

NEWSLETTER OF THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA NOVEMBER 2023



Optimist Club of Greater Vienna



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

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Fun times at the Town of Vienna's Halloween Parade with your fellow Optimists!

The spunky Optimist crew, aka the *Marching Minions*, brought their A-game to the Town of Vienna's 77th Annual Halloween Parade!

Leading the charge were: **Tim Buckley, Michele Wright, Sally O'Connor, Karen Yoon, Fritz Irwin, Pat Solan, Tom Bauer, Susan Bauer, and Gary Moonan.** But, the real crowd-pleaser was none other than Gru himself, winning over the hearts of the spectators.

Way to go, Minions!

Visit us at:

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

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

See our Calendar at:

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

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

★ Happy ★ Thanksgiving



Hello November! It's time to count our blessings, and you are at the top of our gratitude list. Our Optimist volunteers are the stars of the show, sharing their time, talent, and skills to bring exciting events to life and raise funds for the incredible youth of Vienna. Thank you for being a shining light in our community!

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 me 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

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

Farmer's Market

Special thanks to Treasurer Michele Wright and Monica Gomez Isaac, our incoming President, for their incredible year-round dedication to leading our successful and beloved Farmers Market. The Market wrapped up its 2023 season! We are grateful to Monica, Michele, and our amazing volunteers who worked at the Farmers Market, rallied volunteers, and jumped in to help. Plans already are underway for next year, they said.

Christmas Tree Sale

Starting on November 25th, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, and continuing till the day before Christmas, the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna will sell Christmas trees with the help of Oakton High School, Madison High School and Marshall High School students. Trees range in size from 5' to 10'.

There will be wreaths and roping as well. A candy cane for all good kids too!!

Sale Hours:
Weekday: 4:00 pm - 7:00 PM
Weekend: 10:00 am - 7:00 PM



The Carol Waite Brennan Youth Appreciation Awards

They will be presented on Wednesday, November 15. The program will begin at 7:00 in the fellowship hall of Vienna Presbyterian Church.

This is always a special night, as we remember Carol's contributions to our club and recognize outstanding seniors from Madison, Marshall, and Oakton high schools.

Be on the lookout for the invitation, and please RSVP so we have an accurate head count for dinner.



From President Tom Bauer

Greetings Fellow Optimists!

Happy Halloween! Our marching minions (Sally, Karen, Fritz, Gary, Michelle, Susan, Tom, Pat, and Tim) had a ball reaching out to all the kids on the sidelines. What a perfect night! Our good friend, Pudge Gjormand was the Grand Marshall this year. Well deserved for all the years he's coached boys' baseball at Madison.

Thanks to all of those who came to our installation meeting. We now have a new slate of officers who will lead us on to the future. I won't be stepping down until January but I feel so good about leaving the presidency in Monica's capable hands.

Christmas tree sales are coming soon. I am told that we will only receive 580 trees out of the 1,000 that we ordered and that they will be delivered on the Friday after Thanksgiving. This is disappointing news but we will soldier on and sell out quickly as usual. Thankfully, we have more than enough in the bank to weather the storm. We should have a much more robust selling season next year. Our Christmas party will once again be held at the Westwood Country Club and the date has been set for Tuesday, December 5th. We will be providing more details shortly including menu choices.

The Farmers Market is finished for the year. Thanks to Monica and Michele and all of you who volunteered your time, we had a record year which partially made up for our reduced revenue from trees. Looking forward to another great year at the market next year.

Hope to see all of you at our next meeting on November 15th at VPC for the Carol Waite Brennan awards.

Optimistically,
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**



The Farmers Market got a whole lot cuter when Dan and Jessica Van Winkle strolled in with their 9-day-old bundle of joy. Could this little one be the youngest visitor yet?

SCOUTS

- Bill Comerford represented the OCGVA at an Eagle Scout Honor Court at Troop 1539, sponsored by the Vienna American Legion Post, on September 27.
- Ed Wonder represented the club at the October 23 Eagle Scout Honor Court for Troop 987 (boys and girl troops) at Emmanuel Lutheran. This is part of the revival of our club's engagement with local scout troops, focusing on Eagle and Gold Scout awardees for their achievement in receiving those awards.
- The last honor court for this year will be next March, for Troop 0152 at VPC. OCGVA presents the troop with a financial donation and a banner to be attached to the troop flag honoring the Eagle Scouts.
- The troops are planning to send volunteers to this year's Christmas Tree lot.



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING