

## DECEMBER 2017

Here is it December already. Talk to almost anyone and they will ask where the heck summer went! It seemed to just fly by this year. The weather is now turning cold and windy and we begin to stock up for the winter months of our ice-o-lation. But not to worry, if we run short of anything, the Island Market probably has it in stock or can order it for us. The lighting ceremony for the NEW LIGHT POSTS DOWNTOWN was well attended. What a pleasure to drive by in the evening and see the soft, attractive lighting. This project cost \$35,000 and was spearheaded by the Kelleys Island Landowners Assoc and Steve Merkel. There was no cost to the Village on this project.

**ELECTION RESULTS** - This was certainly a close race. It is unclear why, but two of the three long-term incumbents were voted out of office. Just four votes separated some of the candidates. We waited impatiently for the seven provisional votes taken on the Island to see if they would change the preliminary winner's list. When the dust settled the vote was **COUNCIL 4 SEATS**: Greg Ritchie-153, Joseph L. Wolfe-125, Eric Longbrake-114, and Pat Seeholzer- 114 were declared the winners. The other candidates: Smith-110, Finger-106, Dodson-71 and Kaminski-69. The Kelleys Island Village Tax Levy for the replacement Police car was defeated 123 to 110, while the Village renewal passed 198 to 36. **BOARD OF EDUCATION 3 SEATS**: Jodie Smith-125, Debra Haig-202 and Pete Legere-121. Kim Watkins had 91 votes. The Police Levy for a new vehicle failed 126-114 but the Village renewal levy passed 204-38. There were 341 registered voters with 234 votes cast (not counting at least 7 provisional ballots) of which 146 voted in person, resulting in a 68.6% turnout. Pretty good for a non-Presidential election.

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS** - A golf cart was fished out of Seaway Marina. The new **SAND TRAP BAR** is taking shape with the cement pads laid and the roof already on the building. The **KI FERRY** has announced the last day of operation will be January 7, we are planning accordingly while adjusting to the fewer ferry trips. **VETERANS DAY** was cold and windy but a nice crowd turned out to honor those who gave their lives and who fought for our freedom. We are somewhat used to seeing **GOATS** on Hamilton Road, but now there are goats elsewhere. A small band of miniature goats escaped and were spotted on Woodford and Monaghan Roads. **SILVER SNEAKERS** exercise classes come to the **KI SCHOOL**, Thursdays at 9:45. Everyone is welcome no matter your level of activity.

**COUNCIL NOTES** - The **FIRE DEPT.** is working with the **RED CROSS** to secure smoke detectors for the community. Mayor Cooper met with the **FAA** to review the 10-year plan. It was agreed that the relocation of Monaghan Road would be put off another couple of years. The Village is purchasing a used **AMBULANCE** from the Harris Elmore Fire Dept, which will replace the one that has been on loan from St. V's for several years. The **FIRE DEPT.** will be purchasing another set of turn-out gear. Mold remediation work will begin on the **GOLIATH HOUSE** while the Village looks at long-term options for the house and property. A **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING** was held to clarify the votes on several issues as well as designating which Village fund is to be used for payment. The **POLICE DEPT.** issued three tickets for speeding and open container and five warnings (speeding, stop sign and open container). There were no accidents last month. The Dept. reminds residents to lock their houses and cars as there have been several complaints about people entering residences on the Island. **HOUSE CHECK** and **WELFARE CHECK FORMS** are available online ([www.KelleysIsland.us](http://www.KelleysIsland.us)) and at the Village Office.

## NOVEMBER 2017

It was supposed to be late September, not August and as we were thinking about packing away our shorts and sandals, temps suddenly soared into the high 80's. Air conditioners clicked on all over the Island. A week later, temps plunged back to normal and long pants and fleece jackets were back out again. While waiting for the ferry, trucks came over on the *Shirley Irene* only to turn right and get on the *Kayla*. Did they get on the wrong boat? Nope, they were going to North Bass for a construction project and the about-face saved a trip to Marblehead to pick them up.

MAYOR'S TOWN HALL MEETING - It was a mixed bag of comments and questions at this, the second Mayor's town hall meeting. Several people asked about possible tar and chip improvements to both Village and private roads (the Village is doing an inventory and will prioritize) and the need for grants to complete several public roads including Division St. Also popular: the status of the antenna project (moving forward), and drainage at the airport and on Division St. (still working on it). FRONTIER – In response to queries about the quality of service on the Island, Frontier provided the Mayor with a 'new' list of contacts to assure we get to the right people. Many of these are the same numbers that appear on our phone bills. Internet Technical Support is 800-239-4430 and the repair center is 800-921-8104. They wrote: "I recommend that island customers first call in a service ticket to our customer care teams [*we do that, already*]. When customers call in for service support, there are teams available that may be able to resolve the issue during the call [*they run a check on the line*] and not require a field visit [*rarely*]. These experts can potentially resolve customer issues and get them back in service during the call. If a field visit is necessary to resolve the issue, then a technician will be scheduled for a service call on the island [*this is round a 10-day period in which the tech may or may not show up*]. Frequently, customers stop the technicians [*is there more than one technician servicing the island?*] along the roadway and ask the technicians to repair their services immediately [*probably because no one has shown up*]." "Unfortunately requests of this nature delay the repair work for the customers who are already scheduled for a service call." Frontier stressed that all their customers are very important to them and they want to provide the best possible service to us.

A FREE WALKING TOUR OF KELLEYS ISLAND – Leslie Korenko put together Part 1 of a walking tour of the Island. This section covers E. Lakeshore from the ferry dock to downtown. It is available on YouTube and can easily be viewed on her website [www.KelleysIslandStory.com](http://www.KelleysIslandStory.com) or on the Museum website [www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org](http://www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org). Discover historical tidbits you never know on 18 houses and businesses.

COUNCIL - Council meetings are now on Saturdays for the winter (10 am at historic Kelley's Hall). Even Village business is slowing down as winter approaches. The POLICE DEPT. issued just five warnings (speeding, stop signs & underage driver), reported one accident, and had eight assists with the EMS/KIFD. The FIRE DEPT. made three runs in September. The FAA is not happy that Council tabled the relocation of Monaghan Road and the Mayor will be meeting with them to discuss the AIRPORT situation. The Health Dept. has ordered the removal of a house trailer on Bookerman Road, which should be accomplished next year. Improvements at the TRANSFER STATION continue as walls are shored up and retention walls are built. The WATER DEPT. hired a Leak Detection Co. which found three substantial leaks (representing about an hour's worth of production a day). Also on the table are much needed upgrades to the plant, updating a control panel, and cleaning and painting of the water tower, among other things.

## OCTOBER 2017

September is just a memory as October, quite possibly the nicest month of the Island, rolls in. We get color change a bit later than the mainland, which makes for an extended season. Looking back to Labor Day weekend (because the deadline for these articles is so much earlier than the publication date) we were in awe of the high winds on Friday and Saturday. Only one boat was running and people took the hours-long delays pretty much in stride. Many abandoned cars to the parking lot and decided to walk-on, but even that caused problems. While it seems like there is a lot of room on the boat, the number of passengers is limited to the number of life jackets on board. It was reported that even the passenger walk-on line extended back to the ticket booth. How rough was the ride? One person noted that they put cars on in such a way as to create a donut hole on the deck and passengers who could not find a seat inside were encouraged to sit on the deck inside the circle of cars. It was a wet, uncomfortable ride – but at least they made it to the Island and had a great story to tell.

COUNCIL MEETINGS switch to Saturdays at 10 am at Kelley's Hall this month. The KI Audubon Club has their (almost) last meeting and pot luck on October 19 and many bars and restaurants close their doors as their seasonal liquor licenses expire soon after. Shopping becomes a weekend-only event at most businesses. The KELLEYS ISLAND LANDOWNERS ASSOC. holds their FAMILY HAY RIDE on October 21, among various other activities that day.

CANDIDATE'S FORUM - Almost 40 very polite people appeared to meet the candidates in what is shaping up to be a very interesting race. Of the eight candidates running for four Council seats, five appeared in person (Eric Longbrake, Gret Ritchie, Scott Smith, Pat Seeholzer and Joe Wolfe), one sent a letter (Dennie Kaminski) and two did not show up or send a letter (Frank Dodson and Gary Finger). For the Board of Education, there are four candidates for three seats. Deb Haig and Jodie Smith will appear on the ballot and Pete Legere and Kim Watkins will be write-in candidates (having with much embarrassment, missed the filing deadline). Police Chief Shawn Craig spoke on the Police Levy. He noted that mandatory wording requires the term "police protection" to appear on the ballot, but he wants the community to know that this 3-year levy will be used to purchase a new police car.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS - BURN PERMIT APPLICATIONS are now available at the Village Office. Open burning on the Island can be done only with an approved permit. The six candidates that took the fire class have all passed their State test and we welcome Ron Doe, Chris Gore, John McDevitt, Nataliya Skeans, Scott Smith, and River Styles to the team. This brings the KI Fire Dept. to 18 members. Make sure your SMOKE DETECTORS are working and that you are heating your house safely.

RETIRING FIRE CHIEF IS HONORED - The Village issued a proclamation recognizing and honoring retiring Fire Chief JACK HOSTAL for his service. A year after moving to the Island, he joined the Fire Dept. in 1997 and became Fire Chief in 2010. Under his guidance, the dept. has made great strides in updating the department and equipment, building out a functional fire station inside a maintenance bay and securing grants. The reading of the proclamation was interrupted several times by applause. The final sentences say it all: "Let it be proclaimed that John Andrew Hostal be congratulated by the Mayor, Village Officials and the Residents of the Village of Kelleys Island.....and be forever honored as an outstanding citizen of the Village..." BOBBY SKEANS was officially sworn in as the new Chief.

COUNCIL NOTES - The FIRE DEPT. had seven call-outs including a fire that destroyed a house at the West Bay area. EMS reported they had 21 runs in August. There is a new wall and landscaping at the TRANSFER STATION. E. Lakeshore Rd. between town and the ferry dock has been paved and the Village is considering stripping with double yellow (no passing) lines, in an effort to better control traffic along that stretch. The LIGHTING PROJECT in the downtown park should get underway just after mid-October.

The POLICE DEPT. received 56 reports, 343 phone calls and made three arrests for assault. There were 43 traffic or minor misdemeanor tickets (Parking, open container, obstruction, speeding, minor operating golf cart, disorderly conduct, trespassing, OVI, underage possession, theft, identity theft and criminal mischief. Of particular notice, On Sept. 12 the KIPD responded to an overdose situation in which they used narcan twice to revive the person with high praise for the quick response of Officer Fox and Fire Chief Skeans. Residents are reminded to fill out their HOUSE CHECK AND SENIOR WELFARE CHECK FORMS (download at [www.KelleysIsland.us](http://www.KelleysIsland.us) under Police Dept.). They will check on your property during the winter and check on your loved ones too – but not unless you fill out the forms.

### SEPTEMBER 2017

August was a pretty exciting month. We had a 2.5 hour power failure on July 24 due to a large (very dead) bird on the mainland. Not a bad response time for very early on a Monday morning power failure. The Kelleys Island History Museum considered renting out their exhibit of non-electric kitchen appliances (like stove top percolators) but the power came on too soon to act on it. Two earlier power failures were caused by a Raccoon at the Marblehead station and a tree limb down on the Island side. But now, with HOMECOMING behind us, the season begins to wind down.

PRIVATE WELL EDUCATION PROGRAM – This free program was poorly attended. It was put on by WSOS and the Erie Co. Health Dept. and contained a lot of information that would have been useful to well owners on the Island. Never fear though, there are loads of resources to help you keep your well safe and healthful. Erie County has a new lab that will test your water for nitrates, e-coli, and coliforms for just \$80. Online classes and podcasts are available at [PrivateWellClass.org](http://PrivateWellClass.org) and the Ohio Dept. of Health has articles and guidelines on how to disinfect your well (the correct way).

POLICE DEPT NEWS – K-9 officer Dundee has been earning his keep. He was called out on a trespass call (swimming in the quarry). He tracked the offenders, who were hiding in the bushes, and an air sniff was performed on the suspect's vehicle with alert of narcotics. Charges were filed. On June 25th 2017 at 9:00 pm K-9 Dundee was requested to locate a suspect who assaulted an officer then fled on foot. Subject was located and charged with Assault on a Police Officer, Resisting Arrest, Obstruction of Official Business, and Open Container. On July 30, at 2:35 am, the Dundee was requested Officer Nelson to assist on a traffic stop. Dundee conducted a K-9 Narcotics Sniff of the suspect's vehicle. Dundee gave positive alerts to the presence of the odor of narcotics inside the vehicle. A probable cause search was conducted of the vehicle. 859 grams of marijuana, illegally obtained prescription pills, and \$4,110 in cash were located in the vehicle. The suspect also had a nationwide felony warrant out of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff Department. Subject was charged and transported to Erie County. If you're not following their Facebook page, you should (Kelleys Island Police Department). They keep you informed about power outages, arrests, events and a regular posting of phone calls received by the dept. which are really interesting.

Speaking of events – the car wash attracted a stretch limo, Cops & Bobbers attracted kids excited about fishing, and the pig roast – Yummmmmmm.

**KI SOFTBALL TEAMS TAKES CHAMPIONSHIP** – The KI softball team was victorious, winning the final game championship over the Boardwalk Team from Put-in-Bay. They played hard and were gracious in their victory. (*The Gazette had a nice photo of Keith Chrosniak with his trophy for the Most Valuable Player after the KI team won the 2017 LEIMSL Championship.*)

**COUNCIL NEWS** – From mid-July to mid-August the POLICE DEPT. received 44 reports, 366 calls and issued 25 warnings (open container, headlights, plate lights, turn signal, stop sign and speeding) and issued 21 tickets (open container, speeding, parking, OVI and running a stop sign). They reported 9 arrests (obstructing official business, underage consumption, disorderly conduct, drug abuse, and domestic violence). People reporting problems should remember – they need details: Which way was the vehicle heading, what was the license number, how long ago did the incident occur, etc. Shortly after the Design Review Board reviewed a house demolition request, the FIRE DEPT. was called out at 2:30 am on August 20 to put out a fire in the same location. They were on site until around 5:30 am. These are hard-working volunteers who do a great job. It was with great regret that we learn that FIRE CHIEF, JACK HOSTEL, has decided to retire after 20 years in the Fire Dept. and 7 years as its chief. The EMS had 19 runs and 31 health visits. House number signs (required by Village ordinance) are now available for \$25 each. The WATER DEPT. located and repaired two leaks totaling about 15,000 gallons a day. The PARK BOARD, working with STEVE MERKLE and the KELLEYS ISLAND LANDOWNERS ASSOC., received approval for the installation of five 17-foot dark green lamp posts for the downtown park. It is hoped that much of the overhead utilities can be relocated. This project is fully funded at no cost to the Village. What a great example of coordination with the private sector. It appears that the new cell tower at the TRANSFER STATION will be moving ahead. JOE WOLFE requested and received permission to form a committee to deal with UTILITY COMPLAINTS. It is hoped that by funneling complaints through one official committee, Village residents will have a louder voice and be able to monitor progress towards a satisfactory resolution. COUNCIL amended the NUISANCE WEED ORDINANCE to limit Village involvement to only properties with buildings on the lot. The previous version allowed for complaints against any lots, including vacant ones. Remember, minutes that have been approved by Council now appear on the Village website [www.KelleysIsland.us](http://www.KelleysIsland.us).

### **AUGUST 2017**

The Mayflies are finally gone (after a surprisingly large second hatch), but tourists still abound. August will be over soon and things will quickly begin to slow down after Homecoming.

**DATES TO REMEMBER** - August 5 – Fire Dept. Steak Fry and KI History Museum Arts & Craft Show. August 5/6 - Make-a-Wish poker run and swim. August 7/8 - Circus. August 10 – Council. August 17 – KI Audubon potluck and speaker. August 18 – workshop on wells offered by the Great Lakes Rural Community Assistance Program in partnership with the Erie County Health Dept. August 20 – KI Historical Assoc. annual meeting and free speaker program and Police Dept. pig roast.

**MAYOR'S TOWN HALL MEETING** - The Mayor held his first town hall meeting on July 7. He fielded quite a few questions promising to get items to the proper committees for review. Some of the items brought up by the public included: confusion with Beach Rd.

and Beech St. names; the need for a hazardous waste collection day; and East Lakeshore Road's proximity to the lake drop off. Also brought up: Why aren't road grindings from Village projects made available to the public for dirt road repairs (keeping them pot-hole free for emergency vehicles); problems with speeding; can golf cart pullover areas be identified to keep slow moving vehicles from backing up traffic; the Huntington Road waterline situation; and can Council send a letter of support for continuing Lake Erie funding? Always in the forefront: problems with Hancock Wood Electric and Frontier not dealing with complaints and the bad internet service on the Island (although much of this has been discussed before and is the result of outdated wiring that needs to be upgraded across the Island and is not considered Frontier's problem). Although every year the Police Dept. says they are cracking down on missing house numbers, very little has been done. And finally, why can't we have a pool or splash pool for children? There was quite a variety of questions.

MISCELLANEOUS - Thanks to the generosity and hard work of the Kelleys Island Landowners Assoc., the pavilion has a whole new look. A new paint job on the roof and new siding. What perfect timing since Homecoming is August 19. The HANCOCK WOOD open house celebrating 50 years of service to the Island, was so much fun. Taste by the Lake catered the meal, there were displays of how service is provided to the Island, and the evening capped off with Bingo. There were loads of prizes. The new store opened up across from Bag the Moon – and it is a candy store! The former Tiki Hut project has now been renamed The Sand Trap. While it seems early to start thinking about candidates, there are four seats coming up in THIS YEAR'S ELECTION: Gary Finger, Dennis Kaminski, Patricia Seeholzer and Joe Wolfe and the deadline for filing is coming up fast.

POLICE DEPT. – Chief Shawn Craig and former Chief Ron Ehrbar presented Marianne Printy with a plaque honoring her 11 years on the Kelleys Island police force. Marianne retired this year. The plaque contained her badge, the cloth arm badge, photos of her service under both Chiefs and her service years 2006-2017. While we will miss her, she still will be working around the Island, just not in a police capacity. The Dept. has been busy. From mid June to mid July they made 5 arrests (assault, theft and criminal trespass), issued 42 tickets (speeding, open container, disorderly conduct, possession of Marijuana, child endangerment, OVI, underage driver, driving under suspension, illegal parking, seatbelts, stop sign, expired registration, leaving the scene of an accident, and reckless operation. 25 warnings were issued including allowing underage driver, headlights, open container and lawn clippings in the roadway. There was one hit skip and two traffic accidents. The MARINE PATROL was involved in two rescues (a kayak and a sail boat), dealt with a boat with a dead battery and patrolled the no wake zone. The K-9 UNIT was used four times for tracking, apprehension and drugs.

COUNCIL NOTES - The EMS SQUAD had 14 runs in June/July and completed their CPR training. Sharon Devine is working on getting reflective address signs which will be made available to the public. The lack of house numbers has been a problem for years. The Fire Dept. can easily spot the correct house (usually there is smoke pouring from the building) but an ambulance – well, time is of the essence and without a home address (which is required by law), they might not be able to find the right house fast enough. Village code requires: Numbers be placed and continuously maintained in a conspicuous place on the front of the building. The address letters shall be a minimum of 3½" in height and shall be in arabic numbers only...If a building stands back more than 60 feet from the street right of way line, the number shall be conspicuously displayed at or near the sidewalk, driveway or common entrance to the building at the

street line on a gate post, fence, tree, post or sign placed at least 10 feet, but not more than 20 feet, from the street right of way line so as to be easily legible from the roadway.”

The FIRE DEPT. completed its business inspections. The Village approved leasing a Kubota tractor for four years, which was considerably less expensive than purchasing it outright. Council may revisit the nuisance weed section of the Village Code and bring it up to date.

## **JULY 2017**

Hot and dry – after such a wet spring it was surprising to get temps well into the 80’s and 90’s. On the other hand, the lake warmed up nicely and people are frolicking in the waves everywhere. With the 4<sup>th</sup> of July coming, it was announced that we would join other shoreline communities in supporting a clean and healthy Lake Erie, by participating in “All hands on Deck.” This show of support will be held at 9:45 am on July 3 at the Memorial Park downtown. All attending will link hands to show their support for protecting the waters we love. Participants are encouraged to wear blue and green, vehicles and boats should honk their horns in support. Remember the VFW Chicken Dinner on July 8, July 14-16 – Islandfest, July 20 - KI Audubon Club pot luck and presentation. July 22-22 - Film Fest and August 5 - KI Museum Arts & Crafts Show. Council meets the second Thursday of the Month (July 13 and August 10 at 7 pm, at historic Kelley’s Hall). The Make-a-Wish swim will be Sunday August 6 and the circus comes to the Island on August 7-8.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES were attended by well over 200 people. It was a poignant ceremony as the large crowd and dwindling number of veterans showed their respect for those who served our nation and mourned the recent passing of their comrades. We also want to thank the VFW Post 9908 for replacing Island flags.

BOOZE CRUISE - Everyone was a little surprised when the Jet Express announced it was dropping Kelleys Island from the ‘booze cruise’ schedule. This cruise has not been popular with islanders, particularly when inebriated passengers are dumped downtown to be picked up in much worse shape later in the evening. Ironically, boat officials were quoted as saying “It’s easy to blame the boat for a problem.” I guess they are right; it’s not their fault that passengers overindulge on the boat, on the Island, again on the boat for the return trip, and then get into their cars for the ride home.

BIKE WEEK was pretty exciting. All in all it was a pretty respectful group that visited. Each bike and passenger combo was charged just \$20 for the ferry ride. To accommodate the crowds, they ran four ferries practically all day. The dock booth said there were 900 bikes by 6 pm, but 1180 participated in the dice run raising \$6980. The Sandusky Register reported that ‘thousands’ of bikes visited the Island. It sure sounded like thousands as the roads rumbled all day.

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING was held on Friday June 21. Unfortunately, not everyone knew about it, which caused some concerns. 911 toned out the Island’s services advising them that there was an active shooter at the school (and that it was a training exercise). EMS, the fire trucks and police vehicles were dispatched, then staged at various places blocking road access to the school, the site of the “incident,” for about 20 minutes. Some people thought there were accidents all over the center of the Island, others disregarded the instructions of the officials and tried to go around the emergency vehicles (never a good idea). The exercise went according to plan, everything was well

organized and all our emergency services responded professionally and efficiently as the “shooter” was subdued and the “hostages” were saved.

COUNCIL NOTES - By this time work should be done on the airport paving project. The Planning Commission is still reviewing plans for the project formerly known as the Tiki Hut bar/restaurant. The FIRE DEPT. responded to two fire calls and is beginning the business fire inspections. One of the EMS ambulances sustained lightning damage during one of the recent storms. The WATER DEPT. is replacing several fire hydrants and the plant passed an EPA inspection. The SCRAP METAL DRIVE resulted in one very full container. Our thanks to HANCOCK WOOD ELECTRIC who worked on upgrading the electric service to the downtown park. The VILLAGE CLERK announced that the auditors are beginning the 2015/2016 audit. The MAINTENANCE DEPT. is considering leasing a utility vehicle (like a Kubota). They are evaluating some of their older equipment (1987 backhoe and 1992 tractor) to determine what repairs are needed, some are expected to be extensive. The POLICE DEPT. issued 15 tickets (3-OVI, 3-open container, 3-driving under suspension, 2-parking violation, 2-drug paraphernalia and possession of Marijuana, speeding and underage driving of golf cart). They issued multiple warnings for headlights, turn signal, stop sign and speeding. K-9 OFFICER DUNDEE was certified on May 26 and shortly thereafter he was called out and used on two arrests for possession of Marijuana in a motor vehicle. An anonymous donor is purchasing a K-9 vest for officer Dundee. Chief Craig has successfully achieved Provisional Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification status from the State of Ohio for the police dept.

#### **JUNE 2017**

The Island is waking up fast! Stores are open longer hours, the remainder of our favorite restaurants are open, everyone is cleaning, painting and planting to spruce up their properties. To help you clean up, the SCRAP METAL DRIVE (residents can drop off metal items for free) is June 3, Council meets on June 8 at 7 pm. Over 30 people attended the May AUDUBON CLUB meeting to hear a presentation on the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. The next meeting/pot luck will be June 15. The former Kelleys Landing building has been repainted white, confirming the rumors that a new store was going in. Kelleys Landing has moved over to Caddy Shack Square.

HISTORY MUSEUM - Over 100 people signed in at the Kelleys Island history museum on opening day as they celebrated International Museum Day. There are two new displays this year, the first is Farm Life with a display of farm implements, horse tack and building tools. Thanks to Mary Wittman, the Kelleys Island Kitchen display about doubled in size and is absolutely lovely. The display celebrates the kitchens just like you remember at your Grandmother’s house.

COUNCIL NOTES - Council meetings do not last long now, but are surprising well attended. If you miss the first 20 minutes, you’ve missed all the reports. The POLICE DEPT. is gearing up for the summer. One call they responded to was handled without incident and involved a person who was later transported to Firelands Medical Center for psychiatric evaluation. Several agencies responded and Chief Craig had high praise for EMTs Sharon Devine, Bobby Skeans, Chuck Ehrbar and Bernie Koshla. He also praised Officer Maryann Printy, who went above and beyond her duties in responding and escorting the patient. He noted that Officer Printy will be receiving a Letter of Commendation from the Department. The KIPD will be focusing on resident complaints including speeding, running stop signs, as well as the Use of Unauthorized Plates (section 73.71), no or incorrect license plates (70-3.72). Putting the same plate on

different vehicles, switching plates between vehicles, hiding a missing or expired plate are some examples. Discharging firearms (without authorization by the Chief of Police by permit) also comes under fire. Target shooting is only allowed between Nov. 1 and May 1 on approved range sites. MEMORIAL TREES are a great way to remember a loved one. However, the PARK BOARD has filled up all the available spaces in the parks and is considering starting a line of trees along the newly acquired property just to the south of the municipal building (for former Golias property). ROAD PAVING is done and Chappel, and E. Lakeshore from Addison to Seaway are a pleasure to travel once again.

## MAY 2017

Spring has officially arrived. It looks so green here. Almost overnight the leaves started coming out on the lower shrubs and then in the big trees. It won't be long now before we are in full-blown spring mode. May brings the first parties of the year with Derby Day on May 6, the EMS benefit Spaghetti Dinner on May 13, Audubon pot luck on the 18th, Nest with the Birds May 18-20, Free Museum Day at the Old Stone Church on May 20 and EMS Safety Forces Day (from 12-2 on the Casino dock) also on May 20.

FOG - One very foggy morning I boarded the ferry and we crept into the thick fog. As we neared the end of our journey, someone wondered out loud as to how close we came to finding the dock. One of the passengers tapped his GPS app and there we were, our blinking dot coming in right to the dock. Well, this got me thinking about the old days when they would line up cars on Neuman's dock with their headlights on and they would all start honking their horns. And THAT'S how we found the ferry dock!

THE HISTORY MUSEUM - KIHA opens for the season on May 20 and there are lots of surprises in store for visitors. A new display called Kelleys Island Kitchens will bring back memories of pans simmering on the stove as your grandmother slaved over dinner for all her guests and the entire family sitting down for dinner at the same time. Everything was made from scratch, spices came in cans, fresh fruits and vegetables came from the garden (or from jars that were canned the year before) and sometimes, smoked fish and hams came directly from the smokehouse. This year's display is all about nostalgia and that warm, cozy feeling that you had in Grandma's kitchen. We cannot wait for the new *Men of Kelleys Island* calendar to come out – it will be available at the museum gift shop as well as several Island businesses.

ATV's, UTV's, GOLF CARTS - The rule in the past has been that if you have a golf cart or utility vehicle titled as an automobile, you could drive it on the roads all year. But many people, and many units, cannot or were not licensed that way. The Village is responding to the overwhelming desires of 'the people' and have come up with a program for licensing the utility vehicles so they CAN be driven all year long. Permit stickers are available from the Police Dept., but only to Island residents, and only if the vehicle meets all the necessary requirements. Currently these vehicles can be driven only nine months out of the year.

THAT LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER - Council finally voted 4 to 2 to approve the transfer of the liquor license for the 'tiki hut' project downtown, acknowledging that it was part of a economic development project. This project has undergone several revisions in the past few months. The original tiki hut is now a more historic looking building that matches others in the area. Then it was discovered that taverns are not allowed in the Central Business District, but restaurants were. The developer is now putting in a grill for sausage sandwiches and hot dogs. The project will take the northern

part of the golf course, coming close to the white house (which is the oldest building on the island). The popular golf course will remain but will be reconfigured to take up less space.

COUNCIL NOTES - The ERIE COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. is offering several programs for low to moderate income people including testing for Lead Paint and Radon. Call them for more information. HOUSE NUMBERS are again a major concern. It only takes a minute to put up your house number. If you don't know what it is – call the Village office because they do. The FIRE DEPT. is always looking for volunteers – it provides 40 hours of training and the class starts pretty soon. Five people are already completing pre-testing. The compactor at the TRANSFER STATION is up and running so the extra roll-off container is no longer in use. While mild, this winter was surprisingly hard on evergreens. We lost the BIG PINE TREE in the downtown park. Rules can change and the Village is considering permitting alcohol in historic KELLEY'S HALL and the PAVILION with a formal rental and only under certain circumstances. This will likely be a long process. Our CEMETERY is experiencing an unusual amount of 'movement' which is the primary cause of so many monuments toppling. The Cemetery Board is considering the installation of some drainage. Contracting to fix the monuments is quite expensive but will need to be done in the long run. In the meantime, the Village will be looking at removing some failing trees and wild bushes and are limiting mowers to not less than one foot from a monument to reduce damages. The POLICE DEPT. has multiple activities planned for this summer – check out their page on [www.KelleysIsland.us](http://www.KelleysIsland.us). The high winds have kept them pretty busy. For the month of March, they did 576 house and 104 business checks and found 10 open doors!

HONORABLE MENTION FOR ISLAND AUTHOR - Editor's Note: Leslie Korenko is a winner of the Henry Howe Award for outstanding Ohio History – [www.KelleysIslandStory.com](http://www.KelleysIslandStory.com) – BGSU recently informed her that her book No. 5 (Kelleys Island 1877-1884-The Fire, the Great Grooves & a Mysterious Disappearance" received honorable mention in the 2015 Independent Scholar category for the Center for Archival Collections' Local History Publication Award." Congratulations, Leslie!

#### APRIL 2017

The big joke circulating goes like this: Mother Nature says "You can't do all four seasons in one week." Ohio says: "Wanna bet? Hold my beer!" Yes, March came in like a lion, no wait, like a lamb, wait, like a lion. Oh, what a wild ride. We usually have a snow storm around St. Patrick's Day but on March 17 we had one that was really impressive. We had a couple of inches of snow and a whole lot of wind. It disrupted the ferry schedule several times. Several trees blew down but hardly any damage except for a couple of windows and the Police Dept. was pretty busy doing house checks. Now we look towards April, when the Island really begins to ramp up.

There was absolutely no thick ice this winter. That meant no ice fishing. What a disappointment for those who ice fish and those who stay at home and work on projects when their partners are on the ice. Since the lake never froze, the Kelleys Island Ferry started up early on March first. We really liked having ferry service this early, but we also missed the Island's more quiet times. It is a real adjustment to see strange cars exploring the back roads to see what had changed over the winter. However, summer is coming. Several year-round bars are already opening and the seasonal ones will be opening soon. Can't wait for pizza, Brandy Alexanders, wings, and all the food and people we have been missing over the winter as the snow birds return.

BUSINESS NEWS - In 2016 RESORT TAX generated less than 2015, but more than 2014. The Village received \$116,571 (less the 1% the State keeps) which represents almost \$8 million dollars in taxable sales on the Island. Not bad for such a short season. It looks like KELLEYS COVE has moved out. The windows are bare and the store empty. The bicycles have been moved to the Pitte Stop on Division St. The Kelleys Island HISTORY MUSEUM will be opening May 20 to celebrate International Museum Day with free admission. There has been no decision yet on the new bar at the Caddy Shack square. The design cleared the Planning Commission (which determines whether it would be compliant with the Zoning Code) and the Design Review Board (which determines suitability for the Historic District). The new design is more in keeping with the historic downtown and is no longer a tiki hut. The big question now is whether Council votes to support the liquor license transfer. Solicitor David Lambros advised Council that only the Liquor Control Board can 'approve' the license transfer, however, the Liquor Control Board has, via telephone conversations, indicated that Council needs to vote on whether they support the transfer or not. That part of the approval process is on hold until a definitive decision can be secured. Also, the carry-out license for Seaway Marina was reviewed by Council. It appears that the payment for that license was mailed in, but it was never received and the license expired, beginning the process all over again.

COUNCIL NOTES - The Island's EMS is looking for volunteers and plan to hold a training class if they can get enough people interested. The WATER DEPT. received approval for yet another rate increase, 3% retroactive to January 1. The AIRPORT COMMITTEE reports that they are revising the Airport Layout Plan to eliminate the runway extension plan. The runway will stay at its current length. This was necessary for the new cell tower height requirements. However, Monaghan Road is still in the plan to be relocated. TRANSFER STATION INVOICES are in the mail and Claudia reminds everyone that they can sign up for auto-pay for transfer station fees and water bills. Just call the office to sign up (419-746-2535) and never incur late penalties again. A big thank you to Village Employees Scott Kryznovek and Tom Lange. Scott donated 40 hours of sick leave to Bobby Skeans and Tom volunteered to donate any more that was needed. Bobby has been on sick leave since he injured his hand. UTILITY VEHICLE PERMIT legislation will be on the April agenda. The FIRE DEPT. was called in at 1:30 a.m. on March 9th for a large 'field' fire. No permit, the nighttime burn and high winds made the situation a bit hazardous causing Firefighters had to be onsite to monitor the fire throughout the night.

### **MARCH 2017**

As I write this, it is close to 60 degrees, the Red-wing blackbirds and buzzards have arrived, snowdrops are in bloom and the daffodils are gaining height every day. The best news? The Kelleys Island Ferry will be starting up earlier than expected, with the first trips on March 1 with several ferries a day. Our Senior group had a bit of a setback recently. During the winter there are no restaurants open to serve senior lunches, so well-meaning volunteers (with food service experience) took over the task. However, due to circumstances beyond anyone's control (and not for the various rumors that circulated), SOS luncheons have been halted until the proper training and kitchen certifications can be secured or the restaurants open again. Islanders celebrated the Valentine's Day with a (no) ice party. Everyone gathered at the State Park pavilion for food and fun. The Ballet class is small, but we are learning about core strength and elegant arms. I can't wait until a tourist asks for directions and we use our graceful arms to point them in the right direction. The VFW hosted a Euchre tournament and there were a couple of 300 Wii bowling games this year. The VFW is our winter gathering

place. This is the year for Facebook pages -o just about every business and organization has one. You can keep up with the news at Kelleys Island History Museum, Bird Kelleys Island, Kelleys Island Yard Sale and a whole lot more.

**BIRDS** - Tom Bartlett's 19th February bird count (with help from Sandy Tkach) resulted in 43 species and 6,874 individual birds which was very close to average. In addition, they found Cedar Waxwings on the island after the survey was completed. There were a whopping 232 Canada Goose (Geese?), a new high count for this species. For only the second time on a February count there was a Tundra Swan, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and a Fox Sparrow. The results of the Avian Research Project for the year 2016 indicates that this, the 21st year of bird banding was an outstanding and record setting year. Over the 21 years Tom has been banding, he has logged in 112 species of birds and he banded 10,776 individual birds here. That's a lot of banding. Tom's 10,000 bird banded on the Island was a nestling Tree Swallow. His report, with charts and graphs, can be found at the KI history museum library.

Tax bills arrived in late January and were due by February 10. If you didn't get your tax bill, contact the Erie County Auditor at 419-627-7701.

**LIBRARY** - We love our library, and it is a busy place, warm and inviting all year round. Our library is staffed completely with volunteers. Here are the circulation counts for 2016: Adult Circulation--2,317, Children's Circulation--601 for a total of 2,918 which is up from last year by 4.9%. 464 items were added to the collection in 2016.

**COUNCIL NOTES** – The previously cancelled February Council meeting was held, but since two council members were absent, no emergency ordinances could be passed. Council should have the draft ATV permit regulations for the March meeting. This would allow certain ATV's to operate on the Village streets during the summer months. The Planning Commission and Design Review Board will (or may have already) met to review plans for the Caddy Shack Square. There is a proposal to construct a tiki bar on about 2/3 of the mini golf course under a transfer liquor license. The golf course will be redesigned to a smaller size. While the Island has the maximum number of liquor licenses allowed for its size, additional licenses can be transferred from another area providing that Council has no objections. Winter was quiet for the Police Dept. with 960 house and 156 business checks since December 10. They found 15 wind damage incidents and 7 open doors.

## **FEBRUARY 2017**

The second week of January gave us our first taste of real winter. We were still sharing stories about how we ushered in the New Year when we got word that the last ferry would not be on the 2nd but on the 9th. Good news for sure. Unfortunately, despite their best efforts, the last ferry left the Island at 1:30 on Saturday January 7 as the ice grew thick on the lake. Winter had arrived. Brutally cold weather raised everyone's hope for ice fishing. We were ready. Then March-like weather arrived: high winds, warm weather, and rain, and all the ice disappeared. The winds blew quite a number of trees down, but with little damage to buildings. As I write this, around the 20th, small boats were traveling to Put-in-Bay and the mainland. Did I mention the fog? We had lots of it. Thick pockets of fog, long ground hugging fog banks and thick clouds that obscured the tree tops. What a sight. The fog interfered with our mail as Griffing took advantage of sporadic breaks in the clouds. We missed two days mail before it finally was clear enough to fly over. This also interfered with travel plans for a couple of days as the fog

blew in and out with surprising speed. It is impressive how fast you can load the car and get to the airport when you get the call saying the plane will try to get through at 1:00!

Not surprising, entertainments are few and far between. There are lots of opportunities at the school for those seeking a little physical activity. New this year is a ballet class (Tuesdays at 10:15) thanks to Lynn Cooper. We have social gatherings at the VFW on Thursday, Friday and Saturday with the community potlucks on Sunday (thanks Patti Fresch). The library is a warm inviting place to spend a little time. There was no Council meeting in January, but it looks like one has been called for February 11. Tom Bartlett has been doing his bird counts. One odd thing though, while there is a large variety of birds on the Island, there are stretches of days when there are very few birds – anywhere on the island. Tom assures us that this is natural, but a little frustrating when he is doing a count.

## JANUARY 2017

Wow, did winter arrive with a bang. After a very long and mild Fall, we went from sweatshirts to down coats in 24 hours. Blistering cold, blowing snow, high winds, and shore ice were in place by mid-December. The last big event of the year was the CHRISTMAS POTLUCK. An abundance of food, one jovial Santa, gifts for the kids, and Christmas carols made the evening memorable. Now we look forward to the New Year's celebrations and a happy, healthy and caring new year.

WE SAY THANKS - Thanks to the generosity of the KELLEYS ISLAND FERRY BOAT LINE, residents were treated to a free shoppers ferry. Because demand is so high, for the second year the boat line allowed travelers to go over on any of the weekdays. And even better, instead of being closed on Tuesday and Thursday, they ran all seven days in December and pushed the afternoon ferry back from 3 to 4:00, giving shoppers an extra hour. We cannot say thanks enough.

Potlucks at the VFW started. Everyone is welcome and the food is really good. After all, we have all week to plan what we will bring. We sure appreciate having some place to go in the winter. And thanks to the Kelleys Island SCHOOL which, once again, rolled back 11 mills of school tax for 2017. This results in a 60% savings on the school portion of the tax bill. This is the 17th year that the school reduced their part of the tax bill for us. And because of the key card access, we have a place to go in the winter to exercise.

And thanks to the Mayor and Council for giving the Village properties a much-needed facelift. New signage, paint, shutters and landscaping on the municipal building certainly makes the property more inviting.

COUNCIL NOTES - About 20 people attended the December Council meeting. In fact, the last few meetings had quite a few attendees. It is nice to see the community taking an interest, particularly in the winter. Speaking of winter, Council voted to recess the January and February meetings, so the next regular meeting will be in March. The POLICE registered 10 reports, no arrests or traffic violations. There were two contacts (a door problem and an open shed) discovered during the HOUSE CHECKS and two warnings were issued to hunters. House check forms are available on the Village website ([www.KelleysIsland.us](http://www.KelleysIsland.us)) if you forgot to fill one out.

Dick Grubbe gave the year's MAYOR'S COURT report. All but one case will be resolved by the end of the year and \$30,000 was deposited into the Village General Fund (as compared to \$18,000 last year). He had high praise for the Mayor and Council for their great cooperation and for the Police Dept. for the professional way they are handling cases. He also explained the real benefit to holding hearings on the Island,

noting that an officer must be present every time a meeting is held on the mainland, and when the other party does not show up, it is a wasted trip.

The contract with St. V's for the PARAMEDIC will be renewed. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss the relocation of MONAGHAN ROAD around the airport. The target date is not for three more years, but there is considerable work to be done before implementation, including an environmental assessment, design and review, and the purchase of land. It looks like the CELL TOWER at the Transfer Station is moving forward. The contract calls for payments to the Village for the use of the land. A new compactor has been ordered for the TRANSFER STATION. The salary for the VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR was increased from \$18,000 to \$25,000 over the objection of the Mayor, who had not yet completed the required annual performance evaluation. The Village Administrator reports to the Mayor and the duties are specified in the Ohio Revised Code. Once again, PARKING AT THE AIRPORT will be free during the winter when the ferry is not running. The Village will be posting a sale notice for the 1969 FIRE TRUCK in the Sandusky Register. This is required because the vehicle is worth over \$1000. They already have an offer of \$2000 so that's the amount to beat.