



OPTIMISTICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

December 2021

Calendar



December 1— Holiday Dinner
Westwood Country Club

December 6 — Hannukah Ends

December 25 — Christmas Day

December 26 — Kwanzaa Begins

December 31 — New Year's Eve



News and Notes

In December, it's all about the trees!

Our sales operation seems to get shorter every year. Whether it is a result of tree shortages (we didn't get our full order again this year), eager buyers, or both, it is unlikely we will get beyond our third weekend of sales. As of December 7, only a couple of dozen trees remained on the lot.



There are many people to thank for the success of this year's endeavor: the Team Captains, the lot set-up volunteers, the JOOI members, the Madison baseball team, and our fellow members who are the smiling face of the Optimist Club to the community. To everyone who built an A-frame, lifted a tree onto an Escalade, took a payment, swept up fir needles, or handed out a candy cane, *thank you*.

Here are some scenes from the season (courtesy of Gary M.):



Above: Fully stocked!

Left: Santa's Elves, aka the set-up team on 11/20.

Below left: Building A-frames.

Below: Customers in search of the perfect tree. It's here somewhere!



Serving the Youth of Greater Vienna
for over 65 Years!

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



From President Tom Bauer

Greetings fellow Optimists!

'Tis the Season. Our Christmas Tree sales have gone exceedingly well so far. We were delivered approximately 770 trees out of the 800 we ordered which, when compared to the Lions Club with less than 200 out of the 350 they ordered, makes me very thankful. We have ordered all of our trees from the same supplier for years now and with trees in short supply, I have to think that we benefited from that relationship. As we start our second weekend of sales, we have sold over 50% of our trees and about the same percentage of our wreaths and roping and are officially in the black. Thanks so much to all of you who have helped with the set-up and have stepped up to the plate with our sales. It really is a good experience to work side by side with fellow Optimists and a great way to get to know each other better.



I'd like to introduce our newest member, **Mairead** (rhymes with "parade") **Holly** who was introduced to us by her neighbor, Dick Lippert. Mairead is a retired Navy Captain with 3 tours in Afghanistan, a triathlete, and a dog lover. Many of us got to meet her at our holiday dinner or during her first shift at the tree lot from 4-7 on Sunday, December 5. There's nothing like jumping in with both feet! **Welcome, Mairead!**

Finally, our annual holiday party was a great success! It was so good to see so many familiar faces that we've been missing for a while. We had 44 members/guests and were once again entertained by the Madison High School Madrigal singers. Apparently, we were their first "gig" of the year but you certainly couldn't tell from the songs they sang. We also raffled off a number of gift certificates to local establishments and raised almost \$500.

Susan and I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah and we look forward to what the new year has to offer. As always, we remain optimistic!

Optimistically,
Tom

2021 CAROL WAITE BRENNAN YOUTH APPRECIATION AWARDS

By Karen Yoon

(Nominee for Director of Social Media)

Six seniors from James Madison, George C. Marshall and Oakton High Schools won \$2,500 college scholarships in November through the Vienna Optimists' Carol Waite Brennan Youth Appreciation Awards. The awards were presented via Zoom meeting on November 17, 2021.

The Optimist Club of Greater Vienna presents the scholarships annually to students who have demonstrated outstanding efforts in academics, the arts, athletics and community service, as well as exhibiting kindness, citizenship, optimism and good character. School counselors nominate the students.

This is the 22nd year the Club has awarded these scholarships. In 2002, the awards were renamed for Carol Waite Brennan, an Optimist, who, along with her husband, Matt, started Ethics Day at George C. Marshall High School, and served as Optimist Club president from 2000-2001. Carol passed away from ALS that same year.

Funding for these scholarships is in part provided through our annual Christmas tree sale.... Your volunteering makes a difference.

This year's recipients include: **Lauren Richardson** and **Peyton Van Stone** from James Madison High School; **Grace Chamberlain** and **Gabriel Espinola** from George C. Marshall High School; and **Sharmila Adapa** and **Immanuel Anaborne** from Oakton High School. Recipients were introduced by her or his school counselor, who enumerated some of the activities and achievements that led to each student's selection.

"I never cease to be amazed at the dedication and commitment to excellence that these young people demonstrate. You can't help but feel confident in the future of our country when you hear their stories," Tom Bauer, President, Vienna Optimists, said.

Funding for these scholarships is in part provided through our annual Christmas tree and holiday decoration sale at the Vienna Giant. **Thank you** to all who signed up for shifts on the lot! Your volunteering makes a difference and supports greater Vienna area youth.



Optimist
INTERNATIONAL

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna met November 10, 2021. Six members were present in person and two via Zoom. Among the business conducted was the following:

- Received President's report on Cap-VA District Meeting;
- Discussed plans for holiday party and approved motion to cover meal costs with funds carried over from previous year when dues included meals;
- Discussed plans for Christmas Tree lot set-up and operations, including the great news Director for Youth Ed that JOOI members are ready and able to help this year. Webmaster Gary reported he has created the Tree Lot sign-up page on the website and worked with Dan Gropper to set up the point-of-sale terminal and hotspot for payments;
- Postponed discussion of whether Essay Contest would be held in person or via Zoom;
- Approved the membership application of Mairead Holly;

- Approved request from Historic Vienna, Inc., to provide wreaths and garland to decorate the Caboose and Freeman House;
- Received Farmers Market Manager Michele's report that vendors are already asking for 2022 season applications.

Santa Claus Has Come to Town!

Santa, with a little help from John A. and Dan M., is keeping an eye on Vienna from atop the Red Caboose. Ho, Ho, Ho! It's high up there!



OPTIMIST CLUB OF GREATER VIENNA Board of Directors 2021-22

President	Tom Bauer
Secretary	<i>vacant</i>
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	Tom Bauer
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	Fritz Irwin
Vice President of Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director of Community/Print Media	<i>vacant</i>
Director of Social Media	<i>vacant</i>
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