

# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

December 2016

## Calendar

December 1-23

Christmas Tree Lot Open Daily

M-F: 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Sat/Sun: 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Sign up with your team captain.

December 7 — Holiday Party!

6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**Special Location: Army-Navy  
Country Club**

3315 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax,  
VA

RSVP required!

The tree lot will close at 5:00.



December 14 — Board Meeting

December 21 — No Meeting

December 24 — Hannukah Begins

December 25 — Christmas Day

December 31 — Caboose Open

Vienna's "First Night" Celebration

HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR

## Spotlight on Upcoming Events



*Happy Hannukah, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year!*

**This month, it's all about the trees!** We are off to a great start—\$12,000 in sales the first weekend. But that is just the beginning. With over 1000 trees on the lot, plus wreaths and garlands, we have plenty more sales ahead of us. And can we say it too often? *We need everyone's help!*

For more details about tree sales, see page 3. If you have any questions contact [Jim Houston](#).



*Dick G., Rob, and Tom S. challenge the adage, "Many hands make for light work."*



We take a break from the bustle of tree sales on **Wednesday, December 7**, to celebrate the season with our **annual Holiday Party**. This year we

will be at the **Army/Navy Country Club in Fairfax** (not the one in Arlington). Social time starts at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:00. **RSVPs are required!** If you have not rsvp'd and would like to attend, contact President Michele to see if there have been any cancellations.

Our monthly **"Fourth Wednesday" dinner for the Culmore Teen Center** will be prepared by an *ad hoc* group this month, giving our regular teams a break from their schedule. We are awaiting confirmation of a date before Christmas to make the delivery. See page 4 for more info; contact [Laurie Cole](#) to be part of the December group or sign up for a team.

**Volunteer for "First Night Vienna"**. We have been asked to have people help direct attendees through the "Speak Easy" across Dominion near the Caboose. We will be Warm and have a real bathroom. Time slots: 6-9 and 9-12M. We currently have three people but need three more. Contact [Michele Wright](#).



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—

Dear Fellow Optimists,

Bells will be ringing, children singing and Optimists selling Christmas Trees! What a great time of year.

This is our single largest fundraiser. We are out enjoying the sunshine (or the rain), hauling trees, sweeping the lot, drilling the trees, handing out candy canes. Our reward - the smiles of the children. You cannot ask for any better pay.

Thanks to Dick Gongaware for putting us (or our sign) in the spotlight. If you have not volunteered yet, I am sure your team captain is looking for you. Don't miss out on the fun. There is something you can do even if you cannot lift the trees. Thank you so very much to Jim Houston, Dick Lippert and all our team captains. What a wonderful job you are all doing. Check out our Facebook page with the lot pictures.

The lives in our community will be enriched by our efforts. The Culmore Teen Center Fourth Wednesday dinners continue. They also need coats, hats, gloves and scarves for what is looking to be a very cold winter. Let me know if you have any gently used, cleaned items to donate. We also have set up our website to accept donations by credit card. So when you make a donation note that it is to go to Culmore Center (a program of Alternative House).

Our Holiday dinner is Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 with dinner at 7:00pm. There will be several raffle items along with the 50/50. Tickets for drinks will be available when you check in at the door. **RSVP's required.**

Let's celebrate the joy of the season and peace for the coming year.

Optimistically yours,

*President Michele Wright*



## CALLING ON ALL MEMBERS!

From Kathy Cutri, VP for Membership

There have been no new members since August!

Between October and August, twenty new members/FOOs joined the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna. We need to regain that momentum!

Please invite your friends, co-workers, or other people you meet to attend a meeting and learn about the Optimists. We cannot continue to do the amazing things we do without a strong membership. Reach out, talk us up, and tell everyone about the wonderful things we do.

If you are unsure about what to say, check out (or refer people to) our Website [www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org](http://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org); Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub/>; or Meet-up <http://www.meetup.com/Vienna-Optimist-Club/> pages. Or share this Newsletter. Or ask Kathy Cutri for tips! But that first person-to-person contact is where it all begins.



### December Birthday Wishes to:

Dan Mulville – December 7

Bill Doughten – December 16

Kathy Cutri – December 26

Les Carl – December 27

### Optimist Anniversaries in December

Joe Bosco - 61 years

Rich Ordeman – 38 years

Jerry Covell – 33 years

Sheryl Friedley – 23 years

Jennifer Cutri – 1 year





# Oh Christmas trees, oh Christmas trees, How many of you are there??

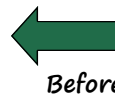


A frontline report from Jim Houston

Christmas tree sales started Saturday November 26. This is our major fundraiser to support the fifty-plus projects to which we donate funds throughout the year. Please support the club and your team captain by volunteering for as many shifts on the lot as possible.

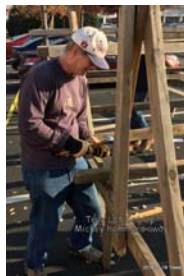
On November 22, with the Madison baseball team doing the heavy lifting, 785 trees, wreaths and roping were unloaded. The following Optimists were there to assist/supervise:

- Rich Ordeman
- Jeff Johnson
- Mickey Williams
- Dan Mulville
- Tom Fraim
- John Andrews
- Bruce Lauther
- Randy Sawyer
- Mark Keam
- Michele Wright



Thanks to the Madison baseball team and the following Optimists, on November 25 we unloaded the last 230 trees, drilled trees for the stands and unbound them. Special thanks to the following for stringing the lights: **Rich, Rob, Randy, Jeff, Dan and Mickey.**

- Rich Ordeman
- Jeff Johnson
- Mickey Williams
- Dan Mulville
- Rob DiRocco
- Randy Sawyer
- Al Dunkerley
- Dick Gongaware
- Yvonne Ha



Photos: Above left, Mickey wields a hammer to bring an A-frame into line. Above right, Dick and Al ask the all-important question, "Is it live?" Below, Jim is sharing wisdom with Coach Pudge and his baseball players.



The Optimist Club supports kids in the greater Vienna community in all sorts of ways--and it is really great that they support the Optimists in return! The **Madison High School baseball team** turned out in force to make light work of unloading our deliveries of hundreds of trees. Thank you, guys!

During our sales season, we'll be getting help from the **Marshall HS, Madison HS, and Oakton HS Octagon Clubs** and the **Louise Archer ES Junior Optimist Club**. The **Oakton HS football team** will also be on the lot to lend some strong hands.

Giving to kids isn't the only way to help them; receiving from them (or, giving them the chance to give) has rewards for them, as well. Another aspect of "Bringing out the Best in Kids". It's what we do as Optimists!



Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

### November Board of Directors Highlights

The Board of Directors met on November 16, 2016, with 9 members present. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Approved Lauren Wagner as the Director of Membership.
- Discussed holding a New Optimists Wanted (NOW) meeting in February.
- Discussed plans for the Holiday Party to be held December 7 at Army/Navy Country Club in Fairfax.
- Noted that all arrangements for the tree lot with the bank, shopping center owner, and the town permit were complete.
- Approved a donation to Marshall High School for Ethics Day.
- Approved a donation to Oakton High School to support two students to attend Hugh O'Brian Leadership (HOBY) Seminar)
- Approved a donation to Paul VI High School for their All Night Graduation Celebration.

### “Fourth Wednesday” at the Culmore Teen Center—Offering More than a Good Meal

Each month members of our Club deliver dinner and a birthday party to the Culmore Teen Center, a Community-Based Services Program of Alternative House. Why do we go to the trouble of shopping, cooking and delivering a meal to these teens? AH said it well on their Facebook page:



*“BIRTHDAY PARTIES. Another way to help young people grow and thrive. Teens at our Culmore Teen Center for at-risk youth receive a monthly dinner and birthday celebration, thanks to the generous, hard-working volunteers at the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna.*

*Many of these teens might otherwise have their birthdays go unnoticed, but every "Fourth Wednesday," these volunteers join us to celebrate our teens and help them feel honored, confident, and empowered.”*

Throughout the year four teams of Optimists rotate the duty of providing dinner, gifts and birthday dessert for the teens. This December we are giving them the month off and assembling an *ad hoc* team of volunteers to provide the party. The Club’s Youth Fund budgets \$100 for the cost of the meal and the small birthday gifts.

If you would like to participate in December’s delivery, or sign up for a team, please contact [Laurie Cole](#).

### OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2016-17

President	Michele Wright
Secretary	Jim Houston
Treasurer	Tom Fraim
Immediate Past President	Joe Miller
President Elect	<i>vacant</i>
Vice President of Community	Anna Ryjik
Vice President of Finance	Dick Lippert
Vice President of Media Relations	Gary Moonan
Vice President of Membership	Kathy Cutri
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	Susan Bauer
Director of Social Media	Nicole Pham
Director of Membership	Lauren Wagner
Director of Youth	Jeff Bechtle
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 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*