



Downtown of Tomorrow

City Manager



Welcome to the ninth edition of our newsletter.

As we close out another year in Washington Court House, I'm reminded of how often the strength of our community is found in the people who quietly dedicate themselves to serving others. This month's feature highlights a partnership that embodies that spirit professionals who help us see the world more clearly, both literally and figuratively.

Optique Vision Care has long been a trusted part of our downtown, and the collaboration between Dr. Beth Army and licensed optician Melissa Adams shows what happens when expertise, compassion, and commitment come together. Their work is a reminder that exceptional care whether in health, business, or public service depends on strong relationships and a shared purpose.

As we continue revitalizing our downtown and strengthening the services that support our residents, stories like theirs reflect the values that make Washington Court House a remarkable place to call home. Thank you for being part of this ongoing effort and for taking the time to stay connected through our monthly newsletter.

Thank you, Joe Denen, City Manager, City of Washington Court House

The Eyes Are The Window to the World

When most people visit the eye doctor, they expect a vision test, a prescription and new glasses or contact lenses. But the quality of care depends on a close partnership between the optometrist and the optician. Together, they are the backbone of the vision care experience.

Optometrists are medical professionals who examine eyes, diagnose conditions, and prescribe the appropriate corrective lenses and protect eye health. Opticians specialize in fitting, adjusting, and crafting eyewear to help patients see their best.

A strong optometrist-optician relationship reduces errors, prevents costly remakes, and ensures patients receive the best total health care for their vision.

Washington Court House has such a pair of specialty providers who look at eyesight through a different lens and their bond of “looking through the glass.”

Melissa Adams (Missy) is a board certified licensed optician with over 30 years experience. She started her optician career with Dr. Grey Eckert at Optique Vision Care on South Main Street. When Dr. Eckert passed away in 2012, Dr. Timothy Fries bought the practice and kept the business name to honor Dr. Eckert. Dr. Fries received his Doctor of Optometry degree in 2004 from Ohio State University College of Optometry, where he is now a professor teaching optometry. Melissa stayed with the practice and has continued her service dedicated to vision care.



Practice Continued To Grow

Dr. Fries served all the patients at Optique, then the business grew. Doctors Timothy Fries, David Anderson, and Jason Miller, optometrists, formed Weyes Guys Properties and later a management group Optometric Management Group (OMG). This group now manages approximately 17 optometric practices in central and southern Ohio.

Dr. Fries purchased the building at 226 W. Court Street, where they are now located. The location is bigger and easily accessible.

When Dr. Fries decided to move from part-time teaching at OSU to full-time professor, Dr. Beth Army joined Optique Vision Care. She was professionally trained by Dr. Fries.

Army Brings Dedication

Dr. Army attended The Ohio State University, graduating cum laude in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in biology with research distinction. She went on to earn her Doctor of Optometry in 2021 at OSU College of Optometry. She focuses on the treatment and management of ocular disease, and performed refractive and cataract surgery. Dr. Army continues her career as a Clinical Assistant Professor at OSU mentoring optometry students one day per week. Her practice is in Washington Court House four days a week at Optique.

Collaboration Is Key

Melissa and Dr. Army have formed a positive collaboration to give patients the benefit of total eye care from a professional team. Consistency builds trust, and they help patients understand the varied facets of eye care. Their collaboration creates a welcoming environment.

Melissa is now Vice President of Operations for the OMG group and travels to the other eye care offices in her region to support all their offices.

Dr. Army says her training provides the patient with additional care, such as being able to diagnose diabetes, high cholesterol, thyroid conditions, some cancers, and more, from just looking into and studying the patient's eyes. If necessary, she calls the primary care physician to alert the physician to a condition she finds a potential problem. She works with the physician for patient healthcare.

Melissa can work through difficult prescriptions, custom situations, and make the necessary adjustments for the patient's best vision care. Melissa said between the two of them, they have a genuine caring for patients. The practice has a good staff who are sensitive to patient needs, according to Melissa.

Dr. Army has started a Dry Eye Clinic with Pulse Light Therapy for those who suffer from a lack of active tear glands causing eyes to become dry and gritty during the day.

The Coordination Provides Better Care

Clear vision is not the work of a single professional. It is the result of collaboration, communication, and shared expertise behind the scenes. When optometrists and opticians work together, patients don't just see better, they experience better care. They strive for total healthcare with more advanced diagnoses and treatment and the proper fitting of the glasses needed to see the world in a better light. Nature is beautiful, see it from behind the best glasses with better vision and care.





Dr. Beth Army (left) and Melissa Adams (right) a professional team for eye care.

Editor's Note:

This is the ninth edition of the new city monthly newsletter. A different person, place, or business will be featured each month. An email list will be compiled so downtown businesses and individuals can receive it electronically, or distributed in paper form, your choice. Residents can also pick up a copy of the newsletter on the counter in the City Water Department office. To receive this newsletter electronically via email, please send your email address to WCHNewsletter@CityOfWch.com. Thank you for helping to revitalize our downtown area for a better tomorrow.