

OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

December 2013

Calendar

Dec. 2

Caboose Open for Town of Vienna's
"Church Street Stroll", 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Dec. 4

Meeting at Marco Polo
Speaker: Dave Buckley,
CIA Inspector General
Guests: Representatives from Growing Hope
and Walk Sponsors
6:45 p.m. Meet & Greet/7:30 p.m. Dinner

Dec. 11

Board Meeting—7:30 p.m.

Dec. 18

Holiday Dinner Party!
Madison HS Madrigals perform
6:45 p.m. Festivities Begin

Dessert Party follows at the Coles' home

Dec. 23

Christmas Tree Lot Closes

Dec. 25

Merry Christmas!

January 1, 2014

No Meeting

Happy New Year!



Spotlight on Upcoming Events



Our December calendar is, as always, dominated by working at our **Christmas tree lot**. In the immortal words of the Tree Lot Scheduling Czar Jim Houston, "Sign up early and sign up often." If you haven't signed up yet, contact your team captain—he is waiting to hear from you! Sales continue through Dec. 23 or when we are sold out, whichever comes first.

The government shutdown in October prevented **Dave Buckley, Inspector General of the CIA**, from speaking to us then. We are fortunate that he was able to reschedule and will address our Dec. 4 meeting. Also at the Dec. 4 meeting we will present the check to Growing Hope for the proceeds from this year's *Walk for Growing Hope*. We have invited the Walk's sponsors to attend as well. It is a meeting you won't want to miss!

We will celebrate the season at our annual **Holiday Dinner on Dec. 18**. The Madison Madrigals will perform for us. Spouses, friends and other guests are welcome—look for an email with information about the price of dinner for guests and an r.s.v.p. date. And in a nearly-annual tradition, members and their guests are invited to the home of Laurie and Harry Cole for dessert after dinner at Marco Polo.



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna
for over 55 Years

Visit us at www.Optimist Club of Greater Vienna.org
We're on Facebook! [Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub)



From the President—

Dear Fellow Optimists,

I would like to wish each Optimist the most wonderful holiday season. We are all going to be particularly busy with our annual Christmas Tree Sales. Due to the fact that Thanksgiving came on the latest date it can be, that gives us a very short sales season, so our shifts at the Tree Lot should be busier than usual, Please sign up for as many shifts as you can, so we have enough helpers to give our customers a good buying experience. Thanks you Jim Houston and Dick Lippert for heading up this effort for us.

I want to give a special thanks this month to Mike Fitzella, our VP of Youth. In our Partners in Education program last spring we recognized three Special Education teachers in our area. Mike asked the simple question, “Is there any way we as Optimists can help them?” Stacy Kafka, at the Kilmer Center, said she needed funding for a program she wanted to conduct with her students. Mike arranged to have Stacy speak to the club last spring, recommended the club provide financial support, and he asked individual members to donate. On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, several of us attended the Kid Pan Alley concert at Kilmer Center which Stacy organized and the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna helped fund.

Mike found a need in our community that could “bring out the best in our Youth” and followed through to make it happen. Thank you, Mike Fitzella.

December will have two exciting programs. On December 4th our speaker will be Dave Buckley, the Inspector General of the CIA. Also at that meeting we will be presenting a check to Growing Hope. On December 18th we will have our Christmas program with the Madison Madrigals as our entertainment.

Have a great holiday season and see you at the Christmas Tree lot!
Optimistically yours,

President Tom



After all that hard work at the tree lot, we deserve some fun! Plan to attend the annual Holiday Dinner on December 18 at Marco Polo, then head on over to Laurie and Harry Cole’s house for dessert. Directions will be available at the dinner, or email Laurie at lauriecole.optimist@gmail.com.

The Captains List

Contact your team captain to schedule your shifts at the tree lot. Not sure which team you are on? Contact Jim Houston—he will let you know!

Sunshine Team	Jim Houston	703-255-5840	jhouston3276@yahoo.com
Red Team	Jim Houston	703-255-5840	jhouston3276@yahoo.com
Blue Team	Dick Gongaware	703-319-3464	rkgongaware@fcps.edu
Green Team	Jeff Johnson	703-278-8001	jeff@jrca.com
Orange Team	Richard Plocica	703-969-2651	rplocica@cox.net



December Birthday Wishes to:

- Dan Mulville – December 7
- Bill Doughten – December 16
- Les Carl – December 27
- AK Mohamed Yaseen – December 31

Optimist Anniversaries In December:

- Joe Bosco - 58 years
- Rich Ordeman – 35 years
- Jerry Covell – 30 years
- Sheryl Friedley – 20 years
- Jack Barbee – 11 years



Kid Pan Alley Comes to Kilmer Center with the Help of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

Editor's Note: In case you missed it, here is the email from VP for Youth Mike Fitzella about the "Kid Pan Alley" concert at Kilmer Center.

"Yesterday [Nov. 26] was the Kid Pan Alley concert at Kilmer Center, which was the culmination of several months of work by Stacy Kafka, and was made possible in large part due to our financial support. Several club members attended, including: Anna Ryjik, Susan and Tom Bauer, Tom Spengler, Jim Houston, and me. After the concert, Stacy gave us a tour of the facility. It's amazing to see what happens at Kilmer Center, especially considering that the age of the students ranges from 5-22 years, but the cognitive age of most students is 6-12 months. Stacy and the rest of the staff are truly amazing.

Here's a link to a slide show that was put together during the process. We are recognized at the end for our support:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rxuYU_9SRk&feature=c4-over-view&list=UUt7IqS6nJWbJk6HByzJs5Tg

We truly made a difference in the lives of these kids. I'm so glad we chose to support this program, and look forward to growing our relationship with Kilmer Center." —Mike Fitzella

Carol Waite Brennan Scholarships Presented

The Carol Waite Brennan Youth Appreciation scholarships were presented on November 20. Students will receive a \$1,200 scholarship payable to the college they select to attend next spring. This year's winners are:

Madison - Alexis Fowkes and Joel Choi
Marshall - Sarah Kenney and Daniel LaBarbera
Oakton - Emily Hautbus and Brennan Garrett

The recipients were introduced by their high school counselors. The students boast a wide range of activities, from theater to peer mentoring to science to athletics.

Matt Brennan was in attendance and Kelly Brennan assisted with the presentations. Hard to believe she's already in 7th grade!



2013 Carol Waite Brennan Scholarship Winners—Back row: Daniel LaBarbera, Joel Choi, Brennan Garrett. Front row: Kelly Brennan, Sarah Kenny, Alexis Fowkes and Emily Hautbus.

Thanks! 

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped set up the tree lot—including building new tree stands and A-frames—and braved the cold rain to unload trees: Rich Ordeman, Dick Lippert, Tom Fraim, Walt Petersen, Dick Gongaware, Grant Marsh, Jim Houston, Tim Stanton (who moved the trailer), Steve Strackbein (who brought his nail gun), Jeff Johnson, Tom Fraim, Tom Bauer and the Madison High School Baseball Team.

If you missed the fun, don't worry! You can help with the lot clean-up and moving back to the Town Property Yard on December 24!

The next District meeting will be in Fairfax, VA, at the Fair Oaks Marriott on February 21-23, 2014. The Mid-Atlantic International Vice President, Willie Lee, and his wife Frances will be the special guests. Also, the District CCDHH contest will be held during the next meeting, and Immediate Past Governor Art will present awards for the 2012-2013 year. Contact Past-Lt. Governor Tom Fraim for more information and registration forms if you are interested in attending.

November Board of Directors Highlights

The Board of Directors met on November 13, 2013, with 11 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Reviewed, made adjustments to and approved the budget for the 2013-2014 Optimist year.
- Discussed initiatives to attract new members.
- Discussed the success of the club’s support of Kids’ Halloween Party at the Vienna Community Center and participation in the Vienna Halloween Parade and thanked all those who took part. Discussed plans for a float for next year’s parade.
- Approved inviting the float builders, Growing Hope representatives and Walk and Family Fun Day Silver Donors to the December 4 dinner meeting.
- Noted that all arrangements for the tree lot with the bank, shopping center owner, and the town permit were complete.
- Approved obtaining rights to the viennaoptimist-club.org domain to make it easier to find our website.

FROM THE EDITOR:

Don’t leave them stranded!

Often of late our speakers and guests have been sitting at the “head” table surrounded by empty seats. Please help our guests feel welcome and appreciated! Visit with them during the social time, and make sure the table where they sit for dinner is full of amiable Optimists. This is also a great help for the President who is

conducting the meeting while trying to be a good host.

It’s all part of wearing a cheerful countenance at all times, and giving every living creature you meet a smile!



Empty seats greeted guests at a recent meeting.

OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA

Board of Directors 2013 – 14

President	Tom Spengler
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Tom Fraim
Immediate Past President	Laurie Cole
President Elect	Dick Gongaware
Vice President of Community	Michele Wright
Vice President of Finance	Jim Wilson
Vice President of Media Relations	Tom Bauer
Vice President of Membership	Joe Miller
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	Anna Ryjik
Director of Media Relations	Susan Bauer
Director of Membership	AK Mohamed Yaseen
Director of Youth	Jim Stivison
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 class, 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