

Emerald Lakes Village Update



September 2020

www.elvsite.com

Editor: Kathleen Donovan

Ah, what better weather than a rainy day to get back to work, school, or the newsletter after a long holiday weekend. Lots of news for you this month. Read on!

FALL HOMEOWNERS' MEETING

Your attendance is important
Saturday, September 26, 3 pm
Walker Beach
RAIN or SHINE

- Welcome New Residents
- Approval of 2019 Fall Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report and 2021 Budget Presentation
- Vote on 2021 Annual Dues & Budget
- Election of Directors & Committee Chairs for 2021
- Presentation of Five Year Plan Survey Results to Date
- Presentation Fishing Contest Award
- Q&A

Fall Homeowners Meeting Outside on a Saturday Afternoon

The watchword for life in 2020 is "flexibility". In order to meet our bylaws obligation to hold an annual meeting that sets our budget and dues for the next year as well as elect our Board of Directors; achieve a quorum of members (not possible indoors with current indoor attendance limitations); and to keep people safe and physically distanced we will be holding our Fall Homeowners Meeting outside at **Walker Beach on Saturday, September 26 at 3 pm**. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and it will be a beautiful, sunny day; but, please note that the meeting will be held even if it rains. We know many of you care deeply about our village and attend our homeowners meetings regularly. We hope that you will continue your good service and attention to the neighborhood and attend this meeting, warm or cold, rain or shine.

The ELVHA Board is asking that you bring a chair, a mask, hand sanitizer (if you want), and a pen and possibly a hard surface to write on as there are some board positions that are being contested and thus ballots will need to be filled out. The Board is also asking, that if possible, only 1 family member attend the meeting to keep the overall attendance within the governor's limit of 100. As only one vote per household is allowed on Association business matters, you do not lose any votes by only having one household member in attendance. Both family members can attend in the 2 cases where both family members are running for board positions.

Information on our 2021 candidates, budget, and dues amount can be found on pages 3 and 4.

So, thank you in advance for your flexibility and your extra effort. And if you're so inclined, pray for no rain — it will just make things so much easier. And don't we deserve at least one good break this year?

You Can Still Join the ELV Garage Sale

Found some last minute items that you would like to sell at the ELV Garage Sale? It may be too late to get the items listed in the Garage Sale Directory (deadline September 15), but it's not too late to get in on the fun! Kids can get in on the fun, too, by selling water, lemonade, cookies, etc.

The Garage Sale is **Friday and Saturday, September 18 and 19 and traditionally Thursday evening for residents to get a head start on shopping**. You can give your registration fee to Darlene up to the 19th.

We ask this year that you bring a mask to wear if proper physical distancing is not possible inside a garage. You should also be very careful and patient when driving in the village those days. Have fun and be safe, everyone! Hope to see you out and about!

ELV GARAGE SALE REGISTRATION FORM



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Do not include phone number in

I will be open Thursday. Garage Sale Directory.

List of Items For Sale: _____

If you need to list additional items attach another piece of paper. Deliver with \$3 or check payable to Darlene Mehrer, 6436 Emerald Lake Dr. by Tuesday, September 15 to be in the directory. Drop box on porch. Payment accepted up to September 19.

New Neighbors?

By Andrea Allemon, *Membership Chairwoman*



If you are new to our village (or know of someone new) please contact me at 248-879-1111 or Andrea48085@yahoo.com so I can greet you (properly physically distanced, of course) and provide you with important information about our lakes, Restrictions Agreement, social events and more!

Community Spirit

Residents Pitch in to Improve Beaches

One suggestion that has appeared on many of the returned five year plan surveys is reclaiming sand at our village beaches.

Special Projects Chairman Matt Dombrowski saw this as a project that could be tackled right away and the Do-Dads and other very helpful residents “got after it” with lake rakes and shovels, garden rakes and wheelbarrows on two different August evenings at Walker and Sandshores beaches. No sand reclamation was done at Emerald Beach because the wall there is scheduled for replacement this month or next.

I’m not going to lie, this was hard work (I like to think of it as good exercise.), but made lighter with many hands. It is also the right way to get sand back on a beach. Fourteen residents worked at the double lot beach at Walker filling in holes and pulling and shoveling sand out of the water. That sand was then spread and dragged over the beach with garden rakes and a tractor pulling a piece of chain link fence. The beach looked a lot better after our one hour of work.



Thank you to Matt Dombrowski, Matt Whilby, Phil Bettendorf, Dana Kott, Dave MacFadyen, Mark Barbieri, Kathleen Donovan, Megan Marx, Kevin Smith, Brett Rosenberg, Brian Shelson, Matt Goodison, Dave Proefke, and Chris Stenback for your efforts at Walker Beach.

A week later a smaller, but very determined group, worked at the single lot beach at Sandshores Lake. The bottled water provided

by Karen Charnawaskas to hydrate the crew and the efforts of Irene Walter, John Hodsdon, Mark Irwin, Scott and James Gross, Kathleen Donovan, Mark Barbieri, and Matt Dombrowski made a very noticeable improvement with reclaimed sand piled up near the beach wall. Magically, the black “muck” pulled from the water turned to light brown sand after a couple of days and happily, the sand was still there even after at least two significant rain events. Thank you, one and all. Both crews are pictured on the address page of this newsletter.

Honored ELV Violinist Concerts Move to Land

Emerald Lakes resident violinist, Kaori Marikawa, will continue her concerts for our enjoyment from her front yard on Pebble Point, 7 –8 pm nightly. In case of windy weather Kaori will serenade us through the open windows of the second floor.

Not only has Kaori brought ELV a lot of happiness this summer, but the story of her paddleboat concerts has been told in the Troy Times, Oakland Press, and the Royal Oak Tribune, as well featured locally on Fox 2 News and WXYZ-TV; bringing a positive and uplifting story of her sharing her gift of music to many more people.

Kaori has earned tributes from Governor Whitmer, Rep. Haley Stevens, and the Oakland County Board of Commissioners for her lake violin concerts and the joy they brought during this pandemic. And add adulation from all the residents of Emerald Lakes Village, too, Kaori!! Thank you for a summer of beautiful music!

Earlier Start to Emerald Beach Concerts

Our outdoor easy listening concert season brought to you by Bob, Gary, and Rob is winding down, but 2 more concerts are scheduled for **Wednesdays on September 23 and October 7**; weather and Emerald Beach wall construction permitting. **The starting time will be moved up to 6 pm.** Come out and enjoy some good fall weather and great music with your friends and neighbors.

Lakes Report

Keep the Geese Moving South



Let’s make sure we keep the geese flying south by making our lakes and lawns unwelcome places for them to stop. Their “deposits” add unwanted nutrients to our lake waters. If geese are on your property scare them away with scarecrows, by banging on pots and pans, or sending out your dog or children to make them fly away. These techniques work best when the birds first arrive and at night. If you see large numbers of geese out on the lake call a Goosebuster — John Hodsdon, 248-765-0318 (Sandshores, Crystal, Emerald); Bob Gentner, 734-560-0469 (Andale, Pebble, Walker, Emerald); Steve Gentner, 313-530-5501 (Pebble, Andale, Walker); Dan Dombrowski, 248-633-3452 (Emerald, Crystal, Sandshores); or Jason Tasich, 586-344-4407 (Andale, Pebble, Walker, Emerald). They will discharge very loud “crackers” or “screamers” to scare away the geese.

Rake Up or Mulch Leaves To Help Our Lakes and Your Garden

Leaves should be blown or raked out of the street gutters. Decaying leaves add nutrients and deplete the oxygen in our lake water — two things we do not want. These leaves can be put to much better use in your yard. A lawn mower with a bagging attachment provides a fast and easy way to shred and collect the leaves which can then be deposited in a 2”-3” layer in your flower beds or a 3”-6” layer around your trees (not up against the trunk) and shrubs. Not only will the leaves add nutrients, they will also prevent weeds from growing, and help the soil retain water. Or leave the bagging attachment off and simply add the shredded leaves to your lawn.

Protect Our Lake Waters if Draining Pool

Pool water is generally high in chlorine and phosphates, two things that are detrimental to our lakes. So, **draining pool water should not be sent into the street or yard drains which empty into our lakes.** The DPW recommends that you stop chlorinating your pool 3-4 weeks prior to draining and then **drain to a sewer drain.** Contact the DPW at 248-524-3392 to find a sewer drain near your house.

If there is no sewer drain near your house, LakePro’s Aquatic Biologist, Peter Filpansick, says the following steps should be taken: (1) Shock the pool to kill off bacteria and algae. (2) Dechlorinate the water by waiting or treating. (3) Treat to remove phosphates. (4) Filter the water if possible. (5) Drain slowly onto your lawn so the water soaks in.

Your Vote Required at Meeting

The bylaws of our Homeowners Association require that residents in attendance at the fall meeting elect our Board of Directors and Committee Chairs and vote on a budget and dues amount. Only 1 vote per lot is permitted.

Please plan on attending the meeting on **Saturday, September 26 at 3 pm at Walker Beach.**

Proposed 2021 Budget & Annual Dues Amount

Below is the proposed 2021 ELV Homeowners Association budget which reflects income generated by dues at \$220, which is the same dues fee as 2020. This budget may be slightly different as presented as the Homeowners meeting as some data is still needed at press time. Pulling the meeting ahead to September for potentially better weather has presented some data gathering challenges. The 2021 budget is similar to the budget for 2020.

Income:

Dues	\$121,000
Late fees, liens.....	240
Advertising	3,200
Interest.....	<u>215</u>
Total Income:	\$124,655

Expenses:..... \$111,576

Projected income (loss) \$13,079

Transfer to Reserve Acct. \$6,500

Under allocated funds \$6,579

Expenses:

Lakes	\$39,360 ^a
Maintenance	26,924
Special Projects	20,000 ^b
Security	0
Restrictions	0
Utilities.....	6,250 ^c
Admin/Business	14,742 ^d
Children's Social.....	4,300 ^e
Total Expenses:	\$111,576

^a we did not do an off-shore herbicide treatment in Emerald Lake in 2020 and don't think one will be needed in 2021.

^b a definitive special project for 2021 has yet to be determined. Somewhat dependent on what is completed this fall.

^c half electric, half water - pump is \$600-\$700/month in summer

^d includes \$4,900 insurance, \$1000 taxes, \$6,900 newsletter & web, \$1200 storage

^e \$400 Easter, \$400 Halloween, \$3500 FunDay

Candidates for 2021 ELVHA Board

“Thank you” to all current Board members who have agreed to run again and to our many new candidates. It is great to see so many people stepping up to help out. And “thank you” again to the Nominating Committee of Wendy Gueth, Amanda Tompkins, and Jill Gentner for all their help in finding and contacting our candidates.

I think I can speak on behalf of our residents to extend a heartfelt and grateful thank you to our retiring Board members: Treasurer Megan Marx (8 years of service), Lakes Chairman Tom Kuhn (10 years), Maintenance Chairman Joe Power (10 years), and Restrictions Chairman Charlie Blaeske (3 years) for their hard work and dedication to Emerald Lakes Village.

The 2021 slate of candidates at press time is below. Candidates may also be nominated from the floor (ground?) at the meeting.

VOTING BOARD POSITIONS

President	Brandon Johnson (returning)	Membership	Andrea Allemon (returning)
Vice President.....	John Martin (returning)	Lakes	Jim Tompkins
Recording Secretary	Mark Barbieri (returning)	Special Projects ..	Matt Dombrowski (returning)
Treasurer	Ken Sharma	Restrictions	John Freeman
Corresponding Secretary.....	Kathleen Donovan (returning)	Maintenance	Derick Vizzini
		Security	Joe Lowry (returning)

NON-VOTING STANDING COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Audit: (Need 2) Kathy Serafino, Megan Marx	Adult Social Chairperson	Meggha Koshal or Amanda Vizzini
Nominating: (Need 3) Amanda Tompkins, Katie McKinney	Children Social Chairperson	Amber Barbieri or Meggha Koshal

We have two cases of a husband and wife running for Board positions (Ken Sharma and Meggha Koshal and Derick and Amanda Vizzini). There is nothing in our bylaws against two family members being on the ELV Board and if elected, in each case, only one family member holds a voting position on the Board.

Tom Fields has volunteered to assist on the Restrictions Committee along with Don Berg and Jackie Shelson. Bob Gentner has volunteered to assist on the Lakes Committee. The assistants will not appear on the ballot as only the chairperson is voted on.

The 2019 Fall Homeowners Meeting Minutes can be found at www.elvsite.com under “Homeowners”. Some printed copies will be available at the meeting.

Please turn the page to read the bios on our new candidates.

Meet Our New Candidates

For Treasurer

Kannav (Ken) Sharma: I am 33 years old and live at our home on Little Creek Drive with my wife and our toddler son. We moved about a couple of years ago into the ELV subdivision. I was born in New Delhi, India, and moved to Michigan in March 2017 for work. I am a Chartered Accountant by qualification (a CPA equivalent qualification). I work with Netlink Software located in Madison Heights as their Vice President of Finance and Accounting. I have been with Netlink since April 2011. Before Netlink, I used to work as an auditor with KPMG.

For Lakes Chairperson

I'm **Jim Tompkins** and running for Lakes Chair. I have lived on Pebble Lake for 10 summers. My wife and I are active users of the lake and love to swim. The lakes are second only to the neighbors in the attractiveness of ELV, and thus we need to make sure they are cared for. I am retiring from DTE as VP Audit and am used to dealing with regulations, overseeing contractors, paying attention to detail, thinking about both short and long term, and responding to concerns from concerned individuals, all of which are important in this role. Thank you.

For Maintenance Chairperson

Hi, I'm **Derick Vizzini**. My wife, Amanda, and I have two kids, Aiden 10 and Makayla 7. I have spent the last 22 years in the electrical industry as an electrician, managing all sizes of construction projects. I feel this has prepared me for the position of neighborhood maintenance and would do my best to fill Joe's shoes. I love this community and look forward to the chance to help maintain and improve it for future generations.

For Restrictions Chairperson

John Freeman: I have been an Emerald Lakes Village resident since 2018. I am particularly fond of fishing in our lakes. Professionally, I have practiced criminal law for 27 years. In 1993, I started as a local prosecutor in Manhattan. In 2000, I became a federal prosecutor in Detroit. Since 2007, I have been a criminal defense attorney in Troy. I represent clients throughout Michigan and beyond. If given the honor and privilege of serving as **Restrictions Committee Chairperson**, I will objectively evaluate alleged violations, and resolve them according to our Restrictions Agreement, By-Laws, and Policy Statements.

For Adult Social Chairperson

Meggha Koshal: My husband and I have been in the subdivision for almost two years. Last year my husband and I were the hosts and organizers of the Annual ELV Holiday Party. The holiday party organization included talking to about 15 possible locations and shortlisting them on the basis of costs, distance from the neighborhood, and food options. We gave priority to the location (CJ's) that had space and gave a forum for all of us to socialize and it goes beyond just a casual dinner. I enjoy working on projects that help people have a little break from their busy lives. I cannot wait for the time when we socially "undistance" ourselves.

Amanda Vizzini: I am running because a neighborhood is only as good as its community and event planning is in my DNA... We moved in the weekend of the "Pebble Lake Deck and Dock" and I knew we moved into the right place. Shortly thereafter I started bike and brews for couples, mom raft offs, and a pond hockey tournament for all ages. I look forward to helping people connect; whether it be over books, euchre, kayaking, or residents serving others... "A true community is not just about being geographically close to someone... It's about feeling connected and responsible for what happens."

For Children's Social Chairperson

Amber Barbieri: I'm a social worker/advocate for homeless youth, a 7-year ELV homeowner and a part of the neighborhood for nearly 40 years! I serve in several capacities for the neighborhood. I have expanded our children's activities, including the creation of Ironkids triathlon starting in 2015 and movie nights in my driveway this past summer. I am in my 6th year organizing the Halloween Parade and I've assisted in years past with stuffing Easter eggs. Activities done safely bring a sense of normalcy to a child's world. I look forward to this opportunity as we all need a bit of normalcy!

Meggha Koshal: In my two years of living in the village, I have volunteered to help the organizer of various children's events, such as ELV FunDay and Easter Egg Hunt in 2019. I was the primary organizer for the ELV FunDay this year and planned the activities to be included, negotiating and scheduling with the vendors, and calling the Athens High Cheerleaders to help with the activities. However, the event had to be canceled owing to the pandemic. Being a mother to a 2½ year old, given the opportunity I'd like to give the children of our subdivision a platform to interact with each other and have fun at the same time.

Neighborly Note

Residents are asking that you please be mindful of your speed when driving through our village. Several vehicles have been seen speeding (especially on Smallbrook and Northpoint), even with walkers, bicyclists, and children playing nearby. No good can come from being in a hurry and speeding. If you are running late, before you get in your vehicle, call the appropriate person to tell them you are running late. This should help relieve your anxiety and your compulsion to speed.

Or maybe some statistics can make you stop and think and slow down:

- Most people who speed in residential areas actually live there. How terrible it would be if you seriously injured or killed someone in our village.
- Pedestrians are killed 3 times as often from a vehicle traveling 30 mph rather than 25 mph.
- If you hit a pedestrian at 20 mph = 5% will die; 30 mph = 45% will die; 40 mph = 85% die, and if you hit a child the death rate is higher.
- If you are traveling at 20 mph the distance you travel by the time you think to stop and actually stop is 40 feet, at 30 mph the distance is 75 feet. To give you some perspective, many of the lots in ELV are 70-80 feet wide.

Special Projects

Five Year Plan Survey Action

An item mentioned on many surveys (come to the fall meeting to learn how many) is the cataloging of sidewalks for repair by the city.

Corresponding Secretary Kathleen Donovan contacted the Troy DPW to see if our neighborhood was due to be surveyed by the DPW anytime soon. Scott Carruthers said that a survey of ELV sidewalks is not on their schedule until 2023-2024, but seemed to indicate that if a resident contacted the DPW to report a sidewalk that is a trip hazard repairs would be made. The DPW website says that City won't be doing any permanent repairs at this time, but City staff will patch trip hazards, add them to the repair list, and re-evaluate the situation in the spring and determine whether to resume normal Sidewalk Replacement Program operations.

If the tree in the easement is causing problems to the sidewalk the City will pay for the repairs or replacement. If your tree has caused problems you will bear the cost. Problem sidewalks can be reported to the DPW by emailing to Scott.Carruthers@troymi.gov, calling 248-524-3392, or via the Citizens Request Portal at <https://apps.troymi.gov/CitizenRequestPortal/> (City of Troy website, click on Community and the Citizen Request Portal at the left).

Or if you are handy perhaps you can fix the trip hazard yourself.

Survey Input Still Welcome

At press time we have now received 68 replies to our survey of suggestions for village improvements. Thank you to those who have taken the time to carefully consider and reply to the survey.

You can still let your views be known by filling out the survey online at <https://forms.gle/UbBJ6MbhCysRbr749> or printing out a hard copy from the July newsletter at

www.elvsite.com. Hard copies can be dropped off in the green ELV Newsletter mailbox on Lovell at the corner of Emerald Lake Drive or the porch mailbox at 6590 Emerald Lake Drive.

Emerald Beach Wall

The replacement of the wall at Emerald Beach

by Northern Impressions is to begin this month or next. They are to remove and dispose of the existing wall and staircase, build the new wall with a recessed stairway, and supply and install sod to repair the disturbed area above the wall.

Classified Ads

Childcare & Entertainment

- College student with babysitting experience. Contact Grace at 248-376-4817. Text is preferred.

For Sale

- **2007 Crossfire Roadster** – A Chrysler with 40% Mercedes SLK content; yellow with black convertible top - one button lowers it into trunk; always draws people's attention; only 8,000 miles; two sets of magnetic flame decals; always garaged. Please call original owner George at 248-879-8762.
- Event **gas grill** used at four FunDays, \$150 OBO. Kathleen, jbktroy@aol.com.
- Charlotte will make **masks to order** for \$1 each. Please state if you need a medium or large. Call/text Charlotte at 248-879-2920.

Home Services

- **Need a handyman?** Call Bill at 248-879-9234 and leave a message.
- Need someone to **pick-up dog poop** for you? Contact Hannah at 248-422-5212 to schedule a clean-up today!

Other Services

- Is the cost of your Health Insurance making you sick? **Group, Medicare and Individual Plans.** Call ELV resident Dan Dombrowski for a **free quote.** 248-633-3452
- Emerald Lakes Senior Services, LLC is offering **transportation by appointment to or from your home to Detroit Metro or Flint Bishop** airports to all ELV residents. Call or text resident Hank at 248-891-1108.

Wanted

- **Hostas or other perennial plants to split, bulbs, or seeds.** I'm happy to help split or pay some for them. Please call April at 248-506-8272.
- Looking to buy a **used small sunfish sailboat.** Kath A, 248-895-0046.
- ELVHA Board looking for **storage space** in someone's basement, garage, or place of business, for social event items and other things. Items currently in a storage unit. Call Kathleen at 248-879-7364 if you can help.

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Next deadline: October 2, 2020

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Email to: jbktroy@aol.com

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Sand reclamation crews at Sandshores ▲ and Walker ▼ beaches.





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