The Midday Messenger

August 28, 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
President-Elect

Mauricio Diaz
First Vice President

Karen Roebuck
Second Vice President

Tom Redington
Third Vice President

Joseph Obelton
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Paul Neuharth
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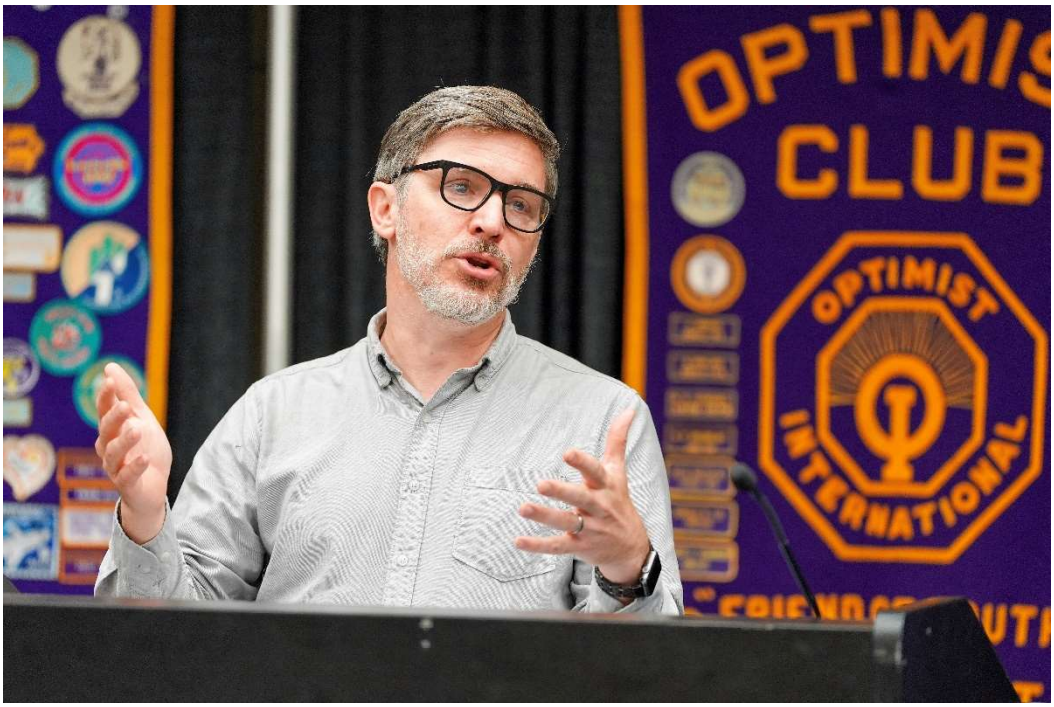
Treasurer



Pictured; Daniel Sheridan

Community Action of Eastern Iowa: Helping Families Build Lasting Stability

– By Paul Neuharth

Daniel Sheridan of Community Action of Eastern Iowa (CAEI) shared how the organization helps individuals and families overcome barriers to lasting self-sufficiency across eastern Iowa. Founded in 1965, CAEI is part of a nationwide network of local nonprofit agencies created to address poverty at the community level. The agency serves Scott, Clinton, Muscatine, and Cedar counties through programs that connect families with education, energy assistance, food, childcare resources, and long-term support.

Last fiscal year, the organization managed $17.2 million in federal and state grants. With 120 employees—55 of whom support Head Start and Early Head Start—CAEI keeps administrative costs at 5.6 percent, allowing the great majority of resources to reach people in the community.

Head Start remains central to the agency's work. Serving children from birth through preschool age, the program provides early learning along with family support such as health care connections, dental appointments, and help navigating community resources. By partnering with local school districts, the program can also offer extended hours for work-

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The President's Perspective

– By Roland Lamantia

Hello Fellow Noon Optimist Members,

Think back to when you joined the Davenport Noon Optimist Club. Did you join because you wanted to be a leader, the president, or a board member? Or did you join because you saw something in the club or its members that touched your heart and made you want to be a part of it? You wanted to make a difference.

A leader is someone who inspires, guides, and empowers a group of people to work together toward a common goal. Rather than just giving orders, a great leader builds trust, shares a clear vision, and helps others unlock their full potential to achieve results they could not reach alone.

Here are a few things I hope I achieved during my year of service: commitment to our mission of helping kids, setting clear goals, building trust through delegation, supporting your efforts, and saying thank you enough to show my true appreciation.

Bringing out the best in someone is not easy. It requires us to see potential, find the right people to achieve a goal, and honestly show appreciation for their efforts. I want to take this time to say thank you to each and every Davenport Noon Optimist Member for being part of our team.

Have a great day!

Roland K Lamantia
President

As we plan for the 2026–27 fiscal year, which starts October 1st, we're looking for members to fill important club leadership and support roles. Volunteering is a wonderful way to contribute, build connections, and learn more about the opportunities within our club. We need volunteers for:

Junior Golf Chair | Newsletter Support | Avenue of Flags Support | Christmas Tree Sales Support | Essay Contest Chair | Oratorical Contest Chair | Member Social Events Chairs | Tri-Star Sports Chairs | Support on any other club activity or event!

To volunteer or learn more, please contact **Brian Baxter** at btbaxt@gmail.com or 630-677-0332. Your time and support would be greatly appreciated!

Sept 3rd
Board Meeting | QC Symphony Orchestra | 327 N Brady St | Davenport

Sept 4th
Club Luncheon | **Business Meeting** | River Center

Sept 7th
Labor Day **| Avenue of Flags Delivery & Pickup**

Sept 11th
Club Luncheon | **Program TBD** | River Center

Sept 15th
Annual Membership Dues Payment is Due

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

Stay Current with All Things Optimist!

Want to stay up to date on club activities and events? Visit our website www.davenportnoonoptimist.com, scroll to the club calendar, and click "**Subscribe**" in the upper-right corner. Choose your personal calendar format and follow the prompts. Once connected, your calendar will automatically reflect our Optimist events and any future updates.

We'd love to celebrate with you! Please send your **Sunshine** notifications, birthdays, and special announcements to:

Davenport.Noon.Optimists.Club@gmail.com.

NOW is the Time!

Who do you know that 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.

Have you got something to say?

Say it in the Midday Messenger!

Send your notes, articles, announcements, activities, and other items of interest to: Davenport.Noon.Optimist.Club@gmail.com.

Submissions are due by Friday for each weekly issue.

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ing families. Last year, approximately 87 percent of Head Start graduates were considered ready for school.

The agency's Family Development and Self-Sufficiency program takes a longer view, pairing families with case managers for two to three years. Together, they identify the barriers standing in the way of stability—such as transportation, employment, health needs, or caregiving responsibilities—and develop a path forward. The goal is to help families move beyond poverty and toward sustainable incomes.

Practical assistance is also an essential part of the mission. Through LIHEAP, qualifying families receive an average of $400 to $450 toward heating and utility bills, along with protections against winter shutoffs and emergency support when a furnace fails. A 24/7 partner pantry provides food, hygiene products, and household essentials for people facing immediate crises.

CAEI also weatherizes 110 to 120 homes each year. After an energy audit, qualifying homes may receive up to $15,000 in improvements such as insulation, furnaces, water heaters, and minor repairs—reducing household utility costs while strengthening local housing stock.

The organization's Child Care Resource and Referral program serves 15 counties in southeast Iowa. Families can use the Child Care Iowa online portal to locate available providers, while childcare professionals receive support, training, and quality-based incentives through the IQ4K program.

Sheridan noted that the agency is navigating funding uncertainty, as more than 97 percent of its revenue comes from grants. Even so, CAEI is focused on strengthening partnerships and expanding the flexible community support that helps families respond to real-life challenges.

For more information about programs and assistance, visit Community Action Eastern Iowa or search "Child Care Iowa" to explore childcare options.

-Photos courtesy of Jeff Waller

The Davenport Noon Optimists

2025-26 Annual Awards Appreciation & Celebration

Thursday, October 1, 2026

The Outing Club

2109 Brady St, Davenport, IA

5:30 PM Cocktails 6:30 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Program

Attire: Business Casual $25 Per Person $45 Per Couple Cash Bar

Reservations Required: RSVP on our website at www.davenportnoonoptimists.com , scroll down to our calendar, select the event, select RSVP no later than Tuesday, September 22nd.