



Optimistically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

December 2022

Calendar

Dec. 2 - Tree Sales
4-8 p.m.

Dec. 3-4 - Tree Sales
10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Dec. 5 - Tree Sales
4- 8 p.m.

Dec. 6 - Holiday Party

Dec. 7 - 9 - Tree Sales
4 - 8 p.m.

Dec. 10-11 - Tree Sales
10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Dec. 12 - Tree Sales
4 - 8 p.m.



Santa's got a brand new ride!

News and Notes



From left: Mike Fitzella, Meredith Rainhart, Colby Pham, Alinah Sheikh, Manjula Khetan, Eujin Lee, and Connor Tadlock. Photo credit: Gary Moonan

Six students from James Madison, George C. Marshall, and Oakton High Schools won \$2,500 college scholarships each last month when **Mike Fitzella**, VP, Youth, presented our annual **Carol Waite Brennan** Awards. Dozens of family members, counselors, and club members attended the inspiring event at the Vienna Community Center. Afterwards, guests mingled, sipped delicious Café Amore coffee, and nibbled scrumptious mini-Bundts from Nothing Bundt Cakes. In explaining why they nominated the awardees, school counselors often spoke of the students' exemplary characters including their kind, well-rounded and giving natures -- in addition to their prowess in extracurricular activities and academics. Thank you, **Mike**, and **Sally O'Connor**, for organizing this special event!

In other news, **Steve Shannon** displayed his creative side by joining the TOV to don the Vienna Caboose with wreaths and garland -- plus an inflatable Santa -- just in time for the town's annual Church Street Stroll. According to **Dan Mulville**,

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Serving the youth of greater Vienna for more than 65 years!

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From President Tom Bauer

Greetings Fellow Optimists!

Well, the trees are here albeit 3 hours late but here, nonetheless. Our first Saturday was absolutely beautiful and we had an outstanding day. We've had a little rain since then but we're still almost half way through. We ordered 900 but only received 619. Our supplier tells me that we have one more year of shortages and then we'll be back to normal.

Our Holiday party is fast approaching. It looks like we'll have 34 attending this year. As many of you know, Susan is recovering from surgery so we just decided that we should forego dessert at our house. We'll come up with a good alternative so no one will go dessert-less.

I hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving holiday and took the time to count your blessings. We truly have so much to be thankful for! We are not having a board meeting this month- too much going on this time of year, so nothing to report there.

The Carol Waite Brennan awards were a big success thanks to an innovative approach by Mike Fitzella. We had dessert and coffee at the Vienna Community Center instead of a zoom meeting or dinner. It was a perfect sized room for the event and, as usual we had some outstanding kids win the awards. For those of you who don't know, our award is now a \$2,500 scholarship for the six winners. It certainly makes all those hours at the Farmer's Market and tree lot worth the effort.

Finally, I just want to close by wishing all of you a wonderful Holiday season, hopefully surrounded by loved ones. Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year as well. Oh yes, pray for Ukraine!

Optimistically,
Tom

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"There were over 600 visitors in a little over two hours, a record-breaking turnout for Caboose openings. Big thanks to **Fritz Irwin**, **Pat Solan**, and **Roger Doughty** for volunteering in the Caboose. We passed out train tickets, candy canes, and lit the lights on the Caboose when **Santa** arrived on the firetruck. Stay tuned for Caboose volunteer opportunities starting in March 2023," **Dan** says.

**Board of Directors 2021-2022
Optimist Club of Greater Vienna**

President	Tom Bauer
Secretary, Acting	Susan Bauer
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	Tom Bauer
President Elect	HOW ABOUT YOU?
VP, Community	HOW ABOUT YOU?
VP, Media Relations/ Webmaster	Gary Moonan
VP, Membership	Fritz Irwin
VP, Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Print/Social Media	Karen Yoon
Director of Membership	JonMarc Buffa
Director of Youth	Ed Wonder
Director at Large	Steve Shannon

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

Thank you to these hardy souls and more who turned out to kick off our biggest fundraiser of the year -- Christmas tree sales! From receiving the shipment of trees, wreaths, and garland, to setting up the lot with the trailer and trees, to unwrapping, lifting, trimming, selling, and attaching the trees to car roofs, you helped us sell one third of our trees the first weekend of sales! Special thanks to **Tom Bauer, Tom Spengler, Dan Gropper, Gary Moonan, John**



Andrews, Dick Lippert, Roger Doughty, Richard Ordeman, Rob Moreland, Dan Mulville, Dan Woltman, Mike Fitzella, Sally O'Connor, Pat Solan, Mairead E. Holly, Ellen Payne, Mercury T. Payton, Tod Hall, Bob Gambarelli, Michele Wright, Greta Tosi-Miller, Ed Wonder, Kelly Diamond, Tim Buckley, James R. Hegel, Mickey Williams, Bill Comerford, Jr., Andrea Bryk, Sherry Levitt, Scott Klapot, Karen and Craig Yoon, and everyone else who is participating! Your support means so much. Thank you! Happy Holidays!