

A Little Slice of Heaven

May 2021

Elbow Lake Chatter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, Everyone!

Though nothing has returned to business as usual, we have high hopes that 2021 will be a lot more fun than last year! And we're hoping our Canadian friends will soon be able to join us this year at the lake.

The board met on Sunday, April 25th to talk about upcoming events. Of course, all activities are subject to covid restrictions and could end up being cancelled, but are proceeding as if all will be well.

The Boat Parade (**Animals** is the theme) and Fireworks will be July 3rd. Activities are being planned for the Annual Meeting & Picnic on August 6th.

On April 24th, I was joined by Darrell Poston, Tammie Fedor, Fred Stutzman, John Collins, Joe Krieger, Erie High, Suzette, Sophie and Luke to get the boat launch and swim sites cleaned of branches and leaves, ready for use. Your help is much appreciated. And we're looking for volunteers to mow the swim/boat launch sites in May and August, probably mowing twice a month. If you can help out, contact Tammie Fedor at 989-539-2739 or tamm799@yahoo.com. Thank you to Fred Stutzman (June), John Collins (July), and Shirley Miller (September) for volunteering.

I want to thank Janet VanRiper for her years and contributions to ELCOA and the Hayride. Her resignation is due to increased responsibilities at home.

Welcome to Erie High who volunteered to be her replacement.

You're welcome to attend the next board meeting, scheduled for May 30th at the Boat Launch, weather permitting.

Stay safe everyone . . . Have a wonderful spring and looking forward to a fantastic summer!

John

You Need to Know

Sheriff

989-539-7166

Oxygen

Charlie & Deb Smith

9895 Toohy Trail

989-560-5811 or 989-424-8633

Karl & Mary Ann Wood

10385 N. Athey Ave.

989-539-1817

Oxygen and AED

Ruey & Stephanie Wood

10328 Toohy Trail

989-539-1580

Elbow Lake Chatter is the official voice of ELCOA. We invite you to send comments, ideas, or photos to:

elbowlakecoa@gmail.com

Our official Facebook page is:

Elbow Lake community page

ELCOA webpage:

elbowlakeinfo.wordpress.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Welcome to our New Neighbors...

The yellow house east of the point off of South Shore has been purchased by the Tank family: Rick and Deb are from Sandusky and (son) Rick and Christi are from Fremont. Ben and Julie Schock now own the Niemi log home on Toohy Trail. They reside in Macomb Township with their two sons, Benjamin and Clayton, and are looking forward to summer at the lake.

If it's before 11am or after 5pm, *slow that boat down!*

Just a reminder that Elbow Lake has NO WAKE times. 5mph is the speed limit, except between 11am and 5pm — 6pm on holiday weekends — and then, please try to stay 100 feet from docks. Enjoy, but be respectful!



2021-22 Membership Dues are \$40

If you send your dues in by July 15, 2021, you will qualify for the \$100 prize in the Early Bird Drawing! It will be drawn at the Annual Meeting/Picnic in August. There will be no raffle tickets to buy or sell this year, but we will still have lots of "50/50" drawings.

If COVID restrictions allow, we plan to have the annual picnic with some safety measures added. In addition, we are planning on a bounce house for the little kids, a dunk tank, a corn-hole tournament and other games. Start putting your Cornhole Team together!

Get your vaccines so we all can all relax and have a safe, fun summer!

Do you need a Burn Permit?

You do if you are burning outside of a contained area or firepit. As fire danger changes almost daily, contact Clare County at 866-922-2876 to see if burning is allowed, for permits and general information.

Starlink Satellite Internet is a Big Hit!

So far, all the comments seem to be positively positive for Starlink. Wifi calling, Facetime, TV streaming and fast internet service all seem to work seamlessly. Yay!!! At least 7 Elbow Lake residents have signed on and 2 more have ordered it. Go to starlink.com for more information.



We're loving the new trash management company

And remember, they will pick up a large item on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Put it beside your trash tote.

Get Well Soon!

Stephanie Wood is at home recovering from back surgery. Hopefully you are up and about soon, Steph!

Lake Weeds Treatment Schedule

Please stay off the lake for 24 hours after treatment. That means no swimming or boating. It allows for the chemicals to settle around the undesirable weeds to most effectively treat them. Because of weather conditions, dates could vary to the day before or after what is listed:

June 16 (water temp must be <64F)

June 30

July 14

August 18

September 8

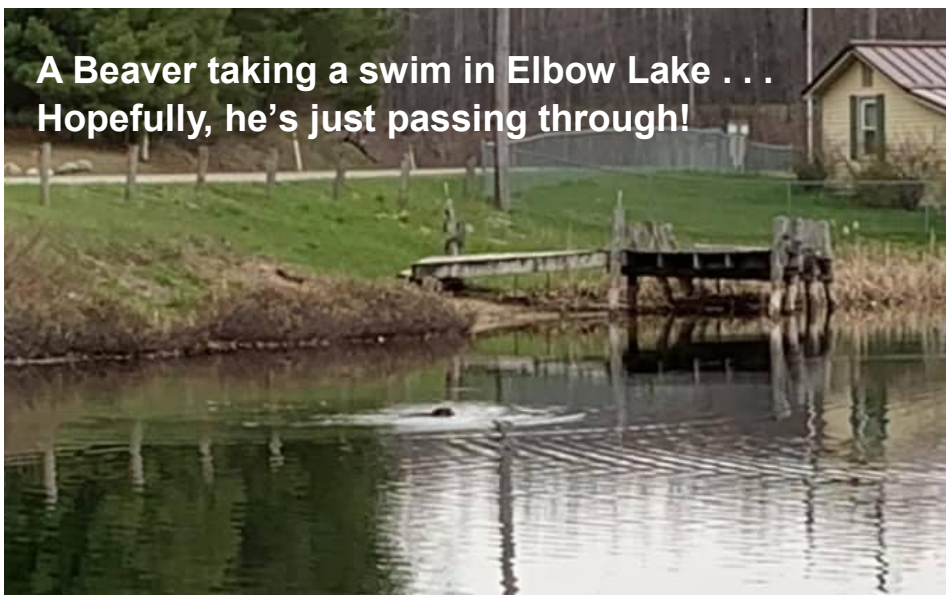
September 15

Your tax dollars pay for this. Additional treatments, such as for lily pads, are \$100 per 60 ft. of lake frontage and must be paid and arranged for in advance.

Contact Woody at 989-539-1580 for questions.

Remember: only cleaned watercraft and trailers should be used to prevent introduction of invasive species and algae from dirty lakes.

A Beaver taking a swim in Elbow Lake . . . Hopefully, he's just passing through!



ACTIVITIES

Boat Parade and Fireworks on July 3rd

Flares will be available for purchase between 10 am and 2pm at the Boat Launch. Don't light them until the Flare Boat passes by close to 10pm . . . that's the signal that the show is about to begin! Firework displays are offered by residents and not by ELCOA. Please consider donating to assist them in purchasing the fireworks. Any member of the board can direct you to those individuals.

You can pre-order flares by emailing
elbowlakecoa@gmail.com



The theme is **ANIMALS** and they will be crawling, swimming, flying over the lake at the annual Boat Parade on Saturday, July 3rd.

Anything that floats can be registered at the Flare Sale in the morning or at the Neighbors/Tenorio cottage or dock at 9952 South Shore Dr. and you'll get a number to display on your float so the judges can identify you and vote. Judges are at four locations—including the east and west ends of the lake, so be sure to travel around the ENTIRE lake and not cut any corners off. A minimum of two complete laps around will show you off to everyone. Four



cash prizes will be given, based on: adherence to the theme, construction details, and overall impression. 5 judges are needed so please offer to volunteer if you're not entering. The parade begins at 7pm.

Contact Susan Neighbors if you have questions or to volunteer to be a judge:
elbowlakecoa@gmail.com.

Join the fun . . . decorate your boat or volunteer to judge!

The 2020 theme was **MICHIGAN** and *MI Road Construction* took first place.



Sand was spread at the Swim Site, ready for summer fun!

Boat Stickers

If you don't have stickers for all of your watercraft, contact Mike De-Sloover. Your first one is free and additional stickers are \$2.00. The stickers identify resident-owned watercraft which are allowed on our lake. As it is a private lake, those without a sticker can be asked to leave.

mgdesloover@gmail.com or
734-243-2221.

Your Dues at Work

What do you get for \$40 a year?

Oxygen Tanks, an AED, ELCOA Signs, Fish Stocking, Picnic, Hayride, Raffles, Bulletin Boards, Access Lighting, Picnic Tables & Grill, Neighborhood Watch, Water Safety Rules, Flares, Prizes for Events, Boat Parade, Sand for the Beach, Grass Cutting and Snow Plowing at Boat Launch and Beach, New Dock, Swim Area Buoys/Roping, Slide and Swing for Kids, Fencing, Website, Facebook, Newsletter and a sense of Community.

Join us and let us know how we can work together to make ELCOA work better for you and your neighbors!

Dates to Remember:

May 30, 10am: Board Meeting
July 3, 10-2pm: Flare Sale at Boat Launch
July 3, 7pm: Boat Parade
Pre-registration required
July 4, 10am: Board Meeting
August 7: Annual Meeting and Picnic
August 8, 10am: Board Meeting
September 5, 10am: Board Meeting
October 9: Hayride
October 10, 10am: Board Meeting

SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM ELCOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sunday September 6, 2020 at Deb & Charlie Smith's garage.

Present: John Krieger, Marty & Susan Neighbors, Mike DeSloover, Deb & Charlie Smith, Mary Ann Wood, Stephanie Wood, Ken VanRiper, Kathy DeSloover, Fred & Mary VanDeKerkhove, Tammie Fedor, Donna Militello, and Lisa Wick.

Absent: Janet VanRiper and Phil Serra.

Guests: Mark Scott

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by President John Krieger.

Minutes: The August 2, 2020 minutes were read by secretary Mary Ann Wood. There were spelling corrections for Phil Serra. Walt VanVyve, and the Rickeards. There was a typo in balance which should read \$5213.49. Also Charlie Smith was not included in Bylaws Committee. Minutes accepted with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was read by Mike DeSloover. See report. The balance is \$4391.09 after expenses of \$1187.40 were subtracted. The balance is as of September 6, 2020.

There were questions regarding raffle prizes and Mike explained \$200.00 was used from cash in hand from membership dues. The \$100.00 to Neighbors was from purchase of buoys last year. Treasurer's report accepted. Member update is 71 members currently.

Report of Committees:

Neighborhood Watch: Ken VanRiper reported everything is great. He also reported the sand has been spread at the beach.

Community News: Deb Smith reported that Frank and Sheriyn DeVuono (purchased Don House's place) had problems with insurance because of a wood burner and also because of living on a private road with no scheduled maintenance. John Shepizon (purchased Tom Helinski's place), Jason and Kelsey Miller purchased the red cottage on Athey (friends of Sally and Kevin Rouse) have all been given welcome packets and membership forms. Ron Seaboldt passed away in August. The 2 story on the lake is pending and are friends of the Smiths. Someone has been looking seriously at the place for sale next to Larry Boudot.

Fish Planting: President Krieger asked Mark Scott if he will still handle the fish planting. He said \$1000.00 of hybrid bluegill and perch were planted. He informed the board that walleye and crappie will be planted in the fall, probably October.

Facebook: Deb Smith reported that a new FB page called Elbow Lake Community News was started and has 60 likes so far.

There were questions about the website showing a message about security. The message says the web page is not secure. Sue Neighbors addressed this question.

Area Clean Up: President Krieger contacted Rickeards (property owners) about offering to take the trees down at the beach area. Mr Rickeard said he did not wish for the tree to come down but would like the fence repaired. President Krieger talked with him about the branches overhanging the beach area and it was decided that the branches could be trimmed half way. Mike DeSloover said he is not able to fix it and we shouldn't have to fix it anymore. Marty Neighbors volunteered to fix the fence. Discussion followed. Regarding good neighbor policy and getting quotes for the cost. Mr. Rickeard said he would go 50% on the repairs. Motion was made and seconded to get quotes for repairs and report back at the next meeting. Motion passed with one opposed.

Water Testing: Charlie Smith said the testing is done for this year.

Annual Picnic: Deb Smith had asked to be on the agenda regarding her committee that looked into activities and entertainment for the picnic in 2021. Her committee had a meeting and looked into a dunk tank, bounce house, etc. She said the dunk tank is \$150.00 but you get \$100.00 back upon return. The bounce house is \$275.00 but you also get a deposit back. She suggests getting the large one for 9 years old and up. Sue Neighbors said she may be able to get a smaller one for the younger children. The dunk tank could allow for tickets to be sold for 3 for \$1.00. Volunteers could be the board, husbands or wives, etc. We used to get dunk tank from Ecklin. Steph Wood will check and see if it is still available. Bounce houses use electricity so would need to check on that with property owner by boat launch. Also it was discussed that we need to check with our insurance for liability. Mark Scott brought up the question of prizes from area businesses. He suggested sending out letters requesting from businesses such as Walmart, Home Depot, Dunhams, etc for \$25.00 gift card. Discussion centered around whether we are non-profit or not. Mike DeSloover asked that the non profit and liability with our insurance issues be tabled until the next meeting.

Hayride: A decision on the hayride event moving forward was discussed. Lisa Wick offered the hayride is out in the open and families could stay together and wear

masks. Ken VanRiper said he will do the tractor and wagon. It will be BYO. Trunk or Treat can be done but must wear gloves to hand out candy. Discussion then centered around the food. Due to Covid 19 regarding serving brats. Chips can be in individual bags. Mark Scott suggested wrapping the brats as Gordon's has individual wraps. Then have individual bags of chips, bottled water, and canned pop. Motion made and seconded to have bottled water, canned pop and put on website if bringing desserts they must be individually wrapped. Motion passed with 9 says and 2 nays. John Krieger announced he will not be here for hayride and Marty Neighbors will lead meeting. Ken VanRiper announced that Janet VanRiper cannot chair the hayride this year that there is too much going on at home. Lisa Wick will chair. Charlie Smith said a lot more to the hayride this year, because of the bagging etc. Donna Militello said as a nurse working in hospital, she will not come to hayride due to possible exposing everyone. Mark Scott said it should be personal preference anyway. Motion was made to amend the last motion and not have food...just the hayride, bonfire, and the costume contest, and announced on the website and Facebook page. Motion passed with 2 opposed. It was suggested to put on website and Facebook for donations of firewood. Lisa Wick is to talk to Janet VanRiper regarding how the costume contest was done in the past. A motion passed to allot \$100.00 to the costume contest.

Old Business:

Road Maintenance: Discussion was held regarding road maintenance. Donna Militello asked if the board could pay for additional road brining since there is extra funds. Janet VanRiper revealed her portion of road doesn't get brined, as well as South Shore and by Millers. She said she buys calcium chloride and does it herself. Donna reported it is impossible to even open windows due to the dust. Motion passed to have Donna Militello investigate the cost of extra brining.

New Business:

Marty suggested a committee be formed to do housekeeping on the bylaws. Motion passed to form Bylaw Committee of Marty Neighbors—chair, Mary Ann Wood, Charlie Smith, and Fred VanDeKerkhove. President Krieger announced the next board meeting is 10-10-2020 at 10:00am at the Smith's garage.

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 am.

Submitted by Secretary Mary Ann Wood.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM ELCOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sunday October 11, 2020, at Deb & Charlie Smith's garage.

Present: Marty Neighbors, Deb and Charlie Smith, Mary Ann Wood, Stephanie Wood, Susan Neighbors, Ken VanRiper, Tammie Fedor, and Lisa Wick.

Absent: John Krieger, Mike and Kathy DeSloover, Fred and Mary VanDeKerkhove, Janet VanRiper, Phil Serra, and Donna Militello.

Guests: No guests

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am by Vice-President Marty Neighbors as a quorum was established. Marty said he appreciated everyone staying through for the meeting so we can keep the community together. He said yesterday's hayride was a good time for all. He wanted to thank Lisa Wick for taking over for Janet VanRiper. He thanked Deb and Charlie Smith for the use of their garage. He also mentioned Lisa Poston and Kristy Tesch as doing the "polar bear plunge", as they were still exercising in the lake.

Minutes: The September 6, 2020 minutes were read by secretary Mary Ann Wood. There were spelling corrections for Phil Serra (one e only), Walt VanVyve (not Vnyve) and Larry Boudot. A correction to the people that purchased Tom Helinski's place should be John Schepizon. In addition, the new owners of the cottage on Athey are Jason and Kelsey Miller. The Minutes were accepted with noted corrections.

Treasurer's Report: No Treasurer's report was available due to the absence of Mike DeSloover. The balance as of September 6, 2020 is \$4391.09. Lisa Wick revealed that \$125.00 was spent for costume prizes, but we gained \$46.00 from the 50/50 drawing.

Report of Committees:

Neighborhood Watch: Ken VanRiper reported nothing new. Marty added that Mark Lojewski wanted to know about membership as he wants to rejoin now that things have settled down.

Community News: Deb Smith reported that Duane and Karen Schunk love it here (they bought the 2 story house on Toohy). They are ex-teachers. Ross Converse (Randy Wilson's son-in-law) is doing better. (He had a rough time with complications from surgery, but he did go home this past Friday). The "NEW" Millers have surrounded their cottage with insulation with siding to come. Marty offered Ken VanRiper a hearty thank you for a job well done on the hayride. He said there were great decorations and hoped that a video

was taken to put on the website/community page.

Fish Planting: No new report, but wall-eye and crappie were planted earlier this month.

Facebook: Deb Smith related that good, positive posts and information on the hayride were all received. Sue Neighbors asked Deb to constantly refer people to our website. She also said a video may be posted.

Web Page: Sue Neighbors reported there is nothing new. The newsletter has been sent out and that she has great pictures from the hayride. She also said there may be a newsletter sent out this winter.

Area Clean Up: Vice-President Neighbors said clean up will again take place next year. He also reported a picnic table got trashed with the frame broken. Ken VanRiper said he will repair it.

Water Testing: Charlie Smith said the testing is done for this year.

Annual Picnic: Deb Smith reported that she hopes we will all be in a better position health wise (due to Coronavirus). She has checked into liability insurance and said we are okay, all is covered. Sue Neighbors announced she is aware of a small bounce house we can borrow for free. Deb Smith announced her committee will meet regarding set-up, etc. Charlie Smith suggested getting generators to run the bounce houses so they can be put on level ground. Deb said the houses are \$275 and \$150. So she will need permission to order by March or April. Stephanie Wood made a motion for Deb to reserve the bounce house for the picnic in August. Lisa Wick Seconded. Motion carried.

Hayride: Lisa Wick thanked everyone that assisted the hayride activities. She offered prizes for trunk or treat and it was well received. She said it may be done again next year. She reported there was a fair amount of people, considering the virus. She suggested that a time be advertised for the costume contest. She also reported there is a need for more volunteers for some of the small functions. But then, she also said we need more people on all committees to help with all ELCOA functions. Lisa also reported that the porta-potty from the beach area was not picked up by 9-30-2020, and that there was no porta-potty ordered for the hayride. Charlie Smith suggested waiting until spring for a decision by the board for how to handle this. However, he volunteered to be the "porta-potty Czar" for now for all ELCOA functions.

Old Business:

Fence Repair: Marty Neighbors spoke with President John Krieger about the fence and Marty repaired it at the beach access site. He also cleaned up area by taking out the trash etc. He said he spent \$99.00 for posts and rails. He and his buddy did the repairs. Deb Smith offered appreciation from the board and made a motion to pay Marty the \$99.00 and not charge Rickeards for any part of it. Stephanie Wood seconded. Motion carried.

Bylaws Committee: Marty reported a committee meeting has not happened since the last meeting. He suggested to consolidate the constitution and bring it to the next meeting. This will allow the membership to vote on it at the annual meeting. He gave examples of electronic notifications of meetings as an area to be addressed in our bylaws. He also thought it necessary to include how often the bylaws should be updated.

Fish Habitat: Mike DeSloover absent so no report. Marty said it will be up to us whether we want to continue. He talked with Erie (scuba guy) who said there should be vegetation across the lake bottom.

Tree Trimming: Marty reported that John got a quote for tree trimming at the beach. It was \$700.00 to cut down branches on trees at swim site. Charlie Smith said that was too much and a motion was carried to reject the project.

New Business:

Chairman for ELCOA 2021 functions:

Fourth of July:

Annual Picnic: Deb Smith (per Deb) submit ideas for the boat parade theme by January 1, 2021. Then there will be a vote by March 1, 2021.

Hayride: Janet VanRiper?

Board Meeting Dates:

April 25, 2021

May 30, 2021

July 4, 2021 (boat parade the 3rd)

August 7, 2021 (Annual Meeting the 6th)

September 5, 2021

October 10, 2021 (Hayride the 9th)

The winners of the costume contest were revealed:

1-4 years old: Lily Wilson

5-9 years old: Hadleigh Spurgeon

10-14 years old: Sophie and Luke High

Adult: Sally Rouse

Best Trunk or Treat: Alisha Virgin

Vice-President Neighbors announced the next board meeting will be 4-25-2021 at 10:00 am at the Smith's garage.

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 am.

Submitted by Secretary Mary Ann Wood.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION for 2021-2022

ELCOA Board Officers:

President

John Krieger	248-390-6881	gailkrieger@yahoo.com
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Vice President

Marty Neighbors	810-599-6347	theneighbors@comcast.net
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Secretary

Mary Ann Wood	989-539-1817	onecoolz@hughes.net
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Treasurer

Mike DeSloover	734-243-2221	mgdesloover@gmail.com
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ELCOA Project Coordinators:

Area Cleanup

Community News

MaryAnn Wood	989-539-1817	onecoolz@hughes.net
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Annual Picnic/Facebook Administrator

Deb Smith	989-560-5811	grammiep1013@yahoo.com
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Fish Planting

Mark Scott	210-284-7700	mascott7676@gmail.com
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Hayride

Neighborhood Watch

Ken VanRiper	989-539-0360	
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Newsletter/Website/Membership

Susan Neighbors	810-599-3366	elbowlakecoa@gmail.com susan4neighbors@gmail.com
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Water Testing

Charlie Smith	989-424-8633	kai538@yahoo.com
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ELCOA Board Members:

Kathy DeSloover	734-735-7181	kmdesloover@gmail.com
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Tammie Fedor	989-539-2739	tamm799@yahoo.com
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Erie High	734-679-3032	eriehigh@gmail.com
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Donna Militello	989-837-1764	fdmilitello1@att.net
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Philip Serra	248-496-5867	pserra@schwabind.com
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Fred VanDeKerkhove	586-558-7817	fredvan@comcast.net
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Mary VanDeKerkhove	586-558-7817	maryvan@comcast.net
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Lisa Wick	810-288-9719	
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Karl Wood	989-539-1817	onecoolz@hughes.net
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Stephanie Wood	989-539-1580	randswood@hughes.net
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Lake Weeds Treatment

Ruey Wood	989-539-1580	randswood@hughes.net
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ELCOA Membership for 2021-2022

Please fill out and send with check to address below:

Name _____

Home Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone(s) _____ ☐ cell ☐ landline

Email address _____

Elbow Lake Address _____

Elbow Lake Phone _____ Lot Number _____

Membership dues must be paid before or at the time of the Annual Meeting/Picnic, scheduled for August 6, 2021, in order to vote.

Dues received by July 15, 2021 qualify for the “EARLY BIRD DRAWING” prize of \$100. (The winner will be announced at the Annual Meeting.)

Please send this membership form and a **\$40.00** check, payable to **ELCOA** to:

**Susan Neighbors
10760 Oakhill St.
Fenton, MI 48430**

If you don't have a printer, just send the above information by mail or email and forward a check. Any other questions?

Contact Sue at susan4neighbors@gmail.com

or elbowlakecoa@gmail.com