

A Little Slice of Heaven

MAY 2023



*Photo courtesy of Kay Pickett*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While the Winter banners have been replaced in many communities by Spring ones, Mother Nature continues to throw the old curve ball at us, bringing snow in the month of May . . . by now, just a memory! Spring is a time for renewal and rebirth and while the snow now becomes a vestige of Winter, we know that Spring is finally here.

It was great to reconnect with old pals and meet some new ones a couple of weeks ago at the spring cleanup at the Boat Launch and Beach area. A new resident from California volunteered to co-chair the Summer picnic. So when you get the chance, please welcome Nick Vanchina and Blaire Embrey to our lake environs.

Mark Scott stepped up to take over the Golf Cart/Side-by-Side/ATV parade for Memorial Day weekend (see website and newsletter for more information).

As many of you know, we have had a nesting pair of Loons in our lake over the years and I would like to entertain a naming contest for this pair. If you would like to enter, please email me your suggestion at: **theneighbors@comcast.net** and a panel will meet to review the names and pick the most appropriate ones.

Lastly, the idea of a float-in pontoon movie to be held on the lake sometime this Summer has been "floated" around and I would like to gauge interest to see if we should press ahead with exploring the possibility in order to make this happen.

Here's to a great year of Rest, Relaxation and Recreation at the lake and all that this entails!

## 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:

**May 27– Golf Cart Parade, 2 pm**  
**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  
Board Meetings*

### Road Brining Dates

- May 19th
- July 6th
- August 25th

### Lake Spraying

Spraying for weed control will begin as soon as the water temperature is at least 65 degrees. Mary Ann Wood is the contact person this year. She has been in touch with Northwoods Lake & Pond Management who is contracted to control our weeds. As soon as a schedule is set up, it will be shared on Face Book and the website. On lake spraying days, it is requested to refrain from lake usage for 24 hours, allowing treatment to settle to lake bottom where it will be most effective. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this.

### Burn Permits

Fire Danger changes on a daily basis. Burn permits are needed for fires not contained in a firepit. Contact Clare County on the DNR webpage for more information or call: 866-922-2876

### ORV Stickers

Don't get fined because of out-of-date stickers! You can purchase 2023 stickers at many local stores, including *Hunters Paradise*.

## Community News

We were saddened to learn that Julie Wilton passed away in early February. Also grieving, Bob Smith lost wife Betty in March. We are so sorry for your losses.

Ken VanRiper is recovering from surgery as well as Stephanie Wood. We hope to see them healthy and active this summer.

New year-round residents Blaire Embrey and Nick Vanchina bought Mark Scott's home on Northwoods Trail. Originally from Michigan, they moved here from California. Welcome! Sold: Todd/Cindy Woods home and Jack/Janet VanRiper's home on Toohey Trail. We hope to introduce the new owners when we have more information.

## Sprucing Up Our Community

Thanks to all who helped cleanup the Boat Launch and Swim Site late April. New residents Blaire Embrey & Nick Vanchina, Sandy Vanchina, Deb & Charlie Smith, Marty & Susan Neighbors and especially, John Krieger, got most of it cleaned up. And thanks to Erie High who smoothed out the Boat Launch.

## Your Dues

Please note what has been made possible by members' dues and volunteers:

Oxygen tanks, AED, lake safety guidelines and signs, fish stocking, picnic, hayride, raffles, boat launch lighting, speed limit signs, access clean-up at both swim site and boat launch, Neighborhood Watch, flare sales; prizes for Halloween costume contests, boat and golf-cart parades; porta-potty and sand for swim site; grass cutting; tree trimming and removal if needed; docks at boat launch, website, facebook page, and postage for this newsletter.

In other words, **your membership dues benefit everyone . . . even non-members.**

So, please do your part and join ELCOA. Dues are only \$40 for the entire year.

And please note, you do not have to be a member of ELCOA to participate in any of our sponsored activities, but we hope you'll join us!

## Volunteer Opportunities for ELCOA

### Grass Cutting at Swim Site and Boat Launch:

May, June, July, August, or September

### Golf Cart Parade, May 27th:

Participant or Judge

### Independence Day Festivities, July 1st:

Flare Sales and Distribution

Boat Parade participant or Judge

### Annual Picnic August 5:

Tent set-up/Tear down

Site clean up (before/after)

Volunteers to run for ELCOA office

Help with raffle sales and games

### Annual Halloween Hayride, October 14:

Chairperson(s) needed

Tent set-up/Tear down

Site clean-up (before/after)

Help with raffle sales and games

**Contact any board member to volunteer . . . Thank you!**



# Golf Cart/Side-by-Side/ATV Parade Memorial Weekend

Dress up your 2, 3 or 4 wheeler for a parade around Elbow Lake on **Saturday, May 27th**. (No 18-wheelers allowed!) You can decorate it or not, just be sure it's flying the Stars & Stripes to be eligible to win. Judges will decide their favorites for prizes. Please meet at the Boat Launch at **2 pm**; follow the leader around the lake to South Shore, then return, going up and around Northwoods Trail before ending back at Boat Launch. It's free to enter and you don't have to be a member of ELCOA to participate and win.

*Please continue to check Face Book or the webpage for any updates.*

## **“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.

## SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM ELCOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**Sunday, April 30, 2023**

**Location:** Marty Neighbors' house

**Present:** Marty Neighbors, Mary Ann Wood, Susan Neighbors, Deb Smith, Frank DeVuono and Rick Elenbaas

**Absent:** Ed Henri, Mark Scott, Fred VanDeKerkhove, Mary VanDeKerkhove, Ken VanRiper, and John Krieger

**Guests:** Nick Vanchina and Blaire Embrey

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by President Marty Neighbors. He welcomed us all back and said plans are in place for another fine year in "paradise".

**Minutes:** The October 9, 2022 minutes were read by secretary Mary Ann Wood. Corrections to minutes were that it is a golf cart parade and not a golf parade. Also, the main dock will be pulled on October 31, 2023 and not 2022. And lastly, a correction to Frank DeVuono's name spelling. Minutes approved with corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** Deb Smith reported a balance of \$2912.19 after \$407.52 expenses. There was a motion by Rick Elenbaas to reimburse President Marty Neighbors the \$93.00 expenditure for the Wood plaque. He said it was association business and should not come out of the president's personal funds. Seconded by Mary Ann Wood. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Treasurer's report was approved. Deb Smith brought up a letter she received from Chase bank (our financial institution). They are starting a \$15.00 monthly service charge will be applied if monthly balance falls below \$2000.00 a month. The fee would be waived if balance is maintained. Deb Smith feels this can be maintained. Discussion followed. The suggestion was to move funds to a banking institution that does not hold us "hostage". President Neighbors suggested some research be done to follow up. Rick said he will follow up and check on some credit unions as well. Rick brought up cost of ink for the printer

and suggested HP instant ink at \$1.06 per month. Mary Ann Wood will check into this. Deb Smith also brought up that taxes were not filed per a letter received from the IRS dated 12-07-2019 that states our business is not required to file returns, therefore, the account was automatically closed. See letter in association files. Our account has only been averaging \$2800.00 so tax filing was not done this year.

**Membership Report:** Sue Neighbors reported a membership of 75 with one new member.

**Report of Committees:**

**Neighborhood Watch:** Ken VanRiper absent. It was reported that he is maintaining the fire burning signs; there was no other news at this time.

**Community News:** Mary Ann gave an update on Ken VanRiper's condition. He had major surgery about 2 months ago on left hip/leg. He then had a skin graft about 3 weeks later. He is recovering nicely and begins radiation after surgical site is healed. He will receive radiation 5 days a week for 6 weeks. Deb Smith then related Nick Vanchina and Blaire Embrey bought Mark Scott's house and are here at this meeting to meet everyone. Stephanie Wood had back surgery and Ruey Wood is having carotid surgery soon. Julie Wilton (next to boat launch) passed away in February and the house is now deeded to son Matt and daughter Kate. Cindy and Todd Woods sold their house and there are now new owners. Janet and Jack VanRiper sold their house to Matt. Yvonne Gebrowsky's daughter is seriously ill. Carol Ouellette is not doing well. She is in a nursing facility in Canada. Tanya Csutoras is in a nursing home in Bay City. Carol Ouellette's home will be for sale very soon.

**Facebook:** Deb Smith reported there are 216 members and things have been going very well with no

negative comments. It will now be okay for local members to advertise if they want to sell something that cottage owners can use, such as eggs, lawn services, campers, etc. They have still had several weird requests from people wanting to join but the requests were denied. The president requested that no one with pseudonyms be allowed to join because they often cause problems.

**Webpage/Newsletter:** Sue Neighbors reported that the newsletter will be out before Memorial Day.

**Fish Planting:** Mark Scott absent. Frank DeVuono reported the fish planting went as planned. He thought the fish were smaller than expected. He also said Tanks had an ice fishing contest and caught mostly crappies. President Neighbors reported that he was contacted by Jeff Raby's son Adam about running a fishing derby this summer. He was invited to come to a board meeting to see if ELCOA could help. Mark Scott might be having the pike contest again this summer. Note: it was suggested to not release pike back into the lake if caught—they are a predator fish.

**Lake Spraying:** Mary Ann reported she has been contacted by Jeff Benjamin about the lake spraying. He has received all the certificates needed to treat the lake. Spraying will begin when the temperatures warm up. President Neighbors heralded a discussion about chemicals for the water. All of them are safe and treatment of the lake has the approval for 3 years.

**Buoys/Docks:** President Neighbors said it is too cold to do the buoys. The boat dock will be removed on 10-31-2023 this year.

**Committee 234:** Mark Scott absent. No new information available.

**Township Meetings:** Frank DeVuono reported that the last township meeting discussed fire suppression. Apparently, the department in the county providing fire suppression

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

has more than doubled their prices for this area. Franklin Township has till April 2024 to decide on what action to take.

**Summer Picnic:** President Neighbors brought up the picnic and no chairman available. The newest member, Blaire Embrey, volunteered to chair this committee after some questions about organization of the picnic. Deb Smith will mentor her and guide her as she takes on this responsibility.

**Old Business:** President Neighbors gave the dates of road brining for the area. The dates are: May 19, July 7, and August 25, 2023. This is provided by Franklin Township.

A sign discussion followed. President Neighbors feels we need new entrance signs at north and east entrances. Discussion followed. Sue Neighbors volunteered to paint them again.

**New Business:** Rick Elenbaas brought up a request from his son for a basketball hoop at the boat launch area. Rick said it could be a donation to off lake property owners. Discussion followed. President Neighbors

suggested that the Committee 234 be notified and explore this option and then bring it to ELCOA board. President Neighbors brought up a tent that was for sale on FB Marketplace that was brought to him by Mary Ann Wood. It was on Marketplace (10x30 ft with sides, etc.) and sold quickly. Deb Smith said maybe at a future meeting, a list of things the area needs and a cost limit could be approved ahead of time, so if someone finds it on Marketplace, they could be pre-authorized to purchase. President Neighbors will add to a future agenda.

President Neighbors suggested the possibility of a movie night on the lake. He said a large blowup screen could be mounted in the lake, with speakers on shore. (Sam Club has a screen for \$99.00). Anyone could come with kayaks, pontoons, boats, etc. Discussion followed with items such as the time darkness falls, noise, lateness, electricity, etc. It was suggested this idea be put in the newsletter and Facebook to see if there is an interest in late night movies. It could include popcorn,

etc. We can then check for responses and see if there is enough interest. It was also discussed a "Name the Loon" contest. We have had a resident loon couple for 2 years now and they are nesting right now. It might be a fun activity for the area or for a children's event.

President Marty then informed the board we have plenty of flares left for the Fourth of July event. He should only have to order less than half of last year's order.

Then he relayed that Stephanie Wood has resigned from the Golf cart parade. The board made the decision to cancel the event as there are no current volunteers to run it.

President Neighbors then asked if Blaire Embrey has been invited to the monthly ladies luncheon. She and all area ladies are also invited. It was offered to the board for a large coffee urn that could be donated by Shirley Miller. The board had a discussion and feels there is no need for the coffee urn.

**Discussions:** President Neighbors said there were 7 people that showed up for the area clean-up. The event

was completed. He had a discussion with the son of Julie Wilton who said there should be no problem with the use of his electricity for our events. It is hoped we can run an extension cord for any event needed.

President Neighbors announced the next board meeting: May 28, 2023 at 10:00 am at his house. Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am. Submitted by Secretary Mary Ann Wood.



*Kay Pickett  
April 30, 2023*

A big THANK YOU to Kay Pickett for sharing her pictures from Elbow Lake.

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION FOR 2022-2023

|                                |                                              |              |                           |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| <b>ELCOA</b><br>BOARD OFFICERS | <b>President</b>                             |              |                           |
|                                | Marty Neighbors                              | 810-599-6347 | theneighbors@comcast.net  |
|                                | <b>Vice President</b>                        |              |                           |
|                                | Ed Henri                                     | 586-946-0239 | ecchenri@yahoo.com        |
|                                | <b>Secretary</b>                             |              |                           |
|                                | Mary Ann Wood                                | 989-274-4315 | woodmaryann46@gmail.com   |
|                                | <b>Treasurer</b>                             |              |                           |
| <b>ELCOA</b><br>BOARD MEMBERS  | Deb Smith                                    | 989-560-5811 | grammiep1013@yahoo.com    |
|                                | <b>Membership</b>                            |              |                           |
|                                | 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     |
| <b>COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</b>  | Fred VanDeKerkhove                           | 586-558-7817 | fredvan@comcast.net       |
|                                | Mary VanDeKerkhove                           | 586-558-7817 | maryvan@comcast.net       |
|                                | Ken VanRiper                                 | 989-539-0360 |                           |
|                                | <b>Community News/Facebook Administrator</b> |              |                           |
|                                | Deb Smith                                    | 989-560-5811 | grammiep1013@yahoo.com    |
|                                | <b>Annual Picnic</b>                         |              |                           |
|                                | Blaire Embrey                                |              | blaireembrey@gmail.com    |
|                                | <b>Hayride</b>                               |              |                           |
|                                | <i>Chairperson needed!</i>                   |              |                           |
|                                | <b>Neighborhood Watch</b>                    |              |                           |
|                                | Ken VanRiper                                 | 989-539-0360 |                           |
|                                | <b>Newsletter/Website/Boat Parade</b>        |              | elbowlakecoa@gmail.com    |
|                                | Susan Neighbors                              | 810-599-3366 | susan4neighbors@gmail.com |
|                                | <b>Golf Cart Parade/Fish Planting</b>        |              |                           |
|                                | Mark Scott                                   | 586-496-3800 | mascott7676@gmail.com     |
|                                | <b>Lake Weeds Treatment</b>                  |              |                           |
|                                | Mary Ann Wood                                | 989-274-4315 | woodmaryann46@gmail.com   |
|                                | <b>Water Testing</b>                         |              |                           |
|                                | Charlie Smith                                | 989-424-8633 | kai538@yahoo.com          |

Elbow Lake Chatter is the official voice of ELCOA.

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

# ELCOA Membership for 2023-2024

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions or concerns \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues must be paid before or at the time of the Annual Meeting/Picnic, scheduled for August 5, 2023 in order to vote.

***Dues received by July 15, 2023 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](mailto:susan4neighbors@gmail.com)  
or [elbowlakecoa@gmail.com](mailto:elbowlakecoa@gmail.com)  
or 810-599-3366