



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

June 2021

Calendar

June 2 — Board Meeting
Via Zoom

June 5 — Farmers Market
8:00 am to noon
Vienna Community Center

June 9 — Meeting
Partners In Education
Via Zoom — Check your email for the invitation and link!

June 12 — Farmers Market
8:00 am to noon
Vienna Community Center

June 19 — Juneteenth
Start of *Liberty Amendments Month*
Town of Vienna

June 19 — Farmers Market
8:00 am to noon
Vienna Community Center

June 20 — Fathers' Day



June 23 — Social Meeting
In Person! Location TBD

June 26 — Farmers Market
8:00 am to noon
Vienna Community Center

News and Notes

The cicadas are emerging from their husks, we are emerging from our pandemic cocoons—it's a pretty heady metaphor! We can look forward to an **in-person social gathering on June 23** (location to be determined). See the message from President Tom on page 2. The opportunities of summer seem sweeter than ever!

Our **Farmers Market** operations continue to follow the latest public health guidelines to ensure the safety of our patrons, vendors, and volunteers. As of now this means "Masks Are Encouraged", not required. [The volunteer sign-up list for June has many open shifts.](#) Get your pick of the slots by signing up early!

Our annual **Partners in Education Meeting** will be held by Zoom on **June 9**. We will be recognizing one staff member from each of our three high schools who has gone "above and beyond" the call of duty during the pandemic. We will also be awarding our **Vocational and Sheryl Friedley scholarships**, and recognizing the Madison baseball player who was chosen to receive our first annual **Jim Houston Leadership Award**. A Zoom invitation and link specific to this meeting has been sent out, so check your email.

Director of Youth Ed W. reports: "The annual JOI Club recognition meeting was held on May 19, with representatives from the Marshall and Madison Octagon Clubs, Thoreau MS and Louise Archer ES JOI Clubs. The students gave an overview of what they were able to do amidst the constraints imposed by the pandemic, how they innovated, and their outlook for next year. All agreed that they eagerly look forward to functioning fully as clubs next year. That includes helping us sell Christmas trees, among other things. The clubs at Marshall and Madison have provided tutors to the program offered by Belong!, a local community organization, for students at Cunningham Park Elementary and expect this to continue next year as Belong! expands."

Liberty Amendments Month starts June 19th in the Town of Vienna, and we are part of it! This celebration of the "four amendments to our Constitution [13th, 14th, 15th, and 19th] that, together, provide a common opportunity for all to help shape our nation and benefit our diverse heritage",* is the brainchild of **Vienna Town Manager and Optimist Mercury Payton**. Other Optimists are playing key roles in event planning and citizen engagement. Our Farmers Market will host a table every Saturday during the month to share awareness the this innovative and important celebration. Check it out!

*Source: Town of Vienna website.



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna
for over 65 Years!

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



From President Tom Bauer

Greetings fellow Optimists!

This month is shaping up to be a busy month starting with our Partners in Education and vocational scholarships on June 9th. June 19th marks the beginning of the Town of Vienna's Liberty Amendments celebration honoring four amendments to the Constitution freeing slaves, granting citizenship to those born in the USA, and securing voting rights for people of color and for women. Our club will be participating in various ways at the Farmers Market so be sure to come out and support us.



I would like to propose an in person social meeting for June 23rd at a local venue TBD for those who feel comfortable getting together. It's been way too long!

This month your Board will be focusing on amending and simplifying the by laws and conducting an internal audit of our finances. We are looking for someone from inside the club who would have the necessary expertise to do this.

Thanks to all who voted for the 2021-2022 slate of officers. Our new officers have been officially elected.

Sad to report that Jim Wilson had a serious fall at the Farmers Market a few weeks back but is now recovering and starting to feel like his old self. I'm sure Jim would love to hear from his friends for well wishes so consider giving him a call in the next week or two.

Hope all in your family who are eligible have gotten their vaccinations and are ready to enjoy a "normal" summer!

Optimistically,
Tom



News to Shout About!

More \$\$ for Scholarships and Awards: Our Board recently voted to increase our scholarships and contest awards. The Carol Waite Brennan Scholarships for high school seniors will be \$2500 per student. The Vocational Scholarship and Sheryl Friedley Scholarship will also increase to \$2500 each; the Jim Houston Leadership Award will be \$1000. Prizes for the Essay Contest, Oratorical Contest, and TR Cook Youth of Excellence Awards have been doubled. Our donations via the Helping Hands Awards were increased to \$300 per elementary school.

All of this is made possible by the outstanding efforts of our members: selling Christmas trees, staffing the Farmers Market, and donating. The best way for us to continue this and other support of youth is to share the word about Optimists and invite new members to join us.

Spread the Word: Bruce and Fritz, our dynamic membership team, sent out materials to help each of us be an ambassador for Optimists and do our part to encourage new members. If you have any questions, need encouragement, or lost the first email, contact Bruce or Fritz!

**CONGRATULATIONS AND
THANK YOU TO OUR
2021-22 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS
(AND THERE IS STILL A SPOT FOR YOU!)**

A vote of the membership conducted by email elected the following Officers and Directors of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna for the 2021-22 Program year:

- President **Tom Bauer**
- President Elect.....vacant
- Secretary **Susan Bauer**
- Treasurer **Michele Wright**
- VP of Community **Susan Bauer**
- VP of Media /Webmaster **Gary Moonan**
- VP of Membership **Bruce Lauther**
- VP of Youth **Mike Fitzella**
- Director of Youth..... **Ed Wonder**
- Director of Community.....vacant
- Director of Finance.....vacant
- Director of Membership..... **Fritz Irwin**
- Director of Print/Social Mediavacant

Vacancies need to be filled to have our Club operating at its highest potential. Please contact President Tom B. to explore how you might contribute.

**Mayor Colbert Cuts the Ribbon on the
2021 Farmers Market**



Above: Mayor Linda Colbert cuts the ribbon at the May 8 Farmers Market, assisted by (l-r) Del. Mark Keam; Councilmembers Brill, O'Neill, Springsteen; Hunter Mill Supvr. Walter Alcorn; Councilmember Potter; and Optimists. *Below:* Later the sun shines on patrons and Market Co-Manager Dick G.



Photos courtesy of Bruce L.

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna met **April 14, 2021**, via Zoom teleconference. All members were present. Among the business conducted was the following:

- ◆ Received report from Acting Secretary Susan B. that she and past Secretary Kathy C. have completed updating the Club Directory and it will be distributed electronically in April;
- ◆ Approved recommendation by Treasurer that \$20K in funds be transferred to investments;
- ◆ Approved increasing scholarships and awards for youth programs (*see item page 2*);
- ◆ Discussed return to in-person meetings;
- ◆ Discussed nominations for 2021-22 Board;
- ◆ Approved special recognition to Michelle Gabro, Thoreau MS, for her support of Oratorical Contest;
- ◆ Received report from Farmers Market managers that all available spaces are filled and musicians lined up for all dates; discussed means to engage more volunteers for Market duty.

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna met **May 12, 2021**, via Zoom teleconference. Seven members were present plus two by proxy. Treasurer Michele W. led the meeting due to President Tom B.'s absence. Among the business conducted was the following:

- ◆ Received reports from VP and Director of Youth on upcoming JOOI program and joint Partners in Education/scholarship program;
- ◆ Received report from VP for Community on plans to participate in Town of Vienna's "Liberty Amendments Month";
- ◆ Received report from VP and Director of Membership on revised materials and initiatives to recruit members;
- ◆ Discussed need for new members for Farmers Market Committee;
- ◆ Discussed filling Board positions for 2021-22;
- ◆ Approved a \$250 donation to Flint Hill Elementary School for its "Falcon 5K" Fun Run;
- ◆ Approved a request from the Town of Vienna to cede one of two dates reserved for our banner on Maple Ave, so that the Town can hang a banner reminding people to get vaccinated;
- ◆ Discussed the need to being work on 2021 Christmas Tree Lot arrangements and personnel for same.

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