

A Little Slice of Heaven

JUNE 2022



Elbow Lake Chatter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summertime is here and all of its trappings — from swimming, to boating, to fishing and just plain relaxing. Summer holds the promise of easy living and jumpin' fish! We celebrate our freedoms with Juneteenth and the nation's birthday.

The Fourth of July at Elbow Lake means celebrating the day with family and friends, the boat parade, ringing the lake with flares and the fireworks display at night. The celebrations need to be tempered with measures of safety and sensibility. We have a freshly painted flare boat and the circling of the lake by the flare boat will signal the lighting of the shore flares.

Wishing all a safe and happy Fourth and Happy Birthday to the USA!

Marty

2022-23 Memberships are Due

Pay your dues by July 15 to qualify for the Early Bird Drawing to win \$100! The winning name will be drawn on August 6th at the Annual Picnic/Potluck. See page 3 for more information.

You Need to Know

Sheriff

989-539-7166

Fire Department

989-539-7145

Oxygen

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

Emergency Walkie-Talkies

Oxygen and AED

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

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

elbowlakecoa@gmail.com

ELCOA's official Facebook page is:
Elbow Lake community page

ELCOA webpage:
www.elbowlakeinfo.wordpress.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Update on Renewal of Lake Weeds Treatment Contract

Mary Ann Wood, Erie High and I attended the Franklin Township meeting on June 16th and spoke with Ed Erskine and the board. It was reported earlier that there was a timeline date to meet to get this on the November ballot. This information was misinterpreted and it will NOT be on the ballot, hence no vote will need to take place. What *is* required by state law for all townships that levy an assessment, is a review and two public meetings for taxpayers to ask questions and get answers. At the completion of these two meetings, the Franklin Township Board will vote to either extend the renewal or abandon the tax. The contract must be exactly for the same services as before, as it is a renewal. I have spoken with Jeff from Northwoods who is the company that does the spraying of our lake. He is intent on continuing the lake spraying and complying with DEQ guidelines and holding the line on costs.

Mary Ann Wood, who thoroughly researched the issue, made a powerpoint presentation which clearly defined our lakeweed problems and how the various treatments could control them, as evidenced by the current condition of our waters. Annually, Charlie Smith tests the waters at various locations in the lake and every time, the results come back as nearly drinkable water, evidence that the chemicals being used are not affecting the purity of our water. When the dates for the two meetings have been scheduled, we will notify you as soon as possible by email, Facebook, webpage and posted at Boat Launch and Swimsite. Both meetings will take place at the township office, with one being a weeknight and the other on a weekend, during the day. According to our by-laws, only the president and secretary can sign contracts for ELCOA. My intent is to sign the contract with Jeff from Northwoods for the next three years and our review with Franklin Township won't come up for another six years.

Marty Neighbors

2022 Lake Weeds Treatment Schedule

Our tax dollars pay for the treatment of noxious weeds in our lake. The weeds in five feet of water or less are treated approximately monthly. **Staying off the lake and out of the water for 24 hours allows the chemicals to settle and be more effective.** Please maintain this 24 hour restriction.

July 12* — July 20 — Aug. 24 — Sept. 14

Dates can vary to the day before or after what is listed, depending on weather conditions.

Additional treatments, such as for lily pads, are \$100 per 50 ft of frontage and must be paid and arranged for in advance. Contact Ruey Wood at 989-539-1580 for questions.

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

We appreciate your cooperation with this.

****The June 29th treatment was postponed to July 12th, due to DEQ chemical restrictions to fish populations.***

2022

Dates to Remember:

July 2, 10am-noon:

Flare Sales at Boat Launch & Door-to-Door Sales

July 2: Boat Parade, 8pm

July 2: Flares/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

Fireworks!

The planned display of Fireworks on July 2nd will not happen as we had hoped so it will continue on as it has in the past with individuals doing their own. Last year was great and we know we can have another great show this year!

Congratulations!

Randy and Georgia Wilson welcomed a new granddaughter, Taylor Ann, in March. Last October, Duane and Karen Schunk were presented with granddaughter, Amari. There is fun ahead with these little ones!

Welcome to our new Residents:

Ryan and Jessy McRae from Grand Blanc have bought on Toohy Trail. They have two children and are expecting a third. Welcome to the neighborhood and congratulations!

ACTIVITIES

Just a couple of weeks to go before Fourth of July Festivities on Saturday, July 2nd!

Annual Flare Sale begins at 10am

Flares will be on sale at the Boat Launch beginning at 10am. They will also be sold door to door. Two 30-minute flares sell for \$5, which covers ELCOA's cost. If you have lake frontage but can't be here for the fireworks, ask a neighbor if they can set out your flares so the entire lake will be ringed with them at dusk when the fireworks begin.

Our "Christmas in July" Boat Parade at 8pm

At the suggestion of one of our residents, we've pushed back the parade 1 hour to begin at 8pm. That lets us enjoy the lake until 6pm, when "Slow Wake Time" goes into effect. This change gives us an extra hour to decorate our boats and eat some dinner.

"Christmas in July" is the theme, and remember, there must be something Patriotic about the boat (after all, we are celebrating America's Independence Day). There are cash prizes for the top four boats, and the first-place winner gets to pick next year's theme.

We need 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 do win, it would be nice if you spent your winnings towards an ELCOA membership...or an ice cream party for your helpers!

Please register at the Flare Sale or at 9952 South Shore to get a Number Sign to post on your boat for the judges. Or, pre-register with Susan Neighbors at elbowlakecoa@gmail.com

Start thinking about what YOU are going to do. A big turnout will mean more fun!

Fireworks Begin at dusk

The Flare Boat will circle the lake twice . . . the flares around the shoreline will be lit . . . and the Fireworks will begin! The fireworks display is not sponsored by ELCOA; it is by private individuals.

Please note that all fireworks and noise should be ended by 11pm. Please be considerate of your neighbors.



Price List for Flares

2 for \$5
4 for \$10
6 for \$15
8 for \$20
10 for \$25
12 for \$30
14 for \$35
16 for \$40

Franklin Township Brine Dates for 2022

July 8th
August 25th

Volunteers for Lawn Mowing at Boat Launch and Swim Sites Needed

June: Rick Elenbaas
July: Kevin Pillon
August: ?
September: ?

***Are you available to volunteer
to mow?***

You have options!

Send an email to:

ElbowLakeCOA@gmail.com

- ⇒ To Pre-order Flares
- ⇒ To Pre-register for the Boat Parade
- ⇒ To Register for the Corn Hole Tournament on August 6th

Holiday Boating Hours

Elbow Lake is "All Sports" between 11am and 6pm on holiday weekends only. On all other days, 5pm is the slow down/no wake time. Please stay at least 100 feet away from the shore, docks, rafts, boats, either anchored or not under power for safety. Remember, travel is counter-clockwise on the lake.

Please join us for the
**ELCOA Annual Meeting
and Picnic/Potluck**

Saturday, August 6th
Meeting begins at 10am
at the Boat Launch

At this meeting, there will be an election of officers and board directors. You can be eligible to run for the board with your paid membership in the association.

Please consider running for an office; you must make a commitment to attend meetings and offer up your input.

Picnic/Potluck
at 12 noon at the Boat Launch

ELCOA will provide meat, pop and water.
A dish to pass — large enough to share —
is your ticket into the picnic.

Bring your own table service and BYOB.

To be eligible to win \$100 in the Early Bird Drawing, your membership dues for 2022-23 must be received by July 15, 2022.

**Corn Hole Tournament - Bounce House
Duck Pond Racing - Balloon Pop - Dunk Tank
50/50 Raffles (6 tickets for \$5)**

**Registration
Deadline is
July 31st**

You must PRE-REGISTER your 2-man team for the
Corn Hole Tournament by JULY 31st with Deb Smith:
989-560-5811 or grammie1013@yahoo.com

so a schedule can be set up with assigned times.

Senior division: ages 16 and up, \$10/team.

Junior Division: ages 5-15, \$5/team.

Cash prizes based on number of participants.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM ELCOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sunday May 29, 2022

Location: Marty Neighbors' House

Present: Marty Neighbors, Erie High, Mary Ann Wood, Susan Neighbors, Deb Smith, Frank DeVuono, Fred and Mary VanDeKerkhove, John Krieger, and Rick Elenbaas.

Absent: Tammie Fedor

Guests: Lisa Wick, Fred Stutzman, Suzette High, Jason Miller, Damon Loftis, and Melody Johns.

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by President Marty Neighbors. President Neighbors said that 2 speakers had been invited to the meeting but neither could make it. They were Jeff Benjamin and Ed Erksine-spray guy and township supervisor respectively. He asked that all board members and guests remain civil and that if things became heated the meeting would be stopped immediately.

Minutes: The April 24, 2022 minutes were read by secretary Mary Ann Wood. The corrections included that the fireworks need to be understood as commercial and they are illegal to shoot without a DEQ permit and water testing. Also It was Marty Neighbors that suggested the cards for the posts by the boat launch and not Erie High. And lastly, the fishing sign is only one and posted on a bench at the boat launch.

Minutes approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Deb Smith reported that Erie High pointed out an error before the meeting so she corrected it to the board prior to reading her report. Currently there is \$1604.32 in the account with \$1587.43 in expenses having been deducted. She explained the porta-john rentals had an increase but that the company supplies weekly cleaning from May to September and in October they move the beach porta-john from there to boat launch for the hayride. She also reported the bank suggested the purchase of a stamp. A motion passed to reimburse her for the stamp.

Membership Report: Sue Neighbors reported a membership of 26 with some membership mailings back at home. She also said several were not members last year and now are.

Report of Committees:

Neighborhood Watch: Tammie Fedor has resigned from the board, but it was suggested that Ken VanRiper might want to return to his position as neighborhood watch and board member. Erie High will contact him about this and also for driving for the hayride.

Community News: The Wilson's have a new granddaughter, Taylor Ann. Shirley Miller's granddaughter, Megan, had surgery and is doing well. Jessie McRae is expecting a new child and has 2 that are 18 and 20 years old. Rick Elenbaas and Kelly have a new son, Dallas James, born in January. A trooper talked with Duane Schunk and Chad Modica regarding kids tearing up the boat launch, but the kids were gone when he got there. We are to remind neighbors with kids of the rules and regulations regarding riding. Inform them of speed, having their certification on them, etc.

Facebook: President Neighbors said social media has done more harm for the country than anything else. He related pros and cons of social media. There is evidence of problems and ill will doing harm in the community. His goal is to keep peace on both sides as president. He also said we can't please all the people all the time. Lisa Wick said she was appalled at the cutdown on Facebook. Certain people are trouble. Jason Miller said there should be rules and regulation but that Elbow's Facebook page is a way for the downstate people to be kept in the know of current activities and events. Comments included vindictiveness, malicious attack, personal, burned at the stake, board remain

together and follow policy, respectful opinions, etc. Deb Smith apologized for approving the statement and asked "where do we go from here?" Suzette and Erie High reported they were upset with the President. President Neighbors read the Facebook etiquette that is posted in several places including the newsletter. It was suggested to carefully screen new joiners. Jason Miller suggested a zoom meeting or teleconferencing for others to be able to see the board meeting. This would get younger people involved because of their desire for electronics. He said he bought his place because he sees how the community cares. He said an application called "GoPro" could help us and he would offer to purchase it for ELCOA. He also said we could record on our phone and post on Facebook. A motion was passed to support this and investigate the donation of Jason Miller and supply it for the meetings. It would be posted for membership, and afterwards, the president and vice-president would respond to members comments. Discussion held on positive information by members. Jason Miller will ask his wife if she can be the third administrator for approval of comments on Facebook.

Webpage/Newsletter: Sue Neighbors reported there were 4 comments regarding the editorial in the latest newsletter. There were no complaints, only positive remarks. There will be newsletter that will go out electronically in June. It will have information on the Fourth of July and the boat parade. Fred VanDerKerkhove sighted Erie High, Deb Smith, Marty Neighbors, Mary Ann, and Sue Neighbors for all they do and for the wonderful newsletter.

Fish Planting: Erie High said he knows our finances are currently tight, but he would like to see fish planting back to every year, instead of every 2 years. He recommends against blue gill and to get crappie

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

and perch.

Area Cleanup: Marty Neighbors said he got the glue and stuff off the buoys and now they look better. He will get them in the lake today.

Water Testing: Charlie Smith does water testing and its usually done before the annual meeting.

Annual Picnic: The team worked hard last year per Deb Smith. They would like to make the corn hole tournament an annual event at the picnic. She would like to see the dunk tank and bounce house also as part of the picnic. She asked for volunteers for help on the picnic. Sue Neighbors volunteered. Melody Johns said she would donate several cases of water. The picnic will be chaired by Deb Smith. Erie High inquired about renting the township hall for the picnic. It would allow access to electricity, rest room, etc. The cost is \$50 deposit and \$50 rental fee. A township board member also said we could use the dunk tank for free and only repair anything broken. The board felt we should remain at the boat launch. Lisa Wick gave permission for ELCOA to use boat launch site for the picnic.

Hayride: President Neighbors announced if a chair does not step forward then there will be no hayride. Rick Elenbaas, John Krieger, Lisa Wick, and Sue Neighbors are all the new team chairs.

Fourth of July: Fred Van-DeKerkhove reported he picked up 4 gross of 30-minute flares. Marty Neighbors and Frank DeVuono will sell them door to door. Since Tammie Fedor is not involved to sell off the lake someone needs to do this. Sue Neighbors suggested the winner of the boat parade should be awarded the chance to name next year's theme. Marty Neighbors will also get the flare boat and paint it.

Township Meetings: Franklin township Theresa Haley asked him about the lake spraying renewal. She said 2

meetings would be necessary each 10 days apart with 1 after hours, mailing out notices, notifying people of dates of the meeting. It has been 8 years since the first ballot. The ballot is November 6. He said the township may have misspoken about the ballot. He said he has a carbon copy of the lake spraying contract and according to our by-laws, the secretary and vice president or president shall sign all contracts. So Erie High said it should be Mary Ann Wood and Marty that sign the contract. He advised Marty and Mary Ann go to the township board meeting and get this straightened out. He also suggested that Mary Ann Wood be the POC with Jeff Benjamin; motion carried

Old Business: Erie High said he met with attorneys down state about the "quick claim deed". They advised him it was a poorly written deed. They told him that to prove ownership of land you need a good deed. The wording gives off lake people easement to cross the land to access the lake. Off lake people have the right to improve and maintain the easement. They advised him that in regards to his boat lift, he has liability and could potentially be liable for any injuries. So the lawyer explained that off lake people could be sued for any injuries. Discussion centered around access to the lake and liability. There was also discussion regarding inland lakes if lake owners own the water. It is understood that lake owners own from there beach to the middle of the lake, but not the water.

Boat Launch: Erie High reported he used a "muck sucker", with multiple attempts with minimal success. It would take lots of hours to clean up the muck to the right of the boat launch. He reported the muck is about 3 feet deep. He said a trash trencher worked but there were no screens on it so it got plugged up a

lot. Jason Miller has donated \$160.00 for sand at the boat launch. He said Kevin Pillon got a different kind of sand than beach sand. John Krieger said he is having some work done by Bob Bates and he can ask him the cost to cut the bank down on the left of the boat launch. He thought to upgrade the bank could be done for \$210.00 which would include a \$50.00 donation from ELCOA. If this doesn't work, then Mark Scott is to ask Ecklin to get the sand.

Fishing Signs: Erie High said the no fishing sign is posted on the bench at the boat launch.

New Business: Erie High said he talked with Mark Scott and he does not have the remaining missing boat dock. So Erie proposes, "Are we missing any part of boat dock". He also revealed he has dug into the registrations for the abandoned boats at the boat launch. He has asked the State of Michigan for the registration numbers owners. He spent \$49.00 of his own money for the investigation. Motion carried to reimburse him. Erie High then brought up Article V of the ELCOA bylaws, duties of officers. The board approves expenditures of donations for the beach and the boat launch. Eric High also thanked Fred Stutzman for all he has done around the lake. And he said he is returning all the fireworks monies to those that donated.

Discussions: President Neighbors announced the next board meeting is 7-03-2022 at 10:00 am at his place. Meeting adjourned at 12:26 pm.

Submitted by Secretary Mary Ann Wood.

After the board meeting the re-showing of the lake weed presentation from 2014 was shown on a large screen. It was advised to post this on our website and the Facebook page.

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
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	grammiej1013@yahoo.com
	Hayride		
	Rick Elenbaas	989-890-1700	relenbaas198523@gmail.com
	John Krieger	248-390-6881	gailkrieger@yahoo.com
	Lisa Wick	810-288-9719	
	Neighborhood Watch		
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	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		
	Mark Scott	210-284-7700	mascott7676@gmail.com
	Lake Weeds Treatment		
	Ruey Wood	989-539-1580	randswood@hughes.net

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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**