



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Don't Hibernate . . . Recreate!

I've heard of the "Dog Days of Summer" — that's defined as the most hot, sultry, humid days, or a period of stagnation or inactivity. But Sirius—the Dog Star—rises in the Winter, giving us cold, frigid, dry days, and for many of us, stagnation and inactivity.

So, as the Dog Days of Winter march on during this continued pandemic year, we all need to take stock of what we have, what we have endured, and look forward to the brighter days that are ahead of us. Our "little slice of heaven" up here has been a welcomed respite for all of us. I really like the phrase of "Don't hibernate, recreate!" as many have been partaking in all sorts of Winter activities. From snowmobiling to ice skating, ice fishing, skiing, to just hiking and enjoying the fresh air.

We do live in the state of Pure Michigan, so get out there and purely enjoy the Winter!

You Need to Know

Sheriff

989-539-7166

Oxygen

Karl & Mary Ann Wood
10385 N. Athey Ave.
989-539-1817

Tammie Fedor & Fred Stutzman
10423 N. Athey Ave.
989-539-2739

Oxygen and AED

Charlie & Deb Smith
9895 Toohy Trail
989-560-5811 or 989-424-8633

Fire Department

989-539-7145

**Local Emergency Water Truck
and Walkie-Talkies**

Text Erie High at:
734-679-3032
or go to 10424 N. Athey

COMMUNITY NEWS

What would we do without our Fur-Babies?

During this time of covid, many of us have enjoyed the companionship of our pets to reduce stress, or have acquired pets for that reason. They can be such a source of calm comfort in our busy lives. Even on our Facebook page, recent postings featured missing or found pets. They can be as important to us as friends and family, so when one is lost or passes away, hearts are broken.

One such dog is Jake. Owners Kevin and Sally Rouse reported that Jake recently passed away from cancer. Sally said that in his 7 years, Jake loved coming to the cottage and his favorite treat was to ride in the golf cart up and down Toohy Trail and Athey Rd. Their younger dog, Duke, doesn't yet quite fill the hole in their hearts. RIP, Jake.



Franklin Township
Brine Dates
for 2022
May 19th
July 8th
August 25th

Safe Ice Thickness*

Ice Thickness	Permissible Load	Ice Thickness	Permissible Load
3 inches	Single person on foot	12 inches	Heavy truck (8-ton gross)
4 inches	Group in single file	15 inches	10 tons
7½ inches	Passenger car (2-ton gross)	20 inches	25 tons
8 inches	Light truck (2½-ton gross)	30 inches	70 tons
10 inches	Medium truck (3½-ton gross)	36 inches	110 tons

***Solid, clear, blue/black pond and lake ice**

Slush ice has only half the strength of blue ice. The strength value of river ice is 15 percent less.

“Christmas in July” is this year’s theme for the Boat Parade on Saturday, July 2nd

Start planning now to come up with ideas for this year’s Boat Parade. Hopefully, we can bring the Fun we’ve missed out on because of the last two Covid Christmases. Remember, there must be something Patriotic about the boat (after all, we are celebrating America’s Independence Day).

And remember, there are cash prizes for the top four boats. We’ll ask 4 or 5 residents to volunteer to be judges and score each entry from 1 to 10 in different categories, such as Originality, Adherence to the Theme, Patriotic, and Construction Details. Scores are tallied and the four boats with the most points are the winners.

It’s free to enter . . . Start thinking about what YOU are going to do! A big turnout will mean more fun!



We need volunteers for Area Cleanup: April 23

Please join us and spend that morning readying our community areas for summer. Bring a rake or leaf blower. We’ll spruce up the Boat Launch and Swim Site, getting rid of last fall’s leaves and branches. It should take 2 hours or so. See you at 9:30am at the Boat Launch!

2022 Dates to Remember:

April 23—Area Clean up
 April 24— Board Meeting
 May 29— Board Meeting
 July 2— Boat Parade & Fireworks
 July 3— Board Meeting
 August 6— Annual Meeting/Picnic
 August 7— Board Meeting
 September 4— Board Meeting
 October 8— Hayride
 October 9— Board Meeting

Board Meetings begin at 10am
 and meet at 9952 South Shore
*All are welcome to attend
 Board Meetings*

ELBOW LAKE . . . IT'S NOT JUST FOR SUMMER



ACTIVITIES

Best Hayride Ever? Maybe!!

It was a perfect Saturday afternoon in October and people were anxious to get out of their houses and have some fun together. The food was great, there were prizes for costumes, 50/50 raffles, door prizes, an Elbow Lake sweatshirt raffle and, of course, a hayride. Trunk-or-Treat boasted 11 vehicles!

Thank you to the many people who came together to make this happen: Ken VanRiper, Lisa Wick, Erie & Suzette High, and Fred Stutzman. Thank you to Ashley Wick of *Weathered and Torn* for the donation of the sweatshirt. And

thank you to Hunters Paradise for the donations of pumpkins, hay-bales and many of the door prizes.



ACTIVITIES



SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM ELCOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sunday October 10, 2021

Location: Marty Neighbors' House

Present: Marty Neighbors, Erie High, Mary Ann Wood, Susan Neighbors, Tammie Fedor, Frank DeVuono, and John Krieger.

Absent: Fred and Mary Van-DeKerkhove, Rick Elenbaas and Deb Smith

Guests: Lisa Wick

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by President Marty Neighbors. President Neighbors addressed quorum and it is established. He then talked about the hayride and it was a total success. Several attendees said they never have seen so many people attend. There were also lots of kids. All of the hot dogs, pulled pork etc. were all gone. Thank you to Lisa Wick and her committee of Erie High, Fred Stutzman, and Suzette High. He also said the boats are cleaned up and organized and look so much better.

Minutes: The September 5, 2021 minutes were read by secretary Mary Ann Wood. The corrections included a misspelling of Frank DeVuono's name (correct now), Larry Boudot emailed Susan Neighbors that his donation was for fish planting and *not* for membership. Minutes were accepted with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Marty Neighbors reported that Mike DeSloover has filed the federal report but has not as yet transferred the account to Deb Smith. President Neighbors said our money is in limbo because we can't deposit or write checks. He said Mary Ann needs to be able to deposit in absence of Deb Smith because she is also on the account and because Deb Smith has not received the accounts as yet. Susan Neighbors gave Deb Smith \$500.00 for membership and now has \$300.00 more. Since Mary Ann Wood does not have account numbers, she is to make sure to have them in the future as a backup. John Krieger gave the new defibrillator pads to Erie High and needs a check to Pontiac General for

\$60.17. Motion was made to table the remainder of financial discussion until spring when Deb Smith will be present.

Membership Report: Sue Neighbors reported there are 80 members with 19 new members that were not members last year. She has a record of 17 that have not renewed that were members last year. She has one awaiting at home. She also passed out membership forms yesterday at the hayride. Last year our total was 72 members at this time. She did pass out a membership listing to the board.

Report of Committees:

Neighborhood Watch: Erie High and Fred Stutzman fixed the sign by Lisa Wick's house. Lisa brought up that when Deb Smith is gone for whatever reason, that there be a shift to another person for the AED. Discussion held that we should investigate a weatherproof box to store it in. In that way, if someone goes into Houghton Lake for shopping etc., the community will still have access to the AED. It was decided to investigate for possibilities to remedy this situation.

Community News: Deb Smith is in quarantine due to husband having Covid. She currently is at son's in Kalkaska. It was reported that the family next to Bob Smith also has Covid.

Facebook: Lisa Wick addressed a comment on Elbow Lake community page regarding what Erie is posting about use of the property at the boat launch. Unfortunately, some people made negative comments. Lisa said Erie's comments were level-headed and that he invited the commentator to a board meeting to get accurate information. Of course, they are not present. Erie commented that he had consulted with Marty Neighbors regarding putting a shed on skids at the boat launch and that idea was abandoned.

Web Page: Sue Neighbors reported there is nothing new.

Hayride: Marty Neighbors gave kudos to the planning committee. He said it was the best organized Hayride in a long time. Lisa Wick asked about the fact that she has no receipts from the Amish, or from Ken VanRiper. She was advised to write it all down and submit it against the \$500.00 that was approved for the hayride. Also, she should then turn it in to the treasurer. Lisa Wick also brought up that Lori Hopkins from Hunters Paradise gave her \$40.00 towards the hayride and that Hunters contributed a lot in prizes and decorations. They gave us straw and pumpkins, etc. Marty Neighbors suggested giving Hunters Paradise a plaque and that he will make one. Erie suggested gift cards instead of shopping for prizes for various age group categories.

Old Business:

Tree Trimming: Erie High reported the tree trimming is complete and paid for. Some of the brush was burned last night at the hayride.

Township Meetings: Erie High reported a dysfunctional light at the boat launch to the township board. The township will look into it and contact Consumers Power. He said he will follow up until it is fixed. He commented we pay \$188.88 for a non-metered light that doesn't always work. Erie brought up the blight situation at the boat launch regarding abandoned boats. The township said they do not want to get involved with a private lake blight issue. Marty Neighbors suggested we may need to 'police' ourselves.

Electrical Service: Erie reported he priced out the electrical from the haunted trail to area where the food was set up yesterday. The price is \$247.21 so in all it will be about \$600-800 depending where we start and end. It is subservice extension cord-10 gauge wire. He has a trencher so that will not cost the association. Mo-

SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM ELCOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING—continued

tion passed to allow up to but not exceed \$800 for purchasing the supplies.

Boat Launch: Erie said buoys have been pulled and the swim line and buoys need cleaning. He also said one dock has been pulled and he will coordinate with Ken VanRiper to pull the other one. He said he has receipts for 6 tables that were fixed and will give to Deb Smith. He will see that the other tables are all stacked for winter

Fishing Signs: Erie also informed the board that road signs are in need of refacing and he will bring it up at next meeting of the township board. He has not addressed fishing signs as yet.

First Responders Class: This item tabled until the next board meeting.

New Business:

Erie High brought up the need for radios. He has investigated a programmed house radio that uses a frequency that we would not need a license for. They are similar to ham radios. He found a 5 pack with charging cables etc. and were 8 watts and can be used for communication up to 1 mile apart. They sell for \$158.00 on

Amazon. He felt this way people can go in different directions when looking for someone or investigating an incident. Discussion was held on locations for placement of the radios. Erie said he can program them and keep them or place at someone's house like Fedor's or High's. Motion passed to purchase 5 walkie-talkies. Erie then also suggested an Emergency Action Plan. He said he would be happy to write one up. This way we would also have easy access to police, fire, etc. phone numbers for posting. Sue Neighbors suggested printing up a refrigerator magnet with emergency numbers visible.

Discussions: There was discussion about logs at the boat launch being restacked or given away. It was decided to restack and cover to preventing rotting. Erie High said he will be renting a stump grinder if anyone wants to join in and share the expense. Erie also suggested buying some 4x4's or 6x6's to tie boats up. This would give anchor points. He also reported there was a floating paddle boat in the lake yesterday. It was placed on the beach at Shirley Miller's. He also discussed the use

of the old float pontoon that we could install a ramp and railing and this way it could be used by the handicapped people as a fishing platform. We still have 2 sections of docks (one at Ruey Wood's) so we could still do a combined fishing pier and possibly a 3rd dock. This was tabled until next year for board work.

Susan Neighbors reported she took lots of pictures at the hayride yesterday.

President Neighbors announced the next board meeting is 4-24-2022 at 10:00am at his place. He suggested we have April 23rd as the cleanup of the area. He asked for increasing number of volunteer participants. It was also suggested to have a rain date for the hayride. The hayride is scheduled for October 8 with a rain-out date of October 15. Mary Ann Wood announced the dates for the board meetings and events for next year: April 24 (cleanup April 23), May 29, July 3 (parade July 2), August 7 (picnic August 6), September 4, and October 9 (Hayride October 8). Meeting adjourned at 11:42 am. Submitted by Secretary Mary Ann Wood.



IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION FOR 2021-2022

ELCOA BOARD OFFICERS	President		
	Marty Neighbors	810-599-6347	theneighbors@comcast.net
	Vice President		
	Erie High	734-679-3032	eriehigh@gmail.com
	Secretary		
	Mary Ann Wood	989-274-4315	woodmaryann46@gmail.com
	Treasurer		
ELCOA BOARD MEMBERS	Deb Smith	989-560-5811	grammiej1013@yahoo.com
	Membership		
	Susan Neighbors	810-599-3366	susan4neighbors@gmail.com
	Frank DeVuono	586-482-0907	fjdevuono@gmail.com
	Rick Elenbaas	989-890-1700	relenbaas198523@gmail.com
	Tammie Fedor	989-539-2739	tamm799@yahoo.com
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	John Krieger	248-390-6881	gailkrieger@yahoo.com
	Fred VanDeKerkhove	586-558-7817	fredvan@comcast.net
	Mary VanDeKerkhove	586-558-7817	maryvan@comcast.net
	Community News/Annual Picnic/Facebook Administrator		
	Deb Smith	989-560-5811	grammiej1013@yahoo.com
	Hayride		
	Lisa Wick	810-288-9719	
	Erie High	734-679-3032	eriehigh@gmail.com
	John Krieger	248-390-6881	gailkrieger@yahoo.com
	Neighborhood Watch		
	Tammie Fedor	989-539-2739	tamm799@yahoo.com
	Newsletter/Website/Boat Parade		elbowlakecoa@gmail.com
	Susan Neighbors	810-599-3366	susan4neighbors@gmail.com
	Water Testing		
	Charlie Smith	989-424-8633	kai538@yahoo.com
	Fish Planting (Fall of 2022)		
	Mark Scott	210-284-7700	mascott7676@gmail.com
	Lake Weeds Treatment		
	Ruey Wood	989-539-1580	randswood@hughes.net

Elbow Lake Chatter is the official voice of ELCOA.

We invite you to send comments, ideas, or photos to:
elbowlakecoa@gmail.com

ELCOA's Facebook page is: **Elbow Lake community page**
ELCOA webpage: **elbowlakeinfo.wordpress.com**