

DECEMBER 2023

December is officially here with the new ferry schedule (last boat to the Island is at 4:00). November was actually pretty busy. Great turnouts for bird and owl banding, a great way to end the day under the stars. Thanksgiving was celebrated all over the Island. It seemed that you could smell turkey and pumpkin pie everywhere you went. There was a nice crowd at the cemetery for Veterans Day to honor those who served. The lighting at the downtown park was well attended as we greeted Santa. As for changes on the Island, there have been a few surprises. Contractors rush to build or deliver new houses (and there are quite a few). The back portion and roof of Missy Magoos (overlooking the lake) was demolished with plans for a new addition. It was probably long overdue. The marinas are emptying out with more boats going into winter storage and the weather turning cold and windy. The Island is preparing for winter. We now head towards December, as winter residents begin to stock up for winter potlucks at the VFW.

Election Results – We have 353 registered voters, and 221 votes were cast in this election – a 62% turnout. Since everyone on the ballot was running unopposed, everyone was elected. Votes received: Finger-174, Stevenson-122, Klonaris-197, Ehrbar-185. For School Board: both Gaither and Makarova-Skeans were reelected. Issue 1 passed 151-71 and Issue 2 passed 162-58.

COUNCIL NOTES

The new (interim expiring on May 1) Zoning Inspector is Rob Quinn, appointed at the October 23 special Council meeting. As the Village moves forward on the short-term rental property list, Council will work to define more comprehensive enforcement which will be handled by the zoning Inspector. Ordinances connected to this project will be presented this summer. The regular meeting was quite short, just 15 minutes. The Police Dept. received 3 reports (informational), fielded 205 phone calls, made no arrests, and issued 2 warnings (speed and trespass). EMS made 11 runs and had 5 clinic calls. The Active Shooter Drill has been postponed to next spring to maximize Safety Service attendance. The Fire Dept. had 2 runs. The Water Dept. repaired a leak at Woodford and E. Point. The lighting project at the airport is completed. The Village has received insurance money to cover losses from the flood. Public meetings and hearings are now being posted on the Village website along with Zoom info on the Home Page.

NOVEMBER 2023

Fall officially arrived with cold weather. Fireplaces and woodstoves were fired up, summer clothes have been stowed away and we prepare for winter. Fall color is just beginning with a few trees already turning a bright red. More importantly, the ferry schedule changes, as we head into winter. All the restaurants with seasonal liquor licenses are closed and many shops are only open on the weekends. Halloween was a wild ride, in more ways than the obvious. Winds and waves tried to damper the kid's day, but, judging from all the photos and videos, it was still fully enjoyed with hayrides, pumpkin carving, stories, and much more. There was even a pumpkin roll down the Casino hill. The adult Halloween was pretty much what we come to expect. The first Saw-whet Owl was banded as we approach Owl Fest. Remember to file your winter house check forms before you leave for the winter. Winter is coming. Remember to sign up for Kelleys Island alerts by visiting www.eriecounty.oh.gov. Holding a wedding on an Island can often be challenging as one couple found out. Their marriage official was unable to make it and the photographer had similar problems. Islanders stepped in and made sure the happy couple had a wedding to remember, one that they will be talking about for years!

COUNCIL NOTES: Cataloging rental properties on the Island is progressing with over 100 short term rentals located so far. The Police Dept. received 222 phone calls, received 5 informational reports, issued 3 tickets (obstruction, criminal trespass and open container), and issued 2 warnings (failure to display and speeding). The question about privacy and drones was answered. While the Village has no ordinance regarding drones, FAA rules do apply. Drones can only be flown in the pilot's line of sight, and cannot violate a person's privacy (among other things). The KI EMS made 16 runs and had 21 clinic calls. They continue training on mass casualty events leading up to an active shooter drill. The Fire Dept. had 3 runs and will be training on propane emergencies. Hydrant flushing wraps up by the Water Dept. A shoreline

protection project is moving forward as the Village secures leases. During the big storm event the basement of Kelley's Hall flooded. Council was presented with an extensive list of the items that were damaged including office supplies, Christmas decorations, maintenance equipment and supplies, and \$31,741 in EMS supplies and training equipment. Two ordinances that were up for first readings were passed as Emergencies. Change to posting places – airport building and public restroom have been eliminated, replaced by the Village web-site. Posting will continue at the Post Office, the downtown park and the Village office. Tap fees are increasing: the standard 3/4" tap (\$7000) is now \$9000. Similar increases for larger sized meters. These ordinances can be found on the Village website www.KelleysIsland.us.

OCTOBER 2023

Well, this was a September for the record! We braved what might have been the biggest storm of the year. It hit around 11 pm and people reported hearing that classic tornado train sound. High winds brought down over 30 trees. Hardest hit were W. Lakeshore, Division St. and the State Park, along with Titus, and Long Point. Yards were flooded everywhere and more than a few basements too. This was disastrous for washers, dryers, hot water tanks and furnaces located below ground. Trees are still coming down, after being damaged during that storm. The aftermath? One of the sea walls in Seaway Marina pulled away, likely due to the wind pushing large boats away from the wall during the big blow. Mosquitoes, are still everywhere and swarming like midges. While we have an abundance of mosquitoes, it has been noted that there have been far fewer sightings of snakes this year.

We miss the Life on Kelleys newspaper, but there are hints that there will be one winter issue for the Cleveland Boat Show. Nice turnout for the Audubon's 30 year anniversary. Really, has it been that long? Tom Bartlett was the guest speaker. Fun Events are still happening: Council meets on 10/4 at 10; Harvestfest-10/7; Family Halloween-10/14; Adult Halloween-10/21; and Owlfest 11/4, 5, 6. Be sure to check the Chamber website for additional events. The end of October marks the last day for the seasonal liquor licenses on the Island. We reluctantly say goodbye to some of our favorite summer places.

The Village website (KelleysIsland.us) needs some updating. Incorrect meeting days are still listed for Council. Legislation is only current through the July 8 meeting; but one new addition is very welcome. A list of meetings and hearings (similar to what is posted at the P O each month) appears on the Home page and contains the link for attending the Council meeting online. A copy of the Rules of Council was made available at the meeting with pertinent sections highlighted including: deadlines for scheduling public meetings and for agenda items and supporting information. Also highlighted: Council "member discussion shall be limited to increments of 6 minutes on any single topic" which can be extended and Public Participation shall be limited to one minute which can be extended by the presiding officer. It is highly recommended that topics be presented to the appropriate Council member or committee prior to the meeting as the 1-minute limit may not allow for a full presentation or discussion. We are reminded that the Erie Co. Alert System is available to everyone and includes any KI alerts posted by the Village Administrator. You can sign up by visiting www.eriecounty.oh.gov.

COUNCIL NOTES

The Police Dept. received 3 reports, 382 phone calls, reported 7 traffic violations (OVI, driving under suspension), 3 accidents; and 5 tickets issued (open container and disorderly conduct). The Fire Dept. had 4 runs. EMS had 17 runs and 20 clinic calls. There was high praise for our safety services and their response to the big storm. It was announced that the purchase of the 15.5 acres by the airport is now off the table, as it is being sold to the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. However, the Conservancy is willing to sell 1/2 acre back to the Village for \$15,000 for a tower. Tower locations are limited in our Zoning Code, so a public hearing on the rezoning will be required. Public participation raised an interesting question on drones and privacy. The proposed sewer project was questioned. As no information was shared previously on this project, it was finally clarified that this is a long term, preliminary plan which will, eventually, involved acquiring property. It is estimated that the grant, which has a 2-year deadline, will be for design, review and acquisition and there will be a series of town hall meetings to present the

plan. One ordinance that was passed on its second reading, authorized the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Deckard Technologies “to provide advanced data analytics and technology solutions for real estate rentals in the Village...” While no reason was given for the ordinance, the company website states: Over the last decade, the short-term rental (STR) market has overwhelmed and outpaced local resources responsible for properly regulating its growth. Changes in local real estate and local ordinances designed to ensure safety and compliance have not caught up with rapid market and technological changes, which continue to grow unchecked. Unregistered properties, unwelcome changes in the neighborhood’s character, declining home values, and continued squeezing of affordable housing are just few of the important side effects cities face with the rise of short-term rentals. It appears they will be using public databases to build an inventory of Island rentals (KI.com, StayonKI, VRBO, KIChamber, Air B&B, etc.) in order to determine if the Village is receiving all the taxes they should be and whether additional regulation is needed.

SEPTEMBER 2023

We say goodbye to August which was, weather-wise, more like September with cooler temperatures. Homecoming was beautiful, until about 2:00. The wind kicked up, and it rained, then there was mist, drizzle, a storm, then sunshine, more storm, and finally sunshine like it never happened. All this in about 40 minutes! Great food, loads of fun, and the entertainment was super. A good time was had by all that took shelter under the pavilion. The VFW has been doing a lot of entertaining; the latest was a music fest on Sunday evening with a hot dog roast. About 60 people finally got to hear the Coyote Man do his presentation (it was stormed out once before). As always, Audubon meetings have great food (we do love our pot lucks) and really interesting programs. Did you catch the new Lake Erie Love sign by the West Bay? Perfect photo-op. Work has started on the airport – involving new lights, striping, and plane and car parking areas. Quite a few lake front lots have been cleared, looks like a construction boom is coming. The Planning Commission turned down a request for storage of long-term golf cart rentals at a residence next to Peepers (the application was for a Conditional Use permit for a Home Occupation). It was a little confusing to determine exactly why they turned it down, but it seemed like all their concerns were dealt with except the Mayor’s assertion that there were already too many golf carts on the Island and that, maybe, like Put-in-Bay, the Village should put a moratorium on adding new ones. Camp Patmos has begun a fund-raising campaign to raise \$200,000 to restore their dock.

The KI Audubon Club celebrates 30 years. Upcoming events include: 9/3 Glacial Glimpses tour, 9/17 Feathers & Foliage, 9/21 Meeting (with Tom Bartlett as the speaker) and a birthday party celebrating their 30 years. 9/9 is Treasure Island day and 9/16 the KI Wine Co. hosts Winefest, with entertainment, demonstrations and local crafters. Remember to check the Chamber website for more details, events and activities.

Special election results: with 353 registered voters - 177 (50.14%) ballots were cast with 57 (32.2%) voting for and 120 (67.8%) voting against Issue One. And here is the slate for the November election. All seats are uncontested: Kelleys Island mayor - Ron Ehrbar; Kelleys Island treasurer - Lisa Klonaris; Kelleys Island council (2 seats) - Gary Finger, Scott Stevenson.

COUNCIL

The Police Dept had 4 reports (info and fraud), 1 arrest, 4 traffic violations (OVI/3 underage driver), and issued 3 warnings. There were 2 accidents. EMS was busy with 23 runs and 27 clinic calls. Metrohealth, working with the EMS, are creating a WAAS approach for the airport, which is basically a 3-dimensional GPS map of the landing field that will allow a helicopter to land in lower visibility conditions. The Clerk’s office passed its audit for the years 2021-22 with flying colors. The Village is moving forward with the purchase of a 13.46 acre parcel between the airport and the Quinn Preserve, contingent on receiving Clean Ohio Conservation Public Funds. This would be considered an extension of the Quinn Preserve. The listed sale price is \$524,900. Council passed the ordinances increasing Zoning Permit Fees and square foot fees and application fees for permits (most doubling in price). The new fee structure for the Transfer

Station was also passed, with a discount for auto pay. The seasonal occupancy discount has been deleted. All these will be on the Village website.

AUGUST 2023

July arrived with a bang, literally, with a big fireworks show at the West Bay Inn. A much smaller display also arrived as lightning bugs made their usual appearance. It has been dry, very dry. The good news is that there were very few mosquitoes; however that changed when several rain events occurred in late June and early July. And wow, has it been windy, changing from 80 deg. weather to lovely fall-type days. The VFW cruise, rescheduled a couple of times, was finally cancelled until fall. Islandfest was, as always, a huge success even with being rained out just a bit on Saturday. Here we are, going into August. It seems the summer has flown by. All in all, it was pretty quiet, unlike our neighbor Put-in-Bay. According to the newspaper, Christmas in July got a bit out of hand and fights broke out everywhere. The Sheriff was called in, and ultimately, the SWAT team was brought over as he felt that his small contingent would not be able to handle all the incidents. The show of force working their way through problem areas, did the trick. Not to be outdone, an incident occurred on our ferry when a motorcycle jumped the line and got angry when another vehicle moved forward to get on the boat. The August attitude kicked in and a fight broke out on the ferry. What is going on with the parking lot at the ferry dock here on the Island? The lot is filled with covered golf carts. Some have not been moved for a month. It is difficult to find a space for those with a permit. With all the building going on, it was a surprise to wake up and find the small house near Huntington on W Lakeshore had been demolished. The house was built around 1846, and commonly known as the Towle House. Admittedly, it was in pretty bad shape. With August arriving, and the summer more than half over, the Chamber calendar is still pretty full. Remember: Science Saturdays at the State Park, 8/11-12 Homecoming, 8/17 Audubon pot luck with speaker (Paul Pira, the Coyote Man!), 8/26 Art Show at the History Museum.

PLANNING COMMISSION NOTES - A dozen people showed up for the Planning Commission meeting to review plans for a house below the signal station across from the Post Office. It is zoned C-2 and is in the Environmental Protection Overlay District, the Historic District, and the Flood Hazard area. Residential homes are allowed under a conditional use permit. This led to a spirited discussion on whether the new structure would have to comply with the setbacks of C-2 or (because of its conditional use) be subject to R-2 setbacks. It was unclear whether the Planning Commission had the authority to re-set the setbacks or if the proposal had to go to the Board of Zoning Appeals. A question was raised about the difference between resetting the setbacks for the house, or requesting a rezoning of the area to R-2. Concerns were also raised that, while the intended use is a home, if the zoning remains C-2, can the balance of the parcel be developed (say into a commercial marina) or does the conditional use block any further development of the area. The design of the house is still subject to review by the Design Review Board.

According to various news sources, there is \$2 million in the State budget to help Kelleys Island begin building a sewer system. Kelleys Island currently relies on septic tank systems but apparently wants to move toward building a sewer system. The \$2 million will allow the island to get started with its business district, with plans calling for the sewer system to eventually be extended to island residences, according to Swearingen. The Ohio House Speaker, Jason Stephens, intervened with the conferees to help save the Kelleys Island funding, said Swearingen, a political ally of Stephens.

COUNCIL NOTES: The Police Dept. received three reports, fielded 230 phone calls, made one arrest (felony warrant), issued eight tickets (obstruction, open container, open burn and accident). The Fire Dept. had seven fire runs (with one citation). EMS reports 21 runs and 23 clinic calls. The Park Board has completed a draft park plan and plans to hold a public forum to present the plan. They hope to have the new playground equipment purchased by October 1. The long-awaited Huntington Road waterline project has started. Tim Coleman was appointed to the BZA and Andy Federle was officially appointed as the new Village Administrator. The ordinance

increasing the fees for zoning permits and Planning Commission meetings was approved as well as the fees associated with zoning permits. The annual business license fee is now in effect: New applications increase from \$25 to \$125 and the annual renewal from \$5 to \$75. Another ordinance passed established a \$50 fee for golf cart rentals with the funds going into the street construction, maintenance and repair fund.

JULY 2023

So here we are, approaching mid-summer already. There are loads of activities to keep just about anyone busy. Be sure to check the Chamber website for a full list (way too many to mention here), but here are some highlights: KI's Got Talent 7/8, Islandfest 7/14-16, Filmfest 7/22-23. The next KI Audubon speaker and pot luck will be Dr. Chris Winslow, Director of Stone Lab on 7/20. Looking back: Memorial Day had well over 200 attending services at the cemetery. The 5/10K run had 450 participants registered before the race began but high winds reduced that number to about 200 on race day. High winds also cancelled the Audubon presentation on Coyotes (rescheduled to August) as well as the VFW island cruise. Bike week on the Island was May 31. The Island rumbled and there were bikes everywhere; so much chrome! Midges appeared in full force, really freaking some people out, followed by what looked like a winter snowstorm as the Cottonwoods shed their fluff. Now we enjoy the annual invasion of Mayflies and tourists.

COUNCIL NOTES: The FIRE DEPT. had three runs (two were structure fires). The burn ban is in effect still, particularly with the drought conditions and wild fires across Canada. The Safety Services Assessment is complete. The study included total acreage, roads, water system, structures, transportation on and off the Island, seasonal population and other variables. Items to consider: new fire station to house both EMS and fire dept. as well as all the needed equipment. It should have a training area and offices. It noted the lack of immediate mutual aid which means any fast moving fire or emergency will quickly tax local resources, including water, manpower, equipment, transportation, etc. Our 'new' fire truck is already 22 years old. The report had 22 recommendations and the majority of them can be done in-house with little or no money necessary. EMS reported 20 runs, and 10 clinic calls and reports that communication with Danbury EMS has vastly improved for the transport of patients. The search for a new VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR is over and after conducting five interviews, the Mayor selected Andy Federle who will be appointed at the next Council meeting. The Scheele paintings in the Village Office will be going to the KI Historical Assoc. for preservation and display. The POLICE DEPT reported they will have eight officers on duty this year. Remember to call 911 or the office line and NOT the individual cell phones of the officers. And, if you see something, report it, don't wait days before saying, oh by the way. There were three reports (fraud/phone harassment and stolen Golf cart-unrecovered); the dept. received 175 phone calls; made two arrests (OVI, leaving the scene, driving under suspension); one ticket for improper backing; and three warnings for speeding and parking. The dept. thanks Sgt. Tracy Susanna for the donation of a med bag, riot shield and quick vest (bulletproof). New compensation packages were approved for the Mayor and Village Clerk/Treasurer. NEW LEGISLATION read but not yet approved: \$50 license fee for golf cart rentals; new fee structure for meetings and permits (most doubled); Zoning permits fee to be increased; new rates for the transfer station. In addition Business Licenses will increase from \$45 to \$125 with the annual renewal increasing from \$5 to \$75.

JUNE 2023

May came in on blustery winds and cold weather. Gorgeous summer days alternated with cold, blustery ones. May 1 signaled the beginning of summer with the season liquor licenses activating, half-hour ferry service beginning, gift shops opening and rental golf carts arriving on the island en mass. Mid-May brought a flurry of activities: the lilac Walk burst into full bloom; 5/18 Free Museum Day, Art show at the school and the first Audubon Club potluck & program; 5/19 a dedication of the new improved glacial grooves and the midges/muffleheads arrived in full force; 5/20 Safety Services Day at the downtown dock & the EMS Spaghetti dinner; and 5/21 Island-wide cleanup. Be sure to check the Chamber website to keep up on what is happening. Papa Ts has moved over to the Kelleys Island Wine Co on Woodford. It looks like

freight charges have gone up from \$4 to \$6-10. UPS is still no freight charge to us. Science Saturdays begin at the State Park. Topics include salamanders, turtles, snakes, amphibians and reptiles. June 15 is the next Audubon pot luck with a program on coyotes. We don't get many real speeders, but (and remember our speed limit is just 25 mph) but this one was remarkable. Traveling at around 50 mph, the vehicle took a nose dive into the lake on E. Lakeshore, but fortunately (or maybe not) a tree slowed most of its momentum.

COUNCIL NOTES – All Council meetings are now on Saturday at 10 am at Kelley's Hall. Meetings with FAA are still ongoing regarding the relocation of Monaghan Road. Planning commission received four applications and the Design Review Board approved 5 applications. Streets & Sidewalks reports projects on Ward Road, downtown and various crack & seal projects. The Park board has received \$122,000 in grants and Mary Gaither will be working with the board to finalize a park plan. The Village is considering a location for a cell tower on the east side and an executive session for the "purchase of property" was cancelled. During public participation, a Huntington Ln. resident questioned the need to widen the road from 12 to 17 ft. (part of the waterline/paving project which is expected to start in June) and a request was made to locate a 6-month old BZA application. The Police Dept. received several reports (breaking and entering and fraud) and issued three warnings (speeding/overloaded cart/u-turn at intersection). Chief Bartus testified at two felony Grand Jury indictment hearings. EMS had several runs and four clinic calls and continues with training with Cleveland Metro Life Flight. The Fire Dept. also continues with training, the latest being training on electric vehicle fires and compressed natural gas fires. The Water Dept. passed its annual EPA inspection. The upstairs of the Goliath house is being updated with an intended use as housing for police. Bids will be going out for roof and gutter work on this property. There were two ordinances on first reading. A yearly increase in salary for the Mayor from \$28,000 in 2024 to \$30,596 in 2027 (the last increase was in 2019) and the village picks up 100% of the required PERS contribution. A yearly increase in salary for the Clerk Treasurer from \$56,000 in 2024 to \$61,192 in 2027 (the last increase was in 2019) and the village picks up 100% of the required PERS contribution.

MAY 2023

And so it begins. You can tell when the season starts in earnest because: there are 2-3 freight trucks at the dock, golf carts are coming out, the garlicky ramps and all those daffodils that were planted over the years (in yards, vacant lots and wooded areas) are fading and we will miss their colorful splashes of yellow. In the background the sound of boat motors now fill the quiet, and help-wanted ads are appearing on Facebook. The annual migration of out of state fishermen has started with license plates from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Idaho filling the parking lot above the launch ramp. While we like the 'good eating size' fish, they are ecstatic about a trophy size 10 pound walleye. We look forward to the opening of the businesses that hold seasonal liquor licenses on May 1; truly the official opening of the season. Check the Chamber site for all the events. The ferry schedule changes again to regular, hourly service and the early boats arriving on the Island are filled with trucks, vans and construction vehicles. While April arrived with high winds and a couple of trees downed, it looks like May will arrive with balmy weather (fingers crossed).

COUNCIL NOTES: Legislation passed changing the regular COUNCIL MEETING dates. Instead of switching between Thursdays and Saturdays, ALL Council meeting will be held on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am at the town hall and will be in recess during the months of January and February. Some long-term planning is underway for the public buildings and properties. Public meetings will be held for community input. The Park Board is also working on a master plan. Steve Wermuth is resigning as Village Administrator for personal reasons. People don't realize what a great job he did because things ran so smoothly. It is expected that a job posting will appear shortly. EMS reports that they had no runs in March (and that's a good thing) and the new EMS PowerLoad Cot should be arriving in late May or early June. The FIRE DEPT. also had no runs in March. The POLICE DEPT. had no reports, 141 department phone calls, and issued two warnings (speed and expired tags). Three bids were received for the Huntington waterline project and Council awarded the contract to D2 Excavating. The Ohio EPA

will be doing their annual review of the WATER DEPT. Council passed an ordinance updating the Rental Fee section of the Village code. Much remains the same including the waiving of rental fees for Island organizations, or events open to the general public at no charge, but changes the authority to grant the waiver from the Clerk/Treasurer to Council. It also removes the rental of the municipal building from the list of facilities available.

APRIL 2023

The Island awakens! It was strange to see so many cars downtown for opening day at the Pump. There was a full house at the West Bay for its (no) ice party. And so much food! We welcomed the *Carmen* back as the first ferry of the year left Marblehead at 8 am on Monday, March 13. While the ride over was nice and smooth, windy, snowy weather made the return trip that afternoon a little exciting. The first weekend proved to be very cold and windy. Rates went up a bit, \$1 each way for passengers and seniors and \$2 each way for cars. Yoga classes have started again at the school. Be sure to check the chamber website for events, as they are already being posted and updated. There was absolutely no ice this year, much to the chagrin of ice fishing enthusiasts (and their spouses) and very little snow. As we move into April, the snowdrops are in full bloom, thanks to the cold weather, and the crocuses and daffodils are up and racing towards a full bloom. The red-wing blackbirds are back in force. We can't wait for spring to fully burst into bloom. April events include 4/9-Easter Egg Hunt from 12-1 downtown; 4/15-Early Bird Party at the Pump; and 4/22 –the KI Wine Co. Spring Wine Fling.

Council notes: Not much happened since the December meeting and there were very few committee reports. Complaints about poor cell service on the SE side, and the related safety services notification issues, may result in the installation of a tower, which will involve some rezoning. No details yet. There were several housekeeping ordinances, changing the Council meeting day, and updating the Village property rental information, all at a first or second readings. Reports generally covered January and February. The Police Dept. received two reports (property damage and missing person). There was one arrest (OVI suspension/open container/paraphernalia), and 4 warnings (expired tags). New radios are coming to the police thanks to a grant from Hancock Wood (\$10,000). EMS has 8 runs and 9 clinic calls. They received a \$40,000 grant from the Bureau of Workers Comp. to purchase a power load cot for the secondary ambulance. The balance of the cost was raised by the KI EMS Assoc. (\$15,124). The Fire Dept had one fire run. Training continues with ice rescue and grass fire training. The Water Dept. has installed new backup chemical pumps and are accepting bids for replacing the plant tow motor and roof repairs for the lab building and low service station. There were a reported 3 service line leaks during the cold snap before Christmas. The Park Board is ready to move forward on the purchase of the Phase I playground on Addison. The purchase, however, may depend on the submission of a comprehensive master plan for the area. Grants came from the Erie Foundation, Sidney Frohman Foundation, Mylander Foundation, Dorn Foundation, KI Landowners Assoc., an insurance donation and a rather large private donation. A complaint was brought to Council about the Zoning Inspector's involvement in a conflict of interest issue on a 3-month old BZA application. Great job by the Village Administrator on seeking out and securing so many grants.

MARCH 2023

This was the winter of no ice. The annual ice party became the no-ice party. We will miss the expanded social hours and Wii bowling at the VFW (the only place open in the winter). The Pump will be the first to open on March 3. The first council meeting of the year will be Saturday March 11 at 10 am at Kelley's Hall. The big news is that the ferry will be starting on March 13. Our favorite newspaper, Kelleys Life, is no more, but it is being replaced by a new newspaper called Life on Kelleys. Issues will come out in May, June, July and August. The Post Office has new equipment. You can now run your own credit cards. The Erie County Health Center on Addison officially opened. Staff still visits on Fridays and you need to call and make an appointment. The School Board approved another Yoga class, probably starting in mid-March. The Board specified that it would be for residents only.

It was a very good year for Island businesses. The Village received \$385,839 in Resort Tax revenue, the result of almost \$26 million in taxable sales (ferry, gift shop sales, dining in, etc.). Quite the rebound from Covid years. Our library did well too - Adult items circulated-1,394; Children's items-438 for a total of 1,832 items circulated. There were 227 items added to the Kelleys Island Branch Collection. This is down from previous years.

The State of the Village report by the Mayor included plans for capital improvements. Huntington will be getting a new waterline in the spring and paving after construction. A tar & chip project is planned for Fairview Ln., Lakeview, Crestline and Lake Courts. The Airport will get new LED lighting with 90% funded by the FAA.

FEBRUARY 2023

All anyone could talk about was the Big Storm of Dec. 23/24. We didn't get much snow, just enough to turn everything white, but the winds were exceptional. Surprisingly, just a very few large tree limbs came down. The Lake was down about three feet leaving docks and beaches exposed. The whole island ground to a stop. With no planes flying due to fog and no ferry boat, the Post Office was a desolate place. To add to the isolation, FRONTIER phone lines went down and as people complained, they insisted there was no outage. Five days later they notified us that here was an area wide outage involving 300 customers. If you have an outage, be sure to contact Frontier to request a credit for the time you were out. They do not automatically credit your account unless you request it.

The VFW has started its Wii bowling league and social hours again this winter, with a pot luck on Sunday. The LIBRARY reduced its hours two just two days a week - Monday and Thursday from 1-3. The YOGA classes are surprisingly popular. Two classes a week with a total of about 30 people attending one or both of the classes. There is no Council meeting in February.

Tom Bartlett finished up bird banding for the year with 1937 birds, 81 species. Owls: 134 Northern Saw-whets, seven Eastern Screech and four foreign Recapped Saw-Whets. He will begin again in April. Mystery Hill (that mountain and water fall) near the new roundabout is gone. It came down over a couple of days and was made of fiberglass. Now it is just a boring RV campground. On the other hand, Handless Jacques now has hands and is looking pretty dapper near the gas station on the road to the Island.

FERRY SERVICE - On Dec. 26 the ferry tried valiantly to make a trip. It was all clear until they got to the KI dock. Ramming the ice that had piled up against the shore and dock did not work, it was just too thick to break through. Days later they used a back hoe to break up and remove the ice from the dock and the ferry ran for the first time since the 22nd on December 31. That trip was something to see. With only the crunching of the ice to herald her approach, the *Shirley* rose from fog like a ghost ship. She managed to plow through an ice ridge 3 ft. thick and made it into the dock breaking up 5-10" chunks of ice. All in all it took her 1-1/4 hours to get here from Marblehead. A full load came over, with a half load going back and they ran just one more ferry that day. There were about 30 cars parked on the dock just waiting to watch her arrival after more than a week without service with everyone cheering and honking their horns to greet her. The last ferry was January 8. It was a rough start for freight as it had piled up at the Marblehead dock while the ferry was stuck in Marblehead and had to be transported to Griffing. For a couple of weeks there was no system for notifying people, so freight began piling up. Residents often took to calling friends and posting names on Facebook notifying them that they had freight at the airport. That has all been worked out now with text messages being sent again.

JANUARY 2023

In November, there were several days of high winds and temperatures in the low 30s on Thanksgiving. The highway rotary in Lakeside/Marblehead is finally open, making travel a bit easier. Freight has switched over to the airport. Real estate tax bills are due, and if you didn't get yours, better call the Recorder's office. Delinquent tax notices were published in the Register and there were some big ticket ones. The VFW Facebook page is back up and running again. When the latest issue of Kelleys Life came out (Nov/Dec) we were surprised to learn that it would be the last issue. This great newspaper first appeared in May 2009. Sharon Leidheiser, the publisher, said: "This will be the final issue of the Kelleys Life Newspaper. Due to the high cost of doing business, the newspaper can no longer exist, and it is not a viable business to sell." We are going to miss it, although rumors abound that 'someone' is going to take it over. Another Island business is up for sale. The Kelleys Island Brewery property (known locally as the Brew Pub) is on the market for \$1.3 million. The listing is a bit confusing. It says: Offer Price Reflects Non-Restaurant/Bar Business Moving Forward With Deed Restriction.

The holidays are over and December was a busy month. There was a great Christmas pot luck (now under the management of the Fire Dept. Assoc.) at historic Kelley's Hall and, for the first time in several years, we had a school play! Congratulations to our school cross-country team (Nikolay & Viktoriya Skeans and Josie Gaither) on their first successful year. They were honored at a ceremony at the school and almost 30 people attended the event. The Christmas shopping trip aboard the KI Ferry was really well attended. Remember when it was offered for just one day? People would take their cars down to the dock the evening before to be sure to get on the early ferry. We missed mail one day due to heavy fog and the next day, while still foggy, the mail came over on the boat. Griffing announced a rate hike (\$100 round trip). Christmas Day came in after high winds, some rain, then cold temps.

COUNCIL NOTES: The village office has a new look. The walled offices have come down and there is a new 'wood' floor throughout. It is a lot brighter. The new **ERIE COUNTY HEALTH CLINIC** will open in January (located in the house next to the village office on Addison). The **WATER DEPT.** reported that it fixed several leaks, and is moving forward on the Huntington Rd. waterline project, which is planned for next year. The village received an additional \$113,000 in FAA funds for the airport. The **PARK BOARD** has fully funded phase I of the playground project with \$15,000 from the Dorn & Frohman Foundations, and is now working on phase II. The **POLICE DEPT.** Reported activity for the year: 108 reports, 2637 phone calls; 8 disorderly intox.; 4 underage driver; 1 felony gun possession; 4 underage consumption; 5 thefts; 2 menacing; 4 open container; 4 warrants (2 felony); 17 property damage; 4 hit and run; 4 unauthorized use; and 1 felonious assault. Jack Wade and Erik Melendex are rehired for 2023 (\$20/hour). Year end report the **EMS:** 133 runs and 133 clinic calls. The new generator for the EMS station and Kelley's Hall has been installed. Hancock Wood provided a grant that helped make this possible. The **FIRE DEPT.** reported 1 run and 7 runs year to date. The **MAYOR'S CREPORT** included some interesting figures. In 2018 there were 157 tickets issued with \$31,425 paid to the Village general fund. In 2022, there were 49 tickets issued and \$7,805 paid to the Village. Council is considering changing all Council Meetings to Saturdays at 10 am with an official recess in January and February.