



Optimistically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna – September/October 2026

News and Notes

Calendar

Board Meeting

16 September 2026
7 PM (virtual)

Farmers Market

Starts 2 May
through October
Saturdays 8-12
Volunteers Needed!

Social with Vienna Art Society

3 October 2026
4-7 PM
243 Church St NW
Suite 100LL

The Social You Don't Want to Miss

On 3 October, the Vienna Arts Society and the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna will come together for a special evening of friendship, creativity, and community spirit. Guests will enjoy wine, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and dessert while connecting with fellow members and celebrating the talents and interests that bring our organizations together. It promises to be a relaxed and enjoyable opportunity to meet new friends, catch up with familiar faces, and share in the vibrant community spirit of Vienna. Bring a friend interested in joining the Optimists!

A highlight of the evening will be a joint art project, giving members of both organizations the chance to collaborate and create something together. No skills are needed! Whether you consider yourself an artist or simply enjoy being creative, everyone will have an opportunity to participate. With good food, great company, and a shared creative experience, this gathering is sure to be a memorable celebration of collaboration and community.

Details: 3 October 2026, 4-7 pm, 243 Church Street NW, Vienna – Windover Building, Suite 100LL



But I just want to volunteer!



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

Visit us:

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



Club BBQ Social

The Vienna Optimists gathered on July 12 for a fun and relaxing BBQ social at the home of Wendi and Conn Carroll. Members and their families enjoyed delicious food, good conversation, and plenty of laughter as everyone came together to strengthen friendships and celebrate the spirit of fellowship that makes the club special. It was a wonderful afternoon of food, friendship, and community, with sincere thanks to Wendi and Conn for graciously hosting this pot-luck get-together.



Fall Native Plant Sale

The Vienna Community Center will host the Fall Native Plant Sale on Saturday, 19 September from 8 AM-12PM. The plant sale is sponsored by the Town of Vienna Conservation and Sustainability Commission. You can visit the plant sale while you volunteer at the Optimists Farmers Market!

Scholarship Awards Presented

Congratulations to Will Odell and James Bollini, winners of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna's scholarships. James received the Jim Houston Leadership Scholarship, provided for a Madison High School senior who is a member of its baseball team and is a leader and a player of high character. Will received the Career and Technical Education Scholarship supporting a local student pursuing workforce training.



Some Groups Your Membership Helped

Second Story \$2000
 Jim Houston Scholarship \$1500
 Deaf/Hard of Hearing Scholarship \$1200
 Second Story \$2000

Special Olympics \$3000
 Oakton Robotics Club \$1000
 School Lunches \$300
 Junior Optimists \$1020

CTE Scholarship \$1500

THANK YOU!

President Wendi Carroll

Dear Fellow Optimists,

What a wonderful summer it has been for the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna! One of the biggest changes we've made this year is taking our awards and scholarships out of the traditional setting and bringing them into the community—literally!

Instead of weekday evening dinners at the Community Center, we're celebrating our amazing young people at the Farmers Market, where friends, families, neighbors, and market-goers can join in the fun. It's a wonderful way to showcase what the Optimist Club does and, most importantly, to let our honorees and their families feel the love and support of the community that has helped shape them.

Celebrating Our Amazing Youth

So far this season, we've had the pleasure of honoring some truly outstanding young people:

Will O'Dell — recipient of our **Career and Technical Education Scholarship**, heading to Universal Technical Institute in Florida.

James "Jimmy" Bollini — recipient of the **James Houston Leadership Scholarship**, heading to Salisbury University.

We also celebrated the incredibly talented members of the **Clementine String Quartet** before many of them headed off to college: Lucy Broadbent, 1st Violin — BYU Provo; Leanna Leung, 2nd Violin — University of Pittsburgh; James Chung, Substitute 2nd Violin — UVA; Tess Reynolds, Viola — UVA; and, James Broadbent, Cello — Madison High School Junior. We are so proud of all of these young people and excited to see where their talents, hard work, and optimism take them next!

And There's More to Come!

The celebration doesn't stop here. Later this season, we'll be honoring some of the incredible adults and organizations who make Greater Vienna such a special place to live, including recipients of our **Respect for Law, First Responder, and Partners in Education** awards. Bringing these celebrations into the Farmers Market has reminded us of something important: **Optimism is meant to be shared!** We love celebrating the people who make our community stronger—and we love doing it together.

So keep an eye out, come say hello, and join us at the Farmers Market as we continue to celebrate, support, and champion the people who make Greater Vienna shine!

With Optimism,

Wendi Carroll

President, Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

Socials Coming Up!

Keep an eye on your emails for notifications of club socials coming in the next few months. Cost is covered in your membership — all you need to do is sign up and show up at the appointed time and place. We would love to see you!

Board of Directors 2025-2026 Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

President	Wendi Carroll
Secretary	Jacque Brewer
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	
VP, Community	Kara Ariail
VP, Digital Communications	Brian Isaac
Director, Newsletter	Jacque Brewer
VP, Membership	Dan Woltman
VP, Youth	VACANT

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