

MILFORD LODGE NO. 1589  
BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE  
ORDER OF ELKS  
124 NEW HAVEN AVENUE  
MILFORD, CT 06460-4827  
PHONE: 203-874-1589

**March 2026**

**Milford Elks  
Lodge  
# 1589**

**Milford, CT**

**203-874-1589**

**LODGE MEETINGS**  
March 3rd and 17th  
7:00pm

**March 2026 Taproom Hours**

Monday	5:00pm—9:00pm
Tuesday	4:00pm—10:00pm
Wednesday	4:00pm—10:00pm
Thursday	4:00pm—11:00pm
Friday	3:00pm—12:00am
Saturday	12:00pm—12:00am
Sunday	12:00pm—9:00pm

# Officers

**Exalted Ruler**  
 Leading Knight  
 Loyal Knight  
 Lecturing Knight  
 Secretary  
 Treasurer  
 Esquire  
 Tiler  
 Chaplain  
 Inner Guard

Jennifer Vondle  
 Mary Garfield  
 Sarah Muoio  
 Erin Burke  
 David Field, PDD  
 Kelly O'Hara  
 Mary Ellen Patchell, PER  
 Don Sanchez  
 Julia Townsend  
 Caroline Butler

**Trustees:**

One-year  
 Two-year  
 Three-year  
 Four-year  
 Five-year  
 PER Association President  
 Youth Activities Committee  
 Drug Awareness Committee  
 Audit Committee  
 House Committee  
 Activities Committee  
 Public Relations Committee

Joseph Leto, PDD, PER Chair  
 Danette Contaras, PER  
 David Williams, PER  
 Joseph Mager III, PER  
 James Garfield, PER  
 David Williams, PER  
 Robert Black  
 Mary Ellen Patchell, PER  
 Kevin Kozek  
 Lexi Black & Morgan Vondle  
 Mary Garfield  
 Amy Potts, Sarah Muoio,  
 & Sue Bernor, PER

Hall Rental

Danette Contaras (203) 623-1991 or  
 Anne Marie Field (203) 314-1831

Sickness & Distress

Mary Garfield  
 (203)906-5693  
 maryhgarfield@gmail.com

Bulletin Editor  
 (203) 305-3124

Amy Potts  
 Elks1589PR@gmail.com

# Birthdays - March

Wish another member Happy Birthday. Stop in the month of your Birthday and start the day you choose to celebrate your birthday with us and both you and your significant other will receive a complimentary drink of your choice.

- 2 Matthew Jurczyk, Daniel Sefcik, Bernard Simons
- 3 Mary Garfield, Joshua Lopez, Miguel Ramirez
- 4 Matthew Lanier, Sandra Rainieri
- 5 Steven Raymond Bernardini, Marie Hallengren, Kimberly Jones, Robert Kuhar
- 6 Benjamin Bostic, Kathleen Dougherty, Charles White
- 7 Erin Burke
- 8 Salvatore Attianese, Daniel Greene, Caitlyn Kendzierski.  
Gary Pugliese, Michael Ruggiero
- 9 Frank Mitchals
- 10 Kathleen Camilleri
- 11 Mira Brunje, Graham Wylie
- 12 Robert Howarth, Michael Kozlowski
- 14 Garrett Garfield, Maryjane Seymour
- 15 David Eisenman, Janice Lampo, William Phillips
- 16 Anthony Teixeira
- 17 Dennis Braney. George Vitone, Jr
- 18 Gary Gagnon, Edward Shattuck
- 20 Jacques Pittman
- 21 David Piechota
- 23 Denise Brown
- 23 John Pirozzoli. Billie Hessberger
- 25 Ellsworth Bennett. Kathleen Hart, Edward Kozlowski, Jr,  
Joseph Mager, Jr
- 26 William Deell, Jr, David Martinez
- 27 Robert Page, Gregory Smith, Brian Zawadski
- 29 Jeffrey Miller
- 30 Kenneth Benson
- 31 John Mager, Gary Pugliese

January, February & March Birthday Celebration  
 March 29th @ 5pm!!



# What's Happening

## St Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday, March 14th

### March with Us!

Meet at Watson Field at 12 PM for 1 pm Start



## Riders' Corner – From President Jim Garfield

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Patch-In Ceremony — it was a great success and a wonderful turnout of over 120 people! We appreciate the support and camaraderie that make this group so special.

If you're a licensed rider and haven't joined us yet, we'd love to have you ride along. New licensed riders are always welcome — come out and be part of the fun and fellowship.

We're also looking forward to participating in the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 14th. We're excited to ride alongside our fellow Elks and showcase a beautiful float themed by our Activities Committee. We're hoping to bring home another award this year! We hope to see you there as we continue representing the Elks with pride.

Ride safe,  
Jim Garfield, PER  
Riders President

# Exalted Ruler Message

Dear Members,

As I write my final message as your Exalted Ruler, my heart is overflowing with gratitude and pride. Serving this Lodge has been a tremendous honor, and this year has reminded me, again and again, that our members are the true heart of Milford Elks Lodge #1589. You are the reason we volunteer. You are the reason we work so hard. You are what makes this Lodge such an incredible place to gather, to serve, and to call home.

We embraced the message of our Grand Exalted Ruler, Bryan Klatts, to “Be the Difference,” and together, we truly lived those words. As a team, we participated in Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, standing united in the men's march to end sexual violence. We held multiple food drives supporting the Purple Pantry and the Food Bank, organized a Book Drive for Read to Learn, and proudly took part in Over the Edge and the Penguin Plunge for Special Olympics. Through dedication and teamwork, we applied for and received grants that funded Christmas Dinner food baskets, helped offset costs for the Veterans Boat Trip, supported Food to Kids in addressing food insecurity, and provided essential supplies for the Milford Rape Crisis Center. These efforts, along with so many other quiet acts of service not listed here, reflect the compassion and commitment that define who we are as Elks.

Just as meaningful were the moments we shared in fellowship. We laughed together at Music Nights and Karaoke, strengthened friendships in the Tap Room, and created memories that will last well beyond this Lodge year. And of course, we cannot forget Morgan's Thursday Night Supper Club, a flavorful gift from his heart to yours, prepared with love and appreciated by all. It became more than a meal. It became connection, comfort, and community.

This Lodge year was powered by your energy, your unity, and your unwavering support. I am deeply thankful for the encouragement you gave me, for the teamwork shown by our officers, and for the pride each of you carries for this Lodge. Now it is time to pass the torch to our incoming Exalted Ruler, Mary Garfield. I have no doubt she will bring her own special Garfield magic to this role, and I am excited to watch our Lodge continue to flourish under her leadership.

(Continued on next page)

# What's Happening

## EXALTED RULER MESSAGE (Con't)

Let us move into this next year with the same love, enthusiasm, and dedication to service that defined 2025–2026. If we continue to stand together, we will always Be the Difference. As for me, I am not going far. I will be stepping into Activities and look forward to continuing to serve alongside all of you. Thank you for an unforgettable year and for the privilege of leading this remarkable Lodge.

Jennifer P Vondle , Exalted Ruler  
jennifervondle@gmail.com  
203-823-6313

## Elk of the Month

### Morgan Vondle

Morgan's cooking comes straight from his heart, and that is something everyone can feel the moment they sit down to enjoy a meal he has prepared. Whether it was items from the regular menu, his quickly loved weekly soups, or the highly anticipated Thursday Night Supper Club dinners, each dish was created with care, pride, and genuine love for our members.

Morgan does not just prepare meals. He brings warmth, comfort, and connection to our Lodge. His time in the kitchen has strengthened fellowship and created moments that brought people together around the table.

Morgan, you are truly appreciated. Thank you for everything you have given to our Lodge

# What's Happening

## Can and Bottle Drive

Sunday, March 1st  
10 AM- 2 PM

Bring your bottles and cans and let your friends know.

Volunteers needed to sort glass bottles, plastic bottles and cans.



Contact Mary Garfield for tickets

## MIXED TAPE MATCH

NICE VIBES

Friday, March. 20st

• \$20 PER PERSON •

ROUND 1 STARTS PROMPTLY AT 7 PM

3 ROUNDS MUSIC MATCH  
SIMILAR TO TRADITIONAL BINGO

# Activities Committee

Well, folks, February tried its absolute best to keep us home. Between the snowdrifts and the freezing temperatures, Mother Nature clearly did not get the memo that the Milford Elks don't cancel for anything short of an actual blizzard.

Despite February's best arctic efforts, YOU showed up! Our Super Bowl gathering was a blast, proof that wings and camaraderie taste better in a Lodge full of friends than alone on your couch. Game Nights kept the competitive spirits alive, Friday Night Live Music in the Taproom kept the energy alive, and Line Dancing had the floor packed. A sincere thank you to everyone who braved the tundra to be part of it all. You are what makes this Lodge special.

Now about March....Check the calendar for your favorite events, because "if it ain't broke, don't fix it".

Once again we are walking in the Milford St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 14th. Our theme is The Quiet Man, the classic 1952 film starring the one and only John Wayne and the incomparable Maureen O'Hara. We will have a trailer carrying a beautifully thatched roof Irish cottage.

Now, we fully acknowledge that some of you are already Googling "The Quiet Man" right now, and that is perfectly fine. Even if you've never seen the film, the float is going to look like an absolutely stunning scene straight from the rolling green fields of Ireland. It will be gorgeous, it will be festive, and it is going to turn heads all the way down the parade route.

Everyone is welcome to walk with us the more the merrier! Feel free to dress the part: kilts, shawls, flat caps, and all the green you own are encouraged. And here is a very special call-out to our younger Lodge friends and members' families: children are not only welcome...they are NEEDED. We are looking for our very own Irish farmyard! If your little ones would like to dress as sheep, goats, pigs, lambs, or any other proud field animal from the Irish countryside, we would absolutely love to have them. Imagine the crowd's faces when they see a parade of tiny sheep trotting along the streets of Milford. Honestly, it might steal the whole show — and we are completely okay with that.

Finally — mark your calendars for March 20th, because Mixed Tape Match (Music Bingo) is BACK! If you haven't secured your seat or table yet, do not wait! Contact Jenn Vondle or myself to get your spot reserved. March is going to be a great one. See you all there!

Mary H. Garfield (203-906-5693)  
Leading Knight & Activities Committee Chair

# Secretary Notes

Members All,

As we end the Lodge year, we can look back with pride on our accomplishments in the past 12 months. Under the leadership of Exalted Ruler Jenn Vondle, the Lodge has increased the total amount of our charitable contributions to our community and especially our youth and our veterans. All our members pulled together to make our fundraising events such as the Oyster Festival even more successful. Under the leadership of House Committee co-chairs Lexi Black and Morgan Vondle and Activities Committee chair Mary Garfield, the attendance in the Lounge has reached levels we have not seen in years. We have also added 76 new members to our roles, 23 more than we lost for a 4% increase in membership!!

Dues notices for the upcoming year have been mailed. Please pay your dues on time. As a reminder, dues for the 2026-27 year are due on or before April 1. Dues can be paid in the tap room by cash, check, or credit card, or by PayPal to MilfordLodge1589@gmail.com.

If you have indicated on your dues notice that you will pick up your new membership card, they are available behind the bar. The Steward will assist you. Please remember to inform the Secretary of any changes in your contact information to ensure you receive on a timely basis all information provided by the Lodge.

Our elected officers for the year 2026-27 are in place. Our slate of officers is as follows:

Exalted Ruler – Mary Garfield  
Esteemed Leading Knight – Sarah Muoio  
Esteemed Loyal Knight – Erin Burke  
Esteemed Lecturing Knight – Don Sanchez  
Trustees – Dave Williams, Danette Contaras, Joe Mager III, Jim Garfield, and Jenn Vondle  
Secretary – David Field  
Treasurer- Kelly O'Hara

- Candidates awaiting Investigation: 5
- Candidates awaiting Initiation: 10
- Investigation: Monday, March 2, 2026
- Initiation: Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Dave Field, PDD  
Secretary

## Tip of the Antlers

### Tip of the Antlers to Brian Ashcroft

For bringing a little extra love to the Lodge this Valentine's Day. Dressed to impress and roses in hand, Brian personally gave a flower to every lady at the Elks, reminding us all what it means to Be the Difference. A true gentleman and a thoughtful gesture that did not go unnoticed. Thank you, Brian.

### Tip of the Antlers to Chris Contaras

For organizing and running a fantastic pool tournament for our members. Your time, effort, and attention to detail made it a smooth, fun, and well-run event that brought great energy into the Lodge. Thank you for stepping up and creating another opportunity for fellowship and friendly competition. We appreciate you!

### Tip of the Antlers to Joseph Mager III, PER, and Kellie Carr

For hosting and teaching this month's pierogi making class. Everyone who attended had an absolute blast and walked away with new knowledge and a very tasty treat. Thank you both for sharing your time, talents, and traditions with our Lodge. It was a wonderful evening of learning and fellowship!

## Please Join Us for the CHILDREN'S EASTER PARTY



**Saturday, March 21st at 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Member's children and grandchildren Age 12 & under

**Breakfast, Easter Craft, Egg Hunt  
& Visit from the Easter Bunny**

**Sign Up in the Taproom by March 15th**  
**Candy, Plastic Fillable Eggs & Decoration**  
**Donations Needed**

## What's Happening

**ST. PATRICK'S  
DAY PARADE  
CELBRATION  
March 14th  
After the Parade**

**NO COVER  
CHARGE  
FOR  
MEMBERS  
\$5.00  
NON-  
MEMBER**

**DRINK  
SPECIALS!**

**UPSTAIRS  
IN THE  
HALL!**

**CORNED  
BEEF  
SANDWICHES  
AND  
DINNERS**

**AVAILABLE  
FOR  
PURCHASE**

**MUSIC BY  
YES MA'AM**

## CANDIDATES

Lisa Coontz	Investigation
Linda Kane	Investigation
James Keller	Investigation
Ryan Moran	Investigation
Bonnie Tompsen	Investigation
Carmen Ouellet-Artz	Initiation
Nicholas Art	Initiation
Danielle Bourque	Initiation
Steven Consedine	Initiation
Frances Gobat	Initiation
Patricia Pacelli	Initiation
Raymond Paskiewicz	Initiation
Gabriella Salati	Initiation
Raymond Salati	Initiation
Alexis Szymecki	Initiation

# Board of Directors Corner

Members All,

The Board met on February 16, 2026. The parking lot issue remains a top priority, and the next step will be to select a chairman to head the project moving into the 2026/2027 Lodge year. This decision will be addressed at the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

- The new thermostats purchased for the Lodge will be installed by the end of March.
- The new units will facilitate better overall control of the HVAC systems. Thanks to Jerry for taking point on this project.
- The new ice makers and glass washer continue to work well, and are getting much use because of the continuous Lodge activity.

Beginning March 1st 2026, the Lodge will have someone new cleaning the Lodge. This will allow the Lodge to have someone available at times that will better fit the scheduled needs of the Lodge.

The Lodge has contracted a company to refinish the front entrance stairs, and the wooden floor in the upstairs hall. The work is scheduled from March 23rd to March 25th between the hours of 8am & 5pm. On Monday March 23rd the front stairs cannot be used until 5pm. The upstairs hall will be closed to everyone except authorized persons for all three days.

The last meeting of the Board of Directors, for the 25/26 Lodge year, is scheduled for March 16, 2026. If anyone has something for the BOD, please see me before the next meeting. The 16th will be my last meeting as chairman.

It has again been a pleasure and an honor to serve as the Chairman of the Milford Elks Lodge 1589 Board of Trustees, and the Board of the Directors.

Thank you to the Board for all the insight, support, and leadership you all have to offer. Congratulations to all the incoming officers. 2026/2027 looks to be another stellar year in the making for the Milford Elks.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please speak to me, or any of your Board Members. Dave Williams PER, Danette Contaras PER, Joe Mager III PER, Jim Garfield PER, Exalted Ruler Jennifer Vondle, Leading Knight Mary Garfield, Loyal Knight Sarah Muoio, Lecturing Knight Erin Burke, Secretary Dave Field PDD, and Treasurer Kelly O'Hara.

Fraternally yours,  
Joe Leto, PDD - Chairman, BOD

# House Committee Notes

## KITCHEN MENU

Fri, March 6th	5-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Sat, March 7th	12-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Fri, March 13th	5-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Sat, March 14th	ST PATRICKS DAY PARADE LIMITED MENU
Fri, March 20th	5-8:30 pm Event Menu
Sat, March 21st	12-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Fri, March 27th	5-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Sat, March 28th	ER Installation & Brunch then 5-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu

Hello, my fellow Elks!

As always, we would like to give a big "THANK YOU" to everyone for another successful month at the lodge. 2026 Started off with a great January and continued right through February, albeit a snowy one. There was a very nice crowd for the Superbowl as well as throughout the Olympics. Thanks to everyone who supported the lodge during those events.

Thursday Night supper club has remained a hit and we truly do appreciate your support on those. We had a record night with the last Pot Pie dinner selling 55 meals. WOW! That was amazing. All of these proceeds go to helping our community and that's what this was all about. A good meal, with good company as well as be able to help our community. Thank you all so much.

March is an exciting month as we Spring ahead with Daylight Savings, March madness for you sports fans and who can't forget Milford's amazing St Patricks Day Parade, where we will feed the people some tasty treats. I hope you all are excited as we are.

Just a reminder, for the time being the taproom hours on Monday are 5 pm to 9 pm, now that Monday Night Football is over. Also, NO ONE should go behind the bar in the taproom unless you are working on shift, or you are on the House Committee, and the Steward has given you permission.

As Lexi and I reflected on the past year, we realized (even though we already knew) just how special this lodge and the people in it are. We couldn't have asked for a better year than we got, the support of the members was unbelievable and for that we say Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. It truly was an honor being your house committee co-chairs.

Can't wait to see you at our next meeting on Wednesday March 11th at 6pm.

Respectfully,  
House Committee Co-Chairs, Alexis Black, bobnlex@aol.com 203-214-6911  
Morgan Vondle, mdv724@gmail.com 203-313-6644

# March 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Can & Bottle Drive 10am-2pm Pot Luck Sunday	2	3 Lodge Meeting 7:00pm	4 Game Night 6:30pm	5	6 5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Live Music taproom 7-10pm	7 12-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu Karaoke 7:30pm
8 Pot Luck Sunday	9	10 Activities Committee Meeting 7:00pm	11 House Committee Meeting 6pm Game Night 6:30pm	12	13 5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu 6-10pm Country Line Dancing Live Music taproom 7-10pm	14 ST PATTYS DAY Limited Menu
15 Pot Luck Sunday	16	17 Lodge Meeting 7:00pm	18 Game Night 6:30pm	19	20 5-8:30pm Event Menu Mixed Tape Bingo	21 Kids Easter Party 9-12 12-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Karaoke 7:30pm
22 Pot Luck Sunday	23	24	25 Game Night 6:30pm	26	27 5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Live Music taproom 7-10pm	28 ER Installation 5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu
29 Pot Luck Sunday Jan/Feb/Mar Birthdays 5pm	30	31	<p><b>VOLUNTEER TO ADD MORE EVENTS TO THIS CALENDAR EVERY MONTH</b></p> <p><i>GOT AN IDEA? SHARE IT WITH ANYONE ON PAGE 2</i></p>			