

# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

May 2017

## Calendar

### May 3 – Helping Hands Awards

#### Special Time and Place:

6:15 p.m. Social Time; 6:30 p.m. Dinner

#### RSVP REQUIRED

Westwood Country Club (Ballroom)  
800 Maple Avenue West, Vienna

### May 6 – Farmers Market

#### OPENING DAY!

8:00 a.m. to Noon  
301 Center Street South  
(Faith Baptist Church)

### May 10 – Board Meeting

5:00 p.m. Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Also on

### May 10 – “May at the Millers”

6:30 p.m. –9:00 p.m.  
2015 Woodford Road, Vienna

### May 13 – Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to Noon

### May 17 – JOOI Clubs Meeting

6:45 p.m. Social Time; 7:15 p.m. Dinner

### May 20 – Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to Noon

### May 24 – Fourth Wednesday Dinner

Culmore Teen Center – Team D

### May 27-29 –Caboose Open

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day

## News and Notes

One of our most-anticipated programs of the year, the **Helping Hands Awards**, will be held on **Wednesday, May 3**, at the **Westwood Country Club**. We honor 6th grade students from the eleven elementary schools in



our area, for their outstanding service. Speaking to the kids and helping us present the awards this year is **Fairfax County Circuit Court Judge Steve Shannon. Pat Hackerson** has put together a great evening which will be cherished by the honorees and

their parents. **RSVPs are required!** If you have not yet responded, you can [check with Pat](#) to see if seats are still available.

Another event we have come to look forward to is **“May at the Millers.” Joe and Greta** open their home for a cook-out and pot-luck on **Wednesday, May 10.** [Contact Joe](#) to RSVP.



Every year our **fantastic JOOI Clubs** (Junior Optimists/Octagon International) join us for a meeting to report on what they've done over the school year. We welcome them to the usual location, the Fairfax American Legion, on **Wednesday, May 17.** This year we offer a special “thank you” to **long-time JOOI Club honcho Rich Ordeman.** The search is on to find Rich's successor—see page 4.



**The Farmers Market opens on May 6!** See page 3 for more info, and sign up to volunteer at the [Club's website!](#)

Literally **hundreds of visitors** come to the **Caboose** over Memorial Day weekend, as part of the **ViVa!Vienna!** festival. We need **volunteer conductors from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (two hour shifts) on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.** Sign up at the [Club's website!](#)



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna  
for over 60 Years!

Visit us at [www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org](http://www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org)  
We're on Facebook! [Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub)



## From the President

Dear Fellow Optimists,

April has been a very busy month on all fronts – we had our **NOW** meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> where we received one new application. Mike Fitzella hosted our **TR Cook Youth of Excellence Award Program** at Madison and did his customary outstanding job! Thank you very much Mike.

Mark Keam was our speaker at the event and really inspired the students. In speaking with several parents afterwards, they were very overwhelmed with pride and joy at the recognition we gave to their child.

Thank you to both Dick Gongaware and Pat Hackerson for arranging the lovely dinner from Maggios/Skorpios. Pat took the left-over food to the emergency shelter at Second Story (formerly Alternative House) where it was greatly appreciated.

All of us represent the Optimist Club. We need to continue to raise awareness in the Community about what we do and why we do it. By telling our story, we can attract new members.

Some items in the community:

- ★ We have our sponsorship logo on the VYS soccer team shirt
- ★ The Town of Vienna is working with the Farmers Market Committee to increase the advertising of the market. We will have videos made (courtesy of the Town) to run on the town website and we can use them on our own Facebook page and website.
- ★ We are a bronze sponsor for the VES 5K. Don't know if any of you run but sign up and wear our yellow shirts.
- ★ Someone from our Farmers Market committee (that would be me) was invited by Linda Colbert to speak to Girl Scout Troop 1078 (sophomores at Madison) about how we run the Farmers Market logistically and where the food is sourced. They are working on their Gold Medals and each one had visited the Market.
- ★ Fund and Fun raising opportunities are available for the Club for the Chillin' on Church events that run the third Friday from May through September. Once I know how many volunteers are needed and the number of shifts, I will let you know. Easy way to make more money for the Club.

The Farmers Market opens on May 6<sup>th</sup> but our **Ribbon Cutting** with the Mayor will be on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. See more on Page 3.

The **Caboose** sign-up sheet is on our website as well as the **Farmers Market** sign-up sheet. Sign up early and sign up often. You will note that we have changed some of the times for the Farmers Market to more closely reflect the needs of the market.

We will have our **Board** meeting on May 10, 2017 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church at 5 pm – **PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE!**

After the Board meeting, we are having **May at the Millers** from 6:30pm to 9:00pm (2015 Woodford Road, Vienna, VA 22182). Please RSVP to Joe at [jsmeda@hotmail.com](mailto:jsmeda@hotmail.com) to let him know if you are coming and what you may bring to share.

This would be a good time to bring a potential Optimist member. Remember that for the entire 3rd quarter (April 1 - June 30) Optimist Clubs are encouraged to recruit teachers. Optimist International is waiving the \$15.00 membership fee and offering a year's dues for only \$30!

Optimistically yours, *Michele H. Wright*



### May Birthday Wishes to:

Pat Solan – May 1  
 Mickey Williams – May 1  
 Mike Nadolski – May 5  
 Mark Keam – May 10  
 Dick Carr – May 25  
 Bob Thompson – May 28

### Optimist Anniversaries in May

Les Carl– 33 years  
 Dick Lippert – 30 years  
 Al Dunkerley – 29 years  
 Mike Fitzella – 11 years  
 Marc Erazo – 2 years  
 Ed Wonder – 2 years



## It's Market Time! Opening Day is May 6

Saturday morning, the trucks and vans roll in before the sky is completely light. Folding tables pop into shape. Bushel baskets, wooden crates, coolers, and plastic tubs hold today's bounty, soon to be displayed. Eight o'clock: the bell rings, and the Vienna Farmers Market is open for business.

Our popular, successful, vibrant, Farmers Market opens for another season on Saturday, May 6. In addition to welcoming back many of our favorite vendors, we are excited about some new offerings. This year's Market will have buffalo meat, mushrooms, goat cheese and milk, and a new bread vendor. Of course, the backbone of the Market remains the farm-fresh produce, grown locally and offered with pride by our outstanding vendors.



The Market is a lively place, where people meet and like to spend some time. Live music has become a popular part of the Saturday morning scene. Dick Gongaware has been working on our musician line up and we will have the following musicians for May:

- May 6th - JC James
- May 13th - Sweet Yonder
- May 20th - 7 Bends String Band
- May 27th - Down River Canoe Company (Madison musicians)



Our Optimist Club took on the Farmers Market several years ago when its future was uncertain. The vision and hard work of our members has made it a feature of Vienna community life. It's also one of our most visible activities, and it raises a healthy chunk of funds to support our youth programs. We all have a part to play in the Market's continued success! Signing up is easy on the [Club's website](#). So please do your part, and then maybe a little more.



For the entire 3rd quarter (April 1 - June 30), Optimist Clubs are encouraged to recruit teachers from their local schools. Optimist International is waiving the \$15.00 membership fee and offering a year's dues for only \$30!

### Why Teachers?

Optimist Members of all professions are important to Clubs, so why the emphasis on teachers?

- A strong connection with local schools is extremely beneficial for your Optimist Club. More teachers on your roster strengthens this connection.
- They can open doors for attracting more students to our youth projects - including Oratorical, Essay, Sports and other programs.
- Teachers are able to provide first hand insight into the needs of the children of your community.
- Provides the foundation for new Junior Optimist Clubs.
- Your Optimist Club will serve more children!

**Who Qualifies?** Active or retired: Teachers, Administrators, College professors, Coaches employed by the school, Aides, School library staff, or Counselors,

Contact [Kathy Cutri](#) for more information!

## Bringing Out the Best at Special Olympics

Led by Mike Battaglia and Jim Houston, Vienna Optimists turned out in force to make the Special Olympics Track Meet rewarding for all involved. Here is Jim's report:

"**Bob McCormick** came in from Denver again to act as the starter. His wife **Sherri** accompanied him and provided moral support for our team throughout the day.

The following Optimists braved the hot weather and a frantic pace to contribute to a very successful meet and garner many favorable comments on our work:

**Bruce Lauther** (double shift); **Tom Fraim** (double shift); **Mike Battaglia** (double shift); **Jim Houston\*** (double shift); **Jeff Johnson**; **Jonathan Lyons**; **Tom Spengler**; **George Mills**; **Shivani Maharaja**; **Vishal Patel**; and **Michele Wright**. Thanks also to **Grant Marsh** for acting as the starter for the track time trials that were conducted on April 8; and of course to Mike Battaglia for lining up the volunteers.



We have a great time and get to see many of the kids we have supported in the past. We can all find a few hours to support this worthy cause (and if the weather is nice, as it normally is, you can work on your tan (sun screen provided)) so hope to see you next year."

*\*Editor's Note: Of course Jim did not include his name in the list, but we added it for accuracy.*



## April Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors on April 12, 2017 with 7 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Discussed the District Oratorical Contest and the T.R. Cook Youth Awards of Excellence program;
- Discussed plans for the Helping Hands program to be held at Westwood Country Club on May 3 and the Partners in Education program on June 7;
- Discussed plans for the Farmers Market which will open on May 6;
- Discussed planning for the Walk for Growing Hope/ Family Fun Day scheduled for September 30;
- Discussed the slate for officers and members of the Board of Directors for the 2017-2018 Optimist year;
- Approved the membership application of Ann Harrison;
- Approved a donation for the CapVA District Junior Golf Tournament.



*Right: VYS (Vienna Youth Soccer) sent us a picture of our snazzy team shirt, now playing on soccer fields around town!*

## Position Available - Junior Optimist Octagon International Coordinator

Rich Ordeman has served as our JOOI Club Coordinator for over twelve years, helping the clubs at Madison, Marshall, and Oakton high schools and Louise Archer elementary school. Rich would like to pass this responsibility on to another member of the club. The primary duties for this position are:

- \* Maintain contact with school advisors;
- \* Obtain and submit club membership rosters, including officer information/election;
- \* Produce report to accompany our dues payment to Optimist International;
- \* Request Club presence at our May meeting to detail their service projects.

The ideal candidate would have a flexible schedule that would allow occasional attendance at club meetings.

We need to identify someone by the end of June so Rich can transition the responsibilities before the new school year starts. Please contact Rich Ordeman or Mike Fitzella if you are interested in this position.

### OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2016-17

President	Michele Wright
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Tom Bauer
Immediate Past President	Joe Miller
President Elect	Susan Bauer
Vice President of Community	Anna Ryjik
Vice President of Finance	Dick Lippert
Vice President of Media Relations	Gary Moonan
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	Lauren Wagner
Director of Youth	Jeff Bechtle
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*