

A Little Slice of Heaven

February 2023



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Blue Skies were Possible in January — maybe February, too?

Snowfall was very light in January (until those last few days) but that has allowed for good ice on Elbow Lake. A few skaters have been seen, along with very happy ice fishermen. Hopefully, we'll get more snow and rain this spring to raise lake levels.

But the Big News: the defective light at the Boat Launch has finally been replaced by Consumers with an LED light! ELCOA has complained to township officials for almost 2 years about it, and finally, it's nice and bright all night long!

Meanwhile, plans are underway for warm weather events beginning in May: We'll see the return of the Golf Cart/Side-by-Side/ATV Parade on Memorial Day weekend (Saturday, May 27th) — you can choose your own theme, as long as the “stars and stripes” are flown. Fourth of July weekend gives you the opportunity of picking your favorite Disney Cartoon to decorate your boat for the annual Boat Parade on Saturday, July 1st.

We are asking for volunteers to chair the Annual Picnic and Hayride this year. There is already a list of people willing to assist you at these events. Team up with a friend and volunteer for one of these positions.

You Need to Know

Sheriff

989-539-7166

Fire Department

989-539-7145

Oxygen

Mary Ann Wood
10385 N. Athey Ave.
989-274-4315

Frank & Sherilyn DeVuono
9982 South Shore
989-630-4287 or 586-482-0907

Oxygen and AED

Emergency Walkie-Talkies

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

ELCOA's Facebook page is:

Elbow Lake community page

ELCOA webpage:

elbowlakeinfo.wordpress.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

2023 Dates to Remember:

April 29– Area Clean-up, 9:30am
April 30– Board Meeting
May 27– Golf Cart Parade, 11 am
May 28– Board Meeting
July 1– Boat Parade & Fireworks
July 2– Board Meeting
August 5– Annual Meeting/Picnic
August 6– Board Meeting
September 3– Board Meeting
October 14– Hayride
October 15– Board Meeting
 Board Meetings begin at 10am
 and meet at 9952 South Shore
All are welcome to attend

We need volunteers for Area Cleanup: April 29

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, and it's a great way to meet people.
 See you at 9:30am at the Boat Launch!

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.

News about our Elbow Lake neighbors

Ken VanRiper has been having some health issues and will be headed for surgery soon.

Betty Smith recently had surgery and is happy to be finally home, continuing her recuperation.

Joe Maes spent the holidays in the hospital. He's recuperating with physical therapy and hopes to be back on his feet soon.

Janiece Newman continues to make progress with her health issues and is anxious to put it all behind her.

We hope you are all feeling better real soon and that your health will be restored.

Carol Ouellette remains in Canada, residing in a nursing home.

Mark Scott has quit his life of leisure and come out of retirement. He's now working for the VA.

Kay Pickett is planning on leaving her beloved lake and moving downstate sometime this spring.

In sadder news, the passing away of Bill and Janiece Newman's daughter, Sally Rouse's mother and Sherilyn DeVuono's father have left them in mourning this past winter. We are so sorry for your losses.

Charlie Smith's winning Santa Fe Chili Recipe

2 pounds ground beef
 1 medium onion, chopped
 2 16 oz. cans kidney beans, rinsed and drained
 2 15 oz. cans black beans, rinsed and drained
 2 15 oz. cans pinto beans, rinsed and drained
 1 11 oz. cans shoepeg corn, drained
 1 14.5 oz. can whole tomatoes, diced
 1 10 oz. can diced tomatoes and green chilies
 1 11.5 oz. can tomato juice or V8 juice
 1 T ranch salad dressing mix
 1 T taco seasoning

Brown ground beef and onion; drain.

Combine with other ingredients and smoke for 2 hours at 250 degrees.

Smoke for 1 additional hour at 375 degrees.

Finish cooking in slow cooker, at least 1 more hour.

Top with sour cream, shredded cheddar cheese and corn chips if desired.

Makes 16—1 cup servings, each 224 calories.

*Voted the best chili out of 13 entries
 at the October Hayride last October.
 Voters loved that smoky flavor!*

Golf Cart/Side-by-Side Parade Memorial Weekend!



Dress up your 2, 3 or 4 wheeler for a parade around Elbow Lake on Saturday, May 27th! You can decorate it any way you want, just be sure it's flying the Stars & Stripes. Stephanie Wood brought this idea to ELCOA who thought it would be a lot of fun. There will be judges to check out your creation and cash prizes will be awarded. The parade will begin at the Boat Launch and travel clockwise around the lake, down to the end of South Shore Dr. It's free to enter and you don't have to be a member of ELCOA to participate and win.

“Disney Cartoons” ***It's this year's theme for the*** **Boat Parade** ***on Saturday, July 1st***



Russ & Lorie Beck, as the winners of last year's parade, got to pick the theme for 2023, and have announced “Disney Cartoons” as the theme. Who doesn't have a favorite Disney cartoon or character? Talk it over with family, friends, or grandkids (they're the experts!) to come up with your winning idea. 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. You don't have to be a member of ELCOA to enter or win. It's free to enter. Last year, we had a terrific turnout with 13 boats in the parade and everyone had a great time. We hope to see lots of entries this year, too.

ACTIVITIES

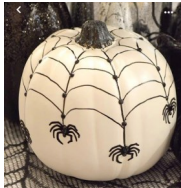
October is Hayride Time!

Our first Chili Cook-off was a hit with hungry attendees. There were 13 entries in the contest and all who attended the Hayride got to sample each chili and vote on their favorite. The delicious smoked chili that garnered the most votes and won First Place turned out to be Charlie Smith's creation. In addition, we cooked 7 dozen hot dogs, and enjoyed hot cider, cupcakes, and other pot luck contributions. There were prizes for costumes, 50/50 raffles, door prizes, a hoverboard raffle and, of course, a hayride. Hand-painted pumpkins decorated our tables and were given out as prizes. All of our little Elbow-Lakers enjoyed Trunk or Treat goodies, the bounce house and pumpkin painting.

Thank you to the many people who came together to make this happen including organizer Lisa Wick, Joe Krieger, Mark Scott, John & Gail Krieger, Frank DeVuono, Susan and Mary Neighbors.



ACTIVITIES



SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM ELCOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sunday, October 9, 2022

Location: Marty Neighbors' House

Present: Marty Neighbors, Erie High, Mary Ann Wood, Susan Neighbors, Deb Smith, Frank DeVuono, Ken VanRiper, Mark Scott, John Krieger, Mary VanDeKerhove, Fred VanDeKerhove, Rick Elenbaas, and Ed Henri

Absent: none

Guests: Lisa Wick, Shirley Miller, Tammy Fedor, and Stephanie Wood.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by President Marty Neighbors. He said this is the final meeting of the year. He thanked board members for their time, energy, and service this past year. He said "don't hibernate like bears this winter, but recreate". He offered hopes for a good winter and happy holidays for all.

Minutes: The September 4, 2022 minutes were read by secretary Mary Ann Wood. Corrections to minutes were that Mark Scott was not on the hayride committee but Frank DuVuono was. Also the water testing was \$300.00 and not \$30.00. Sue Neighbors was on the picnic committee, Mark Scott was pursuing the beach and lakeside for improvements and not the abandoned boats. Minutes were approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Deb Smith reported a balance of \$2882.21 after \$704.00 expenses. There was a question from Tammy Fedor regarding the plaques for Hunters' Paradise and Ken VanRiper. She mentioned a discussion where Erie High, John Krieger, and Marty Neighbors would pay for the plaques. The board decided it would stay as is with an expenditure of \$288.00. There was also a motion from Erie High to discontinue the porta-a-potties. Deb Smith informed the board that the usual new rate is \$125.00, but because we are long standing customers, we only pay \$110.00 from April to October and for events. She also stated they are kept clean by the company. President Neighbors said it benefits off-lake

property owners also and it is the bare minimum we should provide. Erie withdrew the motion. Motion carried to approve report.

Membership Report: Sue Neighbors reported a membership of 74 as of today.

Report of Committees:

Neighborhood Watch: Ken VanRiper reported "all is good in the neighborhood". President Neighbors informed the board that Ken was presented with a framed certificate at the hayride. He said Ken has done a great job all these years and offered congratulations.

Community News: Deb Smith said Mary VanDeKerhove had complete shoulder replacement before heading to Florida. Former residents Kurt and Debbie Lemons — now FL residents — are okay after the hurricane. They did experience damage to their residence. Ed Henri's wife will be having hip surgery. Frank DeVuono and Kevin Pillon are having a beach battle with sand improvements. Eric and Sam Rouse had their first child, a girl Elena. It is Shirley Miller's 12th great grandchild. It was also revealed that Kevin Barnes home was definitely broken into and robbed.

Facebook: Deb Smith reported that she, Mark Scott and Rick Elenbaas have had no issues with negative comments on FB. They have had several weird requests from people wanting to join but the requests were denied.

Webpage/Newsletter: Sue Neighbors reported that she had a call from a realtor regarding campers on a 5 acre, lake-front site. They were told they had the wrong lake and were referred to the township where their Elbow Lake was located.

Fish Planting: Mark Scott said they are waiting for a delivery date. He said it is looking like the end of October. We are getting perch and crappie. He said the lake delivery

guy is paid when he delivers.

Lake Spraying: Erie High related he was concerned about the chemicals in the lake water and the wells with the classification from the DEQ that the issue of distance to a well combining horizontal and vertical distance was not correct. Only horizontal is considered but some restrictions are included. It is a given that 250 feet from the shoreline to the head of the well is the required law when certain chemicals are used. As our vender does not use any of those restricted chemicals, there is no threat of contamination to our wells. See handout.

Buoys/Docks: President Neighbors received a complaint from Dick Bison who was furious that the docks were already out. Shirley Miller said the docks were never pulled before 10-31 in the past. It was suggested to put in newsletter and on FB regarding next year's dates of removal. Swim buoys did not have the anchors put in this year because it was late in the season. There was discussion around lawful depth for buoys and use of the lake bed anchors for the buoys.

The remaining abandoned boats include 4 paddle boats, a speed boat and a pontoon boat as well as row boats. Other than that, there is the ELCOA raft and the SS ELCOA. Homeowners are requested to do their own housekeeping and remove boats they don't want anymore as it is unsightly and the association is unable to resolve it for the community. Erie High brought up his concern for marking the docks because they have no markings or lights. He said in the winter, snowmobilers will not be able to see the docks. The small dock will be taken out when the water temperatures are temperate. The suggestion is the docks need reflectors. President Neighbors will put reflective tape on the docks.

Hayride: The chili cook off was a big hit. Susan Neighbors did a lot of work per Lisa Wick. Hay was donated by

SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM ELCOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING—continued

Crystal from Hunters' Paradise. Janiece Newman won the hover board. Richard Cline won the 50/50 and became a new member. This was Lisa Wicks final year of chairing this event. There was discussion regarding power at the hayride and the use of multiple extension cords. We emphasize that all of our events are open to all residents, whether ELCOA members or not.

Committee 234: Mark Scott said a trophy was given to Erie High's son, Luke, for winning the pike contest. He also reported there are some picnic tables that need fixing, one of which is at the beach. He suggested a firepit be built as the fire is not contained at the boat launch during the hayride. He has talked with Kevin Pillon regarding some blocks to make a fire pit site at the boat launch. Since it is not a structure, it should not be a problem legally.

Township Meetings: Erie mentioned that Caleb (the township blight officer) is trying to enforce sanitation of individually parked campers on private property. He states that instituting a permit has not been discussed since November of 2021. What is proposed is: a camper parked for 48 hours or more would need a permit. The fine would be \$500.00 if caught without a permit. The permit would be \$20.00 for a year but the township has not instituted it as of yet.

Old Business: President Neighbors said the light at the boat launch

worked intermittently yesterday at the hayride, but it was on for a second and then would go off. Erie High said it has been 2 years at least since it has been reported to the township and Consumers. Ed Erskine admitted that paying for a service we are not getting is not right. Erie states he has taken pictures, showed the number of the lots and gate etc. to Consumers. He recommends suspending payment. It was paid in March for \$218.00. Discussion held around ATT and landlines. ATT will not service this area any longer, so could this happen with Consumers? Erie High made a motion to suspend payment of the light until it is fixed. Rick Elenbaas seconded. Motion passed. There was a question about getting a refund since we have been dealing with this for 2 years. It was also mentioned that 1 of the 2 lights in Meredith is also out. Rick Elenbaas will follow up so Consumers knows where to go with the address.

New Business: Erie High brought up ELCOA liability. He has talked with Tom Faulkner (Faulkner Law, Houghton Lake) as the property sits right now, with no structures etc., someone can sue and name all property owners as liable. Unless there is negligence contributing, property owners can be named but likelihood is they won't be held liable. Regarding ELCOA, they are not owners of the lots. Caution was

suggested for use of the lots by the association for members, who may enter with permission from property owners. The disadvantage is those giving permission may also be liable. The association should limit exposure to sites but we can use as we have been doing. Deb Smith reminded us that, as such, ELCOA buys liability insurance for their events. Stephanie Wood brought up the side-by-side parade. It will be scheduled for May 27, 2023 at 11:00 am leaving from the boat launch. There will be judges around the area. It was suggested to find a band to also march in the parade. The side-by-sides must have an American flag on it. They can have music on them.

Discussions: President Neighbors suggested the need for help in the picnic table stacking and taking down the tent. There were questions about Carol Ouellette's place and when it will be for sale.

President Neighbors announced the next board meeting schedule for 2023: April 30, May 28, July 2, August 6, September 3, and October 15. Additional dates for events are: Area Clean-up April 29, Golf Cart Parade May 27, Boat Parade & Fireworks July 1, Annual Meeting August 5, and Hayride/Fall Festival October 14, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 11:41 am. Submitted by Secretary Mary Ann Wood.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM EMERGENCY ELCOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

Location: Internet Zoom Meeting

Attending: Marty and Susan Neighbors, Deb Smith, John Krieger, Rick Elenbaas, Mark Scott, Fred and Mary VanDeKerkhove and Ed Henri.

Absent: Erie High, Mary Ann Wood and Ken VanRiper.

The meeting was called to order by President Neighbors at 7:08pm. An

emergency meeting was called due to the resignation of Erie High, effective as of Oct. 9, 2023. President Neighbors accepted his resignation. Ed Henri volunteered to fill in the remainder of the vice president's term. New officers will be elected at ELCOA's Annual Meeting August 5, 2023.

Mark Scott announced that perch and crappie — about 900 fish total —

were planted in early November. Also, President Neighbors will reimburse ELCOA treasury for cost of "appreciation plaques" given to Ruey Wood and Hunter's Paradise at the 2022 Annual Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm. Submitted by Susan Neighbors

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION FOR 2022-2023

ELCOA BOARD OFFICERS	President		
	Marty Neighbors	810-599-6347	theneighbors@comcast.net
	Vice President		
	Ed Henri	586-946-0239	ecchenri@yahoo.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
	John Krieger	248-390-6881	gailkrieger@yahoo.com
	Mark Scott	586-496-3800	mascott7676@gmail.com
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	Fred VanDeKerkhove	586-558-7817	fredvan@comcast.net
	Mary VanDeKerkhove	586-558-7817	maryvan@comcast.net
	Ken VanRiper	989-539-0360	
	Community News/Facebook Administrator		
	Deb Smith	989-560-5811	grammiep1013@yahoo.com
	Annual Picnic & Hayride		
	<i>Chairpersons needed!</i>		
	Golf Cart Parade		
	Stephanie Wood	989-329-1346	stefy1147@icloud.com
	Neighborhood Watch		
	Ken VanRiper	989-539-0360	
	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	586-496-3800	mascott7676@gmail.com
	Lake Weeds Treatment		
	Mary Ann Wood	989-274-4315	woodmaryann46@gmail.com

Elbow Lake Chatter is the official voice of ELCOA.

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