



## **Twin City Area Optimist Club**

P.O. Box 475

Festus, Missouri 63028

[www.twincityoptimist.org](http://www.twincityoptimist.org)

Follow us on Facebook

Affiliated with Optimist International – Serving Youth and  
Community since 1919

### **June 2021 News: Making a Difference**



**Parents as Teachers  
Club ZOOM Meeting May 27, 2021  
Speaker Kim Richardson**



# Parents as Teachers®

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## *Affiliate*

### **Parents As Teachers (PAT)**

The first few years of your child's life are some of the most important. They will learn more, and at a faster pace, than at any other time in their life. What you do to help them learn, will help to shape how they learn for years to come.

**PARENTS AS TEACHERS**, founded in Missouri 35 years ago, is here to help. PAT is a **FREE** parent education and family support program serving families throughout pregnancy and until kindergarten.

Parents as Teachers involves four different components:

- **Home Visits** – a parent educator will visit your home and will share age-appropriate child development and parenting information. That parent educator will also help you learn to observe your child and address any parenting concerns you have
- **Screenings** – Through Parents As Teachers you have access to tools to help you assess your child's overall developmental and social-emotional growth. You also have access to health, hearing and vision screenings.
- **Group Connections** – Parents As Teachers offers events for your family to share fun learning experiences together or learn more about parenting topics. You will connect with other families with children the same age.
- **Resource Network** – Parents As Teachers will link your family to other community resources.

**Parents who qualify for WIC or Free or Reduced School Lunch may qualify for FREE diapers & books at each visit.**

Your baby was born to learn. Let Parents As Teachers help you give your child the best possible start in life.

For More Information Call: 636-937-3699 or 636-933-0792

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## **CLUB PROJECTS**



# Respect for Law Recipients

## Crystal City

This year's recipient is Detective Sergeant Billy Reese. Specifically, he is being recognized for his recent work in the overall coordination of setting up the "Mobile Ticketing" system for each of our patrol vehicles. This the department to be more efficient in the overall police operation, while also it enhancing officer safety. Sgt. Reese has put a lot of time and effort into making sure this transition is a success.

Chief of Police Chad Helms



Optimists Cindy Cherry, Elizabeth Check, and Barb Schmidt  
with Detective Sergeant Reese and Chief Helms



## DeSoto

Our Officer of the year is Sarah Locke. Sarah has, through her hard work and dedication, developed into a much respected officer and informal leader within the department. Her "get it done" attitude, helpfulness to all members of the department and willingness to see success in others as success for the department as a whole made her the "hands down" favorite of the members of the department.

Chief of Police Jeff McCreary



Optimists Ellen Bridgewater and President Mary Kay Scott with Officer Locke



Officer Locke with Sergeant Dirk Helms and Sergeant Keven Anderson





Officer Locke with Optimists and co-workers

## Festus

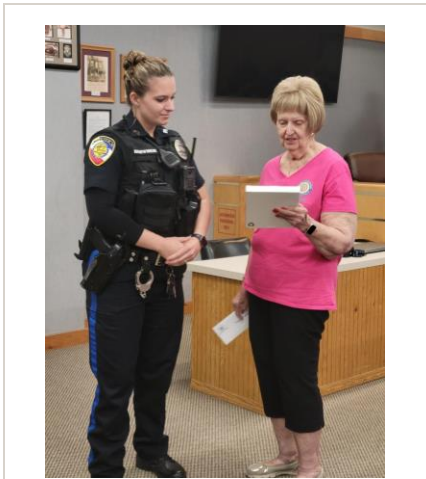
Officer Jackie Duffner was selected because of several reasons. She has shown tremendous growth in her police skills in 2020. She has set the example to other officers by going back to school to earn her Bachelors degree and has excelled in her grades. She has become the departments chief Field Training Officer and has personally trained two new officers. She is always near the top in the departments work stats and always has a positive attitude. She has also been field testing new equipment such as hybrid cars, body cameras, and in car videos to see if those items can stand up to the rigors of police work and are worth purchasing for the entire department. She is dependable and has always stepped up when we were short staffed or needed special assignments done. A pure pleasure to work with and that's partially why we selected her. She's a very good police officer.



Chief of Police Tim Lewis



Officer Duffner with members of her department, family, and Optimist Caryl Harness



**Caryl Harness presenting  
Officer Duffner with her  
award**



**Officer Duffner with her family**



## Hillsboro

Our nominee this year is Officer Justin Gibbons. He is always diligent in all phases of his work and does it without complaint. He also volunteers for extra duties and is now one of our evidence/property room custodians. He has also worked several big cases this year such as child molestations, sex offenses, and arson, of which he solved. Last year he was also Officer of the Quarter, which is voted on by his peers. We are very glad to have him as an employee and he is very deserving of your award.

Chief of Police Steve Meinberg



Chief Meinberg and Officer Gibson with Optimists  
Mary Hatfield, Beth Vreeland,  
Carroll Metzger, and Jean Naeger





**Officer Gibbons and Mary Hatfield**



**Chief Meinberg, Officer Gibbons, and  
Captain Darrick Curtis**

## **Jefferson County Sheriff's Office**

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office would like to nominate Dr. Joshua White for the Optimist Club Award. Dr. White provides behavioral health treatment options for inmates at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Jail. Dr. White focuses on treatment of both mental health and substance abuse offenders to reduce recidivism and to prevent in-custody assaults and deaths. His work has been attributed to many successes, but other unmeasured successes cannot go unnoticed when we hear from former inmates sharing accolades of his positive influence. Dr. White is an example of the professionalism we expect from our employees and an asset to both the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Jefferson County.

**Sheriff Dave Marshak**







**Sheriff Marshak and Dr. White with Optimists Jean Naeger, Cyndi Buchheit-Courtway, and Arlene GeGonia**



**Dr. White with staff from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department**



## Pevely

Our reasoning for Sergeant Gregory Long to be nominated for the award is because of his true dedication to this department for almost 40 years. He has held the rank of Sergeant for the last 21 years. Sgt. Long has many duties and plays an important role with the functioning and success of this agency. This includes managing the evidence room, Traffic Grant writing and tracking, Running the Drug Take Back program, and currently is responsible for both platoons of officers. Sgt. Long is always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone that is in need, puts in extra hours to see a job completed and never claims all the hours he worked. He is approachable and very knowledgeable of this profession. He is a great role model in which he teaches the younger officers the importance of work ethic, attention to

detail and integrity in law enforcement. Sgt. Long has a soft-spoken demeanor which is why he is a respected ambassador of the City of Pevely.

Capt. Larry Miller 788

Assistant Chief



Optimist Phyllis Neff and Janet Whitmer with Sergeant Long

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## Special Board of Directors' Committee Recommend Donations to Area Groups



A previously formed committee of members from our board of directors met recently to recommend disbursement of club funds to the following groups:

\$2,500 Kade's Playground, major contributor to Melody Chimes. (pictured above)

\$2,500 Homeless Youth Initiative (an increase from budgeted \$1000)

\$1,200 Parents as Teachers boxes (members will assemble school supplies for the two Parents as Teachers affiliates in southern Jefferson County.

\$3,500 \$500 each to:

- 1) Victory Church Food Pantry
- 2) Ozark Food Pantry
- 3) Hillsboro Food Pantry
- 4) DeSoto Food Pantry
- 5) Rescue Mission
- 6) First United Methodist Church - Festus Food Pantry
- 7) First United Methodist Church -Herculaneum Food Pantry

\$9,700 TOTAL

The TCA Optimist Board of Directors approved these donations at their June 7, 2021 meeting.

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## Brenden's Backpacks



### **Community Food Drive to support Brenden's Friday Backpacks**

Date: Thursday July 22, 2021

Time: 12pm- 1 pm

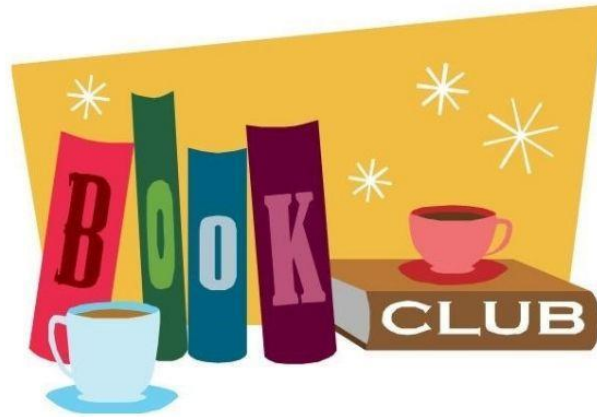
Place: Quonset Lanes, Crystal City

**Sponsored by Twin City Area Optimist Club  
and  
Festus-Crystal City Rotary**



**Items Requested:**  
**Breakfast bars**  
**Single serve cereal**  
**Boxes of instant oatmeal**  
**Peanut butter- only in plastic jars,**  
**16oz. or less.**

## Book Club



TCA Optimist Book Club will be reviewing *Women in Sunlight* by Frances Mayes. Book Club will meet at **5:45 p.m.** before our evening meeting in the park on **June 24th.**

All are welcome! Please email Mary Kay Scott with future book selections.

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## Childhood Cancer

## Jeffrey Vitt



**Allllll good guys!! Next scan in November and then we go down to yearly scans Also, who is this young man?! Today's visit (June 8th) was so different from any of the previous ones. He actually went back all by himself for his scan. I wanted so badly to grab his hand and lead him back.... but he's too big for all that now. He did amazing on all of his assessments, like AMAZING! His doctor was so impressed with his progress and his blood work was great! No concerns at all from his team. Thank God.**

**Taken, with permission, from Jessica Vitt's Facebook page.**

**Thumbs up for Jeffrey  
Remains in remission!**



## JOI CLUB



### Junior Optimist Society Update

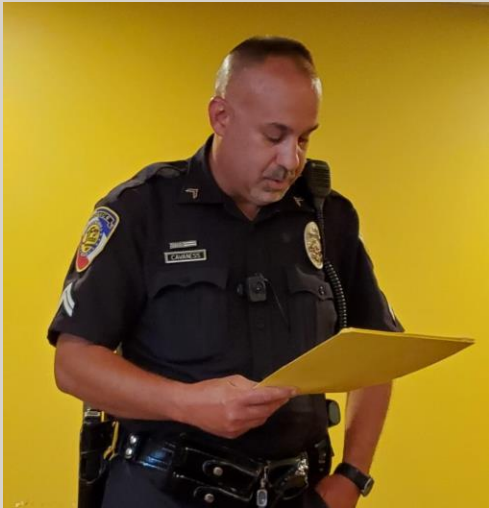
- New essay for October 23<sup>rd</sup> BB 5K. Forms will be sent to schools in August.
- New meeting location starting in August is at Taytros.
- JOI Club will be attending some school open houses in August to help recruit new members.

. Guest speaker Festus Resource Officer Corporal Mike Cavaness and his wife were present at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. He informed members us he has been an officer for 27 years. He absolutely loves his job. He is a firefighter also. He has been in Festus since 2000 and a Festus Resource Officer for six years. We appreciate him very much for his service.

. The next meeting will be on Friday July 2, 2021 at the home of Debbie Schumaker. The club will enjoy a pool party.

*Katie Huck*  
JOI Adult Advisor

*Debbie Schumaker*  
JOI Chair



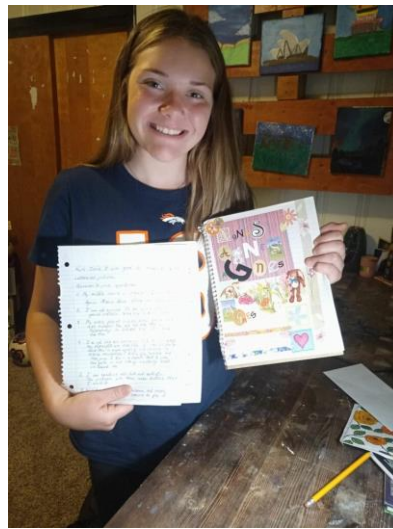
## **JOI Speaker**

Festus Resource Officer  
Mike Cavaness.

**JOI Members continue to write letters  
to local nursing home residents.**



**Hannah Christopher**



**Josie Hensley**



## **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual BB 5K**



**5K Teen Suicide Awareness Walk  
Saturday, 8AM  
October 23, 2021  
At Larry Crites Memorial Park  
(Formerly West City Park)**

Cost of 5K - \$30  
Includes t-shirt, certificate of appreciation, snacks, fruit and Behavioral Health Information  
Unable to walk, T-shirts may be purchased for \$20  
Student cost without t-shirt \$10  
Sweatshirts only-\$30 or \$45 as participant  
Checks to TCA Optimist at PO Box 475, Festus MO 63028 or Venmo @JOI63028

Student scholarship winners of funds raised will be announced after the 5K

**ALL AGES ARE  
WELCOME TO  
PARTICIPATE**

**Contact information:  
Debbie Schumaker 314-471-7213,  
Katie Huck 314-520-6340, or  
Carol Schanz 314-222-4344**





**Junior Optimist International  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 2021 5K Run/Walk for Bryan Brennan  
Take 10 for BB ... "Teen Suicide Awareness/Prevention"  
Waiver and Consent Form**

**Please read the information below and to the right carefully.**  
By completing the form below and submitting your information, you are agreeing to the Rules and Conditions outlined here for participation in the Optimist Walk at Larry Crites Memorial Park formally West City Park located in the far back pavilion (north end).

If under age 18 years, you must have your parent or legal guardian's consent to participate, and a parent/legal guardian must attend with you and sign in on Saturday October 23, 2021 at 7:30 am. Walk starts at 8 am.

We have new t-shirt or sweatshirt color this year: **Blue**  
Cost is \$30.00, which includes your T-shirt or \$45.00 for a sweatshirt. If you do NOT wish to participate the cost of the T-shirt is \$20.00 or \$30 for a sweatshirt. Deadline to order shirt is October 1, 2021. Must receive fee before we can order your T- shirt. **Student fee without shirt is \$10.00.**

Send payment and form to Twin City Optimist Club, Attn: Debbie, P.O. Box 475, Festus, MO 63028 or to Venmo @ JOI63028.

\*form must be filled out, submitted per text, e-mail, or mail.  
Any questions call Debbie at 314-471-7213 or Carol at 636-222-4344.  
Participant info:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Type of shirt \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian/Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

By submitting this form, I hereby agree to participate in the Junior Optimist Walk at Larry Crites Memorial Park formally West City Park, Festus, MO and I confirm that I have read, understand and agree to the Rules.

In addition to giving full consent for my participation, I do hereby waive, release and hold harmless the organizations named below, its sponsors, volunteers, supervisors and representatives for any injury that may be suffered by me in the normal course of participation in the designated activity and the activities there to, whether the result of negligence or any other cause.

I authorize the use of the participant's name and any photos taken of the participant, during the Junior Optimist Walk at Larry Crites Memorial Park formally Festus West City Park project solely for the purposes of promotion of this or future events.



*\*Proceeds of the BB 5K will go to a local school.*

*\*All ages are welcome.*

## CONVENTIONS

### OI International Convention



**103rd Annual Optimist International Convention  
June 30-July 3, 2021**

**Register for convention in person or virtual!**

In-

**person: <https://www.optimist.org/reg/?e=CONV&m=2021>**

**Virtual: <https://www.optimist.org/reg/?e=CONV&m=2021V>**

### EMO District - Fourth Quarter Convention

**4th Quarter Convention  
August 13-15, 2021**



The East Missouri District of Optimist  
International invites you to

# *The 4th Quarter Convention and Gala*

August 13-15 at Drury Plaza Hotel and  
Convention Center, Cape Girardeau

Early Bird Registration- \$80- ends July 23, 2021

After July 23 Registration- \$90

Governor's Gala Ticket (includes 2 cocktail tickets)-\$30

Fellowship, Karaoke, Fabulous Training for Club  
Presidents, Secretaries, and Lt Governors. A Gala  
Saturday evening to celebrate and dance the night  
away!

## RESERVE YOUR ROOM-

The Group Rate for the rooms is good from today until July 23rd.

Room Rates- \$109+tax- Double Queen Room, \$109+tax King Room.

Reservations can be made by reserving online, go to

[www.druryhotels.com](http://www.druryhotels.com), then enter Group number of 2417090.

Reservations may also be made by calling 1-800-325-0720 and refer  
to the Group number of 2417090.

**Contact Club Secretary Cathy Elliott if you would like to attend  
convention. Hotel rooms are limited, please book early to assure  
availability.**



## FUNDRAISERS

### White Castle Fundraiser

## CRAVER COMMUNITY NIGHT

Support: Twin City Area Optimist Club  
Castle Address: 1905 Richardson Rd., Arnold  
Date: 07/22/2021 Time: 5:00 pm-8:00 pm

**WHITE CASTLE WILL  
DONATE 15% OF YOUR PURCHASE TO:**



**Twin City Area  
Optimist Club**



### **Paying it Forward!**

Hailey Walker, a 12 year old cancer patient, and a child whom we have been involved with for several years, along with her family have designated our club for a community fund raiser at White Castle in Arnold. We will receive 15 percent of the funds from the night of July 22, 2021 from 5 to 8 PM. So, a great night to get your dinner at White Castle and support our club! Tell your friends! Also there will be several raffle baskets and the tickets will be available at the drive thru window. The proceeds from these baskets will go directly to Hailey.

This is not the first time Hailey has raised funds for community agencies that support kids with cancer, she raised \$600 for "Friends of Kids with Cancer", an

organization that is devoted to enriching the daily lives of children undergoing treatment for, and survivors of, cancer and blood-related diseases. Hailey is extraordinary.

Carroll Metzger  
Childhood Cancer Chair

**NOTE: Fundraiser it at the Arnold White Castle.**

## Raffle Basket Fundraisers



**Congratulations to  
Restaurant Gift Cards Winners  
Ellie and Jack King**

**No cooking at the King home for quite some time!**

**This raffle earned the club \$2500.**

**NOTE: In total the three summer raffles earned our club \$5210**

## Sponsorships

When I thought our 2021 Sponsorship Drive had come to an end, a long awaited promised donation from Dow/Dupont arrived. A \$1000 check was received in the mail on Tuesday June 8th. This is our third Platinum Sponsorship for the year. Thanks to Judy Williams for her continued efforts to follow up with her Dow contact.

I'm extremely pleased to report our 2021 sponsorships have reached \$12,250. I think we really are finished for the year now!

**Four year history of our sponsorship program**

**2018 - 16 sponsors - \$4450**

**2019 - 27 sponsors - \$6125**

**2020 - 38 sponsors - \$9400**

**2121 - 42 sponsors - \$12,250**

**Many thanks to members who contacted our potential sponsors and tugged on their heart strings which opened their check books. The personal contact makes all the difference.**

**Jean Naeger  
TCA Marketing Chair**

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## **In Person Again!**



### **LOTS OF BRAGS**

Ellen Bridgewater had lots to brag about, as did many others. Catching up from lost time.

### **President Mary Kay Scott**

President Mary Kay and President Elect Gerty O'Leary look pretty serious as first post pandemic, in person daytime meeting was called to order.





### Talk-Talk-Talk

Members didn't appear to miss ZOOM meetings. Lots of conversations going on.

### Laughs --- and More Laughs

To say members enjoyed being back is an understatement. **38 Members attended this meeting.**







# Meeting in the Park

Thur. June 24, 6 pm

Pavilion #11 at Larry Crites Park



Bring your own  
food/drink

Live and  
in person

Bring your own  
lawn chairs

FUN

GAMES



Members meet every Thursday at  
Noon - 1 p.m.  
Our Club will continue looking at  
the sunny side of everything and  
being committed to bringing out  
the best in our area youth.

Keep current with club activities,  
like us on Facebook, and  
visit our website.



Visit our website