

July 31, 2017

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The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

Upcoming

August

8/02: Arlington's Greatest Scandal -- E. Wade Ball (Arlington's County Treasurer who went to jail). Past Arlington County Treasurer and fellow Optimist Frank O'Leary will give us the inside scoop. Please join us -- this is the only Optimist Club event during August. WGCC at 12:15.

8/16: No luncheon.

8/23: No Meet 'n' Greet.

September

9/06: Homeward Trails. Sue Bell, founder and Executive Director of Homeward Trails, will discuss the phenomenal success of this animal rescue



July

7/05: Christian Dorsey, Member Arlington County Board. Elected to the Board in 2015, Mr. Dorsey serves as one of three Arlington commissioners of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. He stressed that a major focus of the Board is to bring more commercial employers to the county.



Thank you, Mark Zetlin, for inviting him to speak to us.

organization (over 21,000 animals since its founding in 2001). Thank you, Leigh Hurley, for arranging for this speaker. In addition, it is expected that Shandra Niswander, Director of Development for Arlington Thrive, Inc. will be inducted. Thank you, Sue Gartner, for sponsoring Shandra. WGCC at 12:15.

9/20: Ken Williams, Chaplain (Col.), Senior Military Fellow, National Defense University. A trained executive leadership coach, Col. Williams has written articles on team building and ethics training. Thank you Leigh Hurley, for this speaker. WGCC 12:15.

7/19: Coaches Night. Once again, John Karinshak chaired this annual tribute to the coaches of the youth sporting teams supported by our Club. Tricia O'Hara provides the following comprehensive report on the evening:

The Arlington Optimist Club (AOC) held its annual Coaches Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at Thirsty Bernie's Sports Bar. It was a full house with members, guests, and coaches representing Arlington Youth Hockey; Arlington Babe Ruth Baseball - Cal Ripken Division; Arlington "Acorns" Combined Junior Rifle Team; Arlington Ultimate Frisbee; and the Arlington Soccer Club. AOC's featured guest speaker was Heather Coccozza, past Chair, and member of the Arlington Sports Commission.

Coaches:

James Ryan, and Nick Hinkley; Youth Hockey, and Yorktown Hockey
Phil Juliano; Arlington Babe Ruth Baseball-Cal Ripkin Division
Doug Lamb; Arlington "Acorns" Combined Junior Rifle Team
Dan Juengst, and Elsie Jackson, Youth Ultimate League of Arlington, Arlington Ultimate Frisbee
Michael Simek, Arlington Soccer Club

The Arlington youth sports coaches expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the continued support received over the years from the Arlington Optimist Club.

James Ryan with Arlington Youth Hockey (AYH) said “Ice time is our primary expense and to be able to compete, the optimists' funding has helped us build more than a team.... they have helped us build a program!” their funding also helps us allow players who don't have the resources to play the game. All of the hockey programs will continue to grow because more players are joining and staying in the game. Getting to play games at the place where the Caps practice is great experience for the players. “This would not be possible without the Optimists' funding so we are very thankful for your contributions.”

Phil Juliano with Arlington Babe Ruth (ABR) said “I am happy to be here with the Optimist Club....to celebrate the youth of Arlington. I first heard about the Optimist Club about 16 years ago as I attended my first ABR coaches meeting and 16 years later the Optimist Club continues to support ABR in providing youth a real, fun, and affordable baseball experience.” Juliano has witnessed many former players turn into great young men. “There is a special feeling when you hear about former players doing it right.” Three former players ended their high school careers and were recently recognized as: Conference Player of the Year, and an all MET selection; Arlington Baseball Sportsman of the Year; and, one as the Male High School Student-Athlete of the Year. Juliano thanked the Optimist Club for their support, concluding with “....you have been a true friend to



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Arlington Babe Ruth.”

Dan Juengst, Commissioner, Youth Ultimate League of Arlington (YULA) and Ultimate Frisbee thanked the Optimist Club for their support and presented the members with some interesting facts. Ultimate Frisbee is one of the fastest growing sports in the world with over seven million players in 80 countries. Juengst said “over 400 Arlington middle schoolers and high schoolers play Ultimate Frisbee in programs organized by YULA.

Guest speaker, Heather Coccozza has been a member of the Arlington Sports Commission since 2013, and recently completed her term as Chair of the Sports Commission. The Sports Commission advises the County Board and makes recommendations on the adequacy and efficiency of sports programs and facilities.



John Karinshack, guest speaker Heather Coccozza, and Mark Zetlin. (Photo provided by Tricia O'Hara).

Heather presented several interesting facts about ‘Things you MAY or MAY NOT know’ about in Arlington County

for the Sports Community.

You MAY know that the County has approved funding to replace the grass with artificial turf on the Gunston Park Diamond Athletic Field. The bases and pitching mound will be removable so that baseball and soccer can also use the field. And, the Arlington YMCA as we know it, including the Tennis & Squash Center, will be going away.

You MAY NOT know that specific neighborhoods are lobbying to have certain softball fields removed from Arlington. Also, Wakefield and W&L have outdoor restroom facilities in the winter, but Yorktown currently does not. The good news is that new batting cages are being installed at Gunston Park, Stratford Park and Barcroft Park.



JB Whitlow congratulates hockey stick auction winner. (Photo provided by Tricia O'Hara).

The evening ended with a 50/50 raffle: door prizes consisting of gift certificates from local restaurants, and grocery stores; a car dealership donated a complete vehicle detail; and an Arlington author even donated a signed copy of a regional cookbook. The evening was topped with an auction item donated by the Capitals--- a Limited Edition Goalie Hockey Stick signed by the team.

6/28: Meet 'n' Greet . A good time was had by all, especially with Sue Gartner's guest, Shandra Niswander, indicating that she is applying to join our Club. Way to go, Sue! See photo, below:



Left to Right: Jeff Englander, Peter Wehmann, Shandra Niswander (Sue's guest), Sue Gartner, Tricia O'Hara, Mark Zetlin, and Erin Mendenhall. (Photo provided by Tricia O'Hara).

