

There's so much happening this month, our Calendar is bursting its seams!

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna
September 2015

Calendar

Sept. 2 — Regular Meeting
Growing Hope Kick-Off!
Vienna American Legion
6:45-Social Time; 7:30-Dinner

Sept. 5— Farmers Market
8:00 a.m. to noon

Sept. 7 — Labor Day

Sept. 9 — Board Meeting
7:30 p.m.

Sept. 12 — Farmers Market
8:00 a.m. to noon

Sept. 12—Caboose Open
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sept. 16 — Happy Hour Meeting
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Pazzo Pomodoro Restaurant
118 Branch Road SE, Vienna

Sept. 19 — Farmers Market
8:00 a.m. to noon

Sept. 19 — Growing Hope Family Fun Day!
Vienna Town Green
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sept. 23 — Fourth Wednesday Dinner for Culmore Teen Center Team A

Sept. 26 — Farmers Market
8:00 a.m. to noon



Spotlight on Upcoming Events

You've read it here before—September feels like the start of a new year all over again! Just look at our Calendar for this month, and you know the sleepy days of summer are G-O-N-E!

We don't even wait for Labor Day to get things rolling. On **Wednesday, Sept. 2, we meet at the Vienna American Legion Post 180** (330 Center Street North, Vienna), for a regular dinner meeting. Our **Growing Hope Chair Anna Ryjik** and her hard-working team will kick-off the run-up to this year's Family Fun Day. **Growing Hope Board Member Paula Lackey** will be our guest speaker. Be ready to sign up and chip in for this year's campaign!

September 16 we enjoy another "Happy Hour" format for our meeting at **Pazzo Pomodoro** (in the shopping center at Maple and Branch Avenues, Vienna). The menu is "substantial" appetizers (sounds better than "heavy"!) and happy hour prices at the cash bar from 6:30-9:30. Bring a friend to introduce them to your fellow Optimists! (Guest price for this event is \$15.00).



Ten years, over \$325,000 dollars—what a partnership we have built with Growing Hope! This year's Family Fun Day promises to be uplifting, joyful and rewarding. Be there, at **the Vienna Town Green, on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Much more information about Growing Hope, Family Fun Day, our generous sponsors, *and how you can help* appears on page three.



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,

Per Optimist tradition, September is the month where we ramp up our community support. Our Growing Hope Family Fun Day, Saturday, September 19th, is arguably the single most important day on our club calendar. It's the day when we provide fun, games, and music to the Growing Hope families and to the community at large. It's a day when we raise thousands of dollars via our auction. And it's a day that is a culmination of weeks of effort by Anna Ryjik and her Growing Hope Committee, with the final tally of contributions and auctioned items hopefully north of \$40,000. With a short calendar this year, the committee needs your help. How to help? The best way is to approach your local business, medical professionals, extended family members, etc., to solicit donations. First, contact Anna at annaryjik@gmail.com to make sure that the committee hasn't already solicited them. The second best way is to attend our next meeting on Wednesday, September 2nd, at the Vienna American Legion to learn more about how you can help over the last 2+ weeks of the campaign.

Speaking of help, the Farmers Market needs you. I'm sure you're tired of reading or listening to my pleas, but the cold, hard truth is that about half of our members volunteer for market shifts of a mere two hours. On behalf of the club, my thanks to those of you who have or will sign up. Go to our website to do so. Nine Saturdays remain. Can you donate a few hours of time to, for the most part, talk with lots of friendly customers and keep a dog or two out of the market?

The board voted to establish the Vienna American Legion as our home venue. We needed to choose one place for the benefit of the membership. The location in Vienna and special needs accessibility essentially trumped the Fairfax Legion's price structure and accommodating catering. I'll talk more about that next Wednesday, but we enter this agreement with the understanding that it will take some time to develop a working relationship. (That being said, no venue is immune from reconsideration.) Expect more creativity and flexibility in both the menus and the types of meetings (dinner? cookout? appetizers? dessert and coffee?) Most important, as we enter a new era of dining it's very important that you express your opinions, both positive and negative, to me or to other board members. Frankly, I want to give incoming president Joe Miller an opportunity to focus on other issues that he believes are important in the year ahead.

Finally, my wife, Diane, and I will host the traditional president's picnic on Saturday, October 3rd, from 2:00 – 5:00 PM. Details to follow. It's been a privilege to serve such a community-minded and open-hearted group of people known as the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna.

President Dick Gongaware



September Birthday Wishes to:

Mike Battaglia – September 13

Jim Spain - September 15

Optimist Anniversaries in September

Courtney Sargent – 33 years

Barbara McHale – 24 years

Kathy Georgen – 13 years

Sara Goldberg – 8 years

Joe Miller – 5 years

Kathryn McHale – 5 years

Brian Davenport – 1 year



We are on MeetUp! Sign in to show our Club's strength and your support for our work on behalf of Vienna's youth. Go to <http://www.meetup.com/Vienna-Optimist-Club>.



From Anna Ryjik, 2015 Growing Hope Campaign Chair

Our annual childhood cancer fundraiser is in its 10th year in partnership with Growing Hope, a local charity that provides children with cancer and their families with financial, educational and social support such as scholarships, health information and social outings to relieve the burden of those who suffer.

We salute our August business donors: At the **GOLD** level, **Johnson Robinson, PLC**, Certified Public Accountants in Vienna, and **Manna Capital Management**, Financial Advisors in Falls Church; at the **SILVER** level, **BB&T Wealth**, Financial Advisors in Manassas.

We also count on you, our members, for individual contributions. We urge you to attend our next meeting on Wednesday, September 2nd when Growing Hope board member Paula Lackey will explain the group's mission and share experiences of how support helped Growing Hope children. Please bring your contributions then as well.

Since 2006, we have raised over \$325,000 for this effort. This year 90% of funds raised are donated to Growing Hope for local support and 10% are directed to Johns Hopkins Medical Center for cancer research as part of the Optimist International fundraising program for childhood cancer.

The fundraising effort culminates in a Family Fun Day on the 3rd Saturday of the month, **September 19th from 10am - 1 pm at the Vienna Town Green** at 144 Maple Avenue East in Vienna. The date is earlier this year to ac-

commodate attendance by Growing Hope children and to involve more volunteers from area schools. It is a day for families to celebrate with free donated food, games, dunk tank, moon bounce, face painter and other activities and to collect more donations. This year **the band Donaldson's Run** has once again generously donated their time and musical performance to Growing Hope.

Again, **we thank our August business donors** - can we count on you?

GOLD Sponsors



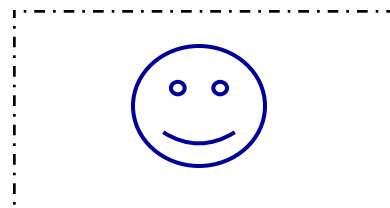
SILVER Sponsor



Music Donated and Performed by



There's a spot for you!



Help Wanted for Growing Hope

If you know of a local company or vendor that you frequent who could give a Gold (\$1,000), Silver (\$500) or Bronze (\$100) donation please let us know.

Anna Ryjik annaryjik@gmail.com

Susan Bauer snbauer@gmail.com

Tom Spengler tspengler@firstportfolio.com

Please take a few minutes and send us a lead for this very important charity

August Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on August 11 with 8 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Discussed possible alternatives for supplementing the Operating Fund.
- Discussed the menu to be used when kids are present for the Oratorical Contest, Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH), Essay Contest and JOOI Club Recognition.
- Discussed plans for the Growing Hope Family Fun Day.
- Discussed venues for future dinner meetings.
- Verified the membership application of Mary Delurey (sponsored by Joe Miller) previously reviewed by email prior to the meeting.
- Discussed A.K. Mohamed Yaseen's move from regular membership to Friend of Optimists (FOO) status due to relocation. Appointed Angelique Ayala to complete A.K.'s term as Director of Media Relations.
- Approved a donation to Our Daily Bread for the purchase of school supplies for underserved kids.

Back Page Notes:

★ A good refresher of our goals as Optimists, from the official website of Optimist International, www.optimist.org

Optimist Mission

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids.

Optimist Vision

Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the premier volunteer organization that values all children and helps them develop to their full potential.

★ Check out what other Optimist Clubs are doing in their communities at the OI [Facebook page](#). Mud volleyball, anyone?

★ And while you're on Facebook, be sure to "like" our Club's page!

www.facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub

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