



139 Years of Elkdom

PORT HURON ELKS LODGE 343

EXPOSITOR

PHONE: (810) 982-8531 • FAX: (810) 982-8743 • PRO SHOP: (810) 984-1204

ISSUE NO. 358

JANUARY 2026

MONTHLY PUBLICATION

HAPPY *new year*

Club 343 is the Place to be!

Saturday, Jan. 10th 5pm

In the downstairs Social Quarters.

Club 343 will be hosting the first get together of the NEW YEAR!

Theme: Wear your favorite "Winter Theme" shirt or sweater to welcome the new season of Club 343.

Volunteers Wanted for Club 343! ✨

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to TAKE OVER and CHAIR Club 343! Help continue this long-standing tradition while supporting other Lodge committees with financial support, as well as our veterans and children's events.

Club 343 runs once a month from October through May, and we're hoping to begin training as early as possible to ensure a smooth transition before our final event in May.

If you're interested in getting involved, please call:

Gary (810) 357-6825

Penny (810) 357-8322

Yoga
will
start
back
Wednesday
Jan. 14th
thru
Feb. 18th
4-5 pm

BLANKET
MAKING
EVERY
TUESDAY
1 -3 PM

Diamond Art
every
Wednesday
3-5 pm & 6-8 pm

Putt Putt GOLF

Elks Lodge Upper Level

Fri., Jan. 30th 4-9 pm

Sat., Jan. 31st 12-7 pm

18 holes \$15

- Seniors, Veterans &
- Children 12 & under 18 holes \$10



4th Annual



WILD GAME BANQUET

**Saturday,
January 17th**

See page 4
for ticket order form
and more information

MEAT BINGO

Saturday, January 24th - 5 pm

- \$2 per paddle
- 5 winners per round

Dance

ELKS LODGE 343
DADDY
DAUGHTER

6th February 2026

6pm-8pm

3292 Beach Rd,

Port Huron MI 48060

RSVP: (810)982-8531 Ext.4

Join Us for a fun night
of Dancing!

- Pizza Bar • Candy
- Prizes • Cash Raffles

**Adult & Child
Admission**

\$35

**Additional
Child \$10**

2 American Girl
Doll Raffles





Exalted Ruler Message

Hello Brothers and Sisters.

HAPPY NEW YEAR and I hope this edition finds you all well and enjoying the Holidays. I know I am with four grandchildren under the age of three, and another on the way very soon. Their smiles are so warming on these cold winter nights. I hope you had a chance to participate in some activity around the lodge this past month. We had a wonderful

Breakfast with Santa which was a great success. Thanks to the committee and volunteers who made this a fun event for the kids. I want to thank Gary Nesbitt II, PER for leading the Elks Memorial Service this year along with other PER's and officers. I appreciate you all helping out with this special remembrance service of absent members. Speaking of helping out, special thanks to all the members who donated or contributed to our "Baskets for the Needy" campaign. The PER's are grateful for the generous donations. At the time of this writing, I know the other Christmas events have not taken place yet, but thank you to all who helped out with the Jeffery Hills Memorial Adult Special Needs Christmas party and the Elks Children's Christmas party for Elks members with kids, grandchildren and maybe even some great-grandchildren.

Another special thanks to the members who helped out with the annual Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell ringing at Vinckiers. The kettle was quite full when I got there to do the last shift. Very uplifting to watch the generosity of patrons going in and out of the store.

The new year will bring the lodge some challenges and opportunities in the months and years ahead as we begin starting our budgeting season for the upcoming 2026-7 Elks fiscal year. Port Huron Elks 343 is considered a large lodge by Grand Lodge standards. This creates certain challenges for us in order to run a lodge of this magnitude as compared to other lodges in our state and district. We are fortunate enough to have the spectacular golf course to use and support us from April to October. But the lodge needs your continued support from November to March. The Board has been meeting to compile current financials, immediate needs of the lodge and golf course. The needs of the aging lodge and golf course equipment are creating challenges which we need to overcome so we can maintain our current level of expectations and service.

Keep on eye out for updates and announcements as we work through the budgeting process and setting prices for the upcoming year.

In closing, as we move into 2026, may we remember our cardinal principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity. REMEMBER YESTERDAY, ENJOY TODAY AND PLAN FOR TOMORROW.

Fraternally Yours,
John C. Cuthbertson, Exalted Ruler

SPEEDY RECOVERY

We wish a speedy recovery for our members who have been either home ill or hospitalized.

PER Marv Ohrling	PER Greg Shannon	Brian Duman
John Stewart	Greg Farley	PER Joe Barbe
Karl Livingston	Theresa Conroy	PER Gail Marquis
Bob Kempf	PER Mark Howard	Joe Miller
Tom Erd	Gary Osburn	



Our prayers to the families who have lost a loved one...

Dave Howard ~ Loss of Spouse
Mark Howard ~ Loss of Sister-in-law

Craft Show successful once again

Port Huron Elks Lodge held its 12th annual Craft Show on November 22nd, and what a show it was! We had approximately 1009 attendees plus 25 volunteers and many new crafters! There was something for everyone. Once again, we had so many of our membership volunteer in so many ways! The Craft Show Committee THANK YOUs so much!! To everyone who helped get the Craft Show information out with an advertising yard sign at your home or business; or hung a Craft Show poster at your business or place of employment, gave out the colored 4x6 colored fliers to friends, family, or co-workers, or passed the word by text, Facebook, or by the old-fashioned word of mouth, the Craft Show Committee Thanks You All! We couldn't be successful without each and every one of you helping the month before, the week before and the day of the Craft Show. Thank You to Steve Peters, Gary Nesbitt, Drew Kroetsch, Jon Tovarez, for Thursday measuring & taping of the floors upstairs, as well as setting up chairs for all crafters. Thank you to Gary & Laura Nesbitt, Dan & Paula McVety for clearing Social Quarters of tables, chairs & furniture, and for taping the floor after dinners were eaten Friday... and resetting it up Saturday evening! Thank you MaryFran Deachin for your directional guidance in the parking lot! Thank You to All Volunteers for Saturday throughout the day: Mouse Belkiewicz, Scott Harris, Kennedy Kornwise, Halee Harwood, Sophie Maxon, Jane Dennis, Sandy Lashbrook, Wendy Horn, Shelley Murdick, Gloria Traub, Penny Osburn, Charlene Biessel, Sally Biernasz, Liam Twiss & Brooke (who also delivered water in the afternoon to all of our Crafters)! Thank you to Stacey Gould for collecting lunch orders & delivery of them! Also the help of our kitchen staff: Jason M, Brian C, and Alex O for the wonderful lunches made! AND we can't forget, new this year, our Shuttle Drivers from/to the PH Twp park for our crafters where they parked: John Cuthbertson, Greg Hudy, Fred Massad, Drew Kroetsch, Alayna Hyslop, & Clair Renno, Emily & Cody! We had many more parking spots available for shoppers! Our crafters thought it was great! Thank You All!!!

The Craft Show Committee was able to make donations to • Jeffrey Hills Memorial Special Needs Adult Christmas Party \$500 • Young Marines of Marysville \$1000 • Hannah Winkler Foundation \$400 • Wreaths across America \$255 (Port Huron Twp Cemetery wreaths) and • Port Huron Twp \$200 for the Kids Summer Camp.

We have already begun planning for next year's show. Save the Date: November 21, 2026.
2025 Craft Show Committee: Karen Barber, Aliena Drummond, Sue Hudy, Carrie Woolman

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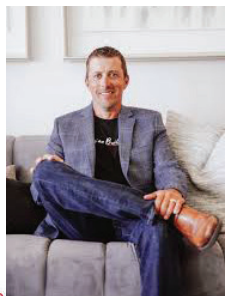
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Elks Care - Elks Share

The Port Huron Elks Lodge 343 once again showed its commitment to community service by supporting the Salvation Army's "Bells of Giving" campaign. Volunteers gathered on Saturday, December 6th at Vinckier Foods in Wadhams, bringing warm hearts to a cold day. Thank you to PDDGER Greg & Sue Hudy, PER Steve & Tammy Peters, PER Gerry Goodwin, PER Gary & Laura Nesbitt, Dan McVety & ER John Cuthbertson, Karen Barber, Shelley & George Murdick, Keith & Jo Eisen, Bob & Dana Lane, and Jean Chapdelaine for your generous support, once again proving that Elks Care, Elks Share.



VETERAN'S CORNER 55



Port Huron Elks Lodge 343 Veterans Committee & ENVSC organized a Veterans recognition ceremony honoring the Veteran residents at the Michigan Veterans Home at Chesterfield. On Thursday, November 6th, each resident of the MVH who served during the Vietnam conflict received a National Commemorative lapel pin, presented by Pentagon Representative Gene Nethaway, American Legion 8th District Commander. Along with the National recognition pin, every Vietnam Veteran and every other Veteran resident received a State of Michigan Veterans lapel pin presented by Michelle Fickes, Veterans Engagement Officer for the State of Michigan. The ceremony recognized and honored 96 Vietnam Veteran residents, along with 30 other Veterans residents during the event. The event was sponsored by the ENVSC and Lodge 343 Veterans committee, with the support of many MVH staff and volunteers. MVH Staff along with DDGER Scott R. Harris, ENVSC VAVS Rep, Monica Franks, ENVSC Deputy Rep and MiElks State President, Michael Bartolotta, all members from Port Huron Lodge 343, hosted this event. Cynthia Ross, State Coordinator from Elks National Veterans Service Commission and member of Plymouth-Ann Arbor Lodge 325 attended and assisted with the planning. Pictured top left WWII Veteran Bob from Chicago with Monica & Scott, Lodge 343.

On Monday, December 1st the MiElks & Lodge 343 sponsored and hosted (7) MVH handicapped Veterans and (5) MVH staff members while attending the "Christmas Together" with Amy Grant, Michael W Smith, and Cece Winans at the Fox Theater.

Other points of interest: Lodge 343 and ENVSC hosted our 3rd annual Free Hot Dog Roast on Wednesday, November 12th at the Yale VA. Pictured at right are the Hot Dog Roast Lodge 343 Volunteers (Scott, Penny, Patricia, Monica & Fred) On Wednesday, December 10th we also hosted our bi-monthly free "Coffee & Donut Day" in the Veterans Wellness room. Our next "Coffee & Donut" day will be on Wednesday, February 11th. These events are sponsored by Port Huron Elks Lodge 343, the MiElks Association, ENVSC, and the Yale VA. This is our way to say thank you, to our Veterans, active Military and first responders for their service. Please feel free to stop in, even without a scheduled appointment, we would enjoy your company.

On another note: The Michigan Elks and Lodge 343 continue with our monthly (2) \$25.00 free gas gift card "give-a-way" program now into our 3rd year. For the month of November, Veterans Ralph Lill, US Navy (Seal Team 2) and Matt Woods USMC were the two lucky local Veterans drawn for our monthly Marathon Gas Gift card drawing, congratulations! The Yale Veterans Clinic of McLaren/Port Huron Yale Community Health Center is located at 7470 Brockway Road, Yale, MI. 48097. To our Port Huron Elks Lodge 343 Veterans and newly initiated Veterans, your time served is very interesting to us, please consider sharing your Military Service story to Scott R. Harris PER, ENVSC VAVS Rep at scottharris55@comcast.net for a future Veterans Corner publication.



MVH Vietnam Pinning Ceremony Volunteers



MVH Veterans at the Fox Theater

4th Annual THE ELKS LODGE 343 WILD GAME

JANUARY 17, 2026 BANQUET

TICKETS Ticket order deadline - January 17

\$65 Single, \$45 Spouse or Child (15 & under)
\$520 Tables of 8

GENERAL RAFFLE PACKAGE DEAL

Purchase this \$100 package by January 17 and receive:

- 132 General Raffle Tickets (For majority of all guns & merchandise)
- 2 Bonus Gun Raffle Tickets
- Bonus \$50 Raffle Ticket Package

Items picked up at event, if purchased at event, you will only receive 88 general raffle tickets and 1 bonus gun raffle ticket. *Banquet ticket NOT included. Raffle Lic. #00000

BECOME A TABLE CAPTAIN

Purchase banquet tickets for 8 people (or more) and become a table captain - you will receive:

- Entry into a **Table Captain-Only Gun Drawing**
- Table reserved in your name
- Recognition as a special Wild Game event guest

BECOME A BRONZE SPONSOR

Donate \$100 and receive entry into a Sponsor - Only Gun Drawing! **One Winner.**

BECOME A SILVER SPONSOR

Donate \$250 and receive entry into Silver Sponsor Gun Raffle. **One in 20 Chance to Win!**

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BECOME A GOLD SPONSOR

Donate \$500 and receive entry into Gold Sponsor Gun Raffle. **One in 5 Chance to Win!**

Henry Big Boy Golden Receiver • 44 MAG Lever Action Rifle

FOR TICKETS OR INFORMATION

Contact Port Huron Elks Lodge 810.982.8531
Early Bird Tickets Available at Port Huron Elks Lodge

FOR SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION **CALL JERRY THIBODEAU 810.531.8671**

As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, donations are tax deductible as to IRS Code.

THE ELKS LODGE 343

Please send me:	Qty.	Each	Total
Single Ticket	_____	\$65	\$_____
Spouse or Child Ticket	_____	\$45	\$_____
Bronze Sponsor- Cash	_____	\$100	\$_____
Silver Sponsor- Cash	_____	\$250	\$_____
Gold Sponsor- Cash	_____	\$500	\$_____
General Raffle Package	_____	\$100	\$_____
For Total Amount of:		\$_____	\$_____

Make check/money order payable to **Port Huron Elks**.
Mail to: Aliana Drummond, 3292 Beach Road, Port Huron, MI 48060

WILD GAME

JANUARY 17, 2026 BANQUET

TICKET ORDER FORM
Please print name and address where tickets are to be sent. Send along names of all attendees on a separate sheet of paper designating single, spouse, or child.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: () _____
Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ Am. Express
Card #: _____
Name on card: _____
Exp. Date: _____ V-Code: _____
Signature: _____

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State President part of Military Spirit Night in Saginaw



Our very own Michigan Elks State President, Mike Bartolotta of Port Huron Lodge 343 (far right), was interviewed on WNEM TV-5 in Saginaw on November 21st, prior to attending the Saginaw Spirit's Military Appreciation Night hockey game. Also pictured with Mike and the TV reporter is Eric Olgaard of the Saginaw Spirit hockey team.

Elks 80th Blood Drive

The Port Huron Elks Lodge 343 held our 80th blood drive, on Monday, November 17th as we continue to help us close the gap on blood shortages! (35) donors arrived to provide the "Gift of Life". (3) donors were deferred, (31) whole blood pints, and (1 Power reds = 2 pints) were collected, for a total of (33) total units. Working together, the Port Huron Elks Lodge 343, and the American Red Cross we have collected over 2,759 units (pints) = over 344 gallons of blood since our 1st drive on January 7, 2013. We are well on our way to reaching our next goal of 3,000 pints (375 gallons). Our 81st drive is scheduled for Monday, December 15th. Please consider registering today at <https://www.redcross.org>.

Dues statement info

Grand Lodge will be mailing out dues statements either the 1st or 2nd week in February 2026. Please return your statement with your dues/donation(s) payment whether you mail your payment, or pay at the Lodge. Thank you so much! If you need a receipt for your payment, one can be written for you at the time of payment.

Golf memberships

2026 Golf Membership notice... statements will be mailed late January-early February.

Please mail your payment to the Pro Shop, attn: Brandon Archibald 3292 Beach Rd., Port Huron, MI 48060 or hand deliver. Brandon will be back the first week of March.



Message from Brandon Archibald, Golf Professional

As winter settles over Port Huron and the course disappears under fresh layers of snow, we just wanted to take a moment to reach out and stay connected. Golf may be in hibernation, but the energy, memories, and friendships from the 2025 season are still carrying us through these cold months.

This is the time of year when the fairways get quiet, but the planning never stops. Behind the scenes, we're already back at it, meeting, brainstorming, sketching out new ideas, and fine-tuning everything that made last season such a success. From events to leagues to the Golf Shop to course operations, the wheels are turning every day to make sure 2026 opens stronger, smoother, and more fun than ever.

Winter gives us the chance to look back on all the great moments from the past year, the tournaments, the laughs on the driving range, the late-night scorecards, and all the stories that make this place feel like more than a golf course. It's a reminder of why we love doing what we do, and why we're always pushing to make each season better than the last.

Most importantly, we want to say thank you. Thank you for supporting the Golf Shop, thank you for showing up with your friends and families, thank you for embracing the traditions we're building, and thank you for being the heartbeat of this Lodge. The Elks community is something special, and we feel it every single day.

As we head into the holidays, we hope you and your families enjoy a warm, peaceful, joy-filled season. Rest up, recharge, and get ready because the countdown to tee-off has already begun.

Golf will be back before we know it... and 2026 is going to be an incredible year for all of us at the Elks.

Our annual Memorial Service



The Past Exalted Rulers Association and Officers of Port Huron Elks Lodge 343 held our annual Memorial Service on December 7th, a deeply meaningful tradition in which we pause to honor and remember the fifteen members who passed away during the past year: Frederick Cartwright, Carlton (Otto) L. Graham, Richard L. Foltz, Doran (Bud) Laming, Harold L. Klettner, Scott K. Tatro, Gary S. Buchanan, Charles L. Hicks, Daniel (D.J.) Westrick, Horace H. Boddy, Francis R. Swarts, Richard T. Sullivan, Joseph M. Abdou, Thomas S. Buckingham, and William K. Bowman. Their contributions, fellowship, and enduring dedication to our Lodge will remain a valued part of our history.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to bagpiper David Barber and vocalist Cliff Erickson for adding dignity and warmth to the ceremony with their wonderful performances.

A sincere thank you is also extended to the families of our departed members, whose strength and support are felt throughout our Lodge community, and to the Lodge members and guests who joined us for this solemn observance. Your attendance reflects the true spirit of our order and the bond we share. **"An Elk is never forgotten, never forsaken."**

The Memorial "To Our Absent Members"



If you would like the name of your loved one added, please complete the form below and forward it with your check in the amount of \$125 to:

PER Steve Peters
c/o Elks Lodge 343
3292 Beach Road
Port Huron, MI 48060

To have a name put on the monument, the member must have been a member in "good standing" at Port Huron Elks Lodge #343 at time of death. If you have any questions, please contact PER Steve Peters at 810-982-8531.

The Memorial "To Our Absent Members"

Name of Remitter _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____

Name and Date of Death to be engraved on Monument: **Please Print**

Signature of Remitter _____

Date submitted _____

2025-26 LODGE OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler.....John Cuthberston
 Esteemed Leading Knight..Gary Nesbitt II, PER
 Esteemed Loyal Knight.....Timothy J. Meikle
 Esteemed Lecturing Knight...Andrew J. Kroetsch
 Esquire.....vacant
 Chaplain.....Tracey L. Cameron
 Tiler.....Robert J. Fritch, PER
 Inner Guard.....Michael Halifax
 Secretary.....Gregory C. Hudy, PDDGER
 Treasurer.....Joe D. Miller
 Presiding Justice.....Frank Mitchell Jr.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gary A. Osburn - ENVSC Deputy Rep.

TRUSTEES

Fred Massad • Gary A. Osburn
 Jerry J. Thibodeau Sr • PER Gerald W. Goodwin
 PER Greg Shannon

GOLF COMMITTEE

Shawn Eagle (Chairman) • Mike Falter
 Karl Livingston • Hans Medina
 Randy Johnston • Butch Hills

P.E.R. ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President.....Gary L. Nesbitt, PER
 Vice President.....Gerald W. Goodwin, PER
 Secretary/Treasurer...Steven M. Peters, PER

GRAND LODGE & MEA STATE OFFICERS

Michael Bartolotta - MEA State President
 Scott R. Harris - DDGER, ENVSC, Rep. &
 State Resolutions Chairman
 Gary A. Osburn - ENVSC Deputy Rep.
 Penny J. Osburn - ENVSC Deputy Rep.
 Monica G. Franks - ENVSC Deputy Rep.
 Jean Chapdelaine - MEA State Newsletter Editor

Elk of the Year
 Richard Niemietz
Officer of the Year
 Lisa Haremza
Outstanding Elks
Members
 Donald W. Allen II
 Joe Miller

Citizen of the Year
 Carmella Robbins
Sweetheart of Elksdom
 Jo Eisen
Couple of the Year
 Alan & Kimberly Krug
Elks Youth Recognition
 Josh Burke

Jim Goodrich Lifetime
Achievement Award
 Shawn N. Eagle
 Michael M. Duncan
Veteran Volunteer
of the Year
 Monica Franks
 Gary A. & Penny J. Osburn

Port Huron Elks Lodge 343
 3292 Beach Road
 Port Huron, MI 48060

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Especially for:

JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 New Year's Day — WE ARE CLOSED —	2	3
4 — WE ARE CLOSED —	5	6	7	8 Bar 3pm-12am Kitchen 4pm-9pm MEN'S POOL LEAGUE	9 Bar 3pm-11pm Kitchen 4pm-8pm	10 Bar 12pm-11pm Kitchen 12pm-8pm CLUB 343 5pm
11 Bar 12 pm-8pm Kitchen Closed	12 Bar Closed Kitchen Closed LODGE MEETING Initiation - 6:30pm	13 Bar Closed Kitchen Closed BLANKET MAKING	14 Bar 3pm-10pm Kitchen Closed DIAMOND ART 3-5 & 6-8 YOGA 4-5 pm	15 Bar 3pm-12am Kitchen 4pm-9pm MEN'S POOL LEAGUE	16 Bar 3pm-11pm Kitchen 4pm-8pm	17 Bar 12pm-11pm Kitchen 12pm-8pm WILD GAME DINNER 4:30pm
18 Bar 12 pm-8pm Kitchen Closed	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Bar Closed Kitchen Closed BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING 6:30pm	20 Bar Closed Kitchen Closed BLANKET MAKING	21 Bar 3pm-10pm Kitchen Closed DIAMOND ART 3-5 & 6-8 YOGA 4-5 pm	22 Bar 3pm-12am Kitchen 4pm-9pm MEN'S POOL LEAGUE	23 Bar 3pm-11pm Kitchen 4pm-8pm	24 Bar 12pm-11pm Kitchen 12pm-8pm MEAT BINGO 5pm
25 Bar 12 pm-8pm Kitchen Closed	26 Bar Closed Kitchen Closed LODGE MEETING Business - 6:30pm	27 Bar Closed Kitchen Closed BLANKET MAKING	28 Bar 3pm-10pm Kitchen Closed DIAMOND ART 3-5 & 6-8 YOGA 4-5 pm	29 Bar 3pm-12am Kitchen 4pm-9pm MEN'S POOL LEAGUE	30 Bar 3pm-11pm Kitchen 4pm-8pm PUTT PUTT GOLF 4-9pm	31 Bar 12pm-11pm Kitchen 12pm-8pm PUTT PUTT GOLF 12-7pm