



COLUMBUS ELKS LODGE #1195

AUGUST 2025

NEWSLETTER

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Become a sponsor to honor and celebrate our veterans

Hello, Members!

Your membership - whether it is to golf, swim, or socialize - means you belong to the Elks, a nonprofit organization that supports local community initiatives. Some of your dues contribute toward scholarships awarded to high school graduates; grants for local charities that help the less fortunate; and general Elks operations. As an Elk, you also support our annual veterans outing that is held to honor our veterans and recognize them for their service by treating them to lunch, 18-holes of golf with cart, and a delicious steak banquet - all entirely free to veterans and their families. Non-veterans and non-Elk members can also pay to play on a veteran's team.

Last year, the Outing raised \$14,000 for veteran or veteran family college scholarships; programs that benefit veterans at the Norfolk Veterans Home; and some of the costs not covered by sponsorships.

Last year, our sponsors included Behlen Mfg. Co., Dewine Mechanical, Inc., Cargill, Central Community College, Bank of the Valley, Columbus Bank & Trust, Clay Hills Ag, Commodity Solutions, American Legacy LandCo / Adam Spitz, Pillen Family Farms, Bierman Contracting, Tessoroff Chiropractic, and NETS Transportation Services.

If you or your company would like to sponsor this year's event on Aug. 22, please contact our Veterans Outing Committee Chair Marty Divis or Elks Secretary, Jeanne Schieffer.



CHRIS NAHORNY
Exalted Ruler
Elks Lodge #1195
nahorny31@gmail.com

A few pics from last year's Veterans Outing:



COLUMBUS ELKS LODGE #1195

2025 VETERANS OUTING

AUGUST 22, 2025 11 A.M. REGISTRATION
ELKS COUNTRY CLUB NOON SHOTGUN
COLUMBUS, NE LUNCH AND PRESENTATION
BANQUET INCLUDED

★ COMPLETELY **FREE TO VETERANS** AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS.

★ NON-VETERAN REGISTRATION IS FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE AFTER VETERAN REGISTRATIONS ARE COMPLETE.

- \$100 - ELKS MEMBER
- \$150 - NON-ELKS MEMBER

★ SPONSORSHIPS (MONETARY AND GIFT) ARE ENCOURAGED.

SPONSORS WILL BE RECOGNIZED IN PUBLICITY, ON THE COURSE, AND AT THE BANQUET.

TO REGISTER OR SPONSOR:
CALL
402-910-2313

LEAVE A MESSAGE AND SOMEONE WILL RETURN YOUR CALL! THANKS!

□ **A good man. A good reason to play.** □

2-PERSON TEAM

18 HOLES

FLIGHTED BY

HANDICAP



\$125 PER
PERSON
LUNCH INCLUDED

**ONE NET BEST BALL
OF THE TWOSOME**



FLIGHT WINNERS WILL
ADVANCE TO A 3 - HOLE
DERBY AFTER LUNCH TO
DETERMINE THE OVERALL
CHAMPION



**REX
PORTER**

MEMBER-MEMBER
MEMORIAL
TOURNAMENT

9 AM SHOTGUN



SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH

MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER

Hello, Members!

We have received positive feedback on Eric's columns about the costs and challenges of course maintenance and what it takes to keep it as beautiful and enjoyable for you, our members. That feedback made me think that even though the summer is coming to a close, it might be helpful to also give you an overview of the maintenance required for the pool.



While not as large as other facilities, our pool offers members a private and friendly outdoor experience for entire families to enjoy each other, a break from the heat, the ability to order food, and smaller crowds than at a public pool.

However, because it is outdoors, it is subject to the weather elements.

For instance, when you think about a Nebraska July, you might assume 90-100-degree temperatures and very dry conditions! But this year, we had a plethora of hot and humid days and quite a bit of rain!

This weather was great for crop farmers, but it is hard on the golf course and, believe it or not, it's not at all ideal for the pool.

I know this because, as general manager, I need to be trained and certified in pool maintenance, and I have come to learn and respect what rain and wind can do to create unbalanced chemistry, algae growth, and increased maintenance of a pool. Rainwater dilutes the pool chemicals, lowers chlorine levels, and adds contaminants like dirt and debris. These contaminants consume the chlorine (altering its necessary levels) and promote algae growth. In addition, we add a good amount of water daily due to the age of the pool and its associated leaks. The leaks also add to the chemical imbalance.

Since weather changes are frequent, preparing the pool for swimmers is a daily undertaking. The preparations take at least two to three hours per day and include the following tasks:

1. Sweep, tidy up, or blow off the pool deck.
2. Scrub any soiled areas on chairs, tables, and concrete walkways.
3. Check chemical levels, calibrate them as necessary, and make any changes manually twice a day.
4. Check and clean out the skimmers.
5. Clean the structure by brushing the bottom of the pool and netting bugs and debris from the top of the water.
6. Repeat this cleaning process of brushing, netting, and cleaning the skimmers for the baby pool.
7. Then, once a week, the pool needs to be backwashed, its sand filters cleaned, its sides scrubbed and stabilizer added.

Altogether, it takes around 14 - 21 hours per week to complete this routine maintenance, not counting the days needed to train, test, and certify. Overall, the pool costs between \$6,000 and \$8,000 per year to operate and brings in approximately \$3,600 in revenue. But it is a very nice amenity available to the members, should you choose to use it.

-Trista

There are a variety of reasons to play golf at the Elks. The club is where...



...families spend time together. Morgan and Kurt Kapels have some fun with sons, Henry and Kip.



...enthusiastic, young golfers spend one of the last days of summer on the course before school starts.



Above: brothers Will (L) and Landon Hellbusch and friends Rylan Spohn (L) and Cohen Langan (R) get ready to head out on the course.



... qualifiers come to practice before the Nebraska Open. Directly above, Omaha Oak Hills Golf Pro Bobby O'Keefe (L) and Nebraska Open qualifier Holton Harmon pose for a photo after playing hole #6.



MESSAGE FROM OUR GOLF PROFESSIONAL

Hello from the Pro Shop!

Summer is winding down, but don't miss out on the last few opportunities to compete in club events. Check out this issue's calendar of events on the last page, read Wednesday's email from the Elks, or follow us on Facebook. (Make sure you have the right page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ElksCountryClubColumbusNE/>.)

This month, I'd like to talk about the future of the golf shop. As some of you know, we intend to relocate the pro shop to the upstairs admin office area before the beginning of next season. Logistically, the club layout will just make more sense for members and guests, the latter of which often get lost on their way to check in. Here are some of the things I am most excited about with the move:

1. Location, location, location, and easy access for everyone with a single-level entry. In turn, my staff and I will be able to see the 1st and 10th tee. This is a key attribute for almost every golf shop at other facilities.
2. A visible and improved bag drop area! Our bag service is currently hidden in a garage, making it difficult to properly help members and guests with such standard country club practices as bag drop, club shuttling, cart presentation, etc.
3. A more connected experience for golfers, whether that is to meet one another before the round, celebrate afterwards, or pick out some golf balls, gloves, clubs, or apparel to take home.
4. There are unlimited possibilities with the vacated space in the basement, too, and the Elks' management has some ideas, but I know we will seek your input, too. In fact, feel free to stop in the golf shop and ask me about our plans for the future!

We continue to meet with the Strategic Planning Committee to discuss options and explore cost estimates, and this process takes time. However, in hopes that our move could happen over the winter, I want you to know I plan to be more strategic about the shop's summer/fall restock. In other words, inventory will look a little thinner later this year to make the move upstairs easier. That means less stock of everything. So, keep that in mind as you look to spend your seasonal golf shop credit.

The last day to spend your credit this year will be December 21, which may seem like a long way off, but if the coming days and months are anything like this summer, they will be gone before you know it.

-Derrick



We are much more than a country club...



On July 9, the Elks Country Club held a blood drive for the Red Cross. Twenty-eight pints of blood were donated that day, one by Elk member Jeff Slusarski. Thanks to everyone for their generosity!

SCHEDULE ONLINE:
WWW.REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG
OR EMAIL TRISTA AT THE CLUB:
ELKSCCGM@GMAIL.COM

11:30-5:30 P.M. AT THE ELKS - 5113 63RD STREET

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025

BLOOD DRIVE

ELKS COUNTRY CLUB
LODGE #1195

BRING PHOTO OR DONOR ID. EAT SOMETHING AND DRINK PLENTY OF WATER PRIOR TO DONATING.

HAPPY AT THE ELKS! HOUR

THE ELKS IS
LOOKING FOR
BUSINESSES,
INDIVIDUALS
OR COUPLES
INTERESTED IN
HOSTING A



What's involved?

- ✓ Sponsoring the appetizers
- ✓ Determining an entertainment

CALL TRISTA TO RESERVE A FRIDAY!



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**PERFORMING
LIVE**



JASON "GORDO" GORDON

After the Memorial Member-Member

16 | August
7-10 p.m.

Open to
the Public

Classic Rock. Blues. Country. Motown.
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MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Hello, Members!

"You can't control Mother Nature."

That was one of many things former Elks' superintendent John Keller taught me back when I first started. And with the rain totals this year, I have to say, this has been unlike any year I have had in my 18 years as an assistant or head superintendent here. We have received over 10 inches of rain in the month of July, which is seven inches over average. The yearly average is 28 inches, yet we have received more than 30 inches at nearly the 6-month mark.

As a result of this weather, we have had many challenges, both good and bad. The rain has made the grass along the tree lines very healthy, yet the growth has required my team to mow in the trees two times a week just to keep up. In a normal year, we mow rough in the trees once a week; in dry years, once every ten to fourteen days.

The manhours devoted to maintaining the bunkers have also increased.

As you all know, our bunkers do not drain well, so we need to pump them out before they can dry. Once the bunker sand is dry, we rake the bunker to fluff up the sand, distribute it evenly throughout the bunker, and push it back to the edges.

"Too much water will kill more grass than not enough!"

That's another John Keller quote.

Water management is one of the most important things a superintendent does during the stressful times of summer. Excess moisture can lead to a variety of issues in turf: puffy, slow greens, scalping with greens mowers, moss and algae growth on greens, inefficient growth regulators, and increased disease pressure. These challenges have had us on our toes this year and have made us change our daily, weekly, and monthly cultural practices to address the rains' impact. As you can see from these photos, the excess rain has caused turf disease in some of the poor drainage areas in the fairways. It has also caused algae and moss to grow on the greens.



This is turf disease.



This is algae on a green.



This is moss on a green.

Yet, all in all, the course has held up well. The staff has been quite responsive to the storms, the rain, and the additional work involved to keep the course looking good, and the fungicide spray program we use has been working.

I am pretty certain even John Keller would be pleased.

-Eric

- Elks-sponsored
- Organization/Business/Other

CALENDAR



Elks Country Club

August & September

AUGUST

- 1 Private Pool Party
- 2 CHS Booster Tournament
- 4 Chamber Coronation
- 6-8 Cimpl Invite
- 9-10 Men's Stroke Play Club Championship
- 15 Big 10 Tournament
- 16 Memorial Member-Member Tournament / Jason "Gordo" Gordon performs 7-10 p.m.
- 17 Hilltoppers Cup
- 19 OFC
- 20 Titleist Fitting Event
- 22 Veterans Outing
- 27 Cactus
- 28 Thrivent Event

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Labor Day
- 11 NPPD Pro-Am Kick-off
- 12-14 Blue Cross Blue Shield Nebraska Open
- 15 CCC Foundation Tournament
- 16 OFC
- 24 Cactus
- 27 Couples Night

Golf tournaments and outings requested by external entities are typically held on weekdays, keeping the course available for members. The Nebraska Open is an exception in that it is an NPGA-endorsed event, the second-largest golf event in the state, and a rewarding event for the club from a revenue and public relations standpoint.

