

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

**April 2026**

**Milford Elks  
Lodge  
# 1589**

**Milford, CT**

**203-874-1589**

**LODGE MEETINGS**  
April 7th and 21st  
7:00pm

**April NEW 2026 Taproom Hours**

Monday - 12-10pm

*(To serve our early birds and retirees during the week)*

Tuesday - 4-11pm

Wednesday - 4-11pm

Thursday - 4-11pm

Friday - 3-12pm

Saturday - 12-12pm

Sunday - 2-8pm (For Now)

# Officers

## Exalted Ruler

Leading Knight  
Loyal Knight  
Lecturing Knight  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Esquire  
Tiler  
Chaplain  
Inner Guard

## Mary Garfield

Sarah Muoio  
Erin Burke  
Don Sanchez  
David Field, PDD  
Kelly O'Hara  
Mary Ellen Patchell, PER  
Nicole Vatuli  
Ray Bernor  
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

Dave Williams, PDD, PER Chair  
Danette Contaras, PER  
Joseph Mager III, PER  
James Garfield, PER  
Jennifer Vondle, PER  
David Williams, PER  
Courtney and Robert Black  
Nicole Vartuli  
Jocelyn Eagle  
Jim Garfield & Gerry Artz  
Jennifer Vondle, PER  
Amy Potts, Sarah Muoio,  
& Sue Bernor, PER

Hall Rental

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

Sickness & Distress

Sarah Muoio  
(203)308-3147  
sarahmuoio@icloud.com

Bulletin Editor  
(203) 305-3124

Amy Potts  
Elks1589PR@gmail.com

# Birthdays - April

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.

- 1 William Cyr, Joseph Mager
- 2 Michele Mason
- 3 Joseph Labozzo
- 8 Stephen Barone, Howard Haberman, Kelly Hammill
- 9 Sheryl Daigle
- 10 Carlos Perez
- 11 Steven Zagami
- 12 Jeffery Gamble
- 13 Zachary Attolino, Raymond Spaziani
- 14 Mary Krotki, Michael Sotir, Lauren Sudbey-Szygiel
- 15 Joseph Coady
- 16 Joshua Rouse
- 17 Christopher Cameron, Thomas Charney,  
John Patrick Mizzone
- 18 Mathew Cuminotto
- 20 Alexander Pittman
- 21 Evy Hill, Carl Artz
- 22 Richard Krusewski, Barbara Trianovich
- 25 Fred Baldien, Thomas Obenhoff, Robert Tarver
- 26 Andrew Hearn, Michael Knapp, Scott Tompsen
- 27 Christopher Goulden, Mary Ann Levi, Karen Plaveck
- 28 William Hart, Frank Holleran, Thomas Smith
- 29 Chris Munz, Mateusz Wisniewski
- 30 Daryle Hiltz, David Litvinoff, Jeffrey Montano



# What's Happening

# Exalted Ruler Message

**Team Milford Elks**

## WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES

**APRIL 26TH** Lisman's Landing 12 PM- 3PM

Sign up below:  
<https://go.rallyup.com/d46336/t/milfordelks/Team/Details>

Whether you want to walk, donate, or cheer us on, your participation makes a difference!



Walk a Mile in Her Shoes 2025 - Rape Crisis Center of Milford  
Help Milford Elks raise funds for RAPE CRISIS CENTER OF MILFORD INC!

## Riders' Corner – From President Jim Garfield

The Milford Elks Riders continue to build strong momentum as we head into the warmer riding season. Our monthly socials, held in the Tap Room on the third Thursday of each month from 6–10 PM, have been a huge success, please consider stopping down and being a part of the fun.

Looking ahead we also have an incredible lineup of rides and events scheduled throughout the spring and into the summer. Many of these rides support truly worthy charities, giving us all a chance to enjoy the road while making a meaningful impact.

If you'd like to learn more, get involved, or sign up for upcoming rides, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Fraternally,  
Jim Garfield  
Riders President, PER

Dear Fellow Elks,

April is here, and with it comes the fresh energy of new beginnings. On March 28th, I had the great honor of being installed as your Exalted Ruler, and what a morning it was! The brunch was absolutely delicious, the room was full of warmth and laughter, and I couldn't have imagined a more fitting way to begin this journey together. Thank you to every single person who came out to celebrate and to all the incredible volunteers who made that day run so beautifully. You set the tone for everything ahead.

A heartfelt thank You to our newest PER, Jennifer Vondle! There are no words generous enough to capture what PER Jennifer Vondle gave to this lodge over the past year. Jenn led with grace, dedication, and a tireless spirit that inspired everyone around her.

Congratulations to Elk and Officer of the Year! PER Jenn's selections for the Lodge's highest honors speak volumes about the quality of people in our membership. Elk of the Year, Sal Attianese and Officer of the Year, Erin Burke. Both of you brought dedication, professionalism, and genuine heart to everything you touched this past year. You both represent the very best of what we do.

March has closed the book on a wonderful lodge year and April opens a brand-new chapter, and I could not be more excited to write it alongside all of you.

We don't start from scratch. We start from strength. We get to build on the existing foundation of community spirit, fellowship, and service and raise it even higher. What does that look like? It looks like new events, new friendships, and old and new traditions. It looks like community outreach that makes our neighbors proud to know the Elks are here. It looks like fundraisers that energize the room, social gatherings that bring in new faces, and charitable efforts that remind us why this fraternal order has endured for generations. There is so much we can do, and the only ingredient we need more of is you.

(Continued on next page)

# What's Happening

## EXALTED RULER MESSAGE (Con't)

To the Volunteers: If you are a newer member and you've been wondering where you fit in, where to start, or how to get involved, please reach out. There is no wrong door to knock on here. Whether you want to help plan an event, work a shift at a fundraiser, join a committee, or simply show up and lend a hand, we will find the right place for you. No experience required. Just a willing heart and a readiness to jump in. And for those who have been here a while, if there's an activity, a project, or an idea you've been waiting for the right moment to launch, now is that moment. Bring your idea to the table. Find a few fellow members to run it, support it, or attend it, and let's make it happen together.

I step into this role filled with enthusiasm and excitement. Not because of anything I bring alone, but because of what we bring together. Milford Elks Lodge has heart. It has history. And it has all of you. Here's to an incredible year ahead, full of community, service, fellowship, and fun.

With deep gratitude and great enthusiasm,

Mary H. Garfield, Exalted Ruler

## Elk of the Month

### Courtney and Robbie Black (Youth Activities Co- Chairs)

This month, we are proud to shine a well-deserved spotlight on Courtney and Robbie Black as our Co-Elks of the Month. Courtney and Robbie were instrumental in making our Children's Easter Party an unforgettable success. From the very first detail to the last, their creativity, culinary skill and dedication transformed the event into a magical experience. They poured their hearts into every element, ensuring that each child was fully immersed in the wonder of the "Easter Bunny Experience" that sparked joy, laughter, and memories that I am sure lasted long after the last easter egg was found! It is the kind of thoughtful, behind the scenes effort that makes all the difference in the world to the littles who experienced it. The team of volunteers that were present to lend a hand in set up to clean up certainly did not go unnoticed and contribute to a seamless event. Thank you, Courtney and Robbie, for your commitment to our Lodge and its young future members.

# What's Happening

## Can and Bottle Drive

Sunday, April 5th

10 AM- 2 PM

Bring your bottles and cans and let your friends know.



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

Sundays  
April 12 & 19  
3pm - 5:30 pm  
\$6.00



## COUNTRY LINE DANCING LESSONS

Join us for some fun, easy-to-follow dancing—  
perfect for beginners and experienced dancers alike!



## SAVE THE DATE

### PER Surf and Turf Dinner

### Saturday, June 13th

# Activities Committee

Wow, March has been incredible for our Lodge. The energy, the laughter, and the connection made it such a special time to share together.

We enjoyed so many fun filled nights of karaoke, line dancing, and game nights, all of which continue to be favorites. Friday night music brought such great energy into the Lodge, filling the room with laughter, dancing, and connection. It has been so nice to see everyone coming out and enjoying these evenings together. We also packed the house with our very first Mixtape Match of the year. The excitement and participation made it such a fun and memorable night for everyone there.

Of course, St. Patrick's Day was a highlight. Milford Elks brought home First Place in the parade for the third year in a row. Go Team Milford Elks. A special thank you to James Kiely, Bobby Fantarella, Bruce Buzelle, and Sue Labazzo for all of their hard work behind the scenes. And to everyone who walked, dressed up, and brought The Quiet Man theme to life, you made it truly unforgettable. There are too many to name, but every one of you played a part.

After the parade, the Lodge was full of life. A packed house enjoyed corned beef dinners and sandwiches, along with the delicious addition of shepherd's pie by Chef Morgan. We were also treated to amazing desserts generously donated by Barb Zink. It was a day filled with laughter, great food, and time spent together, and it truly showed what our Lodge is all about.

We wrapped up the month with our Children's Easter Party, which brought so much joy to our Lodge families. A heartfelt thank you to our Elk of the Year, Sal, for once again bringing smiles to the children's faces as the Bunny.

I am excited to step into the role of Activities Chair and look forward to working with all of you. Our meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 and all are welcome. I would truly love to hear your ideas as we continue building on this wonderful momentum and continue to be the difference in our Lodge.

As we close out March, we want to thank Mary Garfield for her time, dedication, and heart as Activities Chair. As she steps into her role as Exalted Ruler on April 1st, we wish her much success and are grateful for all she has given.

Here is to more fun, connection, and community in the months ahead as we continue to be the difference.

Jennifer Vondle, PER, Activities Chair  
203-823-6313, jennifervondle@gmail.com

# Secretary Notes

Members All,

I want to congratulate our new Exalted Ruler Mary Garfield and her incoming suite of Officers for the 2026 – 2027 Lodge Year. Mary has been extremely active in the Lodge from the day she was initiated and I'm sure her enthusiasm, energy and organizational skills will result in great accomplishments for our Lodge. Please join me in congratulating Mary and her team as I am confident, she will receive the support of all our members to make this a great year!

I want to thank the members that have remitted their dues for the new Lodge year. If you have not paid your dues, please do so as soon as possible. You can pay your dues by cash or check; you can also pay by credit card in the lounge or by PayPal to Milfordlodge1589@gmail.com.

Please remember to inform the Lodge of any changes in your contact information to ensure you receive on a timely basis all information provided by the Lodge, such as the bulletin, charitable events and your dues and membership information.

Also, any member who has achieved thirty years of membership in the Elks is entitled to apply for Life Membership. To apply send a note requesting it to the Secretary at milfordlodge1589@gmail.com.

- Applications to be read: 1
- Candidates to be balloted on: None
- Candidates awaiting Investigation: 6
- Investigation: April 6, 2025
- Candidates awaiting Initiation: 8
- Initiation: April 21, 2026

Dave Field, PDD  
Secretary

TO OUR ABSENT MEMBERS

James O'Brien

## Tip of the Antlers

### Tip of the Antlers to The Team of Volunteers behind the 1st Prize (3-peat) float in the St. Patrick's Day Parade

The theme, "The Quiet Man" a 1952 movie set in Ireland came life with James Kiely's design and the skilled construction together with Bruce Buzzelle and Bobby Fantarella that really transported us to across the ocean to Innesfree, Ireland. From the rolling green hills of imagination to the thatched roof cottage with a working chimney, the unwavering commitments and generous hearts that came together to plan, shop, prepare, build and paint, made this float worthy of the 1st place trophy.



A special thank you to Susan Lobazzo (Member Joe Lobazzo's wife) for the spectacular paint job. The volunteers who walked, handed out the goodies, held banners and flags, and spent the day on that chilly Saturday were appreciated! Every piece of thatch, every screw, every staple, and every detail thoughtfully considered stands as a testament to the camaraderie that make the Elks family amazing! Thank you all!

**TEXAS**

**TOURNAMENT**



*Sunday, April 12th*

**1:30 pm Check In  
with 2 pm Start**

\$20 Buy in  
16 people Max

Members Only

**Sign up with Steward**

*Hold 'em*

## What's Happening

### Live Music Fridays

7 pm - 10 pm

**April 3- Peter Grossi**

**April 10- DM Slide**

**April 24- John Merola**

**April 17- Elana Zabari**

[MilfordElks.com](http://MilfordElks.com)

## CANDIDATES

Patricia Casey	Proposed
Dante Adams	Investigation
Jennifer Biela	Investigation
Christine DelValle	Investigation
Laina Kominos	Investigation
Peter Phelan III	Investigation
Heather Pumphrey	Investigation
Danielle Bourque	Initiation
Lisa Coontz	Initiation
Frances Gobat	Initiation
Linda Kane	Initiation
James Keller	Initiation
Ryan Moran	Initiation
Patricia Pacelli	Initiation
Bonnie Tompsen	Initiation

# Board of Directors Corner

Members All,

The BOD meets once per month, normally scheduled for the Monday before the first Tuesday meeting of the month.

- The Board met on March 16, 2026. The first order of business was to appoint a small committee of board members to review the bids received from paving companies, and select the three top bids. The members selected were Joe Mager III, Jim Garfield, and Dave Williams. The results will be available at the next lodge meeting.
- The new cleaning person at the lodge is now in place, and the lodge has never looked better.
- The Board decided that Antler Park will be open during normal business hours for member use during the good weather. Access to Antler Park will be the responsibility of the bartender.
- The front stairs of the lodge have been refinished with a non-slip finish for safety of the membership. The upstairs wooden floor has also been finished at the same time. Both look great.
- The Board had a preliminary discussion on the upcoming budgets. Greater detailed conversations will follow at the future board meeting. All committee heads should start putting together their details.
- The Board approved the use of the hall for Milford youth organizations at no charge. Rentals and Lodge related functions will take priority.
- The Board would like to thank Brian Ashcroft for his fine work repairing the bar stools in the tap room. Brian has put new life into stools that were on their way out. His detailed professional repairs have save the lodge hundreds of dollars on purchasing new stools. Thank You Brian!
- Your new elected Chairman of the Board of Directors is Dave Williams. Congratulation to Dave, he will do an excellent job.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to any of your Board Members.

Fraternally yours,

Dave Williams, PER  
Chairman Elect, BOD

Joe Leto, PDD  
Past Chairman, BOD

# House Committee Notes

**KITCHEN HOURS**    **Friday-5-8:30pm**    **Saturday- 12-8:30pm**

Hello all and congratulations to our new Exalted Ruler Mary and all of our officers and committee members. I'm looking forward to a great year and with everyone's help and support, I know it will be!

Let me start by saying, I will be co-chairing the House Committee (HC) responsibilities with Jerry Artz and we are both excited to be here. Jerry will be responsible for the kitchen and everything related thereto and I will be responsible for the tap room and everything related thereto.

Please join me In congratulating Jenn Biala who has been promoted to Bar Manager, I am confident that under her supervision the tap room will continue to thrive! She has some great things planned for this year including introducing frozen drink specials this summer so please keep an eye out for those and if you have any other suggestions please let us know.

Our eight HC delegates have been selected and as always, anyone who wishes to volunteer as well is welcomed and encouraged to do so. Our volunteers are the heartbeat of our lodge and you are all very much appreciated and loved, Thank you all!

This year you will see our delegates on the schedule and in the tap room to assist the stewards with some of their responsibilities in order to maximize productivity on those busier nights.

These delegates will be recognized by the HC shirt they will be wearing that will identify them as being on-duty and there to help or lend a hand. To start they will have the same hours as the kitchen so if you don't see them in their HC shirt please know they are off-duty and enjoying the lodge like the rest of our members.

Jerry is planing on keeping the same kitchen hours for now that are posted and any changes he will announce in upcoming communication. One exciting event he has is to the make Thursday nights or every other Thursday night a "Guest Chef" night with a specified budget for you to grocery shop with and share your creativity and delicious dinner specials with our members. If you are interested in being a guest chef please Contact Jerry so he can get you on the schedule, we are anticipating this to fill up fast as it's a lot of fun in that commercial kitchen!

Surprise note - Susan Mastrianni is willing to open the tap room on Easter Sunday so please consider stopping in and showing her some love and support, she's amazing!

Jim Garfield & Jerry Artz - HC Co-Chairs

# April 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
				Activities Com- mittee Meeting 6:30pm	5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Live Music taproom 7-10pm	12-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu Karaoke 7:30pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Can & Bottle Drive 10am-2pm Pot Luck Sunday Game Night 6:30pm	Roast Beef Sandwiches beginning at 12 noon	Lodge Meeting 7:00pm			5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu 6-10pm Country Line Dancing Live Music taproom 7-10pm	12-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Line Dancing Lessons 3-5pm Texas Hold-Em 1:30pm Pot Luck Sunday Game Night 6:30pm	Roast Beef Sandwiches beginning at 12 noon				5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Live Music taproom 7-10pm	12-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Karaoke 7:30pm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Line Dancing Lessons 3-5pm Pot Luck Sunday Game Night 6:30pm	Roast Beef Sandwiches beginning at 12 noon House Committee Meeting 7pm	Lodge Meeting 7:00pm			5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Live Music taproom 7-10pm	5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu
26	27	28	29	30		
Pot Luck Sunday Walk A Mile In Her Shoes Game Night 6:30pm	Roast Beef Sandwiches beginning at 12 noon					

**VOLUNTEER TO ADD MORE EVENTS TO THIS CALENDAR EVERY MONTH**

**GOT AN IDEA? SHARE IT WITH ANYONE ON PAGE 2**