

The Optimist Monthly

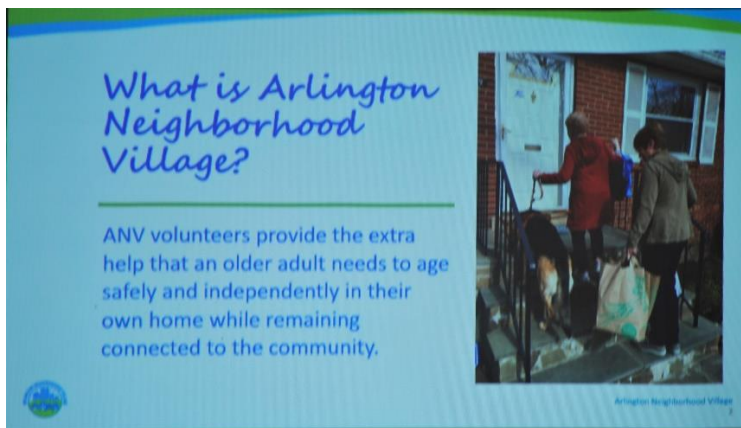
Friend of Youth

February 27, 2023



February

2/01: Wendy Zenker, Arlington Neighborhood Village.



As Wendy explained, the Arlington Neighborhood Village has been a non-profit since 2014 and currently provides rides and other services for over 300 Arlingtonians aged 58 to 98 with the assistance of over 200 volunteers. Thank you, Frank O'Leary, for inviting her.

02/15: Chief Charles Penn of the Arlington Police Department. Andreas Baltatzis provides the following report: "Police Chief Andy Penn joined the Optimists at our most recent luncheon. Chief Penn shared his insights from over 30 years on the Arlington police force and his goals as Chief of Police. Chief Penn outlined his priorities for the Arlington County Police as: (1) Crime Prevention & Control, (2) Community Engagement, (3) Transportation Safety, and (4) Employee Wellness and Safety. For Transportation Safety, Chief Penn highlighted the need

for education over enforcement and the coming introduction of speeding cameras in school zones. For Employee Well-being, Chief Penn highlighted the department's commitment to employee physical and mental health. Arlington



County's main challenge is the continued shortage in police officers due to the tight labor market, competition among jurisdictions, and Arlington's refusal to lower the police force's high standards for new recruits. At the conclusion of Chief Andy Penn's remarks, on behalf of the Club, Erica Burson presented him with 14 hand-written thank-you notes sharing our thanks with the new police academy graduates (see photo left,

provided by Jeff Englander)". Erica adds that "There was one thank-you note for each new officer who joined the force at the end of 2022. The blank notes were circulated at the first luncheon in January. All Optimists attending signed and/or added words of encouragement to each note. Thanking new police officers is one more part of our Club's Respect for Law program. Signing and sending notes for new officers who have just finished their police academy training can be turned into an annual tradition". Thank you, Erica, for this wonderful initiative, and thank you, Frank O'Leary, for inviting Chief Penn.

02/22: Meet & Greet at Texas Jack's. Smaller than usual attendance and no photo. These events are primarily for recruitment of new members. Please try to join these free receptions and bring a guest who is a prospective member.

March – June

03/01: Army History Museum by Ted Edwards. Thank you, Richard Knight, for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

03/15: Arlington a Century Ago by Peter Penczer. Thank you, **Frank O'Leary,** for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

03/22: Meet & Greet at Texas Jack's. 5:30 to 7:00.

04/05: Elections in Arlington by Scott McGeary. Thank you, **Frank O'Leary,** for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

04/19: What's New on the Pike by Kim Klinger. Thank you, **Frank O'Leary,** for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

04/26: Meet & Greet at Texas Jack's. 5:30 to 7:00.

05/03: Save Our History! by Tom Dickinson. Thank you, **Frank O'Leary,** for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

05/17: Tales of the Treasurer's Office by Kevin Appel . Thank you, **Frank O'Leary,** for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

05/24: Meet & Greet at Texas Jack's. 5:30 to 7:00.

06/07: Paralyzed Veterans. The price they pay for their service by Susan Prokop.

President's Message by **Andreas Baltatzis**

Dear Optimists,

We had two great programs in February. First, we were joined by Wendy Zenker, Executive Director of Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV). ANV uses volunteers to fill gaps in assistance for seniors wanting to stay in their own homes as they age. ANV members pay a yearly fee which covers a portion of ANV's operating expenses and receive services including: errands, transportation, friendly visits, daily check-ins,



household help, technology assistance, and many social gatherings and opportunities for meaningful connection.

In our second meeting, we were joined by Arlington Police Chief Andy Penn. Chief Penn shared his vision for the police force and the challenges it faces. We thanked Chief Penn for the wonderful work the Arlington Police do in the community.

Please share these great experiences with others and invite guests to join us. Also keep in mind any ideas for speakers.

Optimistically yours,
Andreas

Optimists Enjoying Valentine's Day

We have received the following photos submitted by our members enjoying Valentine's Day events:



Andreas & Nikki Baltatzis
enjoying the game.



Mark & Debbie Whinton at a church
Valentine's Day dinner.



Erin Mendenhall showing her Valentine's earrings.



Whiz & Jackie Mountain Forever Young!



mw: 145

**Optimist Club of Arlington 16-005;
Mid-Atlantic Region 3;
Capital- Virginia District 16;
Northern Virginia Zone 4;
www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org**