



Optimist Club
of Greater Vienna



"Friends of Youth, Bringing Out the Best in Kids"

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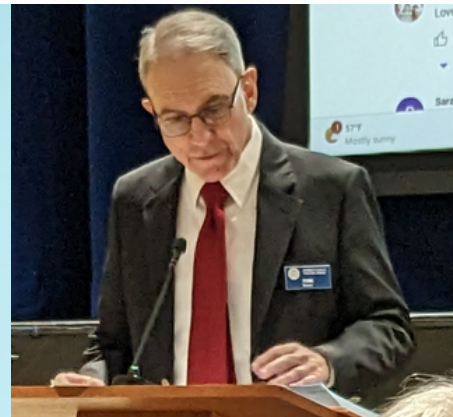
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Contest for the Deaf
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A Passing of the Torch: Presidential Transition

Oh, what a meaningful journey it has been with Tom Bauer at the helm of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna for the last three incredible years! As Tom bids farewell to the President's role, we can't help but express our immense gratitude for his unwavering support, friendship, and camaraderie. His vision, acuity, and dedication have been a true inspiration to us all. Even though he's stepping down, we're grateful that he remains a vital part of the Club and is ready to tackle new challenges. Tom has worked hard and deserves a break! This next chapter is a richly deserved reward for his hard work. His leadership, keen mind, and devotion have lit a fire in all of us!

Let's raise a glass to Tom, our fantastic colleague and friend. Thank you for all you do!

Congratulations, Tom!

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

Despite the odds, the Christmas tree sales were off the charts! We braced ourselves for a challenge when our supply unexpectedly expanded by 275 trees. But our amazing team of volunteers rolled up their sleeves, braved the cold and rain, and made the magic happen. We're thrilled to report over \$36K in profits!

Volunteers came from across the Greater Vienna Community: BSA troops 0152, 987, and 5789; the JOI clubs at Marshall and Madison high schools and Louise Archer Elementary; the robotics teams at Marshall, Madison, and Oakton high schools, and a number of individual volunteers from Madison Wrestling, Kilmer and Thoreau Middle Schools, and Madison HS. Plus, numerous Optimist Club Members.

A special round of applause to our rockstar team captains -- Tom Spengler, Mike Fitzella, and Jeff Johnson -- and all the other tireless volunteers who put in endless hours to make this success possible. Despite unforeseen challenges, the success of the Tree Lot was truly a testament to the power of teamwork and the magic of the season.

Thank you, all, for your magnificent contributions to a magical team effort. You all deserve a round of eggnog for making this a truly merry and bright season!

Farmer's Market

LISTEN UP, FELLOW FOODIES! IT'S TIME TO GEAR UP FOR THE 2024 FARMER'S MARKET, AND WE WANT YOU TO BE PART OF THE FUN! WHETHER YOU'RE A SEASONED VOLUNTEER OR A FRESH FACE, EVERYONE'S WELCOME TO LEND A HAND AND MAKE IT AN EVENT TO REMEMBER. DON'T WAIT, HOP ON BOARD NOW!

WE NEED ONE MORE MEMBER FOR THE FARMERS MARKET COMMITTEE AND WOULD LIKE ALL INTERESTED PARTIES WITH MARKETING AND COMPUTER SKILLS!

PLEASE EMAIL MICHELE AND MONICA AT:

**MICHELEWRIGHTOPTIMIST@GMAIL.COM
AND MGI.VIENNAFM@GMAIL.COM**

CALLING ALL MEMBERS! THE OPTIMIST MAGAZINE'S FRESHEST EDITION IS HOT OFF THE PRESS. THIS SHINY GEM IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY AND IS PACKED FULL OF GOOD VIBES AND OPTIMISM-INSPIRING CONTENT. BUT HOLD ONTO YOUR HATS, THERE'S MORE! YOU CAN ALSO SIGN UP FOR WEBINARS TO DIVE EVEN DEEPER INTO INSPIRING TOPICS!!

From President Tom Bauer

Greetings Fellow Optimists:

As I step down from the presidency after 3 years, I can't help remembering all the good times and the accomplishments we've shared together. We've added some great new members, brought in a new slate of board of directors, had amazing success at the Farmer's Market and Chillin' on Church, made it through Covid and Zoom meetings and finished out the year in great financial shape. One of the things I'm most proud of was the memorial service that we held for TR Cook. I'm so glad that his family could witness the many testimonials to him from so many people who knew him much better than I. He was a special man and did so much for the community, the Greater Vienna club and the Great Falls club as well. I think of him often and miss his presence.

Our Holiday party was a great success again this year, highlighted by the Madison Madrigals as usual. For those of you who missed it, their director Claire recounted how the first time her group sang for our meeting, she was pregnant and this time her son was in the group. How time flies!

And now, I'd like to reflect on our Christmas tree sales. This year was a bit of a challenge with a sudden influx of another 275 unexpected trees but thanks to so many of you manning (or should I say "personing") our lot through the cold and rain, we came out in excellent shape to the tune of over \$36K in profits! I'd like to offer a special thanks to team captains, Tom Spengler, Mike Fitzella and Jeff Johnson, to John Andrews who picks up and delivers our trailer, helps string lights and works more than his share of shifts, Ed Wonder who organizes our youth help and makes sure they show up, Cheryl Welsh, Pat Solan, Greta Tosi-Miller, Susan Bauer and Michele Wright working the square and the all star lifters (5 or more shifts) Dick Lippert, Rob Moreland, Gary Moonan, Dan Mulville, Mike Battaglia, Roger Doughty, Dan Gropper, Mairead Holly, Jim Fisher and Bill Comerford. And then, there's Mickey Williams who must have found a way to clone himself since no one human being could have been in so many places at one time. Mickey, you are hands down this year's MVP! To the many others of you who gave us what you could, thank you for your contribution. Overall, a great team effort.

Finally, I am so grateful for all the support you have given me these last 3 years. I will remember them fondly.

Optimistically speaking,

Tom



**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

THIS YEAR'S COMMUNICATIONS CONTEST FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING (CCDHH) WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 AT 1:00 PM. THE CONTEST WILL BE HELD AT CANTERBURY WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 4910 WILLETT DRIVE, ANNANDALE, VA 22003.

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS IN THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER.

Board of Directors 2023-2024

- **President Tom Bauer (until 1/24)**
- **Secretary, Acting Susan Bauer**
- **Treasurer Michele Wright**
- **Immediate Past President Tom Bauer**
- **President-Elect Monica Gomez Isaac**
- **VP, Community Susan Bauer**
- **Director, Community Bill Comerford**
- **Webmaster Brian Isaac**
- **VP, Membership Roger Doughty**
- **Director, Membership Dan Woltman**
- **VP, Youth Mike Fitzella**
- **Director, Youth Ed Wonder**
- **VP, Media Relations/Editor JonMarc Buffa**

Happy New Year

A bright, shiny new year,
empty, neat, pristine,
waiting, ready
for us to get it right.
Another chance
to love and forgive.
Another chance
to make a real effort
to give more than we get.
Another chance
to make a difference.
A good new year.
A Happy New Year!

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

