

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

May 2014

Calendar

May 3

Farmers Market—OPENING DAY!

301 Center Street South

8:00 a.m. to noon

May 7

Helping Hands Awards Banquet

Special Location and Time!

6:30 p.m. at Westwood Country Club

May 10

Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

May 11—Mother's Day!

May 14

Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

May 17

Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

May 21

Regular Meeting at Marco Polo

6:45 Social Time

7:30 Dinner and Program

May 25 and 26

Caboose is Open 1:00-5:00

for ViVa! Vienna!

Spotlight on Upcoming Events

It's **Farmers Market** time! Our Market's Opening Day is **Saturday, May 3**. Once again we are at Faith Baptist Church, 301 Center Street South, Vienna. That is across the street from the Vienna Volunteer Fire Station and down the street from Vienna Town Hall. Your favorite vendors are back and Market Manager Sarah Jane Brady has arranged for some great new ones! *We need EVERYONE to do his and her share of the volunteering at the Market this season.* Go to our website to sign up for shifts online. If you prefer the personal touch, contact Jim Houston and sign up with him.



Our annual **Helping Hands Awards Banquet** is Wednesday, May 7. Once again we are holding this special event **at the Westwood Country Club**. This event honors local 6th grade students are outstanding contributors to their schools, homes and communities. Please RSVP for the dinner as soon as possible (if you have not already done so) to Laurie Cole, lauriecole.optmist@gmail.com. Our special guest speaker will be Veronica Day, 2007 graduate of Madison High School and competitor on the international skeleton circuit. Come be the friendly face of Optimism at dinner with the students, their families and teachers!



Caboose season is well underway! Our popular red icon will see lots of traffic on Memorial Day weekend during the **ViVa! Vienna!** festival. Sign up with Dan Mulville to help staff the Caboose that weekend—or any time. You get to say, “All Aboard!” if you want.



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna
for over 55 Years

Visit us at www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org
We're on Facebook! [Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub)



From the President—

Fellow Vienna Optimists,

The Farmer Market opens this Saturday, May 3rd at 8 am in the parking lot of the Faith Baptist Church. Sarah Jane Brady has put together a great group of vendors this year. She and Dave Lanphear and Jim Houston have worked many hours into making this our best farmer's market season. If you are not already volunteering that day, it would be great if you could stop by and show the vendors our support. And, of course, we need you to sign up to volunteer multiple times this season.

I will be in Richmond that day, attending the Optimist International Capital-Virginia District meeting in the morning and in the afternoon cheering on the winners of our Oratorical Contest in the District competition. Our winners are from middle school but they will be competing against high school students from the rest of the Commonwealth. Last year our Club's (middle school) winner won the boys' District competition, and we are forward to another great showing by our winners this year.

We had a beautiful day for the Special Olympics on April 26th at Episcopal High School. Bob McCormick and his wife Sherri flew in from Colorado so Bob could be the meet starter. Jim Houston coordinated the running events and recorded all the finishers' times while the other Optimist volunteers did the timing. And a special thank goes to Mike Battaglia for coordinating the entire volunteer group from the Vienna Optimists. As a former runner, I could empathize with each of the participants with the nerves they were feeling before the races and their joy of completing their race. You could feel their exuberance, their disappointment, and in many cases their utter exhaustion at the end of their race. Timing them and cheering them along at the same time were Tom Fraim, Jeff Johnson, Dan Mulville, Rich Ordeman, Jim Spain, Jim Stivison, and Michele Wright. We were all proud to be a part of this worthy volunteer activity.

Through the leadership of Laurie Cole, our club has been exploring a deeper relationship with Alternative House. As you may remember, we had Jade Leedham from Alternative House speak to us in January. Alternative House which is located on Gallows Road is a refuge for abused and homeless children. The club recently donated \$1,500 to help them buy six new bedframes and mattresses (their present ones were in disrepair). We wanted to add a service component to our support and are working with AH to set up an ongoing volunteer activity. If you are interested, please contact Laurie Cole or sign up at our next meeting on May 7th at Westwood Country club.

Expecting only the Best!

President Tom Spengler



May Birthday Wishes to:

- Mike Nadolski – May 5
- Mark Keam – May 10
- Twyla Frank – May 10
- Dick Carr – May 25
- Bob Thompson – May 28
- Bob Steinfeldt – May 31

Optimist Anniversaries in May

- Les Carl– 30 years
- Dick Lippert – 27 years
- Al Dunkerley – 26 years
- Mike Fitzella – 8 years



There's Still Time...

To Serve on the 2014-15 Club Board!

At the April 16th meeting the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna elected officers and directors for the 2014-15 year (beginning October 1, 2014). Dick Gongaware will serve as Club President. Dick Lippert will take on the office of VP for Finance, and Laurie Cole will become Director for Media Relations. Many thanks to Jim Wilson and Susan Bauer for their service in these roles. We also thank the Club members who are staying on from the 2013-14 Board.

One special office remains vacant: President-Elect. We need someone who will serve this year in preparation for becoming President in 2015-16. This job is important, and, with the great support of our members and Board, it is not overwhelming! Please contact Laurie Cole if you are willing to step up and serve.

From Joe Miller, VP for Membership

More Thoughts on Membership

Optimist Clubs have been “Bringing Out the Best in Kids” since 1919. The Vienna Optimist Club conducts a variety of service projects that are focused at providing helping hands to youth. Our club members are best known in our community for their upbeat attitudes and for believing in young people and encouraging them to be the best they can be.

The Vienna Optimist club has just created a poster depicting the various activities of our club (pictured below).

Our club is excited to participate in the many youth programs of the greater Vienna area. We hope to get more people involved in the Optimist Club so we encourage the members of the club to actively recruit other like minded individuals to join us in promoting the youth of the community.

Member recruitment is important to the health and growth of a Club. Some Members will naturally drop off due to scheduling conflicts or moving out of the area. It is important to bring in new

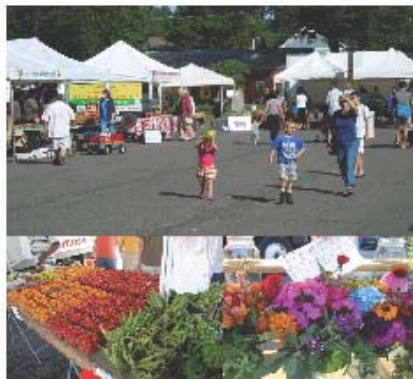
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Volunteer Organization



Farmers' Market



Christmas Trees



\$ Funding for Programs for the Children in the Community! \$

Elementary School Programs	Essay Contest	Youth Awards of Excellence	Growing Hope for Childhood Cancer
Academic Scholarship Awards	Youth Sports	Junior Optimist Clubs	Helping Hands Awards
Vocational Scholarship Awards	Partners in Education	Alternative House	Respect for Law
Oratorical Contest	Vienna Halloween Party & Parade	Youth Appreciation Program	Boy/Girl Scout Recognition

Become an Optimist
www.viennaoptimistclub.org



April Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors on April 19, 2014 with 8 members present. Highlights of the meeting and actions taken by email subsequent to the meeting, are as follows:

- Discussed plans for the Helping Hands program to be held at Westwood Country Club on May 7 and the Partners in Education program in June.
- Approved a donation to Alternative House for the purchase of bed frames and bedding.
- Approved a donation to purchase club T-shirts for the Louise Archer Elementary School JOOI Club members.
- Approved donations for the James Madison High School and Thomas Jefferson High School All Night Grad Parties.
- Approved a donation to support the Capital Virginia District junior golf tournament.

(Membership, Continued from page 3)

Members who have a lot of energy and fresh ideas so that a Club can maintain its level of service. Once new Members are recruited, a Club should get them involved and keep them interested, so they can serve children in the area for years to come.

If you have an individual in mind who may be interested in the Optimist Club, please invite them to a meeting and notify Joe Miller at jmeda@cox.net so he can provide some additional information to the prospective member.



There's no lack of...

Volunteer Opportunities

There are several volunteer opportunities coming up in the next couple of weeks and months. We'll need help at the **Farmers' Market** throughout the spring, summer and early fall (contact Jim Houston or sign up on the club website), ride ticket sales at the **Fourth of July** Celebration at the Vienna Community Center on July 4 (contact Jim Houston) and at the **caboose** throughout the year (contact Dan Mulville). This is a good way to show the face of the club in the community, so volunteer early and often.



OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA

Board of Directors 2013 – 14

President	Tom Spengler
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Tom Fraim
Immediate Past President	Laurie Cole
President Elect	Dick Gongaware
Vice President of Community	Michele Wright
Vice President of Finance	Jim Wilson
Vice President of Media Relations	Tom Bauer
Vice President of Membership	Joe Miller
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	Anna Ryjik
Director of Media Relations	Susan Bauer
Director of Membership	AK Mohamed Yaseen
Director of Youth	Jim Stivison
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