



COLUMBUS ELKS LODGE #1195

MAY 2025

NEWSLETTER

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The Elks ... more family than country club to me

Hello, Elk family.

If we have not yet met, my name is Chris Nahorny, the new Exalted Ruler (ER) of Columbus Elks Lodge #1195 for 2025-26. My wife, Erin, and I joined the Elks in 2009, although Erin (whose maiden name is Cimpl) was a member long before we married. The Cimpl family has been part of the Elks for 55 years.

I am Director of Sales and Customer Service for Columbus Hydraulics, and Erin is a realtor with Nebraska Realty. We have three children - Ella, Sammy, and Jacob - and, in addition to our full-time jobs, we oversee the Sammy's Superheroes Foundation in honor of Sam who was diagnosed with Stage IV, High-Risk Neuroblastoma when he was four.

The Elks' Country Club has been a family to our family over the years. And, while I am not being sappy here, the Elks is more than a country club to us.

First, like a family, we do a lot of good for a lot of people. I enjoy being part of organizations that support others, and one of the most notable ways the Elks help others is through scholarships. Check out page 2 of this newsletter and the scholarships we recently awarded to seven local high school

students in support of their college educations. I am giving a big shout out to Elk members Sam Hogeland and his wife, Alyssa, who make sure this happens. They are our Scholarship Committee.

Second, I am proud of the Veterans Outing the Elks hosts every year. Organized by Marty Divis - my cousin, an Elk member and veteran himself - this unique event honors veterans with an entirely free day of golf, giveaways, Quilts of Valor presentations, and a steak dinner for them and their families. It's truly a special event for the veterans.

Last year, the Outing raised \$14,000 which funded college scholarships for veterans and/or their family members, paid for programs and activities that benefit veterans associated with the Norfolk Veterans Home, and covered event costs not donated.

In addition to generous anonymous contributions, our sponsors were 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, Tessendorf Chiropractic, and NETS Transportation Services.

If you or your company would like to sponsor this year's patriotic event on Aug. 22, please contact me or Marty. It's a great way to pay tribute to our military brothers and sisters.

Finally, the Elks is a family-focused organization, nationally and here in Columbus. We support such youth programs as Junior Golf, the annual Hoop Shoot, and National Youth Week which is the first week of May. We award grants throughout the year that benefit needy children and families in our community.

The best part of all of this is you are part of this generosity. Simply by paying your Elks membership dues of \$125 (which is also a tax write-off) you and your family are doing a lot

of good for others through the Elks organization.

So, here's to you and your family, the Elks' family, and here's to work we will do together in 2025-2026.



CHRIS NAHORNY
Exalted Ruler
Elks Lodge #1195
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Chris and family (L to R): Jacob, Erin, Sammy and Ella

CONGRATULATIONS to our Elks' scholarship winners!

Remember that our nation's first great leaders were also our first great scholars. – John F. Kennedy

The Columbus Elks Lodge #1195 is proud to announce the following seniors are recipients of scholarships awarded through the local Elks Lodge, the state Elks organization, and/or the Elks National Foundation.

“We had a banner year of applicants,” said Sam Hogeland, Elks Esquire and Scholarship Committee Chairman. “My wife, Alyssa, and I reviewed each of the 41 applications submitted, and they were all terrific. Our local students are quite impressive individuals.”

The finalists were forwarded on to the state and national judges for selection.

“Alyssa is the backbone of our committee,” said Hogeland. “She reviewed every application and reference letter with the respect each student deserves. And together, we are pleased to announce seven local students have been chosen for nine different scholarships.”

Cameron Reichmuth of Lindsay Academy and **Lainie Ziemba** of Fullerton Public Schools earned the Most Valuable Student (MVS) non-Elk scholarships for a male and a female, respectively. Lainie also earned a state-level MVS scholarship.

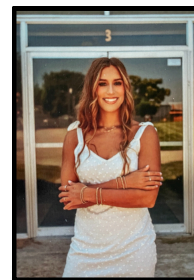
Ella Hash and **Carter Nickeson**, both seniors at Scotus Central Catholic High School, earned the MVS local Elks scholarships for a female and a male, respectively.

The veterans' scholarships offered by Elks Lodge #1195 were awarded to **Henry Chard** and **Aubree Beiermann** of Scotus Central Catholic, as well as **Elizabeth “Ella” Divis** of Lakeview Community Schools. Ella Divis also received the state-level McQuillan Marauder scholarship.

Since 1931, the Elks National Foundation (ENF) has offered a scholarship program and, today, the ENF awards more than \$3 million in scholarships to at least 850 outstanding, service-minded students throughout the United States every year.



Cameron Reichmuth
Lindsay Academy



Lainie Ziemba
Fullerton Public Schools



Carter Nickeson
Scotus Central Catholic H.S.



Elizabeth “Ella” Divis
Lakeview Community Schools



Ella Hash
Scotus Central Catholic H.S.



Henry Chard
Scotus Central Catholic H.S.



Aubree Beiermann
Scotus Central Catholic H.S.

What do President John F. Kennedy, actor/director Ben Affleck, and golf legend Bobby Jones all have in common? They all were/are Elks members. Other names you might recognize include Dwight D. Eisenhower, Harry Truman, Vince Lombardi, Mickey Mantle, Jack Benny, Will Rogers, and Clint Eastwood. Perhaps our local students will become household names, notable leaders and future Elks members, too.

We are much more than a country club...

The Elks Lodge #1195 is a philanthropic organization devoted to supporting our communities, youth/students, veterans and initiatives that celebrate brotherhood, freedom, and a love of God and country.

Your membership dues - combined with dollars raised in the 2024 Veterans Outing helped to award \$2,000 to the Norfolk Veterans Home on April 8, 2025.

In addition, college scholarship presentations began April 23 when a "Most Valuable Student" scholarship to Cameron Reichmuth, a senior of Lindsay Academy.

More scholarship presentations will be publicized in the coming days, as Elk officers present to local winners at their respective high school's award banquets.



LEFT: Veterans Outing Chairman **Marty Divis** and Lodge Treasurer **Craig Mickey** present a donation of \$2,000 to **Lynette Wells**, Office Technician at the Norfolk Veterans Home.

ABOVE: Lodge PER **Dave Franzen** presents **Cameron Reichmuth** of Lindsay Academy with a Most Valuable Student scholarship, one of seven local students receiving nine scholarships awarded by Lodge #1195.

Advertise your business



There are 18, men's tee markers and 14, women's available for advertising your business. Men's markers cost \$400; women's cost \$300. Businesses that have sponsored a tee box in the past are encouraged to sponsor again. Call Trista to reserve a tee marker for your business. 402-564-1451.



2 PERSON SHAMBLE

Both players tee off, you select the best drive and each player will play their own ball into the hole from the selected tee shot. You will receive 80% of your handicap. You and your partner's 18-hole net scores will be combined to determine our winners!

Saturday, May 24th
9 AM SHOTGUN

SIGN UP AS A 2 PERSON TEAM OR AS A FOURSOME WITH ANOTHER TEAM

\$40 A PLAYER (INCLUDES FOOD & GAME ENTRY)

GUEST GOLF FEES WILL APPLY



MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER

HELLO MAY!

Spring is here and lots going at the club! A little April recap of events! Gerhold Concrete meetings, Uncork a Cure (Sammy's), Columbus Classic, OFC (Our Finest Citizen's), Cactus, Bridge's, Holiday Dance, Men's Leagues, Pillen's Golf outing, FAC and Kid's Night, and the Easter Buffet!

This years Easter's Brunch was much different than previous years! Our goal this year was to accommodate more people. We hosted approx. 130 last year and wanted to increase that number to 200. We researched ways to effectively increase numbers and found we would need to accept two waves of reservations, one at 10 am and one at noon! The benefits of this approach are to allow enough time for families to eat and conversate and staff time to flip tables (groups of 8 or more take double the normal time). We also tried to squeeze the Easter Egg Hunt in the middle at 11 am which posed a few unforeseen small dilemmas but nothing too critical. We have already discussed how to improve the Egg Hunt for next year. We exceeded our goal by 30 this year serving 230 adults and children! We were a bit understaffed during the second wave but know exactly how to pivot for next year! Another cool fact, our reservation list was full almost an entire week before Easter! On that note, make sure and get your Mother's Day count in with the office soon. We already have some reservations and expect to fill up again!

A common question buzzing around the club these days is, are we going to continue with the GL/Pub update? When? What's it going to look like? What's going to happen to the old golf lounge in the basement? Who paid for the new T.V.'s and additions to the new golf lounge?

I would like to offer a sincere response to all the floating questions. The Elk's Country Club is moving forward with updating the pub/golf lounge/pro-shop/outdoor deck space! We will have 3-D vision of the new areas done by the end of May and concrete costs of the renovation/updates. The management and board are discussing options for the basement yet will not be doing anything right away. I would like to say thank you to everyone who has taken the time to offer their support and excitement for the small improvements already made to the new golf lounge upstairs! We have seen a drastic change in the overall FEEL members are experiencing and how much they are looking forward to what is to come for the overall betterment of the entire club.

-Trista

Mother's Day BRUNCH

SUNDAY, MAY 11TH

10:00 am & 12:00 pm Seatings

Adults: \$40++

Kids: 6-13 \$15++

Reservations
Required

Mother's Day BRUNCH BUFFET

Fruit & Salad bar

Waffle bar

Dessert Bar

Biscuits & Gravy

Eggs

Hashbrowns

Sausage

Bacon

Chicken Tenders

Mac & Cheese

Vegetables

Potatoes

Prime Rib

Pork Loin

Asiago Mushroom Chicken

MESSAGE FROM OUR GOLF PROFESSIONAL

Hello from the golf shop!

The month of May means peak golf season! Men's league has already been going for a few weeks and we will start Ladies League soon. Ladies 'A' League will begin their season on Tuesday, May 6th and Ladies 'Blind Draw' League will start on Wednesday, May 14th.

A few more events to get excited about coming in the month of May:

Saturday, May 3rd-4th: Columbus Classic

We have a list of great players this year! Plenty of college golfers as well as some top players from the NGA competing this year. Look for a live scoring link if you would like to follow along

Friday, May 9th: Couples Golf Night - "Nueve de Mayo"

5:45PM Shotgun Start. Mexican style appetizers follow play. Games/Prizes with a Mexican flare during play

Friday, May 9th: Callaway Fitting

11AM-5PM. Ask the golf shop about registering for a fitting

Saturday, May 24th-Monday, May 26th: Memorial Day Kickoff Weekend

Saturday the 24th will be a 2-person shamble. 9AM shotgun start

Sunday the 25th will be our annual shootout fundraiser

Monday the 26th will be our annual "Beat the Pros" Game

As the calendar turns to May that means the return of summer golf shop staff! Make sure to stop in and say hi to the returning faces once school is finished up. They asked me to say "tips are always welcomed"

Lastly, as we transition the lounge upstairs for this year, don't forget about the golf shop for all your needs. I have most of my spring inventory currently stocked in the golf shop. With that said, there is an "out with old, in with the new" swap about to happen! Be on the lookout for my spring blowout sale of some clearance apparel. Until then, stop in and see all of the new stuff!

-Derrick



KICKOFF WEEKEND 
ELKS COUNTRY CLUB
Saturday, May 24th - Monday, May 26th



MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Hello Members

In the past few newsletters, I have talked about how a successful golf maintenance staff can perform to the best of its ability - like a three-legged stool. The three “legs” to produce a golf course members deserve are: 1) staff, 2) equipment, and 3) a good irrigation system - the lifeblood of the course.

The April issue talked about equipment. The March issue introduced you to Justin Miller, my assistant. So this month, let’s talk irrigation.

Installed sometime in the 1960’s, the original Elks’ system is a frost-free, single-row, quick couple system six feet underground. The quick couplers were placed every 30 yards, with four located around each green.

This system required a man to work overnight, turning on and moving large, quick coupler sprinklers up and down each tee and fairway. It would take 8 to 10 hours a night to complete the watering. This is how it was done back then, and it was a good system at the time.

Steel risers connected to an asbestos pipe main line were also installed six feet below the frost line.



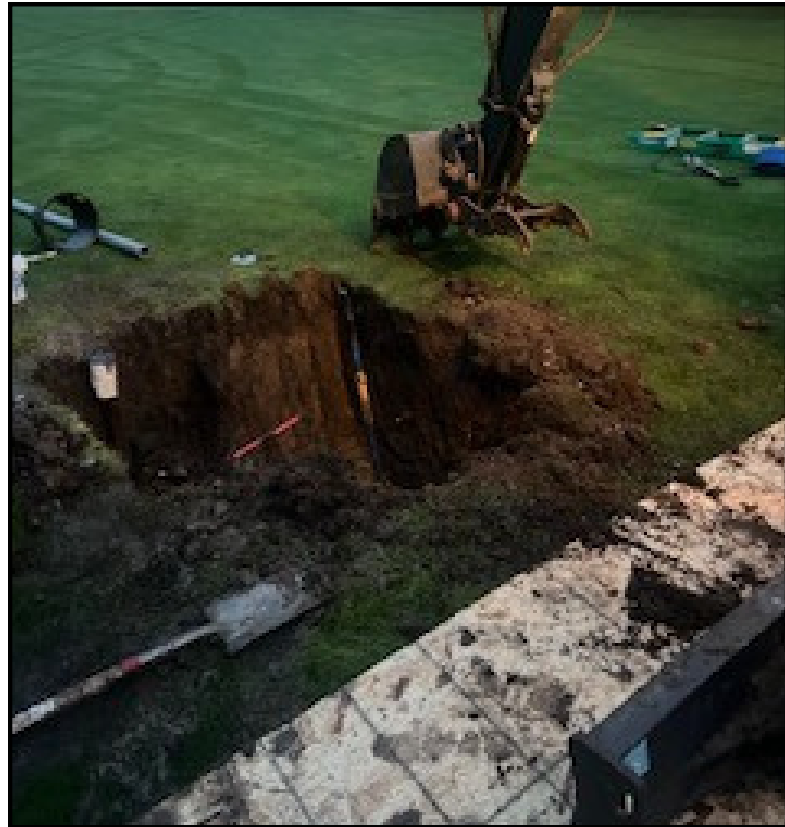
Because these risers have been in the ground for over 50 years, holes have developed in places (picture below) and we need to bring in a large excavator to repair them.

A PVC system with glue bell fittings was installed in the 90s with a life expectancy of 20 years. The glue fittings (not designed to last this long in the ground) have become weak and have started to fail. (picture below) These are three feet underground, and we must dig by hand to fix them



Unfortunately - to save money when the newer irrigation system was installed - the decision was made to not run a new main and just tie into the old system to deliver water to the course. Which means, even though we have a 30-year-old system tied to a 50-year-old system, we actually have a 50-year-old system.

The system does not have isolation valves, and if we get a leak on the old system, we must turn the well off and drain the system to fix the leak without causing any other leaks along the PVC system. This takes time.



We had 43 leaks in our PVC system last year, each of which takes anywhere from 1 to 4 hours to fix. Our average cost for parts was \$60, not including labor.

The original system had 11 leaks last year, each of which took anywhere from 2 to 6 hours to repair, and an average cost per fix of \$250, including excavator rental but not including labor.

In short, irrigation system maintenance is a large cost in our budget.

I share this information not to scare you, but to give you a better idea of the costs and labor that go toward maintaining a quality course, and to help you understand why we will need to replace the old system with a new one.

-Eric

Did you know...?

In an effort to provide transparent communications and improve member satisfaction, the Elks' newsletter has been publishing information about the costs to operate the Elks - from painting the pool, to pressing tablecloths and purchasing fertilizer. This month, we address some rumors and realities about moving the golf lounge upstairs.



















THE RUMORS

- **Formal dining is going away.** Not true. The Elks can provide both casual and fine dining on the same floor. "Some of our members with kids have said it feels like they 'bother' the older members who are all dressed up for dinner, so then, they don't come out to eat at all," said Trista. "We want to be a club for all our members, and the West Elks room gives families a place to eat while reserving the east side for those who want a more fine dining experience."
- **There won't be food for kids at the pool this summer.** Again, not true. We will have more summer staff to support serving members who come out to enjoy the pool.
- **Not many members answered the survey.** Actually, 237 members did. We had a 65% rate of return, which is much higher than the 10% average return on surveys.
- **Some members can't take the stairs.** They don't need to because the paved roadway between the pro shop and the front door leads to a zero-entry ramp up to the front door.
- **Private tournaments don't do anything for the club.** Untrue. Private tournaments return a profit necessary to club operations, reducing the total amount members would have to pay. The 2024 Nebraska Open brought in more than \$15,000 in one weekend.
- **I just don't like it. We don't need it.** Some people didn't like Elvis' music; initially, didn't like cars at first. Still others were afraid of electricity, yet each advancement made life a little better for a lot of people.

THE REALITIES

- **There's more camaraderie and socializing.** "Since moving the golf lounge upstairs, we've noticed players are staying longer after their rounds to enjoy other members and a beverage at the bar." One waiter even noticed some non-OFC members talking with OFC members during their monthly gathering in the banquet room. Prior to moving the lounge upstairs, there was little interaction between OFC members and anyone else in the club. "Members tell us they enjoy looking out the windows to see the course, when before they could only see the pool."
- **The staff is more unified.** Employees assigned to upstairs dining on Thursday night often found themselves working alone when the lounge was open, especially after league. "It was necessary to have a waiter available for any reservations or if anyone came in impromptu. But Thursday night reservations are often minimal, which meant one wait staff worked an entire room downstairs alone, while the other sat idle upstairs waiting for the phone to ring or door to open. Now, the staff can support one another, serve customers better, and we are more efficient, overall. As one staff member said, 'It doesn't feel like a ghost town upstairs anymore.'"
- **Change is good.** What would happen to Columbus if Hwy 30 was never replaced? The original infrastructure would crumble and fail, drivers would avoid the route, and the city would look ugly. The same is true for the club. If we do not update the facility and grounds, and if we do nothing to bring in new members, the costs will become too high, members would drop, and the club would eventually close.

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 
4 	5	6  Women's Match Play League Starts	7	8 	9 	10 Two Private Events
11 	12	13 	14  Women's Blind Draw League Starts	15 	16	17
18	19	20 	21	22 	23 	24  Taste of SUMMER Dinner 5-9p.m.
25 	26  Play the Pro Competition	27 	28 	29 	30	31

2025 Summer Kick-off adds a few twists

This Memorial Day weekend will serve as the launch of summer 2025, as well as the Elks' Summer Kickoff. Yet, this year's events promise a few twists to what has "always been done."

The annual charge of \$100 remains the same, as does the option to withdraw your support of the club's annual fundraiser.

Last year's Kickoff raised \$21,000 (representing two-thirds of our members' participation) and was used for necessary equipment, building repairs, and other course improvements. Imagine, if all 363 members participated, how much more we could accomplish!

This year, the dollars raised will continue management's goals to revitalize the ECC property and main clubhouse, enhance both casual and fine dining menus, promote the golf course's quality, and increase Elk members.


To make this year's event more beneficial to members, a few twists are planned:



POOL OPENS EARLY. Last year, cooler weather prohibited the pool from opening on Memorial Day, but this year, staff wants to have the pool filled and warming before the first toe is dipped.



A Saturday Stag - 2 PERSON SHAMBLE a 9 AM Shotgun. Food is included in the \$40 entry fee.

A TASTE OF SUMMER DINNER  has been added to the weekend's activities, based upon the success of last fall's Harvest Dinner. This will be an exclusive 5 - 9 p.m. experience featuring three, new entree choices from a summer menu filled with fresh vegetables and salads. Reservations will be required, and you won't want to miss it.



Everyone wins something Sunday evening at the **ELKS' ANNUAL SHOOTOUT**. Enjoy complimentary appetizers, canned beer, and a new, silent auction with unique items not offered from a winning hit on the green. The grid will also be in a new location on the course. Come see!!

Finally, the weekend concludes with a **BEAT THE PROS GAME**. Make your own tee time and let the golf shop know that you are intending to play in the game!



Questions about any of the activities can be sent directly to elkscc@theelkscc.com.