

Optimistically Speaking

The Bare Bones Edition* July 2019



Calendar

July 3	No Meeting
July 4	Happy Independence Day!
July 6	Farmers Market 8:00 am to noon
July 10	Board Meeting 7:00 pm; Bauer Home
July 13	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to noon Caboose is Open! 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
July 17	Dinner Meeting Honoring First Responders Vienna American Legion 6:45 p.m. RSVP!
July 20	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to noon
July 24	Fourth Wednesday Dinner Culmore Teen Center Team D – Ryjik, Captain
July 27	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to noon

News and Notes

The overarching news for our Optimist family is that longtime, pivotal member Jim Houston passed away on June 27. For information about memorial services and remembrances, please see pages 2 & 3.

We will not meet on July 3.

On **Wednesday, July 17**, our regular dinner meeting will honor “**First Responders**”--specifically, an individual from the Dunn Loring fire station. We will meet at the VIENNA American Legion, beginning at 6:45 p.m. Please *rsvp* via SignUp Genius.

As we start July we enter **prime time for our Farmers Market**. Alas, it is also prime time for vacations and out-of-town guests! **Please volunteer whenever you can.** While we are testing out our team approach to staffing, you are still welcome (and encouraged!) to sign up for whatever shifts you can. Use the sign-up feature on the Club’s website.

After an outstanding year of Youth Programs, **VP for Youth Mike Fitzella** filed one last report:

“We awarded our first Sheryl A. Friedley Scholarship for Students with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities to Jay Choi. Jay is a graduate of Oakton High School, and will be attending George Mason University’s LIFE (Living Into Future Environments) program in the fall. Those at the June 5 meeting had an opportunity to meet Jay and discuss his future plans. He is a very personable young man, and we know he is going to thrive at GMU. Many

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*THIS MONTH’S EDITION OF *OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING* IS BEING PRODUCED ON THE ROAD, AWAY FROM NEWSLETTER HQ’S SOPHISTICATED ARRAY OF TEMPLATES AND GRAPHICS. PLEASE BEAR WITH US AS WE ROUGH IT TO BRING YOU THE LATEST NEWS FOR THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA.

Our Friend, Jim Houston

Our Optimist family is deeply saddened by the passing of long-time member, Jim Houston. We received this from his daughter, Ashlie:

Jim Houston passed away peacefully at his home on Thursday, June 27. He is survived by his daughter, Ashlie Strackbein, son-in-law Steve Strackbein, and three granddaughters, Avery (9), Caitlyn (6) and Sloane (2) and family in Kentucky and Delaware.

Services to celebrate Jim's life include:

-Visitation on Tuesday, July 2nd at 6:00-8:00 pm, at Money & King Funeral Home, 171 Maple Ave W, Vienna, VA 22180

-Funeral Service on Wednesday, July 3rd at 11:00 am, McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Rd, McLean, VA 22101.

Burial will be at Arlington Cemetery later this summer, date and time TBA.

In lieu of flowers, please consider charitable donations to:

-Optimist Club of Greater Vienna, Box 411, Vienna, VA 22183

<https://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org>

or

-Army Emergency Relief, Attention: Donations, 2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 13161, 13th Floor, Arlington, VA 22202

<https://www.aerhq.org/Donate>

From The President

Dear Fellow Optimists,

How can we express what Jim Houston meant to our club? If you ever needed anyone to do anything, Jim was there, ready to volunteer to do whatever had to be done. When I began my term as president, I asked Jim for some advice. He wisely said to me, "Stay in your lane." I don't think we will see another Jim Houston again. We have lost a good friend and an outstanding member of our club. Our sincerest sympathies go to Ashlie and her family.

President Elect Bruce and his wife Connie will be attending the Optimist International Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. **Joe and Greta** were also planning to go but Joe is in Arkansas. His brother was hospitalized on June 26 and is in a coma. Please keep Joe and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

The first Town of Vienna "Chillin on Church" block party was June 21 and was very well attended. There were a lot of thirsty townsfolk on Church Street enjoying a beer and listening to the band play on. **Thanks to all of our hardworking Optimist volunteers - Anna Ryjik, Yvonne Ha, Roger Doughty, Joe and Greta Miller, Bruce Lauther, Ann Harrison, Mickey Williams, Fritz Irwin, Sally and Mike O'Connor, Tom Spengler, Dan Mulville, Tom Bauer and yours truly** for checking ID's, selling tickets and slogging beer and wine. At print time we didn't have a total for what we made but our tip jars yielded \$105.

Please join us on **July 17 at the Vienna Legion at 6:45. We will be honoring a First Responder** from the Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Department.

Madame President, Susan

From the Editor:

We face one of our hardest challenges as Optimists: How to “be so strong that nothing can disturb [our] peace of mind,” when we feel the pain of loss of someone truly special, our friend, Jim Houston. But of course Jim gave us the answer himself—we follow his example, set after his own heartbreaking loss of his beloved

wife, Connie. Carry on, devote yourself to the people you love, do good work, live life with enthusiasm. Oh, and shun the spotlight. Discourage people from making a fuss.

We’re so sorry, Jim, but we are going to make a fuss and spend a lot of time talking about all the good you did and how much we will miss you.

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thanks to **Donna Wohlscheid** for her efforts working with our schools to get this new program started.

On June 19, we awarded our **Vocational Scholarship to Samantha Haynes**. “Sam” was enrolled in the cosmetology program at Marshall Academy. This program allows post-graduates to return for a second year of study, which makes them eligible to sit for the state board exam. She hopes to one day open her own salon, specializing in unique hair coloring. **Kudos to Ed Wonder** for his energy on this program. Finding students who are not pursuing the traditional four-year degree path can be a challenge.”

And let us not forget that the **Caboose** keeps rolling along as well! (That’s figuratively speaking, of course.) **Conductor-in-Chief Dan Mulville** and **Mike Cheselka** painted the inside of the Caboose in June. Many thanks to them, and to **Vienna Paint and Decorating** for donating the paint again this year, as they did last year when the outside was painted. Please support Vienna Paint (at Lawyers Road and Maple Avenue, West) as they have supported us!

You can check out the new paint job up-close-and-personal by volunteering at the Caboose when it is open Saturday, July 13, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Think of it as your part in providing kids and families with free, creative play that doesn’t involve a computer screen!

Board minutes and the Newsletter’s other regular features will appear in next month’s issue.