



# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

December 2020

## Calendar

*Now—Until they are gone!*  
**Christmas Tree Sales**

Monday-Friday: 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Saturday-Sunday: 10:00 am to 7:00 pm

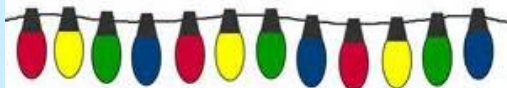
**December 2— Meeting via Zoom**  
**Carol Waite Brennan Awards**  
7:30 p.m. via Zoom

**December 9—Board Meeting**  
7:30 p.m. via Zoom

**December 10—Hanukkah Begins**

**December 25—Christmas Day**

**December 31—New Year's Eve**



Happy  
Holidays!

## News and Notes

Because it is 2020 and nothing seems to go as planned, our **annual Christmas Tree sales** got off to an odd start: for reasons beyond our control, the delivery of our tree order was unexpectedly delayed by several days. Because, you know, why not?



When the trees arrived the day after Thanksgiving the lot was ready and waiting for them. Everything was set up in short order **thanks to our hardy Optimists and the ever-reliable Madison High School baseball players.**

Sales have been brisk and with a smaller-than-usual inventory we should sell out early. However, **there is an ongoing need for volunteers** to work at the tree lot! If you are able to serve either as a tree “lifter” or cashier (credit cards only—no cash handling involved), please sign up at our website,

<https://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/>.

We celebrate the 2020-21 winners of the **Carol Waite Brennan Awards** on **Wednesday, December 2**. Join the **Zoom meeting at 7:30 p.m.** to meet this year's honorees. (And if you are inclined to skip the meeting, please consider this: these kids have had their senior year of high school blown apart by the pandemic. Academics, sports, homecoming, plays, band—everything they were looking forward to is not as it should be. So let's give them a proper, well-attended awards celebration!) The Zoom invitation has been sent via email; if you didn't receive it, please contact Mike F. or Gary M. for assistance.



**More news on the Youth front** from VP for Youth Mike F.: “We have decided to cancel the CCDHH contest this year. Our teachers are overwhelmed, and this would be a difficult program to conduct virtually. We are working with our teachers on the best way to move forward with both the essay and oratorical contests in the new year. Stay tuned!”



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna  
for 65 Years!

Visit us at [www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org](http://www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org)  
We're on Facebook! [Facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/ViennaOptimistClub)



## From President Tom Bauer

### Greetings fellow Optimists!

The Christmas Tree sales fundraiser is underway and, after the first weekend, we are about 1/3 through our inventory. The Square credit card reader is working fabulously (thanks **Gary Moonan & Dan Gropper**). It includes an opportunity for our customers to add a tip, which has resulted in hundreds of dollars of revenue that we hadn't anticipated—all of it going into our Youth Fund.

So far, our staffing has been adequate but there are still many slots left unfilled going forward. Those of you who have not signed up and are able to do so, please visit our website [www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org](http://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org) and volunteer. We need you!

The trees finally arrived on Friday morning November 27th after missing the original Tuesday night arrival, and the count was a little off compared to what we ordered and paid for. Our supplier is aware and we will correct the discrepancy one way or the other.

Special thanks go out to the Madison High School baseball team for once again assisting us in sorting our trees, to those Optimists who helped set up on Friday, and also to the following Optimists who labored to build new A frames to hold our trees on Saturday, the 21st:

**Tom Fraim, Grant Marsh, Rich Ordeman, Roger Doughty, Jeff Johnson, Tom Spengler, Bob Gamborelli, Dick Gongaware, Dan Gropper, Tim Buckley, John Andrews, Steve Bukont, Gary Moonan, Dick Lippert, Joe Miller and Greta Tosi-Miller.**

We have managed to conduct our business safely and in compliance with governmental guidelines while keeping the inconvenience to our customers at a minimum.

We all know that we still have a few challenging months ahead in regard to the pandemic. Even so, we are trying to continue as many programs for youth as we can. VP for Youth Mike Fitzella has been

in contact with the schools to determine which programs we can continue to have virtually. First up: **Don't miss this Wednesday's Zoom meeting for the Carol Waite Brennan Awards.**

I know we are all ready for this to be over and we can return to the life we knew but now is not the time to let our guard down! Help is on the way. Let's all hang in there and stay safe until we can get vaccinated and start the process of returning to normal.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year. Stay safe.

*Optimistically,*

*Tom*



Greta rings up a sale on Square, just part of our pandemic protocols in place for the 2020 tree lot.



Congratulations to **Susan B.** and her counterparts at **AAUW-Vienna Area Branch and DKG-Alpha Nu Chapter**, on the success of November's joint program, "Social Justice in Policing and Education". Nearly 60 people attended by Zoom, representing members of each organization and the Vienna community at large.

The subject matter of the program was important and the speakers offered both information and insight, but perhaps the most interesting aspect of the "meeting" was the time before the program officially began. As attendees signed on via Zoom there were friendly greetings and conversation among the virtual participants. People involved in serving their community know other people involved in serving their community, even if they belong to different organizations! A great evening of education and engagement.

## Board Meeting Highlights November 2020

The Board met on November 11, 2020, with all members (9) attending by Zoom remote meeting. Club business conducted included the following:

- ◆ Treasurer reported there will be some savings in the Youth Fund as various school-related events are cancelled due to the pandemic (e.g., Ethics Day at high schools and CCDHH);
- ◆ Disbursement of budgeted funds was approved for: Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, \$500; CHO (Committee for Helping Others) \$1000 for food bank; Second Story \$2000; Britepaths, \$1000 [amounts to CHO and Britepaths were doubled over budgeted amount due to increased need];
- ◆ VP Youth reported Essay Contest should be able to go ahead this year; fate of Oratorical Contest still unclear;
- ◆ VP Community reported float for Halloween Wave Parade was a success; stipend paid to "Fiddlin' Willy Band" for their contribution of time and talent;
- ◆ VP Media reported on key activities, including setting

up product list for Christmas Tree Sales on Square and developing cashier instructions;

- ◆ President reported on tree lot set up activities and operations.

### Santa's Ready for Covid Christmas!



#### OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2020-21

President	Tom Bauer
Secretary	<i>vacant</i>
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	Bruce Lauther
President Elect	<i>vacant</i>
Vice President of Community	Susan Bauer
Vice President of Finance	<i>vacant</i>
Vice President of Media Relations/Webmaster	Gary Moonan
Vice President of Membership	Bruce Lauther
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community	<i>vacant</i>
Director of Social Media	<i>vacant</i>
Director of Print Media/Community	<i>vacant</i>
Director of Membership	Fritz Irwin
Director of Youth	Ed Wonder
Director of Finance	<i>vacant</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*