

## DECEMBER 2021

The holidays approach and we are still feeling the impact of Covid on our gatherings. Halloween Trunk or Treat was popular this year and there were so many activities for youngsters on kid's Halloween day. Literally, none stop action. The Christmas pot luck is cancelled as we continue to avoid large gatherings.

LAND SALES – There have been some big-ticket land transfers lately. The Morse property to the LEFT of Camp Patmos was purchased by Nofziger for \$2.2 million. The Stare property, 27.15 acres by the VFW was purchased by Kuchar for \$1.215 million. The Long Point properties sold for \$2.052 million and another parcel for \$604,800. A house on Woodford sold for \$1,057,600. The Venture Resort is for Sale for \$4 million. Yipes, no wonder our property taxes keep going up. Valuations are done – of course, there were increases across the board. On one hand it means our properties are worth more, but on the other hand, we pay for that increase. Remember to be sure the Auditor has your formal mailing address so you receive your tax bills in a timely manner in January.

ELECTION RESULTS –The final results: Gaither (160), Wolfe (157), Eaton (128), Smith (118), Ritchie (107) and Longbrake (105). All School Board seats were uncontested. Two levies passed Village 184/52, EMS 177/62 and while the Police levy appeared to pass, the final figures showed it failed by just one vote 119/120. After the last Council meeting, a woman came up to me and said I should be more careful in my reporting and that my comments about the election were what divided the community. Funny, I quoted sections of letters that went out to all the voters on the Island. Could not see how I was responsible for dividing the Island when it was other people who made their comments so very public! One of the complaints about the Police Dept. was the reduction in tickets issued on the Island. If that's the case, I guess we will see fewer warnings and more tickets being given out.

Our Bird Man, Tom Bartlett, and his ever patient wife Paula, reached a milestone, banding over 100,000 birds (on October 22) and as of November 12, they banded 114 Northern Saw-whet owls and 3 Eastern Screech Owls. These banding days provide a rare opportunity for many people to get up close and personal with birds.

COUNCIL – The Fire Dept. passed their yearly pump tests. All firefighters will have SCBA masks. There were two significant fires in October. The team worked well and damage was not critical. Open Burning permits are again available, but remember, construction materials cannot be burned under these permits. Tickets will be issued. EMS made 19 runs and had 9 clinic calls. Repairs were made to the spare truck and training was held on OB and labor and delivery. An appreciation dinner was held for the Fire and EMS volunteers. The Police Dept. received 10 reports and 250 phone calls. There was one arrest on a felony warrant, 4 tickets were issued (open container, driving under suspension and open burning). 8 warnings were issued. There were 3 accidents (improper backing, hit skip and failure to control). The Dept. has already done 220 house and business checks. Scary but needed; there was active shooter school training which will be ongoing. Kelley's Hall and the Police Station windows are being painted and repaired. An ordinance authorizing \$2500 a month retainer to Squire, Patton & Boggs for "public policy and legislative services" was presented for emergency passage. This became a first reading and it was recommended that this \$30,000 a year expenditure be discussed by the new Council. Cindy Herndon was appointed to the Cemetery Board and Lisa Klonaris was reappointed to the Park Board. Still no clarification on the manufactured home issue. Several years ago we adopted revised Flood Control regulations to comply with the National Flood Insurance Program. However, we never opted to actually participate in that program. Now the Corps of Engineers is looking to secure a grant for E. Lakeshore, and this may impact our chances. Our Emergency Management Agency application was denied because of this.

## NOVEMBER 2021

Fall came in blustery and cold. We lost power for a few hours, but everyone was pretty used to it after the planned outages. There has to be about 20 homes under construction. It seems like every road has a new house going up. Two of the three Osage Orange trees near downtown have been removed. Islanders will miss trying to squash them with their cars, but not having one of the big green balls fall on their heads as they walk by! The Police Dept. reminds us to submit new HOUSE CHECK FORMS for this winter season. They are available at the Police Dept., or online at kelleysisland.us under Departments/Police Dept. Have someone staying on the Island this winter who needs routine check-ins, (elderly, health impaired, etc.)? There is a form for that too! The Mayor announced that preliminary CENSUS figures indicate that our population has dropped from 317 to 256. Seasonal bars are closing on October 31, but some others will stay open a bit more. Some gift shops will either close or cut back their hours and the history museum is closed for the season. Every month the ferry reduces its schedule. A sure sign that winter is coming.

THE MAYOR VS. THE POLICE DEPT. and a Councilman calls for the Mayor's resignation. What the heck is going on? Over the last year there has been a 2-4 split against any changes to the Police Dept. that might involve wages or operational expenses. The Mayor is a former police officer and chief, and one councilman is a former police officer and they both have opposite views on the Police issue. It is disconcerting when the need for an ordinance is presented, but then voted down with absolutely no discussion as to why. The Safety Committee has input into the Police Dept. budget and Council approves that budget each year. It is unclear why these amounts are suddenly being questioned. Budgets have to take into account increased benefit costs and inflation not to mention unplanned equipment purchases and vehicle repairs. There has been a flurry of mailings with the Mayor accusing the Police Dept. of overspending and others defending the budget. One letter accused the Mayor of creating a hostile work environment for the chief. The Mayor took some flak for skewing his comments about the levy and refusing to sign the levy support letter. At one point, Councilman Greg Ritchie sent an email to the Mayor and some other officials, requesting the Mayor step down, citing his "bias against the Police force [which] is so obvious that people openly talk about it." While intended to be a personal correspondence, the Mayor sent it out with a letter asking for support of the General Fund and EMS levies, but claiming the Police Levy was not. It looks like this election will rest on which side of the Police Dept. you are on. There are six candidates running for four council seats: Max Eaton, Mary Gaither, Eric Longbrake, Greg Ritchie, Scot Smith and Joe Wolfe and by the time this paper comes out, the decision will have been made at the polls. Shawn said it well: "We will not agree on every issue. But let us respect those differences and respect one another. Let us recognize that we are not a dictatorship government, [n]or do we serve an ideology or a political party; we serve the people."

THOSE SIGNS – We are calling it Duck Tape Gate! Apparently, someone ordered signs with a slate of 3 candidates on it, noting that all three paid for the signs. Mary Gaither saw the signs with her name and contacted that person, pretty upset because she is running as an independent and NOT on a slate. And, she was not asked to be included, nor did she contribute any money for the signs. So now all the signs have her name taped out. She wants to make it clear that she is running on her own merits and not as part of a pre-determined slate of candidates.

COUNCIL NOTES – The rescheduled Council meeting drew its largest audience with 18 people attending in person and another 10 via Zoom. Guest speakers included Erie Co. Sherriff Paul Sigsworth and KI officers James Bartus and Teressa Campbell (both have been voted Officers of the Year). The Sheriff spoke of his pride in working with Chief Craig and the village. He noted that he has worked out an arrangement with the Ottawa Co. Sheriff to provide backup if needed on the Island, since the travel time from Erie Co. would impact their response time. He expressed concern about the lack of back-up, particularly on a recent 'gun call' on the Island. Facebook posts indicated that a gun was 'lost' at the West Bay and people had to use their headlights to illuminate the search area. There were several pointed questions from attendees,

many centering around the wages paid here and the lack of returning officers. The Sheriff's Dept. pays \$20/hour for part-time, and \$24 for full-time officers. The village pays a flat \$15/hour for all its officers including the Chief. It was also noted that new officers are in short supply across Ohio, that the cost of Academy training is almost \$10,000 (paid by the applicant) and additional costs (around \$3,200) are born by officers in purchasing uniforms and equipment. These officers give up so much to keep our community safe. OPEN BURN PERMITS are again available and must be approved before you begin burning. The septic system for the public restrooms/police housing is failing and the village is looking at options. The ERIE CO. HEALTH DEPT. has entered into an agreement to set up a permanent clinic in the Goliath House next to the village office. The Mayor appointed Rick Holmes to the DESIGN REVIEW BOARD to fill the seat previously held by Patti Fresch, who recently passed away. The POLICE DEPT. reported 9 tickets (underage driver, 3-OVI, reckless op, 3-failure to control, and Driving Under Suspension (DUS). It seems that every month we snag a DUS person here. There were 15 warnings (speed, open container, underage driver, disorderly conduct and stop sign). There were three accidents – OVI and underage driver. EMS reports 19 runs and 20 clinic calls. The EMS director thanks the community for their generous support of our Safety Services noting that many upgrades to equipment have been purchased with these funds. A carbon monoxide detection unit has been ordered after a boat incident when occupants fell ill. Russ indicated that they are receiving some high quality training each month including traumatic burn injuries and next month will be OB and labor and delivery.

### OCTOBER 2021

You can tell that Fall is here, there is just one freight truck not two at the dock, indicating that many seasonal people are already leaving the Island. Cool weather arrived on the first day of Fall along with rain and wind that halted ferry and airplane service for a day. The Island Singers show was a success with rousing patriotic songs. The KI History Museum's Member party was so much fun as people got to see the recordings of interviews with Ben Elfers, Mary Wilke, Fritz Ziegler and Paul Brown. The museum plans on more interviews with long-time residents of the Island. Turkey shoots are starting up again at the VFW. The GLIA conference that was schedule for the first week of October has been cancelled (again). Hopefully, next year. School fitness classes start on October 6 at 10:45 (meet in the library lobby for group access). Council meets on Saturdays now, October 9 at 10 at Kelleys Hall. October 16 is family Halloween day with loads of activities planned. What do you do with there are open parking spaces but none big enough for you cart? You simply push one back and another forward to make room (yes, that's what we observed).

The Candidates forum was well attended with only a few people not doing presentations. The EMS/Fire/Police were called out for a run as the forum was starting and they never did make it back as they responded to back to back calls for assistance. One morning at 12:30 am, residents on the west side heard squealing tires and shouting and called the police, which resulted in a drunk and disorderly charge for the perp. And on another day, while a safety services meeting was in progress at the muni building, attendees heard whooping, an engine revving and tires spitting dirt. Someone was turfing the ball diamond. Fast reactions caught up with the vehicle as it was trying to get on the ferry. The driver, who said he knew nothing about the incident, could not explain the dust and dirt spattered all over his car. He was cited. The Chamber is looking for a new Director as Jordan Killam bids a fond farewell to the position she has filled admirably for several years.

COIUNCIL NOTES – AIRPORT - The Village of Kelleys Island received two grants: \$359,605 to carry out an assessment on any potential environmental impacts related to a proposed road relocation at Kelleys Island Land Field Airport and \$146,173 to pay for the design phase of reconstructing runway lighting and rehabilitate runway pavement markings at Kelleys Island Land Field Airport. The FIRE DEPT. has new pagers on order as well as helmets, gloves and boots for the new crew members. EMS had 24 runs and 19 clinic calls. The EMS Assoc. purchased two AEDs (one for the EMS Polaris and one for the Fire Dept.) The POLICE DEPT. received 20 reports, 516 phone calls, made two arrests (unauthorized use of a vehicle and criminal damaging). There were several tickets (disorderly conduct, intoxication, open

container, allowing underage driver, OVI and parking). 29 warnings were issued. There two accidents (mechanical issue and failure to control). To show how dedicated our safety services people are, when the pagers were toned out, half the people at the Council meeting jumped up to respond! The village is aggressively pursuing grants including E. Lakeshore flood issues, Huntington waterline, and others. There is a rezoning request (from C-2 to R-1) on a one-acre parcel on the south side of Titus Rd. near Division St. There was a letter outlining problems with voluntary landing fee payments, among other airport related items.

And finally, the issue of Manufactured Homes came up again. The Zoning Inspector indicated that these houses meet the requirements of our code, however our code contradicts itself. Section 152.012 (B) says "All manufactured homes, shall be located with manufactured home parks..." However "Permanently sited manufactured homes" is defined as: "A manufactured home that meets all of the following criteria...: (1) The structure is affixed to a permanent foundation and is connected to appropriate facilities; (2) The structure, excluding any addition, has a width of at least 22 feet at one point, a length of at least 22 feet at one point, and a total living area, excluding garages, porches, or attachments, of at least 900 square feet; (3) The structure has a minimum 3:12 residential roof pitch, conventional residential siding, and a six-inch minimum eave overhang, including appropriate guttering; ..." This is a conundrum for a more experienced mind than mine.

## SEPTEMBER 2021

Summer is winding down but it seems like the Island is more popular than ever as more and more tourists visit. Accommodations are full, but help is still hard to find. It is difficult to find a street that does not have a new home going up. Construction here is booming. Builders are reminded to contact the Village when delivering modular and manufactured homes as arrangements have to be made to clear the transport route. Now that school is in session, gym hours have changed. There is no public use of the facilities while school is in session, only before and after school hours (generally, 7-9 am and after 3 and weekends). Signs are posted on the doors. We were so pleased to see Laura Jean back selling quilt tickets at Homecoming. She was on the sick list for a while.

ELECTIONS are coming up and it should be exciting. There are six candidates running for four council seats: Max Eaton, Mary Gaither, Eric Longbrake, Greg Ritchie, Scot Smith and Joe Wolfe. There are three issues on the ballot: Renewal, current operating expenses, 1.75 mills, for 5 years; Renewal and increase, emergency medical services, 1.57 mills, for 5 years; and Additional, providing and maintaining motor vehicles, communications and other equipment used directly in the operation of a police department, 0.36 mill, for 5 years.

FRONTIER news. As Frontier customers, we might be eligible for the injunctive relief (disconnection with no fee and moving to a different service tier) as a result of a decision by the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Section. Information on how to make claims will be forthcoming and will take effect in June 2022. That investigation began in 2017. The decision included revising their advertising, disclosing current actual internet speeds when asked, and when subscribing to a new plan at speeds a minimum of 90% or higher than their current plan the customer must be notified whether that speed can or cannot be met. In the meantime, AMPLEX is gaining popularity on the west side of the Island (line of sight to PIB) and may be coming to residences via fiber optics through Hancock Wood.

Council notes: The FIRE DEPT. will be combining EMS and Police radio frequencies with the Fire frequency to streamline communications and reduce equipment redundancy. Equipment is being purchased to equip six new Fire Dept. members for a cost of \$5000. EMS reports that there were 15 runs and 23 clinic calls. The new Zoll monitor has been ordered and was funded by the EMS assoc. and the generosity of this community. Monthly training continues. The POLICE Dept. reported five arrests (criminal trespassing, menacing and obstruction); and issued 20 tickets (possession of marijuana, driving under suspension, failure to control, open container, OVI, speeding parking, underage driver and disorderly conduct). There were seven accidents A

grant will be prepared for a waterline replacement that includes E. Lakeshore around the marina. The vote split on anything that involves Police Dept. pay continues at 2 to 4 with Ritchie and Longbrake supporting and the other four council persons voting no to further attempts to increase pay.

There was some heated discussion during public comments. One person complained that the ZONING INSPECTOR approved a 'manufactured home' on a residential lot because it met the minimum width standard. However, she pointed out that manufactured homes are only allowed in manufactured home districts. Per 152.012 (B) "*Placement of manufactured homes on individual lots. All manufactured homes, shall be located within manufactured home parks....*" This led to a heated discussion about why new ordinances were not immediately uploaded to the village website (ordinances are 'codified' or updated with the vendor just once a year). A good point since the person claimed that a penalty in one section was a small amount but she was told the penalty had significantly increased. On the positive note, another person complimented the Police and Safety services on the assistance they provided during a recent incident, indicating it was compassionate beyond the call of duty.

### **AUGUST 2021**

July came in with a bang with some spectacular fireworks at the West Bay. The lakeshore was packed with people in golf carts, in chairs, and on blankets. So many people commented on the unusual display that had floating units shooting off from the water. The weekend saw so many tourists, that the golf carts were all rented by 11:00 in the morning. It was odd to see the marina parking lot completely empty. Celebrate Kelleys Island had fireworks too. A little smaller, but spectacular, they looked like they were showering down on everyone and appeared to be right over Caddy Shack Square. Real WOW factor. The event got rained out on Friday, but Saturday and Sunday were lovely. Lots of people wandered through and the booths featured many Island organizations. The used car/parking lot in front of the house on W. Lakeshore has been coming and going. Sometimes there is just a lovely vintage car and other times, there are pickup trucks, multiple golf carts, and lawn mowers in the front yard and on the lake side of the street. Houses are being built everywhere on the island.

Events coming in August include Aug. 7-Arts & Crafts show at the History Museum, Aug. 12 Council meeting, August 13/14 Homecoming, Aug 19-The Audubon Pot Luck and program (and probably a few more).

Council notes – The EPA has required the reestablishment of the Water Dept. Capital Improvement Fund, which had been funded by tap-in fees. Notices have gone out for a Change in Zoning request for 715 E. Lakeshore. The 5.15 acre plot is currently zoned as R-1 and the request is for a change to Agricultural (AG). Approved uses are vineyards and conditional uses include wineries (both in place already). Council is looking at increasing the compensation for our Safety Services people. Over the years these positions have required more technical skills and training which take considerable time. The Park Board is looking at options for replacing the playground equipment at the pavilion. This complex was built in 1996 and is already 25 years old. And parts are no longer available. The Fire Dept. is trying for another grant to fund new radios and pagers to replace old and outdated equipment. They are also working in the repeater system to increase transmission across the Island. They responded to two fire calls and remind people that Burn Permits are discontinued until fall. EMS had 15 runs and 14 clinic calls. The KI EMS Assoc. has ordered a new cardiac monitor which was made possible through the very generous donations made by Messrs McCafferty, Simonson, Peck, Lovins, Arbezniak, Chandler, Kuchar, Swartz, Byer, Reeve, Ziegler and Lambros. Remember to get your tickets for the gun raffle. The proceeds will go towards the installation of a Powerload Cot system in the secondary squad. There was an excellent turnout for the Cardiac Monitor Operations training class. The Police Dept. received 32 reports and 410 phone calls. There were 26 arrests/charges for obstruction, aggravated menacing, inducing panic, criminal trespass and camping permit violations. Three tickets were issued for open container, urinating public and no license plate. Warnings (48) were issued for speeding, open containers, underage driver, riding outside of a vehicle, trespassing and child restraint.

## JULY 2021

The Mayflies have arrived, along with the tourists. The KI Brewery is becoming an event venue and closing its restaurant and pub. The ferry shut down Friday and Saturday Memorial Day weekend. High winds and 7-10 ft. waves stranded a few people on both sides of the lake. Sunday, there was a three hour backup first thing in the morning with lines stretching out to the road. The KI 5 and 10K run had 424 participants. The Park Board held a big cleanup of the various preserve areas, and the Monarch Winery showed its support with a few truly delicious bottles of wine for the participants. Just as mysteriously as the hot tub appeared on a dock on the west side, it disappeared a couple of weeks later. Really, who dumps a big hot tub on the lake shore? Saturday June 19 was a big day up here. The Razzles basketball tournament was held at Seaway Marina. The open areas were packed with nets, competitors, tents and cars. No estimate on how many people attended, but there were a lot. And let's not forget the greasy pole competition at the Casino. Lots of fun and probably more than a few black and blue marks resulted. The Audubon Club held its first pot luck since 2019 with Alexi Panehal doing a presentation on the Birds of Ecuador. EVENTS for JULY include 7/8-Council at 7 pm, 7/10-KIs Got Talent, 7/15 KI Audubon pot luck, 7/16-18 Celebrate Kelleys Island (replacing Islandfest this year), and a whole bunch more, check the Chamber website for a complete list.

FRONTIER – Well, this has been a year of complaints for Frontier. Broken promises, no return calls, no refunds, and a recent two week outage on the west side is still not resolved. Bruce Orshoski sent a letter to the Village Council advising them that he has filed complaints against Frontier Communications with the FCC, FTC, BBB and the Ohio Attorney General's office. The Better Business Bureau informed him that Frontier has an F business rating. He encourages everyone to file similar complaints.

COUNCIL NOTES – The FIRE DEPT. responded to three alarms: an electric fire on a pole, one false alarm and a small fire at the West Bay Inn, outside in a service station. The parking area in front of the Caddy Shack building was cordoned off recently. Because it is in the Historic District, the action came before the Design Review Board. Safety issues weighed in and it was noted that several required parking spots were being eliminated. The matter is being looked into and the blockade has been removed. The PARK BOARD has officially named the Addison Rd. park the Kelleys Island Community Park. Council passed legislation to update the personnel policy manual and to amend the POLICE CHIEF'S compensation and duties. Sound familiar? It seems that they passed these pieces last month; however, they were the old versions that had not been updated. Doesn't anyone read before voting? The POLICE DEPT. fielded 201 phone calls. There were three arrests (disorderly conduct, intoxication and obstruction). They issued 13 warnings (speeding, stop sign, riding on the outside of a vehicle and allowing a minor to drive) and issued 12 tickets (parking, camping permit violations and possession of Marijuana). There were two accidents and 10 lockouts. The EMS Assoc. is selling tickets for a gun raffle that will be drawn in August. Proceeds will be donated to the Village to offset the purchase price of a new Zoll Monitor. Training continues with the latest topic of trauma assessment and next month will be cardiac monitor operations.

## JUNE 2021

Summer came on so suddenly, as I write this it is already pushing the high 80s. Looks like it will be a warm summer. The best part, the forecast for the algae bloom looks good with only a small impact this year. Midges (muffleheads) suddenly appeared and are everywhere. Next to come? The Mayflies. Parking at the Marblehead ferry dock has gone up to \$15 and the ferry fees increased too. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, orange notices appeared on car windows notifying vehicle owners of the need for a KI parking permit. The school gym is opening up again on June 9. Council meets on June 10 at 7 pm. The KI Audubon Club will hold its first pot luck on June 17 at 6 pm with Alexi Panehal presenting her "Birds of Ecuador" program at 7 pm. The Hoot Owl newsletter has loads of great articles including one about our Beavers, the Pollinator Program, bird songs, bird banding and the Curilla Nature Preserve. American flags now adorn the utility poles along Lakeshore Drive and Division Street. Just about everything has finally opened up and we greet our returning friends with excitement.

COUNCIL NOTES – We now have a small rescue boat for retrievals in the quarry lakes. Our Safety Services have been meeting with the Coast Guard to see if there was any way to speed up emergency transports. Each time they are called, they must get approval from upper management. Looks like nothing will improve as it was made clear that transporting patients in bad weather is not really their responsibility. Looks like a couple of new docks are going to be built along W. Lakeshore. The Burn Ban is in effect and has been for a while (at the State level). In fact, there were two illegal burns and citations were issued. The ban continues through the summer. Water rates were officially increased 1.5%. The chamber has agreed to rent the Goliath House on Addison, at least through November. Pete Schade of the Erie County Health Dept. is looking at the house also as a site for a permanent clinic here on the Island. Right now when they visit, they use the library, and its storage room to see patients.

### May 2021

April was a wild ride weather-wise. Temps ranged from the 70s to the low 30s, lots of wind and a light snow and almost freezing temps on the 21st. we have already seen the arrival of the Red Wing Blackbirds, while daffodils and snow drops have faded away. Now we look forward to Orioles, Hummingbirds and lilacs. Spring is absolutely spectacular here. Parking lots are filled with boat trailers from Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, S. Dakota and more. It was sad news on April 1, when a major fire destroyed a beautiful home on Long Point. Everyone got out safely, but the house was completely destroyed with no time to save anything inside. Frontier has been busy installing new internet on the Island, each day it seems like their entire fleet of trucks are roaming around.

We always look forward to May as people return for the summer season. The seasonal liquor licenses allow opening of the balance of the restaurants on May 1. The History Museum will be opening up on May 15 to celebrate International Museum Day and Julie Valentine will be taking over as the new Gift Shop manager. The Parsonage Resale Shop is usually open on weekends. So be sure to say hello! Looks like the KI Chamber office will be moving. No word yet on its new location and nothing but rumors on what will be going into their old space at the ferry dock. It's unclear what is happening to Missy Magoo's, it looks pretty empty and there is a sign in the window. The Butterfly Kingdom on Division St. is now the Monarch Winery and tasting room as they have now received approval.

### COUNCIL

Council moves to the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 at Kelley's Hall. There will be an option for online attendance on the Village website. There was a special Council meeting on March 30 with second readings of both the Police and employee sections of the Village Code. Council also agreed to award a paving contract to Precision Paving for Addison Rd. and pot hole projects. At the regular April 10 meeting, and with the help of Russ and Bobby, the sound situation was finally working better. The POLICE DEPT. reported making 800 winter house checks and new officers were sworn in after the meeting. The Police Chief legislation, which increased the Chief's hours, had its (second) second reading but still no additional compensation. It is hoped that this is corrected at the next meeting. The Chief will be required to work every Friday and Saturday for the 26 weeks of summer and the "with no exceptions" part will be reworked. The FAA is doing an environmental assessment of the Monaghan Road project at the AIRPORT and a new runway lighting scheme is under consideration. A request has been made to vacate a part of Orchard Lane (a Village road). The audit of the Village books will begin the week of May 24. THE WATER RATE increase was once again mentioned. The last increases were 15% in 2015 and 3% in 2018. Everyone agrees it is needed, but no one wanted to direct the Village solicitor to actually prepare the legislation for a 1.5% increase. A (3-month) water bill of \$200 would be increased by \$3.00 and it was not clear if that was on the water usage portion or includes the fixed part of the bill. The FIRE DEPT. expressed its appreciation to the Danbury Fire and Catawba Island Fire Depts. for their response to a call for mutual aid on the Long Point fire. Thanks also to the eight members and three probationary members of our Fire Dept. and the Island's EMTs who were present and assisted. Seven probationary fire fighters have completed their classes and are ready for testing. OPEN BURNING is on hold until fall. Ten

people participated in the Emergency Medical Responder class this spring and await their certification. EMS unsuccessful in securing a grant for a new cardiac monitor. The old one will no longer be approved for patient use in February of 2022.

### April 2021

It's April and signs of spring are everywhere. The Island is walking up. Looking back, about 40 people attended the (no) ice party at the West Bay Inn. The second round of Covid shots was administered on the Island and a few additional one-shot doses were also available. At least one bar has opened by now with more to come. The ferry made its first run on March 15 and just a few days later had to shut down because of high winds. Our library is open again, after being closed for most of 2020. We are getting close to normal.

Resort Tax – The Village received \$152,063 in Resort Taxes, based on taxable sales of \$10,137,533 from our Island businesses. Surprisingly, this was just 6% less than 2019 receipts. Not bad considering the limitations we faced as a result of COVID.

American Rescue Plan announcements include a \$60,000 grant for the Village under the Covid 19 response package. No announcement yet on how this money will be utilized.

Council met after a two month hiatus with attendance both in person and online. Still so many problems with hearing everyone. There are microphones, but they are rarely aimed at the speakers and they don't seem to broadcast over the speaker system. Oh well, hopefully we will be back to in-person meetings without masks (which muffles the speaker's voices). As expected, not much happened over the winter. The Mayor made committee assignments with quite a few changes. He also appointed Scott Stevenson to the vacant council seat, continuing the 3-3 split on controversial votes when the Mayor breaks the tie. EMS reports that they will be getting some new equipment and will begin classes with Metro Health. From the Water Dept., Tom Lange has received his Class 3 license. Water bills have gone out, but if you have auto pay, you don't get a copy which is tough if you are trying to do taxes on a rental house. The Board of Zoning Appeals will be hearing an appeal to a variance request. The Village is still wrestling with what to do with the Goliath house. The Village Clerk is encouraging Council persons to receive their packages and correspondence via email. Frontier is still working on internet upgrades. The Police Dept. reports 3,936 winter house/business checks. There were 5 vehicle lockouts, 3 reports, 401 phone calls and one accident during the winter.

Things got interesting during the legislation section of the meeting. One ordinance, introduced by the Mayor and up for a first reading proposed an amendment to section 34.01 "Chief of Police compensation and duties." The legislation apparently contains sweeping changes to how the Police chief manages the department and increases the Mayor's oversight of the Chief. Longbrake and Ritchie might have been the only ones to actually read the legislation as they made several pertinent comments. In one area it was proposed that all potential felonies or "serious" violations be given to the Mayor for review. Outside sources cautioned that this policy could open the Village up to charges of ticket fixing. Another section increased the Chief's hours by 192 hours with no additional compensation. Currently the Chief is part-time and has another part-time job which would be impacted. There was another ordinance updating the personnel policy manual, which would increase the Mayor's "hands on" control of personnel and if a disciplinary action is taken, there is no appeal process. Both Councilmen will make recommendations to the village solicitor and request amendment of the two ordinances.

An ordinance increasing the water rates by 3% came under fire. This has been on the agenda for a first and second reading in 2020 with no comments. However, when the time came for a vote, Seeholzer complained that it was too much of an increase, citing the difficulty of some senior residents to keep up with their bills. It was noted that this increase, which was originally 3% spread over a couple of years, was repeatedly put off. The increase is necessary for anticipated projects such as Huntington Lane waterline replacement, new waterline around Seaway Marina, the tower which will need replacing in 15-20 years and the safety of the residents. When the motion came to a vote, it was 3-3 with the Mayor voting the legislation down. Then things got a little weird. Seeholzer kept saying that a 1.5% increase would be more reasonable, then moved to change the defeated legislation from 3% to 1.5%. Since the legislation was already voted down, she moved to have new legislation prepared. There was a lot of talking, but apparently, that new legislation request never moved forward. It is difficult to determine what happened as everyone was talking and it was so difficult to hear anyone distinctly.

The VFW wants to put a flag walk from the marina through downtown and down Division St., placing flags and holders on utility poles. In the Mayor's State of the Village report, he indicated that the Village was in Good Shape. He thanked Russ Maust for doing a tremendous job working with Metro Health for a smooth transition.

### March 2021

Snow and more snow – we finally got our wish in abundance. At the end of January there was finally ice on the lake, but not enough to venture out to ice fish until mid-February. Snow fell mid-month and is still hanging around as I write this. Drifts reached close to three feet in some places, but mostly we got about 6 inches of the white stuff. It is always interesting to see how much wildlife walks around our houses and alongside the roads. Some even venture onto front porches. Of course, that interrupted our mail service a few times and we had a 5 hour power failure, but we are pretty comfortable with dealing with these issues. So how many people spend the winter here on Kelleys? Alexi and friends drove around the island over several evenings counting houses with lights on – they counted 98. But then Rob at the store ran through his list and added about 15 more. So, assuming an average of 1.5 people per household – we can comfortably say there are about 180 people wintering over (could be more though). This is much higher than previous years. We had to laugh, the governor finally lifted the curfew on bars & restaurants and we had no place to go since everything except the VFW is closed! In the meantime, almost every business on the Island is posting Help Wanted ads on Facebook in preparation for opening in the spring.

The Erie Co. Health Dept. finally worked out how to get over here and 70 people were vaccinated with follow-up shots in a month. As of the 21st, we had 16 cases reported. The investigation into the unfortunate death of a Hamilton Rd. woman in August was completed by the Erie County Sheriff's Dept. Death was accidental and due to an overdose.

Even though our library was closed much of the year, things still happened. In 2020: 380 adult, 9 Young Adult and 226 Children's items were circulated for a total of 615 items. New items sent over included 261 Adult and 28 children's items for a total of 289. 84 items were withdrawn from the collection. Catch up on all things historical on the KI History Museum's History Blog. Everything from how we celebrated Valentine's Day in the 1860s to the exquisite detail in describing Jean (Icsman) Lange's 1952 wedding ensemble.

Council begins meeting again. The next meeting will be Saturday March 13 at 10 am at Kelley's Hall. Attendance will be in person or online. Check the village website for information on how to attend online.

### FEBRUARY 2021

No ice, oddly warm then cold weather, little or no snow – this is one very strange winter. The last ferry ran on January 11 so now we are hunkered down. The most exciting things we have to look forward to each day are picking up freight at the airport and picking up mail at the Post Office. On the weekends, there is the VFW. We woke to 22 degrees and 2" of snow on Christmas. A really large tree that fell on the west side of the island took out the main feeder line to the east side and power was out for 7 hours. New Years eve, there were a few isolated fireworks and only a few gun shots to welcome in the New Year. Cindra and Jeni (those Make-a-Wish troopers) raised \$20,200 this year, with no raffle or poker run – just heartfelt generosity on behalf of the community. Coyote hunters were on the island and took out nine coyotes in two days. Big ones too. They were mostly hunting on Titus Road, but their dogs (trackable by GPS) wandered afar and through some backyards. Some people thought the hi-caliber shots they heard were from the hunters, but it appears there was some target shooting going on in the quarry.

The Christmas bird count found some interesting species. There were loads of ducks and gulls, 1 wild turkey (that would be Stanley), and thousands of starlings. Some of the more unusual birds included: Purple Sandpiper, Catbird, hawks, owls, woodpeckers, and 43 Eastern Bluebirds. In all, there were 68 species counted and 29,740 individual birds (almost half were starlings). Some of us are better at identifying birds than others, so we take photos and send them to Tom, who knows every birds that might possibly visit us, and quite a few that never will. The full report is on the KIAC website [KelleysIslandNature.org](http://KelleysIslandNature.org).

There was no Council meeting in January nor will there be one in February. Since Russ Maust was selected as the new EMS Coordinator, his Council seat needed to be filled. There were at least four candidates. Either the Mayor or three Council members could call a special meeting to select a replacement. The 30 days expired and as only two council members wanted a meeting and they needed three, the time expired and Mayor Ehrbar made the appointment. Our new Council person is Scott Stevenson.

### January 2021

Winter is upon us. We woke up to one inch of snow on December first and another two inches two weeks later. As I write this we are hoping for a white Christmas (in just a few days). As we begin to 'shelter in' in earnest, we are watching our COVID cases climb. On December 20 we already had 10 reported cases. How we managed to avoid infection all summer is a miracle. But now that the tourists are gone, we seem to have forgotten to be careful. Our thanks to the KI Ferry for providing us with a free shopping trip. Many of us moved our winter cars to the airport. In previous years, we would shop all day, meet friends for a leisurely lunch and bring home gifts and treats. This year it was less joyous as we scurried to find previously scarce essentials for the winter.

So what happens in January? Nothing. The library is still closed, although self-policing exercise classes may start up in Kelley's Hall downtown (remember, we did those years ago). The VFW is open on weekends, but the potlucks will not be held. Even the Christmas pot luck was cancelled. People don't understand that when winter comes, all the bars, restaurants, and gift shops close. We see posts on Facebook all the time asking 'what's open.' Nothing! Welcome to winter on the Island. Business was brisk at the Parsonage Resale Shop at the history museum as people searched for last minute gifts (and found them). The history museum is working on putting all the school yearbooks online – scanning and indexing them. The work is slow going but should be done by spring. Leslie has been writing a history blog (it appears on the Assoc. and Chamber websites). Lots of interesting posts to keep you busy and intrigued all winter.

Council – Why, oh why do we bother to attend online? The microphone faces the Mayor and even though people complain, we still cannot hear anyone. At one point a Councilman who was attending remotely complained that he could not hear the roll call or what he was voting on. The solution is so simple, turn on the microphones, and move the speaker to behind the Mayor, that way we can hear everyone's reports, votes and comments. The POLICE DEPT. reported 104 phone calls, had three reports and a deer attacked one of the police cars on Titus Road. The FIRE DEPT had one run. Our NEW EMS COORDINATOR has been hired. There were five candidates (one from Indiana and another from Maine). Russ Maust was selected and has already started. Metro Health LifeFlight is now servicing the Island in place of St. V's. The procedures have not changed though, keep dialing 911 for emergencies. The Mayor read a Resolution of Commendation for Sharon Devine for her years of service to the Village's health care and her contributions to this community.