

Club members, Jr. Optimist leaders and District Officers are bcc'd this note. Editor, Tom Neal > October 26, 2025

Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club

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

SUNNYSIDE NEWSLETTER

Board Meeting this Week by Zoom

This week our Board of Officers and Directors will meet Wednesday morning at 7:15am by zoom.

Michigan District Gathering, Sat., Nov. 8

Here is your opportunity to meet other Optimists from around our state. There will be two Brainstorming sessions, lunch and then a speaker about closing the illiteracy gap for youth in Michigan. Finally, there will be Group discussion about "Leave No Club Behind". See attached agenda. Register at Michiganoptimists.org.

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 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 Deadline - 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*

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



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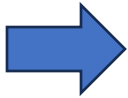
Date: **Wednesday, Nov. 12**
Place: **The Pines Restaurant**
37777 11 Mile Ct.
Farmington Hills, MI.
Time: **Doors open 7:30am**

RSVP

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

★ ★ ★

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



SIGNUP DEADLINE IS NOV. 7

RSVP for Vet. Breakfast

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4FA4A622ABFE3-59429368-optimist>

Boo Bash

Kim Riley, Laura Stewart and Susan Walker helped at the Heritage Park Boo Bash for kids. Also, volunteering was Diane Eklov and Ron Sayre.





The Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club Invites you to our

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Celebrate the season with laughter, good company, and holiday cheer! Enjoy live entertainment, vendors, soup and salad dinner & cash bar.

Bring a wrapped ornament to join in our fun ornament exchange, and don't miss our Holiday Raffles, with proceeds supporting a local charity.

DATE: Wed. Nov. 19th
TIME : 6:00 - 8:30pm
Club Members = \$15.00
Guests = FREE
RSVP @
SIGN UP GENIUS LINK

Cash Bar

Soup/ Salad Dinner

Entertainment

Ornament Exchange

THE PINES RESTAURANT AT THE FARMINGTON HILLS GOLF COURSE
37777 11 Mile Ct
Farmington Hills, MI
: 248- 957-6733

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
ROXANNE FITZPATRICK
📞 248-470-3584

RSVP for Holiday Extravaganza:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944ADA923A2FFC43-59713812-holiday>

2026 Oratorical Contest Announcement

Applications are being accepted for this year's Earl Friedman Oratorical Contest scheduled to take place on **March 18, 2026**. The topic for this year's contest is "***The Moment I Realized I Belonged – My Definition of Community.***" We expect a wide range of viewpoints and eagerly anticipate what this year's students have to say about community. The Oratorical Contest is the oldest of the scholarship competitions offered through Optimist International, starting in 1928, with nearly 2,000 clubs participating today. Our top 2 winners will advance to the Zone level of competition with additional chances to advance in the District, Regional and World levels. There's an overall potential college scholarship amount of \$22,500! To learn more, and to access the Application, please visit f2hoptimists.org.

Dad Jokes

Q: What is the hardest thing to learn about **riding** a bike?

A: The **road**.

Teacher: Where was Solomon's **temple**?

Student: On the side of his head.

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

Nov	5	Board Meeting via Zoom
Nov	8	Michigan District Gathering, Crown Plaza, Auburn Hills, 8:30am – 4:00pm
Nov	12	Veterans Breakfast, Donald Schenk @ The Pines
Nov	19	Holiday Extravaganza NOW event @ The Pines
Dec	3	Board Meeting via Zoom
Dec	10	Holiday sing at school TBD

* Meeting location at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington

Birthdays:

Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club

NOVEMBER

05 – Dave Clappison

14 – Nicole Hunt

21 – Susan Walker

Club Membership YTD +2
Total 53

Welcome New Member

Benjamin (Ben) Hogg



Ben grew up in Traverse City and attended MSU. With his wife, Victoria they have two daughters, Liliana and Annelise who are competitive dancers.

He has been in the financial services industry since 2005. He is currently a financial advisor with Edward Jones.

He is a volunteer for F/FH Neighborhood House.

Jr. Optimist Clubs in Farmington Public Schools

Number of students signed up by school as of 10/30:

Elementary:

Beechview	70
Gill	42
Hillside	36
Lanigan	17
Longacre	20
Forest	3

Middle School:

Power	55
East	50
Steam	23
Warner	6

Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club

High Schools:

FHS 14

NFHS 1

Total 337

**** Some signups have kids in the wrong school. Please let me know of any issues. Tom*

T-Shirt Central

This is a picture of Cathy Neal, the woman in charge of folding and sending out T-shirts to our 10 Jr. Optimist Clubs.

Thank her next time you see her.

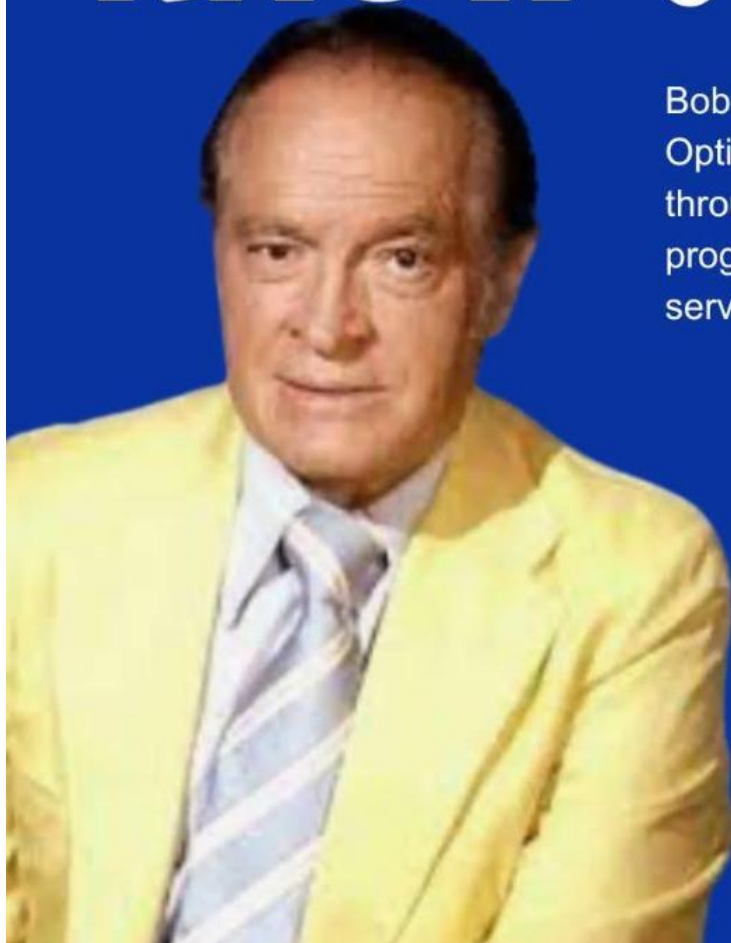


Attachments:

Newsletter PDF

MI District 2025-26 Q1 Agenda PDF

DID YOU KNOW?



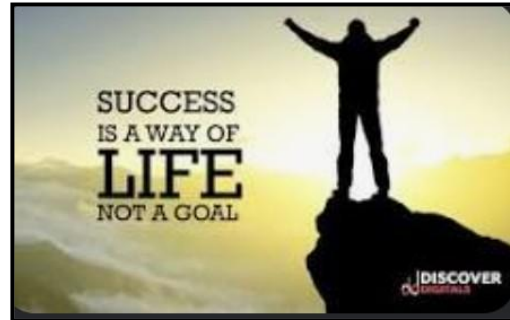
Bob Hope was involved with Optimist International primarily through his support for youth programs and community service initiatives.

Optimist International allowed him to promote the organization's mission of Bringing Out the Best in youth and communities.

Be like Bob.
Become an Optimist.
Be the Change.

A lot of success in life is just putting yourself in a position for good things to happen to you.

- + Be reliable**
- + Avoid drama**
- + Help other people win**
- + Take care of your body**
- + Take care of your mind**
- + Live below your means**
- + Treat your job as if it matters**
- + Take care of your relationships**



BIZARRO.COM

Facebook.com/BizarroComics

Dist. by King Features

My grandfather carved that thing to scare kids away from playing on his lawn, and now it controls the entire village.



Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club



Stickers (\$1 donation)
\$1.00 USD

The mission of the *Be Kind. Project* is to promote kindness in our shared communities nationwide. By accepting donations for our items, we are able to pay-it-forward and support other nonprofit organizations that focus on education, arts & culture, and community enhancement projects for the betterment of all. All donations are reinvested into the project so we can further support our mission and the missions of those organizations who align with our focus areas.

bekindusa.org