



Optimistically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna - April 2024

Calendar

April 13

Caboose Opening

1- 5 PM.

Need 2 volunteers for each shift.

1-3 PM

3-5 PM



April 16

TR Cook Youth Awards of Excellence

7:30 PM

Madison High School
Warhawk Hall



April 20

Special Olympics

8:30 AM - 3 PM.

Need 8 volunteers for each shift.

8:30 AM - 12 PM

12 - 3 PM

May 4

Farmer's Market Opening Day

8 AM – 12 PM.

Need volunteers for each shift and for pooch parking.

7 - 9 AM

9 - 11 AM

11 AM – 12:30 PM

Musical Guest:

Accotink Rising



News and Notes

March Social - Foster's Grille

Another successful social where we got to eat at the wonderful [Foster's Grille](#) in Vienna. Our fantastic hostess, **Ms. Bronwyn Phillips**, provided the members and their guests with burgers, grilled chicken, and veggie burgers with all the fixings! We also had fries, onion rings, and side salads. And most importantly, we had a blast socializing with our members and their guests, including two brand new members, **Paul Cicio** and **Jacque Brewer**! Be on the lookout for the announcement for the April social!



Caboose Grand Opening and Future Dates

On a beautiful Saturday, March 16, 2024 the Optimists opened the Vienna Red Caboose for the community between 1 PM and 4 PM. The OCGV volunteer conductors for the day were **Bill Comerford**, **Rich Ordeman** and **Dan Gropper**.



Serving the youth of greater Vienna for more than
65 years!

Visit us:

www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org, [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#)



Even More News and Notes

Caboose continued...

The Northern Virginia Model Railroaders had an open house at the Vienna train station at the same time and people were thrilled to participate in a Vienna train day. Almost 400 visitors of all ages enjoyed exploring the caboose and many enjoyed climbing up to the cupola and looking out over Vienna.

The OCGV also paid to fix a broken caboose window which was appreciated by the Town of Vienna who owns the caboose.

Friendly greeters and "ticketers" are needed for the next opening on **April 13th**. Members can sign up to volunteer through [Sign up Genius](#) for future dates and information or email dmulville1@gmail.com. No experience (just smiles and an open heart) necessary.



2024 TR Cook Youth Awards of Excellence - April 16th

This year's TR Cook Youth Awards of Excellence program will be held on Tuesday, **April 16th** in **Madison High School's Warhawk Hall**. Our own **Steve Shannon** will be the guest speaker. The program will start at **7:30**. Plan to arrive around 7:00 to meet some of our students and their parents, and to enjoy the piano music provided by one of Claire Rowan's students. This event is a great opportunity for us to spread the word about our club, and hopefully pick up some new members. As a reminder to some of our "older" members, we will not be serving food for club members prior to the meeting as we did years ago.

2024 Special Olympics - April 20th

The mission of Special Olympics (founded in 1968) is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy. Area 26 is the local organization managing Special Olympics teams, athletes and events in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, Herndon, and Vienna.

The Optimist Club of Greater Vienna participates each year in the Northern Virginia Special Olympics Track and Field event hosted by Episcopal H.S. in Alexandria. The Optimists "time" the athletes in the 100, 200, 400, 800-, 1500-, 3000-, and 5000-meter races and the 400 meter relays. The Vienna Optimists Club has participated in this event since 1997.

Volunteers, and their welcomed guests, are again needed for the upcoming Special Olympics event on **April 20th** at **Episcopal High School** in one of three shifts: Entire day (8:30 AM to 3 PM), Morning session (8:30 AM to 12 PM) or Afternoon session (12 PM to 3 PM). Please signup through [Sign Up Genius](#).

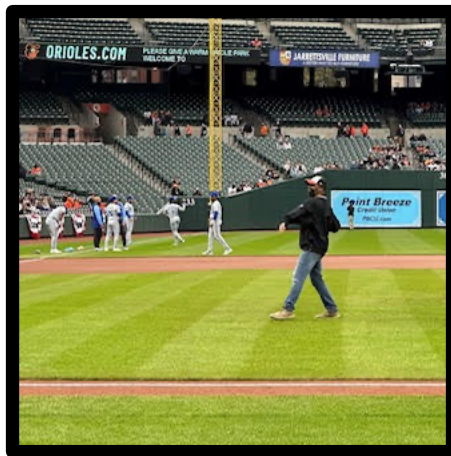
Even More News and Notes

2024 Helping Hands Awards - May 1st

The 27th annual Helping Hands Awards program will take place at **7 PM on Wednesday, May 1** at the Community Center auditorium. Named after Sheryl Friedley who instituted the award, the faculty and administration at the 11 participating elementary schools select a 6th grader who has achieved distinction in service to the school and wider community. For more information, click [Here](#) or email idd@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org!

Vienna Town Manager Throws a Strike!

Our town manager, Mercury Payton, was picked to throw the first pitch at the April 1st game for the Orioles versus the Royals. And it wasn't just a regular throw, but a strike! That set the tone for the game in the Orioles win over the Royals with a walk-off home run!



Farmer's Market Opening Day - May 4th (May the 4th Be With Us!)

Who's ready for the 2024 season of the Farmer's Market? Starting May 4th and running through the end of October, we have 25 seasonal vendors. You'll be able to find everything under the sun including fresh fruit and vegetables and foods and treats from Vietnam, Turkey, the Balkans, Lebanon, Mexico, Bolivia, Italy, France and America. We'll also have Seafood, Breads, Baked Goods, Nuts, Health Bars, Spreads and Dips, Pies and Quiche, Doughnuts, Fair Trade Coffee, Lemonade, Limeade and Smoothies as well as dog treats for our furry friends. Additionally, Pooch Parking will be available at the Optimist tent. And don't forget our wonderful rotation of musicians every week as well provided by your friendly neighborhood roadies! Lastly, we are partnering with local food banks that will collect our surplus produce. Please come out, enjoy, and volunteer via our sign up genius [link](#)!

From President Monica Isaac

Greetings Fellow Optimists!

Susan J. Bissonette couldn't have said it any better: "An optimist is the human personification of spring." And with the changing of the seasons, the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna is bringing forth a new season of opportunity to foster and serve the community. Beginning with opening day of the Caboose on March 16th, Optimists **Dan Gropper, Rich Ordeman, and Bill Comerford**, welcomed hundreds of excited visitors onboard. Thanks to these members for starting off the season strong and bringing smiles to many faces at this cherished Vienna landmark.

In concert with welcoming spring, several existing and new Optimists gathered for good food and fun at Foster's Grille on March 23rd. Newest members **Jacque Brewer and Paul Cicio** joined. To learn more about them, please read their bios. As part of a renewed effort to gather and socialize more in a post-COVID era, we certainly hope you can attend our next social, to be held on Saturday, April 13th, 4:30pm at Nozzo Pazzo. Please RSVP via the Signup Genius email recently sent and join us for more good times and delicious food.

Other traditional spring activities, including baseball season, included Optimist participation, with our very own **Mercury Payton**, who threw the first pitch at the Baltimore Oriels game on April 1st. Throwing a strike, the Oriels went on to beat the Kansas City Royals (6-4). Way to go Mercury!

Looking forward, opportunities for blossoming optimism will take place on April 16th with the TR Cook Awards at James Madison High School (JMHS) and the Special Olympics on April 20th. More details about each of these events can be found within this edition of the newsletter.

Finally, the opening of the Farmers Market is only three weeks away. With over 25 seasonal vendors booked and nine separate musical groups performing over the course of 26 weeks, we are well positioned for another strong season of communal engagement and positive energy. Supporting this effort, six JMHS seniors will begin their WINGS Experience this month to help the Optimists raise awareness of this event and other club activities. By applying their technical and marketing skills, these students will be assisting the club to raise the club's profile within the community and from a youth perspective. From this partnership of club members, vendors, local Township government, high school students, and market patrons, we are indeed welcoming spring with optimistic renewal.

Until next time, be well and enjoy the sunshine.

Monica

**Board of Directors 2023-2024
Optimist Club of Greater Vienna**

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Director, Youth	Ed Wonder

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 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 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.

Christian D. Larsen

New Member Profiles: Paul Cicio and Jacque Brewer



Paul Cicio and his wife Marilyn moved to Vienna in 1991 with their four daughters. Now, they have five terrific grandchildren. With 40 wonderful years of marriage, Marilyn is with the Lord. After 28 years with Dow Chemical in diverse business and government affairs roles, Paul retired and started a trade association called the Industrial Energy Consumers of America that represents large manufacturing companies in policy circles. He enjoys spending time with his family, travel, biking, hiking, fishing, golf and music. His favorite reading books are history related. He is a member of the Vienna Presbyterian Church.

Jacque Brewer is originally from New Hampshire but have spent most of her life in the Washington, DC area or overseas. She is currently a federal executive in the Department of Defense. Jacque returned to Virginia in 2022 after serving for four years in Denver, Colorado. She enjoys drawing and painting, traveling, training dogs, writing, and reading. And above all, she enjoys walking with her miniature English Cream longhaired dachshund and visiting with her three adult children.

Welcome to the Optimists, Paul and Jacque!