

DECEMBER 2022

Winter is coming. We went from vibrant greens, to reds and golds, and now gray and brown. Quite the landscape change. Buffalo got buried in snow, but we had just a dusting, almost enough to hide the grass. And cold, it got very cold and windy. The ferry kept up but remember the schedule changes, with fewer trips on weekdays. Those of us still on Frontier have seen some significant decreases in internet speeds. You would think that as people move to Amplex, it would reduce the traffic on our lines. But that doesn't seem to be the case. Veterans Day was rainy but still, about 40 turned up for the ceremony. The VFW post held an open house afterward. Now we recover from thanksgiving and look forward to Christmas and the New Year.

ELECTION RESULTS – Island voters ignored pro-life/choice candidates and the January 6 insurrection and voted strictly along party lines; with one exception. Marcy Kaptur won on the Island. We have 355 registered voters, 66% voted (136 in person and 100 absentee). The Village tax levy passed 171-57. With the elections over, our TV and mail boxes are no longer flooded with campaign ads, but now Medicare has taken over. Some of us are feeling quite old with these reminders of our age.

CONGRATULATIONS - In June, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History held their annual Volunteer Awards ceremony at the Museum. Our favorite birding companion, Paula Bartlett, was presented with an award for 2500 volunteer hours to the Museum. Most of her time volunteering has been on Kelleys Island assisting with bird banding and property maintenance. Tom Bartlett was presented with a hand-carved Northern Saw-whet Owl for his 10,000 volunteer hours. He was also given an honorary Life Membership to the Museum. It was noted that he has now contributed over 11,000 hours of volunteer time. Last October Tom banded his 1000th Northern Saw whet Owl on Kelleys Island, so the hand-carved owl was very appropriate.

DOES IT PAY TO COMPLAIN – Well yes and no. A complaint about missing street signs resulted in a list of 35 new signs and some poles that should be ordered. On the other hand, the Zoning Inspector (ZI) has come under fire for issuing a permit that did not meet any of the requirements of the zoning code, failed to respond to both informal and formal complaints, and did nothing until directed by the village solicitor to rescind a permit and require a new, compliant application. Our Code says the ZI shall enforce the provisions of this code. It also says that “Every person, corporation, or firm who violates, disobeys, neglects, or refuses to comply with any provision of this chapter... shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.” However; since the ZI “serves at the pleasure of the Mayor” the Mayor did not believe that the language in our code applied, so no action will be taken. Advertisements have shown up in the Register requesting comments on a proposed cell tower on property located approximately 200 ft. SE of Brian Lane. Definitely not allowed under our code. It is hoped that the village will send a letter clarifying approved locations and requirements for cell tower placement.

COUNCIL NOTES – The Village is considering rerouting large campers from Division Street. The Fire Dept. had no runs and continues with monthly training. EMS reported 10 runs and 8 clinic calls. The generator for the EMS station and town hall has been ordered. Last month's training was OBGYN emergencies. The Police Dept. reported 229 phone calls, 3 arrests (criminal damage, F-3 firearm, menacing and unauthorized use). There were 12 reports (property damage, theft, fireworks, misc.) and three tickets were issued. House checks have begun, remember to submit a NEW form if you want your house checked this winter. Officer Mike Garcia was promoted to a full-time position from part time. He was also recognized as Officer of the Year for 2022. The Erie County Community Foundation is granting the Village with \$15,000 to help meet the \$50,000 goal for phase one of the playground project.

NOVEMBER 2022

Ahhh Fall – We have had extended periods of high winds, almost freezing temps, a few snowflakes (if you weren't looking, you missed them), temps in the 70s, and low water. We were stranded for two days (Oct. 1 and 2) when the ferry shut down. It is always amazing that we look at the lake from the Island and it looks calm, but on the mainland side, waves are crashing along the shore. With activities slowing down, we are again seeing deer and other wildlife, and with hunting season, they are turning up in unexpected places. There are still some events planned for November and early December including the Thanksgiving pot luck and owl banding. No word yet on the annual Christmas pot luck.

A bunch of houses have come on the market, including the one at 1002 W. Lakeshore offered for a cool \$2.2 million dollars. According to the website, the estimated payments would be \$11,000 a month with a substantial down payment. The Village Pump is also for sale at \$2.4 million. Rumors are flying that the Captains Corner is already under contract. The K I Wine Co. ruins sold for \$134,000. Work is progressing on the new Health Dept. clinic. No opening day announced yet. It will be nice to have a more full-service site. The Glacial Grooves are open again, and WOW, what a great job they did. It is a world class site now. They opened up a view into the deep quarry, made it more accessible, and included some really creative signage options. The delayed dedication will be held sometime in the spring.

COUNCIL NOTES – The POLICE DEPT. reported 435 phone calls, 6 reports were made (property dispute/property damage); there were 4 arrests (driving under suspension, assault/Underage consumption); one ticket for littering and 4 warnings for traffic violations. There was one hit/skip accident. Our EMS had 10 runs and 10 clinic calls. Council approved the purchase of a new generator for the EMS building. The WATER DEPT. has been flushing and testing fire hydrants. Fortunately, the FIRE DEPT. had no runs. Letters will be going out for broken sidewalks with a likely date for resolution of May 15 2023. The PARK BOARD is recommending a rewrite of the rental section of the village code. Six proposals were presented to the FAA with a request to leave us alone or facilitate the land swap to make compliance possible. The WATER DEPT. may be taking over testing for Camp Patmos with a few details to be worked out. Claudia Brown has resigned from the Cemetery board and Mary Doe was appointed to fill the vacancy. Tim Coleman was appointed as the alternate on the PLANNING COMMISSION to replace Bob Meier. HARBOR LANE is on the list for a tar & chip project in 2023. Public participation was interesting. A complaint about MISSING STREET SIGNS AND HOUSE NUMBERS met with some blank stares (required under our code 95.14). Instead of offering to investigate and find a solution, safety services said they pretty much know where every street and house is. There was another complaint about TALL BUSHES AT SOME INTERSECTIONS. Again, blank stares until one council person said they thought there was something about brush on property with a house (our code section 93.15 spells out requirements). Finally, someone asked about the SEWER PROJECT that keeps coming up. The Village Administrator explained that there are six package plants downtown that are at or near capacity and a sewer project is needed so that the businesses can stay open. Still no explanation on who will be paying for this project or what the full scope is.

OCTOBER 2022

Finally, nice, cool weather and some refreshing rain, but still not enough and plants are really beginning to show the effects of our local drought. October is still pretty busy with parties, fundraisers, Owl Banding and more. Check the Chamber website for details. HARVEST FEST is October 1 and thanks to Dave Marco, the park will be decorated again this year. COUNCIL MEETINGS move to the second Saturday of each month at 10 at Kelley's Hall. GLIA comes to the Island on October 4. October 15 is the KILA Family Hay Ride (part of a whole bunch of family themed activities) and October 22 is Adult Halloween day.

BIRD BANDING is underway with mixed results. Robust winds made for a dismal couple of days banding. The FAA granted the village \$455,000 for reconstructing the runway lighting. There are new signs in the field across from the airport explaining the natural area there. Channel 13 did a presentation to the school about weather (the Storm Tracker car toured the

Island) and the News mentioned that there are just five students in the school this year: Grade 4 (2); Grade 6 (1) and Grade 7 (2). Quite a reduction from last year when so many people sheltered on the Island because of Covid. Construction on the GROOVES is wrapping up and they are expected to reopen sometime in early October. The official dedication has been pushed back to next spring. It seems like building is going on everywhere here. Foundations are going in, additions and new homes are being built along almost every road. One small construction project is on land across from the cemetery. An open air housing unit for pheasants and rumors of a private hunting club coming to the island. Work is underway for the new storage building for the Parsonage Resale Shop which should be completed by winter.

Council notes: The POLICE DEPT. had 21 reports including damage, theft, sound ordinance, and a dog bite. They received 446 phone calls. There was one accident (vehicle rollover), six arrests (disorderly conduct/Intoxication and underage consumption). Eleven tickets were issued along with three warnings. They investigated one residential alarm. James Bartus was officially appointed Police Chief and Amy Krall was appointed as a full-time officer in the position of Sergeant. KI EMS will be training on pediatric emergencies. They had 15 runs and 27 clinic calls. The FIRE DEPT. had one fire run in August. This month's training will be Search & Rescue which will be held on school grounds. The WATER DEPT. welcomes Nataliya Makarova-Skeens as the new operator in training and Donna Divoll as the new bookkeeper. They report eight new water taps with six more pending. The service pump rebuild project is half completed and should be done next spring. The Village considered applying for a grant for "the public sewer system" however, it was not an option under the OPWC grant. Procedural questions were raised after Council voted to increase appropriations for the FAA-Airport Improvement fund (\$152,283.19) and the Water fund (\$100,000) with no discussion or explanation. Both ordinances were introduced by Mayor Ehrbar, however; it was questioned why this was not presented first to the Finance Committee for review.

SEPTEMBER 2022

The August Attitude is finally dissipating; fewer golf carts, bicycles, and aggravations. August was a rough month according to Facebook posts. The Island Market suffered a broken window, at least one golf cart flipped, a small boat at the State Park was pushed over the lime dump cliff, there was an attempted suicide, a purse was stolen out of a car, a water float and a golf cart were stolen and a car hit a tree near downtown. A visitor to the Island was the victim of an "auto hits pedestrian" scam. Fortunately, there were plenty of witnesses. After one of the ball games, a group of people were walking down the middle of E. Lakeshore. As a car approached, they moved over, but when the car, which was going very slow, passed by, one man threw himself against the side of the car and claimed that he was hit. This is a common scam in other areas, but the first time we have seen it on the island. And, the POLICE CHIEF that was hired just months ago, has announced that she will be leaving to take a full-time job elsewhere.

Road grates vs. bicycle wheels were fixed years ago, however, the new scooters have very small, narrow wheels and they slip easily into many of the grates. We saw, first hand, when a man angled his scooter over a grate, the wheel fell in and threw him onto the sidewalk and grass. He was scraped up and his face will be black and blue, but he declined medical attention. The new parking lot is officially open the cost is \$5 for 24 hours. Cindra and Jeni completed their recent Make-a-Wish swim. That's 28 years of making wishes come true. The August 2nd election was a bust on the Island. With 352 voters, only 35 votes were cast and all for uncontested seats.

COUNCIL NOTES

The CEMETERY COMMITTEE recommended and Council approved a rate increase for plots, the first increase since 1989. Because so much has changed, the committee decided to completely rewrite Section 92 of the Village Code. Spaces in the cemetery increased from \$800 to \$1100. Rules regarding interment costs, restrictions and transfer of lots are included in this ordinance, as well as new rules regarding the containers for the burial of ashes. The entire text of the new ordinance (2022-O-22) should be appearing on the village website soon. The POLICE DEPT. had 22 reports (theft, property damage and counterfeit money); answered 537 phone

calls, made six arrests (underage consumption, warrants, and DCI), issued 12 tickets (DCI, open container, under age driver). There were four accidents (3 golf cart and one hit and skip). EMS reports 21 runs and 21 clinic calls. Their latest training will be for burn injuries. The FIRE DEPT. had five fire runs. Because of the continuing problems with cell phone dead zones, the Fire Dept. requested that Council approve a contract with Bender Communications to install multiple radio repeaters across the Island. This will cover all the safety services. Following this, there will be new digital portable radios for all the vehicles. Because of supply chain issues, parts of this project will take about a year to complete. Also approved by Council, the hiring of Strategic Fire Training to conduct an assessment of the Island targeting the fire service. The presentation noted that this was needed to keep up with the continuing development of the Island, particularly increased residents, new and more valuable structures, number of visitors, additional traffic, EMS medical and trauma incidence, among other things. The final report will contain cost/benefit, advantage/disadvantage, possible financing for services and equipment and a review of infrastructure, zoning and potential future structures and their construction. The WATER DEPT. has hired Natalia Skeans. She will be trained over the next five years to become the Water Superintendent. The WATER INTAKE experienced some blockage and it was discovered that the 300 ft. extension that was installed about eight years ago, slipped off the compression joint. Repairs are being made. A low interest loan application was submitted to the Ohio EPA to replace the waterline on Huntington Lane. Sen. Gaverone and her team visited to see phase one of the public sewer system project (no details were provided). She also viewed the erosion issues on E. Lakeshore for which she secured \$400,000 in State Capital Budget funds. The City of Sandusky Building Dept. and other officials visited the Island for a tour. SIDEWALK repairs came up in Public Participation. It's no surprise that the sidewalks on the Island are, in places, a safety hazard, but who is responsible and what if the damage was caused by heavy trucks running over the edges, accessing utilities, or making deliveries through no fault of the property owner? Section §95.07 SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE of the Village Code puts the responsibility on the lot owner. Another 2-part complaint centered around the poor acoustics at the meetings (no one can hear what anyone is saying) and some safety hazards.

AUGUST 2022

Lightning bugs appeared on June 27 just in time to provide us with Mother Nature's fireworks. Speaking of fireworks, the July 4th fireworks at the West Bay and the Celebrate KI fireworks were exceptional this year. So many people posted photos on Facebook.

The Make-A-Wish Golf Cart Poker Run is August 6 starting at Dockers restaurant, registration at 10 am and the swim with Cindra and Jeni is August 7. Go down to Portside Marina and watch them come in about 11:30-12 o'clock and party with their Wish children and their families. What a team! Authors Alexi Panehal and Leslie Korenko both have new books out this year. Catch up with them at the KI History Museum Art Show (August 6) and at Homecoming (August 13). Lots of activity at the house next to the village office on Addison. Excavation work is moving forward on the installation of a new septic system and a dumpster hints at activity inside the house shared with KI Chamber office. **The Fire Dept.'s annual Steak Roast will be August 13**, and the Audubon pot luck is August 18. August means that Summer is winding down and the kids go back to school. Still, there are loads of things to do with fewer crowds.

COUNCIL NOTES

It was a quick meeting with little or no discussion on any of the topics. The POLICE DEPT. received 14 reports (theft, property damage, counterfeit \$100 bills), fielded 320 phone calls, made six arrests (assault, DOC and DOI), and three tickets were issued. And like most Island businesses, they are experiencing a staffing shortage and are looking to hire another 2-3 officers. EMS reported 23 runs and 29 clinic calls. Training this month was 'combative patients and altered mental status' which brought more than a few chuckles from the audience when someone commented that this is every drunk visitor. The FIRE DEPT. reports that the Ohio EPA is not budging on the burn ban. The Village will be applying to the Ohio EPA for a low interest loan to repair the waterline on Huntington. Later legislation renamed the road to North Huntington Lane and South Huntington Lane. At one time this was one long road before the

former quarry eliminated the middle section. This should make it easier for our SAFETY SERVICES to respond to the correct location. The VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR is looking for funding to do the design and planning of a public sewer system for the village (no details on this though). Brandon Evans has resigned from his position as Water Superintendent. This position and the billing clerk vacancy have been posted on the P O bulletin board. It looks like the FAA will be awarding the Village \$760,000 for new lights at the KI airport. The Village match will be \$38,000. The WATER RATE legislation passed effective the 2nd quarter billing. But something might be wrong. The new quarterly Base Rate will be \$68.40, no problem. It also says that the new rate for residential customers is \$13.70 per 100 cubic feet. For commercial and non-residential users, however, it will be \$23.27 per CUBIC FEET (not sure if they meant per 100 cubic feet or per cubic foot which seems a little high). In a surprise move, and with no discussion, the ordinance hiring Safebuilt failed for lack of a second. Safebuilt would have taken over the commercial/business inspection program on the Island. The company would have also made application for certification of a residential building department and after Council adopted the program, Safebuilt would have taken over the inspections of residential property construction.

JULY 2022

The flags have been installed on utility poles along Lakeshore and Division Sts. Pot holes along pretty much every street have been filled. AMPLEX is moving forward with an average of six new installations a day and stringing cable across the Island. Council accepted a grant from the Hancock-Wood Electric Community Trust (Operation Round-up) in the amount of \$10,000 for the Village EMS. The village also received \$400,000 from the State Capital Improvement Fund for shoreline protection along E. Lakeshore. The PARK BOARD received a donation from the Kelleys Island Community Assoc. in the amount of \$20,000 for the new playground equipment. Memorial Day services were very touching with well over 200 people showing up to remember those who gave their lives in service. Fish & Wildlife Service took Stanley (the Island turkey who was murdered last month) and opened an investigation. They found the sniper nest where the shooter waited for the right shot and left cigarette butts as evidence. The ISLAND SINGERS are looking for new members. The LIBRARY is now open five days a week at various times. The hardware dept. of the General Store has now moved to Seaway Marina in the space formerly occupied by the Chamber. And there is a LITTLE READING ROOM kiosk on the porch. July 9--KI's Got Talent, July 14--Council, July 16/16--Celebrate KI, July 22/23--Film Fest, August 6--KI History Museum Arts & Crafts show. SCIENCE SATURDAYS at the State Park are a lot of fun, with a new topic each week. REAL ESTATE TAXES have been mailed. If you didn't get yours, better check with the county.

PARKING - The big news is the parking situation. The need for No Parking This Side of Street signs (so people know about the new parking regulations which prohibits parking on either side of Division Street from the Police Station down to Bookerman Road) was raised at the Council meeting. And a proposal was approved by Council for a new, private parking lot. The new lot will be on the site of the store complex that burned in 2010. Since then, we have casually taken over the vacant lot for parking. Over the last few months, stone was added and the area cordoned off with yellow tape. Finally, we know what the plans are. KIR Holding is constructing a parking lot for up to 85 vehicles and includes the installation of fencing and a gate system. There will be a concrete walk along the front of the property. This is a permitted use in the zoning district. They received a zoning waiver for some setbacks to assure the maximum number of parking spaces. During the presentation, mention was made of the 1.7 acre property behind this lot and the Island House, but no details about future development was indicated. This lot was purchased in April of this year and is zoned Residential.

COUNCIL NOTES – Council wants to move summer council meetings from Thursdays at 7 pm to Mondays at 10 am. POLICE received nine reports (menacing, false ID, vandalism, property damage, theft and animal cruelty (the controversial Stanley shooting); they fielded 202 phone calls, and issued four warnings for traffic violations. EMS had 15 runs and 19 clinic calls. They will start a free CPR class if people are interested. The FIRE DEPT had one run. They are

working with the EPA to determine why the burn ban is still in effect. Ice rescue equipment for four fire personnel, has arrived. The WATER DEPT. is almost done servicing the service pumps. They produced 3,081,690 gallons of water, an 11% increase over the same period last year. Council approved a 3.5% water rate increase. The last increase was 1.5% in 2018. It looks like the Village will be subject to residential BUILDING CODES soon. Council is evaluating two proposals, one from the City of Sandusky to staff our building department (the village would retain 4% of fees collected under this agreement) and the proposal from SAFEbuilt. STREET IMPROVEMENTS are now on the schedule for Lakeview, Crestview and Fairview Lanes. Public participation included concerns about a proposed parking area under the water tower, citing careless drivers around that corner. The CEMETERY BOARD will be making a request for an increase in cemetery fees, the last increase was about 30 years ago.

JUNE 2022

Wow – when summer visits the island, it comes fully prepared to enjoy itself. Long days of sunshine, pleasant temperatures, the trees are filling out nicely, wildflowers are in full bloom, the lake is warming up, fish are biting, every business is opening up, and all our friends are coming back – what more could you ask for. Unfortunately, Covid came back too with reports that several people have contracted this, more mild, form. The school closed for a day of deep cleaning. The library closed for a week. Safety Services Day has been delayed and the EMS spaghetti dinner has moved to June 11. Council meets on June 9 (7 pm or online) and June 4 is free scrap metal day at the Transfer Station, so clean up that yard.

The Island mourns the loss of Stanley, he was shot in a yard off Bookerman Road on Sunday, May 22, late afternoon. The perp was chased into the quarry, the police were called and an investigation is underway. Stanley was the only survivor of a flock of turkeys brought to the Island in 2008. The flock thrived and baby turkeys were spotted the next year, then their numbers started to decline. Wild Turkeys have a lifespan of just 3-5 years, but this veteran outlived the entire flock and, even though probably quite lonely, he thrived on the generosity of our residents and his wily knack for eluding predators. Stanley will be missed.

Our community welcomes new POLICE CHIEF Brigitte Door-Guiser. She fills the hybrid position previously adopted by the Village; the only change being references to *he* are changed to *he/she*. She was sworn in on Saturday, May 14. She is a veteran of the Cleveland Police Dept. where she was the officer in charge of Cleveland's crises intervention team. Officer James Bartus II was promoted from part-time to full-time. Council voted to donate the police boat, motors and trailer to the Sandusky Police Dept. The PARK BOARD revealed plans for the new playground. You can view them on the Village website KelleysIsland.us under Departments/Park Board.

The parking situation is getting worse as the season ramps up. It was difficult to find a parking spot for the Council meeting and that was on a Thursday evening. Under consideration is a proposal to turn the area around the water tower into an official parking lot. Legislation was passed redefining the no parking areas on Division Street. Chapter 78 prohibits parking on either side of Division St. from the Police station to Bookerman Rd. and is effective immediately.

COUNCIL – Council has moved to Thursdays at 7 pm and online (see P O for details). EMS reports two runs and three clinic calls. They continue with monthly training and are offering CPR classes for the community and seasonal employees. FIRE DEPT. indicated the burn ban is still in effect, monthly training continues and the brush fire truck is sidelined due to its age and the scarcity of parts. POLICE DEPT. had four reports (hit and run, 911 call, protection order and theft), fielded 127 phone calls, made one arrest for outstanding warrant and issued three traffic violation warnings. The VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR has been busy. The Village is now considering to contracting with Erie County or SAFEbuilt for providing zoning and building code enforcement for the Island. The SAFEbuilt ordinance was presented as a first reading: “That if a certification of a residential building department is granted by the State of Ohio, Council will subsequently address the scope of services to be provided....as well as necessary

ordinances and fee schedules required to implement such a department.” We currently have zoning regulations, but it looks like we will be adopting a standard building code for all properties on the Island. HUNTINGTON LANE survey work is complete in preparation for a waterline replacement as the Village explores applying for emergency funds from the Ohio Public Works Commission and the Ohio EPA. The personnel policies are being updated as the village has ‘experienced some issues that need to be addressed.” AIRPORT – The village received two applications for Aviation Consultant. Reynolds, Smith and Hills was awarded the contract. In the award letter it was noted that “we are extremely discouraged at the progress we have been able to make thus far...We have now for decades, been involved with this program with the FAA and have spent cumulatively millions of dollars in engineers, consulting and property acquisition fees with very little to show for the money spent.”

MAY 2022

It looks like spring is finally here. There was an Easter egg hunt for the kids, several restaurants opened, and plans are being made for upcoming events. There will be a local author book signing at the history museum on May 15 and at the KI library on May 28 from 10-Noon. Meet Island historian Leslie Korenko and her six books, and new author Alexi Panehal. Her book is *The Island in Winter, Living Year Round on Kelleys Island*. We say goodbye to Chief Shawn Craig whose last day is May 2. We wish him well at his new position. Construction work is apparent all over the Island with lots being cleared and construction underway. Work on the Portside crib extension (to run east and west) will provide better protection from rough seas. What can we say about the weather? Fog so dense the ferry had to use its horn. This brings back memories of Islanders lining up on the dock with their headlights on and blowing their horns to help guide the ferry boat in (really, that happened, but it WAS a long time ago). The horn, coupled with the fog, created a creepy, mournful atmosphere. And then there was the big snow in mid-April. There were blizzard conditions, but it was wet snow and did not stick. Sunday, May 8, is clean-up day at the State Park.

A GROOVY UPDATE - Work has started at the Glacial Grooves with a project that will keep water from seeping into the grooves. The water brings with it dirt which, when settled into the grooves, promotes the growth of weeds. Next to come is a new walkway up at the end right where the grooves drop off. Then comes new fencing and additional interpretive signage. Trees have already been cut down on the right side of the grooves which opens up a view of the quarry and its high stone walls. This project is expected to be completed in August.

COUNCIL MEETINGS switch to the second Thursday at 7:00 (May 12) for the summer, but you can also attend online. Links are posted at the Post Office and on the Village website. PARK BOARD has plans for a 3-tier fund-raising campaign for a new playground complex on Addison Rd. At the March meeting a question about who authorized the dismantling of the existing equipment went unanswered. That demolition was completed and the complex is now gone. The POLICE DEPT. fielded 125 phone calls and did 322 house/business checks. A complaint was made about the loss of the parking lot and what the Village was going to do to relieve the situation. The Mayor indicated he did not know what they were going to do with the site, although rumors have been flying. The village is considering hiring SAFEbuilt to take over our zoning dept. Their main goal is to administer building permits, but they can also administer our zoning code. Currently, only businesses and public buildings need to get State permits and inspections. This company can handle those and claim faster response times. If we adopt a building code for homes, they would handle those also for an additional cost. In the meantime, a raise to \$18,000 a year was approved by Council with two no votes. There were 19 applicants for the POLICE CHIEF position and five interviews were held. We should have a new police chief shortly. The FIRE DEPT. has received their new gear. EMS had one run and three clinic visits.

APRIL 2022

Finally, warm weather. snow drops are in bloom, Daffodils are coming up, and the ferry started running on March 14, bringing lots of construction and visitors to the island. Quite a bit happened in the last month. The mouth of the swamp opened up to the lake just west of the

State Park Beach There was a sand dune about five feet high that backed up water almost onto Division Street. The lot used for parking downtown is being improved with gravel and, rumor has it, paid parking will be installed. Construction looks like it will be beginning at the Glacial Grooves, temporary fabric retaining walls are already in place. The Chamber and the Erie County Health Dept. will be sharing the Goliath House on Addison and the mobile dental clinic will be visiting. Remodeling should start soon. The Chamber has elected new officers and hired Joe Sugalski, as the new Director. He has a bachelor's degree in hospitality and tourism from BGSU, and has firsthand knowledge and work experience on Kelleys Island.

VILLAGE POLICE CHIEF SHAWN CRAIG RESIGNS

Chief Craig's last day will be May 2. He served our community for 15 years with 8 years as Chief of Police. In his letter he wrote that he "can no longer work under bad leadership that is characterized by legislation, orders, policies, rules, goals, reports, and bureaucracy that are designed to force me from office. This toxic work environment has continued for the past two years. Several Council members have privately told me that they agree these problems exist, but no current Council member has been willing to publicly speak the truth." Chief Craig brought new life into the Dept. and humanized interactions with the residents and visitors to this community. We could always trust him to do what was right and to stand firm under pressure to bend or ignore the rules. We will miss him.

COUNCIL NOTES

People are embracing online attendance at the council meetings. Pat Seeholzer expressed her appreciation for the Fire Dept. and the many people who assisted her after the fire at her home on February 22. Work has already begun on rebuilding the second floor. An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Cosgrove JonHenry for public policy and legislative services to obtain funds for projects, failed to pass as an emergency and will have a second reading. Other second readings include accepting the Forest Ln. waterline and increasing the salary of the ZONING INSPECTOR to \$18,000 a year. On the other hand, Council is considering the hiring of SAFEbuilt to administer our local zoning code and provide state building code inspections for commercial and residential buildings. The WATER DEPT. reports that they are cleaning all three filter units. Water usage in February was extremely high (814,000 this year compared to 552,100 in 2021) and chemical prices have gone up due to a shortage of chlorine and supply chain issues. The FIRE DEPT. dealt with two fires during the winter. Fire and EMS attended ice rescue and vehicle extrication training and have made improvements to the pager system to accommodate faster response times. New equipment has been ordered for some of the fire fighters. The State of Ohio has issued a BURN BAN for the months of March, April and May. The POLICE DEPT. received 379 calls, made one arrest (juvenile complaint), issued one traffic ticket (no plates), issued 10 warnings (stop sign, speeding, expired plates). There were 3,438 winter business and house checks. The village was awarded a grant for \$250,000 for the planning and design of the PUBLIC SEWER SYSTEM on the Island. The total cost is expected to be \$984,000. MOWING AT THE CEMETERY - the village may hire a part-time employee for the cemetery mowing or contract it out. The Village Administrator mentioned the WENS (emergency alert system), however, no details have been shared. There is, however, a notice on the P O bulletin board about the Erie County alert system. During public participation, Jim Erne questioned why the playground was taped off and scheduled for dismantling. Leslie Korenko reminded the Village that the oversized emergency generator at the water plant was sized to provide power to Kelley's Hall (as an emergency shelter) the Police Dept. and the EMS building. She noted that those connections were never made. Council went into executive session to discuss personnel issues (Chief Craig's resignation) and the purchase of real estate.

MARCH 2022

Weather here has been a roller coaster ride. One day it is 40 deg. and the next 10 deg. The first ice shanty went out on January 28 off Long Point when temps were in the single digits. In total seven shanties made it to the ice. Then the big snow storm and everyone came in expecting high winds. In all, we got about 6" of snow on Feb. 1. Then the shanties went out for a few days, and then came back in as warm weather visited us, turning all that snow to mush and mud.

February is the month of statistics. Our Library is the heart of the community in the winter. Total Circulation: Adult---1,475; Children—729; Total-----2.208. There were 408 new items added to the collection, and 80 items were weeded out of the collection.

Resort Tax receipts are in. The village received \$205,907 (a portion is kept by the State). This represents \$13,727,133 in taxable sales. For a post-Covid year, with some businesses cutting back hours due to staffing issues, this represents the highest total of taxable sales. It was a very good year for Island businesses.

You have to dig a bit to get details, but it appears that information on the 2020 Census is finally available. Kelleys island had a total population of 256, down from 312 from 2010. It looks like we have 913 (residential?) units (139 occupied and 774 vacant).

The first events of the year will be starting in March and then in April, we start to really gear up for the opening of the season. Tax bills are due so if you haven't received your yet, contact the Erie County Auditor's office to avoid penalties.

FEBRARY 2022

It seems that all we talk about is the weather. What can I say – it's winter and the ferry made it's last trip on Friday, January 14. Cold temps. and winds pushed it back from the previously announced 16th. Since Christmas, there have been at least three "I heard it from..." announcements about the anticipated shut-down date – all claiming to be the official word. When it announced the shut down date, they advised us that we should not listen to rumors and just rely on their Facebook page! Christmas Day there was no snow, but a very heavy fog blanketed the Island for hours (but only the west end). Until the lake froze, fog was a regular morning occurrence. As I write this (around the 20th) temps are in the teens with wind chills at or below zero! As for activities this winter, notices are appearing at the Post Office about the VFW's Wii bowling league (but nothing about pot lucks), the church has a game night, the library is still open 3 days a week for 2 hours each day, community exercise class is Wednesdays at 10:45 at the school, art class is back, and there are just a few other activities. Things are really slow, especially with everyone skittish about Covid-Omicron. The bright spot? With the cold snap, there is hope for a short season of ice fishing.

JANUARY 2022

The holidays are behind us and we look forward to a quiet couple of months of winter. By now, the ferry has probably stopped running (remember I write this around the 20th). What a great Christmas present; the KIFBL gifted us with a free shopping trip. Cars are already moved over to the airport in anticipation of those unexpected trips off-island this winter. So now we find most of our news on Facebook. We get to visit with the school kids (it is amazing how creative they are) and we catch up with history, birding and local news through the various FB pages. The Kelley's Island Wine Co. held a wonderful New Years Eve gathering. Volunteers decorated the park and the tree lighting (and Santa) were a big hit. Tom & Paula Bartlett celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Hope spring eternal and a few ice shanties have appeared in driveways and front yards as winter fishing hopefuls begin repairs.

The last Council meetings of the year were held on Dec. 11 and 14. The regular meeting was quite short with no reports from almost all the committees. 13 people attended. The special meeting was to secure approval for a contract that the outgoing council members recommended be set aside for the new Council to consider. Our EMS reported that they had 115 runs this year and 98 clinic calls. A dinner for the Fire and EMS personnel was held in November. A great way to say thanks to all who work so hard to keep us safe. New equipment is being received including a Zoll monitor, automatic vent device and two blood gas CO detectors. The Fire Dept. received a \$7200 grant to acquire new radios for the Fire and EMS depts. Burn permits are available at the village office. The Police Dept. reported 105 phone calls, 3 arrests (unauthorized use of motor vehicle and criminal trespass, and felony warrant. There was one ticket issued for no license

plates. Five warnings were issued for speeding, stop sign, no license plate, disorderly conduct and there was one accident: failure to control. The dept. conducted 892 house/business checks. Installation of fiber optics is already moving forward and we see the trucks and men in safety jackets all over the west end of the Island. Several ordinances had their first reading including doubling the salary of the Zoning Inspector, and accepting the Forest Lane waterline and easement. Finally, new definitions for Industrialized Units and Modular Homes was passed which, hopefully, will clear up the confusion in the zoning Code. You can keep up with all the latest ordinances on the village website KelleysIsland.us under Ordinances. Since this was the last regular meeting of the year, thanks were offered to outgoing Council members Ritchie and Longbrake. And, much to her surprise, a proclamation and a plaque were presented to Pat Seholzer for her service to the community and to the Village as she retires from Council.