

# Elk Rapids Updates

JUNE – AUGUST 2021

QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER FROM  
THE VILLAGE  
GOVERNMENT

## STAFF CORNER

This newsletter we are featuring Chief of Police, David Centala. Centala is originally from downstate, but his wife grew up in Elk Rapids. They were extremely happy to move up here when he accepted the role of Chief of Police three years ago. Together they have three children, one of his sons graduated from ERHS in 2020 and his daughter works at Pearl's.

Chief says, "there is no place I'd rather serve" and that he loves how friendly the community is. He enjoys serving alongside the dedicated officers of the Elk Rapids Police Department.

**THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO  
TO KEEP OUR  
COMMUNITY SAFE,  
CHIEF!**



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## ELK RAPIDS LIBRARY SERVICES PERSIST THROUGH PANDEMIC

**Even in times of crisis, libraries provide refuge and continue to offer vital services to their communities.**

Libraries are centers for learning, for trusted information, and critical resources that communities need to thrive. They connect us with each other, with the world, and with vital information—online, through books and other resources, and through activities and services. Libraries are a refuge in times of crisis.

The Elk Rapids Library may be small, but we are doing our part to help the community through the pandemic by offering 24/7 WiFi access outside, providing WiFi hotspots for internet anywhere, adding digital content including eMagazines and streaming video, and making virtual programs and instructional videos available on our YouTube channel.

We offer "touchless" service by having items reserved online, checked out, and picked up in the lobby, and online library card renewal. These services, and caution, have allowed us to continue to provide great library service with zero outbreaks or closures due to Covid.

Our most important next step is planning for the future. We must pivot from crisis response mode to how we will operate in the post-pandemic world mode. There has been so much creative and innovative thinking born out of necessity that we cannot, and should not, "go back to normal". We need to determine what the new normal looks like, and start working toward that vision.

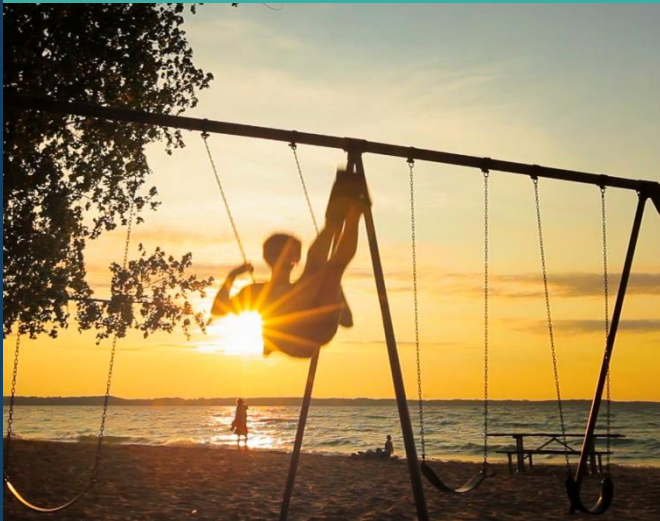
**- Written by the Elk Rapids District  
Library Director Nannette Miller**

**MEET THE NEW PARKS  
& RECREATION  
COMMISSION  
CHAIRPERSON,  
MELISSA WEST!**

Melissa has served on the Parks and Recreation Commission for about 9 years and was recently elected to be Chair by fellow board members at the May meeting. She was raised in the Village and moved back about 14 years ago.

Melissa loves serving alongside her fellow board members, each of whom contribute in thoughtful and unique ways. She is excited for the future and to see how the Parks & Rec Commission can help the community and the natural beauty that surrounds us in Elk Rapids.

Melissa enjoys spending time with her family and paddle boarding, skiing, and painting in her free time.



**The Parks and Recreation Commission**

focuses on maintaining and improving the beautiful parks within the Village limits to connect the community and visitors with the spectacular natural resources that surround us in Elk Rapids. They meet every first Thursday of the month to discuss park related issues and determine how to best spend funds for the betterment of the community. They are guided by the goals and objectives laid out in the 2018 Five-Year Community Recreation Plan, which anyone can find under their tab in the [Document Center](#).

The commission supports projects that enhance the natural spaces around the

village and promote unique recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. One such project was the creation of the ice rink on the tennis courts at Veterans Memorial Park. Since 2018, locals have loved the chance to get out and enjoy winter by skating at the park. The ice rink will be back in the 2021-2022 season, but the location may change.

At the May Parks and Recreation meeting, the commission agreed to financially contribute to the Green Elk Rapids committee proposal to update the Bass Lake public access site on Lake Street. Site improvements such as green infrastructure and "best practice" additions include shoreline preservation, storm water management, and drainage swales.

**SUMMER IN  
THE ELK  
RAPIDS PARKS**

**The Parks & Rec Commission has been supporting the improvements of outdoor spaces for the community to enjoy this summer.**

The Parks and Recreation Commission also supports Paddle Antrim in their efforts to improve the kayak launch at Rotary Park. The current plan boasts several public amenities such as a kayak launch, restrooms, kayak and bike racks, kayak wash station, and more. Village Council approved Paddle Antrim to move forward with this project at their Regular Council Meeting on March 15, 2021.

**The Parks and Recreation Commission is excited to support these initiatives and looks forward to more community and natural area improvements in the future!**





# HARBOR STAFF TRAINING

**On Saturday, May 1, 2021, the newly hired Harbor Summer Staff participated in onsite training.**

The Harbor staff engaged in and completed training for the 2021 boating season in May. Staff went over important safety procedures such as fire training and electrical safety. All of the staff enjoyed the hands-on training with the fire extinguishers, as

well as practicing water safety skills. The harbor attendants also participated in a separate first-aid and CPR seminar to ensure the safety of all those who enjoy the harbor during the boating season.

Summer staff old and new are excited for the upcoming season. Zach VanComprenolle has enjoyed working at the harbor since 2018 starting as a dock attendant, and he has

stepped up into the role of supervisor. Another returning employee Kevin Sanderson says that he is looking forward to assisting the boaters in the harbor.

This season the harbor has a total of 21 dock attendants, 11 new and 10 returning.

**Stop by the Harbor to welcome the summer staff!**



## COUNCIL CORNER

Meet Village Council Trustee Charlie Pryde! Newly elected to council last

November, Charlie is excited to serve this community that he has been connected to since he was 2 years old. He and his wife bought a house in the Village 20 years ago and moved in as permanent residents in 2018. He is a Navy Veteran who is motivated to serve the community, meet new people, and understand the issues that face the Village.

In his free time, Charlie enjoys distance swimming in Lake Michigan and Elk River, as well as cycling around Torch Lake.

## Village Government Summer Intern LAUREN BENITEZ

**The Village of Elk Rapids Government is excited to welcome Lauren to the administrative team for the summer!**

A rising junior at the University of Michigan, Lauren is earning her degree in Organizational Studies, an interdisciplinary program that focuses on psychology, sociology, and philosophy. She is on the Rowing Team, and in May her team won the Big Ten Rowing Championship.

Lauren has been connected to the Elk Rapids community for a long time. She has many happy memories of visiting when she was younger, and in 2013 her family purchased a cabin on Elk Lake.

Lauren is most looking forward to helping the residents and visitors of Elk Rapids as well as assisting with digitizing village documents so they can be available to the public online.





## For More Community Event Info...

Please view the Elk Rapids community calendar on the Elk Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce's website at:

[elkrapidschamber.org](http://elkrapidschamber.org)

**A big THANK YOU to everyone who took time for interviews and contributed photos that highlight our beautiful community!**

We look forward to putting together more newsletters to keep the community informed 😊

## Upcoming Dates:

For more Village of Elk Rapids dates, please check [elkrapids.org](http://elkrapids.org)

- **Regular Village Council Meetings**  
Every first and third Mondays of the month, except for holidays.  
JUNE 7 & 21, JULY 6 & 19, AND AUGUST 2 & 16
- **Downtown Development Authority Meetings**  
Every second Wednesday of the month.  
JUNE 9, JULY 14, & AUGUST 11
- **Harbor Commission Meetings**  
Every second Monday of the month.  
JUNE 14, JULY 12, & AUGUST 9
- **Parks & Recreation Meetings**  
Every first Thursday of the month.  
JUNE 3, JULY 1, & AUGUST 5
- **Household Hazardous Waste Elk Rapids Collection Day**  
ACD will collect household hazardous waste at the Elk Rapids DPW Station on 117 Lake Street. Check [antrimcd.com](http://antrimcd.com) for more details.  
JUNE 5, 8 AM – 12 PM SHARP
- **Brush Collection Dates**  
Will continue on the first Monday of the month through summer and fall.  
JUNE 7, JULY 6 (TUESDAY), & AUGUST 2
- **Water Quality Q&A**  
At the Department of Public Works.  
JUNE 8, 5 PM
- **Wooden Boat Show at the Harbor**  
JUNE 12
- **Harbor Concerts**  
Check [elkrapids.org/harbor/events](http://elkrapids.org/harbor/events) for more details!  
JUNE 26, JULY 4 & 17, AUGUST 1, 7, & 21
- **Village Summer Taxes & Yearly Compacter Pass Mailed Out.**  
JULY 1
- **Harbor Days**  
Check [elkrapids.org/harbor/events](http://elkrapids.org/harbor/events) for more details!  
AUGUST 4-7

### PHOTO CREDIT:

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Harbor Staff Training, page 3: Harbormaster Mike Singleton