

## DECEMBER 2016

Wow, what a November. Warm and balmy until the 19th, then the promise of winter began to unfold. We are laying in our winter stockpiles. In December, there just two round trips a day and no ferries on Tuesday or Thursday. If you go off at 8:30, the last ferry back is 3:00, but there are extra runs on Friday/Sat./Sunday. It is always exciting to try to figure out where all the big construction delivery trucks will be going next as everyone hustles to get their projects under roof.

Election results from the BOE in Erie Co. show that KI has 334 registered voters, and 279 (83.53%) voted in this election. The Village levy passed 220 to 46. For President: Clinton (96), Johnson (7), Stein (4), and Trump (163). View the full results online at <http://electionsonthe.net/oh/erie/elecres.htm>

The Vermilion Port Authority and Kelleys Island Ferry Boat Co. are working to use money from the Ohio Department of Transportation to build a new \$4.7 million ferry boat. The new boat will be a 140-foot double-ended steel vessel to carry cars and people from Marblehead to Kelleys Island. Construction would take up to 18 months, according to plans.

The Kelleys Island Field Station reports that 161 students from 14 Ohio schools attended and 32 kids participated in programs over four weeks and there were four evening lectures as part of the program. The TV show Aqua Kids recorded some clips for an upcoming episode on Lake Erie and the Field Station scored a \$45,633 Education Fund award from the Ohio EPA for student programs focused on water quality and biodiversity.

Hancock Wood Electric sent a letter indicating they will be replacing one of the two four mile long submarine cables that provide electricity to the island. One cable was replaced in 2003 and can supply the entire island if necessary. The other cable is more than 40 years old and cannot supply power to the entire island. Their plans want to assure that if one cable is damaged, the other can carry the island, particularly in the winter when repairs are so much more difficult. They anticipate that a nominal fee of \$10 a month will be assessed over a 20-year period beginning January 1.

A highlight of the November Council meeting was the swearing in of our new K-9 officer, Dundee. The hall was almost full as people watched Dundee alternately ignore and then take intense interest in the crowd. At one point he climbed in the lap of Chief Craig, probably looking for a little reassurance. It is clear that Dundee has bonded with his new partner.

At a special meeting, council voted to move ahead with purchasing the adjoining property for \$350,000. Because it is contiguous, it should provide the necessary land for future expansion, and for housing the paramedic, eliminating the rental housing we are required to provide. Looking forward, as our fire dept. shrinks for lack of volunteers, the village could provide overnight housing if they have to bring people over from the mainland.

The EMS had four runs during the previous month. The Fire Dept. decorated the downtown park and the lighting ceremony greeted Santa the day after Thanksgiving. The fire hydrant survey has been completed (there are 141 hydrants on the island) and the dept. will be going after two grants for a new ambulance and fire equipment. In answer to questions about the new water rates, the Village Administrator reminded us that we start each year with \$61,000 in loan debt up and above the usual operating expenses.

The KI Landowners Association is donating almost \$8,000 to update and replace the end panels on the picnic pavilion. Over the years the boards have been damaged and unsightly. What a nice change this will be. The Park Board announced that the Western Reserve Land Conservancy is considering purchasing an 18 acre track at the end of Huntington Lane for use as a preserve. Council adjourned to an executive session to discuss pending litigation and personnel.

PICTURE CAPTION – The Island's new K-9 officer was sworn in by Mayor Cooper at the November meeting. While he did not raise his right paw, he did affix his 'signature' to the pledge using a stamp pad and his paw.

## NOVEMBER 2016

Winter is coming and those few Islanders who weather the cold and snow here are already looking towards stocking up. By now most of us have a recurring winter shopping list. Exactly how many bags of flour will we need? What about dog food? Can I freeze 10 pounds of butter? Mainlanders don't have to worry about this, but we have to plan for the winter's Ice-o-lation (as they used to say). On the other hand, just about everything you might need can be found at, or ordered through, the Island Market.

The VFW will be open this winter and the community pot lucks will be starting, probably in December. We love these opportunities to get together with friends. Soon we will be picking up our freight at the airport instead of the ferry and we have to plan our large purchases accordingly. So many businesses are closing during the week, but since color change occurs later on this Island, we get to take advantage of long walks in the extended Fall season. Life is good.

**BIRD BANDING** - Tom Bartlett is spending his fall months banding birds. Be sure to visit him on Long Point for bird banding. He invites you to let the birds poop on you as they get weighed, measured and banded. He also spends his night hours catching and banding owls at Scheele Preserve on Monagan Road. Not sure if he is on duty on any given day? Drive past the History Museum/Old Stone Church. When he goes out he puts up signs in the church yard. No signs, no banding going on. Did you know that he recently banded his 10,000th island bird? Go to [www.kelleysislandnature.com](http://www.kelleysislandnature.com) to guess which bird it was!

**ELECTIONS** - Election day is November 8 and there is a Village renewal levy on the ballot. And remember to shop local for your Christmas presents. History books about the Island are always a great gift. Steve Merkel is spearheading a project to bring decorative lighting to the downtown area. More details will be forthcoming. It looks like the Hancock Wood tree trimmers are done. It is nice to round the corner at W. Lakeshore and Titus; now that the underbrush has been cut down it is a bit easier to see around the corner.

**COUNCIL NOTES** - The next Council meeting will be November 12 and our new K-9 OFFICER Dundee, or Big D, (Badge No. 903) will be sworn in. Will he really put his paw on a bible? Council meetings are short and sweet and committees actually evaluate questions and suggestions and report on them at the next meeting. Things are really getting done. Remember, you can keep up with VILLAGE MINUTES at [www.KelleysIsland.us](http://www.KelleysIsland.us). There were not enough Councilpersons to pass legislation as an emergency so all ordinances will be read one more time at the next meeting. The EMS squad made 11 runs and had 6 clinic visits. The FIRE DEPT. reminds everyone that BURN PERMITS are needed to do any burning larger than a campfire. The safety services received high praise for their efficient and professional work during the staged "vehicle accident" training exercise. The ISO, the company that sets insurance rates, inspected and reviewed our firefighting equipment. 48 of the Village fire hydrants have been inspected. Crack/seal and painting is complete at the AIRPORT with paving to occur next spring. The TRANSFER STATION is looking for a replacement compactor. A small hole was mistakenly drilled into a waterline on the east side, but repaired almost immediately. MAYOR'S COURT reported that around \$28,000 has gone into the Village coffers thanks to guilty law breakers. The Village is implementing an EMERGENCY ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK so that when unusual situations occur that might affect the quality of your island time, you can be notified. Just fill out the form on the Village website ([www.KelleysIsland.us](http://www.KelleysIsland.us)) to become a part of this notification network. The POLICE DEPT. issued just 8 warnings (speeding, stop signs and open container) and no arrests.

### **OCTOBER 2016**

Finally some rain – we were so tempted to stand out in it with our arms spread and our faces turned up to the sky. Oh wait, some of did! The season is really winding down now. Some places are only open on the weekends already. We still have Halloween to look forward to like the KI Landowners Assoc. hayride will be October 22. This is a great family-friendly event.

**STORM DAMAGE** – While we have been very dry (the grass was totally brown for quite a while) the few storms that did hit did quite a bit of damage. Lightning strikes blew out the HVAC system at the historic stone church on Division Street, and another one created electric havoc at the school, burning out the backup generator and frying part of the electrical system in the school building. While the systems in the new section survived pretty well, the key card system got toasted closing access to the building. Repairs are underway for both buildings.

VFW NEWS –Finally, word has come down that the VFW WILL BE OPEN this winter. Some details are still being worked out, but they will open for the turkey shoots and then for all us winter survivors. So glad to have something open where we can gather and enjoy each other's company.

A STAGED EMERGENCY caused some concerns among Islanders as Addison Road was closed for what appeared to be a two-car accident. It was just a mass casualty training exercise. The stage was set with two cars in a terrible accident, one person pinned under a car (EMS had to determine whether he was alive or not – the dummy was pronounced dead at the scene) and a live volunteer was inserted into the other car. After assessing his 'injuries' a plan had to be implemented to protect the victim, attend to injuries, and successfully remove him from the car, which they did using some of the equipment they have been purchasing over the years. The removal took almost an hour with no further injuries to the 'victim' who was treated after removal and pronounced saved. Meanwhile the other safety services personnel handled crowd control (yes there were a few gawkers), kept a safe perimeter and helped when needed. Our people got an 'A' on their performance. Chief Jack Hostal thanks all the Island volunteers for giving up their Saturday for this exercise. They are a really dedicated group. Speaking of dedication, after 30 years of service, Rick Holmes announced that he is retiring from the KIFD.

THE HISTORY MUSEUM - The island-wide yard sale looked like it would be rained out but was rescued by sunshine, although it looked really bad several times. The KI history museum had the biggest yard sale, covering the porch and the storage room. Pat Hayes did his butterfly presentation in the church but there were few Monarchs this year. Several people packed up their unsold items and donated them for next year's sale. By the way, each year the museum sets up a new display. This means they will be retiring the Bars & Saloons display and setting up a Kelleys Island Kitchen display that will help demonstrate what home life was like on the island in days gone by.

AUDUBON CLUB – Bird banding has started and will continue through October. Tom Behlen shared the slides from his visit to the Galapagos Islands. We can see how that would be the trip of a lifetime. On October 20, Guy Denny, retired Chief of Ohio's Natural Areas and Preserves will be the speaker at the meeting and pot luck. Tom Bartlett will be banding his 10,000 bird pretty soon and a contest is underway to see if anyone guesses which type of bird will hold the honor. Owlfest is coming with banding at the Jones and Scheele preserves starting October 16. Be sure to follow them on Facebook: Bird Kelleys Island to keep up with all the latest news and see some remarkable slow motion videos about hummingbirds.

COUNCIL – This was a quick meeting with about 20 people attending. Quite a large number for a Thursday night. The FIRE DEPT. had four calls (2 alarms and 2 accidents) and completed their pump and hose testing. The AIRPORT will have crack seal and painting this year and repaving the runway and apron next year. Yet again the Village looked at recycling which, no surprise, will be costly. But trash haulers on the Island will likely have to set up some sort of recycling program. The KELLEYS ISLAND LANDOWNERS ASSOC. will be making improvements to the picnic pavilion, installing new wood on the ends. Wonder what happens at Council meetings? COUNCIL MINUTES are now posted on the website ([www.KelleysIsland.us](http://www.KelleysIsland.us)) soon after they are approved. ERIE COUNTY spent the day using the Island as a test location for GIS (A mysterious Geographic Information System that lets us visualize, question, analyze, and interpret data to understand relationships, patterns, and trends, whatever that means.) It was not clear how this would be used, but it does not appear to be the Google Street View that many of us have used. The POLICE DEPT. had 414 calls (really, where do they all come from?), made 10 arrests (Criminal trespass, assault, disorderly conduct and telecommunication harassment). 22 tickets were issued for speeding, parking violations, underage driver, open container, possession of Marijuana, disorderly conduct, disorderly conduct persisting, and dog at large. There were 25 warnings and 3 accidents. We noticed that the number of small children driving golf carts (like in the 6-10 year range) has markedly decreased this year. Word gets around so fast that parents will get a ticket.

## SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

How hot was it? While the mainland got beaten by storms and heavy rains, the islands remained dry and brown. Finally two nice slow rains revived the wilting foliage (and people), but we are still so very dry. HOMECOMING is generally considered the last blast before school starts and it was loads of fun. There was food, cold beverages, booths for shopping, games, a bounce castle, music all day, marshmallow golf, and the list goes on. Just because summer is over does not mean the island activities have stopped. Fall begins bird banding in earnest: Sept. 4 Glacial Glimpses walk at 1:00; Sept. 15 Tom Behlen shares his experiences on the Galapagos Islands; Sept. 18-24 Fall Bandout (Jones Preserve) and Sept. 24 KI Audubon Feathers & Foliage Program. Sept. 8 at 7 pm, Council meets; Sept. 10 is the Island-wide yard sale. Stop by the KI History Museum for its big bake sale and at 11:00 Pat Hayes does a presentation on Monarch Butterflies. Take in Harvest Fest in the downtown park on the 24th and the Wine & Art Faire on Sept. 17 at the K. I. Wine Co.

**BREAKERS BALL** – This Roaring 20's event was the Bee's Knees and a huge success. The KI Historical Assoc. cannot thank everyone enough for making Breakers Ball not just possible, but such great fun. It seems like the entire business community donated something for the event and the list of volunteers who worked so hard to make this possible is impressive. So what was it like? More than half the women and 1/3 of the men showed up in costume. There was more food than anyone could eat, champagne, a speakeasy bar, poker table and a spectacular silent auction. The decorations were top of the line, the band played as people danced on the lawn. The grounds of the Herndon Galleries proved to be the perfect place to relax and have fun. There were three classic cars and loads of photos were taken. Proceeds from this event will be used to repair, stabilize and improve the two historic buildings under our care: the Old Stone Church and its parsonage. Will they do it again? We'll have to check back after everyone recovers. Check out the photos at [www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org](http://www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org) under the EVENTS tab.

**ISLAND'S SECOND HISTORIC MARKER DEDICATED** – August 20 was the big day as Kelleys Island dedicated its second HISTORIC MARKER. June Campbell pulled the event together and speakers included Arden Cooper (Mayor), Bill Monaghan (Erie Co. Commissioner) who has Island roots, Chuck Herndon (President, KI Historical Assoc.) who spoke of the importance of preserving the Island's history), and Leslie Korenko who wrote the grant for the marker. Leslie explained the importance of what is now the Village park but was once the home of Datus and Sara Kelley. After inviting visitors into their home for several years, they built a 3-story hotel addition onto their house. After their deaths, the family sold the property. The new owners had some financial difficulties and Island son, Jacob Rush, bought the property and built a massive addition to the original building. It was 224 feet long and had 102 rooms. Unfortunately, five years later, a chimney fire burned it to the ground. Some years later, George Schardt built another, much smaller building on the site which also caught fire and was destroyed. After passing through several hands, the Village took title in 1925 and dedicated the corner lot for park purposes. The marker also mentions the Casino, which served as a dancing pavilion for the Island House, and the Store on the Corner (built in 1854) which became known as The Lodge since it was the home of the Independent Order of Island Loafers. Several descendants of the Kelley Family were included in the dedication: Anne Sennish, Caroline DeBoard, Mary Paine, Lori Hayes, Stacey DeBoard and Ned Williams (from Irad's side of the family).

**COUNCIL NOTES** – Almost 30 people attended the Council meeting in August. What a large crowd. Several were tracking the use of all purpose vehicles (APVs without auto license plates) on the roads during the summer months. Council previously approved road use after Labor Day and before Memorial Day, but the summer months remained off limits to APV's without auto license plates. This winter Council will work on a special license sticker for these vehicles, for use during the summer. They will still need to meet all the requirements that golf carts do (seat belts, turn signals, etc.) You can view the golf cart form on the Village website ([www.KelleysIsland.us](http://www.KelleysIsland.us) under the Police heading). During the discussion one person asked "Don't you want people bringing their APVs to the Island?" and everyone in the audience yelled NO! The EMS report included 26 clinic patients. Officials met with the FAA and ODOT at the airport to discuss future needs and improvements. People are leaving trash at the gate after

hours at the TRANSFER STATION. Steps are being taken to monitor the area and citations will be issued to the illegal dumpers. The WATER DEPT. reported that a small amount of toxic algae was detected in the lake near town. Consumers are assured that this was a very small amount and the plant treats the water to deal with this situation. Council accepted the resignation of Ernie Bell and appointed Kathey Phinney to the PLANNING COMMISSION.

It was only a matter of time before the businesses expressed their concern over PARKING downtown. Plans are underway to revisit the new parking plan. One of the problems is that golf carts are using the motorcycle parking spots (and it is a very tight fit). Council is also going to look at the time limits for downtown parking, and enforce them. In addition, they will be reworking the golf cart spaces next to Kelley's Hall into diagonal spots which will be easier to get into and out of and it will create two more spaces.

POLICE NEWS - Chief Shawn Craig requested Council's approval for a K-9 unit. The cost of the dog would not be funded by the Village, but with money raised and donated by the community. The Island's K-9 unit was established in 1995 and that Resolution will be reviewed and updated. A dog could have been used several times on the Island in recent years for locating small children, wandering elderly persons, locating illegal drugs, dealing with armed suspects and chasing down fleeing suspects. For the month of July 14-August 13, the department made four arrests included assault, and trespassing and 21 tickets were issued (parking, speeding, OVI, and open container) along with 19 warnings (speeding, stop sign and open container). The pig roast was a huge success. There, of course, food, as well as a band and a dunk tank. Several officers braved the waters.

#### AUGUST 2016

What a month. July is the first real summer month with all the attending joys and frustrations. Need we mention the hundreds of golf carts creeping along the roads? And why, oh why do they always wave you around when there is oncoming traffic or right on a blind curve? On the other hand, the weather is beautiful, you get to visit all those friends who just come up for the summer or for a vacation, and there are activities every weekend.

BIG FIRE – The FIRE DEPT. responded to a fire call at 4:00 a.m., Islandfest Saturday to find that a garage across from Seaway Marina was engulfed in flames. Two vehicles and about 80 golf cart tires that were being stored there were destroyed, but two other vehicles outside the garage had minimum damage. The occupants of the house were awakened by responders and were unaware that there was any problem until they saw the red glare. The siding on the house was already melting from the heat.

NEW STUFF AROUND TOWN – Thanks to the generosity of the community and the hard work of a small group of dedicated people, the almost 20 year old playground equipment in the downtown park was replaced and dedicated. The Park Board was pleased to report that there was no cost to the village except some labor to spread mulch. The Village Office on Addison is undergoing a transformation. The handicap ramp and stairs are being replaced to make it more modern, compliant and attractive. It looks like the parking lot will be paved too.

COMING IN JULY – The Circus (Aug. 1 & 2), K. I. History Museum Arts & Crafts Show (Aug. 6 from 10-4) followed by the Fire Dept. Steak Roast at the VFW, Make-A-Wish swim (Aug 7. Even though Jeni disabled her elbow she will ride in the escort boat alongside Cindra for this year's swim), Council (Aug. 11 at 7), K. I. Historical Assoc. presents Island bartenders Chicago, Madison and Patti sharing their favorite stories (Aug. 14 at 1:00), Audubon potluck (Aug. 6 at 6:00 and speaker at 7), HOMECOMING (Aug 20) and the K. I. Police Dept. pig roast (Aug. 21). In September, stop by the History Museum for one of the biggest and best yard sale on the Island, and at 11:00 – a presentation on Monarch butterflies.

ISLANDFEST – What can we say except WOW. Gorgeous weather, lots of people shopping and listening to music, and those fire works! After the grand finale there was an encore that took everyone's breath away. Did you know that those big displays shoot up 800 feet into the air? So many people said these were the best fireworks they had ever seen.

NEW KELLEYS ISLAND HISTORY BOOK – Author, Leslie Korenko, publishes her 6th and last chapter in the history of Kelleys Island. Covering the years 1885-1893 it is entitled The Final Chapter. Her journey took 12 years to accomplish and she hopes that this will give readers a more personal view of this Island's heritage and history.

So what happens in this last book? Voter fraud is investigated as the Island becomes a pivotal vote in the 1885 Presidential election. Jacob Hayes, the Island's oldest inhabitant, dies, followed by his wife a year later, leaving their daughters destitute. The school holds its first graduation ceremony. A signal station is established for displaying weather-warning flags. On the business side, new stores are being built. Elfer's old store becomes not just a general store, but also a mortuary office. Elfer's new store is credited in having the first electricity in Erie Co. Wine legislation affects wine production as adulterated wine is defined and a suit for serving wine in unlabeled bottles goes to court. Schaedler & Rhein form a new winery. Commercial fishing begins its decline as gill nets contribute to indiscriminate over fishing. There are major changes in the lime industry. Hughes Bros. & Bangs lease the Island quarries and for three years to excavate stone for the Sault St. Marie project. The Kelleys Island Lime & Transport Co. incorporates and purchases all the quarries on the Island and in a remarkably far-sighted action, the company preserves a large section of glacial grooves. A local man professes love to a soiled dove who takes all his money. Gus Kelley builds a new Post Office as the race for post master heats up. Surprisingly, one of the candidates is a woman and an off-hand comment about the race creates a firestorm of articles and accusations flourish, all publically aired in the newspapers. The big news is that the little island township becomes a Village with almost every man on the Island signing the petition. The bigger news is that the Mayor-elect is charged with rape and the trial of the century is followed with relish. The Mayor is exonerated and officials begin passing ordinances. Unfortunately, the rules were not followed and all the ordinances were deemed invalid and had to be readopted. Huntington's Lane becomes a road, twice. The Islanders finally get a jail.

COUNCIL NOTES - Over 25 people were at the Council meeting. One group asked the Village to look at why 'mules' were not licensed the same as Kubota's, golf carts and John Deeres. Lisa Buersken of the Erie Co. Solid Waste District will talk at the next Council meeting about their recycling program. The EMS had 18 runs and 15 clinic visits. The FIRE DEPT. was called out for a golf cart fire and again for the garage fire. They remind everyone that conditions are very dry so be extra careful with lit cigarettes and camp fires. Earlier this year the Village departments compiled a list of repairs and improvements that needed to be done. To date, 16 of the 26 projects are actually complete. Some items include new signage at the TRANSFER, a new floor in the POLICE STATION, and painting and roof repairs at the EMS STATION. Officials will be meeting with the FAA, ODOT and the engineers to look at the airport and discuss moving Monaghan Road to loop to the west to reduce the hazard and stop sign on the existing road. The WATER DEPT. announced that Tom Lange has received his Class I license and noted that the 4th of July weekend was their biggest day yet with 290,000 gallons of water pumped in just one day.

## **JULY 2016**

Finally, we plunge headlong into summer and all the activities that brings. As I write this, bands are setting up for the big Music Fest downtown and the weather looks to be perfect. Other events for July include, July 9 the Russ Wilson BB tournament, July 10 – The Mark Gridley trio will once again, appear at the Kelleys Island Wine Co. playing their smooth jazz from 1-3. July 15-17 Islandfest and the dedication of the Island House historic marker. July 22-24 is the annual film fest featuring The Martian, Wizard of Oz, Creed, Night of the Living Dead and Zootopia. There will be afternoon showings in Kelley's Hall and evening showings outdoors. August 1-2 the Kelly Miller Circus. On the 3rd Audubon Nature Camp and August 6 the KI museum's Arts & Crafts show and the Make-A-Wish poker run.

Lake Erie Living magazine is coming out with their Best of Lake Erie list, as chosen by the readers of the magazine. The official announcements will appear in the Sept/Oct. issue, but we

found out that the GLACIAL GROOVES was one of the spots to be honored in the Best Island Hot Spot category.

The Island is getting their second HISTORIC MARKER celebrating the Island House, home of Datus and Sara Kelley and the famous Island House Hotel. The dedication will be a part of the Homecoming celebration. The text will read: Datus and Sara Kelley built their home here in 1843, known as the Island House. It was located up the hill from the steamboat landing and across from the island store (the Lodge-1854). In 1873, Jacob Rush bought the property and built a 102-room hotel here. This "Pleasure Resort" was 224 feet wide and three stories tall. It featured many amenities, including a bowling alley, billiard parlor, bath houses, laundry, barber shop, livery stable and a dancing pavilion (the Casino) overlooking the lake. A fire destroyed the structure in November 1877. Later owners of the property where the hotel stood were Clara Fann and George Schardt in 1892, Frank Stang in 1895, Jacob Kuebler in 1899, and John Himmelein in 1905. Himmeleine sold the property to the Village for use as a park in 1925. Coincidentally, Leisure Living magazine featured CHEF BRITTANY BISSELL of the other Island House – the restaurant - in a nice article.

MEMORIAL DAY saw almost 200 people attend the ceremony. The 5/10k RUN was unusually cool and breezy with record numbers attending. After the run, a series of pop-up storms blew through. We got lots of heavy rain while Sandusky got the stuffing knocked out of them. Live wires blew across the Cedar Point causeway and the park was closed the next day..

BREAKERS BALL - The KELLEYS ISLAND HISTORICAL ASSOC. invites you to take a trip back in time to the Roaring 20's in the form of one very unique benefit to support their efforts to preserve the Old Stone Church and its parsonage on July 30, from 5-8 p.m. The gala will be held on the grounds of the Herndon Gallery on Dwelle Lane, overlooking beautiful Lake Erie. The historic house, now known as The Breakers, was built by Sylvester S. Dwelle in 1862 and is the perfect location for this gala. There will be dancing to the music of the 16 piece NORTH COAST CONCERT BAND, games and loads of fun activities. The SILENT AUCTION features gift certificates to local and nearby restaurants, VIP admission tickets to local attractions, awesome gifts, and some very unusual and quite extraordinary items like a kayak and all the equipment you need to experience the waters of Lake Erie up close and personal, drinks in a tree house, and an airplane tour of the Islands. Tickets can be purchased through the website and are available at the museum and the Island Market. Only 200 tickets will be sold and they are going fast.

Remember, this is Prohibition which means booze, even bathtub gin, is illegal. But don't worry, the coppers won't have the password to gain entrance. By all means, share this with friends you can trust, but strictly on the Q T. Remember, this is all hush-hush because they don't want the Feds to catch wind and raid the place. So dust off your Sunday best, break out your flapper pearls and feathers, polish that Tommy Gun, and practice the Charleston because it is going to be a swell party. More information is available on the KIHA website ([www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org](http://www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org)). Click on Events to listen to some era appropriate music and catch a video of young ladies doing things that they would never want to tell you about! (Wait – is that your grandmother?)

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW at the museum from 10-4 on August 14. A dozen local and nearby artisans have already signed up for this event, many returning from last year. There are still spots available. Then on August 14 the museum opens its doors for its annual meeting and guest speaker. This year, since the museum features BARS & SALOONS, they hope to have a panel of Island bartenders who will share some of their favorite stories and answer questions. My particular favorite was the couple who had been drinking and decided to order lunch. The woman passed out, face first onto her plate. The man calmly looked around and said, "I wouldn't order the fish" BEFORE waking her up.

COUNCIL NOTES - The POLICE DEPT. had 28 reports, issued 8 tickets (speeding, open container, underage driving, fictitious plates and physical control) and issued 15 warnings (speed, stop sign, grass on the roadway, child restraint, domestic dispute, illegal parking and use of historical plates). OFFICER MARYANN PRINITY was awarded a lifesaving award for her

quick action in treating Richard Schwartz who experienced a severe reaction to a bee sting. He said he would have died if not for her quick action. While everyone loves the new paving job, not so many are pleased with the NEW PARKING ARRANGEMENT downtown. The taxi stand was moved further north, but the parking spots on south end, at Lakeshore Drive, have been designated either motor cycle or golf cart parking areas. This was explained as being needed due to the line of sight at the corners and remind people that these were no parking/yellow line areas before. On the other hand, the loss of these and other parking spaces has put the senior community in a bind as there are few parking spaces for them to use in the immediate area and the widening of the crosswalk into the south side of W. Lakeshore makes dropping off people a harrowing experience. Years of casual neglect have taken their toll on some of the Village properties and buildings. But that is all changing. Mayor Cooper has requested the various departments to go over their areas of responsibility and compile a WISH LIST of things they would like to see accomplished. In all, 38 projects were identified and 21 have been authorized. Some of the items include new flooring in the Police Dept., a new ADA ramp, landscaping, and blacktop at the Village office, new signs and lowering the scale at the transfer station, among other things. The EMS squad now has a NICELY EQUIPPED ATV, purchased at cost from fund raising activities and donations. Ahner Sheetmetal funded the medvac unit on the ATV. This will allow responders to enter areas that the ambulance cannot, like the quarry trails. Paving at the AIRPORT should be advertised in July and the work done in AUGUST. The new superintendent, Brandon Evens, has made several improvements at the WATER PLANT which passed an EPA review with flying colors. However, there remain 34 unpaid WATER BILLS totaling \$18,000 and the next bills go out at the end of June. Unpaid TRANSFER STATION bills have been turned over to mayor's court.

## JUNE 2016

What an odd spring. A little too cold and wet but then we get one of those perfect warm sunny days that makes it all worthwhile, followed by rain and then even more rain. You can tell the island is gearing up for the season. Bars and restaurants are now open, gift shops and museums open their doors and parking gets hard to find on weekends.

One sure sign of spring is the monthly Audubon meetings and potlucks. At the last one, Sharon Devine talked about how to add plantings to attract pollinators to your yard. She has achieved the status of Master Gardener and her talks are always informative and interesting. The next potluck will be June 16 at the school. Come for the food at 6 and/or the presentation at 7.

The Kelleys Island History Museum opened for the season on May 21, which was also International Museum Day (IMD) with free admission. 115 people signed in but so many more toured the newly redesigned museum and the new, more exciting, gift shop. In the museum, 100 posters with photos never on display before, guided visitors through the various aspects of Island life. As part of IMD the staff handed out dog noses and took photos which they posted on Facebook (Kelleys Island History Museum) and on their website. All in celebration of Tarzan the Talking Dog from the Casino, their new mascot.

VFW NEWS - It was with great pleasure, but very sad hearts, that well over 100 people gathered to say goodbye to Karen (and Jim) Erne as Karen retired from managing the VFW. There was laughter and there were tears (lots of them) at the event. For so many years she has served its members, and she knew every one of them. Karen and Jim kept us entertained in the winter with food, good companionship and Karen's ever present smile and good will. Like many other posts, the future of our VFW is a bit uncertain as membership dwindles and leadership changes. Oh how we will miss the weekly potlucks and those Wednesday through Sunday gatherings during the winter. These were the social events that kept our small winter community together, and bit more sane.

Another noteworthy event was the celebration of the lives of Ted and Bonnie Blatt. The church was so packed there was not even standing room. Ted was one of those people who was always smiling and was easily recognizable for his golf cart and his supply of pennies, which he



bestowed on anyone he liked. People would often find mysterious pennies at their front door. At the cemetery, a bright penny was placed on every single grave and small remembrance cards with a penny were distributed in his honor. There wasn't a dry eye on the Island as we said goodbye to an icon.

The long-standing scrap metal day will be Saturday June 4 from 10-3 at the transfer station. This is a great way to clean up your yard since you do not have to pay for disposing of metal items. Council meets at 7 on June 9, the 2-day Music Fest will be June 24-25. The Kelleys Island Historical Assoc. will have a potluck at the school at 6 on June 30, after which they move to the gym for one of the school's presentations (and everyone is invited).

COUNCIL NEWS - PAVING of downtown and West Lakeshore is just about done. Wow, what a pleasure it is to have a level, smooth roadway. By the way, the grindings from the project were reused. Check out the new roads at the CEMETERY. The EMS SQUAD had two runs last month and 3 CLINIC patients. SAFETY SERVICES DAY started a bit rainy and just as the Life Flight helicopter landed, it had to take off again to respond to a call. Village employees and officials have inspected all the Village properties and compiled a list of 38 projects, many of which have been put off for years. Now they begin prioritizing them. One of those projects is work on the AIRPORT 'apron,' leveling and laying down a new 2" layer of asphalt. There are a few unpaid TRANSFER STATION FEES which will be turned over to the Police Dept. for tickets and an appearance at MAYOR'S COURT. We may be eligible for some road grants since we discovered that some of our streets have high level classifications from ODOT. Due to problems with events using our streets without permission and disrupting services, an ORDINANCE was passed requiring a permit for using public areas for parades, races and special events. The Village is negotiating for a cell tower at the Transfer Station. The Finance Committee is looking at the Itinerant Vendor License section of the code. At present there are overlapping definitions, 3 different rates and 4 different time periods. Among some of the permits are Peddlers by hand, from hand-drawn vehicles and by other vehicles, and permits for booths and solicitors. The POLICE DEPT. had just 8 reports in April. Of special interest was the one OVI arrest coupled with tickets for OVI and speeding, and for an accident involving the OVI and a police cruiser. Officers Maryann Printy, Matt Tkach and Mike Kirkpatrick successfully completed special training sessions. Kelleys Island will be participating in the SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RUN Sunday June 16. The torch is passed between jurisdictions, traveling by ferry to the islands and escorted by police cruisers, then touring various communities, finally ending up in Columbus to start the SPECIAL OLYMPICS OHIO. This is the first year that Kelleys will participate.

### **MAY 2016**

Oh sure, I boasted that spring was finally on the Island in the last issue and sure enough, much to my surprise, one big snowstorm hit us dumping 4-5" of snow. We stayed cold until the weekend of April 16 and over night it was like summer again with 65 degree temps and loads of visitors. The ferry had to run two ferries to get everyone off on Sunday. I guess we have to get used to traffic again.

HISTORY MUSEUM NEWS - The KI History Museum once again joins Sandusky museums in celebrating Int'l Museum Day, May 21. You really need to see the new museum displays. The museum reflects our new attitude; more comfortable, more items on display and loads of posters with photographs explaining the history of this island. KIHA also has a new website: [www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org](http://www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org). Along with the regular events like the yard sale, Arts & Crafts Show and Annual Meeting speaker, KIHA is hosting a very special event – Breakers Ball, a Roaring 20's themed affair on the grounds of the Herndon Galleries. The website has all the details. By the way, the KI Audubon also has a new website: [www.KelleysIslandNature.com](http://www.KelleysIslandNature.com).

RESORT TAX RECEIPTS - The Village received \$144,267 in Resort Tax receipts from 2015, the second highest amount in 10 years. The tax is 1.5% on sales and reflects taxable sales by Island businesses of over \$9.5 million. Not bad for such a short season.

MISCELLANEOUS - There is lots of construction going on. Seaway Marina has been reworking their docks, eliminating some earth extensions into the docking area and paving has begun on the West Lakeshore/downtown project, although that will probably be done by the time you read this. It looks like the West Bay is gearing up for the construction of their new RV park. Nice write up in the Serving Our Seniors magazine about the seniors group on the Island. The EMS SPAGHETTI DINNER at Bag the Moon will be May 14, INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY-May 21, NEST WITH THE BIRDS-May 19-21, SAFETY SERVICES DAY (on the Casino Dock)-May 21, and the 5-10k RUN/WALK-June 5.

FRONTIER SERVICE - Stephen Euton, General Manager of Frontier, spoke at a special meeting and heard questions and complaints about service on the island. He recapped improvements made to our service last year; fiber optics to the Island, an increase in internet connections-140 still available, and increased speed options. Frontier is confident that these improvements will eliminate slow downs on weekends when the usage is the heaviest. The 20 attendees were not entirely impressed. While we certainly understand that we will not get next day service like mainland customers, we made it clear that we did expect: knowledgeable customer service reps who actually listen to the complaints, call backs to schedule an appointment, resolution within a week (if the tech visits once a week), tickets that stay open until resolved and not simply closed because they are old, slow or intermittent internet service, etc. Euton said many factors affect phone and internet functionality including inside wiring (old copper wiring could lose its connectivity after years of use), multiple wi-fi users in the house, or a neighbor using the same frequency on their modem (resulting in a slow down as you compete for access). If your speed seems unusually slow you can go to [my.verizon.com/services/speedtest](http://my.verizon.com/services/speedtest) to check your speed. At the bottom they offer suggestions on how to improve the performance. (Frontier has a speed test too but doesn't offer solutions.) Euton personally went out to investigate several long-standing complaints and resolved many of them. Everyone agreed that the service tech was really good, but obviously overworked. Euton said we could call him for unresolved issues (419-663-8088) and he will personally look into them.

COUNCIL NOTES - Council MEETINGS move to the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at Kelley's Hall. The FIRE DEPT. took delivery on their new 2000 gallon fire truck, which will allow them to have a nice water supply for those areas where there are no hydrants. It was built in Snyder Nebraska. RECHARGE YOUR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS at the Village Office on May 18 & 19. ABCO will be inspecting and recharging for a small fee. You want to be sure you are prepared for an emergency. They will also be conducting FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING – May 18 at 2:00 and May 19 at 10. This free training will help you more effectively deal with fire situations. The KIFD responded to one fire last month, a dryer fire. It was a quiet month for the POLICE DEPT. Remember to visit the new VILLAGE WEBSITE ([www.KelleysIsland.us](http://www.KelleysIsland.us)) for information on POLICE EVENTS, read the Council minutes, contact the office, research the Zoning Code and regulations, and find out what forms are available. EMS has a NEW (USED) AMBULANCE. Several AIRPORT signs will be moved for better compliance The MONAGHAN RD. project has been delayed until 2020. The TRANSFER STATION bills went out and about 50% had already paid. The Village does not let this slide. If you don't pay, you will get a ticket. Survey work is underway for a possible CELL tower at the transfer station. The 5-year battle over ownership of DWELLE LANE has, yet again, been decided in favor of the Village, which claimed it was a private road, according to the 6<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals.

#### **APRIL 2016**

The best news we got in March was not just the nice weather, but that the first ferry ran on March 4. Such a welcome sight since March is always a quiet month. The businesses are beginning to open and people are already returning. Signs of spring cleanup can be seen everywhere. We had a remarkable run with spring flowers so far. The alternating hot and cold days extended the life of those first flowers, the snowdrops, to almost five weeks. Now the crocuses are in bloom and the daffodils are just starting to turn yellow. Spring is finally here.

MISCELLANEOUS - We had a good turnout on election day. Of the 339 registered voters, 143 ballots were cast (59 Democratic and 84 Republican). The big winners were: Clinton – 31 and

Trump – 28. This was a pretty large turnout for an election with no local issues or candidates. Did you know that the VFW pays for lunch for the poll workers? Or that the VFW replaces all the Village flags each year? Council meets April 9 at 10 at historic Kelley's Hall, and the Police Dept. is sponsoring Cops & Bobbers on the 24th at Portside Marina (check out the details on KelleysIsland.us). Kids 15 and younger can learn to fish. Be there at Portside Marina between 10-2. The program is free and poles, bait and drinks will be provided. The Chamber website has lots of information on April and May events.

COUNCIL - Instead of one there were two Council meetings in March, since the February one was cancelled. The Mayor filled several slots on Commissions and Boards and complimented several departments for their work in planning, forecasting and budgeting. The new SPEAKER SYSTEM works great. Each official has a microphone and you can hear everything. This should keep those small aside comments to a minimum. Even the farthest attendee can hear what is being said. The Village WEBSITE is showing improvement with more pages added ([www.KelleysIsland.us](http://www.KelleysIsland.us)). Updates will be ongoing for a while, but MINUTES are again up to date and the Contact Us form is working again. The Village passed the big audit of the 2013/14 records with flying colors. Along with pulling records for the audit, the office was busy fulfilling records for two subpoenas; one going back to 1990. Officials met with the FAA to discuss much needed work on the AIRPORT runway and the master plan. Critical areas are crack seal and seal coating the runway and the need to loop Monaghan Road which has been pushed back to 2019. The EMS squad is looking at used ambulances. The crew has completed their 30-hour refresher class. PLANNING COMMISSION is working towards approval of a trailer/RV park near the West Bay Inn. The POLICE DEPT. completed 347 house/business checks in January/Feb. finding just one open window and one unlocked door. NEW WATER RATES were approved, although no details were provided except that it was the first in five years. The FIRE DEPT. should have their new pumper truck by the time you read this.

### **MARCH 2016**

The weather has been a roller coaster, bitterly cold, surprisingly warm, 4" of ice then warm weather and high winds broke everything up. On February 4 the snow drops were in bloom, the ice was gone and daffodils were pushing up. Days later, one beautiful snowfall. On the 20th it was perfect for sitting out on the porch and soaking up some sun. Oh well, tomorrow it is turning cold again. It was nice while it lasted and we are eating well with all the pot lucks and dinners each week. There are sad ice fishermen faces everywhere, but sadder still – no tasty winter fish for the coming year.

Now all everyone talks about is when the ferry will start up again. By the way, want the most current up to date info on the ferry? The best place is their Facebook page (Kelleys Island Ferry); choose the one with the orange boat in the picture. When you get to that page click the LIKE button at the bottom of the headline picture, THEN in that same menu, click NOTIFICATIONS-ON (all posts). They don't post often, but when they do it's pretty important and include anticipated shutdowns, weather related problems, sudden changes in the schedule, and, particularly when then will start up in spring. The best part? By clicking the notifications button – you will get an email notifying you that the KIFBL has posted something important on their page. Just click the link in that email to read the message. No more calling everyone you know to see if they heard anything. You will be the first with all the information!

February was one slow month. Even the Council meeting had to be pushed back to the 27<sup>th</sup> due to a lack of quorum. Some time ago Council requested that customers be notified when their meter readings were estimated. This has not happened yet. At one time readings were posted with an 'E' to flag an estimated meter reading.

Our little branch of the Sandusky Library really moves the books. By the end of 2015 Adult circulation was 2,189 units and children's-591. Our librarians shelved 48 new children's items and 395 adult items. Stop by and visit.

Coming in March – pretty much nothing, but wait until April when the Island wakes up. Just saw the new KI Chamber Fun Finder. This year it is a simpler 3-section brochure with lots of photos, a map of the main roads and a full calendar of events. Since their efforts have been aimed at advertising to attract people to the Island, the brochure is geared to helping people once they get here.

## **FEBRUARY 2016**

Aaargh! How many times will I write 2015 and have to cross it out and correct it to 2016? The last ferry was Friday, January 15, but hopes were high that if the weather warmed up they would start up again. But just when we thought winter was going to pass us by, single digit temps froze everything in sight. The lake is looking mighty cold and a posting on Facebook indicates that Put-in-Bay is already testing the ice for ice fishing.

VFW – Terrible news, Jim and Karen Erne are retiring from the VFW at the end of the year. Oh NO! They have saved us from terminal winter boredom for so many years. While we are happy for them, we are already wondering what we will do without them. In the meantime, we continue to bowl and join them for social hours and the Sunday evening pot lucks.

AUDUBON – Over 450 owls were banded by Tom Bartlett and his dedicated group of volunteers this year, which is the 14th year of banding on Kelleys. Some OWLS were previously banded in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ontario and Pennsylvania and some of our banded birds have been found in Michigan, Ontario, Quebec, Massachusetts and New Jersey. The birding world was aflutter recently when Tom Bartlett located what was believed to be a RARE KINGBIRD. Tom kept everyone posted on this little treasure. At first, it was thought to be a Western Kingbird, but that wasn't quite right. Then it was decided that it was probably a hybrid as it showed characteristics of both the Western and Couch's Kingbird. All the measurements fit Couch's but it still had some Western characteristics. A hybrid between Couch's and Western, it would be the first record of that cross. If it is a Couch's it would be the first record for Ohio and of any location north of south Texas. After eluding capture for weeks, it was finally caught, measured and tagged, and a series of really good photos were finally taken. Now we await a DNA test on one of its feathers which will definitively tell us what it is. The bird was doing well as long as the weather was on the warm side, but this cold snap puts its continued presence on the island in jeopardy.

[NOTE – a separate section on rare birds and the birds count appeared in the PIB Gazette too. The new Great Backyard Bird Count is February 12-15.]

COUNCIL – New Mayor Arden Cooper chaired his first Council meeting in January and made new committee assignments. A whopping 26 people attended, which is about 1/4 of the island population in the winter! Many committee chairpersons changed from the previous years. EMS continuing training is underway and the POLICE DEPT. is advertising for police officers. Once again the Police Dept. will be attempting to have all the houses on the island display house numbers. It is so important, but so many houses still do not have them. House Checks and Welfare/Safety Contacts have already begun. Plans are moving ahead for this year's PAVING of West Lakeshore. Bid packages will be opened on February 2. The WATER DEPT. operations are still being reviewed. It is possible that some bills that just came out still have errors in them. One bill showed an underpayment resulting from an incorrect previous amount due. The Water Dept. welcomes Brandon Evens, formerly of Norwalk, who will take over as the Class III license for the water treatment plant. There is a new guy at HANCOCK WOOD ELECTRIC too, Kevin VanDePerre. Council will be reviewing recommendations to update the Itinerant Vendor's license section of the Village code. Did you know there are different permits for having a hand-drawn cart vs. peddling from vehicles, or by selling goods carried by hand as opposed to being a solicitor which is a different permit?

## **JANUARY 2016**

Happy New Year from beautiful Kelleys Island! There is still no snow, and everything from the yards, to the woods, to the lake, looks either brown or grey. On top of that, it has been unusually warm and rainy. This is that odd time of year when you realize that everyone who is leaving the

island has probably gone already and everything is really, really closed. The good news is that the VFW has again opened its doors to winter residents for potlucks and good cheer.

**FREE SHOPPING DAY** - The Kelleys Island Ferry did something a little different this year. Instead of everyone lining up to take advantage of free shopper's ferry, they sent everyone who signed up a free round-trip ticket to be used anytime within a specific timeframe. This was great since you could choose your own day to shop. In previous years, so many people took advantage of their generosity that they had to put on extra ferries and the entire island pretty much shut down. Competition was fierce for a ferry spot and people began lining up the day before, leaving their cars on the dock overnight to assure a good place in line. Then there was the big rush back to assure a place on the returning ferry. This annual shopping event is a holiday gift to the island residents and is very much looked forward to by the community.

**NEW DIRECTION FOR VILLAGE** - The Village prepares to take a new direction as we welcome our new mayor and one new Council member. Mayor Cooper wants Council to meet in January and February (the 2-month hiatus was implemented by the last two Mayors). Traditionally, the December meeting runs very short with not much new business due to the new officials taking office. It is hardly surprising that there are no committee reports, few ordinances, no items from the Mayor or Council and no public to ask questions. The POLICE DEPT. received only 4 police reports and made no arrests made (not a surprise since there's hardly anyone up here). The problems in the WATER DEPT. will result in a rate hike and some staffing changes. When the bills come out (any day now) some customers will receive adjustments and many others will receive informational letters. If you haven't noticed, many STREETS and trails have been trimmed a little wider. We have the use of a really efficient unit, similar to a brush hog, and the Village is traveling streets to assure that brush and small trees do not impede onto the right-of-way of the roads. This is critical to assure that emergency vehicles, including the fire truck (which is quite wide), and the ambulance can safely get to your house.