAND** - The SCHOOL is posting their Kelleys Island Field Station **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**. There are lots of activities and programs available to the community. Included are July 2-Recovery of the Lake Erie Water Snake by Dr. Kristin Standord of OSU and Stone Lab; July 9-Lake Erie Island Water Trails by Andrea Ireland of the National Park Service; July 16-Using Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drones) for environmental, natural resources and ag.

purposes by David Hanselmann OSU; July 23-Protecting this region's rarest natural treasures by David Kriska, Biodiversity coordinator for the Cleveland Natural History Museum; and July 30-Life and Importance of the Monarch Butterfly by the Sandusky County Park District. There are also PROGRAMS FOR KIDS on Fridays from 6:30-8:30 where they can explore the outdoors, get messy and meet other kids on the island. The programs change from week to week. Space is limited. There is also a family-oriented OUTDOOR EXPLORERS PROGRAM, an opportunity to learn more about the natural world and enjoy time outdoors. These will be held on July 11-Birding 101, July 25-Family hike at the Beatty Quarry, and August 1-Silent Wings All about owls.

COUNCIL NOTES - The KELLEYS ISLAND POLICE DEPT. welcomes some new faces to the roster of officers who serve the island including Jack Wade, Robert Darrow, Ajay Johnson, Jeremy Danklefsen, Devin Pollock, Axel Colon, Joshua Foos and our new dispatcher Nataliya Makarove-Skeans. The Dept. has been quite busy Tickets were issued for riding outside of a motor vehicle, speeding, parking violations and open container. There were 11 arrests for Driving under suspension, fictitious license, criminal damage, disorderly conduct intoxication persistence, possession of Marijuana, theft, domestic violence, reckless operation, leaving the scene of accident, resisting arrest and drug paraphernalia. The new chief is working on new cameras, tasers and connecting to LEADS. The police officers will receive six 'like new' bullet proof vests under a lottery program. The KIPD boat is in the water but will be used for emergency purposes only. Kelley's Hall now has new, much safer stairs on the north side of the building. The village is looking at a system to monitor the cash coming in vs. the amount of water discharged from the bulk water station. The EMS is having computer troubles and may need a new one. The BURN BAN is in effect until the end of summer – no open burning allowed.

ALSO IN THE GAZETTE: Kelleys Island Make-a-Wish Swim – This year, the 21st Annual Kelleys Island Make-A-Wish swim will take place from Starve Island to Portside Marina on Kelleys Island on August 2nd. The two swimmers, Cindra Mielke and Jeni Hammond, have raised almost \$700,000 for charity in the last 20 years doing long-distance lake swims.

This year's Make-A-Wish event includes a Golf Cart Poker Run on Saturday and the actual swim on Sunday. The swimmers will get to Portside Marina about noon.

If you'd like more information about this event, go to July & August events can be found at: <http://www.kelleysislandchamber.com/events/> .

## **JUNE 2015**

You can tell that summer is here. You drive down the street and pass five cars in a row and automatically assume that the ferry has just come in. We went from brown/gray landscapes to full-out bright green. It almost hurts your eyes.

With little fanfare, Kelleys Island, in the company of Put-in-Bay and Middle Bass Island, entered into the battle for OHIO'S TOP 10 ATTRACTIONS. While Cedar Point and the Pro Football Hall of Fame battled for first place, the Lake Erie Islands maintained their third place position through to the end of the competition. This contest was sponsored by the Cleveland Plain Dealer. It looks like Rock, Baker, Sippers is now KI TASTE BY THE LAKE, offering coffee, bakery and prepared foods and catering. If you are on Facebook, be sure to search Kelleys Island for a whole bunch of pages dedicated to our island life. A new one that is taking the Island by storm is KELLEYS ISLAND FACES FROM THE PAST where you can post old, unidentified pictures and hope that someone can ID the people and places. The National Park Service held public meetings to discuss a WATER TRAIL around the island. This would be a designated trail with easy to find rest areas. We join other lake front areas in this program. Our thanks to TOM AND PAULA BARTLETT who spend their days bird banding at various places on the island.

EVENTS - June is the month that activities begin to ramp up. A SCRAP METAL AND TIRE RECYCLING event will take place at the Transfer Station on June 6. The 5 & 10k RUN will be

June 7, COUNCIL meets on June 11 at 7 p.m. at Kelley's Hall, and The AUDUBON CLUB has their potluck and program at 6 on May 18. The Kelleys Island HISTORY MUSEUM expands its hours, now open Tuesday through Sunday from 12-4. Check out [www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org](http://www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org) (click on *Our Collection*) to see what historical items they have). MUSIC FEST (two days of live entertainment) is June 27-28, and the KI LANDOWNERS Welcome Back potluck is June 13.

NEW KELLEYS ISLAND BOOK - Author Leslie Korenko has just published her fifth book in the historical series about Kelleys Island. This book, *Kelleys Island 1877-1884, the fire, the Great Grooves, and a mysterious disappearance*, allows the islanders to tell their own history as they share their interesting and intimate stories. ([www.KelleysIslandStory.com](http://www.KelleysIslandStory.com))

COUNCIL - It was the busiest Derby Day weekend ever for the POLICE DEPT. resulting in 20 calls for service and six arrests. 75% of the calls that day were for golf cart and 4-wheeler violations. If you don't know the law – ask the Police Dept. they will be more than happy to help you avoid a ticket. The Dept. now has a full staff of 10 officers. Over the previous month, there were two OVI-physical control, two fleeing and eluding, paraphernalia, leaving the scene of accident, two criminal damaging, two reckless operation, three disorderly conduct, intoxication, criminal trespass, driving on airport runway and driving under suspension and two felony warrants. Traffic tickets were issued for speeding, expired tags, driving under suspension, OVI. Ten warnings were issued.

The TRANSFER STATION sent out 65 late notices. If left unpaid they get turned over to the Police Dept. June 6 is metal and tire recycling. The Village received a \$160,000 GRANT FOR RESURFACING W. LAKESHORE from the West dock to Huntington Lane. The balance is a low or no cost loan. There will be three LEVIES on the NOVEMBER BALLOT: Fire, Road and current expenses. A Settlement of \$15,000 was granted to the Village by the Court in the case involving a North Bay resident. ANOTHER GRANT, for \$22,600, was approved by Erie Co. Regional Planning under the Community Development Block Grant for renovations and improvements to the municipal building, including paving, striping, new steps and ramp and railing, to make it handicapped accessible. The total cost of the improvements will be about \$34,000. There were PROCLAMATIONS honoring Ed and Fran Kuchar and Ray & Lindsey Bowman for their generosity and support and their contributions towards the purchase of the new police car.

## MAY 2015

April was a wild ride, bouncing from 70 degrees and sunny to 35 and rain. Snow drops have given way to crocus and daffodils, the birds are singing their little heads off and spring is here at last.

At the POST OFFICE, we reluctantly bid farewell to Jean, our postmaster, and said hello to Chrissy Maust, our new postmaster. There are two new restaurants opening this year. According to the new Chamber site, the SWEET VALLEY TRADING POST is now the SWEET VALLEY PITTE STOP, which will have an open air cafe/bistro, offering a cosmopolitan menu of soups, salads, vegan, and a juice bar. On Woodford Rd., the Kelleys Island Wine Co. will open a Mexican Restaurant and Tavern with regular specials.

Jeni Hammond is organizing the CHAMBER office and has loads of new ideas. Stop in and say hello. The raffle this year will be for a brand new golf cart. The K. I. History Museum opens on May 16 for International Museum Day with free admission and a family friendly activity. The historic stone church will also be open. SPRING CLEANING? Remember, if it is too good to throw out, donate it the museum for its yard sale. June 6 is SCRAP METAL and OLD TIRE RECYCLING DAY. The EMS SPAGHETTI DINNER will be Saturday May 9. Along with FREE MUSEUM DAY, May 16 is also SAFETY SERVICES DAY. Stop by the parking lot by the Casino to see the equipment and meet the people who keep us safe and healthy. The first AUDUBON



POTLUCK of the year will be May 21, part of NEST WITH THE BIRDS and bird banding will be going on all day Saturday, and probably Sunday too.

COUNCIL begins meeting on Thursday nights at 7:00 on May 14. At the April meeting, not much business was conducted and there were few committee reports. Free Radon kits are available from Erie County, just call and they will send you one. The Village appointed Shawn Craig as the new POLICE CHIEF and bid farewell to Ron Ehrbar. Ron was presented with a plaque in a touching ceremony. The Mayor reappointed members to the various committees and selected Ron Ehrbar to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

#### APRIL 2015

What a difference a month makes. The ice is being replaced by sparkling water, the spring peepers are out and the Red Wing Blackbirds are singing their hearts out. Unfortunately, now that the weather is warming up, this is when waterlines that froze over the winter start spouting water. One large leak on the east side and another small one on the west side have already been discovered. Ice fishing is officially over. Ah. Spring.

Quite a large gathering of women celebrated WORLD DAY OF PRAYER at St. Michael's church on March 5. EXERCISE CLASS is going strong, although attendance varies from week to week. It seems that every time someone comes back on the plane they are travelling with someone who has been to the hospital or the Doctor. Two men walked from the mainland out to Kelleys Island, they CAMPED ON THE ICE overnight and flew back the next day. What an adventure. About 25 people enjoyed food, beverages and a lot of laughs at the ICE PARTY at the ice fishing shanty town. RESORT TAX figures are in and tax receipts were down 30% from last year. The 1.5% tax is collected on items subject to Ohio Sales tax, and this year taxable sales were over \$7 million dollars.

COUNCIL – After a winter hiatus, Council met for the first time this year in March. Unfortunately, two councilpersons could not make it so additional meetings were required to pass the Appropriations ordinance. The grand total of all APPROPRIATIONS this year exceeds \$2.5 million dollars. There was a lot of discussion about spending and Council is considering actions to streamline the process. Anticipated savings as a result of contracting the management the water plant, have not materialized, existing procedures for authorizing expenditures were not always followed, and complaints that the public knows about big ticket purchases before Council does were all mentioned. The Village is involved in a LAWSUIT over another road. This time it is Dwelle Lane. This road was determined to be a private road and World Business is claiming it should be a public road. On the other hand, the long running suit involving Martin Tremmel, reached the appeals court and was 'not well taken,' apparently upholding the lower court's decision against Tremmel. RON EHRBAR, our Police Chief, is retiring and his last day will be April 8. The Village is in the process of advertising and interviewing to find his successor.

KELLEYS ISLAND FACEBOOK PAGE – Kathy Rickenbacher Kin and her cousin Alison Nowak McCarthy started a Facebook group specifically to share photos of people from the island's past. They hope you'll join them there! Search for Kelleys Island Faces from the Past and ask to join. They have lots of old pictures with no names, and besides enjoying looking at pictures, they are hoping they can identify some of them too. Be sure to share your own faces from Kelleys Island's past!

#### MARCH 2015

It is hard to type an article when your teeth are chattering. It is so very cold. How odd though, it's only 8 degrees, and the icicles on our south porch are actually dripping. This is making for some really long narrow stilettos. And the snow – big piles of snow and snow drifts as the old snow is covered by new snow. Some of our wild creatures are having a hard time foraging as the old snow has a nice crust on it, which deters pawing or digging for food. It is too cold for news.

Tax bills came in the mail, always a sure sign that spring will be coming. They were due February 13. If you moved remember to let the Erie Co. Auditor know so they can get your tax bills to you. Their no. is 419- 627-7701.

Ice fishing was interesting this year. There was good ice, and good fishing, but not anything like last year, which was exceptional. High winds necessitated many shanties to be towed in ibn several days.

Our library had a good year, down slightly from previous years. Total adult circulation was 2667 items and children's circulation was 715 items, for a total of 3382. 657 items were added in 2014. Our library is a warm, bright place to surf the internet and keep up with all the latest movies, thrillers and gossip.

*Enjoy this news from January 1877 – “We now have a fine bridge of which Jack Frost has the exclusive patent, spanning Lake Erie and connecting us with the continent. Everyday it is well traveled both by teams and foot passengers, some of them crossing directly to Sandusky instead of by the usual Peninsula route, showing the ice bridge to be in a remarkably good condition. Hay, coal and feed, the latter for man as well as beast, are being brought over in considerable quantities. Many finding the unusually severe winter drawing more heavily on their winter supplies than was anticipated. [The lake froze early in December, which was unusual.] A few mornings ago the mercury became discouraged and fell to 10 below zero but has since been in better spirits.”*

## **FEBRUARY 2015**

February is usually a very quiet month. Potlucks, social gatherings, and pleasant hours spent in the library keep us social. But news does occur. The New Year came in very cold with shore ice starting to form. While there were a few public parties, attendance was down a bit because of the colds and flu that have swept the Island. The ferry closed down on Sunday January 4. On Monday, temperatures dropped, ice formed across the lake and on Tuesday it snowed – a lot! The ferry closed just in time. Now, temperatures in the teens kindle thoughts of ice fishing.

Just when it looked like the Post Office job would never be filled (they are still trying to fill the part-time position that came available last summer), the job description changed yet again. This time there were 15 applicants. We await final word on who will get the job.

Another position that will be vacant this year is the Chief of Police, since Chief Ron Ehrbar has announced his intention to retire in the spring. Several of our former police officers have expressed interest.

The Christmas Bird count that occurred on Sunday Dec. 14, produced some interesting results. Kelleys Island observers found 69 species and counted 52,545 individual birds. That is a lot of birds. One of the more unusual birds counted here was a Gray Catbird. Also, a rare Harlequin Duck was a confirmed sighting. If you haven't seen one of these, look it up. Very interesting bold colors and markings.

The Chamber has updated their website and it now contains nice links with details on every activity on the island. ([www.KelleysIslandChamber.com](http://www.KelleysIslandChamber.com)). The Historical Assoc. has been posting historical tidbits on their new website ([www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org](http://www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org)) and lots of new videos have appeared on YouTube (just search Kelleys Island). Not all of them are noteworthy though.

## **JANUARY 2015**

Things have certainly slowed down around here. Most everyone who leaves the island for the winter has done so. The topic on everyone's lips was whether the ferry would offer its free customer appreciation day trip. It is amazing how much we look forward to a free day off the island. While they planned two trips in the morning, three boat loads left, but only two returned. It was a fun day, catching up with each other in the parking lot and on the boat, running into

people in the stores, and cleaning up the few remaining items on that shopping list. The year closed out with the community Christmas pot luck and will open with festive New Year's parties.

The KI school announced that will NOT be collecting 11.5 mills of outside millage for 2015, a value of about \$870,000, a 64% savings on the school portion of our tax bill. This is the 15th consecutive year they have implemented this reduction.

Weather has been all over the place. On November 18, the temperature was in the teens with high winds and low water. As I write this it is 55 degrees and raining. A White Christmas was not in the cards.

New hours for the Post Office go into effective January 10. but the lobby is already open 24/7. Still no word on who will be taking Jean's place. There were a few local applicants, but officials then changed the dynamics of the position, making it far less attractive, and the search began again. While there has been some interest from off-islanders, housing remains the big stumbling block. Hate to say we told you so, but postal representatives assured us they had it all under control when they held their public meeting.

Council had its last regular meeting of the year on December 13 and will recess until March, unless something comes up that requires a meeting. Remember to get your House Check forms filled out so the Police can check on your house while you are gone. The EMS squad finished their pediatric trauma class and will be getting a grant for the lift cart that they have been raising money for (the matching portion). While not much info was shared, Put-in-Bay appears to be all fired up about the Resort Tax; how it is collected and who it applies to. Our Village Clerk responded to the query from Put-in-Bay stating that we did not think we had a problem with the Resort tax process. The Village will be meeting with the FAA to figure out how we can move forward with required improvements since the defeat of the airport levy. The Zoning Inspector will be rehired (after a temporary retirement necessitated by changes in the PERS rules) at a new rate of \$6,000 a year. The old fee schedule was based on a sq. foot basis and ranged from \$2500 to \$6500 a year.

With this we close out another year and we look forward to a very happy new year.