

Tidewater Trail News

Fredericksburg Elks Lodge #875

Vol. XI No VII

Serving the Community Since 1903

July, 2016



Greeting my fellow Elks!

Another month has passed and these months are passing by way too quick. June was packed with some great events from our Flag Day and summer picnic celebration to our support for the Stafford County DARE Day to the annual Virginia Elks Association Spring Convention. What a great convention it was as we welcomed Ron and Nancy Hicks home after an extremely successful year for both Virginia and nationwide Elks. Ron and Nancy still have a few stops before the National Convention being held in Houston, Texas where Ron will turn over the reigns to the new Grand Exalted Ruler Elect, Mike Zellen.

We only have general meetings on the fourth Monday of both July and August. PER Bill Frostick held a lounge potluck cookout on the second Monday of both July and August last year. We plan to do the same this year so please take advantage of these cookouts to come on down to the lounge and meet some of your fellow members while sharing a bite to eat.

If you take a look around the facilities, you will notice some much needed improvements taking place. The Flemming Room has been painted and carpet will be changed out soon and all of the poison ivy and oak will be cut away from the fence line. The pond has been cleaned out and mulch has been laid around the building. Big shout-out to the Trustees for making all these improvements happen and continuing to make the Fredericksburg Elks a great place to visit.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is hands down the best fraternal organization in the United States. If you compare each organization side by side, you will see that the Elks distribute the most money in scholarships, has the best youth programs, and the best Veteran's programs. In order to maintain this status, we need to continue to keep the push on recruiting some of the best people in society to be members. We need people who are not afraid to roll their sleeves up and get to work pushing our initiatives so we can continue to be the best fraternal organization in the United States. Elkdom is where it's at folks, and my challenge to you is to look to your neighbors, look to your co-workers, look to your friends, look to your family, and recruit one new member this year.

Until next month, take care of yourself and take care of your fellow Elks!

Fraternally Yours,

Tim Mead, Exalted Ruler

UPCOMING FOR JULY...

July 2nd-6th-National Elks Convention

Mon. July 4-Independence Day

Wed. July 6-Dinner & Happy Hour, 6pm

Fri. July 8-Dinner & Queen of Hearts, 6pm

Mon. July 11-Lounge Potluck Cookout

Wed. July 13-Dinner & Happy Hour, 6pm; 7pm Home Committee Meeting,

Thur. July 14-New member Orientation

Fri. July 15-Dinner & Queen of Hearts, 6pm

Wed. July 20-Dinner & Happy Hour, 6pm

Fri. July 22-Dinner & Queen of Hearts, 6pm

Mon. July 25-Lodge Meeting, 7pm

Wed. July 27-Dinner & Happy Hour, 6pm; 7pm, Home Committee Meeting

Fri. July 29-Dinner & Queen of Hearts, 6pm

Visit our Lodge's website www.bpoe875.org for the latest information, photos from past events, and newsletters from the past.

Fredericksburg Elks Lodge 875 had a great showing at the Virginia Elks Association Annual Spring Convention

The Virginia Elks Association held its Annual Spring Convention at the Marriott in Fairfax, VA, June 9th - 12th. This convention was extra special as we welcomed home Ron and Nancy Hicks from their long and very successful tour across the United States fulfilling the duties as Grand Exalted Ruler. However, it was only for a few days as they are back on the road until the National Convention in July.

Saturday night's dinner was bittersweet as we were able to welcome home Ron and Nancy and hear fantastic speeches from both of them. We had to say goodbye to a longtime friend, Ted Hess, our 24 year State Sponsor. Ron will be fulfilling those duties as State Sponsor when his turnover to the Grand Exalted Ruler Elect, Mike Zellen is complete

Fredericksburg Elks Lodge hosted a hospitality room at the event and were honored to have Ron Hicks do the 11 O'clock Toast on Friday night followed by the old Jolly Corks version of the Toast by Karen Swenor of Virginia Beach. Ray Dameron did an equally impressive job with the 11 O'clock Toast on Saturday evening. The hospitality room would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of Carol Shifflett, Betty Gallahan, Shelby Frantum, Dot Mills, Cindy and Rick Smith, Nancy Avery, Ed and Diane Blesi, Tim Henderson and Bob Bennett. Thanks for all the hard work that everyone does to make this the best lodge in Virginia!





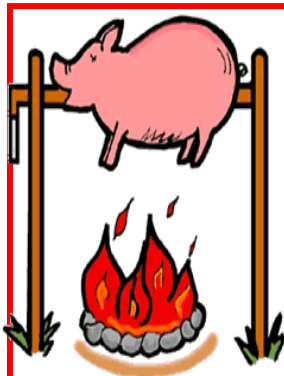
Smoking Or No Smoking? Its Been Decided!



NON-SMOKING

On June 27th, 2016 at 7:55 PM the votes were counted for the motion to ban the use of all tobacco products including vaping in the Fredericksburg Elks Lodge facilities. Exactly 134 votes were counted with 73 ballots for non-tobacco use including vaping, 47 voted against the motion and 14 did not vote which is counted as a vote against the motion. Total tally was 73 – 61 in favor of eliminating the use of tobacco products and vaping in the Lodge facilities. So there you have it. The membership has voted. The smoking ban will take effect once the amendment to the bylaws is approved by the Grand Lodge which on average is about 30 days. The Trustees have been and will continue to be busy working on a plan to build a very nice area for the tobacco users to enjoy their tobacco products. In the meantime, I will work with the Trustees to provide a covered area for the tobacco users to use as a temporary measure.

Thanks,
Tim Mead
Exalted Ruler



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Ray Dameron
Chris Thomas
Steve Piccirilli**

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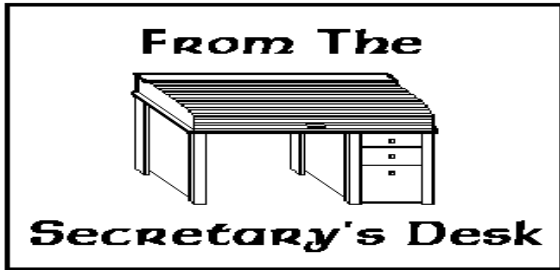
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Members,

Delinquents are still way up there at 12% of our membership. This month I will be posting a list on the bulletin board. If you are on that list, please consider paying your dues. If you know someone on the Delinquent List, please call them and persuade them to come back to the Lodge. I will also be sending out reminders to delinquent members to encourage them to pay their

dues. It is understandable that this may have been an oversight. I have the membership cards ready to be mailed immediately upon receipt of your dues. You may also stop by the office, pay your dues, and pick up your card.

Our program for sending girls and boys, ages 8 to 13 to the Virginia Elks Youth Camp this month is well under way. This is a great opportunity to provide kids the chance for wholesome fun and adventure in a safe supervised outdoor program.

Congratulations to Teagan Hicks for winning the Elks National Foundation Legacy Scholarship Award which was presented to her at the Virginia State Convention. Additionally, last month our Lodge had the opportunity to recognize and applaud the efforts of six exceptional college bound high school students with presentations of the Exalted Rulers Scholarship Award. Congratulations to Emily Tidwell, Ellis O'Day, Kyle Edson, Todd Slunt, Micayla Fisher and Jonathan Thomas. We are all very proud of these students for their overall high school performance and service to our community.

Members, we raised a massive \$2,600.00 at our 141st Preakness Stakes event in May. A check was presented to Saint Jude's Children Hospital. Thanks to Gary Padgett and his committee for a super job well done.

Don't forget the 2016-2017 Community Investment Program (CIP) is kicking off this month. Our Lodge has the opportunity to apply for up to five CIP grants – that's up to \$19,000.00 in funding for qualifying charitable projects! See our Leading Knight, Tim Henderson with your ideas.

We have eight candidates being processed for membership. We anticipate an Orientation being held on 14 July 2016. Please put this date on your calendar and join us as we welcome these future members with an encouraging welcome.

Please reach out and ask a friend to join the ELKS. As always, it is indeed a pleasure and an honor to be your Lodge Secretary. Thank You!

Fraternally,

Diane M. Blesi

"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone." Ronald Reagan

A yellow rectangular box containing the logo for "Party Elegance". The logo features three white stars of varying sizes to the left of the text "Party Elegance" in a large, black, cursive font. Below this, in a smaller, black, cursive font, are the words "Wedding and Event Essentials" and "Rentals and Sales". At the bottom, there is contact information: "4800 Jefferson Davis Highway", "Fredericksburg, Virginia 22408", "www.party-elegance.com • www.mmphotodjax.com", and two phone numbers: "540.898.8884" and "540.226.4261". In the top right corner of the box, the name "David and Elaine Canty" is written in a small, black, cursive font.

2016 Stafford County DARE Day

Fredericksburg Elks Lodge 875 participated in the 2016 Stafford County Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Day held at Pratt Park on June 9th, 2016. Representing the Elks Lodge was the Exalted Ruler, Tim Mead, David Theisen and Leslie Siedsma.

The three passed out candy and drug awareness information to over 2500 4th grade students in the Stafford County school district.

The Fredericksburg Elks Lodge will be participating in the National Night Out being held at the Spotsylvania Town Centre on August 2nd, 2016. If interested in participating in this drug awareness event, please contact Brother David Theisen at dfire@aol.com.



Happy Birthday to our Elks born in July

1	Rawlings, Donovan B	11	Johnson, Don	24	Rowley, Fred L
1	Yinger, Russell E	11	Simms, Douglas M	25	Heubi, Stewart
2	Dillard, Sheila	13	Melson, C Neil	25	Hicks, Ronald L
3	Pennesi, Joseph G	14	Palmer, Raymond W	25	Perrone, Michael J
3	Redmond, John T	15	Gyllenhoff, Gustav E	25	Tate, Michael W
3	Richard, Vicki Rae	15	Henderson, Tim	27	Crowder, Donald R
5	Brooks, Barbara A	17	Crum, Robert C	27	Frantum, Shelby J
6	Payne, Raymond L	17	Tyson, Gary Thomas	28	Blaz, Robert M
6	Riabouchinsky, Michael P	19	Monroe, William E	28	Frostick, William L
7	Jackson, Gabriella A	20	Johnson, David D	29	Bonacorsi, Floyd
7	Miller, Robert B	21	Trigg, Deborah H	29	Ramsey, William Ellis
7	Sullivan, Jeffrey H	22	Olson, John F	29	Synan, Joseph A
8	Boutchyard, Robert H	22	Weaver, Darlene	29	Taylor, Roger L
8	Campbell, Dennis L	23	Grigg, Crawford F	30	Bledsoe, Earle L
9	Clarke, William G	23	Radinovic, Michael G	30	Czapko, John R
10	Harper, Frank	23	Shortal, Greg	30	Smith, Robert E
10	Randolph, George R	24	Billingsley, Gary E	31	Eastridge, Wayne
10	Smith, Richard G	24	Chaney Sr, Albert D	31	Sutler, Jeffrey
10	Sullivan, Gilbert	24	Dodson, Douglas B		

An Elk is never forgotten, never forsaken...

James E. Wheeler Past: 04/21/2016

Ollie K. Stephens Past: 05/02/2016

George H. Dodson Past: 05/04/2016

Melvin L. Rhea Past: 06/19/2016



PUBLIC RELATIONS

When an article is to be considered for publication there are several pieces of information needed. There is a difference in the content for articles to be publicized in the Free Lance Star, Elks Magazine and/or the web, whether or not for the general public or Elk members only. These articles are worded differently and photos have guidelines.

If you have an event that will be **open to the public**, please notify me when you begin the planning. It is important that I receive all the pertinent information in a timely manner. Once I have all the information, I can submit the articles to the Free Lance Star, ELKS Magazine and/or the web. There are cut-off dates as to when I can submit articles.

If you are having an event for **Elks members only** and would like to have publicity in the Elks Magazine and/or on the web, send me all the information on the event and I will ensure it is in the proper format to forward. Once again, there are cut-off dates.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me: Maureen Moe Nolet,
(h)540-370-0036; (c) 571-236-2692; NLTMAUREEN@aol.com

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Flag Day & Elks Family Picnic

On June 4th our Elk family gathered at the lodge Pavilion to celebrate Flag Day. Our newly elected lodge officers performed the traditional ceremony honoring the history and evolution of our American flag to the one flag we honor today while flag bearers from the local middle school honor society marched each flag to its proper stand.

Immediately following the ceremony, a delicious array of food was quickly laid out and the excellent band "*ManBug*" played through the afternoon while kids engaged in a wide variety of lawn games and the adults played pull-tabs and 50/50 while enjoying both band and beverage!

To make all this happen your enthusiastic Elk volunteers arrived hours ahead of time to prepare the food and drink for the Family Picnic that followed the Flag Day Ceremony. This included chicken breasts, Hot dogs and hamburgers prepared by grillers Carol Shiflett, Steve Piccirilli, Bobby Blaisdale and Bobby Jerrell; potato salad, ranch beans, corn on the cob and watermelon prepared by Richard Murmer, Corky Griggs, Bob and Ronda Miller and Marcia Blair, and Ray Dameron, your Virginia Elk Association 4th Presidential Nominee, handed out all the ice cold beverages. games and activities for both kids and adults were set up and handled by Charlotte Leitch, Lois Pelitier and Cindy Smith, while Tee Hicks drove kids around in our famous Elk tractor train!

Summer fun with family and friends was really had by all. Make sure you save the date for next year's Flag Day and family picnic!

Flag Day & Elks Family Picnic

A few pictures of the Flag Day & Elks Family Picnic



EYES ON THIS ELK MEMBER

Chris Thomas

Submitted by **Maureen "Moe" Nolet**



Do you know this Elk member? He is Chris J. Thomas and has been a member of our lodge for 23 years. He actually joined at the Old Elks building downtown. How many members know about the Old Elks building? Chris resides off Ferry Road in Fredericksburg, Stafford County. He was born at the Old Mary Washington Hospital 46 years ago.

Chris currently works for his family business, M-J Printers and has been there for 21 years. This business has been the Elks Lodge printer during those years. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, fly fishing, camping, hunting, golfing, dancing, and the beach.

Chris has one son, Colby, 18 years old. He attends James Monroe High School and graduates this year. He is a member of the Fredericksburg Christian Athletes and is Captain of the Varsity baseball team. Colby plans on attending Liberty University in Lynchburg in the fall and will pursue studying to be a Radiologist. Colby, much like his dad, enjoys fishing, going to church, hunting, camping, and spending time with family and friends.

At the Elks Lodge, Chris volunteers his time for Bingo, Family Picnic/Flag Day, Good Ole Boys Shrimp/Oyster Feast, Pig Roast, Wild Game Feast, and other special events.

Chris's favorite things to do are volunteering at the Elks and Eagles. He enjoys meeting new friends at these places and listening to a good band and of course do a little dancing.

Chris obviously has a busy life, so the next time you see Chris at the lodge, introduce yourself to him and thank him for his hard work and generosity of his time and all the printing jobs he does for the lodge.

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UPCOMING FOR AUGUST...

TBD-District Deputy Clinic

Tues. Aug 2nd-National Dare Day

Wed. Aug 3-Dinner & Happy Hour, 6pm

Fri. Aug 5-Dinner & Queen of Hearts, 6pm

Mon. Aug 8-Lounge Potluck Cookout

Wed. Aug 10-Dinner & Happy Hour, 6pm; 7pm Home Committee Meeting,

Fri. Aug 12-Dinner & Queen of Hearts, 6pm

Wed. Aug 17-Dinner & Happy Hour, 6pm

Fri. Aug 19-Dinner & Queen of Hearts, 6pm

Mon. Aug 22-Lodge Meeting, 7pm

Wed. Aug 24-Dinner & Happy Hour, 6pm; 7pm, Home Committee Meeting

Fri. Aug 26-Dinner & Queen of Hearts, 6pm

Campaign and Committee Updates

Lodge #875 Sickness & Distress Committee

The Sickness & Distress Committee has been established for Elks Lodge 875. If you are in need of assistance, or know of any of our Elk members that may need our help, please notify a committee member. The Committee members contact information is as follows:

Ed Blesi, edblesi@hotmail.com,
540 371-5240 or 571-643-8668,
Diane M. Blesi, diblesi@hotmail.com
540 494-8899 or 540-372-3783,
Linda Decatur, linda.pete.decatour@verizon.net,
540-548-4889,
Pete Decatur, linda.pete.decatour@verizon.net,
540-548-4889,
Maureen (Moe) Nolet, nltmaureen@aol.com,
540-370-0036,
571-236-269
Richard (Dicky) Smith,
540 786-8155

Elks Crab Feast October 8th

Contact
Carol Shifflett
(540)840-7965



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July Wednesday Night Specials

1st Wednesday July 6th

<i>Roast Prime Rib au Jus served with Baked Potato, Vegetables & a Roll</i>	\$16.00
<i>Fish (11oz.) & Chips served with Cole Slaw</i>	\$8.25
<i>Sausage and Cheese Quiche served with Small Salad & a Roll</i>	\$7.75
<i>Bowl of Soup du Jour served with Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad & a Roll</i>	\$7.75

2nd Wednesday July 13th

<i>Pork Tenderloin with Marsala Wine Brown Sauce served with Potato, Vegetable & a Roll</i>	\$8.00
<i>Cup of Chilled Cantaloupe Bisque served with Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad & a Roll</i>	\$8.00
<i>Ham and Cheese Quiche served with Small Salad & a Roll</i>	\$7.75
<i>Bowl of Soup du Jour served with Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad & a Roll</i>	\$7.75

3rd Wednesday July 20th

<i>Chicken Parmesan served with Pasta, Small Salad & a Roll</i>	\$8.25
<i>Tuna Salad Plate with Fresh Fruit, Vegetables & a Roll</i>	\$8.25
<i>Shrimp Quiche served with Small Salad & a Roll</i>	\$7.75
<i>Bowl of Soup du Jour served with Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad & a Roll</i>	\$7.75

4th Wednesday July 27th

<i>Meatballs and Marinara Sauce over Pasta served with Small Salad & a Roll</i>	\$7.25
<i>Fried Oysters served with French Fries, Cole Slaw & a Roll</i>	\$9.75
<i>Ham & Cheese Quiche served with Small Salad & Roll</i>	\$7.75
<i>Bowl of Soup du Jour served with Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad & a Roll</i>	\$7.75

July Daily Lunch Specials

Monday

Ham, Turkey, Cheese and Bacon Wrap served with Chips and a Pickle \$6.00

Tuesday

Steak and Cheese on a Bun served with French Fries and Pickle \$6.75

Wednesday

Grilled Cheese and Bologna Sandwich with Chips and a Pickle \$6.00

Thursday

Grilled Rubeen Sandwich served with Chips and a Pickle \$6.50

Friday

Crabmeat Salad on a Croissant with Lettuce, Tomato, Chips and a Pickle \$6.75

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Leading Knight	Tim Henderson
Loyal Knight	Ed Blesi
Lecturing Knight	Bob Bennett
Esquire	Betty Gallahan
Tiler	Shelby Frantum
Inner Guard	Nancy Avery
Chaplain	Debbie Cash
Secretary	Diane Blesi
Treasurer	Charlotte Leitch
Alt to Grand Lodge	PER Ron Sykes


TRUSTEES

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Travis Bullock
Gary Leitch
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Georjean McDermott

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Maxine Schremp
E-mail:
mschremp2002@yahoo.com
Distribution: Donna Bivens
Printing: M J Printers

JULY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
31—July					1 Dinner & Queen of Hearts	2
3	4 Happy 4th of July	5 Bingo	6 Dinner & Happy Hour	7 Bingo	8 Dinner & Queen of Hearts	9
10	11 Lodge Pot Luck Dinner	12 Bingo	13 Dinner & Happy Hour	14 Bingo	15 Dinner & Queen of Hearts	16
17	18	19 Bingo	20 Dinner & Happy Hour	21 Bingo	22 Dinner & Queen of Hearts	23
24	25 Lodge Meeting	26 Bingo	27 Dinner & Happy Hour	28 Bingo	29 Dinner & Queen of Hearts	30