



Optimistically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

May 2022

Calendar

May 4 - Zoom meeting
Sheryl Friedley Helping
Hands Awards
7 p.m. (early start time)

May 7 - Farmers Market
Vienna Community Ctr.
8 a.m. - noon

May 11 - Board meeting
7:30 p.m.

May 14 - Farmers Market
8 a.m. - noon

May 18 - In-Person Mtg
JOI Club Recognition
Vienna Moose Lodge.
Dinner at 7:30 p.m.,
presentations to follow

May 21 - Farmers Market
8 a.m. - noon

May 28 - Farmers Market
8 a.m. - noon

June 1 - In-Person Mtg.
Vienna Moose Lodge
Partners in Education
Program
7:30 p.m.

News and Notes

More than 60 students, parents, counselors, and club members attended the Zoom meeting on April 20 for the annual **T.R. Cook Youth Awards of Excellence Program** which honors juniors from Madison, Marshall, and Oakton High Schools. VP of Youth **Mike Fitzella** reports that the audience included members of the Madison Robotics Team -- live from Houston where they were competing at the World Robotics Championships -- and inspirational guest speaker **Minh Towner**, who escaped from Vietnam in 1968. After an engaging talk, Minh answered questions from attendees.

Mike encourages you to zoom in again on May 4, at 7 p.m. (earlier start time than usual), to be inspired by even younger optimists, when the Club recognize sixth graders from 11 local elementary schools for their role in the **Sheryl Friedley Helping Hands Program**. Then on May 18, we will back in person at the Vienna Moose Lodge for our JOI Club Recognition Program. Dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. but plan to arrive early to get reacquainted with Club members and meet our students, Mike adds. After dinner, each JOI Club will stage a presentation on their activities. We will also honor the Madison girls' basketball team, winners of three consecutive state championships.

Special thanks to **Tom Spengler, Mike Fitzella, Tom Fraim, George Mills, Dick Lippert, Steve Shannon, Dan Gropper, Michele Wright** and **Stephen Spengler** (Tom's brother) for timing the 100, 200, 400, 800, 1500, 3000, and 5000 meter races, and the 400 meter relays at the Special Olympics Northern Virginia Area 26 Track & Field Championship Event on April 23, says organizer **Mike Battaglia**. The day was perfect for the event, Mike says, adding that our Club has participated in this event for more than 25 years. Thank you, Mike, for your dedication to this program!



Serving the youth of greater Vienna for
more than 65 years!

Visit us:

www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org or
www.Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub



From President Tom Bauer

Greetings Fellow Optimists!

We had a great T.R. Cook awards program on April 20th with some very impressive students as usual. Several of the kids had to call in from Houston since they were participating in the national robotics competition at the same time. Speaking of T.R. Cook, most of you probably know that his house at the corner of Park St. and Church St. had a devastating fire about two weeks ago while he was sleeping. Thankfully, Vienna fire and rescue were able to rescue him before he suffered any serious consequences and he's fine. I was hoping to write him a letter from the club before Susan and I left town but still do not know his temporary address. If anyone learns what that might be, I would appreciate it if you would send him a note from the club wishing him well.

We will be holding our first in-person meeting in quite a while on May 18th at the Vienna Moose Lodge. This will be our JOOI club meeting where we get to listen to all the great projects our clubs have been doing for the betterment of our community. We will also be honoring the Madison Girls Basketball team for their incredible feat of winning 3 consecutive state championships. Since we will need to give the Lodge a headcount at least 3 or 4 days in advance, when you get the invitation, please respond promptly so there will be enough food. Cost per member will be set at \$28 for what should be an excellent dinner. The new chef at the Lodge is from the 29 Diner on Lee Highway which recently burned down. Having eaten there before, I can attest that the food is top notch. We are hoping that we can continue to hold in-person meetings going forward from that date.

Don't forget Helping Hands coming up May 4th on zoom. This is our award for 6th graders at 11 area schools for their compassion and helpfulness manifested in various ways at their respective schools. It's always nice to recognize admirable actions, hopefully encouraging our youngsters to continue on as they mature. I was disappointed that I could not assist at the Special Olympics at Episcopal High School on Saturday the 23rd of April. I've been told that all went well with good weather and adequate volunteer help from our members and students. I am grateful that Mike Battaglia continues to do such a fine job in heading this worthwhile program for us.

Susan and I will be out of pocket until May 16th while we enjoy our 50th anniversary celebration on a river cruise down the Rhine. It has been postponed twice but it looks like a go this time.

Optimistically,
Tom



Our Farmers Market is back in business on Saturday, May 7, with more great food, fabulous music, and fun company! Thanks so much to **Dick Gongaware** for lining up another wonderful season of live entertainment! Here's the May music schedule:

- May 7 - Art and Nancy Lisi (pop and folk music)
- May 14 - Fiddlin' Willie Band
- May 21 - The Splinters
- May 28 - Bill Rose and Laurie Blue

To volunteer for any Saturday, and to see our list of amazing vendors, please visit our website: www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org

**Board of Directors 2021-2022
Optimist Club of Greater Vienna**

President	Tom Bauer
Secretary, Acting	Susan Bauer
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	Tom Bauer
President Elect	HOW ABOUT YOU?
VP, Community	Christina Jackson
VP, Media Relations/ Webmaster	Gary Moonan
VP, Membership	Fritz Irwin
VP, Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Print/Social Media	Karen Yoon
Director of Membership	JonMarc Buffa
Director of Youth	Ed Wonder
Director at Large	Steve Shannon

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

SAVE THE DATE! Plan to join your fellow Club members on Wednesday, June 1, for the Partners in Education Program at the Vienna Moose Lodge, where we will be recognizing FCPS staff members who have provided outstanding support to our programs over the past several years, says **Mike Fitzella**. We will also be awarding our Vocational Scholarship, the Sheryl Friedley Scholarship for Students with Intellectual Disabilities, and presenting the Jim Houston Leadership Award to a senior member of the Madison baseball team. Thanks, Mike, for your tireless work!



In honor of baseball season, here's a quote from Yogi Berra to make you smile.

"Baseball is 90 percent mental. The other half is physical."

Play ball!