



Elks

RETIREMENT LIVING

Volume 37 No. 1

Elks National Home

January-March 2012



Annual Lighting Celebration

The Elks National Home's Christmas lights are a "big deal" - for the community, the Home, and for the Order of Elks. The display is well known and very popular. Making a trip to see the Elks Home Christmas lights is an annual tradition for many families.

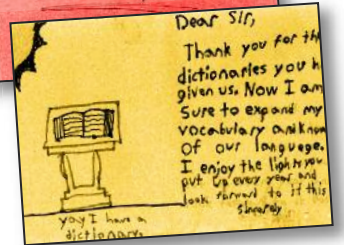
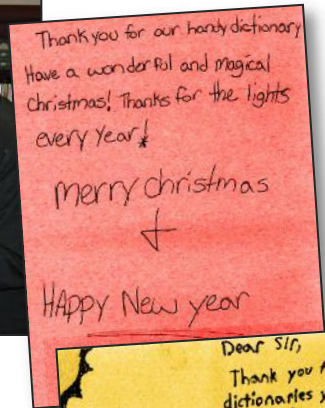
We were honored by the presence of our Grand Exalted Ruler, David Carr, and his wife, Penny, for the official lighting ceremony on December 9. GER Carr gave an inspiring address and then pressed the button to turn on the thousands of lights for the first time in 2011. That is always an impressive sight. He is pictured here as he hit the switch to officially begin the Christmas season at the Elks National Home.

Others in attendance were Past Grand Exalted Ruler, Lester C. Hess, Jr., Past Grand Exalted Ruler, Arthur Frost and Sharon, Past Grand Exalted Ruler, Paul Hesel and Jane, Pension Member of the Board, Ron Hicks and Nancy, and Building Applications Member of the Board, Walter Linthacum and Linda. The presidents of many Elk state associations, other Elk dignitaries, and several state and local officials also attended, as well as many local citizens.

If you missed the Christmas lights at the Elks National Home in 2011, put it on your calendar for next year. The lights will burn from December 14 through December 31 in 2012.

Dictionary Presentation

For the past several years, the Elks National Home Lodge No. 8081 has presented dictionaries to students at the Bedford Middle School. The dictionaries are donated by the New York State Elks Association. While he was here for the Christmas Lighting ceremony, Grand Exalted Ruler David Carr, a member of Ticonderoga, New York, Lodge No. 1494, accompanied officers of the Home Lodge to the school for the presentation. He is shown here with two of the students.



We received an original thank you note from every student who received a dictionary this year, complete with creative art-work. Here are photos of two samples.

Other comments made in the notes were: "I will use this dictionary for a long time!"
 "They will help me learn more words. I can't wait!"
 "I will use it a lot from today til I graduate high school."
 "I'll carry it with me everywhere."

How Many Cars?

There's always a lot of speculation on exactly how many cars will come by to see the Home's lighting display during the Christmas season. Residents watch the line of cars and there are comments on how far they are backed up just so they can drive through to see our lights. The City of Bedford places a traffic counter in our driveway to keep track of the

visitors. The residents have a friendly contest by putting their guesses in a box and after the official count is received, the three closest guesses win a prize. The count for the 2011 Christmas season was 27,620 and the lucky winners are: 1st – Almeta Angel; 2nd. – Clarence Lawler, and 3rd – Helen Tankersley.

Elk Memorial Service

The Elks National Home Lodge No. 8081 joined with Bedford Lodge No. 2844 for the annual memorial service on Sunday, December 4. Pastor Steve Schulz of the Bedford Lutheran Church gave the address, and officers of the two lodges conducted the program. Ian Hustings, Loyal Knight of Home Lodge No. 8081 is shown lighting the candles.



We Depend on You

The Elks National Home in Bedford, Virginia, is home to about 100 retired Elk members. This wonderful retirement community depends upon donations from Elks lodges and members to assist with our operating expenses. You can help by making a donation for any amount to the general fund. Just make

your check payable to the Elks National Home and mail it to: Elks National Home, 931 Ashland Avenue, Bedford, VA 24523. For more information on the Home, check out our website at www.elkshome.org.

I want to help the Elks National Home. Enclosed is my gift of _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Since the Elks Home is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, your gifts are tax deductible



Visit The Home

Any time is a good time to visit the Elks National Home. You can enjoy good company, good food, and all that the "Crown Jewel of Elksdom" has to offer. For more information or to make a reservation, call **1-800-552-4140** or e-mail enhome@elkshome.org.

Thanks to the Community



There is no charge to anyone who wants to drive through and see the Christmas lighting display at the Elks National Home. However, many visitors choose to express their thanks by making a donation. This year, the donations amounted to \$2,728. A resident of the Home, Gene Kosa, matched the amount collected to make a total of \$5,456, which was presented by the Home Lodge No. 8081 to the Special Care fund. This photo shows Carol Duus (Chairman of the Lodge Trustees), Bill McGuinness (Exalted Ruler of the Home Lodge), Dr. Ronald Plamondon (Executive Director of the Home), and Gene Kosa (resident of the Home who made the matching donation).

Blankets from Butler, PA

The members of Butler, PA, Lodge No. 170 are helping to keep those in our Special Care section warm. Pictured here are Pennsylvania State President Ron Lenker, PSP Don Oesterling, and Executive Director Ron Plamondon, who is accepting the 25 beautiful blankets, made by the Elks of the Butler Lodge. Two past state presidents from that lodge live at the Elks National Home, Bill Pickett and Don Oesterling.



Winner



Ed Heidbrink has a lot of chocolate to eat! Here he is with the giant Hershey bar that he won. Eileen Pickett donated the candy bar to be raffled off to raise funds for her special interest and project of updating the rooms in our Special Care section. Ed was the lucky winner. The raffle raised \$220 for the Special Care update fund.

Christmas Activities

Here is just a small sampling of activities from the Christmas season. We wish we had room to print photos of every person, group, and entertainer who helped to make the season bright for everyone at the Home.

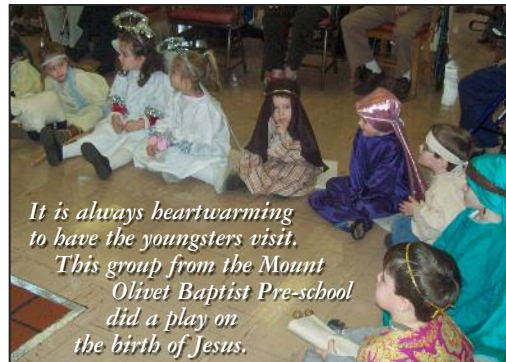
Our Latest Retiree

Ronald Salkowitz retired from the Home's maintenance department on October 31. Ron worked with us for ten years. He is shown here (on left) with Executive Director, Dr. Ronald Plamondon.



The Hendry family gave a portion of their Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to share their wonderful talent with us. On Christmas Eve they visited every individual room in our Special Care section to sing for each resident. Then on Christmas Day they sang from the balcony in the main dining room during the dinner hour.

"Breakfast With Santa" was a treat for local children as well as residents of the Home. Here is the jolly old Elf himself with resident, Dorothy Savage, and her great-granddaughter, Haylee.



It is always heartwarming to have the youngsters visit. This group from the Mount Olivet Baptist Pre-school did a play on the birth of Jesus.



Birthdays

FEBRUARY

- 2/12 James Ferree
- 2/14 Eileen Pickett
- 2/20 Leona Hardesty
- 2/28 Pat McGuire

MARCH

- 3/5 Fred Sink
- 3/16 Ian Hustings
- 3/16 Mildred Arrington
- 3/19 Marge Englehart
- 3/20 Virginia Scott
- 3/24 Blanche Ferguson
- 3/28 James Scott

APRIL

- 4/7 Robert Quarles
- 4/9 Jeanette Melton
- 4/13 David McSweeney
- 4/18 Virginia Stanley
- 4/19 Carmela Abate
- 4/23 Ted Pryor
- 4/26 Allen Huddleston
- 4/26 Dottie Wooldridge
- 4/27 Dot Goode
- 4/30 Walter Zimmerman

Welcome, New Residents



*Edith Seibert
from Bedford, VA*



*Marge Parks
from Bedford, VA*

In Memoriam

An Elk is Never Forgotten, Never Forsaken...

10/31/2011 **Martha McGehee**
Bedford, VA # 2844

11/1/2011 **John J. Pesco**
Bedford, VA # 2844

12/28/2011 **James J. Towey**
Queensborough, NY #878

12/31/2011 **Reba P. Wright**
Bedford, VA # 2844

*But a while ago we gathered,
Friendship beaming in each eye,
Now the golden cord is severed,
They have passed to realms on high.*

VACANCIES.....

Don't Miss the Chance to Enjoy Life at Your Elks Retirement Community

We have vacancies for single occupancy at the Elks National Home. These are all private rooms with bath. They are fully furnished and the monthly fee includes three meals a day, house-keeping, laundry, and utilities (except telephone and cable TV). One free haircut a month is even included! All these rooms are accessible by elevator. Don't wait! Call or write today for more information. Elks National Home, 931 Ashland Avenue, Bedford, VA 24523

enhome@elkshome.org • 1-800-552-4140

More information and photos are also on our website at **www.elkshome.org**.

PS – At this writing, we also have limited apartment vacancies. Contact us now. These usually rent quickly.

In Gratitude

We extend a great big **THANK YOU** to all those who donated to the Home during this period. In order to conserve space and cut the cost of publishing our newsletter, we are no longer listing individual lodges and names in the newsletter.

* Please feel free to reprint anything from our newsletter.

If you need photo files, e-mail the editor at enhome@elkshome.org. Thank you for helping to promote the Elks National Home throughout the Order.

* Check out the pdf version of our newsletter on our website at www.elkshome.org,

where you can see all photos in full color. Also on our website, you will find articles suitable for publication in your lodge or state newsletter – or to post on your bulletin board.

ATTENTION

Elks Home Residents & Employees

This is your newsletter.

Please help us by submitting photos and information for articles.

Submit your material to Nellie Martin or Robin Wood in the main office

The ELKS NATIONAL HOME NEWS

540-586-8232 or 1-800-552-4140 • www.elkshome.org

PublishedQUARTERLY
ByELKS NATIONAL HOME
Executive DirectorDr. Ronald L. Plamondon
EditorNellie Martin
Assistant EditorsRobin Wood & Sharon Jones



ELKS NATIONAL
— H O M E —

RETIRE AMONG FRIENDS

931 Ashland Avenue
Bedford, VA 24523

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Lynchburg, Va 24502
Permit #714