

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

May 2016

Calendar

May 4 – Helping Hands Awards

Special Location and Time:

Westwood Country Club
800 Maple Ave. West, Vienna
6:15—Social Time; 6:45—Dinner

May 7 – Farmers
Market

Opening Day!

8:00 a.m. to noon



May 11 – Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

May 14 – Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

May 18 – JOOI Clubs Night!

Fairfax American Legion Post 177
Social Time: 6:45; Dinner 7:30

May 21 – Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

May 25 – Fourth Wednesday

Dinner at Culmore Teen Center—Team A

May 28 – Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

May 28, 29 & 30—Caboose Open

At ViVa! Vienna! 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Volunteers needed—sign-up on [Club website](#).

Spotlight on Upcoming Events

This month's Kentucky Derby will start with the famous, "And they're off!" Our Club is also coming out of the starting gate in May with a burst of activity!

On Wednesday, May 4, we celebrate the **20th Annual Helping Hands Awards at Westwood Country Club**. In consideration of our young special guests **we begin at 6:15** for social time, dinner is served at 6:45. Fairfax County School Board Member Dalia Palchik will speak and help us present the awards to eleven outstanding sixth graders. It is very important to RSVP for this event. Contact [Laurie Cole](#) right now!

Spring is busting out all over and we are ready for it with the **opening of the Farmers Market! May 7 at 8:00 a.m.** the bell will ring and the best fresh produce and local products will be on offer. New vendors (and long-time favorites) will be there—and so should you! The crack data analysts for *Optimistically Speaking* calculated that if each member signed up for just three shifts, we would have the entire Farmers Market season covered. So go to the handy sign-up sheet at the [website](#) and pick your dates and times to do your part! (And no one will turn you away if you sign up for more than three...).



Make sure to join us at the Fairfax American Legion on **May 18** as we recognize **our JOOI clubs** from Louise Archer elementary school and Madison, Marshall, and Oakton high schools. Our social time at will start at 6:45 and dinner will be served at 7:30. After dinner, each of the clubs will present a short summary of their activities this year. Come and see how these students have been serving our community.

June Preview: **June 1 will be our Partners in Education program** at the Fairfax American Legion, with a social time at 6:45 and dinner at 7:30. This year we will be honoring teachers from the "Fine and Performing Arts" departments at Madison, Marshall, and Oakton high schools. We will also be presenting our vocational scholarships, started by the families of deceased members Clyde Rees and Paul Booze to recognize students who are not pursuing the typical four-year bachelor's degree after high school.



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 Vienna Optimists and Friends,
Hope everyone is enjoying a terrific spring!!

We are pleased to announce that our club contestant Christine Kim received third place in the Optimist International Capital-Virginia District Essay Contest!

We just finished one of our most memorable events, the TR Cook Youth Awards of Excellence program at James Madison High School. With a large crowd in attendance, the awards were presented that honored outstanding juniors from Madison, Marshall and Oakton for excellence in Academics, Citizenship, Fine Arts, Science, Sports, and Technology. In addition, Veronica Day, international skeleton racer, Olympic-hopeful, and Madison High School alumna provided an enlightening presentation about her passion, skeleton ice racing, where the racer can achieve speeds up to 85 mph.

Through the leadership of Laurie Cole, our club has been developing a deeper relationship with Alternative House. Alternative House is best known for its Emergency Shelter for Teens on Gallows Road, a refuge for abused and homeless children. Alternative House also provides Community-Based Youth Services, and through this arm our Club provides dinners at the Culmore Teen Center every 4th Wednesday. Our volunteer teams provide that tasty dinner for the youths in the Falls Church area and spend time with teens at the Center.

Also in April the club helps with the Special Olympics. Hopefully, we will have a beautiful day for the Special Olympics on April 30th at Episcopal High School. Another important activity that creates money for our youth fund is the Farmer's Market. The Farmer Market opens this Saturday, May 7th at 8 am in the parking lot of the Faith Baptist Church. Jim Stivison, Farmer's Market manager, and the Farmer's Market Committee have put together a great group of vendors this year. Please go to the web site at <http://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/> and sign up! If you are not already volunteering that day, it would be wonderful if you could drop by and show your support. We would be please if you to sign up to volunteer multiple times this season.

Our 20th Annual Helping Hands Awards will be presented on Wednesday May 4, at the Westwood Country Club. In addition to the awards, Dalia Palchik, School Board Representative from Providence District, will provide a presentation. This should be a delightful evening. Hope you can attend. And on May 18th, we celebrate our relationship with the Junior Optimist Octagon International (JOOI) clubs at our local schools. The JOOI represent the world's most dynamic coalition of youth volunteers. JOOI members represent the times well by making their communities better - one service project at a time. Please attend this special meeting honoring our local clubs.

Give every living creature you meet a smile!

President Joe Miller



May Birthday Wishes to:

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

Optimist Anniversaries In May

Les Carl– 32 years
Dick Lippert – 29 years
Al Dunkerley – 28 years
Mike Fitzella – 10 years
Marc Erazo – 1 year
Ed Wonder – 1 year



Volunteer Opportunities There are several volunteer opportunities coming up in the next couple of weeks and months. We'll need help at the **Farmers Market** throughout the spring, summer and early fall (sign up on the club website through the [link](#) at the top of the home page) and at the **caboose** throughout the year (contact [Dan Mulville](#)). This is a good way to show the face of the club in the community, so volunteer early and often.

Membership News Looking for FOOs in All the Right Places

From Kathy Cutri, VP Membership



Optimists International has offered an opportunity called the Community Impact Bundle to honor and recognize the difference-makers in our community. In bringing out the best of our community, we can bring out the best in children. This bundle offers a Friend of the Optimist (FOO) membership for six new FOO members for one year at the cost of \$300 paid by our club. This will give our new FOO an opportunity to participate with the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna while increasing our membership. An increased membership gives our club the opportunity to support youth in the Greater Vienna area. A FOO member pays for their own meals for meetings they attend.

We need six people for this bundle. If you know someone - our mayor, an outstanding educator, law enforcement, youth coaches, etc. - who you think would be an active member of our club, please send me the name of your nominee and why you think they would be an asset. Please submit your suggestions to membership@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org no later than Friday, May 20th. This person must have already agreed to accept if they're nominated. We will select the six prospective members whom we believe will be the best match for the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna.

TR Cook Youth Awards of Excellence Honor Outstanding High School Juniors

A standing room only crowd filled WarHawk Hall at Madison High School as we celebrated juniors from Oakton, Marshall and Madison High Schools on April 20. Over 80 students received certificates of achievement in Academics, Citizenship, Fine Arts, Science, Sports and Technology. One student in each category was selected for top honors and a cash prize (see below).

The evening's keynote speaker was our young friend Veronica Day, who enthralled parents and students with her experiences (complete with video!) in the elite world of skeleton racing. Not one to rest on his laurels at an event named in his honor, TR Cook photographed the proceedings.

Thanks to Mike Fitzella, VP for Youth, event organizer and emcee; Dick Gongaware and Sherry Levitt, judges; Dick again, catering coordinator; and Susan Bauer, who delivered the leftover meals to Alternative House's Emergency Shelter.

Students honored for outstanding achievement were:

- Academics:* Calvin Krist, Oakton
- Citizenship:* Claire Heiden, Marshall
- Fine Arts:* Neal Going, Madison
- Science:* Joey Welsh, Marshall
- Sports:* Casey Kendall, Oakton
- Technology:* Michele Wang, Oakton



Getting Things Done, Optimist Style

We got the following report from Anna Ryjik, Team D Captain for our Fourth Wednesday dinners at the Culmore Teen Center, on how April's dinner came together.

Summary: A day of coordination

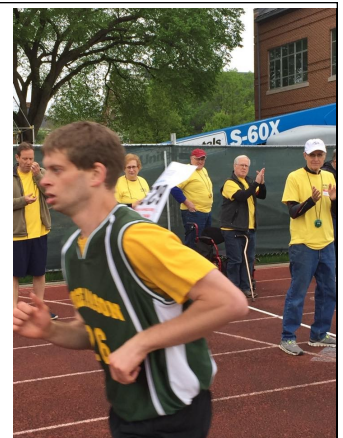
Lena ordered bread. Anna brought. Rich made salad. Ed brought it. Dick made a delicious pasta dish. Anna brought. Jim and Diana obtained cake and juice. Ed brought. Nicole bought candy birthday gifts in beautiful bags. Anna brought. We also had additional pasta with salmon from Anna. And pinch-hitting from Team B, Tom and Susan Bauer helped serve!



Tom Bauer, Anna Ryjik, Susan Bauer, and Ed Wonder were part of the Optimist Team providing April's Fourth Wednesday dinner to the Culmore Teen Center.

Gray Skies Don't Slow Down the Special Olympics —or Optimists there to help!

Vienna Optimists (in their signature yellow shirts) were out in force April 30 to help with the Special Olympic Track Meet—timing events, cheering competitors, making a difference for kids!



April Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on April 13, 2016 with 14 members present. Highlights of the meeting and actions taken by email subsequent to the meeting, are as follows:

- Discussed plans for the Helping Hands program to be held at Westwood Country Club on May 4 and the Partners in Education program.
- Approved revisions to the Club Policies.
- Discussed plans for the Farmers Market.
- Approved the membership application of Gregory Leland.
- Approved a donation to Community Helping Others (CHO).
- Approved a donation to Our Daily Bread.
- Approved a donation to George Marshall High School for the purchase of band uniforms.
- Approved donation to sponsor a young lady from Oakton High School to attend Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (**HOBY**) training.

Eagle Scout Honors

Did you know that...? Our Club does a special presentation at Eagle Scout Courts of Honor in our area, and we give a donation to the Scout Troop in honor of the Eagle Scout.

Our Director for Youth, Jim Stivison, has attended hundreds of Eagle Scout ceremonies over the years on behalf of the Optimist Club. When he had to miss one recently, Treasurer Tom Fraim filled in for him. Optimist Mark Keam captured the moment and shared this photo, as Tom presented a plaque to one of **three** young men becoming an Eagle Scout that day with Troop 152.



Whether we are working directly with youth, or are supporting other organizations that do, we further our goal of “bringing out the best in kids.” Each of us makes this possible through our volunteer work for the Club. We need everyone’s effort to succeed!

OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2015-16

President	Joe Miller
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Tom Fraim
Immediate Past President	Dick Gongaware
President Elect	Michele Wright
Vice President of Community	Anna Ryjik
Vice President of Finance	Dick Lippert
Vice President of Media Relations	Tom Bauer
Vice President of Membership	Kathy Cutri
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	Susan Bauer
Director of Social Media	Nicole Pham
Director of Membership	Angelique Ayala
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