



Optimistically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna - February 2025

News and Notes

Calendar

Ongoing

Call for Vendors

Vendors may now apply for spaces at the 2025 Vienna Farmers Market.

February

Board Meeting

7 PM (virtual)
Tuesday, 11 Feb 2025

Contest Celebration

7:30 PM
Wednesday, 19 Feb 2025
Northside Room
Vienna Community Ctr.

Coming Soon

Caboose Open House

1 PM-5 PM
Saturday, 15 Mar 2025

Farmers Market

Begins in May 2025

Christmas Tree Lot Volunteer Appreciation

Club socials occur regularly throughout the year. The socials are important for members to network, show appreciation for one another, and to learn more about club activities. Please keep an eye open for notifications of upcoming socials. We would love to have you join other members for an afternoon of smiles (not to mention the food is provided).

The weather couldn't stop the club from holding a social event to recognize our Christmas Tree Lot volunteers. Members who set up and/or broke down the lot, showed trees to customers, trimmed and tied trees, and checked out customers were honored on 18 January at the Blake Lane International House of Pancakes. The turnout was good, and a lot of fun was shared!



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

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www.OptimistClubofGreaterVienna.org, [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#)



Request to All Members: Celebration Ahead!

Please come and join us on Wednesday, February 19 at 7:30pm in the Northside Room at the Vienna Community Center. The club will be celebrating the 2025 Essay Contest winners. The top three finishers will present their essays on this year's topic: "How Optimism Has Paved My Road to Success." The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live. The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective.

Checks for \$1000/\$600/\$400 will be awarded. The first-place essay will advance to the Optimist International District competition, with an opportunity to win a \$2,500 scholarship. The students have worked hard on their essays and a good turnout would mean the world to them. Please join the celebration of their accomplishments!

Trailer Revitalization: Volunteers Needed

Many members may have noticed the poor condition of the trailer used by the club during the Christmas Tree sales. If you missed it, see below for some recent photos. Earlier this month, the club officers voted to start a project to improve the trailer's appearance. An updated trailer will better represent our presence and commitment to Vienna. The project will also be a great way to visibly celebrate our club's 70th anniversary this year.

The trailer project will be a whole club effort. We need many volunteers to prepare, divide, and conquer the various tasks leading up to, and including, the actual day of work. Please consider becoming a volunteer, not only for the revitalization day, but also any of the following: Prep team, Budget and Materials team, Art & Design team, and the Celebration planning team (Who doesn't love a good celebration after finishing a big project?). A project manager will be named soon but until then, please voice your interest to Monica Isaac. All are welcome!



Thought to Remember

“Optimism is not a belief that things will automatically get better; it’s a conviction that we can make things better.”

Melinda Gates

From President Monica Isaac

Dear Fellow Optimists,

In 1921, Helen Keller wrote to a friend and said, “The true test of a character is to face hard conditions with the determination to make them better.” Keller’s wisdom still serves as an important reminder to us all, in light of ever daunting news and uncertain times. While none of us truly know what the future holds, our determination to bring hope for all children, shall be a guiding principle of the club as we embark on our 70th year. This requires us to set the example. It means bringing calm guidance, reassurance, and encouragement from adults who genuinely care with active engagement. It means making a commitment to prioritizing the well-being of a child by giving a little of one’s time and effort to support the next generation. It means reaffirming one’s original commitment upon joining the club and participating. I’m happy to report two more individuals within our community heard the call to serve, share their time, and support our youth by recently joining our club, A warm welcome to both Stefanie Mikkalson and Grant Sitta.

Our upcoming event recognizing Essay Contest winners on February 19th not only awards youth who reflected on this year’s prompt, “How Optimism Has Paved My Road to Success,” but also provides us with an opportunity to authentically and positively support them in their quest to become successful, productive members of society. Knowing someone cared enough to listen and learn from a young person can be THE single act that transforms a youth’s life, conveying a message of genuine solidarity for their well-being. I emphasize this, because as we continue to see in our current era, more and more youth are afflicted by mental health crises. Their fears, anxieties, and doubts are very real. These conditions are exacerbated by relentless negative news cycles yielding no escape or reprieve from never-ending complex problems. And sadly, the spiral of despair will continue if we do not make a commitment to stand by them.

As I first said when I volunteered to serve as president in January 2024, “It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.” I stand by this because there is too much work still to be done than to succumb to hopelessness. There are many opportunities this year to make a difference, even if it’s just one child at a time. And it is for this reason, I stress to all our members, showing up makes a difference. It is not just about the amount of money we raise to finance important scholarships and programs, but also our physical presence supporting youth that serves as a testament of our character. Therefore, your commitment to the club goes beyond an investment in your dues. It involves a conscious effort for those counting on your example.

*Many thanks,
Monica*

**Board of Directors 2024-2025
Optimist Club of Greater Vienna**

President	Monica Gomez Isaac
Secretary	Jacque Brewer
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	VACANT
VP, Community	Susan Bauer
Director, Community	Bill Comerford
VP, Digital Communications	Brian Isaac
Director, Digital Communications	Jacque Brewer
VP, Membership	Dan Woltman
Director, Membership	VACANT
VP, Youth	Mike Fitzella
Director, Youth	Ed Wonder

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