



# Optimistically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

May 2023

## Calendar

### May 3

Helping Hands  
7 p.m. (doors: 6:30 p.m.)  
Vienna Community Ctr.

### May 6

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

### May 13

Farmers Market  
8 a.m. - noon  
Musical guest:  
Swingology

### May 17

JOI Club Presentations  
7:30 p.m. (doors 7 p.m.)  
Vienna Community Ctr.

### May 20

Farmers Market  
8 a.m. - noon  
Musical guest:  
Accotink Rising

### May 27

Farmers Market  
8 a.m. - noon  
Musical guest:  
Carter Farm Band

### May 27-29

Caboose open/Viva Vienna  
1-5 p.m.  
To volunteer, email  
[dmulville1@gmail.com](mailto:dmulville1@gmail.com)

### May 31

Partners in Education  
7:30 p.m. (doors: 7 p.m.)  
Vienna Community Ctr.

## News and Notes

It's official! The busy spring season has begun and you continue to show up for Vienna youth. Here's a round-up of some April events, followed by new opportunities in May. Please volunteer generously -- many hands make light work! Thanks to **Michele Wright, Monica Gomez Isaac, and Dick Gongaware** among others for setting up the 16th season of our Farmers Market for success.

On April 15 and 22, **Dan Gropper, Mairead Holly, Susan Bauer, Gary Moonan, and Roger Doughty** welcomed more than 300 visitors to the Caboose and **Tom Spengler** did a great job managing our contribution to the Special Olympics. He reports: "For 25 years the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna has volunteered as "timers" for the Northern Virginia Special Olympics track meet at Episcopal HS. This year the event was on April 22<sup>nd</sup> which started as a cool but beautiful day for a track meet. With late afternoon thundershowers in the forecast, the Optimist volunteers were at their best as we accelerated the running schedule to beat the rain". Tom adds, "Many thanks to the volunteers who in addition to timing were cheering and encouraging the runners as they rounded the track. They included **Mike Battaglia**, who has kept us active in the Special Olympic for many years, **Tom Bauer, Karen and Craig Yoon, Rich Ordeman, George Mills, Dick Lippert, Dan Groper, Michele Wright, Jim Hegel, Colleen Whiting, "Fritz" Irwin, and Stephen Spengler**. Many agreed that this is one of the most rewarding volunteer activities for which the club has the pleasure to participate."



It was all fun at the games at the Special Olympics Track and Field Event April 22. (L. to r.): Stephen Spengler, Tom Bauer, Tom Spengler, Dick Lippert, Dan Gropper, Craig Yoon, Mike Battaglia



Facebook post from the Mayor pictured with **Sherry Levitt**. Zoom in to see what she said.

On April 25, dozens of friends, family and Optimists turned out to support the **T.R. Cook Youth Awards of Excellence**. **Mike Fitzella** coordinated the successful event, which honored five students in six categories (Academics, Citizenship, Fine and Performing Arts, Science, Sports, and Technology) from James Madison, George C. Marshall, and Oakton High Schools. (Continued on page 2).



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

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From President Tom Bauer

### *Greetings Fellow Optimists!*

It's been an active month for the Greater Vienna Optimists so far. First was our opportunity to time some of the events for this year's Special Olympics. This was my first time since I've always had conflicts in the past and I'm sure glad I participated. It was amazing to witness how these young folks put their heart and soul into competing. It was obvious that there had been a lot of training leading up to the event on April 22nd and there were some amazing athletes who competed. One event was a 3000 meter run and the winning time was pretty impressive. Thanks again to Mike Battaglia who spearheaded our efforts and to all the Optimists who made the effort to help. Next, on Tuesday the 25th, we conducted our annual TR Cook awards of excellence at Madison's Warhawk hall. It was the first time in 4 years to the day that we were able to hold the awards in person at Warhawk Hall. Our wonderful Mayor, Linda Colbert, an Optimist herself, was the guest speaker and she focused on giving back to the community and how vital volunteerism is for a healthy community. Once again, Mike Fitzella did his usual stellar job, aided by Ed Wonder and Sherry Levitt. We also learned that Sherry had once been Linda's English teacher at Madison. On a personal note, Ben Levy who won the award of distinction for sports, wrestles at Marshall with my grandson, Tommy. I understand that all the benches adorned by the Vienna Arts Society have been removed from storage and placed in various spots around Vienna. Thanks to Bill Comerford for his involvement in this project which certainly goes a long way in beautifying our fair town. Our sponsored bench is attached to the caboose facing the W&OD Trail.

*Optimistically,  
Tom*



*T.R. Cook Awards continued . . .*

In addition, one student from each category was named the "Student of Distinction" and received a \$300 check. Furthermore, TOV Mayor **Linda Colbert** spoke. Many thanks to **Sherry Levitt and Ed Wonder** for their help.

Here's more news from **Mike** about upcoming Club awards in May:

"May is a busy month for youth activities as we finish up the school year. Note that all three events will be held in the Vienna Community Center auditorium.

The **Sheryl Friedley** Helping Hands Awards will be held on Wednesday, May 3. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m. Come and celebrate sixth graders from 10 of our elementary schools whose actions embody the spirit of Optimist International, that "giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world."

On Wednesday, May 17, our elementary and high school **JOI clubs** will give presentations on the service projects they have performed this year. Doors open at 7:00, and the meeting starts at 7:30. It's always rewarding to see what these students are doing throughout the local community.

Our **Partners in Education** program will be held on Wednesday, May 31. Doors open at 7:00 and the program starts at 7:30. We will be celebrating our new partnership with the robotics clubs at Madison, Marshall, and Oakton high schools. All three schools will be demonstrating their robots. We also plan to award the Vocational and **Sheryl Friedley** IDD scholarships that night."

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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*

**Top 10 Reasons to Volunteer at the Farmers Market on Saturdays**

5/6 through 10/28

8 a.m. to noon

10. It's free
9. You get to hang out with your friends
8. Our vendors sell amazing fresh produce and you know you need to eat more veggies
7. You can purchase perfect presents for your pooch from fellow Optimist Kelly Diamond
6. Where else can you get kitchen knives sharpened while perusing proteins & produce for dinner?
5. Each week, different talented local musicians perform
4. You can buy fabulous flowers and vegetables to plant inside or out & get free garden advice
3. SO MANY yummy things to eat, from savory to sweet. Fresh hot coffee and cold pressed juices, too.
2. You have both front row seats and back stage passes for the bands
1. Local youth benefit from rental booth fees through donations, scholarships, and awards!