



# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

October 2020

## Calendar

### October 3—Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon  
Vienna Community Center



### October 7—Membership Meeting

7:30 p.m. by Zoom Remote Meeting  
Induction of 2020-21 Officers and Board

### October 11—Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon  
Vienna Community Center

### October 14—Board Meeting

7:30 p.m. by Zoom Remote Meeting

### October 17—Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon  
Vienna Community Center

### October 21—Membership Meeting

TBD—Watch your email for info!

### October 24—Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. to noon  
Vienna Community Center

### October 31—Farmers Market

**The Last Farmers Market for 2020!**

8:00 a.m. to noon  
Vienna Community Center

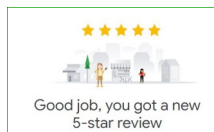
## News and Notes

**Congratulations to the 2020-21 Officers and Directors of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna!** President Tom Bauer and his team will be sworn in at our **virtual meeting on October 6**. The Zoom log-in link has been sent via email; if you don't see it in your in-box, check your spam filter. If it's not there, contact President Tom or Webmaster Gary for help.

If you check the listing on Page 3 of this Newsletter, you'll notice there are **still several positions vacant** for this year's Board. Please consider volunteering to serve—our Club needs you and (as the classic ad said) "try it—you'll like it!" Contact President Tom if you are interested.



We are entering the **last month for this year's Farmers Market**. We need full staffing to the very end, so please sign up for some shifts when you get the SignUpGenius email. Our management team is already planning for next year and needs help with off-season administrative tasks. Contact Market Manager Michele for more info and to lend a hand.



And in case you were wondering... yes, customers appreciate our Market! Our Webmaster reports **we have great online reviews**, including a recent 5-star rating. Well done, team!

**Vienna's annual Halloween Parade** is adapting to the pandemic by becoming a "Wave Parade"—that is, instead of people coming to the parade, the parade will come to them! On **October 31, the Optimist Float** (otherwise known as Joe Miller's truck) will join 10-15 others bearing the theme "Random Acts of Kindness". A replica of our Farmers Market, complete with produce displayed in baskets atop hay bales and the trio "Fiddlin Willy", will travel through Vienna. Signs will tell RAoK seen at the market, such as "You go first", "Vendors giving produce to food banks", "Tips given to musicians", etc. **Contact VP for Community Susan** to be part of the fun creating the float or riding along!



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna  
for 65 Years!

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



## From President Tom Bauer

### Greetings fellow Optimists!

As I embark on a new adventure as President of this great club, I wanted to share a few thoughts with you on what I envision for the coming year.

First, I want to say that I am inheriting a club that is in strong financial shape and well able to withstand the uncertainties associated with the pandemic and some potential loss of revenue. We will be selling Christmas trees this year (Thanks **Dick Lippert** for all the advance work you have done) but the Board has decided that we will reduce our order by about a third in order to reduce the stress and strain on our members. This year will most likely involve the loss of the youth volunteers we have come to depend on so much, so we will need to implement new protocols for handling the trees. We have decided that we will not unwrap the trees and place them on stands this year to save all of us from working overtime. We also, of course, will re-align our lot for social distancing, require all workers and customers to wear a mask at all times and restrict our sales to credit card only with very few exceptions. I hope I can count on your support this year so we can share the burden as equally as possible and I will be contacting most of you by phone to make sure we have enough folks to make this work out well.

Secondly, our Board will be doing our best to compensate for the lack of in person meetings and programs for the immediate future with emphasis on looking at new ways to meet and keep in touch and not relying on our old model of two general meetings a month. I am open to suggestions from any and all members on how we might go about this. I know you share my feelings of missing the social interaction we enjoyed so much and will enjoy again someday. We will do our best to keep everyone informed so that no one misses out.

Finally, I want to extend my thanks to **Bruce Lauther** for his outstanding job as President through a very trying year. He has provided me with all the information I need to carry on without having to “re-invent the wheel” and I look forward to his continued support as Past President. I am excited at the potential for an excellent year of service to the youth of our community despite these unusual circumstances and I wish each and every one of you continued health and safety!

Tom

## JOI CLUBS CARRY ON!



Despite the challenges of an uncertain school schedule and limits on group gatherings, the JOI Clubs (that’s “Junior Optimists International”) sponsored by our Optimist Club will continue to operate this year. For the time being, their activities will be limited to what they can do on-line. We salute their perseverance and look forward to hearing about their creative adaptations to these challenging times!

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM PREVIEW

### A Collaboration with Local Groups

Mark your calendar now to participate in a very special program on **Monday, November 16. Our Optimist Club**, in cooperation with the **Vienna Area Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW)** and the **Alpha Nu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma** (International Society of Women Educators)—*now that’s a powerhouse line-up!*—will present **“Exploring Social Justice in Policing and Education.”** More information, including the Zoom log-on links, will be in next month’s Newsletter.



## THANK YOU PRESIDENT BRUCE!

For his leadership, genuine concern for our members, and always upbeat outlook during this extraordinary time, we thank outgoing President Bruce Lauther for his service to the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna. Truly, you “make all of your friends feel that there is something in them.”

Longtime members recall the many years our Club met at the venerable Marco Polo restaurant in Vienna, and our host, co-owner Alfredo Pestana. We are saddened to report Alfredo’s passing on September 19, 2020, and offer our condolences to his family and friends.

## Board Meeting Highlights August 2020

The Board met on August 5, 2020, with ten members attending by Zoom remote meeting, plus one by proxy. Club business conducted included the following:

- ◆ Heard report on plans for Christmas Tree Lot. Town approval and agreements with PNC Bank and shopping center all secured. Town will require compliance with same COVID-19 rules as govern the Farmers Market. Firm order for number of trees due at end of September.
- ◆ Plans for Youth programs still uncertain for 2020-21 and Youth team is consulting with partners at local schools. First program would be Carol Waite Brennan Scholarships.
- ◆ Webmaster is spending a couple of hours per week maintaining our presence on social media sites (FaceBook, Nextdoor) and with Vienna Business Association.
- ◆ Nominating Committee working on slate of 2020-21 Board; several positions still vacant.

## Board Meeting Highlights September 2020

The Board met on September 16, 2020, with ten members attending by Zoom remote meeting. Club business conducted included the following:

- ◆ Receipts and disbursements included receiving a \$1000 grant from the Town of Vienna; donating \$200 to the Second Story Culmore Teen Center (budgeted); contributing \$4000 to OI Childhood Cancer campaign. By email, the Board approved disbursements of budgeted expenses to Town of Vienna Halloween Parade (\$150), Cedar Lane School (\$500), and Louise Archer ES 5K fundraiser (\$350).
- ◆ Made final plans for Christmas Tree Sales, including number of trees to purchase and adopting a “credit card only” policy for COVID-19 safety.
- ◆ Election of 2020-21 officers and board will be conducted by Survey Monkey, and final vote at September 23 Zoom meeting.
- ◆ Agreed by email vote to participate in Town of Vienna’s modified Halloween Parade on October 31.

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### OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2020-21

President	Tom Bauer
Secretary	<i>vacant</i>
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	Bruce Lauther
President Elect	<i>vacant</i>
Vice President of Community	Susan Bauer
Vice President of Finance	<i>vacant</i>
Vice President of Media Relations/Webmaster	Gary Moonan
Vice President of Membership	Bruce Lauther
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	<i>vacant</i>
Director of Social Media	<i>vacant</i>
Director of Print Media/Community	<i>vacant</i>
Director of Membership	Fritz Irwin
Director of Youth	Ed Wonder
Director of Finance	<i>vacant</i>

### *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*