



LIFE ON KELLEYS

THE EMERALD ISLE NEWS

Homecoming 2026 was a rousing success!



Estes Alumni photo taken at Homecoming
Back Row - Joel Feyedelem, John Kilko
Middle Row - Bob Miller, Teri Behrends (Betzenheimer), Mark Betzenheimer, Rick Holmes
Front Row - Luanne Swindel (Pohorence), Diane Nichols, Monta Wagner (Betzenheimer), Don Schlesselman, Octavia Schnitker, Rob Holmes

Melanie Bates, KILA Vice President

Jennifer Pieratt was at the helm of the annual KILA Fish Fry Friday evening, featuring Joel Byer's famous fried perch. Frank and Dean performed their classic favorites, and over 200 people had a great dinner and wonderful evening.

Saturday kicked off with the Homecoming Parade; islanders love a good parade! Superintendent Ben Ohlemacher and the Kelleys Island Estes School students served as the Grand Marshalls celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the school. The weather was perfect, and newcomers, the Huron Cheerleaders, took the parade's first prize. Back at the Pavilion, the Island Singers, joined by Josie Gaither and the Island Cello Quartet, performed God Bless America and the National Anthem in the opening ceremony.

The cheerleaders gave an encore performance after that. Fat City, perpetual musical favorites, entertained attendees while they enjoyed an old fashioned cookout and delicious pies from the pie contest participants. Back to the Wild brought their wildlife education program, and people enjoyed the wares of our vendors.

Thank you to all of our volunteers; they are too numerous to list, and I am afraid I will leave someone out. You know who you are. Thank you also to Dockers and The Pump who allowed us to use their cooler and supplied us with ice for our refreshments.

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Wishes Last Forever 32 Years of Making Wishes Come True Kelleys Island Make-A-Wish Swim & Golf Cart Poker Run

Jeni Hammond

Saturday, August 1st, we held the Make-A-Wish Golf Cart Poker Run here on Kelleys. The weather was a bit iffy with a few sprinkles and lots of clouds but we had a fantastic fun day. Thank you to The Island House for hosting our morning Registration this year (and for years to come).

Kelleys Island Wine Co/Cantina went over and above at the end of the Run serving everyone and Markie Mark rocked the crowd. 72 baskets and 10 super prizes were raffled off along with the 50/50. The Island Market had a Make-A-Wish jug out and Rob Watkins doubled everything in the jug, donating over \$1,400. Thank you, Rob. Do it Best (in Medina) donated 2 Lawn Mowers and 2 Milwaukee Drill Sets, thanks to Paige & Rocky Allen. Val Walton was phenomenal at collecting donations from; The Columbus Blue Jackets, 1812 Food & Spirits, Amarone Italian Restaurant, The Backyard Pickleball & Social Club, Big Boppers Restaurant, Bob Adamov, Barnes Nursery, Browns Dairy Dock, Century 21 Bolte Realty, Dock's Beach House, Erie Market, Friendship/Beck Suppliers, Gideon Owen Winery, Hampton Inn, Hangin with the Buoys, Jet Express, Latitude Cafe, Mary's Blossom Shop, Miller Boat Line, Mutach's Market, Netty's, Orchard Bar & Table, Pink Perch, Rocky Point Winery & Red Fern Inn, Sandusky Yacht Club, Studio A, Thistle Dew Greens, TNT Horticulture and Tru Luv Jewlers. Many thanks Val.

Kelleys Island always steps up and supports us with donations of gift cards and merchandise. Thanks to KI Clothing Co., KI Coffee Shop, the Hippy Shop, Uncle Dik's, Sand Trap, Caddy Shack, Island House, Villa, Bridge off the Island, Pump, Cathy's Wired Art, General Store, Village Peddler, Groove, Capt. Corner, Casino, West Bay, a' La Chic Salon, Papa T's Ice Cream, KI Winery & Cantina and the Healing Room. A total for the Poker Run came to over \$16,000.00 Great Day!

Sunday morning, August 2nd the Wish



children & families were transported over and given golf carts all donated by Kelleys Island Ferry Boat Line and Seaway Marina. Thank you to the James Palladino family. At about 10am Cindra, Caylin (Cindra's granddaughter) & I (Jeni) jumped into the water on the West side of Kelleys to 1-3 foot waves coming out of the south east. Watching the weather, we knew we needed to hurry. Once around to the south side by Palladino's West dock the swim became easier and we cruised in to the Casino after 1 1/4 hours. Thanks to our husbands, sons & daughters following us & keeping us safe, we came in early to a small group of Wish families and friends. We had a party to follow at the Ball Park Pavilion. Thanks to The Pump for providing Perch & Chicken Fingers, Caddy Shack for Pizza, my son-in-law for smoked pulled pork & Tofts Dairy for

Please turn to page 6

Fall on Kelleys Island: The Season Isn't Over Yet!

Zoey Leonard, Executive Director

As another busy summer begins to wind down, it can be tempting to think that the Kelleys Island season is coming to an end—but those of us who know and love the island know better. In many ways, some of the best weeks of the year are still ahead of us!

Fall is truly one of the most beautiful times to experience Kelleys Island. The summer crowds begin to slow, the temperatures become a little cooler, and before long, the island begins showing off its fall colors. It is the perfect time to bring your bike, take a golf cart ride around the island, explore the trails, enjoy a quiet afternoon along the lake, visit your favorite businesses, and experience a different side of island life.

And there is still plenty happening throughout September and October! The Kelleys Island calendar includes more than 60 events throughout the year, with activities continuing well into the fall.

Treasure Island Day - September 12

One of our favorite September traditions returns Saturday, September 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with Treasure Island Day!

This island-wide garage and yard sale turns Kelleys Island into one big treasure hunt. Residents and businesses throughout the island set up sales featuring everything from household items and décor to collectibles, island finds and those unexpected treasures you didn't know you needed until you found them.

Treasure hunters can pick up an official map beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce office, Island Market, Seaway Marina and Uncl' Dik's. Then, spend the day exploring the island and shopping your way from stop to stop.

Registration information is available through the Treasure Island Day page.

September Fun Continues

The following weekend brings even more reasons to visit. On September 19, KILA will

Please turn to page 6

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September Events

Jill Bauer

September brings the best of both seasons to Shores & Islands Ohio, with plenty of late-summer fun mixed with the first signs of fall. From beloved traditions like the Milan Melon Festival and Historic Weekend at Put-in-Bay to strongman competitions, vintage road races, harvest celebrations, outdoor adventures, and the return of HalloWeekends, there's something happening nearly every weekend. Whether you're ready to savor the last days of summer or jump right into all thing's autumn, here are 25 events to put on your September calendar!

Milan Melon Festival

Friday-Monday, Sep 4-7, 2026 • Village Square, Milan

The annual Milan Melon Festival rolls its way back into Milan Square with the delicious melon and cantaloupe ice cream, fun rides, and unique vendors! You won't want to miss this sweet local event! Where else can you see things like the Melon Eating Contest, kiddie pedal-tractor pulls, and a two-hour grand parade? The Melon Festival in Milan provides that and bands, a arts and crafts, antique car show, and Queen's Contest. Oh, and plenty of melons in all shapes, sizes, and forms!

Perch, Peach, Pierogi, & Polka Festival

Friday-Saturday, Sep 4-5, 2026 • Downtown Port Clinton

Enjoy live polka bands, perch sandwiches, pierogi, fries, genuine kielbasa and kraut, peach pie with Toft's ice cream, local and other beers, 50/50 drawings, and souvenirs. Plus, free polka lessons! Held under the big tent on Perry St. in downtown Port Clinton, with food take-away available at the front west corner. Proceeds benefit local charities.

Rally on the Runway

Saturday, Sep 5, 2026 • Erie-Ottawa International Airport, Port Clinton

Rally on the Runway is the official community support festival for the Strongman Champions League competition. On Saturday, visit the Erie-Ottawa International Airport for a free, family-friendly celebration featuring live entertainment, local food trucks, a scavenger hunt, a touch-a-truck experience, and the excitement of one of the world's premier professional strongman competitions. In addition to the festival activities, spectators will have the opportunity to witness the incredible feats of strength of the Strongman Champions League athletes as they once again return to Ohio.

Strongman Champions League USA

Sunday, Sep 6, 2026 • Downtown Sandusky

Get ready, Ohio - the Strongman Champions League returns to the Shores & Islands Ohio region for 2026! These events are free for anyone who wants to come out and witness top-tier strongman events like you've never seen before. Sunday, September 6, 2026, will be held in downtown Sandusky at the corner of Columbus Avenue and Water Street with the competition beginning at 1:00 PM.

Historic Weekend Put-in-Bay: Celebrating the Battle of Lake Erie

Friday-Sunday, Sep 11-13, 2026

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

This eventful weekend offers a range of activities including a flag retirement ceremony, artillery demonstrations, historic encampment, performances, and a community parade. Free and open to all, this weekend offers a deep dive into US Naval history and the island's heritage. Throughout the weekend, rangers and volunteers present a variety of demonstrations and talks on topics like the War of 1812, blacksmithing, historic cooking, and more, offering an immersive educational experience.

Riptide 2026

Friday-Sunday, Sep 11-13, 2026 • Kalahari Resorts & Conventions, Sandusky

Riptide is an annual three-day Super Smash Bros, Rivals of Aether, Splatoon, and Mario Kart tournament and convention. This event is open to all ages, features world-renowned competitors, and more. Come play video games with people from around the world in this fun and family friendly environment!

Annual Military Show at Liberty Aviation Museum

Saturday-Sunday, Sep 12-13, 2026 • Liberty Aviation Museum, Port Clinton

Re-enactors! All eras of military vehicles, displays, etc.! The public, including military-related groups, are invited to display military vehicles free of charge. Each military vehicle displayed at the show will receive 2 complimentary admission tickets to the museum. Military vehicle parts, tools, supplies, unique militaria, toys, uniforms, & more will be permitted for sale/trade. See the Sherman Tank and many other military vehicles operate! Ford Tri-Motor Rides and Restore the Ford Pancake Breakfast on Sunday (all Proceeds Fund the Tri-Motor Project in the museum's second hangar).

Art in the Park

Saturday, Sep 12, 2026

DeRivera Park, Put-in-Bay

Discover the vibrant world of regional arts and crafts. Enjoy live demonstrations by talented artists and explore a wide range of creative mediums. This event offers a perfect opportunity for art enthusiasts and families alike to engage with the artistic community in a picturesque outdoor setting.

Honeys and Sunnies: A Harvest Celebration

Saturday, Sep 12, 2026

Quarry Hill Orchards, Berlin Heights

You're invited to venture into the picturesque orchards and fields of Quarry Hill. Come for prime pick-your-own Honeycrisp apples, stay for a glass of Quarry Hill Winery wine or apple cider at their pop-up bar in the sunflower field. The fall festivities continue in their Market Barn, which is full of the season's best, like apples, pumpkins, apple fritters, mums, sweet treats and more.

Ohio Goes to the Movies

Saturday, Sep 12, 2026

Lakeside Chautauqua, Marblehead

"Ohio Goes to the Movies" is a statewide celebration of movies showcasing Ohioans-actors, directors, writers, composer, locations, and topics. Lakeside Chautauqua remains the last, and only, movie theater in Ottawa County. Please join us for a showing of the movie Anastasia, in Lakeside's Orchestra Hall.

Treasure Island Day

Saturday, Sep 12, 2026 • Kelleys Island

Treasure Island Day is an exciting tradition, featuring sales hosted by the local community and businesses. Treasure seekers can stop by the Island Market to pick up the Treasure Island Day map. This local garage/yard sale is an adventure for the whole family!

Foundations of the Past

Sunday, Sep 13 • Edison Birthplace, Milan

In participation with Ohio Open Doors and Edison Birthplace, join in for a guided walk into Milan's rich history and the stories of the people who shaped the community. Explore Milan's historic homes and buildings up close during a 1-hr architectural walking tour. Walk through the Milan Cemetery for a closer look at local history. Please wear comfortable walking shoes, as both portions involve walking on uneven ground.

Please turn to page 4

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RESTAURANT Week ON **Kelley's Island**
ISLAND WIDE

★ **STARTS** ★
SEPTEMBER 19TH!

Treat your taste buds to something special during Restaurant Week on Kelleys Island! This is the perfect time to explore the island's incredible dining scene, with local restaurants, cafés, and eateries offering unique specials, creative menus, and island-inspired flavors you won't find anywhere else.

Whether you're craving fresh Lake Erie perch, sweet treats, or a cozy waterfront meal, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

MAKE A DAY (OR WEEKEND!) OF IT—
COME FOR THE FOOD, STAY FOR THE VIEWS,
AND EXPERIENCE THE CHARM OF ISLAND LIFE.

DISCOVER BOLD FLAVORS. SUPPORT LOCAL. LOVE THE ISLAND.

This Summer on Kelleys Island continues
An All-American Summer

★ GREAT FOOD ★ LOCAL FAVORITES ★ ISLAND VIBES ★ LASTING MEMORIES

Homecoming 2026

continued from page 1



Island Cello Quartet



Fat City and Island Kids



Ladies celebrating their birthdays and Homecoming fun!

I also want to acknowledge our sponsor, Shores & Islands Ohio, who awarded KILA a generous grant to support Homecoming weekend.

The success of this weekend will be passed forward by donations from KILA for projects led by island organizations. Apply for funding on the KILA website if you have a project that supports our island.

The KILA Annual Meeting will be Saturday, September 19, 2026 at 10:00 am at Estes School. All KILA members, current and potential, are encouraged to attend. You will hear about the year's activities and future plans. Directors will be elected to serve on the KILA Board. Active KILA members seeking nomination for a director position are encouraged to email info@kila.rocks. We welcome new directors, so if you want to get involved with fellow landowners, please contact us.

KILA's annual Family Halloween Hayride and celebration will be on Kids' Halloween Weekend on Saturday October 17 from 3:00-5:00. Dress up in your Halloween costumes and enjoy an afternoon of crafts, hot dogs, sweets, and of course a hayride at the Kelleys Island 4-H Camp, rain or shine.

Fall on Kelleys Island is awesome!

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FAMILY HAYRIDE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

3:00-5:00 PM

KELLEYS ISLAND 4H CAMP

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or \$5 per person

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Kelleys Island Landowners Association

September Events

continued from page 2

Hidden Garden Party
Sunday, Sep 13, 2026 • Schedel Arboretum & Gardens, Elmore
Emcee Jerry Anderson hosts this annual fundraiser. Cocktails, Fine Dining, Entertainment, Live & Silent Auction items available.

Plein Air afternoon
Sunday, Sep 13, 2026 • Charles Herndon Galleries, Kelleys Island
Charles Herndon Galleries and Sculpture Garden want YOU to come create in the gardens! What is an art gallery without the creators behind the work? Come with your canvas and paints, or your tools and wire, or your grinder and tiles, or maybe your sewing machine and fabric! All of the events this summer are part of America 250, so rep that Red, White, and Blue if you are feeling it. This event is not focused on selling, but feel free to put out a few things for sale to showcase the final product.

Put-in-Bay Road Races Reunion
Tuesday-Thursday, Sep 15-17, 2026 • Put-in-Bay Airport, Put-in-Bay
Experience the thrill of vintage car racing at the Put-in-Bay Road Races Reunion. Hosted at the Put-in-Bay Airport, this event revives the island’s historic road races with vintage MGs, Porsches, Triumphs, and other classic sports cars. The reunion invites enthusiasts to enjoy races, awards for style participation, and a dive into racing history. This year’s event includes a new focus on vintage fashion, inviting participants to dress in period-style clothing, with recognition and awards for those embracing the theme. Race viewing is free and open to the public.

3rd Thursday: Music, Flowers & A Sunset
Thursday, Sept 17, 2026 • Downtown Vermilion
This free community event invites you to enjoy evenings filled with live music, local shopping, dining, and beautiful Lake Erie sunsets in downtown Vermilion. Featuring multiple bands and musicians throughout downtown, it’s the perfect way to spend a summer evening with family and friends while supporting our local businesses.

HalloWeekends
Thursday-Sunday, Sep 17-Nov 1, 2026 • Cedar Point, Sandusky
It’s family fun by day and fright by night as HalloWeekends® returns for its 29th year on select days and nights. With daytime family activities like corn and hay mazes, pint-sized tractors for kids, pumpkin decorating, games and trick-or-treating, plus nighttime haunted mazes, scare zones and entertainment.

Cocktails with Capys
Friday-Saturday, Sep 18-19, 2026 • African Safari Wildlife Park, Port Clinton
Get Ready to Party! Grab your crew and step inside our award-winning Capybara habitat to feed and mingle with the world’s largest rodents during a 2.5-hour come-and-go capybara feeding experience. Your event admission also includes rotating feedings or encounters with Tortoises, Budgies, and Goats, so you can sip, stroll, and hang out with some of your favorite animals all evening long. Beer and canned cocktails will be available for purchase, with all drink proceeds benefiting African Safari’s Guardian of Wildlife Conservation Fund. Must be 21 or older to attend.

Coastal Clean-Up
Saturday, Sep 19, 2026 • Old Woman Creek Beach, Huron
Join Old Woman Creek Reserve staff and volunteers around the nation for National Public Lands Day! Spend the morning at the beach; you will log our finds and upload the data. Let’s keep our coastal ecosystems clean! This program meets at the OWC boathouse. Gear for the cleanup will be provided and pre-registration is required.

Coast to the Oast
Saturday, Sep 19, 2026 • Twin Oast Brewing, Catawba
Come tour Catawba on fantastic bicycle routes! This is a fully supported ride for those age 13 and over with rest stops and support vehicles along the route to curb your hunger or alleviate any bike issues. The ride begins and ends at the beautiful Twin Oast Brewing, and your entry fee includes a beverage from Twin Oast, soft-fit shirt, stocked aid stations, and post-ride entertainment on the lawn at Twin Oast. Best of all – the proceeds from this ride benefit Eriesponsible and their mission of “Taking Steps Now to Maintain the Health of Lake Erie for Future Generations”! Choose from 10-, 30-, and 50-mile routes.

Monarch Festival
Saturday, Sep 19, 2026 • Duggan’s Field, Put-in-Bay
Everyone is invited to join the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center (LEINWC) in celebrating the Put-in-Bay Monarch Festival! The field is located next to the South Bass Lighthouse, which will be open to the public for tours as well. The festival will feature a variety of activities, games, food, and music that the whole family can enjoy. There will even be butterfly races for the kids with wings available! In addition to fun games and face painting, you can help LEINWC in our Monarch tagging efforts. There will be nets available that families can use to assist us with catching butterflies as part of a greater effort to increase Monarch migration tracking.

Osborn Fall Fest
Saturday, Sep 19, 2026 • Osborn MetroPark, Huron
Fall fun for the whole family. Kick off the season with a full day of fall traditions, nature activities, hayrides, music, and food. Hope to see you there!

The Great Barrel Festival
Saturday, Sep 19, 2026 • Firelands Winery, Sandusky
Celebrate everything that is Firelands! Family friendly, live music all afternoon, vendors row, hog and corn roast with all the sides, cornhole, large yard games, grape stomp for charity, limited edition Great Barrel Festival wines and much more! Free parking and shuttle to and from Dorn Park. You won’t want to miss out on all the fun!

Restaurant Week
Monday-Sunday, Sep 21-27, 2026 • Kelleys Island
Mark your calendars for Restaurant Week on Kelleys Island! Savor exclusive, limited-time dishes. Indulge in prix fixe menus and sip on handcrafted signature cocktails. From cozy island bars to waterfront favorites, this is your chance to taste Kelleys Island like never before. One week only. One unforgettable experience. Plan your foodie adventure now — the Island awaits!

Big Day at the Bay
Saturday, Sep 26, 2026 • Put-in-Bay
This vibrant celebration is packed with activities, including a Kid’s Carnival, the island-wide Sale Away Weekend garage sale, and a delightful clambake at the Chicken Patio to support the PIB Volunteer Fire Department. The event promises a day full of excitement with Monte Carlo-style street games, and great shopping deals.

Make the most of the season and start planning your late-summer and early-fall adventures in Shores & Islands Ohio! Visit SHORESandISLANDS.com and explore our Events Calendar for even more ways to experience the fun happening throughout the region this September.

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WE DELIVER!

PAGE 4

September 2026



Glacial Glimpses

Lori Hayes

Sunday, September 6
1 pm

Where does every tourist visit when they come to Kelleys Island? The Glacial Grooves of course! Plan to take your guests on a guided tour of the grooves, Labor Day Weekend. The tour is being led by Chris Ashley, Kelleys Island state Park Manager and Pat Hayes, President, Kelleys Island Audubon Club. The tour begins at 1 pm and meets at the Grooves. All welcome and free.

The Importance of Fundraising on Kelleys Island

Many Island organizations hold fundraisers during the season! As Island residents and visitors, we strive to support every valuable service that these organizations provide to us. Without the support of generous donors, the organizations would be less prepared to do the jobs that they are passionate about, and proud to be able to provide to Kelleys Island.

At The Kelleys Island Historical Association, fundraising is a primary way for the Association to support itself and its mission in the community. There have been some really fine fundraisers in the past! Many will remember the 1920's themed party at the Steuber Family home, The Breakers. Another similar event was a murder mystery hosted by The Smith Family on Long Point. Both of these pre-covid events raised needed funds and provided a great source of on-island entertainment for the community! After that The Parsonage House Re-Sale Shop was opened by Janet Killam, Sonia Taylor and Jodie Smith. This additional source of income for the Association was a crucial pivot for the KIHA in the form of its fundraising focus. The Re-sale shop continues to fund the KIHA in an important way. However, with the smaller number of volunteers, the Museum Campus is only open 5 days a week, reducing the earning capabilities of both the Museum and Gift shop and the Re-Sale Shop.

Our new fundraisers have been The Ferry Boat Ride \$500 gift card raffle ticket sale. This is still going on until all 500 tickets are sold, or the date of the drawing, August 3, 2026. Get your Raffle ticket for \$10.00 at The Museum or Re-sale Shop,

or from any KIHA Board Member.



Our newest fundraiser, Blackout & Bourbon, is taking place on Sunday September 6th from 2-4pm at The KIHA Museum! Play our TRIVIA GAME, grab a bite to eat, and a chance to win our gift basket! Enjoy our Bourbon Tasting Bar too! Donations of \$25.00 will get you three rounds, with additional rounds at \$10.00 each. A prize of a \$100 VISA card will be awarded to each winner. We welcome you and anticipate a fun atmosphere provided by the local Island characters. We expect to see some local Trivia champions there to dominate the TRIVIA portion of the afternoon! Who will challenge them?!

Sunday, September 6 is not to be missed! Food, 50/50, Gift Baskets Raffle and Bourbon tasting! Gather your friends and family and come out to support the Kelleys Island Historical Association! Thank you in advance for your support and to our sponsors in the fundraising event!

Herndon Gallery's Fall 2026 Class Schedule

Thursday September 3rd - Weaving for the wall \$125-1-4pm
This is a 3 hours class. Leave with a loom to make future projects on, instructions, and any fiber you need to finish your weaving if you have not finished in class. Class limit of 6

Saturday September 6th Kinusaiga \$85- 4-6pm
This is a fabric collage technique using foam board. Class limit of 8.

Sunday September 13th- PLEIN AIR event - bring YOUR favorite art or craft and create on campus! Check our Facebook for details.

Classes are age 12 and up. Contact me if your child is under 12 and particularly interested, good at paying attention and has small motor skills.

All supplies and tools are provided unless otherwise noted.

Please sign up at least a week in advance if possible.

Inquire for classes week of, but as we are on an island it depends on supplies.

30% booking fee due upon signing up.

Full refunds will be given if class has to be cancelled by instructor.

Please ask me about private classes, I can come to your home or host!

Contact: Carmen Smith, Gallery Manager
Charles Herndon Galleries and Sculpture Garden
419.746.2249
Herdongallerycts@gmail.com

The Museum Campus



The Campus is OPEN
Thursday-Monday 12-4pm
CLOSED Tuesday & Wednesday

224-226 Division Street

KI Historical Association Museum

NEW EXHIBITS!

The German Reformed Church
The Parsonage House & Sis's
Cottage Resale Shops



Gallery is open
Thurs.-Mon,
11-4

Or, view the art by
appointment:

(419) 746-2249

New this season:

Classes!

Check fb for details



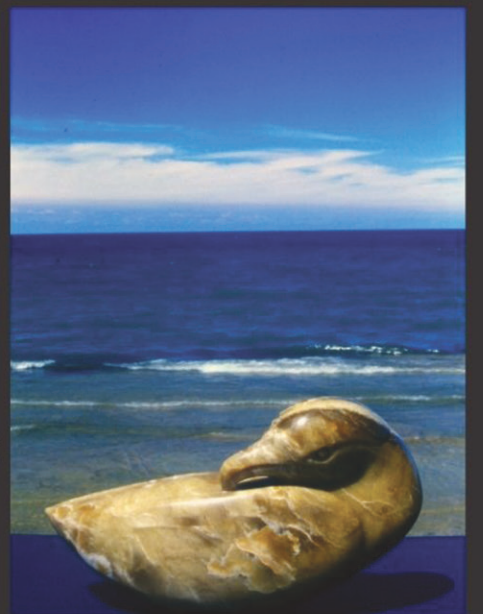
Glass blowing with
Double Dipped Studios
Th, f and sat in
season!

Gardens are open
Dawn-dusk every
day

More information on Facebook: Charles Herndon Gallery

110 Laylin Lane KELLEYS ISLAND, OH.

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CHARLES HERNDON GALLERIES



Sept. 13th:
Plein air day
bring your materials and
create your art in the
Gardens!

Date TBA
Glass
Pumpkin patch
and fall celebration!





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
- 19 – Ava Leidheiser
- 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

If you have a birthday that you would like included please email Lifeonkelleys@gmail.com

Life on Kelleys
Available
Online



Fall on Kelleys Island

continued from page 1

hold its Annual Meeting and Candidate Forum at the Estes School gymnasium. Restaurant Week on KI is also featured on the September calendar, encouraging visitors and islanders to explore local restaurants, cafés, and eateries and enjoy the flavors of the island.

Fall is a wonderful time to support our island businesses. As seasonal schedules begin to change, we encourage everyone to make a point of stopping in, grabbing a meal or drink, doing a little shopping, and enjoying your favorite places before they close for the season.

October Brings Fall Favorites & Halloween Weekends

The fun doesn't stop when September ends! October kicks off with Octoberfest at West Bay on October 3, followed by the Casino's Annual Clam Bake on October 10. Then it's time for two of the most anticipated weekends of the fall season—Halloween on Kelleys Island!

Kids Halloween Weekend takes place October 16-18 and brings an entire weekend of family-friendly spooky fun to the island. Saturday is packed with activities around the island, including the KILA Fall Hayride and Family Event and Creepin' It Real at the Groove. Families are encouraged to make a weekend of it, dress

up, and enjoy everything Kelleys has to offer.

Then the adults get their turn! Adult Halloween Weekend takes place October 23-25. Costumes, decorated businesses and Halloween celebrations make this one of the most entertaining weekends of the fall. The Groove's 2nd Annual Boo Bash is also scheduled for October 24 with a costume contest, live music from The Drop Downs and plenty of Halloween fun.

The October calendar wraps up with a Casino Night Fundraiser at the Groove on October 30 benefiting Kelleys Island EMS and Fire Department.

Don't Rush the End of Island Season Summer may get most of the attention, but fall on Kelleys Island deserves a season all its own.

There is something special about an autumn morning by Lake Erie, a golf cart ride beneath changing leaves, a quiet walk through the island's natural areas or an afternoon spent catching up with friends at your favorite island business. The pace may slow down, but the beauty of Kelleys Island certainly doesn't.

For the latest event dates, details, and additions to the fall calendar, visit the Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar on our website.

Wishes Last Forever

continued from page 1

Ice Cream. We ate like kings. The Balloon Vibe Guy was there to thrill the children with balloon animals and more. Santa & Mrs. Claus came and handed out presents to all the children. Mother Nature then dumped a minor flood of water on our afternoon. All in all, it was a great week-end. Total so far is over \$58,000.00. With each wish costing approx. \$10,000.00 we are almost to 6 wishes to be granted. That's 6 children having their dreams come to with a wish.

Next Years Poker Run will be held on Saturday, July 31st, with the swim on Sunday, August 1st. So, plan your vacation around this fun and inspiring event.

If you would still like to donate, checks can be made out to Make-A-Wish and sent to: Make-A-Wish PO Box 517, Kelleys Island, Ohio 43438



Or Make-A-Wish
US Bank
205 W. Perkins Ave
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

Jeni & Cindra



Council Notes

Leslie Korenko

This was a quick 20 min. meeting preceded by a 15 min. public hearing on the two zoning ordinances that doubled the size of new building lots. 15 people attended that hearing. It was gratifying to have these Ordinances tabled in order to review and consider the comments made at the hearing. The Police Dept. reported 240 phone calls, 5 reports, 26 arrests, two accidents and 5 warnings. EMS had 39 runs (the highest volume of calls they ever had) and 28 clinic calls. The building roof was replaced with funds from a grant. The Fire Dept. had 4 runs and a new (used) pumper is being purchased. The Water Dept. reports that the new excavator has arrived. The Planning Commission, Design Review Board and Board of Zoning Appeals all have meetings scheduled. Brush cutting is underway, clearing back to the edge of the road right-of-way all over the Island. The Finance Committee met twice and the minutes list the various topics discussed including the purchase of the fire

truck, pump valve repairs, the drone grant program and contract. It's great that they now do official minutes and we get to see deliberations, discussions and actions they take. The Clerk reminds us that the meeting agendas are being posted on the website, usually by Friday afternoon. Ordinance no. 2026-O-20 authorized an agreement with Motorola Solutions for the Ohio Drones program. Resolution 2026-R-3 adopted the 2026 Erie Co. Hazard Mitigation Plan, and R-4 accepted the tax levy rates and certified them to the Co. Auditor. There was a first reading of the agreement with ODNr to exchange land for the new waste water treatment plant. The map shows that the State will turn over two parcels (1.5 acres along the road at the south end of the cemetery (part of a larger parcel) and 3 acres on Chappel St. across from Marchky's farm) in exchange for the Village transferring 5.205 acres (at the end of the N/S runway). The Chappel St. parcel will be the site of the waste water treatment plant.

Life on Kelleys Staff

EDITOR

Victoria Rovder 440-591-0343
E-mail: savoy@windstream.net
Lifeonkelleys@gmail.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVE
and GRAPHICS DESIGN:

Victoria Rovder
440-591-0343
E-mail: savoy@windstream.net

WEB DESIGN:
Daniel Hazard

CIRCULATION

E-mail: Lifeonkelleys@gmail.com

PUBLISHER:

Gerald and Victoria Rovder
440-384-7279
E-mail: Lifeonkelleys@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Melanie Bates
Jill Bauer
Sue Daugherty
Dean DePiero
Rachel Fall
Jeni Hammond
Lori Hayes
Patti Johnson

Leslie Korenko
Zoey Leonard (Vargo)
Steve Mack
Amanda Rhie
Julie Schuler
Carmen Smith
Jodie Smith
Jackie Taylor

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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.

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What Does the Kelleys Island Audubon Do? More Than You Might Think!

Julie Schuler

For more than 30 years, the Kelleys Island Audubon Club has played a leading role in protecting Kelleys Island's natural areas and helping residents and visitors better understand the area's unique ecology, along with studying the role the island plays in bird populations. What began in 1992 as a small group of residents interested in protecting bird habitat has grown into an organization with more than 80 members and a long list of conservation, education and research accomplishments. From helping establish nature preserves to supporting decades of bird research, the KIAC has worked alongside local,

state and conservation partners to ensure Kelleys Island remains a place where birds, wildlife and people can come together.

Over the Years, the Kelleys Island Audubon Club Has:

- Helped Kelleys Island earn designation as an Important Bird Area (IBA) in 2002, recognizing the island's importance as a stopover and habitat for migrating, breeding and wintering birds.
- Supported bird research on the island for decades. The Kelleys Island bird-banding and avian research project began in 1996 and has documented how birds use the island during migration and other seasons.

- Supported the Bartlett's bird-banding research, giving residents and visitors' opportunities to learn about migrating songbirds and see the illusive Northern Saw-whet Owl up close.

- Established and supported birding events, including Nest with the Birds, Feathers and Foliage and the Owl Festival, bringing birders.

- Facilitated the Kelleys Island Pollinator Partnership, helping expand pollinator habitat and create natural areas that benefit monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

- Helped support the Kelleys Island Field Station Nature Camp, providing opportunities for children to learn about nature and the island's environment.

- Provided ongoing environmental education through nature walks, guided hikes, guest speakers, birding programs and educational events for residents and visitors.

- Built partnerships across the island and beyond, working with the Kelleys Island State Park, Kelleys Island Field Station, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, local organizations and community



Pat Hayes by Pollinator Signs

members to advance conservation.

- Helped protect and preserve important natural areas, including the North Pond, Scheele, Huntley-Beatty and Ed Curilla preserves.

- Created opportunities for the community to connect with nature, with monthly meetings, potlucks, educational presentations and free public programs throughout the year.

- Helped make conservation part of Kelleys Island's identity, bringing together residents, visitors, scientists and nature enthusiasts around a shared goal: protecting the island's natural resources for birds, wildlife and future generations.

Join today! Visit kelleysislandnature.org to become a member.

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The Island Advocate

As we all know, Kelleys Island is a HOT Real Estate Market. If you are buying or selling property here or at your principal residents, some basic rules and concepts can keep you out of legal trouble whether you are a buyer or seller and save you from legal headaches and pitfalls.

1. The purchase contract controls

In Ohio, the written purchase agreement is critical. It should clearly address: Purchase price and earnest money, financing and appraisal contingencies, inspection rights, Title requirements, Closing date, possession, Personal property included, Risk of loss before closing and What happens if either party defaults. Oral agreements generally are not enforceable.

2. Ohio is generally a "buyer beware" state—but with important exceptions; Ohio follows the doctrine of caveat emptor, particularly for defects that Are open and observable; Are discoverable through reasonable inspection; and Do not involve fraud or misrepresentation by the seller. But the seller cannot intentionally conceal a material defect or make fraudulent misrepresentations.

3. Sellers must disclose known material defects

A seller generally should disclose known conditions that materially affect the property's value or desirability and are not readily observable. Some Examples might include: Significant water intrusion, Structural problems; Known roof defects, Substantial foundation issues, and certain environmental problems.

4. The buyer should inspect everything

A buyer should not depend solely on the seller's disclosure. Hire a Professional Home Inspector! However, a home inspection is not a substitute for investigating whether the property can legally be used for the buyer's intended purpose.

5. Title is a separate issue from condition

The buyer should obtain a title examination and usually title insurance.

Practical rule: You are buying the

property—and potentially its legal history.

6. Taxes and assessments must be addressed at closing

Ohio property taxes are paid in arrears. The purchase contract and closing statement typically prorate taxes between buyer and seller.

7. Zoning is not guaranteed by the seller

If a buyer intends to Build, Expand, Operate a business, Convert a property, Develop land, Use a property for a special purpose the buyer should independently confirm zoning and other governmental approvals. Never assume that because something exists, it is legally permitted—or that a prior use guarantees the right to continue it.

8. The deed matters

The type of deed determines the warranties being conveyed.

Ohio commonly uses:

- General warranty deed
- Limited warranty deed
- Quitclaim deed

A quitclaim deed generally provides the least protection because the grantor conveys whatever interest the grantor has, without the same type of title warranties.

10. A real estate agent does not replace a lawyer

A real estate agent can help negotiate and facilitate a transaction, but an attorney is particularly important to review the transaction, especially if it is not a typical real estate transaction.

- Commercial properties
- Development issues

To Summarize - Buyer: Inspect, investigate, and verify.

Seller: Disclose, don't conceal, and document.

Both: Put everything in writing and make sure the title is clean.

Keep these tips in mind when buying or selling property whether its your vacation paradise or your principal home.

Dean DePiero
DEPIERO LAW

(Attorney DePiero also serves as the Kelleys Island Mayors Court Magistrate and has been an "Islander" since 2002)



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LOTS 20-22 CHARDONNAY
Three Parcel - 1.13 Acre Residential Lot
Located In Desirable Vineyard Estates Subdivision!
City Water Available at the Street.
Site and Soil Performed!
\$189,000



LOT 10 CHARDONNAY
Located in the Vineyard Estates Subdivision, this 0.38-acre lot (116' x 141') offers the perfect blend of privacy and convenience. Key improvements include a installed septic system, a paid water tap with line run to the property, and underground utilities are in place with a working electrical meter making this lot truly build-ready. High standard of quality stick-built homes required. **\$147,900**



220 MELODY LANE
Desirable Oversized Residential Lot (0.809 Acres) With Lake Erie Access at the End of the Street. Street Access (100' frontage on Melody, 150' Frontage on Memory Lane). Site and Soil Review Suggests Property Will Support a House, Pole Barn and 3-4 Bedroom Septic Waste Water Treatment System. City Water is Available on Melody Lane. **\$179,000**



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LOTS 15-18 HAMILTON
Discover the perfect spot to build your family retreat on this spacious 4-parcel lot totaling 0.77 acres (200' x 168'). Tucked away in a peaceful part of family-friendly Kelleys Island, this property is just steps from the Boardwalk Trail leading to the Kelleys Island Nature Preserve and Sandy Beach, and close to Horseshoe Lake's hiking and biking trails. **\$119,900**



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Navigating the Ever-Changing Medicare Options

**Amanda Rhiel,
Bolte Insurance
Agency**

As summer comes to an end and our thoughts turn to fall and pumpkin spice, it's hard to believe that the 2027 Medicare Annual Election Period (AEP) is almost here.

From October 15 through December 7, Medicare beneficiaries can make changes to their coverage, including changing a Part D prescription drug plan, changing Medicare Advantage plans, or returning to Original Medicare and enrolling in a Part D plan. Changes made during AEP take effect January 1, 2027.

2026 was a year of change in Ottawa County as certain Part D Prescription Drug and Part C Medicare Advantage plans left the service area forcing many beneficiaries to select a new plan. Increased premiums for many Part D Prescription Drug Plans and the unprecedented increases in Medicare Supplemental Plan premiums also fueled change as the carriers work to adjust to inflation and the rising costs of healthcare.

What Could Change in 2027?

Medicare beneficiaries should expect changes to premiums, deductibles, copays, maximum out of pockets, drug costs and other plan benefits in 2027.

- The temporary Medicare Part D Premium Stabilization Demonstration pilot program officially ends on January 1, 2027, which may shift more cost to carriers and beneficiary premiums. This program started in 2025 and provided temporary subsidies that helped slow premium increases resulting from the legislation contained within the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 that intended to lower Medicare prescription drug costs and reduce federal spending.

- 15 more negotiated "fair maximum prices" take effect on January 1, 2027, including popular diabetes and obesity treatments like Ozempic, Wegovy as well as others for diabetes, cancer, asthma, and COPD.

- 15 more drugs selected for price negotiation to take effect in 2028 including Botox, Botox Cosmetic, Trulicity, Xolair, Anoro Ellipta, Xeljanz,

Entyvio, as well as other medications for cancer, psoriatic arthritis, asthma, COPD, and rheumatoid arthritis.

- The Part D Prescription Drug deductible increases from \$615 to \$700 and the maximum out of pocket limit increases from \$2,100 to \$2,400.

Your AEP Readiness Checklist:

- 1.) Watch for Your Annual Notice of Change (ANOC). Every Part D Prescription Drug Plan or Part C Medicare Advantage plan is required to provide an annual notice that details the upcoming changes in coverage and

Supplement plans provide the same standardized benefits regardless of which insurance company offers the plan, but premiums can vary significantly from one company to another. This can make comparing rates an important part of your annual review. Unlike Medicare Advantage and Part D plans, you are not limited to the Annual Enrollment Period to change or enroll in a Medicare Supplement. However, with the significant premium increases we've seen over the past year, now is a good time to review your options and see whether comparable coverage may be available at a more competitive price.

- 4.) Review Your Current Medicare Advantage Plan or Learn More About This Option.

Medicare Advantage plans, also known as Part C of Medicare, are offered by private health insurance companies and can provide both medical and prescription drug coverage. These plans cover the same services as Original Medicare but are typically PPO or HMO plans, which means that you will need to utilize carrier networks for your healthcare. It is important to check that your medications are covered and the medical providers and facilities that are important to you are contracted and in-network with the plan before you enroll. It is also important to know and understand the deductibles, co-pays, co-insurance, and annual out of pocket maximums that apply to the plan.

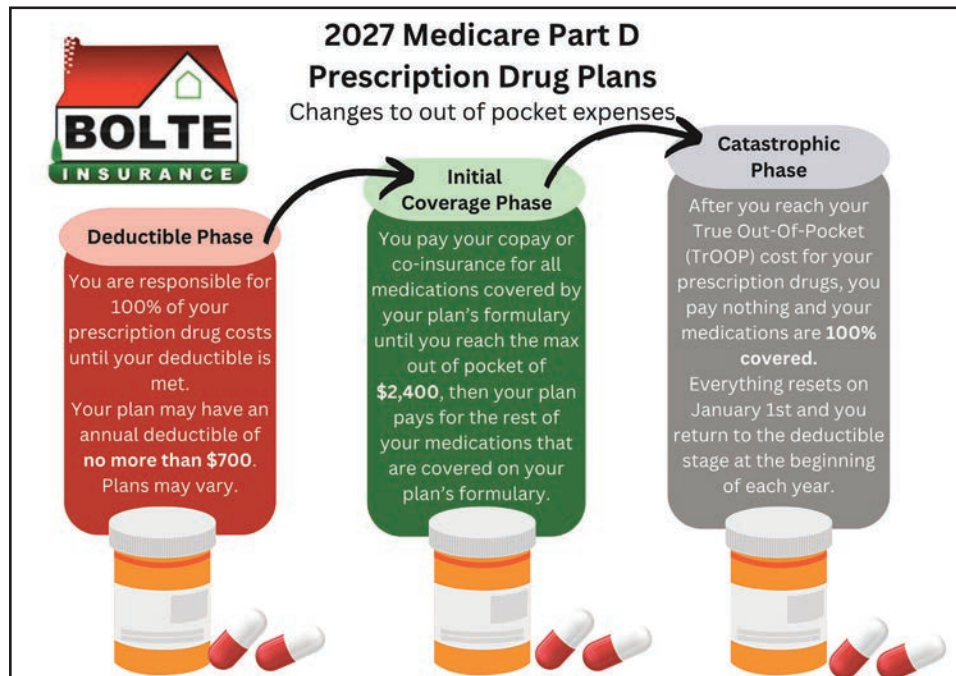
Don't Go It Alone

Medicare decisions can be confusing, particularly when plans, premiums, provider networks and prescription coverage change from year to year.

As a Licensed Independent Insurance Agent at Bolte Insurance, I represent the major health insurance companies in our area and can help you understand your options. My fellow agents and I can help narrow down the choices and guide you through the enrollment process to find a Medicare solution that fits your needs and budget.

We're happy to review your options and help you make an informed decision. Call Bolte Insurance at 419-732-3111, ask for Amanda!

Disclaimer: Not connected with or endorsed by any government or Federal Medicare Program.



Beneficiaries with both Full Medicare and Full Medicaid benefits will see more changes from the Next Generation MyCare Ohio program. MyCare Ohio is a managed care program that aligns Medicare and Medicaid services under one carrier to provide an integrated approach to care. If you have Full Medicare & Full Medicaid benefits, you must select a fully integrated plan offered by a carrier participating in this program. Failing to do so may result in a disruption of your benefits. For more information, watch for paper communications from Medicaid, visit: <https://medicaid.ohio.gov/families-and-individuals/citizen-programs-and-initiatives/mycareohio/mycare-ohio>, or call our office at 419-732-3111 for an appointment to discuss your options.

Many beneficiaries will again be faced with important Medicare decisions and being prepared is the key to choosing the coverage that best fits your needs. Don't assume your current plan will be your best option for 2027.

costs that will be effective January 1 of the coming year. The ANOC should arrive by the end of September and is a helpful tool when determining whether to stay with your current plan. Pay close attention to upcoming changes, especially if there are updates to provider network participation, your formulary (covered drugs), or if your plan is being discontinued. If your plan is being terminated, you will need to take action to ensure you understand your out-of-pocket cost potential and maintain prescription drug coverage for the coming year.

- 2.) Review Your Part D Drug Plan. Make a current list of your medications, including the dosage and how often you take each one. Drug formularies (lists of covered drugs), premiums and out-of-pocket costs can change from year to year, so it's important to make sure you compare current costs and benefits to other plans available in your area.

- 3.) Compare Pricing of Your Medicare Supplement. Medicare

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Kelleys Island Real Estate: A Late Summer 2026 Market Update

Reporting Period: July 15, 2026 – August 14, 2026

Steve Mack
Century 21 Bolte Real Estate

As we moved from mid-July into mid-August, the Kelleys Island real estate market remained active, but continued to move at a measured pace. Buyers are still watching the market closely and taking their time, while limited inventory continues to play a big role in what we are seeing.

One of the more interesting stories this month is the residential inventory. During this reporting period, there were four homes listed for sale on Kelleys Island, but the numbers need a little explanation. Two of those listings, on Fernwood and Chardonnay, are new construction, to be built homes. In other words, those homes do not exist yet and the properties are being offered as building opportunities with proposed homes.

Of the two existing homes, the West Lakeshore property, listed just under \$1.18 million, moved into contingent status during the period. The other was

a new listing on Monaghan Road, a three bedroom home on more than three acres, listed just under \$750,000.

So, while four homes appeared in the residential market during this period, two are proposed new construction and one is already under contract. For buyers looking for an existing home they can move into today, the available inventory remains very limited.

We did see one home sale during this reporting period. The two bedroom Sweet Valley Ln home, which we have followed in recent updates, closed around \$380,000 after approximately five months on the market. The property saw some price adjustments before ultimately finding its buyer.

Looking back at the same period last summer, there was considerably more closing activity. From July 15 through August 14, 2025, three Kelleys Island homes sold, ranging from \$475,000 to \$960,000. During the same period this year, there was one home sale at around

\$380,000. With such a small number of island transactions each month, those numbers can move around quite a bit, but they do reinforce the more selective and patient market we have been seeing throughout 2026.

Land & Lots
The land market continues to offer buyers several choices. At the beginning of this reporting period, there were four active lot listings. Three of those were properties on Chardonnay, Melody Lane and Beach Road, with asking prices ranging from just under \$148,000 to \$189,000.

We also saw some activity in this part of the market. The fourth property, on Hamilton Road, moved into contingent status after a price reduction from just under \$135,000 to just under \$120,000. There were no land closings during this reporting period.

This was similar to the same period

last summer, when no land sales closed between mid July and mid August. Last year, one property went under contract and another was withdrawn during that period, while this year we ended the period with three active lot listings and one under contract.

As we have mentioned in previous updates, buyers considering vacant land continue to be selective. Beyond price and location, things like buildability, septic options, water availability and site preparation can all play a role in how buyers evaluate an island lot.

Overall, the Kelleys Island market continues to feel steady but selective, with limited existing home inventory and several choices for buyers considering vacant land. As we move through late summer and into the fall, we'll continue to follow the activity and share with you what we're seeing in the Kelleys Island real estate market.

KELLEYS ISLAND SCHOOLS FIELD STATION DAY & CELEBRATION

Join us at the Kelleys Island State Park as we celebrate the successes of the Kelleys Island School Field Station and recognize the generous Sponsors, Donors, and Supporters who make our work possible. Together, we'll raise a toast to the conservation efforts and environmental education we have provided throughout the years! Along with monarch butterfly tagging hors d'oeuvres & refreshments

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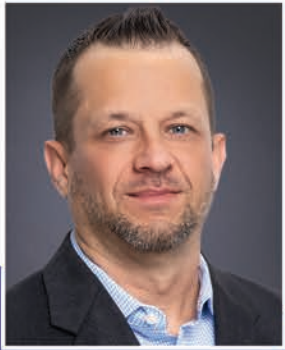
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185 SE Catawba Road,
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Oh Summer 2026-It's a wrap!

Patti Johnson
You hold, for me, some beautiful memories and some heart pain, not all at once; but like a duet with haunting harmonies that are part of the song.
This year I have watched a new leadership in the business community, and spent my time with island friends in a new, much slower way. This month reminded me of how each event, each Homecoming, each school tour, and every fall event that is the heart and soul of our island home is life at its finest on Lake Erie.
A friend of mine passed away last month, and as I look back at our island(s) friendship and his gentle journey with Doug and I, my gratitude and faith gains momentum in dark times.
He was the most generous, balanced, interesting man I have ever met. His humility and honor were a privilege for me to witness as a business owner and gradually as a friend. His wisdoms that he shared, his stories of history and personal experience all have a place in my eternal heart. Thank you, Bob, for every gift you gave to us and to the island. 'See you next time'



I dedicate this poem to you by Will Allen Dromgoole.
Thank you for always inspiring me to seek my joy.

An old man going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.
Through which was flowing a sullen tide
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day,
You never again will pass this way;
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
Why build this bridge at evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head;
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followed after me to-day
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been as naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him!"

May Veraparkarun

Lori and Pat Hayes enjoyed having May Veraparkarun help us out at The Inn this summer.
May is from Chiang Mai, Thailand. She was here this summer with the J7 International students.
Her main job was working at the Caddy Shack and helped out at The Inn in her spare time.
May attended school in Bangkok and has a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and a Masters in finance. Very impressive!
May is 25 and has an older brother and younger sister.
Where is May going when she leaves Kelleys Island? First, she is going to visit her sister in New York City then travel the United States. In October she heads to Bangkok to start a job as an Auditor.
What does May like about Kelleys Island? That it is so beautiful and peaceful. And not too commercialized.
The International students hailed from many countries and vastly



enriched the residents of Kelleys Island.
Thank you, May!
Lori Hayes, The Inn

Kelley, Kelley's, Kelleys' Or Kelly Island

Leslie Korenko

The spelling of the island's name has caused problems for islanders for many years. But it started in April 1864, when the gauntlet was thrown down by Cleveland newspapers on how to 'correctly' spell the name of Kelley's Island. There is no argument that the island was named after the Kelley family, but why is it so difficult for everyone to spell? Our current problem is the constant dropping of the second 'e' from the Village's name. Many T-shirts and souvenirs have to be returned when the name is misspelled.

On April 27 1864, the first volley occurred. "Kelley's Island or Kelley Island? - That's the question. The Cleveland Herald, in copying a couple of items from the Register, says: Will our usually correct friends of the Register allow us to criticize their use of one word? They should say Kelley Island, not Kelley's Island."

The Register responded, "Certainly. But your criticism is mere assertion. You say 'they should say' so and not so, but adduce no argument or authority in support of your assertion. Now for the facts: The island in question was formerly, and within the memory of many of our citizens, the property of a man named Cunningham, and was then known as Cunningham's Island. Afterwards the island was purchased by the Messrs. Kelley, when the name was changed by a special act of the Legislature to 'Kelley's Island,' and annexed to Erie County, since which time it has ever been known as 'Kelley's Island.' Will our friends of the Herald 'fall-in' and use the name of one of the most celebrated islands of Lake Erie correctly, or stick to their text?"

The Herald was not to be corrected and a few days later it was "Kelley's Island, or Kelley Island, again - We supposed a 'mere assertion' would instantly suggest to our well educated neighbor the impropriety of which we complain. Kelley's Island signifies the ownership of the island; that it belongs to a man named Kelley. The intention in such cases is to perpetuate a name, not the ownership. As the Register uses the name, it would appear that the island belongs to a Mr. Kelley. That is not true now, nor according to the Register's showing, was it ever true. The island was owned by two persons of the name Kelley, and assuming the name as the Register proposes to use it to be correct, the apostrophe is in the wrong place; it should be Kelleys' Island, not Kelley's Island. Any way you can fix it, the name is not right; it should be Kelley Island, taking its name from its former owners - Cleveland Herald."

The Editor of the Register was quick to correct the Herald reporter. "The Herald seems determined to stick to what it says should be the name of the

beautiful island of Lake Erie, which forms a township of Erie county. If the editor of the Herald will take the trouble to turn to the local laws of Ohio, passed by the Legislature of 1842-3, page 300, he will there find an enactment of which the following is a copy:

'AN ACT, to attach Kelley's Island to the county of Erie.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, That the Island in Lake Erie, formerly known as Cunningham's Island, now called Kelley's Island, and formerly part of the county of Ottawa, shall thereafter be attached to, and form part of, the county of Erie.'

Grammatically, the Herald is right and we have no doubt the name of the Island would have been written in the plural possessive, if it had been generally known at that early day, that the Island was owned jointly by I. & D. [Irish & Datus] Kelley, instead of Mr. I. Kelley, alone. But the facts are, Mr. I. Kelley was never a resident of the Island and, as only Mr. D. Kelley was known as its proprietor, it was so written, and as we have both custom and law for it, it would not be good policy to change its name, unless by an enactment of the legislature.

In legal papers 'Kelley Island' would not stand before our courts, and it would be the height of nonsense for the people to write it in common-place business one way, and those who administer the law, another. There are some very intelligent men residing on the Island in question and all of whom agree with us as to its name. In the fourth number of the 'Fire Lands Pioneer,' a magazine of very general circulation in this part of the State, will be found a long and well written account of the early history of the Island, by George C. Huntington, Esq., an old resident of the Island. If the editor of the Herald will take the pains to read this sketch, he will there discover the name of the Island in question, to be 'Kelley's Island,' and many reasons are assigned for the continuance of it. We hope the Herald will rest satisfied." That article appeared in the June 1863 issue of The Fire Lands Pioneer and that history appears in various sections of the series about Kelleys Island history, by Leslie Korenko.

The Herald however, refused defeat and the battle continued. This was a lot of column space! "The Cleveland Herald takes a sharp turn and rather tries to crawl out of its original criticism, and 'falls in' on the grammatical use of the apostrophe, thus yielding to the principle that it is quite as unsafe to change the name of a township for the sake of euphony, as that of an individual. We give place to a communication on the subject this morning, from an intelligent Islander

[George C. Huntington], who fully endorses our position."

George C. Huntington offered this. "If this subject is not already exhausted, and if your fastidious neighbor of the Herald is not yet satisfied, a few words in addition to what you have already said will, I think, give the matter its quietus. The act referred to in your issue of yesterday, merely recognized the existence of the Township of Kelley's Island, without reference to its origin. If we go a little further back, we find the original act establishing the township, which reads as follows:

'Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, That all that tract or territory of land, known as Cunningham's Island, situated on the south side of Lake Erie, and within the county of Erie, be, and the same is hereby constituted a Township, to be known and distinguished as the Township of Kelley's Island.' This act bears date January 1, 1840, and the copy in my possession in manuscript is duly certified as correct by Carter B. Harlan, Secretary of State, March 6, 1840.

That the name as it stands, was no mistake in the framer of the bill or in the Legislature, seems perfectly evident from the fact that by the second section of the same act the islands known as the Bass Islands (Put-in-Bay and that group) were in the same manner constituted a township, to be known and distinguished as the Township of Van Rensselaer. Here was recognized the principle for which the Herald seems to be contending - each township bears the name of the then most prominent inhabitant. Mr. Van Rensselaer was then lessee of the Bass Islands, where he reigned all but supreme.

The Legislature could surely have said simply, 'Township of Kelley,' had such been their meaning. Again. In the official list of Post Offices in the United States we find 'Kelley's Island,' thus following State authority. I could cite many more cases to prove the correctness of your position, but it is unnecessary. H."

The controversy did not end here, but resurfaced occasionally in what



Even the State wrestles with the spelling of the Island's name as anyone looking for directions to the island can attest.

appeared to be a single-minded effort by the Herald to correct such an obvious error. Additional volleys continued to appear for the next 10 years or so.

Huntington explained why there was an apostrophe in Kelley's Island, but what happened to it? When the Village incorporated in 1887 the papers showed the name as 'Village of Kelley's Island,' with the apostrophe. Some people believe that when the Kelley's sold off most of their holdings, it was no longer their Island, and that was when the name changed. But that is not the case. The State of Ohio, which records all corporation papers, has only one record of the incorporation of Kelley's Island and it has the apostrophe. No official changes were ever made to its name. This is an instance where popular use has replaced the official spelling. By the 1900's, newspapers were routinely dropping the apostrophe, spelling it Kelleys Island.

This brings us to the Post Office. Even though the Village never changed the spelling, the U. S. Post Office on the Island DID change it. On August 18, 1893, under postmaster Edward Ward, the name of the Kelley's Island Post Office was officially changed to the Kelleys Island Post Office. No apostrophe, no fanfare. This was an effort by the Post Office to streamline its addressing system. Other locations underwent a similar change like Martha's Vineyard.

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

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History Museum Arts & Crafts Show

Leslie Korenko
On August 1, the Kelleys Island History Museum held its 39th annual Arts & Crafts Show (the first one was in 1987). After a couple of years of moving the dates around the show returned to its original first Saturday in August date. There was a nice turnout, a few cancellations and a light rain in the afternoon, but that didn't stop everyone from having a unique and fun day. Several artists returned and we welcomed some new ones as the porch and front yard of the museum and church filled up. And we were pleased to host the amazing Frankie Bailer, our



Frankie Bailer



Crochet Critters



Kate & Kara Overcasher



Leslie Korenko



Lisa Gillispie



Chuck Ohlemacher



Addies Succulents and Cactis

resident magician, who delighted everyone with astounding card tricks. We almost had a food truck, but since the Safety Services steak roast was that evening, the Fire Dept. could not spare the workers to staff it. All in all, it was a great day, and what a surprise as many

of the artists made a donation to the museum as their way of saying thanks. We look forward to next year. Our thanks to these most talented people: Frankie Bailer (magician), Lisa Gillispie, Goede, Susan-Crochet Critters, Leslie Korenko (author), Addie Kromer

(Addies Succulents & Cacti), Chuck Ohlemacher (arts & Crafts), Kate & Kara Overcasher (painted rocks), Alexi Panehal (author), and Kathi Ruthsatz (Krazy Kat Kreations).

PHCR: Leslie Korenko



Jodie Smith

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! To all of the Island Bakers who donated baked goods to the Kelleys Island Historical Association Bake Sale! As a non-profit, volunteer supported, Community organization the KIHA would not be able to tell the history of our Island and its people without your valued support. In conjunction with the Arts & Crafts Fair, the Bake Sale was held at the Museum Campus and was well

attended! KIHA Board Member/volunteer, Teri Behrends graciously sold all of the baked goods and reported having a couple of delicious tastes herself! Thank you to all of you who contributed to and attended this KIHA fundraiser! Remember that the KIHA has many opportunities for volunteering. Being part of a volunteer organization in your community will bring you countless benefits. Volunteering delivers mental, physical, social and professional

rewards while strengthening your local community. Social contact and meaningful tasks contribute to a healthy lifestyle and has shown to be important in strong communities. Do you like to garden, clean, organize, sort, greet people, share some facts, be helpful to tourists, then volunteering at the KIHA is just what you may be looking for! Contact Justiina at 330-205-2285 to find out how you can start volunteering at the KIHA Museum Campus!

Sweet Success on August 1st!

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Kelleys Island Market Snapshot: July 15, 2026 - August 15, 2026

Land & Lots:

- Under Contract: 1
- Sold: 0
- Under Contract Days On Market: 133

Homes & Condos:

- Under Contract: 1
- Sold: 1
- Sold Average Days On Market: 155
- Sold Price Range: \$382,000

Active During Period:

- Homes Listed: 3
Price Range: \$599,000 - \$799,900
- Lots Listed: 3
Price Range: \$147,900 - \$195,000

All data from Firelands MLS from July 15, 2026 to August 14, 2026. Figures reflect MLS-listed properties only, deemed to be accurate but not guaranteed.

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