



**Twin City Area Optimist Club**  
**P.O. Box 475**  
**Festus, Missouri 63028**  
**www.twincityoptimist.org**

Follow us on Facebook  
Affiliated with Optimist International  
Serving Youth and Community since 1919

## Summer 2021 Review Making a Difference

The summer heat didn't stop the Twin City Area Optimists from their commitment to youth. The club just had to work smarter and safer during the pandemic.



## CLUB PROJECTS



## Respect for Law Recipients

Respect for Law is an annual club event honoring representatives from local law enforcement agencies. COVID-19 kept us from honoring recipients with lunch but we were able to present honorees with plaques and gift cards. Thank you to everyone for his/her service.

## 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 helps the department to be more efficient in the overall police operation, while also 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**



## 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**

## Festus

**Jackie Duffner was selected for 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



## 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

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## 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

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## 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 Chie

## 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 \$9,700 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 Parents as Teachers affiliates in southern Jefferson County.)

\$500 to each of the following food pantries:

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

## Better Together



### 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.**

**The Twin City Area Optimist Club and the Festus-Crystal City Rotary teamed up to collect food for Brenden's Friday Backpacks.**

Brenden's Friday Backpacks began in 2011 with 4 children in a single school and has grown to a program that currently feeds over 1400 children in 68 schools throughout Jefferson County and in St. Francois County on a weekly basis during the school year. Every Friday, each child takes home a bag of single-serve, non-

perishable, kid-friendly foods that can be easily prepared and last until the child returns to school the next week. The program is run entirely

by volunteers and takes anonymous referrals directly from local schools.



**Members Assembled 100 boxes of school supplies  
for local Parents as Teachers affiliates.**



**Parents as Teachers®**

**Members will meet to assemble school supplies after our noon meeting at Taytro's**

**DATE:** Sept. 2, 2021

**TIME:** 1:30 pm

**PLACE:** Poppy's Parlor

## **Childhood Cancer**

**Our club is currently following three children in their cancer journey. We support the families financially with gift cards for gas/food and occasional gifts.**

## **JOI CLUB**

**Please gather your team and  
join us to help  
support suicide prevention.**



# 3rd 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**



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 @ JO163028.

\*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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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**

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.**

## CLUB FUNDRAISERS

### Fundraising Goes Virtual

**BAD NEWS** We had to cancel our spring trivia contest and recently cancelled fall mouse races.

**GOOD NEWS** We were able to hold three social media raffles, earning the club a total of \$5210. Thank you to all the members who donated scratch off tickets, liquor, and gift cards. Special thanks to everyone who purchased raffle chances.

Check our Facebook page in October, November, and December for more raffles. You can click on the Facebook logo at bottom of page for link or enter:  
<https://www.facebook.com/twincityoptimistclub>

**Congratulations to our winners**



Tyler Waddell won the April scratch off ticket raffle.



Phyllis Neff won the liquor raffle in May.



Ellie and Jack King won the June restaurant gift cards raffle.

CRAVER COMMUNITY NIGHT

WHITE CASTLE WILL  
DONATE 15% OF YOUR PURCHASE TO:

**This fundraiser earned \$255.71**

**July 22, 2021  
fundraiser earned  
our club over  
\$255.**

Please

**support  
next  
fundraiser  
on  
September  
30, 2021.**

## CRAVER COMMUNITY NIGHT

Support: Twin City Area Optimist Club  
Castle Address: 1905 Richardson Rd., Arnold  
Date: 09/30/2021 Time: 5:00 pm-8:00 pm

**WHITE CASTLE WILL**

**DONATE 15% OF YOUR PURCHASE TO:**



**Twin City Area  
Optimist Club**



## In Time for the Holidays

Contact Fundraiser Chair

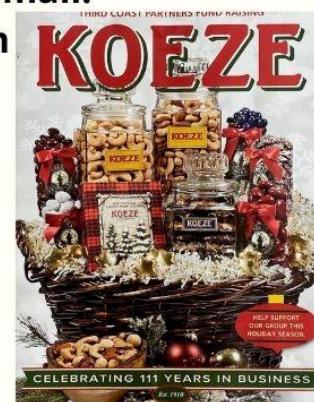
Patty Meyer to receive  
catalog and place order.

Call/text 314 313 7744 or email:

[patty342001@aol.com](mailto:patty342001@aol.com)

**Order deadline: Nov. 18th**

**10% discount  
off catalog  
prices**



Our in person fundraisers have all been cancelled for this year.  
Please consider purchasing KOEZE nuts as holiday gifts for  
family, friends, client gifts, or indulge yourself with these  
outstanding products. Thank you for your support.

**N.O.W.**

# New Optimist Welcome



*Our club welcomed seven new members in August: Anita Bieberly, Karleh Brauch, Vickie Campbell, Lisa Casey-Rush, Katy Rose Lewis, Cheyenne Pratt, and Kathy Todd. We welcomed Ruth Ann Adams in early September.*

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## Club



## Representatives attend District Convention



**Club members Mary Hatfield, Jean Naeger, Gerty O'Leary, Barb Schmidt, and Phyllis Neff**

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# Twin City Area Optimist Art Contest

Date: Sunday November 14, 2021

Time: TBD

Place: Elks Lodge

4 Elks Dr. , Festus, MO



The art contest is an annual event, showcasing the talents of southern Jefferson County students. The artwork these students present is amazing. Check our Facebook page in the next few weeks for more details.

Thank you to all our 2021 sponsors. We could not continue to serve the youth of our community without your support. Your contributions allow us to expand our outreach to the community.

THANK YOU TO OUR

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\$2000



THANK YOU TO OUR  
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THANK YOU TO OUR GOLD SPONSORS  
\$500



## DAN GIELOW WEALTH ADVISOR

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## Twin City Toyota



## Carol and Harold Hagan



**HOVIS**  
**& ASSOCIATES**  
*Medicare Consulting • Financial Services*



**Xi Theta Pi  
Hillsboro Chapter of  
Beta Sigma Phi**



**Colby Portell**  
Financial Advisor

232 Main Street  
Festus, MO 63028  
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[colby.portell@edwardjones.com](mailto:colby.portell@edwardjones.com)  
[www.edwardjones.com/colby-portell](http://www.edwardjones.com/colby-portell)

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The Optical Shop  
Edward Spiker, ABOC

223 Main Street  
Festus, MO 63028

636-937-2399



**Sandy Vest,**  
**Agent**



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Members continue to meet  
every Thursday from  
Noon - 1 p.m. at Taytro's. The  
last Thursday of the month is  
an evening meeting TBD.

Our Club will continue looking  
at the sunny side of everything  
and being committed to  
bringing out the best in our area  
youth.





Visit our website

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