The Midday Messenger

June 19, 2026

Newsletter of the Davenport Noon Optimist Club

Club Luncheon Meetings

We gather at noon on Fridays to connect with members and guests, enjoy a delicious lunch, and hear from engaging speakers who share programs and initiatives shaping our local community. See our upcoming events.

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Location

River Center, North Building, Iowa/Illinois Rooms, 136 E 3rd St, Davenport, IA

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Board of Directors

Roland Lamantia
President

Brian Baxter
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Karen Roebuck
Second Vice President

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Paul Neuharth
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Treasurer

Pictured (L to R), Jimena Montes Rios, Sophia Matthis, Jim Matthis, Amella Moore, and Koltin Clark.

Scholarship Award Recipients Honored

– By Paul Neuharth

The Davenport Noon Optimist Club's **Promise Awards** recognize students who exemplify the values of the **Optimist Creed**. Each year, three students from each of Davenport's four high schools are selected to receive a $1,500 scholarship based on character, service to others, academic success, and plans to continue their education after high school.

At our Friday meeting, this year's award recipients and their parents joined us as luncheon guests for a celebration of the students' accomplishments. The club recognized the recipients for their character, service, academic success, and positive contributions to their schools and communities. Recipients were chosen by their school counselors and teachers, who recognized the meaningful impact these students have made in their classrooms, schools, and broader communities.

2026 Promise Award Recipients: Assumption High School: Koltin Clark, Amella Moore, and Beau Stevens; West High School: Haillie Traina, Alexis Cooper, and Sabina Hatari; North High School: Makenzie Stevenson, Eleanor Goodin, and Jimena Montes Rios; Central High School: Michah Roldan, Giana Shook, and Sophia Matthys.

The club also provides the **Ivory/Optimist Award Scholarship**, named for Fran Ivory, a longtime Davenport Noon Optimist member and former director of the Friendly House. This scholarship supports Davenport high school graduates who are continuing their education, with preference given to students who have a current or past connection to the Friendly House or the Davenport Noon Optimist Club. This year's Ivory/Optimist Scholarship recipient is Julia Reagan from Assumption High School who is related to the late Bill Reagan, longtime member of the QC Morning Optimist Club.

President's Perspective

Our fearless leader is on hiatus nowhere to be found! Check back next week to see if he makes a triumphant return and offers up some intellectual tidbits for your perusing pleasure.

Location Change

Remember, next week, our meeting will be hosted at **The Friendly House**, 1221 N Myrtle St, Davenport instead of the River Center due to a scheduling conflict. **Brian Monroe** is working on a speaker and lunch details. Watch for an email update from him with the specifics.

New Optimists Welcome

Know someone who shares your commitment to Optimism and making a positive impact on the youth in our community?

Most of us became Optimists because someone invited us to a meeting. A simple invitation can help others discover our club, our mission, and the positive impact we make together.

Make sure to invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family to join us as our guests next Friday for a delicious lunch and enlightening program.

Birthday Celebrations

We'd love to celebrate your special day! If you haven't already, please send your birthday month and day to Paul Neuharth (psnia@msn.com) so we can add a special birthday wish for you on our club calendar.

Recent Grant Awards Announced

At the June Board Meeting, the Board of Directors approved funding request grants to the following organizations:

Kids Business Childcare awarded $250 to fund their summer field trips and enrichment activities.

The Marching Avenir High Steppers Drill Team awarded $500 towards their supply of new uniforms.

Quad City Arts awarded $3,000 (budgeted grants) for their Chalk Art Fest and Metro Arts Youth Apprenticeship Programs.

Rocky Lions Publishing awarded $500 for their Young Lions Roar in school poetry program.

Royal Drama Dance Team awarded $500 towards their purchase of new uniforms.

Upcoming Events

June 21st
Wishing **Bernie Mack** a Happy Birthday!

June 23rd
Wishing a Happy Birthday to **Ramsey Blakey!**

June 26th
Club Luncheon | Meeting | **Off-Site** at **The Friendly House,** 1221 N Myrtle St, Davenport, IA

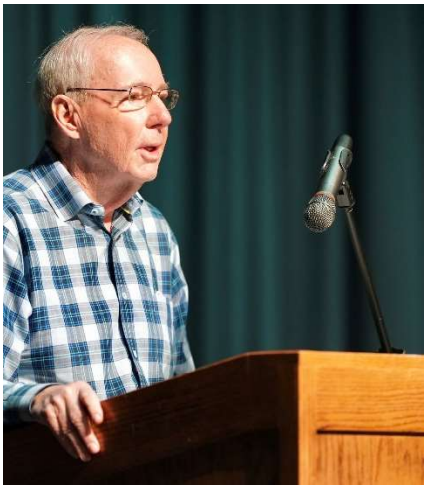
July 3rd
Independence Day (Observed) | **No Meeting Today**

July 4th
Independence Day | **Avenue of Flags** Delivery & Pickup

To see the **full calendar** of events, details, locations, and times visit Davenport Noon Optimist Club - HOME

Okay, all you procrastinating Optimists, now's the time to make your Birdies pledge. All pledges must be received **no later than July 1st** to be eligible for the bonus match fund. We need you to "chip in" and help us finish our Birdies campaign strong and help us to continue providing our Promise Award and Ivory/Optimist Scholarships each year!

Scan the **bar cod**e above, visit **www.birdiesforcharity.com**, or download the form/pledge from our website at **www.davenportnoonoptimists.com** to donate today!

Scholarship Awards

Jim Matthys, Foundation Scholarship Chair, graciously represents our club at the four Davenport High School's award ceremonies.