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Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree it will live its whole life believing it is stupid.”

—Albert Einstein

# Emerald News

News for the Emerald Lakes Community

39th Year, 2nd Issue

www.elainc.org

March 2011

## Town Hall Meeting on Dues Increase Held

by Buz Whelan

A Town hall meeting was held at the Community Center at 10am on Saturday, February 26th. The subject of the meeting was the need for a \$200 annual dues increase, as the board and the presenters see it. About 60 people attended the meeting.

After a welcoming by Board President George Haab and a statement of the basic meeting rules by parliamentarian Buz Whelan, the substantial portion of the meeting got under way. First presenter Darren Johnson spoke about how, as a new member, he was skeptical of the need for an increase at the 2009 Annual Meeting and at the Town Hall Meeting in May of 2010. His skepticism motivated him to join the Finance and Planning Committee. After serving on the committee, he believes that an increase is warranted, even necessary, if we are to preserve the community as it is currently constituted.

Mr. Johnson was followed by Steve Gottfried, a community member and agent for Ginger B Realty. Mr. Gottfried has spent the last generation selling real estate and homes on the plateau, including numerous properties in Emerald Lakes. He described how, when showing prospective clients properties in our community he takes them on a tour of our amenities. Heated pools, indoors and outdoors, clean beaches, the clubhouse and roads in good condition are important to the overall impression people get of the community and of the desirability of living here. These elements often determine whether a house is sold and how much is offered for it.

He further pointed out that the Pocono region is predicted to be among the top 10 areas in the country for second-home buyers. This is partly because of our proximity to NYC and partly because of our reputation as both a winter and summer vacation destination. To compete in this market Emerald Lakes must be maintained as a first class community.

Mark Davis, chairman of the Finance and Planning Committee spoke next. He pointed out that our last dues increase was for the 2004/2005 fiscal year. This (2011/2012) would be the eighth year without an increase, the longest stretch in our community's history. He brought along U.S. Department of Labor statistics showing that had we raised dues by the quad state consumer price index each year, we would now be paying \$951 annually. The dues lost by not increasing during this period amount to well over \$1,000,000. It was pointed out later, during the question and answer period, that an engineering study commissioned in 1996 and delivered in February of 1997 projected the need for a reserve fund of \$2.5 million by 2007, yet we now have less than \$200,000 in the fund. Should a dam fail, the state could force an assessment upwards of \$1,500 per property to repair the damage.

After Mr. Davis' presentation, Treasurer Alex Leslie spoke on the state of our finances. By cutting back on beach openings, pool days and hours (both outdoor and in), staff layoffs and deferring maintenance we have been able to control the budget. By installing a computerized Point-of-

Sale system we have improved the Emerald Bar and Grill operation from losing over \$40,000 annually to a break-even point. But even with all these economies, we are in danger of a shortfall of between one hundred and two hundred thousand dollars by fiscal year's end. Mr. Leslie also presented a chart showing that Emerald Lakes dues are far below the levels of similar communities on the plateau. He further warned that attempting to balance a budget by deferring maintenance is a dangerous game to play. Down the road, repairs could be far more costly than work to prevent damage. Borrowing a line from an oil filter commercial, Leslie quoted, "You can pay me now or pay me later."

The next presenter was Director Joe Miller who spoke on the condition of our roads and the need for an upgraded maintenance program. Using photos and charts he showed deteriorating conditions and offered suggestions on how to stop serious disintegration. This would cost money, more than we now have to do the projects needed. The increase would make them possible along with shoring up the reserve account. And he underscored Mr. Leslie's contention that deferring this maintenance would only make repairs more costly down the road (so to speak).

An hour of questions and answers followed Mark Davis' summation of the presentation. Members seemed to support the general notion of the increase, but wanted assurances that any new monies would be well spent and that austerity would continue to be the watchword.



## Deadlines

Issue	Deadline	On Stands
May 2011	April 25	May 13th

All articles, pictures, schedules, etc must be submitted to emeraldnews@yahoo.com

# Board of Directors '10

President, George Haab  
 Vice President,  
 Millie Bishop

Treasurer, Al Leslie  
 Secretary, Louise Leon  
 Director, Joseph Miller

Director, John Cress  
 Director, Earl Frank

Board Meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month 9:30am at the community center unless otherwise announced

## Committees/Clubs

### BYLAWS, REGULATIONS & AOC COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Millie Bishop  
 Meeting: 3rd Wednesday of the month  
 Time: 9:30am - Admin. office  
 Recommend to the Board of Directors actions by which the affairs of the Association shall be regulated. Recommend to the Board of Dir's. Actions relative to architecture & environmental issues within Emerald Lakes and assure maintenance of the character of the community.

### MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Bob Lauri  
 Meeting: 3rd Thursday of the month  
 Time: 9:30am Admin. Office  
 To assess the maintenance needs of Emerald Lakes and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

### REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Carmen Brodnax  
 Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of month Bi-monthly  
 Time: 9:30am - Community Ctr.  
 To act confidentially and recommend to the Board of Directors courses of action relative to the acquisition of real property and its retention for future use or its disposition to generate income or other benefits for the furtherment of the community's best interest.

### LONG RANGE PLANNING & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mark Davis  
 Meeting: 3rd Saturday  
 Time: 9:30am  
 Study/evaluate trends in the Association and surrounding communities to assist Board setting goals for the Community. Recommend to the Board actions to efficiently control the community financial operations. Including preparation of annual budget.

### POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Chairperson: TBA  
 Liaison: To be announced  
 Meeting: To be announced  
 Time: To be announced

### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Lola Lauri  
 Meeting: As needed  
 Time: To be announced  
 Advise/assist Board of Directors in informing members about purpose/function of the Association and its activities through Association newspaper and website [www.elains.org](http://www.elains.org)

### SECURITY COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Paul Capozzoli  
 Meeting: As needed  
 Time: To be announced  
 To assess the security needs of Emerald Lakes and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.  
 Sub-committee

### CRIMEWATCH COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Barbara DeGeorge  
 Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. of month - as needed  
 Time: 9:30am - Community Ctr.  
 A watch group to empower people to prevent crime, forge bonds between law enforcement and the community, and build a foundation for broader community improvement, and provide back up at scheduled events.

### COMMUNITY CENTER EVENTS COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Stefania Buono  
 Secretary:  
 Public Relations: Stefania Buono  
 Meeting: 2nd Saturday of Month  
 Time: 11:00 am - Comm. Ctr.  
 To work hand in hand with the Community Center Coordinator, Recreation Director, 50 Plus Club, and the Women's Club to bring events to the Community Center which will include all of Emerald Lakes Families.

### FIFTY PLUS CLUB

Chairperson: Edie DeVito  
 Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> Tues. of month  
 Time: 12:00pm - 3:00pm - Comm. Ctr.  
 Promote the health, safety & welfare of the members and develop and maintain a spirit of camaraderie & good fellowship among its members through an organized program of social, recreational, fraternal, educational, cultural and informational activities.

### WOMEN'S CLUB

Chairperson: Millie Bishop  
 Meeting: 3rd Thurs. of month  
 Time: 7:00pm @ the community center  
 To develop the educational, civic and social interest of the Association's members.

# The President's Message

by George Haab

As I write this message, spring is fast approaching. I hope we have a slow, even thaw so that we don't get too many potholes in our roads. When you drive on your Emerald Lakes roads, please remember the 20 mph speed limit. Drive so that your wheels avoid the pot holes; this will keep the potholes from growing.

I am requesting all of you who have pets to please respect your neighbors. We have rules and our public safety officers can issue fines. We don't have trained people to handle loose dogs or a place to take them. If you have a safety issue with someone's pet and know the owner, call them. If you don't know the owner, or the owner is uncooperative, call 911.

Please put April 23rd aside. For

"The Great Pennsylvania Cleanup" program. The supplies you will need - gloves, bags and vests - will be available at the clubhouse from 8:30 am until 9:30 a.m. You can sign up for your own area, or help with Long Pond Road.

At our last Open Meeting the board officially recognized the Emerald Lakes Directors Alumni Society (ELDAS). There is a wealth of experience and the knowledge that comes from that experience in this group, and we will be taking advantage of their offer to help in any way they are asked. I personally appreciate the service of these people who have already given so much to the association.

On a related note, the ad hoc Committee to Revise the Bylaws continues to meet, now supplemented by volun-

teers from the ELDAS group. They are meeting monthly to develop a document that more accurately reflects the way we do business and is clear and easy to use. Our target is Fall 2011, to hold a Town Hall Meeting and vote on the recommended changes.

Some things are unknown at the present time. Will we have a vote for the dues increase in July before the annual meeting, or will we have the vote at the annual meeting? Who is going to run for the Board of Directors? Please, if you have any ideas to improve Emerald Lakes, speak to a member of the Board.

Due to the Easter holiday, we are moving the Board meeting to April 16th. You are all invited to attend the Board meetings and voice your ideas to help improve our community.

# General Manager's Message

by Gil Werner

IT IS BUDGET TIME AGAIN... Yes, budgets are in the news. Our nation's budget, our state's budget, along with the townships and our school board are all in the news again this year, as they were last year at this time. All of these budgets are making the news because of their tentative cuts, and the Association is in step. However, the Board would rather have a dues increase than put in place additional cuts which would result in greater reductions of services. During this fiscal year, services were reduced due to a cash shortage and the projected next year's budget illustrates more of the same. The Emerald Lakes Association's budget is to be in place in May. I have been working on the 2011/2012 budget for the past few months with the help of my department supervisors. In the past I explained the process, and I feel a review at this time is in order.

The budget is divided into categories (e.g., Maintenance, Community Center and so on) and those categories have subcategories, usually referred to as "line items" (e.g. road repair, Emerald Grill, etc.) My first task is to estimate how much money will be needed to fund each category. I do this based on my own experience and that of the community in previous years. I must also estimate (again based on previous years), how much revenue we will take in. This number must be greater than or equal to what I project we will need to spend. If it is greater, money can be assigned to our reserve account. If it turns out to be less, I must reduce the spending portion of the budget, usually by reducing services. Only the Federal budget can operate at a deficit. Of course,

the other alternative to reducing the services is to raise dues or other fees, thus creating a balance by increasing revenue.

In the past, the Board has dipped into reserves to make up a shortfall, but this is an extremely dangerous practice. The reserve fund is necessary for emergencies. If a dam should fail, for instance, we would have no choice but to repair it immediately. The State would order us to do it for environmental reasons. If we had insufficient funds, we would be forced to borrow the money and we would be in a weak position to seek a low interest rate.

Our dues have remained the same for the past 8 years, while virtually all costs have risen. In 2008, money was withdrawn from the reserves to pay bills at fiscal year's end. In 2009, we maintained services to some degree by trimming fat where we could, by replacing full-time

positions with part-time employees and by cutting services (such as a 7-night bar/restaurant) which were being underutilized. No employees were given salary increases for the past 3 years. This past year the fat was gone and the level of services were again reduced to ensure our expenses were within the parameters of our cash position. The Association is at a point where no matter how frugal we are, the only alternatives are to reduce our spending by again reducing the services we are providing to the membership or to request a dues increase to cover the cost of expenses.

I will be presenting the 2011/2012 budget to the Finance Committee for their review and recommendations. They, in turn, will forward it to the Board of Directors, and the Board will then provide it to the membership. Approval of a final budget will be in place May 1, 2011.

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# Dues Increase 2011

by Alex Leslie

When we had our Town Hall meeting last year, the Board spent several weeks with the Finance and Planning Comm. to present a comprehensive study of the finances of Emerald Lakes. That Board, and the current one, had an understanding that there was a need to bring our residents together and explain the

problems facing our community. We again are attempting to express our concerns and hopefully gain your understanding and support, so that we can turn these concerns into organized actions that will benefit all residents of Emerald Lakes.

Last year at our Town Hall meeting we laid out a list of actions to be taken if we did not get the requested

increase. They were as follows:

- The allocation of dues per lot dedicated to the reserves will be reduced from \$60 to \$55.
- Outdoor pool hours will be reduced to 3 days
- The beach program will be reduced to one open (not both). We will alternate weeks.
- At the outdoor pool, snack shop hours will

be reduced.

- Reduction in hours for the Comm. Ctr. and the bar & grill.
- Before and after school program will remain for now as fees were increased. The center will be closed after the school program on selected days.

As we all know, we took these and additional steps, and then our collections fell even shorter than we anticipated.

The chart at left shows that the Board has made significant reductions in our expenses. The figures for the 2010-2011 period are year-to-date. These reductions only reflect an increase in deferred maintenance and have a negative impact our community. Deferred maintenance is like the old commercial "you can pay me now or pay me later" and we know that waiting always costs more. These deferments are expected to affect many areas including road repair, recreational amenities, and our bridges and dams. For example, if one of our dams were to fail this could result in an assessment that would have a large financial impact on our residents.

We have been very lucky this year with smaller amounts of snowfall than usual. We cancelled our outside contracts for snow plowing this year and were fortunate that we had so few major storms. With so little snow, most don't understand that 2 weeks ago we were down to one truck. Vehicles must be maintained to take care of our roads. We also need computers for the office staff, and many other items are in need of updating to run our community

effectively. These things cost money. Our luck is bound to run out, and eventually, all residents will feel the impact.

On the positive side General Manager Gil Warner, with the assistance of Mr. Ryan Culverson the Comm. Ctr. Mgr., has drastically reduced the expenses of the community. The purchase of the POS system in the center has shown positive financial results and has reduced man-hours needed to perform several tasks. Cuts in staffing, employee hours and benefits, and other services have saved this community significant dollars, but these cuts will lead to the eventual reduced value of our homes within EL.

Many have expressed their indifference to our amenities, but as Mr. Gottfried-the guest realtor at our latest town hall meeting- stated, our home values are inseparably connected to our amenities. Is there anyone in our community who doesn't care if the value of their home declines?

I also handed out a sheet showing the dues and amenities of several communities in our area. This chart showed we have more amenities than most, yet our dues are significantly lower. There was a time when our dues were higher, and EL still is considered a premier community. Again, as homeowners in ELA do you care about your community and protecting the values of our homes? If you do, then you understand the need for a dues increase.

## About Money & Finance

### BUDGET SUMMARY AS OF Jan. 31, 2011

		Annual Budget 2010-2011	Performance Summary As of 11/30/10	Performance Summary As of 12/31/10	Performance Summary As of 1/31/11
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$1,661,561</b>	<b>\$1,045,246</b>	<b>\$1,171,043</b>	<b>\$1,294,892</b>
<b>Expense Budget</b>					
<b>Expense Administration</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$671,400</b>	<b>\$428,000</b>	<b>\$474,443</b>	<b>\$518,684</b>
<b>Expense Public Safety</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$94,222</b>	<b>\$52,324</b>	<b>\$59,996</b>	<b>\$67,712</b>
<b>Expense Maintenance</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$590,900</b>	<b>\$357,713</b>	<b>\$401,532</b>	<b>\$441,791</b>
<b>Expense Comm. Ctr./Recreation</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$308,629</b>	<b>\$168,360</b>	<b>\$187,682</b>	<b>\$211,269</b>
<b>Expense Grill/Bar</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$110,411</b>	<b>\$46,940</b>	<b>\$51,400</b>	<b>\$57,532</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$1,775,562</b>	<b>\$1,053,337</b>	<b>\$1,175,053</b>	<b>\$1,296,988</b>
<b>Less Depreciation (NonCash Item)</b>		<b>\$ (114,000)</b>	<b>\$ (64,183)</b>	<b>\$ (73,351)</b>	<b>\$ (82,520)</b>
<b>Net Operating/Capital Expenses</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$1,661,562</b>	<b>\$989,154</b>	<b>\$1,101,702</b>	<b>\$1,214,468</b>

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## Crime Watch Needs Volunteers

by Barbara De George

Please come and join us at Crime Watch. To paraphrase Edmund Burke, The only thing needed for evil to triumph is that good people do nothing. Come to a meeting and do something.

Neighborhoods are changing; this area was quieter and safer when many of us moved here. This community was then primarily vacation homes. With all the changes that come with growth, we also now have more crime. A day hardly goes by that we don't hear of some tragedy right around us.

In this community over the past twelve months we've had home break-ins, thefts, arson and assault.

If you care and would join us

at a Crime Watch meeting we may be able to do something about it. I don't mean only patrols, though of course we can patrol, but with enough people we could form home groupings, homes near to one another, with people who know one another, where the members of the groups can look out for one another.

Some residents have already combined forces to watch out for one another and found it works very well. Please join us at one of our meetings in April. I have scheduled meetings on Thursday, April 7th at 7 p.m. in the evening, and another on Thursday, April 14th at 1 p.m.

If you have any questions, please call me at 570-643-1360.

# This 'n That

## Latest news from ELDAS

On July 31, 2010, for the first time in our Association's history, eighteen former Board Directors of Emerald Lakes, came together with the intention of creating a group of volunteers who have a distinct historical perspective and extensive Board experience. We intend to offer our support, provide good will and foster volunteerism. Former Board Director Pat Galderisi initiated the creation of this group by inviting all former Directors who are still members of the Association.

Membership in the group is solely based on prior Board service. As of 2011, there have been 74 Directors who have served on our Board since 1973 and 25 former Board Directors still live in Emerald Lakes. Currently, the group, known as the "Emerald Lakes Directors Alumni Society," has 18 members. Their total experience equals 102 years of combined service to our Association! The Society intends to pass on Association history to all of our members, acknowledge the educational arm of Community Associations Institute (CAI) and reinvigorate the committee structure that is the life blood of our Association. CAI offers leadership training for directors, credentialing for management and educational magazines, pamphlets and seminars for all owners in a common-interest-community. Go to CAIONLINE.ORG to find out more!

The Alumni Society wishes to extend an invitation to ANY and ALL former Board Directors who have not, as yet, joined.

At their December 2010 meeting, the Society crafted a vision/mission/values statement:

To advocate and foster good-will amongst the membership of the Association. We envision our Alumni Society being an additional conduit for communication for the benefit of all. To have a deep and abiding respect for each other. Our Society will be a living resource for the community.

Our mission is to encourage dignity, professionalism and respect by having civil discourses on matters that are important to the community. Our goal is to disseminate the rich history of our Association and to honor those who have come before us. We will share our diverse and comprehensive repository of experience and knowledge with our Board of Directors, volunteers and community-minded membership by assisting them and cultivating an atmosphere of mutual trust and common ground.

We value our history, traditions and ceremonies. We honor a code of ethics, integrity and morals. We take pride and treasure our reputation. We set great store in transparency in all of our dealings. We will endeavor to perpetuate the continuation of the Emerald Lakes Association and will always remain neutral.

The Society has met five times and we are currently involved with the following:

- Writing articles for the Emerald News on a variety of topics
- Serving as members on the Ad-Hoc Survey Committee

- Serving as guests to the Ad-Hoc By-Laws Revision Committee
- Hosting the upcoming events – Welcome New Members, Volunteer Appreciation Party, Passing the Torch to new Board Directors
- Helping prepare for the February 19th Town Hall Meeting
- Serving as advisors/members to the new Ad-Hoc "Committee Guidelines" Committee

Instrumental in getting Community Associations Institute to host the "Essentials of Community Association Leadership" program at the Emerald Lakes Community Center on May 21, 2011

Current members of the EL Directors Alumni Society:

Eugene Iannuzzi – 1979/1982  
Sue Dyckmans – 1981/1990  
Jerry Viola – 1981/2005\*  
Bruce Pizzimenti – 1985/1991  
Flo Mauri – 1988/1996\*  
Bernice Krol – 1992/1995\*  
Claire Abbazio – 1993/2006  
Patricia Galderisi – 1993/1996  
Dale Walsh – 1993/1995  
Mary Ann O'Leary – 1995/1998  
Marion Colvin – 1997/1998  
Don Bishop – 1999/2005  
John Avrich – 2000/2006  
Rudy Grimm – 2002/2003  
Nicholas DeVito – 2003/2004  
Paul Capozzoli – 2007/2010  
Buz Whelan – 2007/2010  
Robert Lauri – 2008/2010

Respectfully submitted by  
Pat Galderisi writing for ELDAS

## Our Grandma's Old Time Apron

by Edie DeVito

I wanted to share this short story that has been around in our family for a long time. It often comes up with lots of laughs afterwards because Grandma insisted it was a sanitary method and served many purposes.

The principle use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a holder for removing hot pots and pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

When company came, Grandma's apron was an ideal hiding place for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, our grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Grandma also used her apron to carry all sorts of vegetables from the garden. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples and other fruits that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma

walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in for dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that "old-time apron" that served so many purposes. Grandma considered hers a treasure.

YOU MUST REMEMBER THIS!

Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters, however, set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

## Cell Phone Information

by Edie DeVito

For all the folks with cell phones. (This should be printed and kept in your car, purse, and wallet. Good information to have with you.

There are a few things that can be done in times of grave emergencies. Your mobile phone can actually be a lifesaver or an emergency tool for survival. Check out the things that you can do with it:

FIRST

Emergency: The Emergency Number worldwide for Mobile is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you, and interestingly, this number 112 can be dialed even if the keypad is locked. Try it out.

SECOND

Have you locked your keys in the car? Does your car have remote keyless entry? This may come in handy someday. Good reason to own a cell phone: If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at home, call someone at home on their cell phone from your cell phone. Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button, holding it near the mobile phone on their end - your car may unlock. Saves someone from having to drive your keys to you. Distance is no object. You could be hundreds of miles away, and if you can reach someone who has the other remote for your car, you may unlock the doors (or the trunk).

THIRD

Hidden Battery Power: Imagine

your cell battery is very low. To activate, press the keys \*3370#. Your cell phone will restart with this reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery. This reserve will get charged when you charge your cell phone next time.

FOURTH

How to disable a STOLEN mobile phone: To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: \*#06#. A 15-digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. If your phone is stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either. If everybody does this, there would be no point in people stealing mobile phones.

And Finally...

FIFTH

Free Directory Service for Cells: Cell phone companies are charging us \$1.00 to \$1.75 or more for 411 information calls when they don't have to. Most of us do not carry a telephone directory in our vehicle, which makes this situation even more of a problem. When you need to use the 411-information option, simply dial: (800) FREE 411, or (800) 373-3411 without incurring any charge at all. Program this into your cell phone now.

This is the kind of information people don't mind receiving - so pass it on to your family and friends.

## FUHGETTABOUDIT!

by Edie DeVito

**MUST KNOW:**

TTYL - Talk to You Later  
LOL - Laughing Out Loud  
OMG - Oh My God  
IDKI - Don't Know  
KIT - Keep in Touch  
GTG - Got to Go  
BRB - Be Right Back  
BFF - Best Friend Forever  
RUOK - Are You Okay  
AITR - Adult In The Room  
PAW - Parents Are Watching  
P911 - Parent Alert  
POS - Parent Over Shoulder

**AFFECTIONATE/  
RELATIONSHIP:**

MULU - Miss You Love You  
LYLAS - Love You Like A Sister

GBH - Great Big Hug  
RNTUAQT - Aren't You A  
Cutie  
AML - All My Love  
WYWYH - Wish You Were Here  
VBG - Very Big Grin  
ILY - I Love you

**GREETINGS:**

AYT - Are You There?  
RUOK - Are You Okay?  
WU - What's Up?  
HAIW - Hope All Is Well  
HRU - How Are You

**SIGN-OFFS:**

GGN - Gotta Go Now  
HAGD - Have A Good Day  
B4N - Bye For Now  
RX - Regards  
SYL - See You Later  
BCNU - Be Seeing You  
TTFN - Ta-Ta For Now  
BCU - Be Seeing You

**NOT WHAT YOU  
THINK IT IS:**

ATM - At The Moment  
GAS - Got A Second?  
TNT - Till Next Time

**REACTION/  
MISCELLANEOUS:**

CSL - Can't Stop Laughing  
LQTM - Laughing Quietly To Myself  
AFAIK - As Far As I Know  
BYTM - Better You Than Me  
DGT - Don't Go There  
FOAF - Friend Of A Friend  
ROFL - Rolling On The Floor Laughing  
NM - Never Mind

# Volunteering

by Dale Walsh

So, you don't think you have what it takes to be a volunteer? Well, think again. Everyone has a special area where his or her efforts can be most helpful. There are many committees and clubs for anyone in search of a rewarding experience.

Volunteers come in many different sizes; retirees, seasonal members, professionals, and even youth. A recent national survey reported that 33 percent of women volunteer, compared to 25 percent of men. As a volunteer, you will meet new people, as well as your neighbors. You will learn a lot about your community and most of

all gain the personal satisfaction of knowing you've helped your community in a positive way.

Volunteers are critical for a cohesive blend of our own Emerald Lakes. Now, more than ever in our history, volunteers are an integral part of keeping Emerald Lakes one of the most sought after communities in the Poconos.

From the words of Suze Orman, "creating harmony, an agreement in feeling, approach and sympathy, it is the interaction between what you think, feel, say, and do, along with balance, a state of emotional stability in which you are calm and able to make

sound decisions and judgments."

Fundamental changes in the day-to-day operation of a demanding community such as Emerald Lakes, means more than financial capital, it also must meet the needs of everyone here in Emerald Lakes. We need caring hands = volunteers. And all you need is a willingness to give of yourself to your community.

Volunteering, in a word, is generosity. When you give the right thing to the right person at the right time, it benefits both of you.

We presently have ten active committees/clubs here at Emerald Lakes. If you have any desire to know more about your community, and have some extra time on your hands, take the initiative and join one of these committee/clubs. Believe me, volunteering is quite satisfying. Come to the administration office or call 570-646-2622 and submit your name for the committee/club of your choice.

Make volunteering a part of your life.

# Try This Out For Fun

by Edie DeVito

This year we will experience 4 unusual dates...

1/1/11, 1/11/11, 11/1/11, 11/11/11...

NOW go figure this out....

Take the last 2 digits of the year you were born, plus the age you will be this year and it WILL EQUAL .... 111!

## For Your Information

If you live in Tunkhannock township or Emerald Lakes Estates, the Tunkhannock township Fire co. #42 is your first responder. If you live in Tobyhanna Township or Blueberry Estates, the Pocono Summit Fire Co. #33 will be your first responder. You are all covered by the Pocono Mountain Regional Ambulance Service. When they ask, please help them with your donations

## American Cancer Society

For nearly a century, the American Cancer Society has fought for every birthday threatened by every cancer in every community. By taking what we've learned through research and turning it into what we do, we have contributed to a 15 percent decrease in the overall cancer death rate between the early 1990s and 2005. That means that we helped avoid about 650,000 cancer deaths and created the potential for more birthday celebrations. Overall, 11 million cancer survivors in America will celebrate a birthday this year. Here's how we've sponsored these birthdays by helping people Get Well. Our phone lines (1-800-227-2345) are open every minute of every day to help connect people with answers they need. We are a trusted resource for more than

23 million visitors each year to cancer.org, where we offer the latest information and news on cancer and help people locate resources in their community. Our online community for cancer survivors and caregivers, Cancer Survivors Network, has brought more than 93,000 people together for comfort and support since 2000. The American Cancer Society Hope Lodge® has helped more than 30,000 cancer patients and their families save tens of millions of dollars in lodging costs each year by providing a free place to stay and a community of support while they undergo treatment far from home. For more information on how to Get Well, call 1-800-227-2345, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

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# Board Meeting summary

# Truth, Goodness, and Usefulness, and Emerald Lakes

„A meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Saturday, December 18, 2010.

PRESENT	ALSO PRESENT
George Haab, President	Gilbert Werner, General Manager
Millie Bishop, Vice President	Roxanne Chumacas, Recdg. Secty.
Alex Leslie, Treasurer	
Louise Leon, Secretary	
Joe Miller	
John Cress	

President George Haab welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a moment of silence for the passing of member Steven Gault.

Approval of 11/20/10 Board of Directors meeting minutes.

**MOTION #1** — Millie Bishop made the following motion. John Cress seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED the Board hereby approves the November 20, 2010 minutes as submitted.

ROLL CALL	VOTE	ROLL CALL	VOTE
George Haab	yes	Millie Bishop	yes
Alex Leslie	yes	Joe Miller	yes
Louise Leon	Yes	John Cress	yes

Accept Financial Statements.

**MOTION #2** — John Cress made the following motion. Louise Leon seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the Financials ending November 30, 2010.

ROLL CALL	VOTE	ROLL CALL	VOTE
George Haab	Yes	Millie Bishop	yes
Alex Leslie	Yes	Joe Miller	yes
Louise Leon	Yes	John Cress	yes

(CARRIED: 6-yes)

**Fishing — Proposed Change to Catch & Release Rule** — The Fish Club has reviewed the Catch & Release program and recommends that the Board change the policy to a catch and release for "bass" only with all other fish species allowed to be kept. This is in keeping with the PA Fishing laws (required size and so forth).

**MOTION #3** — Joe Miller made the following motion. Millie Bishop seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board in keeping with the PA fishing laws hereby agrees to a catch & release for "bass" only with all other fish species allowed to be kept.

ROLL CALL	VOTE	ROLL CALL	VOTE
George Haab	Yes	Millie Bishop	yes
Alex Leslie	Yes	Joe Miller	yes
Louise Leon	Yes	John Cress	yes

(CARRIED: 6-yes)

**MOTION #4** - Millie Bishop made the following motion. Louise Leon seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED the Board hereby authorizes the General Manager to work with the Association attorney to review and resolve the issue regarding Lot 659 Mink Lane.

ROLL CALL	VOTE	ROLL CALL	VOTE
George Haab	Yes	Millie Bishop	yes
Alex Leslie	Yes	Joe Miller	yes
Louise Leon	Yes	John Cress	yes

**MOTION #5** — Joe miller made the following motion. Louise Leon seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board agrees to the PP&L right-of-way agreement to place 1 anchor guy at the pole on Beaver Dam Road and Glade Drive.

ROLL CALL	VOTE	ROLL CALL	VOTE
George Haab	yes	Millie Bishop	yes
Alex Leslie	yes	Joe Miller	yes
Louise Leon	yes	John Cress	yes

**MOTION #6** - Millie Bishop made the following motion. Louise Leon seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby welcomes and approves the new members by consensus.

ROLL CALL	VOTE	ROLL CALL	VOTE
George Haab	yes	Millie Bishop	yes
Alex Leslie	yes	Joe Miller	yes
Louise Leon	yes	John Cress	yes

(CARRIED: 6-yes)

**MOTION #7** - Millie Bishop made the following motion. Joe Miller seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby agrees that a list of all the new members for that month be included in the minutes.

ROLL CALL	VOTE	ROLL CALL	VOTE
George Haab	yes	Millie Bishop	yes
Alex Leslie	yes	Joe Miller	yes
Louise Leon	yes	John Cress	yes

(CARRIED: 6-yes)

by Flo Mauri

It's just human nature to be social and talk about the important issues in our daily lives. But what happens when this dialog takes a twist outside of anything close to the truth?

Most of us have been guilty at one time or another, of passing along a rumor without even giving a thought to whether it's true or not. Perhaps it's our need for drama and excitement to perpetuate a story that is juicy and interesting.

How would it improve our community and good will, if each one of us begins eliminating rumors by refusing to pass them along, and by not silently watching as they spread their poison?

A long time ago, in ancient Greece, Socrates was hanging around the market place where he often spent his time asking questions and provoking discussions on ethical considerations. He believed his mission was to question people and induce them to think for themselves.

One day an acquaintance met him and said, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about your friend?" "Hold on a minute," Socrates replied. "Before telling me anything I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the

Triple Filter Test."

"Triple Filter?"

"That's right," Socrates continued. "Before you talk to me about my friend, it might be a good idea to take a moment and filter what you're going to say. The first filter is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?"

"No," the man said, "actually I just heard about it and. ..."

"All right," said Socrates. "So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second filter, the filter of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my friend something good?"

"No, on the contrary...."

"So," Socrates continued, "you want to tell me something bad about him, but you're not certain it's true."

The man shrugged, a little embarrassed.

Socrates continued. "You may still pass the test though, because there's one filter left: the filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my friend going to be useful to me?"

"No, not really"

"Well," concluded Socrates, "if

what you want to tell me is neither true nor good nor even useful, why tell it to me at all?"

The man was defeated and ashamed.

There would be little or no gossip if everyone followed Socrates' Triple Filter Test. But that is not the case. Gossip runs rampant.

Ironically and tragically, in 399BCE, Socrates was put on trial in Athens for disbelieving in the Gods of the state and for teaching others his beliefs - the ultimate victim of gossip, jealousy and backstabbing. Here's his address to the court who accused him, "...I do not know and cannot tell the names of my accusers... All of whom from envy and malice have persuaded you - some of them having first convinced themselves - all this class of men are most difficult to deal with; for I cannot have them up here and cross-examine them, and therefore I must simply fight with shadows in my own defense, and argue when there is no one who answers."

American humorist Erma Bombeck said: "Some say our national pastime is baseball. Not me. It's gossip."

## Attention Focused on Speeding

by Buz Whelan

Emerald Lakes Safety Patrol officers have increased their focus on slowing speeders, and, so far, it seems to be having an effect. While the increased radar operations have produced a corresponding number of speeding citations, officers report that more and more drivers are passing the radar points traveling at safe speeds.

According to Safety Patrol Chief Cruz, "Our number one complaint from members is speeders. We've increased the number of operations and the time spent in response to

that." The patrollers are often using two-car setups, where one car is used to observe the traffic by radar gun while another is used as a chase car. "We can supplement the association patrol car with my pov because it's fitted with a light bar. Using two cars cuts down on the distance traveled when chasing and pulling over an offender. The system has been very effective."

Swinging shifts is also effective. Says Cruz, "I don't want any driver to feel that because of the time of day or day of the week it is, they are free to operate their vehicle in an

unsafe manner. At any time of the 168 hour week, we may sitting in a driveway watching you run that stop sign or drive at 40 or more miles an hour. We cover all the hours. We don't want to catch you, though. We'd much rather you drove safely. That would be a much better result than writing more tickets." Cruz also pointed out that Emerald Lakes' officers have the authority to enforce all Pennsylvania traffic laws. That means credentials and vehicle safety standards such as proper lighting as well as moving violations.

## Board to Consider 'Virtual Vote'

by Buz Whelan

At the February 26 Open Meeting, Board President George Haab announced that the board of directors would discuss the possibility of holding the vote for the dues increase at a special voting session to be held July 9 and 10 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the community center. At this writing the directors are divided

on whether or not to go forward with this proposal. Those opposed to the measure said during the meeting that a dues increase was too important to be voted on at any time but the Annual Meeting, which will be held August 20 at the Pocono Mountain West High School Auditorium. Those in favor cited the same importance as a reason to make the vote

accessible to as many members as possible, which they believe would be the case with longer voting hours and a more central location.

Members with strong feelings one way or the other are invited to attend the next board work session or email the board at [elaboarddirects@yahoo.com](mailto:elaboarddirects@yahoo.com).

Saturday, May 28

# Emerald Lakes

## Gives Back Community Day

- **Bake/Craft Sales**
- **Entertainment**
- **ELA Cancer Walk (Relay For Life)**
- **Long Time Comin' the Band**
- **Recreational games**
- **Basketball tournament**
- **Raffles**
- **Food and beverages**
- **And much, much more...**

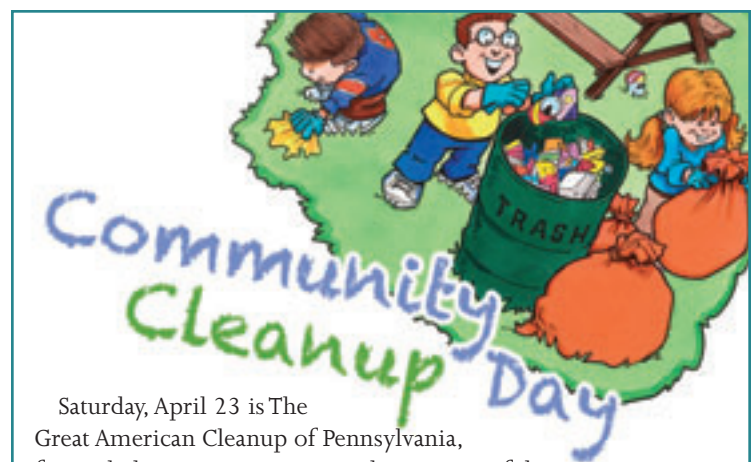
We are looking for members that may be interested in showcasing a talent (singing, skit, comedy, or instrumental) If you are interested, please contact Heather Kelly at 570-646-8118.

We are also encouraging all committees to set up tables to discuss their goals/missions with the association.

This day is about community involvement in addition to providing a platform for local organizations to showcase their dedicated efforts. In essence we are giving back to our association in addition to the local community. Help us celebrate this day with your friends and family. If you are interested in purchasing a space for \$10.00 to sell your personal craft or baked goods please stop in the Community Center to do so. Help Emerald Lakes give back on a very special community Day.

### Representation from local organizations such as:

Local Police and Fire Departments  
VFW • Girl Scouts  
Habitat for Humanity  
Pocono Hunger Missionaries  
Locks of Love  
Monroe Animal League



Saturday, April 23 is The Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania, formerly known as Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Day. PennDOT is joining with 25 civic-minded organizations to remove debris and garbage from Pennsylvania's roadways. Emerald Lakes is joining the spirit and the activity of the day by holding our own cleanup operation. WILL YOU HELP?

All we're asking is for individuals or families to give up one or two hours on that Saturday morning to clean a section of Emerald Lakes roadway. You can do ¼ mile, both sides, in about a half hour. Just show up on that morning, Saturday, April 23 between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. at the administration building. Volunteer for a section of roadway that you select and we'll give you gloves, refuse bags and safety vests.

**PLEASE HELP US CLEAN OUR ROADWAYS!**

## Emerald Lakes 8 BALL POOL Tournament

### March 26, 2011

Tournament begins at 1p.m. sharp!  
Food and beverages for purchase!  
Do you have what it takes to be the ELA 8 Ball Pool Tournament winner?

**FOR ALL AGES • \$5 entry fee**  
**Sign up deadline March 19, 2011**

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**Saturday**  
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for \$12.95

**Friday Lunch & Dinner Lenten Specials!**  
Including Full Course 5 oz. Lobster Dinner for \$15.95

**Lunch - Wednesday-Sunday**  
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**Friday Happy Hour**  
5-7 p.m.  
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**Dinner - Tuesday-Sunday**  
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# Community Center Corner

By Ryan Culverson



Hello Emerald Lakers! I certainly hope you guys are gearing up for a fun-filled summer. As the snow season slowly comes to an end, I am personally dusting off my flip flops and hoping for a heat wave that will take us

from gloom to BOOM...ITS A BEACH PARTY! Your Community Center team is working hard to bring you a summer filled with enjoyable, family-driven activities.

I would like to pay special attention to the "Emerald Lakes Gives Back Community Day". The staff, Events Committee, and I are currently planning this special day for Saturday, May 28th. You are probably asking yourself, "What is going to happen on this day?" We are offering members a chance to showcase/sell crafts or baked goods with the purchase of a \$10.00 table, a platform for talented ELA members to entertain us with their selected talent (i.e., comedy, music, singing), in addition to including representatives from various local organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Relay for Life. We are also planning a community wide ELA Cancer Walk, holding a blood drive with the Blood mobile on premises, and entertainment from "Long Time Comin' Band".

The basic theme of May 28th is "giving back", bringing awareness to foundations/organizations that serve our mountain. What better way than to hold one-day event which involves these services? It allows members to learn more of the organizations that serve daily. Being that the community day will be taking place on the Memorial Day weekend, we will also pay tribute to the many soldiers that have served and continue to serve our country.

The ELA Cancer walk will consist of one loop around the surrounding roads of the Community Center, bringing participants back to the Community Center parking lot for the day's festivities. We are working closely with the American Cancer Society - Relay For Life Mountain to organize the ELA Cancer Walk. We are asking you, as members, to get involved within this process. This request is one that allows for many options. Get involved by volunteering your time to help serve food, showcasing your talent, or by purchasing a table, illustrating your craft. We also encourage you to get involved with the ELA Fight to Live Basketball tournament to help raise money for the American Cancer Society. Details are currently being prepared by staff, committee, and Crime Watch as this will be very involved.

The American Cancer Society -Relay for Life Mountain, was an organization of special importance to us, because many within our community have struggled with this disease and is one we can all relate to. Though our expectations are to have representation from several organizations, our concentration will be the "Emerald Lakes Cancer Walk". Why? Because your Emerald Lakes Association has registered to walk in the Annual Relay for Life national event at Pocono Mountain East High School taking place on May 21st and 22nd (just one week

prior to the ELA Cancer walk) Registering with this 18 hour walk helps tie in with the planning and raising of money for our own community-wide cancer walk on Saturday, May 28th. Basically, the Relay for Life on May 21 and 22 is placing Emerald Lakes on the map with donations and allowing us to show support and raise awareness as a unified team. So, with all of this said, this serves as an open invitation for both the Emerald Lakes Association Relay for Life Team walk (May 21 and 22) and/or the "Emerald Lakes Cancer Walk" (May 28). The two are separate events but are both beneficial no matter which one you choose to support.

As we build a team and gain donations, I feel the need to give background of the Relay for Life (May 21 and 22). Relay for Life will take place at Pocono Mountain East and is a yearly local walk. The walk begins on May 21st at 12pm and continues to May 22nd until 6am. Emerald Lakes is a registered community for the 2011 "Relay of Oz Walk".

Why Relay of Oz? Each year the registered teams choose a theme that will help bring awareness and draw additional participants. This year the theme chosen, "Relay of Oz" is based on the movie "Wizard of Oz". It's based on the concept within the movie: brain, courage and heart. The brain representing the medical professionals, courage representing the survivors, and the heart, representing the "relayers"...which ultimately, can be you as a team member, walking in honor of a loved one or friend.

The 18-hour walk symbolizes the life of a cancer patient. However, please keep in mind that you can walk as much or as little as you would like within the time frame. This means that team members are not required to stay for the entire 18-hour walk/event. We can schedule by the hour, by the lap etc, however, as the team builds we will discuss the walk and assign the timing of each team member on the track. To uphold our dedication, we must have someone from our team represented on the track at all times. In addition to the relay walk there will be entertainment and activities helping keep stamina, as we do recognize this is a long day. But it is little compared to the battle one fights with cancer.

The day will be filled with time well spent in honor of those we are supporting and will leave us with memories to be cherished. It is my hope that we continue to register as an association, year after year. I am personally serving as "Team Captain" for the Emerald Lakes Association, and I hope to gain at least 10 team members to help bring awareness to a great cause. If you are interested, please contact me at the Community Center at 570-646-8118. I will give you additional information to help get you started. Or simply log online to [www.relayforlife.org/pamountain](http://www.relayforlife.org/pamountain). Look at the top right hand side of the website for Top Teams and click "view all". You will see Emerald Lakes Association listed there.

Members, not only are we asking for support during the Relay of Oz, but also for the "Emerald Lakes Gives Back - Community Day" event taking place Saturday, May 28th. Both walks (Relay for Life and ELA Cancer Walk) are helping to raise money and bring awareness. The ELA Cancer Walk is designed to help the Emerald Lakes Relay for Life Team

reach its goal of raising \$1000.00. This is simply a goal, one I would like to exceed. I recently met with Lisa Hoey, Community Income Development Specialist with the American Cancer Society in regards to fundraising ideas. We are planning many ways to reach our goal. Please keep in mind that any way you choose to support these efforts are greatly appreciated.

I realize that this writing contains a lot of information. The Events Committee and I are holding a meeting on March 11th at 7pm for all interested participants. This meeting will serve the purpose of mapping out needs, ideas and expectations of both the Emerald Lakes Gives Back - Community Day AND the Relay of Oz - and Emerald Lakes Relay Team. Please, I ask that you consider becoming a part of the Relay of Oz Team and help us fight back. The particular subject of cancer is one that has affected us all. There are many survivors of cancer within our own association in addition to many currently suffering from the disease, and let's not forget those lives that have been taken by cancer. If you are unable to walk you can provide a monetary donation made payable to American Cancer Society. Please contact me for more information.

Until then, be particular and take care of one another.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FOLLOWING ELA EVENTS/ACTIVITIES:

ELA 8 Ball Pool Tournament - March 26th (Sign up deadline - March 19)

Board of Director Meeting - March 26, 9:30 a.m.

Blood Drive - March 28th - Blood Mobile will be in the Community Center parking lot.

Battle of the Bands - April 8th - "Glory Bound" and "Identity Crisis" battle it out for the ELA title!

Movie Night - April 15 - TBA

Breakfast with the Bunny - April 23

Cinco De Mayo - May 5

Movie Night - May 20 - TBA

Essentials of Community Association Leadership Seminar - Continental breakfast and lunch - Community Center - 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. - contact Community Center for more info

Relay for Life - Relay of Oz - American Cancer Walk - Pocono Mountain East begins May 21 noon and concludes May 22 6 a.m.

Emerald Lakes Gives Back Community Day - May 28 (rain date - June 4)

Town hall meeting - June 11

Comedy Night III - June 18 - 7:30 p.m.

Movie Night - June 24 - TBA

Board of Director Meeting - June 25 - 9:30 a.m.

Independence Day Celebration - July 2

Movie Night - July 8 - TBA

## SUMMER CAMP COMING AT ELA COMMUNITY CENTER

7 Week Summer Camp

Please Require Within The Center

Registration Will Begin Late April

Contact Heather Kelly 570-646-8118



## Ryan Culverson, Community Center Coordinator

Effective November 1st the following hours will be in place for the Community Center/Bar/Restaurant/Pool:

### Community Center

#### CLOSED:

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday

#### Monday:

AWA: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

(ONLY)

#### Wednesday

AWA: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Chair Aerobics:

11 a.m. - Noon

Water Color: Noon -

3 p.m.

Fifty Plus: 1st Wednesday of each month

Pool: 6 - 9:45 p.m.

Bar: 6 - 10 p.m.

Grill: 6 - 10 p.m.

(WING NIGHT)

#### Thursday:

11 a.m. - noon - TOPS

(Taking Pounds Off Sensibly)

Women's Club: 3rd Thursday of each month

Pool: 6 - 9:45 p.m.

Bar: 6 - 10 p.m.

Grill: 6 - 10 p.m.

#### Friday:

AWA: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Pool: 5 - 9:45 p.m.

Bar: 5 p.m. - Midnight

Grill: 5 - 10 p.m.

#### Saturday:

Pool: 1 - 9:45 p.m.

Bar: 5 p.m. - midnight

Grill: 5 - 10 p.m.

# Introducing Your Community Center Team

by Ryan Culverson

I have to say that my favorite part of each newsletter is getting to sit down with an employee and interviewing them for this portion of my page. And this month, Mike Russo, Head Lifeguard, did not fail me with his ever-so-clever and humorous responses.

Mike Russo is a first year college student at Northampton Community College. He has recently begun applying to surrounding universities offering a major in psychology. He plans to become an FBI profiler with ultimate plans to be a psychiatrist. When Mike is not working for the center and dedicating time to his studies, he spends time with his girlfriend of 2 years, Patricia Lattanzio. Mike is a Brooklyn native, and has been employed with Emerald Lakes for approximately 4 years. In addition to life guarding for the community, Mike has served as a front desk clerk and is the self-proclaimed "jokester" or "staff clown," if you will.

When I began working for Emerald Lakes just over 2 years ago, I immediately knew that Mike was a great asset to the staff and an intelligent young man. You don't have to spend much time with him to discover his witty humor. He takes pride in his school work and it shows.

I asked Mike what he likes most about working for ELA and he responded, "I like my particular responsibility, as Head Lifeguard. I have no problem admitting that I like to be in charge, however, I especially like that,



though I take my position seriously, working for ELA is fun and laid back." (Mind you, Mike certainly adds to the fun factor at work) I asked what positive change would he like to see in our community, and he answered, "I would like to see the facilities open more often, for the membership's benefit, but also so that the staff could obtain more working hours." I then asked what has changed the most since his employment at ELA began, and how those changes had impacted him. He responded, "Having to keep up with the changing of hours."

During my interview with Mike it's only fair to share with you his struggle at keeping focused on the subject at hand. He couldn't help but remain the "staff clown" throughout. However, this is not to say that I find this a poor quality, because the working relationship I share with him is light-hearted and always full of banter. Af-

ter all, he performs his job duties well and is consistent with his work ethic. As we proceeded, Mike would randomly spew out his favorite quotes, "95% of life, Ryan...is showing up." Or "Look at these guns, 16 inches of pure arm." He truly is a piece of work.

All in all, Mike Russo is without doubt a pleasure to supervise. Recently, I had the pleasure of writing a recommendation letter to a few of his preferred universities. I stated, then and I will state now, Mike exhibits to his peers a leader, a team player and confidence. Mike is dependable and hard working, with a personality that will allow him to take the world by storm, accomplishing whatever his heart desires. He illustrates proper drive, tenacity and intelligence to achieve these goals.

Mike, good luck in all you do and thanks for your hard work and wit.

# Bingo - Latest Piggy Jackpot Winner-

Lisa Young won the Piggy Jackpot at Emerald Lakes Bingo last month. The game prize and jackpot amounted to over \$250. Please join us at the Community Center where you can play every Saturday night @ 7:30. The cost is \$6 to play ten games. There are two additional jackpots (\$1 for the junior and \$2 for the final) available.



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PA007612

# Emerald Lakes Fishing & Conservation Club

The Emerald Lakes Fishing and Conservation Club is entering its 3rd year. The purpose of the club is to promote responsible use of the lakes at Emerald Lakes and to monitor and maintain a healthy stock of fish in the lakes.

For the past two years, the Emerald Lakes Fishing Club has stocked all 5 lakes with bass. We have seen a steady increase in the number and size of bass in the lakes since that time. Several of the bass were tagged last year so that we can monitor their health and size. Emerald Lakes became a "Catch and Release" area two years ago in order to help the bass population grow. This past December the ELA Board agreed with our recommendation to allow fishermen to keep pickerel, since they seem to be eating a lot of the smaller fish. We continue to reevaluate the "Catch and Release" program for its effectiveness. Members of the Fishing

Club share information about the fish they are catching, as well as the types of bait that are most effective and other fishing secrets (well, we don't share all of our secrets!)

We have scheduled two events for this year: our first-ever Fishing Tournament and our

second annual Fishing Rodeo. The Fishing Tournament will be held on Saturday, May 21 from 9 -11:30 a.m. on Mountaintop Lake. The tournament is open to Fishing Club members only. Look for more details through club e-mails.

The Fishing Rodeo for kids will be held on June 18, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Prizes will be awarded to kids for the first fish, most fish, biggest fish and several other categories. Fishing



Club members will be on hand to help educate the children on fishing techniques. Last year, about 25 Emerald Lakes' children participated, and it was a fun event. This year's event will be even better. It is open to all Emerald Lakes families.

Any Emerald Lakes residents who are interested in joining the Emerald Lakes Fishing and Conservation Club are encouraged to do so by filling out a membership form, which is available at the office or on the ELA web site. Dues are \$25 for a new member, which includes an Emerald Lakes Fishing Club hat, and \$15 per year after that. Meetings are held every other month on the first Saturday of that month at 9:30 AM in the Emerald Lakes office. We hope you'll join.



**Marge Dennen**  
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**Barbara Timmeney**  
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# The Fifty Plus Club

by Edie DeVito

## January

We started the New Year with a wonderful attendance, enjoying another afternoon down at the Clubhouse. Celebrating birthdays this month were Ray Young and John Belly. Three new members joined our group. WELCOME!

Now with the holidays behind us and the threat of more snow storms embarking on our busy schedules, at least we can escape and enjoy a hot lunch together. It seems our youth has passed us a little too quickly as we've retired from sleigh riding a while back.

We still have a lot of spunk left as we unexpectedly meet on Tuesdays in ShopRite (senior day), blocking the aisles with our wagons and deep into conversation. Often times we excuse ourselves as having this as another meeting place. But it's all in fun. We are looking forward to getting back to our silver sneakers as opposed to the

boots and heavy equipment we must wear all winter.

## March

Although our March get-together consisted of a smaller group, we somehow managed to devour an Italian luncheon. Very few leftovers.

Because of our February cancellation, we still selected our annual Mr./Mrs. Happy Valentine. And the Oscar goes to – Bob Leon & Chris Texel. Congratulations.

Because we did not have a program in 2008, as of now, we most likely will not have an AARP Driver Safety Program this spring. Because of the gasoline crisis, bus trips are on hold for now. Enjoying this in the past, we may soon meet at the Casino Theatre for lunch and a movie. Arrangements have not as yet been made. Will keep you posted. For those of us who were unable to attend this past Town Hall Meeting regarding the dues increase, Louise Leon, Director, explained briefly what transpired and the im-



Edie DeVito, Eileen Avrigh—what's next on the agenda?

portance of said increase.

After the usual door prizes, birthdays, etc., we engaged in general conversation and actually were able to finish a story without interruption. Oh well – hope to see you April 6th at 12 Noon. Couldn't tell you what's on the menu now – it just comes to me when the time gets closer. In the meantime, enjoy St. Pat's day.

Give us a try. Come & join us on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 12 Noon. Everyone is welcome.



Ray Young & John Belly - Here's to another year - Happy Birthday



Bob Leon, Joan Petillo, Jane & Bob Clawson - Did we miss anything?



It's door prize time.



Marie DeVito, Art MacDougal, Carol Litwienski, Marge McDonald, Doreen Harris, Lee Hollingsworth - Life in the fast lane.



## Mouth to Mouth Productions Presents "Nuke the Whales"

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Doors open 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$12 in advance,  
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On Sale May ? at the Community Center



Friday, April 8 • 7 - 11 p.m.

Emerald Lakes Community Center

Come out and support 2 local bands  
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"Glory Bound" &  
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Drink specials (21 and older)

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# Emerald Lakes Rules & Regulations Part 1

One Glade Drive, Long Pond, PA 18334  
(570) 646-2622 • Fax: (570) 646-0838  
Effective: September 2010

## INTRODUCTION:

1. Emerald Lakes is a private, patrolled, recreational, residential Community.

All real property within the Community is privately owned by the Association Members, either individually as residential building lots or collectively through the Association as Common Areas and Community Recreational Facilities. The Association is a Pennsylvania Non-Profit Corporation chartered for the purpose of performing all of the duties as administrator of the Community. In accordance with its By-Laws, the Association and the Community are governed by a Board of Directors elected by the Association Members and this Board has all of the powers and duties required to perform the purposes for which the Association was formed.

2. The Board of Directors has approved these Rules & Regulations and Building Procedures to:

- provide a healthful and harmonious environment for community living;
- to protect and preserve property values;
- to enable such action to be taken as may be necessary to prevent or abate conditions which may be inconsistent with the governing documents of the Association and/or with all applicable laws; and
- to protect the health, safety and general welfare of all Property Owners (Association Members) in the Emerald Lakes Community.

3. These Rules and Regulations and Building Procedures supplement all applicable, Federal, State and Municipal law; the Covenants, Restrictions and Limitations (CR&L's) contained in the individual private property deeds (and as recited in Schedule A forming an integral part of the Association By-Laws); the Association By-Laws; and the Association Operating Policies and Procedures.

## AUTHORITY:

1. These Rules & Regulations and Building Procedures have been adopted by appropriate resolutions of the Board of Directors in accordance with its specified duty as set forth in the By-Laws, Article V, Section 1, paragraph (1), reading as follows: "to adopt and publish rules and regulations governing the use of the Common Areas and Community Recreational Facilities and the personal conduct of the Members of the Association and their guests thereon, and for the health, comfort, safety, and general welfare of the members within the Community, including but not limited to regulation of parking, storing, or standing of vehicles, machinery, equipment, trailers, and/or components thereof, and to amend the same from time to time as when approved by appropriate resolutions."

2. Authority to enforce these Rules and Regulations and Building Procedures is established by Article XI of the Association By-Laws. Community Regulations Committee: One of the duties of the C.R.C. and overseen by our General Manager, shall be to review, no less than quarterly, the records of the C.E.O. to confirm that these records are kept in a complete and orderly fashion and in compliance with these rules and regulations. At the regular C.R.C. meetings, the committee shall also view, for any modification, an itemized report of all approvals prepared by the CEO.

## APPLICATION:

These Rules and Regulations and Building Procedures shall apply to all persons while they are on the private property of the Emerald Lakes Community.

## GENERAL:

1. The Association Common Areas and Community recreational facilities are privately-owned, restricted and are reserved solely for the use, benefit and enjoyment of the Association Members, Family Members, Renters, and Guests, providing all such persons are in good standing of the Association.

2. The Association, through its Board of Directors or a duly established designee, shall have the power to suspend, discipline or otherwise take action against any Association Members, for conduct which, in its sole judgment, may endanger the welfare, interest or character of the Association or its members, or for any conduct representing violations of the Covenants, By-Laws, Rules & Regulations, Building Procedures and Policies and Procedures of the Association.

3. The obligation of membership shall include, but not be limited to:

- compliance at all times with the Covenants, By-Laws, Rules & Regulations, Building Procedures, and the Policies and Procedures of the Association, including the responsibility for like compliance by Family Members, Renters, and Guests;
- payment of all financial obligations due the Association as provided for in the By-Laws; and
- responsibility for all damages attributed to the Member, his/her Family Members, Renters, Guests, and Contractors.

4. A Member who has been declared "not in good standing of the Association" for violation of the Covenants, By-Laws, Rules & Regulations, Building Procedures, Policies and Procedures, or for any other reason:

- shall be barred from exercising his/her privileges of membership, regardless of the number of lots owned by the Member;
- may not use or enter the Common Areas and Community Recreational Facilities (except for ingress/egress to his/her place of residence), otherwise he/she will be considered a trespasser as defined by the Crimes Code of Pennsylvania, Chapter 35, subsection 3503, titled "DEFIANT TRESPASS". Such offenders will be prosecuted through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania courts; and
- the restrictions of (a) and (b) above shall apply to the Member directly involved as well as all other Members, Family Members, Renters, and Guests from the same property.

## BUILDING PROCEDURES & REGULATIONS:

In order to assure the continued maintenance of the desired character of the Emerald Lakes Community, all construction plans must be submitted for review and be approved by the Emerald Lakes Association, Inc. Decisions will be based upon such factors as compatibility, the general design, exterior materials, colors, textures, finish and environmental impact. Although these architectural controls will be administered in a flexible manner to accommodate individual tastes and desires, the Association retains the right to disapprove any design which is considered inappropriate for the Community. More specific information regarding these architectural standards is set forth in the "Building Procedures and Regulations" section of this document. The Association's Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) will issue a Certificate of Compliance, when the stipulations set forth in the approved permit application and building procedures have been satisfied. Major alterations, repairs, replacements and/or renovations are regarded in the same manner as new construction and, therefore, are subject to the same Procedures and Regulations. Minor changes in existing structures must conform to the established standards of the Association. All Association Member/homeowners are required to inform the Association whenever a change in their property is planned.

## AESTHETICS:

- All contractors' signs must have the approval of the CEO and shall not exceed two feet x three feet (2'0" x 3'0") maximum.
- Contractors' signs shall not be erected prior to obtaining and displaying a Township building permit. The ELA building permit shall also be displayed to the Township permits. All signs on all lots shall be kept in good repair and readable condition at all times.
- Contractors' signs must be removed within sixty (60) days of the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance.
- All "For Sale" signs must be obtained from the Emerald Lakes Association, Inc. office.
  - No other signs of any kind shall be permitted, with the exception of a name, lot number and alarm notifications.

(b) Lot number signs are required and should be visible both day and night.

5. No fence shall be erected on any lot without an approved permit. (Forms are available at the office.)

6. Trees to be removed must be marked, prior to submitting a tree cutting request which must be approved by the Emerald Lakes Association CEO, prior to removal before and after building.

## DESIGN CRITERIA:

Residences shall be designed for single-family use only. See glossary for definition (Procedures & Regulations).

1. No building shall be erected, altered, placed, or be permitted to remain on the premises other than one detached single-family dwelling, and two outbuildings per lot (e.g., one detached garage and one storage shed).

2. The drawings submitted with the building permit application must mathematically demonstrate compliance.

3. A detached garage cannot exceed fifty percent (50%) of the house footprint, with a maximum footprint of seven hundred fifty square feet (750 sq. ft.).

4. The height of a detached garage is limited to the height of the house of twenty feet (20'0"), whichever is lower.

5. The minimum roof slope for all structures is a 4" in 12" pitch.

6. A minimum of 1200 sq. ft. of living space is required for residential plans submitted for permits in all Emerald Lakes subdivisions.

7. Any application requiring special consideration for not meeting ELA requirements may be considered for a variance by the CRC. All cases of unusual architectural plans and/or specifications, such as underground houses, geodesic domes, etc. must be substantiated by a licensed engineer's report of the compatibility of the structure with the lot in question, at the Owner's expense.

8. No vehicle or structure of a temporary character, including but not limited to any van, trailer, tent, shack, garage, barn or other type of outbuilding, shall be used on any lot at any time as a residence, either temporarily or permanently.

9. No additional structures, or structural changes to the exterior of any existing structure, including garages or any other outbuilding, shall be permitted on any lot without submitting the proper applications to and obtaining a building permit from Emerald Lakes Association, Inc.

continued on next page

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"I am an Emerald Lakes Resident."

10.No tennis courts shall be permitted except those operated by the Association for use by the entire community.

11.Swimming pools are permitted but must meet the following requirements:

(a)Township permits and Emerald Lakes building permits are required for both in-ground and above ground pools.

(b)Must adhere to ELA setback requirements.

(c)Pool must not be visible from street.

(d)The design and construction must comply with all provisions of BOCA, I.R.C., and the National Electric Code. This includes providing a fence or other barrier.

(e)Wear to abide with the rules of four county ordinance in case of a drought.

#### VARIANCE PROCEDURES:

##### 1. HEARINGS:

The CRC shall conduct hearings and make decisions on variance applications as follows:

1.1 Notice shall be given to the owner applicant, the owner's agent, if any, the code enforcement official, the adjacent property owners within 200 feet, by certified mail with return receipt requested. Notice shall also be posted on the official Association bulletin board at the Association Office. The CRC shall establish reasonable fees, based on costs, to be paid by the owner applicant.

1.2 The hearing shall be conducted and a decision rendered by the CRC.

1.3 The parties in the proceedings shall be the CRC, the owner applicant, other owners who have filed a timely request (in writing) to testify before the CRC, and other persons permitted to appear by the CRC.

1.4 The parties shall have the right to be represented by counsel and shall be afforded the opportunity to respond and present evidence and arguments. They shall also be allowed to cross examine adverse witnesses on all relevant issues.

1.5 Formal rules of evidence shall not apply, but irrelevant, immaterial or unduly repetitious evidence may be excluded by the CRC at its sole discretion.

1.6 The CRC shall, at the expense of any party requesting it, keep a record and a transcript of the proceedings, and copies of graphic or written matter. A transcript and other materials received in evidence shall be made available to any concerned party at cost.

1.7 The CRC shall not communicate, directly or indirectly, with any party or the party's representatives in connection with any issue involved in the variance application, except after giving notice and opportunity to all parties to participate. The CRC shall not take notice of any communication, reports, staff memoranda, or other materials unless the parties are afforded an opportunity to contest the materials so noticed. The CRC shall not inspect the site or its surroundings after the commencement of the hearing with any party or the party's representatives unless all parties are given an opportunity to be present.

1.8 The CRC shall within forty-five (45) business days following the hearing, render a written decision.

1.9 The application shall be deemed denied if no decision is forthcoming within the forty-five (45) day period.

##### 2. APPEALS:

2.1 A property owner (in good standing) not agreeing with a decision or order by the Code Enforcement Official shall have the right to file a written appeal to the CRC within thirty (30) business days of the issuance of any decision or order. The CRC shall decide each appeal within forty-five (45) days after the filing of the appeal and shall give notice to all interested parties of the date and location of the hearing. The CRC's decision and the reasons or parameters used to base the decision shall be filed in writing in the office of the Code Enforcement Official. The Appellant may request a written transcript of the testimony presented. The cost of a transcript is the responsibility of the Appellant. The CRC shall determine whether a record or transcript of testimony is required. In all cases, the cost of the transcript shall be paid by the Appellant.

2.2 A property owner (in good standing) not agreeing with a variance decision shall have the right to appeal to the Board of Directors of the Association within thirty (30) business days from the date of any written decision or the effective date of any deemed decision. The Board shall have the authority to confirm, reverse or modify the decision of the CRC.

2.3 Information required on an appeal to the Board of Directors. All appeals to the Board shall be made in writing on forms prescribed by the Board. Every appeal shall be signed and dated by the Appellant/Owner and shall include all of the following:

2.3(a) The Name(s), address (lot number/s) of the Appellant Owner/s.

2.3(b) The Name(s), address (lot number/s) of any other property owner/s affected by the decision or order.

2.3(c) A brief statement of the reasons for the appeal, including the section of this code under which this ap-

peal is being made, and why the appeal should be granted.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE BOARD: Upon the filing of an appeal to the Board, the Board shall set a time and place for a public hearing. A hearing date will be called for within forty-five (45) business days from the date of the appeal. Written notice shall be given to the Appellant/Owner, and to other interested parties, who have registered their names and addresses, for this purpose with the Board. The notice shall be posted in prominent locations (Association Office, Community Center) within the community upon instructions from the Board. Said notice shall state the location of the dwelling or lot in question, and the general nature of the appeal.

##### 4. STAY OF PROCEEDINGS:

An appeal shall stay all activities related to the decision appealed from unless the Code Enforcement Official certifies to the Board, after the notice of appeal shall have been filed, that by reason of the facts stated in the certification, a stay would, in the Code Enforcement Official's opinion, cause imminent hazard to life or property, in which case the activities shall not be stayed otherwise than by a restraining order by the Board after notice to the Code Enforcement Official or granted by The Court of Common Pleas holding jurisdiction.

##### RULES:

###### EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Association Members must submit to the Administration Office an emergency contact telephone number in the event of fire, police activity, or any other emergency that might occur. Members are required to keep this information updated at all times.

MISUSE OF THE 911 EMERGENCY SYSTEM – In the event you cannot reach security and are reporting a non-emergency situation such as a stolen bike, a dog continuously barking, pass a house with broken windows or door open – DO NOT DIAL 911. The police non-emergency number is (570) 992-9911.

###### ALARM RULES:

1. All residential alarm systems shall be registered with the appropriate Township Authority.

2. All existing alarm systems shall be modified (if necessary) and all new alarm systems shall be installed in such a way that the audible alarm will shut off after no more than ten (10) minutes of operation.

3. Any Association Member or Associate Member who, after receiving written notice from the Association or Public Safety Department that an emergency department (ambulance, fire, or police) and/or a Security Department Officer has responded to two (2) false and/or nuisance alarms during any twelve (12) month period, shall thereafter pay a fine for each false and/or nuisance alarm (see Schedule of Fines). (This fine imposed by the Association is in addition to any penalties imposed by the Township Authority.)

###### Definitions:

“False Alarm” – shall mean the activation of an alarm system caused by other than the intended purpose for which the alarm system is designed.

“Nuisance Alarm” – shall mean an audible alarm at the site of installation of an alarm system which fails to automatically shut off its audible alarm within ten (10) minutes after the activation of such audible alarm. NOTE – Activation of an alarm system caused by a malfunction, which in turn is caused by violent natural catastrophic conditions including electrical storms and power outages, shall not constitute a false alarm or nuisance alarm.

###### BOATING RULES:

Even though the lakes are privately owned by the Association, the use of the lakes for fishing and boating is subject to the Fish and Boat Code and regulations of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

1. Association boat racks are assigned for use by Association Members in good standing. Assignments are seasonal and may be secured from the Association office upon payment of the appropriate fee.

2. Boats may be powered by trolling electric motors. All such boats must have a current valid Pennsylvania registration and display proper registration numbers on the hull of the boat.

3. Boats may NOT be powered by an internal combustion engine (motor). Even though such engines may be mounted on a boat, they may NOT be turned on or utilized for power while on Emerald Lakes Community lakes.

4. All boats must stay clear of designated swimming areas. Diving and/or swimming off boats and bridges is prohibited.

5. The owner of a boat shall be held responsible for the actions of the operators and occupants of the boat.

6. Any use of the lakes shall be at the risk of the owner or operator of the boat.

7. Violations of these boating rules may result in loss of privileges and/or Association imposed fines. Violations of state law may also subject the Member to prosecution by State Authorities.

###### BURNING, GARBAGE, TRASH, UNSIGHTLY PROPERTY RULES:

Rules #1 and #2 below are based upon a deed restriction contained in

Association Members' property deeds. [See By-Laws, Schedule A, item 4.]

1. Open or uncontained fires shall not be permitted at any time within the boundaries of Emerald Lakes.

2. All garbage and rubbish shall be disposed of off the premises and no garbage or rubbish may be buried on owner's property or within the Emerald Lakes Community.

3. The Association maintains a trash compactor for the disposal of normal household waste and recycle. Please contact the ELA office for days and hours of operation.

4. Valid Member (or Associate Member) badges must and ELA auto stickers must be shown to the compactor attendant to receive trash disposal privileges.

5. No part of any lot or property shall be used or maintained as a dumping ground for household garbage and trash, contractor or building materials, broken or abandoned items such as bicycles, refrigerators, cars, etc. or for any other type of disposal. Exception: kindling intended for fire starting may be neatly arranged on the owner's property.

6. Normal household garbage and trash should be removed to the Association's compactor in a timely fashion. (If located outdoors pending transfer to the compactor, the waste shall be kept in containers with a lid that can be securely closed to discourage wild animals.)

7. Recycling is mandatory at the trash compactor area. These materials must be separated properly and disposed of in the appropriate containers..

8. The exterior of all structures located on any private lot and the surrounding private property shall be kept in good repair and appearance by the owner. If the owner fails to do so, the property will be considered unsightly. The Association will give written notice to the owner. If not corrected within period specified in the Notice, a fine may be imposed.

(See Schedule of Fines).

###### COMMUNITY CENTER RULES: General

1. Persons who are members of a household in which the owner Member or Tenant Associate Member is not in good standing, will not be permitted to use the Center.

2. Upon entering the Center, all persons must display their identification issued to them by the Association. Identification badges are also required when using the Community Center common areas.

3. Children, until they have reached their twelfth (12th) birthday, must be accompanied by an adult member and shall be responsible for the child's inappropriate behavior while in the Community Center.

4. All persons utilizing the Community Center (hereinafter referred to as "Center"), must obey all rules of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, Pennsylvania Food Laws and Emerald Lakes Association, including but not limited to the following:

5. The Community Manager, or assignee (i.e., Manager on Duty) is in charge of the Center and is responsible to cause the enforcement of all Association Rules and Regulations at the Center. The Manager on Duty (MOD) also has the responsibility to maintain the activities and conditions at the Center in such a way as to maximize the safety, well-being and good order of all persons using the Center. The MOD's decisions and actions relative to the functioning and/or closing of the Center or any disciplinary action taken against any person or persons shall be considered to be final at the time imposed. Persons who believe that they have been unfairly treated may file a formal written complaint in accordance with standard Association procedures.

6. By way of definitions, the Center shall be considered as the Common Area and the Community Recreational Facility bounded by Clearview Drive, Glade Drive, Doe Drive and Lot Numbers 5387 and 5404, including but not limited to: Community Center/Indoor Pool structure, parking lot, lawn areas, playground areas, tennis courts, basketball courts, driveway, sidewalks and uncleared Common Area land.

7. Use of the Center is reserved exclusively for the following:

- (a) Association Members (Emerald Lakes property owners of record);
- (b) their Family Members;
- (c) their Guests;
- (d) their Tenants, who have been approved for and have purchased Associate Member identification from the Association; and
- (e) Associate Member Guests.

8. The owner of rental property must be a Member in good standing as a prerequisite for the Tenants to be considered eligible for Associate Membership. Should a rental property owner lose his/her good standing status, the Associate Membership of Tenants will be terminated.

9. Guests must be accompanied by a Member in good standing.

10. Members or Associate Members in good standing who do not have their Association identification with them, must have their status verified and be issued a temporary ID at a nominal fee.

11. Members who have entered the Center and have been logged in will not be required to log in on subsequent visits the same day providing

they are recognized by the reception desk attendant who originally registered these entrances. Should another desk attendant be on duty, a new log will be opened and all persons must register on the new log, even if the Member had been logged in on a prior shift that same day.

12. Food snacks or beverages may not be brought into the Center without the permission of the Manager on Duty. Any clean-up necessary as a result of items brought into the Center will be the responsibility of persons bringing the items in.

13. Appropriate attire is required of all persons using the Center. Bathing attire is only permitted in the pool and locker room area. The use of any other part of the Center will be denied to persons who are shirtless or shoeless.

14. With the exception of guide dogs, pets are not allowed in the Center.

15. The use of skateboards or roller blades is not permitted in the Center or common ground.

16. Any person causing, performing or connected with a prohibited act may receive a fine or may have his/her privileges of amenity use suspended. Such suspension may be initiated by the staff on duty, may take effect immediately, and shall remain in effect for the period of time specified by the staff or until such a time as the Board of Directors may meet, review and modify the length of time of such suspension.

17. Anyone vandalizing or stealing any property and/or the parent or host of anyone vandalizing or stealing property will be immediately suspended from all amenity areas for no less than 90 days. Restitution will be required and the Emerald Lakes Association reserves the right to prosecute any such person.

18. Vehicles are required to park in the parking lot. Vehicles (other than emergency vehicles) are not permitted to be parked in the driveway at the Center entrance. Vehicles may stop for the purpose of loading or unloading. Should a driver leave a vehicle in the driveway, the headlights must be turned on.

19. Vehicles may not be parked on the walkways leading to the Center. This shall also apply to bicycles or any such similar conveyance.

20. The speed and acceleration of vehicles shall be reasonable. Drivers who operate their vehicle with excessive speed or acceleration that causes flying gravel or sliding of the vehicle on dry, wet or snow and ice covered surface shall be subject to disciplinary action. This behavior causes safety hazard and potential property damage. Persons found to be engaged in such activity will be subject to 90 days loss of amenity use and/or criminal prosecution and restitution for any property damage.

21. Drivers may not use vehicles for the purpose of "cruising" on Center property or for repeated passing of Center property. Excessive noise from amplified music or engine exhaust is prohibited.

22. Loitering is not permitted on Center property. Bar Area

1. Only Members and Associate Members 21 years of age and older may purchase alcoholic beverages. Guests may not purchase alcoholic beverages. (This is a requirement of our Pennsylvania club license).

2. Only persons 21 years of age and older may consume alcoholic beverages on the premises. Pennsylvania L.C.B. or photo driver's license ID will be accepted as proof of age.

3. Persons under the age of 21 are not permitted in the Bar Area.

4. While the children are at the Community Center, they must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times. No child under the age of 21 years is allowed into the bar area at any time. (To all parents or guardians - be advised failure to adhere to this rule will result in a fine and asked to leave the bar area.)

5. **SMOKING RULES:** Smoking is permitted in the Bar Area during designated hours. Smoking is allowed outside the Community Center in the designated area only.  
Dining Room

1. The Lounge Area is identified as that area in front of the fireplace from the Bar Area portion to the Entertainment Center.

2. The Entertainment Center houses the large TV and stereo system. This equipment may be operated only by the staff or persons designated by the Manager on Duty.

3. Only videos of the proper classification for the persons in attendance may be played on the TV. Sauna/Rest Rooms

1. Caution - The Sauna should be used at Your Own Risk.

2. Persons with the following conditions should consult their physician before entering the Sauna:

- (a) High Blood Pressure
- (b) Heart Disease
- (c) Respiratory Problems
- (d) Pregnancy

3. Sauna should not be used during consumption of alcohol or drugs.

4. No one under the age of 16 years is allowed in the Sauna.

5. Do not exceed 25 minutes in the Sauna.

6. Drink plenty of fluids before and after.

7. Allow 5 minutes after exercise to cool down.

8. Please shower before entering.

9. Use a towel or mat to avoid moisture getting into the wood.

10. Swimsuits or a towel must be worn. No nudity allowed.

11. Warning: To reduce the risk of overheating, please do the following:

(a) Exit immediately if uncomfortable, dizzy or sleepy. Staying too long in a heated area is capable of overheating.

(b) Check with doctor before use if pregnant, in poor health, or under medical care.

(c) Breathing heated air in conjunction with consumption of alcohol, drugs or medication may cause unconsciousness.

12. No debris of any kind is to remain in the Sauna/Rest Rooms.  
**CURFEW RULE**

All children under 18 years of age are restricted from the Common Areas and Community Recreational Facilities (which include roads, Community Center, lakes, pools, basketball courts, beaches, tennis courts and picnic areas (after 10:00 PM). Children are not permitted in the Community Center and Common Areas at 10:00 PM with the exception of Association functions where children are permitted to attend.

**FENCE RULE:**

No fence shall be erected on any lot without expressed written consent of Emerald Lakes Association, Inc. A building permit must be obtained prior to construction of any type of fencing. This rule is based upon a deed restriction contained in Association Mem-

bers' property deeds. [See By-Laws, Schedule A, item 12.]

**HUNTING AND FISHING RULES**

1. Hunting is strictly forbidden.

2. Wildlife are not to be harassed or impaired. (It should be noted that the killing or injuring of a deer by a dog is a punishable offense in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.)

3. The Community is under the control and within the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

4. Fishing in the lakes within the Emerald Lakes Community by Association Members, Family Members, Tenants and their Guests is permitted.

Catch and Release Program for all lakes - This is for pickerel and bass only. It does not include the smaller fish (crappies, sunfish and perch) as per the Fish and Game Commission. [This rule expires October 30, 2011]. Be advised that a One Hundred Dollar (\$100) fine will be issued to anyone not adhering to this program.

5. All persons must display a valid Pennsylvania fishing license and Association issued identification while fishing in the community lakes.

6. The use of the lakes for fishing and boating is subject to the Fish and Boat Code and Regulations of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

**(CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE)**



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# Letters to the Editor

All letters must be typed and limited to 300 words. They may be emailed to [emeraldnews@yahoo.com](mailto:emeraldnews@yahoo.com) or dropped off at the admin office or community center. Address envelope "Editor, Emerald News" We reserve the right to refuse publication of libelous material, inappropriate language or repetitious material.

Dear Editor, Let me start by saying I love my community and am sad to say that I have not been as involved as I should. I just read Sunday's Pocono Record which touted Lake Naomi since after their expansion property sales increased by 15% even in this market. As a realtor working as a Buyers Agent it pains me to take clients elsewhere when our roads and other amenities are not maintained to the level of other communities. To all members I urge you to reconsider a dues increase since whether or not you use the Club House or other facilities it effects your property values.

**Linda L. Hobbs**

Editor's note: An article in the Pocono Record of Sunday, March 6 cited Lake Naomi's expansion and renewal projects as resulting in a 15% increase in home sales. For the record, Lake Naomi residents pay \$3,500 annual dues while sister community Timber Trails residents pay \$4,500 in annual dues.

I attended the most recent Town Hall Meeting and walked away with a few conclusions.

First, our Finance Committee is

doing the best they can with very little money. The dues in Emerald Lakes are considerably less than any of the communities in our area despite our good amenities. I know when I chose to buy a house in Emerald Lakes I knew I was also buying a responsibility to this community, i.e. dues. Our annual expenses increase every year for basic necessities like trash removal and road repair yet our dues don't go up; we are losing the race.

Allow me to spell that out in simple terms. If we have no money in our reserves, we can't react to any emergency or any costs above the annual budget. Forget paving unpaved roads, we will be lucky if our current roads don't fall away from neglect.

If we allow our roads and amenities to fall anymore to disarray – Would YOU want to buy here? We are allowing the value of our homes to decrease if we don't pass this nominal increase.

Finally I have a request to the Board. I would have loved to vote for your increases the last few years. But as a part-time resident you select times when it's impos-

sible for me to be here unless I miss my professional deadlines. I don't understand why we don't have absentee ballots. I can vote for the President; yet I can't vote for anything in Emerald Lakes? Your 'virtual' voting over a weekend was a move in the right direction, but frankly it's not good enough. You need to accept that a majority of the residents of this community are part-timers. If you want our support you need to help us to make that possible.

**Amy McGlynn**

**TO: THE EMERALD LAKES COMMUNITY  
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
THE EMERALD LAKES WOMEN'S CLUB  
OVER 50 CLUB**

I want to thank the hundreds of people who wrote cards of sympathy, left telephone messages and conveyed their support to me and my family on the death of my wonderful husband, Daniel Barnett.

We are grateful for giving us your sensitivity and spirituality.

**Thank you,  
Toby Barnett**

## Correction

In our previous issue an article on the wedding of Ms. Lorraine Koch to Mr. James Adamo described Rep. Mario Scavello as a personal friend of the couple. In fact, the couple has no personal relationship with Rep. Scavello. He is a friend of the previous owners of the Koch-Adamo home, and it was they who arranged his participation in the ceremony. The Emerald News regrets the error.



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## NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL STAFF:

Lola Lauri, **Editor-in-Chief**

Buz Whelan, **Managing Editor**

**Contributing Columnists**

The Emerald News serves the property owners and residents of Emerald Lakes. It is published twelve times annually by Journal Newspapers, Inc. for the Emerald Lakes Association, under the directorship of the Communications Committee.

### DISCLAIMER

Articles appearing in the Emerald News are presented as a community service. They do not necessarily represent the views of the Emerald Lakes Association, Inc. Letters from readers are welcome. All letters are subject to condensation by the editors. The acceptance of advertising in The Emerald News does not constitute endorsement by Emerald Lakes Association, Inc. or Journal Newspapers, Inc. Position of advertising is neither implied nor guaranteed. All advertising is subject to acceptance by the editor and publisher. The publisher is not responsible for errors in ads or claims made by advertisers. © 2011

## Guidelines for Submissions

News and Feature:

Submissions of news and feature reporting will be judged by normal journalistic standards. We reserve the right to edit for content, quality and length. Any community activity or news occurrence may be covered.

All pictures must be accompanied by caption information. This information must tell the viewer more than s/he can see by merely observing the picture. Persons who are central figures must be identified by name and by title where appropriate.

## Emerald News Policy/ Mission Statement

As a community newspaper the need to inform and entertain is the Emerald News' reason for being. Our mission is to provide the best and most comprehensive coverage of community news events as our resources allow. We are also charged with publicizing social and athletic events and reporting on these events after the fact. We serve as a conduit

for information between community management and members. We provide a "Letters to the Editor" section so that a forum exists for the interchange of ideas and for feedback from members on management decisions and actions, and further, for the informal reporting of observed events by members. Lastly, we hope to amuse and entertain our readers.

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## Editorial

The Emerald News has previously endorsed the Board of Directors' recommendation for a dues increase and continues to do so. We are now endorsing the holding of a 'virtual vote' on July 9 and 10 to be held in the Community Center for the hours 10am to 8pm on both days.

The outcome of this vote will have

## Volunteer for Census/Survey Committee

My name is Walter O'Neill. I am the Chairperson of a newly formed Emerald Lakes committee entitled The Census/Survey Committee. The committee is comprised of a diverse group of ten individuals, including two current members of the Board of Directors.

The last time a census was taken at Emerald Lakes was in 1992. Much has changed since then.

Current information about the people in the community and their wants and needs is essential for the Board of Directors, current and future, to have in order to effect viable long range plans.

The census will be conducted in typical fashion via a questionnaire sent to each household. The responses will be anonymous and compiled into a report which will be available to the members of the community.

The Census/Survey Committee is responsible for drafting the questionnaire and compiling the report. We want to ask questions of the community that they themselves would ask and answer. Here is where you and your committee or group comes in. We believe that all committees and groups have knowledge of those certain aspects of our community that your committee or group deals with which would be very helpful in drafting the questions. You know what

an important effect on the character of our community and the value of our homes. It is because of this importance that we believe the opportunity to participate in the decision should be as accessible and convenient as possible. The association's Board of Directors is currently considering this measure. We encourage them to pass it, and to do that as soon as possible.

We have had 10 dues increases and two special assessments passed over the life of the association. The chart below shows the dates of those approvals and the nature of the meeting.

people like and don't like. What they may want to see or want not to see in the future for the community. It is this subject matter that we need in order to draft questions that strike a chord with the members. Questions that give them a forum to converse with those who have the responsibility to plan and run our community. This is the memberships chance to ask for what they want.

Therefore, we respectfully ask for your assistance. Specifically, we would like your committee or group to either draft questions for inclusion in the questionnaire and/or have you or a representative attend one of our committee meetings. We will provide you with sample questions and the question formats. Your attendance at our meeting will give you the floor to impart to us your thoughts for the survey questions.

Our next two meetings will be held on March 26 at 1 p.m. and on April 16 at 2 p.m. at the Community Center.

Please contact me and let me know how you would like to proceed. I can also send you some information via email. We look forward to your assistance. I can be reached at my e-mail address, bigred07042@hotmail.com

**Thank you,  
Walter O'Neill**

As you can see, only one was passed at an annual meeting. The rest were passed at special meetings held for that expressed purpose. When a measure fails at an annual meeting and then is reconsidered at a special meeting, the expense is considerable. The expense of a virtual vote on our own property is negligible.

But the more important consideration is the ease of voting. Asking members to attend a meeting outside the community, at a specific time and date and only that time and date, and further requiring that they give up at least 2 or more hours of their time on that date is far more burdensome than asking them to spend 5 minutes during any part of a 20-hour session at a central location. Inclusion is the

goal here.

There are secondary reasons for holding the vote in July. Should the measure fail, cuts could be made at a time (Summer) when we spend the most on elective activities. It would also permit a detailed explanation of cutbacks at the annual meeting and even a discussion of the possibility of reconsideration.

The numbers bear out our claim of accessibility. Although the measure failed, more votes were cast at the virtual vote in the Community Center last May 15th and 16th than at any meeting, special or annual, in the previous 15 years.

At the Town Hall Meeting held on February 26, realtor Steve Gottfried made several points regarding prop-

erty values. He said bringing prospective buyers on a tour of the amenities has a positive effect on their willingness to buy. He also stated that the Pocono region has been named as one of the top ten 'second home' destinations because of its proximity to the New York City metropolitan area and its reputation as both a summer and winter vacation spot. It is predicted that an upturn in the economy will bring large numbers of prospective buyers to the area. To attract those buyers to Emerald Lakes, we must ensure that our community is well-maintained. We ask that you come out to vote, and that you vote 'yes' on the increase. It's your home; it's our future.

## Dues Increase Chart

Record of Dues Increases and Assessments

Type of Meeting	Date	Amount	Nature
Special	4/12/77	\$260	Dues
Special	7/11/87	\$353*	Dues
Special	5/28/88	\$1,000	Road Assessment
Special	6/30/90	\$450/472/495**	Dues
Special	3/26/94	\$500	Fresh Start Assessment
Annual	8/16/97	\$595	Dues
Special	6/3/00	\$695	Dues
Special	10/19/02	\$713	Dues
Special	10/16/04	\$800	Dues

\*Number represents the amount to which dues were raised.

\*\*Numbers represent approval of 3 consecutive annual increases.

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## Directory of Services IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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ELA Public Safety 570-643-3385  
ELA Community Center 570-646-8118  
PA Game Commission 570-420-3754  
Monroe County Dog Warden  
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ASPCA 570-421-6761

ELA and Louie are bringing you the news: Something is coming your way.



## HOME COOKING

## Irish Soda Bread

4 cups all-purpose flour, sifted  
 1/2 cup sugar  
 2 teaspoons caraway seeds  
 2 cups buttermilk

1/2 teaspoon salt  
 3 Tablespoons baking powder  
 2 Tablespoons raisins, or currants

Heat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl sift flour, salt, baking powder and sugar. Stir in seeds and raisins. Gradually add milk, stir until blended. Pour into greased loaf pan. Bake 1 hour and 10 minutes. (Adjust per your oven gas/elec/convection)

Corn Casserole By Edie DeVito

1 (15oz.) can creamed corn  
 2 whole eggs  
 1 stick butter, softened  
 1 box corn muffin mix

1 (15 oz.) can whole corn, drained  
 1 cup sour cream  
 1/3 cup sugar

Mix all ingredients except muffin mix, blending well.  
 Add muffin mix to mixed ingredients. Again, blend well.  
 Pour into greased 9 x 13 x 2 pan.  
 Bake one hour at 350 degrees.

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4 tablespoons flour  
 4 tablespoons sugar  
 2 tablespoons cocoa  
 1 egg  
 3 tablespoons milk  
 3 tablespoons oil  
 3 tablespoons chocolate chips (optional)  
 A small splash of vanilla extract  
 1 large coffee mug (MicroSafe)

Add dry ingredients to mug, and mix well. Add the egg and mix thoroughly.

Pour in the milk and oil and mix well..

Add the chocolate chips (if using) and vanilla extract, and mix again.

Put your mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes at 1000 watts.

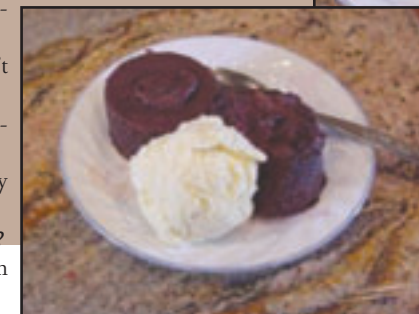
The cake will rise over the top of the mug, but don't be alarmed!

Allow to cool a little, and tip out onto a plate if desired.

EAT ! (this can serve 2 if you want to feel slightly more virtuous).

**And why is this the most dangerous cake recipe in the world?**

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