

# Opti - Topics

Bulletin of the Optimist Club of Huntsville

VOL. 65, No. 37, June 29, 2011

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Jim Roe  
256-883-8950  
j\_m\_roe@yahoo.com

### 1st VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Pepper  
256-655-9659  
jpepper777@msn.com

### 2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Berry  
256-539-2101  
jberryn@bellsouth.net

### SECRETARY-TREASURER

Al Renz  
256-772-7929  
optimist3480@aol.com

### PAST PRESIDENT

Bob Martin  
256-722-8062  
bmartin12@bellsouth.net



After all the rain recently we were blessed Wednesday with a sunny day for the Special Needs Playground ribbon cutting at Brahan Spring Park.

It seemed to me several hundred turned out for this joyous occasion. One had to be impressed

with the high quality of every aspect of the facility that will not only accommodate needy children, but also the maimed veterans expected to be returning from our current wars. Huntsville is proud to be known as a community with a heart that decided to offer such a playground. Kiwanians and Optimists as well share in this pride, and share in the extended effort that brought this about.

Huntsville's newest Optimist Fabiani Duarte was chosen to be master of ceremonies for the event - and this was a wise choice. Fabiani commented on the park and greeted those in attendance. Then he recognized several dignitaries, including those from the service clubs for their dedicated persistence over three years, meeting and working regularly mainly to raise the funds required. Members of the City Council were recognized as were members of the Madison County Commission.

## DIRECTORS

Tom Casteel  
256-714-4677  
tom@leetsac.net

Connie Gipson  
256-534-1384  
cfgipson@yahoo.com

Matt Hancock  
256-990-0077  
wmhancock@wolfejones.com

Buddy Beck  
256-837-9722

Fabiani Duarte  
256-880-8106  
fabiani.a.duarte@gmail.com

Gay Pepper  
256-617-0742  
gaypepper@fcb-hsv.com

Optimist Linda Presley gave a brief history of the project spanning many years. Parks and Playgrounds Director, Greg Patterson, who played the lead, noted that this was the most harmonious team he had ever worked with. The project was kicked off during Mayor Spencer's term, and she was here to celebrate the finished product.

Mayor Battle added his remarks to what he expects the playground to mean to those who will be enjoying it, and he thanked the large turnout for showing their support., adding to the success of festivities.

The Secretary/Treasurer of Optimist's Louisiana-Mississippi-Alabama District, Harold Stratz, "Mr. Optimist" was in attendance, as I'm confident were officials from the Kiwanis organization.

I talked with the mayor in the chow line. He's recently back from the Paris Air Show, his first time out of this country, and he's optimistic that several contacts he made there could result in result in good \$80,000/year Huntsville jobs in the near future. I asked him if he would talk to our club, and he said he would be delighted to. Whoever might be looking for a speaker could call his office and follow up on this.

This week we'll hear what's on Logan McElyea's mind and assure him of our prayers for his well being.



## Optimistic Quote of The Week

**" We don't stop playing because we grow old;  
we grow old because we stop playing."**

*George Bernard Shaw*

## CALENDAR

- 7/7 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn  
**Logan McElyea & Mother - St. Judes Update**
- 7/11 Monday 4:00 pm 1<sup>st</sup> Commercial Bank  
**Board Meeting**
- 7/14 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn  
**Mary Flynn - Hawthorne Conservatory**
- 7/21 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center  
**Business Meeting - Food Alberto Duarte**
- 7/28 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn  
**TBA**
- 8/27 Saturday TBA Place TBA  
**Picnic with JOOI Clubs**
- 9/24 Saturday TBA Central Presbyterian  
**Pancake Breakfast for Hawthorne Conservatory**