

# Gratiot County Sons



## ***Ithaca Lodge #123***

Chartered January 11, 1860  
1st Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

## ***Alma Lodge #244***

Chartered January 15, 1869  
1st Wednesday at 7 p.m.

## ***Breckenridge Lodge #406***

Chartered January 25, 1893  
2nd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

## ***From The East***



### **Alma #244 WM Darren Thompson - [dmitcht73@gmail.com](mailto:dmitcht73@gmail.com)**

Greetings from Alma #244! We've had a great first half of the year and are looking forward to finishing strong! This month we'll be passing a brother to the degree of Fellowcraft on the 30th and we'll have one, perhaps two more petitions to bring before the lodge! Our all-area picnic will be in the Masonic Pathways pavilion on August 20, come enjoy the food & fellowship! Also, our new apparel store is ready, visit <https://almamasons2025.itemorder.com> and shop away!

### **Ithaca #123 WM Craig Hooper - [chooper\\_51@outlook.com](mailto:chooper_51@outlook.com)**

Greetings! Ithaca #123 is taking a short summer break with a return to regular communication on the first Thursday in September, the 4th. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. with gavel at 7:30. Our Wednesday morning coffee will continue at the lodge during the summer, stop by!

### **Breckenridge #406 WM Dale Shankel - [shankelnsl@yahoo.com](mailto:shankelnsl@yahoo.com)**

Breckenridge Lodge has launched a Thursday morning breakfast which starts at 7 a.m. Stop on by! We will continue breakfast through the summer and we will be meeting in July and August as well, 2nd Thursday at 7:30. We are also planning a picnic in August, we'll announce the date and time as soon as it is set. Have a great summer!

## LODGE SNAPSHOTS

### **Ithaca #123**

**Address:** 325 E. Newark St.  
Ithaca, MI 48847

**Secretary:** Scott Johnson

**Email:**

[scottie2298@gmail.com](mailto:scottie2298@gmail.com)

Master Masons - 50  
Lifetime Members - 10  
Honorary Members - 1

### **ALMA #244**

**Address:** 301 1/2 N. State St.  
Alma, MI 48801

**Secretary:** Kevin McCormack

**Email:**

[kiss57mack@outlook.com](mailto:kiss57mack@outlook.com)

Master Masons - 163  
Lifetime Members - 26  
Honorary Members - 8

### **BRECKENRIDGE #406**

**Address:** 122 E. Saginaw St.  
Breckenridge, MI 48615

**Secretary:** Greg Shankel

**Email:**

[breckenridge406@yahoo.com](mailto:breckenridge406@yahoo.com)

Master Masons - 58  
Lifetime Members - 18



***Independence Day  
Friday, July 4***

# From The Secretary's Desk



## 2025 OFFICERS

### Breckenridge #406

**WM** - Dale Shankel

**SW** - Colby Putnam

**JW** - Stan McMann

**TR** - Jim Peck

**SEC** - Greg Shankel

**JD** - John Hull

**CHAP** - Terry Snow

**TILER** - Bruce Levey

### Ithaca #123

**WM** - Craig Hooper

**SW** - Ron Littell

**JW** - Carl Rummer

**TR** - Terry Nestle

**SECY** - Scott Johnson

**SD** - Ted Martyn

**JD** - Paul Showers

**CHAP** - Chris Sparks

**MAR** - Thomas Milligan

**TILER** - Jose Castillo

**ST** - Bryce Hooker

**ST** - Jerry Rummer

### Alma #244

**WM** - Darren Thompson

**SW** - Bradly Thompson

**JW** - Dale Whitmore

**TR** - Greg Mapes

**SEC** - Kevin McCormack

**ASST SEC** - Lowell Easton

**SD** - Keith Virgo

**JD** - Bruce McCann

**CHAP** - Bob Johns

**MARSH** - Skip Edwards

**TILER** - Stormy Bordine

**LEO** - William Dobbs

**ST** - Mike Molesky

**ST** - Spencer Kemmer

**ST** - Jeff Blackwell

**ST** - Xander Thompson

Thank you to all who have taken care of their dues for 2025, your lodge appreciates your support! If you have not yet paid, please do so at your earliest convenience or contact your secretary if you need to discuss payments or a possible remission. Checks can be made out to the lodge and sent to the address shown on the main page. You can also pay online through the Michigan Masons' new membership system, Grand View.

Visit [mi.grandview.systems/membership\\_registration](http://mi.grandview.systems/membership_registration) to set up an account today. Your member portal also gives you access to view and register for events, locate lodges in Michigan and out of state while traveling, download resources like the Blue Book and much more! Contact your secretary or the Grand Lodge office at 989-466-3087 with any questions.

## Getting to Know...

Jeff Blackwell, Alma 244



**Raised** -  
3/13/24, Alma #244  
**High School** -  
St. Louis '19  
**First car** -  
'07 Ford Explorer  
**Favorite food** -  
Cheeseburgers  
**Favorite Vacation** -  
Arizona/Grand Canyon  
**Favorite Singer** -  
Ryan Upchurch  
**Favorite TV Show** -  
Rick & Morty  
**Favorite Book** -  
About Face - D. Hackworth  
**Favorite Masonic role** -  
Steward  
**Masonic influence** -  
Skip Edwards

Colby Putnam, Breck 406



**Raised** -  
8/28/21, Elsie #238  
**High School** - Ovid-Elsie '10  
**First car** -  
'96 GMC Sierra  
**Favorite band** - Blink 182  
**Favorite Food** -  
Sushi/Chinese  
**Favorite Movie** -  
Escanaba in Da Moonlight  
**Favorite TV Show** -  
M\*A\*S\*H  
**Favorite Book** -  
The Hobbit  
**Favorite Masonic Role** -  
SW Degree work  
**Masonic Influence** -  
Father-in-law Rod Ridge-  
way. Great guide in and  
out of lodge.

Terry Nestle, Ithaca 123



**Raised** -  
2/2/92, Ithaca #123  
**High School** - Shepherd '69  
**First car** -  
'64 Rambler Ambassador  
**Favorite band** - Steve Miller  
**Favorite Movie** -  
My Darling Clementine  
**Favorite TV Show**  
M\*A\*S\*H  
**Favorite Food** -  
Enchiladas/fajitas  
**Favorite Hobby** -  
Riding ATVs  
**Favorite Masonic Role** -  
Treasurer/meal preparer.  
Love the sound of silence in  
the dining room, you know  
the guys are enjoying it!  
**Masonic Influence** -  
Alvin Stokes & Ed Hooper



**JULY**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
4	<b>HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!</b>		
7	Alma Building Assoc.	6 p.m.	Alma Temple
7	B'ridge Ch. 323, OES	7 p.m.	Breck Temple
9	Community Coffee	8 a.m.-10	Ithaca Temple
9	Alma 244 Stated Comm.	7 p.m.	Alma Temple
10	Breakfast	7 a.m.	Breck. Temple
10	Ch. 43, OES	7 p.m.	Alma Temple
10	B'ridge 406 Stated Comm.	7:30 p.m.	Breck. Temple
16	Community Coffee	8 a.m.-10	Ithaca Temple
16	Friends & Family Dinner	6 p.m.	Alma Temple
17	Breakfast	7 a.m.	Breck. Temple
23	FC Rehearsal	6 p.m.	Alma Temple
24	Breakfast	7 a.m.	Breck. Temple
30	Community Coffee	8 a.m.-10	Ithaca Temple
30	FC Degree	7 p.m.	Alma Temple

**AUGUST**

4	Alma Building Assoc.	6 p.m.	Alma Temple
4	B'ridge Ch. 323, OES	7 p.m.	Breck. Temple
6	Community Coffee	8 a.m.-10	Ithaca Temple
6	Alma 244 Stated Comm.	7 p.m.	Alma Temple
7/14/21/28	Breakfast	7 a.m.	Breck. Temple
13	Community Coffee	8 a.m.-10	Ithaca Temple
13	Practice/Social	6 p.m.	Alma Temple
14	B'ridge 406 Stated Comm.	7:30 p.m.	Breck. Temple
14	Alma Chapter 43, OES	7 p.m.	Alma Temple
20	Community Coffee	8 a.m. -10	Ithaca Temple
20	All-area picnic	6 p.m.	Pathways Pavilion
27	Community Coffee	8 a.m.-10	Ithaca Temple

**PICNIC AT PATHWAYS!**



**All area Masons, family & friends are welcome to attend the annual Alma #244 picnic on Wednesday, August 20 at the Masonic Pathways pavilion! Alma Lodge will supply the grillables, drinks and plates/napkins/silverware.**

**Please consider bringing a side dish to pass or dessert. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Please RSVP to 989-330-6785 or [dmitcht73@gmail.com](mailto:dmitcht73@gmail.com) so we have a reasonable head count.**

**See you there!**

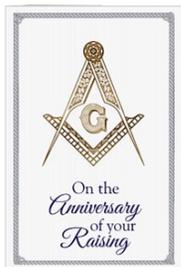


**RAISE-IVERSARIES - JULY**

<u>Lodge Name</u>	<u>Years</u>
A Darren Thompson	12
A Matt Robertson	12
A Robby McCormack	13
A Kim Newson	13
A Eric Ostahowski	13
A Stephen Smejkal	13
A Spencer Kemmer	4
A Scott Kemmer-Slater	4
A Dale Whitmore	4
A Willard Leiferman	31
A Robert Green	31
A John McCormack	40

**AUGUST**

B Colby Putnam	4
B Stuart Goodyear	33
A Charles Burgard	10
A Robert Carnell	67
A James Crandall	30



**BIRTHDAYS - JULY**

<u>Lodge Name</u>
B Michael Siefka
B Dale Shankel
B Richard Bartrem
B Donald Fisher
B James Buchanan
I Ronald Davis
I William Bowen
I Frederick Bare
A Harold Metcalf
A Larry DeVuyst
A Vicente Ramirez
A Albert McCormack
A Daniel Clevenger
A Bradley Tack
A Gary Rayburn
A Phillip Taylor
A Michael Cole
A Thomas Plaxton
A William Mitchell
A Robert Carnell
A John Charlton
A William Grabmeyer
A Roger Morris
A William Orlich
A Tyler Haase

**AUGUST**

B David Katt
B Jack Newson
B Douglas Eastman
B Joe Halcomb
B Dale Bushre
I William DeVuyst
I Ronald Sosebee
A Robert Snyder
A Edwin Meyer
A Raymond Francis
A Andrew Riegger
A Sanford Simon
A James Gunter
A Don Snyder
A Donald Burnham
A Bradley Thompson



**Recent happenings...**



Ithaca #123 Secretary Scott Johnson and WM Craig Hooper recently presented a donation to Vicky Thum in support of the Ithaca Food Pantry.



Alma #244 sponsored a softball and baseball team this year and hosted them for a season-end pizza party!

Breckenridge #406 hosted a PM dinner in April at the United Methodist Church.

