



Happy Holidays! Happy Holidays!



DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

A Letter from the President

Dear Islanders and Friends of Russell Island,

Christmas is around the corner and all of us will be receiving a gift from both RIPOA and the Russell Island Foundation. As most of you are aware the beach dock is in need of a complete refurbishment; to the point that some feel if something is not done we may not have a dock in the Spring. The Russell Island Property Owners Association Board had requested that the Russell Island Foundation match funds to complete the needed work, and we supported their request. So, as you read this newsletter, First Marine Contractors is on site working to have a completed dock before Christmas. What a nice 'Christmas Present' our Island will receive this year ending it on a positive note! I'm sure that we all agree that we had amazing weather this summer. Getting this project done now will give our swimmers and boat watchers something to look forward to upon returning to Russell Island for another season with hopefully a repeat of this year's fantastic weather.

This time of year most of us think of how blessed we are to have family, friends, good health; and we might also reflect on the accomplishments we made this year. As President of the RI Foundation, I've thought about how successful the Foundation has been in supporting RIPOA on Island projects that help keep our Island beautiful. Russell Island Foundation is still committed to the overflow parking and we are within reach of the needed funds to help RIPOA achieve this milestone. Last Fall, the Russell Island Foundation Board requested that RIPOA provide a prioritized list of future projects needing financial assistance from the Foundation. Unfortunately, there is always a cost involved in maintaining the Island's beauty and charm or to complete urgent repair projects. After reviewing RIPOA's list, it appears that there will be some crucial and pressing issues that will need to be completed sooner rather than later. One sizeable expenditure will be the ferry landing on the Island side. Rest assured that all funds that were donated to Overflow Parking are and will remain dedicated to that objective as a listed line item in our budget. And, if anyone would still like to identify donations to "Overflow Parking" please write that on your check and it will be earmarked for that purpose. As of now all new donations will be put into the General Fund in order for us to build up a reserve that will allow us to assist RIPOA in their future endeavors.

There was only one fundraiser benefitting RIF this past season and that was the Auction during the Horse Race Party at the Hall's. Continued gratitude to the Hall's for their kind offer to accommodate the Auction at their party each year. I also would like to thank the Co-Chairs of the Auction, Mary Schroeder and Karen Moosekian and all of those who helped put it together, set it up, break it down and importantly - collect the money! Also many thanks to those who donated items for the Auction and especially to those who purchased them. It always is an enjoyable event and has unofficially become a summer tradition. We are grateful that Mary and Karen have offered to chair the Auction again in 2017. Anyone who might be thinking of holding a fundraiser of any type, having the Foundation sponsor the event will allow donors a tax deduction under IRS rules.

Volunteers and benefactors are the reasons that the Foundation is so successful, therefore thank you to our membership and friends of the Foundation for your support. I would be remiss if I did not extend a huge thanks to Liz Sloan for donating and planting the flowers at the Ferry Landing and to Louise MacLean for keeping them alive all summer. The Halloween decorations were amazing! On behalf of myself and the RIF Board (who are some of the best volunteers) we wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy and healthy New Year! See you in the Spring!

Joe Moosekian
Russell Island Foundation President

Russell Island Foundation Board

President – Joe Moosekian
Vice President – Jeremy Schroeder
Secretary – Beverly Leasia
Treasurer – Mark Warner

Trustees: Kathy Engelhart
Karen Ridgway
Ann Steele
Dan Hickey
Claude Caponi

RIPOA President:
Steve Engelhart



RIF Auction 2017

Even though the holiday season is just beginning – as you shop, gift, exchange and finally pack away; please take a moment to consider the Russell Island Foundation.

You might receive a bottle of liquor or wine that you don't care for, or receive a gift that you are unable to use or return. These items are perfect donations to the annual RIF Auction and end up being a nice way to give back to the Island without spending extra money.

Russell Island Foundation is trying to make 2017 the biggest profit year yet! The Island has many expenses and the Foundation wants to support these important RIPOA projects, thus we need your help!

Thank you and have a very Merry Christmas and a joyous Holiday Season!

Kathy Engelhart and the Acquisition Committee

Kroger Community Rewards Program

Thank you to all who participated in this program last year, through your efforts Russell Island Foundation received around \$1600 for the 2016 calendar year. Which unfortunately is about \$500 less than we have annually received in all the years that we have been involved with this program. Our last reward amounted to \$431.09 and stated that there are now 60 households participating. This is 4 more than we had for the prior quarter. Islanders, this can't get any easier! Just think of how much more would be donated if we could get our friends and relatives to join our efforts...OR ALL THE ISLANDERS! It is easy money, for doing what we all do anyway....grocery shop!

So for those who are enrolled in this program, thank you and please continue to shop at Kroger's for your holiday entertaining! The Kroger Community Rewards Program will donate up to \$20,000 a year to an organization – we aren't even at 10% of that amount! "Let's go Krogering"

Karen Moosekian

Membership Dues

Annual dues of \$100.00 are tax-deductible and qualify you to be a voting member at the annual meeting of the Russell Island Foundation held on Labor Day Weekend. You do not have to be a cottage owner to be a member. Please consider membership.

Please make checks payable to: **The Russell Island Foundation**

Mail to: Kathy Engelhart
1011 Satterlee Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____