

A Little Slice of Heaven
May 2024



Cha-Cha-Cha-Cha- Changes

What's going on in the neighborhood? Well, we've got some new owners, and, unfortunately, we have had some residents pass away. Several homes are being remodeled and some are just getting face lifts. The lake level is about the same as last year yet that won't stop us from enjoying Elbow Lake. There are always changes going on and that's what makes life interesting. The above signs will be auctioned off at the Annual Meeting, so be sure to attend if you're interested in adding one of these signs to your memorabilia. New neighborhood signs will have already been installed by the time you read this. We hope you will enjoy them.

The Golf Cart Parade is Saturday, May 25th. After the parade, join us for hot dogs and burgers at the Boat Launch. Bring your wallet to pay your \$40 membership dues that day and get a chance to win a donated prize worth \$100. (And, as always, dues received by July 15 also qualifies you for the Early Bird Drawing at the Annual Meeting and a \$100 cash prize.)

Our Fourth of July festivities — such as the Flare Sale, Boat Parade and fireworks display — will be celebrated on Saturday, July 6th.

And new Swim Area buoys were donated by President Mark Scott and will be installed as the weather warms. Thank you, Mark!

Check inside for more details.

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 DeVuono
9982 South Shore
586-482-0907

Emergency Walkie-Talkies

Oxygen and AED

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Transitions.....

Our condolences go out to Julie Cline and family after her husband, Richard, passed away in January. Also losing a loved one, Linda Colstrom is mourning partner Lenny Siedlik who also passed in January. We are so sorry for your losses.

Let's Launch the '24 Summer Season with a Picnic and Golf Cart/ATV Parade on Memorial Weekend!

Anything with wheels, other than cars or trucks, is eligible to enter the parade on May 25. Beginning at the Boat Launch, the parade will circle the lake, then return to the Boat Launch for a picnic. Patriotic decorations are a must and cash prizes will be awarded. In our inaugural event last year, there were 31 entries.

Hot dogs and burgers will be offered, along with chips, soda and water. There will be a membership booth where we will be collecting dues (\$40) that day so bring your wallet or checkbook if you want to join ELCOA. All members joining that day will be entered into a drawing for a prize worth \$100.

We hope you'll join us to kick off an Elbow Lake Summer!

ROAD DUST CONTROL DATES

May 17th
July 9th
August 27

A new Chairman is needed for the Annual Picnic. You do not need to be on the Board to organize this event. Volunteers have already committed to assist you. Please consider volunteering.

Dates to Remember:

May 25: ATV/Golf Cart Parade

May 26: 10am Board Meeting

July 6: Flare Sale and Boat Parade

July 7: 10am Board Meeting

Aug. 3: Annual Meeting & Elections

Aug. 4: 10am Board Meeting

Sep. 1: 10am Board Meeting

Oct. 12: Hayride

Oct. 13: 10am Board Meeting at Mary Ann Wood's home

10385 N. Athey Ave.

All are welcome to attend Board Meetings

Thank you,
Hunters Paradise!
Your generous donations to ELCOA events in this, and past years, are greatly appreciated.



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: www.elbowlakeinfo.wordpress.com

Now Taking Donations for Fish Planting: Small-Mouth Bass & Bluegill

Congrats!

Deb and Charlie Smith welcomed their first great-grandchild, Kanon. The little guy was born late winter.

Help Where You Can

There are quite a few Elbow Lake residents who have been struggling with health issues this past year. Please offer to lend a hand if they are your neighbors.

Blaire Embrey has offered to be our community support person, so if you know of someone who needs some help, email her at : blaireembrey@gmail.com. Perhaps she can coordinate some assistance.

In appreciation:

Our Area Clean-up volunteers this year were Mark Scott, John Krieger, Deb & Charlie Smith, Marty Neighbors, Blaire Embrey and Nick VanChina. Raking and clearing while a few snowflakes fell made for a chilly morning, but the areas are spruced up and just waiting for warm weather activity.

A huge thanks goes to Erie High and Fred Stutzman who have graded the Boat Launch drive, cleaned up winter debris and managed the pulling of docks in the fall and installing them in the spring. This community is so thankful for your contributions to lend your assistance without be asked. Thank you!

ACTIVITIES

Weed Control for 2024

Lake Spraying is scheduled as follows:

May 22, 2024

June 19, 2024

July 17, 2024

August 21, 2024

The August spraying will include those that want lily pads, etc. sprayed. Get your orders in prior to this date.

September will not be sprayed unless there is a flood of algae or invasive emergent.

The green algae that many have noticed will be treated on April 30th, 2024.

Questions? Contact Mary Ann Wood at 989-274-4315 or woodmaryann46@gmail.com

Reminder: On treatment days, DO NOT SWIM or BOAT for 24 hours. This allows the sprayed chemicals used to sink around the problem areas and be most effective.

Boat Parade is July 6

The theme this year is *DECADES*, and there are so many ways to represent this. Start thinking about how you will decorate your boat. Cash prizes for the top four entries. And always, something patriotic is required.

And, as always, it's free to enter and you do not have to be a member of ELCOA to participate and win in ANY of ELCOA-sponsored events.

Flare Sales

Flares will again be sold the morning of July 6th.

Let's light up the shoreline at dusk, to announce the fireworks!

3 for \$10

5 for \$15

7 for \$20

10 for \$30

14 for \$40

Dirt Road

By Kayla Wood Gordon

Off some back, outta city roads, there's a place, where the pavement ends.

The hot black top abruptly stops and a dusty dirt road begins

It is a road less traveled that few cars choose to rough the bumpy road

A few weeds, lonely white flowers, and long grass line the road

Along this road I rode my bike, picked flowers, and hugged

The dusty dirt roads twists like a ribbon next to a lake: Elbow Lake.

This small lake is like a small piece of glass reflecting in the sky and glittering in the sun.

At that lake, I first swam underwater, caught my first fish, and rode my first snow-mobile.

I also had my first boat ride and saw my first fireworks.

Right off the road, also sits, a small wooden cabin that holds a special magic.

It's a colorful place and peaceful place with loud noises and specialist people.

At the small cabin, I lost my first tooth, planted my first garden and first leaned the car game "Stich-Bé".

The place is special and holds a certain sentimental value.

I'll always remember and I'll never forget:

I'll remember the campfires and roasting sticky marshmallows.

I'll remember the gardens, the flowers and the pond and the sweet smelling earth.

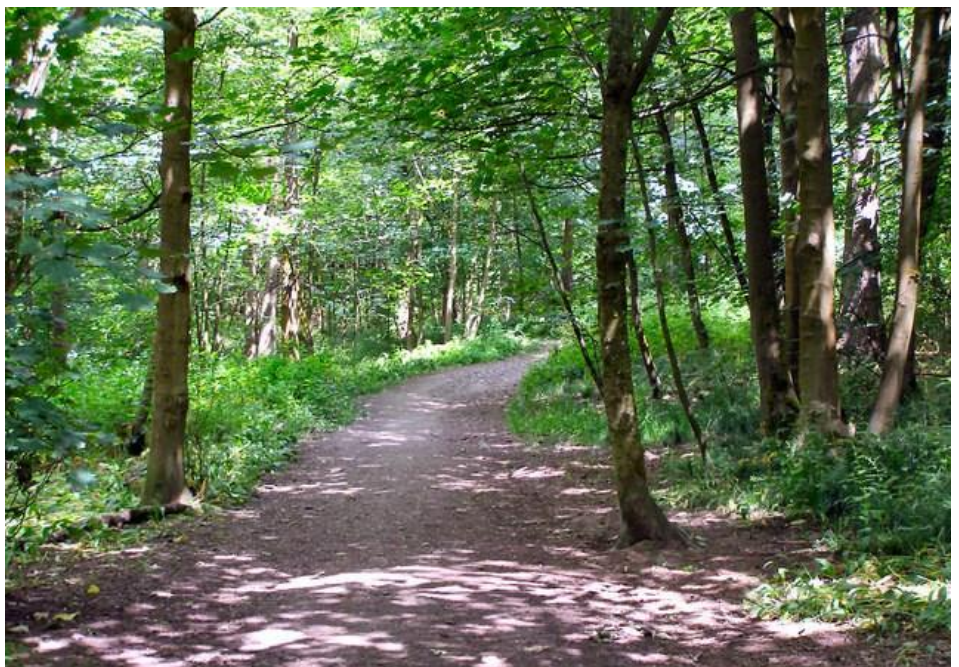
I'll remember the water, cool and clean and the hot sandy beach.

I'll remember the people grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends the love and the family

I'll remember the dirt road winding through the woods sweet and natural.

I love it here; it's peaceful and full of love; to me it is My Home.

Kayla is the granddaughter of Mary Ann Wood.



SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM ELCOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sunday April 21, 2024

Location: Mary Ann Wood's House

Present: Mark Scott, Rick Elenbaas, Deb Smith, Mary Ann Wood, Susan Neighbors, Frank DeVuono, Marty Neighbors, Shirley Miller, and Ed Henri.

Absent: John Krieger, Mary VanDeKerkhove, and Fred VanDeKerkhove,

Guests: Lisa Wick, Blaire Embrey, and Stephanie Wood.

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by President Mark Scott.

Minutes: The October 15, 2023 minutes were read by secretary Mary Ann Wood. Corrections: it was Kevin Pillon's nephew that caught the enormous pike. Deb Smith made a motion to accept the minutes, and it was seconded by Shirley Miller. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Deb Smith reported on the treasurer's report. The balance is \$3871.44. Marty Neighbors made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Ed Henri seconded. Motion carried.

Membership Report: Sue Neighbors reported a membership of 85 as of today. There are 161 property owners. Deb Smith made a motion to accept and seconded by Shirley Miller. Discussion followed with Ed Henri asking if a second notice could go out to those not renewing their membership. Sue Neighbors explained she sends an email as a reminder and also puts another notice in the newsletter. President Scott announced a conversation with Tyler Hay (the Wilton/Hay cottage next to boat launch) and they will leave electricity for ELCOA use. Deb Smith made a motion to provide complimentary membership to Tyler's family for this use. Seconded by Ed Henri. Motion passed.

Report of Committees:

Neighborhood Watch: President Scott announced we have 2 people doing neighborhood watch. He asked Rick Elenbaas for his update. Rick

relayed a phone call from Martins' on Athey regarding an open door and evidence of someone using the furniture. Sue Neighbors also received a call. She suggested to them to call the police. Some neighbors keep this property trimmed by road as it's difficult to see around corner. This was previously reported for Community News. Frank DeVuono also reported his drive around neighborhood reveals trees down in various locations.

Community News: Richard Heil on N. Athey is in a nursing home and his property is for sale. There is a new addition to a home on Toohy and a new one going up on another property on Toohy. Deb Smith announced a new great grandchild for her and Charlie. And she offered thoughts and prayers for neighbors suffering from illness and loss. Lisa Wick made a suggestion that we have a flower fund to send flowers for members loss. Discussion followed with comments including possible condolence cards, or get well cards. Costs were discussed. It was brought up that Richard Cline passed in January and we were not aware till end of March.

Ed Henri announced the HS band that two of his grandchildren are members of got to perform at Universal Studios in Florida and another grandson took first in a Robotics competition. Mary VanDeKerkhove is in hospice. Lenny Siedlik on Northwoods Trail has passed. Stephanie Wood said Ruey is on oxygen and dealing with health issues. Shirley announced Joe Maes is having major health issues. Blaire said she would be willing to coordinate a support network to do food, rides, etc. Deb Smith made a motion to have Blaire Embrey in charge of the Community Support Group. Shirley Miller seconded. Motion passed. There was discussion regarding Kevin and Tammy opening the bar on M-18

and Meredith Grade, along with possible campground/cabins on Erie High's property on Toohy Trail. Discussion was around it being a private lake and this being a township issue and not ELCOA. Rick Elenbaas discussed a missing trash can at the boat launch. In his discovery for resolution there was difficulty regarding an address for boat launch with the garbage company. Someone will bring it up at a township meeting.

Facebook: Deb Smith reported the Facebook group has 270 members. Concern remains about people wanting access and still using false information to gain access.

Webpage/Newsletter: Susan Neighbors reported the newsletter will be finished next week with possible mailings the week after. Deb Smith made a motion to purchase a new printer in the foreseeable future as the other is 10 years old and causing some difficulty. Motion seconded by Ed Henri. Motion passed. Thanks was given to Jessy McRae for the use of her picture with the snowmobile for the February newsletter.

Sign Discussion: Sue Neighbors gave the treasurer expenses to Deb Smith for the new sign. She displayed a paper example of the size and layout of the new signs. It will be made of MDO board. The target date for new signs at each end of the association is spring. It was suggested that old signs be raffled or auctioned off at the annual picnic/meeting. It can also be posted on our FB page and website and newsletter. This would allow for online silent bids.

Fish Planting: President Scott began discussion with 2 years since last fish planting. Should we ask for donations again? Last time fish planting was \$1000.00. Deb Smith volunteered to take fish fund donations, but does not wish to order fish. There was a suggestion for bass planting, but someone said there are plenty out there. The consensus was to have

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

bass and bluegill planted. Frank DeVuono will make some calls and report back as there is a lengthy wait for fish orders.

Lake Spraying: Mary Ann Wood reported the spray dates for the lake. They are: May 22, 2024, June 19, 2024, July 17, 2024, August 21, 2024. The August spraying will include those that want lily pads sprayed. Get your orders in prior to that date. Frank brought up there is green slime encircling the lake. Mary Ann will reach out to Jeff Benjamin to inform him. President Scott informed us that the spraying is NOT TOXIC and it must settle to the bottom of the lake to be effective. That is why we are asked to stay off lake for 24 hours.

Buoys and Docks: President Scott announced he is donating the cost of the buoys due to what the community has done for him and his family.

Memorial Day Weekend: President Scott is asking for donations for the food for the parade. He also asks if we want this to be an annual event for ELCOA. He plans on doing the cooking and asks that someone volunteer to organize route, numbers and judges. Marty Neighbors volunteered and someone suggested it be made longer to include Northwoods Trail. Pillons are donating a grill to ELCOA. Blaire Embrey volunteered to get a prize for a drawing of memberships submitted that day only. Blaire donated to prize as did Frank DeVuono, Marty Neighbors, and Ed Henri. Suggestion was made to have only members in parade and it was definitely nixed by President Scott. He said this a community event. Susan Neighbors volunteered to supply the fixings for burgers and hot dogs.

Township Meetings: Erie High reported on our FB page that there will be widening of the Grade from M-18 to Toohy. New shoulders will be put in. Also, Woods Road is now completely open from The Grade to N.

Athey.

Hayride: It was mentioned that Sally Rouse will possibly co-chair the hayride again.

Old Business: Marty Neighbors said storage will cost the association \$240/year as it is being split with John Krieger. The tents are already stored there and tables and miscellaneous still need to be moved. He and Frank built shelving from scrap lumber and we now have one half of storage unit #10. Keys have been given to President Mark Scott, Charlie Smith, and Frank DeVuono. Shirley Miller reported on the muck information she has gathered. The DNR wants \$250 to do an assessment whether that area is wet lands or not. Rick Elenbaas said he recalls some resistance from a community member to dredging. Deb Smith reported there will be a need to get permission from property owners to do the dredging. President Scott donated the \$250.00 for the assessment. Ed Henri made motion to reimburse President Scott the \$250.00 from the treasury. Rick Elenbaas seconded. Motion passed. This DNR decision will inform off-lake property owners if they will be able to improve soil conditions west of the dock. Shirley Miller will call tomorrow to get the process started. Top Flight will bring a grinder to donate the work needed on a stump at the boat launch. Marty Neighbors reported the mileage did pass for fire suppression. A contract has been signed with the Harrison Fire Department so home owners insurance rates will not rise. He did say there is a meeting at Court House basement in Harrison on May 2, 2024 at 2 pm., for information on ambulance service. Blaire Embrey volunteered to attend the meeting in recognition of our community. There was also discussion on a CPR class to be offered in the community in the near

future. Deb Smith will email Donna Militello regarding teaching the class.

New Business: Marty Neighbors reminded everyone of the extension of weekend "Wake" hours from Memorial Day to Labor Day. He also wanted to thank people that showed up for the clean up yesterday as well as a thank you to Erie High and Fred Stutzman for pulling the downed tree out of the water at the boat launch. Frank and Marty are also working on repairing the damaged picnic tables at the Boat Launch. Lake levels were discussed and President Scott said once the 2 dams are fixed and water levels regenerate, perhaps our problem will be eased as well. It was also announced of several plots of acreage for sale off of Toohy Trail.

Discussions: President Scott announced the next meeting is 5-26-2024 at 10:00 am at Mary Ann Wood's house.

Marty Neighbors made motion to adjourn, seconded by Sue Neighbors. Motion passed. Adjourned at 11:49 am.

Submitted by Secretary Mary Ann Wood.



CONTACT INFORMATION FOR 2023-2024

ELCOA OFFICERS	President		
	Mark Scott	586-496-3800	mascott7676@gmail.com
	Vice President		
	Rick Elenbaas	989-890-1700	relenbaas198523@gmail.com
	Secretary		
	Mary Ann Wood	989-274-4315	woodmaryann46@gmail.com
	Treasurer		
ELCOA DIRECTORS	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
	Ed Henri	586-946-0239	ecchenri@yahoo.com
	John Krieger	248-390-6881	gailkrieger@yahoo.com
	Shirley Miller	586-764-3257	millershirley36@gmail.com
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	Marty Neighbors	810-599-6347	martyneighbors@gmail.com
	Fred VanDeKerkhove	586-329-9705	fredvan@comcast.net
	Mary VanDeKerkhove	586-242-4665	maryvan@comcast.net
	Community News/Facebook Administrator		
	Deb Smith	989-560-5811	grammiep1013@yahoo.com
	Community Support Person		
	Blaire Embrey		blaireembrey@gmail.com
	Hayride		
	Georgia Wilson	810-577-6879	rn6984@aol.com
	Sally Rouse	586-709-0401	sallykaufman2005@yahoo.com
	Neighborhood Watch/Facebook Administrator		
	Rick Elenbaas	989-890-1700	relenbaas198523@gmail.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/Facebook Administrator		
	Mark Scott	586-496-3800	mascott7676@gmail.com
	Lake Weeds Treatment		
	Mary Ann Wood	989-274-4315	woodmaryann46@gmail.com

ELCOA Membership for 2024-2025

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 3, 2024 in order to vote.

Dues received by July 15, 2024 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**

Or pay at the Golf Cart/ATV Parade on May 25th to qualify for an additional prize.

Accepting Donations for Fish Planting

Small-mouth Bass and Bluegill will be planted again this year.

Fish \$ donations sent with dues will be held in a Fish Fund and added to ELCOA's donation.

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