

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

April 2016

Calendar

April 6 – Regular Dinner Meeting

Fairfax American Legion Post 177

Speaker: Jim Houston—“Building Homes in Nicaragua”

6:45—Social Time; 7:30—Dinner

April 13 – Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

April 16 – Caboose Open!

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

[Sign up on-line to volunteer](#)

April 20 – TR Cook Youth of Excellence Awards

Location: **Madison High School**

6:30—Dinner in Teacher Work Rooms

7:30—Awards Program in Warhawk Hall

April 27 – Fourth Wednesday

Dinner at Culmore Teen Center—Team D

April 30 – Special Olympics

Northern Virginia area Track Meet

Episcopal High School

Contact Mike Battaglia to volunteer

April 30 – Washington Capital Optimist Club Golf Tournament

Contact Brian Davenport for more info

May Preview:

May 4 – Helping Hands Awards at Westwood Country Club. RSVP info to come!

May 7 – Farmers Market Opens!

Spotlight on Upcoming Events

Our fellow Optimists have a wealth of experiences and knowledge to share. We tap into some of that on **April 6**, when our own **Jim Houston** will provide a presentation on the work done by the non-profit organization, **Bridges to Community**, and his work as a volunteer building housing for villagers in Nicaragua. Jim will describe how a family can advance from a dirt-floored shack to a modest new home in one week and his experiences in making seven trips to Nicaragua.



On **April 20** we will have our **TR Cook Youth Awards of Excellence** program at James Madison High School. These awards honor outstanding juniors from Madison, Marshall and Oakton for excellence in Academics, Citizenship, Fine Arts, Science, Sports, and Technology.

Veronica Day, international skeleton racer, Olympic-hopeful, and Madison High School alumna will be our speaker this year. You can read about Veronica's recent success here:

<http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Bobsled-Skeleton-Federation/Features/2016/March/18/Team-USA-collects-11-medals-and-three-North-American-Cup-titles-in-tour-finale>

Dinner will be served in the teacher work rooms at the front of the school at **6:30**. The program begins at 7:30 in Warhawk Hall. We need every member to be an ambassador for our Club that night, so please attend and greet everyone you meet with a smile!



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 Vienna Optimists and Friends,

Spring is my favorite time of the year!!! Easter is the highlight of the Christian year! I really enjoy the children looking for hidden Easter Eggs and the look on their faces when they find a bunch. The Cherry Blossom Festival is in full swing and, unfortunately, the pollen levels are high - for those who have allergies. The beauty of Spring is surely a Blessing from God!

We just celebrated a Spring activity at the Caboose Brewery on March 16th where we had a wonderful time just before St Pat's day by being entertained by an Irish dancer. Great food, fellowship and FUN were had by all! March 17th was supposedly the day that St Patrick died. It was made an official Christian feast day and a national public holiday in Ireland and Northern Ireland. St Patrick's success had nothing to do with luck. His strong faith, patience, perseverance and dedication helped him attain significant accomplishments. He overcame many adversities and his deeds are still celebrated more than a thousand years later. Many of St Patrick's positive attributes are contained in the Optimist Creed. To be successful in our own lives we just need to live by the Optimist Creed!

The meeting on April 6 highlights Jim Houston's mission adventures in Central America. Jim will speak about the work done by the non-profit organization, Bridges to Community, and about volunteers who provide housing to villagers in Nicaragua. Hope to see you there!

On April 20, our second meeting of the month, we will host our annual Youth Awards of Excellence at Madison High School. We will recognize area youths who have accomplished much in their early lives. We honor outstanding juniors from James Madison High School, George C. Marshall High School, and Oakton High School for their accomplishments in the following six areas of achievement: Academics, Citizenship, Fine Arts, Science, Sports and Technology. It's a very important meeting for the Vienna Optimists since so many youth are being honored and their parents are there to cheer them on.

The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department (VVFD) will host the 5th Annual Taste of Vienna. Saturday, April 30, 2016 so please try to attend.

It's also time to sign up for Farmer's Market on the web site at <http://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org>. The market opens May 7, 2016. It will be amazing this year with a number of new market additions. It is our second highest money making event for the club. We manage the market for the whole Summer and we need your help so please sign up now!

Have a GREAT Spring!!!

President Joe Miller



April Birthday Wishes to:

Jim Stivison – April 2

Optimist Anniversaries in April

Mike Byard – 25 years

Anna Ryjik – 8 years

Dick Gongaware – 8 years

Michele Wright – 8 years

Tom Bauer – 7 years



We have the graphic and we like to use it.

And the message is important—be part of the Club's effort that makes Vienna's extremely popular Farmers Market a reality every Saturday morning from May through October. The dedicated, hard-working Market Manager and core volunteers can't do it all. We need everyone's contribution!

Market volunteers spend 3-hour shifts at the market. Duties include answering questions, parking lot coordination and sign put-up/take-down. The major risk is over-exposure to the donut truck. We don't judge.

Sign-up is easy on the Club's [website](#).

March Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on March 9 with 12 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- VP of Youth Mike Fitzella:
 - Reported that there will be no Zone Oratorical Contest and our two club winners will advance directly to the District contest.
 - Announced that the Youth Awards of Excellence program will be held on April 20 at Madison High School. Dinner will be catered by Skorprios/Maggios. Veronica Day will be the speaker.
- Discussed plans and vendors for the 2016 Farmers Market.
- Reviewed thank you note from Madison High School for our donation for their All-Night Graduation Celebration. Approved donations for the Kilmer Center, Flint Hill Elementary School Read-a-Thon, and the Vienna Girls Softball league to sponsor a team.



Left: Oratorical Contest participants proudly display their medals at our March 2 meeting. The winners compete next at the District level.
Below: A young Irish Dancer does her best to instruct Optimists in the classic art. Our March 16 event at Caboose Brevpub was a hit!



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	Michele Wright
Vice President of Community	Anna Ryjik
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	Susan Bauer
Director of Social Media	Nicole Pham
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