

**Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks**  
**Big Rapids Elks Lodge No. 974**  
203 E. Pine St., Big Rapids, MI 49307 (231)796-5451  
www.brelks.com  
**September, 2011**

**Non-Profit  
Organization**  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Big Rapids, MI  
**Permit No. 42**



Return Service Requested

**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

- September 1 - Lodge meeting
- September 15 - Lodge meeting/Initiation
- September 17 - "Red Hacker" B-Ball Tourney
- September 24 - Youth Skating Party - Roller rink

**BIRTHDAY? ANNIVERSARY? WEDDING? RETIREMENT? Need a place to hold your special event?**

CONTACT THE LODGE AT (231) 796-5451 to reserve the Lodge facilities for your special event!!!  
Your help would be appreciated.

Rental Rates & Deposit: Lodge Members is \$75.00 + \$100.00 refundable fee for cleaning.  
**Sound System Available**

**LODGE OFFICERS  
2011 - 2012**

<b>EXALTED RULER</b> Lynn Cook	<b>LEADING KNIGHT</b> Paul DesNoyers
<b>LOYAL KNIGHT</b> Laura Dean-Bonnell	<b>LECTURING KNIGHT</b> Nicholas Czinder
<b>ESQUIRE</b> Chad Currie	<b>CHAPLAIN</b> (vacant)
<b>INNER GUARD</b> Charlie Siegert	<b>TILER</b> Nick Kaye
<b>SECRETARY</b> Carl Boroff	<b>TREASURER</b> Will Iltis
<b>TRUSTEES</b> Jim Lindsey- 5 year Tom Mackowiak- 4 year Joyce Sonntag- 3 year Susan Johnson- 2 year Dan Wanink- 1 year	<b>GOVERNING BODY</b> Four Elected Chair Officers and Board of Trustees

**LODGE MEETINGS**

7:30 pm on the first and third Thursday of each month  
except July & August meetings for the first Thursday.

The Club Room of the Lodge is open at 4:30 pm  
Wednesday, Thursday, & Fridays. On Saturday, Club  
Room opens at 3 pm. Closed Monday & Tuesday,

**GUESTS & VISITORS**

All guests must be accompanied by a member, and they  
must be signed in.

Visiting Members are asked to display their membership  
card.



## ***Anniversaries***

03	Donald and Carol Semeyn	15	Greg and Marjorie Johnson
05	James and Mary Emerich	17	Tim and Karen Hahn
	Sara and Paul Mitchell	20	Thomas and Sally A. Nester
06	James and Linda Fessler		Richard and Bunnie Rau
	Keith and Elaine White		Gary and Patti Sole
12	Robert and Ruth Degreen Jr.	22	Tommy Oliver and Marian Thompson
13	Loren and Doris Godbold	26	James and Phyllis Lindsey
14	Chris and Stacy Manor		

### **Propositions For Membership**

**PERSON:**

Kelli Baker  
Brian Thiede (Chief Ass't Prosecutor)

**PROPOSED BY:**

Julie Strohkirch  
Paul DesNoyers

### **Propositions For Re-instatement**

Dennis Karnitz (retired)  
John Bloomquist (retired)

Paul DesNoyers  
Paul DesNoyers

## **GER Message: Teamwork is key to organizations' success**

A Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler Hon. David R. Carr

Most organizations recognize good leadership as the key to success with teamwork being the primary contributor to that success. It is important that the Exalted Ruler, as Lodge leader, listens and constructively responds to points of view expressed by others, gives others the benefit of the doubt, supports those Officers and committees who need it, and recognizes those Officers and Members who "*Give from the Heart*" by volunteering on behalf of their Lodges.

The Exalted Ruler alone cannot do everything necessary to ensure Lodge or program success. A team melds together the skills, experiences and insights of several Members. It is important that every Lodge Officer and program coordinator attends District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Clinics. Officers and Members can become better acquainted with Grand Lodge programs by attending these clinics and using the Grand Lodge manuals and materials.

Lodges conducting successful programs enhance pride in their Members. Pride is contagious and will result in fewer Members dropping out and creating an interest in others to become a part of your Lodge.

Many Members are unable to attend Lodge meetings or other activities for various reasons. They rely on the Lodge bulletin as their primary source of communication, and it is important to include something in each edition that will make them proud Elks. A photo of a child, veteran or disabled person being assisted by your Lodge can help to generate that pride.

With our school-year now under way, I hope your Lodge has joined our national effort to "give the gift of words" to elementary students. The Dictionary Project has received praise from students, teachers and staff nationwide. Our Members likewise support this program, which targets third-grade students who are just beginning to learn to use a dictionary.

Next month is Elks National Foundation Month. I encourage every Lodge to schedule a function that will help you increase your Lodge per capita. The more we give, the more we receive for our charitable programs.

Thank you for ***Caring and Sharing.***

## **Grand Lodge Membership Committee Message: Membership program aims for zero delinquents**

by CHARLES W. LESTER, Committee Chairman

A new Zero Delinquents program has been launched. Local Lodges should tackle the delinquency problem in their Lodges now. You still have time to retain your current Members who have not paid their dues.

The Zero Delinquents program is to augment the Plus 1 membership program. Now would be a good time to initiate face-to-face contact with the Members who have not paid their dues. Please remember that these are Members who have an obligation to the Lodge for their dues by April 1. After April 1 they are delinquent. Have someone in the Lodge make a friendly house call on these individuals and ask them the big question, "Can I get a check for your Lodge dues?"

Please remember that these Members are our friends. Be nice to them. If they say they cannot pay their dues at this time, ask them if they can see their way clear to pay only ½ year's dues and then, before October 1, consider paying the remainder of the year. Explain that the Lodges need their help to continue their many good works within the community and nationwide. If you can convince the delinquent Members that the Lodge needs them and wants them they will probably stay. Everyone wants to feel needed.

Now, if delinquent Members do not desire to pay their dues, give them something. We do not want to go away with the delinquent Member unhappy with us. They are still Members and our friends. Give them a "Flag decal" and ask them to advertise for the Elks. Give them an Elks (Drug Awareness) seat belt cutter, for example. Tell them we hope they never have to use it but if they do, it is from an Elks program. The Lodge may have something else that can be used in this case.

If the delinquent Member does pay his or her dues, encourage the person to come to the next Lodge meeting, dinner or social function. If they hesitate to come to a dinner, offer to pay for it and possibly get the Lodge to reimburse you. Try to get the Members involved in a Lodge activity. An active Member is one who does feel wanted and needed.

If you or your Lodge has not seen the Zero Delinquents program, please contact your Grand Lodge Membership Committee representative of your area.

### **THANK'S CREW**

Once again our Elks lodge ran the Adult Beverage Tent at the Mecosta County Fair for a lodge fundraiser. This year we did a larger volume of business and had very minimal problems thanks to our outstanding volunteers!!! We were complimented by the fair board that we continue to do a nice job of keeping everything under control and organized. The volunteers that helped put forth a great effort and worked extremely hard to keep everything going smoothly. All and all we had a great time and I certainly appreciate everyone's help. I would like to thank the following people for their help in set-up, clean-up, ticket sales, I.D. checkers, and beverage distribution. So a big **huge thank you** goes out to **Greg Johnson, Sue Johnson, Ken Clark, Tom and Steve Stellard, John and Joyce Sonntag, Julie Strohkirch, Jim and Troy Lindsey, Karen Hahn, Brian Thiede, Roger Harrison, Tom Langley and Judy, Coleen and Greg Olson, Karen Lerew, Tom Mackowiak, Dave Krug, Adam Currie, Mackenzie Peterson, Aaron and Jill Colley, and Carl Boroff.**

**Please be sure to thank these volunteers for giving their time to help support our lodge.** I look forward to having this great team of volunteers next year and a few more new faces to help spread the workload out. Again thank you to the great crew for all of your help. **You did an outstanding job!!!**

Sincerely, Dan Wanink, 2011 Beer Tent Chair



**MECOSTA COUNTY  
MEDICAL CENTER**  
605 Oak Street Big Rapids, MI 49307

**Suzie Pierce, RN, BSN**  
Director, Inpatient Rehabilitation Center/  
Admissions Coordinator

231-552-4454 Cell 231-250-7548 Fax 231-692-4273  
spierce@mcmoncbr.com

## **SUNBURST MEMORIALS MONUMENTAL SALES, INC**

CHAD LACROSS  
C: 231-679-4287  
www.sunburstgranites.com

"HANDCRAFTED - SATISFACTION GUARANTIED"

# September 2011 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon CLOSED	Tue CLOSED	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Wii Bowling Board 6:30p.m. Lodge 7:30	2	3
4	5  LABOR  DAY	6	7 Burger Night Pool	8 Wii Bowling  DINNER  TACO BUFFET	9 Fish Fry 6 - 8 p.m.  <b>PER's</b>	10
11	12	13	14 Burger Night Pool	15 Wii Bowling Lodge 7:30 / Initiation  DINNER CHICKEN	16 Fish Fry 6 - 8 p.m.  <b>Carl's</b>	17 <b>RED HACK- ER TOUR- NEY Clubroom OPEN 12n - 6pm</b>
18	19	20	21 Burger Night Pool	22	23 Fish Fry 6 - 8 p.m.  <b>Trustees'</b>	24  <b>YOUTH SKATING PARTY</b>
25	26	27	28 Burger Night Pool	29 Wii Bowling  DINNER  SWISS STEAK	30 Fish Fry 6 - 8 p.m.  <b>Ladies'</b>	Oct 1



**"Your Worries End  
When Our Work Begins"**

**BIG RAPIDS**  
18209 Northland Dr.  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
(231) 796-4807  
Fax: (231) 796-5276

1-877-6-HANSEN  
www.hansencollision.com

**DAGGETT-GILBERT  
FUNERAL HOME, INC.**  
**Big Rapids, Michigan 49307**  
**Big Rapids (231) 796-3611**  
**Barryton (989) 382-5566**  
**Toll free: 1-800-330-7064**  
www: daggettgilbertfuneralhome.com



**Currie's**  
**24 Hour Towing & Recovery**







**A & A Builders**  
**Pat McShane, Owner**

P.O. Box 307  
Stanwood, MI 49346  
Tel: 231-823-2770  
1-800-649-5440

Vinyl Siding  
Vinyl Windows  
Roofing  
Fax: 231-823-2800

620 Maple Street  
Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: (231) 796-5351  
Fax: (231) 796-9063

Mail at: 20241 ASH DRIVE  
BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307

Tel. 231-592-1007  
888-592-1007  
Fax 231-592-1007  
e-mail: kwalz39@hotmail.com

**KEN WALZ**  
PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEY

CONFERENCES AT LOCATIONS  
CONVENIENT TO CLIENT

Ken has 40+ years of medical-legal experience.  
Dedicated now to seeking compensation for you,  
in association with specific expert attorneys/law firms  
through-out Michigan and adjoining states.




**Brown's Barber Shop**  
**216 South Michigan**  
**796-7304**

**Reasonable Rates**  
**Across from Big Rapids Cinemas**

**Denny's** Hours: M-F 8:00-5:30  
Sat. 8:00 - Noon  
Sun. Closed

**MUFFLER  
SHOP**

**Dave Tassoni**




14380 Northland Dr. • Big Rapids, MI 49307  
796-6335

**BIG RAPIDS TIRE** Steve Brock  
Owner

**DAYTON BRIDGESTONE**  
**MICHELIN • SUMITOMO**



1300 N. State St.  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
231 796-4839

**GARY TRIMARCO  
AUTOMOTIVE**  
CHEVROLET • FORD • BUICK • GMC

**Phil Currie**  
Sales and Leasing  
Consultant

14001 Northland Dr., Big Rapids MI 49307  
Phone: 231-796-7681 Fax: 231-796-6950  
Toll-Free: 800-486-9486  
E-mail: pcurrie@garytrimarco.com  
www.garytrimarco.com