



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

October 2021

Calendar

PLEASE NOTE: THE FARMERS MARKET OPERATES EVERY SATURDAY THROUGH OCTOBER. The Town of Vienna Newsletter contained an erroneous end date.

October 2— Farmers Market
8:00 am to noon
Vienna Community Center

October 9 — Farmers Market
8:00 am to noon
Vienna Community Center
Volunteers Needed! Sign-up online.

October 13 — Board Meeting
7:30 pm

October 16 — Farmers Market
8:00 am to noon
Vienna Community Center

October 20 — Installation of 2021-22 Officers and Board
Via Zoom

October 23 — Farmers Market
8:00 am to noon
Vienna Community Center

October 27 — Vienna Halloween Parade

October 30 — FINAL Farmers Market
8:00 am to noon
Vienna Community Center

News and Notes

Congratulations to **Dan Gropper, our 2020-21 Optimist of the Year!** President Tom B. made the announcement and presentation at the September 20 *al fresco* social gathering. Dan, we appreciate all you do for our Optimist Club and the kids we serve.



The **75th Annual Vienna Halloween Parade** is on, and we will be part of it! This year's theme is "The Roaring '20s". Participants will gather at 6:30 p.m. for the 7:00 parade on October 27. Contact Susan B. if you are interested in being part of the marching crew.

The Vienna Optimists lent a hand for the Town of Vienna's "Chillin' on Church" beer sales on September 17. (The hand got pretty sticky.) **VP for Community Susan B.** would like to thank all the volunteers who came out to help us earn \$1650 which includes tips. Some of these volunteers worked two shifts: **Mickey Williams, Tom Bauer, Linda Colbert, Fritz Irwin, Greta & Joe Miller, Ellen and Dex Payne, Roger Doughty, Tom Spengler, Timothy Buckley, Dick Lippert, Monica Gomez isaac, Pat Hackerson, Gary Moonan, Ed Wonder, Steve Shannon, and Rob Ruth.** In addition, we had two non-members **Sarah Spengler and Linda Benko,** who also helped out.



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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!

As we celebrate the end of a particularly eventful year, here are a few things of note to be grateful for:

- ★ We had a very successful, albeit abbreviated, **Christmas Tree fundraiser** with about 600 trees sold in a matter of 2 weeks.
- ★ We were able to hold **all of our programs**, mostly via Zoom with the exception of our CCDHH which could not be held due to the reluctance of our partner school to use zoom for these kids.
- ★ We added **five new members** with the latest being **Brian Isaac, Christina Jackson and Karen Yoon**. Please make an effort to introduce yourself to any of our new folks you haven't met at your earliest opportunity.
- ★ We **raised the amount of our scholarships and cash awards** due to a robust budget surplus.
- ★ We enjoyed **our most successful Farmer's Market ever**. Kudos to **Michele Wright**, our FM manager and to all our volunteers, especially **John Andrews, Mickey Williams and Dan Gropper** who made sure we had great sounds every Saturday. Also, a **special thanks to Gary Kelleher** who helped out with our sound team. Gary finished his volunteer "tour" with us Sept. 25th. He and his wife Edythe are on their way to their new life in North Carolina.
- ★ Speaking of a new life, our own **Rob DiRocco and wife, Laurie**, former mayor of Vienna, will soon be on their way to Japan where Rob will become CEO of a successful company. We wish them all the best with this great opportunity. Rob, we'll miss you greatly and only hope we can find someone to take over for you as Master of Ceremonies for CCDHH.
- ★ Finally, let's give it up for **Dan Gropper, this year's Optimist of the Year**. Dan has tirelessly worked in just about every capacity and always seems to find something that needs to be done that we haven't thought of. Congrats, Dan for this well-deserved honor.



We look forward with anticipation to a new year with many adventures ahead as we serve the youth of the greater Vienna area. Please join us for our kick-off meeting with the installation of the Board of Directors on October 20th, 7:30 via zoom.

Optimistically,
Tom



We offer condolences to our friend and fellow Optimist Jim Hegel on the recent passing of his father.

(Continued from page 1) News and Notes

VP for Youth Mike Fitzella writes, “**Rob DiRocco** has chaired our **Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)** program since the 2015-2016 school year, and has done an outstanding job. Unfortunately for us, Rob and his wife Laurie will be relocating to Tokyo to accept a new position in his company, so he will no longer be able to run this program.



Rob with proud contestants in 2017.

“CCDHH is one of our signature youth programs, usually conducted in January, and we need someone to step up and take this over. Rob will share any information he can, and has offered to help in the transition process.” **Please contact Mike** if you feel led to take on this opportunity.

As a member of the **Vienna Business Association** our Club has the opportunity to reach out to new residents through the VBA’s “Welcome Bag”. **VP for Media Relations (and our VBA liaison) Gary M.** includes this flyer in every bag. Do you have a new neighbor or local co-worker who might be interested in the Optimist Club? [Let us know](#) and we will get a copy of the flyer to you to share!

From the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna
WELCOME TO VIENNA!

The Optimist Club is a volunteer community service organization dedicated to helping kids in greater Vienna high, middle and elementary schools, as well as local scout troops, sports teams, other youth groups.

We encourage you to get acquainted with us and our Club activities, including the weekly Vienna Farmers' Market (May-October), the annual Optimist Christmas Tree Lot, and even maintaining the Vienna caboose! Feel free to take advantage of any or all of the coupons below:

<p>Get to Know the Optimists Attend a Meeting!</p> <p>To attend (currently on Zoom), contact: President@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org For information about events and activities, visit Optimistclubofgreatervienna.org</p>	<p>\$10.00 OFF Any Christmas Tree at the Optimist Club Christmas Tree Lot</p> <p>Located at Branch Road and Maple Avenue, Vienna</p> <p>Tree lot opens the last Saturday in November</p>
<p>\$25.00 OFF New Membership in the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna</p> <p>Have some FUN and contribute to your Vienna Community!</p>	<p>\$5.00 OFF Fresh Produce at the Vienna Farmers Market</p> <p>At the Vienna Community Center Cherry Street and Park Avenue Saturday, May-October, 8:00 a.m.—12 Noon</p> <p>To redeem, present this to an Optimist.</p>

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna met August 11, in person. Eight members were present. Among the business conducted was the following:

- Received investment report from President and Treasurer;
- Approved final version of revised By-Laws;
- Received update on reviews of Vocational and Sheryl A. Friedley Scholarships to broaden applicant pool;
- Approved member applications of Monica Gomez Isaac and Jon Marc Buffa.

Our Optimist Club Needs You!

We are starting the 2021-22 program year with several vacancies on our Board and projects needing coordinators. Please consider how you might contribute to the Club's ongoing success by taking on a program or leadership role. Contact President Tom B. for more information on opportunities.



Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna met September 8, 2021, in person and via Zoom. Six board members and one general member were present. Among the business conducted was the following:

- Approved order of 800 trees for 2021 Christmas Tree sales. President Tom B. is obtaining necessary permits and agreements for the sale;
- Approved \$2000 donation to OI Foundation to be earmarked Johns Hopkins pediatric cancer program;
- Approved \$5000 donation to DCCandlelighters (pediatric cancer support group) for holiday outing;
- Approved budgeted donations to Cedar Land School PTA, Cunningham Park Elementary School, and Cedar Lane School's Taffy Program;
- Approved participation in Town of Vienna's Chillin' on Church and Halloween Parade;
- Approved (by email vote) membership applications of Christine Jackson, Karen Yoon, and Brian Isaac, James Hegel, and Andrea Byrk.

OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2020-21

President	Tom Bauer
Secretary	<i>vacant</i>
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	<i>vacant</i>
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	<i>vacant</i>
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