

# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

October 2017

## Calendar

### October 4 – Dinner Meeting

Installation of Officers and

Guest Speaker Col. Richard F. Picanso, Ret.

6:45 Social Time; Board Installation 7:15

Fairfax American Legion

### October 7 – Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to Noon

### October 11 – Madison HS Ethics Day

Vienna Community Center

### October 11 – Board Meeting

7:30 p.m. Emmanuel Lutheran Church

### October 14 – Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to Noon

### October 14 – Halloween on the Green!

10:30-12:30 Vienna Town Green

[Contact Anna Ryjik](#) to volunteer

### October 14 – Caboose Open!

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

Shifts available! Sign up [at our website](#).

### October 18 – Social/NOW Meeting!

7:00 p.m., Pazzo Pomodoro, 118 Branch Rd SE,

Vienna

### October 21 – Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to Noon

### October 25 – 4th Wednesday Dinner

Culmore Teen Center – Team D

### October 28 – Farmers Market

Final Market of the Season!

8:00 a.m. to noon

## News and Notes

**Happy New Year!** The new Optimist year, that is. We start with the **installation of our 2017-18 Officers and Board Members at our October 4 meeting**. The formalities will occur at **7:15 p.m.** (after our usual social time starting at 6:45) so please make of point of being there to congratulate and thank your fellow Optimists for their service.



Incoming President Susan Bauer has also arranged a timely and fascinating program for us that night. **Retired Air Force Colonel Richard F. Picanso will discuss “Hurricanes and Air Force Hurricane Reconnaissance.”** Among the highlights of his career Col. Picanso, served with the 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron “Typhoon Chasers” out of Anderson AFB, Guam, and logged over 740 flight hours and 48 penetrations into full strength Pacific typhoons. Let’s hope for good weather on Oct. 4.

### Madison High School’s Ethics Day

seeks volunteers. Can you help on

**October 14** with this important and

rewarding program, working with

high school seniors? Contact soon-to-be Past President

[Michele Wright](#) for

more information, or sign up

[directly online](#). Bonus for your service: Ethics

Day is back at the Vienna Community Center, so you will get a good look at

the new digs!



We will enjoy the flavors of Italy on **October 18 at Pazzo**

**Pomodoro!** Our indefatigable **Membership Team (Kathy**

**Cutri and Lauren Wagner**, with an assist from **Susan**

**Bauer**) plan a social time and NOW event, starting at 7:00

p.m. NOW is, of course, New Optimists Welcome—so invite

a friend and introduce them to the Optimist Club!

One last pitch for the **Farmers Market** (before we start pitching for the Christmas Tree Lot). Apples, pumpkins, and squash are in abundance. Volunteers in abundance would be good, too! Help wrap up the market season strong and **volunteer for one (or more) of the last five markets in 2017.**

[Sign up online](#) or contact the [Market Manager](#) for help.



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,

Fall is here – at least for the week.

Fall signifies the last few weeks of the Farmers Market – four and counting. Thank you to all of those who have stepped up to fill the slots, opportunities still abound. We welcome all comers for the balance of the market season – May to October, Rain or Shine!

It also signifies that we will be gearing up for our annual Christmas tree sales. Jim Houston and Dick Lippert have ordered the trees and are working behind the scenes to make this year as wonderful an event as in the past. We all need to hit the gym for the next few months to prepare. Team captains will be notified and we hope all of you will participate.

What a wonderful Growing Hope Fundraiser we had on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Lots of people, lots of money, and wonderful conversations with cancer survivors. The spirit of hope and the gratitude of the families that were there was an inspiration to me.

The Town Newsletter has posted articles about the Optimists about town – Chillin’ on Church, The Halloween Parade (of past years), and the support of our local Olympic-hopeful, Veronica Day in her bid for the 2018 Winter Games. Our continued involvement with the youth of our community and their families makes me proud to be an Optimist and proud of our Club.

My term has come to an end and I hope that you will all join me in welcoming in and installing our new [Board of officer this coming Wednesday at the Fairfax American Legion](#) – the usual start time is 6:45pm, with the Board installation at 7:15.

Hope to see you there.

Optimistically yours,

*Michele H. Wright*



### October Birthday Wishes to:

- John Andrews – October 18
- Richard Plocica – October 25
- Tom Bauer – October 31

### Optimist Anniversaries in October

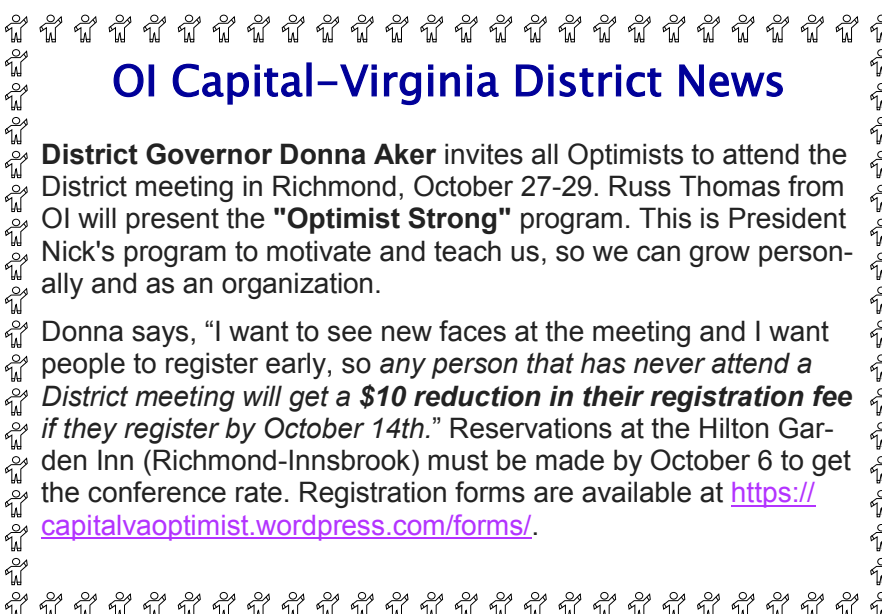
- Jim Radja – 31 years
- Jim Houston - 24 years
- George Mills – 18 years
- Sherry Levitt – 3 years
- Steve Rabil – 3 years
- Jeff Bechtle – 2 years
- Steve Bukont – 2 years
- Nicole Pham – 2 years
- Tara Bloch – 2 years
- Yvonne Ha – 1 year



## OI Capital–Virginia District News

**District Governor Donna Aker** invites all Optimists to attend the District meeting in Richmond, October 27-29. Russ Thomas from OI will present the "**Optimist Strong**" program. This is President Nick's program to motivate and teach us, so we can grow personally and as an organization.

Donna says, "I want to see new faces at the meeting and I want people to register early, so *any person that has never attend a District meeting will get a \$10 reduction in their registration fee if they register by October 14th.*" Reservations at the Hilton Garden Inn (Richmond-Innsbrook) must be made by October 6 to get the conference rate. Registration forms are available at <https://capitalvaoptimist.wordpress.com/forms/>.



# A Day of Fun— and Hope

Record attendance marked our 12<sup>th</sup> annual Family Fun Day for Growing Hope, on Saturday, September 23. There was activity everywhere you looked on the Vienna Town Green!



Families enjoyed entertainment by the **Musical Enrichment Society** (formerly Donaldsons' Run), now in their fifth year of donating services to our event. Other donated services included face painting, balloon making, crafts, and free book distribution. Young children enjoyed the huge air-filled obstacle course. The Dunk Tank was back—we couldn't have Family Fun Day without it! Those stout-

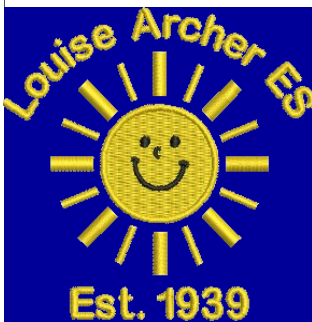
hearted Optimists willing to get dunked this year included **Delegate Mark Keam** and teachers **Lauren Wagner** and **Jeff Bechtle**. Local musician and businessman **Scott Butler** gamely joined in as well. A pink police cruiser in honor of those who died from cancer was provided by the Fairfax County Police and was parked just off Maple Avenue for all to see; family and friends were able to inscribe memories on the vehicle. A live auction was held

to round-out the activities.

The day marked the end of our annual fundraising efforts as part of Optimist International's Childhood Cancer Campaign. The dollars we raise go to support the work of the Growing Hope Foundation and the Johns Hopkins Medical Research Center.

**This year we raised over \$27,000.** The Junior Optimist Club at Louise Archer Elementary School contributed over \$2200 early this year in fundraising activities, in addition to local businesses, Optimists and friends.

**Co-chairs Anna Ryjik and Susan Bauer** thank all volunteers, donors and all participants. Optimists once again contributed generously to this effort along with many business sponsors who donated money and business supporters who contributed food, refreshments and auction items. Please support all of the businesses that contributed to this effort—and let them know you are an Optimist!



**Junior Optimist Club of Louise Archer Elementary School**

Students raised over \$2100 in their *Change for Cancer* program



**Gold Sponsors (\$1,000+ Donors)**



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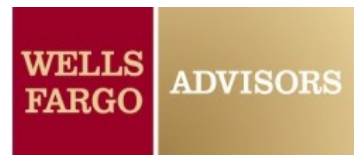
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**RE/MAX Distinctive Real Estate**  
**Vienna Rexall Drug Center**  
**Wegmans**

*More from our 12th Annual  
Family Fun Day for*



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Growing Hope Committee thanks all the members of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna who donated their time and money to our annual Growing Hope childhood cancer fundraiser.

## We also thank the following for ...

### *donating their services:*

- ♥ **Music Enrichment Society** (formerly Donaldsons' Run) for their fifth year of donated musical entertainment,
- ♥ Face Painting by **Creatives by Cristina** and balloons by **Sarah the Balloon Twister**,
- ♥ **Once Upon a Dream** for creative entertainment and crafts,
- ♥ **Reach Out and Read VA/DC** for free books for our youth,
- ♥ **Fairfax County Police Department** for the remembrance pink police cruiser;

### *discounting their services:*

- ♥ Brooke Rental for the tent,
- ♥ DKG Designs for T-shirts,
- ♥ Big Country Amusements for games,
- ♥ Falcon Printing;

### *and donating food, refreshments, and auction items:*

- ♥ BRIO Tuscan Grill
- ♥ Cheesecake Factory
- ♥ Clarity Restaurant
- ♥ COSTCO Wholesale
- ♥ Diamond Spa
- ♥ Donato's Pizza
- ♥ Dunkin Donuts
- ♥ Falcon Printing
- ♥ Foster's Grill
- ♥ Fresh Market
- ♥ Giant Food—Vienna
- ♥ Gordon Biersch Brewery/Restaurant
- ♥ Great Harvest Bread Co.
- ♥ Karin's Florist
- ♥ Manhattan Bagel
- ♥ Massage Envy
- ♥ Norm's Beer and Wine
- ♥ Once Upon a Dream
- ♥ P. Buckley Moss Society
- ♥ Panera Bread
- ♥ Pie Gourmet
- ♥ Reach Out and Read VA/DC
- ♥ Sandia Mexican Restaurant
- ♥ Seasons 52
- ♥ Starbucks, 207 Maple Ave E, Vienna
- ♥ Vocelli Pizza
- ♥ Wegmans

### September Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on September 13 with 8 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- ♦ Discussed plans for the Growing Hope Family Fun Day.
- ♦ Discussed status of members who are arrears in dues.
- ♦ Discussed recruiting a new coordinator for the Essay Contest to replace Laurie Cole who has successfully managed the project for the past eight years.
- ♦ Heard Vice President for Finance Dick Lippert report that permission to operate the tree lot at the Maple Avenue Shopping Center had been received from the shopping center owner and the Town of Vienna. The Madison High School baseball team and the Oakton High School football team have committed to again help with tree unloading and sales.
- ♦ Discussed participation in the Vienna Halloween Parade.
- ♦ Discussed status of the Farmers Market.
- ♦ Reviewed thank you notes for our donations to the Community Helping Others (CHO) and Louise Archer Elementary School Fun Day and two students from Oakton High School we sponsored for Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) training.
- ♦ Approved a donation for the Vienna Community Center Kids’ Halloween Party to be held on the Town Green on October 14.

### Make Art/Fight Hunger

Jennifer Rose, Development Director of Britepaths (formerly Our Daily Bread), spoke at our Sept. 20 meeting and invited us to participate in the 2017 “Complete the Circle” event.

The food– and awareness-raising event aims to help stop hunger in Fairfax County, while creating “art from the sky.” Participants will wear colored T-shirts to create a “living painting” that will be photographed from the air.



This is the image volunteers will create at the 2017 “Complete the Circle” event.

Registration is \$10.00 per person for the T-shirt. Participants are also asked to bring three food or pantry donations the day of the event. This year’s goal is 1500 participants and 15,000 pounds of donations. Suggested items are listed at [www.CompleteTheCircleFX.org](http://www.CompleteTheCircleFX.org).

We have pre-registered a team but have plenty of room for more members! If you are interested in being part of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna team, [contact Laurie Cole](#) by **October 15**.

#### OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2017-18

President	Susan Bauer
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Tom Bauer
Immediate Past President	Michele Wright
President Elect	<i>open</i>
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	Bruce Lauther
Director of Social Media	Steven Rabil
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*