

# 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***



### **Ithaca #123 WM Craig Hooper - chooper\_51@outlook.com**

Greetings, brothers! Ithaca Lodge #123 continues to meet the first Thursday of the month for regular communication with dinner at 6:30 and lodge at 7:30. We have started planning to provide our bean soup for Santa's arrival in Ithaca in early December. Coffee continues every Wednesday morning starting at 8:30. We are losing some snowbirds already so we look forward to seeing any brother that wishes to attend!

### **Breckenridge #406 WM Dale Shankel - shankelns1@yahoo.com**

Breckenridge Lodge has two more regular communications in 2025, come join us on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30! Our doors are also open on Thursday mornings at 7 for coffee, fellowship and maybe a pancake or two. We look forward to seeing you and growing this opportunity to bring together our members and community!

### **Alma #244 WM Darren Thompson - dmitch73@gmail.com**

It's been a great 2025 for Alma Lodge with several degrees, community endeavors, great fellowship and more! There's more to come as we've got two more regular communications, Friends & Family dinner November 19, Home for the Holidays, the St. Louis Christmas parade and the December 6 installation of officers! Be sure to RSVP to dmitch73@gmail.com if you are coming to installation dinner.

## **LODGE SNAPSHOTS**

### **ITHACA #123**

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

**Secretary:** Scott Johnson

**Email:**

scottie2298@gmail.com

Master Masons - 49  
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

Master Masons - 162  
Lifetime Members - 26  
Honorary Members - 8

### **BRECKENRIDGE #406**

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

**Secretary:** Greg Shankel

**Email:**

breckenridge406@yahoo.com

Master Masons - 55  
Lifetime Members - 18



***Thanksgiving***  
***Thursday, November 27***

# 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

Greetings from the wonderful world of the lodge secretary! 2026 dues notices are out and payments are rolling in. Thank you to all who have taken care of this already! Reminder that dues are payable by December 31, 2025. Your lodge appreciates the support of all its members and we thank you for your membership in this great fraternity! Officer elections are coming up, please let the WM or secretary know if you are interested in taking an officer chair or serving on a lodge committee for the ensuing Masonic year.

Also, if you are not yet signed up for a member portal account on Grand View, visit [mi.grandview.systems/membership\\_registration](http://mi.grandview.systems/membership_registration). The portal gives you access to pay dues online, view the Blue Book, edit your record and much more! Contact 989-466-3087 if you have any questions.

## Getting to Know...your WMs!

### Dale Shankel-Breck. #406



**Raised** -  
4/11/92, Breckenridge #406  
**High School** -  
Breckenridge '72  
**First car** -  
'78 AMC Javelin  
**Favorite food** -  
Pot Roast  
**Favorite band** -  
Lynyrd Skynyrd  
**Favorite hobby as youth** -  
Hunting (WM Dale is in Wyoming hunting as of press time!)  
**Favorite Masonic role** -  
Senior Warden  
**Masonic influence** -  
Father & Uncle

### Craig Hooper-Ithaca 123



**Raised** -  
5/18/78, Ithaca #123  
**High School** - Ithaca '74  
**First car** -  
'67 Plymouth Satellite  
**Favorite Concert** -  
Trans-Siberian Orchestra  
**Favorite Food** - Hamburgers  
**Favorite Movie** -  
The Searchers  
**Favorite TV Show** -  
NYPD Blue  
**Favorite Book** - Horatio Hornblower series  
**Favorite Masonic Role** -  
Senior Warden  
**Favorite Piece of Ritual** -  
The apron presentation  
**Masonic Influence** -  
My father, Lester Hooper

### Darren Thompson-Alma 244



**Raised** -  
7/13/13, Alma #244  
**High School** - St. Louis '91  
**First car** - "81 Dodge Omni,  
with working CB radio  
**Favorite band/singer** -  
Van Halen & Billy Joel  
**Favorite food** - Pizza  
**Favorite Movie** - Anything  
with John Wayne  
**Favorite TV Show** -  
West Wing & Archer  
**Favorite Book** - Kane & Abel  
by Jeffrey Archer  
**Favorite vacation** -  
Grand Canyon/Sedona  
**Favorite Masonic Ritual** -  
The apron presentation  
**Masonic Influence** -  
Honestly too many to name,  
thankful for them all!



## NOVEMBER

EVERY WEDNESDAY, Community Coffee at Ithaca Temple, 8:30 - 10 am

EVERY THURSDAY, Community Coffee at Breck. Temple, 7 –10 a.m.

Date	Event	Time	Location
3	Alma Building Assoc.	6 p.m.	Alma Temple
3	Breck. Ch. 323, OES	7 p.m.	Breck. Temple
5	Alma 244 Stated Comm.	7 p.m.	Alma Temple
6	Ithaca 123 Stated Comm.	7:30 p.m.	Ithaca Temple
12	Rehearsal/Social	6 p.m.	Alma Temple
13	B'ridge 406 Stated Comm.	7:30 p.m.	Breck. Temple
13	Alma Ch. 43, OES	7 p.m.	Alma Temple
19	Friends & Family Dinner	6 p.m.	Alma Temple
26	Thanksgiving Eve, no lodge		
27	Happy Thanksgiving!		

## DECEMBER

EVERY WEDNESDAY, Community Coffee at Ithaca Temple, 8:30 - 10 am

EVERY THURSDAY, Community Coffee at Breck. Temple, 7 –10 a.m.

Date	Event	Time	Location
1	Alma Building Assoc.	6 p.m.	Alma Temple
1	B'ridge Ch. 323, OES	7 p.m.	Breck. Temple
3	Alma 244 Stated Comm.	7 p.m.	Alma Temple
4	Ithaca 123 Stated Comm.	7:30 p.m.	Ithaca Temple
6	INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS	7 p.m.	Doig Chapel
10	Rehearsal/Social	6 p.m.	Alma Temple
11	Alma Chapter 43, OES	7 p.m.	Alma Temple
11	B'ridge 406 Stated Comm.	7:30 p.m.	Breck. Temple
24 - 31	No lodge events, enjoy the holidays!		



### Holiday Events!

Monday, December 1 - Breckenridge Christmas in the Village

Thursday, December 4 - St. Louis Christmas parade

Friday, December 5 - Hometown Ithaca Christmas

Friday, December 12 - Come Home to Alma for the Holidays

**Check with each lodge on volunteer/parade participation**

## Raisiversaries!

### Date - Name - Years

11/29 - Dave Banker - 11  
 11/14 - Al Bartholomew - 46  
 11/8 - John Berry - 18  
 11/11 - Lon Busch - 32  
 11/10 - Russell Clark - 19  
 11/18 - Daniel Clevenger - 44  
 11/10 - Danny Derry - 24  
 12/5 - William Dobbs - 40  
 11/22 - Lowell Easton - 47  
 11/12 - Donald Fisher - 62  
 11/12 - Robert Fleming - 31  
 11/18 - Charles Garringer - 44  
 11/10 - Thomas Giles - 24  
 11/9 - Kelly Glynn - 22  
 11/9 - Tyler Haase - 37  
 11/12 - Joe Halcomb - 11/12  
 11/29 - Jerry Havens - 11  
 11/7 - James Holmes - 35  
 11/2 - Brian Howell - 17  
 11/7 - Gary Johnson - 35  
 11/28 - Daniel Kline - 63  
 11/11 - Larry Lawhorne - 33  
 11/12 - Samuel Miller - 34  
 11/13 - Thomas Milligan - 6  
 11/22 - Roger Morris - 58  
 11/1 - Scott Morrow - 17  
 11/5 - Kelly O'Shay - 14  
 12/8 - James Oswald - 12  
 11/11 - Leif Peterson - 19  
 11/7 - Steven Price - 35  
 11/13 - Vicente Ramirez - 1  
 12/8 - Rodney Ridgeway - 7  
 11/10 - Robert Rummer - 24  
 11/7 - David Rusch - 35  
 12/19 - Arnold Sanderson - 69  
 12/16 - Leslie Schurr - 71  
 11/18 - Stuart Shook - 44  
 11/3 - Charles Simmons - 35  
 11/2 - Gary Skriba - 17  
 11/5 - David Smith - 14  
 12/8 - William Sutherland - 21

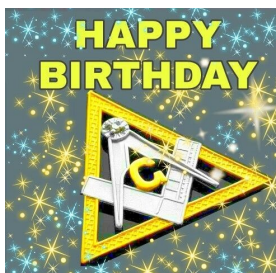


## NOVEMBER

Charles Burgard - Alma  
William Bush - Breckenridge  
Russell Clark - Breckenridge  
David Deyoub - Alma  
Bryan Dinwoody - Alma  
Thomas Giles - Alma  
Stuart Goodyear - Breckenridge  
James Grace - Alma  
Jeffrey Grace - Alma  
Michael Grover - Alma  
John Gruett - Breckenridge  
Matthew Haase - Alma  
Brian Howell - Ithaca  
Kenneth Joslin - Alma  
Michael Krieger - Alma  
Dennis LaFleur - Alma  
Samuel Miller - Alma  
Eric Ostahowski - Alma  
Kelly Purcell - Breckenridge  
Matthew Robertson - Alma  
Robert Rummer - Ithaca  
Ralph Sandel - Alma  
Stuart Shook - Alma  
Stephen Smejkal - Alma  
Tyler Smith - Alma  
Larry Trexler - Ithaca  
Roger Whiting - Breckenridge  
Robert Zilch - Alma

## DECEMBER

Fares Azzam - Alma  
John Berry - Alma  
Gerritt Bott - Alma  
Allen Burk - Ithaca  
Lon Busch - Alma  
Jose Castillo - Ithaca  
Robert Endter - Alma  
David Fabela - Ithaca  
Craig Gates - Ithaca  
Hal Groat - Alma  
John Hall - Alma  
Jerry Havens - Alma  
James Holmes - Alma  
Richard Kaufman - Alma  
Barry Marlow - Breckenridge  
Kevin McCormack - Alma  
Robby McCormick - Alma  
Michael Molesky - Alma  
John Musser - Breckenridge  
David Roslund - Alma  
Brandon Wingle - Breckenridge  
Ben Wolfgang - Alma



*A very happy  
birthday to all  
Brothers celebrating  
in November &  
December!*



Make plans to attend a local celebration of Masonry at our area installation of officers! Our Gratiot County lodges will be joined by Edmore, Six Lakes & Wabon on Saturday, December 6 in Masonic Pathways' Doig Chapel. Dinner (\$10) will be served at 6:00 p.m., ceremony will follow. Please RSVP for dinner no later than November 30 to Darren Thompson at [dmitcht73@gmail.com](mailto:dmitcht73@gmail.com) or 989-330-6785. You can pay at the door or through a Grand View event link that will be emailed out soon. Friends & family are all welcome for dinner as well as the ceremony!