ASHLAND OPTIMIST CLUB
Meeting Saturday Mornings @ 7:30 A.M.
Optimist Drive, Ashland, MO 65010

October 17, 2026
"You cannot do all the good the world needs, but the world needs all the good you can do."

Optimist Board

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Leigh Kottwitz
Dennis Sapp
Shawn Steelman
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COMING UP

Oct 23-24 1st Qtr District Meeting Jeff City
Oct 24 No breakfast meeting, bldg rented
Oct 31 John Martin of the 47th District
Oct 31 Halloween Spooktacular
Nov 11 Annual Veterans Breakfast

TAKE A MINUTE TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO MADE US STRONG:
Carroll Sapp – 1987
"Buddy" Glascock – 1988
William Burnett – 1992
Remus James – 1994
Ron Marley – 1997
Cecil Vaughn – 2001
Billy Jo Sapp – 2004
Marvin Sappington – 2004
Arcie Sapp – 2005
Kenneth Nichols – 2006
Lahmon Wren – 2007
Joe Smith - 2009
Jimmy Jo Calvin- 2009
Bob Sappington – 2010
Florence Hahn 2011
Clifford Caldwell-2013
Mel Rupard-2013
Ernest Woods—2013
John Johnson—2013
Michael Dalton--2013
Jim Moore--2016
Carl Long--2016
Don Jones-2017
Clay Austin-2017
Sharon Donley-2017
Ben Nieman- 2017
Nick Kimbler- 2018
Barbara Perry- 2018
Jacob Zagorac- 2019
Joy Woods- 2021
Steve Walsh-2021
Kristi Savage Clarke 2022
Wes Donley 2025
Louise Martin 2025
Rev. Elmer Schiefer 2026
Bern Bonderer 2026

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There will not be a breakfast meeting on Oct. 24th since the building is rented. We will have breakfast on Oct. 31st, with Rocheport resident State Representative John Martin speaking.

We will host another Ashland Optimist Spooktacular that evening from 4-6, but we still help coming at 2:30, especially to help with parking. Please contact Ernie Wren at 573-239-1105 for more information. This is always a fun community event!

We hosted Bingo last night and, even though we only had 109 players, we were able to pay-out the $1,199 game and the $1,000 horse race, plus still make a deposit thanks to our floor crew of Charlie Selbach, Bryan Chapman, Shawn Steelman, Lester Gilpin, Bruce Glascock, and Robert Blake. The kitchen was able to deposit $872.

John Travlos and Robert Blake provided a special breakfast this morning in memory of their former team member, Bern Bonderer. Bern's kids shared that Bern used to make Mickey Mouse waffles three times a year, so John and Robert borrowed Bern's waffle iron, plus brought some of the their own to provide a thoughtful and delicious breakfast. Cole Dippold, who was Ernie Wren's guest and has filled out an application, joined us along with our speaker, Dwayne Carey, his wife Leslie, Kip Kendrick and his son, Abram.

While Barrett was sharing the Bingo report, he also shared that the new stoves, donated by the Jimmy Glascock family, were installed Monday. The FIG Committee also installed a thermostat in the Board Room and had Phil Bentlage come out Tuesday to figure out what was going on with the east air handler. Through a conversation with a specialist from Quincy, IL, they were able to isolate the issue, and the replacement part is on its way. Once the part arrives, Phil will install it. Fortunately, the air handler on the west side provided enough heat for Bingo on Friday.

Julie Chapman let Ernie know that there will be a surprise 90th birthday party for Jim Green at the Ashland Senior Center next Saturday at 1:30. Please come by to celebrate with the family or at least bring a card.

Our speakers this morning were Kip Kendrick, Boone County Presiding Commissioner, and Sheriff Dwayne Carey. They were here to provide information about Prop L, which will be on the November ballot. Prop L will impose a 3/8 cent sales tax, with a 15-year sunset, to cover bond payments for a new 570 bed jail to replace the current jail, which opened in 1991 with a capacity of 182 beds and was full within 6 months. Kip and Dwayne shared that this has been in conversation for several decades but became more important with the increase in out-of-county housing over the past few years. In 2022, the county paid $500,000 for out-of-county housing. Because of the increase of detainees, even with programs like adult court, drug court, mental health court, veteran's court, and house arrest that work to find other solutions for misdemeanor or low level felonies, the county expects to pay around $4 million this year for the 244 offenders that are spread across fourteen counties. Out-of-county housing causes additional costs for transportation, as well as separation from legal representatives, which causes delays in due process of cases. If this passes, the new jail will be built on land that the County already owns, out near the fire training area and we will not see taxes until 2027. The building will take 3-4 years to be built, but the design has plans for future expansion as needed.

Additionally, when the jail opened, it handled 70% misdemeanor, 20% felony, and 10% commit-to-county instead of being sent to Department of Corrections. Since that time, there are more violent crimes, with a majority involving felony charges of homicide and rape. There are also offenders with mental health issues being held while they wait on outside facilities for them, which can take 18-24 months. They cannot safely function with others, which means they have to have their own cell. The current jail does not provide medical or mental health spaces and the kitchen area is 35 years old, which is not adequate for the current facility and there is no accessible booking area in the current jail.

When Kip and Dwayne finished their presentation, Abram Kendrick drew for the Attendance drawing. Shamon Jones had her chance at riches, but Shawn Steelman was thrilled to hear his number drawn second and said, "It pays to attend!" before he left.

The Veteran's Breakfast will be on Wed. Nov. 11th and will be spearheaded by Leigh Kottwitz. She is still looking for help.

Letitia DenHartog
ashlandoptimist.org