

# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING



The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna  
May 2018

## Calendar

**May 2**

**Helping Hands Awards**

**NOTE Location & Time!**

**Westwood Country Club**

800 Maple Ave. West, Vienna

6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**May 5**

**FARMERS MARKET OPENING DAY**

**New Location: Park & Cherry Sts. SE**

(Parking lot of Vienna Community Center)

8:00 am to noon

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

**May 9**

**Board Meeting 7:30 pm**

Bauer Home, Vienna

**May 16**

**JOI Clubs Celebration**

**Vienna** American Legion

330 Center St. North, Vienna

6:45 p.m. Social Time; 7:30 p.m. Dinner

**May 23**

**"Fourth Wednesday"** dinner delivery

Culmore Teen Center

Team C (Tom Spenger, Captain)

**May 26, 27, 28**

**Caboose Open!**

**ViVa! Vienna!**

1:00 to 3:00 pm

*All shifts available!*

## News and Notes



Is it possible to make our annual **Helping Hands Awards** program even more inspiring and special to our Club? Yes, because this year they are being renamed in honor of **Sheryl A. Friedley**. During her first term as Club President Sheryl established the awards to honor sixth grade students who go beyond the norm to help their family, school, and community. On **May 2** when we present the 22nd round of the awards, the program and plaques will bear Sheryl's name, and Sheryl herself will be our guest speaker. Attendance at the event, held at Westwood Country Club, is by RSVP only. If you have not already reserved your spot and want to attend, please [contact Pat Hackerson](#) immediately to see if space is still available.

Next up on our busy May schedule: The Grand Opening of the **2018 Farmers Market on Saturday, May 5!** Everyone is abuzz about our **new location**, in the parking lot of the recently-renovated [Vienna Community Center](#) at Park & Cherry Sts. SE. Favorite long-time vendors are back, and our crack Farmers Market team has recruited some exciting new sellers. [Sign up to help at the Club's website](#), and come and shop!



The next generation of Optimists will be our guests on May 16. Plan to join us at the **Vienna** American Legion on **Wednesday, May 16 for our annual "JOI Club Celebration"** event. Students from our elementary and high school clubs will be giving presentations on the service projects they have performed this school year. It's always inspiring to see how much these students are giving back to the Vienna-Oakton community.

Memorial Day weekend in Vienna means "ViVa! Vienna!", and that means three days of Caboose openings. We need guest conductors for this long haul! All shifts are available and it is easy to [sign up on the Club's website](#). Given the unpredictability of this year's weather, the Caboose is equipped with both fans and heaters!



**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,

I think we can say safely that spring is finally acting like it is here if the beautiful Cherry Blossom and Redbud trees are any indication. Tom and I were in NYC for a few days and saw the gorgeous Survival Tree in full bloom on the grounds of the 9-11 Memorial. It was a beautiful, hopeful sight after leaving the museum honoring the many lives that were lost on that day.

By the way, the latest spring fashion accessory is our Optimist vest in a lovely, gold with blue trim. These come in medium, large and x-large and are available now to wear at the Special Olympics, Farmers Market, Caboose and wherever else discerning Optimist fashionistas are appearing around town for Optimists functions. Try one on, "You'll love the way you look. I guarantee it"!

Speaking of loving the way you look, you'll love our new banners. We won an Optimists Purposes banner for sponsoring a new JOII club and we just had a new banner made for our Greater Vienna Optimist Club. They both are very spiffy.

The Wine & Art NOW social was a lot of fun and I think it is safe to say that we should all keep our day jobs instead of becoming professional artists. There were six guests who attended the event and two of those were from our social media outreach so a special thank you to Gary Moonan for keeping up our various social media accounts from Facebook, Meet Up, our webpage and other outlets. We had an abundance of snacks and libations to go with our conversation and art. As with the loaves and fishes, the leftovers were gathered and the veggies were then used to make a Chicken Tortilla soup for the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Culmore Center meal April 25. **Please welcome Jim Fischer, sponsored by Roger Doughty, who has joined our club.**

**Mike Fitzella and Pat Hackerson** are to be commended for another great **TRCook awards program** on April 18 at Madison High School. Unfortunately I was out of town and I hate to miss this wonderful opportunity to see so many of our high school juniors honored for their achievements. Thanks to Bard's Alley Owner Jan Morrow for being our speaker at this event.

An opportunity to see our junior high school students compete is coming up soon on Saturday May 19. The CapVa District Meeting is being held right here in NOVA in Ashburn at the Embassy Suites. Please consider going with me to support our two oratorical winners from Thoreau Middle School. Let me know asap if you'd like to take a short road trip to Ashburn.

Our Farmers Market is moving up a notch or two with our move to the Community Center. There will be new signage, more visibility, new vendors and a bigger and better shed built by our own industrious John Andrews and Dick Gongaware. Our face painter is returning and we have musical entertainment already lined up for the summer. The Vienna Singing Princesses will be there in September. We will also have an Optimist tent where we can answer questions and provide information about our service projects and activities. **The market begins May 5. Michele Wright, Jim Stivison, Dick Gongaware and Ann Harrison** have been very busy bees since the market closed last year. If you would like to get in on the action with this very active committee, please talk to Michele or Dick.

**Sheryl A. Friedley** will be the guest of honor and speaker at our 22<sup>nd</sup> Helping Hands awards dinner at the Westwood Country Club. She is excited to be coming back east to see friends from George Mason and of course all her

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### 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– 34 years  
 Dick Lippert – 31 years  
 Al Dunkerley – 30 years  
 Mike Fitzella – 12 years  
 Ed Wonder – 3 years



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

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



# Spring Arrived and A Good Time Was Had By All!

It is an annual tradition for our Optimist Club to help with the **Special Olympics Track & Field Event at Episcopal High School**. This year's crazy weather meant it was anybody's guess as to what the conditions would be—snow, rain, tropical heat? But Saturday, April 28, was a beautiful day for the 100 athletes and volunteers. The Vienna Optimists were looking especially sharp in new, easy-to-spot vests. Many thanks to\*: Mike Battaglia (recruiter and volunteer coordinator!), Susan Bauer, Kathy Cutri, Roger Doughty, Tom Fraim, Jim Houston, Jonathan Lyons, Grant Marsh, George Mills, Rich Ordeman, Tom Spengler, Lauren Wagner, and Michele Wright.



Top: The Special Olympics Track & Field Event takes over Episcopal High School in Alexandria.

Right: Kathy Cutri, Rich Ordeman, and Jonathan Lyons take a break from their timing duties.

Far right: Lauren Wagner and Kathy Cutri pose with the Olympic Flame. Check out the new Optimist Vests!



**Special Olympics**  
Virginia

*"Let's get visible, visible. C'mon get visible..."*

## Rockin' A New Look

New vests and new banners have arrived just in time for our busy summer activities. The vests, as you've seen above, made their debut at the Special Olympics. The banners will be on display at the Sheryl A. Friedley Helping Hands Awards. Expect to see vests and banners on a regular basis at the Farmers Market and other Optimist activities around town.



## Membership News

# Share the Opportunities of Being an Optimist!

Know anyone who believes in supporting our future? Who can volunteer for a few hours each month? Bring them to a meeting to see if our club might be a good fit. And remember - through September, those who work in education or are retired from education qualify for a year's membership at the ridiculously good deal of \$30 for the year! Need more info? Talk to Kathy Cutri or Lauren Wagner, [vpmembership@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org](mailto:vpmembership@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org)



*(President's Message, Continued from page 2)*

Optimist friends. This will be the first time our program will say the "Sheryl A. Friedley" Helping Hands Awards.

We have a club full of talented, energetic, positive men and women. It is the reason our club is one of the most successful clubs in the district. It is the reason our club has been in existence for over 60 years. It is the reason we have been able year after year to help so many kids with scholarships, awards, sponsorships and donations. It is the reason that our club will continue to thrive as we invite new members to join. It is also the reason we need to have new leadership to take over and fulfill leadership roles to continue to be a vibrant engaged club. We need to fulfill the President Elect position and we need to fill it sooner rather than later. Being president has been such a positive experience for me. I have enjoyed getting to know so many new optimist members outside of our own club while getting to know my own members in a much deeper way. Our board is so helpful and knowledgeable about their committees. Our club needs you! Do I have to make an "Uncle Sam Needs YOU!" poster?

Madame President,

*Susan*

*Highlights from the April Board Meeting will appear in next month's issue of "Optimistically Speaking."*



Longtime member **Jim Radja** passed away April 8, 2018. Jim's quiet and unassuming presence belied a life of accomplishments as a US Navy officer and dedicated volunteer. Did you know he once delivered an address to the Taiwanese naval academy in Mandarin? Before he retired as a Captain, Jim helped shepherd the Navy into the digital age. Jim applied his technical skills on our behalf as our Club's first Webmaster. He dedicated many hours to our Christmas tree sales and was a steadfast and welcoming member of the Optimists.

***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*