Optimist INTERNATIONAL Optimist Club of West Bend

Club # 09-208 P.O Box 1076, West Bend, WI 53095 SWIS District (#09)
facebook.com/optimistclubofwb http://www.optimistclubofwestbend.org/ optimistclubofwestbend@gmail.com

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

December 2025

MERRY CHRISTMAS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Dec 1	***Essay Contest Begins*** (Watch for details)
Dec 4	Club Lunch Meeting ***Student of the Month*** ***Good Shepherd School*** AT NEW PERSPECTIVE IN SENIOR LIVING CENTER
Dec 11	**Christmas Party** Food & Fun at the Roell Mansion
Dec 16	**Board of Directors' Meeting** 4pm Silverbrook School Library
Dec 18	Because of our Christmas gathering on December 11, there will be No Club Lunch Meeting on December 18
Dec 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS
	IMPORTANT NOTE *Because the first Thursday in January is a holiday,* ***for January 2026, the Club will meet on the 2nd & 4th Thursday***
Jan 1	
Jan 8	Club Lunch Meeting ***KM YMCA*** AT NEW PERSPECTIVE IN SENIOR LIVING CENTER
Jan 12	happy birthday Erinn O'Boyle
Jan 20	happy birthday Heidi Sternig
Jan 22	Club Lunch Meeting ***Student of the Month*** ***Holy Angels School and Boys' and Girls' Club*** AT NEW PERSPECTIVE IN SENIOR LIVING CENTER

Christmas Family

This year, our Club will again be providing a load of Christmas gifts for a family being served by the Threshold's "*Birth to Three Program.*" We have been doing this for many years now, and it is always something special.

This year's Christmas Family is the Murillo-Aparicios. According to Billy Hurst from the Threshold, this family was chosen because they work hard to barely get by. They all live in a little one bedroom and are all in a room together. They have difficulties affording clothes or toys and are just very humble, grateful people even though they have trouble making ends meet.

The child in the birth to 3 program is Izrael Murillo-Aparicio; he's 10 months old. They also have a 6-year-old little girl, Ximena. Mom is Celeste Aparicio and Dad is Damian Murillo.

Click Here for a link to the list of gift items for this year's Christmas Family.

Please plan to again be generous to really help brighten Christmas for this family. Wrapped items should be dropped off at the Threshold office on Rolfs Avenue the week of December 15th.

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STUDENT OF THE MONTH

November 2025

Sullivan Shafranski

Badger Middle School

Badger Middle School staff shared this is about Sullivan:

Dear Optimist Club of West Bend:
I am honored to nominate *Sullivan Shafranski* for the 2025 Badger Optimist Club *Student of the Month Award*. Since I met Sullivan over a year ago, he has always stood out. He is the type of kid every teacher knows, even if they don't have him in class! He proudly wears his favorite hockey jerseys, joyfully will talk to anyone about last night's football game (especially if it's the Eagles), and loves rehashing the successes of his forensics team. Here are a few thoughts from other teachers at Badger:

- Sullivan is such a hard worker who is kind to all no matter their age, ability, gender, etc. He is always in such a positive mood and shows great leadership skills when participating in our phy-ed activities. He always greets you with a smile and asks if there is any way he can help.
- Sullivan is an all-around amazing student! Not only does he excel in his own academics, but he also wants to see others strive as well. Whether that is helping those who need help or just cheering them on for support. He is the definition of an optimist!
- Sullivan is an extremely bright young mind that does and will continue to do amazing things! His potential is limitless and will have a positive impact on whoever he comes into contact with.
- Sullivan seeks out opportunities to brighten others' days, even with a warming hello to staff. He is a leader amongst his peers and is an Emcee at schoolwide assemblies, ensuring a positive, fun experience for all!
- Sullivan goes out of his way to encourage and uplift his teammates in football. He reminds his friends that even when they lose, it leads to a learning opportunity.
- Sullivan is always a bright personality whenever he enters the room, even if things are not going super well for him. He consistently brings the class up and supports all those around him, students and staff alike. He is a leader amongst his peers. In other words, Sullivan is a mensch.
- Sullivan sees the good in everyone. He includes peers who are often rejected, hypes up friends who are feeling down, and gives out compliments constantly. He genuinely brings so much joy to our school community!

I hope you can see that Badger Middle School is a better school because of Sullivan Shafranski, and he is the perfect recipient for the Optimist Award this year.

Janet Jackson
Builders Club Advisor

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Club President, Lance Roell, presents the Optimist Club of West Bend' *Student of the Month Award* for November 2025 to Sullivan Shafranski from Badger Middle School

Our Club's Facebook Page

https://www.facebook.com/optimistclubofwb

Club Calendar is now available online.
Click this link:

2025-2026 Optimist Club Calendar

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http://shopwithacopwc.org/

At our November 20th Club Luncheon, we were joined by West Bend police officers Captain Matt Rohlinger and Lieutenant Thomas Lichtensteiger from the *Kettle Moraine Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police* to share information about the upcoming 2025 "***Shop with a Cop***" event. This year's event will occur on Monday, December 8, starting at 4:00 p.m. at the West Bend Mutual Insurance Prairie Center.

"***Shop With a Cop***" has uniformed officers from Washington County law enforcement agencies donating their time to take fifty needy children Christmas shopping. The children usually range in age from six to eleven years old. Each child has been identified by a referral from a social service agency within Washington County. The children are provided with a donated gift card to use for purchasing Christmas gifts for their family. The children are accompanied by an officer who helps them with their shopping. The parents provide a list of gifts to help with the gift selection. Because of their generous support in donating $5000 in gift cards, the shopping is done at the West Bend Meijer store. After the shopping is done, they all go to the West Bend Mutual Insurance Prairie Center where dinner for the children and officers is provided, as well as gift-wrapping by volunteers, and games for the kids. It is felt that this event provides each child with an opportunity to experience the reward of giving to others, as well as providing law enforcement with an opportunity to connect to the youth in our community in what should be an unforgettable experience for all.

Optimist Club President Lance Roell (left) presents a $250 check to support the 2025 *Shop with a Cop* event to police Captain Matt Rohlinger and Lieutenant Thomas Lichtensteiger from the *Kettle Moraine Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police*

Also joining us for lunch on November 20th was Billy Hurst, Director of *The Threshold's* ***Birth to Three Program,*** which is an early intervention program that supports families in Washington County with children under the age of three that have delays or disabilities. It provides free evaluations, and if a child shows a 25% delay, the program offers in-home therapy services, including speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy, as well as family education and counseling. The families come from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds, and each has their own unique story to tell.

Billy, who has been with the *Birth to Three Program* for seven years, shared that the program now employs four physical therapists, four occupational therapists, two special teachers, and five social workers. This program provides the support that will promote growth and development within the environment where the children are most comfortable – their home. Services are voluntary and are provided at little or no cost to families. The *Birth to Three program* will make 10,000 home visits this year.

The *Birth to Three program* relies heavily on donations and has partnered with Washington County. At age 4, the children are served by their school district.

https://www.thresholdinc.org/birth-to-3.html

Optimist Club President Lance Roell (left) presents a $250 check to support the *Birth to Three* program at the Threshold to Billy Hurst, Director of the *Birth to Three* program

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SWIS District 1st Quarter Conference Report

West Bend Club President Lance Roell attended the most recent SWIS District Conference. Here are his takeaways:

1. The SWIS district is very aware of declining club rosters. We spent an hour or so brainstorming ways to increase membership and make club activities more visible. One of my takeaways was looking at adding a membership chair to our Club. This person could follow up with guests who come to meetings and connect with members who might not be attending meetings, among other things.
2. Increasing the knowledge of what Optimist International (OI) does and what the SWIS District does was also a touchpoint. As such, I will be inviting our current and two former SWIS District Governors to upcoming Club lunch meetings to share the bigger picture of what OI is all about. They are excited to visit.
3. The *Optimist International Foundation* is there to support us. Our Club recently donated a dollar a day for the year ($365) to them. Individual members are also able to participate in the dime a day fundraiser, too ($36.50). Being part of the foundation means we receive a patch for our banner, and we are eligible to apply for grants from the foundation for club programs and childhood health and wellness.

SWIS District Conferences

Our Club's Board of Directors has deemed it important that all our Club members get the necessary information and are encouraged to attend the Quarterly Conferences of the SWIS District. Our Club will help offset some of the costs.

https://www.swisdistrict.org/conferences/default.asp

Christmas Gathering

December 11

5:30pm – ??

Hosted by the Roells

(Significant others are welcome to join us)

Nibbling-Food Potluck

Appetizers and Christmas Sweets prepared by you and other culinary experts in the Club

BYOB

Bring Your Own Beverages to enjoy while we party

Home Vintner Wine Tasting

Our Club's vintner, Greg, will again be supplying some of his own wines for your assessment and enjoyment

Christmas Music — **Always suitable**

Conversation — **Optimists do like to share**

Group Activities

White Elephant

We will again have a White Elephant exchange, so get ~~your junk~~ an appropriate item to add to the gift pool

Greg will again provide some intellectual & fun activities

So wear your thinking cap et perfectionnez votre français

Don't be a Scrooge. Plan to get your holidays off to an optimistically great start by attending.

At the Roell Mansion

820 Spring Drive, West Bend

Click to RSVP

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December is NATIONAL PEAR MONTH

The U.S. Department of Agriculture proclaimed December *National Pear Month* in 2004, so all December long, *National Pear Month* recognizes the flavor and versatility of this delicious fruit.

Pears add significant nutritional benefits to any diet. In the United States, there are ten varieties of pears. They range in color, texture, and sweetness, making them useful for a wide range of dishes. Explore many of the different pear recipes this month:

- Subtly alter the pear by lightly baking it and releasing the juices. It makes an elegant presentation and an even more delicious dessert.
- Pair a pear with wine and cheese for an elevated flavor.
- Roasts, chicken, and turkey all receive upgraded flavor when pears are added.
- Salads come alive with sliced pears and light vinaigrette dressing.

- Add a pear to just about any pork dish and you won't be disappointed. The spicy sweetness adds a warm flavor that is deliciously satisfying.
- When it comes to turkey leftovers, add a few slices of pears to your turkey and cranberry sandwich. The combination will be one of ultimate satisfaction.
- Many vintners offer pear wines that delight the tongue. Their subtle sweetness sometimes leans toward a dessert wine, but not always. Some pear wines are made for lingering over.

Pears offer so much with their variety and abundance. During National Pear Month, enjoy all they have to offer!

Business Buddies

Our Club has a membership category specifically for businesses. We have named this Business Membership category: ***Business Buddies.*** Mike Hartwell, is coordinating this initiative, and he will gladly answer any questions. Check out *Business Buddies* on our Site:

https://www.optimistclubofwestbend.org/business-buddy-membership.html

Our Current Business Buddies

westbury bank
welcome to *what if.*
https://www.westburybankwi.com/

MORRIE'S
West Bend Honda
https://www.morrieswestbendhonda.com/

West Bend Moose Lodge 1398
MOOSE
Moose1398@yahoo.com

Mark Your Calendars

OPTIMIST VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION
January 23 deadline to submit to Library
The topic this year is: Be Bold - Be The Change

Essay Contest

December 1 – January 31
Topic for the 2025-2026 school year is:
"How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand What My Community Means to Me"
The contest is open to contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1st

December 11 5:30 pm
Christmas Party
Food & Fun at the Roell Estate

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 of 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.*

Optimist Club of West Bend
2025-2026 Board of Directors

President	Lance Roell
VP / President Elect	Mike Hartwell
Past-President	Heidi Sternig
Secretary	Mike Hartwell
Treasurer	Hannah Langhoff
Director	Matt Muehlbauer
Director	Greg Harding
Director	Maria Gutierrez Gurrola

The Writers' Corner

Gloria In Excelsis Deo

(Glory to God in the highest)

Angels we have heard on high
Singing sweetly o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem, and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid
Whom the choirs of angels praise
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
In excelsis Deo!