



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

August 2021

Calendar

August 7— Farmers Market

8:00 am to noon

Vienna Community Center

Volunteers Needed! Sign-up online.

August 11 — Board Meeting

7:30 pm at the Bauers' Home

August 14 — Farmers Market

8:00 am to noon

Vienna Community Center

August 18 — General Meeting

Honoring First Responders

Location & time TBD—check your email

August 21 — Farmers Market

8:00 am to noon

Vienna Community Center

August 23 — FCPS First Day of School



August 28 — Farmers Market

8:00 am to noon

Vienna Community Center

September Preview:

September 4 — Farmers Market

September 6 — Labor Day

News and Notes

As adult members of the Optimist Club we choose to help all kinds of kids in our Greater Vienna Community. But **how cool is it** when a young person commits herself to helping other teens? **Way cool** is the answer. And even better is that our Club helped it happen! Madison HS freshman **Elizabeth Isaac** approached our Farmers Market team about selling plants at the market to raise money to help food-insecure teens. All the proceeds from her sales—over \$450—were donated to the Culmore Teen Center, via our Club. President Tom B. gladly accepted the donation on the Club's behalf, and we all thank Elizabeth and her parents for their efforts to bring out the best in kids!



Monica Gomez Isaac, Pres. Tom, Elizabeth Isaac and Brian Isaac celebrate Elizabeth's successful fundraising to benefit the Culmore Teen Center.

A small but supportive group of members attended our annual **Charles A. Robinson Respect for Law Awards** in person on July 21 at the Vienna Moose Lodge. Our honored guests included **Award recipients PFC Charles Reinhard of the Fairfax County Police Fair Oaks Station**, and his supervisor **Capt. Dana Robinson**; and **Vienna Police Department PFC Megan Gucwa**, accompanied by Chief Jim Morris. A fun fact we learned: Capt. Robinson received the



Capt. Dana Robinson, PFC Charles Reinhard, PFC Megan Gucwa, Chief Jim Morris at the Respect for Law Awards

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Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna for over 65 Years!

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We're on Facebook! [Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub)



From President Tom Bauer

Greetings fellow Optimists!

After waiting more than a year we held our first in-person general membership meeting on July 21st at the Moose Lodge, for our annual **Respect for Law** awards. This year we honored **PFC Charles Reinhard of the Fair Oaks District and Megan Gucwa from Town of Vienna**. "Chuck" has spent many years in the Fairfax County Police Department assisting in many ways including the motorcycle "brigade" while Megan is only a 3 year member of Vienna's force but has made her mark most honorably in that short time. Did you know that a discussion between Optimist International President Carl Bowen and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover in July, 1965, resulted in the birth of the Respect for Law program? It has become the fourth most popular Optimist activity with more than 1500 clubs participating each year.

Attendance at our dinner was not robust as hoped so the Board will be discussing whether or not to hold the next general meeting, August 18th, on Zoom or in person. The Covid-19 statistics for Fairfax which had been trending so positively for the last few months have headed back in the other direction for now. Stay tuned.

Several items you should be aware of include: Our first internal financial review in many years coming up by the end of the summer and the first full investment committee meeting with our financial advisor coming up on July 27th. We will make you aware of the findings for both meetings.

Finally, we were blessed at the July 24 Farmers Market by the presentation of a check for \$480 from **Monica and Elizabeth Isaac**, who decided to grow and sell plants at the market and donate the profits to the Culmore Teen Center. Even better, Monica will be joining our club and Elizabeth is looking into the Octagon club at Madison this Fall.

Enjoy the rest of your summer safely!

*Optimistically,
Tom*

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Respect for Law award earlier in her career (in another jurisdiction)! Our new protocol of pre-paying for dinner online via Square worked well (thank you, Webmaster Gary!) and a fine meal was enjoyed by all. Our thanks to **VP for Community Susan B.** for producing this event.

It has been a busy summer for **Susan**, as she also planned and executed our Club's participation in the Town of Vienna's inaugural "**Liberty Amendments Month**" celebration. There were activities and handouts for four Saturdays at the **Farmers Market**, plus two Concerts on the Green where we were represented, culminating in the Multicultural Festival where **Belong!** students read their essays (for which our Club provided the prizes). Whew! Take a bow, Susan—and a well-earned break!

Our **Youth Team (Mike F. and Ed W.)** were similarly busy wrapping up the end of the academic year. Here is their report:

For this year's **Partners in Education** program we asked our three high school principals to each select one staff member who had gone above and beyond the call of duty during the past 15 months. They all, without hesitation, selected their Directors of Student Activities, who were recognized during **our June 9 Zoom meeting**. It was interesting to hear how **John Kenny (Madison), Joe Swarm (Marshall) and Pat Full (Oakton)** had to pivot throughout the period to react to the ever changing guidelines, and how the pandemic forced changes that will become permanent improvements. One in particular was the installation of cameras at sporting venues to allow fans to watch games from home. Turns out that our service members on deployment have been wanting this for years.

We presented the **inaugural Jim Houston Leadership Award to Tyler Schoberlein** at our June 9 meeting. Tyler receives a \$1,000 scholarship to the University of Florida. This award is given to a senior on the Madison High School baseball team in honor of longtime Optimist Jim Houston, who passed away in 2019. The award goes to a senior who embodies the characteristics that Jim liked about the Madison baseball players, i.e., he shows leadership on a consistent basis throughout the year, is a player of high character and does the right thing because it's the right thing to do.



Jim established our club's relationship with the Madison baseball team to support our annual Christmas tree sales. The team has assisted us for more than 25 years, unloading over 1,000 trees each November. The team's support is critical to the success of this annual fundraiser.



Co-manager Michele and—of course—musicians lead our thanks and farewell to Dick at the June 19 Farmers Market.

We bid farewell to past president and Farmers Market co-manager **Dick Gongaware** as he moves to NC. Dick led us with creativity and enthusiasm during his term as president, and in all the tasks he undertook on behalf of our Optimist Club. Most recently he brought music to our lives by scheduling local talent to perform at the Farmers Market. Thank you, Dick, for all your contributions! We hope you come back to visit us often.

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna met **June 16, 2021**, *in person*. All members but one were present. Among the business conducted was the following:

- ♦ Approved to the Treasurer's proposal to have a member (& CPA) to an internal review of the Club's books, which the member has offered to do free of charge;
- ♦ Agreed to review proposed revisions to the Bylaws to discuss possible updates;
- ♦ Thanked Webmaster Gary M. for his tech support for all our Zoom meetings this past year;
- ♦ Received an update on the Club's Liberty Amendments Month activities from VP Community Susan B, including that we will be listed on promotional material as a sponsor;
- ♦ Received a redesigned info/membership form from VP Bruce for use in recruiting new members, and a reminder of the membership incentive.

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna met **July 14, 2021**, in person. Four members were present plus four by proxy. Among the business conducted was the following:

- ♦ Steve S. attended as "Director at Large", a new position pending member approval;
- ♦ Proposed changes to Bylaws were reviewed and will be sent to BoD, and on to membership for approval;
- ♦ Discussed option of holding meetings at Vienna Moose Lodge
- ♦ Discussed formation of Christmas Tree Committee so the workload can be shared.

The following items were approved by email vote after the meeting:

- ♦ Club will participate in Town's Chillin' on Church activity;
- ♦ Approved budgeted donation of \$150 to Town for Halloween Party;
- ♦ Approved budgeted expense of \$150 for annual dues to the Vienna Business Association.

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

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