



# Eldean Shipyard

Macatawa, Michigan

*-Yachting at Its Finest Since 1901*

March 28, 2023

## Press Release

To: Business Editor; Boating and the Outdoors  
From: Eldean Shipyard

Subject: **Eldean Shipyard Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Dear Editor,

This summer, the family owned Eldean Shipyard will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! The 326-slip marina and resort on Lake Macatawa has expanded many times and pivoted through the years to adapt to customer needs and desires, economic pressures, low & high water, and even a war.

The marina's storied history began over 100 years ago with the start of Jesiek Bros. Shipyard in Holland Harbor, 5 miles west of Holland near the shores of Lake Michigan. At that time, Macatawa was both a resort town and also a transfer station for both passenger steamships and trains stopping in Macatawa with people visiting the area from all over the Midwest. The Jesiek Bros. Shipyard began as boat builders of both wooden runabouts and sailboats. During World War II the marina assisted in making 70 foot Sub Chasers for the United States.

Herb and Roger Eldean purchased the marina and boatyard from the Jesiek family in 1973 and the marina has been family owned and operated ever since. Over the years, many relatives have worked at the family business, doing nearly every job from boat launching to pool attendant and boat detailer to boat salesman. Patricia Eldean owned and operated the Sandpiper and Piper restaurants at the marina location for over 30 years. Roger, and wife Carol, retired several years ago while Herb continued managing the marina until his sudden passing in 2022. Wade Eldean, the son of Herb and Patricia Eldean currently runs the marina with the help of his wife, Kris.

To celebrate this important milestone, the marina is supersizing their annual start-of-the-season Memorial weekend party. Nearly every year the marina

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kicks-off the start of the year with a picnic for their members where the Eldean Family cooks hot dogs, brats, and fresh Lake Michigan salmon on the grills for all of the boaters. This year, the Eldean Family members will be taking a break from cooking and enlisting the help of the locally celebrated Hog Wild BBQ to cater in a feast! In addition, the area's Black River Band will be playing live music (Black River is the historical name given to Lake Macatawa).

Eldean Shipyard maintains a complete marine service department with dozen technicians, over 150,000 sq.ft. of heated inside winter storage, and is equipped with one 35 and one 70-ton open end Travelifts. The marina staff and technicians, with over 200 years of combined experience, are ready to meet the many and varying needs of today's boater, whether those needs are boat slips, winter storage, haul out, mechanical, electronic, painting, carpentry, fiberglass repair, or...whatever.

The marina Ship's Store carries a complete inventory marine hardware and supplies, nautical clothing and more. Gas, diesel fuel, block and cube ice are available at the fuel dock. There are two modern restroom/shower facilities, children's playground, 3 picnic areas with gas grills, 2 self-service laundries, pump-out, clubhouse, swimming pool and 2 Jacuzzi's. The Eldean's also added 2 rooftop mounted solar arrays for energy/cost reduction (a 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> are planned) and 8 electric car chargers.

In addition to the boating facilities, the Eldeans have added 7 vacation rentals at the marina.

Eldean Shipyard is the recipient of many awards including: inaugural winner for "Marina of the Year" by Marina and Dock Age Magazine, "Boat Dealer of the Year" awarded by Boat and Motor Dealer, "Building Design" awarded by American Buildings Company and three times the recipient of the "Holland Area Beautiful Award", and is a Certified Michigan Clean Marina.

If you would like to stop by for a tour and take a look at our operations, I would be happy to show you around. I look forward to your visit.

Sincerely,



Wade Eldean  
President  
Eldean Shipyard

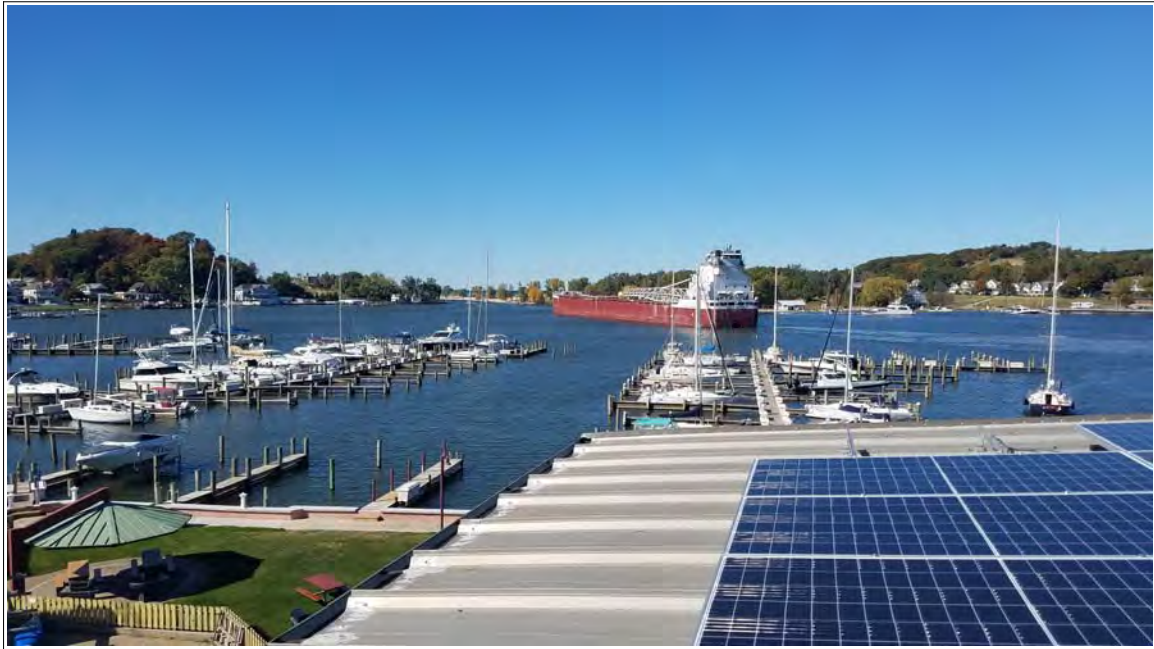




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