

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

July 2015

Calendar

July 1— **NO MEETING**

July 4 — Farmers Market
(yes, we are OPEN!)

8:00 a.m. to noon



July 8 — **NO** Board Meeting

July 11 — Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

July 15 — No Meeting

Rescheduled to July 22

July 18 — Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

July 18 — Caboose Open

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Volunteer Needed!

July 22 — Special Meeting Date

Dr. Monique Saigal, Author of
*French Heroines, 1940-1945: Courage, Strength,
and Ingenuity*

6:45 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Vienna American Legion Post 180

330 Center Street North, Vienna

July 25 — Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

July 26 — Caboose Open

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

Spotlight on Upcoming Events

Farmer Sam says it all—**We need YOU at the Saturday Farmers Market!** July and August are busiest months at the Market, and they are the most challenging months for getting volunteers. You can help by signing up for just a few shifts (or, of course, more!) over the next 10 weeks. Share the work, join the fun, volunteer for the Market.

And don't forget to **shop at the Market** even on the days you are not volunteering! Our vendors are friendly, they have great products and they appreciate our support.

Our only meeting this month is Wednesday, July 22, at the Vienna American Legion. **Dr. Monique Saigal**, Professor

Emerita of French at Pomona College will speak about her book, *French Heroines, 1940-1945: Courage, Strength, and Ingenuity*. As a child Dr. Saigal was hidden by a family in rural France after her grandmother was killed at Auschwitz and her father disappeared. The book is both her story and the story of women who risked their lives with the French Resistance.

In a possible first for our Club, this will be a **joint meeting with the Vienna Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW)**. AAUW's mission is in many ways similar to our own (e.g., promoting education for young people) so this should be a good opportunity to introduce our Club to other active members of the Vienna community. Bring a friend for what promises to be a compelling program.



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna
for 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 Vienna Optimists,

Happy 60th Anniversary! The Optimist Club of Greater Vienna turned 60 on June 21, and we celebrated on the Town Green on June 14th. First, **thank you** to the committee members who put this together; **Kathy Cutri, Pat Hackerson, Joe Miller, Steve Rabil, Anna Ryjik, Lena Shrestha, Michele Wright**. They did it with little time and money, but with a great amount of creativity. In a proclamation from the Town of Vienna, June 21st was declared “Optimist Day” in honor of our anniversary. That proclamation was presented to us by Town Council Member Carey Sienicki. We also received a congratulatory letter from the Governor of Virginia, Terry McAuliffe and a joint resolution from the Virginia Senate (sponsor, Chap Petersen) and the House of Delegates (sponsor, Mark Keam). Both were personally presented by Mark. Finally, Catherine Hudgins, Hunter Mill District Supervisor, presented a resolution and congratulatory note from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

RSVP, a “nostalgia” group that received a glowing stream of compliments, played through the searing heat while members and guests threw a Frisbee (did you know that there are adult Ultimate Frisbee teams in our backyard, and that there is a semi-pro Frisbee team in DC, known as The Breeze?) and ate popsicles.

So if you weren't there you missed a lot, which is really the point. Each event that we hold, whether a fund-raiser, an awards program, or a happy hour, is as enriching an experience as you want to make it. Just as important, each event that we hold needs you to make it better. Whether you bring wit, wisdom, muscle, or grace to our events, we need you, so that we're all enriched, and so that we lighten the load for everyone.

As is our custom, we will only hold one meeting in July. It will be on **Wednesday, July 22nd** (note the date change) at the Vienna American Legion. We are working with the Legion to provide a better dinner experience. Another new twist is that this will be a joint meeting with another local organization, the Vienna Branch of AAUW (American Association of University Women). This is a great opportunity to increase our visibility, network and meet some really nice folks. Make sure to bring a friend!

There will be no board meeting in July. In August, we'll follow with one meeting on the 19th.

Finally, I'll say it again. Farmers Market. Farmers Market. Farmers Market. Sign up to help on the club's website. Or at the very least patronize our vendors. On a good Saturday, over 1000 residents stop by to shop, but also to chat. What a great opportunity to extend our reach into the Vienna community. But it's an opportunity lost if you're not there. Have a great month.

President Dick Gongaware



July Birthday Wishes to:

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

**Optimist Anniversaries
in July**

- Laurie Cole – 10 years
- John Andrews – 1 year
- Angelique Ayala – 1 year
- Rob DiRocco – 1 year
- Marnie Feinberg – 1 year
- Lena Shrestha – 1 year



**Support Creative Play That Doesn't
Involve Computer Screens.
Volunteer at the Caboose.**
Contact Dan Mulville today to sign up.

Celebrate the 60s!

Scenes from our 60th Anniversary Celebration on the Vienna Town Green, June 14, 2015.



Congratulations to Warhawks Baseball!

Charles A. Robinson Respect for Law Awards Presented

Our good friends, the Madison High School Warhawks Baseball Team, recently captured the Virginia State 6A Championship. These are the same boys who turn out in force every November to unload hundreds of Christmas trees for our lot. We are proud of them and their achievement (and our small part in it)!



Above, the Warhawks celebrate their state championship. Below, the team at the tree lot in November.



On June 17 we honored two local police officers for their service to the Greater Vienna Community. The officers were selected by their departments for recognition.

Top: Fairfax Police Pfc. Michael Weaver, VP for Community Michele Wright, Captain Christopher Marsh.



Bottom: Town of Vienna Deputy Chief Dan Janicke, Officer Marcos Herrera, Chief James Morris.

June Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on June 10 with 9 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Heard VP Youth Mike Fitzella's close-out reports on the Oratorical Contest, the Partners in Education program and the vocational scholarship awards.
- Heard Jim Stivison report that a salsa vendor, BBQ vendor and Silva's Patisserie are being added to the Farmers Market.
- By email, approved the membership of Pat Solan, who was sponsored by Sherry Levitt.
- Approved a donation to Cunningham Park Elementary School for T-shirts for kids in the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program.
- Approved a donation for the purchase of T-shirts for members of the Louise Archer Elementary School JOOI Club.
- Allocated funds received in honor of Paul Snodgrass to the Youth Fund or the Foundation as requested by the donors.
- As has been tradition, voted not to hold a dinner meeting on the first Wednesday in July.
- Waived holding the July Board meeting; necessary business will be conducted by email.
- Reviewed thank you notes for our donations for: Vienna Elementary School 5K and Fun Run, Flint Hill Elementary Fun Run and the Committee for Helping Others (CHO).

Running the Farmers Market and selling Christmas Trees make it possible for us to be a friend for kids in all sorts of ways. Here's a nice note letting us know about just one way we made a difference this year.



Dear Vienna Optimists,

I would like to sincerely thank you for sponsoring the Dunk Tank and Sno Cone machine at our 2015 Field Day event. They are both such a big hit with the kids and were so welcome on the very hot day that was Tuesday, June 16th.

These two stations are the highlights of the day and the children talk about them years afterwards. Thank you for your contribution and for helping make it such a fun day.

Thank you,

Kerry Blankenship, Louise Archer Elementary School PTA President

OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA

Board of Directors 2014 – 15

President	Dick Gongaware
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Tom Fraim
Immediate Past President	Tom Spengler
President Elect	Joe Miller
Vice President of Community	Michele Wright
Vice President of Finance	Dick Lippert
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 Social Media	Marnie Fienberg
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