



# Flat Rock Elks Newsletter

March 2024

## 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Wild Game Dinner

The Annual Wild Game Dinner was held on January 28, 2024 and it was the most successful one that we continue to put on. It was the most attended one yet! The place was “PACKED”.

Once again, the only way this Event can happen is the “Hunters and Fisherman” who donate the game and fish that we prepare and serve. All who donate receive free tickets to the event.

So, here are the menu items we served and how many options you had to choose from: Venison-8 choices, Squirrel-2 choices, Pheasant & Game Hen, Duck & Goose, Wild Turkey and Stuffing, Perch, Walleye & Panfish, Moose Sliders just before Dinner, and Venison Chili, Soup & Stew when you entered! There is no other Wild Game Dinner that serves this many entrees!

So, now on to all who worked to put this on! The “Kitchen Crew” starts working on Thursday before. This year we have a lot of new volunteers to help and they will be back. The “Front Door Workers” handle the admissions! The Raffle Ticket Seller handles selling tickets for all the table Raffle Prizes, the Ladies who sell the 50-50 Tickets and the Bartenders. This year we also had some people who did their own Raffles and turned the profits in to support this event! Also, all who set up the hall!



This Event is the largest “One Day Fundraiser” that our Lodge puts on! This years Event raised \$10,340.00 which was turned over to the Lodge to help keep us going! So “SPECIAL THANKS” to all of you who did “your part” at this GREAT EVENT!

Bernie Schaller PER who started this event!

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There wasn't an empty chair to be found at the  
"Flat Rock Elks Wild Game Dinner"

This event draws all that fish and hunt from all ages including youth, women and men. Some ladies really know how to dress for this event and gives it two thumbs up.



## 2024 MUSKRAT DINNER

The Annual Flat Rock Elks Muskrat Dinner was held on Sunday, February 18, 2024 starting at Noon. It is an "All You Can Eat Event", until all the Muskrat is gone, which happened again this year! Also, served is a Spaghetti Dinner, all you can eat! This Event was started in 1975 and has been carried on every Year, except 2 years ago because of the "Covid Regulations!"

It starts with 300 Muskrats the had to be "prepped" by the "Carleton Crew" and then moved on to be cooked and ready to be served. Once again we were sold out very early!

This year we had "Flat Rock Elks Muskrat Dinner" Hats that we gave to all the "Carleton Crew and their Ladies" as a special "Thanks" for all the help they have given us thru the years! Without them this Event could not happen! The leftover Hats were sold to a lot of the "Eaters"! They will advertising the Event for us when they wear them!

The profit from this P.E.R. Event will end up helping the Lodge with the up and coming issues!

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## 365 and The Michigan Major Project

Hello to all! Just wanted to give a quick update on the 1/20/24 365 fundraiser dinner. We had approximately 85 people for the fabulous evening of delicious food and fun. Preliminary totals for funds raised is \$4630! That is amazing!

Thank you so much to all the members who helped with this worthwhile cause. Whether you purchased Solo stove tickets, brought a basket/donation, or came to the dinner, YOU made this possible.

Special thanks to the kitchen help: Joe, Dale, Jeff and Jennifer, Tony, Pat, and Jeff R. Todd Estes for providing the entertainment, and to George Polhemus who was the top bidder for the new and improved tie, with a \$500 donation! As always George, your generosity is greatly appreciated. We also thank our PER's, Elkadys, and Tom Harder for their donations. Much thanks to the other volunteers who made the evening a success.



Please remember to support the local businesses who helped with donations-Flat Rock Do It Center, Masserants, Rock On Smoker's, Sugar Island Bakery, My Salon, and the Vreeland Market. Let them know you are an Elk and appreciate their support!

With thanks,  
Jeff Weiler Leading Knight

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## Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner at the Elks

Nov. 5, 2023 the Veterans Committee of Flat Rock MI Lodge 1731 put on a Thanksgiving dinner for local Veterans and their families. The afternoon started with the presentation of the American flags and their history, followed by the presentation of all the Armed Forces flags. Dinner followed with a full traditional Thanksgiving meal. 136 were in attendance to include 62 Veterans and 15 lodge volunteers. After dinner 100 American flags were retired.

Pat Strickland

( Pictures on the next page.)

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## Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner at the Elks



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## Childrens Christmas Party – Flat Rock Elks

December 16, 2023, Flat Rock Elks Lodge 1731 held their annual members Kids Christmas Party from 12-2 pm. This year we had 45 kids attend with their parents, grandparents, and older siblings for a total attendance of approximately 160. The event was held in the Lodge Hall with special guests Santa and Mrs. Clause showing up to sit with the kids to hear their wishes and make last minute claims to ensure they were on the Nice list. All participating children received a gift from Santa and Mrs. Clause as well as time to take family photos with the decorated fireplace and mantle in the backdrop for them. The children also participated in making various Christmas crafts and decorations to take home which was a big hit with all the positive feedback received after the event. Food was also provided for the kids and their families as we kicked off the party including hot dogs, mac & cheese, chips, candy, cookies, and pop. Also, as a fundraiser for the event, two kids Fire pads, which were donated for the party, were raffled off to offset costs. Many thanks to the more than two dozen volunteers that helped with the party in one form or another!

### **Dale Ridsen - Lecturing Knight**



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## Trunk or Treat – Flat Rock Lodge 1731

October 29, 2023, Flat Rock Elks Lodge 1731 held their annual members Trunk or Treat from 2-4 pm. Despite some rainy/drizzly weather earlier that morning the event was able to be held outside as planned. The event included the Trunk or Treat held outside in the Lodge parking lot as well as food (hot dogs, chips, and pop) provided on the inside. There were approximately 12 vehicles involved with almost all choosing to participate in decorating their vehicles as well. There were approximately 20 kids that participated in the Trunk or Treat and an overall attendance of approximately 60 members. Prizes were given out in the form of gift cards to the best costume for boy and girl as well as best decorated vehicle. Many thanks to the 16-20 volunteers that helped with the party in one form or another!

### Dale Ridsen – Lecturing Knight



Hi,

I snapped some photos of the kid's trunk or treat 10/29 at Elks lodge. The curly blonde-haired girl in the white fairy princess dress won "Best Girl Costume" and a very nice gift card to Meijer. Her name is : Ava Wickenheiser, she is granddaughter of Elk member for 35 years.. Jody Harvell.

Thankyou,  
Jeannie Harvell

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## More Halloween Trunk or Treat Pictures



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## 11 New Members that joined Flat Rock Elks in February



Shane Jackson  
Jim DeRupa  
Harold Ducharme  
Kathy Grzesik  
Andy Coatley  
Doug White  
Lori Dixon  
Chene Guest  
Scott Huff  
Patrick Chaffin  
Gil Falzon

## 14 New Members that joined Flat Rock Elks in December

Ernie Peterson  
Doc Lavelle  
Robert Percha  
John Alastra  
Nathan Longo  
Gary Gazdecki  
Joe Jasinski  
Pete Alley  
Ed Peterson  
Jean Knapp  
Liliana Nason  
Chris Stogiera  
Bill Junge  
Sarah Szalay



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