

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

October 2015

Calendar

October 3 — Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

— Picnic at the Gongawares'

2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

October 7 — Regular Meeting

Installation of 2015-16 Board

Fairfax American Legion

6:45 Social Time; 7:30 Dinner

October 10 — Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

October 14 — Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

October 16-18 — CapVA District Meeting

October 17 — Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

— Vienna Halloween Party, Town Green

11:00 am to 12:30 p.m.

—Caboose Open, 3:00-5:00

October 21 — NOW Meeting

Sweet City Desserts, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

October 24 — Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

October 28 — Fourth Wednesday

Dinner at Culmore Teen Center—Team B

— Vienna Halloween Parade

October 31 — FINAL Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon

Spotlight on Upcoming Events

We begin October by celebrating the orderly transition of power. First, a valedictory picnic marking the end of Dick Gongaware's term as president on **Saturday,**

October 3, from 2:00 to 5:00 at Dick and Diane's home. As

Dick describes the event, "Stop by for some ribs, beef brisket or pulled pork, a cold drink, and some Optimistic conversation." If you haven't yet *rsyp'd*, do so now! (Right now—we will hold the next paragraph until you do that.)



Next, we witness the **installation of our 2015-16 officers and**

directors on Wednesday, October 7. District Governor Terry

Corle will perform the honors and new President Joe Miller will address us with his vision for our Club. All this will happen at our new dinner digs, the Fairfax American Legion Hall.

Not wasting any time, our 2015-16 VP for Membership, Kathy Cutri, and Director of Membership, Angelique Ayala, have organized a **NOW—New Optimists Welcome—**

meeting for October 21 at Sweet City Desserts. Anyone who attended our last NOW meeting at Sweet City Desserts can attest to the great food and congenial atmosphere of this local gem. Sweet City's address is 131-A Maple Ave. West, in the alley between Maple Ave. and Church St. (by Bikes@Vienna). Invite a friend (or two) and introduce them to the people and service that make our Optimist Club a local gem, too!



Don't forget to keep those volunteering muscles limber as the weather cools. There are still opportunities to help at the **Farmers Market**, the **Caboose**, and the annual **Town of Vienna Halloween Party**. Because the Town's Community Center is closed for renovation, the Halloween Party will be "Halloween on the Green" on October 17, with crafts and games on the Town Green. And wrap up the month by



representing the Optimist Club in the annual **Halloween Parade**. Are we going for the three-peat for Best Float?



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna
for 60 Years!

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



From the President—

Dear Fellow Optimists,

It is a great time to be an Optimist. We just finished a successful campaign for Growing Hope where our club sponsored Growing Hope Family Fun Day and earned over \$20,000 for that cause. Family Fun Day supports special programs providing educational, social and financial support for children with cancer and their families.

I commend Dick Gongaware for an outstanding presidency. During Dick's tenure, we welcomed 10 new members to the club, which is extremely important for the viability of our club. Dick guided us through some very uncertain times. A new meeting location was needed this year since Marco Polo was no longer available. We now have a new meeting location at the Fairfax American Legion. Also we changed Farmer's Market managers this year, when Jim Stivison stepped up. Dick guided us through a delightful youth season with numerous awards and ceremonies where it was clear that we were providing hope and a positive vision with Optimists bringing out the best in kids. We celebrated our 60th anniversary by providing music in the Town Green where we received a proclamation from the Town of Vienna, and June 21st was declared "Optimist Day" in honor of our anniversary. We also received congratulations from the Governor of Virginia, a joint resolution from the Virginia Senate and House of Representatives, and a resolution and congratulatory note from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Overall it was truly a wonderful year to be an Optimist!

As I look forward to the coming year, there are many activities for the Vienna Optimist Club. On October 6, the new District Governor, Terry Corle, will install new board members for the club. We are fortunate that most of the board is coming back for new terms, but we are really excited about receiving three new members of the board who are Kathy Cutri, incoming VP of membership, Angelique Ayala, incoming Director of Membership, and Susan Bauer, VP of Community. We are also honored to have Michele Wright as our President-Elect.

Our second meeting in October will be a New Optimists Welcome (NOW) meeting, hosted by Kathy and Angelique. This is a social gathering, which will highlight our efforts to encourage individuals to join the club. As part of this effort, I am hopeful that many of our club members will bring someone that they know so they have the opportunity to feel the uplifting spirit of Optimism.

At our first meeting in November, Jade Leedham will acquaint us with activities of the Alternative House and the Culmore Youth Center and the second meeting in November will feature the presentation of the annual **Carol Waite Brennan Awards**. This is always a special evening for our Club and for the young people we honor. Then get your warm clothes ready for working at the **Christmas Tree Lot!** The set up the Christmas Tree lot occurs on November 21.

December is a very special month since it is our time to sell Christmas Trees, which is the largest money maker of the year. At our only meeting in December we will celebrate the Vienna Optimist Club's 60th anniversary with a merry Holiday Party. At this event we will honor members of the club who have 20 years or more of membership. I just provided a snapshot of three months of club activities. If you haven't been participating in recent club activities, I encourage you to get more involved and come to some of our gatherings to meet some of our 25 new members that have joined the club in the last two years.

President Joe Miller



October Birthday Wishes to:

- Jack Barbee – October 2
- Sara Goldberg – October 9
- John Andrews – October 18
- Richard Plocica – October 25
- Tom Bauer – October 31

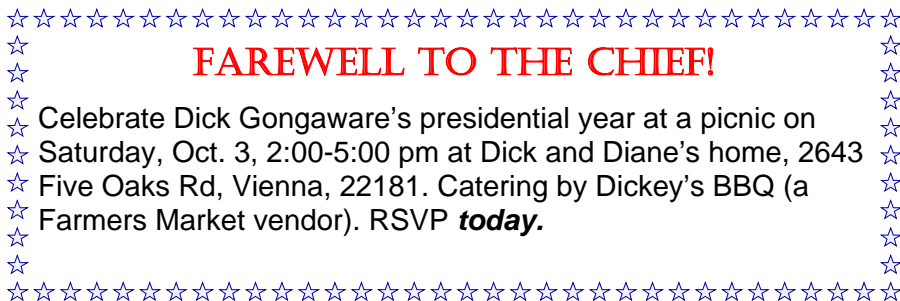
Optimist Anniversaries in October

- Jim Radja – 29 years
- Jim Houston - 22 years
- George Mills – 16 years
- Ed Moore – 16 years
- Sherry Levitt – 1 year
- Steve Rabil – 1 year



FAREWELL TO THE CHIEF!

Celebrate Dick Gongaware's presidential year at a picnic on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2:00-5:00 pm at Dick and Diane's home, 2643 Five Oaks Rd, Vienna, 22181. Catering by Dickey's BBQ (a Farmers Market vendor). **RSVP today.**



Our dedicated Growing Hope volunteers are still recovering from the 10th Annual Family Fun Day on Sept. 19th. We contacted them for comment and they managed to utter a few highlights:

“Close to \$30K raised ... 90% to Growing Hope, 10% to Johns Hopkins Medical Center ... Band [Donaldson's Run](#) donated services 3rd year in a row ... Dunk tank participants included Optimists Mark Keam (State delegate), Dick Gongaware (Madison HS teacher), and Mercury Payton (Vienna Town Manager) ... Glad to see so many Optimists attend and support Growing Hope ... thank our sponsors ... ”



Here is the Honor Roll of sponsors and business donors. Please be sure to thank them for their support!

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September Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on September 9 with 10 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Discussed plans for the Growing Hope Family Fun Day.
- Discussed the status of the Kids' Halloween Party and a float for the Vienna Halloween Parade.
- Verified the membership applications of Jonathan Lyons (sponsored by Gary Moonan) and Randy Sawyer (sponsored by Dick Lippert) previously reviewed by email prior to the meeting.
- After reviewing the initial results of the survey on venues for future dinner meetings and after an extended discussion, on a vote of 9-1, selected the Fairfax American Legion as the site for meetings.
- Noted that club representatives had been invited to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the expanded Vienna Community Center on September 17.

 **2015 Vienna CROP Walk:** The 11th Annual Vienna CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, October 18 at 2 p.m. The Walk will begin at the Vienna Town Green and meander through the neighborhoods of South Vienna. Upon returning to the Green refreshments will be served and over 30 door prizes provided by Vienna businesses will be given to the Walkers. Funds raised go to CHO (www.cho-va.com) and Church World Service (www.cwsglobal.org) for emergency help and disaster relief locally and abroad. You may sign up now to raise funds for this cause at www.viennacropwalk.org.

Donate for AH Thanksgiving Baskets

On November 7, Jade Leedham of Alternative House will be our guest speaker. Let's surprise Jade with our gifts to support AH's Community Outreach Thanksgiving Baskets. Please pick from the list below and bring your gifts to the October 7 and/or November 4 meeting.

Community Outreach Thanksgiving Baskets

Alternative House's Community Outreach staff are increasingly noticing that the youth attending our programs do not have access to adequate food in their homes. To help these families who are in need, the staff would like to provide the family of each young person in our programs with a Thanksgiving food basket. Each basket should contain enough items to feed six people and should include the following types of items:

- Gift card for \$10.00 or more to Safeway, Giant, or Shoppers for purchasing a turkey/meat – **please no fresh or frozen turkeys**
- Powdered gravy mix or a jarred / canned gravy
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Two types of canned vegetables
- Canned sweet potatoes / yams or a mashed potato mix
- Stuffing mix
- Canned fruit for dessert or a box dessert mix
- Shelf-stable UHT milk (such as Parmalat) or additional money on the gift card to purchase fresh milk

Bags, boxes or baskets of items should be marked as "Outreach Thanksgiving Basket" and brought to the Optimist Club meeting or may be delivered to AH's Shelter at 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna by Friday, Nov. 20. The Shelter accepts donations every day between 9am – 5pm.

**OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA
Board of Directors 2015-16**

President	Joe Miller
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Tom Fraim
Immediate Past President	Dick Gongaware
President Elect	Michelle Wright
Vice President of Community	Susan Bauer
Vice President of Finance	Dick Lippert
Vice President of Media Relations	Tom Bauer
Vice President of Membership	Kathy Cutri
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	Anna Ryjik
Director of Social Media	Marnie Fienberg
Director of Membership	Angelique Ayala
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