



Think Spring! Think Spring!

MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

A Letter from the President

Dear Islanders,

Hooray for lower river levels and COVID-19 vaccines! I am optimistic that we can relax and enjoy the Island this season without these worries. This season, we are planning to resume our usual events such as the Memorial Day ceremony, silent auction at the Belmont Stakes party and the Musicfest. See the details below.

As approved at last year's annual meeting, Erik Hall applied for a historic designation from the State of Michigan for Russell Island. I am happy to report that the State approved our historic designation and RIF purchased the plaque for Russell Island. It will be installed soon for all to see! Thank you, Erik!

RIF trustee, Margaret Mutch, has taken over keeping track of our membership since the retirement of Kathy Engelhart as a RIF trustee. And this spring, Margaret sent notices to all RIF members asking for renewals and dues. Many of you responded, thank you! Remember, our fiscal year runs from September 1st through August 31st and the \$100 dues can be paid at any time during the fiscal year to allow participation at our annual meeting on Labor Day weekend.

Also note, that we now have a new P.O. box, new envelopes are on the ferry, and a RIF/RIPOA/RIYC website is operational. The website includes a link to PayPal for paying dues and making donations to RIF. I have used it, it works great.

I hope to see all of you on the Island soon.

Warmly,

Karen Ridgway, President

Memorial Day

The Russell Island Foundation invites you to a ceremony honoring family and friends named on the Memorial Plaque. We will also be adding the names of those honored during the past two years.

Please plan on joining us at 10:30 am, Sunday May 30th, 2021 at the Ferry Landing. If you wish bring a photograph, a memento, or a memory of anyone on our plaque to share.

We will also be unveiling a 100-year Plaque from the Michigan Historical Society. So bring a lawn chair and a mask while we safely distance and congregate in memory of our fellow Islanders, family and friends.

RIF Auction

Once again the Hall family has graciously offered their Belmont Party location, and date, for RIF to assemble and present our Silent Auction fundraiser. Missy Poynter has been tagged (and thankfully accepted) to chair the event. As with all our events, volunteers are essential for success. Any legitimate auctionable items are being accepted by Missy, at the Tomlinson cottage. It might be a good idea to contact her (she is on the island every weekend) to see what has, or is already planned for auction. Please be generous and creative. Assembling gift baskets, or building specialty items are a few idea's. Time is short as the date is Saturday June 5th, 2021. Thank you in advance.

Music Festival

Planning for the 2021 Russell Island Musicfest is underway. As in the past, our program will feature local talent at our beautiful waterfront pavilion. New this year will be additional food and beverage stations for your convenience and patronage. Vendors will receive complimentary admission and a t-shirt. If you are interested in becoming a vendor, please contact Dave Mason (586-899-0404), or Jeanne Lovasco (313-368-1477).

Kroger Community Rewards Program / AmazonSmile

Kroger:

To get enrolled in the program, all you need to do is register online at www.krogercommunityrewards.com Be sure to have your Kroger Plus Card handy and register your card with the Russell Island Foundation after you sign up. If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus Card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger store.

Here is a step by step explanation of what to do to get enrolled in this beneficial program:

1. Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and click on MICHIGAN, scroll down the page and click on the ENROLL box.
2. Click on SIGN UP TODAY in the "New Customer?" box.
3. Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering your zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password. You will need to agree to the terms and conditions.
4. You will then get a message to check in your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email. Follow the instructions in your email.
5. Click on MY ACCOUNTY and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
6. Click on EDIT KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS INFORMATION and input your Kroger Plus Card number. Update or confirm you information.
7. Find Russell Island Foundation which can be selected from the drop down list (or enter the NPO number – 90286) click SELECT in the next section and Click SAVE CHANGES in the third section

To verify that you are enrolled correctly, you should see Russell Island Foundation on the bottom left portion of your information page. It will take 7-10 days before your purchases will begin earning rewards for he Russell Island Foundation after you have registered your Kroger Plus Card online. You will know that you have successfully registered your Kroger Plus Card because at the bottom of your Kroger receipt you will see: ***"At your request, Kroger is donating to The Russell Island Foundation"***.

REMEMBER that purchases will not count for the Russell Island Foundation until after you register your card – so please take the time to do that now! You will need to swipe your registered Kroger Plus Card or use the phone number that is related to your registered Kroger Plus Card when shopping for each purchase in order for it to count towards the quarterly rewards check sent to the Russell Island Foundation. For those of us who regularly shop at Kroger – this is an easy way to help the Foundation accrue monies.

Amazon Smile:

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know with the added benefit of supporting charitable organizations like the Russell Island Foundation! It offers the same products, prices and services as Amazon.com.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. On your first visit to : you will need to select the Russell Island Foundation as your charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation to the Foundation.

Please take advantage of this program, encourage family and friends to sign up also! This is just another way to add money to the Foundation by doing what we normally do....shop!

Membership and Dues

The Russell Island Foundation was established to financially support Russell Island improvements and beautification projects. Many Island projects have been made possible thanks to your continued support. Due to the high water over the past several years many infrastructure projects will need attention and funding. RIF will continue to help support RIPOA with these projects.

Annual dues of \$100 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. Please consider becoming a member. You do not have to be a cottage owner to be a member. A membership in the Foundation may be a great gift idea for a birthday, anniversary, Christmas, or any other special occasion.

Please send annual dues made payable to: **The Russell Island Foundation**

Mail to: Russell Island Foundation
P. O. Box 361322
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

My gift is in: Dues _____ A contribution (\$100, \$150, etc.) _____
Memory of _____
Honor of _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____

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