



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

June 2020

Calendar

NO Regular Meetings in June

NO Caboose Openings

Board Meeting by Video-Conference

Date and time to be announced by President Bruce

June 13 — Farmers Market Opening

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

June 20 — Farmers Market

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

June 21 — Father's Day



June 27 — Farmers Market

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

News and Notes

FARMERS MARKET OPENS JUNE 13!

There are new guidelines governing Farmers Markets in "Phase I" of Virginia's re-opening.

Our **Farmers Market Team** is actively monitoring the ever-changing Virginia directives governing the lawful, safe operation of the Vienna Saturday Farmers Market. All our procedures will abide by state and local requirements at a minimum—as well as additional practices deemed appropriate for the **safety and well-being of Optimist volunteers**. The full text of the guidance provided by Governor Northam's office is available at the Virginia Farmers Market Association website, <https://vafma.org/covid-19/>. If you have any questions about the policies or practices our Market will employ, please contact Michele W.

The **biggest changes** in the Virginia guidelines for our purposes are, first, that customers will now be *encouraged*, but *not required*, to wear masks. **All vendors and volunteers are still required to wear face coverings.** Our Market team has arranged to provide face shields for volunteers and each of us is asked to provide our own cloth mask.

Second, we will not have to mark off spots for standing or tape off the Market area. The instruction now is to "[c]onfigure operations to avoid congestion or congregation points." We will use orange cones to provide customers with guidance on appropriate distancing.

Pre-ordering and cashless transactions are still encouraged, to minimize lingering time and touch-points. Our [Optimist Club website](#) has a list of vendors with contact information for pre-ordering. **Please use this and support our vendors!**



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna
for over 60 Years!

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



From thy President...

Cheers 'n' aspirations go out to our Optimist Family's Gals 'n' Guys...

The challenge of our lives continues at our door steps as we engage, act smartly 'n' minimize our exposures to the dreadful COVID-19 Pandemic. I will begin today with another call-around to our five plus (5+) dozen members to see who is doing well 'n' who needs a helping hand. If we don't connect, please call me when you can after listening to my message on your answering machine with any needs you may have. Together, we will see this challenge through successfully. Our creed is a marvelous guide to follow. Several of our members, or their family members, are currently facing wellness and mobility issues. Each of them has expressed a wish to keep their illnesses and incapacities private in these difficult times. No wonder our prayers are lengthier these days.

This month brings a big event for all Optimists. As you know by now, our 102nd International Convention was cancelled for Chicago, Illinois. Optimist International has come up with a great event, the **Optimist International Virtual Convention** that will be held online Saturday and Sunday, June 27-28. Fees will be only \$25 for the first 500 registers, with \$35 thereafter. Registration information and complete schedules are available at www.optimist.org/convention. This will give every member an opportunity to become acquainted with the incredible range of activities being provided by Optimists about our planet.



Great undertakings during difficult times warrant recognition. Plans are coming together with new challenges and safety precautions to hold open our **Farmers Market at the Community Center** within the Town of the Vienna starting on **Saturday, June 13th, 2020**. Do make sure you let our very special quartet of **Michele Wright, Susan Bauer, Gary Moonan, and Dick Gongaware** know of your awareness and pleasure for their contributions. Safety is first and foremost. Some of our delightful

members have underlying medical issues making them exceptionally vulnerable to this coronavirus and should stay at home. If, however, you are comfortable in observing proper safety precautions and keeping a safe social distance, etc., please do sign up on our website (www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org) for one of our three shifts (7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) on Saturdays. The Mayor and Town Council, complemented by our constabulary and first responders, are giving us 100% support. Bringing back our Farmers Market will bring many a smile on vendors and purchasers, albeit beneath their masks, as a first step towards our new normalcy. Thank you, **Editor Laurie Cole**, for getting the full particulars out in advance of this newsletter and also including them here as well.

Look forward to the **display of our Club's Banner across Maple Avenue** during the week of June 8th to June 15th, 2020. Thank you goes out to our Lady **Susan Bauer** for taking care of this.

The club flourished across many decades with dinner meetings held at the once proud Marco Polo Restaurant. Subsequently, storage and inventory difficulties have been encountered and are now finally being resolved. Our priority mails will be conveying complete **membership portfolios** this week—so long delayed—to **Mr. Dexter Payne, Mrs. Ellen Payne, Mr. Todd Hall, Mr. Dan Gropper, Ms. Lenore Goldberg, and Ms. Sally O'Conner**. Our newly approved By-laws, Roles and Responsibilities, Procedures and expanded History of the Town of Vienna and our Ol Club will be included in this mailing. We will formally recognize them again and give each of them an opportunity to share a bit of their personal history with the attending club members at a future dinner meeting. **Welcome, one and all**. Several of you have found prospective new members for our club. Do give a shout of cheer out to **VP Joe Miller, Director Sally O'Connor, and Director Anne Marie "Fritz" Irwin** for pursuing membership initiatives during these unusual times. Please do let us know how you feel about participating in a virtual club meeting a la ZOOM.

Do be safe. You are in our t's, p's 'n' h's, i.e., thoughts, prayers 'n' hearts. Best wishes with a warm smile...

Your Bruce

Words of Thanks

Even though we cannot meet, our Club is still supporting programs to help kids in these challenging times. Here are just a few expressions of appreciation we have received.



*From Judith Dittman,
Chief Executive Director
of Second Story:*

[Excerpted from a recent email]
“The impact of COVID-19 on our programs and our community has us thinking a lot about each of

you: your support, your impact, and all that you’ve helped us do.

“There are so many unknowns for all of us right now, but when we look at all you’ve helped us do in the past it gives us a sense of security. It lets us move forward with confidence in what we’ll do together this next year because of the ways you’ve proven your support in the past. Our challenges may be new, but your support and our dedication to supporting youth remain steadfast!

“Thank you for your support both past and present.”

From Friend of Optimists June Fraim:

“Here are pictures of some of the 180 meals that were prepared at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Vienna and delivered to adults and children living on the edge in the Fairfax area on May 27, 2020. I send a heartfelt thank you to the members of Optimist Club of Greater Vienna for contributing a very generous \$500 towards this critical local outreach ministry.”



From Lisa Whetzel, Executive Director of Britepaths:

[By phone] “Please pass along our thanks to the Optimists for their generous donation.” Britepaths is providing food and financial support to Fairfax County families.



Other Organizations To Know About

Whether you are offering help or seeking assistance, here are other aid organizations worth knowing about:

Shepherd’s Center serving Vienna, Oakton and Reston, <https://www.scov.org/> . Services to seniors include transportation to medical appointments and errands.

CHO (Committee for Helping Others), <https://cho-va.com/> . While Vienna-based CHO normally operates a food pantry and clothes closet, those are currently closed because of the coronavirus. They are focusing on providing financial assistance for food, housing, and utilities.

Shelter House, <https://www.shelterhouse.org/> . Operating shelters for victims of domestic violence and those experiencing homelessness in Fairfax County.

Optimist International Foundation Disaster Relief Fund, <https://www.oifoundation.org/donate.html> . As part of its mission supporting the charitable, literary, and educational purposes of OI, the Foundation accepts donations specifically for disaster relief.



Congratulations to our own **Friend of Optimists Linda Colbert**, on her recent election as Mayor of the Town of Vienna. Linda’s term begins July 1.

We also offer our sincere thanks to out-going **Mayor Laurie DiRocco** (wife of Optimist Rob DiRocco), for her service to the Town and her generous support of Optimist activities.

Best wishes to both our Mayor and Mayor-Elect!

May 2020 Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna held a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2020, with nine members present by video conference.

Among the business conducted were the following matters:

- ◆ Agreed to hold off on donations to most local athletic groups;
- ◆ Agreed to continue grants to local food banks and community support; added a grant to Emmanuel Lutheran Church's Community Outreach Program to support meals for local families during the pandemic;
- ◆ Received a report from Treasurer Michele that the Club is applying for Directors Insurance from Ol's carrier, Mercer Insurance Company, and that Club Treasurers should be bonded going forward;
- ◆ Discussed the difficulty in planning for Christmas Tree sales, given the uncertainty created by the pandemic, but did not reach any conclusions;
- ◆ Wished President Bruce a happy birthday and also to him and his wife Connie a happy 50th anniversary!



OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2019-20

President	Bruce Lauther
Secretary	Kathy Cutri
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	Susan Bauer
President Elect	Tom Bauer
Vice President of Community	Susan Bauer
Vice President of Finance	Dick Lippert
Vice President of Media Relations/Webmaster	Gary Moonan
Vice President of Membership	Joe Miller
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	Donna Wohlscheid
Director of Social Media	<i>open</i>
Director of Print Media/Community	<i>open</i>
Director of Membership	Sally O'Connor/Fritz Irwin
Director of Youth	Ed Wonder
Director of Finance	<i>open</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