



# OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

November 2020

## Calendar

**November 1—Daylight Saving Time Ends!**

Set your clock back one hour.



**November 3—Election Day**

Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**November 16—Special Meeting  
“Exploring Social Justice in Policing and Education”**

7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Pre-registration required (and worth it!)

See announcement for details

**November 18—Board Meeting**

7:30 p.m. by Zoom Remote Meeting

**November 22—Christmas Tree Delivery**

1:00 pm Lot Set-up and Tree Unloading at Giant Shopping Center



**November 26—Thanksgiving**

**November 27—Christmas Tree Sales Begin**

10:00 a.m.

**December Preview:**

December 2—Carol Waite Brennan Scholarship Awards.

## News and Notes

Did you know there is an **election** this month? If you have not yet voted and need voting information, go to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming>. There are alternatives to standing in long lines on Election Day!



Looking past Election Day, sign up now for a very special program, **“Exploring Social Justice in Policing and Education” on Monday, November 16, at 7:30 p.m., via Zoom.** Our VP for Community Susan Bauer has been working for months with counterparts at the Vienna Branch of AAUW (American Association of University Women) and the Alpha Nu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma (Leading Women Educators) to prepare this **joint event**. A panel of speakers will address questions that directly affect the lives of the kids we serve. **Pre-registration is required. RSVP to [ViennaAAUW@gmail.com](mailto:ViennaAAUW@gmail.com) by November 12.** A flyer about the program is being distributed with this Newsletter; please share it with interested friends!



Walter Alcorn



Shirley Ginwright



Sean Perryman



Leona Smith-Vance

**Exploring Social Justice in Policing and Education**

Monday, November 16, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Meet via Zoom



Our **Annual Christmas Tree Sale begins on November 27.**

Many aspects of our operations have been modified to protect the health and safety of our members and customers. **Read more on Page 3.**



**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!

First of all, I hope that this letter finds all of you well, both physically and mentally, after month eight of this pandemic. Thanks to Zoom, we have been able to conduct several general membership meetings and board meetings but, unfortunately, we cannot conduct most of our youth programs for the immediate future. We will be conducting the Carol Waite Brennan award program December 2<sup>nd</sup>. I know we all look forward to this program as it is one of our signature programs and has such an impact on the amazing students who benefit from their award.

As many of you know by now, **the Board has decided to restructure our dues payments**, partly due to the virus but also looking beyond our current restrictions to when we can meet in person again. It was decided to reduce the general dues payment to \$185 per year for all members but not to include meals. We will pay for our meals one at a time when we are able to resume in-person meetings, doing so online by credit card to avoid cash collections. The days of two dinner meetings per month are over. We know we need to streamline our schedule so we can make all of our meetings meaningful and enjoyable and provide more opportunity for social events so that we can enjoy the friendships that we have established and would like to enhance. Michele will be sending out a more detailed explanation with the coming dues statements which should be arriving shortly. As you might have expected, the Board has decided not to have our regular holiday dinner at Westwood Country Club since we could not find a way to do so safely. We remain optimistic that we will not have to cancel too

many more events in the future.

By the time you read this, we will have participated in this year's version of the Halloween Parade with our own float. The theme this year was "Random Acts of Kindness" and our "float" promoted our very own Farmer's Market with the many kind acts that we witness on a weekly basis at the market and, often, participate in. **Many thanks to Susan Bauer and her committee** for their enthusiastic support and creativity. I'd also like to thank **Fiddlin' Willie and his musical men** for providing some live music for the residents of Vienna.

Christmas tree sales will soon be upon us. We will really need an "All hands on deck" approach this year since we will be without the youth participation that we are used to. Please help however you are able. If we all pull together we can make quick work of selling our inventory and bringing some Christmas joy to our loyal customers!

*Optimistically,*

*Tom*

### Stay Safe and Look Sharp with an Optimist Mask!



Available from a local seamstress by custom order for \$13 per mask. If you are interested please contact Michele at [michelewrightoptimist@gmail.com](mailto:michelewrightoptimist@gmail.com) by November 7.



Without an in-person meeting at which to do an official hand-off of duties, **President Tom Bauer and Past President Bruce Lauther** met on the neutral turf of the Farmer's Market. Tom presented Bruce with a token of the Club's appreciation for his service in the tumultuous 2019-20 program year. **Members Susan Bauer, Jeff Johnson, Rich Ordeman, Tom Spengler, and Dick Gongaware** shared the moment—while observing public health guidelines! Thank you, Bruce, for your service; and thank you, Tom, for leading us this year.

*Photo courtesy of Gary Moonan*

*Thank you!  
Thank you!*

# As One Season Ends...Another Begins

## *A few words from Farmer's Market Manager Michele Wright*

The 2020 Farmer's Market is closed.

**Gary Moonan** has done a marvelous job with the volunteer sign-up and the social media aspects of the market. He could use some help for next year. The ideal person would be someone who is comfortable with social media and could devote about an hour a week to preload the feed and proof the postings. In addition, they would need to reach out to the vendors and the musicians to ask them to like our facebook page.

**Dick Gongaware** has hit a home run with the musicians and **John Andrews** and **Dan Gropper** have been his great support team. All three of them covered every week-end and I want to personally thank them as I could not make each Saturday.

Going forward to what we hope is a NON Covid-19 world in 2021, we will have a very full market as we continue to get multiple inquiries each month about becoming a vendor at our market. **Dan Gropper** is working with the FM committee to rewrite our contract and we as a team are looking at some new and interesting ways to run the market to get more revenue.

**We need people** who can put a soft touch on businesses (particularly banks) to become a sponsor for the market for the 26 weeks. Email Michele at [michelewrightoptimist@gmail.com](mailto:michelewrightoptimist@gmail.com) to discuss this further.

The market has been a great success despite the challenges and our vendors were pleased with how we handled the market and the economics. The bar was low this year but we exceeded their expectations.

### **We could use more volunteers in 2021.**

We understand the need to stay safe and appreciate the following people who felt comfortable in volunteering at the market: **Anna Ryjik, Bruce Lauther, Dan Gropper, Dan Irvine, Dan Mulville, Dick**



**Gongaware, Ed Wonder, Gary Moonan, Greta Tosi Miller, Mickey Williams, Jim Wilson, Jeff Johnson, Joe Miller, John Andrews, Tom Fraim, Kathy Cutri, Pat Hackerson, Dick Lippert, Rich Ordeman, Rob DiRocco, Roger Doughty, Steve Shannon, Susan Bauer, Tim Buckley, Tom Bauer, Tom Spengler, and Robert Gambareilli (non-member).**

## *Christmas Tree Sales Start November 28 But the work begins before then!*

Like every aspect of life in 2020, our Christmas Tree Sales are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Here's the outline of how this year's operation will run:

- 🎄 **All contagion precautions that governed the Farmer's Market will be observed at the Tree Lot.** This includes requiring masks for all volunteers and customers, maintaining physical distance, limited access points, and limiting the number of people on the lot.
- 🎄 Our previous team system is replaced with a new organization of three teams. You will be contacted by a Team Captain to determine your availability to work on the lot.
- 🎄 We will not have the help of our youth group partners that has been so important in past years.
- 🎄 To lighten the amount of physical and time-consuming work, we will NOT be unwrapping trees for display (they will be propped up on A-frames) or placing them on the usual stands. Leaving them wrapped will also make it easier to load them onto cars. We will drill trees for customers who use our stands at home.
- 🎄 All sales will be by credit card, using the Square system of payment. A cashier simply selects the item(s) being purchased (e.g., tree size, wreath, stand) and Square calculates the price including sales tax.
- 🎄 We have ordered fewer trees and shortened the hours of operation: **Monday-Friday 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm; Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am to 7:00 pm.**

All these plans have been thoroughly discussed and approved by the Board of Directors. They are for the protection of our members and our community. As with the Farmer's Market, we expect our customers will understand the need for these changes.

### **Pre-Opening Schedule — Help Needed:**

**Saturday, November 21, 8:30 am:** Work party to move materials from the Town Property Yard and build A-frames.

**Sunday, November 22, 1:00 pm:** Trees to be delivered (single delivery this year)

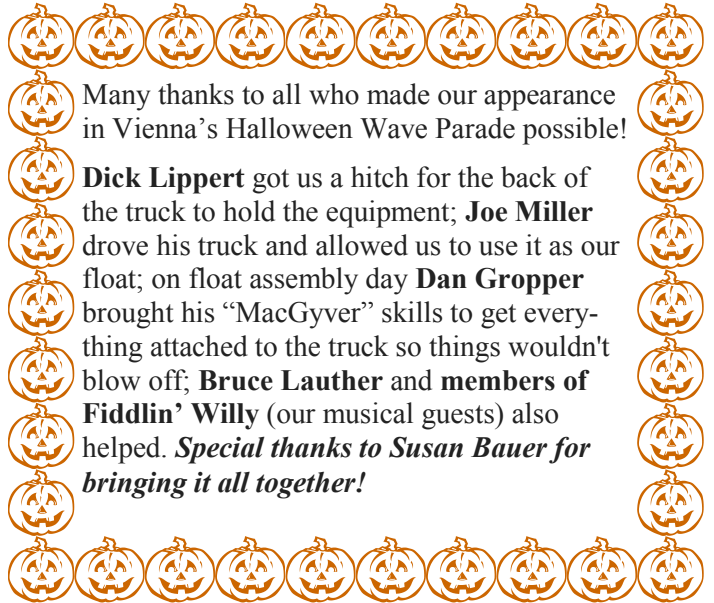
**LOT OPENS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 10:00 AM**

## Board Meeting Highlights October 2020

The Board met on October 14, 2020, with all members (9) attending by Zoom remote meeting. Club business conducted included the following:

- ◆ Discussed and approved procedures for operating the 2020 Christmas Tree Sale, including requiring credit cards for all sales, to be processed via Square;
- ◆ Approved reimbursement to President Bruce for expenses incurred; he in turn made a donation to the Club;
- ◆ Approved the disbursement of budgeted amounts from the Youth Fund to: Culmore Teen Center, \$200; Louise Archer ES 5K, \$350; Vienna Halloween Festivities, \$150; Cedar Lane School PTA Academic Remote Programs, \$500;
- ◆ Discussed proposed revisions to the Club's dues structure, removing the amount previously allocated for meals costs and averaging the other operating costs over the number of members;
- ◆ Youth VP Mike proposed moving the venue for the Sheryl A. Friedley Helping Hands Awards away from Westwood Country Club, due to the high cost;

- ◆ Discussed and approved cancellation of this year's Holiday Dinner at Westwood Country Club due to spacing requirements;
- ◆ Approved a \$5000 donation to DC Candlelighters to be used for holiday gift cards for families dealing with pediatric cancer.



Many thanks to all who made our appearance in Vienna's Halloween Wave Parade possible!

**Dick Lippert** got us a hitch for the back of the truck to hold the equipment; **Joe Miller** drove his truck and allowed us to use it as our float; on float assembly day **Dan Gropper** brought his "MacGyver" skills to get everything attached to the truck so things wouldn't blow off; **Bruce Lauther** and **members of Fiddlin' Willy** (our musical guests) also helped. *Special thanks to Susan Bauer for bringing it all together!*

### 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*