



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY DANNY SPURKO

## From The President's Desk

Whenever I think about the past or hear stories about my parents growing up in Erskine, I picture it like an old black and white TV show. I'm sadly old enough to remember watching TV on a TV that was only black and white too. It wasn't the main TV in the house, but we definitely still had one! From those giant box black and white TVs to today's slim Ultra 4K screens... times have definitely changed.

Back in my 20s, I went to a bachelor party at Foxwoods in Connecticut for someone who grew up in Erskine. The weekend actually started at Little Beach Clubhouse so friends and family who couldn't spend the whole weekend at the casino could still celebrate. After that, I drove a bunch of Erskine guys up to Foxwoods.

On the ride home, we got completely lost in some random Connecticut town. As we drove through it, we joked that it looked like the movie Pleasantville with Tobey Maguire and Reese Witherspoon.

If you never saw it, the movie starts in black and white and follows two teenagers who end up inside an old TV show where life is simple and nothing ever changes. As people begin experiencing new things and ideas, the town slowly changes into color and starts to grow.

## Upcoming Events

**FRIDAY, JUNE 5TH**  
**FUN FRIDAY!**  
 UPPER LAKE PAVILION  
 5:00 P.M.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH**  
**FUN FRIDAY!**  
 UPPER LAKE PAVILION  
 5:00 P.M.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 19TH**  
**ELPOA GOLF OUTING**  
**NO FUN FRIDAY**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 26TH**  
**FUN FRIDAY!**  
 UPPER LAKE PAVILION  
 5:00 P.M.

**FRIDAY, JULY 3RD**  
**NO FUN FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY, JULY 4TH**  
**JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> PICNIC**  
 UPPER LAKE PAVILION  
 12:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

## From the President's Desk Continued

Every Memorial Day weekend, I think about that drive through our little "Pleasantville," and honestly, it reminds me of Erskine Lake.

This is our 98th summer at Erskine Lake. What started as "Lake Erskine Country Club" was built around beaches, boating, fishing, dances, and summers at the lake. Over time, those little seasonal bungalows became year round homes where generations of families and friends continue making memories together.

I've shared before that my mom's family started spending summers here in the 1950s, and my dad moved here full time in 1953. Maybe it's just me, but I can only picture the past in black and white. Simple times and simpler living.



But when I think about the future of ELPOA, I see it in full color and Ultra 4K. At 98 years young, this community still has a bright future ahead.

I'm excited for another summer together. One day, maybe our present will become someone else's black and white memory. But for now, I'm grateful for the blue skies, green trees, and the sun hitting the lake water just right.

Let's enjoy this summer and make some memories.

I think it's also a good time to share some of the history of ELPOA that my cousin Brad Tuttle wrote during the 75th anniversary back in 2003. Enjoy!

<https://elpoa.com/history.html>

## Membership Reminders

- All members must wear their badges while on ELPOA property and attending ELPOA functions.
- You must be with your guest at all times on ELPOA property
- All guests must be with an adult .  
Members under the age of 18 cannot have a non-ELPOA member as a guest.
- Residents who are eligible to join ELPOA cannot be a guest.
- The ELPOA Rules and Regulations and Bylaws can be found on [erskinelakes.com](http://erskinelakes.com). Log in and click on Members.

## Information Technology Committee Update

Summer activities are getting underway. We will be sending information out to keep everyone up to date through our eBlasts and calendar updates. Be sure to see the ELPOA calendar for upcoming events and activities. Please keep us posted on any calendar changes at [calendar@elpoa.com](mailto:calendar@elpoa.com). The online ELPOA email database is now updated for email blasts. Please be sure to log into [ErskineLakes.com](http://ErskineLakes.com) if you need any changes to your primary or secondary email addresses.

Please check your spam or junk folders regularly and click the "not spam" or "safe sender" box in any ELPOA email found there to help minimize this problem.

## Information Technology Committee Update Continued

If you hear of any member that is not receiving emails, please email [ELPOA@elpoa.com](mailto:ELPOA@elpoa.com) or [Admin@ErskineLakes.com](mailto:Admin@ErskineLakes.com) so we can make any needed corrections.

For current activities, go to [www.erskinelakes.com/events](http://www.erskinelakes.com/events) for information. You can also check out the ELPOA Facebook community group for current information if you are a Facebook user. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ELPOA/> and request to be part of that group if you are not a member already.

And as a reminder, please do not provide any personal or banking information in any emails. ELPOA will never ask you for payments or any sensitive information, such as usernames or passwords, via email.

Thank you,  
Information Technology

## Water & Ecology Committee Update

We are continuing to be active with lake treatments and having our water movers and fountains in place at the beaches and common areas. Weed treatments have shown benefits already and the lake water is safe to be used to water lawns and flowers as desired. Our lake treatment provider has been on the lake a few times already to treat the water and we are waiting to see if we need the harvester to come out to remove surface level weeds and algae.

The latest service reports show good water quality, and we expect that to continue through the summer.

As with every summer season, we are affected by various weather conditions. High temperatures, strong sun and dry weather can create conditions that contribute to algae growth. These are normally temporary and we will do our best to stay on top of it.

One of our best tools for keeping our waters clear has been keeping the water flowing with the water movers and fountains. Good water flow around the lake is important to keep our waters clear. It is very important that lake front owners position their boats, particularly the larger ones, parallel to the shoreline to minimize the blockage of water flow. The water movers and fountains operate on a regular schedule to keep water flowing. With that, we want to remind all boaters and fishermen to please keep a minimum five-foot distance from these devices and their anchor lines. It is easy to disrupt the anchors and knock them out of line, and more important it is dangerous for our W&E team checking on them when they find fishhooks lodged in the anchor lines and protective netting. If you notice any issues or concerns, please email us at [water@elpoa.com](mailto:water@elpoa.com).

As always, please limit your use of fertilizer that may find its way into the lake and always bag your lawn clippings and leaves and don't let them wash into the lake, either directly or through the storm drains around the lake.

Thank you,  
Water & Ecology



**SEPTICS SHOULD  
BE PUMPED EVERY  
2 - 3 YEARS**

## BRAP Committee Update

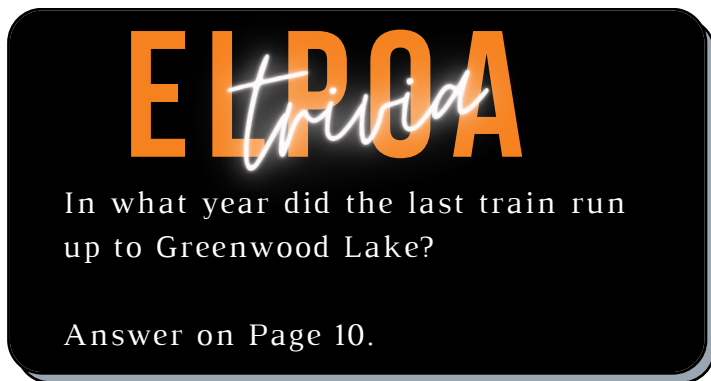
### Boats, Rafts, and Access Points

Members who previously stored a boat(s) at an Access Point/Beach can continue to lease their assigned space(s) if they have paid \$40 per space for the 2026 season.

Members wanting to store a boat(s) at an Access Point/Beach for the first time must submit a signed Application with the \$40 per space fee. Lease Applications are available from [brap@elpoa.com](mailto:brap@elpoa.com).

In accordance with ELPOA Rules and Regulations, all boats, paddle boards, kayaks and anchored rafts, including inflatable anchored rafts, on ELPOA property must have a current decal.

The BRAP Committee will begin checking 2026 boat decals after June 1<sup>st</sup>, so please place your decal in a visible location on the stern of the boat.



## ELPOA Security

Once again, we will have evening patrols of ELPOA property by security patrol officers. This is for your protection and that of surrounding ELPOA property.

Please keep in mind that you should have your 2026 ELPOA badge/tag ready to present to the security officer. This is the only way the security officer can be sure of your membership.

Photos of a badge on a phone or other device are NOT allowed as proof. All ELPOA properties are CLOSED at 11:00pm.

Guests are only allowed if accompanied by an ELPOA member who is 18 years or older. Guests are NOT allowed to use ELPOA facilities alone. Each guest is required, if requested, to give the security officer their name, address, and age.

Dogs or other animals, on a lease or free, are NOT ALLOWED on any ELPOA property.

All bicycles, scooters, hoverboards and the like (foot operated, electric or gasoline powered) are only permitted in parking lots (NOT on sidewalks, basketball or tennis courts).

No glass of any kind is allowed on any outdoor ELPOA properties.

Alcoholic beverages (including beer, wine, coolers, etc.) are prohibited at all times, unless they are part of an ELPOA sanctioned event.

Smoking of any substance, vaping, E-Cigarettes and other uses of tobacco products are prohibited on ELPOA property.

For more information on this and other items, please consult the current "ELPOA RULES & REGULATIONS ENFORCED ALL YEAR ROUND". You can email [SECRETARY@ELPOA.COM](mailto:SECRETARY@ELPOA.COM) if you need a copy.

If you notice any activity that requires attention, you are encouraged to report them to the security patrol officer or email us at [security@elpoa.com](mailto:security@elpoa.com). In the case of an urgent situation, you can call the Ringwood police at 973-962-7017.

We wish you a safe and enjoyable ELPOA summer!

# A Message from the Lifeguards

Your 2026 ELPOA Lifeguards are getting ready for another summer at Erskine Lakes! Safety is every lifeguards' first priority. Before heading to the beach, the lifeguards want you to remind you:

- 💧 Lifeguards are on duty from 12:00pm-6:00pm (when the flag is raised!)
- 💧 There is absolutely NO glass allowed on the beach
- 💧 There is absolutely NO alcohol, smoking, or vaping allowed on the beach
- 💧 After hours, there is a carry-in, carry-out policy for all trash.
- 💧 Swim only in the designated swim areas.
- 💧 There are NO boats allowed in the designated swim areas.
- 💧 Children under 8 years old must be supervised by an ADULT (18+) family member or caretaker at all times. This includes in the water, sand, and on the playground.
- 💧 Please show your badges and tell the guard your badge number each time you enter our beaches. Badges cannot be shared. Only those living in your household can use the badges

## UPDATED INFORMATION: PLEASE READ!

### 1.A Statement About Deep Water Swimming at Erskine Lakes

Please note that while an official swim test is no longer required for ELPOA members, the lifeguards remain responsible for ensuring the safety of all swimmers. If a lifeguard determines that a swimmer is not demonstrating the skills necessary to safely use the deep-water area on a particular day, they may ask that swimmer to remain in shallow water.

Swimmers using the deep-water area should be able to swim independently and safely without assistance from another swimmer or flotation device.

While a swim assessment is not required for members, lifeguards are available to conduct one at any time, provided they are not actively guarding the water. These assessments can be a helpful tool for swimmers and family members who would like guidance in determining whether a swimmer is ready to safely use the deep-water area. Lifeguards are happy to work with families to evaluate a swimmer's abilities and make recommendations based on their observations.

Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Lifeguard Coordinator or Aquatic Director.

Please remember that all guests who wish to swim in deep water are still required to pass a swim test.

### 2. Beach Tag Number and Household Name will be Recorded

Similar to last year, lifeguards will periodically be collecting data regarding the number of people at the beach and in the water.

To maintain more information, **members will be asked for their tag and the lifeguards will record the number and the household the tag belongs to.**

With the number of members of the lake, we want to continue checking on our numbers to ensure our beaches and the water is safe for everyone!

## ELPOA Library

Mark your calendars! The ELPOA Library will be on display on Saturday, July 18th from 9:30-noon at the Little Beach Clubhouse. If you have any Erskine items that you would like to contribute, or if you would like to help with the set up on Friday, July 17th, please call Janet at 201-403-1699.

## Tricky Tray Committee



The Beach Club Tricky Tray will be held on Friday, July 31st. Here's how you can help make it a success:

- Save the date and attend the Tricky Tray
- Donate a Tricky Tray Basket
- Clean out the unused, brand-new items and gifts and donate them to Beach Club
- Collect and donate used wicker baskets or storage bins
- Ask your employer if they can make a donation
- Own a business? Make a basket donation or place an ad in our program and 200 people from the area will see your name in the program and on display
- Email [erskinelakesfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:erskinelakesfoundation@gmail.com) for any other questions or to arrange for a donation pick-up



**New Jersey**  
**E-BIKE LAWS**  
 AS OF JANUARY 19, 2026  
**Garden State**

**REMINDER**

**E-BIKES & E-SCOOTERS ARE NOW CLASSIFIED AS MOTORIZED BICYCLES**

<p>✓ <b>WHO CAN RIDE</b></p> <p>AGE 17 OR OLDER WITH A DRIVER'S LICENSE</p> <p>AGE 15 OR OLDER WITH A MOPED LICENSE</p>	<p><b>WHO CAN'T RIDE</b></p> <p>⊘</p> <p>UNDER 15 YEARS OLD CANNOT RIDE E-BIKES OR E-SCOOTERS</p>
<p><b>REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LICENSE</li> <li>• REGISTRATION</li> <li>• INSURANCE</li> </ul>	<p><b>6 MONTH GRACE PERIOD</b></p> <p>TO GET REGISTERED &amp; INSURED</p> <p>DEADLINE: JULY 19, 2026</p>

**STAY INFORMED. RIDE SAFE.**

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT [www.njmvc.gov](http://www.njmvc.gov)

## ELPOA Fitness Club

Fitness Club Kicks off the week of June 15th!! Attached is a list of the different offerings we have this summer!



JUNE & JULY SCHEDULE ATTACHED!

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR GOOGLE FORM REGISTRATION OR DOWNLOAD AND PRINT ATTACHED REGISTRATION FORM

## 47th Annual ELPOA Memorial Golf Outing

The ELPOA 47th Annual Memorial Golf Outing is less than a month away on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't already signed up, please do so ASAP via the website link below. This will be a great kick off to the Summer.

This year's Outing will once again take place at the Crystal Springs Country Club, where we will take over the entire course including Cascades for an afternoon shotgun. As usual we have a full day of activities planned, starting with our registration and barbecue lunch @ 11:30. Get your foursome ready and let us know if you can join us, as soon as possible. The foursomes are filling up fast.

The day is capped off back at the Erskine Lake Hilltop Clubhouse with a full catered dinner for you and your guest. We will introduce our scholarship winners during the evening. Also, we are happy to announce that we will be honoring Janet Spirko at the Golf Outing dinner as our Person of the Year. Janet has selflessly served ELPOA for many years, in many different capacities. Thank you Janet for your dedicated service to our community.

The outing will again support college scholarships in memory of ELPOA members who are no longer with us. The Outing falls under the umbrella of the Erskine Lakes Foundation which is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing recreational/sports programs for the children of members of the Erskine Lake Property Owners Association and is recognized as a 501 C (3) organization (Tax ID # 46-4689835).

If you have any questions, please send us a note. We look forward to seeing everyone on June 19th!

Crystal Springs Golf Club, Hamburg, NJ  
Friday June 19th 2026  
Registration and Lunch 11:30 – 12:30  
1:00pm Shotgun Start

- \$200 per Golfer Includes: Greens Fees, Golf Cart & Lunch @ Crystal Springs
- 7PM Dinner @ Hilltop Clubhouse including a Guest
- Trophies, Awards & Giveaways – including:
  - ELPOA Sportswear, Balls & Tees
  - Low team score, Closest to the pin and Longest drive
  - Raffle Prizes (including): Golf Clubs, Golf Bags, Golf Foursomes, Home Electronics, Golf Apparel and much more

We now also accept payment via Zelle at ELF@ELPOA.com. **No fee is charged on Zelle payments.** Full payment is due by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please sign-up online at:

<https://elpoa-memorial-golf-outing.perfectgolfevent.com/registration>

For questions contact:

Ken Spirko

973-699-4322, spirk@optonline.net

Chris DeDeyn

201-704-4987, dedeyncc@gmail.com

**Please see Sponsorship  
Information attached.**



# Old Timers' Corner

**An interview with Ed Gussefeld  
by Janet Spirko**

Welcome to another season of the Old Timers' Corner. This is my 60th interview and I have loved every one of them! It took several years of begging and pleading, but Eddie Gussefeld finally agreed to an interview. He has been on my radar for several years because he has lived in the same house here in Erskine for 76 years! And he is a wealth of knowledge about all things Erskine!

Ed's parents were born in Hamburg, Germany, came to America around 1928 and raised their 3 children here in Ringwood. You may know that there was a large German presence here in Erskine back then and Ed recalls that Bellot Road used to be called "Little Germany." He reminisced about some of his favorite German dishes that his Mom made, including pork roast with sauerkraut and mashed potatoes. He remembers that his Mom would make the fresh cabbage and sauerkraut in the morning and let it simmer all day. He recalls that there were always "so many potatoes!"

Ed attended E.G. Hewitt School for Kindergarten through 8th grade since that was the only school in town back then! When I asked him about his summers as a child, he quickly responded, "Growing up was great. I wouldn't have changed a thing. There was so much going on; the activities, fishing, sailing, Aquatics, the dances, Casbah. I had a good, close group of friends." Typically when I do an interview and ask for a few names from the past, I get maybe two or three. Ed, on the other hand, proceeded to rattle off a litany of childhood friends that went something like this: "Donald Ranft, Ray Ranft, Bill Sloan, John Sloan, Gene Deady, Anthony Amodeo, Dennis Virga, Noreen Deady, Sharon Zavaglia,

Yvonne Zavaglia, Joe Hengemuhle, Patty Mitchell(Brogan)...." I had to stop him! I couldn't write that fast! What a memory!! Some of his favorite memories were hanging out in the Zavaglia's 2nd floor of their garage, playing pool and ping pong. He also remembers when they all were old enough to go to the Saturday night dance and "mingle with the adults." He said, "We were a pretty rowdy bunch, but we had the utmost respect for the parents."

Ed gave me a large framed Aquatics photo that he wanted to donate to the ELPOA Library. Not only could he name a majority of the 60+ swimmers in the photo, he also had an amazing recall of which strokes they swam!

Ed attended Lakeland Regional High School. He was a competitive swimmer 5 nights a week with the North Jersey Swimming Association. I am amazed that he travelled to the Newark Boys Club and Brooklynn Tech 5 nights a week on top of keeping up with his school work. Ed went on to coach Erskine Aquatics for 5 years, then coached swimming at other locations, even in Philadelphia and California. It sounds like swimming and sports in general were a way of life in his family. Ed recalled that his father qualified for the Olympics in 1924 for the high jump, but sadly, Germany wound up not participating that year.

Ed graduated from Lycoming College in Pennsylvania with a Business degree. He sold insurance for a while but went on to work for Hilton Hotels for 35 years. He is somewhat of a world traveller. He enjoyed several trips to Germany, and also visited France and Spain. He went on an astounding 35 cruises!! When I asked him what was his favorite vacation spot of all, he replied, "Tortola and Virgin Gorda in the British Virgin Islands. It was paradise!!"

# Old Timers' Corner

## Continued

I might add that Erskine Lakes is Ed's own little paradise as well. He's had a few medical setbacks, but his goal is to get back in that lake this summer. And he will. This 100 percent German guy has drive and passion, and we'll see him swimming back out to the raft before too long.

Thank you and Danke schön for the interview, Eddie! Why did you make me wait so long?

## Join the Erskine Lakes Women's Club!

All women of ELPOA are invited to join the Erskine Lakes Women's Club! [Click here](#) to visit our Facebook page!

Our next event is June 11<sup>th</sup> @ Little Beach Lakeside Chat and Summer Kick Off

Location: Little Beach

Date: Thursday, June 11th

Time: 7 PM

What to Bring:

- Your favorite snacks
- BYOB (sip & share encouraged!)
- A beach chair or blanket for max comfort

Come enjoy the sunset, connect with fellow members, and help shape what's next for our club!

[Click here to sign up!](#)



## What some of our High School Seniors have to say about growing up in Erskine Lakes:

"Erskine Lakes will always hold a special place in my heart because it offered such a fun and supportive environment to grow up in."

"Growing up in Erskine were some of the best years of my life."

"Growing up here allowed me to make heartfelt connections that will weather distance and time."

"At age nine, riding my bike to the lake felt like independence and adventure."

"It wasn't until I was older that I realized not every kid had the summer I did."

"This community and the fun memories will never be far from me, nor forgotten."

"I know that I'll always have a home in Erskine Lakes, when I'm away at college and long after that."

"It's Erskine Lakes- safe, familiar, welcoming."

"Erskine is the kind of place where being outside all day is normal and every day brings new laughter and excitement."

"As an ELPOA Lifeguard and Counselor, I can say that Erskine Lakes has made me a leader, taught me responsibility and has shown me how thankful I am to live here."

"When I look to my future and think about raising my own kids, I can't picture my family anywhere else."

"As kids, we looked up to the Counselors. They cared very much that we were having fun and making progress as swimmers."

"I am proud to call this lake my home."

**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
ALL OUR GRADUATES!!**

# SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEERS



Mulch men



Emily painting the Upper Lake bathrooms



Bob and Mike showing their ULMC Presidential pride



Upper Lake kitchen thoroughly cleaned and ready for the season



Starting 'em young!



Gerry taking one for the team

## Reminder!

All committees and clubs are run by volunteers with families, jobs and other responsibilities. Please make a point of saying thank you. Please reach out if you would like to volunteer. We are always looking for more help!!

For questions, concerns or to volunteer please send an email to [elpoa@elpoa.com](mailto:elpoa@elpoa.com) and please be patient if you do not receive an immediate reply.



<b>ELPOA Contact Information</b>	
<b>E-Mail (Preferred)</b>	<b>Phone</b>
General - <a href="mailto:elpoa@elpoa.com">elpoa@elpoa.com</a>	973-962-6407
Secretary - <a href="mailto:secretary@elpoa.com">secretary@elpoa.com</a>	<b>Address</b>
Water & Ecology - <a href="mailto:water@elpoa.com">water@elpoa.com</a>	P.O. Box 723
Membership - <a href="mailto:membership@elpoa.com">membership@elpoa.com</a>	Ringwood, NJ 07456
Information Technology - <a href="mailto:admin2@elpoa.com">admin2@elpoa.com</a>	<b>Website</b>
	<a href="http://www.elpoa.com">www.elpoa.com</a>

From the Editor: If you would like any announcements or articles published in the courier, please send an e-mail to [courier@elpoa.com](mailto:courier@elpoa.com). Please submit photos to be featured on the front page! Deadline for the July 2026 Courier is June 20, 2026. Thank you!

Upper Lake Memory Garden Reflection Brick Order Form

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Reflection Brick Information  
 Deceased E.L.P.O.A Member's Name:  
 (max 12 letters per line; 2 lines max)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \$100 (checks payable to U.L.S.F.)  
 Return to: U.L.M.C. Scholarship Fund c/o Dave Smith  
 82 Upper Lakeview Avenue , Ringwood, NJ 07456

Paving bricks in the Memory Garden, located at Upper Lake, will be engraved with the name of a deceased ELPOA member of your choice. For more information contact Don at 973-962-0182.

