

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

July 2014

Calendar

July 2 — NO MEETING!

July 4—Happy Independence Day!

Town of Vienna Celebration Ticket Sales

July 5 — Farmers Market—We are open!

8:00 a.m. to noon

301 Center Street, South

July 9 — Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

July 11—Vienna Business Association Non-Profits Breakfast Meeting *We are featured!*

8:00 a.m. American Legion Hall

July 12 — Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

301 Center Street, South

July 12—Caboose Open

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

July 16 — Regular Meeting

Metro Silver Line Preview

6:45—Social Time; 7:30 p.m.—Dinner

Marco Polo Restaurant

July 19— Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

301 Center Street, South

July 23—Fourth Wednesday

Deliver Dinner for Culmore Teen Center

July 26 — Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

301 Center Street, South

Spotlight on Upcoming Events



As is our tradition, **the Club will NOT meet** the first week in July. Have a safe and happy Independence Day!

But the crops don't stop for national holidays, so **the Farmer's Market will be open on July 5.**

Starting the week of July 7, the Town of Vienna will begin a major reconstruction project of Center Street from Maple Avenue to Locust Street. We need

good word-of-mouth publicity that **the Market will be open during construction!** Access to the Market will be available via Courthouse Road to Locust Street; Moore Avenue to Center Street; and Park Street to Cherry Street (by the Fire Station). Please tell your friends, neighbors and random passers-by that the Market is open all summer!



Five new members will be inducted to the Optimist Club at our July 16 meeting. We welcome **Angelique Ayala, Geeta Dubey Lena Shrestha, Marnie Fienberg, and Rob DiRocco.** Look for brief bios of these and other recent members in this and upcoming issues of the Newsletter.



Also at the July 16 meeting we will hear about the imminent (really!) opening of the **Metrarail Silver Line.** **Katy Gorman** of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project will be our speaker.

Our newest service project, "**Fourth Wednesday**", launches this month. Teams of Optimists will prepare and deliver dinner to the Culmore Teen Center in Annandale. The Teen Center is one of the Community-based Youth Services operated by Alternative House. Our volunteers will have the opportunity to serve dinner to the kids, and provide learning assistance and mentoring. If you are interested in participating, contact Laurie Cole at lauriecole.optimist@gmail.com.

In next month's newsletter: Be a Mentor to a New Member!



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna
for over 55 Years
Visit us at www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org
We're on Facebook! [Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub)



From the President—

Fellow Vienna Optimists,

As a relatively new member (less than 4 years) and this year’s president, I am amazed at the breadth of activities which our club reaches. The most recent example is the Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership Virginia Seminar. We sponsor a sophomore at Oakton High School to attend this two day seminar each year. This past week we received a detailed thank you note from Wilson He who attended this year’s conference at James Madison University. He described that the conference changed his concept of leadership. He notes in his letter he learned the importance of listening and stated that “leadership is far more than any title or authority: it is about fulfilling a core yearning of the human spirit to find fulfillment through the service to others”.

Our total investment to sponsor the HOBY scholarship was \$350. Based on Wilson He’s most thoughtful thank you note, you could tell that Wilson was inspired and enlightened by the experience and it had a real impact on this young life. He has offered to speak to the Optimist regarding his experience which we will take him up on at a future meeting.

Our next meeting is JULY 16th at Marco Polo. Our speaker will be Katy Gorman, Outreach Manager for the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project. The topic will be THE SILVER LINE OPENING. We will also be inducting five new members:

- Angelique Ayala, Manna Capital Management
- Geeta Dubey , Geeta’s Jewelry & Boutique
- Lena Shrestha, Research and Production Consultant
- Marnie Fienberg, Independent Consultant
- Rob DiRocco, Asurion

Come and welcome these new members.

Joe Miller has been outstanding as our VP of Membership. He has really worked hard to encourage new members, establish a mentorship program and keep our club the most active and energetic in Virginia. We will have added nine new members this year and are well within reaching of our goal of 15 new members. Thank you Joe!

Thanks to Michele Wright for the fine RESPECT FOR LAW program last month which honored our local police officers.

A year-long achievement “thanks” goes to Mike Fitzella. The June 4th PARTNERS IN EDUCATION program, which was outstanding as usual, marked the *eighth* (and last) youth program for the year. Each and every one was excellent.

See you on July 16th!

President Tom Spengler



July Birthday Wishes to:

- Ed Moore – July 9
- Scott Klapot – July 14
- Sheryl Friedley – July 16
- Jeff Johnson – July 25
- Gary Moonan – July 28
- Sarah Jane Brady – July 31

Optimist Anniversaries in July

- Paul Snodgrass – 34 years
- Laurie Cole – 9 years
- Elizabeth Bland – 6 years



SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, September 7, 2014

A special “New Optimists Welcome!” meeting is being planned for Sunday, September 7, in the late afternoon (after the football game). The location is To Be Determined, but the goal is set: Introduce prospective members to our Optimist Club, tell them about the great things we do for kids, and have some fun! More to come...!

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. More photos and bios will appear in next month's Newsletter. Want to learn more about our new Mentor program? Contact Joe Miller, jmeda@cox.net.

Kathy J. Cutri

I have lived in Vienna for over 22 years, raised three children, and work at Louise Archer Elementary. I was a founding member of the Vienna Teen Foundation as well as a volunteer as a Thoreau and Madison band parent for 10 years, the Vienna Youth Players for 13 years, an original member of the Vienna Madison Community Coalition for four years, as well as various other PTA and community duties over the years. Aside from my husband, three children, and granddaughter, my biggest pride is in having brought Rosa Parks to my college in Monterey, California in 1990 and spending three days with her. I'm delighted to join the Optimists who've always been there in the background in all of my volunteer duties. It's great to be part of a like-minded group who believe in youth like I do!

Kathy's sponsor is Laurie Cole and her Mentor is Mike Fitzella.



Rob DiRocco

I am currently Senior Vice President and General Manager at Asurion, a privately held \$6 Billion provider of product support services sold by retailers and telecommunication carriers. My responsibilities have included leadership of client management, sales, marketing, and product development. Prior to Asurion, I was Vice President of Sales and Marketing for mindSHIFT Technologies, a national provider of managed IT service to small-to-midsize companies. I started my career at Verizon where I was Director of Civilian and Intel federal agency sales.

I have an MBA, with a concentration in Finance, from George Washington University. I also hold a BS degree from Virginia Tech, with a concentration in Finance and Marketing.

Rob and his wife Laurie, the current Vienna Mayor, have two daughters and have been Vienna residents since

1995. His prior volunteer work has included serving on the Board of Equal Footing Foundation; being a Wish Granter for Make-A-Wish; and a Financial Literacy Advisor for Our Daily Bread.

Rob's sponsor and Mentor is Joe Miller.



Missy Whittington

I was born in Washington DC and raised in Vienna, VA. I graduated from Virginia Tech with a B.S. in Finance and married my college sweetheart, Dick Whittington. Over the course of the next 30 years, I held different finance and accounting positions with Virginia Power, PEPCO and ICF International, and raised my boys Nate, Bryan and Daniel. Today, I work for FCPS at Marshall High School as the Varsity Softball Coach and I also work part time at Vienna Presbyterian Church as a staff accountant. I am very happy to join the Optimists and cannot figure out why it took me so long to do so!

Missy's sponsor is Laurie Cole and her Mentors are Tom & Susan Bauer.



June Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on June 11 with 12 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Discussed the success of the Partners in Education program and plans for the Respect for Law program.
- Discussed plans for Fourth of July ride ticket sales at the Vienna Community Center.
- Discussed some organization matters for the Walk for Growing Hope and Family Fun Day scheduled for September 27.
- Approved the membership of five new members:
Marnie Feinberg – sponsored by Anna Ryjik
Angelique Ayala – sponsored by Jim Wilson
Geeta Dubey – sponsored by Anna Ryjik
Lena Shrestha – sponsored by Tom Spengler
Rob DiRocco – sponsored by Joe Miller
- Authorized spending up to \$4,000 to acquire a replacement trailer for the Christmas tree lot.
- Discussed plans for a new approach for a New Optimist Welcome (NOW) meeting.
- Discussed ideas for a “4th Wednesday” program with the Culmore Teen Center vice Alternative House.

- Approved a donation to Faith Baptist Church for allowing us to use their property for the Farmers Market.
- Approved a donation to Community for Helping Others (CHO).

Cool Fun, Courtesy of the Optimist Club!

For several years we have sponsored the dunk tank and sno-cone machine at the Louise Archer Elementary School Fun Day. Here are some of the students enjoying their cold treat at this year event!



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