

# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

October 2018

## Calendar

### October 3

Regular Meeting — Installation of Officers

FAIRFAX American Legion

6:45 Social Time; 7:30 Dinner

### October 6

Farmers Market

8:00 am - Noon, Vienna Community Center

### October 10

Board Meeting

7:30 pm — Bauer Home, Vienna

### October 13

Farmers Market

8:00 am - Noon, Vienna Community Center

Halloween on the Green

10:30-12:30, Vienna Town Green

Caboose Open!

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Volunteers Needed!**

### October 17

Meeting—TBA

### October 20

Farmers Market

8:00 am - Noon, Vienna Community Center

### October 24

"Fourth Wednesday" dinner delivery

Culmore Teen Center; Team D (Anna Ryjik, Capt.)

Town of Vienna Halloween Parade

Walk with the Optimist Caboose Float!

October 27 **NO FARMERS MARKET**

## News and Notes

### TIME IS RUNNING OUT ...

for us to use this graphic this year. But the message is still true: The final weeks of the Farmers Market need YOU to volunteer. If you don't want to use the handy sign-up method on the Club's website, just call Michele at 571-354-6933 and she will do it for you. Don't miss your chance to be part of the Saturday morning scene at the Market!

Our new Optimist Year begins on October 1, so the main order of business at our first meeting in October is **swearing in the Club's Officers and Board for the 2018-19 program year**. Please come to the **Fairfax American Legion on October 3** to show your support for fellow Club Members who are taking on these important leadership roles. A couple of positions remain unfilled—is one of them the opportunity you've been waiting for to get more involved with the Club?

If you love Halloween, or the Caboose, or both (and who doesn't?), you are going to love this October. **On October 13**, we will be lending a hand at the Town's annual "**Halloween on the Green**" party, then **opening the Caboose** for some imaginative playtime (for kids and adults). The big event is **October 24**, when we will march in the **Vienna Halloween Parade alongside a float depicting our own Caboose!**



It's going to be a big year for **Optimist International** as we celebrate the organization's **100th anniversary**. OI will be rolling out a fresh look, with an updated website and some special logos. The core of the mission remains the same: **service to kids**. Check out VP for Youth Mike Fitzella's recap of our youth programs on page 3.



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,

A deluxe two-months-in-one President's Letter. Fortunately, Laurie's dad is feeling better and our fearless news editor is back on board with our excellent newsletter for October.

Unfortunately rain washed out our income from Chillin' on Church this year but it didn't dampen our enthusiasm for greeting and serving those brave souls who came to the block party. We are hoping for better luck next year.

Our last two socials were fun & successful. One at Clarity resulted in our gaining **Sally O'Connor (invited by Mike Fitzella) as a member** and the social at Culinaria taught a lot of us how not to cut ourselves while cutting veggies.

We have voted in our 2018/2019 Board of Officers. We are still missing a President for 2019/2020. This year we need Directors for Social Media and Finance. Please be aware that **our club needs leaders to continue the good work of "Bringing Out the Best in Kids"**. We are all busy but busy people get things done! Thanks to all of the members who have served on the board in 2017/18 and those who have volunteered to serve this coming year.

October brings the Vienna Halloween party & Halloween Parade. We will have a wonderful float that will feature our Vienna Caboose! We think Vienna is the "Greatest City(Town) in the World and our caboose is the symbol of Vienna and the Optimists who lovingly care for it. Please contact Susan if you plan to join us on Wed. Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> for Vienna's Halloween parade. **Thanks to Steve Bukont** who is the mastermind behind our float this year.

**This coming year is the 100th anniversary of Optimist International.** All Optimist Clubs will take part in this yearlong celebration. Stay tuned for more news.

Our next meeting will take place Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Fairfax Legion at 6:45. We will have our Installation of Officers by **Past Governor Donna Aker**.

We begin our 64th Optimist Year October 1<sup>st</sup>. Looking back we have accomplished so much by working together and keeping our eyes on the main thing. We are in it for the kids. By being enthusiastic and positive we will attract new members and that is an advantage to everyone. You don't know who would love to be involved in helping kids reach their potential and have fun doing it. We bring out the best in kids and ourselves by being Optimists. Let's spread the word to more folks this year.

Thanks you for supporting me as your president last year and giving me the opportunity to continue again this year.

*Madame President,  
Susan*



## Board Highlights June, August, September 2018

*We have a backlog of Board Meetings to report on! Many thanks to Kathy Cutri who has been acting as Club Secretary and providing the Minutes.*

**June** The Board met June 25, 2018, with seven members present. Matters addressed include:

- Michele will investigate different types of accounts to improve the return for the Youth Fund.
- Mike F. proposed a change in the format of the Oratorical Contest, to be more like the Essay Contest. It will be open to the FCPS High Schools and Middle Schools we serve, be gender neutral, and will be judged in advance of the Club meeting. The change was approved unanimously.
- Dick L. discussed plans for the Christmas Tree lot. The vendor has been asked for better quality trees this year; there may be a minor cost increase. The new ownership of the Giant Shopping Center has been contacted about using the space.
- The Farmers Market continues to look for new vendors. Purchase of new banners for the market was approved.
- No club member has agreed to serve as President for 2018-19. The Board approved invoking the emergency provision of the By-Laws to allow Susan to serve consecutive terms as President. Michele will report on this and other open Board positions to the membership.

**July** No Board Meeting.

*(Continued on page 4)*



# What We Did on Our Summer "Vacation"



We partied down at the Alley Cat club while Les Carl's band played the night away!



We made lots of friends at the Farmers Market. Some had four legs and some had two, but we liked them all!



We gave an old friend a good cleaning, with a fresh coat of paint and brand new stickers. Lookin' sharp!



We got rained on at the Farmers Market in May, and then got rained on at Chillin' on Church in August. But we never stopped being Optimistic...right?



## Optimist Club Programs Reach a Broad Range of Area Youth

From Mike Fitzella, VP for Youth

School has started, and our youth activities will soon be in full swing. We serve the youth in our community in so many ways. There are the traditional scholarship programs offered by OI: Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Essay Contest, and Oratorical Contest. We offer our own recognition awards via the Carol Waite Brennan scholarships, TR Cook Youth Awards of Excellence, Sheryl A. Friedley Helping Hands Awards, and the Vocational Scholarships.

Our JOI clubs in the schools are very active. We have programs in four high schools and two elementary schools. We plan to add at least two more clubs this year, including one at the middle school level. These kids perform service projects throughout the

DC metropolitan area. It's great to see our youth giving back to the community.

We fulfill requests for funds at our schools throughout the year. Our "Kilmer Kids" program enables members to participate at the school by reading to students at the Kilmer Center every Friday morning.

As you can see, we have a LOT going on. We can always use help with these programs. Please contact [Mike Fitzella, VP of Youth](#), to find out more about how you can get involved.



The Oakton Octagon Club's Annual Street Clean-up project is just one of the many service activities our sponsored JOI clubs undertake.

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**August** The Board met August 8, 2018, with seven members present (one by proxy). Matters addressed include:

- Member dues for 2017-18 will fall short of projections. This will be offset by lower-than-projected meal costs this year, but is of concern going forward.
- Michele (as Immediate Past President, chair of the Nominating Committee) continues to contact members about vacant board positions with no success.
- Gary proposed, and the Board approved, the Club including coupons in the Vienna Business Association “welcome bags” for new residents.
- Kathy will continue to follow-up with potential members who attended recent meetings.
- The Farmers Market is losing signs because they are not being picked up after the market. Town crews pick up and discard the unclaimed signs. The FM Committee continues to look for more community sponsors to help defray costs and bring more income to the Youth Fund.
- The JOI Club president at Flint Hill School contacted Susan about coordinating a district JOI meeting of the participating schools.

**September** The Board met September 12, 2018, with seven members present. Matters addressed include:

- Wrapping up the 2017-18 budget year, the Board approved disbursements to: Johns Hopkins Cancer Foundation (in lieu of Growing Hope donation); Oakton HS football; Ethics Day at Madison and Marshall HS; Second Story (formerly Alternative House); Bonnie Lawson OI Foundation; Regratifying Foundation; Cedar Lane HS.
- OI is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our club will be celebrating the milestone.
- Jim Wilson has agreed to serve as VP of Community, and Bruce Lauther has volunteered to be Director of Media Relations (in addition to sharing Director of Community responsibilities with Anna).
- Dick L. has confirmed our usual arrangement with PNC Bank to use their electricity for the Christmas Tree lot. He is still working with the new owners of the shopping center.
- Sally O'Connor will join the Optimist Club, sponsored by Mike Fitzella.



**OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA  
Board of Directors 2018-19**

President	Susan Bauer
Secretary	Kathy Cutri
Treasurer	Tom Bauer
Immediate Past President	Susan Bauer
President Elect	<i>open</i>
Vice President of Community	Jim Wilson
Vice President of Finance	Dick Lippert
Vice President of Media Relations/Webmaster	Gary Moonan
Vice President of Membership	Joe Miller
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	Bruce Lauther/Anna Ryjik
Director of Media Relations	Bruce Lauther
Director of Membership	Lauren Wagner
Director of Youth	Ed Wonder
Director of Finance	<i>open</i>

*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*