



Optimistically Speaking April, 2012

www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org

Spotlight on Upcoming Events



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| April 4 | Meeting - Marco Polo Restaurant
6:45 p.m. - Meet and Greet
7:30 p.m. - Dinner
Program: Farmers Market Kick-Off |
| April 8 | Happy Easter |
| April 11 | 7:30 p.m.- Board Meeting
Emmanuel Lutheran Church,
2589 Chain Bridge Rd., Vienna |
| April 14 | Special Olympics Time Trials
Flint Hill High School, Oakton |
| April 19 | Meeting - Madison High School
6:15 p.m. - Casual Dinner, Room TBD
7:30 p.m. - Youth Awards of Excellence
Madison High School Warhawk Hall |
| April 21 | <u>NOTE DAY OF WEEK CHANGE</u>
Zone 5 Oratorical Contest
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Vienna |
| April 28 | Special Olympics Track & Field
Episcopal High School |

Farmers Market Kick-Off Dinner

Come join us the evening of Wednesday, April 4, to kick-off this year's Farmers Market which begins operation on Saturday, May 5. The market will continue operation this year under Market Managers Dave Lanphear and Sarah Jane Brady but substantial help from Club members will be needed to man shifts on Saturday mornings. The market brings in additional funds for our youth programs and provides an important service to the greater Vienna community.

Remember: our social hour will begin at 6:45 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. -- mark your calendar!

2012 Youth Awards of Excellence Madison High School Warhawk Hall

Come join us the evening of Thursday, April 19, to celebrate excellence of juniors from James Madison High School, George C. Marshall High School, and Oakton High School. The keynote speaker will be Kevin Grevey, former NBA shooting guard, who helped the Washington Bullets win their championship in 1978. Following our speaker's message, outstanding high school juniors will be recognized in six areas of accomplishment— academics, citizenship, fine arts, sciences, sports, and technology. So, come join us for this celebration of youthful excellence.

Remember: dinner begins at 6:15 p.m. followed by the program at 7:30 p.m. -- mark your calendar!

NOTE DAY OF WEEK CHANGE: THURSDAY NOT WEDNESDAY!

The Optimist Club of Greater Vienna will receive the "Mayor's Award" at a presentation on April 10, 2012, 7 p.m. in the Flame Room of the Vienna Fire Department. All are invited!





Note from the Prez . . .



Last week's Oratorical Contest was a major success. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Mike Fitzella, the evening went smoothly. The contest itself, and the students, were inspiring. A great evening for the club!

President Walt



**Capital Virginia District
Third Quarter Meeting & Oratorical
Contest**

May 18-20, 2012

**Sheraton Park South
Richmond, VA**

**94th Optimist Interna-
tional Convention**

July 12-14, 2012

Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Several Club members helped with the Special Olympics basketball skills event held on March 4, 2012. Pictured above assisting the athletes are Bob McCormick, Grant Marsh, Dick Lippert, and Scott Klapot. Not pictured are Jim Houston, Joan Marsh, Barry Wheeler, and Dick Gongaware.

Club Holds Oratorical Contest



Contest winners, Thomas and Clare



Clare with fellow girl contestants, Megha and Allison



Thomas with fellow boy contestants, Samuel and Jack



Oratorical Contest judges pictured with Club Vice President for Youth, Mike Fitzella

The Optimist Club of Greater Vienna held its annual Oratorical Contest on March 21, 2012. Six middle school students, one boy and one girl each from Kilmer, Thoreau, and Luther Jackson Middle Schools competed. The winners were Clare McConnell and Thomas Mecherikunnel (upper left) both from Kilmer. Other participants were Megha Karthikeyan and Samuel Ressin from Thoreau and Allison Goldblatt and Jack Lovelace from Luther Jackson. The winners will compete at the Zone level on April 21, 2012 and the winners at the Zone level will compete in the District Contest and a chance to win a scholarship. The judging was done by Jeremy Hodgson, Stan Polit, and Ethan Millsbaugh, three extremely well qualified members of the George Mason University staff. The judges are pictured with Mike Fitzella, the Club's Vice President for Youth (left center above). All the students did extremely well and should be proud of what they accomplished. They are all winners!



The six contestants pictured with the contest judges



MPO Bill Murray talks to Club members about some of the scams and frauds the Vienna Police Department has dealt with in Vienna.

Essay Contest first place winner receives her check from President Walt Petersen after reading her essay at the March 7th meeting. She was unable to attend the Essay Contest meeting on February 15, 2012.

Alexander Ryjik of Alexandria, a top-ranked junior fencer who has represented the U.S. in two previous Cadet World Championships (Belfast, 2010 and Azerbaijan 2009), has earned his third trip to the Fencing World Cup. Ryjik will have the opportunity to represent the U.S. at the World Cup in April in Moscow. Alexander began fencing at 9, and trains at the Virginia Academy of Fencing in Springfield. He is the son of Club member Anna Ryjik.



The Capital Virginia District will host its junior golf qualifying tournament at The Crossings Golf Course in Glen Allen, Virginia on June 9 & 10, 2012. Winners in each age division will qualify to represent Virginia at the Optimist International Tournament to be held at PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida in July, 2012.



Optimist Anniversaries

- Mike Byard – 21 years
- Anna Ryjik – 4 years
- Dick Gongaware – 4 years
- Michele Wright – 4 years
- Tom Bauer – 3 years
- Gladys Kozlik – 2 years

Happy Birthday

- Jim Stivison – April 2
- Dave Lanphear – April 11
- Dave Frost – April 21
- Paul Snodgrass – April 24
- Bob Sargent – April 24



The race is not always to the swiftest... but to those who keep on running.





Board Actions at a Glance

The Board of Directors met on March 15, 2012 with eleven members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- VP of Youth, Mike Fitzella, discussed plans for the Oratorical Contest on March 21 and the Youth Awards of Excellence scheduled for April 19 (note that this is a Thursday night) in Warhawk Hall at Madison High School auditorium. Mike pointed out that the Board needs to address the changes Optimist International (OI) has made in the eligibility for the Oratorical Contest. OI raised the age to 18, meaning competitors could now be high school students. We have continued having our contest for the middle school students, but this puts them at a disadvantage in the next level of competition. If we make this a contest for high school students, we no longer have a vehicle to engage middle school students. The Board needs to resolve this before the next school year begins.
- VP of Finance, Tom Spengler, reported that he would discuss would like to discuss some fundraising ideas at the next meeting.
- VP of Media Relations, Tom Bauer, reported that the club got coverage in the *Sun-Gazette* for the Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) (front page photo) as well as the Essay Contest and that the *Connection* reported on both programs.
- Accepted the resignation of Samira Rantisi effective March 31.
- Request for Funds
Approved a donation to support the Drug Abuse Resistance (DARE) program at Cunningham Park Elementary School.
Approved a request from the American Legion Auxiliary to support the attendance of one girl at Girls' State this year.

Board of Directors 2011-2012



President	Walt Petersen
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Tom Fraim
President Elect	Laurie Cole
Immediate Past President	Tom Fraim
VP Community	Sara Goldberg
VP Finance	Tom Spengler
VP Media Relations	Tom Bauer
VP Membership	Jodi Weier
VP Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	Michele Wright
Director of Media Relations	Gladys Kozlik
Director of Membership	Jim Pammel
Director of Youth	Jim Stivison
Webmaster	Gary Moonan

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

Help Wanted!!

Vienna Caboose Open House

The 2012 open house schedule for the Vienna Caboose began on March 17, 2012 and continues one day per month through November. The next open house will be on April 14, 1-5 p.m. If you can help man the Caboose during the open house days or can help with Caboose maintenance & upkeep please contact Dan Mulville.

Vienna Farmers Market

The 2012 Vienna Farmers Market begins on Saturday, May 5. Participation by Club members is needed to help manage the market on Saturday mornings.