

ARCADIA ELKS LODGE 1524 – July 2023

Elks Care – Elks Share



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|--|-------------------------------|
| EXALTED RULER | Troy Hughes PER |
| LEADING KNIGHT | Joey Santos |
| LOYAL KNIGHT | Sandy Mansfield |
| LECTURING KNIGHT | Kelli Jo Santos |
| SECRETARY | Jackie Hughes VP-SWC District |
| TREASURER | Nancy Higginbotham PDDGER |
| TILER | Bill May |
| CHAPLAIN | Marilyn May |
| ESQUIRE | Robert Vaughn PER |
| INNER GUARD | George Rigney |
| <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> | |
| TRUSTEE | Mary Kay Burns |
| TRUSTEE | Sam McLeod |
| TRUSTEE | Ricky Mercer PER |

JULY EVENTS	
2 nd -5 th	– Grand Lodge/Elks National Convention
4 th	– Independence Day
18 th	– Lodge Meeting 7:00 PM
29 th	– “Back-To-School Fair” (Turner Center)

LODGE SCHEDULE

The Arcadia Elks Lodge BUILDING remains closed due to continuing post-Hurricane Ian renovations.

Arcadia Elks Lodge 1524 is NOT closed. The lodge continues to engage in community activities and participate in district, state, and national events.

It is anticipated that the lodge building, including the social quarters, will reopen this summer with a fresh look though out the facility.

See elsewhere in this newsletter information about current status.

HOPE TOO SEE ALL MEMBERS AT THE LODGE SOON!

EXALTED RULER

Members All,

My apologies for the delay of my first newsletter. It has been a rough start to our new year, but I knew it would be. This was the reason for my taking on another round as Exalted Ruler.

My theme for this year is as simple as "be present". We have those that you have read or heard of being here and doing so much to ensure that our doors open in a grand fashion. I personally want to thank them, and praise the amazing things they have done and continue to do. But help is needed, and will be needed once we reopen. I do understand that not all of our members are able to help on a regular basis, but we will be looking for teams to assist in the kitchen and setting up for events.

But we also need all to come in and enjoy the Lodge, to remember the charitable things Elks do, and to bring in new members that we can strive to do more. I am very proud to be part of a year that will change the future of Arcadia Elks Lodge 1524, and that we had the strength through the grace of God to overcome so much and come back better than before.

I look forward to seeing you all very soon, and pray for your strength, good health, and safety. Please feel free to call me for updates or join our officers on a meeting night to hear and see the progress being made.

Sincerely yours,

Troy Hughes PER
Exalted Ruler
954-543-2503



Stay informed!

Regularly visit our lodge webpage

www.ElksArcadia1524.com

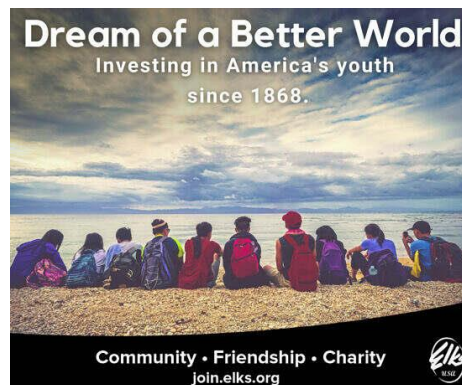
"Like" & follow our Facebook Page: Arcadia Elks No 1524 (@arcadiaelks)

Harry Anna Investment Fund

Of everything that the Florida Elks do, perhaps nothing is more important than our work with the state's youth. Sowing the seeds of accomplishment and commitment through our **Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services** and **Florida Elks Youth Camp** programs, children are given the opportunity to grow and learn beyond their wildest imaginations.

The trust fund started in 1951, was named after Harry and Anna Miller who donated land and a building to establish the original Florida Elks Hospital for Crippled Children. Its purpose was, and continues to be, the collection of donations and the acceptance of endowed gifts. Donate at the Lodge or on-line.

The trust fund is restricted, which means that only the income derived from it may be used to support our major projects: the Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services and Florida Elks Youth Camp programs. **To learn how you can support these great programs and become a sustaining monthly donor (any amount), go to www.floridaelks.org**



POST-HURRICANE RENOVATIONS UPDATE

Fellow Elks,

Greetings, we are entering month 9 in the rebuild phase post Hurricane Ian. I, like many of you, am eager to see our lodge back open for fellowship. First off, I would like to thank Brian Burns, Sam McLeod and Jackie Hughes for doing a lot of the behind the scenes work at the Elks. This is just an update on the work that has been done and the major projects in the works. We have reached out to Briar Creek Construction (Brandon Lynch, a local contractor and Elk) to assist with getting us to the finish line.

Current status:

- New roofing completed
- Lighting and rewiring completed.
- Professional deep cleaning of kitchen & equipment completed.
- Drywall completed.
- New flooring completed.
- New bar chairs purchased
- Bar reconstruction started and to be completed soon
- Addition of new high-top tables in social quarters
- Bathrooms being renovated
- Trim work and two exterior doors started.
- Final painting of interior to be completed by end of June
- Air Conditioners in Main Hall replacement start date 6/23, completion date 6/30
- Exterior stucco accepting quotes.
- Exterior paint accepting quotes.
- Exterior porch quote accepted, awaiting permits and engineering.
- New window coverings to be attained

In conclusion, the lodge will basically be a renovated building upon completion. We anticipate a late July reopening.

If anyone is interested in becoming a part of the House Committee, please reach out to me. Reminder the regular Elks meetings are the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7:00P.M. Next meeting will be July 18, 2023. All are welcome to attend the meeting and see the work that has been completed. Thanks again for your patience and understanding. We will see you soon!

Fraternally,
Joey Santos
(863) 990-4318
Board of Directors Chairman
House Committee Chairman

(Photos next page)

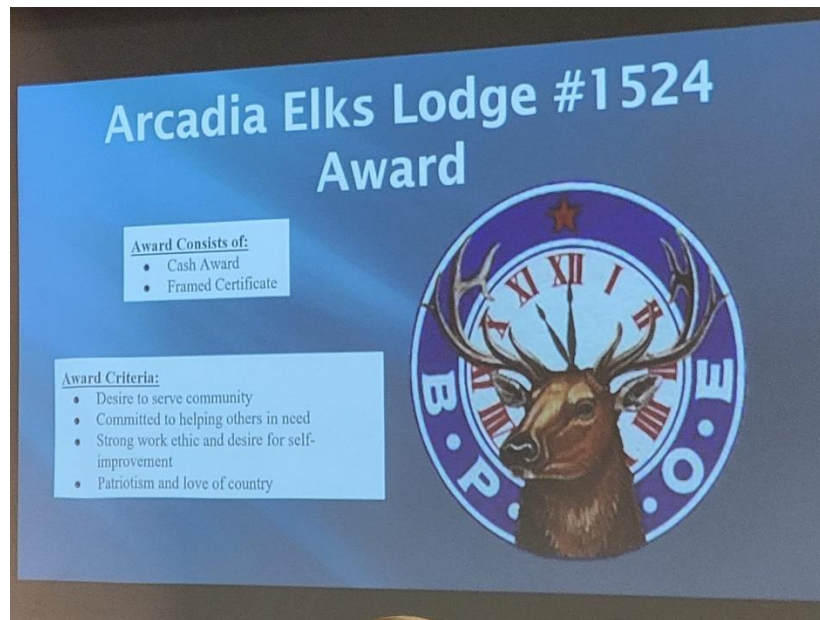
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POST-HURRICANE RENOVATIONS UPDATE



NEWS NOTES

ELKS JROTC AWARD

Each year Arcadia Elks Lodge provides recognition to one DeSoto County High School JROTC cadet for outstanding service and patriotism. Exalted Ruler Troy Hughes presented the award at the annual JROTC Awards Banquet on April 28th.



ELKS HONOR WWII MIA AT MEMORIAL SERVICE AND BURIAL

Arcadia Elks joined with other area Elks and veterans on May 20th in Avon Park to honor US Army Air Force 2nd Lt. Pharis Weekly. He is a WWII MIA who only recently was identified and his remains brought to his hometown of Avon Park for a memorial service and burial.



NEWS NOTES

JACKIE HUGHES STARTS TERM AS DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT

As part of the Florida Elks State Convention in Orlando over the Memorial Day weekend, Arcadia Lodge member Jackie Hughes PER began her term as Vice President-Southwest Central District. Congratulations and best wishes for a productive year!



FLAG DAY CEREMONY

Jackie Tucker PER and Robert Vaughn PER organized the annual Flag Day ceremony on June 14th. Due to renovations at the lodge building, the ceremony was held at St. Edmund Episcopal Church. Local scouts and lodge member DeSoto County Sheriff Jim Potter added a special touch to the event.



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION GRANTS

Arcadia Lodge 1524 is partnering with the DeSoto County School District to host a back-to-school fair that includes the Lodge partnering with the Health Department and Arcadia Main Street to offer free back-to-school supplies on July 29, 2023. All participants will bring between 850 and 1000 items to distribute.

Arcadia Lodge applied for and was given \$8,500 through a combo grant (Beacon, Spotlight and Gratitude grants of the ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION Community Investment Program). Arcadia Elks will present the check to the School District so that the District, with its buying power, can purchase the items at half cost.

Lodge members will assist in the bag assembly the week before the event and be present on the day of the event to hand out bags with the supplies as well as information about the Elks and our programs.

The back-to-school fair is on Saturday July 29th at the Turner Center. Between 850 - 1000 students are expected to attend. Contact Mary Kay Burns if you are available to participate.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Albert Funari (7/3) – Lane Nott (7/5) - Debbie Rallo Perez (7/7) – Lenny Lempenau (7/9)

Shirley Shore (7/9) – James Harold Wall (7/9) – Duvane Ross (7/10) – May Kay Burns (7/11)

Peter Nicholas PER (7/11) – Keith Keene PDDGER (7/12) – James “Bill” May (7/13)

Nancy Higginbotham PDDGER (7/14) – Angelia Wilson (7/17) – Jerry Hunt (7/18)

Larry Furr (7/19) – Brandon Lynch (7/20) – Matthew Plymale (7/20) – Kelly Mercer (7/22)

R. Phillip Nedley (7/22) – Ethan Vitali (7/22) – Dennis Johnson (7/23) – Mickey Mercer (7/23)

Ricky Mercer (7/23) – Angela Harrell (7/24) – John Court (7/25) – Sam Edwards Jr (7/26)

Brandon Hutson (7/27) – Jimmy Barrera (7/31)



EDITOR’S COMMENTS

I have been questioned about why I continue to be an Elks member and officer since the lodge building has been closed due to hurricane damage since last October. That question actually goes to the core of the Elks as a charitable fraternal organization.

I have been a member of the Elks for 23 years and have served in various officer positions, including Exalted Ruler in 2004-2005. That too was a difficult year with Hurricane Charley, but the damage done by Hurricane Ian to our lodge surpasses our difficulties then. The accomplishments by our top lodge leadership dealing with the devastation done by Hurricane Ian is commendable.

The Elks “club” or “social quarters” is the visible part of the lodge that the community recognizes and the main interest of some members. But the essential component of the Elks is the lodge’s involvement with needs in the community. While the building is important in sustaining the life of the local lodge, the good works of Elks continue regardless of temporary disruption in gathering socially.

Florida Elks provide free physical therapy for children and free summer camp opportunities; currently a new program addressing the needs of those affected by autism is being developed. The Arcadia Elks Lodge is busy throughout every year helping veterans, supporting law enforcement and first responder personnel, and assisting children in our community. A tremendous amount of money and direct involvement is done by the Elks Lodge in Arcadia and DeSoto County.

Very soon the lodge building will reopen and social events happening again. But the work of local Elks never ended. As a member of the Arcadia Elks Lodge, take pride in what we do (and make sure your dues are paid!).

Robert Vaughn PER
Newsletter Editor

