



# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna  
November 2018

## Calendar

**November 6**  
ELECTION DAY



**November 7**  
Carol Waite Brennan Awards  
FAIRFAX American Legion  
6:45 Social Time; 7:30 Dinner

**November 14**  
Board Meeting  
7:30 pm – Bauer Home, Vienna

**November 17**  
Christmas Tree Lot Set Up  
9:30 a.m. Giant Food Parking Lot

**Caboose Open!**  
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Volunteers Needed!**

**November 20**  
6:00 p.m. First tree delivery

**November 21**  
No Meeting

**November 22**  
Thanksgiving



**November 24**  
Christmas Tree Sales Start!  
9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**November 28**  
"Fourth Wednesday" dinner delivery  
Culmore Teen Center; Team A (Tom Fraim, Acting Capt.)

## News and Notes



On **November 7**, we honor six outstanding high school students with the **Carol Waite Brennan Youth Appreciation Awards**. Join us at the Fairfax American Legion as we recognize seniors from Madison, Marshall, and Oakton high schools, and remember the contributions that Carol made to our club. Come early so you can meet our students and their family members. Note that this program is occurring earlier than usual this year, because the third Wednesday of November is the day before Thanksgiving.

Would you like a glimpse into the minds of high school seniors? Volunteer for **Madison High School's annual Ethics Day**, Friday, **November 16**, and we guarantee that you will be rewarded with a fascinating day. Contact [President Susan](#) for more information.



It's time to dig out the work gloves from wherever you put them last December and get ready for this year's **Christmas Tree sales!** Every Optimist is assigned to a **tree lot team**, and each team has several shifts to be staffed. Don't know what team you are on? Contact [Dick Lippert](#) and he will tell you! The work starts before Thanksgiving, with the **lot set-up on Saturday, November 17**, and the **first delivery of trees on Tuesday, November 20**. Check out the full schedule on page 3.



A programming note: There will be only one Club meeting in November. But mark your calendars now for our annual **Holiday Dinner and Party** on Wednesday, **December 5**. Information about place, time, guests, and rsvps, will be coming via email. See you then!



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna  
for over 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 ...

Greetings Fellow Optimists,

I'd like to thank Donna Aker, Immediate Past Governor for conducting the Installation of Officers program at the first meeting of our Optimist year. **Optimists of the Year** awards were given to **Ed Wonder, Lauren Wagner, and Mike Fitzella** for their work on establishing our **two** new JOI clubs in 2017-18. We have just added a **new JOI club at the Thoreau Middle School** for 2018-19.



I was fortunate to be interviewed by Catherine Read for her television program "Your Need to Know" on Fairfax Public Access Channel 10. Catherine and I discussed Optimist International and more specifically the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna and what Optimists do to Bring Out the Best in Kids! The program aired on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> and will soon be available on You Tube. I haven't seen it yet!

Thanks to **Pat Hackerson** for representing the club at the "Halloween on the Green" party for kids.

Thanks to **everyone who helped with the Farmers Market** this summer. Our last Saturday for the Market was October 27<sup>th</sup>. The Market Managers, **Michele Wright, Dick Gongaware, and Jim Stivison**—with additional help from **John Anderson**—worked many hours to make the Market a success. Even though the Market has closed for this year, the work for next year's Farmers Market continues.

The Optimist Club of Greater Vienna entry for the 72nd Annual Vienna Halloween Parade was a replica of **our beloved big, red Caboose**. Thanks to **Steve Bukont** who designed, built, painted, lettered and drove the 20'L x 8'W x 11'H float down Maple Ave. The painting crew included **Kathy Cutri, Rob Ruth, Tom Spengler and Tom & Susan Bauer**. Those riding in the caboose for the parade were **Michele Wright, Kathy Cutri, Bruce Lauther, Jim Wilson, Tom and Susan Bauer**.

**Dick Lippert, Tom Fraim and Al Dunkerly** have been busy bees planning schedules, getting permits, arranging for electricity, etc., for our tree lot that will open the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Please volunteer often to work on the tree lot, our main fundraiser. **Ed Wonder** has been working with school sports teams and JOI clubs to ensure we have additional hands to help us with this endeavor.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our *only meeting* for this month, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 at the Fairfax American Legion. We will be celebrating the Carol Waite Brennan Awards dinner.

I wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving. I am thankful for all the service acts we are able to do for kids with the enthusiastic Optimists of Greater Vienna.



*Madame President,  
Susan*



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 upcoming meeting to present the **Carol Waite Brennan Award scholarships**), 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](#).

## Board Highlights October 2018

The Board met on October 10, 2018, with nine members present (three by proxy). Highlights of the meeting include:

- Review of the 2017-18 financial reports and approval of the 2018-19 budget;
- Approval of \$300 donation to Marshall High School's All-Night Grad party;
- President Susan's presentation of proposed 2018-19 events/programs;
- Preview of Christmas Tree lot expenses, schedule, and volunteer support;
- Approval of Sally O'Connor as a new member;
- Confirmation that the 2019 Farmers Market will be located at the Vienna Community Center.



**Board vacancies seek caring Optimists!**

*Our Club still needs a President-Elect and a Director of Finance. Contact President Susan or Past President Michele for more information on these positions or to volunteer.*

*Coming soon to a parking lot near you...*

# The Optimist Club's 2018 Christmas Tree Sales

*You bet it's gonna be merry!*

**What:** *Our biggest fund-raiser of the year.* Five weeks of tree sales, along with our increasing revenue from the Farmers Market, funds our Youth Programs for the entire year.

**Where:** *We set up shop in the northeast corner of the Giant Food parking lot, next to the PNC Bank (which generously provides us with electricity for the lot).*

**When:** *Sales start on Saturday, November 24, at 9:00 a.m. We operate seven days a week until December 23, or we sell out of trees, whichever comes first.*

**Who:** ALL OF US!

**Why:** *To bring out the best in the kids of our greater Vienna community.*

## 2018 Schedule of Operation

Saturday, November 17, 9:30 a.m.: Lot Set-up. Bring work gloves and a hammer.

Tuesday, November 20, 6:00 p.m.: First delivery of trees. As always, the Madison High School baseball team will be helping us make quick work of unloading a whole bunch of trees.

Friday, November 23, 10:30 a.m.: Second delivery of trees and final lot set up.

Saturday, November 24: Sales begin at 9:00 a.m.

**Lot Hours: Saturdays and Sundays, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Weekdays, 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Captains for the RED, ORANGE, BLUE, GREEN, and SUNSHINE teams will be contacting members to sign up for shifts on the Tree Lot. We will have help from our various JOI Clubs and other youth organizations, but we must have Optimist Club members on the Lot. **Volunteer early and often.**

Encourage your friends, neighbors, co-workers, relatives, and complete strangers to purchase their Christmas trees, wreaths and garlands at the Optimist Club Tree Lot. Remember, if we sell it all early, we wrap up early!



The Madison Baseball players bring strength, vigor, and youth to the process of unloading the trees. We appreciate them all!



Trees. They're what we do.



Louise Archer Elementary School Junior Optimists help out the Sunshine Team in the afternoons. There is a job for everyone on the Tree Lot!



The Caboose was on the move in the annual Vienna Halloween Parade! Designed, built, and driven by Optimist Steve Bukont, the Caboose replica was crewed by President Susan Bauer, Tom Bauer, Kathy Cutri, Tom Fraim, Bruce Lauther, Jim Wilson, and Michele Wright. Thank you for representing the Optimist Club!



**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*