

Resource/Contact Information

U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers & U.S. Coast Guard

Luedke's Engineering Company Frankfort, MI
(231) 352-4414

Marine Engineering & Construction

Boat America Corp. Alexandria, VA
(888) 503-0976 #1

Life Rings & Marine Safety Equipment (wholesale)

Rock 'n' Rescue Valencia, PA
(724) 898-2335 or (724) 898-3139 fax
Throw Bags & Marine Safety Equipment

Enameltec Ontario, Canada
(905) 873-1677 or (905) 873-9617 fax
Architectural Signage (porcelain enamel)

Grand Traverse Mobile Communications
Owner: Harold Carlson (231) 947-9851
Solar-powered Call Box

Red Cross Water Safety Director
Contact Person: Jerry Hughie (248) 334-3575
Research & Water Safety Education information

Steve Betts, contractor, Frankfort, Mi
toolbox@aliens.com
Sign Deck design plans



Sharyn Bower
(231) 352-7201



Josh Mills
(231) 352-7117

FRANKFORT-ELBERTA PIER SAFETY PROJECT



PROJECT INITIATED SUMMER 2000
IN MEMORY OF CALEB SUTTER

Pier Safety Committee

Frankfort Police Chief Keith Redder
Municipal Liaison & Liability
Law Enforcement & Daily Monitoring
Call Boxes

Layton Sutter
Coast Guard Liaison
Life-Stand Layout on Pier
Water Safety Speaker

Colleen Sutter
Archivist
Dedication/Information Sign
Volunteer Coordinator

Steve Betts
Sign Deck
Life-Stand Post System
Call Box Maintenance

Suz McLaughlin
Research
Grants/Funding
Equipment/Resources

The Frankfort-Elberta Pier Safety Project was initiated in July of 2000, at the request of the Sutter family, who lost their fifteen year old son in a drowning accident off the Frankfort Pier. The Sutter family appealed to a very supportive community for help in the installation of life saving devices, call boxes and signs to make the Frankfort-Elberta pier structures a safer place for all to use.

Project Development

7/00 Committee Formed

Established Initial Goals & Time line:

- Phase 1 Installing Life Rings and Throw Bags on piers
Projected Date: August 2000, completed by Spring 2001
- Phase 2 Installing Call boxes and Water Safety Signage
Projected Date: Spring 2001 (as funding allows)
- Phase 3 Pier & Water Safety Instruction
Projected Date: Fall 2000 start, target Spring and Fall ongoing projects with public schools and summer residents
- Ongoing Maintenance & Replacement, as needed of all equipment
Projected Date: Spring 2001 start

Caleb Memorial Fund: Established through local non-profit entity
Community donations acknowledged by Sutter family, personally

Initiated grants for specific parts of project

Established procedure for acquiring funds, as needed

Research: consulting Pier Safety experts; including Army Corps, Red Cross, Coast Guard, Luedtke Marine Construction, Water Safety Equipment options, OSHA standards, Grand Haven & other Community Pier/Water Safety projects, Call Box Equipment, Weather proof signage

information Municipal Liability Issues:

Research Army Corps. involvement, Municipal's Attorneys, develop plan of for City/Village Councils input, check with other Pier Communities

8/00 Proposed Pier Safety Plan

Included the following, well researched specifics:

- 38 Life Stands, heavy-gauge metal, with 'pocket' and Brass Clips
Pocket large enough to keep Life Ring stable, yet allowing easy access
Heavy Brass Clip for Throw Bag attachment
Seeking permission to drill pier & place metal sleeve to slide Stand on, allowing flush mount with pier to avoid metal posts to trip on, when Stand removed
- 38 Type IV 24" Life Saving Rings
No attached lines due to difficulties in untrained use, tangled lines, etc.
24" Rings determined to be most appropriate for multi-purpose use
As per OSHA standards, Life Stands to be placed every 200ft. on pier
- 38 Throw Bags containing 75ft., coiled 3/8" poly cord line
Research shows this device is easier to throw, lines don't tangle in bags
- 2 Solar powered Call Boxes, located at each main pier entrance
Research shows this system more reliable than Cell operations
Easier to link with existing Benzie County's 911 system
- 2 large Water Safety Education & Caleb Dedication Signs
Due to Army Corps. restrictions of attaching to pier structure, a proposed portable Sign Deck plan submitted (10' x 10')
- Establishing a seasonal, daily, visual monitoring with Police Dept. to check on status of pier equipment

NOTE: This proposed plan was approved by the Frankfort City Council on August 21, 2000 and the Elberta Village Council, September 21, 2000. The Army Corps. of Engineers was notified of written plan in August of 2000 and approved the plan in September of 2000. The equipment was installed in Frankfort, 6/01 and Elberta, 5/02. There was a public dedication ceremony in August of 2001.

Ongoing

- Continue to develop & support Water Safety Instruction
- Install 2 Pull Alarm type Safety Devices at the Elbows of each Pier
- Install, in strategic areas along the waterfront, additional Life Saving Stands or other equipment, as deemed necessary
- Develop long term Water Safety Instruct/Education programs to assist in community's water safety issues
- Assist neighboring water-front communities with Water Safety projects by sharing information & resources, including some funding
- Support & assist the development of local Benzie Area Dive Team

The following organizations or agency's contributed requested grant monies for specific prosed projects within the Frankfort-Elberta Pier Safety Project:

The Grand Traverse Band of Chippewa & Odawa

The Seabury Foundation

The Frankfort Rotary Club

Most of the Caleb Memorial financial and volunteer contributions came directly from local businesses and individuals who wished to support this project in memory of Caleb.