



Optimistically Speaking

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

Calendar

Ongoing

Farmer's Market

8 AM – 12 PM.

We need volunteers for each shift and for pooch parking

Shifts are:

7 - 9 AM

9 - 11 AM

11 AM - 12:30 PM

10 July

Board Meeting

7 PM (virtual)

13 July

Caboose Opening

1-5 pm

17 July

Respect for Law

Ceremony

7-8 pm

Coming in August

First Responders Awards

21 August

6:30-8:30 PM

News and Notes

Jim Houston Leadership Award

The winner of this year's Jim Houston Leadership Award is Jackson Bourdeau.

We created the Jim Houston Leadership Award in 2021 in Jim's memory to recognize a senior who embodies the characteristics that Jim liked about the Madison baseball players: one who shows leadership on a consistent basis throughout the year, and is a player of high character who does the right thing because it's the right thing to do.

In his application essay, Jackson said the following about community service:

"I believe that participating in community service can be especially transformative to young adults, providing valuable life lessons, enhancing personal growth, and fostering a sense of social responsibility. Further, it helps to bridge the gap between diverse socio-economic groups, enriches individual lives, and strengthens communities."

We will be recognizing Jackson during our "Respect for Law" program on July 17. Hope to see you there.



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

Visit us:

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



Composting Available

Composting is now available at the Vienna Farmer's Market. Please bring food waste in a certified-compostable bag or container. Guidelines for compost are shown in the graphic below.

Some interesting facts about compost include:

- Compost can hold 2-3 times its weight in water. This makes it great for retaining moisture.
- Compost contains a number of beneficial microbes that help prevent diseases. It also stimulates plant growth.
- Compost has macro and micro nutrients along with several trace minerals.



Did You Know?

During World War II, it became obvious that normal peacetime supplies of scrap metal would soon be exhausted in the manufacture of arms and munitions. The government called upon citizens to salvage 17 million tons of scrap metal. To do their part, Optimist Clubs joined forces to start the official Optimist Scrap Metal Drives. The organizations effort in this and many subsequent home-front campaigns during World War II is considered by many as the organization's highest achievement. Optimist International was awarded a special citation from the War Production Board for its collection of thousands of tons of sorely needed scrap metal and rubber.

Farmer’s Market – Ongoing through October – Help is Needed

The 2024 season of the Farmer’s Market is off to a great start and we have been blessed with some beautiful weather. The Market has a myriad of products including fresh fruit, vegetables, and foods and treats from around the globe. There is a wonderful rotation of musicians every week - provided by your friendly neighborhood roadies – and a great deal of fellowship. Please sign up if you can. Help is still needed for all shifts as well as our popular Pooch Parking service.

Partners in Education Dinner

Here are some pictures from the recent Partners in Education Dinner. Included in the pictures are Family Liaisons as well the winner for the 2024 Vocational Scholarship, George Smirnov. George is a graduate of James Madison High School and plans to attend a local trade school in the construction field. You can read additional details in the President’s letter on page 4.



From President Monica Isaac

Dear Fellow Optimists,

I concur with Roald Dahl: “If I had it my way, I’d remove January from the calendar altogether and have an extra July instead.” July is a special time indeed, where fireflies dance to serenading crickets on warm evenings, gardens produce beautiful harvests, and people enjoy much needed vacations to rest and rejuvenate with family and friends.

It’s also a time to reflect back on the completed school year, bid congratulations to the class of 2024, and thank those who supported students throughout the year. On June 6th, we recognized three amazing Family Liaison staff members representing James Madison, Oakton, and Marshall High Schools. Kristina Cunnigham, Frances Wilson, and Martha Ghahremani-Neja all received awards for the countless hours they spent serving students and their families. Specifically, their work involves bridging the communication between school and home by helping parents obtain information, ensuring children receive support facilitating their academic and social success, while leveraging their linguistic skills and cultural sensitivity to foster student inclusivity. We were proud to recognize their achievements and contributions at our annual Partners in Education event. It is because of their compassion and dedication to serving our community that we saw students like George Smirnoff, a recent James Madison High School graduate, earn this year’s OCGV Vocational Scholarship. The partnership between these caring staff and students certainly warrants congratulatory recognition.

June also saw another successful month at the Vienna Optimists’ Farmers Market with increased attendance from the community despite some scorching hot temperatures. The steady pace of patrons attending to purchase their weekly favorites, listen to live music, and enjoy the outdoors, continues to be made possible by volunteers who set-up, oversee, and breakdown at the market. Many thanks to those at and behind the scenes who make this a well-organized, efficient, and safe environment for all to enjoy.

If you are looking for fun opportunities to gather, please mark your calendars and join us on July 17th when we will hold our annual Respect for Law on July 17th event at the Vienna Police Department. Please be sure to RSVP via the Signup Genius email sent out no later than July 13th. Additionally, the club volunteered to support the Town of Vienna with Chillin’ on Church on July 19th. Multiple participants are needed, so please consider volunteering a few hours for this very fun event.

Finally, a note about the next social. While we didn’t hold one in June due to extreme temperatures, we are going to try again for July with an outdoor event. Stay tuned for details via email. Until then, please have a wonderful 4th of July holiday and enjoy the rest of the month.

Monica

**Board of Directors 2024-2025
Optimist Club of Greater Vienna**

President	Monica Gomez Isaac
Secretary (acting)	Susan Bauer (acting)
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	Tom Bauer
VP, Community	Susan Bauer
Director, Community	Bill Comerford
VP, Digital Communications	Brian Isaac
Director, Digital Communications	Jacque Brewer
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