



Optimistically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna - May 2024

Calendar

May 1

Helping Hands

Awards

7PM

Vienna Community Center

May 4

Farmer's Market

Opening Day

8 AM – 12 PM.

Need volunteers for each shift and for pooch parking.

[Sign up Genius](#)

7 - 9 AM

9 - 11 AM

11 AM – 12:30 PM

Musical Guest:

Accotink Rising



May 15

Robotics Club Demos

7:30 PM

Vienna Community Center

May 25

Caboose Opening

1- 5 PM.

Need 2 volunteers for each shift.

[Sign up Genius](#)

1-3 PM

3-5 PM



News and Notes

Sheryl Friedley Helping Hands Awards - May 1st

Please join us on Wednesday, May 1 at 7:00 PM for our annual Sheryl Friedley Helping Hands awards. The meeting will be held in the Vienna Community Center auditorium. We will recognize sixth grade students from the elementary schools that we support for their contributions. For more information, please email idd@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org.



Farmer's Market Opening Day - May 4th (May the 4th Be With Us!)

Who's ready for the 2024 season of the Farmer's Market?! Starting May 4th and running every Saturday, 0800-1200, through the end of October, we have 25 seasonal vendors. You'll be able to find everything under the sun including fresh fruit and vegetables and foods and treats from Vietnam, Turkey, the Balkans, Lebanon, Mexico, Bolivia, Italy, France and America. We'll also have Seafood, Breads, Baked Goods, Nuts, Health Bars, Spreads and Dips, Pies and Quiche, Doughnuts, Fair Trade Coffee, Lemonade, Limeade and Smoothies as well as dog treats for our furry friends. Additionally, Pooch Parking will be available at the Optimist tent. And don't forget our wonderful rotation of musicians every week as well provided by your friendly neighborhood roadies! Lastly, we are partnering with local food banks that will collect our surplus produce. Please come out, enjoy, and volunteer via our sign-up genius [link](#)!

Robotics Club Demonstrations - May 15th

On Wednesday, May 15 we will hear from our JOI clubs and have demonstrations from our high school robotics teams. The meeting will start at 7:30 PM in the Vienna Community Center auditorium. This will be a great opportunity to see the accomplishments of our youth. It should be a great evening. Please plan to join us. For more information, please email idd@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org.



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

Visit us:

www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org, [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#)



Even More News and Notes

April Social - Nozzo Pazzo

Another awesome social this month. This time, we tried out [Nozzo Pazzo](#) in Vienna. Our host provided a wonderful Italian spread. We had salad, bruschetta, chicken parmigiana, pasta, and an assortment of desserts including this editor's favorite, the Baci di Sofia Loren! And, as always, we had a wonderful turnout and a blast socializing with our members. If you haven't attended a social yet, please come out and join the fun and food. Be on the lookout for the announcement for the May social!



Special Olympics 2024

For 28 years, the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna has volunteered as "timers" for the Northern Virginia Special Olympics track meet at Episcopal HS in Alexandria. This year, however, the Optimists' role changed with the introduction of a new video timing system. Instead of timing the athletes with a stopwatch, Optimist volunteers: 1) Placed runners in specific lanes according to a heat sheet, 2) Assisted in lap counting for 800- through 1,500 meter races, and 3) Assisted the video timing operator with the entry of the athlete's name and assigned number into the database.

The event was held on April 20th, which started as a cool and cloudy day, but turned beautifully sunny and warm towards the end of the meet. The Optimists were at their best as they helped accelerate the running schedule working in conjunction with the efficiency of the new video timing system.

Many thanks to the volunteers who were cheering and encouraging the runners as they rounded the track! They included **Mike Battaglia**, who has kept the Optimists active with the Special Olympics for many years, **Tom Spengler**, who managed the on-field activities, and **Stephen Spengler**, who was our track starter! Also assisting throughout the day was **Mike Fitzella, Rich Ordeman, George Mills, Dick Lippert, Mickey Williams, Sally O'Connor, Michael O'Connor, Mairead Holly, Monica Isaac, Brian Isaac, and Steve Miller!**



From President Monica Isaac

As Emily Brontë once said “May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope.” And what an amazing foundation the Optimists set during the month of April for an optimistic outlook to May. Beginning with a social gathering held at Nozzo Pazzo on April 13th, members gathered over Italian dishes and sweets, while catching up on the latest happenings including another opening of the Caboose to the public. Earlier that day, Optimists **Dan Mulville, Karen and Greg Yoon, and Brian Isaac** welcomed the community to the Caboose. Again, to the delight of many children and their families visiting, thank you to these volunteers for making this a popular attraction in Vienna.

On April 16th, Optimists hosted the T.R. Cook Youth Awards of Excellence at James Madison High School. Led by **Mike Fitzella** and keynote speaker **Steve Shannon**, over 200 attendees packed the room to recognize distinguished, local high school juniors for their excellence in academics, athletics, civics, fine arts, science, and technology. As eloquently shared by Steve, “Mr. Cook understood that his volunteer efforts would contribute to the health of our community in the future.... His dedication to our Club and our community is why we recognize him today with an award in his name.” Thanks to **Mike, Steve**, and also **Susan Bauer, Tim Buckley, Sherry Levitt, Tom Spangler, and Ed Wonder** for welcoming guests and contributing to an inspirational evening recognizing remarkable youth.

Optimism truly shined on April 13th and 20th for the Special Olympics trials and competition, held respectively at Episcopal High School in Alexandria. Optimists **Mike Battaglia, Dan Gropper, Mike Fitzella, Mickey Williams, Rich Ordeman, Tom Spangler, Steve Miller, Sally O’Connor, Dick Lippert, and Brian Isaac** supported participants with intellectual disabilities to engage in running races. Whether helping to time, organize placement, or cheer on athletes, these volunteers contributed to energy of inclusivity and community.

The month of April also welcomed our newest member, **Wendi Carroll**. Please welcome Wendi and learn more about her from her bio in this month’s news release. Kudos to **Roger Doughty** (VP of Membership) and **Dan Waltman** (Director of Membership), who both continue to do a fantastic job of recruiting and welcoming new members to the club. Well done gentlemen!

On a more somber note, we wished farewell to our dear Optimist friend **Jim Stivison**, who passed away on April 2nd. Jim was a dedicated member of the club for many years, serving as President of the club and holding a key role in making the Vienna Farmer’s Market a thriving event for the community. He will be sorely missed, but his legacy not forgotten: On April 22nd, the Board unanimously voted to commemorate his memory by naming the OCOGV Scouts Tributes after him, as Jim was also an avid supporter of local scouts and their achievements in the community.

As April 2024 comes to an end, we welcome May with opening of the 17th annual Farmer’s Market on the 4th. Many thanks to **Jim Stivison** for creating a solid foundation in years prior for this tradition to continue. Leading the way since Jim’s retirement from the Farmer’s Market Committee, **Michele Wright** has done a remarkable job of managing this enormous fundraiser for the club over the years. As we embark on another season, please join us on at 10am for the official ribbon cutting ceremony, where we will not just wish, but collectively work towards a more hopeful future in our community.

Monica

**Board of Directors 2023-2024
Optimist Club of Greater Vienna**

President	Monica Isaac
Secretary, Acting	Susan Bauer
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	Tom Bauer
VP, Community	Susan Bauer
Director, Community	Bill Comerford
VP, Media Relations	Brian Isaac
Editor/Webmaster	Brian Isaac
VP, Membership	Roger Doughty
Director, Membership	Dan Woltman
VP, Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director, 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

New Member Profile: Wendi Carroll



Wendi Carroll, originally from Pennsylvania, moved to Vienna 15 years ago. Wendi is a special education teacher at our local elementary school where she gets to work with an amazing community of teachers, students and families. She is married to her husband Conn with three amazing kiddos: Ryan, Kathryn, and Owen. Ryan is in 5th grade and is active in VYI football and basketball. Kathryn is a freshman at Marshall where she runs track, plays field hockey and is senior girl scout. Owen, her oldest, loves D&D, is finishing up his Eagle Scout project and is graduating high school in June (congratulations!); Wendi’s husband, Conn, is a writer. Conn and Wendi love to cook, listen to jazz and run around Vienna. They also have a 3-year-old Lab/Husky rescue named Poppi who loves to cuddle and keep us safe from the dangerous squirrel population :) In her downtime, Wendi enjoys reading, hiking, exploring new places, and running with friends!

Welcome to the Optimists, Wendi!