

# ESSAY CONTEST

Hunter Bovi, a senior at Union Academy high school, recently won the Weddington Optimist Club's essay contest based on a theme of "Is Optimism the Key to Achieving the Dreams you iMagine?"

Bovi was awarded one hundred fifty dollars for the honor. In addition, his essay will be sent to the district level to be judged along with winners from other Optimist Clubs in the district. College scholarships are available for top winners at the district level.

"Hunter Bovi did a wonderful job of articulating this year's theme. He expressed himself well through the essay and deserved the honor of first place," Club President Bill Deter said.

Eva Vega, a 10th grader at Marvin Ridge high school, was awarded one hundred dollars for her runner up finish. The third-place winner was Trey Howie from Union Academy.

The Weddington Optimist Club has been participating in the Optimist Essay Contest for over 30 years and has been active in the community since 1980.



Hunter Bovi and Essay contest chairman Bruce Sterritt



Eva Vega and Essay contest chairman Bruce Sterritt

**Essay Contest**

**Adopt-a-Highway**

**Union County Biz Ed**

**Wesley Chapel  
Elementary School**

**COVID-19 Virus**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Laptop Scholarship**

**Oratorical Contest**

**WEDDINGTON  
OPTIMIST CLUB**

5205 Weddington Rd.  
Weddington Optimist Park

[www.weddington-  
optimist.org](http://www.weddington-optimist.org)

**Q1 2020 Newsletter**

# **ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY**

## **NCDOT Recognizes Optimist Club**

The North Carolina Department of Transportation recognized the Weddington Optimist Club for its 30-year participation in the State sponsored Adopt-A-Highway program. The award in part states “In recognition of your service to protect the environment and enhance the quality of life for all North Carolinians, we are pleased to award you this distinguished STAR award and two 30-year stars for your Adopt-A-Highway signs”.

“We are very proud to earn this award”, Club President Bill Deter said. “We have been doing this since 1989.” The Optimist Club maintains a two-mile section of Weddington Road (Hwy 84) in front of Optimist Park.



# UNION COUNTY EDUCATION FOUNDATION



January 29, 2020

Union County Public Education Foundation  
PO Box 909  
Monroe, NC 28111

Weddington Optimist Club Foundation  
PO Box 522  
Waxhaw, NC 28173

Dear Ms. Beaulieu,

You did THIS last year!. Your total contributions of \$500.00, in 2019 funded "Jacket's Java" and all of our mission projects. Michelle Jordan, a teacher at Forest Hills High, received a LIFT\* grant to open a Bitty and Beau's coffee cart and on opening day told us:

I wanted to share some pictures with you of our first day of official business. The students did great and were so proud of their uniforms! We sold 24 cups of coffee and hot chocolate today. Every student has a job duty including: putting the sleeves on the cups, writing names and orders, passing out and collecting uniforms, restocking supplies, baristas, deliveries, money collectors/counters, and a secretary to highlight when orders are complete. We were thrilled to show off our hard work! The students actually asked if we could have a parade around the school. They make me laugh and keep me on my toes for sure! Thank you again for your faith and support in our program! We are very grateful.

Stop by Forest Hills High on Tuesday or Thursday mornings to see your gift making a difference for this special group of students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Sperry".

Amy Sperry  
Executive Director  
Union County Public Education Foundation

# WESLEY CHAPEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## A Helping Hand

When the Wesley Chapel elementary school reached out to the Weddington Optimist Club with a need the club responded.

The 4th grade teachers needed Whiteboards to help them with their math classes. "Our motto is Friend of Youth", said Club President Bill Deter. "We looked at our available resources and were able to supply 250 Whiteboards to the school."

Optimist member Rick Beaulieu delivered the supplies to Dr. Henderson, school principal.



## COVID-19 VIRUS

Due to the COVID-19 virus the Weddington Optimist club has cancelled all meetings from late March to late May or later. When the meetings resume will be determined in early May. The **Laptop Scholarships** and the **Oratorical Contest** are being delayed or possibly cancelled. STAY SAFE!

## ORATORICAL CONTEST

### Weddington Optimist Club Sponsors Oratorical Contest for Students

The Optimist Club of Weddington is encouraging area students to speak their minds about the topic "Just Imagine a World without Boundaries." as part of the Optimist International Oratorical Contest for the 2019-2020 year.

The Optimist Club will judge the local students' speeches based on content and presentation to determine the top winners. Three winners will receive cash awards and the winning speeches will be sent to the Zone level, and possibly the District level for the opportunity to win college scholarships. Winners of the District level will be eligible to compete in a regional competition in St. Louis, Missouri, at Saint Louis University.

Winners of the regional contests will compete in the World Championship also held at Saint Louis University. Students could possibly win up to \$22,500 in scholarships!

The contest is open to students under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2019.

The club contest for Weddington will be held the evening of Thursday, March 26 at Siler Presbyterian Church in Wesley Chapel. The deadline to register for the event is March 12th. Students wishing to participate in the oratorical contest can find out more about the contest by contacting their school or the Optimist event chairman, Greg Babineau, via email at [gregbabineau@gmail.com](mailto:gregbabineau@gmail.com).

"As they prepare for their future, many of our local students need experience expressing their thoughts and opinions to an audience," Club President Bill Deter said. "The Oratorical Contest challenges them to do just that and also offers an opportunity for scholarships. In this way, our club hopes to bring out the best in each of them and help them achieve their goals for the future."

The Optimist Club of Weddington has been participating in the Optimist Oratorical Contest for over 25 years

## **LAPTOP SCHOLARSHIPS**

### **Open to Graduating High School Seniors in Union County:**

The Weddington Optimist Computer Scholarship has been awarded every spring since 1997.

#### Requirements:

This scholarship is open to high school seniors who will be graduating in the Spring 2020. Seniors do not have to be enrolled to a 2 or 4-year higher education institution in the fall of 2020. The Weddington Optimists are looking for individuals who will be enthusiastic and optimistic that the scholarship will help you meet your life goals as you embark on new life experiences.

Answer the following question on page 2 by writing a 2-page essay. Essay should be double spaced, 1-inch margins and font size no larger than 12. Bold words are allowed. Please include your full name, date, high school and guidance counselor's name in the essay's header.

Essays are due on March 2, 2020 at 5:00 pm to your Scholarship Guidance Counselor. Guidance counselors will pick 3 essays and will forward them to The Weddington Optimist Club by March 16, 2020.

Winners will be selected by the Weddington Optimist Club by April 3, 2020.

#### Other information:

Scholarship Winners' Cookout sponsored by the Weddington Optimist Club on April 23, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Winner and family members are invited.

#### Summary of Important dates:

March 2nd – Essay due to scholarship guidance counselor (this date is flexible per your preference).

March 16th – Essays due to Weddington Optimist Club. This will give us time to review essays before determining the winners.

April 3rd – Winners will be announced to the school's contact.

April 23rd – Scholarship winners' cookout at Weddington Optimists Park. Winner individual plus family and school representative are invited. Headcount will be needed by April 10th.

Essay Question:

Describe why you deserve the Computer Scholarship? Include any volunteer work you have participated in the past few years. How has your volunteer work developed or expanded your optimistic views and experiences? Incorporate a phrase or two from Optimist Creed in your answer. The Optimist Creed is below, the individual phrases start with "To..." with double spacing between each phrase (Each line item is a phrase).