

LIFE ON KELLEYS

THE EMERALD ISLE NEWS

Annual Field Station Day & Pavilion Ribbon-Cutting



Jackie Taylor, Director

Kelleys Island Schools Field Station

Join us at Kelleys Island School for this year's Annual Field Station Day and the official Pavilion Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony! This exciting event celebrates six years of pollinator habitats, conservation work, and environmental education that have flourished in our community.

Date: September 14th

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Kelleys Island School, Followed by a Celebration at the State Park

We will begin the festivities at Kelleys Island School, then continue the celebration at the

State Park with:

- Monarch butterfly tagging
- Hors d'oeuvres & refreshments
- Community gathering & Celebration

Come out to celebrate our shared commitment to nature, learning, and community spirit. Let's raise a toast to the successes we've built together — and to the bright future ahead for Kelleys Island!

The Pavilion Furniture was Generously Provided by:

- Kelleys Island Land Owners Association
- Kelleys Island Police Department Association

Visit Perry's Victory & International Peace Memorial Before a Renovation Project Suspends Visits to the Observation Deck for Two Years

Jill Bauer, SHORES&ISLANDS.ohio

Shores & Islands Ohio has an abundance of amazing experiences! Among the long list is the view from the observation deck at Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial at Put-in-Bay on South Bass Island. This monument was established to honor those who fought in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812, and to celebrate the long-lasting peace among Great Britain, Canada, and the U.S. The Memorial, a Doric column rising 352-feet over Lake Erie, is situated 5 miles from the longest undefended border in the world.

According to the National Park Service, the memorial gets about 100,000 visitors a year. These guests appreciate a walk through the free visitor's center, which offers exhibits that trace the events of the War of 1812, the armament of the time, the specifics of the battle that turned the tide of the war, and more. A two-story window offers a vision of the marble memorial, while an



interactive exhibit explores the memorial's construction and the peace that continues to endure.

The memorial column is even taller than the Statue of Liberty - by nearly 50 feet! The observation deck offers sights to behold, including a view of the battle site and spectacular views of Kelleys Island. If you want to experience these views for yourself, now is the time to visit

Please turn to page 4

Upcoming Election of New Council Members

Caroline Jorski

On Tuesday, November 4th, Islanders will be asked to elect Kelleys Island

Candidates for the next four years. If you cannot be present to cast your vote, you can obtain an Absentee Ballot by calling 419-627-7601 or going to the website <http://www.BOEOhio.Gov/Erie>. You can print out your ballot from this website, also. Early voting runs from October 7th thru November 2nd.

The Kelleys Island candidates seeking election for Council on November 4th are:



Chris Arnold



Jason Divall



A. Max Eaton



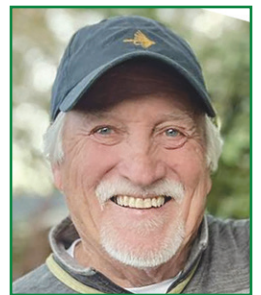
Mary Gaither



Chris Kipfer



Scot Smith



Joseph Wolfe

The Kelleys Island candidates seeking election for School Board on November 4th are: Deb Haig and Janet Wermuth.

On Saturday, September 20th at 1 pm, Kelleys Island Land Owners Association will host a Candidate Forum Day in the Estes School gym where people will be allowed to ask questions and see the candidates as they introduce themselves. Everyone is invited so please plan to attend. Your vote IS important.

Life on Kelleys Available Online





Kelleys Island Homecoming Honors Tradition and Community Spirit

Drew Algase

The 51st Annual Kelleys Island Homecoming was one for the books, filled with heartfelt moments, delicious traditions, and a strong sense of community pride.

This year's celebration held special meaning as we honored the life of longtime islander and friend, Chuck Schodowski. His wife, June, and their family rode proudly in the parade, a touching tribute to a family whose love for Kelleys Island has left a lasting legacy.

June Schodowski was overwhelmed by the support she felt throughout the day which was themed to celebrate her husband's career. She expressed thanks that so many family members were able to attend Homecoming this year. Marilyn was delighted to be in the parade and Mark's portrayal of Chuck's "Certain Ethnic" character was spot-on. It was a wonderful day to honor Chuck's accomplishments and his love of the Island.

Mayor Ron Ehrbar read a proclamation declaring Homecoming Saturday August 9, 2025 as "Big Chuck" Schodowski day. (See proclamation and photo on Page 8).



Speaking of tradition, the last surviving KILA founder Barb Coleman was present as were her children L to R: Tim, Bob, Jim, Liz, Bill, Jr. Jim is still active in KILA and serves on our Board of Directors. It was announced that Barb would be named the first Board Member Emeritus this fall at the KILA annual meeting taking place September 20th, 2025

Homecoming parade this year included both the Milan Edison Chargers and Crestline Bulldogs high school marching bands, along with a unit of Cushman scooters from Lorain and unicyclists from the Toledo area. A number of folks brought their golf carts and other contraptions to the parade and were judged primarily on their honoring of the memory of Big Chuck. In third place was an entry by the State Park volunteers, second place was Mr. Green's sound machine in the back of a Cushman mini truck.



In first place from "high on the top of Channel 8's transmitting tower, Son of Kong" brought to us by the Truthan family. (See more parade photos on page 21)

Fish Fry Report:

It was a sunny, hot, beautiful



evening for the fifth annual fish fry. Again, all 200 tickets were sold out a week before the event.

The back story:

The pavilion was lovely with checkered table cloths and gorgeous



flowers arranged by Vicki Finnegan.

The fryers were crackling with hot oil as Joel Byer readied them to cook the delicious fish. Steve Miller's



amazing new big corn pot was boiling.

Janet Killam; Barb Zeller; Leslie Algase; Debbie and Bryan Plonski; Kit Kilen; Holly Miller; and Robin Schwartz were busy preparing the fish.

Sweet smells wafted from the dessert table where Cindy and Bill Leonard were plating servings of fruit cobbler.

The front line:

Linda Williams served the kids their hot dogs while Jim Zeller manned the buttery sweet Puckins corn on the cob. Stacy Notestine dished the creamy cole slaw for everyone and Melanie Bates places the half pound of piping hot fresh perch on each plate. Ray Washio headed the line collecting tickets and passing out plates.

The annual Pie Contest brought in nine entries this year — fewer than in years past, but no less sweet. A special welcome goes to newcomer Frankie, who joined the lineup of talented bakers.

- Winners included:
- 1st Place: Jacquie Folk - Key Lime Pie-Life is Sweet
 - 2nd Place: Virginia Coyne - Banana Cream Pie
 - 3rd Place: Mandy Barlage - Tomato Pie, a crowd favorite

Behind the scenes, dedicated volunteers made the day possible. Special thanks to Candy Voltz, Debbie Duirk, and Monica Sislán for presenting, slicing, and boxing pies to sell at lunch. Your hard work kept the tradition alive.

Judges: Twila, Scott, Darlene, Roxane, Courtney and Ken the tallyman were all important pieces of the fun.



Parade Marshal car Schodowski family: June (passenger seat), Rear L to R: daughter, Melissa (Happle), Tama & Mark S.

The Food committee, led by Jim Coleman, served up the traditional grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and chicken. This year, a "Kielbasy Kid" special was offered; grilled kielbasa, sauerkraut (prepared by Caroline Jorski), and pierogi (prepared by Melanie Bates & Debbi Plonski).

Congratulations to KILA Raffle Winners:

- 1st Place: \$ 2,500 Merle Hune
- 2nd Place: \$ 1,000 Quinn Burnett
- 3rd Place: \$ 500 Seara Dodson
- 4th Place: \$ 250 Stephanie Voltz
- 5th Place \$ 100 Matt Baker

Almost 90% of the raffle tickets were sold. The proceeds are used to fund projects that improve and enhance Kelleys Island.

A heartfelt thanks goes to KILA, the Homecoming Committees, local donors and every volunteer — especially those working over hot grills and the set up/takedown crews— for their dedication and flexibility in making sure the bands, vendors, and visitors had what they needed. It's a

labor of love that keeps this treasured island event thriving.

Upcoming KILA Events:

On Saturday September 20, KILA will hold the annual members meeting at 10:00 am at the school.

It will consist of election of directors to the board, the annual President's report, and a discussion of future KILA activities. Further, as part of this meeting, members will vote on recent bylaw changes the current board is proposing. A copy of those proposed changes is on the KILA website www.kila.rocks with the updates highlighted in red.

Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 1 PM will be the KILA sponsored Candidates' Forum. This will be in the Estes school Gym. Candidates running for local elected positions on village council and school board will be invited to participate. Ballot issues/levies will also be explained. A "must attend" for all KI residents and especially registered voters.

The Family Hay Ride at the 4H Please turn to page 8



FAMILY HAYRIDE



SATURDAY OCTOBER 18

3:00-5:00 PM



KELLEYS ISLAND 4H CAMP

403 WARD RD.



WEAR A COSTUME AND BRING YOUR PARENTS FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN!

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GAMES

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Wall of Fame Ribbon Cutting

Hannah Kulka

Thanks to everyone that joined us for the Wall of Fame ribbon cutting on August 10th. School Board President, Janet Wermuth, and former Superintendent, Phil Thiede, cut the ribbon at the event. We were ecstatic to meet community members with historical familial connections to the school and many audience members enjoyed searching through the content after the presentation had ended. The Wall of Fame digital kiosk serves to provide access to historical documents, photos, and archives of Kelleys Island Local School and is on display in the main corridor.

We would like to thank everyone that made this project possible, especially the Kelleys Island History Museum for providing an amazing collection of digitized historical records. Additionally, we appreciate all community members that contributed items from personal collections.

We will continue to collect more content and welcome anyone that has items to share, to contact the school via the office phone. All documents will be scanned and returned to the owner.

Most importantly, we encourage anyone visiting the school to take time to explore the kiosk and learn about our school's history!

Please join us at Kelleys Island School for our next ribbon cutting ceremony commemorating our new public pavillion/outdoor classroom on September 14th at 1:00 p.m.

Adult Art Classes

Hannah Kulka

Kelleys Island Local School will offer adult art classes every Tuesday starting September 2nd. These classes are free and open to Kelleys Island Residents, all skill levels welcome! There will be two time slots for classes this year, 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm. Classes are held in the art room, please enter through the library doors. Reach out to instructor Jackie Polofka with any questions at 419-377-2300 or jpolofka@kelleys.k12.oh.us.

Visit Perry's Victory & International Peace Memorial

continued from page 1

Put-in-Bay and Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial!

Why? Because after this season, the monument will be closed for the next two years as the concrete around its base is set to be repaired or replaced. While you'll still be able to visit the visitors center and grounds surrounding the monument, visits to the observation deck will be suspended until 2028.

The visitors center, as well as viewing the plaza and rotunda are free to visit. The rotunda holds the graves of six American and six British officers killed in the Battle of Lake Erie, as well as a memorial with the names of 123 American servicemen who were killed or wounded.

The observation deck requires a short stair climb to the elevator entrance. Tours of the deck are \$10 for those ages 16 and older and timed tickets can be purchased in the visitors center. Those 15 and under can visit for free.

Our country's third-tallest national monument will be open daily through September 30, 2025 and Friday through Monday throughout the month of October. Hours are currently 10 am-6 pm, however beginning September 8 closing time will become 5 pm. The monument's final day of operation, and subsequently the final day to visit the observation deck until 2028, will be Monday, October 27th.

Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial is a site to behold and definitely a trip worth taking this season!

September & October Events

in Shores & Islands, Ohio

Jill Bauer, SHORES&ISLANDS.ohio

As summer winds down on Lake Erie, the fun is far from over. September and October offer some of the most beautiful weather of the year—cooler temps, fewer crowds, and golden views of the shoreline. It's also when the communities of the Shores & Islands Ohio region come alive with festivals, food, music, and lakefront fun. From Put-in-Bay and Kelleys Island to Sandusky, Port Clinton, and beyond, you will find plenty of reasons to join the celebrations.

Historic Weekend

Sep 5-7 Put-in-Bay

Commemorating the anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie! This weekend offers activities, small arms and artillery demonstrations, historic encampment, performances, and a parade.

Annual Friends of Stone Lab Open House

Sep 6 Gibraltar Island

Stone Lab is The Ohio State University's island campus and the oldest freshwater biological field station in the US.

Treasure Island Day

Sep 6 Kelleys Island

Treasure Island Day features sales hosted by the local community and businesses. You are bound to find some unique treasures.

Cedar Point's HalloWeekends 2025!

Sep 11-Nov 1 (Thu-Sun) Sandusky

It's family fun by day and fright by night as HalloWeekends returns! With daytime family activities, plus nighttime haunted mazes, scare zones and entertainment, HalloWeekends will send chills down the spine.

Second Annual Put-in-Bay Monarch Fest

Sep 13 Put-in-Bay

Monarch butterflies migrate up to 3,000 miles annually from their summer breeding grounds to their overwintering homes. The festival features activities, games, food and music. There will be butterfly races for the kids with wings! There will be nets available that families can use to assist with catching butterflies as part of a greater effort to increase Monarch migration tracking.

Wine, Art & Food Fair

Sep 13 Kelleys Island

Wander the island's wineries, grab a glass of wine and shop the beautiful artists tents that dot the properties.

Put-in-Bay Road Races Reunion

Sep 16-18 Put-in-Bay

Experience the thrill of vintage car racing at the airport, this event revives the island's historic road races with vintage MGs, Porsches, Triumphs, and other classic sports cars. Embracing not only the vehicles but also the vintage style and fashion of racing's golden era. Join racing enthusiasts and spectators for this free event.

3rd Thursday Music, Flowers, and a Sunset

Sep 18 Vermilion

There is exciting free musical entertainment with bands scattered throughout downtown. Do some shopping, grab something to eat, or enjoy some ice cream and be a part of this fantastic event!

Island-Wide Treasure Hunt Returns: Treasure Island Day - September 6

Zoey Vargo (Leonard), Executive Director, Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce

Mark your calendars for a day of discovery, bargains, and community connection—Treasure Island Day returns on Saturday, September 6, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., transforming the entire island into a treasure-laden marketplace of adventure.

An Island-Wide Yard Sale Extravaganza - This beloved Kelleys Island tradition invites treasure hunters of all ages to explore the island-wide garage and yard sales hosted by residents and businesses. The adventure begins bright and early at 9 a.m., when participants can pick up their "treasure map" at the Chamber of Commerce office or Island Market—a guide to all participating locations.

From quirky collectibles and vintage finds to household bargains and island-made crafts, each stop offers the promise of a hidden gem at an unbeatable low price. And with the event winding down at 3 p.m., you've got the perfect window to explore at your own pace, grab lunch, or enjoy the island's scenic charm between stops.

A Community Coming Together

Treasure Island Day isn't just about the hunt—it's about rediscovery and community spirit. The island's varied offerings—from family homes to

storefront sales—create a vibrant tapestry of island life in motion. Neighbors connect with visitors, seasonal anglers share a laugh with long-time residents, and everyone gets a chance to celebrate the island's uniqueness.

Why You'll Want to Attend

- Stretch your legs—and your treasure budget: This is one of the island's most budget-friendly days to pick up unexpected finds from furniture to fish-themed décor.
- Walk, bike, or cart your way: Treasure Island Day is designed for islanders who appreciate slow-paced exploration. A leisurely stroll or easy bike ride reveals delights around every corner.
- Perfect for all ages: Bring the kids, bring your curiosity, bring your friends—there's treasure everywhere.

Whether you're an island regular or a first-time visitor, Treasure Island Day offers a day of community, discovery, and the thrill of the hunt. For more information, contact the Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce at (419) 746-2360, or email info@kelleysislandchamber.com

This year's Treasure Island Day promises the same charm, excitement, and laid-back spirit that have made it a local favorite. Hit the streets—your next great find awaits between the Rocky shores and hidden front yards of Kelleys Island.

Boaters Education Q&A

Sep 18 Sandusky

Boaters' discussion with industry professionals. Panel will consist of people from a variety of areas related to the Marine Industry. Learn about the most frequently asked questions, common mistakes or misinformation, and where to find resources.

Strongman Champions League Competition

Sep 20 Sandusky

The Strongman Champions League is an elite global competition series featuring thrilling events hosted across the world. For the first time in SCL history, athletes will be competing in downtown Sandusky! This competition will be free to watch.

29th Annual Lakeside-Marblehead Lighthouse Festival

Oct 11 Marblehead

This peninsula-wide event includes fun for the whole family: tours of the Marblehead Lighthouse and the Wolcott Keeper's House, live entertainment, children's games and crafts, pumpkin-decorating contest, over 100 vendors, farmers' market, hayrides, and more.

Family Halloween

Oct 11 Kelleys Island

Join for the kids Halloween Festivities and enjoy Story Time, Pumpkin Carving, Spooky Putt-Putt, Trick or Treat, and the Terror at the Town Hall!

Adult Halloween

Oct 18 Kelleys Island

Kelleys Island establishments welcome adult revelers costumed and un-costumed! Check out the bars and restaurants for special prizes, costume contests, and more!

Sandusky Witches' Walk 2025

Oct 18 Sandusky

Celebrating 14 magical years! Enjoy mystical tunes! Taste the potions available at cauldron stops. Show off your witchy finest in the costume contest and see who will win The Golden Broom! Frolic through magical local shops and the Enchanted Market!

Skelly Hunt

Oct 18 Put-in-Bay

Head over to the Bay and try to find as many skeletons as you can and win prizes.

Get details about these events and plan your late-summer and fall fun at SHORES&ISLANDS.com.



2025 Chamber Sponsored Events

September 6

Treasure Island Days

Islandwide Chamber Member Events

SEPTEMBER	NOVEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-30 - Monarch Tagging (all month long) • 6 - Monarch Tagging, KI Field Station/KI School • 8 - Perch Tournament, The Casino (8am) • 13 - Wine and Art Faire, The Kelley's Island Wine Co, Crooked Tree Vineyard, Monarch Winery (12:30pm) • 14 - KI Field Station Day & Celebration, KI Field Station (1pm) • 21 - Feathers and Foliage, KI Audubon (TBA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 - VP Thanksgiving Potluck, The Village Pump (6pm-9pm) • 29 - VP OSU vs. Michigan Tailgate Party, The Village Pump (10am-5pm) • 30 - Sights, Scents, and Sounds, The Kelleys Island Wine Co (4pm-8pm)
OCTOBER	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 - Oktoberfest, West Bay (11am) • 10-12 - Family Halloween, Island Wide (10am-7pm) • 11 - Kid's Trick or Treat! (3pm), Kids Crafts & Music (2pm-4pm), The Kelleys Island Wine Co • 11 - Casino Clam Bake, The Casino (4pm) • 11 - FD/PA Harvest Festival & Pig Roast • 15 - Owl Banding, KI Audubon (Nightly, Mid-Oct thru Late Nov) • 17-20 - Adult Halloween, Island-Wide (Noon-11pm) • 18 - KILA Family Hayride, KILA (3pm-5pm) • 31-NOV 3 - Owl Fest, KI Audubon (7pm-9pm) 	



Jodie Smith

Are you spending the off season or Winter on Kelleys Island? Are you looking for a way to be involved with the amazing history and community here? The Kelleys Island Historical Association has opportunities for you to participate in everything from creating spread sheets for historical artifacts, to helping to organize and clean its historical collection. The Historical Association Board (Jackie Polofka, Chad Waffan, Theresa Behrends, Lisa Lotito and Michael Beatty, Janet Killam) welcome

Off Season and Winter Fun at The Museum Campus

your active participation in helping to maintain the goals of the Historical Association in all its ventures.

Curator, Carmen Smith, has begun an immense project of cleaning and organizing the collection. Last winter, work was completed to protect the archived collections with a climatically controlled storage room for archived artifacts. Work continues with the needed care of and organization of artifacts in the Museums collection. YOU CAN HELP! Contact Carmen at conservation@kelleysislandhistorical.org or at 419-746-2399.

The Museum Gift Shop and Museum is managed by Justiina Loveless. She invites you to become part of the Museum Volunteer group who work at the Museum during seasonal hours. Reduced Seasonal hours will continue until (tentatively) mid-October. A new volunteer receives excellent guidance from a seasoned volunteer. Greeting and welcoming visitors, along with checking out gift shop items and accepting money for museum admittance is part of your experience.

Volunteers receive perks such as 30% off in the Museum gift shop and an appreciation party at the end of the season (this year was held at The Crooked Tree Winery!). While volunteering at the museum you can explore the exhibits and become more familiar with the rich Island History. Resource books are available for you to peruse and to follow an interest in the history of the island that you may have. Don't worry if you have limited knowledge! The books and exhibits can easily be referred to, or you can reach out to another person or inform the questioning visitor that you could get back to them! Typical fun hours are from 12-2, or 2-4, or 12-4. To be open daily is the goal, but without enough volunteers, the museum has had to shorten its operating hours this past 2025 season. Help the Museum OPEN 7 days a week in 2026! Volunteer and experience the benefits of learning the history and having fun with this valued group in our community.

The Parsonage House Resale Shop and Sis's Cottage are part of the Museum

Campus next to the German Reformed Church. The Parsonage House Resale Shop has become a valued resource to the Kelleys Island Community, providing necessary (and sometimes fanciful) items for the Islanders and visitors, without having to leave the island! Items no longer valued or needed can be donated (following donation guidelines), reducing the need for items to be hauled off the island, AND becoming a needed item or resource for the next person! Volunteers are needed in this exciting venture! Doing light cleaning tasks or helping to stage items, as well as checking out the treasures that customers have purchased, would be some of your opportunities while volunteering at the Parsonage House! History lives inside the Parsonage House with its original staircase and floors, windows and much more. Have you noticed the Pump at the kitchen sink? Managers, Sonia Taylor and Jodie Smith and assistant Janet Killam WELCOME you to be part of the Parsonage House Resale Shop Team. Be prepared to have fun, or (as we like to say) you're fired, LOL!

Finally, to highlight The German Reformed Church! The church is open for self-guided tours during seasonal hours of 12-4. You can find the history of the German Reformed Church AND The Parsonage House written on the Ohio Historical Marker at the front of the church. The quaint, stone church is available to rent for your small, private occasion. Imagine an intimate wedding or renewal of wedding vows in this peaceful church. A music recital or book reading is well received by your guests in this acoustic environment. Please contact Justiina Loveless at the Museum, or at kimuseumgiftshop@gmail.com.

The Museum and Gift Shop, The German Reformed Church and The Parsonage House Resale Shop and Sis's Cottage are ALL under The Kelleys Island Historical Association. The Museum Campus is located at 224-226 Division Street. Please visit us there during Seasonal hours of 12-4, daily, if we have enough staff.

To find out how you can be involved check out the google form on Kelleysislandhistorical.org and FB Kelleys Island History Museum, or stop by during Opening hours. For the Parsonage House Resale Shop, please call Sonia Taylor, 419-202-8083, Jodie Smioth 419-350-1082, or Janet Killam, 419-304-3095.

The Kelleys Island Historical Association WELCOME your participation and THANK YOU for your continued support of the preservation of knowledge of the past, the present and passing this knowledge to the future generations on Kelleys Island.

Here we GO again!
Kelleys Island Historical Association's
FREE RIDE
RAFFLE
Win a \$500
Kelleys Island Ferry Gift Card!
it NEVER expires!
\$10 A TICKET!
Our first raffle was so fun we are doing it AGAIN!
2 Pick 3 Numbers per Ticket!
ONLY 500 TICKETS SOLD!
ON SALE NOW AT:
**Parsonage Resale Shop &
Kelleys Island Museum**
(cash/check payable to KIHA)
Look for us selling tickets at various
ISLAND EVENTS & LOCATIONS!
Drawing: October 31, 2025 | Evening Pick 3

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Changes in Historical Perspective...& SALES!

Jodie Smith

Businesses evolve over time for different reasons. The Parsonage House and Sis's Cottage Resale Shop are getting ready for a positive transition to help preserve a historical property on Kelleys Island! The house needs many repairs to maintain it and keep it for future generations to enjoy and learn from. We are putting all donations on hold as we need to partially clear the home for evaluation and repairs. We will be using Sis's Cottage to its full capacity to gradually move items into. Over the next few months, more items will be in Sis's cottage and will sell from there.

We are announcing our CLEARANCE SALE now! Look for signs in the shop to see what is on sale! Stop by soon as that one thing you don't know that you need will be gone! If you don't like the price, then ask!

SAVE THE DATE! Attention all KIHA Volunteers! The KIHA Volunteer Appreciation luncheon will be held on Tuesday September 9, 2025. We will be treated to lunch and fine beverages, and some fun games too! The Crooked Tree will be our host! Volunteers, please look for a personal invitation with more information!

Community Funding Makes Lake Erie Ecology Come Alive for Students



**Jackie Taylor, Director
Kelley's Island Schools
Field Station**

We are excited to share how community funding is making a significant difference in bringing Lake Erie's ecology to life for students!

This year, hundreds of students are heading to Kelley's Island, Ohio, not for a vacation, but for an immersive, hands-on learning experience. They'll be exploring the vibrant ecology of Lake Erie firsthand, getting their hands wet, and discovering the interconnectedness of this vital ecosystem. These trips are incredibly valuable for young learners, offering real-world experiences that are essential for a complete education.

Such impactful educational journeys often come with costs for transportation, ferry tickets, educational guides, and field equipment, which frequently exceed typical school budgets. This is where the generosity of community donors truly makes a difference. Community funding bridges this gap, ensuring that students from all backgrounds have the opportunity to explore Lake Erie's ecology. Every contribution, no matter the size, directly enhances students' ability to learn in this unique, immersive way. Which enables us to continue the program through the fall.

We are incredibly grateful to the Erie County Community Foundation, Ottawa County Community

Foundation, The Michelle Wightman/Karrie Wieber Charitable Foundation, The Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Wildlife, and the Youth Advisory Council-The Erie County Community Foundation. Their combined contributions of over \$11,500 are providing students from Erie County, Ottawa County, and Sandusky Schools with these invaluable one-day opportunities on Kelley's Island. Specifically, these grants will help cover:

- Ferry transportation from the mainland to Kelley's Island
- Educational program fees for

naturalist-led tours and activities

- Supplies for water testing, specimen collection, and ecological study

Hands-on environmental education plays a crucial role in shaping the next generation of scientists, conservationists, and responsible citizens. By enabling students to experience the living ecosystem of Lake Erie directly, our community members are investing in both the future of these children and the long-term health of the lake itself. These trips are planting seeds that we believe will inspire future generations to protect this incredible natural resource.



2026 Chamber Events

Sun, May 31 5/10K RACE/WALK	Sat, Aug 1-Sun, Aug 2 FILMFEST
Wed, Jun 3 BIKE WEEK DICE RUN	Sat, Sept 12 TREASURE ISLAND DAY
Sat, June 13 BREWS CRUISE IV	Fri, Oct 16-Sun, Oct 18 KIDS HALLOWEEN
Fri, July 17-Sun, July 19 ISLANDFEST	Fri, Oct 23-Sun, Oct 25 ADULT HALLOWEEN

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

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Kelleys Island
LAKE ERIE

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

Kelleys Island Treasure Island Day

September 6, 2025

ISLANDWIDE GARAGE SALE
Don't miss out on all the treasure!

HOSTED BY KELLEYS ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

For more information or to sponsor this event please email the office at info@kelleysislandchamber.com or visit our website at www.kelleysislandchamber.com.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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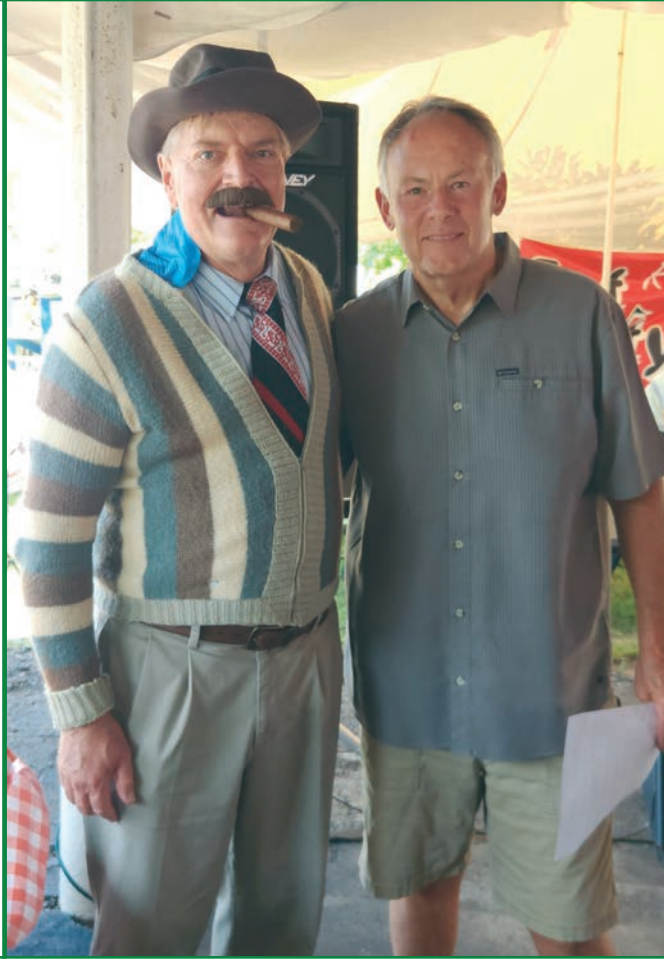
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“Big Chuck” Schodowski Day

Mayor Ron Ehrbar read a proclamation declaring Homecoming Saturday August 9, 2025 as “Big Chuck” Schodowski day.

Mayor Ron Ehrbar with Mark. Mark’s portrayal of Chuck’s “Certain Ethnic” character was spot-on. It was a wonderful day to honor Chuck’s accomplishments and his love of the Island.



IN THE VILLAGE OF KELLEYS ISLAND

A PROCLAMATION HONORING

CHARLES MITCHELL SCHODOWSKI “BIG CHUCK” A TRUE MAN OF THE PEOPLE

WHEREAS, Big Chuck was born on June 28th, 1934 in Cleveland Ohio where he attended South High School, subsequently studying nights for three years to obtain his first-class FCC License; and

WHEREAS, Big Chuck married his wife June in September of 1956 afterwards welcoming five children, fourteen grandchildren and three great grandchildren to their family; and

WHEREAS, Big Chuck started his career as a summer replacement at Channel 3 and started full-time at Channel 8 in Cleveland in 1960, where he worked with Ernie “Ghoulardi Anderson from 1963-1966, started the Hoolihan and Big Chuck Show which ran from 1966 to 1979, and teamed up with John “Little John” Rinaldi from 1979 to 2007 a career spanning 47 years; and

WHEREAS, Big Chuck was a cameraman, engineer, producer, director, script writer, published author, innovator in television with special effects, nationally recognized for his accomplishments and winner of 28 local Emmy awards, film and festival awards, and even a Grammy nomination-for a polka record, what else? and

WHEREAS, Big Chuck brought us our favorite Friday night and Saturday afternoon characters like the Kielbasy Kid, Certain Ethnic Guy, Ben Crazy, and of course the high-pitched “Ha-haaaah!” laugh at the end of the skits; and

WHEREAS, Big Chuck worked along a wide range of talented people, from Tim Conway to Burgess Meredith to Muhammed Ali; and

WHEREAS, Big Chuck was a true family man who loved Cleveland, Cleveland sports teams and Kelleys Island where he loved to fish, boat and walk his dogs, first coming to Kelleys Island in 1965 and buying his house in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Big Chuck was a true man of the people who loved his fans

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED THAT THE VILLAGE OF KELLEYS ISLAND MAYOR AND COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO SLIP ON OUR WHITE SOCKS, HEAT UP SOME KIELBASY, AND CRANK UP WHO STOLE THE KISHKA AND DECLARE AUGUST 9TH BIG CHUCK DAY ON KELLEYS ISLAND AND HONOR CHARLES MITCHELL SCHODOWSKI “BIG CHUCK” WITH A PROCLAMATION FOR HIS ENDURING LEGACY AND AS A TRUE MAN OF THE PEOPLE.

Mayor Ronald E Ehrbar
MAYOR RONALD E EHRBAR

Kelleys Island Homecoming

camp is scheduled for Saturday, October 18th from 3-5 PM. While this is during the “Adult Halloween” weekend, this event is intended for families of children & adults. (See page 2)

KILA, as a 501.c.3 charitable organization, is interested in improving and enhancing Kelleys Island. We ask that KI organizations or individuals with a specific project or initiative that will address this interest and wish for support from KILA, please submit a Request for Support to KILA. This support may be financial and/or through the efforts of our members and volunteers. For more information about requesting KILA support, please contact us at info@kila.rocks.

Please remember, it’s never too late to sign up for your KILA membership. One membership is allowed for each residence and dues are only \$25 for new members or \$20 for renewals. Joining KILA is a good way for new landowners to become involved in the KI community.

There are 3 ways to pay dues.

1). You can pay by check by sending it to:

Kelleys Island Landowners Association
PO Box 22
Kelleys Island Ohio 43438.

2). You can also pay using the PayPal link at our website (www.kila.rocks). Click the “Join KILA” link at the top, scroll down and select New or Renew Membership and follow the instructions.

3). We can take payments using Zelle®. If you want to pay through this option, send to drew@kila.rocks.

Send Money with Zelle®
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Kelleys Island Landowners Assoc



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We welcome your support, volunteering, donations, and suggestions for activities, projects, or initiatives to help KILA improve Kelleys Island.

We’re available via email to info@kila.rocks, our Facebook page www.facebook.com/kelleysislandlandowners, and our website www.KILA.rocks.

—continued from page 2



Estes School photo 2025

Chris Kipfer

On Saturday September 20, we will hold the annual members meeting at 10:00 at the school. As part of this meeting we will vote on recent bylaw changes the current board is proposing. A copy of those proposed changes is available at <https://kila.rocks/blog/> with the updates highlighted in red. Everyone will be given an opportunity to comment on these proposed changes as well as submit additional revisions before we vote whether or not to adopt them.

Additionally, we will be holding elections for several board positions. If you would like to be considered for a position on the board, please notify myself (chris.k@kila.rocks) or Jennifer Pieratt (jennifer@kila.rocks) prior to the meeting and if possible plan to attend in person on the 20th.

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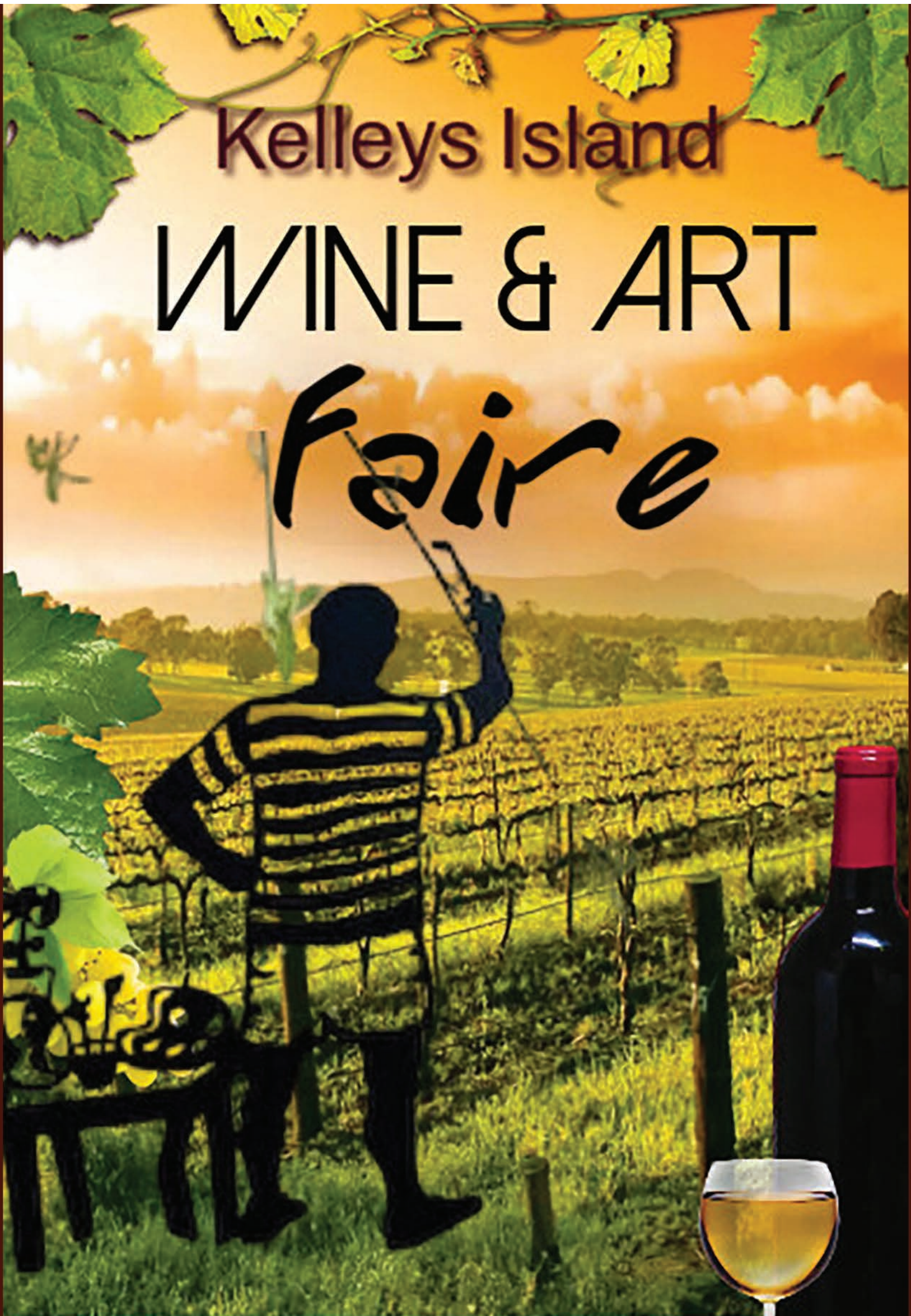
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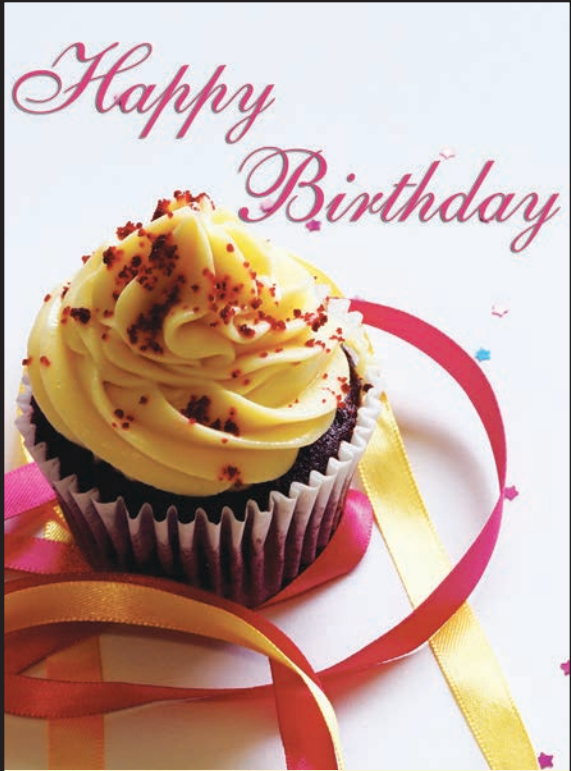


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Happenings at The German Reformed Church!



SEPTEMBER

- 1 - Steve Beck
- 1- Denny Tyler Benvenuto
- 2 - Brody Benvenuto
- 2- Charles Burns
- 2- Christopher Elfers
- 2- Brady Quillin
- 3- Julie Mack
- 3- Kolby Quillin
- 4- Jaime Fisher
- 4—Greg Kaszei
- 6—Tom Beck
- 6- Marty Millott
- 10—Maka Mack
- 10- Gage Peterson
- 10- Lilly Allan
- 10 - Cindy Washio
- 11—Ben Bechtel
- 12 - Shawn Craig
- 13 - Fritz Ziegler
- 13- Katie Quillin
- 14—Joe Cordaro
- 17- Rachel Schodowski
- 19 - George Klonaris
- 20 - Janine Bonezzi
- 20-Emma Kitzmiller
- 22 - Julie Weaver
- 23 - Marlana Mielke
- 24 - Nataliya Makarova-Skeans
- 25—Sarah Krafty
- 25 - Brandon Portales
- 28—Chris Brian
- 29- Octavia Schnittker



Riley & Jeremy
Scherf-Tingley
Love, Sealed In Time
May 10th, 2025



Stacey Busch
& Lance Busch
June 7th, 2025



Zamecnik Family Annual KI Vacation

This is a yearly family Kelleys island vacation we do. My husband Mike's father Oldrich Zamecnik did a yearly family vacation in the 60's. He has memories of also vacationing with Chuck Schodowski's family back then. We love it here and have bought a house on Maple drive in 2020.



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Editor's Note: Stories written without a by-line are written or compiled by *Life on Kelleys* editor. *Life on Kelleys* is not responsible for the views of its writers or editor.

Photos: We want and welcome your photos for *Life on Kelleys*, please send them. The photos should be 300dpi and sent via e-mail in a jpeg format to the editor. No exceptions.

Life on Kelleys Available Online



Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce Wraps Up an Exciting 2025 Season

Zoey Vargo (Leonard)
Executive Director, Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce

As the summer winds down and the crisp autumn air begins to roll over Lake Erie, Kelleys Island is preparing for the final stretch of what has been a lively and memorable 2025 season. From sunny summer festivals to community traditions, this year brought neighbors and visitors together in true island spirit — and the grand finale is shaping up to be just as exciting.

A Festive Finish to the Year The closing weeks of the season will be packed with events for all ages. Festivities kick off with Kid's Halloween, October 10-12, where families can enjoy island-wide trick-or-treating, costume contests, and fall fun. The following weekend, October 17-20, the island transforms into a costumed wonderland for Adult Halloween, with themed parties, live music, and a weekend full of spooky good times.

On Saturday, October 18th, the KILA Family Hayride will offer a classic autumn experience for all ages, complete with hay bales, seasonal treats, and community cheer. Nature lovers can look forward to Owl Banding and Owl Fest, running October 31st through November 3rd — a cherished, unique experience of wildlife education.

The holiday season kicks off with the Thanksgiving Potluck at the Village Pump on November 28th, followed by one of the most anticipated sporting traditions of the year — the OSU vs. Michigan Tailgate Party at the Village Pump. On November 30th, the Sights, Scents, and Sounds event at the Kelleys Island Wine Co. will close out the calendar with an afternoon of seasonal flavors, live music, and holiday shopping.

Chamber Office Hours Winding Down As the events wrap up, the Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce will also be transitioning into its winter schedule. Throughout September, the Chamber office will be open on Saturdays and Sundays, before shifting to a remote office setup for the winter months. The Chamber will remain available via phone and email to assist with planning, inquiries, and preparations for the year ahead.

Gratitude and Reflections on the Season This year marked my first as Chamber Director, and I am deeply grateful to the entire Kelleys Island community and local businesses for such a warm welcome. Your support, feedback, and collaboration have been invaluable in making this season a success. From volunteers who gave their time, to business owners who contributed resources, to visitors who brought their energy and enthusiasm — thank you for making 2025 a year to remember.

As we close out the season, we wish everyone a happy, healthy holiday season and look forward to seeing you back on the island for another year of fun, community, and connection in 2026.

Zoey Vargo, Executive Director
Should you need any additional information please contact:
Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce
info@kelleysislandchamber.com
or 419-746-2360

Looking Ahead to 2026 Plans are already underway for another exciting season on Kelleys Island, with the 2026 Chamber event schedule announced as follows:

- May 31 – 5/10K Race
- June 3 – Bike Week Dice Run
- June 13 – Brews Cruise IV
- July 17-19 – Islandfest
- August 1 & 2 – FilmFest
- September 12 – Treasure Island
- October 16-18
– Kid's Halloween
- October 23-25
– Adult Halloween



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Council Notes

Leslie Korenko

Council passed two zoning related ordinances. The first (2025-O-10) added a new section to the schedule of fees to penalize people who begin unpermitted construction.: "(C) The fees for any applications for permits required that are submitted late shall be doubled." This would be in addition to the misdemeanor charges identified in §152.067 ENFORCEMENT - "Every person, corporation, or firm who violates, disobeys, neglects, or refuses to comply with any provision of this chapter or any permit, license, or exception granted hereunder, or any lawful order of the Zoning Inspector, Board of Appeals, Planning Commission, or Village Council issued in pursuance of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree."

The other ordinance (2025-O-11) cleans up a section of the code that was much needed. This ordinance does not change the 25% rule for development on a lot, but does combine the principal residence, out buildings, docks and

pavement in that calculation instead of the previous percentage limits for each category.

The Police Dept. received 11 reports, fielded 423 phone calls, accidents=1, arrests/citations=13 (55 year to date). The Fire Dept had 5 runs and during the meeting, a fire call was issued (turned out to be a false alarm, when the owner replaced the batteries in a smoke alarm and the signal went to the monitoring company who relayed the fire call to the Island).

The steak roast was a sell out with proceeds of over \$22,000 going to Fredo Policy's medical bills.

The water tower was struck by lightning during one of the storms and a new transducer has been ordered. The Water Dept. received \$175,000 for the intake repair from Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Emergency Funds. EMS had 25 runs and 29 clinic calls.

A big round of applause followed the reading of a Village Proclamation honoring Charles (Big Chuck) Shadowski (See page 8).



The Island's first silo house is under construction on the west side.

Transient Rental Program Update

Leslie Korenko

The TRP clerk reports that there are 107 certified rentals and 16 additional ones pending septic inspections. Letters were sent out to 69 property owners with 45 responding they are not renting.

Failing septic systems have kept Franklin Sanitation busy as repairs and replacements are underway. The unresponsive owners will be subject to the compliance component of the program and subsequent enforcement action.

Another issue has been identified

by the Zoning Inspector; the creation of a second housing unit on a property zoned single family, which is a violation of our Zoning Code. This most often occurs when an accessory structure (like a garage) is converted to living space. To be considered part of the primary dwelling it must be attached to the main building in a substantial way (spelled out in the code).

He also recommends that the TRP program be capped at or near the present number of rentals to preserve the integrity of the Island.

Building Permits Are Now Required

As of July 25th, all construction must meet the standards set forth in the Ohio Basic Building Code. The City of Sandusky will manage the entire process including permit applications for the various projects, collection of building permit fees, inspections, and final occupancy. This means that any new construction that has not already been completed is required to apply for the appropriate permit through the City of Sandusky (on their website). For projects that have started but are not

completed, you are required to make application for the portions of the projects that are not completed. For example, if you built a building and the structure is up, but the heating and air conditioning, electric, and interior walls are not covered, you are responsible for obtaining those permits immediately. Plumbing permits will continue to be obtained from the Erie County Health Dept. Final occupancy permits will not be issued until such time that all of the inspections for the various trades have been completed. Failure to comply will result in fines and fourth degree misdemeanor charges.






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We are the Champions!



Kelleys Island Green Devils Softball Team 2025

The Kelley Island Softball Team wrapped up the 2025 season by winning the Lake Erie Inter-Island Softball Leagues Championship. Thank you to all the fans who continue to come out year after year in support.

Pickle Ball is Still Kind of a Big "DILL" on Kelleys Island

Janet Killam

The Kelleys Island Pickleball club has had a record number of participants this summer! So much so that we've had to chalk in an extra court to accommodate more players! Still we were unable to get everyone on the courts so there was much waiting.

Regard the photo of Ken Black, one of our own, who won a Gold Medal in the National Senior Games this month! We couldn't be prouder of you Ken!

Our open play continues at 10:00 AM at the Community Park on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturdays.

Tuesday/Thursday indoor play will have to take place at 4:00 PM due to school being back in session. Saturdays we can play in the gym anytime, so 10:00 will work for that day.

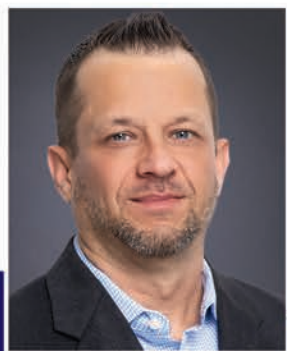
Hope to see you on the courts!
 Janet 419-304-3095



Ken Black, one of our own, on the podium with his Gold Medal in the National Senior Games

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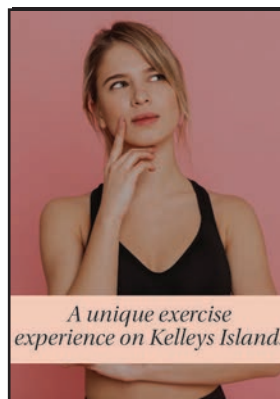
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Janet Killam

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It is an intellectual and body-aware approach to movement which I first encountered and taught in New Orleans.

It blends elements of yoga, Pilates, balance and control exercises, Shiatzu, deep stretching, and chatty fun.

Each session is thoughtfully choreographed to music with each movement flowing seamlessly into the next. We try to hit all the muscle groups one normally doesn't use in every day life.

We end each class with a short relaxation period leaving you feeling refreshed and centered.

This hour-long class is designed to engage and awaken your entire body- from facial muscles to fingers, hand, feet and toes.

We even include Kegel exercises - because no muscle should be left behind!

My goal is to touch on every body part in each class promoting strength, flexibility, and overall wellbeing.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
 New Time: 4:00 pm

Estes school gym - Since school has resumed, we're not permitted in the school gym till the end of the school day.

Whether you are a seasoned mover or just getting started, Slimage welcomes and teaches at all levels.

Come stretch, strengthen and smile with us!

For more information, call Janet at 419-304-3095

KIHA Annual Members Meeting

Jodie Smith

The annual KIHA Members meeting was held in the historic Stone Church on Sunday August 10, 2025. Board Members in attendance were, Carmen Smith, Chad Waffan, Theresa Behrends, Jackie Polofka, Lisa Lotito, and Donna Algase.

Newly elected board member, Donna Algase was recognized and thanked for her secretarial services to the Board. Michael Beatty was re-elected but was not in attendance.

Exiting President Carmen Smith gave the following comments.

"Hello, and welcome to the members meeting for the Kelleys Island Historical Association, 2025. I am Carmen Smith, the Collections Manager since 2022 and board president this past year.

It is a challenge to run a non-profit organization on Kelleys Island. The advent of internet meetings has made it infinitely easier to get a quorum, but numbers are not all we need on our board; we need active members willing to give us a little of their time!

Our board members are active, each with their own role and responsibilities. Once a month, in May through October we have a meeting and share what we have been doing and give opinions and help to the other members of the board. This has been accompanied by donuts and laughter for most months! If you are retired and think your knowledge from your field of work may contribute, please join the board! If you have never held a job but think your can-do attitude could help, please, join the board!

Organizations go through so many phases, and with COVID shutting down everything, we stumbled through a phase of stagnation. We are picking back up, finding momentum through the necessity of projects and through new members.

I want to thank Lisa Lotito for picking up the fund-raising efforts this year. She has many amazing ideas and is so

organized!

Chad Waffan has been continuing with the Brick Donations, putting those orders in and installing the bricks as they arrive. Michael Beatty has been helping us to keep our website updated. Janet Killam works many hours at the Parsonage House. Terri Betzenheimer-Behrends has made us a gorgeous quilt as a raffle fundraiser, her last one so make sure you get tickets! She has been the caretaker for the landscaping around the buildings for many years!

Donna Algase has been an amazing secretary the last year, faithfully recording our meetings! Jeri Yoest gave us her time on the board this year while she could but is now working behind the scenes helping me to archive documents important to our functional history.

These are the people who have determinedly kept this board chugging along over the last year and beyond. (A round of applause please)."

Carmen added more comments as president, by asking for volunteers and giving the benefits of volunteering.

"Volunteering has long been proven to be beneficial to your health. The Mayo Clinic cites improvement in mental and physical health, providing a sense of purpose, new skills, and nurturing social relationships as the most important benefits of volunteering. As people age into retirement, or just less work, they often find themselves trying to fill their days. Volunteering is highly recommended." Carmen continued with an invitation to all to try volunteering for the KIHA!

Carmen spoke of the amazing paid managers at the Museum Gift Shop, Justiina Loveless, and at the Resale shop, Sonia Taylor and Jodie Smith. Standardization of processes and operations has been a focus and could not have been moved forward without these women! (a round of applause please).



Back row: Board Member Chad Waffan, and Lisa Lotito, Middle Row L-R Board member Theresa Behrends, exiting Board President, Carmen Smith. front row: Board Member and Secretary, Donna Algase, Board Member Jackie Polofka

The managerial position at The Parsonage House is open as a paid position for the 2026 season and is currently open to applicants. If you know anyone interested in a job, 20-30 hours per week, May through October, please refer them to our FB or Website or contact Jodie Smith 419-350-1082.

The KIHA Annual Members Meeting was completed with the reading of the initial purpose of the Association.

1. Purpose - The purpose of this association shall be to bring together those people interested in history, and especially the history of Kelleys Island, and to promote the importance of preserving Kelleys Island History.

2. Objectives

a. To restore and maintain the German Reform Church building on Division Street

b. To build and maintain a museum on the site of the "Haul Shed" church property.

c. To collect and display items of historical value indigenous to Kelleys Island and the Western Lake Erie Area.

d. To maintain the building north of

the church known as The Parsonage.

Closing remarks as resigning President of the board.

"As president, I hope I have demonstrated firm and forward moving direction. I am stepping down and sad to say that I cannot continue in this capacity. I hope to stay on as Collections Manager, a job I have been doing for several years.

I encourage the next president to refocus on what we were intended to do. We are here to support the collection and maintain the buildings. The other fun things we have set up are to support our MAIN purpose. If we are taking care of our functions as an association, and these other things supporting and bringing visitors are presented in the most professional way possible, then our original focus will progress with great results!

Thank you to the board for lending your support to my presidency in the last year."

The meeting was adjourned, with a reminder that the Board positions of President and vice president are open and will be decided up on at the next monthly meeting.



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Kelleys Island Real Estate - A Look at the Mid-Summer Shifts

Steve Mack

As we moved from mid-July to mid-August, the Kelleys Island real estate market found a little more energy. After a quieter stretch in June and early July, a few more sales wrapped up, even as the number of available listings dipped and some sellers adjusted their prices to catch buyers' attention.

From July 15 to August 15, 2025, three homes sold. On average, they brought in about 80% of their original

asking price, or roughly 94% of the price after reductions. They spent an average of 83 days on the market before finding a buyer. That tells us that while buyers are taking their time, they're still stepping in when the right home comes along. We also saw a high-end property, listed at over a million, move into contract during this period, adding a bit more momentum.

The 30 days just before that, from June 15 to July 15, painted a different

picture. No homes sold during that stretch, though three went under contract. Those ranged from the upper \$400s to just under \$1 million, with market times from about six weeks to more than three months. Buyers were clearly interested but deliberate, weighing their choices carefully before moving forward.

Land sales told a similar story. In late June, one lot closed at \$180,000, about 90% of asking. But between mid-July and mid-August, no new sales closed. One property did go under contract and another was withdrawn, leaving fewer choices for land buyers compared with earlier in the summer.

Together, the market this mid-summer feels steady but selective. Homes and land are selling, but not overnight, and pricing continues to play a big role. Sellers who adjust to today's market are seeing results, while

buyers are taking a thoughtful approach and waiting for the right fit.

Looking back at the same time last year, from July 15 to August 15, 2024, two homes sold. One was a smaller cottage that sold quickly at just under \$400,000, while the other was a larger lakefront home that had originally been priced close to \$2 million and eventually closed at \$1.6 million after a couple of months. Interest rates were also similar. Freddie Mac reported 30-year fixed rates between 6.5% and 6.8% at this point last summer, compared with about 6.6% to 6.75% during the same period this year.

All in all, the island market is still moving, just with a calmer rhythm. For buyers, it's a good time to look closely and make careful decisions. For sellers, it's a reminder that the right price and a little patience can still make things happen here on Kelleys Island.



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SCAN TO SHOP

Kelleys Island Audubon Club Fall Events 2025

Barb Zeller

The Kelleys Island Audubon Club (KIAC) invites you to join them for a full calendar of Fall nature events as we finish off the 2025 calendar year. As the days grow shorter and the nights grow colder, it is a great time to head off into the interior of Kelleys Island to enjoy all that nature has to offer.

On September 18, we will have our last monthly meeting for the season. Holly Wenziger, who has been on staff at the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve, will speak to the group about invasive animals and plants that can impact the health and habitat of birds around Lake Erie and the islands. She will also talk about helpful and harmful human interventions that can mitigate or exacerbate those impacts. Please bring a dish to pass and your table service to the Kelleys Island School at 6PM to join us for a potluck dinner and short meeting. The presentation will begin at 7PM.

Unfortunately, our September banding event "Feathers and Foliage" has been cancelled this year. However, Tom and Paula Bartlett will return to Kelleys Island for songbird banding at the Jones Preserve on Long Point from October 14-November 15. Join them as early as 6AM until about 2PM as they document the fall migration of warblers and other songbirds. For those night owls, the Bartletts will also be banding Northern Saw-Whet Owls at the Scheele Preserve after dusk nightly from October 14-Nov 24.

As part of those efforts, the Kelleys Island Owl Festival will be held from Nov 7-9 at the Scheele Preserve, the North Pond Trail, and the KI State Park by the crusher building. In addition to banding, there will be an "Owl Prowl" on Friday, Nov 7 at 8PM at the North Pond led by KIAC President Pat Hayes.



Northern Saw-whet Owl
PHCR: Bartlett McClain

On Saturday, Nov 8, there will be talks and a raffle at the KI School at 2PM with banding to follow both Saturday and Sunday after dusk. More details will be announced on the KIAC club website <https://kelleysislandnature.org/> or on the club's Facebook page "Bird Kelleys Island-KIAC" <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064734544758>.

The KIAC is open for membership to all those who enjoy and seek to preserve the natural beauty of Kelleys Island. Our membership runs from May to May, so please consider joining the club. New ideas and new energy are always welcome. Details can be found at the above links.

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Kelleys Island Bird Watching Guide

Kelleys Island State Park

920 Division St., 419.746.2546, 866.644.6727, parks.ohiodnr.gov
Kelleys Island State Park offers great Lake Erie views, easy access to the shoreline. Boating, fishing, birding, and wildlife watching are just a few of the park's favorite activities across its 677 acres. Year-round, daily dawn-dusk.

North Pond State Nature Preserve

Ward Rd. (off Division St.), 614.265.6419, naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov
Accessible via the trailhead at Ward Rd., opposite the parking lot. Consisting of 30 acres of wetlands with the estuary leading into Lake Erie, which is famous for the tremendous numbers of waterfowl migrating through in the spring and fall. To protect plant life, please remain on trails. No pets.

North Shore Alvar State Nature Preserve

920 Division St., 614.265.6419, naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov
The only undisturbed alvar community in Ohio. An alvar is bare rock such as limestone bedrock with unique plant life growing on and between the rock surfaces. Accessible via the North Shore Loop Trail within Kelleys Island State Park. To protect plant life, please remain on trails. No pets.



Zoey Vargo (Leonard)
Executive Director, Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce

Kelleys Island was buzzing with excitement this past weekend as movie lovers from near and far gathered for the highly anticipated Kelleys Island FilmFest. This year's theme, Classic 80s Throwbacks, turned the downtown park into a time machine, transporting audiences back to an era of big hair, neon colors, and unforgettable film moments.

From the first flicker of the projector to the last credits rolling under the starry Lake Erie sky, the weekend was nothing short of magical. Crowds settled into lawn chairs and picnic blankets, popcorn in hand, ready to relive their favorite scenes from some of the most beloved movies of the 1980s. The laughter, cheers, and even a few happy tears proved that these timeless films still hold a special place in our hearts.

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Sponsors

Events like the FilmFest are only possible because of the incredible generosity and support of our community partners. A special thanks goes to **Shores & Islands** and **Hancock Wood Electric** for their generous sponsorships that help keep this tradition alive and thriving.

We are also grateful to our movie sponsors, whose contributions brought the films to life on the big screen: **Crooked Tree Vineyard**, **The Kelleys Island General Store**, and **Seaway Marina**. Your support not only made the event possible but also added to the charm and warmth that makes FilmFest such a unique experience.

Community Collaboration at Its Finest

A big thank you is also due to the Village of Kelleys Island for allowing us the use of the park. This beautiful, central location is the perfect backdrop for outdoor movies, and the cooperation and hospitality from the village make the event seamless and welcoming for both islanders and visitors alike.

A Weekend to Remember

The combination of warm summer nights, the smell of fresh popcorn, and the glow of the screen against the island sky created a setting that was nothing short of cinematic. Families laughed together, friends shared

snacks and stories, and new connections were made among the crowd.

As the credits rolled on the final film of the weekend, there was a shared sense of gratitude — for the movies, for the sponsors, and for the community that makes Kelleys Island FilmFest such a special tradition year after year.

Kelleys Island FilmFest Brings Nostalgia, Laughter, and Community Spirit

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Kelleys Island Tree Trimming Notice

Beginning the week of September 1, Hancock-Wood Electric's contractors will be conducting tree trimming maintenance on Kelleys Island. Please call 800-445-4840 for any questions.



Back and Better Than Ever – Aquatic Visitors Center

Jill Bauer, **SHORES&ISLANDS**_{OHIO}

A family-fun and educational attraction at Put-in-Bay IS NOW OPEN after undergoing a \$6.2 million renovation. The Aquatic Visitors Center, operated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), has long been a main stop for families visiting the island to learn all about Lake Erie and its ecosystem through hands-on displays. Closed during the 2024 season, the community is excited about its rebirth and guests cannot wait to experience the new exhibits.

The building, on the north side of the island and just west of downtown, is a historic former state fish hatchery used from 1907 to 1988 to raise walleye, sauger, whitefish, cisco, yellow perch, coho salmon, chinook salmon, and steelhead trout in a controlled

environment for eventual release into a natural setting. Along with habitat restoration, fish hatcheries can support fish and aquatic wildlife populations. A local example of a hatchery still in operation is the ODNR Castalia State Fish Hatchery which raises rainbow and steelhead trout for stocking lakes and ponds throughout the state of Ohio.

In 1992, the ODNR Division of Wildlife converted the former hatchery building to the Aquatic Visitors Center, an educational facility to bring history, fishing information, and hands-on activities to the public. The Ohio State University's Ohio Sea Grant program at Stone Laboratory, located on adjacent Gibraltar Island, took over operations in a partnership with the Ohio Division of Wildlife in 2009 and welcomed more than 10,000 guests

annually, teaching the next generation about the importance of protecting Lake Erie and allowing kids to fish for free from their dock.

In late 2023, ODNR announced the renovation project, funded through the state's capital budget. The project includes a complete redesign of the building's interior, a new roof, new windows, and the installation of air conditioning.

According to the Division of Wildlife, the facility has been updated with interactive displays and exhibits that showcase the unique features of the island area and highlight Lake Erie's nationally renowned fisheries for species such as walleye, smallmouth bass, and yellow perch. The building will now also include an ADA-accessible ramp and entrance, allowing even more people to enjoy the facility. Upon its reopening, ODNR will take over operations of the center.

Lake Erie is one of the nation's premier fisheries. Plan a visit to learn all about the area's native aquatic species, ecosystems, current Lake Erie research, and protecting our Great



Lake. The Aquatic Visitors Center will continue to offer free admission, along with its free, hands-on fishing experience for children age 15 and under. The Aquatic Visitors Center is now open Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-5 pm and welcoming guests through the end of the 2025 season, which is October 1.



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Charter Boat Captains Help to Monitor Lake Erie Water Quality

Ohio Sea Grant And Stone Laboratory

Routine monitoring programs are necessary to determine the health of Lake Erie. Many of these monitoring programs focus on scientists doing the work, but programs that involve citizens can perform a dual function: collecting data on Lake Erie water quality as well as educating people on what they can do to keep the environment healthy.

Charter fishing boats spend several days per week on the lake with citizens who already have an interest in Lake Erie's health. Training charter captains how to collect water samples can increase existing monitoring programs and provide a valuable learning experience to anglers.

In 2012, charter boat captains began to collect water samples in the western basin of Lake Erie under Ohio EPA guidance. Stone Laboratory took over coordination of the sampling program the following year, with funding provided by Ohio EPA. Every week during fishing season, the captains collect a water sample and measure water temperature and water clarity at locations they visit during charter trips. Stone Laboratory staff retrieves the samples from the captains and returns to the laboratory for analysis. In addition, samples are collected during

Stone Lab field trip cruises, getting more than 6,000 kids each year involved in this Lake Erie protection effort.

The captains have collected more than 550 samples since June 2013 throughout the western basin from Toledo to Huron.

Data from the captains' samples are used by lake managers and scientists tracking algal blooms in Lake Erie, by NOAA and NASA researchers linking satellite observations of the lake to bloom conditions, and by University of Toledo researchers collecting data on Lake Erie water quality.

A harmful algal bloom (HAB) is any large increased density of algae that is capable of producing toxins or has negative impacts on aquatic organisms. In freshwater, such as Lake Erie, those algae tend to be cyanobacteria — more commonly known as blue-green algae — which are always present in the water to some extent, but which grow excessively in warm water with high concentrations of phosphorus and nitrogen. Cyanobacteria produce a toxin called microcystin, which affects the liver, nervous system and skin, and potentially causes cancer in humans. Reducing the amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen that enter Lake Erie will reduce the size of the bloom.

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ECHD Launches Podcast



The Erie County Health Department is thrilled to announce its new bi-weekly podcast, "Living Well on Lake Erie"! This engaging podcast is designed to keep our community informed and healthy, covering a wide range of vital community and health topics.

Alongside our popular "2 Minute Health Break" segments on YouTube, "Living Well on Lake Erie" offers an accessible way to learn about public health initiatives, seasonal health advice, and much more. We encourage community members to get involved!

If you have questions or a topic you'd like more information on, please reach out to ECHD's Marketing department at marketing@echdohio.org. Your input helps us provide the most relevant and helpful content for a healthier Erie County.

The Parsonage Perspective

Janet Killam

We think the Summers are getting shorter, don't you?

It could be time to officially try to remember which day of the week it is!

Don't fret though. Your Parsonage Resale Shop is coming to the rescue!

We are bound to cheer you up from any and all end of summer blues.

All YOU need to do is stop in and visit us. It's as simple as that!

Now, some great, good news!

We are running a 50% off sale until we lower our inventory. We know you'll enjoy that.

We ARE accepting some new donations BUT they absolutely, positively must be looked over before we take anything. We've got to have room to stage your treasures, so call any of the three of us to find out.

Call Jodie at 419-350-1082

Janet at 419-304-3095 or

Sonia at 419-202-8083



We are overstocked and the fire marshal tells us we must get leaner, so this sale is how we are doing it! Come take advantage! You and we will be very

happy you did.

We plan on transitioning the Parsonage House rooms into looking more like a real house people lived in at the time in the 1800's when it was built. We will continue selling items out of the house and of course Sis's Cottage.

We plan on continuing the restoration process on the home and the Old Stone German Reformed Church as we did by putting a new roof on both buildings, and thank all of you who shop within for helping us accomplish this.

We want to express our appreciation to the Kelleys Island Community for your support at the Parsonage, the Museum and the Kelleys Island Historical Association.

Volunteers are welcome for 2-hour shifts. Just call one of the three of us and we'll hook you up!

We continue to be open every day from 12:00 to 4:00

See you when you get here!



Sending lots of love and hugs from the Parsonage Three, Jodie, Sonia and Janet!

Bugle Call: Kelleys Island Post 9908 of the VFW

Paul Burns, Quartermaster

As Autumn approaches it is time for our Turkey Shoots. Our post is pleased to host this community favorite activity again this year. Starting Sunday the 28th of September to October 26th. Five Sundays this year, shoots begin at one o'clock, sign-ups start earlier the day of the shoot. We shoot at paper targets for prizes.

Saturday November 8th we will be hosting our third Charter Day Gala to celebrate our seventy-seventh anniversary. There will be music and food.

We like to thank everyone who helped make our chicken dinner fundraiser a huge success, Thank you! A lot of hard work goes into the event, from prepping the chicken, shucking

corn, to manning the grills, flipping the roasting chicken, serving 160 meals, to cleaning up afterwards. Thank you to everyone who helped, and to the 160 that enjoyed the dinner.

Again, if not for the support of our community our post would not be as successful as it has been. We want to thank everyone for that support.

Many may not realize it, but the oldest part of our building started its life over on Johnson's Island during the American Civil War. It was part of the camp there that housed Confederate prisoner of war soldiers. In the early 1880's the Federal government sold off the buildings. Ours was purchased and transported from Johnsons to Kelleys, and today we can only imagine how that feat was accomplished. Once here

it began service as a saloon. When the Volstead Act became law of the land in January 1920 its life as a saloon went into hibernation. Several decades later it again had life as the VFW canteen.

Our post received its charter in late November 1948 and our monthly meetings were held in the building. The building was sold to us by Eleanor Gasieski Pozniak and Stanley Pozniak in June 1953 for the large sum of one dollar. One of our charter members was Wactaw Gasieski born in Poland in 1893. He was a private in Co. M. of the 58th Infantry Regiment was wounded in 1918 in France during The Great War (WWI). He was an active member in our post from 1948 until 1965.

Earlier this year we held post elections. Greg Yoscovits was elected

Post Commander, Jeff Koenigseker was elected Senior Vice Commander, Mike Feyedelem is the Junior Vice Commander, Knut Lahrs, post chaplain, Jim Wojtowicz, John Kilko, and Todd Neu are post trustees. Paul Burns as Quartermaster.

We are always looking for veterans to join the ranks with us in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of America. If you have received a campaign medal for overseas service; or have served 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in Korea; or have ever received hostile fire or imminent danger pay, then you're eligible to join our ranks. Please contact one of our members or, stop by our Post, or email us at us VFW9908@gmail.com for more details.

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This man needs prayers



Caroline Jorski

While visiting Kelleys Island's KILA Homecoming celebration on August 9, 2025 honoring Big Chuck and his Polish heritage, Brian and Karen Dell came all the way from Twinsburg, Ohio to celebrate their 19th wedding anniversary.

Brian Dell proudly wore his red shirt asking for prayers while his wife Karen Dell displayed her loyalty to her Polish heritage by displaying her call numbers for all to see.

Thank you, Dell and Karen, for bringing smiles and humor to the Homecoming celebration. Big Chuck would have certainly enjoyed having you present on his special day.



The Kelleys Island Historical Association: Where Can We Go Next?

Jodie Smith

With the small population of the Kelleys Island Community, it is a challenge to run an organization that requires full participation from its paid Association members and Board Members, plus numerous, valued volunteers. Earlier this summer I wrote an article that described where the Kelleys Island Historical Association started and what it has grown into because of dedicated volunteers, active Board members and supportive Association members. This organization is struggling to remain open. Without staff, including qualified managers, active Board members, supportive volunteers, the opening hours of The Museum Campus will be reduced and services minimalized.

The Board is currently looking for active Board members. People who not only attend and participate in monthly Board meetings, but those who can actively participate to support the museum opening hours and its collections. A future Board member may be interested in helping the collections manager scan documents or organize files or create displays. There are many small tasks required to maintain the collections that may be of

interest to a new board member or a community volunteer. Another task is gardening and property maintenance. As with any property, these tasks always need a helping hand. Many tasks are involved in maintaining the Museum Gift shop and the museum campus. Enrichment opportunities are always appreciated, like fundraising or community education. As a Board Member, what can you offer the Kelleys Island Historical Association?

Volunteering is one of the best things you can do in your community. Giving back and really enjoying the work is valuable to maintaining personal, professional, social, and health related aspects of one's life. Volunteers at the Museum Campus enjoy discounts at the Museum Gift Shop and volunteer bucks to use at the Parsonage House Resale shop. Shifts are 2 or 4 hours long. Minimal training is involved to keep the "ship" running smoothly! Each year a "Volunteer Thank You Party" is given to show appreciation to those who volunteer for the KIHA! Give it a try and help us keep Our organization afloat!

Finally, The KIHA is looking for a manger for the Parsonage House and Sis's Cottage Resale Shop. The job

description can be requested at the Museum. The pay would be a total of \$13,680 per season with flexibility. The Opening hours of the Resale shop would be expected to follow the opening hours of the Museum, 4-5 days a week, Thursday through Monday (closed Tuesday and Wednesday), if enough volunteers could be found to maintain the 5th day of being opened. The manager would coordinate all volunteers and donations or work closely with/manage a volunteer to assist. Staging the items for sale, pricing, cash management and maintaining community relationships are other needed skills. Working as a Team member with all staff and understanding the role of the Historical

Home/Resale shop, as a community service as well as a "fund raiser" for the KIHA is desired.

The Founding Members of The KIHA had great hopes for preserving the History of Kelleys Island. There are still untold stories hidden in our collections and in our community. Help us preserve these stories to be shared with visitors and community alike!

To apply for a Board position, to volunteer or apply for a paid position please look for the google document at Kelleysislandhistorical.org OR on the Facebook page, Kelleys Island History Museum. You can call or text Jodie Smith 419-350-1082 or Carmen Smith 419-350-1087 for more information.

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Homecoming Parade

PHCR: Jan Jorski



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The Island Post Office Through The Years

Leslie Korenko

The first Post Office, established in 1852, was located in the Store on the Corner, just up the hill from the steamboat dock. It was the perfect location for receiving all the mail and news on the island. It was for many years the only store on the island.



The combined store and Post Office is on the left, the Island House is on the right and in the middle is Kelley's Hall.

The Post Office was moved to Elfer's Store on Division Street in 1885.

In 1890 the island undertaker, William Burger, bought Elfer's building and converted the Post Office addition into a mortuary.



Forced to move, the Post Office relocated to a new building just to the left of the Store on the Corner on Lakeshore Drive.

The new building was built by Gustavis Kelley and is now the Village Pump.

In 1938 the Post Office moved to The General Store (formerly Burger's) on Division St., then owned by Frank J. Reinheimer.



Frank is standing on the steps in this picture. His store was also the island gas station. The round sign on the porch is an advertisement for Red Crown gasoline.

But not everyone was happy with having the Post Office in a store so when it made this last move, a separate room was built to accommodate it.



Finally in 1974 the Post Office moved out of the downtown area to a building on West Lakeshore, shared with the Hancock Wood Electric Co-op. At that time, it was close to the only ferry dock on the island, owned by the Neuman Boat Line.

The mail was delivered by steamer during the navigation season and by ironclad boat, affectionately known as the Monitor, in the winter. For a fee, parcels, freight and passengers could go along. Having strong passengers aboard was desirable, particularly if the boat got stuck or someone went through the ice. The dangers of crossing the ice alone were many. Each winter

there were stories about the close brushes with death these intrepid winter mail carriers and their passengers experienced. It is hard to imagine a more dangerous or uncomfortable job than that done by these men. They even had to bid for the job. On the other hand, the Post Masters themselves were political appointments, made by the President. The Post Master job was not very lucrative as the occasional reports showed.

Transporting the mail in an open boat might make for some soggy letters, but very few bags were lost or damaged. Even today, when islanders order medications or catalog items, they request that those items be sent by U. S. Mail. Freight can be held up for days, but the Mail always comes through with the only delays being caused by dense fog or freezing rain.



The Post Master often had to dry the mail bags on the front porch of the building.

The mail carriers often had to wade through frigid water to deliver the mail and freight. If you were a passenger on the mail boat, you were expected to help if the boat got stuck in the ice. The brave mail carriers could push, pull, row, pike, pole or with the later addition of a mast, sail across the lake to pick up and deliver the mail to the island. This was difficult and very dangerous work. The carriers were not particularly well paid and had to rely on paying passengers and freight to supplement their income. Even when the weather was so bad that crossing was virtually impossible, people still grumbled about not getting their mail. The ironclad was kept in service until airplanes began landing on the island.

At one time, Post Masters were political appointments subject to the winds of political power. Former Postmasters include:

- May 13, 1852 George Kelley
- June 3, 1854 Wm. S. Webb
- Feb. 6, 1868 Alfred S. Kelley
- Feb. 6, 1872 Erastus Huntington
- Aug. 4, 1885 Fred Elfers
- Aug. 10, 1889 Edward Ward
- Aug. 18, 1893 Anton Duysing
- May 20, 1896 Nellie Duysing
- March 4, 1899 James Pellet
- March 9, 1900 Nellie Duysing
- March 16, 1900 James Hamilton
- Feb. 26, 1914 Patrick H. Murphy
- Aug. 9, 1915 Frank J. Reinheimer (Acting) appointed Nov. 2, 1915
- July 21, 1928 Ida S. Reinheimer (Acting) appointed Dec. 20, 1928
- Feb. 1, 1931 Wm. M. Schnittker [after Ida Reinheimer resigned]
- July 10, 1935 Frank J. Lange (Died Jan. 19, 1937)
- Jan. 22, 1937 Stella Lange (resigned Jan. 25, 1937)
- Jan. 29, 1937 Miss Virginia Lange, reappointed several times,
- Jan 24, 1948 Mrs. Virginia Keefer (name changed by marriage)
- April 1, 1948 Howard W. Brown
- November 25, 1972 Mrs. Elizabeth M. Martin
- March 26, 1977 Geraldine Betzenheimer
- October 9, 1999 Jean A. Boyd
- May 2015 Chrissy Maust

From the book Kelleys Island 1862-1865 - the Civil War, the Island Soldiers, & the Island Queen by Leslie Korenko



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*Rylee says...
6 weeks in,
fur's growing back,
leg's feeling strong,
and the porch is still
prime recovery real estate!*



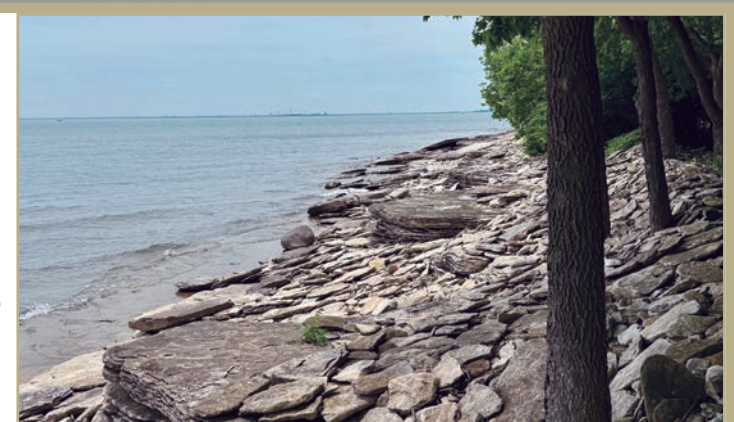
347 Hidden Beach Rd
Marblehead, OH
\$440,000

Prime Hidden Beach location near the entrance to Shrock's Marina! Single-story brick ranch with 3 bed, 1.5 bath, open layout, newer windows/doors, and a cozy gas fireplace. Two-story shed plus room to expand on a 1/3-acre lot. Dining, ferries & Lake Erie fun just minutes away. Ideal for year-round living or a low-maintenance getaway.



135 Morning Glory Ln
Kelleys Island
\$1,475,000

Charming lakefront home on the east shore of Kelleys Island! Enjoy 100' of shoreline, .91 acre of land, beautiful sunrises, 4 BR's, city water, carriage house style garage, all tucked away on a private lane.



Kelleys Island Market Snapshot: July 15 - August 15, 2025

Land & Lots:

- Under Contract: 1
- Under Contract Days On Market: 27
- Sold: 0

Homes & Condos:

- Under Contract: 2
- Sold: 4
- Sold Average Days On Market: 83
- Sold Prices From: \$450,000 to \$960,000

Currently Available:

- Active Homes Listed: 5
Price Range: \$399,000 to \$945,000
- Active Lots Listed: 4
Price Range: \$84,000 to \$450,000

All data from Firelands MLS as of August 15, 2025. Figures reflect MLS-listed properties only, deemed to be accurate but not guaranteed.

For property information please visit Kelleysislandforsale.com

Steve 419-503-0712 • Dave 419-341-2122

