



# Optimistically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

June 2022

## Calendar

**June 1** - Zoom Mtg.  
Partners in Education  
Program/Vocational  
Scholarship Award  
7:30 p.m.

**June 4** - Farmers Market  
8 a.m. - noon

**June 8** - Board meeting  
7:30 p.m.

**June 11** - Farmers  
Market  
8 a.m. - noon

**June 18** - Farmers  
Market  
8 a.m. - noon

**June 22** - Social  
Details TBA.

**June 25** - Farmers  
Market  
8 a.m. - noon



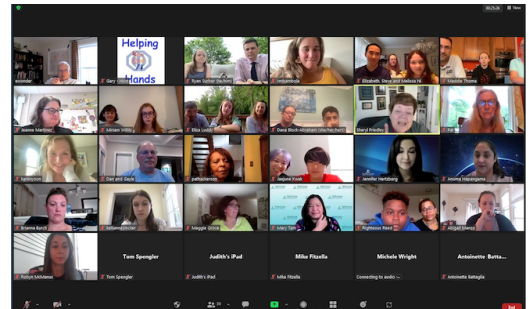
## News and Notes

Club members continued their great work for area children in May with several fun and inspiring events, including the **Sheryl Friedley** Helping Hands awards program, the JOI Club recognition dinner, and the return of our fabulous Farmers Market. According to **Michele Wright**, Treasurer and master organizer, the Market is off to a great start, but we need more volunteers. This month, Michele would like to recognize her outstanding music crew of **John Andrews**, **Dan Gropper**, and **Mickey Williams** -- and her wonderful set-up/breakdown teams of **Tim Buckley**, **Tom Spengler**, **Dan Mulville**, **Greta Tosi-Miller**, **Mike Fitzella**, and **Sally O'Connor**. Michele also is grateful for **Roger Doughty**, "troop rouster" extraordinaire. Please sign up for at least one or two shifts. It is fun and we really need you. For more on the Farmers Market, see page 3.

Also in May, we received great news about **Leslie Payne**, the daughter of Club members **Ellen** and **Dexter Payne**. **Leslie** captured top honors at the District oratorical contest after winning our Club speaking event. With that, **Leslie** advances to the Mid-Atlantic Region contest in July. This super speaker began competing in our club competition when she was a middle school student at Thoreau, supported by Thoreau English teacher **Michelle Gabro**. We will be honoring Michelle at our June 1 Partners in Education program -- and recognizing Leslie's accomplishments. We wish her well in this next level of competition, says **Mike Fitzella**, VP of Youth.



Super speaker  
**Leslie Payne**



Zoom meeting honoring students from 10 local elementary schools through **Sheryl Friedley's** Helping Hands. Thank you, **Ed Wonder**, for doing a great job leading that meeting!



Serving the youth of greater Vienna for  
more than 65 years!

Visit us:

[www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org](http://www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org) or  
[www.Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub](https://www.Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub)



From President Tom Bauer

*Greetings Fellow Optimists!*

Hope you all had a wonderful Memorial Day weekend! We really got a break on the weather and I'm sure the Rotary Club was pleased that they had no rain. We had our first in-person meeting on May 18th for our annual JOOI club recognition dinner as well as honoring our fantastic Madison H.S. girls' basketball team for their amazing 3-year string of State Championships! The food was good although there was a miscommunication on the service. It was supposed to have been a buffet which would have worked out better to ensure that everyone had hot food. We were not able to secure the Moose Lodge for our next meeting this Wednesday, June 1st, but we still have Zoom to fall back on. This meeting will honor our teachers and the vocational scholarship winner for 2022. We really need your support to show up for our Zoom meeting. Please sign up on our sign-up genius today ASAP. To be honest, I have been a little disappointed about the involvement or lack thereof that I've been witnessing lately. We had a 3-day weekend to open the Caboose for the kids to enjoy while they had fun at Viva Vienna. Susan and I were the only ones to sign up for the entire weekend. That's not acceptable. This is something that we are known for in the community and to miss this opportunity to serve the kids is disheartening. All members are expected to volunteer for our programs. It is vital for the continuation of our club that the time commitments are shared among many or the few who are showing up consistently will burn out. Please plan on signing up for our meetings and a Farmers Market shift as well as the Caboose and help us keep our wonderful club alive and vibrant.

Some of you have told me that you knew George Baker, a former Optimist. I've enclosed a copy of his obituary from the Washington Post for all of you to read:

**George R. Baker JR. (Age 90)**

Peacefully passed on to eternal rest April 20, 2022 after a long bout of arterial disease. Born and raised in Rock Island, Illinois, he received his Bachelor of Science-Business degree from the University of Colorado- Boulder, served in the United States Air Force, and settled in Vienna, Virginia for his career with the Federal Government. He adored his family, loved woodworking, photography, hiking, volunteering with the Optimist Club, and being a Boy Scout Leader in the Great Outdoors!

He is survived by his beloved wife Robyn Ann Wright Baker of 66 years, their two sons: George "Chip" (Tracey) Baker-Children: Griffin (Anne) great-grandson Theo, Allison (Connor) great-granddaughter Laine Kincheloe, Brandon Baker, and Christopher (Kristin) grand-daughter Emilee Baker, and sister-in-law Pamela (Lawrence) Jane Wright-Boltz.

Rest in peace, George.

*Optimistically,*  
Tom

## ***Ready, Set, Go! Farmers Market Ribbon Cutting Ceremony May 7, 2022***



Smile! You're an Optimist, and you're helping to encourage and support youth. You know the Farmers Market is fun, offers high-quality products and services, and raises funds that help us support local children, but did you realize that we can't do it without you? We need your help! In addition to assisting with set-up, break-down, or sharing information about our Club with visitors in between, you can also scoop up yummy treats to eat, buy beautiful spring flowers, receive free expert gardening advice, and more -- all while listening to some wonderful bands! Spending time volunteering, being outside, socializing, and listening to music have all been shown to contribute to healthy and happy lives. It's good for our Club, and it's good for you! To sign up to volunteer for the Market or the Caboose, please visit our website today ([www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org](http://www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org)). Thank you!

### **Visit the fabulous vendors at the Farmers Market . . .**

Caffe Amouri \* Dog Love \* Ericott Mini Farm \* Family of Nuts \* (The) Fermented Pig \* Great Harvest Bread Co. \* Greenheart Juice Shop \* Gypsy Hill \* House of Empanadas \* J & W Valley View Farm \* Kuhn's Orchard \* Los Sabrositos LLC \* Madeline Proust \* Mama's Donut Bites \* Pleitez Produce \* Quail & Hound Farms \* The Roaming Stone \* Savagely Good \* Smith Family Farm \* Smith's of Mecklenburg \* Tucky Mountain Fruit \* Westmoreland Produce \* Lucy's Plant Sale \* Master Gardeners \* Christina Face Painting (June 4)\* Vienna EMT Blood Pressure Check \* Ayr Hill Garden Club

### **And listen to the wonderful bands. . .**

June 4 Art and Nancy Lisi (pop and folk music)  
 June 11 Fiddlin' Willie Band  
 June 18 Katie and Alyssa Morse  
 June 25 Carter Farm Boys

**Board of Directors 2021-2022  
Optimist Club of Greater Vienna**

President	Tom Bauer
Secretary, Acting	Susan Bauer
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	Tom Bauer
President Elect	<b>HOW ABOUT YOU?</b>
VP, Community	Christina Jackson
VP, Media Relations/ Webmaster	Gary Moonan
VP, Membership	Fritz Irwin
VP, Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Print/Social Media	Karen Yoon
Director of Membership	JonMarc Buffa
Director of Youth	Ed Wonder
Director at Large	Steve Shannon

**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*



The coach and members of Madison High School Girls Basketball Team were honored at our JOI Club recognition dinner for winning the state championship three consecutive times.

“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.”

~Erma Bombeck