

LIFE ON KELLEYS

THE EMERALD ISLE NEWS



Glacial Grooves Project Wins ACEC Ohio Honor Award

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Ohio announced their Engineering Excellence Awards for 2024, selecting the Kelleys Island Glacial Grooves project in Kelleys Island, Ohio for an Honor Award.

The Glacial Grooves Erosion Protection and Site Improvement project safeguards a National Natural Landmark from continuing erosion and degradation for future generations while delivering an immersive barrier-free viewing experience at this popular tourist attraction. Because of their large size and accessibility, the glacial grooves are arguably the most famous in the world and a critical feature to local residents, visitors, historians, scientists, and students alike. This geologic feature provides valuable

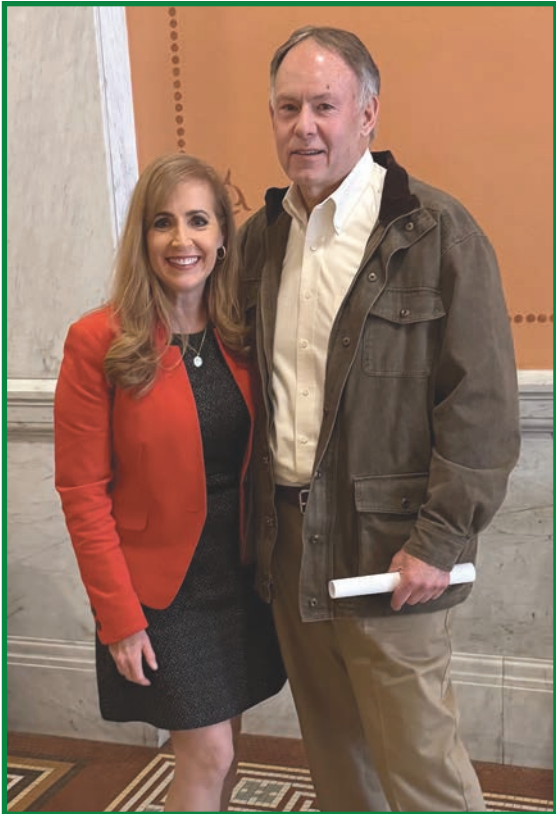
information about the movement of the glaciers that shaped the landscape of the Great Lakes region.

The grooves have been exposed to weathering and erosion since fully excavated in 1972, with the original stairs, bridges, and perimeter fencing functioning for decades. Permanent protective measures were needed to address rock weathering, vegetation encroachment, surface water and seepage, and erosion. Site improvements were desired to replace aging infrastructure, improve site access, and provide better safety for visitors.

The project team sought to integrate engineering solutions into the overall site

Please turn to page 2

From the Mayor's Desk



State Senator Theresa Gavarone and Mayor Ron Ehrbar at the Statehouse.

Wow, it has been a busy, cold winter and I'm sure glad it is over. I would like to get you caught up on a couple of items that have been happening this winter.

First, much gratitude goes out to those that have worked very hard on the Transient Rental legislation, especially Sue Taylor, our Transient Rental clerk. She has spent many hours sorting, understanding and putting together all the information received, putting it in order to have it on our village website. She has answered many questions and will continue to do so. On the same topic, I was in Columbus at the State House to testify in opposition of Senate Bill 104. This bill was introduced to limit municipalities control of B&Bs, and Short-Term rentals. I believe residents rightfully expect their local governments to maintain a level of control over zoning and land use matters, including the regulation of short-term rentals. Stripping municipalities of this authority would undermine their ability to protect neighborhoods and preserve the character of their communities. While in Columbus, I met with Senator Gavarone on this and other matters. She has been tremendous help to us and all northwestern Ohio.

Secondly, KEM, the engineering firm doing the design and planning stage of our Sanitary Sewer system, has completed the surveying and is now moving on to the next phase, soil boring. KEM and the village have had several meetings with Ohio EPA and we are looking for funding help from them. I can't thank enough our Lobbyist, Nathanael Johnhenry, legislators Rep DJ Swearingen and Senator Gavarone for funding and their constant support in our endeavors.

Finally, there will be some road paving projects to contend with later this summer and fall which will be including Fairview and Lake Court. That is it for Village news currently, so enjoy hopefully an early summer.

Ron

Village Information:

Website: www.kelleysisland.us

The Village of Kelleys Island Website contains all Public meeting Notices, Currently Passed Legislation, Council Minutes and information and updates for all departments.

Thanks for the memories, Big Chuck

Caroline Jorski

On Sunday, January 19, 2025 at the age of 90, legend "Big Chuck" Schodowski passed away leaving many of us with fond memories of his role in sketches such as: "The Kielbasa Kid," (in which he played a bumbling cowboy), "Cuyahoga Jones" (a take-off of Indiana Jones) and "The Certain Ethnic", which he created as a loving homage to his Polish heritage.

He began his career behind the camera, as a technician, in 1960 when he moved from KYW-TV (now WKYC) to WJW-TV (Channel 8). Schodowski loved his editing skills even though he worked his way up as an official Director of WJW where he maintained his celebrity status.

Many celebrities were seen on the show including Andy Griffith, Muhammad Ali, Tim Conway and Drew Carey.

Although Schodowski maintained a home in Hinckley, Ohio, he also made Kelleys Island his home away from home. In 1965 he came to Kelleys Island with his young family even though he had never heard of it and had never even known there were islands in Lake Erie!

Chuck and his wife, June spent a lot of time on the Island along with their five grown



children and 14 grandchildren. After he retired, he had more time to spend with his family at the summer retreat which was a parcel with two homes, one of them a cottage that was once a Sohio gas station, built in the 1920s.

There will only be one "Big Chuck" and we'll miss him. Thanks for all you gave us.

SCRAP METAL RE-CYCLING DAY

Where: Kelleys Island Transfer Station

When: Saturday, June 1, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or until the container is full

Cost: Free event with the exception of Freon Removal; \$25 per appliance.

Transfer Station Hours of Operation:

Winter Hours: Wed., Fri., Sat., Sunday 11am – 3 pm

Summer Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sunday 10 am – 3 pm

Water / Transfer Billing Clerk Hours: April – January: Friday 8 – 4pm & Saturday 10 – 2 pm

February – March: Every other Saturday 10 – 2 pm

The Kelleys Island Historical Association: Since 1980



Old Stone Church

Carmen Smith

The Kelleys Island Historical Association (KIHA) was formed in 1980 with the primary objective of purchasing the Old Stone Church. The Church was vacated in 1956 and suffered from neglect and deterioration.

The Historic church became the property of the Historical Association in 1986. Repairs, restoration, and maintenance have been ongoing. The Parsonage House and its outhouse building were also acquired at that time. The Church initially served as a gift shop with a few displays of the history of the island. As more items were donated, the need for a new museum was obvious. In June 2010, The Association opened the doors to the new Museum which stands at the location of the 'haul shed' that was used to house the horses and buggies while parishioners attended services. It was not until 2017 that the Parsonage House was opened to the public. It began as a small resale shop selling items displayed primarily in the front room and dining area. The rest of the house had been cleaned by volunteers, for the public to view. The Resale business grew and grew, until in the fall of 2022 a new building was erected on



Historical Association Museum

campus called, "Sis's Cottage." The building was aptly and fondly named after Florence (nee Betzenhiemer), who was the last occupant of the home. Memberships help fund The Museum Campus buildings and mission. Large fundraisers have been held to raise substantial amounts of money needed for the Association to maintain the historic buildings and its ever-growing museum collections. With the success of the business, "The Parsonage House and Sis's Cottage Resale Shop," the Association has not held a major fundraiser in a few years. This year, 2025, a major fundraiser has begun! Kelleys Island Historical Association's "Free" Ride Fundraiser. With only 500 tickets being sold, the winner will get a \$500.00 gift card to the KI Ferry Boat. The drawing will be held



July 4, 2025. Tickets are currently on sale for \$10.00 each at The Parsonage House Resale Shop, The KI Historical Museum, and from current KIHA Board Members. Thank you to Ray Schaefer Construction for their sponsorship. There is a possibility for another, similar raffle to begin soon after this publication is made. Check with KIHA for more information.

May 24th Opening Day for the Kelleys Island History Museum
224-226 Division Street, Kelleys Island
May 17th FREE Admission

Glacial Grooves

continued from page 1

elements, envisioning an opportunity to extend beyond protecting and preserving the feature.

Project Impact

This project implemented measures to protect and preserve the grooves, to reduce erosion, and to enhance visitor experience and safety. The elevated pedestrian bridge walkway and custom railing system facilitate an immersive visual experience, while the integrated stormwater management system directs runoff away from the grooves and protects the underlying fractured rock from erosion and groundwater infiltration.

The custom pedestrian bridge incorporates a mid- span forward-looking point to reflect the form of a glacier advancing over the land. At the forward pinnacle, visitors experience the natural history and culture of Kelleys Island, looking west across the historical quarry, and east and down vertically into the grooves.



The site location five miles from the mainland in Lake Erie presented design and construction challenges. The unique logistics meant that all personnel, equipment, and materials were transported via a 40-minute seasonal and weather-dependent ferry boat trip.

The site arrangement, design, and selection of materials sought to minimize the visual impact of the infrastructure while integrating engineering and stormwater management solutions and allowing the visual focus to remain on the glacial grooves and surrounding vistas.

Glacial Grooves, 739 Division St.
ohiohistory.org/visit/museum-and-site-locator/
glacial-grooves

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MAY EVENTS

3rd - Derby Day
11th - VP Mother's Day Dinner
26th - Memorial Day
28th - Ohio Bike Week KI Day

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Kelleys Island

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2025 Chamber Events

June 1
5/10K Run/Walk/Fun Run

June 4
Ohio Bike Week:
Kelleys Island Dice Run

June 22
Brew Cruise III
to Kelleys Island:
Witches Walk the Plank

July 18-20
IslandFest

August 2
FilmFest

Sept 6
Treasure Island Days

Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce Update

Zoey Vargo,
Executive Director

Farewell to Winter, Hello to Summer: Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce Gears Up for a Season of Events and New Beginnings

As the last traces of winter melt away and the waters of Lake Erie begin to sparkle under longer days, Kelleys Island is awakening from its seasonal slumber with anticipation and fresh energy. The coming months promise not only sunshine and lake breezes but also a full calendar of events, new leadership, and a reinvigorated spirit thanks to exciting changes at the Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce. The first ferries have been full of visitors, islanders are ready to welcome the 2025 season, and all the excitement it brings.

Summer Events on the Horizon

Kicking off the island’s bustling season on June 1st, runners and walkers will lace up for the annual Kelleys Island 5K/10K, an event that weaves through some of the most picturesque parts of the island and draws participants of all ages (*See map for race route and road closures on the right*).

On June 4th, Ohio Bike Week: Dice Run motocyclists from across the region will invade the island for a weekday full of scenic rides, lakeside vibes, and island living.

Later in the summer, the community will celebrate local culture and heritage with the beloved IslandFest Weekend (July 18-20), a multi-day festival featuring food, music, art vendors, and fireworks over the lake.

Wrapping up the season with creativity and conversation, the Kelleys Island FilmFest (Aug 2) will once again transform the island park into a movie-lover's haven with open-air screenings and a curated lineup of films.

Each Chamber event reflects the spirit of Kelleys Island—laid back, welcoming, and full of character. Our members have an array of events planned for the 2025 season. Be sure to check them out on our website.

A Fresh Look and New Leadership

This year also marks a period of renewal for the Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce, which has welcomed several new board members eager to serve the island community. With fresh perspectives and a shared passion for preserving the island’s charm while promoting sustainable growth, the updated board is already making an impact.

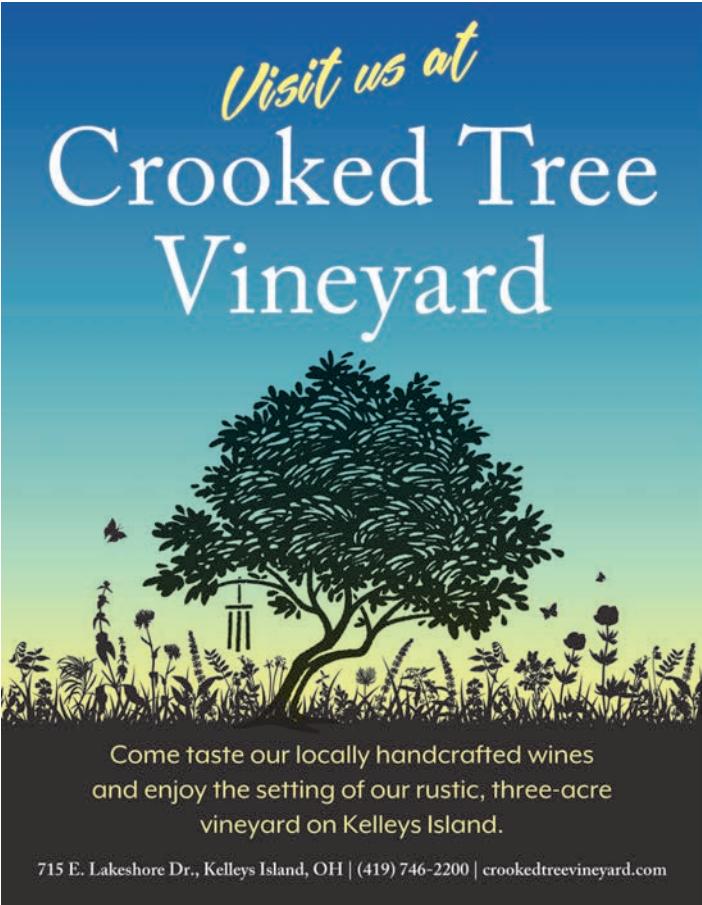
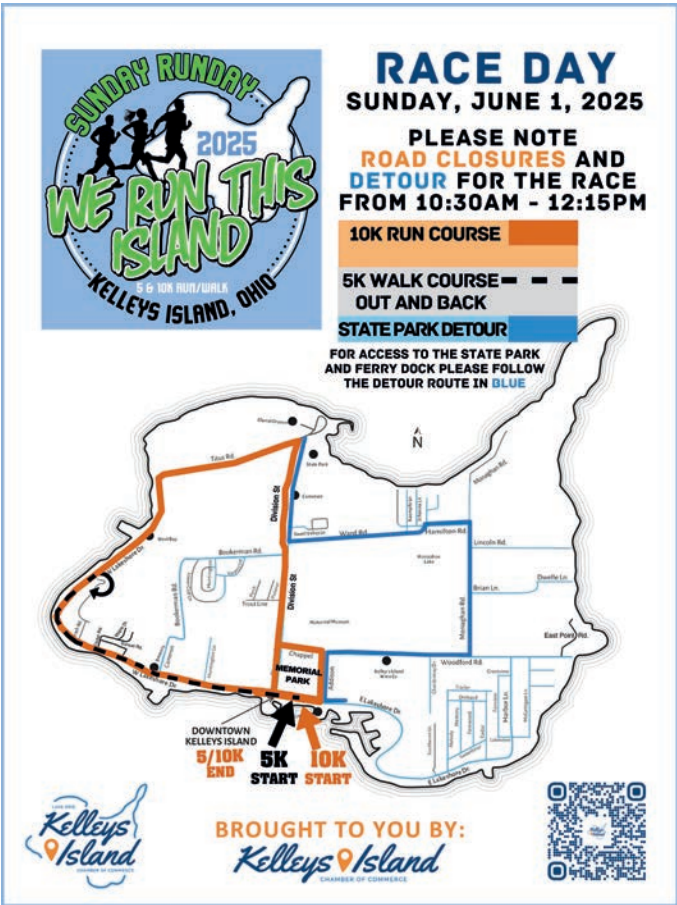
Alongside this leadership change comes a refresh of the Chamber’s brand, including a modernized logo, updated materials, and a renewed focus on collaboration with local businesses and organizations. The rebranding aims to better reflect the unique energy of the island while strengthening its appeal to visitors, business owners and year-round residents.

We’re excited to move into this new season, not only of weather but of vision. There’s a vibrant momentum on Kelleys Island right now—from the events to the community involvement—and we’re looking forward to sharing that with everyone who visits or calls the island home.

Ready for the Sunshine

As boats begin to dock, cottages reopen, and island businesses come back to life, Kelleys Island stands ready to welcome the warmth—and all who come with it. Whether you’re visiting for a weekend or staying all summer long, 2025 promises to be one for the books on this little slice of Lake Erie paradise.

Should you need any additional information please contact:
Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce
info@kelleysislandchamber.com
or 419-746-2360



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A photograph of a modern bedroom interior. It features a large bed with a white and blue plaid headboard, a white nightstand, and a white armchair. The room has large windows and a modern design.

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Nature Camp 2025

The Kelleys Island Field Station is excited to host our 8th year of Nature Camp this summer! This summer, we will combine exploring the great outdoors with learning about the amazing biodiversity found on Kelleys Island. Experienced naturalists will lead daily field trips, and We are excited to announce the 8th year of our Kelleys Island Nature Camp, hosted by the Kelleys Island Schools Field Station! The 2025 theme is "Amazing Animals," we have an All-star lineup of partners joining us, including Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory, Back to the Wild, the Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center, Erie Metro Parks, and more. Campers will have various opportunities for up-close and hands-on interactions with a

diverse range of Ohio's native animals, allowing campers to learn about ecology and conservation while exploring and having fun.

Nature Camp goes far beyond the traditional classroom experience by allowing participants to step outside and get up close and personal with the nature around them.

We look forward to working with the kids again. Please contact us with any questions or suggestions.

The Nature Camp Registration Form can be found at:

<https://www.kelleys.k12.oh.us/field-station-programs/>
OR Scan the QR Code
Jackie Taylor and
the Nature Camp Crew
jtaylor@kelleys.k12.oh.us



Camp Dates & Times			
Intro to Nature Camp (4yrs.)			
June 23-27	10-11am		\$50.00
My 1st Nature Camp (5-6yrs.)			
June 23-27	11:30am-12:30pm		\$50.00
Nature Camp (7-8yrs.)			
June 23-27	1-2:30pm		\$75.00
Environmental Adventure Camp I (9-10yrs.)			
June 30-July 4	10AM-12PM		\$100.00
Environmental Adventure Camp II (11-12)			
June 30-July 4	12:30-2:30PM		\$100.00

2025 Science Saturdays

Science Saturdays is a partnership between Kelleys Island State Park, Kelleys Island Audubon Club, and the Kelleys Island Field Station. This weekly series of events features interactive exploration of a particular wildlife topic. Families and learners of all ages are invited to explore hands-on science fun during this free drop-in event, which runs from 10 am to 12pm on Saturdays through Labor Day.

May 24	Plankton & Macroinvertebrates
	Heidelberg University-
	Dr. Doug Kane
May 31	Salamanders
June 7	Frogs
June 14	TBA
June 21	Turtles
June 28	Fishing
July 5	TBA
July 12	Turtles

July 19	Island Fest
July 26	Butterflies
August 2	TBA
August 9	KI Homecoming
August 16	Ohio Geological Society - Geology
	Pollinators & Pancakes
August 23	
August 30	Monarch Butterflies



Exercise Classes Resume on Kelleys Island

Janet Killam
As soon as school gets out and the gym is open to us all, Janet's SLIMAGE exercise classes shall start up again!
We meet every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 10 AM.
The Slimage method of these gatherings is to teach all levels, beginners, intermediates and advanced students to utilize all the muscle groups in the body. We musically warm up and one movement flows into the next ending with a short relaxation until the hour is over.
We combine movements from exercise, yoga, pilates, stretching, balance and control, various standing and floor exercises, more stretching, use shiatzu, and even work our fingers, toes and facial muscles.
Sometimes we use various apparatuses found in the gym. For example balls, stretch bars and weights.
Just bring yourself, no matter what level you're at, and some water to drink.
That's all you need.
Call Janet for more information at 419-304-3095

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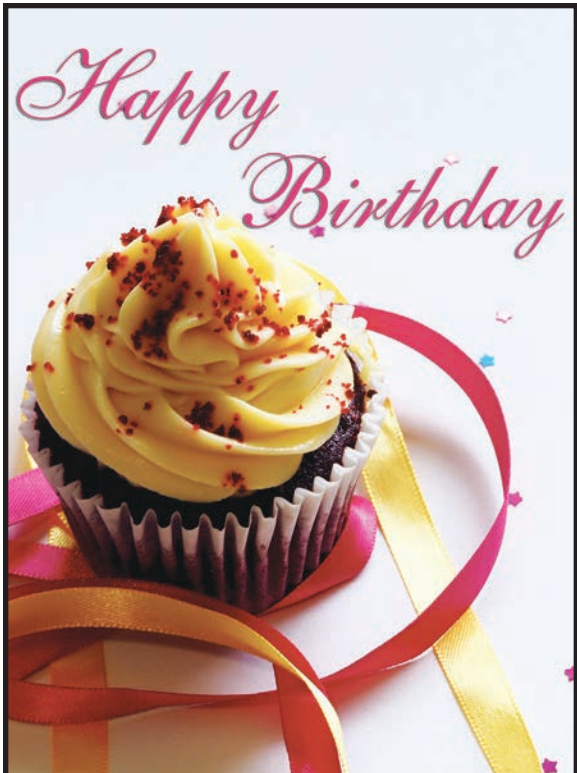


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- MAY
- 1- Molly Leckler

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3—Barbara Feyedelem Donnelly

4 - Bill Campbell Sr.

5 - Eric Nedrow

5 - Jerry Rovder

5-Jean Solomon

6 - Deb Haig

7- Kirt Zettler

8- Jodie Smith

12 - Kathi Thomas

12- Paige Fisher

13- Heidi Quinn

13 - Randy Lorenz

14—Jonathan Burns

15- Connor McCafferty

18- Sandra Elfers Cairelli

19 - Angela Burns

22 - Mark Priebe

24- Dan Kranyak

24- Kyle McCafferty

24 - Ken Weibel

25—Janet Beck

25- Ron Ehrbar

25- Victor Elfers

25- Joe Joyce

29—Beverly Vetovitz

30 - Alison Priebe

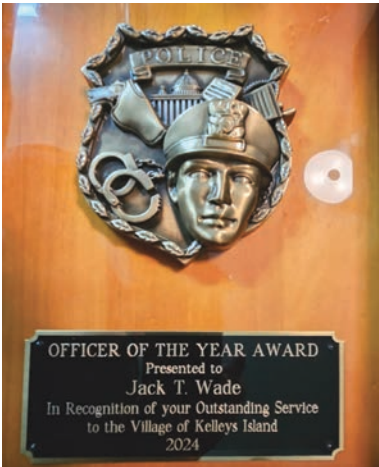
Island Safety Service Members Commended



KELLEYS ISLAND — Members of Kelleys Island's safety services team received recognition and honors, obtaining Life Saving Awards for their actions over the summer.

- Among the recipients:
- EMS director Russ Maust
 - Village police Chief James Bartus
 - Dr. Jeremiah Escajeda with University Hospital
 - Village fire Chief Robert Skeans
 - EMS officials Kelley Bachman-Schaefer, Olivia Siko and Chris Reinhart

Congratulations to Police Officer Jack Wade who was named Officer of the Year for 2024 by the KI Police Dept. The award is given at the annual banquet and was presented to him in recognition of his outstanding service to the Village of Kelleys Island. Officer Wade has served this community for over 10 years.



Kelleys Island School and Field Station Certified as a WILD School Site, September 14, 2024

Ohio Division of Wildlife has designated Kelleys Island School and Field Station as a Wild School Site on September14, making it the first in Erie County to receive this honor. This recognition underscores the commitment to fostering wildlife and environmental education, providing avaluable resource for students, educators, and the broader community to connect with and learn from the natural world on Kelleys Island.

In recognition of these accomplishments, Representative Marcy Kaptur honored us on

September 13, by flying the American Flag at the Nation's Capital in Washington, D.C. On October 3rd, Jackie Taylor, Kelleys Island Schools Field Station Director was honored at the Governor's Mansion for the valuable contributions and partnerships with the Ohio Division of Wildlife. And on November 9th, the Kelleys Island Schools Field Station received a Proclamation honoring September 14 as Kelleys Island Field Station Day, a prestigious acknowledgment that recognizes the dedication of the entire community.



Jackie Taylor with Governor DeWine at the Governor's Mansion.



2025 Kelleys Island Schools Nature Camp Sponsorship

We are excited to announce the 8th year of our Kelleys Island Nature Camp, hosted by the Kelleys Island Schools Field Station! The 2025 theme is "Amazing Animals," and we have an All-star lineup of partners joining us, including Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory, Back to the Wild, the Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center, Erie Metro Parks, and more. Campers will have a variety of opportunities for up-close and hands-on interactions with a diverse range of Ohio's native animals.

To ensure that every child can experience the wonder of Nature Camp, we are continuing our Nature Camp Sponsorship Program. The cost of hosting these high-quality programs is significant, and we strive to

keep camp affordable for all families. Your sponsorship will help us meet the growing demand and provide this unique opportunity to even more children from all backgrounds. Sponsorship levels start at just \$100, with additional benefits available at higher levels.

We would be honored if you would consider becoming a Nature Camp Sponsor. Your support will make a real difference in the lives of many young people.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Jackie Taylor
Kelleys Island Schools Field Station Director
jtaylor@kelleys.k12.oh.us

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Submissions to Life on Kelleys Articles, ideas, photos, letters to the editor and newsworthy items are welcomed. Submissions must be singled-spaced with paragraph indentations (no double spacing between paragraphs). Provide email or telephone contact information for follow up or clarification of details.

Editor's Note: Stories written without a by-line are written or compiled by Life on Kelleys editor. Life on Kelleys is not responsible for the views of its writers or editor.

Photos: We want and welcome your photos for Life on Kelleys, please send them. The photos should be 300dpi and sent via e-mail in a jpeg format to the editor. No exceptions.

There is PICKLEBALL for ALL on Kelleys Island!

Janet Killam

There is open Pickleball play for everyone interested on Kelleys Island!

We play at the COMMUNITY PARK on Addison Road every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 10 AM.

If the weather is inclement, we play indoors at the school as soon as the students have finished the year.

After 3:45 PM, the school is open and we can use the courts inside the gymnasium then.

All you need do is show up with some rubber sole shoes and a smile.

We have nets, balls, and even extra paddles if you need them

Contact for more information

Janet Killam at 419-304-3095 or Drew Algase at 734-748-6839

See you on the courts!



Pickleball aficionados in the front court is the fierce Tom Pieratt and his partner Debbie Plonski. In the far court is Bistra and her partner Brian Plonski.

Erie County Notification System

This service allows you to sign up to get emergency and community alerts on your cell phone, text message, email, and more. You can also choose the locations you want to be contacted about.

This is a free service provided by the Erie County Emergency Management Agency. Alerts will originate from 69310 for text messages, 419-627-7560 for voice notifications, and noreply@eriecounty.oh.gov for email. Please be sure to save these in your phone and/or address book.

Sign up at https://entry.inspironlogistics.com/erie_oh/wens.cfm

*Message and Data rates may apply.

Bugle Call: Kelleys Island Post 9908 of the VFW

Paul Burns, Quartermaster

A very happy Spring to everyone. We had, as one of supporters told me recently the best winter season on the island with our canteen open six days a week. I do agree with that but only from afar, unfortunately my schedule did not permit me a winter visit, as they say, maybe next year. We would very much like to thank each of our three bartenders, Alfred, Mell, and Dani for the fantastic job they did for our post and our community. Thank you!

There were many activities over the winter months, euchre tournaments, KI EMS dinners, a Wii™ Bowling league all contributed to the fun that was on the island this winter.

Our Post 9908 hosted our second District 9 meeting last Fall. We also hosted the District VFW Auxiliary the same day. Both groups had a really good turnout and enjoyed their time on the island. Our VFW Department of Ohio Commander, Kari Pfeifer was in attendance at the meeting.

We will be holding a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Kelleys Island cemetery on May 26th at 11am. Please join us if you can so that we may remember the sacrifices made by the few so that we all can enjoy our freedom. We will be opening the canteen after the ceremony.

Saturday, June 28th we will be cooking our famous grilled chicken dinner. Tickets will be available at the canteen. Always a fun and a well-attended community event.

We would be remiss if we did not



Memorial Day Ceremony 2024

acknowledge and say thank you to Ann our canteen manager who is starting, I believe, her seventh season with us. She has been the reason our canteen is a success. Our pavilion is available for your events stop by the canteen, talk with Ann to check of availability.

Again, if not for the support of our community our post would not be as successful as it has been. We want to thank everyone for that support.

We are always looking for veterans to join the ranks with us in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of America. If you have received a campaign medal for overseas service; or have served 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in Korea; or have ever received hostile fire or imminent danger pay, then you're eligible to join our ranks. Please contact one of our members or, stop by our Post, or email us at us VFW9908@gmail.com for more details.

Save the Date:
July 15, 2025

Join us for a free member event!
More details to come.
www.hwe.coop

Kelleys Island Make-A-Wish Swim & Golf Cart Poker Run

"Watching Over our Kids"

Jeni Hammond

Eagles, the ease of their aerial display is a sight to behold. Keen eyesight and powerful wings work together to create a majestic flight as they watch over us here on Kelleys Island. For 31 years, Cindra & I have been granting life changing wishes for children and families in our area. Last year at the end of October we donated over \$51,000, granting at least 5 Wishes. Thanks to you and everyone who donated so selflessly. This year we will again be swimming into the Casino Dock. Come and greet us as we stroke in and greet our Make-A-Wish children and families.



Mark your calendars and get your reservations in now for:

Saturday, August 2nd - MAW Golf Cart Poker Run [9am-5pm]

Sunday, August 3rd - Cindra & Jeni Swim from Carpenters Point to The Casino & MAW after party at the Ballpark [12 noon-3pm]

More information to be announced in the next issue of Life on Kelleys. "T" shirts are coming soon!

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Reflections on the 2024-2025 school year



Hannah Kulka
As the 2024-2025 school year winds down, we reflect on another enriching, successful, and joy-filled year for our students and staff.
Our students ventured beyond the classroom for mainland educational experiences and field trips including visits to the Historic Lyme Village, Spiegel Grove, and Mini Main Street. Students attended a performance of Ellis Island by the Toledo Symphony, as well as a performance of Nord Education Concerts by The Cleveland Orchestra.
One of our most heartwarming achievements was a student-led fundraiser that benefitted the Erie County Humane Society. Students visited the shelter to deliver the donated funds and were able to tour the facility to meet some of the sweet animals the fundraiser would help. Students also volunteered at Victory Kitchen, helping to prepare food that would be served on Thanksgiving.

Within the walls of our beautiful school, students participated in lively classroom discussions, book reports, STEM challenges and more! School Board President Janet Wermuth shared her insight on the unique and beneficial classroom environment at KI school. "The students are truly receiving an education that is customized to their individual learning style. The teachers develop the curriculum around the state standards, but adapt the instruction of the required content in a way that their particular students will fully grasp. In a larger school setting instruction is based on the needs of the majority rather than a personal focus. Also, you just see the joy in the students' eyes when they talk about their experiences at the school," Wermuth said.
As spring blooms and the weather improves, students will begin having some classroom time in our outdoor classroom space, one of the many new improvements made to the property

this year. Other projects include the revamping of the community garden and the gymnasium renovation project. Wermuth praised the improvements. "The enhancement and improvements to the school's campus this year have been monumental. The work coordinated by Rost Zettler, Maintenance Director, spans the replacement of the emergency generator system to the refurbishing of the school garden... Other plans are being explored as the board works to preserve the school's heritage and improve safety features of the campus for our students and visitors," Wermuth said.
Superintendent Ben Ohlemacher echoed many of the sentiments expressed by Wermuth, demonstrating a deep appreciation to all that contribute to the day-to-day operations of the district. "As we reflect on a truly successful school year, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our amazing students,

dedicated parents, hardworking staff, and supportive Board of Education. Your collective efforts, positivity, and commitment to excellence have made this year one to remember.
A special thank you goes out to the entire Kelleys Island School community—your unwavering support continues to inspire and uplift everything we do to create a truly one-of-a-kind learning environment," Ohlemacher stated.



Council Notes

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Leslie Korenko
Since the last issue of Life on Kelleys last year, Council has met each month except January and February. The meetings have been relatively short and you can attend remotely via Zoom. The link is on the Village website. The April meeting lasted just 18 minutes with 20 people attending.
The POLICE DEPT. reported that they currently have 6 officers (some in their 4th year on the Island), and 3 in the process of being hired with 2 additional candidates under consideration. They received 5 reports and issued 3 warnings (speeding and stop sign). New cameras will be installed on several Village buildings including the Police station and Kelley's Hall. Our EMS had 3 runs and 6 clinic calls. FIRE DEPT. had no runs (good news) and reported that Ohio has issued a burn ban until the end of May.
PLANNING COMMISSION will meet on April 24 to consider some code changes. Only 2 Resolutions were passed, both certifying the tax valuation for tax levies which will be on the November ballot.
Chris Kipfer has been appointed

BZA alternate.
Citizen participation included a request that Fairview Lane be repaired or share plans for repaving and concerns about EPA cuts that would affect the Sewer plans and whether the Village was looking at alternate options.
There was a second reading on a raise for the Zoning Inspector (increase to \$27,000), which begs the question of why the Village is increasing the ZI salary when his workload will be substantially reduced due to the City of Sandusky taking over the permit process. The Village is still waiting for the city of Sandusky to formalize the agreement for the 'review of building plans and specifications, and providing building inspection service to establish and maintain building department services for commercial, residential and public buildings in the Village...' This means, any alterations to a building or construction on a lot must meet village requirements. Sandusky will process the permits and do the inspections. Work not done as described in the permit will be halted and the owners fined.

Short Term Rental Legislation Update

Leslie Korenko
It has been a long journey for the Transient Rental program. The original ordinance 2024-0-14 was passed in August. A referendum petition was filed which was ultimately declared invalid and the ordinance was repealed. The new ordinance was changed every time it appeared before Council. KIND (K I Neighborhoods Development) made several 'compelling' recommendations (per David Lambros) and Ordinance 2024-O-23 finally passed in November with these changes. The deadline for registering is May 31 and information can be found on the Village website KelleysIsland.us. What is the cost to a Transient Rental property owner? Around \$1000 (\$600 for the yearly

application, \$200 for the Safety Inspection and \$200 for the septic inspection, more if pump out is needed). The two inspections are good for three years. OH SB 104, currently making its way through the legislature, will be dealing with this matter. It is a proposed change to the Ohio Revised Code to limit the authority of local governments to regulate short-term rental properties, to extend local lodging taxes to short-term rentals, to require collection of those taxes by short-term rental platforms. Part of this bill will set limits on costs for the necessary license. <https://legiscan.com/OH/bill/SB104/2025>. With the late start to the ferry, people are scrambling to get their inspections scheduled.

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Wow! Stunning Lake views From Multiple Rooms and Decks Makes This a Very Unique Island Home! This 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath Home Is Located in The Desirable Southaven Subdivision.

\$697,500



NEW LISTING

208 JOHANNA LANE

Windows with a View! This Is A Rare Opportunity To Obtain A Island Lakefront Home in The Keampfe/Johanna Sandy Beach Community on The North Bay. Over 500' of Neighborhood Beach!

\$679,900



NEW LISTING

203 LOWER CLIFF

Built in 2010, This Island Oasis Getaway is Move In Ready! The 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath Home Has All the Amenities of Home and Much, Much More! Check Out the Pool and Oversized Cabana!

\$554,900



NEW LISTING

145 ORCHARD LANE

This 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Home was Constructed in 2010. Unwind, Relax and Entertain on the Oversized Back Deck with Gazebo (378 Sq Ft of TREX Decking).

\$517,500



NEW LISTING

205 LOWER CLIFF

Turn Key - 4 Bedroom, 2 Bath Is Where Comfort, Convenience, and Charm Come Together! This Tastefully Updated Property is a True Hidden Gem.

\$489,900



UNDER CONTRACT

116 FERNWOOD

To Be Built - 4 Bed, 2 Bath Home With Open Floor Plan. The Modern Kitchen Features Quartz Countertops and Stylish Finishes. Two Car Garage.

\$499,900



SOLD

224 MELODY LANE

3 Bed, 2 Bath, 1324 Sq Ft, 0.32 Acre Lot.

\$300,000



SOLD

707 MONAGHAN LANE

2 Bed, 1 Bath, 1005 Sq Ft, 0.57 Acre Lot.

\$439,900



LAKEFRONT

705 E LAKESHORE

This One Acre Lakefront Lot is located on KI's Southern Shore. Septic Design Approved. City Water Available at the Street. Newly Constructed 360x24 Pole Barn on Rear of Property.

\$498,500



NEW LISTING

LOT 1 SOUTHAVEN

Beautiful Lakeview Lot in Desirable Southaven Woods. Lot is 100 x 189 (0.4339 acres). Lot is Subject to Kelleys Island Zoning and Erie Health Department Requirements

\$199,500



NEW LISTING

VL MELODY/MEMORY

Street-to-Street, Oversized Vacant Lot (0.8092 Acre) Allows You To Create a Family Compound Like No Other! 100 Feet of Frontage on Melody Lane (City Water is Available at the street)

\$225,000



UNDER CONTRACT

LOT 10 PHEASANT LANE

Private, Oversized Lot (1.07 acre - 185' x 252'), With Lake Erie Access at The End Of Woodford Lane.

\$168,900



LOT 2 CHARDONNAY

141 x 116 (0.375 Acre) Lot in Desirable Vineyard Estates Subdivision. City Water is Available at the Street.

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LOT 3 CHARDONNAY

141 x 116 (0.375 Acre) Lot in Desirable Vineyard Estates Subdivision. City Water is Available at the Street.

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\$139,000

Please visit KelleysIslandRealEstate.com and ILoveLakeErie.com for All New Listings and Price Reductions

Join the KI Audubon Club and Discover a Love of Birding and Nature

Barb Zeller
The Kelleys Island Audubon Club (KIAC) is excited to kick off their 31st year of operation with our May events. Join us on Thursday, May 15 at the Kelleys Island School at 6 PM for a potluck gathering of friends followed by a presentation at 7 PM: “Gardening with Deer” by Dan Rath, owner of Backyard Hippies Native Landscaping. On Sunday, May 18, from 7AM until 2PM, the club will host their spring festival “Nest with the Birds” at the Jones Preserve on Long Point. Tom and Paula Bartlett will continue their Avian Study of Birds and educate visitors about the many varieties of songbirds that use the island as a place to rest and refuel as they migrate north

each spring.
Birdwatching has evolved from a niche hobby into a global pastime enjoyed by millions. What was once reserved for dedicated ornithologists and a small group of enthusiasts has now blossomed into one of the most popular outdoor activities in the world. Indeed, the Lake Erie Islands and northeast Ohio have become a very popular place to witness the spring migration of songbirds, with throngs of people visiting Magee Marsh Wildlife Area and the Black Swamp Nature Center each year. The birding on Kelleys Island is just as exciting, while escaping most of the large crowds at sites on the mainland.
In the past, birdwatching required



Kentucky Warbler

PHCR: Paula Bartlett

specialized knowledge, field guides, and sometimes, access to remote locations. Today, apps like eBird, which allows birders to log sightings and share data with a global community, and iNaturalist, a platform that connects people to nature, have revolutionized the hobby. Particularly useful is the Cornell Lab of Ornithology app “Merlin”, <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>, which allows users to identify birds by sound when they are observed. These apps not only make it easier to identify and track birds but also foster a sense of community among birders of all skill levels.
Another reason for birding's surge in popularity is the growing awareness of environmental and conservation issues. As concerns over biodiversity loss and climate change increase, many people have turned to bird

watching as a way to reconnect with the natural world and become more conscious of the delicate ecosystems that sustain it. Birds, as indicators of the health of the environment, offer a tangible and accessible way to engage with conservation efforts. Many birders have become advocates for habitat preservation, working with local conservation groups and even participating in citizen science projects to monitor bird populations.
The Kelleys Island Audubon Club invites you to join us in our efforts to promote nature and birding on Kelleys Island. Our memberships run from May to May, so please consider joining the club. You can find out all about us on our website <https://kelleysislandnature.org/> or on our Facebook page “Bird Kelleys Island” <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064734544758>.

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Kelleys Island Audubon Club

2025 Kelleys Island Audubon Club
Annual Membership Form

☐ Northern Saw-whet Owl \$25.00 Annual Membership (Individual or Family)

\$ _____

☐ Monarch Butterfly- \$100.00 Annual Business Membership

\$ _____

☐ Lakeside Daisy \$500.00 Lifetime Membership

\$ _____

Membership fees are not sufficient to cover the KIAC educational programs or the support we provide to island nature activities including the Bartlett Bird Banding Stations, the KI Schools Nature Camp and Science Saturdays, as well as the Pollinator Habitats. Please consider an additional donation in support of these efforts:

Additional Donation to KIAC Programming/Partners
(In memory/honor of _____)

\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Membership + Donations)

\$ _____

Mail to Kelleys Island Audubon Club, PO Box 42, Kelleys Island, OH 43438
Please make checks payable to Kelleys Island Audubon Club

The Kelleys Island Audubon Club is a 501 (c)3 organization (Fed ID# 34-1906455). Donations are tax deductible.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

The mission of the Kelleys Island Audubon Club is to bring into closer association those interested in the study of wild birds and in the conservation of natural resources of Kelleys Island; to further the knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of ecology and to cooperate with other organizations having similar objectives.

Pat Hayes – President, Barbara Zeller - Vice President, June Campbell – Secretary, Jean Kuyoth – Treasurer,
Chris Ashley, Virginia Coyne, Lori Hayes, Tom Pieratt, Jackie Taylor, Jim Zeller

Find us online at: [Kelleysislandnature.org](https://kelleysislandnature.org)

PAGE 10

May 2025



Congratulations Josh!



Zoey and Cindy Leonard
Josh Leonard, of Melody Lane, Kelleys Island and St. Joseph, Michigan completed the Leadville 100 MTB race in Leadville, Colorado on August 10th.
This 105-mile mountain bike race is famously known as the “granddaddy of all endurance MTB races”. Riders tackle steep climbs and technical descents as they travel a course that winds its way through some of the most stunning scenery in the country. With a peak elevation of 12,600 ft above sea level and an elevation gain of 11,827ft, Josh and other riders contended with the effects of altitude as they pushed themselves to their limits.
Despite 3 tire blowouts and a broken wheel, Josh successfully completed the course. He plans to rejoin some of the greatest cyclists, including Lance Armstrong, next year in Leadville, Colorado! Congratulations Josh! We are so very proud of you!

Kelleys Island Bird Watching Guide

Kelleys Island State Park
920 Division St., 419.746.2546, 866.644.6727, parks.ohiodnr.gov
Kelleys Island State Park offers great Lake Erie views, easy access to the shoreline. Boating, fishing, birding, and wildlife watching are just a few of the park’s favorite activities across its 677 acres. Year-round, daily dawn-dusk.

North Pond State Nature Preserve
Ward Rd. (off Division St.), 614.265.6419, naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov
Containing a variety of rare plants and animals. Accessible via the trailhead at Ward Rd., opposite the parking lot. Consisting of 30 acres of wetlands with the estuary leading into Lake Erie, which is famous for the tremendous numbers of waterfowl migrating through in the spring and fall. A birder visiting North Pond during these seasons will be rewarded by sightings of numerous species of ducks and other water birds. To protect plant life, please remain on trails. No pets.

North Shore Alvar State Nature Preserve
920 Division St., 614.265.6419, naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov
The only undisturbed alvar community in Ohio. An alvar is bare rock such as limestone bedrock with unique plant life growing on and between the rock surfaces. The scouring motion of the waves and ice off Lake Erie maintains the alvar. Accessible via the North Shore Loop Trail within Kelleys Island State Park. To protect plant life, please remain on trails. No pets.

Hello from Cozumel, Mexico

Dean & Teresa Maher In Cozumel, Mexico



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SCAN TO SHOP

OBITUARIES

Kim Valentine

06/24/1951 - 09/30/2024



Kim R. Valentine, age 73, of Kelleys Island, passed away peacefully Monday morning, September 30, 2024, in his home.

He was born June 24, 1951, in Toledo, and graduated from Bowsher High School in 1969. Shortly after high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, where he served for 32 years. Kim was a supervisor at General

Motors, Toledo, and retired after 39 years in 2009.

Kim received his MBA from the University of Toledo. He taught at Owens Community College, and was chairman of the business college before his second retirement. Kim had an active civic life as well, a member of the Harbor Light Masonic Lodge, Riverview Yacht Club, and the Lake Erie Waterkeepers as a board member.

Kim enjoyed boating and had a great love of Kelleys Island and Lake Erie. He was a proud boat owner and captain who loved fishing, especially

with his grandson Skyler. He was a proud father, stepfather, and grandfather. Kim and his beloved wife Julie, built their dream home on Kelleys Island in 2016, where they began island life. Kim enjoyed part-time employment on the KI Ferry boat line, and served as Village Administrator on Kelleys Island.

He is survived by his wife Julie (LeBowski) Valentine; sons, Dr. Christopher (Stephanie) Valentine and Dr. Brandon (Jessica) Valentine; stepchildren, Edward (Kristy) Donnelly and Megan (Joe) Schuck; 11

grandchildren; sister, Sandra Lass; and several nieces and nephews.

Kim was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Mary Valentine; and stepdaughter, Kristen Donnelly (his "angel in the red dress").

Memorial services were held on Saturday, October 26, 2024, at 1 p.m. at Zion United Methodist Church, 102 Chappell St., Kelleys Island. Ransom Funeral & Cremation Service, Castalia, were in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences may be shared with the family by visiting www.ransomfuneralhome.com

Amy Berling

06/24/1950 - 12/12/2024

Honorable Amy Jean Berling (Kopfman), age 74, passed away peacefully at sunrise in her home on Kelleys Island, OH, on October 12, 2024. Her favorite place on earth was the island, and her favorite time of day was sunrise.

Amy retired from her Judge's seat in the Toledo Municipal Court after faithfully serving her hometown community for 29 years. Before her first successful election in 1995, she served as an attorney in Toledo, after putting herself through law school at the University of Toledo, while raising her two children. She graduated with a degree in Education from the University of Toledo, and was homecoming queen at Bowsher High School.

While the public knew her as a fair

and respectable judge, her personal life was consumed with a love for her quiet times on Kelleys Island and her great enjoyment being Mimi to her 3 grandchildren. Mimi loved her grandchildren so much. She spent countless weekends with them painting rocks, eating ice cream, and playing at the beach on Kelleys Island. They spent much time all snuggled up together re-watching favorite Disney movies with their favorite snacks. She was the biggest cheerleader to the grandchildren and always wanted them to do their best. She always told them of her love for them and her love for Jesus.

As a young woman and mother, Amy spent many nights enjoying family, and laughing at her parent's homestead settled on Swan Creek in

South Toledo. Holidays at the homestead with Amy had all the family coziness and joy a family could ask for. She joined in the spontaneous fun of her daughter's dancing, her father's and brother's humor, her mother's quirks, and her son's constant exuberance.

She will be missed by her family, friends, and everyone who had the privilege of knowing her. Amy is survived by her brother, Robert Kopfman; sister-in-law, Sharon; daughter, Holly (Lambdin) Glupker; son-in-law, Steven; son, Max Lambdin; daughter-in-law, Deborah; precious grandchildren, Jordan (Lambdin) Decessna and her husband John, Hailey Lambdin, and, Solomon Lambdin. She is preceded in Heaven by her parents, Donald and Doris Kopfman; and her

beloved first daughter, Heather Lambdin.

In the last week of Amy's life she experienced a gracious reconciliation of friendship with her first husband and father to her children, Jerry Lambdin, and his wife Laura Wagner Lambdin. This act of care and kindness is a blessing to the entire family, and a testament to God's faithfulness.

A private service will be held for the family on Kelleys Island. Ransom Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Castalia, is in charge of the arrangements.

In lieu of any condolences or gifts, the family asks that you hug your loved one's hard, be a friend to another, forgive each other quickly, and give to any charity of your choice in her honor.

Finding Peace and Myself on Kelleys Island

What do you do with grief? What do you do when the sting of death just does not go away? Well, for me the answer was found on Kelleys Island.

My husband and I built our summer

home on the island in 2023, the same year I lost my father. During such a happy time in our lives, I was dealing with all of the emotions that come with grief. How was I to navigate the

desire to be happy, while at the same time feeling guilty for smiling when I was in so much pain? I was in search of a healthy way to cope with these emotions, and the island held the answer.

To acclimate to island life, I began attending Stacy Notestine's yoga and sound bath sessions. During those sessions, I met amazing people from the island and beyond, all with one thing in common: taking the time out to focus on our wellness and ourselves. It was during these sessions that I was able to sit in my grief. I was able to feel grief while also allowing my body to be receptive to all the benefits that yoga brings: stress relief, increased flexibility, improved sleep, and more. I realized I could have it all. I understood the connection with my mind and body. It allowed a safe space for me to connect with my grief while also moving on from the rush of feelings it brings.

I was calm.
I was myself again.

My second summer here culminated with "Fall into You: A Mind, Body, & Spirit Women's Fall Wellness Retreat." Stacy Notestine led this retreat alongside Dr. Lisa Skeens where a combination of yoga, meditation, mental health strategies, sound healing, nature and connections with other women were made. This experience was proof that this island is magical and will always provide the answers we are looking for. I am so grateful for all the island has to offer and the peace it has brought to my life. I do not take a single ferry trip for granted and appreciate all the experiences the island has brought to my life and my family's life.

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OBITUARIES

Charles M. Schodowski

06/28/1934 - 01/19/2025



Charles M. Schodowski, age 90, peacefully passed away surrounded by family on Sunday, January 19, 2025. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio on June 28, 1934, to Mitchell and Marie (nee Ruminski) Schodowski. Chuck's career included writing, producing/directing television, and on-air talent. He always included

his family and friends in his work whenever possible. He was an honorable man, honest and hardworking. He would go visit fans in the hospital when they were "in need." He was an avid Cleveland Sports Fan, enjoyed hiking, being outdoors and walking his dogs. Chuck loved the holidays with family and spending summers at his home on Kelley's Island, boating and fishing. Above all, Chuck loved spending time with his family and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Left to celebrate Chuck's life is his beloved wife of 68 years, June; his loving children, Michael-dec (Claudia) Schodowski, Mark (Tama) Schodowski, Marilyn Schodowski, Michelle (Bruce) Dobbins and Melissa (Paul) Happel; his cherished grandchildren, Eric Schodowski, Evan Schodowski, Elaine (Peter) Tapolyai, Elyse (Joseph) Schodowski, Eve Schodowski, Jessica (Kevin) Schodowski-Shenker, Rachel (Brian) Hill, Jonathan (Hallie) Schodowski, Charles Dobbins, Angelina

Dobbins, Shannon Dobbins, Justine Happel, Abigail Happel and Eva J. Happel; his adorable great grandchildren, Nora, Faye and Chloe; his sister, Maryann Gerbic. Chuck is preceded in death by his brother, Paul Schodowski.

Private services will be held. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in Chuck's honor to the APL - Animal Protective League, 1729 Willey Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44113. www.WaiteFuneralHome.com.

The Titus Road Statue of the Virgin Mary

Leslie Korenko

It seems like every few years, there is a flood of questions about the statue of Mary located on Titus Road. Rumors abound! One person heard it was created in honor of Island fishermen - a fisherman's shrine if you will. Another was sure it was a memorial to a young couple who died in a car accident at the spot on their wedding day. These, and the others, are all quite romantic, but unfortunately, not true.

Several years ago, the best history of the statue appeared in our local newspaper, *Kelleys Life* (the March/April 2012) edition. So, in answer to all those questions, and thanks to *Kelleys Life*, here is the real story about the Statue of Virgin Mary that we all love so well.

The KI Grotto and the Statue of Mary

Kim Bolden

Did you know Kelleys Island has its very own grotto? The grotto and statue of Mary is situated toward the western end of Tilus Road on the north side of the road. A small path leads to the statue of Mary, housed in a crèche, overlooking a grotto in natural rock. The statue is set back a bit from the road but is easily seen.



Fran Minshall with photo of original statue.
PCR: Kim Bolden

Many pass by the area without noticing the statue and others have wondered about it. Yet many others have left mementoes ever since the statue was put in place in 1948. Rosaries, flowers, coins, obituaries, personal memorabilia, photographs, rocks, beach glass and handwritten notes are among the many items left at the grotto. "Some of the notes are heartbreaking," said Fran Minshall, the owner of the property and statue.

There is a small area where you can park your bikes, golf carts and vehicles to reflect for a moment and enjoy the quiet and beauty of the wooded area. It is especially pretty in the fall when the leaves are donning their fall colors and the solitude is most remarkable.

Fran Minshall reflected on the history of the statue of Mary. According to Fran, her sister-in-law, Evelyn Minshall (sister of husband William E. Minshall)

successfully located a medieval French Madonia and Baby statue while in France. She brought the statue back from Europe and a carpenter built a crèche.

The creche you see today is the original one and has remained in that location since 1948.

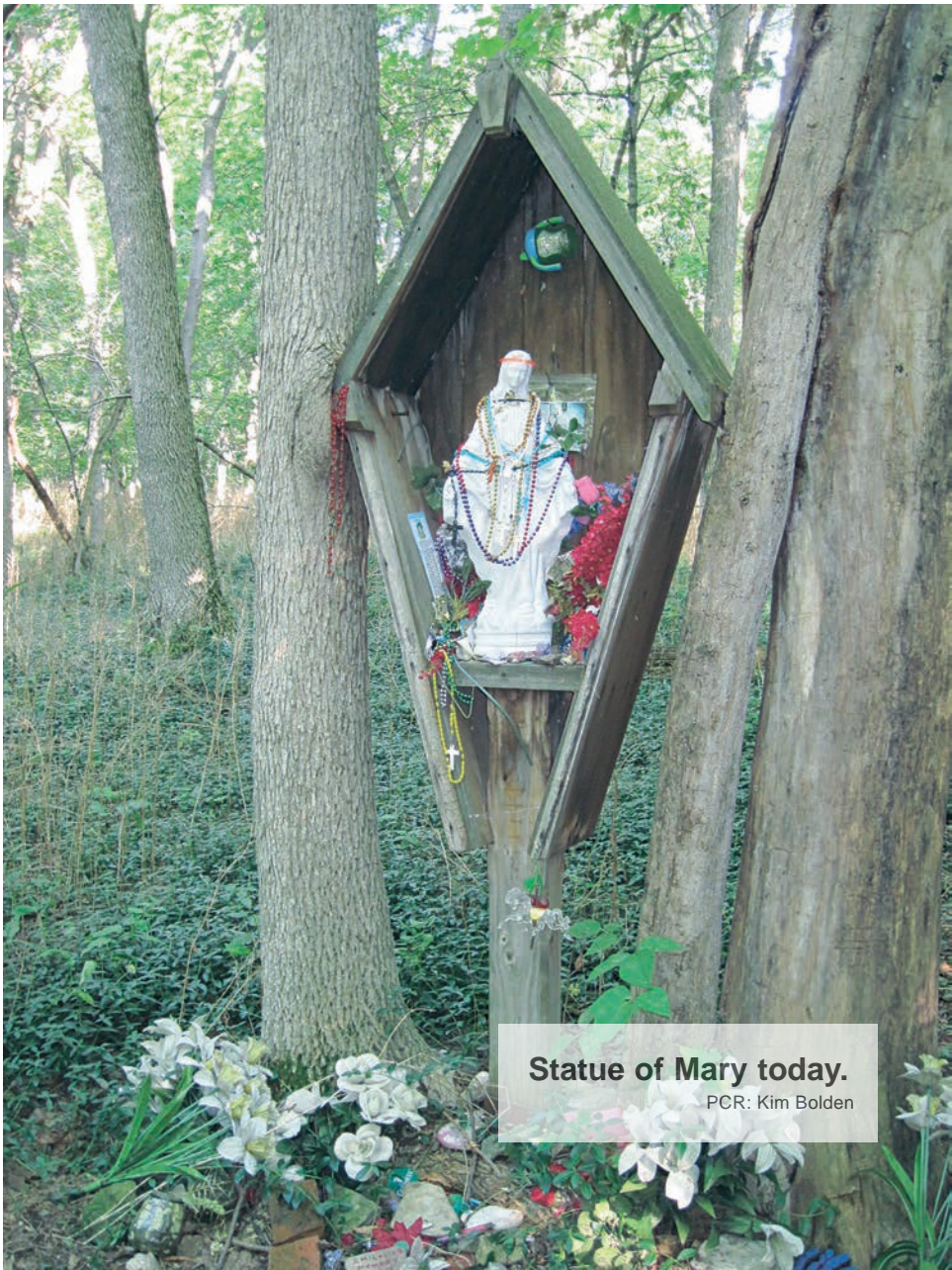
The area was well maintained with numerous daffodils and ivy planted. "It was lovely, just lovely." Fran reminisced. Fran recalled that sometime around 1970 the statue was found broken. A search of the debris resulted in her finding only the head of the child Jesus. She saved the head and today it is displayed on her fireplace along with a photograph of the original statue. A Good Samaritan, whose name is long forgotten, replaced the French Madonna and Child statue with the statue of Mary that you see today. A subsequent prank resulted in the new statue's temporary disappearance. Once the statue was located, it was promptly returned and has remained in place for over 15 years.

Take a few minutes to enjoy the solitude of Titus Road and the statue. A close look at the postcard of Titus Road will reveal the statue on the lower right hand corner peeking between the trees.



French Medieval original version of the Statue of Mary.

PCR: Kim Bolden



Statue of Mary today.
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