



# Optimistically Speaking

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

## Calendar

### Ongoing

#### Farmer's Market

Saturdays  
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

#### Board Meeting

2 October  
7 PM (virtual)

#### Vienna Oktoberfest

5 October  
11am - 7pm

#### October Members Social

6 October at 4pm  
Foster's Grille  
138-A West Maple Ave  
Vienna

#### Halloween Parade

23 October  
7pm

## News and Notes

### October Members Social

Please plan to join us for a combined social and information session on Sunday, October 6 at Foster's Grille on Maple Avenue in Vienna. The Social starts at 4pm. In addition to sharing some delicious food, we will be sharing important information about all the activities and programs sponsored by our club in support of our youth and the greater Vienna community. This meeting is relevant for all current and prospective members. Be on the lookout for the emailed invitation. We will need your RSVP so we can have an accurate headcount. Hope to see you there!



### Christmas is Coming!

Christmas tree season is fast approaching! Optimist Tom Bauer is in the process of obtaining all necessary approvals and is making good progress. This year we will have 825 trees to sell and we will have stands to sell as well. We have discussed having a representative group of trees displayed on spikes this year and Tom would like some feedback and/or suggestions on that.

Tom will be contacting team captains soon and getting our sales teams together. We are looking forward to another successful year and hope members will join in making light work of this important project!



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

Visit us:

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



### **First Responders Award Ceremony and Dinner**

The Optimist's First Responder Awards dinner was held at the Vienna Community Center on September 11th, a fitting day to honor the men and women who are the first to respond when disaster strikes. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department's Chief Jim Morris proudly shared why he chose Firefighter/EMT Sebastian Herbolsheimer to receive the award. Sebastian's many hours of service and accomplishments made him a worthy recipient. Paramedic Stephanie Feinberg was Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department's choice to receive the award. Unfortunately, Stephanie was unable to attend, but Fire Chief Shawn Stokes accepted for her and was happy to honor Stephanie with this award because of the many hours she dedicated to training, attending seminars, and increasing her knowledge so she can train new staff. Chief Stokes will present the award to Stephanie at an awards ceremony at the Fire Department.

Pictures are below (thank you Brian Isaac!). From left to right: Chief John Morrison, Firefighter/EMT Sebastian Herbolsheimer, and Susan Bauer; Monica Isaac and Tom Bauer; and Shawn Stokes (accepting for paramedic Stephanie Feinberg) and Susan Bauer.



### **Boy Scout Troop 1539 Court of Honor**

Optimist Bill Comerford attended Troop 1539's Court of Honor in September. The Scouts enjoyed having Bill share thoughts on how Scouting influenced him over his entire life. The Troop is appreciative of all the support from the Greater Vienna Optimists!



## **New Member Spotlight – Steve Coloney**

This month Greater Vienna Optimists welcome new member Steve Coloney. Steve shared a few words about himself and how he met the group here.

“I claim Kansas as the place that I’m from. My Dad was a pilot in the US Air Force, so I moved around a bit when I was growing up. I’ve lived in Oklahoma, Japan, Tennessee, Kansas (4 times), and Indiana. I graduated from Kansas State University, and then, I joined the US Air Force. I went on to live in Ohio, California, Alaska, and lastly, Virginia. I left the Air Force in 1988, and started a job that I’m still in (36 years and counting). I work in the computing field – as a Configuration Manager for our Financial Products (both Federal Government agencies, and State and Local Governments). My hobbies are going for walks and reading. I ran into the Optimist Club team last year on a Saturday, when I was parked near the fenced-in dumpster, where the sawhorses are stored. When noon time came around, I helped to put them away. I had a nice time with a good group of guys.”

Welcome Steve!

## **New Shed at Farmers Market**

Given the poor state of the storage shed used for Farmers Market materials, the Greater Vienna Optimist Club Board approved the purchase of a replacement last month. Thanks to Optimists Dan Gropper, Tom Spangler, John Andrews, Mickey Williams, Mike Fitzella, and Brian Isaac for collectively assembling and transporting the new shed. The picture below is of a few of the volunteers as they got the shed in place at the Vienna Community Center.



## **Volunteer Needed**

OGCV is actively recruiting for an OGCV Essay Contest Coordinator to replace Dan Irvine, who has graciously overseen this effort for several years and is seeking to pass on the torch. The duty is not difficult or overly time consuming. See the President’s Message on page 4 for details.

**From President Monica Isaac**

*Dear Optimists,*

*Autumn is here, with cooler temperatures, falling leaves, and shorter days. With this change, our club welcomes new members, resources, and opportunities to grow for a brighter, more sustainable future. A warm welcome to both Steve Connolly and Jorge Morazanni, and who have been a great help at the Farmer's Market.*

*New to the club is a replacement storage shed to house all our farmer's market equipment. A big thanks to Dan Gropper, Tom Spangler, John Andrews, Mickey Williams, Mike Fitzella, and Brian Isaac for collectively assembling and transporting the new shed to make room for all our equipment. Other resources we have acquired include an additional tent and soon-to-come marketing materials, where our team of market volunteers can showcase our efforts to the public and help recruit new members. Our new market barricade signage helps inform patrons of Town rules on hours of operation and health codes we are obligated to uphold in our Memorandum of Understanding. Our adoption of digital processing for vendors to participate in the market, as well as for members to pay their dues, has made the club's operations more efficient for those who voluntarily spend countless hours overseeing the club behind the scenes. While these changes are new and may seem inconvenient or trivial, they are all important modernization efforts necessary to 1) ensure we don't burn out our existing members; 2) motivate prospective members to join while respecting their work-life balance routines; and 3) secure the viability of our club for years to come.*

*The board and I have worked hard to implement these strategic improvements to make the club more appealing to the next generation of incoming members. For this, we ask you for your patience and understanding. This also includes another request for a OCGV Essay Contest Coordinator to replace Dan Irvine, who oversaw this effort for several years. Without someone to take his place, we will not be able to facilitate scholarships for talented high school youth counting on us. This activity involves sending and reading content via email, with a lead volunteer ready to replace Dan no later than November 15th . If you, or someone you know would be interested in supporting this virtual volunteer opportunity, please reach out directly to [info@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org](mailto:info@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org).*

*Many thanks,*

*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*