

# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

July 2018

## Calendar

July 4

No Meeting

July 7

Farmers Market

Park & Cherry Sts. SE

(Parking lot of Vienna Community Center)

8:00 am to noon

July 14

Farmers Market

8:00 am to noon

Caboose Open — Volunteers Needed!

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

July 18

“First Responder Recognition”

Vienna American Legion Post 180

6:45—Social Time; 7:00—Dinner

July 21

Farmers Market

8:00 am to noon

Optimist Night Out!

New Dominion Band at the Alley Cat,

2 S. Whiting Street, Alexandria

8:00 pm to midnight

July 25

“Fourth Wednesday” dinner delivery

Culmore Teen Center; Team A (Laurie Cole, Captain)

Board Meeting

7:30 pm Bauer Home, Vienna

July 28

Farmers’ Market

8:00 am to noon



## News and Notes



School is out and vacations beckon, but we have some jobs to fill. The [sign-up list](#) for the **Farmers Market** is showing a lot of white space for the month **July**.

**Michele Wright** of our Farmers Market committee writes, “[The Market] is a Club effort and we now raise over \$15K” annually for our Youth Fund. “The goal is to continue to grow the revenue end of the market to create more scholarships and youth support. **BUT WE NEED YOU!** Go on-line and sign up. If you are unsure of the process, [email me](#) and I will sign you up.” Michele sent a **comprehensive email in June** describing all the tasks for volunteers;

if you didn’t get it or can’t find it, she will gladly send you a copy! She can also send you the Market’s sign layout plan and the combination for the storage sheds.

Our only regular meeting in July is on **Wednesday, July 18**, at the Vienna American Legion Post 180. For the first time we will **honor local First Responders**—e.g., firefighters, EMTs—much as we do local police officers. As always at the Vienna Legion we will need an attendance count in advance. Be on the lookout for an email from President Susan and **rsvp**.

It all started with an idea from **Jerry Gerhards**—any Optimists interested in going to a spot with live music and dancing? It evolved into an **Optimist night out** to hear our own **Les Carl and the New Dominion Band** at **The Alley Cat** in Alexandria on **Saturday, July 21**, from 8:00 pm to midnight. The Alley Cat is located just two blocks off I-395 N at Duke Street. There is ample parking and no cover charge.



**AUGUST CALENDAR PREVIEW:** **August 1** will be delicious! Mark the date for a **Club social event** at **Clarity Restaurant** in Vienna from 6:00 pm to 8:00. And don’t forget we will be assisting with beer sales for **Chillin’ on Church** on Friday, **August 17**.



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 ...

Greetings Fellow Optimists,

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July! I hope that everyone will enjoy the day with family and friends.

It's the hard work and creativity of our Members that make things happen in our Club. Here are a few "thank yous" to recognize special contributions:

☺ Thank you to **Joe and Greta** for hosting their annual **May at the Millers** get together for the Optimists. Even though it rained we still enjoyed our indoor picnic.

☺ Thanks also to **Anna Ryjik** for organizing our Respect for Law meeting. The Vienna Police Public Information Officer posted a report and a reporter from the Connection was there also. (See the press release at [2018 Optimist Club C.A.R. Respect For Law Award](#) )

☺ Thanks to a suggestion from **Bruce Lauther**, our club has initiated a new award dedicated to an outstanding First Responder. This Optimist Award dinner will take place on July 18 at the *VIENNA* Legion so kindly RSVP if you are coming.

☺ The Caboose is looking bright and shiny thanks to a new coat of paint. Our Caboose Manager, **Dan Mulville** organized a painting crew and got all the necessary equipment to do the job. We appreciate his efforts and those who helped with the project.

I'm excited about our Optimist night out at the Alley Cat in Alexandria! Tom and I plan to go; let's get a group together to hear Optimist **Les Carl** and the New Dominion Band.

Congratulations to **Mike and Mary Fitzella** on the birth of their grandchild, Jack Robert Sutton born on Thursday, June 7.

The Farmers Market continues to draw crowds rain or shine! Little did we know that **Jerry Gerhards** had a hidden talent as a balloon artist. Children have been lining up for his creations like he is the Pied Piper. **Richard Plocica** has donated an ice cooler filled with NAT'S paraphernalia that will be auctioned off in September at the Market with the proceeds going to the Childhood Cancer Campaign. Please sign up in advance for a 2 hour slot at the market. I enjoy being with our community and fellow Optimists and the musical entertainment has been top notch.

By the way, the Market is a great place to talk about our club to the members of our community. So many of them have no idea who we are and what we do. Summer is not the time to slow down on recruiting new members. We don't know who is waiting for someone to just ask them to join. This may be just the thing they have been looking for. A way to meet new, enthusiastic, fun people and help kids. Who could ask for anything more??!!

I will be attending a family reunion and then on to Yellowstone and Jackson Hole, Wyoming in early July. Our board meeting will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Tom will be holding down the fort so please direct any concerns to him. Enjoy the holiday weekend.

Madame President, **Susan**



### July Birthday Wishes to:

Sheryl Friedley – July 16

Jeff Johnson – July 25

Gary Moonan – July 28

### Optimist Anniversaries in July

Laurie Cole – 13 years

John Andrews – 4 years

Rob DiRocco – 4 years



**Seriously—we know we don't have everyone!**

Did we miss your Birthday or Optimist Anniversary? Please let us know at

[newsletter@  
optimistclubof-  
greatervienna.org](mailto:newsletter@optimistclubof-greatervienna.org)



# Wet Paint!

Keeping our big, red Caboose looking good is no small task! This year Caboose Honcho Dan Mulville assembled a crew and tackled the job of giving the Vienna icon a good scraping and a top-to-bottom paint job—the first since 2012. In addition to Dan, we thank Optimists **Jim Houston, Rich Ordeman, Dick Gongaware, Susan Bauer** and her granddaughter for their help in repainting the caboose. We also had the help of **Mike Cheleska**, who spray painted the roof walkway and worked on the caboose team. **Vienna Paint and Decorating** donated 10 gallons of paint along with 3 gallons of primer, and **Preston Sign** is supplying the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad decals.

The W&OD decals will be installed later this summer after the paint has thoroughly dried. Painting the interior of the caboose will be scheduled later this year during cooler weather.



Photo courtesy of Mike Bauer 2018



## Annual Respect for Law Awards Honor Local Officers

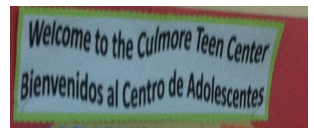
Last year more than 1,500 Optimist Clubs participated in Optimist International's "Respect for Law" program. For decades, our Club has used the occasion to honor "the jobs these brave men

and women perform", as described in the OI mandate, by presenting the Charles A. Robinson Respect for Law Awards.

At our June 20 meeting, **MPO Tim Sietz** of the Vienna Police Department and **PFC Jason Mizer** of the Fairfax County Police Department (Fair Oaks District Station), received this year's awards. Also attending to recognize their officers were Maj. Dan Janickey (Vienna) and 2nd Lt. B. Alan Gaydos and Lt. David J. White (Fairfax County). Our VP for Community, Anna Ryjik, conducted the presentations.

## June's "Fourth Wednesday" Dinner at the Culmore Teen Center Hits the Spot!

We are excited to share this report from **Anna Ryjik**, Team D Captain, about their recent dinner delivery to the Culmore Teen Center. Team D also includes **Dick Gongaware, Ann Harrison, Rich Ordeman, Jim and Diana Stivison, and Ed Wonder**.



We had a really, really great time thanks to an innovative menu including baked chicken, corn on the cob, mac & cheese and Rich's signature green salad (with every vegetable you can imagine). The kids particularly liked the corn on the cob. It all went well together.

And then, gift bags for the June birthday kids and....ice cream cake from Dairy Queen - the biggest hit of all, courtesy of Dick.

I have a thank you card from all of the students that the supervisor, Dashonae, gave to me.

Thanks for all of your help - great team effort and success!

Would you like to be part of this direct-service project to local teenagers? We deliver dinner and a birthday party once a month to [Second Story's Culmore Teen Center](#). There are many ways to participate—cooking not required! Contact [Laurie Cole](#) for more information.

**Imagine yourself riding the rails...**

The Caboose needs a few more conductors on **July 14** and September 15. Sign up at our [website](#) or contact [Dan Mulville](#) directly. July 14 will be the first open day for the Caboose since its new paint job!



**There's Room for YOU on the Optimist Club Board**

A Nominating Committee will form soon to recruit members for the 2018-19 Board. Board membership is a great way to meet more members, learn about Club operations, and put your mark on our efforts to serve Vienna-area kids. Please consider if this is a way you can help our Club grow and succeed!



**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                 | <i>open</i>    |
| 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*