



ELDEANews

December 2023

INTERESTING STUFF FROM WADE



Happy Holidays

and smooth sailing in 2024

from *Eldean Shipyard*

Most years, I design our marina Christmas card. This year, however, I thought I would see if AI could help me be more productive with this design. I asked Google to make a nautical themed card and in just a couple of seconds, I had my wish. The card above shows 4 of the cards created almost instantaneously. I think this was a success and look forward to more time saving AI help in the future.

**Wishing You and Yours a Healthy Holiday filled
with Joy, Family, and Friends!**

- Thank you for choosing Eldean Shipyard!



Holiday Sale!



December 1 to December 31

Stop by the Shipstore to shop for this year's Christmas Gifts.

Most all of our foot-wear, t-shirts, clothing, and Gill foul weather gear is 25 – 40% off during the Holiday Season. Stop by to check out the foul weather gear, boots, sailing gloves, assorted tops for layering/warmth, as well as some Macatawa and Eldean Shipyard themed shirts.

Introducing Mike Vargo!



I am excited to introduce Mike Vargo as our new Operations Manager! As our Operations Manager, Mike will have his hands in nearly everything at the marina. Mike grew up working at his own family's boat shop and repair business in Union, Michigan. After they sold the business, Mike went on to be a Service Manager at Bass Pro Shops, the Power Sports Sales Manager at Cabellas, and more recently, the Service and General Manager at Gull Lake Marine. Mike is a trained and certified engine mechanic and his past certifications include Mercury Outboard Master Technician, Mercury V12, Mercruiser, Evinrude, OMC Stern drive, Yamaha, and Volvo Penta.

Mike has been on our campus for a month now and providing his expertise and working closely with our Service Department on this winter's work load, helping in our Shipstore with inventories, and using his proficiency in our computer software to help things run smoother in several departments.

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The Herb Eldean Education Center

As I reported last year, my family is helping to bring my Dad's legacy to fruition by supporting the Outdoor Discovery Center in rebuilding and transforming their old "Founders Hall" into the "Herb Eldean Education Center".

CL Construction (A-16) has built the building and is currently adding final touches/finishes, but there still is work to do.



Our family has made a sizable matching donation in order to make this a reality, however, we need others to participate (we need donations to match!). Please think about supporting this project. **Donations are accepted on-line [here](http://www.outdoordiscovery.org/herb-eldean-education-center).** More information is available at www.outdoordiscovery.org/herb-eldean-education-center.

Winter Storage & Repair...

We are currently scheduling NOW for work orders to be done on your boats this winter. Don't wait to the last minute to call us or we run the risk of not being able to complete the work before the launch season.

Please contact [Scott](#) or [Heather](#) with any of your service needs or questions.

Harbor View Lofts & Event Center

The Harbor View Event Center is available for your party, wedding, or special event. When you hear people asking about a beautiful event location, please spread the word. Loft #3 is the largest of the 3 units and includes 8 Bedrooms, 5 Bathrooms, 2 Laundry's, 4 decks, and enough room to socialize! [Contact Jessica](#), our Rental Manager, or go to LakeMacatawaVacationRentals.com for more information.

Also donate to the Weather Buoy!

The South Haven Steelheaders formed a 501(c)(3) to handle fundraising for both the Port Sheldon and South Haven Weather Buoys. Collected funds are tracked separately for each buoy. Checks supporting the Port Sheldon Buoy should be written to "South Haven Steelheaders Sport Fishing Association" with "Port Sheldon Buoy" noted in the memo line. Please send donations to:

Amanda Filbrandt
18611 65th Street
Bangor, MI 49013

They are currently short of their goal, which is to raise enough money to pay for 2023's anticipated buoy budget of \$15,000. If you have any questions, please contact Brad Stephenson at (330) 495-9555 or brad.stephenson32@gmail.com or Bill Sikkel at (616) 836-7504 or bsikkel@sikkellaw.com.

Thanks in advance for your support,
Brad Stephenson
President
Holland Steelheaders

Not recommended....



A Hydro-Pod Vessel

This homemade hamster wheel contraption was contrived to cross the Atlantic by a single peddler. The Coast Guard stopped him; [read here](#).

Boat Fails; Ouch!

If you like to see other people doing dumb things with their boats, then [this YouTube video is for you](#).

Gift Idea! Big Red [Oak] Bowls



A selection "Big Red" Oak Bowls are in the Shipstore!

We have bowls carved from Maple and Red Oak trees from our Marina Property. The set of Red Oak bowls are stamped on the back with the Big Red Lighthouse. What a great gift: A Big Red themed bowl carved at the Holland Bowl Mill from a Big Red Oak Tree from Macatawa! Bowls range from \$15 to \$400. The big bowls are amazing and rare! Act fast and there will be time for the Holland Bowl Mill to add a personalized message or design!

WATER LEVEL UNCERTAINTY...

My estimate next year is that the water will be down 2 inches compared to 2023. To see the water data from the USACE:

[-Options for all Great Lakes](#)

Great Lake Cruising Club

The Great Lakes Cruising Club (GLCC) is a phenomenal resource for you! Besides having a wealth of hands-on information and contacts in & on the Great Lakes, the GLCC also has classes. Webinars and classroom learning are offered on a variety of subjects. There are several webinars on their current calendar. If you have been thinking about cruising one of the other Great Lakes, they are offering several classes/webinars this winter on cruising the different lakes. Other available classes include "Lithium Battery Technology for Cruising Boaters", "Currents of the Great Lakes" and a few others. Go to glcclub.com or glccschool.com for more information.



Kris Eldean has been sharing a lot of fun and interesting marina photos on Instagram. [Click Here and Follow Us!](#)

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