



Derby Lodge of Elks #571

THE LODGE OF THE VALLEY

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

Home Lodge of David Robinson, PDDGER STCEAC

Volume 127 | Issue 9 | September 2026

73 Elizabeth Street. PO Box 266, Derby, CT 06418

Lodge: (203) 735-1142 Office (203) 734-0571 <https://derbyelks.org>



LODGE OFFICERS 2026-2027

Board of Directors

Exalted Ruler	Maria Blackwell
Esteemed Leading Knight	Adam Pacheco
Esteemed Loyal Knight	Paul Blackwell
Esteemed Lecturing Knight	Pat Mastrianni
Secretary	Sheila Parizo
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Five Year Trustee	Dave Savage
Four Year Trustee	Blake Stine
Three Year Trustee	Mike Wuchek
Two Year Trustee	Mike Rinaldi
One Year Trustee	Cheryl Pereiras
Inner Guard	Joe Hoefflinger
Tiler	Linda Bayusik
Esquire	Sonia Barbieri
Chaplain	Kevin Barbieri
Presiding Justice	Gary Cahill & Tom Finnucan

*******HOUSE COMMITTEE*******

Chair: David Cox

Kevin Barbieri | Paul Blackwell | Mark Inderdohnen

Adam Pacheco | Mike Wuchek | Dave Savage

*******ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE*******

Chair: Janice D'Agostino

*******LODGE MEETING NIGHTS*******

1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 7:30 p.m.

B.O.D. Meetings: 1st & 3rd Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m.

PER Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, directly after Lodge Mtg

House Committee: 1st Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.

Elk of the Year David Bayusik

Officer of the Year Adam Pacheco

Citizen of the Year Marc Garofalo

GER Commendation Anita Dugatto and David Cox

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Rachael Kenyon, Editor | 203-751-2001 |

Rachael.kenyon89@gmail.com

MESSAGE TV Our message TV in the Antler Lounge is updated regularly. Contact [Jeaneen Buchanan](mailto:Jeaneen.Buchanan@derbyelks.org) with information, events, picture, etc. at lodge571derby@gmail.com

Lodge Hours

Monday – Saturday: 4pm – 10pm

Sunday: Noon – 6pm

Exalted Ruler's Message

Greetings Members,



As September approaches, we pause to remember one of the most significant and heartbreaking days in our nation's history. September 11, 2026 marks the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks. We remember the nearly 3,000 innocent lives lost, the heroes who courageously ran toward danger to help others, and the families and communities forever changed that day. The Derby Elks will participate in a solemn ceremony on the Derby Green on September 11th at 6pm and hold a reception at the lodge afterwards for all of our community's and lodge's first responders to remember and thank them for their service and sacrifices.

As Elks, our commitment to "Elks Care, Elks Share" reminds us that even small acts of kindness can make a difference. In August, the Elks were busy focusing on helping our veterans. The Elks cooked and donated a Summer BBQ meal to the P.F. Madaras House, a residence for homeless, women veterans. Thanks to our members, the Elks Riders' drive for the West Haven Veterans Hospital was a huge success. Your generosity has helped raise a multitude of items that are needed by the patients. As we move into the Fall, our lodge will continue to work together to support our veterans, our youth, and our community.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the lodge throughout September. We have some great events coming up! Join us on September 8th, for Lobster Sliders, Lobster Bisque, or Grilled Cheese sandwiches. Afterwards, you can watch one of Derby's concerts on the Green featuring Mark Lanzeri at 7pm. This month, we will also host our Polish Dinner on September 19th, complete with delicious choices of Polish food and our Safari Bus trip on September 26th. We have a few slots left, so hurry and sign up! Enjoy a cozy chili dinner on September 29th from 5-7pm with line dancing at 7pm.

Eric Benson, one of our members, has generously donated 4 tickets and a parking pass to two Giants games that we will be raffling off in our Scholarship Raffle. Tickets are \$20 each and will be going on sale September 1, 2026. They can be purchased at the bar. The games will take place in November and December. All proceeds go to our scholarships for high school students. Please support this worthy cause.

I look forward to seeing you at the lodge!

Maria Blackwell

Exalted Ruler

mjblackwell@snet.net | (203) 751-1709



NOTE FROM THE LODGE SECRETARY'S DESK

P.O. Box 266, 73 Elizabeth St, Derby, CT
06418
571sec@gmail.com

POSTED HOURS FOR SECRETARY:

Beginning January 1, 2026

Mon – Sat: 8:30am – 10am via email, text or phone.

Mon – Sat: 6pm – 8pm at the Lodge (unless away or ill)

Sunday – day of rest!!!

As you know, the membership dues drive is in full swing. To those of you who have already paid your dues, I wanted to let you know that I have processed each one and have either mailed the cards out to you, or if you are local to our Lodge, your card awaits you at the bar! PLEASE!!! Do not dispose of your current card (which is pink) as it is good until April 1, 2026. Your NEW card for 2026-2027 is purple and is not activated until April 1, 2026. You may purchase additional laminated key cards for \$1.00 - also at the bar, but in order to purchase it, you must present your new purple card.

For those of you who have not paid yet, I would like to offer a couple of suggestions:

1. If paying by check or cash, you may either mail or drop your payment in the Secretary's box next to the Pull Tab machine -

PLEASE PUT YOUR PAYMENT IN AN ENVELOPE

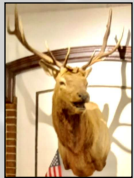
2. Never mail cash (it's illegal)

3. Please do not forget the \$.50

Thank you for your generosity in giving to Elks National Foundation, CT Elks Major Projects and/or our Lodge Maintenance and Repairs as part of your dues remittance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sheila Parizo, Lodge Secretary
571Sec@gmail.com or 203-231-4971.

Where's Moe??



Can you find Moe on the Message TV
slide show in the Antler Lodge?

Find him somewhere *in the slides*
and **win a free drink!**

Keep looking, Moe will pop up somewhere new each month!

Report your Moe sighting to Dave Cox or Jeaneen
Buchanan and win!

MESSAGE TV Our message TV in the Antler Lounge is
updated regularly. Contact Jeaneen Buchanan with
information, events, picture, etc. at
lodge571derby@gmail.com

Living or Dead, an Elk is Never Forgotten, Never Forsaken

Jerome "Jerry" Coolidge, PER

Gary Kryvonis

Joseph Frolish

Walter Birdsell, PDD



Come into the Lodge to celebrate your

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

and receive a complimentary beverage!

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 William Coolahan | 20 Wilmary Rivera |
| Katie Wildman | 22 James Jensen |
| 2 Gary Parker | Bruce Sill |
| 3 Tammy Bartomeli | 24 Martin Corrado |
| Frank Hemmock | Francesca Maiorano |
| 4 Catherine Cwilichoski | Stanley Zalinsky |
| Stephen Marcucio | 26 William Cicale |
| 5 Thomas Finnucan | Frank Rubino |
| Anthony Trimarki | 27 Anthony Gorlewski |
| 6 Ronald Hessels | 28 Michael Chebro |
| David Robinson | James Frank |
| 8 Kathleen Frolish | Mark Wilczak |
| 9 Daniel Foley | 30 Ronald Labranche |
| 12 Ronald Herrick | |
| 13 Norma Fitzgerald | |
| Lewis Martino | |
| 15 Jodi Dalton | |
| MaryJane Libretti | |
| Carl Yacobacci | |



In our hearts & prayers

Keep our members always in your thoughts. If you
are aware of someone who is ill, experiencing
hardship, or who has suffered a loss, please let us
know so that we can reach out to them.

Lucy Birdsell

Please contact anyone here at Derby Lodge if
you are aware of someone who is experiencing
sickness or distress.

Pat Mastrianni, (203) 213.6325

Adam Pacheco, (860) 593.6019

Living or Dead, an Elk is Never Forgotten, Never Forsaken



Jerry "Cal" Coolidge

January 17, 1958 - August 11, 2026

Jerry "Cal" Coolidge, age 68, of Derby peacefully entered into eternal rest at his home on Tuesday, August 11, 2026. He was born in Derby on January 17, 1958, the son of the late Alva E. and Florence (Bentley) Coolidge. In his youth, he worked for many years in IT for SNET as well as a Manager for Toys'R'Us in Milford. His passion then was entertaining his family and friends as well as local youth groups with his special magic act, which at the time included our family pets, a rabbit and then two doves that he later acquired for his act. Many of us thought that this was his calling, to make people smile. He continued his service to others as a proud member of the Derby Elks Lodge #571, where he served as elected Past Exalted Ruler from 2011-2014. He is remembered "as a person who knew how to have a good time, was kind to others, and practiced the virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity throughout his life". "He was instrumental in bringing forth many charitable programs to the Elks", according to Maria Blackwell, current Elks Exalted Ruler. He enjoyed travelling out west to visit 11 Elks lodges in 3 states as well as here in CT. He was honored to serve his community and helped many including donating a new backstop to our local Derby Little League, and supporting our local youth at the annual Elks Basketball Shoot-out.



Gary M. Kryvonis Sr.

September 1, 1956 - August 2, 2026

Gary M. Kryvonis Sr., age 69, entered eternal rest on August 2, 2026. He was the beloved husband of Suzanne (Cruite) Kryvonis. Born in Bridgeport on September 1, 1956, he was the beloved son of Nora (Diaz) Shea of Derby and the late Robert Kryvonis. Gary was employed as a quality control inspector for Vanguard Products Corporation in Danbury for many years, until his retirement. He was a loving, hardworking family man who valued spending time, laughing and making memories together. He especially held dear to his heart the time spent with his grandchildren. Gary was a true green thumb and could grow almost anything. He was meticulous in tending to his garden and beautifully manicured yard. Gary enjoyed the outdoors, fishing, taking long rides and had a special affinity for the oceanside. He had a soft, gentle heart that cared deeply for all animals.



Joseph J. Frolish

November 23, 1952 – August 31 2026

Joseph Frolish, age 73, of Shelton, entered into rest on Monday, August 31, 2026, in his home. He is the beloved husband to Kathleen (Early) Frolish. Joe was born in Derby on November 23, 1952, son of the late Walter and Tessie (Deptula) Frolish, and was a lifelong Shelton resident. Joe owned and operated Housatonic Security for over 40 years. Before retiring in 2022, Joe was employed as a security guard with the Shelton Board of Education. He was active in his service to the city, serving on the Shelton Water Pollution Control Authority. Joe loved the outdoors, enjoying the river, and loved to hunt, fish, and golf.



Walter Elbert Birdsell

March 1, 1942 - September 2, 2026

Walter Elbert Birdsell, age 84, of Loris South Carolina (previously Seymour, CT) entered into rest on Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at his home with his loving family by his side. He was the devoted husband of Lucy (DeJoy) Birdsell. Walter was born in Derby on March 1, 1942 son of the late Elbert Mickey and Josephine (Dedurka) Birdsell. During his career he was employed at Farrell Corporation in Ansonia as a Millwright, Seymour Oil as a technician and truck driver, then became a professional tractor trailer driver for MIR in Beacon Falls, and ended off as a Master Machinist at Bic Corporation in Milford. Walter was a member of the Derby Elks #571. He served as the Exalter Ruler, Past Exalted Ruler and District Deputy Grand Exalter Ruler. He was also the State President of the Past Exalted Ruler's Association, State Chairman of the Veteran's Commission and CT Elks State Chairman of Elks Training Program. He was appointed by Grand Lodge as Chairman of Elk's National Veteran's Service Commission in 2004. Walter was a gold card member of the A.M. Club in Derby. He was very active for the Town of Seymour serving on the Charter Revision Commission and the Planning, Zoning Commission for many years and was a member of the Republican Town Committee. While in Loris, SC he served on the Planning and Zoning Committee. Walter also enjoyed golfing, gardening and hunting. His garden produced enough tomatoes, peppers and herbs for a village while his, lush lawn was admired by all who walked by.

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 BOD meeting 630p Lodge Mtg 730p House Cmte Mtg	2 Bar Bowling	3	4	5
6	7	8 Lobster Sliders Dinner 4:30-630p	9 Bar Bowling Soccer Shoot @B&G club	10	11 Sept 11 th Ceremony	12
13	14	15 BOD meeting 630p Lodge Mtg 730p Booster Seat Event @Griffin 3-5p	16 Bar Bowling	17 Activities cmte mtg 6pm	18	19 Polish Dinner 5-8pm Canceled - Sorry!
20	21	22	23 Bar Bowling	24 Dinner Club	25	26 Elks Safari Bus Trip
27	28 Derby Elks Audit	29 Chili Dinner-5-7p Line Dancing- 7 p	30 Bar Bowling			

DERBY ELKS SAFARI

JOIN US ON A BUS TRIP TO THREE DIFFERENT LODGES

WALLINGFORD #1365
BRANFORD #1939
WEST HAVEN #1537

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

\$40 PER PERSON INCLUDES LUNCH AND TRANSPORTATION

LUNCH AT DERBY LODGE #571 AT 12:30PM
BUS DEPARTS 1:30PM
RETURN 7:30PM

JOIN US FOR GAMES AND FUN ON THE BUS!

Derby's 9/11 Memorial Service

Friday, September 11th on the Derby Green

A reception at our Derby Elks Lodge for our Elks First Responders and Derby's First Responders will take place following the ceremony.

We sincerely thank all of our first responders for their service as we remember the sacrifices they make to the communities they serve.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

Elks Dinner

September 8th | 430 - 630 PM

Lobster Sliders with Cole slaw \$12
Lobster Bisque \$8
Grilled Cheese with Cole Slaw \$6

Followed by Mark Lanzeri performing on the Derby Green @7pm (free show!)

Elks Chili Dinner

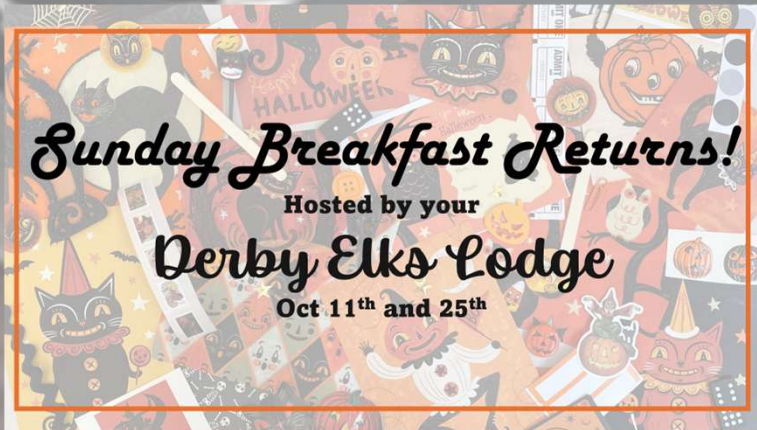
September 29th | 5-7 PM | \$12

Chili dinner, side & dessert

Following dinner will by Linda's Line Dancing @7pm!

OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 House Cmte Mtg 7p	2	3
4	5	6 BOD meeting 630p Lodge Meeting 730p	7 Bar Bowling	8	9	10
11 Sunday Breakfast	12	13	14 Bar Bowling	15	16	17
18	19	20 BOD meeting 630p Lodge Meeting 730p District Deputy Visit	21 Bar Bowling	22	23	24 Gift Card Bonanza
25 Sunday Breakfast Trunk or Treat 1-3p	26 Scholarship Drawing	27 Line Dancing- 7 p	28 Bar Bowling	29 Dinner Club	30 Lodge Halloween Party	31



Announcements

★ **DERBY ELKS** ★ **SCHOLARSHIP** **FOOTBALL RAFFLE**

≡ **\$20 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN** ≡

YOUR TICKET ENTERS YOU IN BOTH DRAWINGS!
YOU COULD WIN EITHER OF THESE 2 GREAT PRIZES!

DRAWING #1



NEW YORK GIANTS
VS
WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2026
8:15PM

DRAWING #2



NEW YORK GIANTS
VS
SAN FRAN 49ERS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2026
1:00PM

OR



★ ★ AT ★ ★ ★
MET LIFE STADIUM

SECTION 315 - SEATS 24, 25, 26, 27

EACH PRIZE INCLUDES 4 TICKETS AND A PARKING PASS



TWO SEPARATE DRAWINGS WILL BE HELD AT
DERBY ELKS LODGE #571

DRAWING #1
NOVEMBER 12, 2026

★ ★ AT 7PM ★ ★ ★
FOR GIANTS VS COMMANDERS

DRAWING #2
DECEMBER 6, 2026

★ ★ AT 7PM ★ ★ ★
FOR GIANTS VS 49ERS

★ ★ ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE ★ ★
DERBY ELKS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

JOIN US FOR THE

ELKS LODGE PLUNGE CHALLENGE

TO BENEFIT SPECIAL OLYMPICS CONNECTICUT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2026

10:30 AM REGISTRATION | 11:30 AM PLUNGE
WESTBROOK ELKS LODGE

\$75 minimum to register with additional fundraising optional
for Special Olympics Connecticut. Top fundraising Lodge
wins traveling trophy and bragging rights for the year!



Join Derby Lodge No. 571

Scholarship Drawing

October 26th





Photo Gallery



SUMMER



BARBEQUE

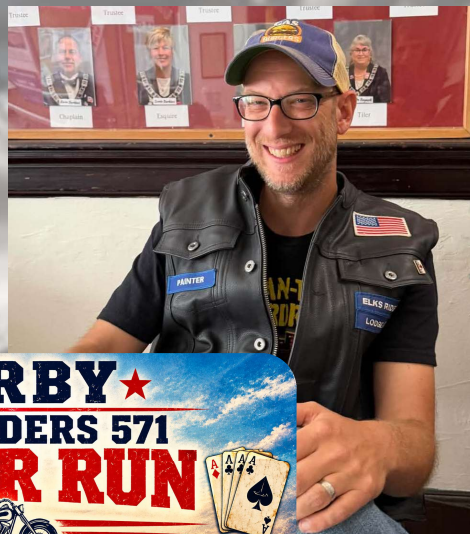




Photo Gallery



**JUKEBOX
MATCHUP**



**★ DERBY ★
ELKS RIDERS 571
POKER RUN**



Wall of Honor

Attention Members!

We are in the process of putting together a "Wall of Honor" for our veterans in the Lodge. Currently, we have 30 known veterans who are members of our Lodge.

We need the following information:

- If you are a veteran and have not informed the Lodge - please let me know (branch, rank @ discharge, date of discharge)
- If you have children or grandchildren who are active in the military, please let us know as we would like to honor them as well on our wall (branch and rank)

Elk of the Month!



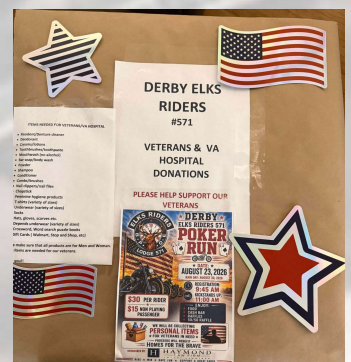
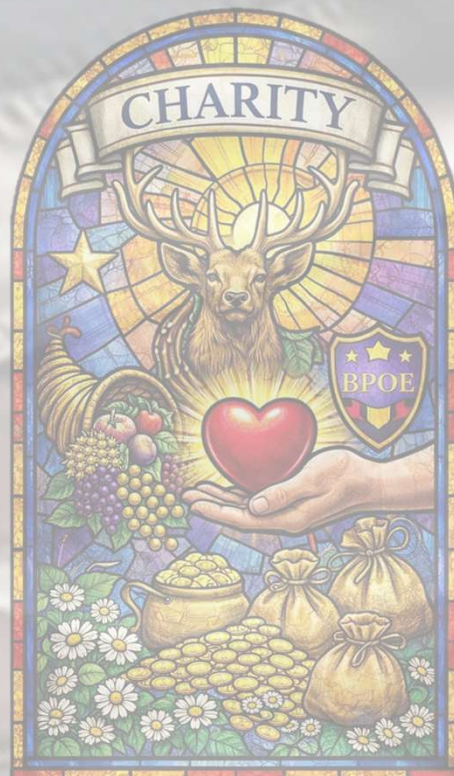
Elks Care and Elks Share



Meal for P.F.Madaras House



Elks Riders Donate \$200 to Ansonia Animal Shelter



Elks Riders Collection for West Haven VA Hospital

Please continue to support our members and local businesses



Sheila M. Parizo
Justice of the Peace
Wedding ceremonies.....Vow Renewals
203-231-4971
sparizo@sbcglobal.net
Notary Public



Denise DeFrancisco
Executive Director
Denise.A1HC@yahoo.com
Office 203-712-7163
Fax 203-513-8611

96 Kings Hwy • Shelton, CT 06484

JAMES T. TOOHEY
1923-1998
EDWARD J. TOOHEY
1953-2010



ELLEN S. TOOHEY
EDWARD J. TOOHEY, JR.

James T. Toohey & Son
~ FUNERAL HOME ~
92 Howe Avenue, Shelton, CT 06484
203-924-9056

Email: TooheyFuneralHm@aol.com • www.TooheyFuneralHome.com



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(203) 735-1107

36 COMMERCE STREET
DERBY, CT 06418

Rentals

Do you have a Special Event
coming up?
Birthday Parties, Baby Showers,
Retirement Parties, etc.

For details and current pricing information,

Please call:

Al Minopoli: 203-906-6768
or Derby Lodge: 203-735-1142



We Provide the Tools to Build Strong Futures

Together WE are Stronger!

Helping individuals, families, and
communities to overcome the
disease of addiction by creating
real long-term solutions.

TriCircle
169 Colony Street Rm 28
Meriden, CT 06451
(860) 349-7074
info@tricircle.org
www.tricircle.org



Full Service Salon
2 Division Street
Derby, CT 06418
203-734-HAIR (4247)

Contact Lodge Secretary

Sheila Parizo

for information on placing your business ad in our Monthly Bulletins.

571sec@gmail.com | 203-734-0571