

Club members, Jr. Optimist leaders and District Officers are bcc'd this note. Editor, Tom Neal > October 12, 2025

Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club

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

SUNNYSIDE NEWSLETTER

Special NOW Meeting Oct. 15 at 6:00pm

This is another evening meeting to bring a potential new member guest to a fun event! **Fire and Fused workshops** are "Pick Your Own Project" (PYOP) as they want you to be comfortable with the price and size of project you do, so they give you choices ranging from \$35 – \$105 based on size. You choose what you want to work on when you get there.

Your choices are:

Nightlight = \$35

Sun Catcher = \$35

4"x4" dish, bowl, votive holder = \$35

4"x8" dish = \$50

6" dish, bowl, votive holder = \$50

8" dish, bowl, votive holder = \$70

4"x12" tray, wave or stand-up = \$70

5"x7" Framed Picture = \$70

8"x12" Charcuterie board = \$85

8"x12" dish = \$95

11"x11" dish, bowl, vase = \$105

Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club



Make Friends & Get Connected
at

T&F
Fired & Fused

Come explore the uniqueness of fused glass with the Optimist Club. The workshop is designed for beginners or advanced fusers. All while you enjoy terrific appetizers & delicious drinks. Let's create together!

**Instructions,
Food & Drinks Included**

Participants will purchase their own pieces/creations. Price Range from \$35 up

Wed. October 15th
6 pm to 8:30pm
32326 Grand River Avenue
Farmington, MI 48336

So F & F can be prepared
RSVP by Oct 8th
to:ffhoptimistsinfo@gmail.com



This Glass Art Won 1st Prize at ArtPrize

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Underground Railroad

In 1786 George Washington complained about how one of his runaway slaves was helped by a "society of Quakers, formed for such purposes." The nameless system kept growing until it finally was given a name by Thomas Smallwood, African-American activist, writer and former slave. The name was: the Underground Railroad.

Born into slavery outside Washington, D.C., in 1801 – the same year Nathan Power was born! – Smallwood largely educated himself and bought his own freedom when he was 30. Once free, he ran a shoemaking business by day from the little house he shared with his wife and four children a short walk from the U.S. Capitol. By night, he was organizing daring escapes from slavery — not by ones and twos, but by the wagonload — from Washington, Baltimore and the surrounding counties.

Somehow, he found time to write a dispatch for an abolitionist newspaper in Albany, N.Y. In his August 10, 1842, column, he credited owners themselves whose cruelty made slaves "disappear by that ... 'under ground rail-road' or steam balloon' people were blaming when their property walked off, leaving no trace." He also referred to the owners as "man stealers" and once mocked a slaveholder whose "walking property walked off." He would use names of the slaveholders but never identified himself – for good reason.

Guest speaker, Peggy Castine gave a very good history of early Farmington with emphasis on Nathan Power who organized the Underground RR in this area.



Optimists of Year : Susan Walker, 24-25 & Marcia Rodeheffer, 23-24

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

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they write! We talk about bringing out the best in our community, this goes a long way. We have two contests:
Middle School 1st place - \$250, 2nd place - \$200, 3rd place - \$150
High School 1st place - \$500, 2nd place - \$350, 3rd 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

Complete contest rules and a fillable, printable application are available on the Club's website.

Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club



THE FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS
OPTIMIST CLUB INVITES YOU TO OUR

★ ★ ★
ANNUAL
VETERANS DAY
Breakfast
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Featuring KeyNote Speaker
Donal F. Schenk; Retired Brigadier General
Topic : **Richie Boys of WWII**



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Date: **Wednesday, Nov. 12**
Place: **The Pines Restaurant**
37777 11 Mile Ct.
Farmington Hills, MI.
Time: **Doors open 7:30am**



All are welcomed. Register at:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4FA4A622ABFE3-59429368-optimist>

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YOU CAN ALSO TEXT OR CALL 248-909-2699 - LEAVE YOUR
NAME, PHONE # AND NUMBER OF GUEST ATTENDING.

Dad Jokes

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Q: What is the **range** of a good tuba?

A: **Twenty yards** if you have a good arm!

Website:

f2hoptimists.org

Pay Membership Dues using this link:

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

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Facebook:

Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club

Calendar

Oct	15	NOW @ Fired & Fused
Oct	18	District JOI Gathering, Costic Center
Oct	22*	Gary Mekjian, FH City Manager
Oct	26	Boo Bash, Heritage Park (Volunteers wanted)
Oct	29*	Principals Breakfast
Nov	5	Board Meeting via Zoom
Nov	12	Veterans Breakfast, Donald Schenk @ The Pines
Nov	19	NOW event in the planning stage @ The Pines
Dec	3	Board Meeting via Zoom
Dec	10	Holiday sing at school TBD

* Meeting location at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington

Birthdays:

OCTOBER

09 – Bill Dwyer
25 – Cathy Neal
26 – Tom Neal
29 – Jeff Clatterbaugh

Club Membership YTD

Total 51

Jr. Optimist Clubs in Farmington Public Schools

Number of students signed up by school as of 9/27:

Elementary:

Beechview	51
Gill	38
Hillside	9
Lanigan	17

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Longacre	7
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Middle School:

Power	52
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East	39
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Steam	19
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Warner	1
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High Schools:

FHS	8
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NFHS	1
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Total	242
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They are currently in the process of signing up for this new school year.

Attachments:

Newsletter PDF



Presents...

The First State Leadership

Event of the Year!

October 18th 1-4pm @ the Costick Center
28600 W 11 Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

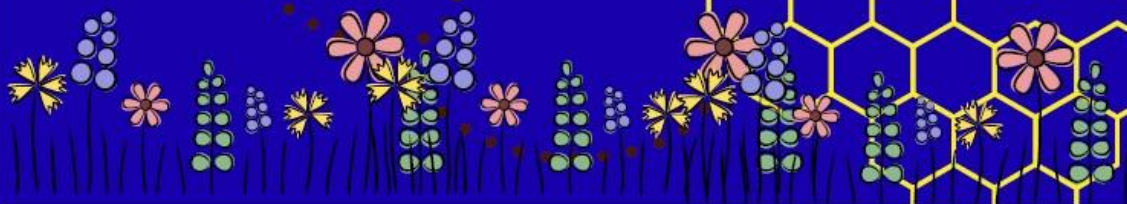
Theme: Bee The Difference

We will discuss community service projects, play games, and learn more about our community!



Everyone is Welcome!

\$5 Entry Fee



BECOME A LIGHT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

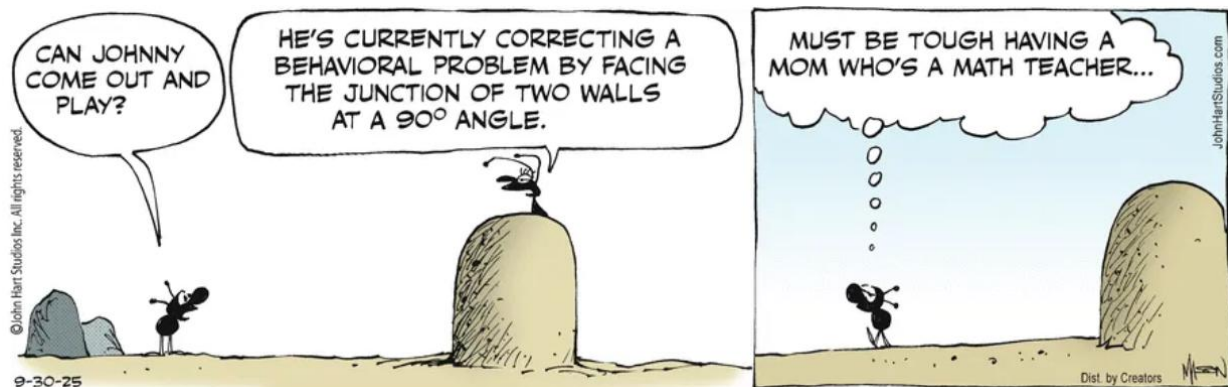
Volunteer and help us empower youth through
service, mentorship, and leadership!



Life is 10% what
happens to you and
90% how you react
to it.

Charles R. Swindoll

BrainyQuote®



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GRANT SNIDER