

Central Fairfax Optimist

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities, and ourselves.



May 2023

<https://fairfaxoptimist.org>

“Just 3 Things”

Central Fairfax Optimist Club P.O. Box 1271 Fairfax City, VA 22038 Email us at fairfaxoptimists@gmail.com Board meeting 2nd Tuesday each month at the VFW 8469 5703 Vogue Road 730P.M. and Club dinner meetings April-July on 4th Wednesday @ Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd.



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Ryan Wins CAPVA District Oratorical Competition!!

Ryan Augustine won first place and Elaina placed second place at the Zone Oratorical Contest. Ryan then placed first at the Capital Virginia District Oratorical Contest held on May 6th in Glen Allen, VA and won a \$2,500 scholarship!

Both he and Elaina did very well and have made us very proud. Ryan now goes on to the regionals and then hopefully to St Louis for the World contest.



Pictured right: the Zone 4 Oratorical Contest participants from Arlington, Central Fairfax, and Washington National Capital Optimist Clubs.



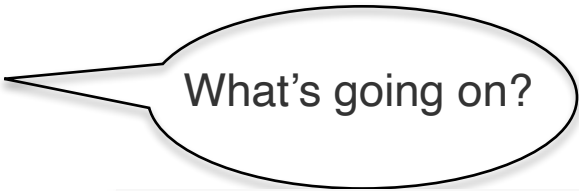
Hot News

We have new people joining our club, but we still need more! Use the newsletter and club website to spark interest in people who might want to help with our activities and join.

Also, don't miss this opportunity to experience the fun, camaraderie, and great training at the Optimist International Convention.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

	Page
Coming Attractions	2
Birthdays/Anniversaries	2
Club News	3
District News	10
Fun Stuff	11
Optimist Creed, Mission, Vision, Purposes and significant sponsors	12



MAY

- 3**— Inter-Service Club Council 12-1 pm @ the Vienna Moose Lodge, 3529 Chain Bridge Rd. Fairfax
- 6**— CAPVA District meeting and Oratorical Contest
- 9** — Club Board meeting 7:30 pm @ VFW 8469, 5703 Vogue Road, Fairfax Station
- 20**— Club Officer Elect Report Due to OI
- 21**— Horizon Day Camp Walkathon @ National Harbor
- 24**— Club dinner meeting 7pm for social time; dinner served at 7:30 @ Elks Lodge 8421 Arlington Blvd. Fairfax
Limburg Scholarship Winner

JUNE

- 1**— Respect for Law: Safety Patrol Laurel Ridge Elementary 9:15am outside behind the school
- 2**— Mountain View Awards Ceremony
- 3**— Inter-Service Club Council 12-1 pm @ the Moose Club 3529 Chain Bridge Rd. Fairfax
- 9** — Respect for Law: Safety Patrol Oak View Elementary
- 13** — Club Board meeting 7:30 pm @ VFW 8469, 5703 Vogue Road, Fairfax Station
- 24**— Club dinner meeting 7pm for social time; dinner served at 7:30 @ Elks Lodge 8421 Arlington Blvd. Fairfax

JULY

- 2-5 July**— Optimist International Convention @ Hyatt Regency Crystal City
- 4** — Fairfax City July 4th parade
- 11** — Club Board meeting 7:30 pm @ VFW 8469, 5703 Vogue Road, Fairfax Station
- 26**— Club Pot Luck picnic 7pm for social time; dinner served at 7:30 @ VFW 8469, 5703 Vogue Road, Fairfax Station
- 28**— Fairfax City Rock the Block fundraiser

BIRTHDAYS

MAY

- 11th Bruce Lauther
- 25th Bob Evans
- 30th Maxwell Osei Anokye

JUNE

- 2nd Fred Kaiser
- 13th Sharon DeBragga

JULY

- 17th Peter Conklin
- 25th Jeff Johnson
- 26th Brooke Johnson
- 31st Diana Dawa

ANNIVERSARIES

MAY

- 23rd Claudia and Giovanni Morcelo

JUNE

None this month. Let's recruit someone!!

JULY

- 2nd Dave and Jo Ann Gundry
- 5th Bob and Carol Devery
- 10th Susan and Edward Bond
- 30th Fred and Marty Kaiser

FINANCE SUMMARY

(5/8/23)

- Operating Account \$1,624.09
- Community Service \$2,765.73
- Youth Fund (3/31/2023) \$4,020.67



Club News

Limburg Scholarship Winner - 2023 by Kim Moden

Every May, our club looks forward to announcing the Cecil and Florene Limburg Scholarship winner. The scholarship was begun in 2002, and is named for two founding members who contributed so much to our club and loved supporting the youth of our community. Our club does the fundraising for this \$1000 scholarship. Each applicant must be a graduating senior and is evaluated on the basis of their academic achievement, extracurricular activities and community service, their written essay describing their personal and professional goals, and the interview.

How rewarding it is to be on the Scholarship Committee and have the opportunity to meet the outstanding young people applying for this scholarship. Thank you so much to Michele Hanson and Toni Donovan who gave of their time and talents and joined me as judges on the committee.

This year 8 graduating seniors applied for the scholarship: 2 from Robinson, 2 from Fairfax High School, and 4 from Lake Braddock. The Committee had the great experience of reviewing the applications of these incredible young people. But we all agreed that the highlight for us was meeting and speaking with the students—and through their interviews, learning of their future plans, and each senior's desire to make the world a better place.

Every year it is such a difficult decision to choose just one student as the winner. Each student who applied had achieved academically and had an extraordinary sense of community service. They all exhibited potential for future success in their lives. We were especially impressed with our winner, Brandon Buchanan. After judging his application and particularly after speaking to him in the interview, the judges agreed that he was our first place selection.

Brandon will be graduating from Fairfax High School, with a 4.331 GPA, and will be attending William and Mary in the fall. He is focused on a career in education administration, and creating an environment where students can thrive.

In applying for the scholarship, Brandon had to submit an essay describing his personal and professional goals and how he intended to achieve those goals. In his essay and in the interview, he demonstrated an incredible drive and dedication to his future goals, and a passion for helping others and improving himself. Read his essay in this newsletter and you will understand why our judges selected Brandon Buchanan as the 2023 Limburg Scholarship winner.





Club News (continued)

Limburg Scholarship Winner - 2023 Brandon Buchanan

I am a student and a teacher, never just one or the other. Each role refined my skills in both. I am always looking for ways to improve education; my experience in school has exposed so much possibility for change, and outside of school, I've found opportunities to enact it. I have been working as an instructor at Mathnasium, a tutoring center designed to create engaging lessons tailored to students' strengths. I started attending as a student eight years ago, and ever since then aspired to work there someday. I wanted to give back to the center that fostered my love for problem-solving and pedagogy. At the start of my eleventh grade, my tutor-turned-boss nurtured my potential and employed me; I became the center's youngest instructor. I see my job there as a way of giving back to him and the center that shaped me into the person I am today: a teacher in every sense of the word.



The Buchanan Family: Brad, Brandon, Lyndee and Lauryn

I gained a greater appreciation of how hard teachers work to connect and motivate their students, especially during the lockdown. I've learned to create a more inclusive environment by adapting to my students' different learning styles and personalities. I scaffold new information upon students' prior knowledge, an invaluable asset to bolster my learning. While I only spend an hour with each student, I am empowered to create fun, pleasant moments to build their confidence in math. I encourage my students to persevere, so they can share that incredible feeling of accomplishment that comes from persistence, something that I experienced at Mathnasium.

Working with a much larger group in MUN, I took the initiative to create a seven-week training program to strengthen the writing and presentation skills of the delegates. Then, I planned, coordinated, and executed a mock conference so they could practice. The success of the mock conference showed me that I was able to foster a group that can confidently rely on each other for support. I achieved my goal of making myself obsolete.

Now at the climax of my high school career, I have completed a year-long research project seeking to understand the psychological and social implications of academic stratification. By investigating how gifted education programs influence peer interactions, I am looking to bolster the same databases that policymakers use to make informed decisions. Tapping my peers to build out my sample size and networking with expert advisors sparked my curiosity in education administration which I intend to pursue in college onward.

Through both Mathnasium and MUN, I redefined teaching entirely; it's not just consolidating information into a presentable format or trading my sleep to plan a mock conference, it's also an exercise in community building and allowing others to shine. Through research, I realized that I have the power and the resources to make a change in my community. I want to continue to leverage my teaching and my research skills to lead others and create an environment where everyone can thrive



District News

Ryan Augustine Tops District Oratorical Contest by Dave Griffiths

For those not in attendance at this year's District Oratorical Contest you missed an opportunity to experience firsthand six young future leaders shine demonstrating their public speaking skills. This year's contestants were sponsored Optimist Clubs of Manassas, Great Falls, Central Fairfax and Lake Gaston. The topic for this year's orientation was "Discovering the Optimism within me". I want to issue a special thank you to our judges from the Fedmasters Toastmasters Club of Richmond and our Optimist volunteers who without them this contest could not have occurred: Pat Steininger, Governor Scott Poitras, Past-Governor Tom Shearer and Liz Griffiths.

This year's winners are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 st Place - \$2500 Scholarship - | Ryan Augustine - Optimist Club of Central Fairfax |
| 2 nd Place - \$1500 Scholarship - | Crystal Adeniji - Optimist Club of Manassas |
| 3 rd Place - \$1000 Scholarship - | Parker Williams - Optimist Club of Manassas |

Ryan Augustine will now continue on to compete in the Regional Contest of the World Oratorical Contest to be held at Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO. in July.

In the first picture attached you have this year's winners with Dave Griffiths.

L-R: Parker Williams, Crystal Adeniji, Ryan Augustine.

In the second picture you have group picture of all contestants.

Congratulations to all winners.





MAYbe you can do this Puzzle!

MAYbe you know someone who could be a future Optimist. **MAY**be new members can help with our activities and help fund the activities. **MAY**be you can volunteer to help at the Optimist International Convention. **MAY**be you can look at June's Calendar of Events and think of words to use in the next puzzle. **MAY**be your editor should get back to work on this!+

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Y U J T Y K L E J X Y N R S S
R M L E F E I C M X W M E E S
O M E L R H N R I I H A S L P
J B A D O Y M O A R M Y I C A
R G P R A E B F M C S B A Y C
Y A P Y I C W R P O R E R C E
R B V F S N A I N A E I D R F
C A E E B S E A C S H I N O O
N E I B T O C S Y T C B U T R
N I N E C I O N E G A Z F O C
D P A T R O L K I U E B M M E
Y S R E W O L F S A T M W D S
M J M N D R L A I R O M E M E
S A Y T E F A S K D E L F J C
G R A D U A T I O N C X H R M

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Print this page and circle the words or just go down the list and find them.

Words can go in any direction.
Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

ACADEMY
AMERICAN
BOOKS
FLAG
FUNDRAISER
MARINES
MEMORIAL
MOTORCYCLES
PATROL
SAFETY

AIRFORCE
ARMY
COASTGUARD
FLOWERS
GRADUATION
MAYBE
MONEY
NAVY
SPACEFORCE
TEACHERS

What words would you like to see in June's puzzle?
Send them to:
fairfaxoptimists@gmail.com



And in conclusion!!

The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself --

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Christian D. Larson

Mission

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

Vision

Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the premier volunteer organization that values all children and helps them develop to their full potential.

Purposes

1. To develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed;
2. to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs;
3. to inspire respect for the law;
4. to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people;
5. to aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.



Member FDIC

Thanks so much for your continued support!



Contact our own Bob Devery to plan your travel.
Thanks for your support Bob!
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Prestige Dental Specialists

Thanks so much for your support!

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