

NEWSLETTER

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Get the most from your membership in 2025



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Like with any gym, jelly-of-the-month club, or online discussion board, membership benefits are best when used, and as outgoing Exalted Ruler of Elks' Lodge #1195, I hope you take advantage of everything the Elks' Country Club offers you.

From its delicious menu to plenty of tee sheet openings, a variety of social opportunities, and a safe environment for kids, the ECC is great value for the price.

One member survey response said it best:
"It is the only country club option in the community, and it offers amenities of a country club that are of better quality than many small towns around us can offer."

With good food, affordable rates, strong community involvement, new facility upgrades planned (see p. 3), and a strong social calendar, ECC gives its members a great place to spend time throughout all of 2025.

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It's four o'clock somewhere



Friends and golfing buddies Rex Kumpf, Gary Parker, Dana Bailey, and Frank Skorupa. For at least three decades, this foursome has raised a glass to loyal friendships, a decent (or frustrating) golf round, and great times spent together at the Elks. Find them in the upstairs lounge on Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

Valentine's
DINNER
specials

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH
CALL THE CLUB TO RSVP

SURF & TURF \$38
14 OZ NEW YORK STRIP WITH SHRIMP
DUTCHES POTATOES
BROCCOLINI
SOUP OR SALAD

LOBSTER RISOTTO \$45
BROCCOLINI
GARLIC TOAST
SOUP OR SALAD

RED VELVET CHEESECAKE
\$7

REGULAR MENU WILL BE AVAILABLE

MESSAGE FROM OUR GM

Hello, Members!

I want to respond to those members who voiced in the recent survey how they would like to see some major updates to the clubhouse.

For three years now, I have had conversations on this topic with current and *potential* members who would like to come to the club at any time, whether after a long day of watching their kids on the ballfields or on their way home after work. Others have said they want to watch Husker games with friends and have a place to hang out with people they know.

Unfortunately, many members don't find the club that inviting. They don't feel they can just drop in because they are in casual of clothes; they have their kids with them; or they know their friends are not here. Often, these comments come with a side of, "The clubhouse feels old, outdated, and tired."

As general manager, I completely agree! We all have choices for where we want to spend our free time, and we almost always choose places where we are comfortable and places that attract people we enjoy being around.

Yes, the upstairs, fine dining area meets the needs of many ECC members, but not all, and we want to attract new members with families and busy lives who - with some changes and updates - believe the Elks could be their "go-to" place for fun and relaxation.

Members are asking us to make the club a more welcoming place for all, and I believe we can have the best of both worlds. Take a look at page 3 to see what I mean.

- Trista

We are much more than a country club...

National Free-Throw Competition FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGES 8 - 13 **HOOP SHOOT®**

The 2025 Hoop Shoot contest for Lodge #1195 is in the books. Held at the Columbus YMCA on Jan. 25, this year's winners in their respective categories are

- Girls: 8/9 No Contestant
- Girls: 10/11 Ella Nielson, Columbus
- Girls: 12/13 Shelby Meyers, Columbus
- Boys: 8/9 Steele Sunderan, Humphrey
- Boys: 10/11 Isaac Naughton, Columbus
- Boys: 12/13 Jaxx Sunderman, Humphrey

Yet, Elk members who volunteered to help with the event are already thinking about next year.

"Over the past few years, we have seen a decrease in student participation," said Hoop Shoot Coordinator Dave Franzen. "Club sports, school activities, and other weekend commitments make it tough to attract participation. But next year, we hope to work more directly with physical education teachers to increase student participation."



Above left: Jaxton Oltman takes a shot at the hoop, followed by Isaac Naughton. Isaac is planning to participate in Districts at York this weekend.

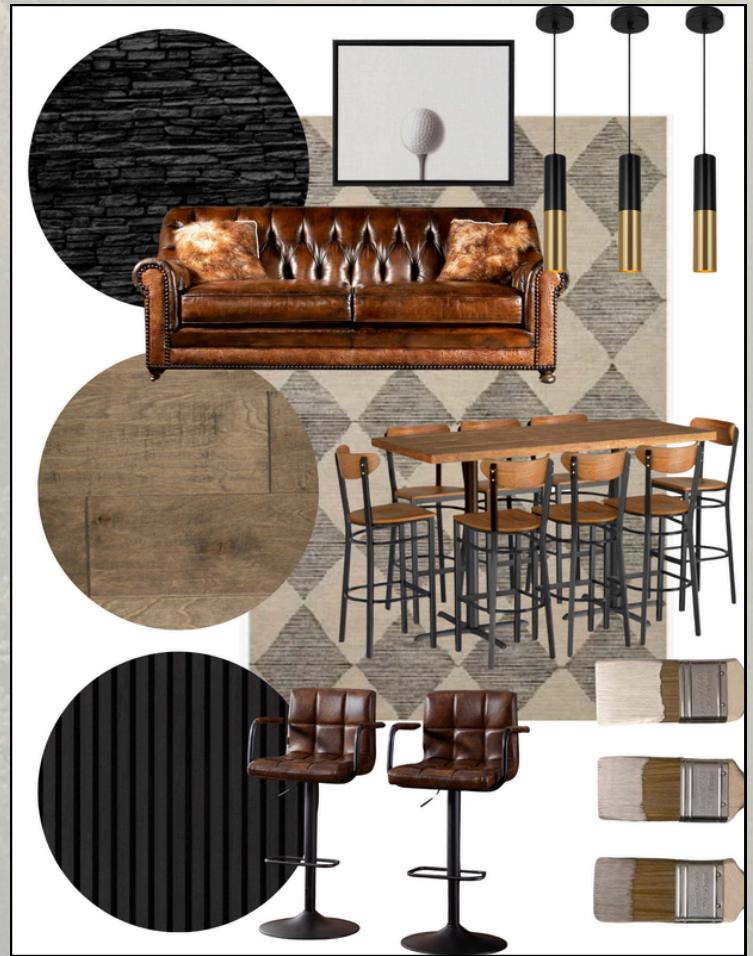
A makeover idea to attract members, old and new

How can we simply, quickly, and affordably update the clubhouse to meet the needs of our members? It starts with a vision, and here is one that is generating excitement and support:

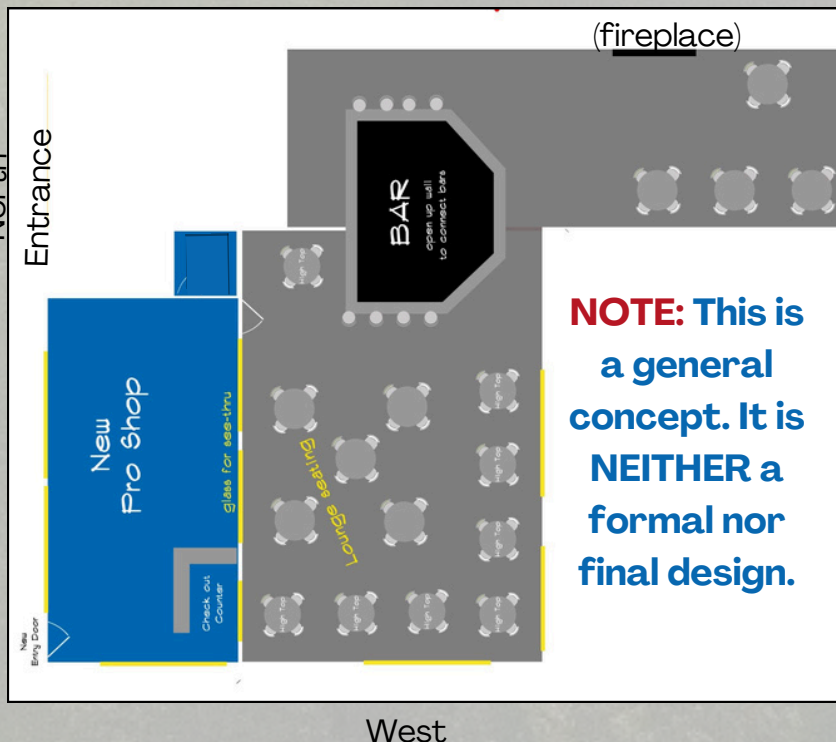
- Relocate the lower-level golf lounge to the West Elks room and move the current staff offices.
- Remove the wall between the two bars and bring them together into a horseshoe with bar seating. This tastefully merges the dining areas of the club and will make customer service more efficient.
- Relocate the pro shop to the upstairs office space allowing golfers easier access to the Pro Shop, better day-to-day control of golf operations, and visible oversight of the beautiful golf course, particularly starting and ending holes
- Update both areas with new ceilings, flooring, walls, fixtures, TVs, etc., and match the rest of the Club's decor.

This proposal takes advantage of an underutilized part of the facility and makes it a dual entrance point for members and guests. The west windows will give visibility to the pro shop and beautiful sunsets while offering patrons a modern lounge option.

Costs and design are not finalized and both funding and construction discussions are preliminary.



The collage above is a “vision board” for a makeover of the West Elks room into an modern, open lounge centered around an expanded horseshoe bar with seating, classic ambiance, and ea color pallet of black iron, wood, and brown.



But club management and the Elks' leadership committees believe this makeover will attract new members, be a perk for current members, and will increase pride in the Elks as an asset for our community.

If we proceed with this project, the **funding will not come from an assessment or rate increase.** A separate fundraising effort by members of the Club's various committees is in development.

If you would like to support this project, please contact GM Trista Engel. You will also be hearing more about the event which will launch the fundraising strategy for making this makeover a reality.

Membership Incentives

Dining Incentive

Introduce the ECC to potential new members by treating them to dinner.

In turn, we'll treat you with two, complementary guest cocktails OR one complementary appetizer for your table.

Sponsoring Elk Incentive

Sponsor a new member and enjoy \$200 in shop credit

New Member Incentive

New members receive a 20% rate discount the first of a two-year membership

Did you know...:

...the club's annual electricity bill is \$70,000?

... we pay \$1,000 each month for clean restaurant linens?

...food costs have increased 30% over the past two years?



Golf and Good Times



Casual and Fine Dining



A Great Place for Kids



Graduating? Elks' scholarship apps are due

One National Elks Scholarship remains available but its deadline is quickly approaching.

- **The Legacy Award Scholarship is due Feb. 3.** It is a \$4,000 available to children and grandchildren of an initiated Elks' member. For more details, visit <https://www.elks.org/scholars/>.

Four state Elks scholarships are **due Feb. 15.** Please visit <https://nebraskaelks.org/scholarships.php> to download the scholarship applications for the following:

- **The Past Exalted Ruler Scholarship.**
- **Vocational Scholarship Grant.**
- **Nebraska Elks Association Golf Scholarship.**
- **McQuillan Maurader's Scholarship**

Applications must be sent to Bruce Tinkman, 1035 E. 7th Street, Superior, NE 68978

Lodge #1195 also offers several scholarships, each of which is due Feb. 15, 2025.

- **Elk Member - Male**
- **Elks Member - Female**
- **Elk Non-member - Male**
- **Elk Non-member Female**
- **Multiple Veterans' Scholarships for children of veterans or veterans themselves.**

Applications are available at the Elks Country Club or from **Samuelhogeland@yahoo.com**. Contact Sam with your questions on eligibility, requirements, and submission process.

MESSAGE FROM OUR GOLF PRO

Hello from the golf shop!

We're down the back stretch of winter it seems, and it has me thinking about a few new things to be excited about.

First off, the new range tee box will provide a much better hitting surface. I intend to commit to more of a full range setup this year because of it. Please be patient with us, however. We are not going to make the mistake of opening the natural grass portion before it's ready. As you know, we have some challenges with the size of our tee box so, being mindful of the days we are "mats only" - a crucial step to having a healthy natural grass tee box throughout the entire year.

Secondly, I intend to implement some fresh, new ideas for our Jr Golf Program this year. We will always continue under the Hilltoppers umbrella, but I have some fun surprises for our camp days and volunteers lined up to help add more "play days" for all ages.

Based on some of the feedback from our survey, it's definitely not enough to just have the standard camp dates. It will take more manpower and hours, but I definitely want to see our juniors on the course more than just 4-5 Mondays each summer. Stay tuned for more information about junior golf at The Elks as we approach the summer months!



One last thing, as I've stated a couple of times, we will be flipping our shop credit calendar to a "same year" cycle. I chose to carry it over based on the fact that, when I arrived in February of 2023, I didn't have much time in the golf shop until roughly June.

The intention was to slowly walk back the due date over the first couple of years.

With that said, if you have any existing shop credit from the 2024 season, it will need to be spent by March 31st. Any credit accrued for the 2025 season will need to be spent by December 31st, 2025. This year will feel short to some, but this change will get us back on track for a "calendar year" type of cycle. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at any time: dceder@pga.com.

Cheers

-Derrick

Find some happiness on the hill!

Join the Columbus Elks Country Club.

- Home of the Nebraska Open Pro-Am Golf Tournament
- Eight membership options with annual rates among the lowest for country clubs within an 80-mile radius
- Fine dining, golf lounge, and pool-side menus
- Great facility for weddings, business meetings, and tournaments
- Summer pool access and swimming lessons
- Dance clubs and Friday Afternoon Club socials
- Golf leagues, couples golf events, and junior golf program
- Philanthropic giving to youth, veterans, and community



A CUT ABOVE THE REST

We compared the prices for the same entree at three similar fine dining restaurants in a 50-mile radius. The results show the Elks' Country Club offers competitive pricing with a side of satisfaction in knowing your dollars can go toward your minimum and help keep the Club financially operational.

Elks' Filet

8 oz. with potato and side
\$35

Filet Option A

8 oz. with potato and side
\$30.95

Filet Option B

8 oz. with potato and side
\$35.95

Filet Option C

6-10 oz. with potato and side
\$32-\$48

Elks' Ribeye

14 oz. with potato and side
\$32

Ribeye Option A

14 oz. with potato and side
\$31.96

Ribeye Option B

14 oz. with potato and side
\$29.95

Ribeye Option C

14 oz. with potato and side
\$32

Elks' New York Strip

12 oz. with potato and side
\$27

NYS Option A

12 oz. with potato and side
\$27.95

NYS - Option B

10 oz. with potato and side
\$31.95

NYS - Option C

12 oz. with potato and side
\$29

MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPER

Hello Members,

Golf season is right around the corner, and during these cold months, we have been busy prepping the equipment for another year.

We have 17, large pieces of equipment we give a top-to-bottom inspection and another 20, small engines like weed whips and chainsaws. This is an important process to get us ready for another season.

We started work on the driving range tee late last fall. Most of the dirt has been moved. The final grading and irrigation still needs to be done. This project will be at the top of our list when

the weather breaks, so we can get the grass range open as soon as possible.

We do have a grow-in blanket we will use to get the seed germinating faster and help with low, nighttime temperatures expected in early spring.

If anyone is interested in sponsoring a new bench, please contact the office. Our 15-year old benches are pretty beat up. If you are able to sponsor a bench, please do. Thank you!

-Eric

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					Jan. 31	1 Prime Rib <i>The first Friday and Saturday of the month</i>
2	3	4	5 Italian Night Elks' Board Meeting 8 p.m.	6	7	8 Holiday Dance Club
9	10	11	12	13 Bridge Private Event	14 Bridge Valentine's Day Specials	15 Formal Dance Club
16		18 Bridge OFC	19 Italian Night Elks' Board Meeting 8 p.m.	20	21 Private Event	22 Private Event
23	24	25	26 Cactus	27	28	