



LIFE ON KELLEYS

THE EMERALD ISLE NEWS



Nature Camp 2026

This year's theme, "Sky to Shore," introduced campers to the incredible diversity of the natural world through hands-on experiences. These two campers at the interactive program led by Cleveland Water that focused on water quality and marine debris, helping campers understand the importance of protecting Lake Erie. Story on page 12.

32nd Kelleys Island Make-A-Wish Swim & Golf Cart Poker Run

The first 2 days of August are Make-A-Wish days on Kelleys. Aug 1st Golf Cart Poker Run. Aug 2nd is our long-distance Lake swim by Cindra Mielke, Caylin Mielke & Jeni Hammond. 32 yrs, 123.25 hours in the water & uncounted miles. This year's children are:



I wish to go snorkeling in Aulani Hawaii
Arya, 8
cancer

I wish to go on a Royal Caribbean cruise
Austin, 6
leukemia



This year's events start on Saturday, August 1st with our Golf Cart Poker Run. Registration takes place at 9am at THE ISLAND HOUSE. (\$10 per hand, no limit on hands.) A breakfast bar and drinks will be available. Finishing at the KI WINERY & CANTINA for dealing of hands & raffles. Lots & lots of basket raffles! Bonus raffles to be announced soon. Check out our Facebook pages Kelleys Island Make-A-Wish Benefit Weekend & Kelleys Island Make-A-Wish Benefit Poker Run.

Sunday, August 2nd, Cindra Mielke, Caylin Mielke & Jeni Hammond will be starting off the

West End Club side of Kelleys and swimming into the CASINO around noon. Come celebrate when we swim in & meet our Wish children past & present. Then a party at the KI Pavillion 12:30. The Village Pump, Caddy Shack & Toft's Dairy have donated food & ice cream for your enjoyment. The Balloon Vibe will be there to amaze your children with balloon animals & more. Plus, a bonus visit, all the way from the north pole, Santa & Mrs. Claus.

Thank you so much to our island business who support us every year: Kelleys Island Winery, Island House, Island Market, KI Clothing Co., KI Coffee Shop, The Hippy Shop, Uncle Dic's/Crafts, Sand Trap, Caddy Shack, Village Pump, The Villa, Cathy's Wired Art, General Store, Village Peddler, Groove, Capt. Corner, Casino, West Bay, a'La Chic Salon, Healing Room & Papa T's Ice Cream. Many thanks to our larger donors too. Ed Kuchar \$20,000.00, John & Becky Stock \$3,000.00, anonymous \$2,000.00.

Please make checks to: Make-A-Wish
Send to: US Bank 205 W. Perkins Ave
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
or
P.O. Box 517 Kelleys Island, Ohio 43438

SCAN THE QR CODE TO
MAKE A DONATION
OR VISIT:
HTTP://SITE.WISH.ORG/
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SWIM2026



Thank you so much for all your help with our efforts to raise money for Make-A-Wish.

Jeni & Cindra

52nd Annual Homecoming Celebration

Melanie Bates
KILA Vice President

Another big Kelleys Island weekend is almost here and everyone is welcome! On August 7&8 the Kelleys Island Landowners Association is hosting the 52nd Annual Homecoming Celebration. This year the theme is "Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Kelleys Island School." KILA is collaborating with the school to make this celebration festive and special, and Green Devil t-shirts will be available for purchase at the festival.

The weekend kicks off with the Annual Fish Fry, and it is fast approaching. Don't forget to get your tickets before they are sold out, and all dinners are advance sale only. The price is \$30, a bargain for a ½ pound perch dinner, at the Community Park Pavilion, serving at 6:00. Hot dogs for kids are free. For tickets email info@kila.rocks. Music by Frank & Dean, longtime favorites, is 5:30-8pm.

Saturday is a jam packed day of fun. Registration and drop off for the Pie Contest, a longtime tradition, is at 8:30, and a winner will be announced that morning.

Kids and families, get ready with your candy bags for the Homecoming Parade downtown at 11am. The Grand Marshalls are Superintendent Ben Ohlemacher and the Kelleys Island School students. This year you are in for a real treat with new parade additions - the Lake Erie Electric United Community performing bike group and the Huron High School cheerleaders. Enter your Kelleys Island School and All American floats and golf carts by contacting info@kila.rocks or Ed Nowak at Sugar Ridge Towing.

After the parade come to the Community Park for the Homecoming festival. Included this year are vendors that are offering

Please turn to page 3

Celebrating 125 Years

Join Us in Celebrating
125 years of
Kelleys Island School



HOMECOMING WEEKEND
SUNDAY AUGUST 9TH
AT NOON

- **MERCHANDISE! • GAMES!**
- **REFRESHMENTS!**
- **SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE!**

On Sunday of Homecoming Weekend, we will celebrate the 125th anniversary of Kelleys Island School. Please join us and take part in this historic event, honoring the past, present, and future of our wonderful school.

August Events

Summer's Grand Finale: Your Guide to 25 Can't-Miss August Events
Jill Bauer

August is one of the most exciting times to experience Shores & Islands Ohio! Fittingly, the America 250-Ohio theme for the month is "Ohio Goes to the Fair: The Ohio State Fair, County Fairs, and Festivals," highlighting the gatherings that have brought Ohio communities together for generations. From beloved county fair traditions and community festivals to concerts, art shows, history, foodie and waterfront fun, these events showcase the very best of summer on the Lake Erie shore.

"1776" The Musical
Thursday-Saturday, Jul 30-Aug 1, 2026
McCormick School Auditorium, Huron

In honor of our nation's 250th Anniversary, The Huron Historical Society and Alumni of The Huron Playhouse proudly present the Tony Award-winning musical 1776 — a stirring and entertaining retelling of the birth of American independence.

Declaration 250 Commemoration
Friday-Sunday, July 31-Aug 2, 2026
Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, Put-in-Bay

While July 4 marks the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, it was on August 2, 1776 that the majority of the 56 signers formally affixed their names, risking their lives and livelihoods in defense of liberty. Declaration 250 seeks to restore the historical significance of this often-overlooked moment in American history. Weekend events include free concerts with Asia on Friday, Jefferson Starship on Saturday, and Lee Greenwood on Sunday, as well as performances from The Ohio State University Marching Band and the Bowling Green State University Marching Band! Plus, tall ships, Freedom Village walkthrough, historical encampments, and ceremonies.

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August Events
1st&2nd Make a Wish Swim
& Golf Cart Poker Run
7th&8th Homecoming
Celebration

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Welcome Bakers!
To Homecoming 2026
KILA HOMECOMING - PIE CONTEST
Showcase your baking skills and enjoy delicious treats!

CONTEST DETAILS
Date: Saturday, August 8
Time: Bring your pie to the Pavilion by 8:50 AM.
Judging begins at 9:00AM. (before the parade begins)

Participate in this exciting culinary competition where your pie will be judged on a variety of categories:
Presentation: How visually appealing is your pie?
Texture: Is the texture of your pie just right?
Taste: Does your pie tantalize the taste buds?
Crust: Is the crust perfectly baked and flavorful?
The top 3 scoring pies will earn prizes, thanks to the generous support of KILA!
For more information, Please contact
Patti 429-656-4335 or Candy 248-875-6298

Island Green Week 2026
Saturday-Saturday, Aug 1-8, 2026
Gibraltar Island, Kelleys Island, Middle Bass Island, and South Bass Island (Put-in-Bay)

A celebration of natural beauty, ecology, and history. The week includes an array of events to support and highlight our islands' Natural, Historical and Cultural Resources. All events are family friendly, inclusive, and accessible.

ARTS in the Park
Saturday-Sunday, Aug 1-2, 2026
Lakeview Park, Port Clinton

Stroll through a vibrant collection of fine art and decorative art, meet the makers, and find something special to take home. Whether you're a seasoned art lover or just looking for a fun day out, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Great Lakes Rockabilly Road Trip Music Festival
Saturday, Aug 1, 2026
Various Locations, Port Clinton

Great Lakes Rockabilly Road Trip Music Festival™, the Midwest's premier festival celebrating all things Rockabilly with multiple acts on 3 stages, vendors, car show, pin-up pageant and more.

Kelleys Island Film Fest
Saturday-Sunday, Aug 1-2, 2026 • Ball Field, Kelleys Island

Relax outdoors to watch popular box office movies, drive-in style, free of charge, in front of a large inflatable screen. Snacks and drinks will be for sale during all showtimes.

Summer Market & Wine Festival
Saturday, Aug 1, 2026 • Gideon Owen Wine Company, Catawba

Browse 30+ local vendors, enjoy award-winning Gideon Owen wines, delicious food, live music, and the beautiful atmosphere of the historic winery. Come shop local, sip local, and celebrate summer!

Major League Fishing Bass Pro Tour Stage 7
Thursday-Sunday, Aug 6-9, 2026
Shelby Street Boat Launch and Paper District Marina, Sandusky

51 anglers from all over the country will put their skills to the test to see who can catch the biggest bass Lake Erie has to offer. On Saturday and Sunday enjoy the MLF Fishing Show and Watch Party. Enjoy free food, enter to win giveaways, and cheer on the best pros in bass fishing when the top 10 anglers cross the stage following lines out. Youth of all ages can participate in the fishing derby. The first 50 kids 14 and under will receive a free Zebco rod and reel each day following the angler interviews and trophy ceremony.

Lake Erie Awareness Day
Thursday, Aug 6, 2026 •Put-in-Bay

Spend the day touring South Bass Island while learning about Ohio's greatest water resource and visiting education stations to learn about island history, native plants and animals, the dangers of plastic pollution, and boating safety. Go to all the stations and be entered to win a fabulous island themed prize.

Berlin Heights Basket Festival
Friday-Saturday, Aug 7-8, 2026
Downtown/Edison Middle School, Berlin Heights

The Berlin Heights Basket Festival is a family celebration honoring the local tradition of basket making. The festival includes a Queen's, Prince and Princess, and baby contests, kiddie tractor pull, flower show, the Charger Marching Band, Grand Parade, youth and adult contests and activities, open market, food and craft vendors, and Fireworks.

Kelleys Island Homecoming
Saturday-Sunday, Aug 8-9, 2026 • Kelleys Island Pavilion, Kelleys Island

Homecoming is an event sponsored by the Kelleys Island Landowners Association and serves as a weekend for those who love this island to return and enjoy fun, food, and entertainment. Enjoy the Fish Fry, parade, entertainment, craft and vendor market, delicious food and beverages, and fun for the whole family!

Benson Ford Shiphouse Tours
Sunday, Aug 9, 2026 • Put-in-Bay

Would you like to see the inside of the famous Benson Ford Shiphouse? Now is your chance! The Benson Ford is one of the most unique and interesting homes in America, and since it is privately owned, it is rare to get a glimpse inside.

2026 Erie County Fair
Monday-Saturday, Aug 10-15, 2026
Erie County Fairgrounds, Sandusky

From fair food and shopping vendors to agriculture exhibits, bounce houses, laser tag, animals, and more — there's something for every age and every interest. Don't forget the Grandstand events happening throughout the week including rough truck, rodeo, tractor pulls, and demolition derby.

Perseid Meteor Shower
Wednesday, Aug 12, 2026 • Castalia Quarry MetroPark, Castalia

The Perseid Meteor Shower is at its peak! Do you need a great place to watch the show? Join and discover the stars through our telescope! Please bring a chair. The trail to the quarry floor will be lit to guide you.

Big Splash Raffle
Friday-Saturday, Aug 14-15, 2026 • Sandusky Bay Pavilion, Sandusky

The 22nd Annual Dean Howman Memorial Big Splash Raffle is the Maritime Museum of Sandusky's annual fundraising event. Big Splash raffle tickets are \$100. The Maritime Museum of Sandusky raffles off over a quarter of a million dollars in cash prizes, cars, motorcycles, and more.

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52nd Annual Homecoming Celebration

continued from page 1

original artwork and special products for sale and Back to the Wild with live wildlife demonstrations. Fat City Band will be providing lively musical entertainment, and games, food and refreshments will be available from noon-4pm.

Raffle tickets are now being sold by members of the KILA board, at the Homecoming festival, or by emailing info@kila.rocks, and raffle proceeds are to benefit Kelleys Island projects and organizations. The Grand Prize is \$2500, and only 600 will be sold at \$20 each.

KILA thanks our residents and special sponsor, Shores & Islands Ohio, for their support of this fun-filled weekend.

Photo: Here's a shout out to Ed Frindt, longtime KILA member and active volunteer on his 90th birthday. We wish you many more, Ed!!!!



Bugle Call: Kelleys Island Post 9908 of the VFW

Paul Burns, Quartermaster

Happy 250th anniversary of when the Continental Congress began signing the Declaration of Independence, solidifying their commitment to independence from Great Britain on August 02, 1776.

The VFW is committed to lending a helping hand when needed. Last month after the historical rainfall on the 5th and 6th. The Kelleys Island EMS suffered significant loss of equipment needed to do their job. Your local VFW Post 9908 led the way with a thousand-dollar donation to help get the EMS back on their feet. We spread the word amongst the other VFW posts in our district. VFW Post 2529 in Sandusky, Ohio immediately came forward with a very generous and amazing donation of forty-thousand dollars. Thank you, Sandusky. This past week we've had other posts in the district pledge donations, that as of writing this article is about \$73,000.00. This is an excellent example of how the VFW steps in to help their communities.

Our annual BBQ chicken dinner event this past June was very successful due to the support of our community here on Kelleys Island. We want to thank everyone involved with the prep and the serving of the meals and to the clean up afterwards. Thank You.

The purposes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States are fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational.

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.

52nd Annual

Kelleys Island Landowners



Homecoming Celebration

Friday & Saturday
August 7 & 8

2026

Kelleys Island
Community Park Pavilion
121 Addison Road

Theme: CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE KELLEYS ISLAND SCHOOL

Parade Marshal: Superintendent Ben Ohlemacher & the Kelleys Island School Students

GRAND PRIZE
\$2500

2nd Prize \$1000

3rd Prize \$ 500

4th Prize \$ 250

5th Prize \$ 100

Raffle To Benefit
Kelleys Island Projects

Drawing Saturday
5:00pm at the Pavilion.

Winner need not be present.
Only 600 tickets sold at
\$20 each and can be
purchased before
Saturday from any
KILA Board Member.

FRIDAY

5th Annual Fish Fry 6-8 Pm
Pre-Sale Ticket \$30
(Only 200 Tickets Sold)

Snacks and Beverages 5pm-9pm
Music By 'Frank & Dean' 5:30pm-8pm

SATURDAY

Pie Contest - Judging at 9am,
Register & Drop Off 8.30am

Parade - 11am
Enter your "Kelleys Island School" or
"All American" float or golf cart (prizes)

Food & Refreshments - 12noon-4pm
Music by Fat City Band
Photo - 1pm at the basketball court:
For Kelleys Island School Alumni
& Ki Summer Kids Alumni

MUSIC • ENTERTAINMENT • FOOD • PARADE
SILENT AUCTION • FAMOUS PIE CONTEST
KIDS GAMES • BALLOONS • BEER SLIDE
CRAFTS & VENDORS
EVERYBODY WELCOME

SHORES&ISLANDS^{OHIO}

For More Information Or Tickets E-Mail: Info@Kila.Rocks

August 2026

PAGE 3

Kalahari Resorts & Conventions Brings Popular Food & (Not Just) Wine Festival to Sandusky

Amanda Davis

Food lovers, beverage enthusiasts and anyone looking for a unique late-summer outing will have a new event to look forward to this August as Kalahari Resorts & Conventions brings its popular Kalahari Food & (Not Just) Wine Festival to the Sandusky, Ohio property. Scheduled for Aug. 29, the festival promises an afternoon dedicated to great food, exceptional beverages and lively entertainment, all under one roof.

The event showcases the best of Kalahari's award-winning dining, giving guests the opportunity to sample culinary creations from the resort's signature restaurants and eateries. Alongside the food offerings, attendees can enjoy tastings from a wide variety of regional and national beverage brands, including wines, craft brews, spirits and specialty drinks, living up to the festival's "Not Just Wine" name.

This year's theme, "Stars, Stripes & Spurs," adds a playful country flair to the festivities, encouraging guests to embrace their inner cowboy or cowgirl while exploring tasting stations, live

entertainment and interactive experiences throughout the afternoon. The festival is designed to be more than a traditional tasting event, creating an atmosphere where guests can mingle, discover new flavors and celebrate the region's growing food and beverage scene.

Kalahari's Food & (Not Just) Wine Festival has become a popular attraction at other Kalahari destinations, drawing crowds with its combination of chef-inspired cuisine, beverage tastings, cooking demonstrations and entertainment. The Sandusky debut brings that successful concept to Ohio for the very first time.

For those seeking a memorable way to close out the summer season, the Kalahari Food & (Not Just) Wine Festival aims to deliver exactly that! For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.kalahariresorts.com/ohio/food-and-wine-festival/>.

Use code *Kelleys* for \$15.00 Off your General Admission ticket.







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FilmFest Returns to Kelleys Island August 1-2



August 1-2, 2026

★ SATURDAY ★ ★ SUNDAY ★



SUPERMAN



The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants

FAMILY FUN EVENT! **PARKING BEGINS AT 8:00 PM**

MOVIES WILL BEGIN AT DUSK
PUBLIC RESTROOMS WILL BE AVAILABLE.
In Case of Inclement Weather Movies will be at the KI Town Hall

2 DAY FREE EVENT!

HOSTED BY KELLEYS ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SPONSORED BY: SHORES ISLANDS OHIO, HANCOCK WOOD, GENERAL STATE

Zoey Leonard-Vargo,
Executive Director
Grab your lawn chairs and blankets and join the Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce for the 20th Annual FilmFest, taking place Saturday, August 1, and Sunday, August 2, at the ball field on Kelleys Island.

This year's outdoor movie weekend features two fan-favorite films under the stars. On Saturday evening, enjoy Superman (2025), followed by The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants on Sunday evening. Both movies will begin at dusk, creating the perfect way to end a summer day on the island.

Concessions will be available each evening, offering classic movie snacks and refreshments for attendees to enjoy during the show.

FilmFest is a free, family-friendly event and a great opportunity for residents and visitors alike to gather for an unforgettable outdoor movie experience. Whether you're a longtime FilmFest attendee or joining us for the first time, everyone is invited to relax, enjoy the films, and celebrate another summer weekend on beautiful Kelleys Island.

For more information about FilmFest and other upcoming Chamber events, visit the Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce website or follow the Chamber on social media.

We look forward to seeing you at dusk on August 1 and 2 for another fantastic weekend of movies under the stars!

IT'S TIME TO...
Stay. Play. Explore.
Shop. Dine. Relax.



Visit our website to plan your visit today. Find places to stay, things to do and our scheduled events!





2026 Chamber Events

Sat, Aug 1-Sun, Aug 2
FILMFEST

Sat, Sept 12
TREASURE ISLAND DAY

Mon, Sept 21-Sun, Sept 27
RESTAURANT WEEK ON KI

VISIT KELLEYSISLANDCHAMBER.COM OR CALL 419.746.2360 FOR MORE INFORMATION

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SAT, AUG 29
12-4 PM

**TOAST.
TASTE.
REPEAT.**

TICKETS ON SALE NOW • KalahariResorts.com

Use Code **KELLEYS** for **\$15 OFF** your General Admission ticket.

You're invited to join us for our first annual Food & (Not Just) Wine Festival! Savor delectable bites and sip on your favorite local, and national, brand beverages for a day full of good food, live music, cooking demos, and more!

**BEER • WINE • CIDER
SPIRITS • MUSIC ARTISANS
KALAHARI CULINARY**





Island Singers to Celebrate America’s 250th Birthday

Laura Von Benken
Please join the Island Singers Saturday, September 5 @ 7:00pm in the Town Hall.
The performance will feature a Tribute to the Armed Services as well as the patriotic songs you know and love as we celebrate America's 250th birthday!

Fall Birding on Kelleys Island: How to Look for Warblers

Julie Schuler
Here’s one of Kelleys Islands best kept secrets: you can see just as many migrating birds in the fall as you can in the spring - you just have to know where to look. And one of the most popular birds to take a rest on its way south are Warblers.
What are Warblers?
The National Audubon Society defines warblers as small, colorful songbirds. Colorful is an understatement. In the spring Warblers are famous for being tiny bursts of vivid color—often featuring bright yellows, oranges and blue. Warblers are tiny - smaller than most sparrows - and fast. They flit around in trees, some preferring the tops of tall trees, and in the spring they are loud. In the fall, Warblers are quieter and more subdued color-wise. Most will be

olive, gray or yellowish-green.
Spotting Warblers on Kelleys Island
Consider these tips to look for Warblers across the island:
• Go birding after a cold front. Migrating birds cross Lake Erie overnight and frequently stop on the islands to rest and feed. The best birding often occurs the morning after a strong north or northwest wind.
• Start at sunrise. The first two to three hours after sunrise are usually the most active. Warblers feed low in shrubs and trees before retreating higher as temperatures rise.
• Look for mixed flocks. In the fall, Warblers often travel with other small birds like Chickadees. If you find one bird, stay with it—you may see a dozen species in a few minutes.
• Listen as much as you look. Many



A Blackpoll Warbler spotted in the fall on the North Shore Loop.
fall warblers give short "chip" calls rather than songs. Learning the common chip notes of species like Yellow-rumped, Blackpoll, and American Redstart can help you locate birds before you see them.
• Check out unexpected spots. Yellow-rumped Warblers are plentiful on the island in the fall and often travel in flocks. Look for them on driveways, decks or low in the trees.
Want to see some of these Warblers up close?
Come to fall bird banding. The Kelleys Island Audubon will be hosting its annual Feathers & Foliage event on September 13. Look for more information on KelleysIslandNature.org.

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August Events continued from page 2

August Events _____ continued from page 2

Peaches and Cream
Saturday, Aug 15, 2026 • Quarry Hill Orchards, Berlin Heights
Come hungry – they're scooping up homemade peach ice cream! Food trucks, locally roasted coffee, painting workshop, flower crowns, live music, crafts, face painting, flowers, fresh produce, Ohio made goodies, and more.

Port Clinton Lighthouse & Maritime Festival
Saturday, Aug 15, 2026 • Waterworks Park, Port Clinton
Annual festival highlighting Port Clinton's rich maritime history and iconic 1896 lighthouse, the last remaining wooden pier light on Lake Erie. This event features free lighthouse tours, nautical-themed vendors, music, food, Plein Air Art Show, Antique & Classic Wooden Boat Show, Cardboard Boat Regatta, United Way Rubber Duck Race, activities for the kids, and much more!

Halupki Festival
Sunday, Aug 16, 2026 • Holy Assumption Church, Marblehead
Join for a day of fun, food, and polka at the Halupki Festival! Dinners and a la carte of tasty homemade halupki, peroghi, halushki and more. Amazing desserts, cold beer, craft vendors, plus children's activities.

Ned Talks Presents: Ned and Jannah Wilson present Irritatin Invasives
Thursday, Aug 20, 2026
Shores & Islands Ohio Welcome Center-West, Port Clinton
Ned the Naturalist (Brian Shifflet) and Jannah Wilson, Parks District of Ottawa
County, present about invasive plants and what we can do about them!

A moody afternoon of music and art
Saturday, Aug 22, 2026
Charles Herndon Gallery and Sculpture Gardens, Kelleys Island
The Moody Blues are the inspiration for this year's music event. Live music, glass blowing, art demonstrations. Magnificent manipulator of cards, Frankie, will be doing illusions. Food and drink available at the event.

Chateau Winery's Wine Run 5k
Saturday, Aug 22, 2026 • Chateau Winery & Vineyard, Helena
Do you like walking or running? Do you like wine? Chateau Winery has the 5k
race for you! We are partnering J3 Timing for a 5k race around our beautiful
vineyard and raising money for a local family with medical needs.

MG INTERNATIONAL 2026 - ALL-MG GATHERING
Sunday-Thursday, Aug 23-27, 2026 • Kalahari Resorts & Conventions, Sandusky
MG INTERNATIONAL 2026 is a gathering of the four major MG Car Clubs in North America and will be held at host hotel Kalahari Resorts & Conventions. The Car Show will be held on Wednesday, August 26 from 9 am-1 pm at Osborn MetroPark. MG International is expecting over 500 MGs and other British cars and there is no charge to come and view the cars.

Time Traveler History Talks: Ladies' Aid Society of Northern Ohio
Tuesday, Aug 25, 2026 • Shores & Islands Welcome Center – East, Sandusky
Continue our America 250 celebrations with local historian and Shores & Islands Ohio team member, Angie George as we learn about the Ladies' Aid Society of Northern Ohio and women's roles on the homefront during the American Civil War.

Herndon Gallery's Summer 2026 Class Schedule

Thursday August 6th - Kinusaiga \$85 - 5-7 pm
This is a fabric collage technique using foam board. Class limit of 8.

Saturday August 15th - Owl Macrame \$75 - 10am-12 pm
Make a macrame owl with cord and wooden beads. Leave with a finished product and instructions. Class limit of 6

Saturday August 22nd - MOODY BLUES MUSIC EVENT- music, food, art, fun!
Sculpt a snake in honor of our new land sculpture! Free class, time TBA.

Sunday August 30th - Beaded earrings and FIRE! \$75 - 2-4 pm
Learn to heat silver wire with a torch to make head pins, add beads, make loops for connections, and make fish hook ear wires. Leave with a pair of finished earrings and instructions. Class limit of 6

Thursday September 3rd - Weaving for the wall \$125-1-4pm
This is a 3 hours class. Leave with a loom to make future projects on,
instructions, and any fiber you need to finish your weaving if you have not
finished in class. Class limit of 6

Sunday September 13th- PLEIN AIR event - bring YOUR favorite art or craft and create on campus! Check our Facebook for details.

Saturday September 6th Kinusaiga \$85- 4-6pm
This is a fabric collage technique using foam board. Class limit of 8.

Classes are age 12 and up. Contact me if your child is under 12 and particularly interested, good at paying attention and has small motor skills.

*All supplies and tools are provided unless otherwise noted.
Please sign up at least a week in advance if possible.
Inquire for classes week of, but as we are on an island it depends on supplies.
30% booking fee due upon signing up.
Full refunds will be given if class has to be cancelled by instructor.
Please ask me about private classes, I can come to your home or host!*

Contact: Carmen Smith, Gallery Manager
Charles Herndon Galleries and Sculpture Garden
419.746.2249
Herndongallerycts@gmail.com

Kalahari Food & (Not Just) Wine Festival
Saturday, Aug 29, 2026
Kalahari Resorts & Conventions, Sandusky

Uncover the best of Kalahari dining with an overflowing selection of Kalahari-curated culinary delights, paired with an endless lineup of wines, brews, and spirits from the region's top beverage brands. This year's event theme: Stars, Stripes & Spurs. A little country. A whole lotta flavor.

Use code Kelleys for \$15.00 Off your General Admission ticket.

Classic Tractor Cruise-In
Sunday, Aug 30, 2026
Village Square, Milan
Step back in time at the America 250 - Classic Tractor Cruise-In! Bring the whole family out to see these beautifully restored pieces of agricultural history up close. Whether you're a tractor enthusiast or just looking for a fun weekend outing, you won't want to miss it!

Summer may be winding down, but the excitement is just heating up—don't miss your chance to experience these unforgettable August events throughout Shores & Islands Ohio.

Plan your August at SHORESandISLANDS.com/events!

**Gallery is open
Thurs.-Mon,
11-4**

Or, view the art by
appointment:
(419) 746-2249

New this season:

Classes!

Check fb for details



HERNDON
CHARLES HERNDON GALLERIES



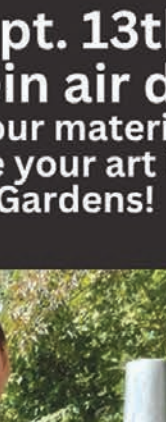
**Glass blowing with
Double Dipped Studios**
Th, f and sat in
season!

Gardens are open
Dawn-dusk every
day



**August 22nd:
Moody blues**
An Afternoon of live
music

**Sept. 13th:
Plein air day**
bring your materials and
create your art in the
Gardens!



More information on Facebook: Charles Herndon Gallery

110 Laylin Lane KELLEYS ISLAND, OH.



AUGUST

- 2 - Mimi Thomas
- 3 - Samantha Elfers
- 4 - Trisha Kranyak
- 4 - Emma Shroer
- 6 - Michael Lynch
- 8 - Kristina Kaszei
- 8 - Steve Wermuth
- 10 - Blake Maher
- 11 - Theresa Smith
- 12 - Karen Kranyak
- 15 - Dave Coon
- 15 - Diane Nasonti
- 16 - Avery Benvenuto
- 17 - Jeff Patterson
- 20 - Audrey Carlin Mack
- 20 - Sandy Alexander
- 26 - Peggy Bianchi Hassinger
- 27 - Amy Daily
- 27 - Shannon Elfers
- 27 - Dick Scheiber
- 29 - Susan Marchky

If you have a birthday that you would like included please email Lifeonkelleys@gmail.com

Congratulations!

Kate Alexakos and Patrick Milkie married June 20, 2026 at St. Michael Catholic Church, Kelleys Island.

Patrick is the son of Gina and Duff Milkie, Sandusky, Ohio, and Kate is the daughter of Lee and Nick Alexakos, Sandusky, Ohio

Kate comes from a long line of Kelleys Island ancestry:

Granddaughter of Lee and Joan Brown

Great granddaughter of Lee and Helen Brown

Great great-great granddaughter of Louis Beatty

"Wishing you both a lifetime of love and happiness."



Council Notes

Leslie Korenko

It was a quick meeting. It was warm in the Hall as both furnaces were lost during the flood. High praise for all village employees and our Safety Services for their prompt and comprehensive response to the rain event. EMS reported 25 runs and 20 clinic calls. Friends and family came forward to help with the clean up in what can only be described as a difficult task despite many individuals dealing with flooding issue of their own. The first drone training was completed, unfortunately the company that was to provide the drones is now unable to fulfill its contract. Another company is being identified by ODOT. The Police Dept. received 5 reports, fielded 205 phone calls, had 20 arrests/citations, issued 5 warnings and there were 2 accidents. The Finance Committee discussed a proposed pay structure for the Water Dept. It is also considering the purchase of a new loader and roadside vegetation cutting attachment as current equipment has been unreliable and contracting the work has become increasingly expensive. Lands & Buildings has identified the EMS building roof as in need of replacement due to leaks, structural concerns and moisture issues. Another project under consideration is the repainting Kelley's Hall and new bleachers. The committee would also like to see a mapping of waterlines in the two parks and keeping the water fountains in working order. The Village is working to get meeting recordings posted on the Village website, while some committees already have written minutes for Council packages. The Water Dept. will be replacing the 'new' billing system with another new one due to problems that could not be resolved and will be applying for an OWDA loan for the installation of remote meters.

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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.

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.

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IslandFest 2026: An All-American Summer to Remember

Zoey Leonard-Vargo,
Executive Director

Despite hazy skies from wildfire smoke and a brief shower on Saturday, IslandFest 2026 proved once again that nothing can dampen the spirit of Kelleys Island.

This year's theme, "An All-American Summer - Celebrating America 250," brought together residents, visitors, volunteers, businesses, and community partners for a weekend filled with music, tradition, and hometown pride. Each night, the streets came alive with laughter, dancing, and celebration as hundreds gathered on Division Street to enjoy DJ Marky Mark. The energy was contagious, with families, friends, and visitors filling the streets, dancing together well into the evening and creating memories that will last a lifetime.

One of the biggest highlights of the weekend was the overwhelming support our community showed for the IslandFest Fireworks. Thanks to the incredible generosity of residents, businesses, sponsors, and visitors, more than \$20,000 was raised to help make this year's fireworks display possible. That level of support is a true testament to what makes Kelleys Island so special. When our community comes together, incredible things happen.

Saturday's parade was one for the record books. With creative floats, enthusiastic participants, and



thousands of smiling spectators lining the streets, many longtime attendees agreed it was one of the best parades IslandFest has ever seen. The creativity, community pride, and excitement on display perfectly captured the spirit of this year's celebration.

IslandFest 2026 also welcomed exciting new entertainment that quickly became crowd favorites. The Wasteland Poets brought a fresh and engaging live performance that had audiences captivated throughout the afternoon. We were also thrilled to welcome Just a Numb3r Dance Crew, whose energetic performance added a new level of excitement to our opening ceremonies and showcased incredible talent. Both acts helped make this year's festival feel fresh while honoring

the traditions that make IslandFest so beloved.

Events of this magnitude simply would not be possible without the countless people who dedicate their time, resources, and talents behind the scenes. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Kelleys Island Police Department, Kelleys Island EMS, and MetroHealth for helping ensure everyone had a safe and enjoyable weekend. Their professionalism and commitment allowed thousands of guests to celebrate with confidence.

A special thank you also goes to Sugar Ridge Towing for assisting with the parade and helping everything run smoothly. Their support played an important role in making one of the weekend's signature events a success.

To our volunteers, sponsors, businesses, organizations, vendors, entertainers, parade participants, and every community member who lent a helping hand—thank you. Whether you donated, volunteered your time, welcomed visitors, sponsored an event, or simply came out to celebrate, you helped create an unforgettable weekend for everyone who attended.

IslandFest has always been about more than entertainment. It is a celebration of community, tradition, and the people who make Kelleys Island such a remarkable place to live and visit. This year's festival reminded us that even with smoky skies and a little rain, the warmth of our community shines brighter than ever.

On behalf of the Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce, thank you for making IslandFest 2026 one of our most successful celebrations yet. We are already looking forward to welcoming everyone back next year for another unforgettable weekend on the island.



The Museum Campus

224-226 Division Street

KI Historical Association Museum

NEW EXHIBITS!

The German Reformed Church
The Parsonage House & Sis's
Cottage Resale Shops

"Free" Ride Fundraiser

\$10.00 a ticket with only 500 tickets being sold
win a \$500 Gift Card to the KI Ferry Boat

Tickets sold at KIHA Museum and Resale Shops

Thanks to our sponsor
Ray Schaefer Construction

Quilt Raffle

While visiting the museum
buy your raffle tickets \$1
each or 6 for \$5

The Campus is OPEN
Thursday-Monday 12-4pm
CLOSED Tuesday & Wednesday

Save the date

KELLEYS ISLAND
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS

KI Trivia BINGO & Bourbon!

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH 2:00-4:00 PM AT THE KI MUSEUM

How well do YOU know Kelleys Island? Play our
TRIVIA BINGO, grab a bite to eat, and a chance to win
our gift basket! Enjoy our Bourbon Tasting Bar too!

The Importance of Fundraising on Kelleys Island

Jodie Smith

Many Island organizations hold fundraisers during the season! As Island residents and visitors, we strive to support every valuable service that these organizations provide to us. Without the support of generous donors, the organizations would be less prepared to do the jobs that they are passionate about, and proud to be able to provide to Kelleys Island.

At The Kelleys Island Historical Association, fundraising is a primary way for the Association to support itself and its mission in the community. There have been some really fine fundraisers in the past! Many will remember the 1920's themed party at the Steuber Family home, The Breakers. Another similar event was a murder mystery hosted by The Smith Family on Long Point. Both of these pre-covid events raised needed funds and provided a great source of on-island entertainment for the community! After that The Parsonage House Re-Sale Shop was opened by Janet Killam, Sonia Taylor and Jodie Smith. This additional source of income for the Association was a crucial pivot for the KIHA in the form of its fundraising focus. The Re-sale shop continues to fund the KIHA in an important way. However, with the smaller number of volunteers, the Museum Campus is only open 5 days a

week, reducing the earning capabilities of both the Museum and Gift shop and the Re-Sale Shop.

Our new fundraisers have been The Ferry Boat Ride \$500 gift card raffle ticket sale. This is still going on until all 500 tickets are sold, or the date of the drawing, August 3, 2026. Get your Raffle ticket for \$10.00 at The Museum or Re-sale Shop, or from any KIHA Board Member.

Our newest fundraiser, **Blackout & Bourbon**, is taking place on **Sunday September 6th from 2-4pm at The KIHA Museum!** Play our TRIVIA GAME, grab a bite to eat, and a chance to win our gift basket! Enjoy our Bourbon Tasting Bar too! Donations of \$25.00 will get you three rounds, with additional rounds at \$10.00 each. A prize of a \$100 VISA card will be awarded to each winner. We welcome you and anticipate a fun atmosphere provided by the local Island characters. We expect to see some local Trivia champions there to dominate the TRIVIA portion of the afternoon! Who will challenge them?!

Sunday, September 6 is not to be missed! Food, 50/50, Gift Baskets Raffle and Bourbon tasting! Gather your friends and family and come out to support the Kelleys Island Historical Association! Thank you in advance for your support and to our sponsors in the fundraising event!



Jason A. Smith
Realtor

Direct/Text 419-503-0604
JasonOnKi@gmail.com



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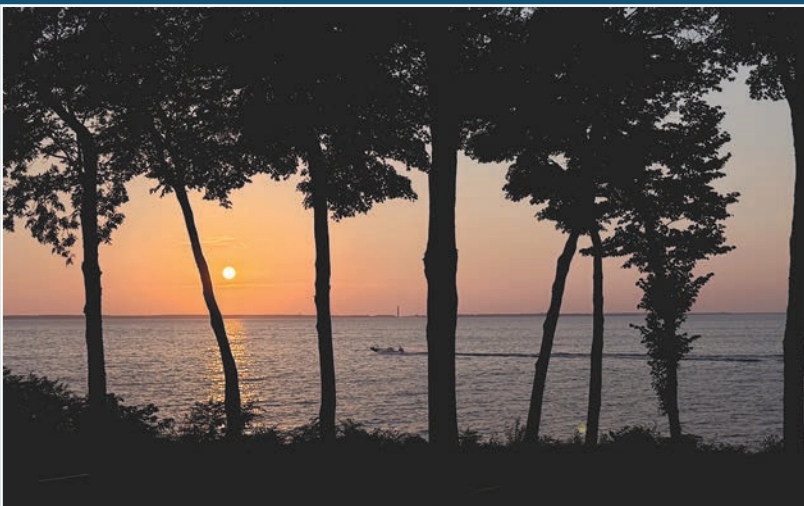
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(2100 Sq Ft) Rests on Sprawling 1+ Acre
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and Build your own Private Dock and
Outdoor Living Space along the Waterfront!
NEW PRICE \$1,179,900



NEW LISTING

132 CHARDONNAY

3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath Colonial with 2 Car Garage
2188 Sq Ft - Put Your Finishing Touches on
This "To Be Built" Custom Home in The Highly
Desirable Subdivision of Vineyard Estates
\$799,900



NEW LISTING

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This 1415 Sq Ft "To Be Built" Custom Home
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\$599,900



PENDING

410 SWEET VALLEY

Charming Ranch on Kelleys Island. Enjoy Easy, Single
Floor Living in this Inviting 2-Bedroom w/ Office, 1-Bath
Ranch Located in a Private, Family-Friendly Neighborhood.
Perfectly Situated between Downtown Kelleys Island and
Kelleys Island State Park and Sandy Beach. 2+ Car Attached
Garage w/ Dry Storage Area. New Roof 2019! **\$412,900**



SOLD

136 SUNSET DRIVE

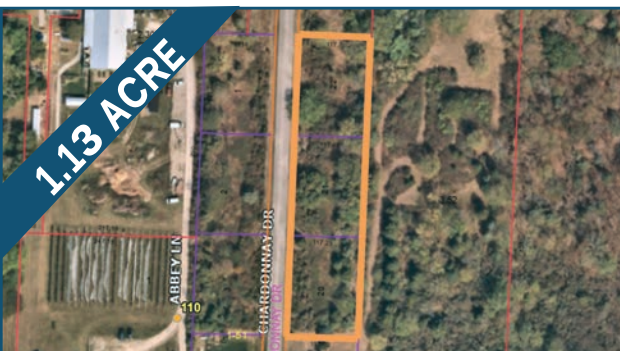
Tucked-Away in the Quiet, Less-Traveled Section of the
Sunset Point Subdivision. This 2 Bd, 1 BA bungalow offers
720 sq. ft., with a 400 sq. ft. garage, perfect for storing
your lake lifestyle gear. Both the home and garage feature
durable Metal Roofs for Low-Maintenance ownership. Off
the back of the house you will find a serene and tranquil
area featuring a Wooden Deck and Pergola. **\$334,900**



1.13 ACRE

LOTS 20-22 CHARDONNAY

Three Parcel ~ 1.13 Acre Residential Lot
Located In Desirable Vineyard Estates Subdivision!
City Water Available at the Street.
Site and Soil Performed!
\$189,000



NEW PRICE

LOTS 15-18 HAMILTON

Discover the perfect spot to build your family retreat on
this spacious 4-parcel lot totaling 0.77 acres (200' x 168').
Tucked away in a peaceful part of family-friendly Kelleys
Island, this property is just steps from the Boardwalk Trail
leading to the Kelleys Island Nature Preserve and Sandy
Beach, and close to Horseshoe Lake's hiking and biking
trails. **\$119,900**



READY TO BUILD

LOT 10 CHARDONNAY

Located in the Vineyard Estates Subdivision, this 0.38-
acre lot (116' x 141') offers the perfect blend of privacy and
convenience. Key improvements include a installed septic
system, a paid water tap with line run to the property, and
underground utilities are in place with a working electrical
meter making this lot truly build-ready. High standard of
quality stick-built homes required. **\$147,900**



NEW PRICE

220 MELODY LANE

Desirable Oversized Residential Lot (0.809 Acres) With
Lake Erie Access at the End of the Street. Street Access (100'
frontage on Melody, 150' Frontage on Memory Lane). Site
and Soil Review Suggests Property Will Support a House,
Pole Barn and 3-4 Bedroom Septic Waste Water Treatment
System. City Water is Available on Melody Lane. **\$179,000**



SCAN ME

Helping Buyers and Sellers from Westlake to The Erie Islands

Nature Camp 2026: Celebrating Nine Years of Discovery

Jackie Taylor

The 2026 Nature Camp marked the ninth year that the Kelleys Island School & Field Station has hosted its Nature Camp program for children ages 4-12. This season also marked a very special milestone—the first group of campers who began attending at age four officially aged out of the program and became our very first Nature Camp Graduates.

Watching these campers grow from curious preschoolers into confident young naturalists has been one of the greatest joys of leading this program. It has been an honor to share so many



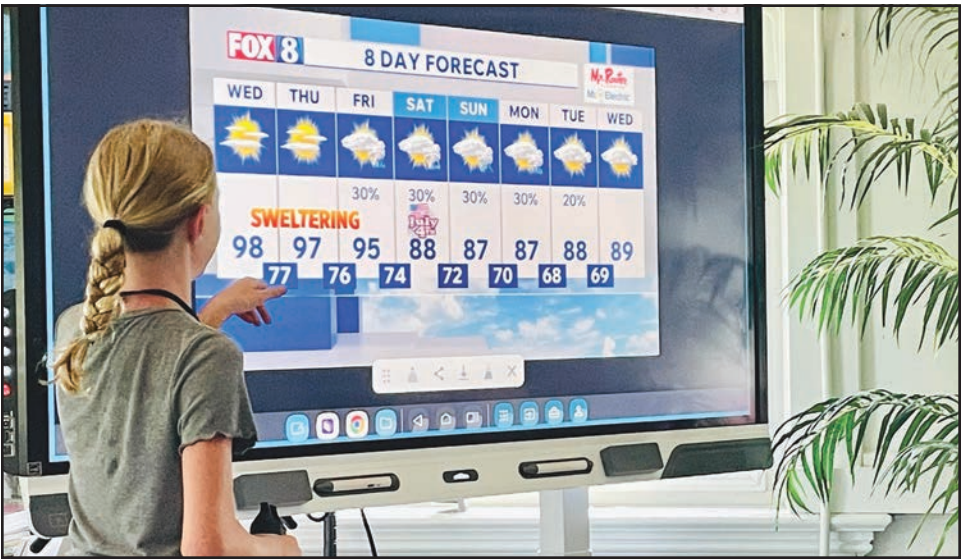
Ohio Division of Forestry shared the importance of tree.

summers of exploration with them and their families, and we are incredibly proud of each of our graduates.

This year's theme, "Sky to Shore," introduced campers to the incredible diversity of the natural world through hands-on experiences in birding, marine debris, weather, kayaking, trees, water quality, and wildlife.

We were fortunate to partner with an outstanding group of educators and organizations who helped make every day exciting and memorable. The Toledo Zoo introduced campers to animal adaptations using furs and animal skins while encouraging them to compare their own speed, strength, and jumping abilities to those of wildlife. Mike Hensley from Erie MetroParks led an engaging birding adventure, teaching campers how to identify birds and record their observations on personal bird checklists. Cleveland Fox 8 visited to teach weather science while filming campers as they learned how weather influences wildlife and the environment. The Ohio Division of Forestry shared the importance of trees, teaching campers how to identify common species and understand their role in healthy ecosystems. Cleveland Water led an interactive program focused on water quality and marine debris, helping campers understand the importance of protecting Lake Erie. Campers also enjoyed kayaking adventures and plenty of time swimming and enjoying the beauty of Kelleys Island.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of our



Cleveland Fox 8 visited to teach weather science

sponsors and donors. We extend our sincere appreciation to June Campbell, the Carter Family, the University of Findlay, JDM, Bad Day Training, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Adohr Corp, Penny Plus Store, Bobbie Jo & Chris Kipfer, Kyle & Jerry Yoest, Hancock-Wood Electric, Tom & Paula Bartlett, the Kelleys Island Landowners Association, Alexi Panehal, PIB Island Transportation, and Hancock-Wood Electric for investing in outdoor education and helping make Nature Camp possible.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Kelleys Island School administration, the island community, our wonderful campers and their families, and the many volunteers who gave their time and talents throughout the week.

A very special thank you goes to our incredible Nature Camp Crew—Jodie Smith, Hannah Kulka, and Katie Schuler. Their enthusiasm, dedication, teamwork, and genuine care for every camper helped make this one of our best Nature Camp seasons yet. I am grateful to work alongside such an outstanding team.

As one camp season comes to a close, we are already looking ahead to Nature Camp 2027. We can't wait to welcome returning campers, meet new families, and continue inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards.

Thank you for helping make Nature Camp such a meaningful tradition on Kelleys Island. We look forward to seeing you throughout the coming year!



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AUGUST 2
POLLINATORS
at the State Park
10AM – 2PM

Celebrate pollinators and their important role in our ecosystem with hands-on activities for all ages!

KELLEYS ISLAND STATE PARK

AUGUST 15
GEOLOGY
at the Glacial Grooves
10AM START TIME

Explore the ancient story of Kelleys Island with the Ohio Geological Survey. Fun & educational for all ages!

GLACIAL GROOVES

AUGUST 23
POLLINATORS & PANCAKE BRUNCH
12PM – 2PM

Enjoy a yummy brunch, learn about pollinator habitats, and kick off monarch butterfly tagging! Fun for the whole family.

KELLEYS ISLAND SCHOOL

AUGUST 30
BUTTERFLIES
10AM – 2PM

Discover the wonderful world of butterflies through activities, games, and crafts. All ages welcome!

KELLEYS ISLAND SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 6
MONARCH BUTTERFLY TAGGING
10AM – 2PM

Learn how monarchs migrate, help tag butterflies, and discover how you can help protect them!

KELLEYS ISLAND SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 14
KELLEYS ISLAND FIELD STATION DAY & Celebration

FOLLOWING THE CELEBRATION AT THE STATE PARK

Join us at the Kelleys Island School to celebrate our amazing community, sponsors, and supporters! Refreshments, activities & gratitude!

KELLEYS ISLAND SCHOOL

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY, SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS.
We couldn't do it without YOU!

An Island Telephone

Patti Johnson

It is 2026 and I do not know one person that does not have a phone. Most everyone I know runs their lives and businesses from their phone, using it as a hub of information, entertainment and communication with family, social connections and the global society we are part of.

Recently, I began to remember how we used to communicate on the island, (if you had a land line), and proper uses of the phone that were taught to us very young.

I remember being in school and telling my teacher that my island phone number only had 5 digits and she was skeptical. She made it into a project for us to ask Ohio Bell to send a letter of description and ask for an explanation to the class of why they had 7 numbers, and some rural areas (we didn't know what that word meant) only had 5. We all learned something from that lesson.

Our phone rang a lot. My parents provided rides to visitors and island families and also would do tours for people that made arrangements.

We were taught to say the name of the business "Island taxi, 'this is Patti, who am I speaking with?"

The other end would respond and I was the filter to see who and what was the subject. Playing secretary, I believe they called it.

"This is Ray Burgniese from University of Toledo; there are a few of us that would like a tour of the island next Saturday if available. We want to see the Glacier Grooves."

I was not old enough to keep the calendar, so my next job was to tell dad he had a call.

"Who is on the other end?" Jay would ask, as I had the receiver as big as my head pressed to my oily face.

He would take the phone and I would wait for him to repeat information that would be needed.

"What can we do for each other?" He would begin the conversation with one of my favorite lines, "this is Jay Johnson on Kelley's island." Name, organization, time of pick up and general interest in the island to tailor a narration for the group. He met people from all over, and had the time of his life.

Before dad got on the ferry on Sundays, our phone was used for Grandma Mona phone calls. She was my dad's mom that came up from Arizona after Ruth died. She was good at so many things: she knew how to combat poison ivy, she taught us kids about nature and all its creations, and collected rocks like it was her part time

job. Her other job was watching island kids and keeping a house afloat after her Daughter-in-Law's mom died suddenly and there was a lot of space and grief in the house for her to hold each summer.

By the 1980s we all had 7 digits. 746-2360 was the Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce. Businesses volunteered for 2-hour shifts to answer the phone, check messages, document the caller's number and name, and send them a Fun Finder; which was a brochure that was the marketing arm of this island getaway. In the shack we had a master list of members and their services so that we could refer callers to the desired business.

Being part of the last year of the Boomer generation (1963-64), and this community and others, Doug and I have managed businesses through a five-digit phone number, pagers, manual color-coded mailing systems,

and point-of-sale systems that seemed incredibly advanced because they were wireless. I have watched technology evolve at a pace that sometimes feels impossible to keep up with. I still like to imagine young people finding time connected to nature, with a rhythm that is not completely dependent on a phone. As another Jayism reminds me, "Life comes at you fast."

And yet, I have also seen how technology, in the right hands, becomes more than convenience. Watching our EMS squad coordinate people, space, and resources on this complex island reminds me that technology can be life itself when guided by compassionate humans with stewardship as the mission.

I am not going to recount the recent storms; the news stations did that well. But I believe Mother Nature showed us all what we needed to see: our infrastructure matters, our public

services matter, our leadership matters, and protecting this environment matters.

That is a lot for a little island that once only had five-digit phone numbers.

But it is the island way—to adapt, to care for one another, and to move through the storms together.

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Info and Call to Action | Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative



Shea Alltmont, Community Engagement Manager, Sandusky Library

Located at 528 Division Street, this charming library is part of the larger Sandusky Library and CLEVNET system, bringing big-library resources to a small island community with access to over 8 million print and digital items.

Visitors and residents alike can explore books, audiobooks, eBooks, and research tools. Need Wi-Fi, a quiet place to read, printing resources, or help finding information? It's all here—mainly powered by dedicated local volunteers who keep the spirit of the library alive.

What truly makes the Kelleys Island Branch special is its role as a bridge between locals and travelers—offering a shared space to learn, connect, and unwind.

We look forward to seeing you soon and find us at www.sanduskylib.org.

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- Sat: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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www.sanduskylib.org



Glacial Glimpses

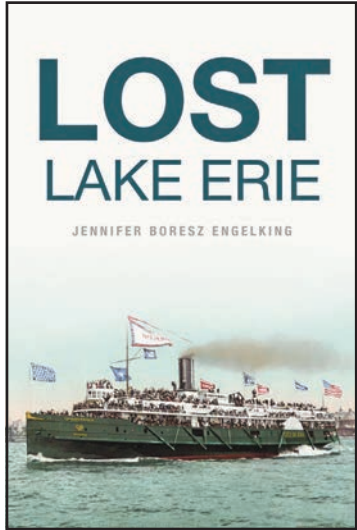
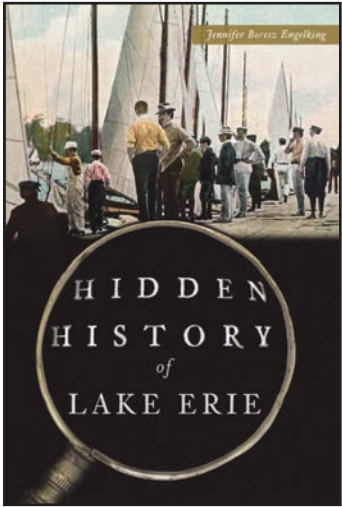


Lori Hayes
Sunday, September 6 • 1 pm
Where does every tourist visit when they come to Kelleys Island? The Glacial Grooves of course! Plan to take your guests on a guided tour of the grooves, Labor Day Weekend.
The tour is being led by Chris Ashley, Kelleys Island state Park Manager and Pat Hayes, President, Kelleys Island Audubon Club.
The tour begins at 1 pm and meets at the Grooves. All welcome and free.

Little-known history of Lake Erie

Jennifer Boresz Engelking's two books on Lake Erie and its islands offer a rich, little-known history that brings the region's cultural, environmental, and maritime past into clear focus. Through careful research and vivid narrative, Engelking illuminates the people, events, and natural forces that shaped the lake and the string of islands.

Hidden History of Lake Erie
"Author Jennifer Boresz Engelking explores the intriguing history of Lake Erie. What lies below the surface of Lake Erie? Gold coins from long-ago shipwrecks, like the tragic sinking of the G.P. Griffith. The menacing, mysterious Lake Erie Monster. How about a whiskey ship that vanished more than a century ago in the western basin? The lake is filled with little-known tales, including legends like Joe Root in Erie and legendary places like the Belle Isle Boathouse in Detroit. Tragedies, like the Ashtabula bridge disaster, and triumphs, like the day Niagara Falls was turned off, changed the way we live today."

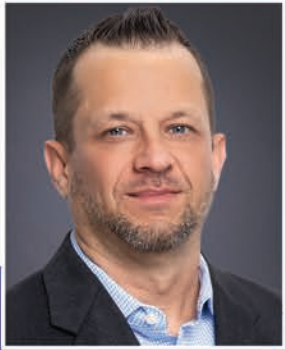


Lost Lake Erie
"Serene one moment and destructive the next, Lake Erie's moods mirror its tumultuous role in history. As the site of Cleveland's Great Lakes Exposition, the lake offered visitors a respite from the Great Depression, and Hotel Victory, once considered the world's largest summer resort, drew thousands to Put-In-Bay. Daring postal workers dangerously crossed the ice-covered surface on hybrid "boats" and by foot. Canal Street, at the Buffalo Wharf, was once called "the Wickedest Street in America." The Erie/ is one of thousands of ships that lie in a solemn graveyard below the surface. And rum runners turned the lake into a watery highway for illegal booze during Prohibition. Author Jennifer Boresz Engelking reveals entertaining, heartbreaking, and nostalgic stories of the lost sites, businesses and industries of Lake Erie."

Jennifer Boresz Engelking's two books uncover many little-known aspects of Lake Erie's history and the lives of island communities. Through a blend of environmental context, maritime narrative, and local voices, her work enriches our understanding of a region shaped as much by water and weather as by human ingenuity and endurance. Both books are available at the Kelley's Island Historical Association Gift Shop.

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Insurance Insights: When the Unexpected Happens, Tips for Filing an Insurance Claim

Amanda Rhiel,
Bolte Insurance
Agency

No one expects to be in a car accident, have a tree fall on their home, or experience damage from a storm. Unfortunately, life happens and it's important to be ready if you ever need to file an insurance claim. Knowing what to do can help make the process smoother and less stressful.

Here are a few simple steps to keep in mind:

1. Make Safety Your First Priority

If someone is injured, call 911 immediately. Your health and safety always come before property damage. If it's safe to do so, take steps to prevent additional damage, such as covering a broken window, tarping a leaking roof, or moving belongings away from water.

2. Document Everything

Take photos and videos of the damage before making any repairs. The more documentation you have,

the easier it is for your insurance company to understand what happened. Keep receipts for any temporary repairs or emergency expenses, as they may be reimbursable under your policy.

3. Contact Your Insurance Company Promptly

Once you have decided that the damage will exceed your deductible and is worth filing a claim, don't wait too long to report a claim. Most insurance companies offer several ways to report a loss, including by phone, online, or through a mobile app. Be prepared to provide details about what happened, when it occurred, and who was involved.

4. Be Honest and Thorough

Provide accurate information throughout the claims process. If you don't know the answer to a question, it's perfectly okay to say so rather than guess. Your claims adjuster is there to help gather the facts and guide you through the process.

5. Keep Good Records

Create a folder, either paper or electronic, to keep claim numbers, estimates, receipts, emails, and notes from phone conversations. Staying organized can save time and reduce frustration if questions come up later.

6. Don't Rush Into Repairs

Unless emergency repairs are needed to prevent further damage, wait until your insurance company has had an opportunity to inspect the loss. Starting major repairs too soon could complicate the claims process.

7. Ask Questions

Insurance can be confusing, and every claim is different. If something isn't clear, don't hesitate to ask your insurance agent or claims representative to explain your coverage, deductible, or the next steps. They want you to understand the process.

Filing an insurance claim can feel overwhelming, especially during an already stressful time. By staying calm, documenting the damage, keeping organized records, and communicating

with your insurance company, you'll help the process move along as smoothly as possible. Although no one hopes to use their insurance, being prepared before you need to file a claim can make all the difference when the unexpected happens.

If you have questions about your insurance needs, contact Amanda or one of the licensed agents at Bolte Insurance Agency. As a full-service agency we offer home, auto, health and life insurance and would be happy to help evaluate your needs and make sure your coverage is a good fit for you and your lifestyle.

Bolte Insurance Agency is proud to be celebrating 90 years as a family-owned business serving Port Clinton and the surrounding communities.

Boaters and Paddlers Actions are Key to (AIS) Prevention!

Ohio Clean Boater Program

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) don't usually arrive in a waterbody with a "big splash" - they slip in silently often as a plant fragment on a kayak strap, a few mussel larvae in a bilge, or leftover bait water poured out in the water. Once they take hold, they can damage engines, ruin fishing, crowd out native species, and cost communities millions. The good news: boaters and paddlers are the first and most effective line of defense!

The simplest and most effective protection comes from boaters and paddlers adopting these essential steps:

1. CLEAN - remove all plant, mud, and debris from:
 - Hulls and paddleboards
 - Trailers and wheels
 - Paddles, life jackets, water toys
 - Anchors and ropes
 - Roof-rack straps
2. DRAIN - drain all water from:
 - Bilges • Live wells • Ballast tanks
 - Coolers • Bait buckets
3. DRY - dry boats and gear for at least 5 days when possible or if going out again soon, towel dry and let the sun help.

A few smart habits can also make a

BIG difference:

- Use cleaning stations.
- Check the "sneaky" spots - look at anchor lines, rudders, scupper holes, paddle blades, and trailer bunks.
- Never dump bait - bring bait from home in fresh water and dispose of in the trash.

Become part of the solution! Responsible boaters and paddlers already follow these steps and are key to preventing the introduction and spread of AIS. By joining them, you help protect the lakes and rivers you love by keeping them clean and enjoyable for everyone.

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Call the number provided to speak with a licensed insurance agent.

Project Lifesaver offers life-saving support

Rachel Fall
Magruder Hospital
Many Ottawa County-area community organizations have come together to support the Ottawa County Project Lifesaver program. "Through these partnerships, we are able to deliver essential care and response to community members who might not otherwise have access to the Project Lifesaver program," Ottawa County Sheriff Steve Levorchick said.

PORT CLINTON — The Ottawa County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with the Port Clinton Lions Club and several key communities, partners continue to provide critical support to local families through the Ottawa County Project Lifesaver program.

Ottawa County Sheriff Steve Levorchick emphasized the importance of these partnerships, stating, "I am very proud of our collaboration with the Port Clinton Lions Club, Magruder Hospital, Mercy St. Vincent Life Flight, Ottawa County Senior Resources, Ottawa County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Ottawa County Veterans Services," he said.

"Through these partnerships, we

are able to deliver essential care and response to community members who might not otherwise have access to the Project Lifesaver program," he added. "I am a firm believer that we are truly 'our brother's keeper.' If we fail to care for our entire community, we fail everyone, including ourselves."

Project Lifesaver is an active, rapid-response program designed to locate individuals who are prone to wandering due to Alzheimer's, dementia, autism or other cognitive or developmental conditions.

Participants wear a lightweight, battery-operated wrist transmitter that emits a tracking signal every second, allowing trained search teams to locate missing individuals quickly — often in less than 30 minutes.

This technology enables responders from the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office to track signals over several miles on the ground and from the air with assistance from Mercy St. Vincent Life Flight. Each device is uniquely coded to ensure accurate identification and swift recovery.

In addition to advanced technology, Project Lifesaver teams are specially trained to interact with individuals

who may be disoriented or unresponsive. Their approach focuses on building trust, ensuring safety, and returning participants home calmly and efficiently.

The benefits of the program include:

- Rapid response and reduced search times
- Increased safety and protection from environmental dangers
- Greater reliability compared to GPS tracking systems
- Cost savings for taxpayers through efficient search efforts
- Peace of mind for caregivers and families

Thanks to generous community support, participation is available to Ottawa County residents for a \$10 monthly maintenance fee. No one will be denied access due to an inability to pay.

Community members interested in enrolling a loved one or learning more about the program are encouraged to reach out.

For referrals, call 567-262-3133. For other inquiries, dial 419-734-4404.



Many Ottawa County-area community organizations have come together to support the Ottawa County Project Lifesaver program

Bill seeks to fund \$16M Kelleys Island sewer system

Tom Jackson
Sandusky Register
KELLEYS ISLAND — A U.S. House committee approved a water resources bill that includes \$16 million to provide Kelleys Island with a sewer system and wastewater treatment plant.

If the project goes forward, it would move businesses and homes on the island away from using septic tank systems, said U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Toledo, who worked to get the Kelleys Island provision included in the House version of the Water Resources Development Act of 2026. The measure has been OK'd by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Getting the Kelleys Island sewer system enacted into law isn't a done

deal yet, however. The U.S. Senate's version of the bill does not include the project.

It's possible that the fate of the project will wind up in a House-Senate conference committee, which would write the final version of the water resources bill.

"It's too early in the legislative process to predict its ultimate fate. It is among a dozen provisions included in the House bill but not in the Senate's version of the legislation," Kaptur said.

She continued: "I'm hopeful the Senate will recognize its value and agree to include it during negotiations that would occur later this year. I will certainly be making the case for its inclusion when we reach that step in the process."

If Kaptur succeeds in her efforts, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would be authorized to pursue the project, working with the Village of Kelleys Island. The Corps would be tasked with both designing and building the new sewer system.

More projects planned

The proposed Kelleys Island project is only one of several projects to benefit Kaptur's 9th District that are included in the House version of the water resources bill.

The House bill also includes a provision to give the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers "streamlined authority" to work with local governments and nonprofits to find ways to reuse soil dredged from Ohio harbors. The soil

would be used for shoreline protection, habitat restoration and other useful projects.

That provision is aimed at dealing with a problem that has at times held up dredging in Sandusky's harbor: Finding a place for the dredged soil from the lake bottom.

The House measure also would raise the federal funding cap for Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration projects from \$10 million to \$20 million.

Kaptur's office explained that change would allow a \$14.4 million local project to move forward: Installing a seasonal grass carp barrier in Fremont in Sandusky County to keep grass carp from spawning on the river.

Ohio Fish Tag

ODNR Division of Wildlife
Anglers may encounter fish from Lake Erie, the Ohio River, or any of Ohio's reservoirs which are tagged to improve the Division of Wildlife's knowledge and management of the state's fisheries. The fish may be kept but please remove the tag, rinse with water, and store the tag at room temperature. Call the number printed on the tag or visit wildohio.gov to report

when and where the fish was caught. Tagged Lake Erie walleye will have up to two external tags and one internal transmitter. Please remove the tags and transmitter. Call (419) 625-8062 to report tagged Lake Erie walleye. A \$100 reward is offered for information on the external tag and transmitter in the event that you catch and keep a tagged walleye.

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Kelleys Island Real Estate: A Summer 2026 Market Update

Reporting Period: June 15, 2026 – July 14, 2026

Steve Mack
Century 21 Bolte Real Estate

As we moved from mid-June into mid-July, the Kelleys Island real estate market continued to show steady activity. We saw more movement compared to the previous month, with several properties changing hands, while inventory remained limited.

One thing we continue to see is that buyers are interested, but they are taking their time and being selective. Buyers are paying close attention to location, condition, updates, and overall value before making a move. Properties that offer something special, whether it is waterfront, additional living space, rental potential, or a great island location, continue to stand out.

One of the biggest stories in the market continues to be the limited amount of residential inventory available on Kelleys Island. During this reporting period, there were only two active single-family homes available. The available homes represented two

very different segments of the market, including a larger four-bedroom West Lakeshore home listed just under \$1.18 million and a two-bedroom home on Sweetvalley listed at \$412,900. The Sweetvalley property went pending on July 17, shortly after the end of this reporting period, showing that buyers continue to act when the right opportunity becomes available.

Looking back at the same time period last summer, there was a noticeable difference in activity. From mid-June through mid-July 2025, there were no reported home sales on Kelleys Island. During that same period this year, two homes successfully closed, with another property moving into contract shortly after the reporting period ended. This shows that while buyers remain selective, there continues to be solid demand when properly positioned properties become available.

One of the highlights this past month was the recent sale of a historic

property on Harbor Lane that sold for \$749,000, matching its full list price. The property's combination of island character, thoughtful renovations, separate guest space, and flexible living options helped it stand out. Sales like this continue to show that buyers appreciate the unique properties that make Kelleys Island special.

We also saw a smaller inland cottage-style home on Sunset Drive sell during this period. The two-bedroom, one-bath home sold for \$300,000 after approximately 50 days on the market. While it sold below its original asking price, it continues to show there is steady demand for more affordable island properties when the pricing feels right for buyers.

The lot and land market remained steady but a little quieter compared to residential sales. Four buildable lots remained available during this period, ranging from smaller parcels around three-quarters of an acre to larger parcels over one acre. Current asking

prices ranged from approximately \$125,000 to \$189,000. Buyers continue to carefully consider location, utilities, access, and future building plans when evaluating land opportunities.

The land market also remained very consistent compared to last summer, with one buildable lot sale during both periods. During the June 15 through July 14, 2025 timeframe, a lot in the Southaven subdivision sold for \$180,000. During the same period this year, a buildable lot on Orchard Lane sold for \$105,000 after approximately 39 days on the market. While these two sales represent different locations and price points, both show that buyers continue to have interest in well-positioned island lots when the opportunity and pricing make sense.

Kelleys Island remains a special place for those who value the island lifestyle, and we expect continued interest and limited inventory to keep the market active as we move through the summer season.

The government will never, ever ask you this

In 2010, The Elder Justice Act established an Elder Justice Coordinating Council to coordinate activities related to elder abuse, neglect and exploitation throughout the federal government.

According to the Federal Elder Justice Coordinating Council, "Government imposter scams are a serious problem: in 2025, the Federal Trade Commission received more than 375,000 reports about government imposters with reported losses of \$917 million."

That data is based on those who actually reported their scam. Millions of victims never tell anyone. The imposter scam goes unreported.

Here is how it works: These imposter scammers lie and pretend to be someone they're not.

Their goal? Trick you into giving them money, access to your financial accounts or your personal information. They make up complicated stories about so-called emergencies so you will panic, act quickly and not think about what you are being directed to do.

Most commonly, the scam starts with an unexpected call from someone who says they're from a well-known entity, saying there's suspicious activity on your account.

To "help" you, they transfer you to someone who says they are from the government. This so-called helper claims to be from the FBI, the commission or some other law enforcement agency.

The imposter urges you to move your money to "protect it" — maybe by transferring it to an account they give you, depositing it in a "government account" or crypto ATM for "safekeeping" or getting cash or gold and giving it to a courier.

This is a lie. No one from the government will ever ask you to do these things. Only scammers.

Many older Americans do not know this. That is why the Elder Justice Coordinating Council has started a public awareness effort called The Never Ever Campaign.

Other lies might involve a suspended Social Security number or supposed eligibility for government benefits. In all cases, the scammer will go to great lengths to convince the individual they are with the government.

The Elder Justice Council warns that scammers can "use fake caller ID or official-looking letters, for example. The agency name might be real or made up but real-sounding. Some scammers might show you an employee ID or badge — all to seem more real, but it is not."

To recognize and avoid a government imposter, keep these things in mind:

- Never ever will someone from the government say: "Your money isn't safe. Move it to protect it." Only a scammer will say this.

- Never ever will someone from the government threaten to suspend your government benefits if you don't pay

immediately. Only a scammer will say this.

- Never ever will someone from the government demand that you pay with a payment app, cryptocurrency, wire transfer, or gift cards.

Serving Our Seniors is here for Erie County residents, age 60-plus, to be that trusted entity when older adults receive a call from a stranger representing him/herself as the government.

Call 419-624-1856 and ask for a Senior Advocate or a Senior Advocate

Assistant. Serving Our Seniors will help you report this scam attempt to local law enforcement and to reportfraud.ftc.gov.

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The Kelley Brothers Buy an Island

Datus and his brother Irad Kelley were looking to diversify and Huntington recalled how the Kelley brothers became interested in purchasing land west of Cleveland. Cunningham's Island was not their first choice. "Some time during the Summer of 1833 Mr. Irad Kelley of Cleveland conceived the idea that it would be a very fine thing to own a whole island and be 'monarch of all he surveyed,' and the more he thought of it the more anxious he became to consummate so desirable a speculation. His first idea was to buy Bull's Island in the Sandusky Bay (now known as Johnson's Island...). As a preliminary step Mr. Kelley visited or was about to visit Sandusky to make inquiries into the matter when his attention was directed to Cunningham's Island by someone, I think Hon. J. W. Allen of Cleveland, who told him it would prove much the most desirable speculation; that Gen. Simon Perkins of Warren was agent for the owners, who were very desirous to sell; and that it could undoubtedly be bought at a bargain."

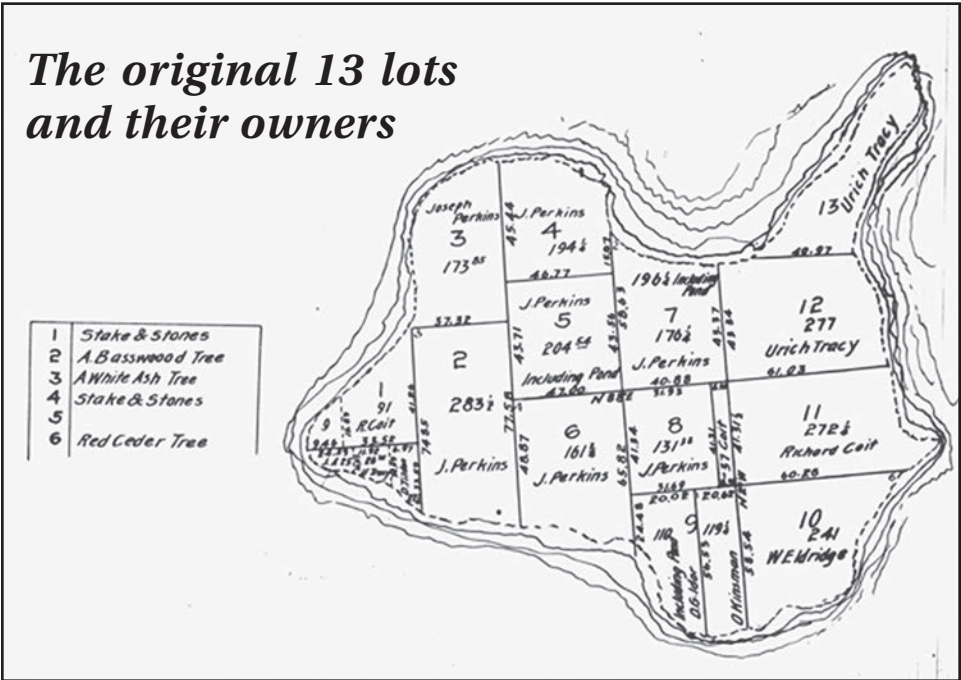
It is not surprising that the Kelley family would know Allen. Cleveland was incorporated as a village in 1814 and Alfred Kelley, brother to Datus and Irad, was elected its first President in 1815 with just 12 votes cast at the election. The following year he resigned his position and Daniel Kelley was elected. Daniel retained his position until 1820. John W. Allen was then elected Cleveland's President. Alfred later moved to Columbus.

"This idea struck Mr. Kelley very favorably and he proceeded no farther in the Bull's Island matter, but embraced the earliest opportunity to advise with his brother, Datus Kelley... on the subject. He too entertained a

very favorable idea of the project; not, however because he cared anything about the idea of 'owning a whole Island,' but because he saw intrinsic value in the timber and stone with which the island was known to abound; and the two brothers, as D. & I. Kelley, went immediately to work to carry their design into execution."

After an unproductive meeting in June 1833, Allen "introduced the subject of the sale of the island to Mr. Irad Kelley of Cleveland, recommending the purchase as a good investment. The latter it appears, had for some time been favorably impressed with the future value of the property, and had called the attention of his brother, Mr. Datus Kelley of Rockport, to the matter, and upon this application of Mr. Allen they concluded to, and did, visit the island with reference to its purchase.

The difficulties that followed the advent of Napier upon the island, that beset the inhabitants consequent upon his claim of ownership, the seizure of their stock, etc. without legal process, and, as they claimed, without the shadow of equitable right, rendered it imperative that something should be done to put a stop to this forcible appropriation of their property. They were naturally, therefore, very anxious that someone should purchase the island, in order by this means to have the matter of title definitely settled. They claimed none themselves, not even that of squatters on unoccupied lands, but they did claim ownership in the stock which they had raised and were pasturing at free commons upon the island. Upon the arrival therefore, of the Messrs. Kelley upon their visit for examination, it may be readily assumed that the interested parties



From the book Kelleys Island, The courageous, poignant & often quirky lives of island pioneer 1810-1861.

were not backward in pointing out the desirability of the purchase. It is probable that they did not require it to be thus impressed upon them."

Remember, this was before the telegraph and railroads. All communications were accomplished by mail and any meetings or even the viewing of the property involved a major travel commitment. "On the 12th day of July 1833, [Datus and Irad] both visited the island the first time for the purpose of prospecting (as the California miners would say) and the results of their prospecting seems to have been entirely satisfactory since a few days after this event we find Mr. D. Kelley at Warren negotiating with Gen. Perkins for the purpose, which seems to have been accomplished with much less delay than is usually attendant upon transactions of such (to them at that time) magnitude; for we find, under date of August 23rd on the books of the firm of I. & D. Kelley a charge of cash paid for a deed of the Adams lot (so called) which is a small lot on the west end of the island [Tate first purchase was 23.25 acres in Lot 1, bought from Taber [Jabez] and Lucy Adams of Mansfield "once State of Connecticut."], and immediately after this a charge of cash paid for expenses to Norwalk to have the deed recorded. The residue of the island was soon secured, and in the September following, Mr. D. Kelley again visited the island, this time as joint proprietor of the whole and as managing agent for the firm of I. & D. Kelley."

"As a result of their investigations, the first purchase of lands on the island were effected, as appears by date of contract, on the 20th day of August 1833, of John A. and Mary Rockwell, and Alfred K. Perkins, through Simon Perkins their attorney, and consisted, as detailed in said contracts, of lots numbered 'two, three, four, five, six and seven, and the west part of Lot 8, and containing 1,444 and 92/100 acres,' or almost ½ the total area of the island, for which they paid \$2,167.35, or \$1.50 per acre."

After that, the purchases came quickly. A large parcel of 119.25 acres transferred to the Kelleys on September 9 from George and Olive D. Swift of Kinsmon (Trumbull County) for \$238.50 described as being located on "Cunningham's Island in Lake Erie in the Connecticut Western Reserve in the State of Ohio, and which is also in the County of Huron, and is known as part of Lot No. 9." The name on the deed is Swift, but the map shows Kinsmon.

As you can see from these deeds, few of the owners resided on the Island, several were residents of Connecticut. Richard Coit of

Winchester in the County of Litchfield and State of Connecticut, transferred to Datus and Irad Kelley 91 acres of land, located in Lot 1 on September 18, 1833, and the whole of Lot No. 11 containing 272.25 acres, and 37 acres on the East side of Lot No. 8, which "contains in the whole as now surveyed 400.25 acres, and is the same and all the land which is set out to said Coit in the partition of said Cunningham's Island..."

"Other purchases then followed, until the fee of the entire remainder of the islands was obtained (through the principals or their attorneys) of the different owners, these subsequent purchases having been effected as fast as the names of the different owners, or their agents, could be ascertained, within a short time following the date of the original purchase. Upon obtaining possession of the island, the Messrs. Kelley proceeded to effect the expulsion there from of Benjamin A. Napier, by ejectment, from the lands upon which he had no legal or equitable claim, the possession of which he attempted forcibly to retain.

These proceedings led to a protracted litigation, in which the question of title was thoroughly investigated by the courts and eventuated in a more full and satisfactory confirmation of the same to the purchasers. Perhaps these would have been obtained had no such controversy arisen. Still the claimant persisted in his illegal acts until a conviction on a criminal charge, and narrow escape from the consequences thereof, induced his final absence from the neighborhood."

Those other purchases included 95 acres of land lying on the West side of Lot No. 9 and 22.25 acres of land lying on the East side of the South part of Lot No. 1, purchased for \$200. "Meaning hereby to convey all the land on said Island which was set off to Daniel Tilden, late of Portage County in said state, but aforesaid deceased..."

On September 3, 1834, with most of the island's acreage resting in the Kelley name, one more deed transferred as John and Faith McClellan of Woodstock, Connecticut sold their nine acres to Datus and Irad for \$45. The final two parcels would not transfer until 1935 and 1936: 241 acres bought from Wm. and Paulina Eldredge and L. P. Waldo (by reason of a mortgage) for \$602.50 and 444 acres purchased from the heirs of Uriah Tracy by Gen. Simon Perkins, Attorney. It took the Kelley brothers three years and \$4,513.56, not counting the litigation with Napier, to purchase all 2800.92 acres of island land.

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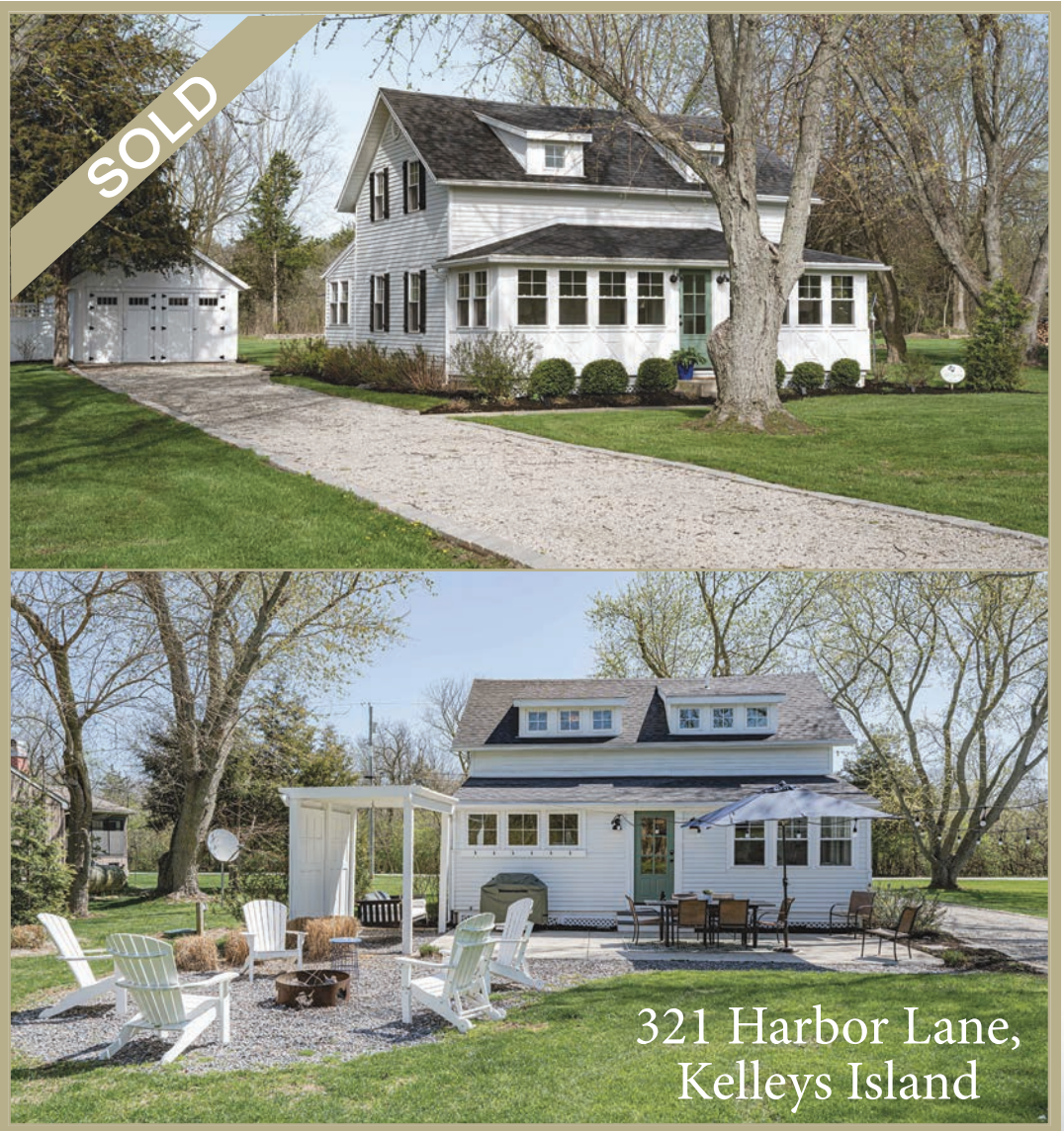
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*Kelleys Island real estate is unique.
The island's waterfront homes, older cottages, and
one-of-a-kind properties each have their own story,
along with their own opportunities and challenges.
That's why local knowledge and experience matter.*



Kelleys Island Market Snapshot: June 15, 2026 - July 14, 2026

Land & Lots:

- Under Contract: 0
- Sold: 1
- Sold Days On Market: 39
- Sold Price: \$105,000

Homes & Condos:

- Under Contract: 0
- Sold: 2
- Sold Average Days On Market: 60
- Sold Price Range: \$300,000 - \$749,000

Active During Period:

- Homes Listed: 3
Price Range: \$447,500 - \$1,179,000
- Lots Listed: 4
Price Range: \$124,900 - \$195,000

All data from Firelands MLS from June 15, 2026 to July 14, 2026. Figures reflect MLS-listed properties only, deemed to be accurate but not guaranteed.

For property information please visit Kelleysislandforsale.com

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