

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

June 2015

Calendar

June 3 — Partners In Education

6:45 Social time; 7:30 Dinner

Fairfax American Legion Post 177

[3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, VA 22030](http://www.fairfaxva.org)

June 6 — Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

June 9 — Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

June 13 — Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

June 14 — 60th Anniversary Celebration

Vienna Town Green

(Maple Ave. at Mill St.)

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

June 17 — Respect for Law

6:45 Social Time; 7:30 Dinner

NEW LOCATION:

VIENNA American Legion Post 180

330 N. Center Street, Vienna

June 21 — Father's Day

June 23 — Fourth Wednesday

Dinner at Culmore Teen Center

Team D.

Spotlight on Upcoming Events

On **June 14th** we are inviting the entire community to join us as we ...

Celebrate the 60s!

We are throwing a party in our own honor to celebrate the **SIXTY YEARS** that our Club has been a friend to the youth of Vienna. Bring your family and friends—and most of all your Optimist Self—to the **Vienna Town Green from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** There will be **MUSIC** by the local band RSVP; **GAMES** like Hula Hoop contests and Ultimate Frisbee; **FOOD** just right for the party atmosphere; and **LOTS OF FUN**. Local officials will have official words of congratulations. **The event is open to the public.** We want a great turnout to celebrate our six decades of service, so we need everyone to attend. **Dress in your best 60s garb and get in the groove!**

June isn't just about partying down—our dance card is full all month long. On **June 3**, our annual **Partners in Education** celebration will be held at the Fairfax American Legion Post 177. This year we will be recognizing three of our high school teachers who teach in the "**Career and Technology Education**" department. We will also be recognizing three high school seniors and **awarding vocational scholarships**. These scholarships, started by the families of two of our deceased members, Clyde Rees and Paul Booze, provide funds for students who are not pursuing a typical four-year bachelor's degree program.



Our second regular meeting, **June 17**, takes us to a new venue, the **VIENNA** American Legion Post 180. There we will present the **Charles A. Robinson Respect for Law Awards**. Don't miss this chance to honor officers from the Vienna and Fairfax County Police Departments. You will also want to sample the latest entry in our ongoing search for a new meeting location.



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,

June 21, 1955. The Optimist Club of Greater Vienna, as it is currently known, was chartered. Sixty years later, we continue to serve local youth. The club has certainly evolved over time, and will continue to do so or we won't be effective. The needs of the local community have changed, and we have changed in response. Who would have predicted, even ten years ago, that we would be supporting Alternative House, the Culmore Center, Kilmer Center, and the Cedar Lane alternative high school? That we would be managing Vienna's farmers market? And that we would win the Vienna Halloween Parade's Grand Marshall Award, two years in a row?

How should we celebrate our 60th anniversary? Well, in more ways than one. First, make sure that you have cleared your calendar for the afternoon of Sunday, June 14th. We'll celebrate in a very public fashion by hosting a picnic on Vienna's Town Green. See details in this newsletter. This public celebration is perhaps out of character for the club. But the new reality is that we need to seek connections, volunteers, community support, and hopefully new members in a more aggressive way.

Second, celebrate by involvement. You're a club member or Friend of Optimism because you believe in supporting our community. So what have you committed to? Volunteering for the farmers market? The caboose? Culmore Center? Help with the June celebration? Sharing ideas? Suggestions? If you don't know who to contact, send me an email and I'll suggest a club member to contact.

Third, celebrate by spending time with your club members. Come to the meetings. Meet the youth who we support. Recite the Optimist Creed and remember to live a phrase or two, every day.

Fourth, plan on celebrating with a traditional dinner later this year. With all that we are involved in, it will be time to take a breath and congratulate each other on a job well done.

See you at the next meeting on June 3rd, and at the 60th anniversary celebration on June 14th!

President Dick Gongaware



June Birthday Wishes to:

- Joe Bosco – June 2
- Dick Gongaware – June 5
- Barbara McHale – June 17
- T.R Cook – June 27

Optimist Anniversaries in June

- Jim Wilson – 18 years
- Mike Battaglia – 15 years
- Susan Bauer – 5 years
- A.K. Mohamed Yaseen – 5 years



- ☞ Be a Friend of Youth ☞ Represent Our Club
- ☞ Serve the Community ☞ Help Your Fellow Optimists

VOLUNTEER!

Club Winners Shine at District Oratorical Contest

By Mike Fitzella, VP for Youth

Our club oratorical contest winners traveled to Richmond for the district competition on May 16. Yash Shekar was the youngest of the seven boys competing. The competition was fierce, but Yash was poised and confident, winning the boys competition and a \$2,500 scholarship.

Eli Weissenboeck, only a 7th grader, was the youngest speaker among the girls, competing against high school girls. Eli and her speech were fresh and energetic, and she did an impressive job. The good thing is, she can compete again next year.

Speaking of next year, the stakes in the oratorical contest get much higher. The new Regional/World Championship Contest will be June 23-24, 2016. Each Optimist District will have the opportunity to send one of their District Oratorical winners to St. Louis to compete with the winners of the Districts in their Region for a \$10,000 scholarship. The winner of each Region will compete with the winner from St. Louis University's Global Region for a \$15,000, \$10,000, or \$5,000 World Championship scholarship. There is the potential for a student to win \$27,500 in scholarships!

<http://www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships5.cfm>



Left: Eli Weissenboeck and Yash Shekar display the hardware they brought home from the CapVa District Oratorical Contest. Yash, the youngest boy competing, won first place and a \$2500 scholarship.

Below: In a more casual moment, Yash stopped by our booth at ViVa! Vienna! to say hi.

Editor's Note: A few years ago Optimist International changed the rules for the Oratorical Contest and expanded the age range to include high school students. After much discussion, with thoughtful concern about putting younger students at a disadvantage in competing against older kids, our Club decided to keep our contest a middle school competition. Since then we have sponsored **two** District winners. We are very proud of our middle school students, their families and coaches!



It Never Rains on Our Parade— Or Cook-out!

And even if a few drops fall, we have a good time anyway! The Social Committee (a group that works very hard so the rest of us can have fun) organized a cook-out at the home of Joe and Greta Miller on May 16. Great folks and great food abounded! Long-time members mingled with newer Optimists, spouses shared stories of what they do on Wednesday nights (just kidding) and everyone had a great time.

Many thanks to Joe and Greta, Brian and Fran Davenport, Angelique Ayala, Kathy Cutri, Marnie Fienberg, Gary Moonan, Steven Rabil, Anna Ryjik, Lena Shrestha and Missy Whittington for making this possible!

Farmers Market is Up and Running



Schedule Your Shifts to Be Part of the Action

Our first month of the 2015 Farmers Market saw some crazy weather swings, but a steady success for our vendors. Several sold out on Opening Day, according to on-site reports. New produce is appearing weekly as the weather warms. It is a long season and we need everyone to pitch in! Remember, this is a fund-raiser for the Club and a very high-profile community involvement for us.

Spring produce (below) and satisfied shoppers (right) are just part of what makes our Market the place to be. You are a part of it, too!



May Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on May 13, 2015, with 10 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- VP of Youth Mike Fitzella reported that the Partners in Education program scheduled for our June 3 meeting will recognize teachers from the "Career and Technology Education" department at Madison, Marshall and Oakton High Schools.
- Approved the award of three \$1,000 vocational scholarships. One was awarded to a Marshall student for auto mechanic training; one to another Marshall student for auto collision repair/auto painting instruction, and one was awarded to young man from Oakton High School to receive film technology training.
- Briefly discussed plans for the Walk for Growing Hope and a 60th anniversary observation.
- Verified the membership applications of Ed Wonder, John Partridge and Mark Erazo, previously reviewed by email prior to the meeting.
- Approved the slate, as presented by the Nominating Committee, for the officers and directors for the 2015-2016 Optimist year for the election to be held at the May 20 meeting.
- Reviewed thank you notes from our Essay Contest winner and for our donation for the Madison High School All-Night Graduation Celebration.

Back Page Notes:

- ★ Our booth at *ViVa! Vienna!* had some interesting visitors this year! In addition to Oratorical Contest winner Yash Shekar and his parents (see page 3), two former Helping Hands Award recipients stopped by to say "thanks." They attended different elementary schools but are now both at Madison High School, where they have become friends. Never missing a recruiting opportunity, Jim Stivison encouraged them to join the Octagon Club.
- ★ Webmaster Gary Moonan has broadened our social media presence and we are now listed on MeetUp at <http://www.meetup.com/Vienna-Optimist-Club>. Some of the attractive features of MeetUp are that it is *free* and it lets us list our events and promote them to individuals who share our interest in community service. Our MeetUp page has led one new member to our Club and brought other attendees to our events. Check out our page and join MeetUp to help raise our Club's profile in the Greater Vienna Community.
- ★ The months from February through June are a very busy time for our Youth Programs. We have had the Essay Contest, Oratorical Contest, CCDHH, Helping Hands Awards, TR Cook Youth of Excellence Awards, JOOI/Octagon Club celebrations and, coming up, Partners in Education and Vocational Scholarship presentations. All this comes under the purview of the VP for Youth, Mike Fitzella, and the outstanding events are produced by him and the program coordinators. Thank you, Mike, Rich Ordeman, Rob DiRocco, Laurie Cole, Pat Hackerson, Kathy Cutri, Lauren Wagner, and many others for your work!

**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