

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

May 2015

Calendar

May 2 — Farmers Market Opens!
301 Center Street South, Vienna
8:00 a.m. to noon

May 6 — Helping Hands Awards
Westwood Country Club
6:15 p.m. start time!

May 9 — Farmers Market
8:00 a.m. to noon **Volunteers Needed!**

May 13 — Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

May 15 — Farmers Market
8:00 a.m. to noon

May 15-16 —District Meeting
OI Capital-Virginia District Meeting,
Richmond, VA. Contact [Tom Fraim](#) for info

May 16—May at the Millers'
6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Cook-out and social time at the home of Joe and Greta Miller. Rsvp via Evite or email [Joe](#).

May 20 - Regular Meeting : JOOI Clubs!
6:45 Social time; 7:30 Dinner
Fairfax American Legion Post 177
[3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, VA 22030](#)

May 24-25 — Optimist Booth & Caboose
At ViVa! Vienna Festival

May 25 — Memorial Day



Have you signed up for your Farmers Market shifts yet? It is easy to do—visit the [Club website](#), and click on “Farmers Market Sign Up” at the top of the page. Many opportunities await! Check out the [Vienna Farmers Market Facebook](#) page for great information about the vendors and upcoming events. And while you are there, be sure to “Like” the page!



Our Club's **Social Committee** invites everyone to **“May at the Miller's” on Saturday, May 16**. Come for a cook-out and a fun evening with fellow Optimists at the home of Joe and Greta Miller. Family and prospective members are welcome—just be sure to include them when you **rsvp to the Millers!** It's easy to rsvp to the Evite you received, or email Joe directly [via this link](#).



Meet the youngest Optimists at our **May 20 meeting**, when we **celebrate our JOOI Clubs!** Representatives from the Junior Optimists at Louise Archer (led by our own **Lauren Wagner**) and the Octagon Clubs from Oakton, Marshall and Madison will join us for dinner at the Fairfax American Legion Hall.

We're baaaack—at **ViVa Vienna!** this year. Our booth will be near the Caboose so we should have good synergy (is that still a thing?!) for showcasing our Club. **Volunteers are needed** to staff the booth and the Caboose on Sunday and Monday, May 24 & 25 (Memorial Day weekend). Contact [Michele Wright](#) to sign up.



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—

Fellow Vienna Optimists,

Spring snuck up on us in a hurry. Suddenly, we're down to school-related events in May and June for our operating year. The Farmers' Market has opened. And spring activities are popping up just as the cherry blossoms close up shop for another year.

I'd like to focus on the Farmers' Market for a minute. The Market is our third-largest fund-raiser, behind Christmas tree sales, and our Growing Hope festival. However, its reach is greater than ANY program that we run. We know that we have landed a few new members via the Market. We know that we have strengthened our relationship with the Town of Vienna because we're willing to take on this effort. And we know that we are extending goodwill to literally hundreds of local residents.

The Market is a beast to manage. The market committee of Jim Stivison, Marnie Fienberg, and Gary Moonan, along with invaluable support from Jim Houston, has successfully steered us to a well-received opening day on May 2. The only vendors who didn't return this year did so for reasons other than disappointment with our market. We have added and will continue to add new vendors. So thanks to the committee, and to the previous work of Sarah Jane Brady and Dave Lanphear, we run a very successful market. We need everyone to chip in by signing up for time slots. Go to the Club website or <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1brDxqZrea3Igmman-chI8XZC17Bb-BCBOOE9Lt-Vuc/edit?pli=1#gid=1555512012> to do so.

The committee will take care of all the problems that you'll never see. However, members must support the market so that it doesn't fall to a few, and I do mean *a few*, members to keep it open. Remember, we are open for 26 weeks. That's half a year. Please promise the club that you'll contribute some time. Frankly, it's an easy job that pays great dividends to the club. And you don't need a down jacket to do it.

Sign up. Sign up. And then sign up again. We need you. We need all of us.

President Dick Gongaware



May Birthday Wishes to:

Mike Nadolski – May 5
 Mark Keam – May 10
 Dick Carr – May 25
 Bob Thompson – May 28
 Bob Steinfeldt – May 31

Optimist Anniversaries in May

Les Carl– 31 years
 Dick Lippert – 28 years
 Al Dunkerley – 27 years
 Mike Fitzella – 9 years

OPTIMISTS IN ACTION Thanks to the recruiting efforts of **Mike Battaglia**, the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna had enough help to successfully time the long track races (100 meters to 5,000 meters) at the Northern Virginia Special Olympics track meet on April 25. The meet Director complimented our group for being flexible and efficient and for encouraging more than 200 Special Olympic athletes.

Bob McCormick and his wife **Sherri** flew in from Denver again to act as starter and starter assistant/timer, respectively. **Mike Battaglia, Jim Houston, Jeff Johnson, Rich Ordeman, Tom Fraim, Joe Miller, Dan Mulville, Anna Ryjik, and Michelle Wright** (along with husband and Friend of Optimists **Jim Hegel**), did a great job in timing and other tasks.



Special Olympics
Virginia

Put this event on your calendar (last Saturday in April) for next year and come out and join us.



☞ Be a Friend of Youth

☞ Represent Our Club

☞ Serve the Community

☞ Help Your Fellow Optimists

VOLUNTEER!



Optimist Club Booth at ViVa! Vienna, Memorial Day Weekend

We have a booth across from the Caboose and we will be selling Caboose t-shirts. We need Volunteers to set up on Sunday (6:30-7:00 a.m.) and staff the booth on Sunday and Monday. Contact [Michele Wright](#) for details.



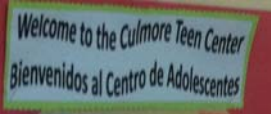
Saturdays at the Farmers Market

Every Saturday from now through Halloween we need Optimists at the Market to supervise operations and staff the Optimist information booth. Sign up on our [website](#).



Caboose Conductors

Our big, red Caboose is the best! It is free, it is fun, and it is a great place for imaginative play. We open the Caboose one Saturday a month from now through November, and for special events (see the [website](#)). Contact [Dan Mulville](#) to sign up.



"Fourth Wednesday" at the Culmore Teen Center

Want to serve kids? Serve them dinner! Every month we provide dinner and a birthday party to the students at the Culmore Teen Center (run by Alternative House). Four teams of Optimists share duties over the course of the year. Cooking is not required! Contact [Laurie Cole](#).



Paul Snodgrass

1931-2015

Our dear friend and fellow Optimist Paul Snodgrass passed away April 4, 2015, a few short months after he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Paul's service to our Club and to his community was long-standing and far-reaching. He was President in 1989-90 and served as our unofficial chaplain for many years. His trademark delivery was a clear and succinct invocation, followed by the Pledge of

Allegiance with the helpful instruction, "The Flag is on my ..." left, right, or whatever direction was necessary.

T.R. Cook described Paul as "a champion Optimist." At the memorial service for Paul, his friends recalled his gentle demeanor, concern for others, and willingness to share whatever work needed to be done. And, of course, there were memories of Paul and Flo on the dance floor—moving masterfully and gracefully, drawing every eye in the room.

Paul's family had the Optimist Creed printed on the back of the bulletin distributed at the memorial service, and suggested the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna Foundation to those wishing to make a memorial gift in honor of Paul.

Indeed, Paul was an Optimist to the end. We will miss him.

"Helping Hands" Winners Continue to Impress Us!

They are Peer Mediators, Safety Patrols, band members, and pet sitters. They volunteer at homeless shelters and collect clothes and sports equipment for children who need them, and tutor younger students. And they are sixth graders!

The recipients of this year's Helping Hands Awards wowed us with their commitment to serving their schools and communities. As always, the students were selected for the honor by the educators at their schools. We were glad to host the students, their families, and their teachers at our annual banquet at Westwood Country Club.

Our guest speaker, Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid, graciously met with each of the winners before dinner began. Her after dinner remarks encouraged the students (and all of us) to continue to help those less fortunate in our community.

It was a great evening for the kids and for us, thanks to Pat Hackerson, our Helping Hands Coordinator, and Kathy Cutri, Lauren Wagner, and Anna Ryjik. And thank you to TR for taking pictures!



Welcome Our New Members!

Several new member have joined the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna in the past few months. Here we introduce **Steven Rabil** and **John Partridge**. Look for upcoming information about **Ed Wonder** and **Mark Erazo** here and on our Facebook page.



Steven Rabil

Steven Rabil received a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from George Mason University in 2006. He worked in real estate for a few years, and then became an Instructional Assistant for Fairfax County Public Schools. Steven earned a Master's Degree in Education Studies from University of Phoenix in 2013, and he continues to help students with special needs at an elementary school. In his free time, Steven enjoys reading, watching movies, volunteering and spending time with family and friends.

John Partridge



John Partridge is the Chief Operating Officer of Consilium Development, a full spectrum real estate finance and development company.

John's energy and passion for promoting youth sports is contagious. He is an Assistant Wrestling Coach at Madison High School and coaches youth football for VYI. He is a founding member of Antaeus Wrestling, a USA Wrestling chartered mat club where wrestlers of all ages can develop their skills and love of the sport. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Eric Monday Memorial Wrestling Foundation which promotes the sport

of wrestling and mental health awareness, along with its flagship event – the annual “Melee ‘til Midnight Tournament”, which is the largest outdoor wrestling tournament in North America . MTM is scheduled to be held this year on Saturday, June 20th on Madison's football field. John is a native of Long Island, New York. He attended Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY, and obtained graduate degrees from the Catholic University in Washington, DC. John currently resides in Vienna and is the proud father of Sarah, Ryan, Amanda and Brendan.

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