

The Put-in-Bay 25¢ GAZETTE



FEBRUARY 2024 VOLUME 44 NUMBER 2 WWW.PUTINBAY.NEWS

HERE, FISHY, FISHY!



If you have a subscription to the PIB Gazette, you may notice a date at the bottom of your address label below. This is your expiration month. If it says EXPIRED, please renew to continue your subscription. To renew, fill out the form on page 7 and return to us with a check or pay online at www.putinbay.news. If your date has an A at the end you are already enrolled in auto-renewals.

While January's ice fishing season came and went within the blink of an eye, it didn't stop these islanders from catching some nice looking walleye through the ice! Top Row left to right are Theresa Finney from Put-in-Bay Rd., Terry Jenkins from Ohio Edison, Aaron "Vern" Schroeder from East Point Ice Charters and Mike Koch from the Put-in-Bay Brewery & Distillery. Bottom Row left to right are Gwena Market from Miller Boat Line, Jordan Beck from Northern Exposure Investments, Ryan Stoiber from the Frosty Bar and Jordan Jenkins from the Park Hotel.

Lake Erie Safety Zone Regulation

The U.S. Coast Guard will enforce the safety zone on the lake during the winter months to protect those who use the waterways from hazards.

The U.S. Coast Guard began enforcing the regulation of a safety zone around the islands in Lake Erie on Wednesday, January 24th, at 8 a.m. for winter weather hazards.

The protocol is intended to protect those who use the waterway during the winter months from hazards associated with winter weather and navigation, according to the Coast Guard.



A map of the zone is included to the left.

The west boundary extends to Port Clinton, the south boundary extends to near Huron, and the north boundary extends to the U.S.-Canada border in the lake itself. - Credit: US Coast Guard

Isle St. George, Middle Bass Island, Put-in-Bay, Kelleys Island, Catawba Island, Lakeside Marblehead and the Sandusky Bay are covered in the safety zone.

Any vessels that entered the zone after enforcement began were required to contract Sector Detroit at (313) 568-9560 to request permission to enter the zone. The request must be made 72 hours in advance, the Coast Guard said.

Twenty Rescued from Ice Floe

On Monday, January 22nd, the Coast Guard rescued nine people and four people were rescued by the Put-in-Bay Fire Department from an ice floe about a half mile off Catawba Island. Seven people were able to self-rescue via their own airboat. A total of 20 people were rescued from the ice floe. At first, some individuals may have been unaware that they were on a drifting ice floe.

At 10:21 a.m. Coast Guard and local authorities responded to an initial report of more than 20 people on an ice floe a half mile off shore near Catawba Island. Coast Guard crews from Station Marblehead and Air Station Detroit responded in conjunction with the Put-in-Bay Fire Department and Ottawa County Sheriff's Office. In total, there were five rescue assets on scene: 1 Helicopter, 1 Sherp ATV and 3 Airboats. Stranded individuals were either ferried to Catawba Island State Park, or flown to the airport. There were no injuries reported.

"We are committed to public safety and want to remind everyone the importance of exercising caution around ice formations," said Lt. Adeeb Ahmad, Sector Detroit Public Affairs Officer. "Ice floes are unpredictable and can quickly become hazardous, particularly in windy conditions or strong currents. Always check local ice conditions before venturing out and be prepared for any emergencies. Your safety is our top priority."

For more information, contact Lt. Adeeb Ahmad, Sector Detroit Public Affairs Officer, at (313) 568-9473 or email Adeeb.S.Ahmad@uscg.mil.

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April
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Watch Ray's website at www.rayfogg.net and his Facebook page at www.facebook.com/therayfoggshow for more tour dates.

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Elizabeth Parker Fundraiser From Meredith Engel



Elizabeth Parker as a young woman.

Hi, my name is Meredith Engel, and I'm starting a fundraiser to build a memorial for the strongest woman I never met, my great-grandmother, Elizabeth Kuemmel Parker.

I am the daughter of Christie Ontko and Eric Engel, and granddaughter of Linda Parker and Charlie (Tuna) Ontko. I grew up hearing a scattering of stories about Parker Boat Line that once operated out of the downtown dock where the Jet Express now runs. My curiosity for these stories grew when I became the first woman to work aboard the Miller Boat Line ferries. I heard stories of my family's boat line from the captains at Miller's. Bob Stausmire of Middle Bass shared stories of my great-grandmother and told me once, "The boat line could never have run without Elizabeth." I had no idea. It was the first time I learned about who she was and what she had done. I thought, if Elizabeth's own great-granddaughter didn't know her story, how could anyone else? So, I set out on a journey to tell it: to honor my great-grandma Elizabeth with a lamppost on the dock where she worked, and a plaque that tells passers-by who she was, what she did and why she matters.

Elizabeth Kuemmel was the first student from Middle Bass to complete a year at Put-in-Bay School and graduated in 1931 with a class size of five. As many may know, Elizabeth married South Bass Islander, Alfred Parker, and together they ran the Parker Boat Line. Elizabeth ran the office and marina docks, doing all the book and record keeping, managed the freight and vehicle reservations, and made countless calls on the phone and transmissions over the radiotelephone. She also worked on the docks in a very physical capacity; Elizabeth loaded freight, gassed boats, caught lines for the incoming ferries and seasonal boaters.

Elizabeth's devotion to Parker Boat Line is admirable by any modern business owner's standards. Staying late at the office and into the night was her norm. So much so, she kept a cot for sleeping overnight when the work piled too high to leave. A testament to these late nights, I grew up hearing a unique boating navigation cue. When the fall comes and the buoys are removed from the harbor, boaters have to know when to turn the channel corner by Gibraltar Island. In the days of Parker Boat Line, boaters looked for "the light of Elizabeth's office," for knowing when to make the turn. Where the "light of Elizabeth's office" once was, the Jet Express Dock now exists. Today, the old adage is still passed down to generations who never actually saw this light - passed down to young boaters like me.

My great-grandmother died long before I was born. Elizabeth (Kuemmel) Parker passed in September of 1976. Her husband, my great-grandfather Alfred, lived until 1986. Following his death, a park was dedicated in his name on the West Shore. Today, there is no testament to my great-grandmother on the island. We have the power to change that. It's important to me that a memorial to Elizabeth be built and placed in plain sight. Her story deserves to be told. I fear that if there is no memorial to her life and the contributions she made to our island community, she will be forgotten.

I believe in the importance of promoting all the amazing things that women have accomplished and that it's time for the women in history to be properly recognized. When I was the only woman working on the Miller Ferry, not a single day passed without someone telling me how inspired they were seeing a female deckhand. It was an amazing feeling, to make a difference. I can only hope a memorial to Elizabeth, another woman who worked in the maritime industry, would have a similar impact.



Capt. Alfred Parker, Elizabeth and their daughter Linda.



Capt. Alfred Parker & Elizabeth in the pilot house of one of the ferries.

The funds from this fundraiser will be used to build a memorial dedicated to Elizabeth Parker near the Jet Express Dock on Put-in-Bay, which includes a lamppost and bronze plaque and all of the associated electrical and construction costs. The memorial is expected to be completed in 2024 with the help of the Blumensaadt and Duggan families so that "the light of Elizabeth's office" may shine on forever. My wish is that we not only raise money for a memorial, but that we bring back old memories of my great-grandmother and all who dedicated their time to Parker Boat Line and the Great Lakes maritime industry.

If you're still curious about the project, please contact me, my father Eric Engel, or my grandmother Linda Parker. Paper checks can be made payable to "Memorial Fund for Elizabeth Parker" and mailed to P.O. Box 335, Put-in-Bay, OH 43456. Online donations can be received at https://www.gofundme.com/f/elizabeth-parker-memorial.

THE PUT-IN-BAY GAZETTE

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Moss on the Rock

East Point Peacocks

We're sad to report that after nearly 40 years, there are no longer peacocks on East Point. Bill and Patty Sulesky have had peacocks on their East Point property since the mid-80s but the last two, a male and a female, both disappeared in late October and never returned home.

Mother of Sorrows Church Happenings

Our new Allen organ has arrived and sounds beautiful. Thank you to the Smith family for the most generous donation in memory of Dr. Robert Smith.

Parish School of Religion (PSR) for children continues this winter. The children are learning about the Parables of Jesus. First through sixth grade.

Fasnacht Bingo is Tuesday evening, February 13th in the Town Hall.

Lent begins on Wednesday February 14th, Ash Wednesday, which is also Valentine's Day. Mass will be at 4:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross will begin on Friday's during lent. Times to be announced.

Paid Parking Downtown

At the January 16th meeting of the Village Council, it was voted to authorize the mayor to execute a contract with T2 Parking System subject to review of the Village Solicitor. Before voting there was a discussion about paid parking downtown including the cost, equipment, location, signage and training for auxiliary officers who would issue parking tickets during the season. A \$15 per hour potential pay rate was discussed for six auxiliary officers. Parking fees would be collected on Delaware, Hartford and Catawba Avenues, plus in the lot behind the Town Hall.

Ohio Sea Grant Workshop for Teachers

Explore Lake Erie with the Shipboard Science Workshop from July 7th to 13th, 2024! This research voyage welcomes formal and nonformal 5th-12th grade educators from across the Great Lakes' states. Application began in early January with application deadline on February 19th. For more information, go to <https://www.cgll.org/education/professional-learning/r-v-lake-guardian/> for details to come in early 2024.

2023 Year End Publicity About the Lake Erie Islands

Katrina M. Reed Spatafore from Miller Boat Line let us know again about some of the publicity the island had as last year ended. Here are a few great articles:

- 10 Unforgettable Small Towns To Visit - *Ohio World Atlas*
- Lake Erie islands are hub for Great Lakes science - *M Live*
- Small Town Charm: 10 Quaint Fall Getaways In The Midwest To Book For A Colorful Trip - *The Travel*
- 9 Most Scenic Northern United States Towns - *World Atlas*

Win A Free Membership!

Alec Lydon from Muscle Bay announced in early January he would like to give some additional incentive to stick to that New Year's Resolution with your fitness journey. Starting from January 1st through the end of April, he will be giving five summer memberships away to the top 5 people who sign in the most. The rules are simple: 1) Sign name and date on the sign in sheet each time you visit the gym. One sign in per day will be counted. Winner will be announced in May once all the names are recorded and counted. Alec also wants to thank everyone who have helped make the gym be open in the winter possible and a big thank you to all those who have been coming and helping keep the gym a clean and friendly environment.

Grocery Delivery to the Islands

Griffing Flying Service, Inc. is happy to announce their grocery delivery service to the Lake Erie Islands is back for the winter season! Please email info@flygriffing.com to sign up, or call their office with any questions. For all returning customers, you must re-sign even if you had an account last year.

How soon we forget! 122 Years Ago this Month....

Another day (Feb. 15th, 1902), another ice mishap. Nelson Dwelle and Charles Stokes, two young Kelleys Island men, took an ice boat to Pelee Island. The return trip didn't go so well and they got stuck in a snow storm. They managed to find their way to Middle Island which was abandoned. They broke into the lighthouse for shelter.



The newest PIBVFD class in their turnout gear in January. Left to right are Noah Kneisley, Jeffrey James, Jordan Cendrosky, Benjamin Jones, Michael Pucak, Paden Nagle, Ashley Burkett, Taylor Hanes, Max Schneider, Jacob Fresch and David Scherf.

Volunteer Fire Department Class

On January 15th at the PIBVFD station, nine residents from Put-in-Bay and two residents from Middle Bass embarked on the journey to become volunteer firefighters. Two EHOVE instructors were at the PIB Fire Station to guide the students through four days of hands-on training with one day of physical testing. After these men and women finished the class the volunteer roster is now close to 50 members, 25 which have joined in the last two years.

Attend Stone Laboratory This Summer

Looking to attend classes at Stone Laboratory this summer? Our scholarships can help you get there! High school and college students can apply now for scholarship support to attend classes at Stone Lab, The Ohio State University's island campus on Gibraltar island. Stone Lab offers more than 20 college credit courses and workshops each summer on topics ranging from algae identification to ecology. The deadline for college students to apply for scholarships is February 15th, 2024. Anyone taking a for-credit class (as well as certain workshops) is eligible to apply for a Stone Lab scholarship. Awards are based on financial need. Learn more and apply at go.osu.edu/scholarship_app_2024.

ODNR Happenings for 2024

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has a couple of projects planned for 2024 that will impact Put-in-Bay and the Western Basin of Lake Erie. Construction will begin on a new Lake Erie fisheries research vessel. The new 55-foot boat will be used to conduct fisheries surveys in the western basin. The second thing is to begin construction on a new visitors center at Put-in-Bay. The Aquatic Visitor Center at the hatchery at the west end of Put-in-Bay Harbor will get a new look and bring focus to Lake Erie's world-class fisheries. The project will be completed in 2025.

Membership Reminder

Thank you to all the members who have renewed their Put-in-Bay Yacht Club memberships for 2024. Second notices have gone out in the mail. The club has a sizable waiting list. Anyone who has not paid their dues by Thursday, March 1st, will be considered as having resigned. Contact membership@pibyc.org with any questions. You can pay your dues through our online portal: <https://www.pibyc.org/membership-renewal>. Password is PIBYC2024.

Happy New Year from Perry's Monument

The staff at Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial are anxiously awaiting the 2024 season. Here are some highlights for the upcoming year: The seawall project will be completed in 2024, which means reopened access to the seawalls and a clear view; There will be The Don't Give Up The Arts special program where people of all ages are welcome to create artworks from materials found around the park; Kayaking tours will be debuting in 2024, taking short, guided trips to East Point from the park. Stay tuned for more details; and the observation deck will be reopened after the unfortunate lightning strike at the end of July 2023! To learn more about special events held at PEVI, check out their website at <https://www.nps.gov/pevi/planyourvisit/special-events.htm>.

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The EMT students had a competition in January to see who could reassemble the human anatomy the fastest and the guys won. Left to right are Jordan Cendrosky, Zach Hiss, JR Domer and Ben Jones.



Some members of the "Quad Squad" journeyed out to Buckeye Island in January when the water was low.

Island Diary January 2024

Mon., Jan. 1st - There's only one ferry trip off the island and one back for the holiday. Ty Winchester has Pasquale's open for carry-out pizza at dinner time. Jake and Renee Market host a party at their home.

Tue., Jan. 2nd - Miller Boat Line's extended ferry schedule has two trips in the morning and two trips in the afternoon as long as weather permits.

Wed., Jan. 3rd - The island kids head back to school after the Christmas vacation.

Thu., Jan. 4th - Billy Market warns of upcoming weather that will end ferry service soon. Dave and Kat Holscott from Mitchell Rd. are halfway around the world in Udaipur, India.

Fri., Jan. 5th - On this day in 1984, Kelleys Island Police Chief Norb McKillips passes away. He was the person three members of the Put-in-Bay Life Support Team and their pilot were en route by plane to provide aid to a month before, but their plane went down in the lake in dense fog. All four on board were killed. There's skim ice at the public docks. At Heineman Winery, they're bottling a delicious sweet red wine showcasing the rich velvet and cream flavors of the island Ives grape.

Sat., Jan. 6th - Panther varsity basketball team brings in new year with continued success at home. The Panthers defeated the visiting NW Ohio Classical Academy Spartans 42-38. Lear Cooks tops the scorers list with 16 points followed by Ritchie Scarpelli with 13. Lisa Brohl from the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy is busy working on a grant for the Duff Homestead.

Sun., Jan. 7th - Applications for the Sexton Job at St. Paul's are due today. Those who donated the beautiful poinsettias for the holidays may collect their plant after today's service.

Mon., Jan. 8th - This is the last day of ferry service for the season as freezing and windy weather is about to descend on the islands on Tuesday.

Tue., Jan. 9th - There's no quorum for the Village Council meeting and it is postponed until Thursday.

Wed., Jan. 10th - For those who want to try something new, the library has a Zentangle Coloring for island adults to soothe their minds. The movie at the PIB Yacht Club is "The Swan Princess."

Thu., Jan. 11th - Village Council votes to purchase a new Dodge Charger for the police department for \$34,283.50, plus equip it for \$15,128.10. Council also voted to hire Brian Cultice to be the IT consultant for the Village. On this date in 1942, Lonz Winery on Middle Bass Island burned to the ground. In the afternoon you can go to the library and try your hand at making a wine cork phone holder. The weather prediction for Saturday calls for winds in excess of 50 mph.

Fri., Jan. 12th - Billy Market posts on social media: "Minnow cart alert for Saturday! Strong East winds today until switching to the S'west tomorrow. Sustained 40 mph with gusts approaching 60. We will be losing 4 to 6 ft. of water by Saturday afternoon. Move your carts to deeper water or you'll be losing your catch. Save the minnows!" The PIB Panthers Basketball Team plays against an alumni team instead of their scheduled game. An alumni team made up of Zach Kowalski (PIBHS Class of 2003), Jack Booker (2017), Joe Byrnes (2019) Jacob King (2021) and Doug Steidl (2023) along with junior Geoffrey Luecke and Lance Saunders beat the high schoolers 77 to 71.

Sat., Jan. 13th - At 6 a.m., the wind direction is southwest at 37 knots gusting to 44 knots. With a temperature of 27 degrees, it makes for a 9 below zero windchill. The water in the lake leaves for Buffalo and many are out riding ATVs on the dry lake bottom or taking pictures of it along with the ice formations along the shoreline and exposed docks. Barry Koehler and Mike Koch make it to the back side of Gibraltar Island where Barry takes photos of the huge rock that looks like it is about to topple over. The PIB Panther basketball game is canceled due to the wind. The First Annual Library "Bar" Crawl takes place at the Erie Island Library for those who want to bring in their best bar cookies and win a gift card to one of the local businesses. Dona Mitchell and Kris McNew tied for first place.

Sun., Jan. 14th - At 10 a.m. it's 3 degrees with the wind blowing at 31 knots out of the west southwest. That makes for a -23.5 degree windchill. The wind continues blowing out of the SW most of the day. The frigid air sucks the warmth out of the water and it looks almost like smoke coming out of the heavy water.



Liam Market, a second grader at PIB School, standing on Lake Erie's lakebed near the downtown Miller Ferry docks on January 13th. There aren't many 7 year olds who can say they've done this.

Mon., Jan. 15th - School is closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It's one degree at 6 a.m. and the wind is half of what it was yesterday. Ullr finally wakes from hibernation and brings ice to the islands. The regulator on the propane tank at the Town Hall freezes up. Lyla Steidl is out taking some beautiful photos of the ice formations along the shoreline. She has a very good eye!

Tue., Jan. 16th - The Village Council meets and discusses a potential levy for police housing, expanding parking behind the Town Hall, abandoning the alley way behind the Brewery, Forge and Reel Bar, and paid parking town down. It also votes to file litigation against the Township for contracted police services in the last quarter of 2022.

Wed., Jan. 17th - The Put-in-Bay Yacht Club is where you want to be in the evening. It starts with a meeting of the Words & Wine group. The soup of the week is sausage and pepper, the dinner special is Chicken Marsala with salad, the Kids Movies Night film is "The Great Mouse Detective, plus there's Euchre for those who love to play cards.

Thu., Jan. 18th - The temperature is in the low 20s. That's a lot better than it was a couple of days ago. The first shanties are on the ice at the State Park. The Boardwalk, the Chamber of Commerce and The Crew's

Continued on Next Page

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Island Diary

Continued from Previous Page

Nest are representing Put-in-Bay at the Cleveland Boat Show, plus it's Put-in-Bay Day at the show.

Fri., Jan. 19th - In spite of the ice on the lake around the islands, the ice cover for Lake Erie is about half the 50-year average for this date. The long term weather forecast calls for a warm up during the last week of January. Ice shanties are appearing off the West Shore. The Panther Basketball Team hosts an island scrimmage at the school in the evening featuring a halftime performance by the Cheer Camp kids. Superintendent Mangas drains a three pointer at the buzzer before halftime to give the islander team the lead.

Sat., Jan. 20th - The beautiful day starts bright and sunny after a fresh coat of snow overnight and temperatures in the high single digits. Ryan Stoiber catches a very nice 28-inch walleye. The first drawing of the yacht club's rolling raffle takes place. Marcia Ashley and Jason Cooper draw Anna-Katrin Hildebrant's ticket. You can still buy your tickets at the club or online at PIBYC.ORG under Event and Fundraisers. The EMT students hold a competition today to see if the girls or guys can reassemble a model of the human anatomy the fastest.

Sun., Jan. 21st - The Forge is delivering snacks and beer for ice fishermen to the ice ramp on the West Shore. Barry Koehler builds a bonfire on the ice in the harbor and soon there's an ice party. Michele Heineman and Lisa and Bill Kehoe ride their ATVs from PIB to Middle Bass where they stop in front of Lonz Winery for a photo opportunity. Fr. Bob Solon, while wearing jaktrax, slips and falls at Topsy Turvey and breaks his leg and ankle. Get well soon, Bob!

Mon., Jan. 22nd - The normal daily high temperature for this date is 31 degrees and the low is 20, but today's actual high and low are 25 and 14. There's an ice rescue of 20 fishermen off the Catawba State Park who are caught on an ice floe. Along with the Coast Guard and mainland agencies, the PIB Vol. Fire Dept. comes to rescue with its airboat.

Tue., Jan. 23rd - And so it begins...above freezing temperatures and rain predicted for the next few days. Not good for the ice! As he flies over, Dustin Shaffer from Island Air Taxi spots the leftover quads, shanties and a snowmobile that were left on the ice after from yesterday's ice floe rescue...then the fog rolls in and flights stop. Put-in-Bay School cancels classes for the day and the Put-in-Bay Township Office closes due to icy weather conditions.

Wed., Jan. 24th - The thick fog and slippery roads didn't stop the parent/teacher conferences at PIB School. Island parents apparently went into the conferences in a fog and left in one, too. The kids had the day off...again.

Thu., Jan. 25th - It's the second day of fog. Movement of people and freight between the mainland and the islands is on hold. It reminds us of the old days waiting at the airport for the fog to lift so you could get on or off the island. Island Air Taxi pilot Dustin Shaffer says he doesn't have the foggiest idea of when the fog will clear and he will be able to begin flying.

Fri., Jan. 26th - It's the third day of thick fog. If you've got cabin fever being stuck on the island like this, you're probably not cut out for island life. Ma Werty says she remembers being stranded on the mainland once trying to get to PIB for five days due to fog. Members of the PIBVFD, Nate Jones, Doug Wilhelm and Bree Reynolds, run to the mainland on the department's airboat to get Larry Knaser his medication for his infection. He had run out of medication due to no planes since Tuesday morning.

Sat., Jan. 27th - It's still foggy and no flights, but Rescue Marine's tugboat "Charlotte Marie" arrives at the Lime Kiln Dock to shuttle a few lucky passengers to the mainland. At Heineman Winery, Dustin is fine tuning the next batch of Pink Catawba. Barry Koehler is exploring Buckeye Island and reports the shove ice piles are at least 15 feet high!

Sun., Jan. 28th - There's still fog, and no planes are flying. This is now 5 1/2 days of fog and low visibility. Services at St. Paul's Episcopal Church are cancelled as Fr. Bob is still stuck on the mainland after breaking his leg earlier in the week.

Mon., Jan. 29th - Eureka! The fog has finally lifted and planes can be heard flying to and from the island as soon as day breaks. It is estimated that 100 fishermen were stuck on the island for the 6-day fog event. It is a mad dash to get freight and mail to the island with over 600 packages waiting to be flown over. A US Coast Guard Helicopter from Detroit makes a quick stop at the Put-in-Bay Airport in the afternoon.



Tue., Jan. 30th - The new Village website is launched, check it out at villageofpib.com.

Wed., Jan. 31st - Heavy fog has descended upon the island once again and flights are delayed throughout the morning and afternoon. Aaron "Vern" Schroeder has the roof torn off the main house at the Stonehenge property. Put-in-Bay Yacht Club ends the month with a bowl of potato soup as the soup of the week.

Here is just a portion of the freight that piled up during the 6-day fog event in late January. An estimated 600 packages were waiting at the Port Clinton airport to be flown to Put-in-Bay and Middle Bass.



Having fun at the Cleveland Boat Show was this happy group representing the island. Left to right are Jeremy Roach, Bret Klun from the Keys, Ali Cutshall, Eric Booker from the Boardwalk, Eva Rence, Jessica Mohn and Ashton Pupos.



Barry Koehler got this shot of these nearly 15-foot-high ice shoves on Buckeye Island in late January.

ISLAND CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2024

TH = Town Hall • Senior Center = Sr Cen • MBI = Middle Bass
Twp Hall = Township Hall • MOS = Mother of Sorrows

FEB. EVENT SCHEDULE

- ❑ LIBRARY EVENT SCHEDULE • SEE PAGE 7
- ❑ PIBYC FEBRUARY SCHEDULE • SEE PAGE 7
- ❑ SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR • SEE PAGE 13
- ❑ Blood Pressure Day • Mondays 10-11a • Senior Center
- ❑ Pool Tournaments • Mondays - 7p • Topsy Turvey's
- ❑ Rec Volleyball League • Mondays - 7-9p • School Gymnasium
- ❑ Euchre • Wednesdays - 630p • PIBYC
- ❑ Dart League • Weds & Thurs - 7p • Topsy Turvey's
- ❑ First National Bank Open • Wednesdays - 9:30a-3:30p
- ❑ Winter Freight Room Open • Mon-Fri - 10a-4p • Airport
- ❑ Chocolate Fest • Feb 10 - 10-11:30a • Library
- ❑ PIBYC Winter Doldrums • Feb 9 - 11 • Port Clinton
- ❑ All You Can Eat Buffet • Super Bowl Sunday - Feb 11 • PIBYC
- ❑ PIBVFD Noodle Toast Breakfast • Feb 12 - 8-11:30a • Fire Station
- ❑ Fastnacht Bingo Party • Feb 13 - 7-9p • Town Hall
- ❑ Put-in-Palooza • Feb 14 thru 17 • Key West, FL
- ❑ Kurt Rohrbacher Memorial Ice Fishing Tournament • Postponed
- ❑ Mid-Winter School Break • Feb 23 thru Mar 3

FEB. MEETING SCHEDULE

- ❑ PIB Vol Fire Dept Mtg • 1st Mon of Month - 7p • Fire Station
- ❑ PIB Village Council Mtg • No Meeting in February
- ❑ Twp Zoning Commission • No Meeting in February
- ❑ PIB Rec Committee • Feb 5 - 3:30p • School
- ❑ PIB Township Trustees Mtg • Feb 13 - 10a • Twp Hall
- ❑ PIB Village Planning Com • Feb 13 - 11:30a • TH
- ❑ PIB Village Tree Commission • Feb 14 - 9:45a
- ❑ PIB Twp Park District • Feb 14 - 10a
- ❑ PIB Chamber of Commerce Exec Board • Feb 14 - 10a
- ❑ Twp Zoning Board of Appeals • Feb 14 - 1p • Twp Hall
- ❑ PIB Village Mayor's Court • Feb 15 - 10a
- ❑ LEI Conservancy • Feb 14 - 7p • Zoom
- ❑ Dock Trash Yacht Club Party • Feb 16 to 18 • Commodore Perry Inn Port Clinton
- ❑ PIB Port Authority Mtg • Feb 19 - 5p
- ❑ Bd of Education • Feb 20 - 12:15p • School Multipurpose Room

FEB. CHURCH SCHEDULES

- Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church**
- ❑ PIB Mass • Sundays - 10:30a
- ❑ Ash Wednesday Service • Feb 14 - 4:30p
- St Paul's Episcopal Church**
- ❑ Holy Eucharist • Sundays - 10:30a

COMING EVENTS IN MARCH

- ❑ Emerald Shiner's Irish Pub • Mar 17 • Topsy's
- ❑ Talent Show • Mar 14 - 7p • School Gymnasium
- ❑ Easter Egg Hunt • Mar 30 - 11a • DeRivera Park

RECYCLING HOURS

- ❑ Mon & Wed • 8a to 2p • Transfer Station

MEDICATION DISPOSAL

- ❑ Put-in-Bay's medication disposal container is located in the lobby of the Put-in-Bay Police Department at the Town Hall

LIBRARY HOURS

- ❑ Open Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat • 10a-2p | Tues & Thurs 3-7p

Email items for the Island Calendar to pibgazette@frontier.com

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PIB School Basketball Team scrimmaged the the islander team on Jan. 19th. Back row (L to R) are Geoffrey Luecke, Caleb Kowalski, Scott Mangas, Jacob Seaman, Elias Wright, Brennan Jones, Dominik Kruszynski, Cody Kowalski, Matt Fuchs, Kenny Crawford, Jared Dress, Lance Saunders and David Hill. Front row (L to R) are Lucas Kostura, Angela and Olivia Christensen, Colin Marshal, Michael Steidl, Ava Heineman, Kristin Stanford, Richard Scarpelli, Joe and Jen Blumensaadt, Sue and Lear Cooks, Aayden Kruszynski, Kate Hubner and Coach Craig Schuffenecker.



The Put-in-Bay Cheer Camp performed at haftime of the scrimmage on Jan. 19th. Back row (L to R) are Meredith Cooper, Hope Cooks, Drew Christensen, Rachel Cooper, Braylee Dobos, Erin Stapleton, Norah Blumensaadt, Melody O'Donnell, Vivian Scarpelli, Piper Koehler, Skylar Stoiber, Evelyn Werthenbach and Emma Michael. Bottom row (L to R) are Brooklyn Williams, Wade Wertebach, Liam Market, Brynn Marshall, Greta Koehler, Nadine Saunders, Isla, Leila and Grayson Koch, Aurora Jenkins, Evie Cultice and Lily Schweitzer.

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Island PHoto Op: GLIA, Loving Island Life

By Peter Huston



PETER HUSTON

I have to admit I really love living on an island. Not just part time, but all four seasons. I'm looking for someone who loves island life as much as I do to work for the Great Lakes Islands Alliance (GLIA) part time. Are you this person?!

Before I came to Put-in-Bay, I lived for a decade in the Vermont mountains near Sugarbush Ski Resort. Like the islands, it's a desirable destination with a short season. I like the mountains. In mountains and islands, tourism can provide jobs and commerce for a community, but living year round on South Bass I have learned about the many island intangibles, like islander resilience and self-reliance. "Get' Er Done. Making it work. I love island life.

As part of my job with GLIA over the past three years I have visited 15 of our 20 year-round GLIA member islands in the great lakes observing and comparing island communities.

For most of the islands that I have visited, tourism and service industry jobs are the economic engine that employs island residents and countless summer workers. It has become the way to ensure sustainable-year round employment.

I have to admit I really love living on an island. Not just part time, but all four seasons. I'm looking for someone who loves island life as much as I do to work for the Great Lakes Islands Alliance (GLIA) part time. Perhaps you're that person. When I moved to Put-in-Bay from Vermont in 2005, I had been living near a ski resort called Sugarbush for 10 years. It's desirable winter destination status and short visitation season are much like Put-in-Bay. It is similar, but not the same. I like the mountains, I love island life.

As part of my job with GLIA over the past three years I have visited 15 of our 20 year round GLIA member islands in the great lakes observing and comparing island communities. For most of the islands that I have visited, tourism is the economic engine that employees island residents and countless summer workers. It has become the way to ensure sustainable year round living on South Bass Island. Knowing some background about island life would be very helpful.

Tourism may provide jobs and commerce for our (island) community, but after living year round on South Bass full time since 2006 I have learned about the many intangible things that make island living special and fun year round. I have learned so much about islander resilience and self reliance.

When I first arrived in Put-in-Bay, I was fortunate to be a tour train driver employed by the Duggan family. It afforded me the opportunity to learn local history, share it with visitors and get a deeper sense of what makes the Bass Islands truly unique. It also primed me for learning how other islands work.

If you have a keen Interest in learning about "island community" and being a conduit of information, this may be a great job for you. My five years as Chamber director connected me to local governance, problem solving, and often unseen management of the island. Someone observed, "no person is an island to themselves." GLIA's mission is to be a conduit of information for our island partners. Sharing challenges and successes, solutions unique to islands. This best describes what GLIA does.

The Great Lakes Islands Alliance, or GLIA, is a voluntary, collaborative network of islanders from 20 islands around the Great Lakes. Since 2018, the mission of GLIA is to "encourage relationship building, foster information exchange, and leverage resources to address shared challenges and embrace opportunities to benefit islands." We've found that island communities have much in common, despite the differences in size, history, culture, and geography. GLIA shares local experiences across a wide range of topics, including environmental protection, transportation, tourism, housing, emergency services, island schools, infrastructure, and more. Importantly, we seek solutions and look to the future. Membership of GLIA is free and open to any islander, both year-round and seasonal. Existing members wear many hats, including local government, boards and commissions, non-profits, schools, Chambers of Commerce, businesses, property owner associations, island media and retirees. GLIA convenes once monthly via zoom and annually in-person at our Islands Summit (our next Summit will be Sept. 22-25, 2024 in Hessel/Cedarville, MI, home of the Les Cheneaux Islands in northern Lake Huron).

GLIA needs a person who enjoys these challenges and wants to get involved. In 2016 when Matt Preisser and Jon Allan (organizers of GLIA) walked into the chamber office with a handshake and an idea to form GLIA it was a transformative moment for me, an aha moment. GLIA needs a communications person and a fundraising specialist who are interested in being a part of this great organization.

Anyone is welcome to apply, you don't need to be an islander, you don't even have to live year round (although it is the perfect winter work from home job, but you need to have experienced and embrace the joy of island life and understand the challenges and the many wonderful benefits it can provide. Contact Brian at the Gazette to get the job descriptions.

Don't want a job, but want to join? Membership of GLIA is free and open to any islander, both year-round and seasonal. Existing members wear many hats, including local government officials, boards and committees, non-profits, schools, Chambers of Commerce, businesses, property owner associations, island media and retirees. As a GLIA member, you'll be invited to monthly zoom meetings and our annual in-person Islands Summit (our fall 2024 event will be Sept. 22-25, 2024 in Hessel/Cedarville, MI, home of the Les Cheneaux Islands in northern Lake Huron). Mainland-based partners and advocates are also welcome to reach out. Please visit us at <https://glialliance.org/>

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School News

By Mr. Scott Mangas, Superintendent



SCOTT MANGAS

As we delve into the second semester, we reflect on a fantastic journey through half of the 2023-24 school year. Congratulations to the accomplishments and growth so far, and here's to the excitement that lies ahead!

Our basketball teams are giving their all, with the JV and varsity seasons in full swing. Come cheer for your Panthers, as they navigate the remaining games. The JV team is presently 0-4 with 2 games to play and our Varsity is 7-4 with 5 games remaining.

Save the dates: Science Fair on February 9th in the high school gym, and Winter Sports Awards Night on February 13th.

Winter break is just around the corner, from February 23rd to March 3rd. Don't miss the chance to relax and recharge!

Our Mini-Cheerleaders showcased their talents on January 19th, adding spirit to the basketball game. The varsity team took on a group of islanders in a tough fought battle. I will not reveal the score, for I was a participant on the team that failed to score more points than the Varsity Panther Team.

Lucas Kostura scored an amazing last second giving the PIB Panther Basketball Team the lead over Jones Leadership Academy 37-32 on January 20th. Great win Panthers!
-Photo by Rudy Cooks



PIB Brownie Troop 1314 making valentines and cookies for the senior center for Valentine's Day. Clockwise from the top are Braylee Dobos, Isla Koch, Erin Stapleton, Vivian Scarpelli, Evelyn Wertenbach, Brooklyn Williams, Norah Blumen-saadt and Rachel Cooper.



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Library News

What's Happening at Your Local Library?

We would like to thank all the entrants for our first "Bar Crawl" in January. Congratulations to Dona Mitchell and Kris McNew, who tied for first place and will be receiving gift certificates to Topsy Turvey's or Mossbacks. Honorable mentions go to Rudy Rence, Mark Wilhelm and Sue Ferguson. Special shout-out to everyone who participated in sampling the delicious treats!

Thu., Feb. 1st - 4 p.m.: Sit-n-Stitch with Heather - Join Heather Durdil, creator of the "Spins a Yarn" podcast and knitter extraordinaire, on the first Thursday of each month at the library to work on your yarn project. Knit, crochet, needlepoint, counted cross-stitch...any project is acceptable! No need to register.

Tue., Feb. 6th - 3:30 p.m.: Salt Dough Candy Hearts - Let's press and paint candy hearts for our special someone to gift for Valentine's Day. No registration needed.

Sat., Feb. 10th: CHOCOLATE FEST! - Chocolate Cookies, Chocolate Fudge, Chocolate Cake! Which is best? YOU be the judge! The public is invited to enjoy delicious chocolate treats prepared by the best local cooks! Do you think you have the winning chocolate recipe? Great! Bring it to the library for a chance to win a gift card to one of the local businesses.

Here's what to do: let us know you are coming to submit a treat by stopping in or calling us at (419) 285-4004. Leave your name and phone number so we can remind you the day beforehand. Bring 4 dozen sample size (bite size) servings to the library on Saturday, February 10th, between 9:45 and 10:15 a.m. You are not required to stay with your entry during the entire event, but we would love to have you stay to sample all the goodies and to vote for your favorite. Please bring your creation ready to be displayed and include any necessary utensils. (Please label all your utensils.)

Voting will be from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. or while supplies last! Everyone is invited to vote for their favorite entry.

Donations will be accepted for Friends of the Library who sponsor many of our activities.

Mon., Feb. 12th - 10:30 a.m.: Preschool Story Time - Join Librarian Karen Wilhelm for a half hour of reading, song and a craft to take home. Parents and caregivers are asked to stay with their children. No registration required.

Tue., Feb. 13th - 3:30 p.m.: Duct Tape Wallets - Looking for a fun craft to make that is useful? Come to the library to make your very own duct tape wallet. Younger students may need a parent or guardian to assist with this craft. No registration necessary.

Thu., Feb. 15th - 5-6:30 p.m.: Movie Night at the Library - Join us for a fun night with friends. We'll show a family friendly movie and supply popcorn and drinks. Everyone is welcome! This month's selection: Despicable Me. Approx. 95 minutes. Rating PG. No registration necessary.

Feb. 19th: CLOSED for President's Day

Tue., Feb. 20th - 3:30 p.m.: Kids Book Club for Grades 3-6 - Join us and share a book you have read while enjoying a beverage you bring or hot cocoa. We'll even have popcorn to munch. Even if you haven't had time to read, you are welcome to join us to hear what others are suggesting. We can't wait to hear what you have been reading! New members in grades 3-6 are always welcome. No registration required.

Wed., Feb. 21st at 5:30 p.m.: Words & Wine Book Club - Join us and share a book you have read while enjoying a beverage of your own choosing. Even if you haven't had time to read, you are welcome to join us to hear what others are suggesting. We can't wait to hear what you have been reading! New adult members are always welcome. No registration necessary. Location: Put-in-Bay Yacht Club.

PUT-IN-BAY YACHT CLUB

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Open at 5pm:
Wednesdays - 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
(Wednesdays - Kids Movie Night from 6-7pm)

Saturdays - 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th

Reminder: Our delicious food is open to all members, guests, and island friends, however, our bar is members only.

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FEB24

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Barry Koehler took the photo on the left on the north shore of Gibraltar Island when the water went out last month. The balancing boulder/rock is the same one he took on the right in December of 2022 when the water went out even a bit further. It got us wondering, when will this thing finally tip over?

Listen to Larry

By Larry Schrader
News, Views and Comments
from a South Bass Cottager...



LARRY SCHRADER

In last month's column, I suggested that the continued pace of Global Warming could make cottage life here on the Bass Islands a year-round affair. As it is turning out, our Winter of 2023-24 offers further evidence of this trend toward warmer weather. The thermometer rarely dropped below thirty in December – it was almost 60-degrees on Christmas Day! And, although a January freeze arrived with enough ice to bring out the fishing shanties, it barely lasted a week.

After last month's column was published, I received a letter from a Gazette reader, a West Shore cottager, and an avid fan of "Listen to Larry." He included a column he had clipped from his local newspaper. Believe it or not, Global Warming has already had an impact on another, mostly unexpected industry – researchers, farmers, and brewers are already working to safeguard beer production from the effects of climate change. Here, the home of Ohio's oldest winery, a place where Margaritas and Mojitos, and more than a few beers are routinely consumed by our fun-loving Summer visitors, problems in the brewing industry could spell disaster for Put-in-Bay! In fact, I'm told that beer is also a popular refreshment of many cottagers as well. What in the world is going on?

In the newspaper article, reporters Melina Walling, Amanda Loman, and Brooke Herbert of the Associated Press report that two key components of beer production, hops and barley, are already being challenged by climate change. For those not familiar with the brewing process, hops help to keep beer fresher, longer; promote a healthy head of foam; and most importantly, are a key component of a beer's aroma and flavor – the "spice" of beer. Hops are a green, cone-shaped flower of the female hop plant, *Humulus Lupulus*. Barley is the preferred source of fermentable sugars that yeast feed on to produce alcohol, essential to brewing and a key component of the characteristic color and taste of beer. Without hops and barley, we will have no beer, at least not a beer with the flavor and feel we have come to love.

Crop yields, both in Europe and the United States are down as much as twenty percent because of extreme heat, drought, and unpredictable growing seasons. Researchers are developing improved plant variants to stand up to the terrors of climate change but retain the taste profiles of the traditional crops. And of course, there is always a need for fresh water, both for the crops and to make the beer itself! Indeed, these key components of a beloved beverage face a very real threat.

So where does our little island fit into this puzzle? Well, we are certainly blessed with an abundance of fresh water. Our climate, tempered by the warm waters of the lake, has been the perfect place for growing grapes since Gustav Heineman first put a shovel in the ground way back in 1888! Why not add hops and barley to the mix?

As I peddle my bike around the Island, there seems to be plenty of available acreage, and we have open land on Middle Bass and North Bass as well. Sturdy, more weather resistant crops in late-Autumn and early-Spring will offer new job opportunities for seasonal workers usually left idle after the tourist season ends. We also have an ample supply of senior citizens that can use some extra income as well – planting, harvesting, working the land! Abundant crops of hops and barley can provide a valuable new source of income for Islanders and cottagers, a new income stream, tax revenue too!

Don't wait until it is too late, spring to action now – we can't afford to dally until there is no beer! I have already told Mrs. Larry to say goodbye to her cute, little flower garden by our cottage – I'm planting hops!

News from Other Islands

Middle Bass Packages at Airport

Dustin Shaffer from Island Air Taxi has a spot at the Middle Bass airport terminal for any UPS returns/outgoing packages. Just leave them on the table by the sign and he'll take them to the mainland for shipping. On normal weather days, he should have all the UPS packages delivered to all the islands by 3 p.m. at the latest. If there are any questions or comments, please call or text (419) 573-2960.

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Aaron Shaffer from the Village of Put-in-Bay posing with "Old Man Winter" on the dock at the State Park on a cold day in January.

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Kelleys Island News

By Leslie Korenko



LESLIE KORENKO

And so it begins, the struggle to remember to write 2024 on everything. It wasn't a white Christmas, but a balmy 55 degree day. Thanks to the KI Ferry, we got a Christmas present of a free round trip which we all appreciated. It didn't really start to snow until mid-January. While rumors ran wild about when the ferry would shut down, it was the weather that had the final word. There was a massive windstorm that dropped the lake over 4 ft. Air temps dropped into the single digits and the lake steamed, giving off her heat, and that began the freeze cycle. With the arctic temps the lake froze almost overnight. The official end date for the ferry was January 15th.

Hopes ran high for ice fishing, and one brave soul actually took a collapsible ice shanty out off the State Park beach. It was only for one day, but that counts.

The Coyote hunters were back on the Island, spending a day here and there hunting. One day they took out five. A coyote was recently spotted far out on the ice. It may be that, for the first time in years, it was able to cross back to the mainland.

Building permits totaled 51 in 2023 covering quite a few decks, additional rooms, fences and garage/barns. In addition, 13 homes are being built. One on Long Point will be 5,000 sq. ft.

And finally, I want to apologize for an error in last month's issue. Acoustics in the Hall are still quite bad and I misheard that Chief Jamie was leaving when, in fact, it was Officer Amy Lee who has left. Amy will be missed but we are glad that Jamie is staying.



Brenda "Mermaid," Cliff Fulton and Paula and Ed Hubner read their PIB Gazette while out in Las Vegas in January. Enjoy it while you still can, Paula!

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NOTICES FROM THE VILLAGE OF PUT-IN-BAY



Special Notice to People on Ice Near the PIB Water Plant

The Village of Put-in-Bay Water Plant has a new water intake assembly. The intake is located approx. 500' to 600' off shore and due east of the Water Plant. The plant is located at the end of Sybil Blvd. The new intake is equipped with an air burst system to clean the intake. The daily air burst will thin the ice above the intake. Beware of thinner than normal ice above the intake.

Seasonal Help Wanted For the 2024 Season

Dockmasters Needed for Village's Public Docks
Rest Room Attendants For Park Bathhouse
Good Pay Must be over 18
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Call and Ask for Anne Auger
(419) 285-8545

LEGAL NOTICE: Annual Financial Report Available

The Annual Financial Report of the Village of Put-in-Bay for 2023 has been filed with the State of Ohio. These records are available for inspection during the regular course of business at the office of the Fiscal Officer, which is located at 435 Catawba Avenue, Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456.

OPEN POSITIONS

Utilities Assistant, Part-Time
Dock Manager, Full-Time (seasonal)

Full job descriptions can be found at villageofpib.com. Please email resumes to villageadmin@villageofpib.com.

PUT-IN-BAY VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Village Mayor - Judy Berry
Village Clerk - Courtney Blumensaadt - 419-285-4313
Village Council Members
Jeff Koehler, Jake Market, Fred Cerny, Jeff Biery, Craig Cox & Pam Stephens
Village Administrator
Anne Auger - 419-285-8545
Village Planning Commission Members
Fred Cerny, Mayor Judy Berry, Jerry Flint, Renee Market & Alternate Ty Winchester
Zoning Inspector
Todd Bickley - 419-341-3481
Zoning Clerk & Mayor's Court Clerk
Karen Goaziou - 419-285-2443
Dockmaster for A & C Docks - 419-285-2068
Police Dept.
Non-emergency Mobile Office - 419-285-4121
Non-emergency Police Dept. - 419-285-3962

TOWNSHIP OPEN POSITION

The Put-in-Bay Township is looking to hire a Full-Time Administrative Assistant

You must be able to work Monday - Friday 32 to 40 hrs. as needed.

This position comes with full benefits.
A detailed job description is available upon request.

Email resumes to clerk@pibtownship.com
They may also be delivered to the Township office M-F, 8am to 3pm.
Located at 624 Trenton Ave., Put-in-Bay, OH.

PIB TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Trustees – Matt Miller, Chris Cooper, Eric Engel
Fiscal Officer/Clerk – Laurie Miller
Administrative Assistant - Beth Furner
Please address all correspondence to Put-in-Bay Township, PO Box 127, Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456 • 419-285-2292
Zoning Commission – Marsha Parker - Chairman, Joe Shull, Dave Washtock and John B. Fisher
Zoning Board of Appeals – Greg Auger - Chairman, Mary Ann McCann, Lyndell Bartels, Eric Booker, Cliff Fulton, Alternates David Nostrant and Tom Thanasiu
Zoning Inspector – Greg Dobos – 419-960-9886
Assistant Inspector – Laurie Miller – 419-341-4785
Zoning Secretary – Karen Goaziou – 419-285-2292
Please address all correspondence to Put-in-Bay Township Zoning PO Box 447, Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456
Port Authority – Rick Ziebarth, Lorna Strayer, Bob Stausmire, Chris Ladd, Mark Friebel and Secretary: Rosann Keiser
Please address all correspondence to PORT AUTHORITY PO Box 278, Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456. Tel. (419) 285-3371
Web site www.pibtownship.com
PIB Cemetery Sexton - Bob Bahney - 419-285-3424
MBI Cemetery Sexton - Katie Schneider - 419-285-2810

OPEN ZONING POSITION


The Put-in-Bay Township Trustees are accepting applications from island (South Bass, Middle Bass and North Bass) residents and/or property owners with a serious interest in the Township Zoning Boards.

The purpose of zoning is to promote a well-balanced community and abide by the community's needs while taking into consideration population, growth and proper land use.

Those interested in participating in the Township's zoning regulations and planning should email a letter of interest to fiscalofficer@pibtownship.com or drop off at the Put-in-Bay Township Office, 624 Trenton Ave.

NOTICE

The Annual Report for 2023 of Put-in-Bay Township has been completed and submitted to the Auditor of State, Keith Faber's Office. The Annual Report for 2023 is available for review at the Fiscal Officer's office of the Township Located at 624 Trenton Ave., Put-in-Bay, Ottawa County, Ohio.



To Make a Donation to the "Law Enforcement Foundation Fund"
Please visit WWW.VILLAGEOFPIB.COM and click on the link. Your continued support for the Village of PIB Police Department is greatly appreciated!



Put-in-Bay Township Recycling Center

WINTER HOURS

MONDAYS 8A-2P
WEDNESDAYS 8A-2P
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Island Club Taxi will be looking for full-time taxi drivers for the 2024 season
 Please call
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2024 GAZETTE PRINT DATES

- January – January 4th
- February – February 1st
- March – March 4th
- April – April 1st
- May – May 2nd
- June – May 30th
- July – July 1st
- August – August 1st
- September – August 29th
- October – October 3rd
- November – November 4th
- December – December 2nd

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Middle Bass Island Town Hall Lawn Care Services NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Proposals will be received for the Middle Bass Town Hall – Lawn Care Services, no later than 4:00 p.m. EST on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Bids will then be opened privately at a special board meeting. Proposals must be delivered to the board via mail, email or hand delivery. The mailing addresses are provided within the bid documents which are posted in the North, South, and Middle Bass Post Offices.

For a copy of the bid proposal, requests should be directed to Marty Harayda, Project Coordinator at 419-656-1226 or mdharajda@yahoo.com.

Proposals received after the date and time will be considered late and will be returned to the submitting party unopened.

Middle Bass Town Hall Board reserves the right to waive irregularities in the bids and to reject any or all proposals.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within thirty (30) days after the bid opening.

Winning bids will be announced on Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

Middle Bass Island Town Hall Interior Cleaning NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Proposals will be received for the Middle Bass Town Hall – Interior Cleaning, no later than 4:00 p.m., EST on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Bids will then be opened privately at a special board meeting. Proposals must be delivered to the board via mail, email or hand delivery. The mailing addresses are provided within the bid documents which are posted in the North, South, and Middle Bass Post Offices.

For a copy of the bid proposal, requests should be directed to Marty Harayda, Project Coordinator at 419-656-1226 or mdharajda@yahoo.com.

Proposals received after the date and time will be considered late and will be returned to the submitting party unopened.

Middle Bass Town Hall Board reserves the right to waive irregularities in the bids and to reject any or all proposals.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within thirty (30) days after the bid opening.

Winning bids will be announced on Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

HELP WANTED ALL POSITIONS AVAILABLE Full Time & Part Time
 Kitchen • Servers
 Dockmasters • Bartenders
 Housing Available
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VOLUNTEERS Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce
 The Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau is looking for enthusiastic and outgoing volunteers from May to September of the 2024 season. Volunteers will help welcome visitors and direct them to the island guides, island maps and other printed materials located in the chamber lobby. Shifts will be 3-4 hours long on a needed basis. For more information please email Wendy Chambers at director@visitputinbay.com.

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Penelope Rose Pierce



Eric Engel & Julie Leopold



Herb Fultz



Sue Harbak



Charley Checker

Milestones

BIRTHS

Penelope Rose Pierce

Mitch and Beth Kovacic Pierce are pleased to announce the birth of an 8-pound daughter, Penelope Rose, on Monday, January 1st, in Cincinnati. Parents Bethany and Mitch Pierce reside in Cincinnati where Beth works as an Interior Designer and Mitch works as a Dentist. During High School, Beth worked at Perry's Cave and Misty Bay Boutique. Maternal grandparents are Tom and Jacky Kovacic of Duff Road, and maternal great-grandmother is Gloria Kindt of Catawba Ave.

MARRIED

Eric Engel & Julie Leopold

Congratulations go out to Eric Engel and Julie Leopold who were married on January 7th in St. John, USVI. Julie was happily surprised when her parents John and Peggy Leopold and her older sister Jenny arrived at St. John the day of the wedding. Eric is a Capt. for Miller Boat Line and a Twp. Trustee. Julie is the head of housekeeping for Island Club Rentals.

OBITUARIES

Herbert "Herb" Fultz

Herbert E. Fultz, age 75 of Monclova, OH, passed away peacefully on January 6th, 2024 while surrounded by his family. Herb was born to Harry and Cecile Mae (Howe) Fultz on November 9, 1948. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Toledo. Herb married the love of his life, Diane McLellan in 1978 and together they raised 3 wonderful children. He started the Whitehurst Company in November 1983 with his partner, James McInnis and together they developed numerous multi-family housing projects over the years. Herb was one of the most prominent builders of houses, apartments and condominiums in the Toledo area and Cottonwood, AZ. He had a passion for collecting cars and Lake Erie where he loved boating and spending time on Middle Bass Island with family and friends. He also enjoyed spending his winters in Florida. Herb was a dedicated family man and loved taking trips and spending time with his family and friends. Herb was preceded in death by his parents; son, Ian; 3 brothers and 3 sisters. He is survived by his loving wife, Diane; daughters, Christina (Todd) Ely, Renee (Lucas Guy) Fultz of Put-in-Bay; grandchildren, Jake, Talon, Ryan (Kelly), Taner and another grandchild on the way; sisters, Joyce Johnson and Terria Lowe; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Memorials may take the form of contributions to Hospice of Northwest Ohio Ebeid Center or to the charity of the donor's choice. Herb always said he was immortal, and he will continue to be immortal in the hearts of all who knew him. He was the best there ever was.

Moss on the Rock

Interesting Numbers

It was a busy season on all the Bass Island State Parks last year. In total, they had 11,666 nights camped and 3,456 marina slips rented.

Busy Travelling

St. Croix in the Virgin Islands saw several people from Put-in-Bay coming and going this past month. Tali Steidl (PIBHS Class of 2021) arrived mid month from Colorado to start working at the Goat Soup & Whiskey, Roger and Mary Parker from Mitchell Rd. spent a week, Sue and George Gazdick and Bev and Ron Ruden from Rabbit Run on East Point, Adam and Acka Riley and their son Dylan left mid-month after several weeks there, plus Jeff and Kendra Koehler from the Put-in-Bay Gazette were there, as were Peter and Amy Huston.

Skip and Kim Stoiber Morrisson from Frosty's celebrated their anniversary with Joan and Roger Rhoad from East Point on Saint Martin. And then a few days later, Joan and Roger showed up in the British Virgin Islands, on Jost Van Dyke, with an interesting group that got together for dinner. Included were Ray and Laura Fogg from the Reel Bar, Jack and Lorraine Zimmerman from the airport, Mike and Peggy Russell from Bath St., Jill Luttrell and former Pheasant Tail owners Shawn and Jessica Chaney.

Skiing in Park City, Utah was the thing to do for the Miyo Hristovski family. Others skiing out west in Vail were Dave Washstock and his bride Margaret and his nephew Alec Lydon from Muscle Bay Fitness.

Ryan and Jenni Stoiber, Billy and Allie Market and Bret and Meredith Klun were in Cancun, Mexico.

Susan E. "Sue" Harbak

Sue (nee Chorman) Harbak, 79, of Middle Bass Island, passed away peacefully Oct. 26th, 2023. She was born Feb. 1st, 1944, to Fred and Betty Chorman in Cleveland. After graduating from Shaw High School, she went on to complete a bachelor's degree at Case Western Reserve University. In 1963, she married her high school sweetheart, Gerald Harbak. She is survived by her husband, Gerald; children, David (Carol) Harbak of Montville and Amy (Bill) Saltz of Mentor; grandchildren, Brian (Alisen) Saltz and Alyssa Saltz; great-grandchildren, Nolan, Aria, and Levi Saltz; brother, William (Marilyn); aunt, Jean; and many nieces and nephews. Sue was predeceased by her parents; and siblings, James, Nancy and Robert. Sue was the Treasurer of Painesville City Schools for 25 years, and a member of the Ohio State School Treasurer Association and Women's Investment Club. She enjoyed traveling with her husband and was able to visit many beautiful places all over the world. After retiring, Sue and Jerry split their time between Naples, Fla., and Middle Bass Island, where they built their dream cottage on the lake. You could always find her watching the sunset on the deck or spending time with their many friends who turned into family. In her free time, she enjoyed boating, rug-hooking, shopping, interior decorating and reading. But her greatest joy of all was spending time with her kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids. She was a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to so many people. Being kind and honest to everyone was at the top of her many "lists." She will be missed beyond measure. Private burial service will be held on Middle Bass Island.

Charley "Checker" Kniffen

Charley "Checker" Kniffen, beloved Pomeranian-Chihuahua of David (PIBHS Class of 1997) and Connie Kniffen passed away on January 12th, 2024. Charley was the official mascot of the Checker of Put-in-Bay Taxi company, appearing on many of the business cards, marketing material and riding in cab from time to time greeting tourists over the years. Born in rural Kentucky on September 10th, 2011, Charley had traveled to 30 states, including visits to the top of Red Rock in Colorado, the NYC Macy's Parade, up the coast of New England, Key West, Mardi Gras in NOLA, Chicago, St. Louis Arch, Niagara Falls, Washington DC, watching a SpaceX launch and even a helicopter ride on Put-in-Bay. In 2018, she was awarded Best Leading Dog at the Canine Film Festival in Miami for her starring role in the short film "Charles in Charge." She had been featured in the Put-in-Bay Gazette several times for winning best dressed and cutest dog in the annual fundraising Pooch Parade in DeRivera Park. Her life and memories will live on through her facebook page, www.FB.com/Charley.Checker.1/.



These island ladies enjoyed their PIB Gazette while on shore in Mexico during a recent cruise. Left to right are Lorie Busold, Dawn Stoloph, Peggy Russell, Andrea Gatewood, Patricia Fisher, Lauren Gerise, Julie Gonzalez, Allie Market and Michelle McArtor.

Dave Schafer from Ashley's House visited the Old Forester Distilling Co. in Louisville, KY, before heading out on a Caribbean cruise. Also cruising were Joan and Roger Rhoad from East Point, along with family members Justine Cultice from Cameo Pizza with her hubby Brian and daughter Evie, and Jill and Mike Koch from the Brewery with their kids Isla, Leila and Grayson. After the Riley family left St. Croix, they also took a week-long cruise before returning to the island.

We hear a group of folks from Middle Bass were in Key West at the beginning of January. We hear Eddie Sheller from the Middle Bass General Store and Mary Roesch were setting the pace for the group.

PIBVFD Meat Raffle

It's wintertime on the island and that can only mean one thing, time to stock up on some meat! To help prepare for winter, the PIBVFD is raffling off a \$200 gift card for a freezer and a \$500 gift card to Tanks Meats. Tickets will be \$20 each and you get to pick which number, 1-100, that you would like to purchase. Only 100 raffle tickets will be sold and numbers are first come first serve! Cash, check and Venmo are accepted. Once all of the tickets are sold, a Facebook live stream drawing will be held and the winner announced! Be sure to get your ticket early so you can pick out your lucky number! Contact Chief Dobos to buy your tickets at (419) 960-9886.

Monument Superintendent Position

The National Park Service is taking applications for the full-time Superintendent position at Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial. The position pays \$103,409 per year. If you have any questions regarding the area or duties of the position, contact Lisa_Petit@nps.gov or (440) 343-7151. Qualifications: All qualifications must be met by the closing date of February 16th, 2024 unless otherwise stated in this vacancy announcement.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Megan Faris Gau
Jacob Market • Matt Miller
Belinda Barnhill
Angela Brown
Sophia Marie Schroeder
Lisa Wrobbel
- 2nd Linda Parker • Nancy Bane
Wayne Weber
Paul Corey Brown
Antoinette Ware
Raymond Kowalski III
- 3rd Al Gebhardt
Mike Chervenak
Dave Frederick
Dennis Koch • Skyler Stoiber
Dave Stepanek
- 4th Erica Ohlemacher
Joey Freda • Jill Hemminger
Gayle Hilsinger
Alex Hilsinger
Jim Van Keuren
- 5th Winnie Watrous
Greta Koehler
Denny Rechenwald
Jonathan Hesseman
- 6th Roberta Scarpelli
Laura Kirchner
Melody O'Donnell
Ivana Nikolova
Vicky Wigle
- 7th James Glauser
Linda Dieperink
Brian Woischke • Bobby Hill
Autumn Phillips Niese
Paula Ziebarth • Jean Hilt
- 8th Scotti Hammerberg
Dennis Boyles
Joan Ziegler
- 9th Kevin Swan
Barb Hodgson
Pam Courtney
Sheila Johnson
- 10th Anne Wallen • Rob LaPlante
Steve Roberts
Ed Fitzgerald
- 11th Karen Agnich
Debbie Bianchi
Brian Keyes • Nick Vescio
Bridget Wise • Karen Klein
Steve Stapleton
Emily Gill Dunfee
- 12th Jill Cerny Kirby
David Ontko • Joy Berquist
Ashton Pupos
Evan Conor Tigges
Morgan Kempf
Victoria Wertenbach
Maxim Hristovski
- 13th Diane K. Johnson
Carter Pugh • Dave McNew
- 14th Art Boyles • Butch Iott
Melody Many • Toni Steele
- 15th Gianni Martens
Becky Diaz • Art Boyles
- 16th Terry Heaton • Dick Baker
Melissa Fiorilli
- 18th Chris Ladd • Liam Market
Anne French Taylor
- 19th Kristin Altoff • Don Dunn
Janine Cerny Ryan
Kaitlynn Hilsinger
Lynn Kezur
- 20th Pat Mangas • Abigail Breier
Kathy Schrader
- 21st Justin Gorski • Sara Toole
- 22nd Elizabeth Morrow Miller
Joan M. French
Natalie Fate Pendell
Jan Bindokas • Judy Leahy
Everett Parker Luecke
Frankie Lauria V
- 23rd Mette Blumensaadt Routh
Craig Hilsinger
Ken Fox • Kayla Beck
Lester Lopez
- 24th Tom Greiner • Jarred Dress
Troy Ontko • Jacob Batt
Dave Washstock
Oyu McGlothlin
Pam Stephens
- 25th Connie Drake • Mike Gora
Diana Kartheiser
- 26th Max & Stephan Stietz
- 27th Bud Ohlemacher
Jen Divico Morrow
Melissa Ohlemacher
Amanda Ohlemacher
Sue Zura Moxley
Marilyn Paselsky
Michelle O'Donnell
Wendy Chambers
Terry Jenkins
- 28th Katie Carty • Dave Petro
Joan Kempf • Jim Helms
Isabella James
John Batt • Hailey Olson
- 29th Elizabeth Snodgrass
Justin Wilhelm

ANNIVERSARIES

- 4th Jeremy & Heather Durdil
- 5th Ken & Caryl Fox
- 7th Bob & Andrea Gatewood
- 8th JOHN & CAROL REES
- 12th Ray & Connie Kowalski
DAVE & MIDDY CHURCH
- 16th Rob & Kelly Mohn
Jeff & Kendra Koehler
- 18th Kelly & Marty Faris
- 28th Don & Connie Nowak
Miyo & Maria Hristovski

EMAIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES TO:
pibgazette@frontier.com



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Captain...Ahoy!

By Paul Bolden, Captain of the 9th Coast Guard District, Central Region



PAUL BOLDEN

Sea State

The Sea State report is paused until the Spring of 2024. **25¢ COULD HAVE SAVED \$25,000 of Your Tax Dollars!**

On the morning of January 22nd, 2024, the rescue (SAR) alarm sounded at Coast Guard Station Marblehead. Coast Guard members from STA Marblehead along with a Coast Guard helicopter flown in from Detroit and multiple local law enforcement agencies responded to 20 fishermen stranded on an ice floe near Catawba Island. Luckily all were safely rescued. While figures are difficult to quantify, the Helo operation alone could have hit that figure, let alone the cost of the air boats, plus the tab paid by local law enforcement. The Coast Guard spends \$680 million a year on search and rescue missions.

Each year we publish our annual ice fishing addition before the ice fishing season begins. In it, we cover the ins and outs and the dos and don'ts including how to gauge ice safety. The cost of the Gazette...25¢, I guess they didn't read it. **Put-in-Bay Maritime Academy (Part 3)**

For the final part of our Put-in-Bay Maritime Academy class for this off-season, we are going to discuss the importance of charts while navigating the waters around PIB. The importance of having and knowing how to read area nautical charts can't be understated. As every island resident knows, the waters around our area of the western basin are shallow. With that comes additional boating risks that you are less likely to encounter when boating near Cleveland or even Toledo (for example). If you are not totally familiar with the area that you are boating in, the only way to know of various hazards is by consulting nautical charts and/or talking with a well-seasoned mariner that knows our waters. Both methods are important. There continues to be a lot of new boaters in our waters. **LEARN YOUR CHARTS!**

The following are my personal navigation procedures as it relates to charts. I divide my trips into three categories:

- 1) Very Familiar
- 2) Moderately Familiar
- 3) Not Familiar

In the Very Familiar category I rarely consult my paper charts. These are courses that I have navigated for years. These are also heavily travel waters by other mariners, and I stay alert for navigation bulletins in the event that a hazard alert is issued for these waters. In this case I rely on my GPS and visual points of reference to stay on course and to stay safe.

Lake Erie Islands Christmas Bird Count

The Lake Erie Islands Count Circle of the 123rd annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count was held on December 17th, 2023 with people participating on Middle Bass, South Bass, Kelleys and Pelee Island. This is one of the oldest citizen science efforts around-and a fun tradition to get out and enjoy our islands wild places in a quieter time of year! Thanks to all who helped out and those property owners who allowed us access for the day

The day started out with rain and with an open lake, ducks had not congregated in large numbers that day. Total for all four islands together was a respectable 81 species and 8,780 individual birds counted. Good diversity but lower numbers this year.

Here on South Bass Island, we counted 1,309 birds of 40 different species from dawn to dusk. Lisa Brohl, Emily Beal, Elizabeth Heineman, Julene Market, drove and walked around the island to tally waterfowl and land birds. The most numerous bird unfortunately was the House of English Sparrow at 227, showing up in large numbers at feeders and a large group at Heineman's vineyards. These non native birds take over nesting habitat from cavity nesting birds like Eastern bluebirds, purple martins and tree sparrows.

Second most numerous were waterfowl-with 216 Canada Geese-another species that has adapted well to man made environments-like the large lawns along the Put-in-Bay waterfront and at Perry's Victory. There were still bufflehead, red-breasted mergansers, mallards, and a few goldeneyes found that day but not in the numbers they had been even a few days. Three double crested cormorants were still present in the Bay. Five bald eagles were seen-will be interesting to see how many nests this year? Reports of nesting activity in three places on island so far. Count week birds were a sharp-shinned hawk at the feeders of Carmen Trisler and Jim O'Donnell. Marsha Parker had been reporting tundra swans before the count but they were not present count day. Dino Uszak called with swans behind the monument during the count week period so Elizabeth and Lisa met him there for photos.

Russ Brohl, Kit Knaser, Ruth Scarpelli, Michelle Heinemen, Carmen Trisler, Sarah Toole, Maryann, Anita, and Elizabeth McCann, Susan Ferguson, Walt Duff, Gay Pippert, Randi Wertenbach, and Kristin Stanford each watched their feeders and yards that day to record the birds and woodpeckers who came to visit. The best feeder birds was a winter wren seen by Carmen Trisler at her feeders and the tufted titmice seen at the feeders of Kit Knaser and Kristin Stanford. We were noticeably short on sparrows except house sparrows and a few white-throated sparrows out in the field.

On Middle Bass, Teddi Keith Morris walked and drove the island and watched her feeder all on her own to tally a total of 315 birds of 23 different species with the most numerous birds being European Starlings with 75. She found common mergansers as well as song sparrows missed on South Bass.

Pelee Island got the only northern shovelers, hooded mergansers, snow goose, wild turkeys, ring-necked pheasant, northern harrier and rough-legged hawk, eastern towhee hairy woodpecker and most of the blue herons for the count-thanks to all the field, forest, and wetland habitat and eagle eye observers 3621 birds of 54 species were counted. Pelee's most numerous birds were 2200 starlings outnumbering the waterfowl-usually the highest numbers on the island. Participating in the count were compiler Rob Tymstra (compiler) Ron and Lynn Tiessen, Sumiko Onishi, Graeme Gibson, Lisa and Brian Kipp, Vern and Michelle Taylor, Matt and Alyssa Staples, Lauren Luxton, Mack Feltz, Feeder watchers: Ford and Stephanie Crawford, Karen and Buck Foster.

The observers at Kelleys were the only ones to find surf scoter, white-winged scoter, black duck, 14 common loons, killdeer, gray cat-bird, merlin, fox sparrow, white-crowned sparrow, ruby crowned kinglets, brown-headed cowbird, rusty blackbird, redwinged blackbirds, and yellow-rumped warblers-all good birds to see this time of year. At Kelleys, the most numerous bird was the red-breasted mergansers at 618 with a total of 67 species and total number of 3537 birds counted. Participants were John Pogacnik, Tom and Paula Bartlett, Tyler McClain, Mariah Sherer, Sean Williams, and Chris Ashley.

The numbers of great blue heron, fox sparrows, and pied-billed grebes were records for the Lake Erie Islands Count Circle. The numbers of tufted titmouse, ruby-crowned kinglets, merlin, yellow-bellied sapsucker, red-headed woodpecker, and belted kingfisher, were ties to previous records.

Final results and species counts will be posted on the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy website at www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org Thanks to everyone for participating! Great work from all!

In Moderately Familiar waters I will consult my charts the day before the trip. For example, I travel to Leamington twice a year and have done so for several years. These waters are moderately familiar to me, but twice a year is not frequent enough to skip charting my trip in my opinion. While I am confident of my route to Leamington I still need to review the waters adjacent to the route for depth and hazards. I will also have the course programmed into my GPS. In the case of Leamington I bring a copy of the Leamington Marina so when I'm given a docking assignment I know exactly where to go. In actuality I have already familiarized myself with the Leamington Marina dockage diagram the day before the trip along with reviewing the nautical charts. You don't want to be floating outside the marina's breakwall trying to figure this thing out.

Trips that you have not made before on your vessel should be considered to be in Not Familiar waters regardless of the distance. The day before such a trip (if not earlier), I will methodically chart the course using my nautical charts and also program the course into my GPS. I will also locate what I call emergency ports of call if an unexpected event should occur before we reach our destination such as bad weather or engine problems. Using your charts for each of these is essential to safe boating. To embark on such a long trip in unfamiliar waters on a whim without first charting are both rookie and hazardous.

What I have tried to do in this article is offer one strategy relating to the appropriate time to use nautical charts. There may be other appropriate strategies. It could be argued that anytime you are navigating the lake you should consult your charts, but in reality for routine trips who's going to do that?

An additional consideration is to always carry paper charts with you while underway. Remember, GPSs can and do fail, and if you travel in Canadian waters, you are required to have charts on board in accordance with the Canadian Shipping Act-2001 as I understand.

What we were not looking to do in this article was to explain the different features contained on nautical charts which requires study in depth. Nevertheless, I strongly encourage you to seek nautical chart training. There are many online courses that provide this. In fact, right now would be a great time to take such a course online in advance of the PIB boating season. Please think about and consider doing this.

While on the subject of boating classes please plan on participating in one of the US-CG-AUX safe boating programs to be offered throughout the 2024 boating season. If you are new to boating, what you learn could save your life or that of someone else.

Island Residents

For information about serving in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, taking a Safe Boating Class or receiving a Vessel Safety Check. Scan the appropriate QR Code.



Join The Auxiliary

Take A Class

Get A Safety Check

Senior Center News

By Chris Joyce

I hope everyone had a wonderful start to the New Year. January was a quiet month here at the Senior Center. Many are enjoying warmer climates this time of the year. We did have a fun "Senior Social" at Topsy's ... A huge shout out goes to David Hill for helping make the event a great success.

We have a couple special events planned for February: On Feb. 7th we'll have a Soup and Show evening, then on Sunday, Feb. 11th at 6 p.m., we'll have a "Snacks and Superbowl Tailgate." Finally, on Tuesday, Feb. 28th we'll be enjoying our winter monthly senior social at Topsy Turvey's.

Check out the calendars posted at the Senior Center, Post Office, Hardware Store, Island General Store and the Twp. Offices. for our February activities. Our calendar remains full of regularly scheduled activities which include: strength training, coffee socials, mah jongg, bridge and our senior lunches. Any last-minute additional events or changes to scheduled events will be posted at the Post Office. The Put-in-Bay Senior Center loves to see new faces attending our activities, and we welcome you to stop by and join in the fun anytime.

Our senior lunches continue every Monday at Topsy's at 12 p.m. Please make your reservation by 12 p.m. on the prior Friday by signing up at the Senior Center or calling the center at (419) 285-5501. Thank-You to all the staff at Topsy's for keeping the senior lunches running smoothly

The wonderful people at the EMS continue to take Blood Pressures every Monday at 10 a.m. This is a great free service they provide, so come in and get yours checked. The "60+ Clinic" is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 20th. This free health clinic is put on by the Ottawa County Health Dept. for those 60 and older. If you'd like to take advantage of this wonderful program, please call 419-734-6800 to make your appointment.

As we enter the heart of the winter season, many here on the island are keeping their fingers crossed that Mother Nature cooperates so they can enjoy some ice fishing and other fun winter sports. Keeping active is vital for both our mental and physical health. If we're moving it doesn't matter how fast or hard, whether doing housework or ice fishing, just keep it up and you'll begin to enjoy all the wonderful health benefits that come with being active. Wishing all a safe winter! Please remember to be extra careful when you venture outside; the ice and ground are harder than they look when your feet slip out from underneath you.

PUT-IN-BAY SENIOR CENTER 419-285-5501 FEBRUARY 2024				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
SPECIAL EVENT SUN. FEB. 11th @ 6PM SNACKS & SUPERBOWL			1	2
				9am Strength Training 10am Coffee Social 1pm Bridge
5 9am Strength Training 10am Coffee Social 10am Blood Pressures 12p Sr. Lunch/Topsy's	6 1pm Mah Jongg 5:30pm Soup & Show	7 9am Strength Training 10am Coffee Social	8	9 9am Strength Training 10am Coffee Social 1pm Bridge
12 9am Strength Training 10am Coffee Social 10am Blood Pressures 12p Sr. Lunch/Topsy's	13 1pm Mah Jongg	14 9am Strength Training 10am Coffee Social	15	16 9am Strength Training 10am Coffee Social 1pm Bridge
19 PRESIDENT'S DAY 9am Strength Training 10am Coffee Social 10am Blood Pressures 12p Sr. Lunch/Topsy's	20 60+ Clinic 1pm Mah Jongg	21 9am Strength Training 10am Coffee Social	22	23 9am Strength Training 10am Coffee Social 1pm Bridge
26 9am Strength Training 10am Coffee Social 10am Blood Pressures 12p Sr. Lunch/Topsy's	27 1pm Mah Jongg 5pm Senior Social @ Topsy's!	28 9am Strength Training 10am Coffee Social	29	HAPPY LEAP YEAR!



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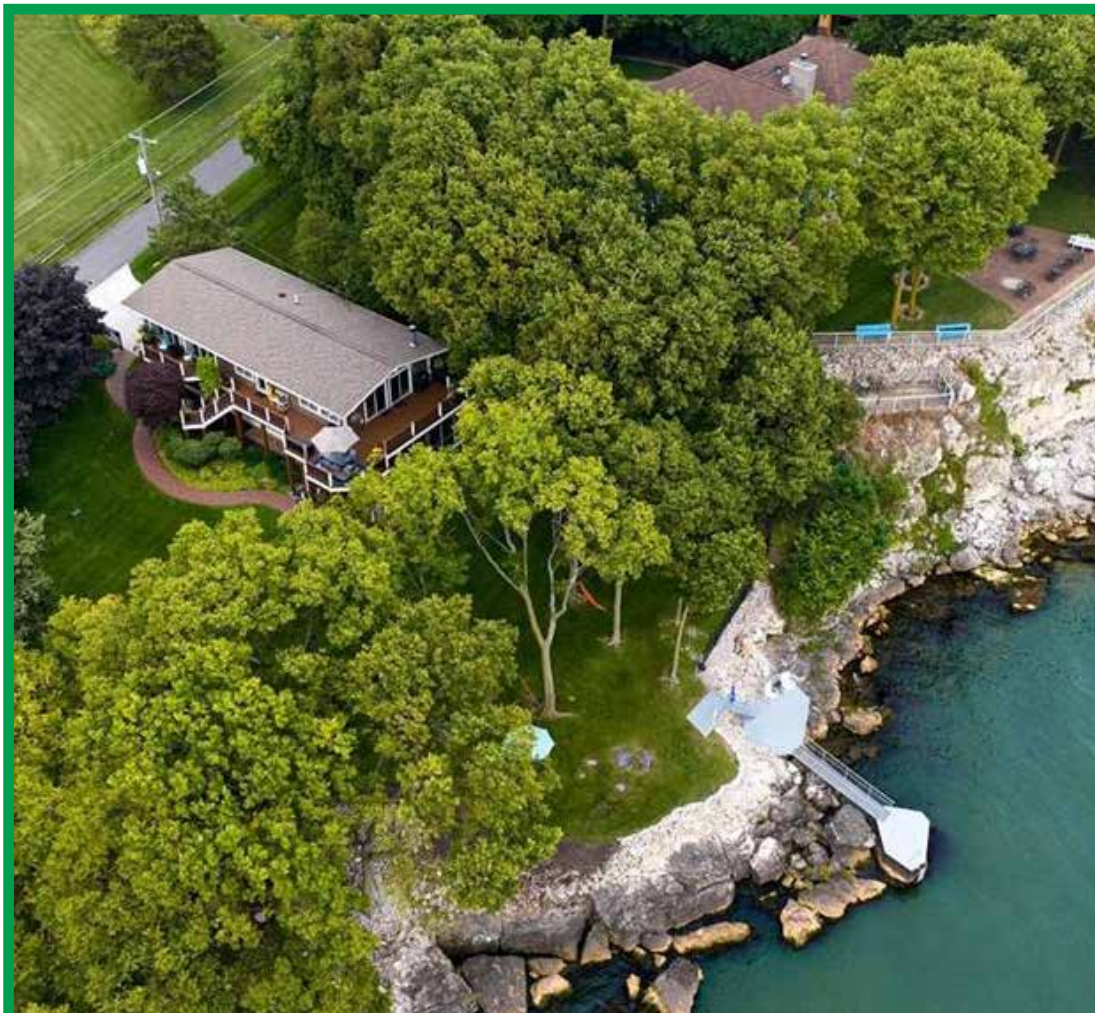


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SONYA NIESE



These island kids loved being towed around the snow-covered bay by an ATV one beautiful winter day this past month.



2330 Langram, Put-in-Bay
3BD / 3BA • 2304 sq. feet

Imagine owning a home, on Ohio's beautiful Lake Erie Islands, nestled next to the Historic South Bass Island Light House! Amazing panoramic views of Lake Erie, from this beautifully renovated 3 Bedroom 2.5 bath home on PIB. The reverse floor plan allows for great lake views, while the lower level has comfortable and private guest quarters. 2nd level complete with kitchen, dining & living area. Large master bedroom, beautifully appointed with a body shower, deep soaking tub and double sinks. Marvel at the serenity and beauty of the gardens and landscaping. This lake front home was featured in the 2022 Home and Garden Tours, sponsored by the Put in Bay Garden Club. The charming waterfront deck is the perfect place to relax on sunny days. Enjoy your own lake access, off the swimming dock with removable ladder. Perfect for kayaking, fishing and sunbathing. Just a short walk to the Miller Ferry. Relax, unwind, and enjoy carefree island living!



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Coastguardsmen watch as the Put-in-Bay Vol. Fire Dept.'s airboat helped rescue ice-fishermen off Catawba Island when they were caught on an ice floe in mid-January. Chief Greg Dobos is in yellow, Doug Wilhelm is in orange.



Ty Winchester with pirates Bob and Mary Kansa at the Cleveland Boat Show in January. Shout out to Ty for organizing the kid's treasure hunt and to Bob and Mary for Promoting Pyrate Fest every year at the boat show.



Installing the new organ at Mother of Sorrows this past month.

This & That

Heated Bird Bath

Randi Wertenbach has a heated bird bath. She reports seeing Northern Flickers, American Robins, Red-bellied woodpeckers, American Goldfinches and Blue Jays this past month.

Property Checks in Village

The Put-in-Bay Police Department offers house and business checks for Village residents and business owners during the winter. Call the Police Department at (419) 285-4121 to request checks.

How Long Do Walleye Live?

Lake Erie walleye do not live longer than 19-20 years.

Spring Play

The PIB Arts Council is planning to produce Peter Pan, a community play with adults and children, after the high school basketball season is over. Watch for details in coming issues.

No Hunting Allowed

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District preserves do not allow hunting currently. They are heavily used by walkers.

Village Finances in 2023

The Village had a budget of \$2,208,584.45, but actual expenditures came in over budget by \$98,000 and change. This does not include water and sewer operations. While many things came in under budget, police expenses went over by \$139,000 and Town Hall expenses, due to flood clean up, came in at over \$29,000 for the year. Fortunately, dock and resort tax revenues were up and the Village ended the year in the black.

Ice Cover on the Great Lakes

The Great Lakes had the smallest amount of ice cover this New Year's Day in at least the past 50 years and are on track to see less than the seasonal average this winter, according to government data. The decline comes during a five-decade drop in ice cover that experts say is due in part to human-caused climate change.

Thank You

Deacon Jim O'Donnell from Mother of Sorrows would like to say thanks to the generosity of the family of Dr. Robert Smith the church received a new organ in January.

Nora Heads to Italy

Nora Ladd, PIBHS Class of 2021 and currently a student at Kent State, is enjoying a semester abroad in Florence, Italy. Her mother Heidi told her to keep her St. Christopher medal on her neck at all times, never leave her gelato unattended and don't do anything dumb in a foreign country.

Do You Have Advice?

What advice would you give someone who wants to live on one of the Lake Erie Islands year round? Email your thoughts to pibgazette@frontier.com.

Plans for 2024

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy is looking forward to the acquisition and protection of some more wooded habitat on both South Bass and Middle Bass in early 2024! It is excited, too, about the move of its new office with the Put-in-Bay Township Park District into the Duff Homestead by March 1st.

Repaving

Resurfacing of the PIB Twp. portion of Langram Road is scheduled for repaving this coming fall. The cost is estimated to be around \$775,000.

January Activities on Put-in-Bay

We went on the internet and came across things to do in January (updated for 2024). The second thing on the list was a visit to Put-in-Bay's Crown Hill Cemetery. At least we beat out Pines Pet Cemetery and Cremation Center (number 8). FYI, Johnson's Island Confederate Cemetery was number 1, probably because there is a bridge to the island.

News To Us!

We also found this on the Internet. "Throughout the year, Ohio hosts various maritime festivals that celebrate its seafaring traditions. The Put-in-Bay Maritime Festival on South Bass Island brings together locals and visitors alike to enjoy live music, historical reenactments and boat tours." We're beginning to think you can't trust the Internet.

We Want Your Input!

We'd like to hear from you about your thoughts on anything happening on the islands that you are concerned about or would like to comment on. Email to pibgazette@frontier.com.

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This group from East Point was spotted at the Goat Soup & Whiskey in St. Croix in January. Left to right are Bev Rudin, Suzy Gazdick, Goat waitress Anna Rence, Ron Rudin, George Gazdick, and their friends Mike and Kari Jacobs. Mike was sporting a Frosty T-shirt.



These happy Miller Boat Line workers were celebrating the last day for ferry service in January. Left to right are Kenny Crawford, Jake Market, Jordan Market, Jacob Fresch and Tommy Chrysler.



Dave and Kathy Holscott read their PIB Gazette with their friend Jatin in front of the City Palace in Udaipur, India in January.

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To the Editor and the Residents of South Bass Island

As many know by now, by my own dumb fault I went topsy-turvy at Topsy's last Sunday, January 21st. It ended up being a bad break in three places, and I was Lifeflighted to Firelands for ER and eventual surgery. Then of course The Fog of 2024 hit, and we were stranded on the other side for 6 more days! But we got home on Monday morning January 29th, and let me say how wonderful it is to be what has come to be my home, not simply my address. I feel like my healing can now really begin.

And what has stayed with me these past several days is how absolutely and stunningly amazing everyone has been during all this. There are so many people I want to publicly thank, but first and foremost is Dave McNew. He was the very first one at my side and was the one who called EMS for me. Next is Darrel Long, who took amazing care of me when he and his team got there in what seemed like seconds. He was gentle and attentive and knowledgeable and an incredible help. All the EMS team were at their very best that evening. I only apologize I don't recall the names of all who were there. But I do remember JR Domer, who was not on duty but came anyway when he heard the news and ended up driving the ambulance to the airport for the helicopter ride. I remember the Lifeflight crew too, and everyone else who helped that evening. So if you're reading this, thank you!

Most especially, I cannot thank Bob White and his wife Kelly enough. Bob came to take me home last Tuesday around noon when I was discharged from Firelands (by the way I had excellent care there, I would recommend them completely). It was supposed to be there and back same day. Well, we were supposed to be on a 2:45 p.m. flight home, and then The Fog came down. And it didn't lift enough to come home for 6 more nights. Bob was right there every moment. He helped me in every possible way, with grace and humor and patience. There was nothing I didn't need, and I think he made 15 or 20 trips to Walmart to get things we needed over the course of the week! He should be granted an RN for services rendered in the field. And Kelly was patient and gracious through it all too, waiting for us here while we were stuck. I will never be able to thank you both enough.

There are many others who have checked in with me and have offered to help. I am receiving your generous dinner gifts, and they're all better than what we ate while on the Accidental Restaurant Tour, because it's you who are making them. I'm looking forward to my entire menu!

I have been and I am overwhelmed at the generosity and true caring that all of you have shown me. Please know that I am very very grateful to all of you. Thank you so very very much!

*With great fondness and gratitude to you all,
- Bob Solon*



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Beer Barrel For Sale

Anybody interested in buying the Beer Barrel? Island Realtor Rudy Cooks tells us the Beer Barrel, Tipper's, the Beverage Center and the Perry Holiday are all included for the listed price of \$13,000,000.

The Beer Barrel, Tipper's Seafood & Steak House and the Beverage Center are on an acre of property smack dab in the middle of Put-in-Bay's downtown at the corner of Delaware and Catawba Avenues. This turnkey operation is the business opportunity of a lifetime for someone interested in the island business community. The Beer Barrel consists of approximately 25,000 sq. ft. and is the home of what was once the Guinness Book of Record's longest bar in the world. The bar and seating area can hold 800+ people. Pat Dailey, the famous island entertainer got his start at the Beer Barrel, plus several of the bands that played there have ended up in Las Vegas and Nashville.

Tipper's has 5,676 sq. ft. of restaurant area with a 1,500-sq. ft. first class kitchen. The Beverage Center next door is open year-round.

The Perry's Holiday Hotel includes a swimming pool, and besides seasonal room rentals, has units for employee housing. It sits on a little more than 2 acres and there is plenty of room for expansion.

If you are interested, see Realtor Rudy Cooks' ad on page 15 for more information.

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