



2013

# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

[www.hiscfa.org](http://www.hiscfa.org)

## GREETINGS TO HISCFA MEMBERS AND ISLANDERS

Another year of great memories is now behind us and we have a bright new year ahead to continue the enjoyment of our wonderful and unique Island community. As you begin to make this year's plans for those family get-togethers, the picnics in the park, the swimming, the boating, and the just good old relaxing by the water while the river floats your cares away, it's also time to remember to renew your membership in the Association. We are very appreciative of your continued loyal support of HISCFA through the payment of your \$35 annual dues as well as any additional voluntary contributions you may choose to make to our various community service organizations or special funds. The Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Association has been, and continues to be, there for you. Your dues and contributions are used solely for the purpose of enriching lives and providing a positive benefit to the Island, its inhabitants, its visitors, and its businesses.

We are what you could call **THE COMMUNITY CHEST.**

## WHAT YOUR DUES MAINTAIN AND SUPPORT

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

While last year has provided a lot of great Island memories it was also one of pretty tough economic times. Your Association stepped up and met the challenge by doubling down on our support contributions providing over \$20,000 to many worthy Island charities and public service organizations like The Lions Hall, The Readers Cove, and others. We provided scholarships to worthy Island young men and women to assist them in their college tuition obligations and, to others, to use in the pursuit of trade school or other professional educational opportunities.

### **BROWNE'S FIELD IMPROVEMENT**

With an eye toward providing increased recreational and sports activities on the Island we funded and provided major improvements to Browne's Field last year. We now have facilities that allow the playing of almost any sport: baseball, basketball, tennis, tetherball, horseshoes, bocce ball, soccer, and football. You can fly a kite, walk the dog (*we put in 6 doggie doo pick up stations*) have a picnic, (*we added 6 new picnic tables*), have a barbeque (*we added 6 new grills*), sail your pond racer (*we cleaned the pond and added a dock*), or just sit and meditate in the gazebo. We also did substantial ground work around the pavilion to eliminate the transition step to the concrete deck for your safety and convenience. Don't forget; the Browne's Field Pavilion is available for rental when those family get-togethers or other functions get too big for your yard. Additionally your Association provided summer evening "Concerts in the Park" for your entertainment pleasure, with free admission to all. Check *The Flyer* for concerts again this year.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION**

Your Association dues also went to fund a major environmental undertaking last year in the quest for phragmite eradication on the Island. We provided \$5,000 to be used as a match with Clay Township to provide \$10,000 in this worthy endeavor. As a direct result the Phragmite Advisory Board now has 315 parcels of land stretching over 1600 acres under active management. As a direct result of HISCFA's proactive partnerships with, Clay Township, SEMCOG, the DNR, and the County Drain Commission, there is now a project underway to clear and dredge the Krispen Drain from the North Channel, past the School House under M154, down Green Drive, and South Channel out into Muskamoot Bay. The fruits of this activity will be an open inland waterway that can be used for all kinds of outdoor recreational activities like kayaking, canoeing, fishing, and camping. It will be a major benefit to public recreation and bring needed revenue and opportunity for Island businesses.

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### **CONFIRM YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

Please complete and return the enclosed application and mail it with your check in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope on or before **April 20, 2013.**

### **ASSOCIATION MEETINGS**

The HISCFA board meets every second Saturday of every month at the Harsens Island Lions Hall. 9:00 am May through November. 9:30 am December through April. Please join us, your input is critical. If we are not aware of an issue or concern we can't address it. Letters or e-mails ([www.hiscfa.org](http://www.hiscfa.org)) are always welcome too.

### **PICK UP YOUR DELTA NEWS**

This will be the sixth summer we have encouraged our members to pick up their Delta News at the Waterfront Shoppe in Sans Souci. Watch for the pick-up dates in *The Flyer*. This has been very successful and it has helped HISCFA save countless money in mailing fees.

**AS A REMINDER, IF YOU DO NOT PICK THE DELTA NEWS UP ON THE DESIGNATED DAYS, WE WILL MAIL YOUR COPY TO YOUR PRIMARY MAILING ADDRESS!**

**PARK AND RIDE**

HISCFA is well aware that increasing transportation costs are eating bigger and bigger holes in your family budget. To help offset those costs your Association purchased, maintains, and provides the Island side **Park 'n Ride** lot. At no cost to the user.

**WATER STATIONS**

Another major public service provided by your Association is the **Main Water Station** located on North Channel Dr. at Columbine and the **Auxiliary Water Tap** on South Channel Drive at the end of Green Drive. The main station provides a large water hook for bulk users to access city water as well as providing external and internal taps for the filling of home water jugs. The auxiliary South Channel tap provides safe, potable city water, to those homeowners on that end of the Island without access to city water. The Association is billed for all the water used at those stations, and while many users do pay us back, it remains heavily subsidized by your Association.

**VOLUNTEERS**

Something that often goes unnoticed or acknowledged in any organization, is all the work being done behind the scenes to make that organization one to be proud of. HISCFA is an all-volunteer organization, and its directors and members do what they do because they are proud to be a part of this unique and wonderful Island community. While they give unselfishly of their time and labors, unfortunately due to age, legal liabilities, and shortage of available time, many of the physical tasks previously done by a volunteers labor force has been required to be contracted out to professionals. These contracts are all done using a "competitive bid" process with a strong preference of using Island contractors whenever possible. On the positive side, I'm happy to report we've been a benefit to Island contractors and businesses, but coupled with increasing utility costs, insurance costs, and property taxes, it has come at a significantly increasing debit to our operating budget.

**A CHANGE**

A change this year will be the elimination of the Member Benefit Discount Card. Your feedback on the subject was not positive and after review by the board it was determined it did not provide a cost benefit for the membership and was a cost debit to the HISCFA budget. The board is currently reviewing alternative ideas for the funds previously allotted to procuring the discount cards.

**GOVERNMENT ACTIONS**

The Association has been diligently working on your behalf, representing you in local, county, state, and federal government activities and HISCFA directors sit on the Clay Township Board of Trustees, The Clay Township Planning Commission, and Clay Township Phragmite Advisory Board to name a few. Just recently members of your board reacted immediately and got deeply involved in a water quality issue on the Island with residents without access to city water. Taking the lead and working diligently with local and county officials, an interim containment action was put in place to help alleviate the concern and more long range permanent corrective actions are being discussed with the appropriate parties.

**ADVERTISING SIGN**

Hopefully our new electronic messaging board atop the **Advertising Sign** across from the Ferry has helped keep you posted to Island events and emergencies. And, where possible it is hoped you will patronize those business' advertising on our sign.

**FIELD DAY**

Always an anticipated community favorite, and the long-time centerpiece of summer fun on the Island, is already heavily into the planning stages this year. The Field Day Committee has many new ideas and planned improvements. What they need most is more volunteers to help further plan and run the event this year. Please get involved and help make it another huge success. Remember Field Day is not just about having a great time with family, friends, and Island neighbors, it is also the only real fundraiser we do. And as such, it is a major source of the monies we provide to the Island charities and community causes outlined previously. Your support is critical at every level. Again this year, in order to keep our postal costs down, the perennial favorite Island read, *The Delta News*, will be distributed during Field Day. We hope to see you there.

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In closing we'd like to wish everyone a great new year and may the Lord bless you with health and happiness. If you can find the time to join one of our standing committees we encourage you to do so. If you feel there is a need for a new committee to tackle an as yet unaddressed task or activity, bring the idea to the board. You'll have our full attention.

Best regards,

*HISCFA Membership Committee*

**DELTA NEWS' THE YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER**

Many very special people are known to all of us, while many others work quietly behind the scenes. To say "Thank You" please recommend a volunteer to be recognized in the next year's *Delta News*. Write in 50 words or less the name and accomplishments of a very special volunteer. Email to: [deltanews48028@yahoo.com](mailto:deltanews48028@yahoo.com) or mail to *Delta News*, 3284 S. Channel Drive, Harsens Island, MI 48028 Please include your name and phone in case we need to contact you.

**2013 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Pat Feighan, President

Jim Laethem, Vice President

Donna Halacoglu, Executive Secretary

Lois Whipple, Treasurer