

DECEMBER 2019
ELECTION RESULTS

We have 323 Registered voters and 186 ballots were cast (57.59%); 124 of those voted in person! The Island levies all passed and the ordinance to convert the Clerk/Treasurer position to an appointed Fiscal Officer was overturned. As a result Lisa was elected the new Clerk/Treasurer for the Village: Lisa Klonaris (165) over Rosalyn Ahner (18). The Mayor (Ron Ehrbar), Board of Education (Cindy Herndon), 2 Council seats (Russell Maust-159 and Gary Finger-133) ran unopposed.

The final Audubon Club meeting took place at The Inn B&B as we sat around a warm fire and said our last goodbyes to many of our friends. Council is supporting the move to make Kelleys Island a designated Monarch City. Kids really clean up on Halloween up here. The big weekend had hay rides, trunk treat or treating, and pumpkin carving. Island kids had a traditional evening on Halloween, but the winds almost blew them away. Veterans Day was well-supported here. Even though it was wet and cold and slushy snow started to fall, 50 people still showed up to remember those who served. Good News for people with land lines on the Island (and many still do because of the random cell service here). Frontier just started posting a “potential spam” message on our caller ID. This should make it easier to ignore those calls; however, we did receive SEVEN calls one day from our own phone no. according to our caller ID. Let’s hope our government does something about them. Sure, the Thanksgiving turkey is fine, but what we really look forward to is listening to Arlo Guthrie’s 1967 song, Alice’s Restaurant at noon on 98.5 while the turkey cooks.

WEATHER

The first snowflakes fell on November 7, but it wasn’t until November 11 that we got one inch of real snow. Fortunately, the big storm missed us. The *Shirley Irene* was out of commission for two weeks for its 5-year inspection and some repairs. As the winds of November ripped across the lake, the *Kayla* made as many valiant trips as it could, concentrating on people and cars and restricting construction equipment and large vehicles. Weather cancelled the *Goodtime* Halloween cruise – there were some pretty spectacular waves all weekend. The wind blew out quite a bit of water and a lot of the State Park beach was exposed. It was really weird to see plants and trees along the lakeshore covered with sparking ice so early in the year. And, it was cold. Toledo broke a 1911 record with 11 degrees on November 12. We weren’t much warmer.

COUNCIL NOTES

As the days get shorter, so do the Council meetings. There were very few reports and only housekeeping ordinances on the agenda. Lands and Buildings reported that the suggested splash park project was declined but drainage at the pavilion will proceed. Streets & Sidewalks noted that the paving project for Memory, Fernwood, part of McGettigan, and the Transfer Station will be going out for bids. The petition by McGettigan residents to be included in the project failed for lack of the required number of signatures. The Park Board has volunteers working to cut some trails into one of their preserves. The Shoreline Protection Committee is working with the Corps of Engineers for programs to assist the Village with shoreline protection. After serving for 25 years on the Fire Dept., Don Huntley is retiring. There was one fire in October. The KIFD has been networking with other agencies and the Strongsville Fire Dept. is donating 1000 feet of 4” hose to us, and we will be buying 20 hydrant adapters. The Dept. conducted hazmat training. EMS reported 5 runs. Each year, and this is important, they remind us to call 911. Do NOT try to chase down one of the EMS people. If you think you have a medical problem – call 911 for the fastest response. The Police Dept. had just three reports, fielded 102 phone calls, and issued a ticket for driving under suspension. Really, this seems to be a recurring problem up here. As a result of the impounding of these and OVI vehicles, the Village will be

looking at formalizing an impound fee structure. Some repairs were needed on one squad car and there were recalls on two SUV's and the truck. Remember to turn in your house check forms (they already did 50 inspections last month) and file safety check forms for your loved ones who are wintering here. They are available online (KelleysIsland.us) and at the Village office. Eric Longbrake reminds winter residents that there is a reimbursement program for 'catastrophic' transportation needs for people with only one house and that one house is here on the Island - contact Serving our Seniors.

NOVEMBER 2019

As I type this, several mini super heroes and princesses are walking up to the door for trick or treat. It is finally beginning to feel like Fall as temperatures cool and the trees are finally committing to color change. By now, all the seasonal bars and restaurants are closed and in a few months, more will shut their doors for the winter. The turkey shoots at the VFW are done, all the clambakes have been eaten, and the last end of the year parties are being held. We look forward to the VFW pot lucks, hours in the library and long walks in the woods. Our exercise lady is on maternity leave, so Wednesday classes are temporarily on hold. The KILA hayride was, as always, loads of fun. Really, kid's in costumes and a hayride, how cute can it get? Kid's day on the Island is full of activities. Every few hours you can jump from pumpkin carving, to hayrides, to trunk trick or treating, to Terror at the Town Hall. While the KI History Museum is closed for the season, you can still get lots of intriguing items at the Resale Shop. They will stay open until it is too cold to work, so just look for the open flag on the porch.

BIRD NEWS

One week on Kelleys Island Tom & Paula Bartlett, Jim & Barb Zeller, Chris Ashley, Dave & Kristi Sellers, and Shane & Laura Roberts banded at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Jones Preserve. In total they banded 254 individual birds of 37 species, had 11 recaptured birds from previous outings, and 3 escaped birds. That week, 368 individuals visit the station. Some of the more unusual birds included: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Scarlet Tanager, Lincoln's Sparrow, Ovenbird, Black-and-White Warbler, Northern Parula, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided and Cape May Warblers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Photos of many of these appear on the Bird Kelleys Island Facebook page. Owl banding is underway (with limited results). Running late this year are the saw-whet owls (those cute little birds), but several screech owls have been banded.

THE ELECTION – Well, this is certainly shaping up to be exciting. Council passed legislation to convert the elected Clerk/Treasurer position to an appointed Fiscal Officer. This was challenged in a Referendum action. Voters can choose to uphold the legislation, or overturn it and allow one of the two people who filed for the office to be elected. The mailings for and against this have been interesting. One expressed distrust of the current (AND future) mayors and council to make a responsible decision on hiring. This was countered with surprise since the voters elected the Council members as their representatives. One side claimed that Council can make whatever rules it wants for this new person, while the counterpoint indicated that the duties of this new office are spelled out in detail and cannot be changed. Many cities and villages have converted to a Fiscal Officer. What it boils down to: the voters will have to choose to allow the Mayor and Council to seek out and hire what they believe is the best qualified candidate or let the voters choose the best candidate from the two candidates on the ballot. Here is what the code says.

Here is the Ohio Revised Code 733.262 Village fiscal officer - (A) In lieu of having the elected office of village clerk and the office of village treasurer, or the combined elected office of village clerk-treasurer, a village may combine the duties of the clerk and treasurer into one appointed office, to be known as the village fiscal officer...(C) A village fiscal officer appointed under this section shall perform the duties provided by law for the village clerk and treasurer and any other duties consistent with the nature of the office that are provided for by municipal ordinance... (D) A village fiscal officer shall be appointed by the mayor of the village, but that appointment does not become effective until it is approved by a majority vote of the village

legislative authority. The village fiscal officer need not be an elector of the village or reside in the village at the time of appointment; however, the fiscal officer shall become a resident of the village within six months after the appointment takes effect, unless an ordinance is passed approving the fiscal officer's residence outside of the village. The village fiscal officer may be removed without cause either by the mayor with the consent of a majority of the members of the village legislative authority or by a three-fourths vote of the village legislative authority with or without the consent of the mayor. (E) The legislative authority of a village that has a village fiscal officer may abolish that appointed office and return to an elected office of village clerk-treasurer by passing an ordinance or resolution by a two-thirds vote...

COUNCIL NOTES

You know our first responders are dedicated when they have to leave the Council meeting to respond to a 911 call. Our EMS squad had 12 runs in September, and the FIRE DEPT. had one run. Donations received from the KI Venture Resort (\$1,000) and the Peepers chili cook-off (\$915) will be used for training and some smaller equipment. The fire trucks passed inspection with flying colors. Council approved accepting a donation of an old model MSA thermal imager from the Brecksville Fire Dept. It will be used on the brush truck. There is already a unit on the big fire truck. The POLICE DEPT. reported one felony arrest for assault, one accident, one ticket for reckless op. They remind everyone to submit your House Check and Welfare Check forms for your property and loved ones. The police check regularly to assure your most valued people and possessions are watched over during the winter. These forms are available at the village office or online – www.KelleysIsland.us – under Police Dept. The drainage project at the AIRPORT is underway and pothole work on several roads has been accomplished. Two TRANSFER STATION overdue payments have been turned over to the Police Dept. for ticketing and an appearance in Mayor's court. Test projects from Frontier Broadband are showing promising results and grant applications are in the works for shoreline protection grants. The PARK BOARD summarized their accomplishments for the year, noting that the signs (which were donated) for the two new preserves have been installed, the ball court has been restriped, and the upgrade of electric service at the pavilion (from 40 to 200 amps and ground fault outlets) has been accomplished. Improvements to the ball field has been put off until spring. The CEMETERY BOARD requested an addition to the rate structure for the interment of ashes which require a smaller plot. This is necessary as a majority of the lots in the cemetery are already sold and the surrounding land is owned by the State. Council adjourned to discuss a "confidential matter" that needed to be discussed in private.

OCTOBER 2019

As we close in on the end of summer and we are starting to slow down in earnest. Many of the Island's restaurants close at the end of October (with the close of their seasonal liquor licenses), the library is on their winter hours, the History Museum closes on Columbus Day, but the resale shop remains open until it gets too cold in the building. Make sure you catch the changes in ferry service: October still has hourly service, but in November we go down to just a few trips a day.

Isn't it amazing? Remember when we used to see little kids driving golf carts around the Island? Think back to this summer. There haven't been many at all this year. It is remarkable how fast word gets around that tickets are being issued, although five warnings were issued last month.

The Kelleys Island Historical Assoc. announced the big winners: Rodney Rosado won the GEM car raffle and Paula Bier won the quilt. Both are from Kelleys Island.

BIRDS & BEES - The Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Bee Team issued their 2018 report. A bee survey was completed in the Huntley-Beatty Quarry Preserve and the team found 52 bumble bees of the three most common Ohio species (Common Eastern, Brown Belted and Two-spotted). That's pretty good news.

Northern Saw-whet Owl banding begins on the evening of October 14th and continues nightly through November 23rd (weather permitting), beginning at sunset each night. The

weekend of November 1-3 is the Kelleys Island Owl Festival sponsored by the Kelleys Island Audubon Club and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. There will be free programs during the day and guided owl walks in the evening. Songbird banding will be conducted at the Jones Preserve daily during the same period. Since so much is going on, there will be signs posted at the banding locations and in front of the Kelleys Island History Museum showing when and where banding is going on. There is no banding during bad weather (high winds, rain, snow, high heat, etc.) so plan your visit accordingly. The Audubon potluck will be October 17 at 6 pm at the school and 7 pm speaker.

COUNCIL NOTES – Council meetings switch over to Saturdays at 10 am for the winter. Remember Council minutes are available on the Village website www.KelleysIsland.us. The SAFETY COMMITTEE is negotiating a new contract with St. V's. EMS had 17 runs last month. By the way, last month I reported that EMS "a whopping 274 runs in July." Yipes – that should have been 24 runs. Sure our crew is busy, but not quite that busy! In August, there were 17 runs and they are looking into an advanced EMT course. PAVING may be in the future for Memory, Fernwood and McGettigan next year. MAYOR'S COURT took in \$11,290 last month. The TREASURER reported that the 2017-18 audit closed with just one issue – and that was timely deposits from some of the departments. This has always been a problem because part-time workers cannot always coordinate with Village office hours. Not bad. An emergency appropriation was stalled as some Councilpersons did not understand the impact on the general fund. The Treasurer explained the fund, line by line, in detail, which answered their questions. Two additional Council meetings were scheduled to get the appropriation approved. The FIRE DEPT. had two runs in August. BURN PERMITS will be available on October 1. Give it some time as they must be reviewed and approved before you can burn. A hazmat training class will be held in November, paid for by grants and Erie Co. EMA and will cover how to deal with hazardous materials and weapons of mass destruction. The POLICE DEPT. received 38 reports and fielded 413 phone calls. There were 10 arrests (underage consumption, fake ID, OVI, public indecency and criminal trespass). 17 tickets were issued (open container, stop sign, disorderly conduct, driving under suspension, parking, and no turn signal (accident)). 54 warnings were issued. There were five accidents. Remember ATV, 4-wheelers etc, must be registered and plated to be on the roadway. HUNTING SEASON has already started (so obey all hunting laws). TARGET SHOOTING starts on November 1 – not a day sooner. Tickets will be issued to violators.

SEPTEMBER 2019

Wow, was the ground dry, which is ironic since we are surrounded by water and the lake levels remain so very high. The visiting cruise boats now dock on the west side of the main dock instead of on the south side, some docks are perpetually awash and the State Park had to add another dock surface on the North Bay dock because it has been underwater so much. There are still some fun events in September: The KI History Museum hours switch over to Saturday/Sunday only, but the Resale shop remains open daily. 9/7-the Island-wide Yard Sale; 9/8-Police Dept. car wash; 9/12-Council meets at 7; 9/14 KI Wine Co. Art Show; 9/16-21-Bird Banding; 9/19-KI Audubon potluck and speaker at the school; 9/21-Candidates Forum at 1:00 at the school sponsored by KI Landowners Assoc.; and 9/28-Harvest Fest in the downtown park. The KI Museum's art show drew a big crowd with a dozen participants. Homecoming, however, drew a smaller crowd than previous years. The parade was super, the weather was absolutely perfect, Frank & Dean's performance was delightful, and everyone missed Laura Jean Pohorence's performance as Parade Marshal. So many people stopped by to visit during the day and she was presented with a card and memorabilia from the Cleveland Indians (because we all know she is a huge fan).

ON THE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER

One candidate for Mayor – Ronald Ehrbar. Two candidates for Clerk/Treasurer – Rosalyn Ahner and Lisa Klonaris. However there is a referendum petition on this. Council passed an

ordinance eliminating the elected Clerk/Treasurer position and establishing a Village Fiscal Officer. This referendum will be on the ballot asking voters to determine whether the Ordinance should be approved. If the ordinance is not approved, one of the two candidates will be elected to the seat. If it is approved, then Council will interview candidates for the new position. Lastly there are two seats on Council (currently held by Smith and Maust) – the candidates are Gary Finger and Russ Maust. There are also two renewal levies on the ballot.

OUR OFFICERS ON THE JOB

On July 27th the Island's K-9 Unit was requested by Officer Abramson for assistance on a traffic stop. K-9 Unit "Dundee" was used to conduct a K-9 Narcotics Sniff of the suspect vehicle and gave positive alerts to the presence of the odor of narcotics. A probable cause search was conducted and 62 grams of marijuana and one black scale was located inside the vehicle. The suspects were arrested for underage consumption, open container, possession of marijuana, possession drug instrument, and fake identifications. Nice Job Officer Abramson and "Dundee." "Dundee" was also requested on July 28th for locating a subject involved in an assault and GSI complaint who was possibly hiding in the residence. Might not be a big city but when he's needed he's ready to go!

On August 8th an emergency call came in from individuals on the KI Ferry about a possible intoxicated male who was parked on the ferry boat and was crashing into the vehicles in front of him and behind him. Officer Vinciquerra attempted to make the traffic stop when the ferry boat arrived, but ignoring the lights and sirens, the subject drove through the yards on E. Lakeshore before coming to a stop. The subject admitted to drinking several alcohol beverages and had taken Percocet for pain and was VERY disoriented. Our observant officer realized that the subject was not simply intoxicated, but had some type of underlying condition. It turned out that Life Flight was called for a life threatening Diabetic ketoacidosis issue. Nice job Officer Vinciquerra and EMS.

MAKE A WISH SWIM

Cindra Mielke and Jeni Hammond swam to Kelleys Island for the 25th time to raise money to grant wishes for Make-A-Wish kids. The 3-hr swim ended with Make-A-Wish kids and families at Portside Marina dock, with a Life Flight fly-by/salute. The Golf Cart Poker Run had a record 500+ hands. Cindra and Jeni have raised over \$18,000 so far. Donations are still be accepted at U.S. Bank, or send to Make-A-Wish Swim c/o Cindra Mielke & Jeni Hammond, PO Box 517, Kelleys Island, Ohio 43438

COUNCIL NOTES

Phone service for our safety services has gotten a little better as the Village is now participating in First Net, a network for first responders. Initial trials indicate that they can now receive calls in some of our worst dead zones. EMS reported there were a whopping 24 runs in July. THE FIRE DEPT. had four runs in July, most the result of illegal burning. A legal burn is a camp fire (24" in diameter and 36" tall and only natural materials – think dead tree wood). The burning of yard waste requires a permit and is only allowed from Labor Day to Memorial Day. The burning of dismantled buildings or other debris is not allowed under EPA regulations. The fines can be quite high for violators. Needless to say, with the dry grass all around the Island, any burning should be closely monitored. There is no need to wake our volunteers at 2:30 in the morning because someone is trying to sneak in an illegal burn. July was a busy month for the POLICE DEPT too. They fielded 312 phone calls, recorded 93 reports, made 23 arrests (6-theft, 3 for assault, fleeing, and resisting arrest, 3-fake ID, 2-persistently disorderly conduct, 2-gross sexual imposition and obstruction of official business, and 3-underage consumption). Also 72 tickets were issued: speeding, 50-open container, disorderly conduct, 6-possession of Marijuana, OVI, and riding outside a motor vehicle, 4-parking tickets, minor driving golf cart, driving under suspension, and open burning, and 4-camping permit violations. The GOLIATH HOUSE sale fell through and it is back on the market again. The AIRPORT drainage project has been delayed

until September. Frank Dodson Jr. has resigned his maintenance position. Council is considering a season part-time position mainly for mowing grass.

AUGUST

August is the home stretch of the summer season. Ask anyone about the “August Attitude” as visitors stretch our patience to the limits. The best cell phone reception is in the middle of the road. Golf carts stop right in front of you to look at something. Five sad cars traveling 5 miles an hour behind three golf carts, 2 bicycles, a person on roller blades, and a child with training wheels. Oh, summer. On the other hand, it means that there are still some fun things to do: 8/3 KI History Museum Arts & Crafts Show and get your tickets for the GEM car raffle; 8/7 deadline for filing to appear on the November ballot; 8/8 Council meets at 7 pm; 8/9-10 Homecoming; 8/11 KI Historical Assoc. Annual Meeting and KI Police Dept. 4th Annual Pig Roast; 8/15 KI Audubon Club potluck and speaker; 8/29 Dedication of the Curilla Preserve (meet at 10 am at The Inn); and 9/7 The Island-wide Yard Sale and Butterfly presentation at the KIHA church. There are also a bunch of entertaining things happening everywhere at the various commercial establishments.

The first KI TALENT SHOW was a nice surprise. It drew a big crowd and included singers and tether acrobats (this required a backhoe to suspend the tethers). It was whittled down to six finalists, with Lily Franks coming in first. What appeared to be a white dove was walking around downtown at the end of July. We figured it was an escapee from a magic show. It sauntered around for quite a while, definitely not afraid of people or vehicles. We woke up on Saturday July 29 connected to the world again. Our INTERNET SERVICE went out on June 27 for two days. One man said he called Frontier and was assured that it would be “fixed by February.” We really hoped he was kidding. Several of the businesses had to operate on a cash only basis. Frontier refers to these incidents as ‘inconveniences’ rather than problems or outages. People are getting really vocal in their complaints. Phone service, particularly on the east side, has been a sore spot also as some phones have been out for quite a while. TAX BILLS have gone out. If you didn’t receive yours, contact the Erie County Auditor’s office. Our bird guy, TOM BARTLETT, banded the first Chimney Swift in years. It was apprehended at the jail, handcuffed (banded) and released on its own recognizance. Who stole that house? Robert Schnittker’s house on W. Lakeshore has been demolished. It was built in 1904 and previously owned by Arnold Elfers, Peter Diffley and Arthur Lange. Currently, it is just a small sad hole in the ground.

The POLICE DEPT. reported: 27 reports, one arrest (criminal damaging); 18 tickets (9 open container, 1 OVI, 2 parking tickets, 1 disorderly conduct, 2 urinating in public, 2 no drivers license). Warnings (25) were issued for speeding, stop sign, underage driver and open containers. There were 5 accidents and 2 boat accidents. The department received a new truck and thanks Ed Kuchar and John Peck for paying the first year’s lease. This was the year for boat crashes. One fellow walked away from his boat which floundered on the north side. The Police caught up with him through the boat’s OH number. The Depts. Facebook page featured several photos of boat situations. Can’t wait to see the report for this month.

CAMPING, TRAILERS AND MOTOR HOMES were on the top of the comments explored on Facebook and at the council meeting during public participation. The big question was “why can’t I use my property for camping?” There is a fine line between enjoying ones property in a tent or camper and living next door to someone enjoying their property in a tent or camper. The bottom line is, the village has ordinances to regulate camping on private property. These rules appear in the zoning code and other places. These sections can be reviewed on the village website: www.KelleysIsland.us. They include: §96.04 overnight camping permits are required. The fee is \$20 per unit for a 30-day period or less. §152.013 ... Junk motor vehicle storage and inoperable motor vehicle storage are also not permitted within any zoning district. §152.012 (E) A manufactured home may be used as a temporary office or building incidental to

construction of a building or development on the premises on which the manufactured home is located, only during the time that the construction or development is actively underway, and for a period not to exceed 18 months, starting with the issue date of a building permit for the permanent structure. The manufactured home may only be used as sleeping quarters if it has a self-contained sanitary system or is attached to a sewage disposal system as approved by the Erie County General Health District.

JULY 2019

How high is the water? The State Park had to build and install a wood ramp over the ramp at the boat launch as the old ramp remains under water. July is the month that the Island reaches its stride, event-wise. The Hancock Wood Open House is July 12 (you have to register to attend), exercise classes are at 11 am on 7/10, 7/18 and 7/24 at the school, Council meets at 7 pm on 7/11, the Audubon potluck is at 7 pm on 7/18 at the school, Islandfest is 7/19-21 and the History Museum's Arts & Crafts Show is August 3 (still a few spaces available) along with the Make-a-wish swim and golf cart poker run.

The Mayor plans to begin monthly Town Hall meetings soon. Jeni and Cindra do their Make-a-Wish swim again. Did you know that their first swim was in 1995? Support them with a donation. The KILA Homecoming theme this year is "Island Roots." The Kelleys Island History Museum is raffling off a GEM electric car – just \$20 a ticket, available at the museum on Division St. Memorial Day drew a big crowd at the cemetery and a flyover. Bike week visitation was down this year. The reports hinted at bad weather which may have kept quite a few from making the trip.

The Police Dept. reports they will be enforcing some rules that people appear to have forgotten about such as loose dogs, speeding, failure to stop at a stop sign. The other infractions are more serious: driving under suspension, speeding and reckless op and leaving the scene of an accident. These laws are not just for your safety, but for the safety of others. Drugs – Along with the drug disposal box at the police dept, they now have those magic pouches that turn unused prescriptions into a safe liquid for disposal. Just put the pills in the pouch, add water, seal and throw away in your trash.

Over the years, water pumped from a basement has been trickling into the drain near the Post Office; however, this year that drain became fully blocked and water accumulated on the sidewalk and in the street. Finally, the Village hired out the opening of the drain. That was the good news. The bad news was; the drain was so blocked, that the roofer got stuck. It looks like everything is clear now as the saturated ground (both from the drainage and the rain) finally dries up.

Council notes – TRANSFER STATION FEES are going up next year: Permits from \$50 to \$55, the per pound charge increases from 12 to 17 cents for permit holders, 25 to 32 cents for non-permit holders. The FIRE DEPT. reports two runs for May. New equipment has been received, business fire inspections have begun and grants are being applied for. The POLICE DEPT. reports 10 arrests (domestic violence, public indecency, obstructing, under age, OVI, fake ID, disorderly conduct); 4 tickets (speeding and open container); 8 warnings and one boat accident. They received 17 reports and 318 phone calls. Council is still trying to find a solution to the unsafe passing on E. Lakeshore from the ferry to downtown. Some suggestions include reducing the speed limit to 20 mph or making the entire stretch a no-passing zone. EMS had five runs and is wrapping up training classes. The Village is looking at new signs for the pavilion, EMS, Police Dept. and Kelley's Hall. The PARK BOARD is seeking approval for new park signs. Back in 1979 the Corps of Engineers completed a report on shoreline improvements to reduce flooding. The Village had to make a Freedom of Information Request to secure a copy (so much for interagency cooperation). Minutes from each Council meeting appear on the Village website (www.KelleysIsland.us) once they are approved.

JUNE 2019

April went out with an unhurried sigh as May rapidly turned into a whirlwind of activity. The rest of the restaurants opened up on May 1. Saturday May 18 – was free museum day at the KI History Museum on Division St. with over 120 people stopping by. It was also SAFETY SERVICES DAY and the Fire Dept. EMS, Police, Coast Guard and Life Flight all appeared at the Casino parking lot so people could meet and greet those who serve and protect this community. The Police Dept. also had a cookout which had a close call with the winds from the chopper's blades. High water is everywhere and several docks are regularly under water.

The SCHOOL WEBSITE is filling out nicely and provides lots more information than the old one. The new pavilions at the West Bay Inn are finished. May is BIRD MONTH on the Island with many birders making the trip. We met for our first KIAC pot luck. Grossbeaks, loads of humming birds and orioles, indigo buntings, finches are around. Tom Bartlett reported that on May 19 he banded 237 birds (35 species). The Bird Kelleys Island Facebook page keeps us up to date on his activities and there is a great photo of a yellow billed Cookoo and a black billed cuckoo there. We bid farewell to Ericka who was the manager last winter. DOG WALKS are starting up again, Island dogs should bring their people to the school at 1:00 sharp – then move to a comfortable walking spot. Have you heard those mysterious booms on the west side? The West Bay Inn now has a cannon to celebrate sunsets. Ron Ehrbar has officially announced his candidacy for Mayor.

REFERENDUM FILED

Ordinance 2019-O-4 combining the duties of the clerk/treasurer into an appointed office known as the village Fiscal Officer in the Village is being challenged. A copy of the referendum can be viewed in the Village office.

COUNCIL NOTES

This was a rather fast moving meeting but not without some surprises. There is a new Mayor's Court Clerk – Rosalyn Ahner, and Council hired this year's part-time police officers and established a "use of public ways by service providers" policy. They will be putting two levies on the fall ballot: Renewal 1.00 mill for fire protection services and 3.00 mills renewal for streets, roads and bridges. Bids are coming in on the AIRPORT DRAINAGE project. With this high water, FLOOD CONTROL on E. Lakeshore, east of the marina, is a priority. The PARK BOARD announced that two signs for Village parks have been donated and should be installed soon. Cost saving measures continue with the cancellation of two cell phone contracts which were determined to be an unnecessary expense. Actually, one was not even used. Paperwork is moving forward for grants and permissions to install an official HELIPORT at the airport. At a special meeting on April 27, Council officially accepted the resignation of Councilperson Mike Feyedelem and appointed Russ Maust to Mike's remaining term.

SAFETY SERVICES NEWS

The POLICE DEPT. received 164 telephone calls, and issued five warnings for speeding and grass on the roadway. They will be applying for a grant for bullet proof vests and are looking at purchasing AED equipment for one of the police cruisers as they are usually on the scene first. The FIRE DEPT. has received their multi-gas detector. There are problems with the Dwelle House (police housing) septic system that will have to be dealt with. On Sunday, May 19, our SAFETY SERVICES held an ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING event at the school. This was a realistic session and after receiving the report, areas were cleared, perimeters secured and injuries and deaths were dealt with as the shooter was identified and secured. Several Islanders participated as bystanders and victims. The house burning exercise was changed in scope. Permission was not granted to burn the house, however, several different types of fires were set inside the home in various locations and firefighters were sent in to deal with the scaled down blazes.

MAY 2019

We don't know about that whole "in like a lion and out like a lamb" thing but the winds have been howling up here. Once the ground softened up and a few heavy rains fell, so did a lot of trees as dead trees tumbled and roots pulled right out of the ground. And not all were Ash trees. Most have been cleaned up, but you can really see the impact in the wooded areas alongside many of our roads.

EVENTS

May 5 – Cops & Bobbers, May 9 – Council switches to Thursdays at 7 pm, May 11 – EMS spaghetti dinner, May 16 the first KI Audubon Club pot luck at the school at 6:00, speaker at 7:00 kicks off Nest with the Birds, May 18 – the KI museum opens for International Museum Day, May 19 – Police Car Wash & Active Shooter training at the school, May 28 - Safety Services Day at the Casino Dock. The Police Dept. will be serving hot dogs, May 29 is Kelleys Island day for Bike Week, June 1 – Scrap Metal day at the Transfer Station.

MISCELLANENOUS

Tom will be back to band birds on May 19-24, May 27-31 and June 3-4. Watch for the signs in front of the Stone Church on Division Street. An interesting fact about the new HANCOCK WOOD SUBMARINE CABLE – when they pulled up the old cable, there were three dozen anchors stuck to the cable. One lonely ice shanty still sits on the sand at the State Park beach. Optimism is great, but we think the season is officially over.

ELECTIONS

This year is an election year for the MAYOR (Ron Ehrbar) and two COUNCIL persons (currently Mike Feyedelem and Scott Smith). The ballot would normally include the CLERK/TREASURER position (currently held by Claudia Brown) however, at the April Council meeting, after three readings, this position was combined into a new one named the VILLAGE FISCAL OFFICER. The Mayor makes the appointment with Council's approval. The new Fiscal Officer does not need to be a resident of the Island, but must become one within six months of appointment. The ordinance is effective April 1, 2020. Speaking of the elections, rumors are already circulating about who might be running – at last count there were a dozen people in the rumor mill.

DSL/TELECOM UPDATE - People on the west end of the Island began signing up for the FRONTIER DSL \$20 upgrade that promised substantial increased speeds thanks to the booster unit located on Pauline. There are 93 ports available and would free up ports at the Island's central building for new customers. Two additional repeaters will be installed at the other end of the Island this year. UNFORTUNATELY we have just been advised that this service is currently offline and for those who signed up already, they are out of luck as they cannot be switched back to the main station. We are back in the dark ages again. Dial-up anyone?

COUNCIL NOTES

All five of the new recruits to the EMS SQUAD have completed their training and testing and are now certified by the State of Ohio. The FIRE DEPT. has begun training again. A live fire training was scheduled for April 27. Procedures call for substantial prep work to remove hazardous materials before the burn can be permitted by the Ohio EPA. KIFD and KIEMS along with the Danbury Twp. Fire Dept. will work together on this training. Council approved the purchase of a multi gas meter and combustible gas detector and a new thermal imaging device (the old one has been used in every fire we had). Chief Skeans also received approval for the 'I Am Responding' phone app which will streamline and coordinate responses. The POLICE DEPT. will hold an Active Shooter Training exercise at the school on May 19 at 11:00 am. Expect some rerouting as our Safety Services respond, treating this as an actual emergency. Chief Craig received permission to secure a grant for bullet proof vests (the Village cost is just 10% of the total cost).

Rates at the TRANSFER STATION will be going up; the last increase was in 2005. On the list of improvements that are needed is the paving or improving of the road access to the Transfer Station. The Antenna people (McKay) have offered a nice donation for this project. RECYCLING is, once again, off the table; the costs being too high to justify a program. Historic Kelley's Hall will be getting some upgrades too, including replacing the ceiling lights with energy saving lights and ceiling fans to circulate the warm air, particularly in the winter. The Village will be taking advantage of some rebates for the project. Tom Pieratt was appointed to the Park Board; Debra Haig and Erie Longbrake are appointed to the BZA; and Ron Doe to the Refuse Board.

APRIL 2019

February went out with high winds and all the ice blew out, then returned, then blew out – well you get the picture. Ice fishing was short lived and there are still three forlorn shanties on the shore, fruitlessly waiting to be put back in service. Island newbies are so much fun. Facebook posting: Anyone know when the ferry will start running? Answers: I heard March 1; No, it's March 5; we heard March 15. Finally – it will run when there is no more ice! Much like last year, the new ferry schedules show the official opening day at the end of March, but also like last year, the ferry started earlier. We got to take our first ferry rides on March 18 – and the Islanders rejoiced.

MUSEUM NEWS - The KI HISTORY MUSEUM opens on May 18. The church has already been booked for two weddings, items for the Parsonage Resale Shop have overflowed into the museum storage room, the Gift shop has tripled in space and has a new line of jewelry. KIHA is raffling off a 2002 GEM electric car (thanks to the generosity of Jack & Mary Ellen Thinnies). A limited number of tickets are available at the museum or online (just \$20 each). It is the perfect way to get around on the Island.

THINGS TO DO – EXERCISE CLASSES continue on Wednesdays at 11; COUNCIL meets on April 13 at 10; April 21-Bio Blitz Day (at the KI Brewery). Several of our favorite places are already open and those with seasonal liquor licenses will open after May 1. POT LUCKS at the VFW are done for the season.

REAL ESTATE TAX bills are now past due. If you haven't received yours yet, make sure you have your mailing address updated. If you use an Island address, but don't receive mail here, you need to make a change. Speaking of money, The Village's (gross) RESORT TAX RECEIPTS totaled \$177,172.71, representing \$11,811,533 (over \$11 million) in taxable sales. Island tax income has increased almost every year since 2003.

ISLAND GIFT SHOPS - Things are changing. The Pitt Stop guys have closed up shop. Jean says the building is available for rent. Kelleys Landing in the Caddy Shack Square has closed its doors too and the space is available. Vi closed her shop at Kelleys Mansion, VI'S ISLAND TREASURES. She is focusing her energy on helping Mike recuperate. Vi's was a popular place to stop and socialize. In an incredibly generous move, Vi has donated all her stock to the Kelleys Island History Museum gift shop and KIHA cannot thank her enough. The Museum, thanks to Vi's inventory, has expanded their gift shop and will be bringing in a new line of jewelry along with their popular "I'm on Island Time" stemless wine glasses. They will also be expanding their on-line store. We also hear that the KI Wine Co. is redoing Grapevine Gifts into a new concept store.

COUNCIL NOTES – Council met for the first time this year. Greg Ritchie was elected President Pro Tem and Mayor Ehrbar gave his STATE OF THE VILLAGE report. He noted the loss of Mayor Arden Cooper and former mayor Kyle Paine. He provided updates on the cell tower project and water dept. improvements, and cited progress in paving and drainage. The General Fund looks good and our next big project will be rehab work on the water tower. His goals for

2019? He wants to see peace and compromise among Village officials and feels confident that our officials can get along and work together. The Mayor distributed a list of new committee assignments that included some surprises including Greg Ritchie being replaced on the FINANCE COMMITTEE by Pat Seeholzer. Pat had previously express relief when she was replaced on that committee. Several council members voiced objections at the change.

Most reports covered the prior three months. POLICE inspected 186 homes and 26 businesses for a total of 2,418/338 buildings checks. There was just one accident. Interviews have started and we will be receiving a new/used cruiser from the Milan Police Dept, and a new F150 pickup is scheduled to be delivered in June. EMS announced that Brian Terry and River Styles have been certified as our new EMTs and new equipment is being ordered. The FIRE DEPT. responded to one fire, a greenhouse on Division St. Fast action by the Police Chief contained the fire as the fire trucks were arriving on the scene. The village has finally convinced the FAA that relocating Monaghan Road by the airport is not feasible and that requirement is now off the table. The PARK BOARD submitted a list of repairs for the downtown and pavilion parks. If you are interested in FASTER INTERNET SPEEDS, you can order upgraded service (from 1 to 12 mg) from Frontier if you live west of Pauline Ave. on the Island's west side. The upgrade costs \$20/mo. Two additional units will be put in place this summer. HANCOCK WOOD ELECTRIC sent a broadband survey to its customers to determine whether there is enough interested in fiber optics.

MARCH 2019

All the jokes about Ohio's changeable weather are true. This has been a winter for the records. Summer days mixed with sub zero temps, high winds, and the ice coming and going, The MAIL was interrupted several times. One 3-day stint resulted in three bags of mail and 50 boxes of backlogged mail. Even the Village office and the transfer station closed during one of the coldest days. Before the lake froze over, high winds drove water, sand and stones across E. Lakeshore and Police closed the road. The FIRE DEPT responded to a small fire in a greenhouse on Division Street. There were several power outages.

The low temps played havoc with pipes too. By the end of January the POLICE reported finding frozen pipes in two different homes causing major water damage. Leaks inside may not be noticed from the outside. The best advice is to shut your water off, winterize your home and fill out a house check form so the Police can check your house. There were a couple of major waterline leaks as frozen pipes thawed out during one of the warm spells, causing water to flow across the roads.

The last FERRY ran on January 22 and the lake was completely frozen over just two days later. Four inch slabs of ice were everywhere and the entire lake at one point was filled with ice balls. There wasn't a flat area to be seen. ICE FISHING geared up and a backhoe was brought down to the State Park beach to clear a path out to the lake. Three days later, all the shanties were back on land. After that, there was spotty fishing, mostly on buckets, before a few brave people dragged shanties out once again.

So what do we do during the winter? There are pot lucks at both the VFW and the church. The ICE PARTY of February 19 brought out about 40 people. It was moved from the State Park (no electricity) to one of Seaway Marina's pavilions. Needless to say, a good time was had by all. We are nearing the end of the Wii bowling tournament and the banquet will be held in March. There is an EXERCISE CLASS at the school on Wednesdays and ART CLASS keeps quite a few people really busy. We also hang out at the LIBRARY which is a pretty busy place. How busy? Stats for 2018 include: Adult circulation-2,220 items; Children's circulation-849 (Total 3,069). Items added to the collection: Adult-467; Teen-25; Childrens-315 (Total 807). 682 items were withdrawn from collection. The Sandusky Library takes really good care of our little community.

What can we look forward to? The first COUNCIL MEETING of the year has been moved from March 8 to Tuesday March 12 at 9 am. The Pump celebrates 50 years. Snow drops and daffodils will be coming up soon and we expect Spring is just around the corner.

FEBRUARY 2019

February is that odd month when people try to get their vacations out of the way in preparation of the coming spring openings. We certainly are well-fed this winter. Potlucks and social evenings at the VFW, fresh produce at the Island Market, football gatherings and so on. It's a good thing the weather was so nice, we can walk off some of those calories, or exercise at the weekly Silver Sneakers classes at the school. Real Estate Tax Bills should be coming out soon so be sure that Erie County has your correct mailing address.

The weather has been the topic of conversation. There it was mid-January and no sign of ice. The ferry was scheduled to close down on January 13, then it extended to January 20 and finally announced that January 27 would be the last day. After holidays sales, grocery store specials – we got to take advantage of them all. What a treat - except for the ice fishing. Sad faces everywhere. Surprisingly, with the mild weather and calm waters, there have been quite a few fishing boats out on the lake. There are predictions of a great Walleye season in 2019. Everything changed just a week later. That big storm? It hit the Island pretty hard with 4-6" of snow and high winds (not to mention the drifts) everywhere. It hit Saturday and roads were still being cleared on Tuesday. We had a power failure (part of the Port Clinton outage) for about 1.5 hours but like our pioneer settlers, we survived admirably. Which begs the question – how did they do it?

New Year's celebrations were low key. Usually we hear a lot of guns and fire crackers going off – but not this year. There was a pre-celebration gathering at the VFW followed by a lovely dinner at the Kelleys Island Wine Co., not to mention a whole bunch of private parties. All in all, a delightful welcoming of the New Year.

COUNCIL – it looks like Council is on hiatus until March as no meeting is scheduled. Make a note though that the March meeting has been postponed until Tuesday, March 12 at 9 am.

JANUARY 2019

VFW POTLUCKS started on December 9 there is a new face behind the bar, Erica Pogalies Poston. We bid a sad goodbye to Patti Fresch who brought some new faces into the VFW (particularly in the winter!). The Kelleys Island BOARD OF EDUCATION announced that they will not collect eight mills of real estate taxes for 2019. This results in a savings to Island property owners of about \$627,160. This is the 19th consecutive year property owners have realized a savings. The KELLEYS ISLAND FERRY BOAT LINE said thanks to Islanders with a free trip the second week of December. This is a much looked for treat for us; a bonus day where we can take the time shop and to sit down for lunch. It is always disorienting to see people from the Island in the stores.

Christmas on the Island is celebrated in many ways. The holidays begin, with the help of so many volunteers, with the decorating of the downtown park. There are wreaths, lights, more lights, and this year there are more candy canes than you can count. The official lighting came the day after Thanksgiving. Santa arrived in a fire truck and had a sit down chat with every child present (and probably some of the adults too). The park has a real wow-factor at night and is worth driving by. The next official Christmas event was the CHRISTMAS POT LUCK at historic Kelley's Hall. A feast to behold and devour, followed by Santa visiting with all the children. There were carols, jolly good cheer and loads of fun.

Work on the ANTENNA PROJECT at the Transfer Station is moving forward quickly. You can easily see the tower from the West Bay as it grows every day. They brought over a really big

crane to continue work on the upper regions of the tower. The new Hancock Wood ELECTRIC CABLE PROJECT is complete as the cable got connected and the power transferred back, shared by both cables on December 19. [After note – cable is not quite complete. They had to order a few connectors).

COUNCIL NEWS –LEGAL – Dick Grubbe and Mike Kaufman talked about Mayor’s Court and litigation. The Village was complimented on its clean handling of cases, that everyone is on the same page, and the court cases run like clockwork. EMS reports that pediatric trauma training has been successfully completed. The SAFETY COMMITTEE announced it received two \$5000 donations towards the purchase or lease of a vehicle and Council approved the lease of a 2019 Ford F-150 for the Police Dept. The POLICE DEPT issued two tickets (stop sign and speeding), issued 5 warnings for speeding, and has started HOUSE CHECKS. BUDGET ISSUES surfaced again, however, several ordinances dealing with the budget were not approved as emergencies, and stood as a first reading (Village solicitor, zoning inspector, new base pay salary range for full and part-time permanent employees, and an ordinance combining the duties of the Clerk/Treasurer into an appointed office known as the Village Fiscal Officer). Access to the lake by residents of Lincoln Rd. has been resolved. The GOLIAS HOUSE issue is finally decided as Council approved offering the property for sale. There is still tension between Councilmembers as the line between an official’s actions and those taken as a private citizen becomes blurred. Criticisms flew over sending letters regarding a court case and to by-passing the chain of command when seeking a clarification. Recently the tension has spilled over onto Facebook. Catch up on the minutes at www.KelleysIsland.us.