



Optimistically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

April 2023

Calendar

April 15

Caboose open
1-5 p.m.
To conduct, email
dmulville1@gmail.com

April 22

Northern Virginia Special
Olympics Track and Field
Events
Episcopal High School
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
To time, email
mikebattaglia@cox.net

April 25

T.R. Cook Youth Awards
of Excellence
Warhawk Hall, James
Madison High School
7:30 p.m.

Save the Date:

May 3

Helping Hands
7 p.m.

May 6

Farmers Market opens
8 a.m. - noon
Musical guest:
Jazz Trotters

May 17

JOI Club Presentations
7:30 p.m.

May 27-29

Caboose open/Viva Vienna
1-5 p.m.

May 31

Partners in Education
7:30 p.m.

News and Notes

This month, the promise of growth and new beginnings is everywhere, from the delicate pink blossoms of northern Virginia's treasured cherry trees to the Club's legacy of supporting the Vienna community through heartfelt service. In March, in just five hours, we welcomed more than 340 cheerful and curious children and adults on board the Town of Vienna's Caboose, inviting them to hole-punch old-fashioned replicas of train tickets and learning a little from them about Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends, too. The social at Pazzo Pomodoro on March 29 also was full of upbeat and fun conversations (see photos throughout).

In addition, after a four-year hiatus, the TR Cook Youth Awards of Excellence program is returning to an "in person" event, reports **Mike Fitzella**, VP of Youth. This year's program will be held on Tuesday, April 25 (see sidebar for details). Unlike previous years, we will not be serving dinner for club members prior to the event, Mike says. However, Vienna mayor **Linda Colbert** will be our guest speaker. In addition to a brief remembrance of TR, Mayor Colbert will speak to the students about the importance of community service. Plan to arrive early to socialize with the students and their parents while listening to piano music provided by one of our Madison students. This is a great opportunity for us to recruit new members, Mike says, and he encourages everyone to attend. Watch your email for the invite and please RSVP.

Meanwhile, the powers-that-be behind the Farmers Market (**Michele Wright**, **Monica Gomez Isaac**, and **Dick Gongaware**, among others) have been working hard to build our amazing lineup of vendors and musical talent. We'll need plenty of hands-on help when the Market opens - please volunteer.



New members Colleen
Danner and David Whiting



Elizabeth and Brian Isaac,
Monica Gomez Isaac



Jim and Marilyn Fisher, Ed Wonder



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

Visit us:

www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org or
www.Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub



From President Tom Bauer

Greetings Fellow Optimists!

Happy Spring! Such a beautiful time of the year. We have a pretty heavy slate of events coming up so let me give you a breakdown:

April 1st - Time trials for Special Olympics, begins at 8:30am to 1:00pm at Paul VI on Braddock Rd. in Chantilly. Email Mike Battaglia to volunteer: mikebattaglia@cox.net or by phone 703-855-2456.

March 31, April 1 - Visitation and service for Jim Wilson who passed away on March 12th at age 94. The family will receive friends at the Money & King Funeral Home, 171 W. Maple Ave., Vienna, VA 22180 on Friday, March 31st from 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM. A memorial service and celebration of life will be held the following day, also at Money & King on Saturday, April 1st at 11 AM. Interment at Arlington National Cemetery will take place in July. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation at <https://www.usna.com/give>. An online Guestbook is available at www.moneyandking.com.

Town Meetings - TOV seeking input for use of the old Faith Baptist building. Don't forget to go to the town website and answer the survey. Decision has not been made whether or not to tear down or renovate. Unfortunately, the roof leaks and the HVAC is not fully operational so \$1M is required before a use permit can be obtained.

April 22nd - Special Olympics at Episcopal H.S. in Alexandria. 2 shifts available, morning or afternoon. Optimists needed! Email Mike Battaglia to volunteer: mikebattaglia@cox.net or by phone 703-855-2456.

April 25th - TR Cook Awards of Excellence at Madison H.S. Warhawk Hall.

May 6th - Farmers Market opens

I'd also like to bring to your attention that Ed Wonder is making a gallant effort to resurrect our Boy & Girl Scout program that has been dormant for several years. This is something we should all get behind. In addition, your BOD has decided to fund all three high schools' robotics programs for this year (\$1,000 per school). A demonstration is in the planning stages which should be extremely interesting. We'll keep you posted.

Last, but not least, we have received a request from a member to make sure all email blasts that go to multiple members of the club, do not post each member's email address. This can be done by using the Bcc (blind carbon copy) method. This may cut down on some of the spam and phishing issues that we have had at times.

Look forward to seeing you at the Special Olympics and Market!

Optimistically,
Tom



*"It's not what you look at that matters,
it's what you see"*

- Henry David Thoreau

**Board of Directors 2022-2023
Optimist Club of Greater Vienna**

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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



Dan Mulville, Rich Ordeman



Tom Bauer, Bill Comerford, Jr.
Mike Battaglia



Antoinette Battaglia, George Mills

This month's Q and A is with long-time member (and budding memoirist) Joe Miller!
Thanks, Joe, for your participation! And please let us know when you publish your book!



Q. When did you become an Optimist and why?

A. I first became an Optimist of the Sun Rise Optimist Club in Blue Valley, Kansas, in about 1984. I left Kansas in 1985 and didn't return to the Optimists until I joined the Club in Vienna in about 2011 (not sure of the date). I joined the Club because I love helping people and especially children.

Q. Did you know anyone in the Club when you joined?

A. I knew no one. I sent a request for more information through the web site and the reigning president responded. I did meet some people at the Christmas tree lot, though. (Editor's note: That's where I met Greta!)

Q. Favorite thing about the Club?

A. I like the fact that we are so involved in helping children.

Q. Fun fact about you that most people DON'T know?

A. I love to dance, but was slowed down a little when I broke my leg.

Q. Favorite quote, book, person, or movie that inspires you?

A. "It is never wrong to be on the side of freedom . . . never". (Victor Davis Hanson)

Q. When I'm not volunteering as an Optimist, you can find me. . .

A. Volunteering at my church or taking care of my ranch in Arkansas.

Q. Personal strength/superpowers?

A. Tenacity, empathy, and caring!

Q. Best thing that happened to you recently?

A. I finished the first draft of my autobiography!

Q. Wow! That is so exciting! What prompted you to do that?

A. In 2012, it dawned on me that I was getting older, and I didn't have a record of the thoughts, actions, and reactions that have shaped my life. I'd written a few pieces here and there but never the whole story. Then Greta threw me a surprise 70th birthday party at one of Christina's Milk Bar locations in D.C. After that, it really started to hit me that I had less time ahead of me than behind me so I started to write in earnest.