

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

September 2016

Calendar

September 3 — Farmers Market
8:00 a.m. to noon

September 7—Regular Meeting
Growing Hope Kick-Off!

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

September 10 — Farmers Market
8:00 a.m. to noon

September 14 — Board Meeting

September 17 — Farmers Market
8:00 a.m. to noon

September 17 — Caboose Open
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

September 21 — Special Meeting
Social Meeting — Sweet City Desserts!
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

September 24 — Farmers Market
8:00 a.m. to noon

September 24 — Family Fun Day
Supporting Growing Hope

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Vienna Town Green

September 27 — Fourth Wednesday
Dinner at Culmore Teen Center—Team A

Spotlight on Upcoming Events



work

hard to be there and deserve our support.

Our Farmers Market will be Open For Business on Labor Day weekend—and through the end of October! As we've been saying all season, we need everyone's support to make this important Club activity a success. So become a Market Regular! Sign up for a shift (or two) as a Market volunteer. That's 2-1/2 hours out of your Saturday morning for a huge return to our Vienna Community. And don't forget to shop at the Market on Saturdays! Our vendors

The Club's big focus for September, of course, is our annual event supporting **Growing Hope**. Our **September 7 dinner meeting** will feature a speaker from Growing Hope. We will also hear from **Campaign Co-Chairs Susan Bauer and Anna Ryjik** about plans (and needs) for the **Family Fun Day on September 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the Vienna Town Green**. Plan to attend the Sept. 7 meeting ready to sign up to volunteer at Family Fun Day and to donate to this very worthy organization. Read more on page 3.



But our other activities don't stop! **Saturday, September 17, the Caboose will be open** from 1:00 to 5:00. Volunteer Conductors are needed! Sign up for a two-hour shift [online](#), or contact [Dan Mulville](#). The next opening will be October 15—it's not too early to sign up for then!

We will be ready for some R&R, so our **September 21 meeting** will be a social time at **Sweet City Desserts**. President Joe Miller will bring his record player (yes, we mean "record player"), so it will be an evening to enjoy some tunes on vinyl, some tasty finger foods, and some great company. [NB: Parking is tight at Sweet City Desserts. This would be a good night to carpool or plan a stroll from nearby public parking areas.]



Sweet City Desserts

131-A Maple Avenue West, Vienna VA 22180
(703) 938-8188

Class without the Cost



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna
for over 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,

Last month we had a wonderful presentation by Bonny Tynch of *BRIDGES: Harmony through Music* that is entering its fourth year in Vienna. Additionally, Francis Gary Powers, Jr. provided his perspective of his father's U-2 Incident. Gary also talked about the Cold War, his father, the movie "Bridge of Spies" and why he founded the Cold War Museum. These were two superb programs. I hope you had a chance to attend one or both of them!

September is a traditional month of thinking about Fall football and baseball. It is also a time to reflect on my year as president of the club. I am not going to belabor everyone by going through each month to reminisce. Certainly all of our youth programs are the foundation of the club, but I have to admit one of my favorite times was the Christmas party at the Country Club when we celebrated our 60th anniversary as a club and also the club members with 20 or more membership years were remembered and honored. It was certainly a night to remember!

September is also a time to generate support for **Growing Hope** which has become a September Optimist tradition. We started our fund raising efforts last month by hosting on Saturday August 13, a "Family Fun Jam" at Jammin' Java in Vienna. The popular band Donaldson's Run (who we know from its performances at past Family Fun Days for Growing Hope) donated its time and talent to perform at this benefit. We will have a meeting on September 7th to initiate our major Growing Hope effort with guest speakers. Our **Family Fun Day** is scheduled for Saturday, September 24th. And it's a day that is a culmination of months of effort by **Anna Ryjik, Susan Bauer and the rest of the Growing Hope Committee**. We hope the final tally for Growing Hope contributions will be greater than last year!! The committee needs your help. The best way to help is to approach your local businesses, medical professionals, extended family members, etc., to solicit donations. Contact Anna at annaryjik@gmail.com to make sure that the committee hasn't already solicited them. Another way to help is to attend our next meeting on Wednesday, September 7th, at the Fairfax American Legion to learn more about Growing Hope and how one can donate to that worthy cause.

The **Farmers Market**, which is our second largest fund raiser for the club, needs you. On behalf of the club, my thanks to those of you who have or will sign up to help at the market. Go to our website at <http://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/> to do so. Can you donate a few hours of time to help the club and talk with lots of friendly Vienna customers?

Finally, my wife, Greta, and I will host the traditional **president's picnic** at our house on Saturday, October 2nd from 4:00 – 6:00 PM. Please come by for delightful conversations and good food. The end of September will conclude my service year as president of the club. It's been an honor to serve such a big-hearted group of men and women. Thank you for your awesome help and contributions to the club.

President Joe Miller



September Birthday Wishes to:

Mike Battaglia – September 13

Jim Spain - September 15

Optimist Anniversaries in September

Courtney Sargent – 34 years

Barbara McHale – 25 years

Kathy Georgen – 14 years

Joe Miller – 6 years

Kathryn McHale – 6 years

Brian Davenport – 2 years

Jonathan Lyons – 1 year





Family Fun Day 2016 is here! Saturday September 24, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Vienna Town Green

From Growing Hope Campaign Co-chairs Anna Ryjik and Susan Bauer

We celebrate our 11th year working to raise funds for Growing Hope, a local nonprofit that helps children and their families who are suffering from cancer.



At the September 7th meeting, a parent of a childhood cancer survivor will speak about the help that Growing Hope provided and the mission of this organization.



This year our goal is to have 100% participation from Optimists. No donation is too small. In previous years, we have had many very generous donors but our member participation rate has been low. You will be asked to support this worthy cause which is also part of an Optimist International campaign.

The fundraiser culminates in a *Family Fun Day* on Saturday, September 24th from 10 am to 1 pm at the Vienna Town Green. Games for children, musical entertainment by Donald-



sons' Run band and a Dunk Tank will be on hand to celebrate our fundraising efforts. In you can volunteer to help, please contact Anna Ryjik or Susan Bauer.

Pictured: Scenes from Family Fun Day 2014.

Membership Update:

OUR GOAL IS WITHIN REACH!



Nikki Ayala and Kathy Cutri, our dedicated Membership team, made a goal for themselves to bring in 25 new members during their first year as Membership VP and Director. "We're at 21 members, so please help us!," reports Kathy. "Bring in four more by the end of September!"

With the help of Club members, Kathy and Nikki have filled our "Community Bundle", a promotion from Optimist International that provides six Friend of Optimists memberships at a reduced rate for a year. We look forward to introducing our new "FOOs" at an upcoming meeting!

All the advertising and social media in the world can't substitute for the person-to-person contact that makes us a vital club. Invite someone you know to a meeting to learn more about Optimism and what we do to make a difference in the lives of kids. And, when a new or prospective member is at a meeting, reach out—smile—shake a hand—have a conversation—sit down for dinner. We are all hosts at Club events and we want to be welcoming to our guests!

Special Events Keep Vienna Farmers Market Lively in Autumn

The slow turning of summer into fall brings delicious new crops to the Vienna Farmers Market—reason enough to be there every week! More incentive comes from the special events our Farmers Market Committee have scheduled for upcoming Market days.

The Vienna-based cooking school **Culinaria** comes to the Market on **September 17** with a demonstration for market patrons.



Chefs from the highly-acclaimed **Clarity** restaurant will offer a cooking demonstration on **September 24**. This is Clarity's second demo at the Market. The staff are also regular shoppers

with us, featuring ingredients from our vendors on their seasonal menu.



Another local institution, the **Ayr Hill Garden Club**, will be at the Market on **October 1** with their **Annual Bulb Sale**. The timing is perfect for fall planting that you will enjoy next spring.

July/August Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on July 25 with 9 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Discussed plans for the Growing Hope Family Fun Day.
- Discussed planning for Christmas tree sales.
- Discussed Farmers Market operations.
- Approved the membership application of Howard (Mickey) Williams (sponsored by Kathy Cutri) and Shivani Maharaja (sponsored by Mike Fitzella),
- Approved a donation to Alternative House.

Distinguished Alumna

When Bonny Tynch, founder of "Bridges: Harmony through Music" came to speak to us on Aug. 3, she brought a Bridges volunteer who knows the Vienna Optimists well: her daughter, Ellie, a Helping Hands Awards winner and Oratorical Contest participant. We were happy to say, "Welcome back!"



Alternative House

Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge

News from our friends at Alternative House

"Eight teens [from the Culmore Teen Center] graduated from high school in June and five are going on to college! One young woman, who had been a youth participant since she was eight years old, is now a pre-med student at UVA, and volunteered to assist in a family clinic."

Our Club supports Alternative House in several ways. In addition to financial donations from our Youth Fund (see Board Minutes), individual members have donated to AH's holiday food drive and school backpack drive. We also provide dinner once a month to the Culmore Teen Center through our "Fourth Wednesday" teams. We feed a healthy meal for 20 kids and a special dessert and small gifts to celebrate the kids who have birthdays that month.

If you are interested in joining a "Fourth Wednesday" team, or learning more about how to help, please contact [Laurie Cole](#).

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