



Optimistically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna - November 2024

Calendar

3 November
Optimist Club Social
Tango Pastry
7:00-8:30 PM

6 November
Board Meeting
7 PM (virtual)

20 November
Youth Appreciation Awards
Vienna Community Center Southside Room
7:15 PM

Coming Up

4 December
Club Holiday Party
Westwood Country Club
7 PM

23 November to 21 December
Christmas Tree Sales

News and Notes

Christmas is Coming!

It's that time of year again! Time to sell the trees and complete our biggest fundraiser of the year! We'll need lifters and cashiers as well as a set up team and a break down team. There are three teams (Blue, Red, and Green). This year's Captains are Tom Spengler, Roger Doughty, and Mike Fitzella. We have trees (4' to 7+'), wreaths, ropes, and tree stands!

Members and non-member volunteers can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0848A4A923A1F94-52527360-christmas>

We also have a sign up for youth volunteers to get their X2Vol credits at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0848A4A923A1F94-52527820-christmas>. If you are in charge of a youth group, please sign up and choose the number of youth volunteers you are bringing. The instructions are on the sign up link.

We are looking forward to another successful year and hope members will join in making light work of this important project!

New Website

Please welcome the new website for the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna (optimistclubofgreatervienna.org)! We've moved hosts and added new features to provide as much information about the club to both our members and the public.

There is an explanation for every youth event and scholarship we offer, details about the farmers market and Christmas tree sale, and a streamlined form for any new members to join. Want to see previous newsletters? There are links for that! Want to donate to our youth fund or know someone who does? Covered via a donate button through Square! Send a question or comment to us? Yep, easy form to use.

Please, take a tour and let us know what you think.



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

Visit us:

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



October Social

New and longer-term members alike enjoyed food and fellowship in October at the Club Social held in Fosters Grille. Committee chairs and board members also provided information on our events and activities. Pictured below, attendees were treated to a special railroad song during the explanation of what club members do with the Vienna Caboose.



New Member – Kara Ariail

Some members had the opportunity to chat with new member Kara Ariail at the October Social. Kara jumped into the Club with both feet and we are glad to have her onboard. Kara is currently Deputy General Counsel and Partner at Holland & Knight, LLP, where she serves as legal advisor to firm management on employment law matters. She has practiced in the area of management-side employment law counseling and litigation since graduating from William and Mary Law School in 2001. Kara was born and raised in Auburn, Maine. She attended college at American University and has lived in Vienna since 2007. She has two daughters who attend Marshall High School, and a son who attends Kilmer Middle School. Welcome Kara!

Rustic Love

Vienna's Rustic Love raised over \$67K for food insecure families in our community due to the Heart Mural near the Vienna Caboose. It took 4 long years to get it through the Town but they persevered. If you go to see the Mural, there is a QR code with the map of the hearts. The Club sponsored a \$350 donation. Pictured are Michele Wright and Tom & Susan Bauer at the sponsor social on Sunday, 27 October.



Holiday Party

It's that time of year again for our annual holiday party! It will be at the Westwood Country Club on 4 December at 7 PM! Members attend for free and guests/non-members are \$50 (plus \$2 transaction fee). Dinner will be Salad, Cookies, and a choice of Salmon, Chicken, or Vegetarian. There also will be a cash bar and entertainment!

Please RSVP by 1 December to get our dinner order in. If you have a guest or are a non-member, please put the guest's choice of dinner in the comment box. We will send you a Square invoice to your email. Thank you! Click on link to RSVP and choose your meal! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0848A4A923A1F94-52837877-annual>

Carol Waite Brennan Youth Appreciation Awards

This year's Carol Waite Brennan Youth Appreciation awards will be presented on Wednesday, 20 November in the Southside Room at the Vienna Community Center. We will be recognizing two seniors from Madison, Marshall, and Oakton high schools for their achievements, and awarding each of them a \$2,500 scholarship.

The program will begin at 7:30. Plan to join us a little early (around 7:15) to mingle with our students, their families, and faculty members. The club will be providing dessert. Be on the lookout for the invitation and please RSVP so we have an accurate headcount.

November Social - Farmer's Market Thank You

Another year down...26 weeks total. Club members got together again for wonderful food and camaraderie to honor all the work done to make the Market a great success. Meeting at Tango Pastry on Maple, we had coffee, desserts such as croissants and facturas (Argentinian pastries) as well as a variety of their fantastic empanadas. Pictured here, President Monica Isaac thanked the group for their hard work and provided some news about their efforts.

The new use of the Farmspread software allowed us to collect more funding from vendors to include drop in and we tried something new this year, collaborating with Cornerstones of Reston, a group that collects for the food insecure. Working with our vendors, leftover produce was donated at the end of each Saturday. By the end of the season, we collected over 5,000 lbs of food to feed over 300 families. The vendors also noted that this was the most profitable year they have ever had at our market. Lastly, we turned a negative into a positive. Our customers were not happy about not being able to bring their dogs into the market the last few years. The introduction of Pooch Parking not only made people happier, we raised over \$300 in donations!

All in all, we had a wonderful market year and a great time hanging out with all the volunteers to celebrate our accomplishments. Hope to see everyone volunteering next year!



From President Monica Isaac

Dear Optimists,

It is hard to believe 2024 has nearly come to an end as we've now put away the summer attire and pulled out an extra sweater to enjoy cooler temperatures.

Despite the pace in which time seems to have accelerated, our club has made significant progress and met multiple milestones. Beginning with the farmer's market, we successfully completed another solid 26 weeks with record turnout in consistent foot traffic, an increase in new vendors and musicians, as well as revenue resulting from Pooch Parking tips.

Additionally, I am also happy to report our collaborative efforts with the foodbank at Cornerstones of Reston resulted in a total of 5,017 pounds of fresh produce gleaned from our market alone, supporting 311 families! To celebrate the close of the market, members met at Tango Pastry for the November social and appreciation gathering, with delicious empanadas, facturas, and coffee on November 3rd.

Another major accomplishment the club has made involves a new website. A big thanks to Brian Isaac and Anne Marie Wonder (Ed Wonder's daughter) for designing and applying best digital marketing practices to give the club an update. This important tool now features a mobile-friendly version showcasing all our programs and services. As we continue to court new members, our efforts to reach them on platforms they know and regularly use will help advance the club and make it sustainable for years to come. The improved website will also help us promote our upcoming Christmas tree sale and support coordination of volunteer shifts at the tree lot with Signup Genius links. As we look forward to the remainder of 2024, I encourage all to join us for a few shifts at the tree lot and RSVP to attend the December Holiday party at Westwood Country Club on December 4th. What better way to finish the year on a solid, fun note with holiday spirit.

Finally, I would like to make a final plea for an OCGV Essay Contest Coordinator to replace Dan Irvine, who oversaw this effort for several years. Without someone to take his place, we will not be able to facilitate scholarships for talented high school youth counting on us. This activity is INCREDIBLY low key, not demanding, and involves sending/reading a few emails. We need a new lead volunteer ready to replace Dan no later than November 15th. If you, or someone you know would be interested in supporting this virtual volunteer opportunity, please reach out directly to info@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org or contact me directly.

Many thanks,

Monica

Board of Directors 2024-2025 Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

President	Monica Gomez Isaac
Secretary (acting)	Susan Bauer
Treasurer	Michele Wright
Immediate Past President	Tom Bauer
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