

A Little Slice of Heaven

MAY 2022

Elbow Lake Chatter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we head into Spring (I think) with the promise of Summer right around the corner, comes the hope of "Hot Fun in the Summertime". This spring, the sounds of buzzing chainsaws has been interrupted by the occasional woodpecker rapping out his drum solo in pursuit of a morning meal. The certainty of the return of our own nesting loon pair has returned and I timed how long one of them stayed under and I was amazed at the 39 second underwater dive! As the weather begins to warm and our Summertime activities begin to resume, let's have a safe and easy living type of summer. Our volunteer works crews have done a great job cleaning and sprucing up the boat launch and beach areas. They certainly deserve a bunch of credit. Special mention goes out to Fred Stutzman and Erie High, as they have been instrumental in stacking the boats, putting the dock in and adding some mooring posts for off-lake boats. My hope is for all to enjoy our lake environs and all that it offers, all the while being mindful of our friends in our lake community.

Marty

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

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

EDITORIAL

And we thought we were doing a good job.

Recent social media chatter has exposed our many failures in our roles as the ELCOA Board. And we thought we were doing a good job.

We invite you to our meetings...we list them for the entire year with locations and times in our newsletters and website. No guests show up at our meetings with questions or concerns.

We mail EVERY PROPERTY OWNER the May newsletter, whether they are ELCOA members or not. We will email the June, September and February newsletters to EVERYONE we have an email address for. The last page lists every board member, their phone numbers and email addresses. No one contacts us with questions or concerns.

We have an active webpage that gets updated frequently. There is a Contact button that can be clicked on to send a message to ELCOA: elbowlake-coa@gmail.com About three times a year, I'll get an email from someone but they usually are not residents. ("Is such-and-such address in the resort area?" "I'm looking to buy a cottage on Athey Ave. Will I be able to use the lake?" "I used to have a cottage at the lake. Can you add me to the Newsletter Email list? I like to keep up with news of my old friends." No resident has emailed me with questions or concerns.

We publish every summary of the minutes as soon as we can, before they are corrected and accepted by the board in an effort to be totally transparent. I have been emailed by a resident with a correction to the minutes, so I know that at least 1 resident reads our minutes and is interested (thank you for appreciating our efforts!).

This past year, we had 83 members of ELCOA, so barely just over half of our total possible residents. About 51 of them are off-lake residents. At our meetings, we talk about how to spend our money, what we can do to make our residents happier, safer, more comfortable. We get our input from our 11 board members, because no one else shows up to share their concerns. This past year, we have purchased 5 walkie-talkies available for emergencies, such as in a missing person situation — to keep our residents safer. (See information on first page of this newsletter.)

This past year, we spent \$800 at the Boat Launch to remove a dead tree that could have endangered lives and off-lake boats moored there. We paid to have trees trimmed there. Complaints were made about ELCOA overstepping their authority, not by phone, emails, or at meetings, but on social media. We all understand it's not ELCOA's property but a valuable area that needs to be safe for all who use it. ELCOA is not trying to annex it. We are willing to organize clean-up parties, to mow it and maintain it for residents to enjoy. We welcome those who are critical of us to show up and help, or supervise the volunteers.

Some housekeeping has already been accomplished with old boats that had been thrown into the woods being found and moved out. (One resident discovered his dad's old boat after it had been brought out...he hadn't seen it for 20 years! He removed it to his home.)

We thought about bringing sand in to improve the land west of the docks to add more space for off-lake boats, and adding mooring posts for them. We thought about adding another dock and fishing platform. Are these good ideas or are we overstepping?

We want YOUR input. We want to hear YOUR ideas. We've provided many ways to share them. Don't hide behind social media.

Susan Neighbors, Editor

COMMUNITY NEWS

We'll Never Forget...

On April 1st, long-time Elbow Lake resident Karl Wood passed away. He was a Vietnam vet, past president of ELCOA, beloved husband of Mary Ann, and dear friend of so many here at Elbow Lake. He will be greatly missed.

Also, former Elbow Lake resident Carl Kalisz, affectionately known as Junkyard Carl, also passed in April. His expertise in fixing and building dune buggies, cars, snowmobiles...anything with wheels, skis and a motor — was appreciated by many.

and Finally...

Most of our Canadian friends are excited to be back at the lake. For about 20 months, they were not able to visit their cottages because of covid border restrictions. Welcome back!

Unfortunately, Carol Ouellette has been unable to return as health issues are keeping her in Canada.

We're Growing!

We heard news that Eric and Samantha Rouse are expecting their first child. Congratulations to this expanding family!

We had some theft issues this past year...

This past November, a catalytic converter was stolen off of Randy Wilson's pickup. Erie High reported that some items he had for sale were stolen after a chain was cut.

Scrape those &\$!#% Moth Eggs Now!

While we are trying to remember "Spongy Moth" when we're are used to "Gypsy Moth" (don't you wish you never even heard of them?!), if you see an egg mass, destroy it now so there will be fewer caterpillars crawling on your property this summer.

ACTIVITIES

Donations Encouraged for Fireworks planned for Saturday, July 2nd!

Erie High, who is licensed by the ATF to use commercial grade fireworks, is planning to put on a fireworks show. This is not an ELCOA-sponsored event but as residents, we certainly get to enjoy the show! If you would like to donate money to him for the purchase of said fireworks, please do as soon as possible. Erie said that availability this year is an issue but he will get what he can — where he can! He'll be notifying the fire department and police before hand and will be following all rules and regulations for a very safe, controlled show. Checks can be sent directly to ERIE HIGH at 10424 N. Athey Ave, Harrison, MI 48625 or can be sent in with your renewed ELCOA membership paperwork, and we'll forward them to Erie.

Problems with the Road? Don't call . . . Use this link instead:

<https://clarecrc.com/service-requests/>
If you have a concern about the condition or maintenance of your road, a phone call won't get you the response you desire. Using the above link takes you to a Request for Service form that requires them to follow up on it. Use it to make sure your voice is not ignored.

Lawn Mowing Superstars

May: Marty Neighbors
Memorial Weekend: John's Family
June: Rick Elenbaas
July: Kevin Pillon
August: Erie High
September: Fred Stutzman

Thank you to the above volunteers for keeping our Swim Site and Boat Launch areas well groomed!

Flare Sales

Flares have been ordered for our Fourth of July celebration. More details will be in the June Newsletter.

"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. You don't have to be a member of ELCOA, but if you're a winner, it would be nice if you spent your winnings for an ELCOA membership. Start thinking about what YOU are going to do! A big turn-out will mean more fun!



Fishing

This fall, we will be stocking our lake with fish again. It costs about \$1000 to do this every other year. Last year, at least two pike were caught:



Young Ben Tank landed this 15# on Labor Day weekend and Mr. Johns caught this guy over Memorial weekend.

If you catch one of these monsters, consider keeping it for a trophy and don't throw it back. We don't want to be spending our members' money buying meals for these voracious eaters!

Pike were last planted in our lake in 1992; they can live up to 15 years. Besides fish, frogs, insects, and small mammals, it's noted they've attacked waterfowl as large as a swan, but not people! They will be found in the weedy shallows in the spring, moving to deeper water in the summertime.

Thank you, Volunteers!

Thank you to all who showed up to clean up the Swim Site and Boat Launch of Winter's debris. John Collins had the foresight to drag a downed tree at the Beach to the Boat Launch while the lake was still frozen. He, along with Janet Strickler, Sally Rouse, Frank DeVuono, John Krieger, Susan and Marty Neighbors, Fred Stutzman, Darrell Poston, Annette and Kevin Pillon, Lisa and Dave Wick and Darin Rickeard raked and blew leaves, burned brush, raked sand and improved both areas.

Erie High and Fred also spent many hours clearing scrub and brush at the Boat Launch and discovering and stacking abandoned boats, besides installing a dock.

And lastly, the drive at the Boat Launch was graded by Kevin Rouse...we sure appreciate it.

Thank you, everyone, for helping to maintain the beauty of our community and shared areas!



SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM ELCOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sunday April 24, 2022

Location: Marty Neighbors' House

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

Absent: Fred and Mary Van-DeKerkhove, John Krieger, and Deb Smith

Guests: Lisa Wick, Annette and Kevin Pillon.

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 am by President Marty Neighbors. President Neighbors spoke of appreciation of everyone's time on the board and soldiering another year of the pandemic. He said everyone volunteers their time and in light of that, he wants to thank everyone that volunteered for the cleanup yesterday. President Neighbors then asked for a moment of silence for Karl Wood, a past president and board member; he passed away April 1, 2022.

Minutes: The October 10, 2021 minutes were read by secretary Mary Ann Wood. The corrections included that the extra boat dock is at Mark Scott's and not at Ruey Wood's house. Marty Neighbors has the hardware for the dock. Minutes were accepted with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Marty Neighbors reported that Deb Smith had a rescheduled trip out west and therefore could not attend today's meeting. She has sent a financial report that was read by Mary Ann Wood. Currently there is \$2549.75 in the account with \$1185.53 in expenses having been deducted.

Membership Report: Sue Neighbors reported a membership of 83 with 15 that did not renew that were members last year. She said there will be an "Early Bird" drawing as well this year.

Report of Committees:

Neighborhood Watch: Tammie Fedor said it has been a long hard winter. She reported of Karl Wood passing on 4-1-22. Pat VanRiper last fall and Carl Kalisz last week. He was well

known in the community's history. She also said there have been multiple thefts in the area. Erie High had burn barrels stolen that were chained in front of his property. The perpetrator cut the chain. Randy Wilson had a catalytic converter stolen in broad daylight in front of his home. It was reported someone on the lake also had stuff stolen. Lisa Wick said she had a car pull into her driveway and 4 people got out walked around the car and then got back in and drove off. Erie High said he has cameras on his property but they are 30 ft in the air and infrared and didn't get license plate info.

Community News: Eric and Samantha Rouse are expecting their first child. Carol Ouellette is not doing well and may not be back to her home here.

Facebook: Lisa Poston, Mark Scott, and Deb Smith are the administrators of the Facebook page. Marty Neighbors expressed his appreciation in a good job of this site. They are monitoring it well and negative comments are way down.

Web Page: Sue Neighbors reported there is nothing new. Tammie Fedor suggested it be posted that a newsletter will be coming out soon.

Fish Planting: Marty Neighbors said several different types will be planted. Discussion on whether pikes should be thrown back in the lake after being caught as they are predators to the newly planted fish.

Area Cleanup: Marty Neighbors gave kudos to the volunteers. He said there were 15 people working both sites and it now looks "great". Rotted wood was burned and cleanup was thorough. He also thanked Erie High and Fred Stutzman for cleaning out the boats from the tree area. Tammie said people are needed to volunteer to cut the grass at both sites. Marty Neighbors said he will do May. Rick Elenbaas will do June, the Pillons will do July, Erie

High plans on August, and Tammie Fedor and Fred Stutzman will do September.

Water Testing: Charlie Smith does water testing and its usually done before the annual meeting. Marty Neighbors said our reports are so good that the water is almost "drinkable".

Annual Picnic: The picnic will be chaired by Deb Smith.

Hayride: No chairman at present. Need someone to step forward to handle this. It was discussed that a non-member won a cash prize but never has joined the association.

Fourth of July: Marty Neighbors reported he and Frank DeVuono are the flare guys. He said they sold out last year and will order more for this year. Tammie Fedor sold flares off the lake. President Neighbors suggested it be put in the newsletter that if property owners on the lake are not planning on being here for the Fourth weekend that they plan on putting flares in front of their property. They could have neighbors place them. It was also reported that the flare boat was found and that it should be decorated. Marty said the flare boat is to make 2 passes. The boat parade theme is "Christmas in July" and the new time for the parade will be 8:00 pm. It was suggested to try this time for a year and see if we get more participants with the later start time. Erie High suggested the flares be ordered early because of supply chain issues currently causing problems. He also reported that commercial fireworks (which he is licensed to handle by the ATF) are limited due to supply chain issues. The consumer type are available (sold in tents, etc). He said there will be fireworks but probably not the real large ones. He said the boat launch may not be a good viewing site as he plans to use his property on Toohy to be the launch area. He will have the police and fire department notified. It was reported it is ille-

SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM ELCOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING—*continued*

gal to shoot commercial fireworks from a barge in the middle of the lake without special permits and testing.

Township Meetings: Erie High reported he has been busy and hasn't gone to a recent meeting. He did say when the light at the boat launch burns out the township will replace it. The blight issue seemed to be a repetitive issue at the township meetings. He said there was a place in Meredith that the township had to "mow" and they charged a fine of \$500 for the violation. He also said a "key" issue is permanent campers on property. They are cracking down and want to know the sewage resolutions for the camper. They currently are not issuing permits as of yet.

Old Business:

Emergency Radios: Erie High reported there are ham radios and he will program with an A and a B channel. He is open to opinions on this. He will store them in the shed on his property by the road in a locked box with a combination that board of directors and officers will have access to. He explained if we call 911 and they come from Harrison or Gladwin it will take 45 minutes for them to respond. He will type up directions for use and plans to develop an emergency plan for the area. President Marty Neighbors also suggested that this may be a place to store the AED from April to October. Then it would be placed back at Deb Smith's house for colder weather.

Boat Launch: President Marty Neighbors suggested wolmanized 4x4 or 6 x 6 inch posts sunken in with a cleat to moor boats, and maybe a slot for a card with the person's name on it. Discussion held and it was decided it would only create ill will in the community. The trenching for the extension cord leading to a generator will be done soon by Erie High. He will call Miss Dig before doing so. He also suggested to put sand on the muck side of the boat launch and that

Fred Stutzman suggested grading some more by the boat launch because it is still too steep and someone could fall in. Erie also said there are some logs by the boat launch area in the water. He will get them pulled out. They are trying to get more spots for boat docking. Discussion held and it was suggested that sand could make people think this is a beach area. Frank DeVuono will check into the cost of a load of sand, for follow up at the next meeting.

Erie High made a motion to purchase a load of sand up to but not to exceed \$300.00. It was seconded by Tammie Fedor. Motion passed.

Frank DeVuono then made a motion to purchase 7 posts (4x4") and 7 cleats for the boats at the boat launch. It was seconded by Tammie Fedor. Motion passed. It was the reported that one dock is in and there is a need for more people to move the 4' sections of the other dock before Memorial Day. Erie High also reported that cleaning the area where the tree was taken down would help reclaim the area for boat dockage. The offsite shed has been tabled as wood is too expensive currently. President Marty Neighbors looked at buoys with the duct tape currently on them and ordered new decals with one side saying swim area and other side saying keep out.

Fishing Signs: He has not addressed fishing signs as yet.

New Business:

Road Commission: There had been a suggestion by a member to have a committee to work with the Clare County road commission. Discussion around the fact that phone calls don't work. Erie High said there is a link on the internet for people to fill out a work ticket for road work. He said they track response time and they have 24 hour to respond to the ticket. This is better than phone calls. President Neighbors feels this is the way to handle versus another

committee. It will be posted on the FB page, newsletter, and website.

Discussions: Sue Neighbors checked into magnets for emergency response phone numbers. She reported that post card size (5 1/2 x 4") are \$1.25 apiece. The 3x4" are \$.72 apiece. There were suggestions for follow up on sizes as the post card size is too large. She will check into this for the next meeting. It was suggested it also be put in the welcome kit.

President Neighbors announced the next board meeting is 5-29-2022 at 10:00 am at his place and at that time the Fourth of July plans will be finalized.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Submitted by Secretary Mary Ann Wood.

2022

Dates to Remember:

May 29: Board Meeting

July 2: Flare Sales

at Boat Launch &

Door-to-Door Sales

July 2: Boat Parade, 8pm

July 2: Fireworks at dusk

July 3: Board Meeting

August 6: Annual Meeting & Picnic

August 7: Board Meeting

Sept. 4: Board Meeting

October 8: Hayride

October 9: Board Meeting

Board Meetings begin at 10am and meet at 9952 South Shore

All are welcomed and encouraged to attend Board Meetings

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	grammiep1013@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	586-329-9705	fredvan@comcast.net
	Mary VanDeKerkhove	586-242-4665	maryvan@comcast.net
	Community News/Annual Picnic/Facebook Administrator		
	Deb Smith	989-560-5811	grammiep1013@yahoo.com
	Hayride		
	CHAIRPERSON(S) NEEDED		
	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**

ELCOA Membership for 2022-2023

Please fill out and send with check to address below:

Name _____

Elbow Lake Address _____

Home Address, if different _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone(s) _____ ☐ cell ☐ landline

Elbow Lake Phone _____ Lot Number _____

Email address _____

Membership dues must be paid before or at the time of the Annual Meeting/ Picnic, scheduled for August 6, 2022 in order to vote.

Dues received by July 15, 2022 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**
or **810-599-3366**

If you want to make a donation for the 2022 Fireworks, include a check to **ERIE HIGH** and we will make sure he gets it.
Thank you!

Elbow Lake community page ETIQUETTE:

Keeping with the spirit of community, here are some reminders of expectations for using our community Facebook page. Please be aware that violation of these may result in moderation or removal from the group by the administrators of the page.



- No swearing. Please keep language clean.
- Be kind and courteous. We're all in this together to create a welcoming environment; let's treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are okay, but kindness is required.
- No hate speech or bullying. Bullying of any kind isn't allowed, and degrading comments will not be tolerated.
- No politics. Sharing on this group should be done for the betterment of the community, not for expressing political opinions.
- No spam. Give more than you take in this group. Spam, irrelevant or inappropriate content, etc. are not allowed.
- Treat this community with respect. The administrators reserve the right to moderate as needed.

Elbow Lake community page is on Facebook
and is not administered by ELCOA

Don't Forget to Get
Your 2022 ORV/Trail
Stickers

Water Treatment for Lake Weeds

will begin when the water reaches 65 degrees. As of this newsletter, a schedule has not been released, but one will be posted on our website, Facebook page and at the Swim and Boat Launch sites soon.

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

ELCOA

Susan Neighbors, Editor
10760 Oakhill Street
Fenton, MI 48430
