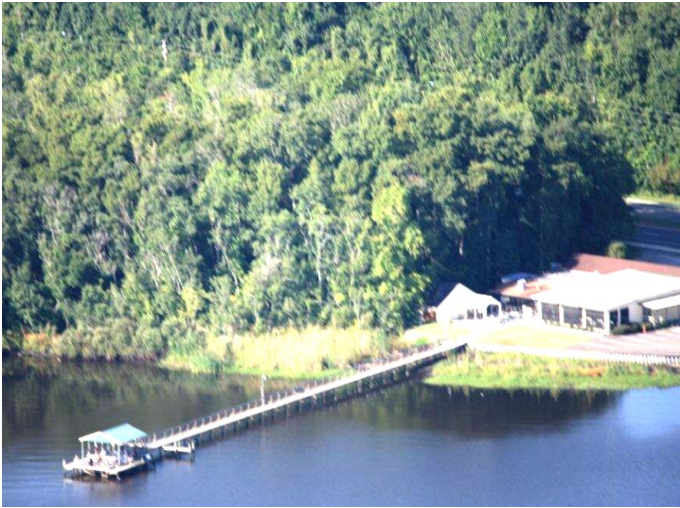


Dockside News



Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge #1892

702 South Orange Ave.
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Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043
Phone: (904)284-9049
E-mail: bpoe1892@bellsouth.net

ELK OF THE MONTH

Our January Elk of the Month is Mike McNaney, a member of our Lodge since 1997. Twenty-one years ago, Mike established the Parade of Trees at Spring Park in partnership with our City government. What began as a modest effort has grown into a beloved holiday tradition, now featuring 246 lighted Christmas trees and drawing visitors from across Northeast Florida.

Behind the scenes, the work required to bring this display to life is substantial. Beginning as early as September each year, Mike starts recruiting his fellow Elks and friends to help transport the trees from storage to the Park. He then manages the electrical layout throughout the Park, evaluates each tree following delivery for needed repairs or replacement, and—just days before Christmas on Walnut Street—begins daily visits to ensure everything is ready for Santa's arrival. By that special day, he will have on average already devoted around 150 hours to this project, with many more to follow through its close during the first week of January.

The Parade of Trees matters not only for its beauty, but for the way it connects our Lodge to the heart of the community we serve. This year, 34 Elks alongside City staff and 62 volunteers drawn from other organizations and the local citizenry, worked together to create a display that brightened the season for others. This spirit of cooperation, service, and generosity reflects the best of Elkdom, and we are grateful to Mike for his vision, leadership, and dedication in sustaining this cherished tradition year after year.

Important Dates in January:

January 1	No Lodge Meeting
January 5	5:00 PM Maintenance Mtg
January 8	5:30 PM Orientation 6:00 PM BOD Meeting 7:00 PM House Meeting
January 10	10:00 AM DD Clinic at St. Augustine
January 15	6:00 PM PER Meeting 7:00 PM Lodge Meeting with Initiation
January 30-31	State President's Visit

Celebration of Life for PER John Graves

PER John Graves will have a Celebration of Life event on January 17th at 2pm at Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Department Union Hall at 625 Stockton St. in Jacksonville. Come and share your best John story and toast his life well lived among his family and friends.

Volunteer Opportunity

Our annual ENF Grant-Sponsored Community Baby Shower will be held Saturday January 17. There is limited space and participant registration is required. Text Tracy Carroll at 904-860-9015 for volunteer information.



Exalted Ruler's Message



2025 was a year of significant achievement for our Lodge, giving us much to be proud of and a strong foundation on which to build. As the New Year dawns, it brings renewed hope and the promise of fresh opportunities to make a difference. Guided by our shared values and a steadfast commitment to service, we move forward together with purpose and optimism.

With that spirit of renewal in mind, January offers many ways for us as Elks to be active in service and fellowship:

Weekly PER Charity Bingo Nights (Every Tuesday starting at 6 PM) — A fun way to socialize while raising funds for local charities in our community. Volunteers needed!

Lodge Meeting and Initiation (3rd Thursday at 7 PM)— An opportunity for members to stay informed about upcoming events, participate in Lodge business, and welcome new members.

Saturday Nights Just Got Better!—An exciting new rotating menu of featured dishes alternates with our traditional fish & shrimp served from 4:30-6:30 PM throughout the month.

New Year's Day Prosperity Dinner (Friday, January 2 at 6 PM)—A delicious meal featuring foods traditionally believed to bring good luck and abundance in the year ahead!

District Deputy Clinic (Saturday, January 10 at 10 AM, St. Augustine Lodge #829)—A District training clinic focused on leadership development, Lodge operations, and sharing best practices across Elksdom. All members are invited to attend. Doughnuts and coffee will be served at 9:30 AM.

FSEA State President's Visit to the Northeast District (January 30- 31)—All Elks are cordially invited to join the Northeast District and host lodge Orange Park #2605 as we welcome State President Mike Chandler and his lady Caroline. More info to follow via email and social media!

Wishing you and your families a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

Jennifer Parker

JOIN THE CLUB

Automate your support of the Elks National Foundation with a monthly gift through your credit card or bank account. Becoming a Fidelity Club member is an easy and secure way to support your Foundation!

Scan the QR code or visit secure.elks.org/FidelityClub to learn more.



Helping Elks Build Stronger Communities



Elks Read

On Tuesday, December 9, Exalted Ruler Jennifer Parker and volunteer Mary Bolla visited the Episcopal Children's Services GCS Head Start Center to read picture books about Santa Claus to the pre-K students! As part of the visit, each child received a copy of one of the featured books *Santa's New Jet* by David Biedrzycki.

Member Information



Initiated 12/4:

Ken Ulrich, Tara Green, Jodi Adams, and Diane Gove

Not Pictured: Betsy Ponte

Proposed:

Michael Barba proposed by Eric Thorsen, Corbin Pressly proposed by Alan DiMaio-Leach, and Barbara Ann Street proposed by Eric Thorsen,

Happy Birthday from your Lodge!!
Celebrate your birthday with a drink at the Lodge.
Visit the bar anytime during your birthday month
and present your membership card for a
COMPLIMENTARY BEVERAGE.

Membership ID Required

The Elks Lodge is a private club with social quarters providing food, liquor, and entertainment for the membership. For a member to enjoy the benefits of our Lodge, proof of current membership is required to enter the facility, to purchase food and beverages, and to participate in our drawings.

There are guidelines from the State of Florida and the Elks Grand Lodge we must follow in order to maintain our licenses and charter. One of those being, only members are permitted to make purchases at our Lodge. We ask you to present your membership card to the bartender on duty prior to making your first purchase. Proof of membership is required to take part in the 50/50 raffle, Queen of Hearts, and other drawings we may have. Please cheerfully cooperate with our volunteers when they ask for your membership card.

We appreciate your support and cooperation as we ask our bartenders to verify your membership card upon entering the facility.

Any member dropped for non-payment of dues shall not be permitted on the property.

Don't forget to give the Lodge Secretary all address, email, phone, and name changes as soon as possible to make sure that you continue to receive the bulletin and any other special notices.

Attention Committee Chairpersons!

It is your responsibility to submit activity reports for all Lodge Activities to the Lodge Secretary.

- ◆ Turn receipts into the Secretary.
- ◆ Use Payment Request form for Expenses.
- ◆ Complete post Special Event & Data Collection Survey forms.
- ◆ Report results to the Lodge at the next regular meeting after the event.
- ◆ Prepare a brief narrative after action report.

The Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge
#1892 is now on **INSTAGRAM!** .
(Scan the QR Code below for direct access.)



STAY CONNECTED

LODGE 1892 WEBSITE -
elks1892.com (Scan the QR
Code below for direct access.)



FACEBOOK- Green Cove
Springs Elks1892 (Scan the QR
Code below for direct access.)



Announcement

New Friday Night Meal Sign-Up Policy

“To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.” – Winston Churchill

To continue providing high-quality, affordable meals while remaining good stewards of our Lodge’s resources, we are transitioning to an advanced sign-up system for all Friday night dinners.

In light of rising food costs and the significant expense of essential supplies, this change allows us to purchase and prepare only what is needed. By reducing food waste and better managing our overhead, we ensure that every dollar spent goes directly toward the fellowship and service our members enjoy. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us keep our kitchen sustainable for years to come.

Timeline & Implementation

Official Start: The new policy begins in February 2026.

Advance Sign-Up: Starting January 2, 2026, sign-up sheets will be available in the serving area for February, March, and April.

Ongoing Scheduling: As each month ends, a sheet for the next upcoming month will be added to the board.

How to Pre-Order

Please ensure all reservations are made by 5:00 PM on the Friday before the dinner date.

In-Person: Use the sign-up sheets in the serving area. Print your name and indicate the number of guests in your party for your chosen date(s).

By Text: Message our Kitchen Manager, Pat Buerhaus, at 410-340-5562 with your name, the date(s), and the number of guests.

By Email: Send your reservation request to patriciabuerhaus@yahoo.com

Important Details

Guaranteed Meals: Members who pre-order are guaranteed a meal.

Walk-Ins: A limited number of extra meals may be available, but they are not guaranteed. If available, walk-ins will be served after all pre-ordered members.

Service Time: Dinner is served from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Hold Policy: Pre-ordered meals will be held until 6:30 PM. After 6:30 PM, unclaimed meals will be released to walk-ins.

Wait List: Walk-in members are encouraged to sign-in on the Wait List. If extra meals are available, walk-in members will be served in the order they signed in.

Questions & Volunteering

If you have any questions about the new policy or you would like to volunteer to help in the kitchen on a Friday night, please contact:

Eric J Thorsen - House Committee Chair - Tel: 407-739-2496 - Email: ejthorsen@msn.com

Elks Care - Elks Share



BINGO News

Our Tuesday night Charity Bingo continues to support the community. Recent donations were given to the Ridgeview High School Girls' Weightlifting Team and Dolly Parton Imagination Library.



Elks Support Our Community

Thanks to all the Members and guests who made our J.P. Hall, Quigley House, and GCS Food Pantry donation drives a huge success! Special thanks to Barbara and Sally for coordinating the projects. Over 550 gift items were donated to the toy drives, and 540 pounds of food were collected!





Santa's Workshop

On December 6, our Lodge volunteers spent the day spreading Christmas cheer to over 350 children and their families at Santa's Workshop.



A Tree That Tells Our Story!

Our Christmas tree in Spring Park this year featured custom-made ornaments by Entertainment Chair Patsy Weston representing the many local non-profits we support. Thanks to Patsy for coming up with the theme for this year as well as to Trustee Laquetta Willimon and House Committee member Nancy Klopfenstein for decorating the tree!



On Friday, December 12, Exalted Ruler Jennifer Parker and Lecturing Knight Stuart Williams accompanied Santa Claus on his visit to our local Head Start Center for their Annual Christmas Party to help distribute gift bags to their students! Each child got to meet Santa and have their picture taken with him in front of a lovely backdrop!



Our annual stroll through the Christmas trees at Spring Park was a festive way to begin the holidays. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped set up the trees for the community. Special thank you to Laquetta and Mike for overseeing this project.



Friday Nights at the Lodge!

Come join us at the Lodge for our fun Friday night activities! A great time is always had at our holiday parties, team trivia, and karaoke. Check your calendar each month and join in on the good times!



Officers and Committee Members

Officers for 2025-2026

Exalted Ruler - Jennifer Parker, PER
Leading Knight - Kristine Watson
Loyal Knight - Rob Loryea
Lecturing Knight - Stuart Williams Jr.
Secretary - Diane Watson
Treasurer - Paul Orvosh, PDDGER
Esquire - Tracy Carroll, PER
Chaplain - Cathy Sanders
Tiler - Helen Cornelius
Inner Guard - Sharon Elizabeth
5 Yr Trustee - Ray Rosam Jr.
4 Yr Trustee - Ed Weston, DDGER
3 Yr Trustee - Al Williams, PER
2 Yr Trustee - Greg Hughson, PDDGER
1 Yr Trustee - Laquetta Willimon

2025-2026 Committee Chairpersons

Accident Prevention	Kristine Watson
Americanism	Kristine Watson
Audit & Accounting	David Miller
Bar Manager	Gale Klopfenstein
Bingo Chairman	Ed Weston, DDGER
Board of Directors	Kristine Watson
Building & Maint.	David Miller
Community Activities	Tracy Carroll, PER
Drug Awareness	Jennifer Parker, PER
Elks Memorial Day	Chair Officers
Elks Scholarship	Jennifer Parker, PER
Elks Training	Jennifer Parker, PER
ENF	Jennifer Parker, PER
Entertainment	Patsy Weston
Flag Day	Chair Officers
Fraternal Committees	Jennifer Parker, PER
Govt Relations	Diane Watson
Harry-Anna Trust	Kristine Watson
Hoop Shoot	Stuart Williams
Hospital Visitation	Cathy Sanders
House Committee	Eric Thorsen
Investigation	Diane Watson
Kitchen Manager	Pat Buerhaus
Lapsed Membership	Diane Watson
Lodge Scholarship	Pam Fore
Lodge Activities	Tracy Carroll, PER
Lodge Advisor	Garfield Hurt, PDDGER
Membership	Diane Watson
Newsletter	Kristine Watson
Orientation	Tracy Carroll, PER
PER Association	Ed Weston, DDGER
Public Relations	Tracy Carroll, PER
Relief	Lodge Officers
Veterans	Rick Kunze, PER
Youth	Wendy Hughson

*Please contact a committee
chairperson if you are interested in helping.
(904)284-9049 Lodge*

OUR BOOSTERS 2025-2026

Maryse Andre
Mark Andrews
Jim Arnold
Sherry Auld
Earl Barnhart
Carla Bartlett
Denise Beauchamp
Neil & MaryJo Beefelt
Ron Bendlin
Jacqueline Bernard
Mary Bolla
Joe Boyd
Carlos Brooks
David Burkhalter
Jeannie Calhoun
Tracy Carroll
Janice Caswell
Quamie Cole
James Cook
Helen Cornelius
Dorothy Degeneffe
William Dugan
Marsha Fields
Thomas Flatter
Bruce Fox
Robert Frey
Robert Goodbread
David Gutzwiller
Larry Hanline
Bill Harwood
Paul Haught
Linda Henning
Greg Hughson Sr.
Michael Jackson
William Jernigan
Locke King
Keith Kirker

Gale Klopfenstein
Nancy Klopfenstein
Penny Kunze
Rick Kunze
Joanne LaBeouf
Lisa Lowe
Michael Jackson
Jim Martin
Gary Miller
Susan Mitchell
George Morat
Sharon Murphy
Cheryle Newman
Dan Norton
Barbara Phelps
Gail Potter
Edward Poucher
James Rae
Gene Rittenhouse
Ronald Robertson
Cheryl Royal
Gene Russin
Valorie Shepard
Charles Skarbrevik
James Stricklen
Ed Szymanski
Lewis Taylor
Linda Lou Thill
Thomas Thomas
Eric Thorsen
Jay Veronko
Diane Watson
Kristine Watson
Ed & Patsy Weston
Keith Wilkes
Robin Wiscovitch
Marsha Zupan

District Leaders

District VP: Alise Taylor-Sindab
(847)682-2987
sindabat@outlook.com

DDGER: Ed Weston
(904)657-1321
erwinc58@gmail.com

SUNDAY**MONDAY****TUESDAY****WEDNESDAY****THURSDAY****FRIDAY****SATURDAY**

January 2026

Please visit our website (<https://elksgcs1892.com/>) for the most up to date information.

1

**Lodge Closed**

2

**New Year's
Prosperity Dinner****6:00 PM \$12**

3

**Fish & Shrimp \$10
4:30 - 6:30**

4

**Sunday on the River
Fried Catfish,
Boom-Boom
Shrimp, Philly
Cheesesteak,
& More \$10
1-6 PM**

5

**Maintenance Meeting
5:00PM**

6

**Early Birds 6:00PM
Regular Games
6:30PM**

7

**5:30 –6:30PM
BURGERS
\$9.00**

8

**Hot Dogs, Cole Slaw,
& Chips \$5****Orientation 5:30PM
House Meeting 6:00PM
BOD Meeting 7:00PM**

9

**Soup & Reuben
Sandwiches
6:00 PM \$12**

10

**DD Clinic 10 AM
at St. Augustine****Beef Brisket
& Sides \$10
4:30 - 6:30**

11

**Sunday on the River
Fried Catfish,
Boom-Boom
Shrimp, Philly
Cheesesteak,
& More \$10
1-6 PM**

12

13

**Early Birds 6:00PM
Regular Games
6:30PM**

14

**5:30 –6:30PM
BURGERS
\$9.00**

15

**Hot Dog, Coleslaw,
& Chips \$5****PER Meeting 6:00 PM
Lodge Meeting &
Initiation 7:00PM**

16

**Porterhouse
Pork Chops
6:00 PM \$15**

17

**Community Baby
Shower 9 AM****Fish & Shrimp \$10
4:30 - 6:30**

18

**Sunday on the River
Fried Catfish,
Boom-Boom
Shrimp, Philly
Cheesesteak,
& More \$10
1-6 PM**

19

20

**Early Birds 6:00PM
Regular Games
6:30PM**

21

**5:30 –6:30PM
BURGERS
\$9.00**

22

Lodge Closed

23

Music Bingo**Ribeye Steak Dinner
6:00 PM \$18**

24

**Beef Stew \$10
4:30 - 6:30**

25

**Sunday on the River
Fried Catfish,
Boom-Boom
Shrimp, Philly
Cheesesteak,
& More \$10
1-6 PM**

26

27

**Early Birds 6:00PM
Regular Games
6:30PM**

28

**5:30 –6:30PM
BURGERS
\$9.00**

29

Lodge Closed

30

Brisket Sliders**6:00 PM \$12**

31

**Fish & Shrimp
\$10 4:30 - 6:30****State President's Visit to Orange Park**