



NEWSLETTER

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Strategies from a golfer, philanthropist, salesman

Hello, Elk Members!

As many of you know, I am Director of Sales & Customer Service for Columbus Hydraulics, and I can tell you from first-hand experience, there are three things a salesperson needs to be successful: 1) knowledge about a product, 2) the impulse to talk about it, and 3) the confidence that your product is the better than its competition.

So, what does this have to do with the Elks, you ask? Like many not-for-profit organizations, the Elks wants more members. More members means we can do more things for our community and our club. We want 300 golf memberships, and approximately 100 other (e.g., social, pool, out-of-town, etc.) memberships by the end of 2026.

In addition to operational stability, a solid membership base will help us support local youth with annual student scholarships; assist our veterans; and provide grant funding to those in need. In the last three years, we have awarded approximately \$24,000 in grants and more than \$10,000 in scholarships in the Columbus area.

I hope each of you is proud to be an Elk not because you like to play golf, but because the Elks offers something other courses, restaurants, and recreational businesses do not: a championship course with family benefits and generous community engagement. One of our greatest attributes is our value. The information below reveals the comparative cost of your membership. We offer the best country club experience for the cost!

Please use this information in your discussions with others about why they should become a member with you. Help us grow the club to make it a signature course with an excellent menu and staff that gives back to its community at one of the lowest membership rates for a country club in the area.

Comparing the Elks Family Membership

Fremont Country Club

- \$4,411 annually
- \$500 initiation

Hillcrest Country Club

- \$6,000 annually
- \$10,000 initiation

Norfolk Country Club

- \$5,500 annually
- \$2,500 initiation

York Country Club

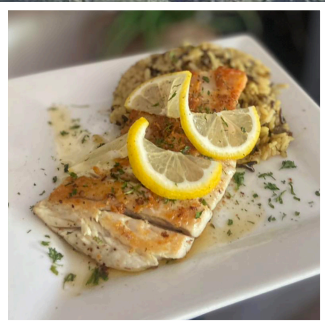
- \$2,340 annually
- \$1,000 initiation

Lochland Country Club

- \$4,767 annually
- \$2,500 initiation

Columbus Elks Country Club

- \$3,200 annually
- No initiation
- \$125 Elk annual dues



SUMMER KICKOFF

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

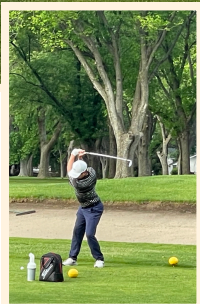
recap!

The pool was filled and ready, but rain and cool temperatures kept splashing at bay. Thirty-six golfers braved the elements during Saturday's 2-person Shamble, and Taste of Summer Dinner enjoyed an intimate number of reservations.

Sunday's Shootout drew a sizable crowd and raised nearly \$32,000 for ECC operations. The partly sunny and warmer evening attracted 22 carts and dozens of participants to the grid where Brock Kuhlman and Nick Fleming took turns lobbing pitches to the green..

Rain returned again for Monday's Memorial Day "Beat the Pro" challenge, but that didn't stop 20, 2-person teams from playing.

"On behalf of the Elks' management and staff, I want to express our appreciation to the members who attended and to the businesses and members that provided prizes. You don't know how much your support for the club means to us," said General Manager Trista Engel. "The Elks truly is 'your club' and we hope we are helping you make it one of the best assets in the Columbus community."



A huge THANK YOU to the 303 members and their families who participated and helped raise \$31,800 for YOUR CLUB via the Summer Kickoff. Your support is greatly appreciated.

SHOOTOUT PRIZE WINNERS

\$50 Big Apple Bagel Gift Card - Al Jarosz
 Wood Cutting Board & Chef's Knife - Don Heimes
 \$50 ECC Dining Gift Card- Deanna Scheidegger
 Magasafe Power Bank & First Aid Kit - Neil Barels
 Travel Golf Bag Cover - Dan Mickey
 Sammy's Gear Basket - Allan Grossnicklaus
 \$50 Big Apple Bagel Gift Card - Lucas Wieser
 Cooler - JP Roth
 Pork Bundle - Keith Bice
 Lunch Basket & \$100 ECC Gift Card - Jeremy Weber
 Bottle of Peach Crown & Snacks - Eric Hash
 Ultra Bar Sign - Frank Skorupa
 \$150 Pro Shop Credit - John Faltys
 Titleist Golf Bag - Jerry Jarecki
 \$50 Big Apple Bagel Gift Card - Clay Gibbs
 Blackstone Grill - Marty Divis
 Stoli Elit Cherry Vodka Sour Kit - Jamie Trebac
 \$250 ECC Shop Credit - Chris Nahorny
 Case of Steaks - Clete Pillen
 32" Vizio TV - Gayle Meints
 \$50 Big Apple Bagel Gift Card - Josh York
 Pork Bundle - Stan Emerson
 Galvanized Planter with Stand - Gaylenn Johannes
 \$50 ECC Dining Gift Card - Brian Kearney
 Bird Dog Peach Whiskey & Decanter Set - Nick Luchsinger
 Wedge - Sam Hogeland
 ECC Pool Membership (for a friend) - Michael James
 Basket of Nuts - Chad Spohn
 Pro Shop Gift Basket - Scott Zegar

SILENT AUCTION WINNING BIDDERS

Colorful Sweets Basket - Kathy Johnson
 CCC Tuition - Terry Millard
 Young Girl Starter Set - Trista Engel
 RayBan Women's Sunglasses - Marilea Trebac
 Girls Outfits - Deb Loseke
 Girls Golf Clinic for 8 - Pete Balerud
 9 & Dine Progressive Dinner - Marty Divis
 NEPGA entry with Derrick - Justin Laudenklos
 Youth Golf Basket - Wayne Ballentine
 Black & White Golf Basket - Wayne Ballentine
 Newborn Golf Basket - Randee Luckey
 Men's Oakley Sunglasses - Randee Luckey
 Picklefest Tickets - Dennis Grennan
 Black & White Romance Basket - Dennis Grennan
 2 Dozen Cookies - Dennis Grennan
 Hastings Golf & Lunch - Karla Porter
 2026 PGA Event Tickets - Doug Means & Karla Porter
 Boy oh Boy Golf Apparel - Karla Porter
 Women's Golf Basket - Karla Porter

Please pick up your prizes in the office before June 11th!

MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER

Hello, Members!

They say, 'Time flies when you are having fun,' and while I can't say the past four years as your general manager have been easy, I will tell you I am proud of what we have done together - even when there is still so much more to do!

When I first came on board, the Club's financial records were - let's say - a little out of whack. With the help of Finance Committee member Bill Flint and the bookkeeping assistance of Karla Porter, our books are finally getting into shape. Each division - pro shop, maintenance, restaurant, pool, and general operations - is budgeting more realistically; we are prioritizing and cutting; and we are operating more thoughtfully and purposely than we had in the past.

Are we where we want to be? Not when you look at our dues, the age of our assets (e.g., the building, equipment, and the overall cost increase for supplies, salaries, and services, etc.), but thanks to a collective focus by the club's various committees and the new Board of Trustees, we are working toward a more accurate budget.

Our finances have been assisted by many Elk members who helped purchase new lighting fixtures and furnishings, supplied course equipment, installed new technology, arranged the northern fence line, and most recently, provided shootout prizes.

Other members provided manual labor out on the course, including my dad (thanks, Dad!). While this property, building, and pool are deeded to and ultimately operated by the Columbus Elks Lodge #1195, a not-for-profit business, it's really 'your club.'

Derrick, Eric, Karen, and I talk about this a lot. We aren't - nor do we want to be - a stuffy private country club. The Columbus Elks is a hidden gem in Columbus, a championship course with a terrific restaurant, and a great place for families and friends to gather. We are so much more than a country club. We are a place where time flies when you are having fun!

-Trista

IS YOUR BUSINESS A NEW TEE BOX SPONSOR? IF NOT, "SIGN" UP!



Sue Christensen was pleased to see her husband, Brian - who is CEO of One Nebraska - had chosen to sponsor both the men's and the ladies' tee boxes on Hole #5.



As part of the Elks' overall goal to update the club, new tee markers were installed on the course. Past advertisers were invited to sponsor again and we are in the process of contacting interested businesses. Consider joining the following businesses that have secured at least one location, with several that are sponsoring two.*

Annual pricing is \$400 for a men's tee box and \$300 for a women's. Call Trista to secure yours!

Our current hole sponsors:

- Ameriprise Financial*
- Bank of the Valley
- Behlen Mfg. Co.
- Columbus Bank & Trust*
- Columbus Motor Company
- Cornerstone Bank
- MARC
- One Nebraska Credit Union*
- Pinnacle Bank
- Rambour Realty Co.
- Schieffer Signs

Locations still available:

- #2-women's
- #3-men's and women's
- #4-combined
- #6-men's and women's
- #7-women's
- #8-women's
- #9-women's
- #12-combined
- #13-men's and women's
- #14-men's and women's
- #15-men's and women's
- #17-women's
- #18-men's and women's

MESSAGE FROM OUR GOLF PRO

Hello from the golf shop!

June brings the busiest month of the year for the golf shop. Be sure to ask about the events we have going on! As the course becomes busier, it is also very important to call or reserve your tee times online. This helps the golf operations staff stay as organized as possible and avoids any miscommunication regarding our event days throughout the summer. The following is a list of June events/happenings:

- **June 6th:** CCH Foundation Event
- **June 11th:** Titleist Fitting event (signup will go live soon, or ask the golf shop to register you)
- **June 13th:** Couples Golf Night - Drinks and Drives (signup is live)
- **June 15th:** Father's Day "Pick a Pro" game (open play. Create your tee time and enter the game that day.)
- **June 19th-21st:** Hilltop Member-Guest
- **June 23rd-24th:** Hilltoppers Jr Golf Camp Instructional Clinics (signup is live)
- **June 27th:** Habitat 'Fore' Humanity Event
- **June 30th-July 1st:** Hilltoppers Jr Golf Camp Instructional Clinics (signup is live)



**DRINKS
& DRIVES**

COUPLES NIGHT

ON COURSE DRINK VENDORS & APPETIZERS AFTERWARDS

FRIDAY, JUNE 13TH

5:45 PM SHOTGUN

\$35 PER MEMBER COUPLE
\$45 PER NON-MEMBER COUPLE

I want to say a quick thank you to the former men's league administrators. Through their generosity, we will see a return of cart towels for this season. Recently, our men's league closed out their old bank account and donated the proceeds to the management staff. We will all put it to good use, but I felt it appropriate to get towels with these dollars!

That said, our towels seem to disappear rather quickly. I understand that there will be some attrition for a small towel but please, if you take one for your round, either leave it in the cart basket or if you walk the majority of the time, we do have a dirty laundry basket located just outside of the bagroom. Thanks in advance.

Lastly, my summer clearance sale has started. These items will be up to 60% off. Please swing by the golf shop and ask about the sale. Outside of that, we are stocked with the newest items the golf industry has to offer. As we transition the golf lounge upstairs, don't forget to sneak into the golf shop for all of your needs.

Cheers!

-Derrick

(Remember to fix your divots.)



HILLTOPPERS

Summer 2025

Mission

The mission of Hilltoppers Golf is to promote a love of the game through positive relationships, fundamentals, and competition in a fun environment for the youth of the Columbus area.

Junior Hilltopper Instructional Skill Sessions

Age 14 & Older
11:00am – 12:00pm

Age 7-9
12:15 – 1:30pm

Age 10-13
1:45 – 3:00pm

Skills Sessions

June 23rd & 24th | June 30th & July 1st

Cost & Details

Cost: \$90 Members; \$115 Non-Members
4 Instructional Sessions including on course play/instruction
Golf swag for each participant

Where: ELKS CC – Columbus



“Hilltoppers 36” Academy & Play Days

Thursdays

July 3rd | July 10th | July 24th

*extra instruction to start the day and “Hilltoppers 36” play afterwards

Start Time 8:30am-9:15am

Extra instruction for those entering high school & current high school golfers as well as any other golfers playing competitive summer tours **(Cost: add \$50 to instructional skills sessions)**

Hilltoppers 36: Participation without extra instruction will start at 9:15am (for all ages).

Extra cost for “Hilltoppers 36” play days: add \$20 to instructional skills sessions

Communication/Payment

Facebook: Hilltoppers Jr Golf Association as well as The Elks Facebook

To sign up please use QR code above or Email | golfshop@theelkscc.com

Venmo @Hilltoppers-2019 **(preferred)** - 4 digits to confirm 5768

Checks made payable to **Elks Country Club**

Mail to Derrick Ceder - 5113 63rd St Columbus NE, 68601

**** We encourage all our Hilltoppers to try the City
Tournament scheduled for July 31st (Elks) & August 1st (QuailRun)**

MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Hello Members!

The golf season is in full swing, and it has been a busy spring for the maintenance team.

I have been talking a lot about the issues we deal with in the past few newsletters, but this month, I want to talk about some of our accomplishments.

The Driving Range. Let me start off with improvements made to our undersized driving range tee. We removed a lot of sand and replaced it with good topsoil, added new irrigation, and seeded with a low-mow bluegrass that recovers from divots faster than the ryegrass we had on the tee. As a result, the range tee has grown in nicely, and we hope to open it up sometime this month.

However, there are times when golfers will need to ask about or look for the instructional signs near the mats due to wet weather or when we need to reduce wear and tear on the small range tee. When the range is open, please use the line method when hitting balls. When divots are made in a line and not scattered throughout the grass, it helps the grass's recovery,



Hole #13 Cart Path. The new cart path from the 13th green to the 14th tee turned out great! We were having drainage issues between 13 and 15 green, but that has been resolved.

We removed the bushes along the 13th fairway and those growing over the cart path around the 13th and 15th greens. In addition, both the ditch and sides of the cart path were seeded. A two-wire fence was also installed on the north property line. I would like to personally thank one of our fabulous members who did a lot of the work on this project.

The burn pile. This big eyesore has seen an upgrade with the decision to haul the large dirt and ash pile away and level it into the corner of the lake between 15 and 18. Until we find a better solution for storm branches and tree removals, you will still see branches in the burn pile area, but removing the dirt was a big improvement.

Tee Signs. Our tee and hole sponsor signs were replaced with new ones and the holders were repainted. I'd like to thank another member for providing these.

All of these improvements could not have been done without the input and help of a member, so if there is anything you would like to see done on the course along these lines, or if you are interested in helping with the cost, please feel free to reach out to me and we may be able to work something out.

Finally, I would like to end my message with a big THANK YOU to a guy who has worked for me as a seasonal employee the last 11 years.

Mike Nahorny has been a great employee for the Elks, but he is stepping away from the Elks to travel more.



A new cart path on #13; a reduced burn pile; and a farewell to Mike Nahorny.

Responsible for running our large rough mower for years, Mike has shown up every day rain or shine and has taken a lot of pressure off of me.

I want to say, "Thank you, Mike, for being a critical part of my staff, and for being so dedicated to making this place the best it can be!"

If any members are retiring or know someone looking for part-time seasonal work, let Trista or I know.

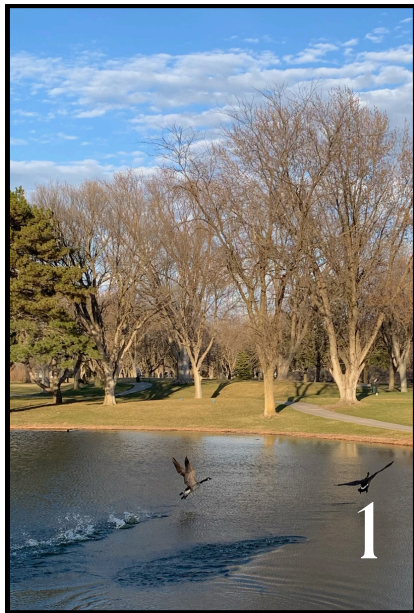


-Eric

For the littles...

Name that animal!

Many golfers look for lost golf balls in the trees, near ponds, and in the rough, but sometimes there can be surprises nearby. Take a look at these course creatures seen on the Elks to see if you know what each is.



1



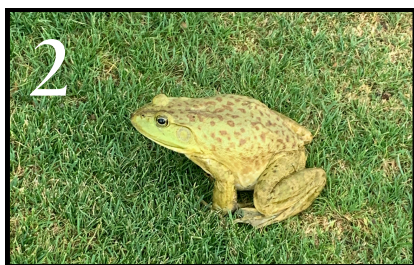
3



5



6



2













4



7

Some of them fly.
Some of them crawl.
Some of them hop,
while one's very tall.
Two of them like to
hide in the trees.
What are they called?
Name them, please!
(Answers upside
down below.)

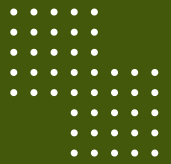
JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6 COLUMBUS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL TOURNAMENT	7
8	9	10 Men's and Women's Leagues 	11 Women's Blind Draw 	12  Men's League	13 Drinks & Drives - Couple's Golf	14 Private Wedding
15 FATHER'S DAY PICK-A-PRO GAME 	16	17 Men's and Women's Leagues OFC 	18 Women's Blind Draw 	19 HILLTOP GOLF TOURNEY	20	21 
22	23 HILLTOPPERS Jr. Golf Program	24 Men's and Women's Leagues 	25 Women's Blind Draw Cactus 	26  Men's League	27	28
29 Habitat for Humanity Tournament	30 HILLTOPPERS Jr. Golf Program					

Answers: 1. Canadian snow geese 2. A Plains leopard frog 3. Mallard ducks, male and female 4. A painted turtle 5. Great egret 6. Eastern fox squirrel 7. Raccoon

- Elks-sponsored
- Organization/Business/Other

Elks Country Club Event & Tournament



2025 SCHEDULE

The Elks Country Club welcomes businesses, families, and organizations looking to host their golf tournaments in Columbus. While honoring member play on the weekends, most tournaments can be arranged for a weekday. Call us to schedule yours.

June

- 6 Columbus Community Hospital Tournament
- 13 Couples' Golf Outing
- 15 Father's Day "Pick a Pro" Game
- 19-21 Hilltop Member-Guest Tournament
- 29 Habitat 'Fore' Humanity Tournament

August

- 2 CHS Booster Tournament
- 5 Col. Chamber Coronation
- 6-8 Cimpl Invite Tournament
- 15 Private Tournament
- 16 Memorial Tournament
- 22 Veterans Tournament

July

- 4 Flag Game
- 12 Lady Luck Ladies League
- 18 Rescue Mission Tournament
- 25 Alzheimers' Association Tournament
- 26 Couples' Member-Guest Tournament

July/August

- Men's & Women's Club Championships
- TBD Men's Stroke Play Championship

- Sept. 11 NPPD Pro-Am Kickoff
- 12-14 Nebraska Open Pro-Am
- 15 CCC Foundation Tournament

