



Optimistically Speaking

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

News and Notes

Calendar

Ongoing

Farmer's Market

8 AM – 12 PM.
We need volunteers for each shift and to assist with pooch parking

Shifts are:
7 - 9 AM
9 - 11 AM
11 AM - 12:30 PM

7 August

Board Meeting
7 PM (virtual)

Coming in September

First Responders Awards
18 September
6:30-8:30 PM
Location TBA

Coming in October

Caboose Opening
5 October

Respect for the Law Program

This year's Jim Houston Leadership Award winner, Jackson Bourdeau, was recognized at the Respect for the Law Program on July 17. Jackson will be attending Marymount University in the fall.

Nominees Sergeant Connor Tracy from the Vienna Police and PFC Pierre Bidja Abossolo from the Fairfax County Police were honored during the program. Pictures of some of the law enforcement officers and of the Bourdeau family are attached below.



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

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Eagle Scout Project at Botanical Gardens

Many OCGVA members no doubt take delight in walking the grounds of Meadowlark Botanical Gardens to enjoy its fantastic, four-season displays of flowers and vegetation, along with the turtles, koi, and ducks at the pond. Now you can test out a new bridge, built by Todd L. of Boy Scout Troop 987, sponsored by Emmanuel Lutheran Church. The bridge is Todd's Eagle Scout project. The Optimist Club made a financial contribution to the project to help Todd build the bridge this past May-June. This is part of the OCGVA engagement with local scout troops and recognizes the accomplishment that Eagle and Gold Scout awards represent. The bridge is located in the Potomac Valley section of the gardens. We look forward to working with this troop, and the two other Boy Scout troops to which we made financial contributions in honor of their Eagle Scout awardees this past year. We enjoy the partnership AND the scout troops turn out in numbers to help with the Christmas Tree lot in December!! Best of luck to Todd, and well done.



Did You Know?

The Optimist Oratorical and Essay Contests give youngsters the chance to speak to the world. More than \$150,000 in college scholarships funded by the Optimist International Foundations is awarded annually from the Oratorical program alone.

First conducted in 1928, the Oratorical Contest is a popular Optimist International Program. Nearly 2,000 clubs participate in this program each year. The winners at the Club level receive medallions and Zone winners receive a plaque. Districts have the opportunity to provide a first-place scholarship of \$2,500, a second-place scholarship of \$1,500, and a third-place scholarship of \$1,000.

You can read more about this program online at <https://www.optimist.org/member/scholarships4.cfm>

From President Monica Isaac

Dear Fellow Optimists,

Alexander Graham Bell said, "Before anything else, preparation is the key to success." These words are especially true as students prepare for their return to school. After a summer of rest and recharge, we wish all students a successful year of new opportunities, lessons, and friendships. This includes Jackson Bourdeau, a recent high school graduate who was awarded the Jim Houston Leadership award. Jackson was recognized by Jim's daughter, Ashlie Strackbein, for his leadership accomplishments with a scholarship to be used towards his college education at Marymount University this fall. We wish Jackson the very best and thank Jim's family for continuing this memorial tribute to Jim.

As summer comes to an end and children prepare for a new school year, the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna will continue to "bring out the best in children" by making their safety and well-being a top priority. In this effort, we recognized two members of our community who go above and beyond to keep children and others safe: PFC Pierre Bidja Abossolo (Fairfax Police Department) and SGT Conor Tracy (Vienna Police Department). Both law enforcement officers were recognized on July 17th as recipients of the OCGV's Respect for Law award at the Vienna Police Station. The evening provided an opportunity for club members to hear firsthand accounts from the awardees' superiors on how they promote safety in our community. Many thanks to these officers for their outstanding work. It is our honor to recognize and work with them and their colleagues as partners in prioritizing child safety.

As we look ahead in the coming weeks, here are a few updates: There are 12 weeks remaining at the farmers market and we continue to receive applications for new vendors. Foot traffic remains steady and busy despite scorching temperatures, indicative of the market's popularity. Thanks to all who have helped and continue to make this a solid fundraiser now and for years to come.

The 1st Responders event will be held in September with additional details to be announced via a Signup Genius email. Stay tuned.

Finally, take an opportunity to enjoy the final days of summer. We will be preparing for a slew of fall and winter activities before you know it. Until then, stay cool and safe.

Monica

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

President	Monica Gomez Isaac
Secretary (acting)	Susan Bauer (acting)
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Immediate Past President	Tom Bauer
VP, Community	Susan Bauer
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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