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211 Frasier \$100,000



237 La Croix \$82,200



0 Sni Bora \$74,000



2458 Cottage Lane \$70.000



3020 Donald \$45,000



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to our members, your families and guests! I want to wish all of you the utmost in happiness and well-being!

In 2022, we continued our progress forward in grant submissions, most notably to fund our Browne's Field Improvement Plan. This plan now includes permanent multi-use public restrooms, a multi-course walking path and additional funding for landscaping of our recently added Memorial. It will also call for pickleball court restoration and expansion. We are in the process of reaching out to several additional grant fulfillment organizations, with the plan being to improve our chances of obtaining grant funding through multiple smaller requests.



We recently neved the Memorial from its prior location near the water's edge in Sans Souci to the base of our flag flying proudly next to the pavilion at Browne's Field. I would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to Bob and Susan Bryson for helping make this a reality. It looks stunning and we hope everyone will stop by to visit the Memorial at its new location bonoring those who have left us.

Along the lines with our message theme from 2022, there is a need for additional HISCFA Directors. We are seeking individuals to help drive initiatives through planning, collaboration and project coordination. I am again asking everyone to consider this fulfilling opportunity to be a part of the future of our Association and to have a "seat at the table" for some key decision making and issue resolution. Your contribution with implementing our improvement plans will help guarantee we grow and expand moving forward.

Like the saying goes: "No job too big, no job too small... we do it all!"

Your help, be it large or small, assists us in holding our yearly Association events and it truly takes a team!

It is sincerely an honor to be your President. I continue to strive to serve you by listening closely to your feedback, your ideas and planning along with executing initiatives for the benefit of HISCFA members and Island residents.

Yours truly, Craig A. Baloga, President

THANK YOU

We truly appreciate your support!

Thank you to our members, donors, advertisers, community organizations, directors, and volunteers!

Going strong since 1945!



www.HISCFA.org

The Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

2023 OFFICERS



President Craig Baioga CraigB@hiscfa.org



Vice President

Lois Whipple
LoisW@hiscfa.org



Executive Secretary
Margaret Marchwinski
MargM@hiscfa.org



Treasurer *Harold Stieber*HaroldS@hiscfa.org

2023 DIRECTORS

erm Ending 2024

Term Ending 2023

Craig Baloga
Jerry Freeman
Steve Gartland
Steve Lawrence
Margaret Marchwinski
Harold Stieber
Dennis Szymanski
Terry Wiggins
Lois Whipple

David Martin Linda Schoonover Leonard Verlinden Term Ending 2024

Susan Bryson Lucy Burby Kathy O'Connor

Recording Secretary

Melanie Most



COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2023-2024

We are grateful for the many teams that are working frontline and behind the scenes to maintain and operate the many moving parts of our organization. Their support makes it possible to successfully run such a large and active Association. There's an open invitation for anyone who wishes to participate in a committee to add your expertise, insight or your general support! If you're interested, a good first step is to begin attending our monthly meetings at the Lions Hall to hear reports from committees and where there may be a need. You can also email CraigB@hiscfa.org.



Pavilion Renta Volunteer Avail

Welcome Signbo Norman Rhod Margaret March Lucy Burby

Community & Gov. Affai Lois Whipple Craig Baloga Harold Stieber (GLIA)

Community Relations Lois Whipple - Scholarships

Communications Marketing & Technology Christine Baloga Melanie Most

> **DNR Liason** Christine Baloga

Music in the Park Browne's Field Cindy Babisz Craig Baloga Dennis Szymanski

The Delta News

Margaret Marchwinski Steve Gartland Christine Baloga Melanie Most Steve Lawrence Linda Schoonover

Environmental Affairs North Channel Water Station

Dennis Szymanski Craig Baloga Jim Laethem

Bates Cut Water Station Dennis Szymanski

Adopt-a-Highway Craig & Christine Baloga

> Safety & Wellness teve Lawrence rold Stieber Craig Baloga ⊿artin inis Szy

and Clea

manski

Craig Baloga Trunk-to-Tru Dave Martin

Fundraising & Events Shrimp Boil Susan Bryson

Barks, BBQ & Rock-n-Roll Chris Knight Debbie Mehl

Margaret Marchwinski **Annual Car Show**

Craig Baloga - Chair Christine Baloga Steve & Wendy Lawrence Steve Gartland Harold Stieber

> **Annual Field Day** Craig Baloga Dave Martin Dennis Szymanski Leonard Verlinden Steve Lawrence Donna Halacoglu Lucy Burby Marge Platt Linda Schoonover

Silent Auction Kathy O'Connor Susan Bryson Lois Whipple

Fall Bonfire & BBQ Susan Bryson Dennis Szymanski Craig Baloga Harold Stieber

Brett J. Miller

313 225 5316 millerbr@butzel.com 150 West Jefferson Suite 100 Detroit, MI 48226 tel 313 225 7000 fax 313 225 7080





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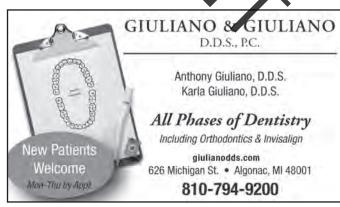
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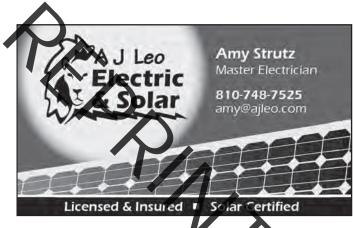
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TREASURER'S REPORT

2022 Statements of Receipts and Disbursements

CASH BALAN	ICE - JANUARY 1, 2022		\$114,830.45
RECEIPTS:			
	Membership Dues	\$35,050.00	
	Field Day	\$10,742.62	
	The Delta News Ads	\$10,055.00	
	Signboard Ads	\$6,380.00	
	Bonfire/BBQ	\$4,189.25	
	Car Show	\$10,624.50	
((Winterfest	-	
	Trunk-to-Trunk Sale	\$250.00	
	Browne's Field Rental	\$615.00	
	Water Card Deposits	\$100.00	
	Water Station Operations	\$800.25	
	Donations Browne's Field	\$700.00	
	Donations - Browne's Field Restrooms	\$3,765.00	
	Donations - General	\$4,666.00	
	Donations - Amazon Smile	\$230.76	
	Donations - Other	\$425.00	
	Grants	-	
	Miscellaneous	(\$370.00)	
	Unrealized Gains on Investments	(\$8,476.62)	
	Total Receipts		\$79,746.76
	Total Cash Available		\$194,577.21
ISBURSEMEN	NTS:		
	Browne's Field	\$18,332.43	
	Car Show	\$4,293.96	
	The Delta News	\$15,611.81	
	Field Day & Bonfire/BBQ	\$6,932.56	
	General and Administrative	\$12,518.08	
	Membership	\$1,566.62	
	Park & Ride	\$380.98	
	Scholarships	\$1,000.00	
	Signboard	\$2,937,63	
	Water Station	\$5,854.35	
	Total Disbursements		\$69,428.42
APITAL:			^
	Checking - Huntington Bank	\$59,409,52	
	Investment - Community Foundation of St. Clair County	\$65,739.27	
ASH BALAN	ICE - DECEMBER 31, 2022		\$1 25,1 48.79
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	·	3,-11311

Respectfully submitted, Harold J. Stieber, Jr., Treasurer

Full copies of the Financial Statements are available by contacting Harold

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."

- Author Unknown

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Margaret Marchwinski

Since 1946, The Delta News has been the yearly comprehensive, transparent summary of the Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association's accounts and service to its members. HISCFA was officially formed in 1945 when the St. Clair Flats Association and the Harsen's Island Improvement Association merged together. Both groups began servicing the Island community in the 1920's. Barb Crown wrote a very comprehensive article about the merger in the 2020, 77th Edition of *The Delta News* which is worth going back and reading. For any member who doesn't have this issue, back copies of *The Delta News* are available to purchase for a nominal fee. Just reach out to any Director for information.

The Delta News is a snapshot of life on the Island as it weaves together the current affairs of not only HISCFA, but all the community churches, clubs and groups. This year, 2023, will be the 80th collected edition. It is a testament to all of the volunteers along the way who dedicated their time to organize and complete this publication.

At this time, I would like to acknowledge and thank *The Delta News* committee members who collected, edited, contributed, structured the content and reached out to community members as needed. I would like to thank: my right-hand man, Steve Gartland, who assisted me in editing every article that was submitted; Melanie Most, who gave all the content a final edit and approval for printing; Christine Baloga who provided the summary of fundraising events, house ads and suggestions for structural placement; Steve Lawrence who assisted with feature articles and was on standby for whatever was needed; and Linda Schoonover who assisted in community outreach. I would also like to thank the team at Graphics East for taking on our project and working their magic. Thank you everyone for another successful actition!

Lastly, a very special thank you to *The Delta News* Advertisers! The production of *The Delta News* would not be possible without the revenue collected from advertising that offsets the cost of design, layout, printing and mailing. We are especially thankful for the many advertisers who support *The Delta News* year after year without fail!

ABOUT THE COVER PROPOGRAPH

Image courtesy of Stacy Williams at Harsens Land Photography, LLC

'Great Egret with Audience' was captured at the Krispin Drain on August 17, 2022. Great Egrets migrate to Harsens Island in late March and migrate south in late October. Their numbers soar to over 50 at the end of their migratory season here. This Great Egret was grooming itself in the marshy area with a little audience of a drake and hen eclipse Wood Duck. The Wood Ducks are also native to the area. After the mating season, you will see the drakes (males) lose their mating plumage and take on a dull appearance. During this eclipse stage, they are much harder to locate as they blend into their surroundings as protection from prey.





A VISIT FROM GREAT LAKES ISLANDS ALLIANCE

Submitted by Harsen's Island Representative, Harold Stieber

HISCFA is an active member of the Great Lakes Islands Alliance. The Great Lakes Islands Alliance (GLIA) is a voluntary, collaborative, bi-national network that brings together island leaders, residents and advocates from across the Great Lakes. Its mission is to "encourage relationship building, foster information exchange, and leverage resources to address shared challenges and embrace opportunities to benefit islands. Open membership meetings occur monthly throughout the year, supplemented by additional communications through email, webinars, and use of traditional and social media. GLIA meets in person once per year at our annual Great Lakes Islands Summit (Summit). Priority is given to topics of interest to island communities. GLIA organizes its efforts into two separate, but not mutually exclusive, focus areas. First, Environmental Stewardship seeks to "protect and conserve the natural environment on islands." Island communities care about Great Lakes water quality and quantity, biodiversity conservation, pollution prevention, waste management, recycling, and climate adaptation and resiliency. Second, Socio-Economic Well Being seeks to "foster a robust quality of life for year-round islanders, seasonal residents, and visitors alike." GLIA explores topics as diverse as tourism, blue economy (water-based) opportunities, health and safety, education, housing, infrastructure, cultural/historic heritage, and local gevernance and capacity.



The Boathouse Bar and Grill greets GLIA members to Put-in-Bay in 2022

<u>2022 Great Lakes Islands Summit – Lake Erie Islands</u> (Information taken from the 2022 Summit Report)

Harsen's Island Representative, Harold Stieber, attended the fourth annual GLIA Summit on October 2-5, 2022. In fall 2020, the fourth Summit was to shift to Lake Erie, however it was postponed due to the global pandemic. The event was postponed again in 2021 due to on-going travel uncertainty between jurisdictions (particularly the international border crossing), increased travel and food costs (exacerbated by rising gas prices and supply chain issues), and continued health and safety concerns for our attending members and the host community. The event

finally occurred in October 2022 and was GLIA's first "progressive" style event. This Summit spanned four islands in Lake Erie: Kelleys, Middle Bass, and South Bass Islands in the State of Ohio and Pelee Island in the Province of Ontario. Of note, this Summit also required an international border crossing. South Bass Island, otherwise known as Put-in-Bay, served as event headquarters. There were 38 attendees at the 2022 Summit.



Participants at 2022 Islands Summit Photo Credit: Chase Eagleson, Jet Express

For additional information on GLIA, including our Charter, Annual Reports, map of participating islands, and more, please visit our website: https://glialliance.org.

Key Take-Aways/Next Steps

Discussions at the Summit provide general direction for the next year. While there were many valuable ideas offered, a groundswell of support focused on the following:

- Find new ways to connect with mainland decision-makers and develop a regional voice. GLIA will continue to identify key public input and engagement opportunities for island communities. These include those organized by governments at the federal, state, and provincial levels plus regional influencers like the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, International Joint Commission, Great Lakes Commission, and Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers. There are additional organizations at the international or global level such as Island Innovation and the Climate Strong Islands Network. GLIA does not seek to usurp the independence of individual islands or replace existing pathways that may exist between these communities and their governments. GLIA will continue to align with and learn from networks and organizations around the region, nationally, and globally which have similar interests and may already be performing similar tasks.
- Explore ways to support island educators/schools. Island schools are recognized as focal points in their community. The rural, isolated nature of islands presents unique challenges (as well as some opportunities) for school children, families, teachers, and administrators. The 2022 Summit visits to the schools on South Bass and Kelleys Islands were particularly poignant and stirred interest in exploring potential roles for GLIA.
- Continue to grow the GLIA membership. The number and diversity of islanders participating in GLIA is one of
 its key strengths. However, there is great opportunity to continue to expand. Strictly speaking, the number
 of participating islanders is not a primary metric for GLIA; rather greater participation will improve GLIA's
 potential impact for individual islands as well as the collective network. GLIA should look to attract new Great
 Lakes Island communities (particularly those in Lake Ontario) as well as improve awareness within islands
 already participating.
- Maintain and grow GLIA's core capacity. In terms of "capacity," we mean the people responsible for performing GLIA's central body of work and professional backbone support. Currently this includes a five-member Steering Committee and five Alternates (all volunteers) plus several individuals from three Partner Organizations. At present, two Partner staff perform the far majority of GLIA's tasks the GLIA Coordinator (0.25 FTE), employed by the State of Michigan and funded through federal Great Lakes restoration dollars, and the GLIA Project Manager (0.75 FTE), employed by the non-profit The Stewardship Network (TSN) and funded through a two-year foundation grant. Additional Partners from TSN and the Island Institute participate without funding and at the will of their employers. Maintaining and encouraging islander volunteerism is critical to GLIA's mission and desire to be "for islanders, by islanders."

GLIA will continually consider how to advance these needs over the next year. In particular, in 2021 we started a partnership with the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability. It team of three graduate students are focusing on GLIA and the unique needs of island communities as the focus for their master's degree project. We look forward to their results and recommendations, expected in 2028, which will help advise GLIA on its organizational trajectory.

Conclusions

GLIA's tradition of placing its marquee event within one of its member communities — as opposed to a central mainland site, which would theoretically be easier to access and have more facilities — continues to bear fruit. The best way to learn about a community is to experience it first-hand. Island communities possess inherent complexity that belies their small size. To understand this complexity, you must ride the ferry, meet the islanders on their own turf, and witness the island's unique character. Further, the 2022 Summit once again proved the value of relationships. After two years of pandemic related delays, there was a pent-up demand to meet in person. GLIA members relished being able to rekindle old relationships and make new ones with the faces they've only seen on Zoom. These relationships, linking individuals and islands, bear fruit when one community shares an idea, a report, or an expert with another. These relationships are difficult to track and quantify but rank among GLIA's greatest achievements.



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SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Greetings Island Comrades,

Summer is upon us, and it is now time for fun in the sun with the kids and grandkids, and enjoying what I believe is the best place in the world to spend summers.

As we weather this economic storm of higher interest rates and inflation, we have many positive things in Clay Township. We have installed four new emergency warning sirens on the Island (six Township-wide). We have two new fire trucks and a new airboat in service. We just placed an automatic CPR machine that can deliver CPR better than any trained human on the Island. We have several AEDs stationed around key spots on the Island for petter protection. All these steps are keeping us and our families safer.



We had a hiccup with EGLE for the planned Harsen's Island Nature Park and are still trying to work out a solution. Hopefully it will riclude a kayak launch, walking trail, public bathrooms and a birding observation tower looking over the marsh. Also, I have been working with the County on the new Beach Park. Construction on the Beach Park should start next year. Clay received a no-match grant for park improvements of \$584,000. Next year, we will refurble a and repurpose our existing playscape at Browne's Field.

Clay Township has several Intrastructure projects. We received a \$2.5 million Federal grant to help pay for a new waterline along M-29 that includes a second supply line under the river for Harsen's. We also received a \$1 million grant to repair our sewer interceptor. Phase 2 of our Water project is to replace a 1937 water main from Anchor Bay Drive to Ira Twp allowing us to pure hase water from Ira, if needed. We are fortunate to receive an additional grant of over \$1 million for this project.

All Islanders know about the sewage difficulties in and around Sans Souci. We were turned down for a large septic field but are now doing research on a small batch plant to process sewage for the area. I am collecting information as I am writing this letter, but we are looking at culting-edge technology that uses algae to treat water (see article on page 37 for more information.) The process creates oxygen and grows algae that can later be sold and converted into ink or plastics. Also, we will gain carbon credits that can be sold. The footprint for the 20,000 gallon/day plant will be 30' x 90' looking just like a greenhouse. I have been promised grants to pay for most of this project.

Clay will be having four "Music in the Park, Island Style" events this year at Browne's Field. We now sponsor two Island Clean-Ups, also located at Browne's Field. We are also doing a Block Party in downtown Sans Souci called Dancing in the Streets, where we close the road down so people can safely gather in a large area. This year we are bringing in three great bands and are inviting all service groups to use it as a fundraiser.

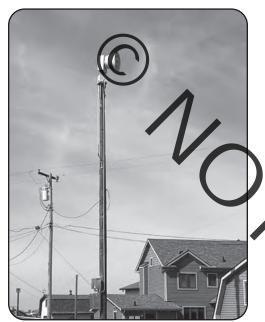
My number one job is to protect the Township, and to be fiduciarily responsible for your hard-earned money. Clay Township dedications and commitment to the taxpayers of Clay never waivers. Only about 12% of your property taxes stay in the Township. We are continuously looking for ways to save tax money, reduce township overhead, provide better services, and improve our infrastructure while reducing our costs going forward. Just this year, we have received or benefited from over \$6 million in grants, and most communities are envious of our success. Clay Township is fiscally strong while investing in our future, leaving it a better place for the next 100 years.

Have a safe and happy summer! Artie Bryson

Clay Township Fire Department

By Chief George Rose

The Clay Township Fire Department now has four early warning sirens up and running on Harsen's Island. They are located on Golf Course Rd., South Channel Dr., Green Dr. and on the corner of Stewart and Little Rd.; there are nine total throughout the township. There will be monthly siren tests on the first Monday of each month at 1:00 pm. By installing the additional four early warning sirens on the Island, the fire department will be in a better position to notify residents during severe weather.



The Fire Department has acquired and installed four new CR-2 AEDs which are located at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall, St. Paul Church, St. Mark Church and Browne's



Field. An additional AED for utilization in downtown Sans Souci is also being considered, however, the specific site is undetermined at this time.

Renovation plans to the Island fire station are still scheduled and will include fixing the parking lot, the culvert and the garage doors. A new chevrolet 2500 HD pickup truck was purchased and its primary use will be for grass fires and towing the fire boats. The new pickup truck will also be used as a secondary medical back-up unit.

Our annual Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, September 3rd. I hope to see you all there!

Emergency Calls on Harsen's Island for 2022

Fires 9 • Rescues 119 • Hazardous Conditions 6 Service Calls 90 • False Alarms 9 Severe Weather 3 • Total Calls on Harsen's Island 236 • Total Calls Township Wide 1,435

Clay Township Police Department

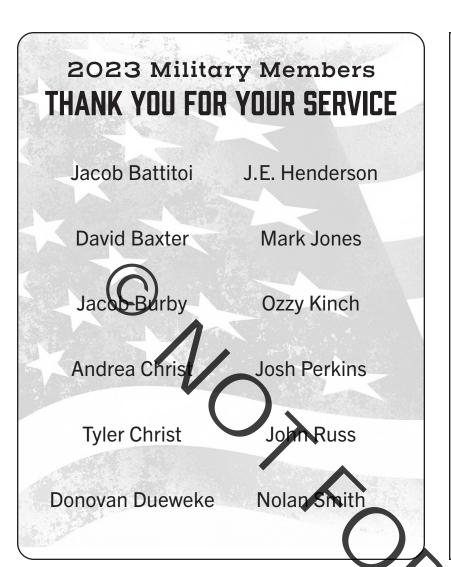
By Michael Koach, Chief of Police

With the warmer weather approaching and the return of our seasonal residents, the Clay Township Police Department would like to remind everyone that even though we are a community that encourages all outdoor recreational activities, we also strive to ensure the health and safety of all residents and visitors to our area. Harsen's Island is a unique part of our community that draws visitors from all over the world. We encourage anyone planning to spend time on Harsen's Island to become familiar with the Clay Township Ordinances, specifically our ORV, noise and fireworks ordinances. Each year our department receives increasingly more calls for services on the Island regarding recreational vehicles, loud gatherings and overly intoxicated persons. We want everyone to enjoy themselves while following the rules set in place to ensure that our community continues to be a destination



that others want to visit and live in. As always, Officers of the Clay Township Police Department will be present on the Island to respond to any call for service and to enforce all State and Local laws when needed. If you have any questions or need to speak with a member of our department, we are available 24/7 at the Clay Township Police Department located at 4710 Pointe Tremble Rd.

For emergencies call 911. For non-emergencies call (810) 794-9381.



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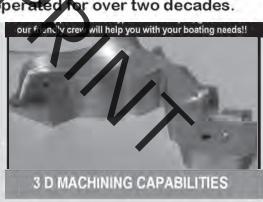
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Harsen's Island Transportation Authority

HARSEN'S ISLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY IS AN ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION. WE DO WHAT WE DO BECAUSE WE WANT HARSEN'S ISLAND TO MEET ITS FULL POTENTIAL BY PROVIDING AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE AND SAFE TRANSPORTATION TO ISLAND RESIDENTS AND VISITORS. BY ACCOMPLISHING THIS GOAL MORE PEOPLE CAN ENJOY THE BEAUTY, SERENITY AND RECREATION OF THIS SPECTACULAR LOCATION. IN ADDITION, OUR VISION IS FOR BUSINESSES TO ONCE AGAIN BE ABLE TO THRIVE AND PROVIDE SERVICES THAT ARE VERY MUCH NEEDED.



The Harsen's Island Transportation Authority (HITA) was created in June of 1997 by the Clay Township Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to plan, promote, design, build, operate and maintain a reliable, safe and efficient method of transportation or and off the Island. The Articles of Incorporation granted the Authority the power to purchase and acquire property, to establish, own, modernize and operate a facility, that they choose. In addition, the Board has the authority to enter into contracts, accept donations, assess user fees and taxes within its jurisdiction.

The Harsen's Island Transportation Authority Board was inactive for years. Beginning in 2019, new members were appointed and the Board is active in seeking alternative transportation to and from Harsen's Island.

The Board consists of five members appointed by Clay Township and the Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association (HISCFA). The members serve without pay and their terms are staggered.



From Left to Right: Paul Cassidy, Dennis Szymanski, Harold Bain, Wayne (Skip) Tornow, and Gary Beaulac

MISSION STATEMENT:

HITA is a customer-driven organization that is tasked by the residents of Clay Township to plan, design, develop and operate a safe, sustainable, modern transportation method of crossing to and from the Island.

BOARD VALUES:

- The Board encourages healthy, positive and constructive discussions with all stakeholders.
- These include the residents of Clay Township, the local businesses and government agencies at the local, county, state and federal levels.
- The Board places the highest priority on transparency with our partners and stakeholders.
- The Board strives to become a leader in the use of state-of-the-art technology to help revolutionize transportation systems and customer convenience.
- The Board maintains a high standard of open communication that is honest, ethical and direct.
- Board members are required to state any conflict of interest prior to voting on an issue.

HARSEN'S ISLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY BOARD

HITA Chairman — Harold Bain*
HITA Vice Chairperson — Dennis Szymanski
HITA Treasurer — Gary Beaulac
HITA Secretary — Wayne (Skip) Tornow
HITA Member — Paul Cassidy

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HITA FERRY VISION AND POSSIBILITIES:

The Harsen's Island Transportation Authority (HITA) has been working with the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority (EUPTA) to gain understanding of their ferry operations to use as a possible model for our community. Sugar Island is very similar to Harsen's Island in population, summer visitors and distance of crossing. The EUPTA staff has been helpful sharing information of all kinds, including operating costs, ferry construction, dock construction, insurance and more. Members of the HITA Board have met with them on multiple occasions. EUPTA receives state and federal funding. On the new HITA website www HarsensITA.org we have shared some pictures of their operations. Also, you will find a video Day in the Life of Drummond Island Deckhand showing how their ice breaking ferries make it possible to run 365 days year, 24 hours a day. HITA is confident that rates may be more affordable operating as a non-profit government-controlled entity with financial assistance for operation costs and infrastructure.

HITA is communicating with the Blue Water Area Transportation Commission. In the past, they have worked on transportation funding opportunities with Harsen's Island. State and federal funding may be available again. HITA will share all operating information with Blue Water Area Transit and the Michigan Department of Transportation. This should ensure best practices in safety and affordability of a possible new ferry operation for the residents and visitors of Harsen's Island.

Linda Davis-Kirksey began working with HITA in February 2023 as a grant writer and organizational development consultant. HITA contracted with Linda's company, Davis Kirksey Associates, Inc., which specializes in grant writing, organizational development and training. Linda's experience working with federal, state and local funding requests for over 22 years with a 95% success ratio was the determining factor for contracting with Davis Kirksey Associates, Inc. Linda Davis-Kirksey is widely known in Michigan and HITA is optimistic about the future having Davis Kirksey Associates, Inc. as part of the team.

HITA regularly attends meetings with SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Government) and SCCOTS (St. Clair County Transportation Study). We are working closely with MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation) to ensure we meet their expectations.

Many state and federal politicians have embraced our cause. Initially, HITA received a \$250,000 grant with help from the offices of Senator Dan Lauwers and House Representative Gary Eisen. This has allowed HITA to work on many of the necessary initial steps to create alternative transportation services to and from the Island.

HITA has held discussions with investors who are interested in HITA's direction and want to be involved.

A Feasibility Study is underway as recommended by MDOT and needed to move forward and for grant applications.

A ten-week traffic study was conducted from August to October 2022. This information is instrumental insight for HITA to initiate alternative transportation. Thank you to HISCFA for allowing us to set up the cameras on the large advertising board at Browne's Field to collect this data.

The current HITA board is determined and dedicated to offering a transportation choice to residents and visitors. We welcome your participation and support. To learn more about HITA please visit our new website www.HarsensITA.org. You can stay connected and hear the latest news by subscribing to receive mails or text notifications. Our new website www. HarsensITA.org was created by Ray Templin of AM 760 WJR. Ray is assistant to the Chief Engineer at WJR and sets up most remote broadcasts around the entire state. He helps with their IT efforts and has been instrumental in making our website easy to use, mobile friendly, secure and searchable. Thank you to Stacy Williams of Harsen's Island Photography, LLC for providing the beautiful photographs used on the new website.

HITA MEETINGS:

We welcome the community to a tend HITA's monthly meetings at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 230 LaCroix, Harsen's Island. They are generally held after the HISCFA meetings on the second Saturday of each month at 10:30 am. By joining our text club through the website, www.HarsensITA.org meeting notifications, including our agenda and information of any progress on our latest efforts will be sent. The meetings should be recorded and accessible on our website beginning Spring 2023. Participation and support of the community is essential in our efforts. Donations are appreciated.



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2023 Water Level Report

By Paul Wargo

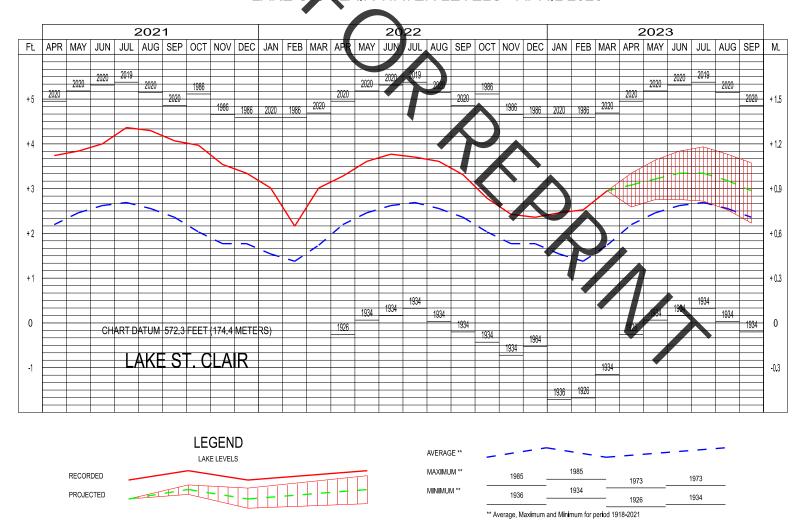
The boots and sandbags from 2019-20 have been put away. Most would say, "Good riddance!" However, when the water level dropped last fall like someone had pulled the plug, many began to wonder how low it would go with great apprehension. Then a winter, perhaps unlike any other, began in early December with the water leveling off. The Corps of Engineers were right on the button with their forecast. The water level stayed steady all winter.

No one knows yet what the long-term effects of the warm winter and lack of ice will mean, but the seasonal rise began on schedule (albeit slightly). The water level remained steady this spring, but the water level did not rise as much as usual. In the middle of May the level was at 575.6, only a couple inches higher than we were at the beginning of April This is in keeping with the Corps of Engineers forecast that we will end up in July about 6" lower than last summer.

On the horizon there are a couple of developments worth watching. The Mississippi River went from record lows last fall to flood stage this spring. The Corps does not expect snow run off to have any impact here, however Lake Huron rose 6" in April and the big lake is only 2" below where it was at this time last year.

By the time you read this we should know if the big boats will be able to race into Little Muscamoot Bay this summer. A few inches can make a big diperence.... We'll see.

LAKE ST. CLAIR WATER LEVELS - APRIL 2023



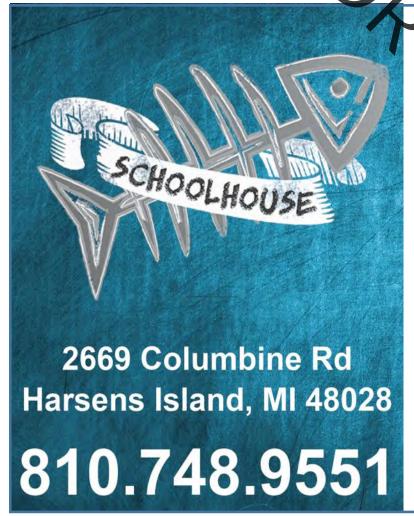


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SUMMER HOURS

Monday & Tuesday Closed
Wednesday & Thursday 4 pm—9 pm
Friday & Saturday 12 noon—9 pm
Sunday 9 am—2 pm

Harsen's Island DNR Corner

By John Darling

2022 brought challenges, changes, and a great duck hunting season for us. In the spring of 2022 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) emerged on the landscape, killing millions of poultry nationwide. Unfortunately, Harsen's Island became one of the first hotbeds for HPAI in wild birds. Our staff recovered and documented hundreds of dead ducks, geese and swans during the spring migration and we submitted the first confirmed cases of HPAI in wild ducks and geese in the state. HPAI lingered throughout the summer, changing our protocols and options for duck and goose banding during the summer. Thankfully, this strain of HPAI did not transfer to humans, so risks outside of poultry flocks were minimal. Despite local die-offs of wild birds nationwide, duck population numbers across the flyway were strong going into the fall migration and hunting season. The fall migration was slow and drawn out, thanks to a lack of snow and ice north of us, and healthy numbers of puddle ducks again moved through the area on their traditional courses southward. We had a couple stretches of cold, windy, 'ducky' weather that hunters were able to take advantage of, and ended the season with our best duck harvest since 2006 and our 9th best season ever for the managed waterfowl area on the Island.

Black terns continue to be a priority species for us and our partners at Audubon Great Lakes and Detroit Audubon. Black terns have declined 51% nationwide since the 1960's and the nesting colony here on The Flats is one of the largest nesting colonies left in the Great Lakes region. As of spring 2023, they are now listed as a threatened species in Michigan, raised from a species of special concern Audubon staff continue to band chicks and adults and monitor nests, as well as use geolocators and telemetry data to monitor the birds at a finer scale. In the summer of 2022, Audubon Great Lakes used grant funding to cut 19 acres of cattails in our east marsh unit along South Channel Drive creating new potholes for marsh birds, waterfowl and terns to use as well as cleaning up some canals to improve boat, kayak, and canoe access throughout the marsh. They have received another round of funding for 2023 and will cut another 20 acres of cattail in the summer of 2023.



Black Tern Chick in Nest



DNR Banding Ducks



Erin Holding Tern

THE ASSOCIATION'S FUNDRAISING EFFORTS & ACTIVITIES

HISCFA's events help to build a sense of community, create an enjoyable experience for members, Islanders, and their guests and they help to spread awareness about the Association and all we do. These fundraisers also supplement the income from dues and donations which help to maintain many benefits and Island amenities provided by the Association.

Volunteers are the secret ingredient that powers the Association and all its initiatives. So, a very special thanks to all of you that have donated your time, your efforts, and more, to help with our success!







The only car show where you arrive by Forty"

5TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW (JULY 16, 2022)

Attendees engaged with nearly 130 vehicle owners who shared their knowledge and stones about the history, restoration techniques, modifications, and unique features of their beloved vehicles. Browne's Field attracted a nice mix of classic cars, hot rods, and every imaginable vehicle of interest. And at the end of the day 41 trophies were awarded to the judged vehicles.

Fundraising efforts at the car show included two 50/50 drawings plus numerous raffle prizes. Prize items included donated gift cards from many familiar restaurants, retailers, and golf courses. A crowd favorite every year is the custom-painted corn hole game (donated by Kathleen O'Connor) and this year we had five 1/64th scale Reliable Carriet diecast semi-trucks that had \$100 gas cards (made possible by Russ Wilne Ford) attached to them! Several association members had their vehicles entered: Kathleen O'Connor displayed her gorgeous black on black C4 Corvette. Harold Remlinger

entered his beautiful 1966 Plymouth Barracuda in stunning gold on gold. One of our show's sponsors, Brandy and Frank Mariano from *That's Minor Customs*, entered their ultra-low mileage, black on black C5 Corvette.

A very special thank you goes out to our generous sponsors, which includes Algonac Action Auto, Russ Milne Ford, That's Minor Customs, and Reliable Carriers. And without a doubt, the show could not have been held without the tireless efforts of our volunteers and their families and friends—thank you!













ANNUAL FIELD DAY (AUGUST 6, 2022)

Field Day has been an Island tradition since 1943! Until it found its final home at Browne's Field, it was held at Tashmoo Park, the Boys Club, and the Lions Hall. It's a great family-friendly opportunity for kids to enjoy free, organized outdoor activities and games while getting out from behind their "screens." Parents enjoyed socializing while shopping at vendors and browsing the silent auction tables that were overflowing with goodies. The Grand Raffle prizes were 1st: \$750, 2nd: \$400, and 3rd prize: a book of ferry tickets. We had close to 100 kids ages 4-12 that participated in the games. Each participant received a goody bag and a coupon for a free snack at the concession stand. After a hot day running around the Field, the annual fire truck shower delivered a much needed cool down for the young athletes.







ANNUAL FALL BBQ & BONFIRE (SEPTEMBER 17, 2022)

The event originated in 2015 as an end-of-summer pig roast/bondre for our Island residents to celebrate the closing of another season of an and relaxation on our beautiful island. It was not intended to be a major fundraiser but has since become a significant source of funding for field improvements and restrooms at Browne's Field, the designated venue for the evening.

Over the past few years, the event has morphed from being a pig roast to a barbecue featuring a fabulous dinner of pulled pork, chicken and brisket prepared and served by our local Islander "Better" Brad's Barbecue. In conjunction with Clay Township Department of Parks and Recreation's *Music in the Park* — *Island Style* series, the event is now being marketed to mainlanders, as well as island residents, and now features a live concert-*Dude and the Abiders* performed for the crowd. The music is always free for everyone, but dinner tickets are limited to 125 and are always sold out.











MDOT ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY (APRIL 22, 2023)

Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. And every April HISCFA kicks off another season of fundraising and activities with the official MDOT Adopt-a-Highway cleanup project.

The weather was cold and rainy but despite the forecast, we still had an impressive turnout of 13 people. Donned in rain gear and warm-weather clothing, the team of volunteers divided up the three-mile stretch of road and headed out for a brisk roadside walk lasting less than two hours. The final trash bag count was 11 plus miscellaneous bulk items like tires, metal parts, and dozens of fishing bobbers. (Last year a fishing rod was found, but was broken in half, must have been a big one!). Afterwards we all headed inside to warm up and enjoy some good laughs and socializing—the best part of the day!

Other Island Clean Up Activity: The Annual Flats Roadside Clean-up took place on April 15. Stephanie Spencer leads this efforts and has reported that the roadside and water is in better shape thanks to several people who have been picking up the trash throughout the year!



MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS & MAKE NEW FRIENDS!

The Association is an all-volunteer organization. We do what we do because we are proud of the Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association and the outstanding community that it represents.



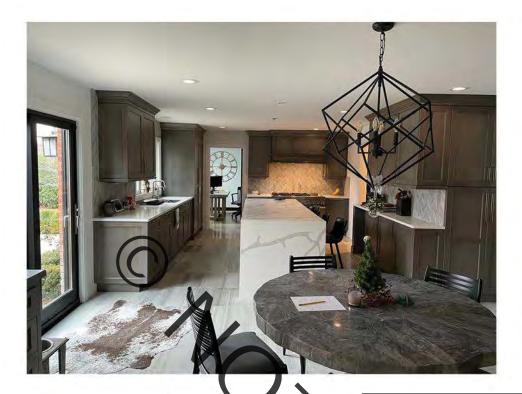
Donating just an hour or two of your time truly makes a difference. Whether you work on a project at home, at an event; during the week or on the weekend—we are always extremely appreciative to have help.

Contact a HISCFA director today to learn more about how to become involved!



The McDonald Island Yacht Club

Welcomes you back to the St. Clair Flats And the Summer of 2023!











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FEATURED ARTICLES

Closer to a Carbon-Free Future. The Blue Water Energy Center.

By Craig Baloga

If you have ever boated the St. Clair River or driven M-29 north toward Marysville, you cannot help but notice the DTE Power Plant. The St. Clair Stacks are an imposing presence on the river. DTE (formerly Detroit Edison) is Michigan's largest energy company and a premier regional energy provider. In 2022, DTE announced the retirement of the coal-fired St. Clair Power Plant and the coal-fired Trenton Channel Power Plant, bringing Southeast Michigan closer to a carbon-free future.

The St. Clair Power Plant, located on M-29 across from the Belle River Power Plant in East China, and the Trenton Channel Power Plant, located across from Grosse Ile, proudly served Southeast Michigan residents for nearly 100 years. Built to address the growth of Michigan's post-World War I & II economy, the Trenton Channel Power Plant (operated from 1924 – 2022) and St. Clair Power Plant (operated from 1953 – 2022) were witnesses to history. Following the end of the Second World War, the St. Clair plant was commissioned. In its peak, it provided nearly 2 000 megawatts of electricity to power the growth of Michigan's businesses and manufacturing sector. As Michigan's need for electricity grew over the decades, DTE's employees at both Trenton Channel and St. Clair served the company's customers and communities throughout Southeast Michigan. The retirement of the Trenton Channel and St. Clair coal power plants marks a significant milestone on DTE's transformational plans to reach not zero carbon emissions. Nearly one-third of all electricity generated by the electric company is now coming from carbon-free sources, such as wind, solar and nuclear energy, making it Michigan's largest producer of clean energy.

In their place, DTE will be utilizing a new natural gas fixed power station. DTE took the economical approach and repurposed the existing infrastructure of the Belle River Power Plant. Spending \$1 billion dollars, DTE converted its fuel source from coal to natural gas. The Belle River Power Plant, now known as the Blue Water Energy Center, is a state-of-the-art, 1,127-megawatt natural gas combined eycle plant and is one of the most efficient plants in the country, reducing emissions 90-95% from coal. There are no immediate plans to demolish the St. Clair Power Plant. DTE, together with East China Township, are in the early planning stages of redeveloping the waterfront property. Over the next ten years, DTE will be investing \$9 billion into Michigan's economy.





Great Lakes Cruising

By Margaret Marchwinski

he southside of Jarsen's Island offers residents and visitors a unique view of boat traffic ranging in size from the smallest of Jishing hoats up to the 1000-foot cargo freighters with all types of pleasure craft in between. In addition to being the international border between the United States and Canada, the South Channel of the St. Clair River is a component of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway System. The completion of the Erie Canal in 1825, connecting the Hudson River and Lake Erie, and the completion of the Welland Canal in 1829, connecting Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, created a navigable waterway from the Atlantic Ocean through the Great Lakes — opening up endless opportunities for trade and travel.

The St. Clair River becomes rather narrow along Harsen's Island, giving residents and visitors the feeling of being up close and personal to the ships and boats that travel up and down the river. The sights and sounds of the large, imposing freighters can be breath-takingly beautiful especially at night or on foggy days. In the last couple years, however, residents have taken notice of a "rew ship in town." Relatively large, passenger cruise ships have been sighted more and more frequently. What are these new ships and where do they go?

In the days before highway systems and automobiles, the only way to travel great distances was by rail and steamer. Steamboats providing overnight passage on the Great Lakes began as early as 1844 and hit its peak between the mid-19th century and the 1950s. Between 1830 and 1810 there were numerous passenger ship and rail lines servicing the Great Lakes. About 50 cruise steamers sailed on the Great Lakes before WWII. The popularity of leisure cruising arose in response to passengers wanting to travel to summer resorts and hotels in the north woods, to escape the hustle and bustle of polluted cities. Popular ports of call were Chicago, Milwaukee, Mackinac Island, Sault Ste. Marie, Duluth, Georgian Bay, Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo and Toronto. However, since the 1950s and the development of highways and increased automobile ewnership, leisure cruises have become less prevalent giving way to car ferry services.



Nonetheless, an increase in Great Lakes cruise travel has reemerged in recent years as a result of pent-up cruise travel demand post-pandemic and vacationers seeking "experience" travel closer to home.

Surprisingly, Great Lakes cruises are much more expensive than Caribbean cruises. Passengers are paying thousands of extra dollars for a more laid-back, personal enrichment vacation that combines 5-star guest conveniences with modern navigation. Today's travelers have many options for length of days and destination, however, due to the short season of May to mid-September, cruises fill up fast and reservations are often required a year in advance.

Shore excursions are typically included in the base price and the variety of cruise ports with their rich history and their own story offer passengers a great selection of activities and experiences. The following are just some of the more popular destinations. The port of Thunder Bay, ON is nestled within a boreal forest and known as "Canada's Gateway to the West," has a vibrant city center for art and culture along with outdoor activities including mountain biking, rock climbing, kayaking and fishing. Chicago, IL, a premier destination, offers travelers great architecture and cultural institutions, nightlife, shopping and world class dining with many cruises beginning or ending in Chicago. Milwaukee, WI is a mecca for beer lovers. and home to the original Miller Brewing Company complex. Tours and tastings are a favorite along with the Santiago Calatrava designed art museum and Harley Davidson Museum. Holland, MI, a little bit of the Netherlands, has Dutch-themed attractions, cobblestone sidewalks, specialty shops, breweries and restaurants. Sault Ste. Marie, MI, site of the Soo Locks, is a marvel of engineering that connects Lake Superior to Lake Huron and is the home of the Maritime Museum Ship, Valley Camp, a retired Great Lakes freighter. Mackinac Island, MI is considered the Jewel of the Great Lakes with its Victorian Era charm and home to the 135-year-old Grand Hotel. The Island has horse-drawn carriage tours, shops, restaurants and is the site of Fort Mackinac dating back to the 1700s. Niagara Falls via Welland Canal is one of the world's most spectacular waterfall complexes (three falls, not just one) can be seen from various viewing areas on land or by boat. Detroit, MI known as the Motor City is also home to many notable museums including the Detroit Museum of Art, Motown Museum, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History and the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation.



GL Cruises - Ponant Le Bellot, Marine City.jpg

The economic impact of cruises on the Great Lakes in 2022 was \$120 million and is expected to grow. Seizing the opportunity and meeting the demand in 2023, four cruise lines are now offering Great Lakes cruise schedules. A prospective passenger just needs to decide when, where and how long. They are American Queen, Ponant, Pearl Seas and Viking cruise lines. Each of these expedition type "boutique" ships are beautiful and carefully crafted. Built smaller and more agile, these ships can easily navigate canals and locks, tranquil bays and hidden ports. The American Queen, Ocean Voyager and Ocean Navigator both are 286 feet long and have a capacity of 202 guests and 84 crew. The Pearl Seas Pearl Mist is 325 feet long and has a capacity of 210 guests and 70 crew. The Ponant Le Bellot is 430 feet long and has a capacity of 184 guests and 110 crew. The Viking Octantis and Polaris (new to 2023) are 672 feet and have a capacity of 378 passengers. All of these cruise ines have their own unique style: the Le Bellot with its luxurous French touch, the laid-back luxury of the Pearl Mist, fresh and modern European flair of the Ocean Voyager and Ocean Navigator, and the awardwinning luxury of the Viking Octanis and Polaris. In summary, these expedition-type cruise ships provide passengers a personalized new way of cruising the Great Lakes also known as the Sweetwater Seas.

Websites researched for this article were: GreatLakesCruises.com (your one-stop shop), Thumbwind.com, Wikipedia (of course) and Greg Tasker's article in Rural Innovation Exchange dated August, 2022.

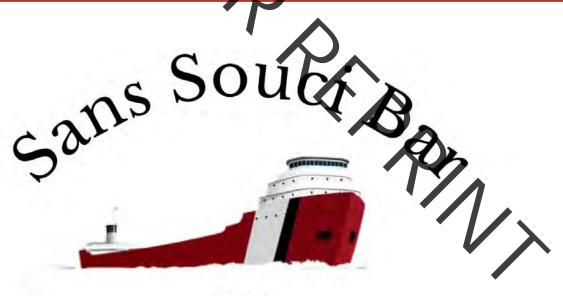


GL Cruises - Pearl Seas Cruises - Pearl Mist.jpg





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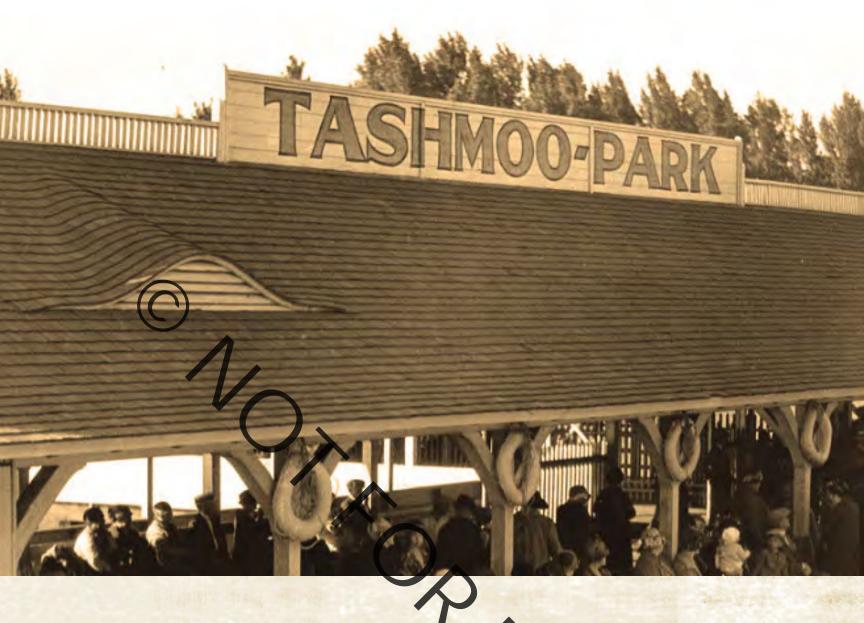


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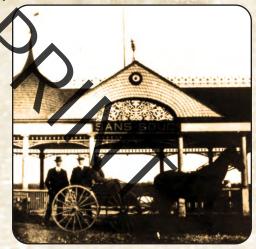


S.S. Downlown, Inc.

By Susan Prior

.S. Downtown, Inc. is a new local non-profit that emerged from our members' shared passion for all things Harsen's Island. Residents and visitors alike enjoy this hidden gem all year long and SSDI is dedicated to ensuring the long-term vitality of our community. We are working hard to secure much needed resources that will enable us to further enrich Island life.

Harsen's Island, although often overlooked, is rich with history. In fact, our name, S.S. Downtown Inc., is a nod to not only the town of Sans Souci, but to the prefix that was commonly used on merchant vessels to identify the ship as using steam propulsion. The S.S. Tashmoo is among the most recognized ships from its era but just one of several steamships that were responsible for bringing vacationers and summer residents to the Island each year.



Sans Souci Pavilion

S.S. Downtown, Inc.'s mission is to support community efforts to create a thriving and sustainable downtown that serves all members of our community. If you are interested in joining SSDI efforts, please contact us at ssdowntowninc@gmail.com. We look forward to growing together as a community.

Founding Members: Susan Prior, Cindy Pilato, Christine Holcomb, Patty Bain, Ashleigh Palescuk and Kathie Schweikart.



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The S.S. Keewatin Travels Down the St. Clair River
By the Harsen's Island Historical Society

he S.S. Keewatin is one of the largest of the remaining Edwardian (Titanic-era) passenger steamers left in the world. Built in Glasgow, Scotland she served in the Canadian Pacific Railroad Great Lakes Steamship fleet from 1907 until 1965. Five years older than the Titanic, the S.S. Keewatin was beautifully designed to provide class and comfort to cruise ship passengers and carry cargo on a two-and-a-half-day journey across the Great Lakes from Port McNicoll on Georgian Bay (Lake Huron) and Port Arthur/Fort William (Thunder Bay) on Lake Superior.

Unfortunately, in 1949 as a result of a catastrophic fire on the S.S. Noronic in Toronto, strict fire codes and regulations were imposed on wooden cabin steamships. The S.S. Keewatin was subsequently retired on November 28, 1965 at Port McNicoll where she was slated to be scrapped. Then in 1965 the "Kee" was saved from scrap when she was purchased by RJ Peterson a Great Lakes historian and marina owner. The S.S. Keewatin was then towed to Lake Kalamazoo and established as a Maritime Museum for the next 45 years.

In August of 2011, The Friends of the Keewatin with assistance from Port McNicoll developer, Gil Blutrich, purchased the S.S. Keewatin from aging RJ Peterson. After 10 months of digging her out, the S.S. Keewatin returned to her home of Port McNicoll in June of 2012. In June of 2020 redevelopment of the museum site and unforeseen financial difficulties resulted in the decision to donate the S.S. Keewatin to the Maritime Museum of the Great Lakes in Kingston, Ontario. The Maritime Museum had the means and expertise to properly restore and maintain this unique piece of Canadian history.

Hence, on April 26, 2023 the S.S. Keewatin, under tow, could be seen traveling down the St. Clair River as she made her final historic journey to the Maritime Museum of the Great Lakes in Kingston, Ontario.





cadet Training Onboard the Pride of Michigan

By Christine Baloga

he U.S. Navar Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) is a national youth organization that is sponsored by the United States Navy. It was chartered by Congress in 1962 and has trained over 175,000 young Americans. They offer a variety of programs and activities that are designed to provide cadets—ages 10 to 17—with an education in seamanship, navigation, leadership, and citizenship.

A unique training opportunity of this program is happening right here on our Great Lakes which includes a vessel that many of you may see cruising around the Island. The Detroit area is home to one of the most innovative maritime education programs in North America. It's led by Captain Luke Clyburn of the Great Lakes Division, U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Corps, which is now known as the Noble Odyssey Foundation (N.O.F.). This program gives cadets reallife experience in maritime tradition made possible by the research and training ship the Pride of Michigan. This vessel, which is frequently spotted around Harsen's Island, conducts professionally led missions throughout the Great Lakes system in tandem with the U.S. Coast Guard and NOAA.

Throughout the Sea Cadet community it's very unusual to have a working vessel. Programs are typically land-based at schools or Navy League facilities and cadets will spend a week or two during the summer training aboard U.S. Navy ships or Naval reserve vessels. Having their own craft has elevated the Great Lakes Division quite a bit from other divisions. This has helped attract cadets, volunteers and ultimately funding. Aside from the donated vessel, the organization doesn't receive any funding from Washington.

The N.O.F. will accept up to 15 cadets annually for shipboard training. Cadets come from across the country. The training is designed to promote the cadet to a higher level of rank in the program. When a cadet graduates, they're able to go into the Navy or Coast Guard at the rank that they earn.

The cost for a student to join is \$145 per year. This covers the national program for insurance and the cost of the uniform and accessories. For summer training there is an additional cost set by the national program that can run from \$75 to \$400, depending on the number of days of participation. The summer training program is onboard the **Pride of Michigan** where Clyburn and his team work with the cadets on seamarship and ship handling skills as well as SCUBA certifications. Their summer training typically involves a Great Lakes research project.

Whether or not these young cadets choose a maritime career, there are many life lessons and leadership lessons from this unique program shaping their futures. Over the past 50 years they've had hundreds of young people train on board the ship and today some of these graduates have gone on to serve in the Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine. To learn more: www.nobleodyssey.org





Growing Up on Harsen's Island Turning a Fascination of Freighter Watching into a Career By Kyle Lawrence

rowing up, my family first bought our cottage on Harsen's Island when I was just eleven years old. Ever since then, we'd go out every weekend we could, even in the winter. Through the 15 years I've been on Harsen's, I've seen the hundreds of ships that have passed our cottage on the South Channel. I always wondered what it would be like to work on one of them. As a new boater myself with a boating license in hand at 13, it was quite a spectacle to see such large ships up close from our much smaller boat. This interest in these Great Lakes freighters led me to start taking photos of all the ships that passed by.

I must have thousands of photos of ships on various phones and cameras that I have taken over the years. Although, it's only been within the last three years that I decided to up my photography and invest in a DSLR camera. This has greatly improved the quality of not only of my freighter photos, but also all the andscape and nature, and photos I get while sailing and traveling. It wasn't until I graduated high school that I became interested in a sailing career. I was originally going to get a "boring" business degree at Grand Valley University, but something changed.

I noticed one of my high school friends was going to Great Lakes Maritime Academy (GLMA) in Traverse City. I asked him how he was enjoying it and about career opportunities. From that point on, I knew what I had to do! Plus, GLMA's training ship, the T/S State of Michigan, passed by Harsen's Island all the time; I always wondered what that ship was before. Little did I know, I'd be sailing on it soon. After a year or so at Schoolcraft College taking general credits, I applied to GLMA and got accepted! I toured the campus in Fall of 2018. I thought I wanted to work deck side, piloting and navigating the ship and all, but after the tour I changed my mind on the spot - I was going to be an engineer.

Strangely enough, I've talked to a few other cadets and they had the same actualization: they, too, switched to the engineering program while attending the tour. Deck and Engineer are two separate programs offered at GLMA. I figured I was more of an engineer because in the previous years I had owned not one, but two diesel Jeep Libertys...yes that's how they came. I worked on the Jeeps with my dad and replaced timing belts (and more) in both. I basically stripped the entire front end off and put it all back together again. Dad and I followed a series of YouTube videos to make it all happen... and it all worked out! I knew I was made to be an engineer; it was just more exciting and hands-on. For example, I remember being so excited to start the timing belt job that I skipped school for a few days to get a head start. I'd have all the parts labeled and bagged methodically to make the job easier and more efficient; I was just about 18 at this time. Now that I'm actually sailing, this experience has come to great use as organization is key after a big engine or machinery break down. Being an engineer of a ship prepares one for everything. From being a mechanic, welder, a fabricator of all kinds, electrician, plumber, equipment operator - we do it all. Being on a ship, there is no limit to the trades an Engineer can or will HAVE to learn aboard. It is almost all the mainstream trades rolled into one. If you ask us, we can fix it, diagnose it or we'll figure out how to do it on the fly... because we have to.

I've been sailing about for years in total now; the past three years were school-related. I've noticed that when our ship approaches Harsen's Island, there is a distinct woodsy smell of all the phragmites. Also, if my family could time it right, they would boat alongside the ship and wave to me: a tradition that carries on today. This last year, I've officially been sailing on at 850 foot long Great Lakes freighter as a 2022 college graduate and 3rd Assistant Engineer. During my off time (I've gone out west on weeks-long camping and hiking excursions, mostly by myself: places like Yellowstone, Arches, Rocky Mountain and Big Bend National Parks to name a few. I've visited 13 new National Parks this year, taking the best photos I've ever taken in my life. Also, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention my brand-new camera. It wasn't cheap, but If I'm going to see the most beautiful parts of the country, I might as well have one of the best cameras to capture it. I usually take about 1,000 to 1,500 photos a trip.

All in all, life on the water is a little stressful and isolated at times, BUT the time off and what one can achieve makes it all worth it. It's not for everyone, but if you can stick it out through the school, the licensing and the shipboard life, you'll be rewarded greatly. My photos are public to see or purchase on social media! For Instagram, search Mister Michigan; Facebook, search Mister Michigan. Thank you for reading! Fair winds and following seas.





A Sans Souci Infrastructure Study with a Progressive Solution

By Christine Baloga

lay Township is studying a unique wastewater treatment system and facility for downtown Sans Souci. The *Algaewheel* system, created by *OneWater Inc.*, is the system being studied which would replace a traditional septic system.

The proposed project on Harsen's Island will be for a facility that could treat 25,000 gallons a day (GPD). This is similar in size to a facility that a group of 13 toured at an Indiana school this past May that's been in operation for six years. In addition to Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson and his team, others on the tour included HISCFA President Craig Baloga and Chuck Miller (representing downtown retailers.) The Chief Technology Officer from Algaewheel, Dan Johnson, Ph.D., was our host on the lour.

The Algaewheel system is a rotating biological contactor wheel in an open basin that sits inside a greenhouse. All you see from the outside is a greenhouse. Wastewater is collected in the collection system, debris is removed, then it's treated by the algae and bacteria living on the wheels in the basins. The clean water that's output is disinfected by ultraviolet light before being discharged from the system. On the Island the discharged treated water would enter the nearby marsh where further filtration, although not necessary, would naturally take place.

Before you ask yourself... there's no smell (this is a zero-methane system). There is a humming sound when you stand outside the greenhouse which is primarily caused by the ventilation fans. It's a very simple and elegant system and process that reminded me a lot of how a tropical fish tank filter works.

After processing, Algae is taken from the system and there's multiple options for how to repurpose it. *Algaewheel* has existing relationships with organic ink makers who in turn work with clothing companies. Some well-known manufacturers already using algae-made raw materials in their products include Patagonia and Tentree.

Shown in photo left to right: Craig Baloga, President of HISCFA, Artie Bryson, Clay Township Supervisor, Anthony Theodorou, Project Control Engineering, Lance Surdy, Head of Clay Twp. Water Dept., Jerry Doan of Clay Twp. Water Dept., Dr. Daniel B. Johnson of Algaewheel

This entire process is in line with carbon sequestration and carbon zero initiatives. This method has a very high sequestration value which is worth something on a commodities market. Clay Township is doing a baseline study of Sans Souci to determine how much methane would NOT be produced by using the Algaewheel system (methane is 25 times more reactive than carbon dioxide/Co2). This method gets certified through a registry and then the registry issues credits which are called verified carbon units which belong to the municipality and can be sold on the open market to help offset the cost. Since there aren't a lot of users on Harsen's Island because of seasonal homes and second homes, the township wants to try to offset the cost of operation as much as possible.

There are 20 Algaewheel facilities in the United States and about the same number outside the U.S. The largest installation is in Egypt where they're operating a system with a capacity of 750,000 gallons per day (GPD) and they use all the water discharged from this facility for irrigation. Water is plentiful in Michigan but there are other places in the world where this method is used for water reclamation.

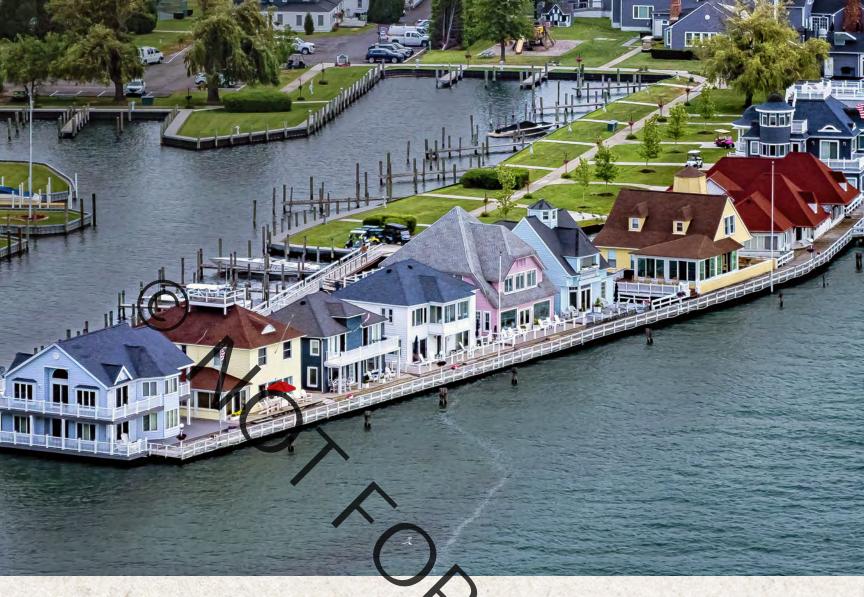
If the study is positive, the estimated cost for the Harsen's Island project would be \$3 million. Clay Township would seek a grant to fully cover this expense. There wouldn't be any additional Clay Township staff required to maintain and operate this facility and the implementation timeline would be 18 months.





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Remembering The Old Club's Candy-Colored Boardwalk Cottages

t is with sadness that we pay tribute to The Old Club's candy-colored boardwalk cottages. Harsen's Island Historical Society's first vice president Chris Knight reminds us, the Island has faced numerous fires over the years, including those that destroyed several hotels that were nnce present in the area. As the structures on the Island are predominantly made of wood and are aged, this poses a significant challenge."

On behalf of the Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association and all its members, our hearts break for all the families and their guests that have made so many cherished memories in these structures. We are grateful that everyone is safe and that there's hope through restoration plans that the spirit of these homes will live on for future generations.

Wendy Anglin, General Manager/COO, publicly released the following statement:

"The Old Club is devastated to see the most iconic and historic gems of Harsen's Island, the candy-colored boardwalk cottages that have stretched to the tip of the Island for decades, succumb to destruction by fire on March 8, 2023. There were thankfully no injuries other than to our hearts.

Six housing structures of historic significance that have long been family cottages were lost today. But we intend to restore the property back to its historic charm. The Old Club celebrated its 150 Year Anniversary last season and this unfortunate setback, while heartbreaking, will not deter us from continuing a century and a half of tradition."





St Paul Church 100th Anniversary By Theresa Kukawka

n Wednesday, June 29, 2022 St. Paul Church celebrated their 100th Anniversary in five significant ways.

The Church door was painted redwhich signifies that the church is at least 100 years old!

A Prayer Service was led at the church by Rev. Rebecca Lepley.

She welcomed parishioners from St. Mark, guests from the mainland, descendants of the original church founders which included Norma Champion, Stephen Meh. Jesnie McLane, and members of the Osgood family, Bishop Prince Sing, Dr. Tracy Little and the Baird sisters who traveled all the way from Pennsylvania to join in the festivities! Rev. Rebecca honored those who planted the seeds for St. Paul and thanked God for the great harvest 100 years later.

The acquisition, installation and dedication of a new organ was made possible by David and Nelli Elle, in honor of David's mother, Lorain Elle. The Elle Family purchased a cottage on the Middle Channel in 1955 and over the decades Lorain was very involved at St. Paul. Everyone who gathered at the charch on June 29 was treated to a mini concert featuring the following three different organists:

Sharron Freeman: Let There Be Peace on Earth Christen Lepley: Finlandia Song of Peace Diane Bowden: Arrangement of Jesus Loves Me



Two trees were planted. The tree with two trunks was nicknamed the "Love One Another As I Have Loved You Tree" and the second tree with three trunks was aptly nicknamed "The Trinity Tree." Following the prayer service, bagpiper Kim Johnson led the congregation outside where everyone took turns pouring "Holy water" on the newly planted trees.

Following the Church service, St. Paul hosted a picnic at the pavilion at Browne's Field. Seating was filled to capacity. Debbie, Gloria and Chuck felt like they were "feeding the 5,000!" And, just like the Bible story, they miraculously had enough sausages, hotdogs and pulled pork sandwiches for everyone. Under the direction of Robert Lepley, the St. Clair Community Band played and featured solos by Rev. Rebecca Lepley (with Christen Lepley and Jacob Bryson in the band) - it was pure magic! There was singing and dancing and joy galore, crowned with perfect weather and no bugs! A book of ferry tickets, donated by Norma Champion's descendants, was won by Doreen Miller. The \$100 gas card was won by John Gruber. Everyone had a splendid time!

Guests are always welcome to attend St. Paul Church service and coffee hour every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.











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GROUPS AND CLUBS



Algoria - Clay Township Historical Society By Dennis Dureno

The Algonac-Clay Township Historical Society (ACHS) is celebrating its 31st year in 2023. The last two years have been years of solitude, surprises, events, sadness and celebrations. In 2022 all three museum sites were open and saw over 1,100 visitors from over 24 states and five countries. This effort was supported by over 4,500 hours from ACHS volunteers who were dozents, assisted with changing exhibits, tour guides, and keeping the museums safe, maintained, and sound. We were also involved in over 20 area events and hosted two tall ship visits. Our biggest fundraising event was the \$15,000 raffle which was won by three local residents. We thank you all for your support of our events and fundraisers! For 2023 our primary focus will be to raise the funds to replace the mansard roof on the Maritime Museum.

The ACHS has over 25 local and area community events scheduled for this year. Check the ACHS website at www.achistory.com for the dates and locations.

Now, a little bit of history about the ACHS museum sites. The Community Museum is a Greek revival home which was built by Charles H. Beers around 1849. Dr. Thomas L. Stringer located his office in the building from 1894 through 1913. In 1914 it became the home and office of Dr. Walter E. Bostwick and after his death in 1943, his widow Cordelia lived in the home until her death in 1948. In 1949 the flay lownship Library moved into the main part of the building with the Township offices and the St. Clair Health Department occupying the north wing. When the Clay Township offices moved, the library was renovated and expanded. As the Township population increased so did the use of the library. When there was no more room for expansion to accommodate their needs, the library found a new facility further north in the old Hemminger Hardware Store. The City of Algonac and the Township of Clay then leased the former library building to the Algonac Clay Township Historical Society. With funding from both governmental units and fundraising by the Historical Society, the building was again renovated into a community museum by a group of dedicated volunteers. The Algonac-Clay Historical Society opened the Community Museum on May 26, 1997.

The Maritime Museum is located diagonally across from the Walpole Island ferry to Canada and is the last addition to the Algonac-Clay Township Historical Society museums. The building was owned by Fifth Third Bank and was donated to the Algonac-Clay Township Historical Society in 2012. Members worked on getting one room renovated each year. They prepared displays that included Chris Smith, founder of Chris-Craft Corporation and boat builder, Gar Wood, and his Miss America race boats that were built in Algonac. His Miss America X set a World Speed Record in 1933 at 124 mph on the St. Clair River. The Society members are attendants to Miss America when she is displayed. On display in the museum is also a 1949 Chris-Craft 16 ft. Sportsman mahogany boat that was raffled at the annual Algonac Lions Pickerel Tournament in 1949. The Maritime Museum also has many photos of World War II landing craft that were built by Chris-Craft between

1942 and 1945. One of Gar Wood's last mahogany boats from the Marysville, MI plant that closed in 1947 was named the Last Gar. Also on display is a Chris-Craft kit boat. These boats were built annually by students in a boat building class at Algonac High School until 1960. Among other displays is a replica of a boathouse with a small racing boat often seen racing on the river, hanging on an Algonac Boat Hoist. There are many artifacts from other boat-building companies from the area including a boat manufactured by Allen Boats. Outboard motors include an Elto, Elgin, Johnson, Evinrude, Chris-Craft, Mercury, Scott Atwater, Hiawatha and many more. The Museum has a number of model ships such as the Edmond Fitzgerald. There is a room dedicated to tall ships since Algonac is known as The Hospitality Port for many tall ships when they are in the Great Lakes for the Tall Ships Challenge held every three years. The Maritime Museum also has artifacts of boating history, Chris Craft boat drawings, paintings and prints depicting the area and sailing ships, historical boating videos, the Algonac ship cam view of the river and also the Ship to Shore Gift Shop. The Algonac-Clay Township Historical Society also supports research requests that are solicited by individuals or other museums interested in boat building, boating tegends and Algonac and Clay community history. The Museum is also used for special events by boat clubs, Individuals and social clubs/organizations.

The last ACHS museum site is the Clay Township log home that was owned by the Bedford family since 1882. and was possibly a school house before that. Restoration began in 1984 when the Clay Township Historical Society obtained the structure. It was built from hand-hewn logs, some measuring more than one foot thick. They are notched on the ends so they fit together without nails as was the custom in building log homes at that time. Close to M-29 in Fearl Beach was a two-bedroom home whose last resident vacated in 1978. During demolition the removal of the siding revealed that a 384 square foot log structure existed under a modern exterior. J. Downing, Clay Township Supervisor at the time, was instrumental in saving the log building. J. Downing also arranged for the founding of the Clay Township Historical Society which met for the first time on Tuesday, January 17, 1984. In May of 1984, volunteers dug footings and poured a concrete slab to provide a solid foundation for the building. The structure was moved July 27, 1984 to its present site adjacent to the Clay Township Hall. It was re-roofed with hand-split cedar shakes and the windows were acquired from an 1870 parsonage. More recent renovations were undertaken by the volunteers of the Algonac-Clay Township Historical Society in 1998. Some logs on the back of the building were replaced. Much of the chinking was removed and replaced along with reglazing the old windows. Many arkacts have been donated from area residents and are on display in the Log Cabin and the adjacent barn. The Log Cabin is open to the public the last Sunday of June, Michigan Log Cabin Day, and for special events. On the other side of the log house is a section of the Interurban Railway track and the original Detroit Urban Railway (DUR) waiting station which served Pearl Beach from approximately 1892 until the 1930s. One unique feature of the station was the carving of numerous names into the wood by passengers. The signatures were often accompanied by the date and the writer's home city.

The ACHS Museum committee meets on a regular basis to accept donations of artifacts pertaining to the area. They are then assigned an accession number, marked for identification, cataloged and either put on exhibit or stored for a future display. The details of the artifacts are put into a computer program with the donor information, a location and classification. A committee of volunteers plans the exhibits, gathers the artifacts and then puts it all together for display. The goal is to change the exhibits in a timely manner so the museums get a fresh look and you will want to return again and again. In 2022 we accepted 354 artifacts.



Detroit Urban Railway Station



Maritime Museum



Clay Township Log Home



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society

By Bob Williams, Corinne Tremer and Chris Knight

In 2020 our Historical Society completed and opened the new addition to the houseum which included a large exhibit space and additional storage. During the last two and a half years we have been busy renovating the original portion of the building including some minor repairs, a fresh coat of paint inside and out and new flooring. On Memorial Day weekend 2022 we dedicated the completed museum and, in honor of two of our Historical Society's founders, the exhibit space at the main entrance to the building has been named *The Nancy Boulton and Gary Grout Room.*

Gary Grout was one of the founders of our Historical Society and served as our first President, and continued serving on the Board of Directors for another six years as the Chairman of the Board. Gary served during the 1950s as a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve. Gary was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, General Society for the War of 1812 and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He was a genealogist and Harsen's Island historian, producing a video, now a DVD, about the Steamer *Tashmoo* and the Hotels of Harsen's Island. That video is available in the museum. Gary provided a great service to the Historical Society as a leader and advisor.

Gary Grout



Nancy Boulton was the one with the vision. She believed that Harsen's Island was deserving of its own Historical Society and Museum. In 2009 Nancy spent months promoting her idea and was successful in assembling a group of people on the Island who agreed with her, including Gary Grout. In 2010 the first Board of Directors was formed, with Nancy named as the Museum Director. She arranged to rent the old Island Fire Hall and the Historical Society had a home. Then she spent countless hours procuring and organizing artifacts for display and recruiting volunteers to renovate the building, design the displays and opening the museum to the public. Nancy initiated numerous fundraising events including the annual Cookie Walk and Fall Pie Sale that continue to this day.

Milton Osgood Ir. was invited to help unveil the new Harsen Family Tree Exhibit. Milton spoke about the day he found the Jacob Harsen Pheadstone in the 1960s, in the wooded area near his home on Grande Pointe. He saw a small piece of the headstone exposed, cleaned it off and dug it out of the ground. The headstone was broken in two pieces and the missing portion is probably still in the ground.

During the last year, exhibits in the museum have been updated and redesigned to fit our new spaces and provide a unique experience for visitors. Some of our exhibits include: First Nations, Early History, The Golden Era of Hotels and Resorts, Tashmoo Park, Island Cottage Life, Freighters and Ferries, The Transportation Boom, and The Jacob Harsen Family. We also continue to have the bell from the Steamship Tashmoo on display, which is on loan from the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, MI.

Our collection continues to grow as Islanders clean out their cottages and realize that their cherished items can have a new life being cared for and appreciated by our Historical Society's volunteers and members. Thank you to all who have donated to our collection over the years.

Be sure to stop and visit us at the museum and see the results of our renovation and our new exhibits. The Museum is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Visiting hours are Saturdays from 10 AM to 3 PM, and on Sundays from 12 PM to 4 PM. Admission is ree



Harsen Family Tree Exhibit



Early History and First Nations Exhibit



Freighters and Ferries Exhibit

MISSION STATEMENT

The Harsens Island / St. Clair Flats Historical Society's mission is to collect, protect, preserve and share with the public the unique historical artifacts and information that represents the diverse cultural composition of the people that occupied the area of the St. Clair River Delta that is Harsens Island and the St. Clair Flats.

Our energies will be directed to acquisition, restoration and preservation with special emphasis directed to education of all who wish to share the rich cultural history of the people who lived here.



Amssion is FREE to the

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS
Historical Society Museum

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~ Tashmoo Park

~ Golden Era of Hotels XReserts

~ Island Cottage Life

~ The Tashmoo Steamer

~ Jacob Harsen Family Lineage



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Become a member of the Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society www.harsensislandhistory.org Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

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C.A.T.T.A.I.L.S. Woman's Life Chapter #812

By Cheryl Cardinali

The Harsen's Island C.A.T.T.A.I.L.S. (Charitable Activities to Touch All in Love "Sistas") was formed in 2010. We host monthly meetings at the home of one of our members. C.A.T.T.A.I.L.S. are a service organization of caring women dedicated to enhancing the quality of life on Harsen's Island. Helping needy individuals and families primarily residing on, but not limited to, Harsen's Island is accomplished by the initiation of special projects and support of local organizations. Since our inception we have raised \$319,619.

Our organization continues to collect money at our monthly meetings to support local organizations in St Clair County. A few that we were able to help in 2022 were: Blue Water Humane Society, Children's Miracle Network, Council on Aging, Kids in Distress, Safe Ride Sue, Spero Pregnancy Center and Turning Point.

C.A.T.T.A.I.L.5 held two successful fundraisers in 2022 that raised over \$12,000. The money raised at our summer Blooming Boutique event at the Old Club was donated to Community Enterprises of St. Clair County who serve people with physical or mental disabilities. They encourage independence and inclusion for adults over 18 as well as provide work experience. We were thrilled to present them with a check for \$6,126.86.

The Harvest Dinner fundraiser was held at the Schoolhouse Grille. It was a beautiful fall evening and the money raised from our silent auction, live auction and raffles was used to assist local Island families in need over the holiday season. We were also able to help some school children in Algonac, make a donation to Henry's Club which provided support to an Algonac family with hospital bills for their sick daughter, and purchase toys for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program.

As always, the C.A.T.T.A.I.L.S. would like to thank the Islanders for all their generous support!



Front row: Cheryl Cardinali, Nancy Streit, EJ McKnight, Kathy O'Connor, Diane Stieler, Doris Jackson, Joanne Young, Jane Armstrong, Lori Wiggins and Lillian Stoneback

Back row: Nancy Bonacquisti, Donna Glowski, Kristin Bane, Lynn Gentile, Ilene Bischer, Darcy Praught, Jane Cihon, Lucy Burby and Shelly Vavro

Not pictured: Lynn Lozon

Harsen's Island Lions Club

By Randy Wildner

The Harsen's Island Lions Club ran at full speed in 2022!

The Turkey shoot was a huge success. Melissa Morrison-Duceatt and her crew did an awesome job organizing the parade which had a tremendous turnout in both participants and spectators! A special thanks to Mark Gentile and the crew at Gentile's Collision for fixing up the Lions Parade cart. Awesome job Mark! It looks great!

The annual Thanksgiving dinner, as always, never disappoints. You can't go wrong when the Lions and Lionesses do all the cooking! No mess to clean up in your kitchen and you can now eat and watch the Detroit Lions for your viewing pleasure on a newly-installed television. Breakfast with Santa closed 2022 with lots of kids, young and old, in attendance. January of 2023 began with a new event called the "Flashback Party." It was a blast and everyone had lots of fun. Several pictures were posted on social media. The 75th annual Muskrat Dinner was another successful fundraiser. It was the first time that 50/50 tickets were sold out. Seven decks of cards were sold for guns and Cabela's gift cards. Thank you to all the generous people who attended and all the volunteers who came to help!

Progress on the kitchen (emodel is moving along with hopes of completion by May of 2023) New cabinets have been installed and Dan Neumann made new countertops. As mentioned previously, a new television has been mounted in the main hall for special events.

The Harsen's Island Lions are very grateful to all of the Islanders that made contributions through the "Friends of the Lions" campaign. The funds raised were vital in helping to maintain the Lions Club facility and grounds.

We continue to support our charities: Leader Dogs for the Blind, Michigan Eye Bank, Eversight, diabetes research, Penrickton Center for Blind Children, Lions of Michigan Foundation, KidSight Vision Screening and Bear Lake Camp for multi-handicapped children. In addition, our group provided scholarship aid to several deserving local high school students.

The Harsen's Island Lions combine leadership and a place for many community activities. We are always looking for new members and volunteers. Please consider joining the Lions as we have a lot of fun and do a lot of good things. You don't have to be a full-time resident. General meetings are held at the Lions Hall on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.





WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Throughout the year if you happen to think of something that should be in The Delta News, please feel free to write it up and/or photograph the event and contact one of the committee members or HISCFA directors. We spend the year gathering information and are always looking for contributions from HISCFA members. The Delta News committee strives to reflect and report on life on the Island, and that means your contributions are not only valuable but necessary.

Harsen's Island Lioness Club - "Who We Are"

By Susan Waddell

The Harsen's Island Lioness Lions Club is made up of full-time and part-time Clay Township residents, most of whom call Harsen's Island home. Our membership is a diverse group of women from many walks of life who bring their skills and talents to our organization. As part of an international service club, we band together to support Island residents and organizations, local non-profit groups and Lions International projects.

Lioness Lions community fundraisers begin each year on Memorial Day weekend when we sell our Turkey Shoot Raffle tickets, scrubbies and jar openers. In the following months we award scholarships to high school seniors who live full time on Harsen's Island. We hold a very large Summer Pavilion Sale with slightly used and new treasures we receive from community donations. Late summer and fall we participate in the annual Lions Turkey Shoot on Labor Day weekend, hold a Craft and Vendor Show and finally sponsor our annual Soup Cook-Off. All proceeds are given to the Harsen's Island Lions.

As of March 2023, the Lioness Lions have 33 active members who participate by canning beets and jellies, sorting through and setting up pavilion sale items, preparing food for the craft and vendor sale, sell scrubbies and support families with our memorial and funeral lunch program. Our club members are: Colleen Berger, Susan Besemer-Roberts, Nancy Boyer, Jeanne Burczycki, Carol Everett, Midgie Fannon, Sandy Favrow, Barb Feldman, Beth Forton, Sharron Freeman, Maryann Grau, Pat Havens, Sue Konkel, Dolores Kraydich, Cathy Limbright, Doreen Miller, Colleen Morris, Jane Mount, Marge Platt, Judy Rawski, Lyn Raymond, Janice Reha, Rebecca Simpkins, Laurie Seifferlein, Karen Smith, Vicki Soulliere, Denise Stieber, Rose Tierney, Kathy Toth, Susan Waddell, Judy Wargo, Linda Wasil and Marlene Willlemse.

The Lioness Lions form life-long friendships, share our gifts and talents and are willing to help when help is needed. If you know one of our members listed above and would like more information on our club, please contact them. If not, potential new members are always welcome to join us at 11:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month in the Harsen's Island Lions Hall. We are a fun group and hope that our organization continues to grow in the years to come.

The Lioness Lions would like to thank all Island residents, family, friends and visitors who have supported our many activities. We plan to continue to help those who need it most. From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU for your support. Remember, when you call the Island your I pme, consider making us part of your time!





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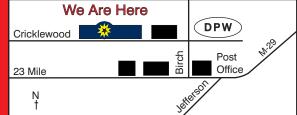
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Harsen's Island Garden Club

By Marie Eidt

What did the Harsen's Island Garden Club do this past year?

We grew! Membership is strong and active. As COVID-19 receded, we resumed a full schedule of programs and trips. It was great to spend time together once again.

The Garden Club held its annual membership teachub picnic, fundraising auction and holiday party. Special events in 2022 included a trip to Blake's Cider Mill, paper flower and holiday reath making workshops and a bingo party. In 2023 the Garden Club is planning a Coffee Concert with the Detroit Symphony Orchesti and a glass blowing demonstration a Harsen's Island Lions Hall.





October Paper Flower Making



Wreath Making Workshop

Do you enjoy the garden at the Ferry Landing? Your Garden Club plants and maintains this Island feature.

As our garden grows, we invite you to COME GROW WITH



Garden Club Tea Hat Contest Winners

Reader's Cove

By Lori Wiggins



Board members Gary Molt up, Lori Wiggins and Betsy Phinney at Cove Summer Open House



Nancy Streit and EJ McKnight



EJ McKnight, Nancy Streit, Nancy Lacata and Carol Hackett advertising first kitchen tour

Reader's Cove, an all-volunteer library, continues to grow and serve the Harsen's Island community, summer residents and visitors. The Cove strives to offer our community a variety of activities to interest both young and old. First and foremost, Reader's Cove is a book-lover's paradise. The staff makes sure that the Cove is stocked with the latest bestsellers and they order and receive books monthly. It is to the staff's credit that our small Island library is home to the most sought-after books. For those whose interests lie outside of the fiction section, the Cove has a broad selection of nonfiction - specializing in books about local and maritime history. The Cove also features a large section of young adult and children's books.

In 2023 Reader's Cove will celebrate its 25th year of operation. Twenty-five years ago, a few ambitious Islanders had a vision of opening a lending library on Harsen's Island. What we now take for granted, a library offering the latest and most current books, was a dream of Sue Masters, Don Thomas and Barb Persyn in 1998. Their vision became reality when Walter Skula donated 780 square feet of his drug store rent free, and in time the group raised enough money to buy the building. The Blue Water District Library donated 1,000 books and bookshelves to help the Cove get established. Twenty-five years later, with donations from generous Islanders and the help of both the Harsen's Island Lions Club and the Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association, the Reader's Cove has become a downtown staple. It is no small miracle that the library continues completely staffed with volunteers who throughout the years have been so generous with their time.

This year, we want to remember those who got it all started and thank the many who have helped to keep it all going. As we are looking into the past, we want to acknowledge our two favorite fundraisers, Nancy Streit and Evie Jo McKnight, who recently announced the need to step down as chairs of these events. These two women were instrumental in organizing the annual Kitchen Tour, Chili Cook-Off and Trivia Night events on Harsen's Island. Over the years their efforts have helped raise more than \$25,000 for the Reader's Cove. We cannot thank them enough for their dedication.

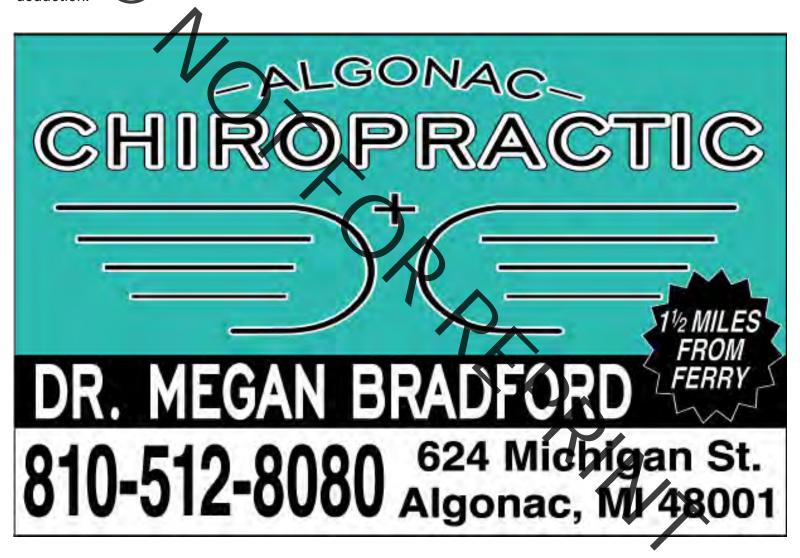
The Reader's Cove continues to sponsor fundraising events that have become an integral part of Island life. We held the Urvia Night in October with eight teams competing, and The Golden Noodles coming out as victors in a tight race. In August the Kitchen Tour was a huge success and the hosts included: the Feldmans, Kathy O'Connor, the Pagenettes, the Dudeks, the Malloys and Stephanie Spencer. As always, we are so grateful to those that opened up their homes for the tour. For the first time, we hosted a U of M vs. MSU tailgate party at the Lions Hall - a great time for all who attended! The Cove also sponsored a children's bike decorating contest for the annual Turkey Shoot Parade. This year, the winners were Macy Phelps and Ella Ketelhut.

Thanks to all those who attended or donated toward our causes and events. The Page Turners Book Club continues to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. The Book Club reads a variety of interesting titles and everyone is welcome. Check the Harsen's Island Flyer this summer for titles and dates. Thanks to Marie Eidt for spearheading this group. Also, our children's reading program, Book Bingo Bonanza, encourages children twelve and under to continue reading during the summer.

Reader's Cove could not operate without the continued support from our community and our staff of dedicated volunteers. We want to thank everyone who has donated either their time or given a monetary contribution. The Reader's Cove is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your donations may qualify for a tax deduction.



The Golden Noodles win Trivia Night contest





WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Throughout the year if you happen to think of something that should be in The Delta News, please feel free to write it up and/or photograph the event and contact one of the committee members or HISCFA directors. We spend the year gathering information and are always looking for contributions from HISCFA members. The Delta News committee strives to reflect and report on life on the Island, and that means your contributions are not only valuable but necessary.





Save Our South Channel Lights A Word from Your Neighbor and The Old South Channel Lights By Gary Strobel, President

For the Lights and the Save Our South Channel Lights Organization (SOSCL), 2023 will be a positive and productive year. We are making an attempt to take back control of the islands. Our latest effort will be to place black tarps on the islands to help deter the Common Terns from nesting. We have spent a good amount of funds trying to find ways to keep the terns off the islands so we can maintain them after the past years of brutal pounding by Mother Nature. The birds have taken over the islands and this year we vow to have control! In the past, SOSCL has purchased a deterrent sound system, predator flags, spinning reflectors and kites to name a few. The black tarp was suggested by the DNR, so we are giving it a try.

Last year, SO3CL spent funds to rebuild the shed and repair the replica outhouse. Both projects were completed and painted beautifully by Alex Bugg Construction and MJR Painting LLC. Dave, our VP/Keeper, and Assistant Keeper Dean worked tirelessly to clean up all the broken fence sections and debris from the damaged shed and grounds. This year they will gather all the shifted seawall stone and replace them along the wall so that the tarp can be installed before the terms seek nesting.



SOSCL is happy to announce a new membership plan; same price but with merchandise incentives. There are six levels of membership; Family/Individual, Keeper, Sustaining, Patron, Business and Life-time. By offering increasing incentives at each membership level, our organization hopes to encourage more people to join SOSCL and to be more competitive with fellow Lighthouse membership organizations. Not many have their own book! Find out more at www.sosChannelLights.org

The Save Our South Channel Lights Organization has many events scheduled for the spring and summer of 2023. On May 20, 2023, SOSCL held its Annual Golf Ouring. Once again, Michigan Meadows and Little Camille's By The Green were the hosts. Hopefully moving the golf ording to spring will draw more golfers as they prepare for league season. Our third year will be the best one yet as our golf committee is becoming more familiar with the event, offering more prizes and getting more donors. Please scan the QR code listed here to see more information about this event. On July 18, 2023 H20 Limos hosted a sunset cruise that departed from Crews Inn, circled the Lights and returned. They approached us last year and wanted to give back to the Lights.

Save Our South Channel Lights Organization is also scheduled to attend the Algonac Antique Classic Boat Show, Algonac Harbor Club on June 24, 2023, Harsen's Island Field Day at Browne's Field on August 5, 2023, Algonac Art Fair on the Boardwalk Sept. 2–3, 2023, the Harsen's Island Lions Annual Turkey Shoot on Labor Day weekend at the Lions Hall and the Metro Boat Show Sept. 14-17, 2023. Because to visit us to find out more information on the Lights, buy your favorite merchandise or see if volunteering interests you.

Come and see us and support your neighborhood Lighthouse that is right in your backward







CHURCHES

St. Paul Church Message

By Rev. Rebecca Baird Lepley



St. Paul Church

I never read anywhere in my studies of scripture that human beings are supposed to agree on everything. God went to an awful lot of trouble to make each person different. Yet, it seems that so many of us are trying to make all human beings fit into our own idea of perfection. People that don't fit into our idea of perfection become the other, the enemy. Someone to blame for everything.

One of my favorite sayings is, "Perfect is the Enemy of Good." I first heard this saying while doing my chaplaincy practicum at Henry Ford Hospital. It was often used by surgeons before cutting into a human being. That patient would have a scar. They would never be perfect, but — they would hopefully be better. The surgeon was there to do good, to improve that patient's state of health. Perfection was not possible.

When we give up on our need for this perfection in others, and in ourselves, we can begin to see the diversity of humanity as a part of God's plan. We can quit judging a book by its cover. We can talk to people from different cultures, different political persuasions, different genders, off-Islanders, etc.

I recently read a book called *Teachers* by Martin Fletcher. It is about people he met that he feared, even hated, and after talking with them, hearing their story, his opinions were amazingly improved. In his book he writes about a young woman who had strapped a bomb to her body so she could kill as many people as possible with her own death but was arrested when the bomb failed to detenate. She had been trying to kill people like him. Fletcher asked to interview her in jail. After learning her story, he was able to see so much more. While not agreeing with her methods, he could understand her motivation. She taught him. He was forever changed.

We are blessed to live in a representative democracy. If it is to succeed, we must remember this God-given truth. Civil discourse (face to face conversation) between those who disagree with each other is an essential ingredient of liberty and freedom for all.

My sister gave me a little rock engraved with these words:

"Love Everybody.
I will sort it out later.
Love, God."

Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you.

St. Paul Church Altar Guild

By Kathy Harrison

The Altar at St. Paul Church is attended by Kathy Harrison (me) and Debbie Mehl who is my sub and helper. Every Sunday the Altar is ready for the service displaying the proper linen color for that Sunday, candles are filled and flowers are arranged on each side. Additional duties include ordering supplies, washing the linens, polishing the brass and setting up for Communion on the first and third Sundays of the month. Taking care of the Altar is my way to honor God quietly in His house.

M/>

St. Paul Church Warden Report

By Kathleen Harrison, Senior Warden

As Senior Warden, how do I see St. Paul Church progressing this year?

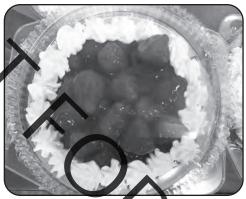
Winter attendance was low due to the weather, the snowbirds were gone and some of the elderly members of our congregation experienced health issues that kept them from Sunday services. In 2023, I see St. Paul continuing to serve the community and being of help to those in need.

St. Paul Church reaches out to the community by having a prayer list. We pray each Sunday out loud and cards are sent to individuals that are sick or to anyone who just needs a "thinking of you." The community curbside dinners continue to sell out. Twice monthly on Mondays, St. Paul Church welcomes everyone to participate in a fun night of Bunko! The annual Strawberry Festival, held in July, continues to be St. Paul's biggest fundraiser. These are just a few of the ways we want the Harsen's Island residents to know we are here for them.

In closing, I would like to thank Rev. Rebecca Lepley and all the Island residents who are a part of and support St. Paul Church. Thomas Paine said it perfectly, "It is not in numbers but in unity that our great strength lies."



St. Paul Bunko Christmas Party



St. Paul Strawberry Pestival Stawberry Pie



St. Paul Strawberry Festival Shortcakes

Church Schedules can be found on the HISCFA website at www.hiscfa.org/island-resources

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St. Mark Women's Guild

By Sherron Schultz

The St. Mark Women's Guild is part of Our Lady on The River Parish. Its membership is open to women of the congregation who want work for the good of the parish and our Island community. This past year was bustling with activities now that COVID-19 is in the rearview mirror.

St. Mark celebrated its 125th anniversary on July 27, 2022. The Guild provided banners for the church yard and also the Lions Turkey Shoot Parade float.

St. Mark activities in 2022 included our "Welcome Tea" for new members, the annual yard sale, joining St. Paul in celebration of their 100th Anniversary, participating in the Lions Turkey Shoot Parade with a float, our second annual Advent Tea, our second annual Christmas Dinner and our monthly fellowship pancake breakfasts after Sunday Mass (Thank you Chefs Dale and Andrew for the variety of pancakes and all our volunteers who contributed delicious casseroles).

Thanks to our talented seamstress members Jane Mount and Stephanie Spencer, Father Terrien and Deacon Mike now have new Vestmerks for Mass. Monetary donations were made to Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic School Refugee Support Fund, to the teachers at Holy Cross Elementary School in Marine City, to the Franciscan nuns and the CSA appeal. Repairs were made to Mary's statue, the church doors were painted and the church was power washed. Shelly Vavro kept the flower beds beautiful again this year. Thank you, volunteers!

We welcome all the ladies of the parish to join us. The Women's Guild meets the second Tuesday of the month at the parish hall at 9:30 am. Come and meet new people and make new friends!



St. Mark Women's Guild Float for the Turkey Shoot Parade



125th Anniversary Banners provided by The Women's Guild

Church Schedules can be found on the HISCFA website at www.hiscfa.org/island-resources



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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Dan & Cher Neumann 50th Wedding Anniversary

Dan and Cher Neumann celebrated 50 years of marriage on August 25, 2022. They have two children and four grandchildren. Son, Brad (Jennifer) and their children Lily and Grace; and daughter, Raimie and her two children Raelyn and Cody. Dan and Cher purchased their cottage on Harsen's Island in 1999 and their family has since shared so many wonderful memories together. Now retired, Dan and Cher live full time at their beloved home on Middle Channel.



Ron & Karen Nihranz 50th Wedding Anniversary

Ron & Karen Nihranz celebrated 50 years of marriage on February 16, 2023.



Jerry & Chrystal Munro 10th Wedding Anniversary

On June 29, 2023 Jerry and Chrystal will be celebrating 10 wonderful years. The House that Jack Built Cottage will be also celebrating great years this summer. The cottage has been in the Munro family 118 years welcoming 7 generations with the newest edition of a great granddaughter.





Austin & Nicole l^{Oth} Weading Anniversary

Happy 10th Wedding Antiversary Austin & Nicole!

07-26-2013

Daughter of Tom and Cheryl Dzieciolowski.



Adam & Kaytee 5th Wedding Anniversary

Happy 5th Wedding Anniversary Adam and Kaytee!

08-01-2018.

Daughter of Tom and Cheryl Dzieciolowksi.



Andria Zaidan & Connor Janski Engagement

Andria Zaidan and Connor Janski were engaged on August 20, 2021. The parents of the bride and groom are Hamod and Gale Zaidan and Greg and Laura Janski. A September of 2023 wedding is planned.

We are so excited to add a new daughter to our family.

We love you! Greg, Laura & Lauryn





John Terry Riesenberger New Arrival

John Terry Riesenberger was born August 20, 2021 to Matthew and Meagan Riesenberger. The proud grandparents are Charles and Theresa Hahn and great grandparents are Charles and Athena Hahn of 3956 South Channel, Harsen's Island (Est. 1979).



Matthew John Riesenberger New Arrival

Matthew John Riesenberger, Jr. was born August 7, 2020 to Matthew and Meagan Riesenberger. The proud grandparents are Charles and Theresa Hahn and great grandparents are Charles and Athena Hahn of 3956 South Channel, Harsen's Island (Est. 1979).



Senior Chief Gabe Bosman Military Milestone

Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate Bosman was assigned in June of 2019 as the Officer in Charge of Aids to Navigation Team Saginaw River, Michigan. His previous duty assignments were: Officer in Charge of Aids to Navigation Team Morgan City, LA; Executive Petty Officer Station Ludington, MI; Executive Petty Officer Aids to Navigation Team Sault Ste. Marie, MI; USCGC BUCKTHORN (WLI-642) Sault Ste. Marie, MI; USCGC CHANDELEUR (WPB-1319) Miami, FL; Station Port Huron, MI; Inactive Ready Reserve Cleveland, OH; Station Belle Isle, MI.

Senior Chief Bosman is a native of Harsen's Island, MI and enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1998. His new orders to command 2022 Coast Guard Cutter AXE homeported in Morgan City, LA. His personal awards include the Coast Guard Commendation Medal with Operational Distinguishing Device (2), Coast Guard Achievement Medals with Operational Distinguishing Device (4), Army Achievement Medal (1), Commandant's Letter of Commendations with Operational Distinguishing Device (1) and other personal and unit awards. Senior Chief Bosman has two children, Cole and Ella and proud parents are Susan and Bob Bryson of Harsen's Island.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Julianne Cournoyer

Julianne Cournoyer will be graduating from Algonac High School in May of 2023. She is the daughter of Sebastien and Katie Cournoyer and the granddaughter of Tony and Leslie Skudrna. Julianne has been active in the art program; loves playing tennis for the varsity team and supports several other groups to better her school.

Julianne is an avid lover of horses and spends much of her time training and working at Fex Pointe Equestrian Center. She has grown as an equestrian over the years and has fallen in love with the jumpers division and simply shines in the ring!

Julianne plans to attend Oakland University in the fall to pursue a degree in Education with a focus on Art and ride with the college equestrian team. While Julianne lives on the mainland, so much of her heart belongs to the Island. It has been a pleasure to watch our Island girl grow!



Ashley Horne

Ashley Horne graduated from Oxford High School, Oxford, MI in May 2023. Ashley is the daughter of Mark and Becky Horne. She participated in Varsity soccer and volleyball while taking college classes through Rochester University and maintaining a 4.0 high school GPA.

Ashley has many fond memories of growing up on the Island at her family cottage. She made lifelong friends and worked the summer at Walker's Landing. In Spring of 2024, Ashley will attend Rochester University and earn her Associate's Degree in Arts. Her family is extremely proud of her and knows she will do great things in her future.



Jack Ketelhut

Jack, congratulations on your high school graduation! We are very proud of you! Can't wait to see what the next chapter holds. With God by your side all things are possible.

We love you, Dad, Mom, Natalie, Rachel & Ella





Grace Laird

As we celebrate over 40 years of enjoying our family cottage in "The Flats", we celebrate your high school graduation from Notre Dame Preparatory School. You truly are our "Gift from God". We are so proud of you and can't wait to see what your future holds. We wish you all the happiness and success the world has to offer and we will be your biggest cheerleaders throughout it all. Remember, to keep God close to your heart and actions. With Him, anything is possible.

Congratulations! All our love, Dad, Mom, Luke, Grandpa and Maxx Jr.



Johnathan Williams

Johnathan Williams graduated from Algonac High School and St. Clair TEC with Honors in June of 2023. Johnathan's focus at St. Clair TEC was Automotive Jechnology where he received state certifications in Front End and Steering, Brakes and Braking Systems, and Electrical systems. Johnathan is the son of Stacy and Mark Williams of Harsen's Island. Johnathan plans on pursuing a career as an Automotive Technician.

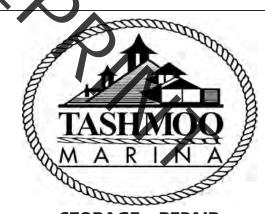
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COLLEGE GRADUATES

Dante Cardinali

Dante Cardinali graduated in April 2023 from Michigan Technological University with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Manufacturing. He plans to continue his studies to pursue an MBA or Masters of Engineering to be able to consult an engineering team in improving manufacturing processes. Dante is the son of proud parents Eric and Debora Cardinali of Southlake, TX and the grandson of Alfred and Cheryl Cardinali of Harsen's Island and Pedro and Alaide Branchini of San Paulo, Brazil.



Ad<mark>ri</mark>a Zaidan

Andria Zaidan graduated from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences on December 20, 2022. Andria earned a PA-C (Physician Assistant-Certified) and has begun working full time at "Blue Water Urgent Care New Baltimore."

We are so proud of you!

Love Greg, Laura, Connor, Lauryn & Wilson





MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS & MAKE NEW FRIENDS!

The Association is an all-volunteer organization. We do what we do because we are proud of the Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association and the outstanding community that it represents.



Donating just an hour or two of your time truly makes a difference. Whether you work on a project at home, at an event; during the week or on the weekend—we are always extremely appreciative to have help. Contact a HISCFA director today to learn more about how to become involved!

REMEMBRANCES

Rev. Roger Frederick Aumann

AUMANN, REV. ROGER FREDERICK

Rev. Roger Frederick Aumann of Canton, MI, beloved husband, father and grandfather passed away Thursday, April 6, 2023. Roger was born February 23,1938 to the late Leonard and Clara Aumann.

Roger attended Valparaiso University, earning his Bachelor's Degree in Education. It was there he met his beloved wife, Patricia. Before graduating, he was called to serve in the Navy where he specialized in submarines. Upon returning from the service and following his passion for education, Roger went on to receive a Master's Degree from Eastern Michigan University in Education Administration and a Master's Degree in Divinity from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. He spent 15 years as a teacher, administrator and coach for the Lutheran High School Association of Detroit before serving for 20 years as Pastoral Minister at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Canton, MI. Roger enjoyed many outdoor activities at his cottage on Harsen's Island, including waterfowl hunting, fishing, and most importantly, spending time with his loved ones. He was also fond of gardering and baseball and an avid fan of the Detroit Tigers during a winning year.

Roger was predeceased by cherished wife, Patricia Aumann, to whom he was married for 57 wonderful years, and his brother, Conrad (Joycelyn) Aumann. He is survived by his sister. Christine (Richard) Habrecht and was the loving father of Michael (Sheri) and Stephen (Heather), grandfather of Brandon (Laura), Blaine (Trisha), Chelsea (Zach), Jacob, Kathryn and great grandfather of Abel and Asher.



Carol Bleau

BLEAU, CAROL

Carol Bleau, 81, of Harsen's Island, passed away on December 31, 2022 surrounded by her family. She was born on November 11, 1941 to the late John and Marge Fugate.

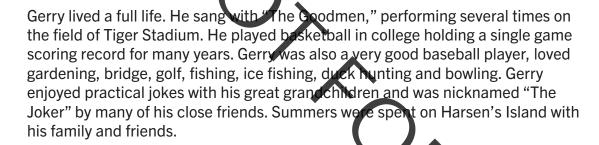
One of her greatest pleasures was the many years spent sailing, boating and sharing her love of water with her family and friends. Not a day went by when Carol didn't talk about how much her children and family meant to her. Carol's family was, without a doubt, her most important achievement is life. Carol enjoyed sitting on her deck with her husband and a good glass of wine watching the surrounding wildlife and beautiful sunsets. A loving and wonderful woman until the very end, Carol will be greatly missed.

Carol is survived by her loving husband, Joseph; children, Dawn, Cindy (Tony), Shelley (Mark); grandchildren, Andrew, Eric (Madison), Thomas, Jessica, Alexa and Christopher; and her great grandchildren, Luna and Layla.

CONTI, GIRARD N.

Girard N. Conti, 95, a longtime resident of Mount Clemens, MI passed away Friday morning December 3, 2021. He was born on May 7, 1926 to Pasquale and Mary (Trella) Conti in Detroit, MI. On December 16, 1950 Gerry was united in marriage to Dorothy Kandt at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt Clemens.

Gerry joined the United States Air Force prior to his graduation from high school. As a member of the Greatest Generation of Americans, Gerry grew up during the Great Depression and fought on the front lines of WWII as a gunner on a B29 Superfortress. After serving in the Air Force, Gerry graduated from Lawrence Tech. He started his professional career as a project engineer with Holly Carburetor and was awarded several U.S. Patents for improving carburetion systems on airplane engines. Gerry later accepted a position as Facility Manager with Control Data Co. in Rochester, ML and in 1975 he became a leading insurance agent for State Farm Insurance. Gerry was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church for over 70 years. He was involved in building projects including the planning and construction of Trinity's preschool, sanctuary and multi-purpose building. Gerry also enjoyed being a member of the charch choice.



Gerry was predeceased by his parents; wife, Dorothy; son, Bobby; sister, Dessa and brother, Peter. He is survived by son, Richard (Barbara) Conti; daughter, Mary (Clinton) Rux; sister, Pat (Jeri) Betts and his dear companion, Mary Rosso. Gerry has four grandchildren, Dan (Maggie) Conti, Beth (Brian) Picara, Jake (Jessica) Rux, Kip (Rebekah) Rux and six great grandsons.



Girard N. Conti

In Loving Memory of

John Dion

by Rod and E.J. McKnight

Robert B. Coulter

COULTER, ROBERT B.

Robert B. Coulter, age 92, went to be with the Lord on September 18, 2022. He was born on June 13, 1930 to the late Robert and Martha Coulter.

Robert was raised on Harsen's Island, St. Clair Flats. He was a graduate of Algonac High School class of 1948. Following high school, Robert proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War. After being discharged from the Army, Robert married Rosemarie Rivard on February 13, 1960, who preceded him in death in 2004. He went on to receive his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Detroit in 1968. Robert worked in advertising for various companies his whole life.

Following Rosemarie's passing, Robert moved down to Florida which became his new home. He was an avid boater. Early in life, he thoroughly enjoyed sail boating and would sail in the Mackinac Races. Robert loved his sports cars; he owned several sports cars throughout his life and enjoyed driving them around. Robert, aka, (Commodore Mushrat), was an avid reader and wrote 2 books; *A Kid on the Hats* and *Bradley Barnes Doing it His Way*. He also enjoyed collecting art as well as windjammer cruises. Robert was a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Anna Marie Island, FL. He was a part of multiple organizations including, Harsen's Island Historical society and the Detroit Yacht Club. Robert was an active volunteer at the St. Clair Museum, Huron Ship Museum and the Florida Maritime Museum in Cortez. Robert also is past Commodore for the Otsi Keta Boat Club.



Ronald Lee Crawford

CRAWFORD RONALD LEE

Ronald Lee Crawford, 78, longtime resident of St. Clair Shores, MI died peacefully on January 17, 2023.

Ron, son of the late James and Sarah (Dear) Clawford, was raised in Warren, MI. He is a Lincoln High School alumnus. After graduation, Ron spent time in Louisville, KY where he trained horses at Miles Park, Having a passion for music, Ron was a phenomenal guitar player and was a member of the bands, The Amboy Dukes and Phase Three. He played all over the metro area. Ron absolutely loved camping and fishing. He spent his summers traveling and exploring many campgrounds in Michigan. Ron loved to keep busy and was constantly learning and trying new things. Ron was a tool and dye welder at Chrysler Corporation for over 30 dedicated years. He greatly understood the value of friendship and the love and compassion he extended was a blessing to all. Ron will always be known for his great sense of humor, his outgoing personality and his generosity. He will be deeply missed and his light will continue to glow in our hearts forever.

Ronald is survived by his nieces and nephews, Casey (Jason) Nielsen, Jim McRae, Derek (Erica) Crawford and Stephanie (George) Buhalis; many cherished great nieces and nephews; sister-in-law, Elaine Crawford; brother-in-law, David McRae; and loving companion, Linda Persichini. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Roger Crawford and Sharon McRae.

HIGGINS, JEANNE M.

Jeanne M. (Yacques) Higgins, 100, of Walnut Creek, CA passed away April 8, 2023 in her daughter's home surrounded by her loving family.

Jeanne was the great-granddaughter of Harsen's Island icon, Joe Bedore. She was born on March 3, 1923 to the late Scott and Helen Yacques and lived on Harsen's Island until moving to Detroit at age 18. Jeanne was an independent and adventurous young woman. Swimming, boating and jet-skiing in the Island waters even into her 80's; Jeanne was a great lover of the outdoors.

Jeanne met her future husband and father of her three children, Paul David Kuebler, while hving in Detroit. Prior to the birth of her children, Jeanne was a "Rosie the Riveter" during WWII assigned to working on the plane wings because of her tiny and lightweight stature. She was a well-traveled wife and mother following Paul around the country in his career as an aeronautical engineer and later went on to become a fashion model for JL Hudson and a fashion consultant in California. Jeanne's primary focus was on the raising of her children. Her heart was always at her home here on Harsen's Island where she maintained her late parent's residence to which she returned each summer.

Jeanne is survived by her three children, Paul, Candace (George) Galetti, and Miriam (Eric) Grunder; seven grandchildren and a myriad of great-grandchildren. She will always be remembered for her cheerful disposition, warm smile and adventurous spirit. Jeanne will be greatly missed.



Jeanne M. Higgins

JACKSON, DORIS ANN

Doris Ann Jackson, 75, of Harsen's Island, passed away Fabruary 3, 2023.

Mrs. Jackson was born April 12, 1947 to the late John and Charlotte (Higgins) Brennan in Brooklyn, NY. After graduating from Wayne Valley High School in Wayne, NJ Doris went on to study English at Western Kentucky University where she was a member of the Delta Tau Chapter of Phi Mu Fraternity. Doris met her loving husband, Lon Jackson, during her years at WKU. They eventually moved to Michigan where she received a Master's Degree in Library Science from Wayne State University. Doris spent over thirty years as a high school English teacher. After retiring to Harsen's Island with her husband, she became an active member of the community and enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

Doris is survived by her husband of 45 years, Lon; her daughter, Jennifer (Justin) Rathke; grandchildren, Caroline Rathke and John Rathke; nephew, Donald Brennan; great niece, Grace Brennan and a great nephew, Jackson Brennan.



Doris Ann Jackson

Robertas Jansauskas

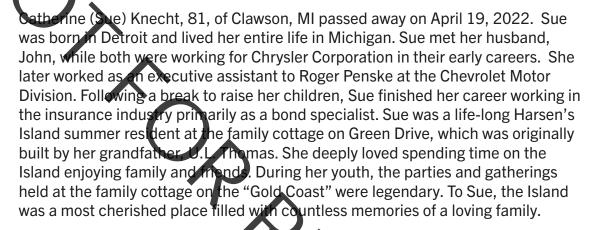
JANSAUSKAS, ROBERTAS

Bob "Wanna Beer" Jansauskas, 80, of Harsen's Island, passed away on September 17, 2022. Bob was born in Lithuania to Robertas and Eugenia Jansauskas.

At an early age Bob immigrated to the US with his mother. He became a proud American, served as a Marine and maintained ties to his home country by attending Divine Providence Lithuanian Church in Southfield, MI. On the Island, Bob attended church at St. Mark. Bob and his mother moved to the Island in 1986 after retiring from Rouge Steel. He quickly became a favorite of his neighbors because of his generosity. Bob was best known for helping neighbors with projects, watch your home while you were out of town, make homemade dishes to share (best known for his famous five meat chili) and always had on hand selective beer, wine and spirits.

Bob is survived by his adopted family, Lianas, Vida, Migle, Stan and Ugne, as well as his numerous Harsen's Island friends.

NECHT, CATHERINE "SUE"



Sue was predeceased by her husband, John (2020) of 58 years and daughter, Megan (1974). Sue is survived by her children, John (Lisa), Tom, Dan (Mandy); grandchildren, Alex, Alyssa, Dylan and Logan, sister. Carlene Cameron and brother, Robert Beals (Laurie).

LAVINIO, ALEXANDRA "SANDY

Alexandra (Sandy) Lavinio, 77, passed away on January 20, 2022 Beloved wife, life-long business partner and best friend of the late Mario Lovinio. Sandy was the loving mother of Luigi (fiancé Shelly), Tina (John) Lavinio Mattinen and Marco (fiancé Jennifer); proud grandmother of Brandon, Hailey and Bianca; dear sister of Ted Wodarz, Betty Spiga and the late Dolores Ingrao.

LAVINIO, MARIO

Mario Lavinio, 84, passed away on November 18, 2021. Beloved husband of Alexandra "Sandy" Lavinio. Loving father of Luigi (fiancé Shelly), Tina (John) Lavinio-Mattinen and Marco (fiancé Jennifer); proud Nonno of Brandon, Hailey and Bianca; dear brother of Diana Vandeput, the late Antonio and the late Maria Greco. Mario was the owner of Mario's Body Shop in Clinton Township, MI. He was humble and hardworking, possessing an unmatched zest for life. Mario had an extraordinary passion for his family and the traditions and legacy he left with them.



Catherine "Sue" Knecht



Alexandra "Sandy" and Mario Lavinio

McDANIELS, DOROTHY J.

Dorothy J. (Judy) McDaniels, 85, of Commerce Township, MI passed away September 12, 2022. Judy was born July 6, 1937 to the late William and Edna (Chute) Smith and was raised on Harsen's Island. She attended the Harsen's Island School and graduated from Algonac High School in 1955.

Judy retired as an office manager at AT&T. She raced catamarans, loved to snow ski and ride bicycles. Judy crewed for Duane's motorcycle races and made beautiful stain glass works. She had a great fondness for her cats and was a respected cat breeder.

Judy was predeceased by her sisters, Sally and Shirley. Judy is survived by her loving husband. Duane, of 60 years; brother, William (Karen) Smith of Harsen's Island; and many nieces and nephews. A private celebration of life will be held by the family.



Dorothy J. McDaniels

MILLER, SUZANNE FELICE

Suzanne Felice Miller, 63, of Richmond, M passed away unexpectedly Monday, May 15, 2023. She was born June 16, 1959 in Detroit to the late Armand and Marie (Binell) Beaulac.

Suzanne, affectionately referred to as Suzie by her family and Sue by her friends, had a smile that was warm and welcoming and lit up her whole face. She had a contagious laugh, loved to sing and sang alto beautifully. Sue had a love for travel and experiencing new things and visited many different places all over the world. Still, Harsen's Island remained her happy place. It meant beautiful sunrises and sunsets, being on the water and spending time with her family.

Sue's faith was very important to her. Living in her beliefs and wor his was her way of life. She listened without judgement, offering great advice and a calluing presence all at once. Sue didn't know a stranger as everyone was a cotential friend. She was someone to lean on and always offered a helping hand to those in seed.

Her children knew she would always have cinnamon gum handy for them or that she would offer up the best back rub. Sue's children and grandchildren came first above all else. There is no denying the love she had for her brothers and sisters as well; they held such importance in her life and her siblings returned the love in equal measure. To her family and friends, Sue is irreplaceable—her death leaves a big hole in their lives that cannot be filled by any other.

Surviving are her children, Danielle (Jonathan) Trever, Michael (Jessica) Miller and Breanne (Craig) Laporte; grandchildren, Naomi, Luke and Jacob Trever and Levi Miller; siblings, Michael (Katie) Beaulac, Denise (Harold) Stieber, Gary (Carol) Beaulac, Marty (Carol) Beaulac, Christi (David) Soussan and Lisa Beaulac as well as many nieces, nephews and friends.



Suzanna Felice Miller



Jacqueline Soto

SOTO, JACQUELINE

Jacqueline Marie Soto, 41, of Fort Gratiot, MI passed away on April 15, 2023. She was born January 7, 1982 in Dearborn to the late Tommy and Doris Soto.

Jacqueline was employed in home health care for several years. She loved golfing, shopping, crafting and spending time with the family.

Jackie is survived by her partner of 17 years, Ed Gildenpfennig; daughter, Olivia Mae Gildenpfennig; Ed's children, Kyle and Joshua Gildenpfennig, Alaina Bennett and Carmen Gildenpfennig; and Carmen's son, Junior.



Bernie Shafer

ŞHAFER, BERNIE

Sernie Shafer, 91, of Harsen's Island passed away at his Florida home on February 8, 2023 with his daughter, Jody, by his side. He was born September 23, 1931.

Bernie, a 30-year Harsen's Island Lion, held many positions culminating as secretary and president. He supported all Lions' efforts while serving the Island community and was instrumental in making many of the Turkey Shoots very successful. As a long time Lion, Bernie was awarded Life Time Membership by Lions International.

Bernie is survived by his loving children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and many friends and family who dearly loved him

Enjoy your well-deserved peace, Berniel

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ST. AMAND, NANCY

On June 27, 2022 Nancy St. Amand Blanchard (nee Goodman), 78, rode steed on a monsoon chariot ascending high above the clouds of her beloved Mt. Lemmon in Tucson, AZ. Born September 29, 1944 Nancy died peacefully after a 15-year struggle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Nancy was a much-loved mother not only to her own four children, but to four step-children, grandchildren, step-grandchildren and many other children and teenagers she mentored. She was a friend, neighbor, sister, aunt, wife, crafter, skinny dipper, bargain hunter and dog lover.

Nancy was born in Indianapolis, IN. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from the University of Missouri, a Master of Arts Degree in Special Education from Oakland University, MI and a Master of Arts Degree in School Counseling from the University of Phoenix. Nancy accepted her first teaching position in Algonac, MI in 1967. She met and married Jack St. Amand and together they raised their four children on Harsen's Island, MI. In 1983, they moved as a family to Tucson, AZ. Nancy worked for 20 years in the Tucson Unified School District as a special education teacher and later as a guidance counselor. In 1996, she married Ron Blanchard. Together, they watched their adult children marry and have children of their own giving Nancy the cherished title of grandma.

Nancy is survived by her former husbands, Jack (Diane) St. Amand and Ron Blanchard; children and grandchildren: Madariene (Ben) Schalet and their children, Pearl and Matilda; Megan St. Amand and her children, Alex and Lizzie Uradnik; Anne-Marie Zamora and her children, June and Faye; and Nate (Jackie) St. Amand and their children, Liam and Addie. In addition, Nancy is survived by step-children: Michael (Tiffany) Blanchard and their children, Chelsea and Ryan; Karen (John) Harness and their daughter, Eva; Paul Blanchard and Kathleen Blanchard. Additionally, Nancy leaves behind her two sisters, Sue (Dan) Boyd and Arleen Stone. Nancy lived a full exuberant life and built relationships with many people including: Alpha Chi Omega sisters, friends from Michigan, Wrightstown Square and San Domingo, "The Goddesses," educators, parents and students from TUSD and volunteers at Agua Caliente Park.

STIEBER, DONNA M.

Donna M. Stieber, 70, of Harsen's Island passed away March 12, 2023 while vacationing in Florida with her husband, Jim, at her side. Donna was born December 18, 1952 to Donovan and Mary Nelson.

Donna had a successful career as a para legal and legal office manager for over 40 years. She was a gourmet chef who had a passion for cooking. Donna enjoyed boating, traveling, drinking wine with friends, hanging with her faithful companion, "Finn," and her home on Harsen's Island. Donna spent much time on Harsen's Island growing up and in 2016 Donna and Jim purchased a home in the Flats. They moved to the Island full time upon retiring in 2017 from their careers in Grand Rapids.

Donna is survived by her loving husband, Jim, of almost 29 years; step children, Keri Beth (Bob) Ahrens, Jeff (Tina) Stieber; and grandchildren, Rob and Allison Ahrens. Donna is also survived by her cousins, Michelle (Michael) Pannuto, Nick Pannuto, Nicole (Stu) and the newest family member, one month old Lawrence John (L.J.).



Nancy St. Amand



Donna M. Stieber

WILTSE, KATHRYN A.

Kathryn A. Wiltse, 79, died March 29, 2023 at her home on Harsen's Island, MI.

Kathryn was born in Detroit on August 24, 1943. She was the first child of Jim and Mary Jane Stringer, eventually becoming "big sister" to three siblings, Susie, Liz and Jim. She married Ed Wiltse in 1968 and the birth of their son, Todd, a year later gave her the life she enjoyed and appreciated. Sorrow came with the cancer death of her sister, Susie, in 1989 and the loss of husband, Ed, in 2013.

Kathy is survived by son, Todd; grandson, Bowie; siblings, Liz and Jim; and several nieces and nephews. The loss of her friendship and humor will be missed by friends and family.



Kathryn A. Wiltse

WYSOCKI, FR. JAMES

Father James Wysocki, 81, of Harsen's Island, lived his life to the fullest and joined the Lord on November 29, 2022. He was born on December 12, 1940 to the late John and Emily Wysocki.

Jim was ordained in 1967. During his tenure he served for several different churches. In his spare time Jim was an avid sailor and sailed all over the Great Lakes, even participating in the Mackinac race a few times. Jim was well traveled. He enjoyed taking trips all over the world. Jim will forever be remembered as a personable man who loved people.

Jim is survived by his siblings, Chris Levy, Rose Kirchoff, Joan Smith, Chuck (Nancy) Wysocki, Peter Wysocki, Mary Jo Powell, Susan (Jony) Conte, Cathy (Mark) Gushanas as well as several nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews. Jim was predeceased by his brother, Jack Wysocki.



Fr. James Wysocki

YAX, CATHERINE LOUISE

Catherine Louise Yax, 78, of Harsen's Island, passed away October 7, 2022 in helphome. She was born October 5, 1944 in East Detroit, MI to the late Samuel P. and Henrietta S. (Stewart) Kenny. Catherine married Wayne Morris Yax May 4, 1963 in East Detroit, MI. Wayne passed away October 17, 2020.

Catherine retired from the Harsen's Island Post Office in 2017 after 27 years of service.

Mrs. Yax is survived by her children, Lisa (Ron) Sayers, Lani Yax, Leah (Tom Wall) Yax and Lori (David) Cross; grandchildren, Ryan (Chelsea) Sayers, Ian (Cait) Sayers, Samantha Sayers, Eric (Alexa) Heim, Austin Heim, Noah Heim, Julia Heim, Evan Cross, Emily Cross, Retta Wall; great grandchildren, Camden Sayers, Carter Sayers, Lexi Sayers and Apollo Heim; sister, Margaret "Peggy" (John Wines) Prather and a sister-in-law, Charlene Kenny. Catherine was predeceased by a brother, Michael Kenny.



Catherine Louise Yax

YOUNG, TERRY

Terry Lawrence Young, 91, of Harsen's Island, passed away January 22, 2023 in the Village of East Harbor, Chesterfield, MI. He was born October 31,1931 in Grosse Pointe Farms, MI to the late Lawrence and Marion (Goodwin) Young. Terry married Susan Ann Deibler on February 8, 1955 in Algonac, MI and after 36 years together, Susan passed away May 19, 1991.

Terry loved deer hunting with family and friends at the Maple Ridge Hunt Club in Hulbert, MI and enjoyed hunting, fishing with friends on Harsen's Island and in Florida.

Mr. Young is survived by a brother, Wayne Young; children, Wade Young, Brett Up Anne) Young and Corey (Pam) Young; grandchildren, Kelleen (Chris) Lichliter, Colin (Kaitlyn) Young, James (Amber) Johnson and Emily Young; and great granddaughters, Jillian Lichliter and Eleanor Lichliter



Terry Young



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- Kathy O'Connor

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Donating just an hour or two of your time truly makes a difference. Whether you work on a project at home, at an event; during the week or on the weekend—we are always extremely appreciative to have help. Contact a HISCFA director today to learn more about how to become involved!

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