

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

August 2014

Calendar

August 2 — Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon
301 Center Street, South

August 2—Caboose Open

6:00-8:30 p.m.
W&OD 10K event

August 6—Regular Meeting

Speaker: Author Tom Shroder
6:45—Social Time; 7:30 p.m.—Dinner
Marco Polo Restaurant

August 9—Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon
301 Center Street, South

August 13 — Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

August 16—Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon
301 Center Street, South

August 20 — No Meeting!

August 23— Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon
301 Center Street, South

August 27—Fourth Wednesday

“Team B “ Delivers Dinner to
Culmore Teen Center

August 30 — Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon
301 Center Street, South

Spotlight on Upcoming Events

The dog days of summer are here! Did you know that “dog days” as a term for the long, hot days of summer comes from Roman times? The Latin phrase *diēs caniculārēs* associates hot weather with the star Sirius, the brightest star in the Canis Major (“Large Dog”) constellation. Isn’t Wikipedia great?

Our dog days will be enlivened by our **meeting on August 6**, when award-winning author and editor **Tom Shroder** will speak about his new book, *Acid Test: LSD, Ecstasy, and the Power to Heal*. Readers familiar with Mr. Shroder’s work know he is a gifted writer who undertakes challenging topics. It promises to be an interesting evening.



We are at the peak of the season for our **Farmers Market!** Despite the adversity of a major road project requiring a detour for some patrons to reach us, we continue to host a lively market on Saturday mornings. *Every Optimist can help with the Market—* volunteer, shop, and spread the word that we are open during construction!

Note that we will not meet on August 20.

Our **“Fourth Wednesday”** project for Alternative House’s Culmore Teen Center is underway. Team B, led by Tom Bauer, will be delivering dinner to the **Teen Center on August 27.**

Get ready for September! We will hold a NOW (“New Optimists Welcome”) event on Sunday, **September 7, at Sweet City Desserts in Vienna.** Bring a potential member and enjoy tasty refreshments (sweet and otherwise), from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Details to follow....



And save the date for our annual Fun Day and fund-raiser for **Growing Hope on Saturday, September 27.** There’s more information inside!



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna
for *almost 60* Years!
Visit us at www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org
We’re on Facebook! [Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub)



From the President—

Dear Fellow Optimists,

Thank you, Laurie Cole, for filling in for me at the July 16th meeting, but I had to go to NYC to meet my new grandson, Ford, who was born that afternoon. I heard that Marcia McAllister’s presentation about the opening of the Silver Line was very entertaining and informative and that the induction of our new members went well. I was planning on buying each of the new members a beverage of their choice at the Maplewood Grill afterward, so that offer stands following our August 6th meeting.

I was able to take a ride on the Silver line on its Opening Day [July 26] and it was quite enjoyable. The elevated ride through Tysons Corner gives you a very different perspective on the area. On our return trip as we approached Tysons in the evening, it clearly had the look of an independent major city. As unattractive as the elevated railway looks from the ground, it is very impressive from a riding perspective.

We are having just one meeting in August and that will be August 6th. Tom Shroder, an award- winning journalist, writer and editor, will be our speaker. Tom was the editor of the *Washington Post Magazine* for 15 years and has been referred to—affectionately—by Gene Weingarten who writes the humor column there as “tom the butcher”. Tom along with Gene and Dave Barry created and conduct The Post Hunt in Washington, a mass-participation puzzle attended by thousands each year. Tom has written several books and will speak about his latest which is titled: **Acid Test: LSD, Ecstasy, and the Power to Heal**. The book deals with the military’s efforts to find an effective treatment for soldiers suffering from PTSD.

September will be a very busy month, as we will finish the year with a flurry. In addition to our two meetings and our Family Fun Day for Growing Hope on September 27th, we will have a NOW (“New Optimists Welcomed”) event to attract new members on Sunday, September 7th. If you have a new member prospect, our September 7th NOW gathering is a great time to invite them. We will be having a late afternoon gathering with Optimist members and their prospective member guests. The event is designed to introduce prospective members to how our club serves the youth of Vienna and encourage them to join us. The location is to-be-determined, so stay tuned for updates.

Expecting only the best!

President Tom Spengler



August Birthday Wishes to:

- Tom Fraim – August 2
- Carla Brooks – August 5
- Jim Pammel – August 15
- Ken Glaser – August 18
- Cindy Stanton – August 19
- Grant Marsh – August 21

Optimist Anniversaries

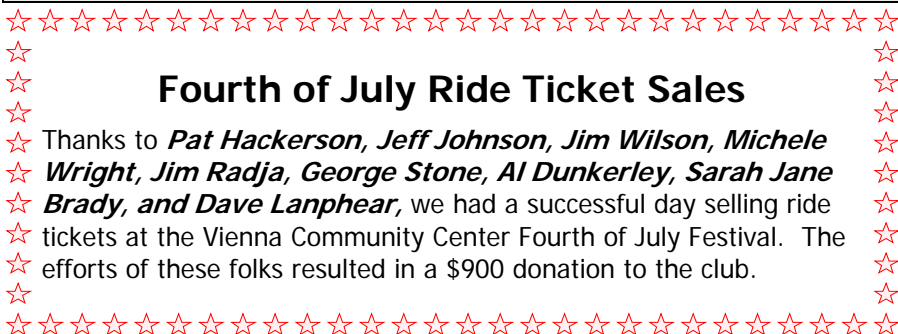
In August

- Carla Brooks – 11 years
- Dick Carr – 11 years
- Tom Fraim – 10 years
- Gary Moonan – 11 years
- Dan Mulville – 11 years
- Jim Spain – 11 years
- Bob Steinfeldt – 11 years



Fourth of July Ride Ticket Sales

Thanks to *Pat Hackerson, Jeff Johnson, Jim Wilson, Michele Wright, Jim Radja, George Stone, Al Dunkerley, Sarah Jane Brady, and Dave Lanphear*, we had a successful day selling ride tickets at the Vienna Community Center Fourth of July Festival. The efforts of these folks resulted in a \$900 donation to the club.



NEW MEMBER JUMPS IN TO HELP KILMER CENTER

Other New Members Spotted at Optimist Club Activities

By Mike Fitzella

Kudos to **John Andrews**, one of our newest members, for his hands-on support of our partnership with the **Kilmer Center**. Responding to a call for help made at our July meeting, John volunteered to repair some of the broken electronic devices that **Stacy Kafka** and her colleagues were hoping to use in their new science curriculum. John has repaired eight of the ten broken devices so far. As soon as he gets a couple replacement speakers, he'll be able to finish the job. John's efforts will make a huge difference in the lives of many Kilmer Center students when school starts again in September. Way to go, John!

Elsewhere around Vienna, new members are already part of the volunteering scene with the Optimists. **George Stone** sold tickets at the 4th of July Festival; **Marnie Fienberg** staffed the Caboose; **Angelique Ayala** and **Rob DiRocco** have pulled duty at the Farmers Market. Where else have you seen our newest members in action?



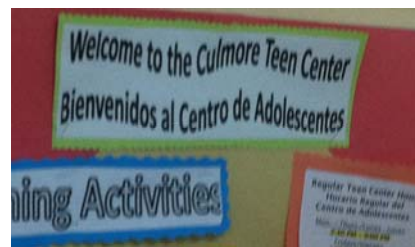
in the Market, visit with fellow Optimists, do your shopping, answer some more questions, say hi to your friends who are doing their shopping, take down some signs, throw out the trash, and go home!

Just like Mom said, "many hands make light work." So lend your hands to helping at the Market before the season is over. Sign up online at the Club website, or contact Jim Houston, jhouston3276@yahoo.com.

"FOURTH WEDNESDAY" PROJECT UNDERWAY AT CULMORE TEEN CENTER

By Laurie Cole

July 23 was the official launch of our new "Fourth Wednesday" project. Volunteers from Team A (**Tom and June Fraim, Pat Hackerson, and Laurie Cole**) delivered a complete, nutritious (and no doubt delicious!) dinner to the **Culmore Teen Center**. New Center Director **Taylor Thornton** welcomed us, and the teens—as they are wont to do—continued to pursue their activities. Taylor reported things are quieter at the Center during the summer and she looks forward to our year-round involvement.



Four teams have formed to share the commitment to deliver dinner and volunteer support to the Culmore Teen Center on the fourth Wednesday of each

month. The Teen Center is part of Alternative House's Community-Based Youth Services program. The Teen Center is located in the Culmore area of Falls Church, and serves kids ranging from 13-18 years of age.

If you haven't signed up and are interested in participating, contact Laurie Cole at laurie-cole.optimist@gmail.com.

FOR KIDS ONLY!

NEWS

FROM AROUND THE CLUB

FARMERS MARKET SEASON: HALF-OVER OR HALF TO COME?

We are halfway through the season and the Market is in full swing. Produce, preserves, meat, music, crepes, construction—we have it all. But do we have you?

Being a Saturday market volunteer is low-impact duty. The vendors set up their own gear and take it down again—no heavy lifting required. In a three hour shift you might put up some signs, answer questions, remind folks that dogs are not allowed

NEW EDITION CABOOSE T-SHIRTS GO ON SALE AUGUST 9

By Michele Wright

T-shirts with a picture of our iconic red caboose on them will be available on August 9th at the Farmer's Market from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Each shirt is \$11 and we only have children's sizes xs to xl. Anyone wishing to purchase before then for children or grandchildren are welcome to contact Michele Wright, mwright@wrightwealthstrategies.net.

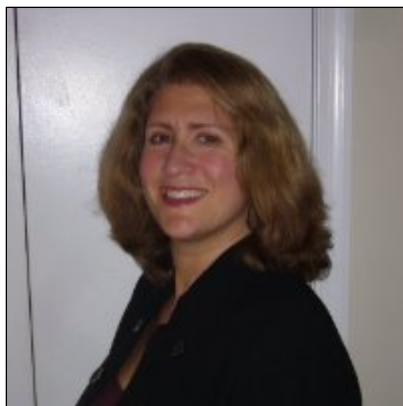


Optimist Club of Greater Vienna
We bring out the best in Kids!

Meet Our New Members

From VP for Membership Joe Miller

The 2014 new member photos and bios are being provided to club members via the newsletter so each member can get to know our newest Optimists better and greet them at meetings. Last month we met Kathy Cutri, Missy Whittington, and Rob DiRocco. This month several more new members are featured. Welcome to the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna!



Marnie Fienburg

I've been a resident of Vienna for the past 12 years with my wonderful husband and daughter. Originally from Buffalo, NY, where I volunteered at Shakespeare in the Park and the local food bank, I then attended and graduated from Newhouse School of Communications at Syracuse University. My biggest volunteering achievement in those days was helping to change the campus policy and communications infrastructure after a series of rapes on campus. I then headed to New York City for my shot at the movie/web business with Miramax Films

before falling in love with the Internet – I have worked as a digital marketer ever since.

9/11 changed my professional focus, and I am proud to have dedicated most of my professional life to supporting the folks who keep us safe at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Helping them use digital tools to communicate, innovate and work more efficiently means that they can focus on that mission. As a working mom, most of my volunteering has been professional. I volunteer at Taproot, a pro bono organization for consultants to give their expertise to help local charities. My current project is a charity that helps adults learn basic technology so they can get a job and stand on their own two feet. I also volunteer at Food for Others and my synagogue.

My daughter is 6 and attending Freedom Hill Elementary where I am a member of the PTA. While I contribute to many charities, I am eager to roll up my sleeves and get more directly engaged in my local community, like I did in my youth. Through the Optimist Club, I hope to help kids in need and help kids achieve big things. *Marnie's sponsor and Mentor is Anna Ryjik.*



John Andrews

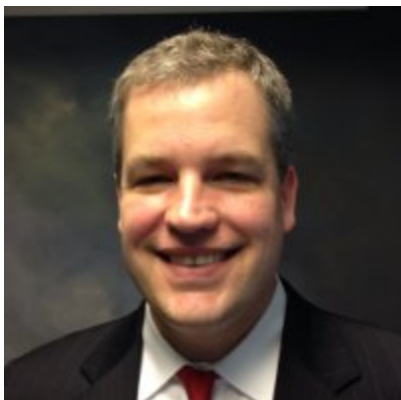
I was born in the Washington area, and I came to Vienna in 1984. During that time, I was working for GTE Spacenet, located in Mclean. In 1991, while working shift at GTE, I met and married my wife, Mary Jane. Over those next 23 years, we remained in Vienna, while raising our 2 daughters, Emma (20) and Susannah (18). I have worked in Satellite Communications since I was 23 years old. Presently, I am the Director of Operations at Eutelsat America Corporation, located in NW Washington DC. I enjoy the outdoors with biking to work, hiking in the Virginia woods and downhill skiing in the colder months. My family and I are members of Emmanuel Lutheran church and we have thrived in Vienna for these past 30 years. *John's sponsor is Mike Fitzella.*



Leah Palmer

No Bio Available

Leah's sponsor and mentor is Tom Spengler.



George Stone

No Bio Available

George's sponsor is Grant Marsh and mentor is Gary Moonan.

Not Pictured:

Geeta Dubey

Geeta's sponsor is Anna Ryjik, and her mentor is Laurie Cole.



Angelique Ayala

I am a financial advisor with Manna Capital Management. I have a bachelor's degree in finance with a minor in economics from George Mason University. Apart from loving my career, I like to spend time with friends and family, and be active outdoors and in the community. I am looking forward to working with Anna Ryjik on Growing Hope and Laurie Cole on Alternative House.



Angelique's sponsor is Jim Wilson and her Mentor is Anna Ryjik.

From VP for Membership Joe Miller

The Vienna Optimist Club Mentoring Program

Member recruitment is important to the health and growth of a Club. Some Members will naturally drop off due to scheduling conflicts or moving out of the area. It is important to bring in new members who have a lot of energy and fresh ideas—which are fortunate to have done, and will work to continue doing—so that our Club can maintain its level of service.

Once an Optimist Club recruits new Members, it's important to keep them! New Member education is essential to maintaining or improving Club retention rates. New Members experience bewilderment and confusion during their first few months (remember your first year with the Club?) so it is important to pair the new member with a seasoned member of the club. The Optimist Club Mentoring Program is a personal development program pairing an experienced Optimist Club Member with a New Member for an eight-week to twelve-week period to help familiarize the new member with the Club, organization, traditions, events, and projects. Here's a brief overview of our program:

Qualities of a Mentor

- Optimist Club member
- Expressed an interest in being a Mentor
- Active in local club
- Has ability to work with varied personality types
- Can work with others one-on-one
- Ability to teach
- Dedicated to the Optimist tradition
- Can devote time to being a Mentor

What the Optimist Club Mentor Should Try to Achieve

1. The mentor/member indoctrination should continue for 8 - 12 weeks.
2. Have coffee or tea bi-weekly to discuss Optimist activities



Lena Shrestha

My family and I moved to beautiful Vienna in 1997. I grew up attending Louise Archer, Kilmer, and James Madison High School. I was a founding member of Madison's Octagon Club, and I enjoyed working with Mr. Ordeman as its second president. I studied critical theory at the College of William and Mary, where my women's fraternity (Kappa Kappa Gamma) established a Reading is Fundamental program at the local Head Start. I also volunteered at an ESOL/adult literacy program on campus, and I lent a hand at an animal shelter in Williamsburg (and ended up with my energetic cat, Joey).

Last year, I graduated with a M.A. in Cultural Sustainability from Goucher College, where I met a dear friend and business partner. We are on the road to launching Heretic Honey, an online boutique that will feature accessories and apparel handcrafted by independent artisans. I am also a coach at Machine Aquatics swim team, where I introduce kids to the sport of competitive swimming. This past year, I also volunteered at Mason's LIFE program as a coach for the Special Olympic swim team. In my free time, I love reading mystery novels, photographing and sketching nature and flowers (especially at Meadowlark!), and checking out local blues bands.

I am looking forward to becoming more involved with our community through the Optimist Club!

Lena's sponsor is Tom Spengler and her Mentor is Michele Wright.

July Board Actions

The Board of Directors met on July 9 with 11 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Agreed to relook conducting the Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH).
- Approved the membership of John Andrews, sponsored by Mike Fitzella.
- Agreed to waive the \$35 membership fee through September 30.
- Discussed plans for the Walk for Growing Hope and Family Fun Day scheduled for September 27.
- Discussed plans for the "Fourth Wednesday" program at the Culmore Teen Center.
- Agreed to continue membership in the Vienna Business Association.
- Agreed to cancel the August 20 dinner meeting.
- Approved a donation to the Vienna Community Center in support of the Kids Halloween Party.

(Mentoring, continued from page 5)

3. Introduce the new member to the president and each member of the Board of Directors.
4. Invite them to a Board of Directors meeting (check with the club president first)
5. Go over all the activities of the club with the new member.
6. Engage the new member into at least 3 club activities.
7. Encourage the new member to attend the regular club meeting.
8. Go over Optimist International activities, including Zone and District activities.

The Mentor hopes to accomplish the following:

- Establish a sense of belonging and fellowship with the new member
- Awareness of Club activities
- Sense of responsibility to participate in activities, events and meetings
- Attitude of service to community and youth
- Understanding of Optimism as an organization and philosophy of life

If you would like to become a Mentor to a new member, please email Joe Miler at jmeda@cox.net.

OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2013 – 14

President	Tom Spengler
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Tom Fraim
Immediate Past President	Laurie Cole
President Elect	Dick Gongaware
Vice President of Community	Michele Wright
Vice President of Finance	Jim Wilson
Vice President of Media Relations	Tom Bauer
Vice President of Membership	Joe Miller
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	Anna Ryjik
Director of Media Relations	Susan Bauer
Director of Membership	AK Mohamed Yaseen
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