



Optimist Club of Keego Harbor

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2007

Coming Attractions!

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 17 – Program to be announced.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 24 – Program to be announced.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 24 – **Membership Recruitment Meeting** at Coach's Olympia Grill, 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker: Jim Holtsclaw, a retired air traffic controller.

SATURDAY, OCT. 27 – **Pumpkin Decorating at Roosevelt School; 10 a.m.**

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 31 – Program to be announced.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 7 – Program to be announced.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 14 – Program to be announced.

Bill is Our Leader –

BILL BERTAKIS is Our Club's new leader for the 2007-2008 Optimist Year, succeeding ED SIMONS who held the post for the past two years. Bill was formally installed – along with a slate of other officers and directors (see box at the right) – at the Sept. 26 installation dinner at Gino's.

A resident of Keego Harbor since 1977, Bill explained why the Optimist Club is important to him: "When I see a kid, I want that kid to have every opportunity possible."

An automotive engineer by profession and professional photographer by avocation, in his remarks at the dinner, Bill said that membership recruitment, marketing optimism in the community, and sponsoring more events and programs were among his goals.

He and PAUL LIPSON were recognized recently by the West Bloomfield Board of Education for their co-leadership in developing a mentoring program involving students from Abbott Middle and Roosevelt Elementary schools.

Bill is the 34th individual to hold the presidential post since the Our Club's founding in 1973.

– and Optimist of the Year

BILL BERTAKIS has another honor in addition to president. He is the 2006-2007 "Optimist of the Year," so recognized at the installation dinner. Bill's involvement in the community was spotlighted by his leadership in assembling, editing and photographing the 50th anniversary book for the city of Keego Harbor. He also was deeply involved in Our Club's mentoring program involving students from Abbott Middle and Roosevelt elementary schools.

Also honored at the dinner were:

EDDIE DELBRIDGE, "The Spirit of Optimism."

RICK "COACH" ROWDEN, the Ledge Tomlinson Community Service Award; Rick is proprietor of Coach's Olympia Grill.



The OPTIMIST CLUB OF KEEGO HARBOR (Optimist International, Michigan District No. 17, Zone 13, Club 227) serves the youth of Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake and Orchard Lake. The club meets at 7:30 a.m. every Wednesday at Ember's Deli, 3258 Orchard Lake Road (next door to the West Bloomfield Fire Dept.) Phone: (248) 683-3344. Club's mailing address: PO Box 535, Keego Harbor, MI 48320.

Our web site:
www.keegoharboroptimist.org

MICHIGAN DISTRICT GOVERNOR:
BOB SCHILLER

2007-2008 OFFICERS:
President BILL BERTAKIS
1st Vice President STEVE PALMER
2nd Vice President EDDIE DELBRIDGE
Treasurer DON HORKEY
Secretary PAUL LIPSON

Directors

JODI FRANKE
DAVE KARAGOSIAN
JOHN LINEMEYER*
BARBARA NORDEEN*
NANCY PETSCH
GAYLE STURT*
ED SIMONS (*ex officio*)
(* 2 year terms).

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
DON HORKEY

Honor Roll NEW MEMBERS

2007-2008

WARREN BLACK, D.D.S. (*sponsor*, Teri Giannetti)

"BUZZ" BROWN (*reinstated; original sponsor*, Don Horkey)

DR. WILLIAM GISCHIA (*reinstated; original sponsor*, Terry Carlson)

KATHY SPARKMAN (*sponsor*, Jodi Franke)

LET'S CELEBRATE!

ANNIVERSARIES DURING
SEPTEMBER (Belated) & OCTOBER

BIRTHDAYS:

SEPT. 4 – KENDRA HEARN

SEPT. 22 – DON HORKEY & BILLY STALLARD

OCT. 9 – JOHN LINEMEYER

OCT. 13 – GAYLE STURT

OCT. 17 – JIM SONKISS



MEMBERSHIPS:

34 YEARS – CHUCK COMPTON & BILLY STALLARD (Charter members, 10/1/1973)

2 YEARS – KENDRA HEARN (10/12/2005); AMY HUGHES (10/20/05)

1 YEAR – JOHN SCOTT (10/21/2006)

(If we missed your date, let Don Horkey know at dhorkey@sbcglobal.net or call 743-453-7226.)

Hey, picking up trash and keeping the area clean is fun!

Saturday, Oct. 6, was the date for Our Club's first adventure in Oakland County's Adopt-a-Road program. Our area covers about two miles along Orchard Lake Road from roughly Ward Road east to the West Bloomfield Trail south, and encompassing parts of West Bloomfield Township, Sylvan lake, Keego Harbor and Orchard Lake.

Kudos go to these pioneer, first-time pickers-uppers: BILL BERTAKIS, CHUCK COMPTON, EDDIE DELBRIDGE, JODI FRANKE, DON HORKEY, PAUL LIPSON, BARB NORDEEN, STEVE PALMER, ED SIMONS, and KATHY SPARKMAN. In addition, Nancy Gelsey, counselor at Abbott Middle, also helped.

It was so much fun that we're anticipating the next clean-up in the spring.

Welcome, 2 new members; welcome back, 2 old friends

Welcome and welcome back!

At the beginning of the new Optimist Year, Our Club's membership roster has four additions, two of whom are old friends. "BUZZ" BROWN and DR. WILLIAM GISCHIA have reinstated their memberships, while the two new faces belong to KATHY SPARKMAN and DR. WARREN BLACK..

Buzz operates a computer consulting service, Quantum Leap, Inc. He also is the president of the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society. Buzz's original sponsor was DON HORKEY.

Dr. Gischia owns the Harbor Family Chiropractic Center. His original sponsor was Terry Carlson, a past president of Our Club.

Kathy is an independent associate with Pre-Paid Legal Services/Identity Theft Shield, an identity theft protection service. Her sponsor is JODI FRANKE.

Dr. Black is president of West Bloomfield Dental. His sponsor is TERI GIANNETTI.

Catching up with the past . . .

With the apologies of the Editor, it's been a couple of months since our last newsletter. So, for the sake of future historians, here are three noteworthy activities during August and September:

BIG FISH FESTIVAL – Congrats to JOHN LINEMEYER and his crew for a successful 2nd annual Big Fish Festival in a two-day format. The weather was gorgeous, and the crowds abundant. Our Club sold hot dogs and soda, and sponsored a raffle with \$2,000 in prizes. Former member Ray Kobe won the \$1,000 first prize. Other winners were Stephen Foster, of Waterford, \$500; and \$100 prizes to each of the following: Ed Rychcik, of Allen Park; BARB NORDEEN, of Keego Harbor; RALPH BEHLER, of Keego Harbor; Scott Maczuga, of Keego Harbor, and Jim Stevenson, of Waterford.

GINO'S GOLF OUTING – Our Club was a co-beneficiary of this outing at the Pontiac Country Club. In addition to playing golf, members volunteered at the registration table and other duties on the course.

SKATE NIGHT – The reviews raved about this event that drew hundreds of kids and their families. The weather was ideal for all of the fun activities. Several members volunteered to help, and ED SIMON'S hot dog stand was popular. Our Club is a major \$500 sponsor in cooperation with the Keego Harbor Police Dept.

★**HAPPY "DUE" YEAR** – A new Optimist year means first quarter dues are due. Treasurer Don Horkey says invoices have been mailed. Make your payment at the meeting or send it in.

★ **HE MEETS THE CHALLENGE** – PAUL LIPSON called it "my greatest challenge." He completed a 100-mile bicycle ride recently on the west side of the state.



Optimist Club of Keego Harbor Friends of Youth for 2007

Thank you . . . to the following individuals and businesses who have made a commitment as a Friend of Youth through their sponsorship of the programs and activities of Our Club for the benefit of the youth of our community for 2007.

Bagley & Langan, PLLC*
Billy J. Stallard*
Coach's Olympia Grill *
Complete Insurance Services*
Ember's Deli*
Keego Energy*
NationalCity Bank*
Roosevelt School PCG*
Jim Sonkiss, D.D.S.
Otto A. Trzos Co., Inc.
Visions of Sylvan Lake*

* Renewed sponsorship for 2007

REALIZING OUR MISSION *** Donated \$100 and several volunteer hours for the **Roosevelt School Fun Run** . . . Sponsored annual "**Pumpkin Decorating**" event for area elementary school kids . . . Donated \$200 to the West Bloomfield Youth Coalition as a co-sponsor of a **mentoring program** that is involving students from both Abbott Middle School and Roosevelt elementary school . . . Contributed \$250 for the **Abbott School production** of "Once Upon a Mattress" . . . Hosted an afternoon of **bowling for nearly 60 kids** from Roosevelt School, helping the Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Student Council raise \$466 for their treasuries . . . Donated \$200 to the **Keego Harbor Memorial Day Parade** and pledged our participation in this annual event that is viewed by thousands . . . Fulfilled our annual commitment of **\$1,000 to Cub Scout Pack 224**, of which Our Club is the official sponsor . . . Awarded **\$4,500 in scholarships** to six high school graduates heading to college . . . **Chaperoning the "Kids Zone"** during the Big Fish Festival in Keego Harbor . . . Co-beneficiary of and participant in 2nd annual **Gino's "Teeing FORE! Kids"** golf outing . . . Provided shirts at a cost of \$600 for nearly 100 kids in the annual **Roosevelt School Summer Academic Camp** . . . Once again, a **major \$500 sponsor** for the annual Keego Harbor Police Department's "Skate Night" that provides an afternoon of fun for hundreds of kids.



Air traffic safety expert to speak at initial recruitment meeting

The first of a series of membership recruitment meetings will be held Wednesday, Oct. 24, at Coach's Olympia Grill (located in a strip mall on Cass Lake Road at the intersection of Cass-Elizabeth Road). The program will begin at 6:30 p.m.

President BILL BERTAKIS has lined up Jim Holtsclaw as the speaker. He has a wide background in air traffic control and the use of radar in the nation's airports. He was the manager of air traffic at Detroit's Metro Airport and in Ontario, Calif.

Holtsclaw managed the Los Angeles air traffic tower during the 1986 Olympics. He is retired but serves as the executive director of the Society of Airway Pioneers.

Bertakis said he wants to use the evening meetings as a way of introducing the Optimists to the community. Members are encouraged to attend; however, these meetings are not intended to be an alternative to Our Club's regular Wednesday morning meetings.

Bertakis has arranged for Jack Reynaert, Henry Ford II's personal travel manager for 20 years, to speak at the recruitment meeting in November. The exact date will be announced.

We're the first of 110

Governor-elect Mike Seltzer, on Sept. 12, made Our Club his first official visit of 110 Optimist clubs in the state that he is scheduled to appear at in the course of the next year. He encouraged us to attend the District's first quarterly meeting in November at the new St. Regis Hotel in Detroit's New Center area.

Programs

27 million victims, \$53 billion lost

New member KATHY SPARKMAN wowed us at the Sept. 12 meeting with the revelation that there are something like 27 million identity thefts in the U. S. annually, amounting to \$53 billion in losses. "And," she added, "it's getting worse every year." Kathy is an independent associate for Pre-Paid Legal services and Identity Theft Shield. Her company offers tips on protecting yourself from identity theft; if, however, you are a victim, then her firm will take the steps to help you restore your name and credit. Pre-Paid Legal Services offers a wide range of preventive, motor vehicle and audit legal services. Kathy may be contacted at 248-681-2169.

Keego's turning around

At our Sept. 19 meeting, Sid Rubin, mayor pro-tem of Keego Harbor, said the city is making a

Oct. 27: Pumpkin decorating

Our Club's annual pumpkin decorating activity will take place from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 27, at Roosevelt School. However, volunteers are needed on the day before (Friday) to unload the pumpkins and make other preparations. For details, call BILL BERTAKIS 248-343-8816.

"remarkable turnaround" in the past couple of years. Whereas in 2005 Keego was "running out of money," its most recent audit shows a general fund balance of \$479 million – "and it's going up." Rubin once owned the largest toy chain in the U. S. (Kay-Bee Toys) and nearly 300 "Mr. Bulky" candy stores. Regarding a new city hall, Rubin said the city will be building a 5,500 square foot structure at Rose Sorter park, "enough space for our size." Contracts are expected to be awarded in late October.

Thank you, JoAnn

Our gratitude goes out to JoANN ANDREES for her \$300 donation to Our Club's scholarship fund, which is named in her honor. JoAnn was a former principal of Abbott Middle and West Bloomfield High before moving on to a new adventure as superintendent of schools in New Haven, Conn. She was an integral part of Our Club's growth and successes for many years.

In her note accompanying her gift, she wrote "I think of you often. I wish you another successful year. I miss you."

We miss you, too!

Mentors to focus on "lost child"

PAUL LIPSON announced that Our Club's mentoring program will probably resume at the beginning of November. He said the focus this year will be on the "lost child," the isolated, lone child. The program will involve students from Abbott Middle and Roosevelt Elementary.

MICHIGAN FACTS

Q. Debuting in 1936 over WWJ in Detroit, what crime fighting adventure series used "Flight of the Bumblebee" as its theme song?

A. The Green Hornet

Q. The Supremes were originally known by what name?

A. The Primettes.

Q. What Detroit-based male singing group was known as The Primes until 1960?

A. The Temptations.

Q. Under what name did Motown artist Stevie Wonder originally write "My Cherie Amour" in 1966?

A. "Oh My Marsha"