Kelleys Island Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Vi’s Treasurers voted Best Local Boutique in Lake Erie area

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Kelleys Island EMS

From The Mayor’s Desk

Road Closure: All Residents and Visitors
Airport: The Mountain of paper work to proceed with the crack seal and painting of Runway 9/27 has been signed and approved by the Federal and State agencies involved in this project. Work should begin mid-September with completion scheduled for mid-October. At the April 9th Council meeting, I presented the ten year, 2017/2026, revised ACIP, Airport Capital Improvement Plan. This revised plan will require an investment by the FAA, ODOT and the Village of $3,175,000 of which the Village portion will be 5%. The previous plan cost by the aforementioned entities was $6,800,000. The next project is not scheduled until 2020 and that will be the purchase of 23 acres of land to the West of the runway, so as to accommodate the relocation of Monaghan Road. Relocation construction of Monaghan Road is scheduled for 2023. As part of the 2016 Land and Buildings Program, we will be installing a new roof, gutters and down spouts to the terminal at a cost of $3125.00…a much need fix.

EMS: On March 25, one hour after the new fire truck was delivered to the island, EMS took delivery of their new/ totally reconditioned 911 terminal at a cost of $3125.00…a much need fix.

The new fire truck was delivered to the Village Pump, which was coordinated by Fred Ausflug, to discuss their Kelleys Island Senior Needs Assessment Program. This program is comprised of a joint effort between the United Way, Firelands Regional Medical Center, Erie County Community Health Center, Jet Express, Catholic Charities and Servicing Our Seniors. Each entity had a representative in attendance of which each presented the respective service that they can provide our island residence. McKay-Brothers Communication had a meeting with Scott Stevenson and I on April 8th to discuss the communication tower that they desire to construct on the island, which will be located at the Transfer Station. Their proposal is to construct a 450 foot tower that will transfer financial data between Chicago and New York. The technology they use is line of site microwave which is a more reliable, and safer source, than that of satellite signals. Their proposition entails a lease of a Transfer Station site that would provide annual revenue to the island of approximately $40,000. Consider this project to be in the planning stages. Along with McKay-Brothers Communication, we agree that this is a benefit to both parties and will continue to explore this opportunity.

In that I am a “one finger typist” I am bringing this to article to a close due to severe crimping of the index finger.

Going to get the ice bag….see you next month.

Mayor Cooper

From the Mayor’s Desk

Mother Nature presented us with 4-5” of heavy wet snow on April 8.

Brothers Communication, we agree that this is a benefit to both parties and will continue to explore this opportunity.

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Mayor Cooper

Ohio Region, was the “Guy in the Bunk” to which he committed that he would schedule three to four more meetings to make sure that our needs were being address. The United Way had a meeting on April 12 at the Village Pump, which was coordinated by Fred Ausflug, to discuss their Kelleys Island Senior Needs Assessment Program. This program is comprised of a joint effort between the United Way, Firelands Regional Medical Center, Erie County Community Health Center, Jet Express, Catholic Charities and Servicing Our Seniors. Each entity had a representative in attendance of which each presented the respective service that they can provide our island residence. McKay-Brothers Communication had a meeting with Scott Stevenson and I on April 8th to discuss the communication tower that they desire to construct on the island, which will be located at the Transfer Station. Their proposal is to construct a 450 foot tower that will transfer financial data between Chicago and New York. The technology they use is line of site microwave which is a more reliable, and safer source, than that of satellite signals. Their proposition entails a lease of a Transfer Station site that would provide annual revenue to the island of approximately $40,000. Consider this project to be in the planning stages. Along with McKay-Brothers Communication, we agree that this is a benefit to both parties and will continue to explore this opportunity.

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Mayor Cooper
Kelleys Island Welcomes Two New Businesses

The Village Peddler

After 32 years, located at 111 Division Street, The Village Peddler has moved across the street to, 130 Division Street, formerly The Village Tee’s.

With this new location, we may enjoy more square feet and it will provide a more year round facility. The new location has inspired new artisan products, clothing lines and more.

Beginning in April, the Village Peddler will offer cart rentals to accommodate weekend and week-long visitors. Rentals will be offered by reservation only. Call 419-746-2377 to reserve yours today.

We are excited, please come visit us! Live, Buy and Ride local.

We thank Rob and Kim Watkins for the wonderful location we have shared for the past 32 years. We wish Rob and Kim Watkins (Island Market) and Tina Callari (Chicklet’s Closet) the best of luck.

Chicklet’s Closet

Kelleys Island has a new and exciting retail shop located in the former home of The Village Peddler. Tina Callari has created a collection of your favorite clothing lines such as Fresh Produce, Roxy, Quicksilver, Keen and more! There is also a variety of fun and original K.I. gear for the whole family—Adults as well as 2 and 4 legged kids! Chicklet’s Closet is a great place to shop for unique gift and souvenir items. Come in and check out “The Closet”. Open daily 10-5, Fri & Sat 10-7.

KI EMS

continued from page 1

Dockage • Restaurant & Bar • Golf Cart Rental • Marine Store

Portside Marina

419-746-2668 portsidemarinaki.com

Kelleys Island’s Finest Docking & Dining Destination
Cancun is located on the Caribbean at the easternmost point of Mexico. It started as a tourism project back in 1974, but due to the reluctance of investors to gamble on an unknown area the Mexican government financed the first hotels. What was originally a fisherman’s village, has since grown to a swelling travel mecca and one of Mexico’s most popular vacation spots. There are literally hundreds of resorts to choose from extending south down the coast to what is known as The Riviera Maya. The weather is sunny and warm throughout the winter months, very hot in the summer and wetter in the fall.

Although I’ve been vacationing in the Cancun area for years, I experienced my first resort last September in Cancun as a part of my travel training. Not a bad way to work! I used to be a travel snob believing the only way to travel was independently without the assistance of an agent and certainly nothing preplanned. “Me, go to an all-inclusive resort? Never!” My nose towards the sky but I’m here to tell you I was wrong. Although I thoroughly enjoy discovering foreign territory, preplanned luxury vacations aren’t a bad way to go.

The resort was Secrets Playa Mujeres and it was beautiful. All Inclusive or AI usually means airfare, accommodations and all food and drinks are included. The food at Playa Mujeres consisted of an International Buffet, a seaside grill and 5 specialty restaurants. As for drinks, you can get just about any libation anywhere you are standing on the property...free. Most of the better resorts have this same set up. Thirty-five International restaurants, a buffet and seaside café and bars galore, often including discos and casinos. There are always at least two pools and of the beautiful blue Caribbean. If you don’t leave the resort, the only money you will need is for anything you might purchase at the airport, souvenirs and if you choose to tip the servers which I highly recommend. It is the most effortless vacation you can take! Your travel agent sets it up, you pack, get to the airport, on the plane, get picked up by the limo service at the Cancun airport and let the party begin! OK, there may be a few more details, but your travel agent handles most of the leg-work. You don’t have to just eat, drink and lay in the sun though! The resorts have planned activities, for adults and children alike, including non-motorized water sports. For an additional cost the area offers some exciting optional excursions to name a few:

- World Famous Archeological Sites
- Swimming with Dolphins
- Reef Snorkeling
- Zip lining
- Motorized water sports
- Waterfalls and underground swimming holes
- Touring and shopping the charming local villages

Any of these activities can be prearranged before you leave or you can pick and choose after you arrive. The cost of an all-inclusive 4 day vacation varies. The no frills budget version puts you out $900 to $1200 dollars. Extras such as ocean views, suites and upgrades, depend on your departure city and the amenities you are looking for. Kids rates are lower and sometimes free of charge. Remember, that includes everything! The other perk of all-inclusive travel is that you don’t need all the money up front. Normally a small deposit is enough to hold your place.

My second experience at an All Inclusive Cancun resort was in January and it was unforgettable. It started as a test to see if travel planning was the right career for me and it transformed itself into what will now be an annual event. Myself and thirteen other islanders went to The Royalton Riviera Resort in Puerto Morelos. It was the First Annual KI Cantina Cancun Party and a great time was had by all. A four day affair in a luxurious sun worshipers haven. The second one is slated for the third weekend in January 2017 and is open to all islanders and visitors including children. The resort will have plenty of kids activities including a pool, play park, and babysitting services for parents to enjoy nightlife with the rest of the group.

Robby is an independent travel agent with Canary Travel. She can be reached at robbyzettler@canarytravel.com.
**Kelleys Island 2016 Calendar of Events**

### MAY
- **7** Derby Day
- **14** EMS Spaghetti Dinner
- **19-21** Nest with the Birds
- **21** Free Museum Day
- **30** Red & Blue Car Wash

### JUNE
- **1** Bike Week Dice Run
- **5** 5K-10K Run/Walk
- **6** Perch Derby
- **10-12** Bacon Fest
- **18** Volleyball Tournament
- **20** Student Workers’ Dinner
- **24-25** Music Fest
- **26** M-A-W Horseshoe Tourn.

### JULY
- **4** Boots & Badges
- **9** 3 on 3 Russ Wilson
- **11-15** Vacation Bible School
- **15-17** Island Fest
- **17** Red & Blue Car Wash
- **18-22** Vacation Bible School
- **25-26** Film Fest

### AUGUST
- **1-2** Kelly Miller Circus
- **3** Audubon Nature Camp
- **6** Arts & Crafts Fair
- **7** Make-a-Wish Poker Run
- **8** Justin Horseshoe Tournament
- **14** Annual Meeting & Speaker
- **20** Homecoming – KI-ALA
- **21** K.I.P.D. Pig Roast
- **22** Student Workers’ Dinner
- **27** Poker Run/Dice Roll

### SEPTEMBER
- **4** Glacial Glimpses
- **5** Red & Blue Car Wash
- **10** Treasurer Island Days
- **17** Kayak Poker Paddle
- **17** Wine Fest & Art Fair
- **24** Feathers & Foliage
- **24** Harvest Fest
- **24** Lobster Fest
- **25** Putt-Putt/Pig Roast

### OCTOBER
- **8** Oktoberfest
- **14-16** Murder Mystery Weekend
- **15** Chili Cook-Off
- **22** 25th Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner
- **22** Kid’s Halloween
- **22** Family Hay Ride-KI-ALA
- **29** Adult Halloween

### NOVEMBER
- **4-6** Owl Fest
- **13** Half Marathon
- **25** Thanksgiving Pot Luck
- **26** Tail Gate Party

### ISLAND SINGERS

It’s May and the Singers are returning to the Island for the 2016 season. The group is celebrating their 30th year as “THE ISLAND SINGERS”, directed by Jennifer Koba. We look forward to performing at the various island events: Memorial Day Weekend at the Kelleys Island Cemetery, Fourth of July weekend at Zion Community Methodist Church and St. Michaels Catholic Church, the various island parades, and our end of the Year at Zion Community Methodist Church.
Two guest speakers were present: Beth Witte, Kelleys Island Field Station, provided an informative presentation on the program and its involvement with the community. Chris Arnold, President of Kelleys Island Landowners Association, explained the importance of increasing the membership of their organization. As an incentive to be a part of their organization, Kelleys Island Landowners Association is offering an island discount card to all members. Card holders will receive discounts at a number of island businesses.

The first event of the season, Ohio Bike Week, will be held on Wednesday, June 1. Last year, there were over 800 bikes, a fantastic turnout. So, be prepared.

The 34th Annual 5K & 10K Run/Walk will take place on Sunday, June 5. We are still seeking sponsorships for this family event. Listed are the individuals and businesses that have contributed, to date: The Depiero Family, Simonson Construction, South Shore Marina, Caddy Shack Square, Firelands Hospital, NOMS Family Practice, Hancock-Wood Electric, Heathco Cleaning Systems, Heineman Winery, Fresh Electric, Kelley Weitzel Photography, Kelleys Life, Jim & Barb Zeller, Payne, Nickles Co., Franklin Sanitation, Lake Front Village Pump and Captain’s Corner. The theme for this year’s event, “Kelleys Island Christmas”. Planning for this event is going well and we are anticipating the best festival ever. The Lottery Tree Raffle, a big success last year, is in full swing. Tickets can be purchased at the General Store for $1 each. The tree contains $300 in scratch-off lottery tickets in denominations ranging from $1 to $20. You can also purchase your Island Fest 50/50 Raffle tickets at the Village Pump and Captain’s Corner. 50/50 tickets will be available at the Chamber office beginning May 1. Yes, the Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce office will be opening on May 1. Please be sure to stop in and meet Mary Wittman, the new Office Manager. The office will be open five days a week through the month of May. All island businesses are encouraged to bring in their literature, menus and call or visit to update their lodging openings. Please keep the office updated with your event flyers, daily specials and any other items of interest.

May hours: Sunday, Monday & Thursday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Tuesday & Wednesday, CLOSED Friday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce www.kelleysislandchamber.com kelleyschamber@aol.com 1-419-746-2360
A few islanders have asked me how the Field Station development was progressing. After giving them a brief overview, I realized that others might be just as curious. So what follows is a brief overview. Since we started the field station, we’ve updated and evolved parts of our building to better serve its new function: showers, a commercial kitchen, two dorm rooms, a meeting room (Community Room), and a lounge area (converted classroom). This year, two classroom areas have been retrofitted into Staff Sleeping quarters (a necessity since many groups bring their own teachers and staffs) and one into a Director’s quarters. Two large traditional classroom areas remain intact that have all current technological advantages, and we’re researching the possibility of adding a “wet lab” in an unused basement area.

Besides these, the necessary electrical and plumbing updates have been updated or added to make the entire facility modern, convenient and safe. All enhancements complement the traditional Kelleys Island School, allowing it to, not only be a rate based ecological/biological educational station for state-wide students, faculties and staffs, but a traditional school for present and future Kelleys Island children.

The Station is now aligned with the North Point Educational Service Center (Sandusky) and has one of its employees as its Program Director. The Station, along with our director’s past experiences, brings us into close association with dozens of school districts and educational associations that may take advantage of the station, the island and/or the lake for bio-centric learning experiences. Several educational models are available that include the stations supplying all program materials, or the visiting groups supplying their own programs… as well as mixes of both. Where possible, these programs will be advertised and made available, free of charge, to the children of Island property owners.

So far, for this year, five rate paying Ohio student groups have reservations/programs from 2 to 5 days in length, along with one Teacher Professional Development Program. Other dates and groups are planning and pending. Also, the Kelleys Island Ambassador Program for 15-17 year olds is back, as is the Thursday Night Speaker Series that’s open to all. Added to these are the Saturday Outdoor Explorers that’s open to the General Public and STEM Outdoor Mini-Courses for middle school students. More courses are in the planning stages.

As we get closer to the season, for more detailed information and scheduling on any of the programs/activities noted above, check out www.kelleysislandfieldstation.org/ or call 419-746-9001 or follow us on Facebook!

Further, the Field Station is in the process of developing a cohort of “on-call” highly experienced island-based Naturalists and Nature Educators. These stipend paid educators would fill in programming gaps and help out with classes. Applicants would need background checks and attendance at an orientation session. If you are interested, please call Beth at 419-746-9001.

Thanks, Kelleys Island School Board: Pete Legere, President; Cindy Herndon, Kim Watkins, Fred Walcott, Natasha Skeans; Phil Theide, Superintendent. 
Shop till you drop ~

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Amazing NEW selections
- Dresses
- Sandals and Jellies
- Full New Gift Line
- Affordable Cool Jewellery and more.
- Expanded Camping Line

We do it all for you!

Kelleys Life

This was taken during our shoot of The Yank in Dublin, Ireland. It is now out on DVD & VOD. Pictured: Tina Callari, Sean & Michelle Lackey, Kevin Farley, Allen Kellogg, Cody Dove, Spencer Jay Kim. (Lackeys have a house on Memory Lane)

Young’s

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Kelleys Island Fire Department

On May 18th and 19th, ABCO Fire Extinguisher Company will be on Kelleys Island to recharge the Villages fire extinguishers. If you have an extinguisher that needs a recharge, you can bring it to the Fire Department and it will be recharged at a reduced fee. If you have any questions on its use, or what type you need for your house, we can answer them at that time. There will be a class on the use of fire extinguishers and you will be able to use one on a live fire. The training dates are May 18th at 2 p.m. and May 19th at 10 a.m. Call Fire Chief, Jack Hostal at 419-746-2788 to set up a time that you would like to attend. The class is approximately 30 minutes but, well worth the time spent. Everyone is welcome to attend. If there is a good response, we will set up another training date in June.

Kelleys Island Police Department

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2016 Kelleys Island Music Fest, Ready to ‘Rock the Rock’

When your event hinges on what the skies are doing, it leaves even the most weathered promoters holding their breath in hopes for the best. The 2015 Kelleys Island Music Fest had picture perfect weather the days for set-up and for tear down. Unfortunately, it was gale force winds and a storm of the century that attempted to stop the music on festival producers Jackie Finger and Ronnie Roadhouse. What Mother Nature failed to factor in was, the persistence of the two and the way the islanders come together in time of need. Somewhere between Friday’s sound check and Saturday morning about 4:30a.m., the festival grounds were drowned in water, leaving the tents, tables, banners, and music gear all damaged from the vicious storm. The easy part would have been to call it a day and try again in 2016. Out of the twelve acts that were to perform, over the two day event, only Village Pump and The Casino Roadhouse and The Westie’s had their complete line-ups on the island before the ferry services were shut down due to the elements. The Fest had picture perfect weather the weekend prior to the July 4th holiday to help attract more tourists to the island, but has worked out perfectly in its first two years.

As it was to be in 2015, the 2016 festival will take place on both Saturday and Sunday, featuring 4-5 acts each day. “The whole design of the two days is to really ramp up the party on Saturday with full bands in a concert environment to really give everyone a chance to let loose and for lack of better words ‘party hard on the rock,’” said co-producer Ronnie Roadhouse. “The second day is designed to be more laid back and a Sunday Pondside type atmosphere with more acoustic acts and solo/duo’s.”

With the majority of the acts last year not being able to perform, many were invited back to allow them to entertain the festival goers. A highly anticipated performer was worldwide performer and National recording artist Michael McDermott. He was brought to the producer’s attention by long-time islander Scott Stevenson. Stevenson has spent many years appreciating the unique and soulful sounds of McDermott and felt strongly about bringing Michael to the island he cherishes so much. McDermott will perform at approximately 3:30p.m. on Saturday of the festival.

To keep with the idea of ‘something for everyone’, this year will again feature music from all genres. The line-up is not yet completed, but some of the performing acts will be: Hard Drive (Modern & Classic Country), Jarred Goldweber & the Park Brothers Band (High Energy Harmonica Blues), Tight Wadd (Rock ‘n’ Roll), Burnt River Band (Boogie ‘n’ Blues), The Westie’s (Rock, Country, and more), The Roadhouse Band (Goodtime/Feel good music), Britany Davidson (Folk, Roots, Country, and more), Says She (Originals, Rock), Danny Swift (All Stars (Variety), and more to be named later. This year will feature a couple of ‘KI Kids’ performing on the main stage.

Although the next ‘KI Kid’ doesn’t officially live on the rock, now 10 years old, RJ Chandler has spent his first decade roaming the island and learning his craft from not only his family band (Roadhouse), but has been influenced by all the entertainers who perform on the island each summer. He will perform a fifteen minute set on Saturday, prior to McDermott, and a thirty minute set Sunday afternoon, before Roadhouse. As most will attest to, it was, the then 9 year old, Chandler who helped the festival alive and well by considering the festival information, visit KImusicfest.com.
101 VALERIE
Spectacular Lake Views From This Newer 3 Bedroom Cape Cod. Located On A Private Lane. This Home Sits At The Very End Of The Cul-De-Sac. $309,900

201 DIVISION ST
3/4 Bedroom Victorian - Fully updated, restored and remodeled. Updates include all new electric, plumbing, heating and cooling and much, much more! $569,000

124 TRAILER LANE
Move in ready island home in immaculate shape. Everything stays! Beach access at the end of Cedar and Melody Lanes. $249,000

619 E LAKESHORE
3 Bedroom, 1 1/2 Bath Ranch Sit on .81 Acres. Sand beach just across the street. $419,000

101 VALERIE
Spectacular Lake Views From This Newer 3 Bedroom Cape Cod. Located On A Private Lane. This Home Sits At The Very End Of The Cul-De-Sac. $309,900

331 DIVISION
Location, Location, Location! This Large 4 Bdrm Century Home Sits Nicely Between Downtown Kelly’s and The Sandy Beach - Over 250 ft of frontage. $579,900

112 MAPLE
This 2 BR, 1 BA in Great Island Starter Home. Views of the original, historic, Kelley’s Island Winery rains right out the back door. $164,999

111 W. LAKESHORE, UNIT #3B
Lower Level 2 bed, 2 bath unit looking down the pond. Unit located just steps away from pool. $185,900

301 HARBOR LANE
Well appointed 3 bedroom / 2 bath Log home. Most of the furnitures stays. $359,900

201 DIVISION ST
3/4 Bedroom Victorian - Fully updated, restored and remodeled. Updates include all new electric, plumbing, heating and cooling and much, much more! $569,000

112 MAPLE
This 2 BR, 1 BA in Great Island Starter Home. Views of the original, historic, Kelley’s Island Winery rains right out the back door. $164,999

101 VALERIE
Spectacular Lake Views From This Newer 3 Bedroom Cape Cod. Located On A Private Lane. This Home Sits At The Very End Of The Cul-De-Sac. $309,900

331 DIVISION
Location, Location, Location! This Large 4 Bdrm Century Home Sits Nicely Between Downtown Kelly’s and The Sandy Beach - Over 250 ft of frontage. $579,900

112 MAPLE
This 2 BR, 1 BA in Great Island Starter Home. Views of the original, historic, Kelley’s Island Winery rains right out the back door. $164,999

111 W. LAKESHORE, UNIT #3B
Lower Level 2 bed, 2 bath unit looking down the pond. Unit located just steps away from pool. $185,900

301 HARBOR LANE
Well appointed 3 bedroom / 2 bath Log home. Most of the furnitures stays. $359,900

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Embrace it or not, our lives are consistently marked by inescapable change. What else can we do then, but understand the why’s and how’s, and find our footing on a new path forward? Especially is this true when our family’s financial future is affected. So when it comes to recent updates in Social Security policy and their fast approaching deadline, we’re ready to do our part to make the coming changes clearer, more accessible. It’s time to break down jargon and build confidence, quash confusion and foster understanding.

**THE UNTOUCHABLES**

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 brought changes in filing guidelines, limiting possibilities for married couples who aren’t grandfathered in to the current system’s rules. But even those who are able to sneak by have to be worried about timing. When the new codes were signed into law, a 6-month grace period went into effect, which runs its course on April 29th, 2016. If you’ve already filed for benefits, then no worries—you’ll be held to the old rules. But for those who have reached full retirement age (FRA) and haven’t filed, you have some decisions to make, and fast.

One very popular claiming strategy—and a way to allow benefits to build—involved the higher-earning spouse filing for benefits at FRA and then immediately suspending receipt of benefits. Not only did the “file-and-suspend” method allow delayed retirement credits to accrue (increasing benefits by 8% every year), but it also opened up eligibility to the filer’s spouse to collect spousal benefits. Assuming then that the husband’s income is higher and would result in a higher Social Security benefit, his wife could receive roughly half the amount of his projected claim. She could continue to receive this amount even while her own benefits were left to grow. Dependent, minor children, and additional dependent disabled children were also able to file on a parent’s suspended claim.

This technique was the best of both worlds: money was coming in, but it was also building up. Once the higher earner reached 76, then any suspension could be removed, and the benefits would begin flowing at a higher rate. For those who have already filed and suspended, or will reach FRA and file and suspend by April 29, 2016, this ideal scenario is still your reality.

The caveat, brought on by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, lies in the timing: if you’ll reach FRA before the end of April, and you haven’t already filed for Social Security benefits, time is of the essence. Once the deadline passes, age doesn’t matter—new rules will apply for everyone. So if you’re banking on the “file-and-suspend” strategy as part of your retirement plan, it’s decision-making time.

Most everyone is affected by these policy changes. Besides those who have already filed and suspended, there’s one group that remains completely untouched in the Budget Act: those who will receive survivor benefits.

Whether you’re a surviving spouse, ex-spouse, or a minor or disabled child whose parent passes away—no one’s missing with your benefits. And as with all benefits that stem from another’s Social Security records, it helps to have reliable advice to determine the most financial sound path forward. This is a case in which variables can multiply exponentially.

**IN THE REAL WORLD**

For those who aren’t grandfathered in, there are some big, life-altering choices ahead. And there are new rules and filing policies. For these folks, the option to file-and-suspend while simultaneously enabling a spouse to claim on their record has been eliminated. This move repeals a law passed in 2000. According to the SSA, the “file-and-suspend” strategy is a thing of the past for any who can’t or who are eligible but choose not to file by April 29, 2016. Put simply, “In the future, the only reason to file and suspend would be to earn delayed retirement credits of 8% per year up to age 70.” And the future scenarios in which filing and suspending could be beneficial are limited, at best.

What’s the real-world impact? Well for one, during a suspension, your spouse won’t be able to claim spousal benefits, and vice versa—if you voluntarily suspend benefits on your own record, you’ll also be suspending any spousal benefits you’re receiving. The bottom line fueling new Budget Act laws is that in most cases, a suspension on the part of one equals a suspension for all. And yet while ex-spouses evade this new suspension rule, divorced or dependent children do not: a parent must be receiving Social Security benefits in order for a “child’s” benefit to be available. The only way to allow for dependents or a spouse to claim disability benefits is for the primary claimant to receive benefits outright. When it comes to filing for benefits within the same household, the new rules take an “all-or-nothing” stance—either everyone collects, or no one does.

**TO RECAP**

Besides foregoing the annual 8% bump in benefits, filing and suspending will effectively do nothing to your family any benefits based on your work record. Also, since “deeming” dominates, filing for any benefits at all will lock in the benefit amount and limit your total. Depending on your family’s financial situations and circumstances, this one change could be a huge setback, and there are some who have received blow after this. Here’s where having a solid financial plan in place will save you. For while Social Security is a necessary component of retirement planning, the system simply wasn’t designed to replace your working income. As always, financial responsibility begins and ends with each of us, individually.

**THE IN-BETWEENERS**

Admittedly, things could be taken to the same household, the heart—there is some good news for a slice of the population who haven’t yet retired and are at least 62 by the end of 2015 but won’t be at FRA by the end of April. For these folks, the change that will result in the majority that will lose out on all the benefits of the previous file-and-suspend scenario will be for the primary claimant to receive benefits outright. The recipient would ultimately receive the largest amount of the two, be it spousal or personal. This stipulation always applied to anyone claiming from age 62 until FRA was reached, and it still does—...
Budget Act of 2015 Unfolded

...nothing's new there. What has changed though, is that the new law extends the deeming rules through to age 70.

Wait, this is supposed to be good news? Well, little this part of it is: those who were at least 62 as of January 1, 2016 will retain the right to file and suspend their benefits while filing a restricted application for spousal benefits. This way, spouses whose own benefits wouldn’t amount to much if claimed at 66, can instead suspend their benefits and earn delayed retirement credits, while at the same time filing for and collecting spousal benefits on their spouse’s work record. This provision for the restricted application for lower-earning spouses would effectively keep things at the status quo for couples whose ages fall in the right span. The same ‘restricted application’ exception holds true for those who are divorced but wish to file on their ex-spouse’s record.

A LOST LUMP SUM

Above and beyond “deeming,” ‘suspension’ rules will apply. There are other parts of the new legislation that gets a little “nasty,” according to Social Security expert Larry Kotlikoff. What was officially known as the “retroactive benefits” provision and commonly called the “lump sum” option, will be discontinued, except for those who have filed for benefits by the April deadline. Previously, those who reached FRA and then delayed benefits had the option to undo this decision before reaching age 70, but without losing accumulated benefits. At this point, a “lump sum” of all delayed benefits would be paid to the claimant. A viable and often necessary option for those who would perhaps become terminally ill at say, age 69, retroactive benefits allowed them to receive suspended Social Security benefits to offset medical costs or other expenses. Now, unless grandfathered in, this “very valuable strategy for someone who had a change in health or financial status,” is gone. While anyone can un-suspend receipt of benefits, they can no longer collect a retroactive lump sum.

FROM ANGST TO ACTION

Now that we’re all on the same page about the grandfathering rules and what’s about to be history, we can see more clearly just what’s at stake if someone doesn’t fit the criteria. In fact, some couples who aren’t grandfathered are projecting ahead and realizing that the amount of benefits they’ll retain if they divorced now and remarried at 70—or held off remarrying in the case of divorced or widowed folks—are hard to pass up. And while we’re not suggesting such a strategy, we’re compelled to bring it up as a matter of example. It’s obvious: the state of future Social Security benefits has people in quite a tizzy.

That’s because we’re all interested in getting what’s coming to us. And when that’s financial in nature, we don’t want to waste a cent. Especially when we’re talking about supporting a decades long retirement, even loose change starts to take on newfound value. Factoring in new policies and rule changes, depth of knowledge and breadth of experience shift from prerequisite, to invaluable. And yet, behind these complications is a simple truth: we’re all looking to maximize what we have. Looks like it’s time to channel doubt and worry into action and planning, and get in front of this issue before the time’s behind us.

REVIEW BOX

Those who have already filed, who are due to receive survivor benefits, or who will reach FRA and file by April 29, 2016 are not affected by the Budget Act. The Budget Act will affect the ‘Lump Sum’ option, ‘File and Suspend’ strategy benefits, and the ‘File and Lock’ option. Those at least 62 by January 1, 2016, but not FRA by April 29, 2016 can still take advantage of a restricted ‘File and Suspend’ option.

SOME THINGS EXPLAINED

Deeming rules: Whether you file for spousal or personal retirement benefits, you’ll be “deemed” as filing for both, and thus receive the highest of the two. This has always applied to anyone filing before reaching FRA, but new legislation extends deeming rules to everyone born after January 1, 1954.

Full retirement age (FRA): Currently 66 years of age, this is the point at which 100% of retirement benefits are available. Filing before FRA will result in lower benefits, while each year that retirement is delayed benefits will build 8%, up to age 70.

Restricted application: For use by the spouse of a primary earner, the restricted application allows a lower earning spouse to apply for benefits based on their husband’s or wife’s work record. The amount received is typically around half of the high earner’s retirement benefits.

“File and suspend” AKA voluntary suspension: A strategy previously used to activate spousal and/or dependent benefits while allowing personal retirement benefits to grow. Still an option from FRA to age 70, “file and suspend” has been revised to suspend all dependent benefits when it’s employed.

Retroactive benefits (lump sum option): Retroactive benefits worked in tandem with the file-and-suspend strategy. After ending a suspension anywhere between FRA and 70, the claimant could then request a lump sum payment of all delayed retirement benefits.

Delayed retirement credits: After FRA is reached, and up to age 70, retirement benefits are increased by 8% for each year that retirement is delayed, with the potential for a maximum 32% higher benefit amount.

Survivor benefits: Claimed by either a surviving spouse, ex-spouse, or dependent or disabled children’s survivor benefits are based on the deceased’s work record. 

Kelleys Island

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On April 12, a meeting was held at the Village Pump to assess needs of the Kelleys Island seniors. The United Way of Erie County has switched their funding method from directly funding agencies to "community impact", bringing together resources to address community issues, according to John Lippus, Executive Director. In order to do that, meetings are being held to ask residents about their needs. This was the first, such meeting.

The broad issues that were identified were: transportation, health services for dental, vision and podiatry, and communication. Transportation is especially a problem on an island where weather conditions as well as boat and plane schedules, are issues. Also, some of the mainland services require a week or more advance notice which isn't always possible with an illness. Emergencies are dealt with through the Kelleys Island EMS and Life Flight, but lower level health appointments can be difficult.

The Health Department clinics are appreciated and dental, vision and podiatry services would be helpful. Janet Mesenberg of the Health Department said that they have applied for a grant that would assist in offering dental services. She pointed out that, any service of the Health Department on the mainland is available to island residents as well. One idea was to offer a full day clinic on the island, later in the summer, to meet some of these needs.

Communication of any services was identified as an issue. Many islanders rely on postings at the Kelleys Island Post Office and the Island Market for information, but that doesn't reach everyone. Two ideas surfaced: one is an island-wide mailing and the other is the 1-call system that some schools use. The village could coordinate the 1-call system, in which participants agree to give their phone numbers, and a recorded message is sent to all who are signed up.

One other item of note is that the Erie County 211 number, that provides information on social and health needs providers, is associated with the Cleveland Call Center. If a person's cell phone was purchased outside of Erie County, a call to that number would go to that location. If that happens, simply ask to be connected to the Cleveland Call Center and ask for Erie County information.

Thanks to Fred Ausflug and Mayor Cooper for coordinating this meeting and also the Village Pump for hosting the event. This is the second "Town Hall" type gathering this year with a representative from Frontier Communications meeting with islanders earlier this spring.
Hello Friends. What an April surprise it was coming home to a ‘blizzard’. Well, not really a blizzard, but it was snow, and it was quite beautiful. Also, it made us additionally grateful for our quiet little Florida life. But, there is a season for that. And now is the season for beer, Lake Erie, island fun, and family get-togethers. Our first party this year was for the Bear family. They had a lovely memorial weekend with families from all over the country. It was truly an honor to introduce new generations to the island and reacquaint family members from the 70’s to the island home that we have today. They opted for a specialty menu of Tony Packos Hungarian hot dogs, macaroni and cheese, vegetarian chili and Doug’s signature homemade apple pie. The tossed salad was a cut above and going to be our island favorite. The Rice, chili and Doug’s signature homemade apple pie. They can’t wait to come back to the island! They can’t wait to come back to the island!

Right: Lifeguard Class

Left: Holly Miller’s water aerobics class taking a break, reading Kelleys Life. They can’t wait to come back to the island! Right: Lifeguard Class Holly Miller’s lifeguard class learned about Kelleys Island and all of the different places they could apply their skills.

Kelleys Island Brewery News

We have quite a Kent presence at the brewery. Not only do Shannon and Alison go to Kent State, but also a Kelleys Island Brewery assistant that can help handle the recycling needs. Also, it made us additionally grateful for our quiet little Florida life. But, there is a season for that. And now is the season for beer, Lake Erie, island fun, and family get-togethers. Our first party this year was for the Bear family. They had a lovely memorial weekend with families from all over the country. It was truly an honor to introduce new generations to the island and reacquaint family members from the 70’s to the island home that we have today. They opted for a specialty menu of Tony Packos Hungarian hot dogs, macaroni and cheese, vegetarian chili and Doug’s signature homemade apple pie. The tossed salad was a cut above and going to be our island favorite. The Rice, chili and Doug’s signature homemade apple pie. They can’t wait to come back to the island! They can’t wait to come back to the island!

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Historical Association Dedicates First Historic Marker

Last August the Kelleys Island Historical Association dedicated the island’s first historic marker. The 2-sided marker celebrates the history of the German Reformed Church, built in 1866 from island stone and the Parsonage next door, built in 1888.

Considering that the Island was purchased by Irad and Datus Kelley in 1866 on ½ acre of island stone in 1866, the congregation built this church on Division Street. Here is the wording on marker:

The GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH was organized on Kelleys Island in 1865. The congregation built this church from island stone in 1866 on ½ acre of island stone and the Parsonage next door, built in 1888. The church’s Ladies Aid Society was able to maintain the building until 1957. The church’s final service, a funeral for William Burger, was held in 1942. The church’s Ladies Aid Society was able to maintain the building until 1957. The church’s Ladies Aid Society was able to maintain the building until 1957. The church’s Ladies Aid Society was able to maintain the building until 1957. The church’s Ladies Aid Society was able to maintain the building until 1957.

The German Reformed Church was purchased by Irad and Datus Kelley in 1866 from Mrs. Lange, Nowalk, Pringnitz, Renter, Scheeler, Scheele, Smith, Stoll, Suhr, and Trieschman. Rev. A. William Von Kaske was the congregation’s last resident minister, leaving in 1915. The church’s final service, a funeral for William Burger, was held in 1942. The church’s Ladies Aid Society was able to maintain the building until 1957. The church’s Ladies Aid Society was able to maintain the building until 1957. The church’s Ladies Aid Society was able to maintain the building until 1957.

The church of the German Reformed Church and parsonage even after both buildings became part of the Kelleys Island Historical Association in the 1880s. The association granted Mrs. McKilp’s use of the house until her death in 2013 at the age of 92. It has no running water and is serviced by a hand pump in the kitchen and an outhouse in the back yard.

We thank the Pomeroy Foundation for making this achievement possible and also Leslie Korenko for pulling the history of these two buildings together and writing the grant. History does indeed come alive on Kelleys Island.

Annual Seder meal celebrated as family

Coming together on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 to keep the memory of the Passover alive were (left to right) LaVerne Ehrbar, Carol Dodson, Frank Dodson, Janet Fox, Don Gillis, and Linda Hostal (missing from the picture were Mary Lou Gilles and Janet Killian). Janet Killian hosted the meal and was responsible for preparing the meal as well. St. Michael’s Social Hall was used for the celebration. Frank Dodson represented the head of the family and led the group in the customary Jewish ritual.

Serving Our Seniors Has Out of Town Transportation to Health Care Appointments

When you live on Kelleys Island, everything is “out of town” that isn’t on the island. This can make getting to a health care appointment difficult and/or expensive. Both are strong motivators to just not deal with it.

It doesn’t have to be that way. If you are age 60 or older and a resident (not a visitor) of Kelleys Island, Serving Our Seniors has a transportation plan that you may want you to be aware of. It is called “Serving Our Seniors Out of Town Medical Transportation Program”.

Volunteers drive Serving Our Seniors cars for the purposes of making it easier for Erie County residents, ages 60+ to get to their health care appointments. The cost to use this service is an anonymous donation from you, if you aren’t. If you aren’t able to walk, sit down and stand up, the person needing the ride must be assisted into or out of a car.

We also have a wheelchair accessible van. So if you live on the island and are dependent on a wheelchair or a power chair – and able to maneuver the chair yourself – we can still help you.

To use the Out of Town Transportation Program, you must be independently functioning, This is not a service that is staffed with health care professionals or paraprofessionals. Our volunteers are just that – volunteer drivers.

If you do need the assistance of another to make the trip, you can bring a personal attendant with you. The volunteer driver, however, is restricted to just driving. We also have a wheelchair accessible van. So if you live on the island and are dependent on a wheelchair or a power chair – and able to maneuver the chair yourself – we can still help you.

To reserve your ride call Serving Our Seniors at 419-624-1856. We ask for at least one weeks advanced notice. More notice is better.

Serving Our Seniors Out of Town Transportation Program

Cultural Arts Center – and anywhere else in town. To use the Out of Town Transportation Program, you must be independently functioning. This is not a service that is staffed with health care professionals or paraprofessionals. Our volunteers are just that – volunteer drivers. They cannot assist a person into or out of a car.

The person needing the ride must be independently functioning. This is not a service that is staffed with health care professionals or paraprofessionals. Our volunteers are just that – volunteer drivers. They cannot assist a person into or out of a car.

They must also be cognitively intact… Meaning, the individual must be alert and oriented and able to think, reason, judge, discern.

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The person needing the ride must be independently functioning. This is not a service that is staffed with health care professionals or paraprofessionals. Our volunteers are just that – volunteer drivers. They cannot assist a person into or out of a car.

They must also be cognitively intact… Meaning, the individual must be alert and oriented and able to think, reason, judge, discern.

We also have a wheelchair accessible van. So if you live on the island and are dependent on a wheelchair or a power chair – and able to maneuver the chair yourself – we can still help you.

To reserve your ride call Serving Our Seniors at 419-624-1856. We ask for at least one weeks advanced notice. More notice is better.
He was an independent dealer for ribbon and Victory Medal. Upon his death by his beloved wife, Mary, and warmer weather are on their way at last.

And, thinking of warm weather, wasn’t Easter on Kelleys Island a beautiful day? Easter was very early this year (March 27) so, most people were not expecting such a spectacular day. It was wonderful for church services and our after-church potluck. The children had an especially nice day for their Easter Egg Hunt at the Memorial Park, too.

Many of the faithful members and friends of Zion Church will be returning to the island around Memorial Day. So, our activities and events will come along faster after that. An Easter celebration is planned on Sunday, April 21, 2019 beginning with a church service at 10:30 a.m. as usual. Our weekly services include singing of popular hymns, prayers, reading from scripture and a sermon message relating to the scripture. Each week we also offer prayer for people on our prayer list. So if you know of anyone who is in need of prayer, please contact me at 419-734-2753.

Worship times for St. Michael’s Catholic Church on the island are always posted on the church’s message board. We encourage everyone to attend a weekly worship service at either of the island’s two churches. Remember that casual attire is acceptable.

I am looking forward to the warmer weather of spring and summer and also to the influx of summer residents and visitors who will come to Kelleys Island in 2016. And I hope to see all of you as I am out and about around our community in the coming season.

Ted is survived by his daughter, Deb (Keith) Haig of Kelleys Island; son, Rob (Brenda) Blatt of Milliard; five grandchildren, Kelsey, Megan, Tristan, Tyler (Emily) and Tory; sister, Dorothy at Sprau; adored nieces and nephews; and many dear friends.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Mary, and warmer weather are on their way at last.

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The Cut at Huntery Beatty Preserve

Tom Bartlett
The 2015 annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count was conducted on December 20, 2015. Groups of birders covered Kelleys, South Bass, Middle Bass, North Bass, Green, and Pelee Islands during the day in an attempt to report as many species of birds and individuals as possible. This is one of the very few counts which has a coverage area in two countries and counts are made worldwide now. Twenty-seven hardy souls tried to cover all the island habitats and an additional 19 observed from their homes viewed their bird feeders. They came up with 82 species and 4056 individuals. On North Bass, 3 field observers found 25 species and 405 individuals. On Green Island, 3 field observers found 8 species and 18 individuals. On North Bass, 3 field observers found 70 species and 8318 individuals. On Kelleys Island, four field observers and two feeder watchers found 70 species and 8318 individuals. On South Bass, 7 field observers and 12 feeder watchers found 41 species and 4809 individuals. On Middle Bass 1 field observer/feeder watcher found 10 species and 196 individuals. On North Bass, 3 field observers found 25 species and 405 individuals. On Green Island, 3 field observers found 8 species and 18 individuals. On Pelee Island, 9 field observers and 4 feeder watchers found 50 species and 2321 individuals. The count had record high numbers for Black-capped Chickadee (548), Eastern Bluebird (63), Hermit Thrush (82), and Purple Finch (49). Unusual or uncommon species found were Turkey Vulture (4 on Kelleys), an Osprey (count week on South Bass), Killdeer (4 on Pelee), Sanderling (2 on Kelleys), Dunlin (1 on Kelleys), Tufted Titmouse (2 on South Bass), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1 on South Bass), Rusty Blackbird (2 on Kelleys), and Common Redpoll (29 on Kelleys). Kelleys Island's only Wild Turkey was record but then 119 Wild Turkeys on Pelee Island seems to make it a moot point.

But, the real highlight of the count was a kingbird found by Tom and Paula Bartlett near the Twine House. Any kingbird at this time of year should be a thousand miles south of the Lake Erie Islands. This kingbird had a yellow belly. The only kingbird recorded for Kelleys Island is the Eastern Kingbird which has a white belly and should be in South American by December. At first, it was thought that this bird was a Western Kingbird which is a very rare bird for Ohio from out west. Over the course of several days, Tom was able to get better and closer photographs of the bird, posting them on Birding Ohio Facebook page and the KI Birdr Facebook page. Kingbird experts from around the country observed the photos and felt that not all the characteristics fit Western Kingbird. There was speculation it might be an aberrant Couch’s Kingbird from Mexico and south Texas which had never been recorded north of Texas or that it might be a hybrid between a Western and a Couch’s which also had never been recorded. Tom’s close-up photos seemed to show a wing morphology which was not that of a Western but more like a Couch’s. Then, Gary Finger, Kelleys Island’s newest wildlife photographer, got some photos of its tail feathers which seem to show characteristics of both Western and Couch’s. On December 26, more than thirty birders led by Kenn and Kim Kaufman visited the island to view and photographed the bird. Even recordings of its call were made but we were not close enough to identify. It would go down as a probable hybrid between Couch’s Kingbird and Western Kingbirds are invited to attend, take a tour through the historical property, see fossils and glacial grooves we didn’t know were there, revist “The Cut” and reminisce about the old days of swimming in it. Kelleys Island Audubon and Wildlife transplanted to the old quarry a few years ago, are flourishing and will be at peak bloom mid-May. Additionally, “The Cut” is an excellent example of the globally imperiled Great Lakes Alvar habitat.

Leading the celebration will be Jennifer Finfera of United States Fish and Wildlife, Dave Kiska of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and Kate Pilacky of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. The Museum and Land Conservancy facilitated the acquisition of the old quarry land from Don Hunty, Sr., and the two organizations continue to monitor it for compliance to the terms of the conservation easement. A new sign will be dedicated “The Cut” at the Huntery-Beatty Quarry. A very special invitation to the Lakeside Daisy will be led by Dave Kiska. All visitors to the site, including Kelleys Island Audubon, are invited to attend, take a tour through the historical property, see fossils and glacial grooves we didn’t know were there, revisit “The Cut” and reminisce about the old days of swimming in it. Kelleys Island Audubon and Wildlife

June Campbell
Celebrate Endangered Species Week when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services representative visits Kelleys Island on Wednesday, May 18, 2016. The event takes place at “The Cut”, Huntery-Beatty Quarry, on Hoookerman Road at 2 p.m.

“The Cut” contains twelve State Endangered plants as identified by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History botanists. The famed Lakeside Daisies, which United States Fish and Wildlife transplanted to the old quarry a few years ago, are flourishing and will be at peak bloom mid-May. Additionally, “The Cut” is an excellent example of the globally imperiled Great Lakes Alvar habitat.

Leading the celebration will be Jennifer Finfera of United States Fish and Wildlife, Dave Kiska of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and Kate Pilacky of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. The Museum and Land Conservancy facilitated the acquisition of the old quarry land from Don Hunty, Sr., and the two organizations continue to monitor it for compliance to the terms of the conservation easement. A new sign will be dedicated “The Cut” at the Huntery-Beatty Quarry. A very special invitation to the Lakeside Daisy will be led by Dave Kiska. All visitors to the site, including Kelleys Island Audubon, are invited to attend, take a tour through the historical property, see fossils and glacial grooves we didn’t know were there, revisit “The Cut” and reminisce about the old days of swimming in it. Kelleys Island Audubon and Wildlife
**KELLEYS LIFE DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES**

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205 E Lakeshore DR $495,000  
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.48 acres with 150 feet of frontage in the Sweetbriar Subdivision on the east side of Kelleys Island.

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**24 SOUTHAVEN LANE • $43,000**  
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**59, 60, 61 MEMORY LANE • $29,200**  
.48 acres with 150 feet of frontage in the Sweetbriar Subdivision on the east side of Kelleys Island.

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