



**Optimist Club**  
of Greater Vienna



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

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## **Carol Waite Brennan Awards**

Amidst the glimmering aura of the Carol Waite Brennan awards, the stars aligned to recognize six illustrious scholars with a \$2500 scholarship, honoring their remarkable feats. As we witnessed their stories, the atmosphere swelled with emotion; tales of resilience and triumph inspired us all. To see these bright stars shine, despite the obstacles that would have daunted lesser souls, fills our hearts with hope. Rest assured, our investment in their dreams bears fruit and nurtures the magic within.

**Visit us at:**

**[OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org](https://www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org)**

**[Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub)**

**See our Calendar at:**

**[optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/event/default.asp](https://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/event/default.asp)**

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

The time has come  
As it does every year  
To contact all your friends  
And send them some cheer;  
To bundle up some wishes  
And presents if you can  
And hope they achieve  
All their wonderful plans.

Some say Merry Christmas,  
Others say Season's Greetings  
But they all share the spirits  
Of love and good wishes meaning.  
They all have the meals that are  
The ones they always have made.  
They sing the appropriate songs

Many have bought or they made  
Presents that will make it clear  
That the people they give them to  
Are the ones they hold most dear.  
Even for those people too poor or  
Or far away for gifts to be sent  
Make sure the people they love  
Know what their love has meant.

So, this is the time for me to say  
Those things I so love to hear  
That I am always thinking of you  
And you are who I hold dear.  
I hope you have all the joy  
And best wishes from every one  
That you think about every day  
And a season full of holiday fun.

*--Poem by Brent Kindcaid*

## ANNUAL DUES

You should have received an email from our Treasurer, Michele Wright, as an invoice for the 2023-2024 annual dues. The Board has voted to keep the annual dues the same as last year.

If you have not already done so, please send a check for \$185.00 payable to the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna, Inc., P.O. Box 411, Vienna, VA 22183.

If you wish to pay by credit card, please call Michele at the office with your credit card information at 703.917.0804. The Dues paid by credit card including the 4% fee is \$189.00

*Farmers  
Market*

Monica and Michele want to recognize the amazing volunteers at the Farmers Market for their consistent support of the market behind the scenes - special thanks to the "Roadies including Dick Gongaware in NC," Roger Doughty for getting members to volunteer with his weekly dose of humor, for those who got up early to set-up, those who tore down and those in the middle who pitched the Club to people coming up to our tent. But most of all, Michele wants to thank Monica for pushing the market up a notch. We need one more member for the Farmers Market Committee and would like all interested parties with marketing and computer skills to email Michele and Monica at [michelewrightoptimist@gmail.com](mailto:michelewrightoptimist@gmail.com) and [mgi.viennafm@gmail.com](mailto:mgi.viennafm@gmail.com).

## CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

Amidst the winter's embrace, the annual Christmas Tree Sale beckons with its charming array of evergreen delights. From towering conifers standing proud at 10 feet to the cozy companions of just 5 feet, the trees present a wondrous tapestry of verdant beauty. As the sun set on Sunday eve, 56% of our forest had already found new homes. Gazing upon the enchanting scene, one might delight in the sight of that 200 trees have found their holiday homes. Alas, the 12" wreaths have bid their adieu to their verdant brethren. And lo and behold, beautiful tress abound, waiting to be woven into your winter wonderland. And for the little ones, a treat of candy canes awaits, for all those who have been good.

### Sale Hours:

Weekday: 4:00 pm - 7:00 PM

Weekend: 10:00 am - 7:00 PM

Dan Mulville sends his sincerest thanks to Susan Bauer, Roger Doughty, Bill Comerford Jr, Jim Fisher, Dan Gropper, Mairead Holly, Dick Lippert, Gary Moonan, Rich Ordeman, Steve Shannon, Pat Sloan, Mickey Williams, and Karen and Craig Yoon for volunteering at the Caboose in 2023.

We had 3842 visitors during the year, including 775 last Monday during the Holiday Stroll on Church St.

It's never too early to volunteer for the first opening of 2024 on Saturday, March 16th.

We plan to do a power wash and some touch up painting in April/May of next year. Dan will provide the brushes, paint and ladders to anyone who wants to volunteer.

Thanks again for your help at the caboose.



From President Tom Bauer

Greetings Fellow Optimists:

Christmas Trees are here! We had an unexpectedly large delivery of 875 trees this year although the 5 white tagged trees that were promised never made it. Sales are off to a strong start so we should be in good shape to sell out again. Thanks to all of you who are volunteering to sell our trees. There will be something extra in your stocking this year.

We got a good look at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department's newly remodeled social hall this month and it really looks sharp. The hall itself is too large for our meetings but perhaps it could be split in two for a cost we can afford. For now, the plans are to continue at Vienna Presbyterian Church. If there's any suggestions or comments regarding our meeting place, please let me know. I will continue to arrange our meetings for the foreseeable future after Monica takes over.

The recent Carol Waite Brennan awards meeting this year was really awesome. We had 6 well deserving students awarded a \$2500 scholarship to their college in recognition of their accomplishments. This year we had a refugee from Afghanistan who had attended high school in Sri Lanka and then had to start all over again once she came to the U.S. The school counsellor who presented her credentials could hardly get through her presentation. Very moving. It's so heartening to see some of these students achieve great things despite overcoming obstacles that would defeat most people. Our money is being well spent.

Hope to see many of you at our Holiday party on Tuesday, December 5th at Westwood Country Club. This year's party will give us a chance to meet our newest members, Cheryl Welsh and Steve Miller.

Optimistically speaking,  
Tom

*OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING*

## 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 Hanukkah

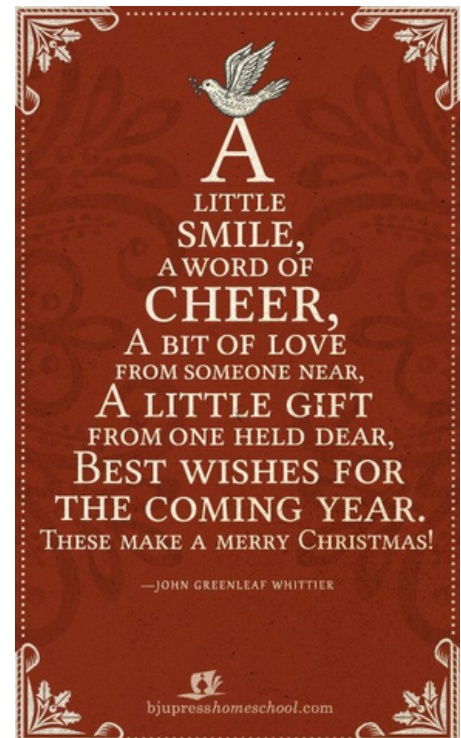


## The Optimist Creed

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



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

With grateful hearts, we extend our deepest appreciation for your gracious contribution of time and talent to Optimist Club events and activities. Your benevolent spirit and unwavering commitment to serving the children of the Greater Vienna community have not gone unnoticed. Your generosity has enabled us to carry out our noble mission, and for that, we are truly grateful.

As we look ahead to the future, we eagerly anticipate your continued involvement in 2024. Once again, thank you, and may the tides of the Holiday Season bring you boundless blessings.

To commemorate our shared journey, we have gathered some captivating snapshots of Optimist volunteers in action, showcasing the magic that unfolds when like-minded souls unite with a common purpose. Bravo!

