

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

December 2017

Calendar

December 1-23

Christmas Tree Lot Open Daily

M-F: 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Sat/Sun: 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Sign up with your team captain.

December 6 — Holiday Dinner

6:30 pm–9:00 pm (Tree Lot closes at 5:00)

NOTE SPECIAL LOCATION

Westwood Country Club

800 Maple Ave. W, Vienna

rsvp required to Pat Solan

Dinner to be followed by a Dessert Party at the Bauers' Home

December 13 — Board Meeting

7:30 p.m. Emmanuel Lutheran Church

December 20 — No Meeting

December 23 — Tree Sales End

December 24 — Tree Lot Take-down



December 25 — Christmas Day

December 27— 4th Wednesday Dinner

Culmore Teen Center — Ad Hoc Team — see p.3

December 31 — New Year's Eve

2018 (really!)

January 3 — Dinner Meeting

Fairfax American Legion

News and Notes

Odds are good that as you read this, your hands smell of tree sap and your back is feeling a bit achy from lifting that 7-foot tree to the top of the SUV. We are well and truly in the heart of Christmas Tree sales season!

Let's take a break and enjoy an evening of camaraderie, music and cheer. Our only meeting in December is our **Annual Holiday Dinner on December 6**. We will gather at **6:30 at the Westwood Country Club**. After dinner and entertainment by the Madison Madrigals, we will move on to the **home of Susan and Tom Bauer to enjoy some holiday desserts**. To ensure every Optimist has the chance to join in the revelry, the **Tree Lot will close at 5:00 on Dec. 6**. RSVPs are required for the dinner, so please contact Pat Solan or [Susan Bauer](#) to see if space is still available.



Happy
Holidays!



Our work on the tree lot is made much easier by the help of our young volunteers from Madison, Marshall, and Oakton High Schools, Flint Hill School, and Louise Archer Elementary School. But we count on every Optimist to do her/his share! So if you have not yet signed up for shifts on the lot, **contact Dick Lipert** for your team assignment, then contact your Team Captain right away. We need you!

Taking a sneak peek ahead to January, our first meeting is **January 3** at the Fairfax American Legion. We will hear a fascinating, troubling presentation on the conduct of human trafficking in Northern Virginia. It can—and does—happen here.



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna
for over 60 Years!

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



From the President ...

Greetings Fellow Optimists,

Thanksgiving dinner came a day early for the teens at the Culmore Center this year. Team B provided turkey plus all the traditional sides for over 30 kids. If you are not part of a team for Fourth Wednesday dinners and would like to impact the life of a teenager, [contact Laurie Cole](#). And guess what? You do not have to cook!

As a mere team member who sold trees during my shifts for the last couple of years, I had no idea how much coordination went on behind the scenes to prepare for and run our major fundraiser. The tree lot is up and running because of the "TREE"mendous teamwork of **Dick Lippert & Tom Fraim** as Project Managers, **Ed Wonder** who organized all the various high school teams and JOI clubs to provide additional help on the lot, and Captains, **Rich Ordeman, Dick Gongaware, Jeff Johnson, Tom Spengler, and Al Dunkerly** who agreed to head up the Red Team. Add eager Optimist Tree Sellers and you have a recipe for another successful fundraiser to support our programs for kids. **Thank you** one and all for your time and dedication.

Our meetings in January are sure to impress prospective members of the Optimist Club. January 3rd will feature a program on Human Trafficking happening right in our own backyard. Yes, right here in NOVA. January 17 is the CCDHH contest which is always a showcase for these exceptionally talented students. Don't miss these opportunities to share with a friend the good work that your club is doing in the Greater Vienna community. If we don't let our friends and colleagues know what a great club we have, how will they know what they are missing by not joining us? I'm sure our newest Optimist members are glad they joined.

As we finish up 2017 and head into 2018 let us "Forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future"!

Merry Christmas and may we all have a Happy New Year!

Madame President,
Susan

A Word from our Membership Team

By Kathy Cutri and Lauren Wagner



Have you sponsored a member who hasn't been able to attend a meeting for a while? Reach out and see what we can do to help! Let them know they're missed!

The Optimist Club depends on our membership to be able to support and fund our youth programs. Members are needed to volunteer at the Farmers Market and Christmas tree sales among other opportunities.

Sign up a new friend, and keep the old friends, too!



December Birthday Wishes to:

Dan Mulville – December 7
Bill Doughten – December 16
Kathy Cutri – December 26
Les Carl – December 27

Optimist Anniversaries in December

Joe Bosco - 62 years
Rich Ordeman – 39 years
Jerry Covell – 34 years
Sheryl Friedley – 24 years
Jennifer Cutri – 2 year



Did we miss your Birthday or Optimist Anniversary? Please let us know at

newsletter@optimistclubofgreatervirginia.org

Optimists' Support for 'Kilmer Kids' Continues

By John Andrews

Going back to 2014, the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna has been enjoying a terrific partnership with the Kilmer Center. The Kilmer Center is a FCPS, elementary-through-high school, learning center for severely disabled students. In the spirit of supporting our youth in our community, the Optimist Club has a regular presence at the Kilmer Center and we now have a name for our program, "Kilmer Kids".

Our program continues to provide the Kids with an annual donation, weekly classroom reading and repair of the various "Enabling Devices" and "Assistive Technology" for the students. Most recently, the Club made a \$500 donation, in support of their renovation of an aging "Kitchen Classroom". With the demolition and re-building, new appliances will be installed to provide a more modern kitchen, allowing the best continuation of accessibility to all students.

Weekly volunteer reading, each Friday morning, by our Optimist Club members, continues to be a popular favorite of the teachers. In one visit for the older students, we read an entire chapter from Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. The Cat-In-The-Hat series continues as a favorite for the younger students, as well reading from the as the Pete The Cat series.

Lastly, the repair cycle for those many devices that enable students to communicate, continues to run well this fall. These devices are unique, smaller electronic items that range from being Somosensory devices, switches, enabling toys, video cameras, radios and just about any device that a severely disabled student would use for interaction and learning with the teachers. The



Vienna Optimist John Andrews reads to some of the "Kilmer Kids" as part of our Club's support of the Kilmer Center.

teachers and staff at Kilmer Center are grateful for the continued presence of the Optimist Club and for our annual contribution for Kilmer Center.

Editor's Note: If you are interested in joining the roster of Friday readers for our "Kilmer Kids" program, contact [VP for Youth, Mike Fitzella](#).

Special Fourth Wednesday/Culmore Teen Center Opportunity!

To give our regular Fourth Wednesday teams a holiday break, we will have an ad hoc group deliver dinner to the Teen Center on Wednesday, December 27. If you are interested in participating, please [contact Laurie Cole](#). Several tasks are available that don't involve cooking!

Thanks Where Thanks Are Due



Christmas Tree Lot Set-Up

Even before the first tree is sold, a lot of work happens to get our biggest fund-raiser of the year up and running. Here are some of the many hands that made the work lighter (as reported by President Susan Bauer):

First Phase Set up

The trailer is on the lot. The inside is organized and swept out. The stands are repaired and ready to receive the trees. Thank you to the following members who helped: **Dick Lippert, Jeff Johnson, Dan Irvine, his brother Andrew Irvine, Bruce Lauther, Ed Wonder, Rob Ruth, Al Dunkerly, Tom Fraim, Tom Bauer, Mercury Peyton, Gary Moonan, Susan Bauer, Yvonne Ha.**

First Tree Delivery

The Madison baseball team unloaded about 800 trees this evening under the supervision of **Optimists Dick Lippert, Rob Ruth, Ed Wonder, Tom Spengler, Jeff Johnson, Bruce Lauther, Mercury Peyton, Tom Fraim, Joe Miller and Dan Mulville.** TRCook was there to take photos and **Treasurer Tom Bauer** said he hasn't written a check that large since he put a down payment on a house.

Final Set-up

The following Optimists were busy bees today, drilling trees, placing

them on stands, directing the Madison team, stringing lights, sweeping, making tree stands, getting an ample supply of candy canes ready, and whatever else

needed to be done:

Jeff Johnson, Al Dunkerly, Roger Doughty, Rob Ruth, Michele Wright, Jim Hegel, Dick Gongaware, Susan Bauer, Dick Lippert, John Andrews and his nephew, T.R Cook and our three Toms, Spengler, Bauer and Fraim.

Caboose Conductors Through the Year

Caboose Czar Dan Mulville coordinates our operation of the best free playground in Town, the big red Caboose on Church St. Here is his season wrap-up:



I would like to recognize the Vienna Optimists who volunteered in the Caboose during the past year, including **Susan Bauer, Tom Bauer, Rob DiRocco, Roger Doughty, Jerry Gerhards, Dick Gongaware, Jim Houston, Dan Irvine, Jeff Johnson, Bruce Lauther, Dick Lippert, Joe Miller, Gary Moonan, Rich Ordeman, Pat Solan, and Michele Wright,** and many other who supported the caboose openings.

Monday, November 27th was our last Caboose Open House for 2017. We had **892 visitors**, which was the largest number for any opening this year. Our total number of **visitors for the year was over 3000.**

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER 2017

The newly-installed 2017-18 Board met in October. Among other actions, the Board:

- ◆ Discussed the draft 2017-18 Budget;
- ◆ Discussed preparations for the annual Christmas tree sales;
- ◆ Approved a donation to co-sponsor (with the Rotary Club) the Tiny Tots concert at Madison High School;
- ◆ Approved establishment of a new Octagon Club at Flint Hill School's Upper School.

Board meetings are open to all members. We have a vacancy for *President Elect*. If you are interested in serving the Optimist Club in this office (and as President in 2018-19) please contact [President Susan Bauer](#).

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 2017

Ten members were represented (four by proxy). Among other actions, the Board:

- ◆ Approved the 2017-18 Budget (including the additions of Kilmer Center as an ongoing OCGV program and Mountain View School for vocational scholarships);
- ◆ Approved a \$500 donation to Kilmer Center for the current year;
- ◆ Heard VP-Youth Mike Fitzella's report on preparation for the Carol Waite Brennan Awards presentation on Nov. 15;
- ◆ On the recommendation of the Youth Committee, adopted Revised Guidelines for the Vocational Awards;
- ◆ Approved a new brochure about OCGV;
- ◆ Heard Farmers Market Committee's report that the Town of Vienna agreed to locating the Farmers Market in the Community Center parking lot next season.

OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2017-18

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| President | Susan Bauer |
| Secretary | Jim Houston |
| Treasurer | Tom Bauer |
| Immediate Past President | Michele Wright |
| President Elect | <i>open</i> |
| Vice President of Community | Anna Ryjik |
| Vice President of Finance | Dick Lippert |
| Vice President of Media Relations | Gary Moonan |
| Vice President of Membership | Kathy Cutri |
| Vice President of Youth | Mike Fitzella |
| Director of Community | Bruce Lauther |
| Director of Social Media | Steven Rabil |
| Director of Membership | Lauren Wagner |
| Director of Youth | Jeff Bechtle |
| 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