



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

February 2025 News Making a Difference For Kids

President Cathy Elliott



As we reach the halfway point in February, our fundraising efforts are proving to be a success! If you attended our first Wine Tasting Dinner event, you know firsthand what a wonderful evening it was—great atmosphere, perfect music, and incredible generosity. Thanks to Barb Schmidt and her dedicated committees, we raised a significant amount of donations to support our many projects!

Our sponsors continue to show their support, contributing once again to both our ongoing and upcoming initiatives.

On February 13, we hosted a NOW event to introduce people to the Optimist Club. We were thrilled to welcome 10 enthusiastic attendees! Thanks to the efforts of Mary Hatfield, Amy Baum, and the decoration committee, the program was a great success, and applications are already coming in for new members.

One of the greatest strengths of the Twin City Area Optimists is the fellowship we share, working together, growing together, and making a lasting impact on our youth, community, and ourselves.

Thank you for your continued support!

Cathy Elliott
President, Twin City Area Optimist Club

Winter Weather



Just a reminder to all club members that if the Festus School closes due to inclement weather, we will not have a meeting.

February 6, 2025 Swap Meet / Board Update / Optimist Day



Optimists attending the February 6 meeting were met at the door by Marian Bozak and asked to pick a number corresponding to a table. This table swap provided a nice chance to visit with fellow members whom we rarely get to talk to.

After the board updates, Marian had a few games up her sleeves which filled the room with laughter and cheers!

- One Optimist from each table competed to see who could unroll crepe paper the fastest.
- A different volunteer at each table attempted to unwrap Hershey Kisses while wearing work gloves.
- The final volunteer used chopsticks to move small marshmallows from one bowl to another.

The games were a rousing success and a great way to celebrate Optimist Day! The meeting ended with a group photo to commemorate the day.



Sarah Bauman won as the fastest at unwrapping crepe paper!



Debbie Kettler was focused on unwrapping those chocolate kisses!



Kim Elbl encouraged Sue Joggerst!



JoAnn Thompson cheered Shirley Coile on!

Board Updates

The Leader and the Twin City Chamber of Commerce are partnering in a new Community Guide and Member Directory Magazine that will be distributed this March. Five Thousand copies will be distributed to Chamber members, new residents, prospective businesses and visitors to the Twin City Area. The board voted to take out a 1/3-page ad as another way to keep our presence known in the community.

Since our club is a member of the Twin City Chamber of Commerce, Cathy Elliott suggested that an Optimist should be present at those meetings. A sign-up sheet will go around to volunteer to attend a meeting. The monthly meetings vary from breakfast to lunch. The Optimist who attends will be able to announce Chamber upcoming events and programs, as well as network with other local organizations.

The board voted to pay \$50 per month to the First United Methodist Church to use the facility for our evening meetings. The January evening meeting was the first held at the church and had a higher than usual attendance.

Holy Moly's are for sale at the meetings by Kathy Todd. They are \$5.00 each and one of our fundraisers.

Patty Meyer has received quite a few entries for the Visual Arts Contest.

Katie Huck announced that to date we have received \$13,350 in sponsorships in just a few weeks!

Dine to Donate events:

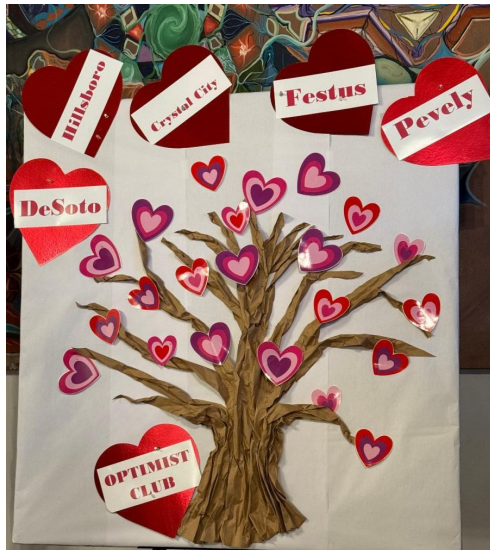
- The Kettlehut Dine to Donate profit was \$145.

- The next Dine to Donate will be Tuesday, March 11 at Culvers. Volunteers will be needed to work the event from 5-8 pm. A sign-up sheet will be passed around.
- The April Dine to Donate will be April 22 and April 29 at Texas Roadhouse. Instead of working the event we will solicit people to go to Texas Roadhouse. Customers must present a paper flyer or an electronic copy to their server from 3-10 pm and our club will get 10% profit.

Phyllis Neff reminded everyone that the Optimist International Convention will be June 29 – July 3 at Union Station in St. Louis.

Submitted by: Cathy Elliott and Carolyn McKinney

February 13, 2025 New Optimists Welcome (NOW)



We had a nice-sized group for our New Optimists Welcome gathering on February 13! Nine potential Optimist members were present. Co-chair Amy Baum created the lovely visionary Heart of Optimism tree poster on which members pinned photos of the club's projects to the tree's branches. Several club members spoke to the group from their heart, describing some of their favorite service projects and why they were so special and meaningful to them.

Katie Huck talked about the bike helmet program, which not only provides children a free bike helmet, but also gives the children confidence for bike riding. Marion Bozak spoke about delivering dictionaries to third graders, including her granddaughter. Beth Watts and Patty Meyer described how the Art Contest allows budding artists to shine. Donna Long explained that over 400 coats have been given to children all over southern Jefferson County. Mary Hatfield said she knew she had made the right decision to join the Optimist Club when she attended her first Christmas party for children in Head Start programs. At this party, a small boy was overjoyed to have his own tooth brush that did not have to

be shared with others in his family. Phyllis Neff spoke regarding our upcoming Oratorical Contest which provides youth with skills to use throughout life.

Just as the tree branches out, so do the far-reaching impacts of our service projects, creating a legacy of positive change. These programs reflect our vision that aims to create transformative effects within our greater community. The testimonials shared by the members at the meeting revealed that as Optimist members we receive as much as we give.

Additionally, with the help of Ruth Ann Adams and the party committee, our NOW meeting had a true Valentine's Day flair. Not only were the centerpieces lovely, but they, too, reflected our many service projects.

Submitted by: Mary Hatfield



Katie Huck modeled a bike helmet while explaining the helmet program and events.

Donna Long talked about how Coats for Kids touches her heart.



Phyllis Neff enthusiastically described the Oratorical contest.



Chair Mary Hatfield and Co-chair Amy Baum with the Heart of Optimist Tree after the speakers added photos.



Beth Watts and Patty Meyer described the art contest and reactions they've seen from kids with art on display.

February 20, 2025

Cancelled due to weather!



February 27, 2025

Chili Cookoff and Brenden's Backpack Event

Delicious food and lots of fun conversation was had at the February 27 evening meeting at the First United Methodist Church, the site of our first-ever Chili Cookoff. Beth Winkeler organized the event that included seven different chili recipes and all the fix'ins. Entering the contest were Optimists Marian Bozak, Alicia Cummiskey, Mary Hatfield, Nicki Russell, Barb Schmidt, Kathy Todd, and Beth Winkeler, herself. The judge's final decision....WINNER...Beth Winkeler! That's right! Beth had the honor of awarding herself the trophy for best chili. Let's see who is ready to challenge her next year!

The second half of the meeting was dedicated to packing baggies of snacks for Brenden's Friday Backpacks. As Optimists we know "many hands make light work". We continue to show our support for this organization and the work they do to address food insecurity in the youth of our community by packing baggies with snacks as well as hosting food drives. We hope by doing so we offer a small respite for BB volunteers who work year-round to supply/deliver these snacks. Optimist Kirstie Zych has been a BB volunteer for six years, packing bags every Tuesday. Along with Marian Bozak, they organized our participation at this evening meeting. Over 900 snack packs were assembled in 30 minutes. These snack bags will serve over 1800 kids in Jefferson County.

Thank you to all who donated snack items.

Submitted by: Sue Joggerst





Packing snack bags for Brenden's Friday Backpacks.



CLUB PROJECTS

Jefferson College Foundation Scholarship Luncheon

On February 6, four Twin City Area Optimists Sue Boyer, Caryl Harness, Alicia Cummiskey and Beth Watts attended the annual Jefferson College Foundation scholarship luncheon. They were thrilled to meet this year's recipient of the Twin

City Area Optimist Club scholarship, Erin Collins. Erin was very appreciative of the financial aid we provided; she plans to continue her education next year at Missouri Baptist University. Our club has sponsored scholarships at Jefferson College since 1998, and since its inception have awarded over \$60,000 to Jefferson County students identified by the Financial Aid office as students with financial need.

Submitted by: Beth Watts



Sue Boyer, Caryl Harness, recipient Erin Collins, Alicia Cummiskey and Beth Watts

Optimist International Visual Arts Contest

This was the Twin City Area Optimists first year participating in the Optimist International Visual Arts Contest and it was a huge success! The visual arts contest is an annual competition open to children eleven years old and younger using this year's theme **Bringing Out the Best**. The outcome of the competition will be the creation of a set of 12 notecards and envelopes featuring the art of the 13 final art contest winners.

The Twin City Area judges had a difficult job choosing the winners from the 34 entries submitted. The winner of the 0–7-year-olds was Leo Becker (grandson of Carroll Metzger). The winner of the 8-11-year-olds was Ellie Moonier from Festus Intermediate. Each winner was awarded \$50 and their artwork forwarded to Optimist International to compete with other Optimist Clubs' visual arts contest winners.

There will be 13 winners selected by OI with one image featured on the cover of the notecards and one image selected for each notecard. The winner of the cover will receive \$250 and the other 12 winners each will be awarded \$150.

Congratulations to our talented young artists, Leo Becker and Ellie Moonier.



Jean Naeger and Patty Meyer with Leo Becker.



Leo's winning picture



Jean Naeger and Patty Meyer with Ellie Moonier.



Ellie's winning picture.

CLUB FUNDRAISERS

February 8, 2025 Wine Tasting Fundraiser

The Dinner, Wine Tasting, and Auction event, a new fundraiser for our club, was held February 8 at the Oak Valley Golf Course & Resort in Pevely. Everyone enjoyed the evening which included a delicious dinner provided by Andre's, tables decorated with a Valentine's theme and music by Monte DeClue. Forty-six silent auction baskets with a wide variety of themes were available for bidding. There also was a live auction for nine items ranging from a Condo stay at the Lake of the Ozarks to a Stan Musial baseball jersey. In addition to the auctions, attendees were able to purchase chances for a beautiful quilt and several hundred dollars' worth



of yard tools.

The four wine vendors who set up for wine tastings were The Terrace at French Village, LaChance Vineyards, Wild Sun Winery and Mike Ward, a certified sommelier. The vendors presented a wonderful selection of wines including a mix of whites, reds and sparkling varieties. Attendees were able to purchase bottles of their favorites.

Peggy Scott served as our lovely emcee and live auctioneer. She did a wonderful job of moving the bidding along as well as sharing the Optimist mission with our guests.

This was a very successful event for the club resulting in a profit of \$9,668.30 which included a \$1,500 grant. Congratulations to Barb Schmidt and the organizing committee as well as everyone that donated auction items or worked at the event!

Committee Chair: Barb Schmidt

Members: Mickie Huskey, Phyllis Neff, Beth Watts, Kathy Todd, Betty McCraith, Carol Schanz, Betty Hardin, Janice Boyd, Mary Kay Scott, and Patty Meyer

Submitted by: Barb Schmidt



Beth Watts, Caryl Harness, Mary Kay Scott, and Sue Boyer worked at the check in table.



Gerty O'Leary with her husband.





Debbie Schumaker with MC Peggy Scott

Ruth Ann Adams, Kathy Jensen, and Becky Capps toasting the event.



Barb Schmidt checked in with Alicia Cummiskey selling chances for the yard tools



Silent and Live auction items



Pat Parsons had a turn at selling chances for the yard tools.



Cathy Elliott sampled wine with her daughter.



Kathy Todd sold raffle tickets for the beautiful quilt on display.



Katie Huck chatted with her neighbor and Judy Kuhlmann.

Betty Hardin prepared 50/50 tickets for the drawing.



Judy Williams made the rounds with her friend.

BUNCO! BUNCO! BUNCO!

TCA Optimists gathered at Herrell's Distributing on February 21 for an evening of fun, food, and Bunco! Carol Schanz generously hosted the event and attendees brought a variety of delicious food and dessert items to share.

Many of the top prizes required roll-offs due to ties, but at the end of the night, Patty Meyer was awarded the most rounds won with 12. Dorothea Kehm came in second with 11 rounds won, and non-member Nancy Soaib was third with 10. Debbie Kettler graciously accepted the prize for the most rounds lost. The most

Buncos rolled for the evening was won by non-member Cindy White with 4. Finally, Pat Sweet took home the 50/50 pot.

Congratulations to all winners and thank you to Carol for hosting again!

Submitted by: Carolyn McKinney



The winners and loser for the night: Debbie Kettler, Nancy Soaib, Dorothea Kehm, Patty Meyer, and Cindy White.



Carol Schanz and granddaughter Karleh Brauch



Pat Sweet with her 50/50 winnings.

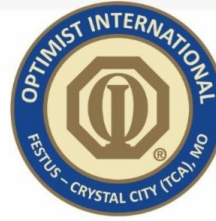
Downtime between rounds.



Please Note: Both dining out fundraisers will include 10% of sales from gift cards. Stop in and dine and purchase gift cards for future dining. The gift that keeps on giving!



SHARE NIGHT



DATE: Tuesday March 11, 2025
TIME: 5-8 pm
PLACE: 200 S. Truman Blvd,
Crystal City

10% OF SALES BENEFIT
Twin City Area Optimist Club
Youth Projects

**THANK
YOU**

Dine in or drive thru



636-330-0512

**1351 SHAPIRO DRIVE
FESTUS, MO**

FUNDRAISING

DINE-IN OR TO-GO

»» *Support* ««

**TWIN CITY OPTIMIST CLUB
ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 22ND & 29TH
3-10**



10%

DONATION NIGHT

Support the Twin City Optimist Club by presenting this flyer to the Festus, MO location and Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of your total food purchases to them!

TCA OPTIMISTS IN THE WILD

Several Twin City Area Optimists attended the 29th Annual Black History Luncheon on February 22. The luncheon was presented by The Cultural Diversity Committee of Jefferson County. A highlight for the Optimists in attendance was our own Florence Borman being presented the "Unsung Hero Award" for her mission work and efforts to help the unhoused in our area.

Congratulations, Florence!

Submitted by: Becky Francis



Florence Borman with Mike Kinder Jr after being presented the Unsung Hero Award.

Photo by Patty Meyer



Becky Capps, Becky Francis, Tracy Johnson, and Carroll Metzger at the luncheon. Optimists also in attendance but not pictured: Florence Borman, Paige Laiben, Patty Meyer, Nikki Ruess, and Carolyn McKinney.

New Marketing Brochure

The revised tri-fold marketing brochure is now available. This document provides basic information about the projects and services we provide to the community. It will be used for new member packets, sponsorship campaigns, and available at club public events. This is a great way to spread the word about our club. Members can request copies from Marketing Chair Jean Naeger.

SERVICE



BICYCLE SAFETY

Optimists gave away and properly fitted hundreds of bicycle helmets as part of the club's new and growing bicycle safety project.

Optimists partner with community organizations to serve children

- Jefferson College: Scholarships
- Aunt Rose Project: Serving period poverty
- Second Hand Heroes: Providing items and support
- Atlas Youth Outreach: Therapy for local teens
- Foster Together: Supporting foster families
- Spotlight Community Theatre: Encouraging the arts
- Helping Hands and Horses: Equestrian therapy

SPONSORSHIPS | 2025

Help us help the kids

We rely on the generosity of our community to support the Twin City Area Optimist Club's work in the community. Help us help the kids by sponsoring our club. For more information, please contact Jean Naeger, marketing chair, at 314-495-2822.

Platinum Sponsor: \$1,000 or more

- Greater visibility at club events
- Includes photo/logo of you or your business
- Announced on our public Facebook page
- Included on our website
- Recognized at public events

Gold Sponsor: \$500-\$999

- Includes photo/logo of you or your business
- Announced on our public Facebook page
- Included on our website
- Recognized at public events

Silver Sponsor: \$250-\$499

- Includes business logo
- Announced on our public Facebook page
- Included on our website
- Recognized at public events

Bronze Sponsor: \$100-\$249

- Announced on our public Facebook page
- Included on our website
- Recognized at public events

New for 2025: Donations are tax deductible

Make tax-deductible checks payable to: The Foundation of the Twin City Optimist Club, separately incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Please mail to P.O. Box 13, Festus, MO 63028.



Twin City Area Optimist Club

Bringing out the best in youth

Choose Optimism

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves. Join the Twin City Area Optimist Club, a service club supporting southern Jefferson County, and make a difference today.



COATS FOR KIDS

Coats for Kids is the club's largest project and has been operating for more than 30 years. Each year, up to 500 coats are given away. The project committee works with local school counselors to identify local children in need.

www.twincityoptimist.org
@twincityoptimistclub
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Festus, MO 63028



CELEBRATE



JUNIOR OPTIMIST CLUB

Children ages 11-18 are encouraged to join the Twin City Optimist's Junior Optimist Club. Above, members learn about careers while enjoying a craft project. The club elects officers, plans its own projects and gives members a chance to develop leadership skills, meet new people and have fun.



DICTIONARIES FOR THIRD GRADERS

Each year, every third grader in southern Jefferson County receives their very own dictionary. In an age of electronics, the children love getting the books and learning new skills.

JUNIOR GOLF

One of junior golf's most prestigious events, the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, starts with a local qualifying tournament supported by the Twin City Area club.



COLLECTING FOR OTHERS

Club members organize food drives and other collections throughout the years to serve members of the community. Above, a truckload of food was gathered for Brenden's Friday Backpacks, a community organization providing food to children in need.

OPTIMIST CLUB MEMBERS RECEIVE AS MUCH AS THEY GIVE

- The fellowship of proactive people with optimistic mindsets
- New social and working relationships with individuals from a cross section of our communities
- The opportunity to develop and demonstrate leadership skills locally, regionally, nationally and internationally
- The satisfaction of making a difference in our communities

Whether you are searching for an outlet to help your community, personal development, or rewarding camaraderie, you'll find what you're looking for in your local Optimist Club.



YOUTH APPRECIATION

Bringing out the best in youth includes honoring local students for their achievements at the annual Youth Appreciation luncheon.



RESPECT FOR LAW

As part of the Optimist International organization, the Twin City Optimists take part in a project held around the world to honor law enforcement officers each year.

WHAT TO EXPECT IF YOU JOIN US

The Twin City Area Optimist Club includes people who want to help youth and the community. Members join to serve others and to promote Optimism as a way of life. Visit a meeting as a guest to see if Optimism is for you. Join and you will be invited to participate in projects you care about alongside people who want to make a difference.

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www.twincityoptimist.org

EAST MISSOURI (EMO) OPTIMIST DISTRICT



Eleven TCA members attended the Second Quarter Conference in Washington, Missouri, on Saturday, February 22. Pictured front row, Sue Joggerst, Katie Huck, EMO Governor Jean Naeger, Peggy Scott. Second row Barb Schmidt, TCA President Cathy Elliott, Ruth Ann Adams, TCA Secretary Kathy Todd. Third Row Mary Hatfield, Beth Watts, and EMO Secretary/Treasurer Pat Parsons.

Not pictured, Phyllis Neff, who attended the Columbia conference. In addition, Sue Boyer and Caryl Harness joined the conference via Zoom



First Timer Sue Joggerst with EMO Governor Jean Naeger and fellow first timer Mary Standish from Wentzville-St. Louis Club

Conference attendees heard from Optimist International Membership Engagement

A group of people are gathered in a room with a drop ceiling and fluorescent lights. On the left, a woman in a dark blue jacket and maroon pants is gesturing with her right hand towards a group of people. The group consists of several individuals, some wearing blue shirts with a logo, and others in casual attire. In the background, there is a whiteboard, a table with various items on it, and a doorway. The room appears to be a meeting or presentation space.

SUPER ZONES

2ND QUARTER EMO CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 22, 2025
10 AM-2 PM

Pick a location to attend in person:

Zone 1 - Columbia
Columbia Downtown Clubhouse,
1201 Grand Ave Columbia, MO.

Zones 2-3-4 Washington
Washington Library,
410 Lafayette St., Washington, MO

Zone 5 - Cape Girardeau
Hanover Lutheran Church
2949 Perryville Rd. Cape Girardeau, MO

What to Expect

Learn ways to engage, retain,
and grow your membership.

"Ten Ways to Market Your Club"
through social media.

Awards, updates,
inspiration, AND MORE.

Guests by Zoom

International President

Jan Oord Graves

Middle America Vice President

Sandra Doyle

International Membership Engagement Chair

Michael Shue

International Marketing Chair

Lorin Richter

To register for second quarter conference,
use your phone's camera to scan the QR code
Or visit:

<https://givebutter.com/EMO2ndQtrReg> (service charge applied)

In person registration \$20/person



SAVE THE DATE



Nov. 8-9, 2024 EMO First Quarter Conference
K.C. Hall, Jackson, MO

Feb 22, 2025 EMO 2nd Quarter Conference
Super Zone Conference
Zone 1 - Columbia, MO
Zones 2-3-4 Washington, MO
Zone 5 -Cape Girardeau, MO

May 2-3, 2025 EMO 3rd Quarter Conference
Hilton St. Louis Airport - St. Louis, MO

June 30-July 3, 2025
St. Louis Union Station - St. Louis, MO

JOI Club February 11, 2025

The February 11 meeting of the JOI Club was held at the Herculaneum Fire Department. The club attendees were KK and Oscar Blair and Jasmine Stout. Guests were parents and Optimist Katie Huck.

We arrived at the fire house at 6 pm and fire fighter Cody Nengel gave us a comprehensive tour of the fire department which took two hours! We were shown how cameras monitor the highway 24/7, how calls were dispatched, and the training room used by the fire fighters. Lastly, we toured the fire engines.

The fire department is manned by only one fire fighter per 48-hour shift! That person monitors calls and goes out on calls on their own. If deemed necessary, he calls for the back-up of department volunteer fire fighters, or if needed, other area fire houses. The person on duty has a million-dollar smart pumper which enables him to fight a fire with a tablet. The pumper truck holds 750 gallons of water which can be emptied in seven minutes when fighting a fire.

A big thank you to Cody Nengel for providing a very informative tour for our JOI Club members.

Our next meeting will be held at the Festus Police Department.

(Pictured from bottom to top: Jasmine Stout, KK Blair, Oscar Blair)



Submitted by: Debbie Schumaker, Student Advisor

Debbie Schumaker
JOI Adult Advisor

Carol Schanz
JOI Chair



SAVE THE DATES



Note upcoming events. To assist with projects, please contact Committee Chair.

March 4 Board meeting - hostess Mary Hatfield
March 6 Mardi Gras party
March 10 Nominating Committee
March 11 Dine to Donate - Culvers Share Night
March 22 Oratorical Contest
March 28 Leader's 2nd Annual Celebrating Women
April 8 Board meeting - hostess Amy Baum
April 10 Youth Appreciation Lunch
April 17 Spring Fling party
April 22 Dine to Donate - Texas Roadhouse
April 29 Dine to Donate - Texas Roadhouse
May 1 Oratorical and Essay Lunch
May 2-3 EMO 3rd Quarter Conference
May 6 Board meeting - hostess Carroll Metzger
May 22 Respect for Law Lunch

Board of
Directors
2024-2025

President
Cathy Elliott
573 883 0924

President Elect
Debbie
Hogenmiller



Members meet every Thursday from Noon - 1 p.m. at Taytro's. Please RSVP by 8:00 a.m. on Monday by contacting Kathy Todd.

The last Thursday of the month is an evening meeting held at Poppy's Parlor. Meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to order food, please contact Phyllis Neff on Monday prior to meeting.

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

Past President
Peggy Scott

Secretary
Kathy Todd

Secretary Elect
Sandy Barnes

Treasurer
Becky Francis

Treasurer Elect
Becky Capps

Board Members

2024-2026
Amy Baum
Beth Watts
Kirstie Zych

2025-2027
Mary McDowell
Debbie Kettler
Carolyn
McKinney



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Visit our website



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