

**Club members, Jr. Optimist leaders and District Officers are bcc'd this note.** Editor, Tom Neal > August 17, 2025

## **Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club**

*We bring out the best in youth, our community and ourselves.*

# **SUNNYSIDE NEWSLETTER**

## **Back to School Celebration Staff Picnic**

Farmington Public School District hosted a picnic inside FHS because of the rain outside. We had a table that was staffed by Cathy and Tom Neal, Don Munter, Susan Walker, Nicole Blackmon-Hunt. We were able to gain some potential new member prospects and meet FPS staff.

Table at Farmington Public Schools  
"Welcome Back Picnic" for staff



One of the ways we recruit teacher leaders for Jr. Optimist Clubs



## **Pam Good from Beyond Basics Spoke at our Club meeting last week**

Pam discussed how the literacy rate impacted students and was a cause of homelessness and incarceration. Their tutor program for 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades using phonics helps raise literacy in our schools where students participate. We donated \$880 from our Dyslexic fund to Beyond Basics and they will use the funds for

## Essay Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club

tutoring Dyslexic students. Club's Dyslexia Fund was started with a donation from the Walter Riley Foundation.

### Beyond Basics

501(c)3 non-profit (founded  
1999)



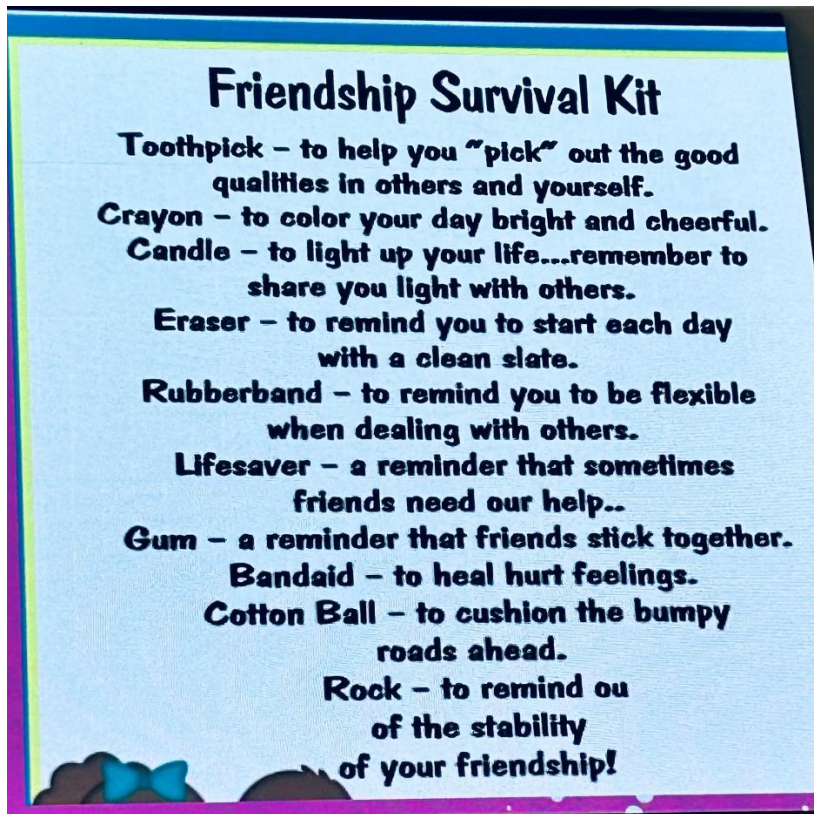
Illiteracy is America's largest and  
most solvable disability.

## Michigan District Summit Highlights

This past weekend the wrap up gathering of the District Optimist clubs was held in Holland, Michigan. Governor Sean Mueller said it was a celebration of how we bring out the best in ourselves.

Here are some of the highlights:

- First timers to the meeting were given a Friendship Survival Kit.



- Corporate Partner of the Year was given to a family-owned business in Kalamazoo.
- Optimist of the Year was awarded to Lyn Lenox-Bosma, Kalamazoo club.
- Berry-Kauffold Music Scholarship awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Place to Alyssa Eder, Flute from Tecumseh H.S. and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place to Riya Charo, violinist from North Farmington H.S.
- Michigan met its Club Foundation Fund Raising Goal for the year of \$40,000!
- Bill Reeves from West Flint was elected Governor-Elect for the 2026-2027 District Optimist Year.
- Don Munter was sworn in as District 12 Lt. Governor for next year.
- Cathy Neal participated as a panelist in the discussion of "Bringing Out the Best in Ourselves".
- Dave Putt as Governor-Elect gave his theme for next year as "Bee the Difference".





### **F/FH Optimist Installation Banquet**

"Save the date" It will be at Longacre House, September 10 at 6:00. Expect the cost for dinner to be \$40 per person.

### **Past President Nicole Receives Her Plaque**

**Essay Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club**



## Essay Contest For 2025-2026 School Year

The topic that contestants need to create an essay on is: **"How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand What My Community Means to Me."** Wow, can't wait to see the essays they write! We talk about bringing out the best in our

community, this goes a long way. We have two contests:

Middle School 1<sup>st</sup> place - \$250, 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$200, 3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$150

High School 1<sup>st</sup> place - \$500, 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$350, 3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$200

All contestants at each level must show proof of age either with a copy of a birth certificate or passport.

The high school winner's essay will advance to the state-wide District level in the Spring, where the overall winner receives a \$2,500 scholarship.

**ESSAY REQUIREMENT:** 700-800 Words

**WHEN: Submission Date - Tuesday, January 20, 2026**

## How Do You Celebrate Being an Optimist?

❖ **By living the Creed!**

## Dad Jokes

Q: Why was the mother **flea** feeling down in the dumps?

A: Because she thought all her children were going to the **dogs**.

**Website:** **f2hoptimists.org**

Pay Membership Dues using this link:

<https://f2hoptimists.org/pay-membership-dues>

**Facebook:** **Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club**

## Calendar

Aug	27	No Meeting
Sep	3	Board Meeting via Zoom
Sep	10	Installation Banquet, Longacre House
Sep	17	Michigan Renaissance Festival @ Peterlins
Sep	24*	Mallory Kuhn, Book Author
Oct	1	Board Meeting via Zoom
Oct	8*	Peggy Castine, Farmington History
Oct	15	TBD

## Essay Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club

Oct	22*	Gary Mekjian, FH City Manager
Oct	29*	Principals Breakfast
Nov	5	Board Meeting via Zoom
Nov	12	Veterans Breakfast, Donald Schenk, The Pines
Nov	19*	TBD

\* Meeting location at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington

### **Birthdays:**

#### **SEPTEMBER**

07 – Donald Munter  
10 – Sally Kirsten  
11 – Randy Bruce  
12 – Kim Riley  
21 – Andrea Fields  
25 – Susan Arlin

### **Club Membership YTD**

**Total 51**

**Adds = +6 Drops = -2 Net +4**

### **Attachments:**

Newsletter PDF







The only way to  
have a friend is  
to be one.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Fri, August 22, 2025

ZITS

