130 Years of Elkdom

PORT HURON ELKS LODGE 343

EXPOSITOR

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

ISSUE NO. 367 | OCTOBER 2026 | MONTHLY PUBLICATION

OCTOBER HAPPENINGS

91st + Blood Drive

Monday, October 19th from 12 noon to 5:45 pm

Getting Closer to our 3000 pints Goal!

FALL FAMILY HARVEST Party

Sunday, October 4th
11am - 2pm

CANDY SCRAMBLE
RELAY GAMES
PAINT YOUR OWN PUMPKIN
FURRY FRIENDS & MORE!

Tickets - $20/child
$10/adult

To purchase tickets, please contact Events
810.982.8531 x 4
porthuronelksevents@outlook.com

Diamond Art



Wednesdys
3-5 pm & 6-8 pm

Thursday Men's Pool League

Starts October 22nd at 4:30 pm

Golfing

- Fall Member - Guest
  Saturday, October 3rd
- Hardest Day of Golf End-of-year Scramble
  Saturday, October 17th

We're Coming Back

Sisters Act Out



is a musical comedy act performed by women of senior status who will make you laugh right out loud by their music, funny lyrics, and crazy antics!

TICKETS: $35 person

Thursday, October 8th - doors open 5 pm
Dinner - 6pm (spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert
Performance 7 - 8 pm

Purchase tickets at the Elks Lodge: 810-982-8531
or by texting Jamie Fagen at 810-434-4727

Proceeds to benefit The Ladies Invitational

CLUB 343

CLUB 343 2026-27 Season Ticket

Now is the time to secure your ticket for the upcoming Club 343 season (October 2026 - May 2027).
We are planning so much fun for the monthly event with new themes, so many prizes, lots of raffles and so much more!

Our kickoff event is going to be filled with SPOOKY FUN on OCTOBER 10TH!

Come in a costume! We will have a contest with some fun prizes for best dressed!

Lots of fun giveaways, spooky food and drink specials and so much more!

All the fun starts at 5 pm in the Social Quarters.

Contact Lynn Bowman (810) 531-0650 or Laura Nesbitt (810) 531-1531 to secure your ticket today!

HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT & TAILGATE

MICHIGAN vs INDIANA

MICHIGAN STATE vs UCLA



SATURDAY
OCTOBER 26
NOON – 2:00 PM
TRUNK OR TREAT

PORT HURON ELKS LODGE 343
3292 BEACH RD,
PORT HURON, MI

TRUNK OR TREAT FOR THE KIDS
FOOD & DRINKS TAILGATE STYLE
BRING A DISH TO PASS
ALL FANS WELCOME
GO BLUE • GO GREEN

FOOTBALL + FAMILY + FUN



Exalted Ruler Message

Hello members all.

Fall is upon us and another great year of golfing will be coming to a close. But if you listen to all the El Nino reports we could be golfing into December. Let's hope it turns out that way. We had a slow start this spring. Fall golf is the best golf of the year in my opinion, with the colors in the trees and cooler temperatures. Don't forget about our Fall Harvest Day, Trunk or Treating, and Pumpkin Patch. So many wonderful things that go on in the month of October and November. Keep your eye out for announcements in the Expositor and Clubster email blasts. If you haven't signed up for Clubster, I would highly encourage you to do so to stay in the know.

September and October are busy meeting months with visits from the District Vice Chairman and President, along with District Auditor and Esquire. In October, our DDGER will be making a visit at the end of the month. State convention will be at Shanty Creek this year on October 16-18. Port Huron Elks Lodge will be well represented at the convention with at least 11 officers and members attending.

As some of you may or may not know, we have lost two critical pieces of golf equipment within a month: the tractor and the sidewinder mower. These items are essential to the upkeep and maintenance of the golf course and Lodge grounds. They need to be replaced as the tractor was very old and had been repaired/bandaided many times. THE LODGE needs your support in all our fundraising efforts that will be coming in the very near future. I would like to ask every member to donate $50 towards this cause. If every member did so, we could raise $50,000 really quick. We will be starting our Queen of Hearts drawings in early November. This too needs participation from the entire Lodge. If every member bought or sold $10 every week for the 40 weeks, we could generate a $400,000 pot and the Lodge would get $180,000. This would put a nice dent into the equipment and Lodge update needs. We need to get the pot built up quickly to generate excitement. It is my wish and request that every member participates and supports the Lodge in this endeavor whether it is buying or selling tickets. We have the best golf course in St. Clair County and want to keep it that way.

In closing, reconsider your obligation and support our cardinal principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity. I thank you all for being the heart of our Lodge and I appreciate each and every one of you.

READY ELKS? LET'S GO.

Fraternally Yours,

John C. Cuthbertson, PER

Exalted Ruler

"Be PROUD to be a member and show your Elks Membership Card"

Go to Facebook.com for all the latest updates...

- PHElksLodge343
- PortHuronElksBanquets
- phelksloddge343GolfClub

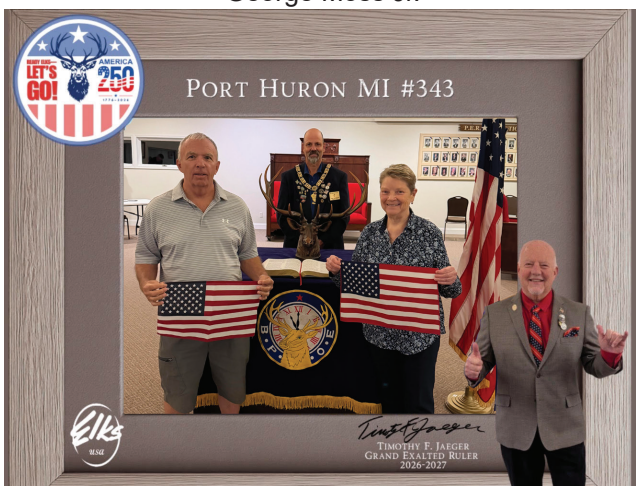
Welcome NEW MEMBERS . . .

Jeannine Suksi

Donald Wilkie

Reinstated . . .

George Moss Jr.



SPEEDY RECOVERY

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

PER Marv Ohrling
John Stewart
Theresa Conroy
PER Joe Barbe
Tom Erd
Larry Allison
John Chambless
Jeff Blashill
Pat Hudgens
Tom Coleman
PER David Marquis
PER GeraldGoodwin
Patricia Bennett

Commemorative bricks for sale

Commemorative bricks for the Elks #343 Veteran Memorial Project are now available for purchase.

Brick Options:

- 4" x 8" Brick — $75

Up to 4 lines, maximum 22 characters per line.

- 8" x 8" Brick — $125

Up to 8 lines, maximum 22 characters per line.

- 8" x 8" Brick with Military Emblem — $150

Up to 4 lines, maximum 22 characters per line, plus your choice of military branch/emblem.

Order forms are available now in the Social Quarters. Simply pick up a form there for complete ordering information.



87th blood drive closing in to goal

The Port Huron Elks Lodge 343 held our 87th blood drive, on Monday, August 17th as we continue to help us close the gap on blood shortages! (51) donors arrived to provide the "Gift of Life" as we surpassed our goal of (38). (7) donors were deferred, (37) whole blood pints, and (5 Power reds = 10 pints) were collected, for a total of (47) total units. We had ONE first time donor. Working together, the Port Huron Elks Lodge 343, and the American Red Cross we have collected over 2,987 units (pints) which equals over 373 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 88th drive is scheduled for Monday, September 21st, 13 donors have already scheduled appointments, thank you! Please consider registering today at https://www.redcross.org.

Congratulations to 343's Scott Harris



I am also very proud to congratulate our own Scott R. Harris, DDGER, of Port Huron Elks Lodge #343, on receiving the "Heart of a Hero" Award!

Scott was among nine outstanding area residents honored on August 20 at the annual awards banquet hosted by The Arc of St. Clair County and Women's Life Chapter #820 Archangels. He was recognized for something those of us at Lodge #343 have witnessed firsthand—his tremendous dedication to our veterans and his continued service throughout our community.

As our Lodge Veterans Committee Chair and the Elks Veterans Service Commission State Representative for St. Clair, Sanilac and Macomb counties, Scott devotes countless hours to making life a little better for veterans. His efforts reach veterans receiving services through the McLaren-Port Huron Yale Community Health Center's Veterans Clinic as well as the 126 residents of the Michigan Veterans Home at Chesterfield.

At the Yale clinic, Scott established a Veterans Wellness Room, filling it with items that offer veterans both comfort and enjoyment, including therapeutic craft kits, hygiene products, books, games, puzzles, snacks and even a powered massage chair. He also volunteers weekly at the Veterans Home in Chesterfield, helping provide residents with snacks and other items they might not otherwise have available.

But Scott's giving certainly doesn't stop there. Since 2013, the monthly American Red Cross blood drives he has organized at our Lodge have collected an incredible 370-plus gallons of blood—one pint at a time!

During the past five years, Scott has also successfully obtained more than $45,000 in Elks grants, benefiting local food banks, church service centers and veterans in need.

Perhaps one of the greatest reflections of Scott's leadership is that our Veterans Committee has grown to more than 14 dedicated volunteers. Together, they host our annual Veterans Appreciation Day and free luncheon, bringing together more than 30 service providers and welcoming over 125 area veterans.

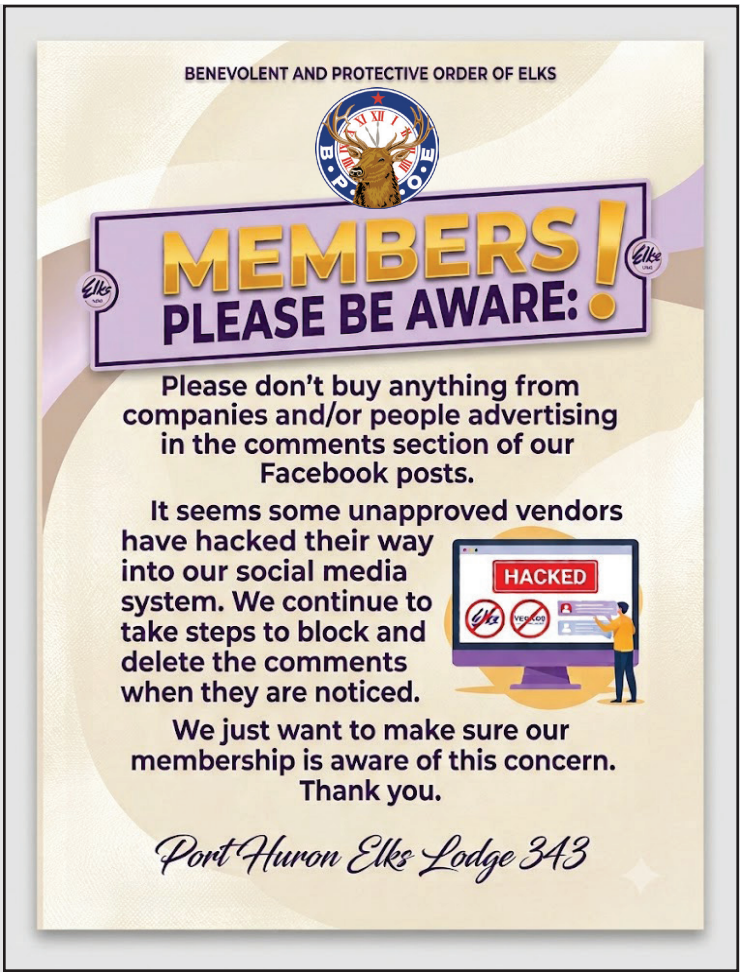
Those numbers tell an impressive story, but they don't begin to measure the hours, compassion and heart Scott puts into helping others.

Scott, congratulations on this very well-deserved honor! Thank you for everything you do for our veterans, our Lodge and our community—and thank you to the wonderful volunteers who work alongside you to make it all possible. You truly demonstrate what "Elks Care, Elks Share" is all about, and I am very proud to call you a fellow Elk as well!

Jan Wyllie, Expositor Editor

Information regarding the Heart of a Hero Award adapted from The Arc of St. Clair County.





VETERAN'S CORNER 64



Members from Lodge 343 were able to spend Sunday afternoon, August 9th attending the annual St. Clair County Honor Guard picnic at American Legion Post 382. During the event, (pictured at left) Lodge 343 Veterans Committee Chair Scott R. Harris, DDGER, ENVSC Rep presented William E. Livesay Jr., USAF CMSGT Retired and Command Chief with a donation, on behalf of Lodge 343 Veterans fund, to assist these Veterans with the meal cost for the over (30) Honor Guard members, a few of them Lodge 343 members, along with Spouses & Family who attended. Scott also thanked them for assisting our Lodge 343 through the years with our Flag Day service, Funeral Services, Memorial services, and other special events.

Congratulations to our very own Lodge 343 Monica G. Franks, now a recognized ENVSC Deputy Representative for the Michigan Veterans Home At Chesterfield and a continual volunteer at the Yale VA.

We would like to THANK our 2023-2026 CLUB 343 Committee chairs, Gary & Penny Osburn and Alan & Kim Krug for their VERY generous $1,000.00 donation to our Lodge 343 Veterans restricted funds. CLUB 343 continued support of our Veterans has been greatly appreciated through the years. Lodge 343 continues with our monthly $25.00 free Marathon Gas Gift card "give-a-way" program now in our 4th year. For the month of August, Larry Rader, US Army and Troy Cooper, US Army were drawn, congratulations!

Upcoming Events: Our next bi-monthly free "Coffee & Donut Days" will be on Wednesday, October 14th, then again on Thursday, December 10th in the Veterans Wellness room at the Yale. A NOVEMBER reminder, we will hold our annual Hot Dog & Brat Roast on Tuesday, November 10th from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm for Veterans, Active Military, First Responders & Spouses at the Yale VA, Veterans Clinic. Please feel free to stop in, even without a scheduled appointment, we would enjoy your company. Mark your calendars now for the next Veterans Appreciation Day & FREE Luncheon on Wednesday, May 19, 2027, from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. This event is held annually on the 3rd Wednesday in May. These events are sponsored by Port Huron Elks Lodge 343, the MiElks Association, ENVSC, and McLaren-Port Huron Yale VA.

On another note: 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 DDGER, ENVSC VAVS Rep at scottharris55@comcast.net for a future Veterans Corner publication. The Yale Veterans Clinic of McLaren/Port Huron Yale Community Health Center is located at 7470 Brockway Road, Yale, MI. 48097.

Elks made a pledge to support veterans years ago

Elks pledge "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them." The Elks National Veterans Service Commission takes that pledge one step further, and promises service to our nation's veterans and military members, with a special focus on service to those in need.

Thousands of Elks volunteers give generously of their time, energy and resources to serve veterans and military members each day, to ensure that pledge is not an idle one.

Today, our volunteers provide direct service to veterans in more than 330 facilities each month. Through our grants to Elks Lodges, we connect with veterans and military members in their communities, providing them with services where they live. We help veterans rehabilitate and thrive through adaptive sports programs and therapy kits. And our Welcome Home initiative is reaching out to some of our most vulnerable veterans: those who are experiencing homelessness.

The good feeling that comes from giving back

There is something special about being an Elk that goes far beyond attending meetings, enjoying activities at the Lodge, or carrying a membership card. It is the feeling you get when you know you have helped make someone's day—or perhaps even made their life a little easier.

Volunteering doesn't always mean doing something big. Sometimes it is serving a meal, helping with a fundraiser, visiting a veteran, donating food, working at an event, helping a child, or simply giving a few hours of your time when an extra pair of hands is needed. What may seem like a small gesture to us can mean a great deal to the person receiving it.

And there is a wonderful thing about giving back: you usually receive something in return that money simply cannot buy. It is the smile on someone's face, a heartfelt "thank you," the laughter of a child, the appreciation of a veteran, or just the quiet satisfaction of driving home knowing that you did something worthwhile that day.

Volunteering also brings us closer together. We meet people we might never have known otherwise, build friendships, share plenty of laughs, and create memories along the way. Working side by side reminds us that when many people each do a little, together we can accomplish a great deal.

You don't have to have a special talent, a lot of money, or endless free time to make a difference. Sometimes the most valuable thing you can give is simply your time and your heart.

That is what being an Elk is all about—neighbors helping neighbors, friends helping friends, and people caring about their community. So, the next time you see a request for volunteers, consider raising your hand. You may think you are giving something to someone else, but chances are you will walk away with something pretty special yourself:

That wonderful feeling that comes from knowing you made a difference.

Jan Wyllie, Editor

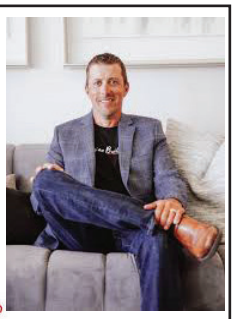
State Major Project

The Michigan Elks Association's State Major Project was established in May of 1957 in order to provide financial support to children with disabilities for expenses related to equipment, therapy, camps, technology, and any other health related necessity.



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Name(s)_____

If asterisk behind your name, $20 is due!

❑ **New** ❑ **Renewal**

Mail to: **PH Elks Lodge**
3292 Beach Rd.
Port Huron, MI 48060

From Brandon Archibald, Golf Professional



As another golf season begins to wind down, I want to take a moment to thank everyone for an incredible year in the Golf Shop.

The support from our members throughout the season has been tremendous. Whether you stopped in for a new shirt, a dozen golf balls, a new club, or just to see what was new, every purchase helps make the Golf Shop successful and allows us to continue bringing in better merchandise, new brands, and more options each season.

As we head through October, we'll begin wrapping up the Golf Shop for the year, which means end-of-season sales and great opportunities to save throughout the shop. Keep an eye out for specials as we work to clear out remaining 2026 inventory and make room for what's coming in 2027.

IMPORTANT
SHOP CREDIT REMINDER

All remaining Golf Shop credit must be used by October 31. Shop credit will not carry over into next season, so please make sure to stop in and use your balance before the deadline.

Thank you again to everyone who supported the Golf Shop this season. We appreciate your business, your feedback, and your continued support of the golf operation.

It was a great 2026 season, and we're already looking forward to making the Golf Shop even better in 2027!

Brandon Archibald, PGA
Head Golf Professional

Golfing Joke of the Day



A golfer was having the worst round of his life. By the 12th hole, he'd lost six balls, landed in three sand traps, hit two trees and sent one shot straight into the parking lot. Completely disgusted, he turned to his caddie and said, "I think I'm going to drown myself in that pond over there." The caddie looked at him for a moment and replied, "I don't think you can do it." The golfer asked, "Why not?" The caddie smiled and said, "You couldn't keep your head down long enough!"

ENF Month: Helping Elks Build Stronger Communities

October is ENF Month, a time to celebrate the ways the Elks National Foundation accomplishes its mission of helping Elks build stronger communities. But how does the ENF do this?

By investing in the communities where Elks live and work.

In the 2026-27 fiscal year, the ENF is allocating $49.6 million to programs that improve the quality of life in local Elks communities, help the state Elks associations accomplish their charitable objectives, meet the needs of today's veterans, and provide our youth with lifelong skills.

The largest of these programs is the Community Investments Program. Established in 2005, the CIP has grown from a modest budget of $350,000 to $18.8 million, allowing each Lodge the opportunity to receive up to $11,500 in grants, thanks to an increase to the Spotlight Grant in celebration of America's 250th birthday. Spotlight Grants increased from $2,000 to $2,500 this year.

"Volunteerism is so central to who the Elks are," says Ryan Watkins, Grants Coordinator of Asheville, N.C., Lodge No. 608. "CIP grants facilitate that volunteerism and lead to a tighter weave between the Elks Lodge and the community it serves."

CIP grants allow Elks to identify the unique needs of their communities, form a plan, and address the needs through Elks-led, volunteer-based projects. Similarly, state Elks associations tackle needs through charitable programs. The ENF will contribute $11.7 million to State Grants this year, making it the second largest appropriation in the budget.

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission provides aid and comfort to America's veterans in need. To ensure that the sacrifices of these veterans are never forgotten, the ENF allocation to the ENVSC will increase by more than 14% this year to $7.3 million, which will allow Elks to provide even more Welcome Home Kits.

Additionally, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Elks National Memorial, the ENF is providing the Memorial with an additional $10 million grant, over five years, on top of the annual funding to the Elks National Memorial Building and Special Reserve Fund, nearly tripling last year year's disbursement to $3.1 million.

"Inspired by the grandeur of the newly constructed Elks National Memorial, National President John F. Malley wanted to construct a different kind of dome," said then-ENF Board of Trustees Vice-Chair Jim Nichelson in his speech at the Opening Ceremony of the 2026 Elks National Convention. "Not a tangible building like the one that stands a few miles north of here in Lincoln Park, but a metaphorical dome that would span the entire length of the United States and, in his words, 'unite the forces of the Order into a mighty army for the service of mankind.'"

Just two years after construction on the Memorial was finished, delegates at the Elks National Convention voted to establish the Elks National Foundation, making Malley's dream a reality.

"Thanks to you, we can invest in the monument that inspired Malley's dream," Nichelson continued. "This $10 million grant will help preserve the splendor of the Memorial for generations to come. We sincerely hope that the building will endure as a monument to our core values of charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity."

While the Elks National Memorial honors the past and the ENVSC provides for those who have served, ENF scholarships build relationships with the leaders of tomorrow. Nearly $5.8 million will be awarded to some of the brightest young minds as they pursue their academic dreams and build connections with the Elks in their communities. This year, Legacy Awards scholarships, available only to the children and grandchildren of Elks, increased in both quantity and amount awarded; 400 Legacy scholars received $6,000 scholarships, up from 350 Legacy scholars who received $4,000 scholarships last year.

"Beyond the financial assistance, this scholarship is a powerful source of encouragement," says Liv Steinmetz, a 2026 Legacy scholar sponsored by Summit, N.J., Lodge No. 1246. "It reminds me that others believe in my potential and motivates me to work hard, give back to my community, and uphold the values represented by the ENF."

The Most Valuable Student scholarship offers a different opportunity. Ranging from $4,000 to $30,000 over four years, high school seniors need no relation to the Elks to apply. MVS scholars gain more than just financial aid—they gain an appreciation of service, a network of like-minded peers, and an #ElksFamily for life.

Scholarships aren't the only way the ENF provides for the next generation. Through the Hoop Shoot, the ENF is unleashing gritty kids who understand the importance of hard work, determination and perseverance. This year, nearly $1.6 million will be allocated to this national free throw program. The ENF also allocated more than $1 million for the Drug Awareness Program, so we can continue to promote constructive and collaborative solutions for our youth.

Through these programs, the ENF continues its mission of helping Elks build stronger communities. To see the full breakdown of grants and appropriations, visit enf.elks.org/appropriations.

A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Elks National Foundation helps Elks build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans, and meet needs in areas where Elks live and work. For more information on the ENF, visit elks.org/enf.

Article from Elks National ENF

Fall is Here, and so are ENF Scholarships!

Applications for the 2027 Most Valuable Student scholarship and 2027 Legacy Awards scholarship are open! Ranging from $1,000 to $7,500 per year, MVS scholarships are for students pursing a four-year degree on a full-time basis in a U.S. college or university. Applications are judged based on leadership, service, academics, and financial need, and no relation to the Elks is needed in order to apply. The application deadline is November 12, 2026. Click here to learn more. Legacy Awards scholarships are $6,000 scholarships available only to the children and grandchildren of Elks members. Applications are due February 1, 2027, at 11: 59 a.m. PT (noon).

Legacy Awards are scholarships available to children and grandchildren of Elks members. Eligibility requirements are outlined below.

- Application deadline is February 1, 2027, 11:59 a.m. Pacific Time. NOTE: This is NOON, mid-day, Pacific time.
- Who is Eligible? For the 2027 contest, any child or grandchild (or stepchild, step-grandchild, or legal ward) of a living Elk who joined the Order on or before April 1, 2024, or a charter member of a Lodge that was instituted on or after April 1, 2024, is eligible to apply. The Elk must be a contiguous, dues paying Elk through March 31, 2027. Great-grandchildren are not eligible.
- The applicant must be a high school senior.

2026-27 LODGE OFFICERS

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Esteemed Loyal Knight.....Timothy J. Meikle
Esteemed Lecturing Knight.....Donald W. Allen II
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Chaplain.....Tracey L. Cameron
Tiler.....Robert J. Fitch, PER
Inner Guard.....Michael Halifax
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Treasurer.....Joe D. Miller
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Rylee Thompson
Outstanding Citizen of the Year
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Veteran Volunteers of the Year
Penny Mertz & Donna Hazelwood
Couple of the Year
John & Carrie Woolman IV

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

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Especially for:

OCTOBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	"like" us on facebook			1 Bar 11am-12am Kitchen 11am-10pm	2 Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm	3 Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm FALL MEMBER-GUEST GOLF
4 Bar 11am-8pm Kitchen 12pm-6pm FALL FAMILY HARVEST PARTY 11AM-2PM	5 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen Closed	6 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-10pm	7 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-10pm DIAMOND ART 3-5 & 6-8	8 Bar 11am-12am Kitchen 11am-10pm SISTER ACT OUT doors open at 5	9 Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm	10 CLUB 343 5pm Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm
11 Bar 11am-8pm Kitchen 12pm-6pm	12 *Columbus Day* Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen Closed LODGE MEETING Initiation- 6:30pm	13 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-10pm	14 Vets Coffee & Donut Day Yale VA 8am-12 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-10pm DIAMOND ART 3-5 & 6-8	15 Bar 11am-12am Kitchen 11am-10pm	16 Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm	17 Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm HARDEST DAY OF GOLF SCRAMBLE
18 Bar 11am-8pm Kitchen 12pm-6pm	19 Blood Drive-noon to 5:45 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen Closed BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING 6:30pm	20 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-10pm	21 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-10pm DIAMOND ART 3-5 & 6-8	22 Bar 11am-12am Kitchen 11am-10pm	23 Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm	24 Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm TRUNK or TREAT & Football Tailgate Party
25 Bar 11am-8pm Kitchen 12pm-6pm	26 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen Closed	27 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-10pm	28 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-10pm DIAMOND ART 3-5 & 6-8	29 Bar 11am-12am Kitchen 11am-10pm	30 Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm	31 *Halloween* Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm