

DECEMBER 2025 EDITION

Newsletter of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater

(705) 686-3388 • 2 Michael Anne Drive, P.O. Box 89, Coldwater, ON, L0K1E0 branch270@rogers.com • www.coldwaterlegion.com • www.facebook.com/Coldwaterlegion



The 26 Veterans in attendance at the Veterans Appreciation Lunch – 27 if we include Chandler, the Veteran Service Dog - pose for a group photo.

COLDWATER VETERANS APPRECIATION LUNCH

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater held its annual Veterans Appreciation Lunch on Saturday November 1. The event was attended by more than 80 people including Legion members, supporters, dignitaries, and 26 Veterans. We would like to thank all who attended and all who contributed in so many ways to make the event the success that it was. A special thank-you goes to our Branch Poppy Chair Gaëtanne Robinson, who coordinated the event, and to the members of Branch 270 Ladies' Auxiliary who, once again, put together a wonderful meal and took care of so many details in the setting up. Thank you all!

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LADIES' AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Branch 270 Coldwater Ladies' Auxiliary held its annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday November 22, 2025, in the upstairs hall at the Legion. Vendors' tables were sold out for the event, as participants offered a wide variety of products and services ranging from wood crafts and jewelry to knitted works and candles, even books. The Ladies also offered a wonderful turkey lunch for those in need of a turkey fix. The Ladies' Auxiliary wishes to thank all the volunteers, participants and visitors who contributed to make this event a success, and particularly the local businesses and individuals who donated merchandise for the Prize Draws. Thank you all!



Ladies' Auxiliary member Janis Cronin (right) volunteered at the Bake table for the Ladies' Auxiliary Christmas Bazaar.

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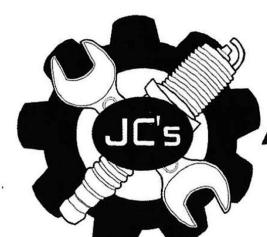
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FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT



Comrades,

November has been a busy one at our branch, as usual, starting off with our annual Veterans' Luncheon on November 1. I was honored to attend with so many Veterans present. The organizing team did a great job once again and the Ladies' Auxiliary went beyond expectations preparing the

luncheon and desserts. We received thanks from many attendees, and the donated quilts and gift bags were appreciated by every Veteran receiving them.

It was good to see many members stepping up to tag for the Poppy Campaign. Given the short period we had this year, we did very well. Thank you to everyone involved.

Remembrance Day services were well attended again this year. Starting on November 7 with an invitation to the Waubaushene Legion for their Remembrance Day banquet and dinner. Thank you to Branch 316 for the invitation and great dinner and ceremony. Some of our members got to practice for the service at Eady Church on November 9. The weather cooperated so that we at least stayed dry. Thank you to CFB Borden personnel once again for making this annual event a success. There are so many people working behind the scene that thanking them all would take a long time. You know who you are, thank you once again. Our final Remembrance Service for this year was to lay wreaths at the St. George Anglican Church on November 16. By next year, we should be really experienced.

Yours in Comradeship, Kari Malmström, Branch 270 President

THE MAPLE LEAF

The Maple Leaf is the award-winning monthly newsletter of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater. It is primarily an internal communication tool through which the Branch Executive and Committee Chairs report to the membership on their respective activities. Opinions expressed in feature articles are those of the writers and do not imply endorsement by the Branch or the Legion. Committee reports and prearranged articles must be received no later than the 23rd of the month in order to be published in the next issue. Please submit by email to: Branch PRO at branch270@rogers.com.

FROM THE LADIES' AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



Greetings Comrades.

My thanks to all the volunteers who helped out at the Veterans Luncheon and Remembrance Day. We have received many compliments on the luncheon from Veterans who attended. A special Thank You to Marie Langley who provided crocheted shrugs to the Veterans.

Our Christmas Bazaar was a huge success. We had an excellent turnout and the variety of vendor crafts was awesome. Thanks to all the Ladies Auxiliary and Branch members who worked the Bazaar and the kitchen. And thank you to the four young men (Emmett, Jacob, Caleb, and Aidan) who volunteered to help serve our lunch at the Bazaar. They did an excellent job!

Volunteers will be needed for the President's Levee on January 1. Please let me know if you can help out on December 31 and/or January 1.

At our December 16 meeting, we will have a Secret Santa gift exchange if you wish to participate. As well, dinner at this meeting will be catered by 4age. Our phone committee will contact you to see if you will attend as well as your choice of entree.

On November 15 we had two doubles and four singles attend District darts in Sutton. Michele Russell and Dianne Sauvé placed fourth in doubles. We have two teams attending Zone darts in Orillia on November 29.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Comrade Marie Langley on the passing of her son, and to Comrade Gaëtanne Robinson on the passing of her brother.

The floor in the kitchen will be replaced during the period from January 2 to 9. Therefore, the kitchen will be unavailable during this time.

I would like to wish Ladies' Auxiliary members, Branch 270 members and the community of Coldwater a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year! May your Holiday season be full of joy, laughter and love!

Yours in Comradeship, Donna Packer, Branch 270 Ladies' Auxiliary President

BRANCH GENERAL MEETINGS

The next General Meeting will be on Tuesday January 27, 2026, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Branch General Meetings take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month, from September to June (except for December), in the upstairs hall, starting at 6:30 p.m.

TREASURER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Al Myre, Treasurer

The General account balance is \$54,055.69.

The Building account balance is \$80,913.07.

The Nevada account balance remains at \$237.61.

The branch was recently successful in passing the annual Branch Inspection Report, completed by Dave Sampson. The Review Engagement Report is also proceeding with the Office of Ron Anderson. The information was dropped off at their office in Wasaga Beach last month.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Jamie Raycraft for donating both his time and equipment to make sure that the cenotaph grounds were perfectly groomed for the Remembrance Day celebrations. Very much appreciated.

BOTTLE DRIVE REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Cheryll Barr, Bottle Drive Coordinator

Merry Christmas Comrades!

The Beer Store truck did a pickup on Wednesday November 26 for a value of \$500.40 in empties.

Total number of empties sent back to date: 618,633. Total funds raised to date: \$76, 153.50

The Branch thanks the community for their support, and the volunteers who look after the Bottle Drive shed.

WAYS & MEANS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Brenda Price, Ways & Means Chair The children's Christmas party was lots of fun! A big Thank You to the fabulous volunteers who made this day so special!

December 2,9, and 16 we have Trivia! Great evening. Join us. Registration at 6 p.m., game starts at 6:30 p.m. sharp. December 6 we have a Daytime Euchre Tournament. Doors open at noon, play starts at 1 p.m. We have prizes, raffles, fun! Our November winners are: 1) Jennifer Petrtyl; 2) Brian Strong; and 3) Gloria James. We had a tie for Lone hands with Betty-Anne Burnie and Mike Vandergeest. Congratulations!

December 13 we have the Meat Draw at 3 p.m. Join us for our final date this year!

December 20 we have a Christmas Sing-O Bingo at 3 p.m. December 31 is the New Year's Eve dance. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Late night snacks! Midnight toast! Prizes! Tickets must be purchased before December 8 - available at the bar.

A big THANK YOU to Marie Langley, who made the wonderful hats for our kids' Christmas party.

ENTERTAINMENT REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Carry Brouwer, Entertainment Chair Get ready for Karaoke Saturday December 13 from 7-11p.m. Grab the mic, choose your favourite go-to song, and let the music take over. It doesn't matter whether you're a seasoned performer or a first time singer. And you don't need to be a member to join in on the fun.

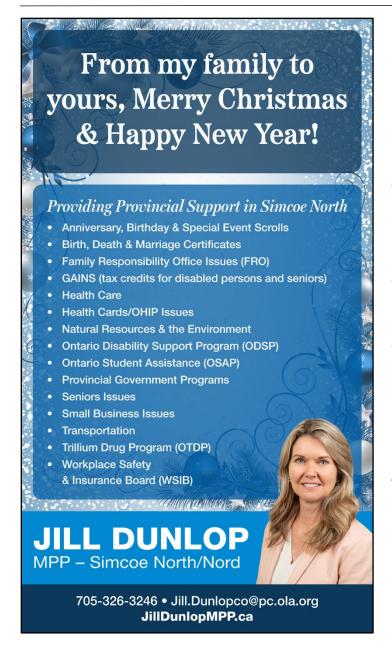
We have New Year's Day live entertainment at the Levee with *Rails and Nails* from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Bring your dancing shoes.

POPPY REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Gaëtanne Robinson, Poppy Chair. Our Veterans' Appreciation Lunch was held on November 1. Over 80 attendees enjoyed a delicious roast beef meal provided by our Ladies' Auxiliary. As an added touch, Veterans were presented with a handmade crocheted lap blanket made by Life Member Marie Langley. The majority of Veterans were recipients of a beautiful handmade quilt donated by Peggy Fitchett and quilter friends. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who made this a successful event. Our Poppy Campaign, though shorter this year, was a huge success. Since January through donations, the sale of wreaths and wooden Poppies and tagging we have reached over \$27,600, and donations are continuing. A huge thank you to everyone who helped by organizing and distributing Poppy boxes, counting money, organizing wreaths, collecting Poppy boxes, gathering wreaths after Remembrance Day and so much more. We definitely have a dedicated group of volunteers and as a result we can participate in many Veterans' initiatives.



Branch 270 Coldwater held its annual Remembrance Day service on Tuesday, November 11. It was nice to see the crowd that showed up, even under uncertain weather forecast, to pay respects to our Fallen.



A MESSAGE FROM MPP JILL DUNLOP

As we approach the end of a meaningful year, I reflect with pride and gratitude on the many Remembrance Day ceremonies held across our riding. From village cenotaphs to larger gatherings in town centres, residents of Simcoe North came together to honour the courage, sacrifice and legacy of all who served in uniform. These moments of collective remembrance not only pay tribute to our veterans and fallen, but also reaffirm our commitment to peace, community and the values that so many defended. In every wreath-laying and minute of silence, I saw neighbours, students, veterans and families united in respect and reflection, a powerful demonstration of the strong spirit of our region.

On the provincial front, I'm pleased to highlight some recent initiatives that will support seniors and veterans in Ontario. The government's Seniors Community Grant Program has provided nearly \$7 million this year to fund more than 330 community projects which help older adults stay active, socially connected and independent — including expanded funding for veteran-specific programs. In addition, the province is investing \$575,000 to better support veterans and military-connected learners in transitioning their service-acquired skills into civilian careers. These measures underscore our shared commitment to ensuring that seniors and veterans in our communities receive the recognition, supports and opportunities they deserve.

As your MPP, I remain dedicated to advocating for our seniors, veterans, and the many community-builders who make Simcoe North a place we're proud to call home. To everyone who turned out on Remembrance Day, to the volunteers who organised events, and to the families who continue the legacy, thank you.

From my family to yours, I wish you all a peaceful holiday season, and I look forward to continuing our work together in 2026.

BUILDING MANAGER REPORT

Submitted by Kari Malmström, Building Manager
I have the following report as Building Manager since our last meeting.

My report is as follows:

- The monthly inspections are completed.
- A corrected Emergency Plan was submitted to the Severn Fire Department for their review. It came back approved and now has been put into the binder by the office door.
- We had a small leak caused by leaves blocking the downspout on the arena side. Chris Rhinold was able to repair this.
- We are also looking at diverting the water causing icing on the parking lot by the shed corner. We're hoping this will be completed before the winter weather hits.
- Some of the square tables for the Club Room arrived. Thanks to John and Al for assembling these in a hurry. So far, feedback has been positive. We will need to order some more now that we know they are suitable for everyone. Next, we will investigate upstairs' table replacement.

SPORTS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Al Myre, Sports Officer All upcoming Legion sports tournaments are posted in the Club Room for anyone interested. If you require any additional information, please see me.



JOKE OF THE MONTH

Her: "Tom, I can't wait for us to get married. Have you picked a date for our wedding?"

Him: "No. I assumed I'd be going with you."



Submitted by Comrade Cheryll Barr, Youth Education Chair Merry Christmas Comrades!

Out of four schools and 1,200 students, the branch received 150 entries for the Legion's Annual Poster & Literary Contests. In the Primary category we received 12 colour posters and 7 black & white. In the Junior category there were 12 essays, 9 Poems, 49 colour posters and 31 black & white.

In the Intermediate category there were 3 essays, 8 poems, 10 colour posters and 7 black & white. And in the Senior category there was one essay and one poem.

We are forwarding to Zone E4 all the first place winners, for a total of 12 entries from four categories, to be judged at the next level of the contests.

Branch level results will be published in the January Maple Leaf.

BAR MANAGER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Anne Frankish, Bar Manager Merry Christmas to everyone! The new tables look great and provide some extra room in the Club Room. Remember that all our bar stewards are volunteers and we thank them for all the hard work they do. We also have a few of our members that help at all our big events, and without them we could not run these events as efficiently as we do. A big thanks goes out to them.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Paula Brown, Branch Membership Chair

November has been a busy month with Early Bird membership renewals. The winner of the free membership will be announced soon. The year 2026 is the Royal Canadian Legion's Centenary year. Dominion (National)

Command of the Legion has partnered with Ford Dealers of Canada to offer every Legion member three chances to win a brand new F-150. Everyone that pays their membership for 2026 will be automatically entered into the draw. Lifetime Members and Veterans whose membership is sponsored by the Legion will also receive a contest entry. After renewal, you can earn two more chances to win -- by shopping online at the Legion's store and by donating online to the Poppy Fund. Good luck to everyone! Watch for more exciting announcements in conjunction with our Centenary celebrations in the coming months.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Branch Public Relations Officer

The monthly newsletter and on-line media - Facebook & Website — and the BIDDY are kept up-to-date. Remembrance Day and Christmas Bazaar photos are on-line.

We had two photos published in the current issue of the Legion Magazine (Nov-Dec 2025). They are of Debbie Southorn being presented the Legionnaire of the Year Award, and myself presenting a cheque to the Coldwater Museum. I have sent one more photo of the group of Branch Execs and Township Council members unveiling the Remembrance crosswalk.



On behalf of Branch 270 Coldwater, Branch President Kari Malmström (left) presents a donation of \$500 to Daniel Travers, Executive Director of the Canadian Museum of Water, in support of the museum's special exhibit that featured the role of Midland in ship building during the two World Wars.



Join us at the Coldwater Legion on New Year's Eve for a dance party!

Wednesday December 31, 2025

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Music by DJ

Late night snacks! Midnight toast! Prizes! Everyone welcome!

Tickets \$25 (Must be purchased at the bar by Decembre 8)

2 Michael Anne Drive, Coldwater email: branch270@rogers.com

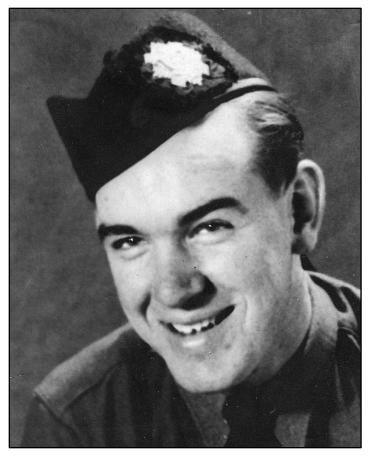


BRANCH HISTORIAN REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Branch Historian The Veterans banners have been picked-up and stored until next year. A cheque for \$415.80 was handed to the Poppy Chair by the Veterans Banner Program as a donation to the Poppy Fund. This represents the net proceeds collected for the four new banners of this year.

We received a donation of a Second World War battledress wearing insignias of the Canadian Medical Corps. This will be a nice addition to our collection. Thank you to Betty Legault for the donation of this uniform that belonged to her father, Reg Ginger.

As the branch will be closed the last week of December, our next monthly Veterans Coffee Break will be on Monday January 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Those Coffee Breaks are held in the Club Room every last Monday of each month. New submissions or suggestions for submissions to the Military Service Recognition Book are welcome year round. A sample submission can be seen on this page featuring Bob Gourlie's father Jim Gourlie, Second World War Veteran and former member of the Coldwater Branch.



Jim Gourlie, Second World War Veteran and former member of the Coldwater Branch.

Quote of the Month

"Don't compare yourself with other people; compare yourself with who you were yesterday." - Jordan Peterson, author

GOURLIE, JAMES "JIM" EDWARD

James Edward "Jim" Gourlie was born in Toronto on April 24, 1924. During the Second World War, Jim enrolled with the Canadian Army on June 1, 1943, joining the ranks of the Highland Light Infantry of Canada. Private (service number B.147606) Jim Gourlie's unit served within the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade in the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division throughout the war. The unit landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944, and fought in major campaigns across Normandy, the Netherlands, and Germany. On April 28, 1945, while in Berlin, Jim was shot by a sniper. He was treated in a hospital in Holland and was sent home after being released. With the war over, he was discharged in Canada on February 11, 1946. He married Jean Norris and settled in the village of Coldwater, Ont., upon retirement. He worked as a parts manager for Frigidaire in Toronto for 32 years. He was a long-time member of the Royal Canadian Legion and member of Branch 270 Coldwater. Jim passed away on June 26, 2009. He was laid to rest in the Coldwater Cemetery.





CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

The Royal Canadian Legion launches 2026 Centenary brand From the files of Dominion Command

OTTAWA, ON, 25 November 2025 – For nearly a century, The Royal Canadian Legion has been a voice for Veterans and families needing support, and a beloved fixture in hundreds of communities across the country. The organization is on the cusp of celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2026, with the launch of its centenary branding which will be on display throughout its birthday year.

"We are honoured to still be going strong, one hundred years after our founders first built this incredible organization, with a central mission to serve Canada's Veterans," says Berkley Lawrence, Dominion President. "As we look forward to 2026, we hope Canadians from around this great nation will join us not only to celebrate but to become part of our next 100 years."

The Legion is pleased to announce Ford Dealers of Canada as the Official Partner of The Royal Canadian Legion centenary throughout 2026. As part of their significant support, Ford Dealers of Canada will present the Grand Prize of a brand-new 2026 Ford F-150 STX to the winner of the Legion's centenary sweepstakes called the "Legion 100 Win Big Giveaway." Legion members are welcome to enter the sweepstakes, which begins on November 25, 2025, and runs through December 19, 2026. The sweepstakes will help build excitement surrounding the Legion's 100 years of serving Veterans and their families.

"Ford has been operating in Canada for 121 years, and that shared legacy is why Ford Dealers of Canada are partnering with The Royal Canadian Legion to honour Veterans, support military families, and strengthen communities across the country," says Paul Morrison, Chairperson of the National Ford Dealers Advertising Association. "We're proud to bring Canada-wide support to celebrate the people behind the Poppy, amplify the Legion's mission, and demonstrate our shared commitment to giving back year-round."



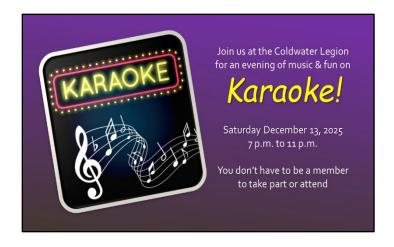
In 2026 Ford will partner with the Royal Canadian Legion to mark the Legion' Centenary with its Legion 100 Win Big Giveaway.

Starting in early 2026, and continuing throughout the year, additional Legion centenary projects and partnerships will be announced. Initiatives will celebrate the organization's ten decades of accomplishments.

The Legion's online store is already offering commemorative 100th anniversary-branded mementos including a 2026 calendar, a 100th anniversary pin, a puzzle depicting scenes over the past century, a blue centenary branded pen, and a centenary ball cap in two colours – with more items to come.

About Ford Dealers of Canada

There are approximately 20,000 people employed by 433 Ford dealerships across the country. Each dealership is represented by Ford Dealers of Canada through their respective local and regional associations. Ford dealerships have a long and storied history of supporting the communities in which they operate, with many being family-owned for generations.













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MEAT DRAW WINNERS NOVEMBER 8

- 1. Karen Dravis
- 2. Charlie Moores
- 3. Rick Pacey
- 4. Cathy Moores
- 5. Lori Gavin
- 6. Lori Gavin
- 7. Marina Goulter
- 8. Marina Goulter
- 9. John O'Hara
- 10. Bonnie Bidmead
- 11. Gaëtanne Robinson



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Tuesday evenings (except on General Meeting nights) Registration at 6 p.m. Play starts at 6:30 p.m.



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2025 EVENTS

May 18-19 Re-opening Weekend | 35th Battalion Reenactors

June 7 Annual Lawn & Plant Sale
June 21 Mid-Summer's Drumming

June 21-22 Coldwater & Area Studio Tour (Host Centre) | Vintage Tractor & Equipment Display

July 19 Archibald & Catherine Woodrow Farm Day

Aug. 21 Heritage crafters sale
July 2-August 27 School Day Wednesdays

July 3-August 21 Community Day Crafting Thursdays

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Contact Seniors Chair Bruno Scaturchio - 416-347-0621

Or districtEseniorsliterary@gmail.com

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SPORTS AT BRANCH 270



November 20

1st: Lloyd & Doreen

2nd: Brian

3rd: Heather G. & Ken Sunshine: Lloyd

November 27

1st: Lloyd & Ken 2nd: Heather G. 3rd: Heather D. & Jim Sunshine: Sherrin

November 28

- 1. Cheryll
- 2. Kari
- 3. Bev
- 4. Gaëtanne
- 5. Cheryll
- 6. Lloyd

Sunshine: Lorne

TUESDAY AFTERNOON EUCHRE

November 4

High Hand – Andrea Low Hand – Lloyd. Most Lone Hands – Marg

November 18

High Hand – Jim Low Hand – Marg M. Most Lone Hands – Paul

November 25

High Hand – Doreen Low Hand – Ken Most Lone Hands – Kathy

SHUFFLEBOARD

November 6

1st: Jim & Sherrin 2nd: Ken & Brian 3rd: Doreen

Sunshine: Heather D.

November 13

1st: Paul & Richard 2nd: Ann & Jackie 3rd: Doreen & Brian Sunshine: Heather G.

FRIDAY NIGHT STEAK DARTS

November 7

- 1. Annie
- 2. Miller
- 3. Lorne
- 4. Brad
- 5. Annie

6. Penny Sunshine: Kari

November 14

- 1. Llovd
- 2. Jane
- 3. Brian
- 4. Bev
- 5. Lorne
- 6. Joe

Sunshine: Phil

November 21

- 1. Kari
- 2. Cathy
- 3. Annette
- 4. Henny
- 5. Dan
- 6. Tony

Sunshine: Kari

BRANCH 270 WEEKLY SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Winter Schedule

Euchre

1 p.m. every Tuesday

Trivia

6:30 p.m. every Tuesday

League Darts

7:30 p.m. every Wednesday

League Darts

7 p.m. every Thursday

Shuffleboard

1 p.m. every Thursday

Steak Darts

6 p.m. every Friday

	Royal Canadian	Legion Branch 270	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater • www.coldwaterlegion.com	.coldwaterlegion.c		DECEMBER 2025
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 CLOSED	Branch Open 2 11:30am-9:00pm Euchre 1 pm Yoga 2:30-3:30 pm Trivia 6:30 pm	Branch Open 3 11:30am-9:00pm Darts League 7:30 pm	Branch Open 4 11:30am-9:00pm Shuffleboard 1 pm Darts League 7 pm Yoga 6-7 pm	Branch Open 5 11:30am-9:00pm Bid Euchre12:30 pm Steak Darts 6 pm	Branch Open 6 11:30am-9:00pm Euchre tournament Doors open 12 pm Play starts 1 pm
CLOSED 7	CLOSED 8	Branch Open 9 11:30am-9:00pm Euchre 1 pm Yoga 2:30-3:30 pm Trivia 6:30 pm	Branch Open 10 11:30am-9:00pm Darts League 7:30 pm	Branch Open 11 11:30am-9:00pm Shuffleboard 1 pm Darts League 7 pm Yoga 6-7 pm	Branch Open 12 11:30am-9:00pm Bid Euchre12:30 pm Steak Darts 6 pm	Branch Open 13 11:30am-9:00pm Meat Draw starts at 3 pm Karaoke 7-11 pm
CLOSED	CLOSED 15	Branch Open 16 11:30am-9:00pm Euchre 1 pm Trivia 6:30 pm L. A. General Meeting 4 pm	Branch Open 17 11:30am-9:00pm Darts League 7:30 pm	Branch Open 18 11:30am-9:00pm Shuffleboard 1 pm Darts League 7 pm Yoga 6-7 pm	Branch Open 19 11:30am-9:00pm Bid Euchre12:30 pm Steak Darts 6 pm	Branch Open 20 11:30am-9:00pm Christmas Sing-0 Bingo 3 pm
CLOSED 21	CLOSED	CLOSED	24 CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
CLOSED	CLOSED	30 CLOSED	CLOSED New Year's Eve dance 7:30 pm (upstairs)	Merry Chri Reopening Jar	Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! Reopening January 1 for New Year's Levee	y New Year! Year's Levee