

Optimists

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Robert Carter, member, donates his time and equipment for the ride.

The club also sponsors a youth center across the street. It will be open the same hours as the haunted house.

Children may bob for apples, make crafts, play Nintendo and enjoy popcorn balls.

A concession will be available in the lobby with soft drinks and treats.

Cost is \$1.50 for children under age 13 and \$3 for adults.

Melinda McCready and Lorte Turner are co-chairmen.

The club also supports the Tri-Star soccer and basketball contests, the DARE program an oratorical contest and girls softball.

"We're a very enthusiast youthful group, not our age but in our thinking. Our youth is the best we have to offer," said McCready. "Children keep you community-minded."

Diane Fornistall, publicity chairman, said the club is basically for people who want to volunteer time and talents towards their community and positive youth activity.

She said she feels they need more

people like that. They now have 35 members.

She and her husband, Gary, were charter members and he is now secretary/treasurer.

They helped start the club two years ago to develop activities for young children in the community, which are sponsored by Optimist International.

"You learn and grow a lot when you join an Optimist Club. You learn leadership and expand your talents," said Fornistall. "I was never one to speak in front of people before and it makes you use traits you didn't know you had."

Two club projects she enjoys are youth appreciation week and the Optimists In Action Day.

They have donated money to four school libraries and planted trees in a local park for community improvement.

Russell Keast is vice president.

Memberships cost \$60 a year with a \$35 initiation fee.

Meetings are held the second Monday of the month in the John Hamilton Apartments Community Room at 7:30 p.m.