



# Think Spring!

## May 2022 Newsletter

### President's Message

Dear Islanders,

Fasten your seat belts for lots of action this year! We will be in full swing with our usual events and fundraisers.

First up is the Memorial Day ceremony on Sunday, May 29th at 10:30 AM at the ferry landing gazebo. We will honor the recently passed islanders and loved ones as usual. Plus, we will be honoring our veterans – both passed and living. Kathy Engelhart is organizing the ceremony but may need some assistance as she is expecting a grandbaby about that time. Please let Kathy know if you can help.

Next up is the Belmont Stakes party and silent auction on Saturday, June 11th. The Halls have graciously and generously offered to host this event again. Missy Poynter has graciously and generously volunteered to chair the silent auction again this year and is organizing a “mini” silent auction that will include a limited number of popular items that you can bid on at the party with proceeds going to RIF. All islanders are welcome.

Also, the Musicfest is in-the-works and will be better than ever. Dave Mason is organizing this event for Saturday, August 13th. Please plan on attending and invite your friends and family for a great day at the island.

Please note that Erik Hall still has Russell Island stickers for sale at \$5 each with proceeds going to the Russell Island Foundation.

The cash reserves of RIF are currently strong because of your steady support (thank you!) and the lack of big project requests from RIPOA in recent years due to the pandemic and high water. However, RIPOA is planning some significant projects this year including a new slide and upgrades to the swimming dock, a maintenance building to store RIPOA equipment, parking lot work, and seawall and gazebo improvements at the island-side landing. The seawall work is expected to occur in the fall and be the costliest item that the Russell Island Foundation will be asked to support. Therefore, your continued support is important, needed and appreciated.

Warmly,

Karen Ridgway, President

## Memorial Day

The Memorial Day Ceremony, an island tradition, will take place at the ferry landing gazebo at 10:30 AM on Sunday May 29, 2022. Please join us as we add the names of those being honored this year to the memorial plaques. Please feel free to bring a memory or memento to share with your island family that morning for the islanders and loved ones being honored.

Since this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, we are planning a special event, and have invited the St. Clair County Junior Color Guard to attend. It will be our honor to recognize and thank our island veterans. Following the ceremony, we will have light refreshments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kathy Engelhart 248- 930-2122.

## Belmont Stakes Party and Silent Auction

On Saturday June 11th, the Hall family will once again host the Belmont Stakes party. The Russell Island Foundation will assemble and present a silent auction fundraiser at the party. We have been having mini and full auctions in alternating years and this year's auction will be a mini version with a limited number of items. Missy Poynter has once again graciously offered to chair the silent auction. As with all our events, volunteers are essential for success. Thank you in advance for your help and donations.

## Russell Island Picnic

It's back, the **2022 Russell Island Picnic** that is! Mark your calendars for Sunday July 31st, noon to 6:00 pm. Audrey Stefanko (Moosekian) has graciously offered to chair the event, and with everyone's help we can make the picnic great again. Please call/text Audrey at 517-512-4902 or email her at [audrey@audreysrealty.com](mailto:audrey@audreysrealty.com), with how you would like to help, or with new ideas. Sign-up sheets for volunteers and donated food will go up on the ferry soon, but no need to wait to participate.

## Musicfest

This year's Musicfest will again present live music and is scheduled for Saturday August 13, 2022. Activities will begin around 1:00 PM and last until about 7:00 PM. Food and beverages will be available along with T-shirts commemorating the event. All proceeds will go to the Russell Island Foundation. This is a great opportunity to give back to an Island that has in many ways remained a yesteryear existence.

Thanks to the Russell Island Foundation, our roads, bridges, and park have been maintained and improved for all to enjoy. As always, we welcome volunteers to help run the event. Any ideas

to enhance the day are welcome as well. Please contact Dave Mason (586-899-0404), or Jeanne LoVasco (313-378-1477).

With water levels continuing their decline, we're sure to have a drier, and hopefully, fewer mosquitos this summer. So, mark your calendars and plan on a day of fun music, good eats, and the need for sunscreen. It's a great time meant for all to enjoy a summer event on Russell Island.

## Kroger Rewards and AmazonSmile

The Russell Island Foundation is a registered non-profit organization with both the Kroger Rewards and AmazonSmile programs. Please take advantage of these programs and encourage family and friends to sign up also.

To enroll in the Kroger Rewards program, register online at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) Be sure to have your Kroger Plus Card handy. If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus Card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger store. The Russell Island Foundation has the non-profit organization (NPO) #90286. You will know that you have successfully registered your Kroger Plus Card when you see "*At your request, Kroger is donating to The Russell Island Foundation*" on the bottom of your Kroger receipts.

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

To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You will see eligible products marked "*Eligible for AmazonSmile donation*" on their product detail pages.

On your first visit 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 subsequent eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation to the Foundation.

## Membership Dues

The Russell Island Foundation was established to financially support improvements and beautification projects on Russell Island. Many island projects have been accomplished thanks to your continued support.

Please consider becoming and/or remaining a member. You do not have to be a cottage owner to be a member. A membership in the Russell Island Foundation may be a great gift idea for a birthday, anniversary, Christmas, or any other special occasion.

Russell Island Foundation dues of \$100 are payable by August 31st to entitle you to vote at the annual meeting on Labor Day weekend. Visit the Russell Island Foundation website ([russellisland.org](http://russellisland.org)) for a link to "PayPal" or during the season, cash/checks may be given to Rob Smith, membership chair. Envelopes will be on the ferry in the Spring of 2022. Otherwise, please send annual dues and/or donations made payable to: 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 \_\_\_\_\_

### Russell Island Foundation Board

President: Karen Ridgway  
Vice President: Claude Caponi  
Secretary: Jeanne LoVasco  
Treasurer: Peter Bardin

Trustees: Dave Mason  
Dan Hickey  
Rob Smith  
Emil Holka  
Robert Sloan

RIPOA President: Steve Engelhart