



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna
December 2018

Calendar

December 1-23

Christmas Tree Sales Daily!!

(Or until we sell out, whichever comes first)

December 2

Hannukah Begins

December 5

Holiday Party

6:30 pm—Dinner at Westwood

Country Club

Dessert at Bauers' Home follows



December 12

Board Meeting

7:30 pm — Bauers' Home, Vienna

December 19

No Meeting

December 23

Christmas Tree Sales End

December 25

Christmas Day

December 26

Kwanzaa Begins

December 26

Christmas Tree Lot Take-down

9:30 a.m. Meet at Tree Lot

December 27

"Fourth Wednesday" dinner delivery

Culmore Teen Center; Ad Hoc Team

See page 3 for more information

News and Notes

Do your work gloves have a fine patina of pine-sap on them? Do Frasier Fir needles cover the floor mats of your car? Do random lengths of string fall out of your coat pockets? If not, you need to volunteer for some shifts at the Christmas tree lot!

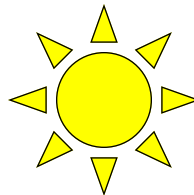
With our first full week of sales completed, we are lagging a bit behind historical figures for trees sold. With a super-early Thanksgiving not everyone was ready to get their tree right away. The weather—cold, windy, rainy, take your pick—has also hampered early sales. This doesn't mean we won't sell all our trees; it just means sales are going to be busier in the time remaining.



And that means that we need EVERYONE'S help on the lot in the final few weeks we have.

The staffing schedule for the tree lot allots shifts among five teams. Every Optimist is assigned to one of the four color-named Christmas Tree Sales teams: **Red**, **Blue**, **Green**, or **Orange**. We also have a Sunshine Team, which works every weekday afternoon. If you don't know which team you are on, or who your Team Captain is, check out the roster attached to the email distributing this Newsletter and sign up for more shifts! Please!

And, you don't need to be on the Sunshine Team to help with their weekday afternoon shifts. Here's a word from Rich Ordeman, Sunshine Team Captain:



Please note that all Sunshine Team members are also assigned to at least one of the color sales teams. Therefore turn around is fair play. For those of you who might have some time available, during the week from 2 to 6 pm, please contact me to volunteer your service. I can use your help. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated. Sharing the load makes work easier.

Rich's contact info is in the attached Team Roster.

We take a break from trees on Wednesday, **December 5**, for our annual **Holiday Party at Westwood Country Club**. Our Vienna-favorites, the Madison High School Madrigals, will join us to sing holiday classics. After dinner we will adjourn to the Bauers' home for desserts and festivities. *RSVPs have now closed*. You can plead your case, or get on a waiting list, by contacting Pat Solan. If you have rsvp'd but will not be able to attend, please be aware we will have to charge for no-shows. And a reminder, we **will not meet on Wednesday, December 19**.



Calendar Preview: No meeting on Wednesday, January 2, 2019. Happy New Year!



**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,

It's so nice to drive past our tree lot and see our Optimist Club sign and all those beautiful trees standing at attention saying "BUY ME"! A note of appreciation to our **VP of Finance, Dick Lippert** for his preliminary, persistent work starting months before the tree lot opened. Dick had a more difficult job this year with the sale of the Giant shopping center in that he had to jump through hoops to get all the permits approved and signed with the new owners--not an easy task when dealing with corporate lawyers. He and **Tom Fraim** are our expert tree lot managers this year. **Al Dunkerley** team captain for the Red team, has worked on the scheduling with the rest of our team captains **Rich Ordeman, Dick Gongaware, Jeff Johnson & Tom Spengler. Ed Wonder** has rounded up all our youth volunteers, never an easy task. Our **Treasurer Tom Bauer** has been making daily trips to the lot to collect the money, keep track of our profits, and deposit \$\$\$\$ into our bank account. And where would we be without our **Optimist Tree Sellers**? With all of us working together, we will have another successful fundraiser to support our programs for kids. Thank you one and all for your time and dedication.

Speaking of thank yous... **Pat Solan** is to be commended for getting our Holiday Party at the Westwood Country Club organized, with 'numbers coming' matched up with 'menu choices'. Looking forward to seeing many of you there.

There will be no meeting on Jan. 2nd since it is the day after New Year's Day and Fairfax County Public Schools have off that week. **January 17 is the CCDHH contest** which is always a showcase for these exceptionally talented students. Don't miss this opportunity to share with a friend the good work that your club is doing in the Greater Vienna community. This contest will be held at the Vienna American Legion Post.

Our partnership with Growing Hope has been curtailed but our dedication to CCC has not diminished. Margy Joust, former head of Growing Hope, invited me to DC Candlelighters and Growing Hope's Pediatric Oncology Christmas Party at Inova Fairfax Hospital Physicians Conference Center held on Dec. 2. Our contributions to Growing Hope helped to fund this party for kids being treated for cancer and their families. It was amazing to see the look of wonder on the kids' faces as they saw Star Wars Stormtroopers, and Disney princesses. Every child in the family received a gift from Santa. It was a great way for me to start the Christmas season with a grateful heart.

Welcome to **our newest members** for this year,

Sally O'Connor, Tim Buckley, Deirdre Crescioli and Fritz Irwin. We are happy to have you join our Optimist Club. At the district meeting I attended in November there was a discussion about why some clubs have folded and one of the reasons given was stagnation. The clubs simply stopped growing. As we finish up 2018 and head into 2019 let us energize our club with the creative ideas and enthusiasm new members bring to our club.

Best wishes to all for the happiest of holidays!

Madame President, Susan



Congratulations to the recipients of the Carol Waite Brennan Scholarships

Six area high school seniors received college scholarships from the Optimist Club. The Carol Waite Brennan Scholarships honor our former president, who was taken from her family and from us too soon. This year's recipients are:

Madison High School

Hannah Kase, Christopher Royal

Marshall High School

Britney Andrade, Rohan Shah

Oakton High School

Isabella DeLew, Seonuk Kim

For those of us who have watched her grow up, it is hard to believe that Kelly Brennan is a high school senior this year. To celebrate her, and honor Carol's legacy, the Board approved a special, one-time award to Kelly.



The Optimist Club's 2018 Christmas Tree Sales



Kids still have birthdays, and are still hungry, even when holidays happen and school is not in session. So we will deliver our monthly meal and birthday party to the Culmore Teen Center in December—almost as usual.

Instead of one of our four regular teams taking care of December's duties, we are asking for an ad hoc group (led by Laurie Cole) to take over just for this month.

This is a great opportunity to learn what is involved with our ongoing service to these teens! We need volunteers to prepare (or purchase) a healthy meal, prepare 5 birthday gift bags, and deliver all these to the Teen Center on the afternoon of Thursday, December 27.

If you can help, contact [Laurie Cole](#).

A few thoughts on the tree lot experience

No matter how long you have been working on the lot, it is helpful to review the guidelines and procedures for our tree sales and lot operations. (Ed. Note: Not that I'm speaking from personal experience or anything, but sorry about mis-assembling those tree stands!). For example, taking the proper steps to close up at night helps protect our equipment and makes things smoother for the next day's opening shift. The guidelines are posted in the trailer, so take a look!

Also, please remember to take a few moments to incorporate our youth volunteers into the team, give them guidance and instruction on the tasks at hand, and thank them for their work at the end of their shifts. We can't do this without them.

A moment of gratitude

Some early "thank yous" to members who helped with the lot set-up and tree deliveries before Thanksgiving:

John Andrews, Al Dunkerley, Dick Lippert, Jeff Johnson. Tom Fraim, Rich Ordeman, Jim Fisher, Dan Mulville, Ed Wonder, Greta Tosi-Miller, Michele Wright, Tom and Susan Bauer.

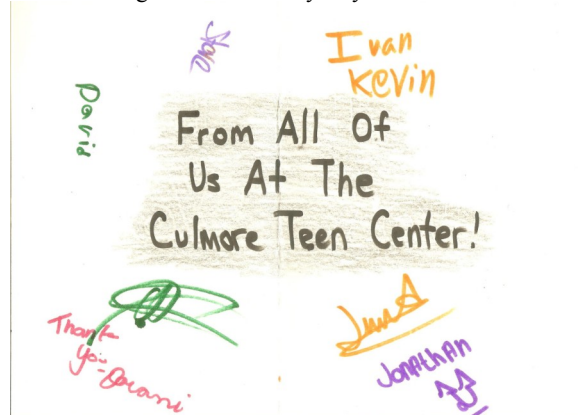
And, of course, a big "thank you" to the Madison Baseball Team for their invaluable help in unloading two deliveries of trees!

More to do before we are done



Above: The staff, kids, and Optimists, all benefit from our monthly support of the Culmore Teen Center.

Below: We get thanks in many ways from the teens!



December 2018 Optimist Club of Greater Vienna Christmas Tree Sales						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Green 9AM - 3PM Orange 3PM - 8PM
2 Red 9AM - 3PM Blue 3PM - 8PM	3 Sunshine 2 - 6 PM Green 6 - 8 PM	4 Sunshine 2 - 6 PM Orange 6 - 8 PM	5 Sunshine 2 - 5 PM Lot Closed at 5 PM Optimist Christmas Party at WCCC Red Team Off	6 Sunshine 2 - 6 PM Blue 6 - 8 PM	7 Sunshine 2 - 6 PM Green 6 - 8 PM	8 Orange 9AM - 3PM Red 3PM - 8PM
9 Blue 9AM - 3PM Green 3PM - 8PM	10 Sunshine 2 - 6 PM Orange 6 - 8 PM	11 Sunshine 2 - 6 PM Red 6 - 8 PM	12 Sunshine 2 - 6 PM Blue 6 - 8 PM	13 Sunshine 2 - 6 PM Green 6 - 8 PM	14 Sunshine 2 - 6 PM Orange 6 - 8 PM	15 Red 9AM - 3PM Blue 3PM - 8PM
16 Green 9AM - 3PM Orange 3PM - 8PM	17 Sunshine 2 - 6 PM Red 6 - 8 PM	18 Sunshine 2 - 6 PM Blue 6 - 8 PM	19 Sunshine 2 - 6 PM Green 6 - 8 PM	20 Sunshine 2 - 6 PM Orange 6 - 8 PM	21 Sunshine 2 - 6 PM Red 6 - 8 PM	22 Blue 9AM - 3PM Green 3PM - 8PM
23 Last Day!!!! Orange 9AM - 3PM Red 3PM - 8PM	24	25 Merry Christmas! Thanks for all your efforts	26 9:30 AM Lot Clean-Up	27	28	29



Board vacancies seek engaged Optimists!

Our Club still needs a *President-Elect* and a *Director of Finance* for 2018-19. Contact [President Susan](#) or [Past President Michele](#) for more information on these positions.

November 2018 Board Meeting Highlights

The Board met on November 14, 2018, with eight members present (plus three via proxy). Among the highlights of the meeting were:

- Amendments to the previously approved budget to reflect increased awards for the Oratorical Contest and the Helping Hands Awards;
- Approval of membership applications from Tim Buckley and Deirdre Crecioli, both educators at Madison High School;
- Approval of committing to the Vienna American Legion for the dinner meetings the second Wednesday of each month, contract to be signed by President Susan (one member voting “nay”);
- Amending the eligibility terms of the Sheryl Friedley Scholarship to include students with intellectual disabilities;
- Discussion regarding using MailChimp for club commu-

nications and billing; Webmaster Gary will offer training to Club officers;

- Canceling the January 2, 2019, meeting because of proximity to the holidays and FCPS will not be in session.



What would *you* like to learn about, do, or see, as part of your membership in the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna? Some of our programs each year are pre-determined (e.g. our scholarship programs), but there are many meetings where the programming is a clean slate. If you have program suggestions—a topic, a particular speaker, a social event, or something else entirely!—please share your idea with [President Susan](#).

OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2018-19

President	Susan Bauer
Secretary	Kathy Cutri
Treasurer	Tom Bauer
Immediate Past President	Michele Wright
President Elect	<i>open</i>
Vice President of Community	Jim Wilson
Vice President of Finance	Dick Lippert
Vice President of Media Relations/Webmaster	Gary Moonan
Vice President of Membership	Joe Miller
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	Bruce Lauther/Anna Ryjik
Director of Social Media	Steven Rabil
Director of Print Media	Bruce Lauther
Director of Membership	Lauren Wagner
Director of Youth	Ed Wonder
Director of Finance	<i>open</i>

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