

DECEMBER 2018

Winter came in with a bang. By mid-November we had temps regularly below freezing. And so it begins; the stocking up and hunkering down for winter. We rush to get doctor appointments out of the way, check propane levels, complete house check forms so the Police can check on our houses, and wait for our packages arrive at the Post Office or ferry (and soon, the airport). Speaking of last-minute projects, on a recent tour of the Island we noticed that the Post Office has been repainted, two pavilions at the West Bay Inn were demolished, solar panels were installed on a west side home, and everyone took pictures of the massive barge working on the new Hancock Wood POWER CABLE. The crane on the barge was so tall, we wondered why the whole unit didn't tip over. We always have a great turnout for ELECTIONS and this year was no exception. With 328 voters, we had 220 ballots cast (103 voted on the Island) which is a 67% turnout. Amazing for a mid-term election with no local issues. The VFW POTLUCKS will be starting very soon (unofficial word is December 9, so watch the Post Office for updates).

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX – Three readings and one special Council meeting and the tax is on the books. However, it was reduced from 3% to 2%. When you invoice your customers, you must list the tax. For example: Rental of house for week \$1000, Erie Co. Transient Occupancy Tax (4%) \$40.00, Kelleys Island Transient tax (2%) \$20.00 for a total of \$1, 060.00. Sources of revenue have been drying up and the village, like most communities, is scrambling to balance increased costs with diminishing income. The Transient Occupancy Tax is expected to bring in an additional \$26,600. The Village is also exploring other sources of income. The Baumans (Venture Resort) questioned why the rental business is taking the brunt of this, even though it was explained that the visitors actually pay the tax, and why there weren't taxes on bar stools, docks, lawn mowing or home businesses, etc. There was some discussion at the November meeting as to what the Village was doing to assure that everyone is paying the Resort Tax. Apparently the State can provide a list of those who do pay, but will not share how much. Reporting suspected scofflaws is difficult because you need to provide proof that they are under reporting. The Village indicated that they will be providing the State with a list of potential taxpayers who advertise on various websites and in newspapers.

COUNCIL NOTES - Council meetings, which are now on Saturdays, have been pretty well attended. This meeting had almost 40 people in attendance (likely because of the room tax). The POLICE reported 184 phone calls, eight tickets for speeding, driving under suspension, stop sign, no headlights, parking , and 4-open containers and 1-urinating in public. Our EMS has six runs, and are doing continuing education training. The FIRE DEPT. had one run. They ordered a new fire hose (to replace the oldest one) and have applied for two grants. They are particularly concerned on how to provide water to fight fires in those areas with no fire hydrants. The FAA will hold a meeting on the AIRPORT. On our wish list includes better lighting and a real heli-pad (for Life Flight). Work at the WATER DEPT. continues with one of the three filter tanks sand blasted and painted and another almost done. The stack of bags in the parking lot is the media that will go into the tanks. The new electric panel is now in and will be connected soon. Back in 1979 the Corps of Engineers worked to protect some of our shoreline. That paperwork is on its way to us so we can evaluate its impact and work on some areas that now need protection. The ANTENNA PROJECT is finally underway at the TRANSFER STATION. A pad, 50 x 50 feet in size and 5.5" thick has been installed. Twenty cement trucks made round trips on the ferry to accomplish this work. The first three years' rent has been received. SERVING OUR SENIORS is looking at subsidizing transportation costs for Dr. visits for Islanders and are working with the KELLEYS ISLAND LANDOWNERS ASSOC. to work out a plan for implementation. With so many groups coming to the Island, there is a need for a tour tram vehicle. Several options are being explored by private individuals and Shores & Islands. The Village BUDGET was approved but with a \$50,000 reduction from last year's figures. Council is serious about controlling

spending. Deb Haig was appointed to the BZA and Knut Lahrs and Don Gilles were retroactively re-appointed to the DESIGN REVIEW BOARD.

NOVEMBER 2018

Winter is coming but probably not for another month or two. In the meantime, we are hunkering down in the unusually cold mid-October weather and getting ready for our ice-olation. The cold is a welcome relief from the unseasonably early October hot weather we had been experiencing. At the end of October, all the seasonal liquor licenses will expire and doors will close. Already some seasonal businesses are closing like the history museum. On September 26 we were surprised to wake up to a power failure. It lasted 2.5 hours and was the result of a raccoon exploring the transformer station at Lakeside. The 4-hour planned outage on the 16th went off pretty well, with few hitches. The Fire Dept. reminds everyone that BURN PERMITS are necessary if you are going to burn and the Police Dept. reminds everyone to complete their HOUSE CHECK FORMS and their WELFARE CHECK forms. You DO want your family and your property to be safe this winter, don't you?

There have been an unusually large number of deaths recently. The one that took us all by surprise was the passing of our Mayor, Arden Cooper. Arden left his mark on this village, in a very personal and very professional way. He improved the look of all the Village buildings and property and motivated Council persons to do their best, often cautioning Council to do "due-diligence" in evaluating programs and expenditures. He chose good people to head up much needed new committees (such as the Telecom and Coastal) and implemented programs that, sadly, he will not see to completion. We will miss him greatly. Also notable was the death of former Mayor, Kyle Paine. He left many friends Island-wide.

COUNCIL NOTES – With the passing of Mayor Cooper, the President Pro Tem, Ron Ehrbar, was sworn in as Mayor. This left his Council seat vacant. After explaining the procedure for refilling a vacant seat on Council, Council elected Scot Smith to fill the remaining term. There was considerable discussion about one section of the minutes and as a result, they were tabled awaiting amendments. The POLICE DEPT. is considering the lease and purchase of new used vehicles and will offer the retiring vehicles for sale. The Dept. received 11 reports, issued eight tickets for speeding, OVI and burning without a permit. Eight warnings were issued (stop sign and speeding). There was one accident (car vs. deer). EMS had 11 runs and continues with training. The FIRE DEPT. was unsuccessful in securing two FEMA grants, but will rework them and resubmit. Hose testing was completed. Every year two or three pieces fail and are taken out of service. With our aging hoses, some being between 20-30 years old and far exceeding their recommended lifespan, Council approved spending \$5,000 each year for the next five years to purchase new hoses. If they receive a grant, those funds will replace the Village funds obligated. LANDS & BUILDINGS will hold another meeting to determine the fate of the Goliath house. WATER DEPT. will begin sand blasting the water tower in preparation for painting. STREETS & SIDEWALKS has brought to the attention of Frontier the issue of tree limbs overhanging or resting on telephone lines. The response was clear – it is not their responsibility to clear limbs, it is the owner's responsibility. They only repair damage to the lines. The 'repeater' that Frontier is installing on Pauline (which should improve internet connection speed and reliability) should be completed this year. The others will be done in early spring. The TRANSIENT ROOM TAX will have its third reading in December and will most likely pass, over the objections of the hotel and Zoning Inspector Minshall. It will go into effect in January. There are vacancies on several Boards and Mayor Ehrbar indicated he will fill many of those slots at the December meeting.

OCTOBER 2018

Sept. 6, got up really early, made coffee, took a shower, checked emails, opened the automatic garage door, pulled out the battery lanterns (it was still really dark), turned off all heavy load items (like the AC) and waited for the planned power outage, only to find out that the outage was pushed back a month to October. The West cable was replaced in 2003, however, the East

cable is more than 40 years old and cannot supply electricity to the entire Island if the newer cable should fail. The electric load will be transferred to the newer cable while the old one is being replaced.

THE BIG WIND – Island Wide yard sale day was a bit of a bust. High winds shut down the ferry for two days and many people were stranded, having come over on Friday. The ferry started back up on Monday at 6:30 am and they ran two ferries until all the people who wanted to leave did. A lot of people toured the Island, visiting places they have never seen: like the two new cabins in the camp ground. One group that was stranded and concerned about the high winds was a troupe of Boy Scouts who had been camping in the State Park and arranged for emergency shelter in the school if necessary. The diabetes classes are done, but there was so much interest (after the fact) that they will be doing another series next year. The classes went into just enough detail that you could understand just how dangerous diabetes is and how it can affect you in ways you never considered. Exercise classes have restarted in the school. This year they are offering a Silver Sneakers program – low impact, lots of stretching. This is great for those of us who could not keep up with the former boot camp style fitness program. Art classes are again underway, check the school for the new schedule.

THINGS TO DO - Just because it is October does not mean there is absolutely nothing to do. The History Museum closes on October 8 but the Parsonage Resale Shop will continue to be open until the volunteers freeze their fingers off. After the yard sale, dozens of items and boxes were donated to the shop and it is overflowing with treasures. Check the Chamber website for this month's Island activities. The family-friendly day is October 20 with the EMS pumpkin carving at Bag The Moon/Peepers, the kids Halloween party at the KI Brewery and the family hay ride (KILA) at the 4-H camp. Then end the day with the EMS Terror at the Town Hall. The adult celebrations will be the next weekend.

COUNCIL NOTES - Council meetings are getting much more interesting as members bicker and complain about each other. One item of contention was ROAD PAVING and the, admittedly beautiful, chip and seal of several roads that was accomplished before all the paperwork was completed. Another argument erupted over SIDEWALK REPAIRS, as only a portion have been resolved so far. Council is fed up with HOUSE ADDRESSES not visible and will like start issuing tickets for non-compliance. The FIRE DEPT. made 3 runs. The POLICE DEPT. received 33 reports. They made one arrest for possession of Marijuana, possessing of controlled substances and tampering with evidence. They issued 22 tickets (open container, OVI, littering, speeding, possession of Marijuana and parking violations). There were 25 warnings (stop sign, speed and reckless driving). The Boat Patrol had 3 responses (a kayaker, a plane and a boat, all in distress). They assisted with the EMS, Fire Dept. and Erie Co. Sheriff's office. The Mayor made it clear that Shawn is performing his duties as required by his job and within the scope of the law and that anyone with a comment or criticism about his performance should come to him before confronting the Chief of Police. The Mayor made it clear that Shawn has the complete backing of the Mayor's office. The Police Dept. reminds everyone to get their HOUSE CHECK FORMS (if you will be gone) and COURTESY CHECK FORMS (if you will be here this winter). Both are available in the Village office or on the Village website www.KelleysIsland.us under Departments/Police. Our EMS made 23 runs. They announced that two large pieces of equipment will be purchased for the squad. An inspection of the AIRPORT resulted in a list of several items that need to be resolved. Lisa Klonaris was appointed to the PARK BOARD. Construction on the ANTENNA TOWER will begin this month with completion in December.

SEPTEMBER 2018

July and August were extraordinarily dry. We missed almost all the storms that ripped across the lake. However, relief came mid-August with several days of much welcomed rain and you could hear the plants sighing with relief.

EVENTS - There is still so much to do in September. The Island Singers put on another great show on September 1, the Police Dept. holds a car wash on Sept. 2. Hancock Wood Electric plans a power outage on Sept. 6 from 6-10 am and Saturday, Sept 8 is Treasure Island Day. At 11:00 stop by the old stone church on Division Street to take in Pat's talk (and banding) of Monarch butterflies. You can even adopt one and track it online. Council meets on Sept. 13 and the KI Wine Co. holds its 3rd Wine Fest & Art Show on Sept. 15, which is also the Kayak Poker Paddle. Audubon Pot Luck is September 20 (check Facebook for details-Bird-Kelleys Island. Closing out the month is Harvest Fest downtown on Sept. 29. While algae halted the Make-a-Wish swim, the poker run was a sell out with 483 hands sold. You can still make donations to these ladies and their worthy cause. The KI Police Dept. thanks everyone who made the pig roast such a success. It was a sold out event. KILA's Homecoming was loads of fun with a full day of music, food, shopping, marshmallow golf, Twinkie eating, games and so much more. It is a shame that the businesses don't participate in the parade, everyone so looks forward to their floats.

GOOD BYE - Speaking of Hancock Wood, it was with great regret that we said goodbye to Kevin who decided to retire a little earlier than expected. He has been such a big part of our community during his years of service. We will really miss his good nature, ready smile and enthusiasm as well as his generous nature in helping out wherever and whenever it was needed. You can tell he was well-liked, because the party thrown in his honor at the VFW was standing room only.

MUSEUM NEWS - The KI History Museum switches to weekends only after Sept. 9. Their big yard sale has mostly moved indoors at the Parsonage Resale Shop, but there will be late-arriving items on the front lawn so stop by. The Arts & Crafts Show featured about a dozen artisans and you can still order items from them, just check the events tab on the Museum's website. The big Murder Mystery Masquerade held on Long Point was a smashing success. Chef Brittney cooked up some rather tasty dishes featuring specialties from her new hometown of New Orleans. DJ JAZMATI (Rafal) spun tunes while a troupe led everyone on a merry chase to discover who the murderer was among a dozen suspects! The Wine Pull and silent auction were quite popular and Coach Taylor had his hands full dealing cards at the poker table. The Historical Assoc. thanks the many people who made this event possible, particularly Jodie and Scott Smith who were so generous in sharing their lovely Long Point property. Pictures are already appearing on both Facebook and on the museum's website.

OUR (ZION) COMMUNITY CHURCH - Imagine, 125 years of service to the community in one building. Many churches feel that they are in competition with their neighboring parishes, but not here on the Island. The Zion United Methodist Church recently celebrated its 125th anniversary. The many speakers praised the remarkable cooperation between the Zion Church and St. Michael's Catholic Church. Members from each congregation band together to do good works in the community including everything from knitting much needed lap blankets for seniors and booties and hats for babies, to co-hosting events. The congregation first starting meeting in various houses. As the congregation grew, a small building just north of the current church was built in 1873. It was called Beatty's Little Church and is now a residence. The new church was built in 1893 and remains unchanged except for some much needed expansions. This date is inscribed on the corner stone of the building. When the Congregational Church across the street closed its doors, their organ was donated to the Zion Church. When that organ could no longer be repaired, a part of it became the unusually ornate altar. The service was lovely and a nice display of items from the Church's past were on display.

COUNCIL NOTES - The POLICE DEPT. had 27 reports, 540 calls and 11 arrests. There were 11 misdemeanor tickets, 4 accidents, 20 warnings were issued. The EMT SQUAD made 24 runs and will be holding an EMT class on the Island. The FIREFIGHTER'S Steak Fry at the VFW was a sold-out event. They will be testing their 7,000 feet of hose at the end of August. The Village is exploring RECYCLE options. Work is progressing on the installation of the 'boosters' which

Frontier hopes will improve internet reliability and speed. There was additional discussion on the ordinance to sell the GOLIAS HOUSE and the tie vote, required the Mayor to cast the deciding vote - voting no. What was so very confusing was that some members who supported the sale voted no and some who objected to the sale voted yes. There will probably be more on this. Erie County is changing their hotel tax to a transient lodging tax of 4% and the Village will likely pass legislation for a similar 3% tax, resulting in an income of \$45,000. The Erie Co. Auditor's office clarified: "All people who rent houses, rooms, and such will be required to register with us, fill out a quarterly tax form that lists their amount of rents for that period of time and pay 4% of their rents to Erie County. Your local government such as Kelleys Island - could also enact their own tax up to 3% and charge you that as well." The new rules go into effect on 1/1/19.

AUGUST 2018

AUGUST EVENTS - August is a month filled with exciting events. 8/4 is the Make-a-Wish poker run and Arts & Crafts Show at the KI History museum. 8/5 has the Make-a-Wish benefit swim and Cops and Bobbers and at 11:00 stop by the Glacial Grooves for the dedication of the Beatty Park. The circus comes to town on 8/6-7 and on 8/8 the KIAC Audubon holds Nature Camp (so be sure to sign up). Council meets on 8/7. 8/10 is a free day for Seniors at the Erie Co. Fair. KILA hosts Homecoming on 8/10-11 (yes, two days now). Come to the Audubon Pot Luck and presentation on 8/16. On 8/18 KIHA holds its Murder Mystery Masquerade benefit. The next day 8/18 celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Zion Methodist church and literally pig out at the KI Police Dept. 3rd annual pig roast. Early September has a few surprises too: 9/1 The Island Singers present their show at Kelley's Hall, 9/2 Take in Glacial Glimpses (Audubon Club), get your vehicle sparkling clean at the KIPD Car Wash. 9/8 is Treasure Island Day and the Butterfly Fest/yard sale at the KI History Museum. Events pop up regularly so check the Chamber and the Post Office bulletin board for additional activities.

FERRY INTERRUPTIONS - One item that came up in the Mayor's meeting was - What should the village do when the ferry strands so many people on the Island? Is it the Village's responsible to provide emergency shelter? Why isn't information shared by the ferry at the Island dock? Several suggestions were tossed around including having the Chamber office staffed for a couple of hours during these events to answer questions and direct people to accommodations, the airport etc. Another simple suggestion was that a mobile, lighted sign be placed near the dock advising people that the ferry has stopped running, when it is anticipated to start up, and important contact info such as Griffing (to fly off), the KIFBL Facebook page (for updates), and the Chamber (for a list of available accommodations). During the last event, the KI Wine Co offered discount pizzas to those stranded. It was great PR and brought in a lot of people.

MAYORS MEETING - Mayor Cooper held a coffee and donut meeting for the community to bring up ideas, questions, and concerns. About 20 people attended. **ALERT SYSTEM** - Due to circumstances beyond the Village's control, this system has been down for a while. The facilitator is now updating the system so that the 128 people who signed up will begin to receive notices of importance (like waterline disruptions, long term electric outages, road closures, etc.). You can sign up for this service at www.KelleysIsland.us under Village News. Erie Longbrake is chairing a **COASTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** to assist homeowners in finding solutions to the high water situation along their shoreline. **AIRPORT** plans are moving slowly forward. Before the State will release land to the Village, the Village must come up with a suitable land swap. The Mayor brought us up to date on **TELECOMMUNICATIONS** issues (Frontier may be exploring fiber optics and Hancock Wood is looking at a system). You can keep up with those updates under Village News on the website. Chris Arnold asked the community for project ideas that KILA can undertake. One person wanted the Village to install a public swimming pool.

COUNCIL NOTES - Minutes from each Council meeting are online at www.KelleysIsland.us. We may have some additional **RECYCLE** opportunities thanks to Erie County, including possible

scrap tire and electronics events. The season is well underway and EMS had 165 runs and the FIRE DEPT. had two runs. Our thanks to the BRECKSVILLE FIRE DEPT. for donating 17 sets of turnout gear to our Fire Dept. The old (unusable) gear will be donated to EHOVE for use in training. The POLICE DEPT. had 25 reports, 395 phone calls, one arrest for assault and issued 18 tickets (speeding, disorderly conduct, parking, OVI). They issued 15 warnings and there were two accidents. The DRUG BOX is in place and there have been several deposits made already. The TRANSFER STATION reports that there is one last unpaid account and it is going to court. Check the Village website for updates on FRONTIER and their plans to improve internet service, which may include adding 'booster' sites on the east and west sides of the Island to improve internet speed. The CEMETERY will see some repairs of the most damaged monuments and is considering applying for a grant for an historic marker for the site. SERVING OUR SENIORS is looking into expanding their transport services (to Dr. appts) to include the Island. Wouldn't that be great!

Zion Church (Kelleys Island) to Celebrate 125 Years

On Saturday, August 18, Zion United Methodist Church on Kelleys Island will celebrate 125 years in its current building. There will be an anniversary worship service at 10:30 am, followed by a light luncheon in the church fellowship rooms. A special invitation is extended to all present and former Kelleys Islanders who have had any connection with the church. Invitations to former pastors and notable guests have been sent. If you are able to attend, please call the church office at 419-746-2514 and leave a message.

Zion was first formed as the German Evangelical Church in 1854. A small church building, currently the home of Allen and Diane Nickles at 208 Division Street, was built in 1873, and a parsonage was built in 1879 at a cost of \$600, paid for by 28 church members. The present Church, at 101 Chappel Street, was built in 1893. A corner stone commemorating the construction with the words, German Evangelical Church 1893, is still visible. Interestingly, the German language was used in worship until the year 1910.

When the Congregational Church disbanded in the early 1930's, the remaining members gave their land and building to Zion Church, which enabled the addition of the educational and social rooms. During this time the church was known as the Community Church. When the Evangelical Association and the United Brethren Church united in 1946, Zion Church became part of that larger communion. In 1950, the church became a member of the Ohio Sandusky Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) Church. In 1968 the EUB united with the Methodist Church and in 1973, the church on Kelleys Island became known officially as the Zion United Methodist Church,

Despite being a small congregation, Zion Church has fostered at least seven young men who have entered the ministry and continues to have a vital and supportive outreach on the island. Current programs include, among others, a welcoming program for summer student workers which incorporates a bicycle loan program to help them get around, Vacation Bible School, a prayer shawl ministry by the Christian Crafters, church meals and evening games during the winter months, and weekly Bible study.

JULY 2018

DOCK REPAIR work is underway all over the island. While high water and storms would appear to be the culprit, it was actually ice damage this winter that demolished several docks. There were some interesting videos of the ice at work on Facebook. High winds and water washed sand, rocks and other debris across E. Lakeshore Drive just east of the marina. This closed the road until the winds decreased and the debris could be cleared. Ferry service was interrupted several times due to high water and winds. It is frustrating to see the lake around the Island appearing so calm, but if you look closely you can see high waves crashing against the Marblehead shore.

UPCOMING EVENTS – Of course there is Islandfest July 13-14, Film Fest July 27-29, Council meets July 12 at 7:00, and the Audubon Pot Luck and speaker program meets July 19 at 6:00 at the school.

It was a gorgeous MEMORIAL DAY at the cemetery and about 225 people paid their respects. There was a reception at the VFW Hall afterwards. At one point, people started looking up and pointing as a Bald Eagle did a fly-by. Reports indicate that about a dozen COYOTES were eliminated this winter. Reports are also coming in about marauding RACCOONS exhibiting aggressive behavior. It is likely that these are adult raccoons protecting their young, but it is always best to stay clear of any wild animal. It looks like the Captains Corner did sell. A recent real estate transaction appeared online as the corner lot transferred between two LLC corporations.

KELLEYS ISLAND HISTORY MUSEUM NEWS - Opening Day at the Museum was still a success with almost 100 people showing up despite the bad weather closing the ferry the day before (Friday). Lots of photos were taken of visitors showing their more playful sides and can be found at www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org under the Events tab. The KIHA is planning a MURDER MYSTERY MASQUERADE on Long Point on August 18. Tickets are available online or at the Museum or the Parsonage. Plans include a murder with guests playing some parts. It will be an elegant affair with a sit down dinner, music and, of course, murder. Will YOU be the one to unmask the killer?

A NEAR MISS – In early May a tragic accident occurred on the Island involving high speeds and a utility pole. History was almost repeated on May 18 with another vehicle hit a utility pole in front of the West Bay Inn. The suspect was apprehended. Until a new pole could be installed (this one was broken off at the base) the pole was very creatively held up between the tines of a fork lift.

MAKE A WISH SWIM - For the 24th year, Jeni and Cindra will swim to raise money for their “special kids.” This year they swim from Starve Island to Portside Marina. On land there will be a golf cart poker run.

The ERIE COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. briefed Council on plans it has for the Island. They have outfitted the mobile health vehicle with two dental chairs and plan to schedule some trips to the Island. They want to add more services to the HEALTH CLINIC, held in the school’s library. They received a food safety grant and plans to meet with food service people on the Island. They will be providing some equipment to keep food items cold or hot during delivery. The dept. now has a survey card (available in the village office) to see what Islanders need. The card asks what services are most important at the outreach clinic, what services would you want added, and how often and when would be best for you use these services. If we don’t provide feedback, it will be assumed that we don’t need their help – so pick up your survey form at the village office and fill it out.

SAFETY SERVICES - CHIEF SHAWN CRAIG reported that the Police Dept. had 33 reports, 427 phone calls and one arrest (assault on a police officer and disorderly conduct). There were 25 tickets (leaving the scene of an accident, speeding, possession of Marijuana, open container, OVI, parking, disorderly conduct, and driving under suspension). They issued 15 warnings (stop sign and speeding) – tickets will likely come next. He also reported that Cops and Bobbers was a success with 31 kids. Tickets are on sale for the 3rd annual PIG ROAST. The DRUG TAKE BACK CONTAINER was delayed but should be here shortly. CHIEF ROBERT SKEANS reported that the Fire Dept. had two runs and continues to train twice a month. Fire inspections are underway. The EMS squad had eight runs. They remind us that if you have a Life Alert button – WEAR IT! There have been several situations where it was ‘somewhere’ in the house. They call it Life Alert for a reason.

COUNCIL - KIM VALENTINE was selected as our new Village Administrator and he was immediately assigned some tasks.

The WATER DEPT reported that the OWDA approved a loan for .9%. The AIRPORT COMMITTEE has applied for grants for the airport drainage. The DESIGN REVIEW BOARD reviewed several applications. They will begin holding regular meetings on the second Saturday of the month. Some wedge paving has been done around the Island. The TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE is making progress and has received two proposals for an Island overlay internet system. FRONTIER promises they will add more 'ports' to improve service and AMPLEX is being installed in more houses. A new SHORE PROTECTION COMMITTEE has been established to help property owners deal with shore erosion problems.

The GOLIAS HOUSE continues to be a problem for the village. There were big plans for using it as housing for the paramedic or for office space for the Village, but no one was interested in occupying the house. It will take almost \$20,000 just to deal with basement mold and the deteriorating porch and another estimated \$80,000 to remodel the inside to make it compliant as a public building. At this point, Council is considering offering the house for sale (to be moved off the property), or perhaps just selling the whole parcel, or maybe reducing the size of the lot so that the village still has additional space next to their complex and selling the smaller lot with the house, allowing them to get out from under the mortgage. The amount of remedial work that needed to be done should not have come as a surprise to Council members at the time of the purchase in 2016 as a comprehensive house inspection was done prior to the purchase.

JUNE 2018

When Spring arrived, it was spectacular. 80 degrees, sunny and the landscape changed from drab browns to bright green in just a couple of days. The May ELECTION had a low turnout. Out of 334 registered voters, only 77 ballots were cast (24 filed absentee). Activities are picking up: 6/3- 5-10k run , 6/16-KILA Welcome Back potluck, 6/10- Cops & Bobbers fishing event, 6/14- Council meeting at 7 pm, 6/24 Make-A-Wish Horseshoe Tournament.

SHIPWRECKS IN THE NEWS - A third shipwreck with an Island connection has been discovered. The first was the 2015 discovery of the sunken barge *Argo*, which was lost in a storm east of Kelleys Island in 1937 with a petroleum cargo. Some of that cargo proved to still be on board and was leaking, and the discovery resulted in a federally funded cleanup. The second appeared in the news in March; the shipwreck of the *Margaret Ohwill*, a steam barge that sank carrying 900 tons of limestone from Kelleys Island to Cleveland in June 1899. The ship went down in a nor'easter, killing the captain, his wife and their 9-year-old son, as well as five others aboard. The third is believed to be *The Lake Serpent*, a two-mastered schooner, lost in 1829 while carrying a load of stone between Cleveland and the Islands. Its location has simply been identified as being east of Kelleys Island, possibly off the Erie County coast (whatever that means).

MISCELLANEOUS - We congratulate COLLIN NUNN STRASSER on his graduation from Danbury High School and completion of the Criminal Justice Center Career Choice program at EHOVE. Did you know that SERVING OUR SENIORS (SOS) does more than sponsor our senior lunches? SOS and the Erie Co. Health Dept. have partnered to provide free safety equipment to Erie Co. seniors. Items include bath benches, shower chairs, raised toilet seats and grab bars. They can arrange installation as needed. Deadline is May 31 (419-624-1856). They can provide transportation from both the airport and ferry to health care appoints. If you want to fill out a survey or participate, contact SOS. Preliminary survey results indicate that many seniors on the Island are not aware of this program. The EXIT RAMP OFF ROUTE 2 that was closed due to a landslide was expected to reopen by Memorial Day; however, that date has NOW been pushed back to an unspecified date.

BUSINESS NEWS - It is official, Bag the Moon has been sold. Temporary new signs are up – the new name is Peepers and they are open for business. Construction is almost complete on the six new bathrooms for boaters at Portside Marina. A new sign recently appeared at a storage facility under construction in Sweet Valley. It read: Kelleys Island Nuclear Storage Facility – Serving Bessie Davis (with a mushroom cloud). This drew lots of comments and chuckles on Face book. A for sale sign appeared in the window of the Captains Corner this winter, but it is gone now.

DEADLY ACCIDENT - The POLICE DEPT., FIRE DEPT., and EMS responded to an accident on April 30 at 1:12 am. A car hit a pole on E. Lakeshore Road, just east of Seaway Marina. Reports indicate the vehicle was travelling at speeds close to 70 mph. The driver skidded towards the lake, overcompensated to the left and hit a utility pole with devastating results. There was one fatality and one critical injury. A representative from each branch of the safety services spoke TO Council of the dedication of the responders, the difficulty of having to notify the family, and the compassionate assistance that was offered to the family and the responders. The State Highway Patrol was called in immediately and took over the investigation and provided the responders with grief counseling. This horrific accident had an overwhelming impact on the responders and for several, this was their first run.

COUNCIL NOTES - In a series of special Council meetings, some ordinances were passed including several for the WATER DEPT. including repainting, replacing a control panel and employee compensation. In a later meeting, Council approved applying for an OWDA loan. Also approved was a plan for AIRPORT DRAINAGE and the AIRPORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN. The Maintenance Dept. will be doing some repair work on McGettigan. After three seasons, the Kelleys Island Police Dept. will no longer be the sole enforcement officer for the STATE PARK, for which we received no compensation from the State for providing village staff and resources. ODNR is providing a law enforcement ranger for the season. Legislation was also passed to raise WATER RATES by 5%, effective the second quarter of this year. A PROCLAMATION declaring June 12, 2018 as DANNY AHNER day was unanimously approved by Council, and applauded by the audience. The POLICE DEPT. reported there was one arrest for criminal trespass, menacing and criminal damaging; two tickets for speeding; and 15 warnings for stop sign and speeding. Chief Craig made it clear that because of the accident and an increase in destructive and aggressive behavior on the Island, his department will be enforcing the laws of both the State and the Village. He realized that this will not be popular with either the tourists or the residents, but in light of the terrible accident that occurred, his first priority is the safety of the people who live on and visit the Island.

MAY 2018

It's April 20 and winter is still with us. When will Islanders finally be able to give up their winter coats? Stores and restaurants are opening and we hopefully shake off the bone-chilling cold of this winter and revel in our few sunny days. May 5 is Derby Day, May 10 Council shifts to the second Thursday at 7 pm, May 12 the EMS Spaghetti Dinner, May 17-19 Nest With The Birds, May 17 KIAC pot luck (by the way there are lots of activities scheduled – check the website for dates and details www.kelleysislandnature.com. May 19 KILA Welcome Back Potluck, Safety Services Day on the Casino Dock and the KI History Museum opens, May 20 KI Police car wash, and May 24 is the Island's Bike Week day, just to mention a few of the events this month.

SCRAP METAL DAY ON JUNE 2 – Clean up your scrap metal for free (except where Freon must be removed) from 10-3 at the Transfer Station. THE KI HISTORY MUSEUM opens on May 19 with free admission as they celebrate International Museum Day. The displays this year are Island Electricity and Bathing beauties of the 1950's.

VILLAGE FINANCES - Greg Ritchie and Mike Feyedelem (Finance Committee) prepared a report on the financial health of the village for 2017. There are six major funds: General, Water, Road Construction, Street Maintenance, Fire and EMS. If you ever had a question about where

Village money comes from or how it is spent – this is the report to read (www.KelleysIsland.us click on Village News). Here are some highlights. GENERAL FUND INCOME: 85% of our income comes from taxes (Property, Resort Area, Homestead and rollback), Mayor's Court accounts for just 5% and 10% comes from permits, leases, rental fees, licenses and other sources. GENERAL FUND EXPENSES: The Police Dept accounts for 33%, Village Workers 7%, legal 14%, contract services 13% and 17% other (loans, capital outlay, auditor and misc.). This left the Village with a deficit in 2017 of \$111,227. WATER FUND: Income: 98% is generated from billing, tap fees and bulk water sales. Expenses: 47% Salaries and benefits, 37% office and distribution, 15% loans. ROAD CONSTRUCTION FUND: Income - 100% from taxes. Expenses – 95% Capital improvements. STREET MAINTENANCE: 99% from taxes. Expenses – salaries, benefits, travel, contract services, supplies & materials.

COUNCIL NEWS - In May, Council meetings switch to 7 pm on the second Thursday of the month at Kelley's Hall. If the March and April meetings are any indication, Council meetings will be pretty exciting. There were some pretty heated discussions on several topics and there is a distinctive voting block. Since one Councilmember was absent, several motions failed that might have either passed or ended in a tie vote (broken by the Mayor). The usual one hour meeting stretched to nearly two hours. HOT TOPICS included pay raises for multiple employees (voted down), Consumer Price Index increases (clarification needed), increase in water rates (voted down), salary for water plant superintendent (changed to first reading), a freeze on all non-mandatory salary increases (passed), applying for a loan for water plant improvements (changed to first reading), and hiring a new Village Administrator (pending personal interviews with the four candidates). The GOLIAS HOUSE is proving to be an unexpected strain on the Village. Back in December the Village contracted for mold mitigation in the house, but now it appears that the porch needs to be rebuilt (apx. \$12,500) before the mold work is done. Repairs to the house are adding up and, coupled with the \$2000+ mortgage payment each month, might prove the house to be a white elephant for the village. The house, built in 1870 but with numerous additions over the years, has seven bedrooms and one bath (according to the Auditor's office). It sits on one acre of land and adjoins the Village office property. It seems no one wants to move into the house (paramedic housing and Village offices were suggested with no interest from either party). The Lands and Buildings committee will meet to determine its future. If the Village cannot find a use for the house it might be demolished or perhaps the lot, or part of the lot with the house, might be sold to cut losses. PARKING ON DIVISION ST. might be a little tighter this year as the driveway to the new Sand Lot (former Tiki Hut) will eliminate two spaces on the street. Council is reviewing options. The TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE has outreached to several companies including Hancock Wood Electric/fiber options, Beam Wireless, Western Reserve Communications and Amplex (installed in some places already). Also they advised us that FRONTIER will be starting new tech upgrades by the end of April which should take 2-3 weeks. A shortcut to the Committee can be found at www.KelleysIsland.us under Village News. The POLICE DEPT. has begun pulling people over for running stop signs, speeding and vehicle registration. The completed house checks logged in at 576 house and 104 business checks this winter. Phone calls are increasing (231 last month). You can keep up with KIPD news on their Facebook page. Ferry information can be found on the Ferryboat Facebook page. The dept. received permission from Council to install a MEDICATION DROP BOX at the station. Most mainland depts. have them. It keeps old and unused meds out of septic/sewer/lake systems and out of the hands of inquisitive children.

APRIL 2018

Spring, we all look forward to it and we were lucky this year, it came and went several times with temps alternately plunging and escalating. March 1 saw high water, flooding to the east of the marina, roof damages and even the phones were down for a while. By the mid-March we had heavy fog, high winds, and lots of downed trees. We thought we would just jump to Summer but winter is still hanging on. Even so, spring peepers are out, summer birds are migrating through, and summer is, hopefully, on the way.

It was with glad hearts that we welcomed the first ferry on March 15 as the KELLEYS ISLAND FERRY started up again; although the weather crossing was quite cold. Businesses are opening up. THE GENERAL STORE will have a new look – after much work, a new floor throughout. Driving to the Island may be a little better. Work on the Route 2 exit to Rt. 269 is moving forward and the exit is expected to be open by Memorial Day. We are all glad to hear that. We are getting tired of cutting it too close when returning from Sandusky with that extra mile or two to the next exit.

COUNCIL NOTES - The first meeting of the new Council was held on March 10. Ron Ehrbar was elected President Pro Tem (who acts as Mayor in the Mayor's absence). Committee assignments were made and the updated list should be on the Village website shortly (www.KelleysIsland.us). This winter the POLICE DEPT. made 576 house checks and since December 9, found 3 open doors. Winter Islanders were pretty well behaved. The EMS had 8 runs and EMTs are completing their refresher training. Want to serve the Island as an EMT? Contact the Village to get your name on the list. The FIRE DEPT. has made three grant applications. They just keep working hard for us. The FINANCE COMMITTEE has mailed a comprehensive evaluation of the Island's finances to all registered voters. That report is also available on the Village Website under Village News. VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR, Scott Stevenson, tendered his resignation citing family issues. The Village is accepting applications to fill that position. VILLAGE SOLICITOR David Lambros indicated that all the 2017 Mayor's Court cases have been cleaned up. The new TELECOMMUNICATIONS OVERSIGHT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (TODC) is officially up and running. They have their own website and a link can be found on the Village website under Village News. This is the place to offer observations, comments and suggestions on how to improve connectivity and services. The Mayor reported that the TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER project has moved through most of its levels of State and Federal approval and they are 99% close to getting final approval for this project. Construction will likely start in August.

MARCH 2018

Not much happens in March except the new COUNCIL will meet on Saturday, March 10 at 10 am at historic Kelley's Hall on Division St. The weather has been a roller coaster ride. Freezing temps, warm weather, rain, snow fog, you name it. This doesn't bother us much except when it interferes with the mail. It looks like ICE FISHING is really over this time. All the shanties are in and have been hauled to their land-bound homes. Looking for a deal? ST. MICHAEL'S HALL is for sale (Yes, you have to move it off-site). It looks like plans are underway for the building of a new hall. The COYOTE population has increased and a thinning of the packs has begun. So far at least eight coyotes have been shot or trapped.

RESORT TAX – This was a very profitable year for Island businesses. The village received \$166,664 in Resort Tax proceeds which represents a whopping \$11,109,600 (that's over \$11 million dollars). This was the best year since 2005. Resort tax is charged on items that are regularly taxed (dine-in food, ferry, and purchases, but not food or carryout).

ICE FISHING – By February first the ice was gone again and for many, all hopes of a good ice fishing season. The only remnant of January's couple of days on the ice was a row of shanties on the shore and one in Korenko Bay that got caught on a triangle of ice, which tipped and froze so that it seemed like the shanty was sinking. It looked like a construction site out there as the owner built several A-frames so he could raise the shanty and tow the it out. The owner joked that it hadn't settled in the ice but that he had added a basement.

LIBRARY INFO - Here are the circulation stats for Kelleys Island. They are pretty amazing considering that the library is only open two hours a day: three days a week in the winter and five days a week in the summer. Total Adult Circulation-2,503; Total

Childrens-535; for a total circulation of 3,038 up 4% from last year. New items added: Adult Items added-616; Childrens Items-58 for a total of 274. Our everlasting thanks to the library volunteers.

FEBRUARY 2018

WEATHER - It seems all people can talk about is the weather. Just before Christmas, Griffing was unable to fly due to fog, so they brought the mail and freight over on the ferry. We thank them for making Christmas happy. One sure sign of the lake getting ready to freeze is the lake steam, sometimes called sea smoke. The lake gives off her heat in low lying, rolling fog over the water, but the lake froze so fast that we only saw this fog near Cedar Point. Hardly anyone can remember it being this cold or how the temperature changed by 40 degrees in 12 hours. The ferry, which was scheduled to close down on January 7, amended that to December 29, then had to shut down on the 28th. The lake was freezing fast as temperatures plunged into the single digits, making ice as fast as the ferry could break it. The ferryboat's Facebook page has been great at keeping us informed about schedule changes.

BRINGING IN THE NEW YEAR - Closing out the old year had people stopping by the VFW for a New Years Eve social hour or two, then either going home, to a private party or to the Kelleys Wine Co. which hosted a party and dinner. New Years Day and a roast pork and sauerkraut pot luck at the VFW started the new year off right. With the lake freezing so fast, and after two years of no fishable ice, ice fishermen quickly got their gear together and were out on 10-12 inches of ice. But that only lasted three days before warm weather, rain and lots of water on the ice drove everyone back to shore. Two days later, the south passage opened up and open water was everywhere. Two days after that and ice fishing was back again with 8-10 inches of ice.

KEEPING BUSY - We are keeping busy with ballet classes, exercise, art class and team sports at the school, the library is open three days a week for two hours each day. Sometimes the highlight of our day is just going to the post office to pick up mail. There was no Council meeting in January. The next one will probably be in March after the winter's hiatus. Ah, winter is here.

JANUARY 2018

Happy New Year! We slogged through quite a nice snowstorm and cold snap in mid-December. We plowed through way too much food for the holidays. We opened loads of Christmas cards and read so many more on Facebook. And we saw the New Year in with a party at the Kelleys Island Wine Co., or at a friend's house, or just quietly at home with the family. Now it is time we look forward to a new year.

Congratulations to the new people who populate our list of elected officials, even though there probably won't be a Council meeting until March. The **KELLEYS ISLAND SCHOOL BOARD** announced a tax rollback of 11 mills for 2017 (collected in 2018). This is the 18th year that property owners realized an almost 62% savings on the school portion of their tax bill. Our thanks to the **KELLEYS ISLAND FERRY BOAT** for gifting us with a free ferry ride for Christmas. Although we have to admit, the water had ice in it by the docks and it made everyone a little nervous to think that the end is in sight. They anticipate that January 7 will be the last day before the ferry shuts down for the winter. [but that changed to Dec. 28]

The **ERIE COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.** wants to know if the residents of Kelleys Island would like to see more services like additional health clinics (now once a month changing to once a week) and whether we would like to have a dental clinic visit the Island. Contact the Erie Co. Health Dept. and let them know.

COUNCIL NEWS - The **FIRE DEPT.** is in the final stages of certifying six new volunteers. They have **SMOKE DETECTORS** that they will install at your request. They can also work out a safety plan for your home. The **EMS clinic** had three runs. The **WATER DEPT.** reports that faulty fire

hydrants have been replaced and all the leaks have been found. While the EPA has mandated (and previously paid for) bi-weekly algae tests, this cost now becomes the responsibility of the Water Dept. (\$200 for each bi-weekly test). And, these tests must be done all year long. The Village accepted the donation of a 1.61 acre parcel of land, just to the left of the entrance to the AIRPORT parking lot from Ericson Kelleys Island Properties. The POLICE DEPT. cautions residents to either complete house check forms (available on the website kelleysisland.us) or to have someone check your property regularly. There have been several reports of theft from businesses and homes. The Police Dept. assisted undercover ODNR Wildlife agents who were on the Island investigating poaching.