

# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

December 2014

## Calendar

### December 1—Caboose Open

Town of Vienna "Church Street Stroll"  
Contact Dan Mulville to volunteer

### December 3 — **MEETING CANCELLED!**

See you at the Tree Lot!

### December 10— Deadline to RSVP

for Holiday Dinner at Westwood Country Club  
*See page 3 for details.*

### December 10—Deadline to Donate

to Culmore Teen Center Holiday Gifts  
*See page 3 for details.*

### December 10 — Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

### December 17 — Annual Holiday Dinner **RSVP REQUIRED!**

Westwood Country Club  
800 Maple Avenue East, Vienna  
6:15—Social Time and Cash Bar  
6:45—Dinner Served  
Music by Madison Madrigals  
After Party at the Gongawares'

### December 18—Fourth Wednesday — Team B

Dinner to Culmore Teen Center  
(Date adjusted because of holiday)

### December 23 — Tree Sales End

Thanks for your hard work!

### December 31 — New Year's Eve

"First Night Vienna" Celebration on Church St.  
Sponsored by Vienna Business Association

## Spotlight on Upcoming Events

We have **two important meeting changes** in December:

- ☞ Our regular meeting scheduled for **December 3** is **CANCELLED**.
- ☞ Our annual Holiday Dinner will be held on **December 17 at Westwood Country Club**. We must have a firm number of attendees by December 10, so please RSVP before then. More details about the dinner and how to RSVP are on page 3.



### Tree sales are now underway.

We have a short selling season this year (with Thanksgiving being fairly late) so we can expect every shift to be busy. We need everyone to pitch in and share the load to make our big fundraiser of the year a success.

Everyone can help! If you can't lift trees, you can sweep up. If you can't sweep up, you can take payments. If you can't take payments, you can greet customers. And we know you can greet customers, because you are an Optimist! Contact your team captain to sign up for shifts. (Yes, that's right: "shifts" plural.)



In 2015 **our Optimist Club turns 60**. President Dick Gongaware is forming a committee to plan our celebration. If you would like to serve on the committee, or if you have ideas or institutional memory to contribute, please contact him at [rkongaware.OI@gmail.com](mailto:rkongaware.OI@gmail.com). (Please do **not** use his fcps.edu email address.)



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna  
for Almost 60 Years

Visit us at [www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org](http://www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org)  
We're on Facebook! [Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub)



*From the President—*

Fellow Vienna Optimists,

If you could describe the holiday season in one word, a likely candidate would be "busy," even "hectic." Perhaps not what anyone envisioned, but that's another story. For us, it means selling trees. It's pretty simple; most of our youth funds are earned over the next four weeks. I'm thanking you in advance for your contribution. Please take the time to help out your team leader. Go the extra hour if you can. Sell a wreath with the tree. And tell your customers that they're supporting the youth programs of the Optimist Club.

The board has voted to cancel the December 3rd general meeting to free up some of that precious time. However, on December 17th we will hold our holiday celebration at Westwood Country Club. Please make sure that you respond to the e-vite that you should have received from our new Director for Media Relations (focusing on social media), Marnie Fienberg. The Madison Madrigals will perform. Also, our Webmaster and tech professional Gary Moonan will spend a few minutes talking about social media and its importance to our club. Things have changed, and we all need to have some understanding of how we fit in the new world of communication.

After the dinner, you're welcome to drop by the Gongaware house for the after-party, where we'll all put down our cell phones and actually talk. Fortunately, that's what hasn't changed in our club. See you on the 17th. Happy holidays.

*President Dick Gongaware*

**Directions to the Gongawares' house:**

[2643 Five Oaks Road, Vienna, 22181](#)

*From Westwood CC:*

Right onto Maple Ave  
Through Vienna to 2nd light past Nutley St  
Right on Five Oaks Road, 4th house on right.

Park on the street. Be careful. We have no street lights and no sidewalks. There can be a drop-off along the sides of the road.

Phone: 703-606-3998



**December Birthday Wishes to:**

- Dan Mulville – December 7
- Bill Doughten – December 16
- Kathy Cutri – December 27
- Les Carl – December 27
- AK Mohamed Yaseen – December 31

**Optimist Anniversaries  
in December**

- Joe Bosco - 57 years
- Rich Ordeman – 36 years
- Jerry Covell – 31 years
- Sheryl Friedley – 21 years





## Holiday Dinner Party

**Where:** Westwood Country Club, Founders Room  
800 Maple Avenue East

The entrance to the Founders Room is on the west side of the clubhouse, not through the main entrance. Follow the driveway up the hill to the small parking lot.

**When:** Wednesday, December 17, 2014  
Social time starts 6:15 p.m. – Cash Bar  
Dinner served 6:45 p.m.

**What:** Holiday Music from the Madison HS Madrigals  
Menu:

Caesar Salad  
Choice of Entree:  
    Roasted Chicken Breast or  
    Roasted Salmon  
Roasted Herb Potatoes  
Sauteed Baby Carrots  
Dessert  
Coffee/Tea

**How Much:** No additional charge for Members;  
Guest meals are \$55.00

**RSVP with entree selections** by December 10.\*

You have two RSVP options:

Reply via E-vite sent Nov. 25 from the Club —OR—

Email: Laurie Cole at [lauriecole.optmijist@gmail.com](mailto:lauriecole.optmijist@gmail.com)

\*If you filled out an rsvp card at the Nov. 18 meeting, you do not need to rsvp again.

**Space is limited so please reserve your spot right away!**

## Donate to Holiday Gifts for Teens At the Culmore Teen Center Operated by Alternative House

Our "Fourth Wednesday" dinners at the Culmore Teen Center have established our Club as a supportive presence with the kids and staff at the Teen Center. It has been rewarding for us, as adults who want to "bring out the best in kids", to feed these students, help them with homework, and support a safe place for them to spend time after school.

For the winter holidays we are collecting donations to provide gifts to the kids who might not otherwise receive presents. These are young people ages 13-18 who are in school and participate in the Teen Center's program.

If you would like to contribute, please make a donation to our Optimist Club of Greater Vienna Foundation. (Your gift to our Foundation is tax-deductible.) In turn, the Foundation will consolidate the contributions and make a donation to Alternative House for the Culmore Teen Center. Holiday cards with the Club members first name and "Optimist Club of Vienna" will be presented along with the gifts to the students.

You can donate in two ways:

- ★ You may write a check to the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna Foundation, and note "Culmore Teen Center" in the memorandum line. Send the check to the Club at P.O. Box 411, Vienna, VA 22183.
- ★ You may donate using a credit card on our Club website, [www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org](http://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org), and note that it is for the Culmore Teen Center.

**We must receive your donation by December 10. Thank you!**



# Update

## Christmas Tree Sales 2014

The work on our annual Christmas Tree fundraiser starts long before opening day. Months in advance Christmas Tree gurus **Dick Lippert and Jim Houston** place the tree order. This year Jim also spent considerable "off-season" time researching and purchasing a new trailer for our lot. Dick works with the Town of Vienna, the shopping center and PNC Bank to arrange for the proper permits, using the parking lot and hooking up to an electricity source.

In November, the trailer, sign, pallets and A-frames get moved from their winter home at the Town of Vienna Property Yard to the tree lot site. Jim H. reports, "All this was done with the help of **Dan Mulville, Rich Ordeman, John Andrews, Grant Marsh, Tom Spengler, Tom Fraim, Dick Gongaware, and Jim Stivison. Dick Lippert and Al Dunkerley** made all the necessary electrical connections and we now have built-in lights and heat in the trailer. Special thanks to **Kirby Thornton, friend of Cindy Stanton**, who moved the trailer."

The trees are delivered in two batches, on Tuesday and Friday of Thanksgiving week. Many hands help with this job. Our thanks to: the **Madison High School baseball team, Rich Ordeman, Jeff Johnson, Michele Wright, Joe Miller, Dick Lippert, Dan Mulville, Dick Gongaware, Angelique Ayala, Tom Fraim, and Anna Ryjik** for wrangling the first delivery of 800 trees. The final delivery and set-up (including drilling trees for display) were handled by the **Madison High School baseball team, plus Jim Houston, Jeff Johnson, Rob DiRocco, Dick Lippert, Tom Bauer, Tom Fraim, Anna Ryjik and Dick Gongaware.**

Lot clean-up is December 24 at 9:00 a.m. You can see **your name here** with thanks from the Club for helping with this final task!

## November 2014 Board Highlights

The Board of Directors met on November 12, 2014, with 12 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Reviewed, made adjustments to and approved the budget for the 2014-2015 Optimist year.
- Noted that the young man who was awarded the Vocational Scholarship last spring cannot be located and, therefore, the award has been vacated.
- Noted that plans and judges for the Essay Contest are in place.
- Discussed the success of the club's support of Kids' Halloween Party at the Vienna Community Center and participation in the Vienna Halloween Parade and thanked all those who took part. The float received awards for Best Music and Best in Show.
- Agreed to adjust the split of funds raised for the Walk and Family Fun Day from 75 percent to Growing Hope and 25 percent to the OI Foundation to 90 percent to Growing Hope and 10 percent to OI starting in 2015. The goal is to retain more funds in the immediate Vienna area.
- Discussed plans for the Holiday Party to be held December 17 at Westwood Country Club.

- Noted that all arrangements for the tree lot with the bank, shopping center owner, and the town permit were complete.
- Approved cancellation of the December 3 dinner meeting.
- Discussed possible support for Christmas gifts for kids at the Culmore Teen Center.
- Approved a donation to Transition Support Resource Center (TSRC) – Vienna, an Interagency Alternate School through Fairfax County Public Schools.

## Get Involved!

Looking for a way to be more involved in your Optimist Club? There are plenty of options for you; here are just a few ideas:

- ☞ Help plan our 60th Anniversary Celebration. A committee is now forming; you can get in on the ground floor! Contact Dick Gongaware at [rkongaware.oi@gmail.com](mailto:rkongaware.oi@gmail.com)
- ☞ Join a "Fourth Wednesday" team to provide dinner to the Culmore Teen Center. Contact Laurie Cole at [laurie-cole.optimist@gmail.com](mailto:laurie-cole.optimist@gmail.com).
- ☞ Be a mentor. Help a new member feel at home with the Optimists. Contact Joe Miller at [jmeda@hotmail.com](mailto:jmeda@hotmail.com).

### OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2014 – 15

President	Dick Gongaware
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Tom Fraim
Immediate Past President	Tom Spengler
President Elect	Joe Miller
Vice President of Community	Michele Wright
Vice President of Finance	Dick Lippert
Vice President of Media Relations	Tom Bauer
Vice President of Membership	Joe Miller
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	Anna Ryjik
Director of Media Relations	Marnie Fienberg
Director of Membership	AK Mohamed Yaseen
Director of Youth	Jim Stivison
Webmaster	Gary Moonan

### *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*