



# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna  
May 2019

## Calendar

**May 1**

Sheryl A. Friedley Helping Hands Awards  
**Westwood Country Club**  
800 Maple Avenue West, Vienna  
6:15 pm to 8:30 pm

**May 4**

**Farmers Market Opening Day!!**  
Vienna Community Center  
8:00 a.m. to noon

**May 8**

**Board Meeting**  
7:00 pm — Bauers' Home, Vienna

**May 11**

**Farmers Market**  
8:00 a.m. to noon

**May 12**  
**Mothers' Day**



**May 15**

**JOI Clubs Celebration Dinner**  
**Vienna American Legion Hall**  
6:45 pm to 9:00 pm

**May 18**

**Farmers Market**  
8:00 a.m. to noon

**May 22**

**"Fourth Wednesday" dinner delivery**  
Culmore Teen Center; Team B (Bauers, Captains)

## News and Notes

Our Calendar overfloweth! May is a busy month—so busy that some of the good stuff happened even before we could get the Newsletter out (e.g., our annual Sheryl A. Friedley Helping Hands Awards). But there is plenty more to do as we “press on to the greater achievements of the future.”



School Board Member Pat Hynes spoke at our Sheryl A. Friedley Helping Hands Awards banquet on May 1.



The bell has rung and the **Vienna Farmers Market is OPEN for the season!** With the **new team staffing plan** (much like how we operate for the Christmas tree lot) there should be fewer last minute calls for volunteers at the Market. That is **if—and only if—each of us steps up** when our team is on the calendar. Sign up for shifts on the [Club's Website](#). If you don't know your Team Captain, contact Tom Spengler and he will connect you to with the right person.

More Calendar!!

**May 25**  
**Farmers Market**  
8:00 a.m. to noon

**May 24, 25, 26**  
**Caboose Open**  
ViVa! Vienna! Weekend  
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

**May 26**  
**Memorial Day**



We now sponsor **seven JOI Clubs at local schools** (that's “Junior Optimists International”). Our **May 15 dinner meeting celebrates** the great work these Clubs do in their schools and the community. Come to the **Vienna American Legion** to hear from the Club members themselves and show our support for their efforts.

It's a big month for the **Caboose**, too! Vienna's **annual ViVa! Vienna! Festival over Memorial Day weekend** means three consecutive days of open doors at the beloved Caboose—and three consecutive days of Optimism outreach opportunities! *We need volunteer conductors for every two hour shift on each of the three days!* Please sign up through [our website](#), or contact Dan Mulville.



**Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna for over 60 Years!**

Visit us at [www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org](http://www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org)  
We're on Facebook! [Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub)



# From the President

Dear Fellow Optimists,

April was a very busy online month! If you haven't looked at our new and improved ClubUX website you are in for a treat. Our **webmaster Gary Moonan** has been hard at work to get everything switched over to this website.



A snapshot of our new webpage shows its fresh, easy-to-navigate look. Use it to sign up for Farmers Market and Caboose shifts!

Sign Up Genius is now the preferred way to *rsvp* for meetings, and to volunteer for the Caboose, Farmers Market and Tree Lot. Gary has added icons to represent the last three so it's a cinch to do. By the way, the caboose will be open all three days of VIVA VIENNA on Memorial Day weekend, so take advantage of that caboose icon to sign up for a slot.

Sign Up Genius has been used to set up teams for the Farmers Market which is a great idea so everyone knows when it is their turn to volunteer and can plan accordingly. I think it works out to 4 or 5 times total from May through October and that's just for 3 hours of opening or closing and 2 hours if you work the middle shift. Our Farmers Market and Trees Sales are how we raise funds for all of our youth programs and donations so all of us need to volunteer. Many hands, etc.

RSVP's are also now being done by Sign Up Genius or as Gary calls it *SUG*. Please use it and pay attention to the date that I need your RSVP. It is necessary for the venue to know for planning the menu.

Our SurveyMonkey vote for the Slate of Officers for the Board of Directors passed with a majority of yes votes with one no. **Congratulations to our 2019/2020 Board of Directors.**

We had a great NOW social on May 1 at Café Amouri, catered by Skorprios. **Lenore Goldberg**, mother of Mia Goldberg, one of our Oratorical Contest winners, decided to join our club and we have another couple planning to join. Not bad for a NOW meeting!

Don't forget the **\$30 Teacher incentive and the Welcome Back incentive** for former members. During our 100 year celebration, former members can rejoin for \$30, with the \$15 registration fee waived.

**Mike Battaglia** would like to thank all the Optimist volunteers who made the trek to Episcopal High School for the Special Olympics Track and Field event on April 27. It was a breezy day but the kids were inspiring as always which makes volunteering for this



George Mills and Dick Lippert were among the Optimists & Friends timing track events for Special Olympics.



Top winners at the TR Cook Youth of Excellence Awards, with President Susan Bauer and VP for Youth Mike Fitzella. High school juniors are recognized for their achievements in Academics, Citizenship, Fine & Performing Arts, Science, Sports, and Technology. *Photo courtesy of Cyndi Lee Photography.*

event so rewarding!

The **TR Cook Youth of Excellence Awards** meeting was very well attended by Optimists who greeted close to 300 students and parents. Thanks to **Mike Fitzella** for his work in organizing the program with the recommendations from the school counselors. Mike thinks of everything from procuring a pianist and a guest speaker to reserving Madison's Warhawk Hall (long in advance!) and getting the programs printed. **Michael Amouri**, our guest speaker, gave his personal story of how his idea to open a coffee shop in Vienna came to fruition. His vision for *Caffe Amouri* was not just a coffee shop but a meeting place that was all about Community, Sustainability, and Quality. By keeping his focus on those goals and not the bottom line, he has created a nationally recognized award winning coffee shop that is all about giving back to the community.

May 1 was the **23<sup>rd</sup> Sheryl A. Friedley Helping Hands Awards** dinner at Westwood Country Club. **Pat Hackerson and Laurie Cole** did another fantastic job organizing the awards and dinner for 6th graders from the 11 elementary schools we serve. The choice of Pat Hynes, one of our school board members, as guest speaker was spot on and she gave our Optimist Club a nice shout out! Each student had a nice flower corsage or boutonniere which is such a nice detail that Pat and Laurie do to make the SFHH so special for the students.

The **CapVa District meeting** was the first weekend in May in Richmond. Our two Oratorical winners gave their speeches on Saturday in the afternoon. While they did not place in the competition they really "upped their game" and performed very well.

I hope to see many of you at the **JOI Club's Celebration dinner on May 15<sup>th</sup>** at the Vienna Legion at 6:45. **RSVP with SUG.** Mark your calendars and bring a friend.

*Madame President, Susan*

*In Memory of*

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of longtime Optimist Club member Jack Barbee, who passed away April 3, 2019.

Our deepest sympathies are also with Optimist Jim Wilson on the passing of his wife Lillian, on April 10, 2019. Lillian was a frequent and welcome guest at many Optimist events.

## April 2019 Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on April 10 with eight members present plus two by proxy. Among the highlights of the meeting were:

- Approval to disburse budgeted funds to Madison All-Night Grad Party, Kilmer Center, and Oratorical Contest Expenses.
- Approval in principle to use existing funds from the Childhood Cancer Campaign to support DC Lamplighters, a group that hosts parties for children with cancer. Specifics will be presented at the May Board Meeting.
- Approval to sponsor a JOI Club at Thoreau Middle School.
- Report from the Farmers Market Committee that the agreement with the Town has been signed; some terms, including those regarding signs, are more restrictive.
- Announcement that the Fairfax American Legion property has been sold and will be undergoing renovations.

## The 21st Century is Calling; Please Answer!



Meeting planning now nearly always requires that we get a firm count of the number of people attending an event. This helps our budget, prevents wasted food, and ensures right-sized room space.

Fortunately, technology makes collecting and tallying RSVPs easy. Sign Up Genius —slogan: “Group Organizing Made Easy”—takes your rsvp to an event and gives the meeting organizer a running tally of attendees. It is great not to have to track dozens of emails to know who is coming to a meeting! SignUp Genius also works for recurring events, like volunteer shifts at the Farmers Market or the Caboose. Don’t worry if you have to change your response—you can do that with no problem. And SUG will automatically send you a reminder of the upcoming event.

Please accept the SignUp Genius email when it arrives and use it to record your rsvp.

### OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2018-19

President	Susan Bauer
Secretary	Kathy Cutri
Treasurer	Tom Bauer
Immediate Past President	Michele Wright
President Elect	<i>open</i>
Vice President of Community	<i>open</i>
Vice President of Finance	Dick Lippert
Vice President of Media Relations/Webmaster	Gary Moonan
Vice President of Membership	Joe Miller
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	Bruce Lauther/Anna Ryjik
Director of Social Media	Steven Rabil
Director of Print Media	Bruce Lauther
Director of Membership	Lauren Wagner
Director of Youth	Ed Wonder
Director of Finance	<i>open</i>

### *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*