



Optimistically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna – January/February 2026

News and Notes

Calendar

Board Meeting

14 January 2026
7 PM (virtual)

Farmers Market

Starts in May!
Volunteers Needed
Saturdays 8-12

Day of Service

3rd Monday in
January

International Day of Education

24 January 2026

Optimist Day

1st Thursday in
February

Junior Optimist Reading Month

February

70th Anniversary and Tree Lot 2025

The Club's 2025 Tree Sale was a great success. All but 16 trees were sold. All wreaths and roping were sold and with the tree sales, the club profited over \$30K for our youth programs and scholarships. Our dedicated members and volunteers who set up, sold and carried trees, kept the lot looking great, and braved all types of weather were spectacular and appreciated!

An anniversary celebration preceded the opening of sales. Local dignitaries, club members, and citizens supported the opening which featured hot drinks, cookies, and carol singing (led by Wendi Carroll and Kara Ariail).

Heartfelt thanks to Tree Lot Supervisor, Mickey Williams, for his leadership and dedication! Signups went smoothly to fill shifts over each weekend and everyone had a chance to meet new volunteers as well as reconnect with returning members. Customers regularly shared their memories of past years and how they were impressed with this year's lot and the amount of service provided.

So many people provided time, skills, and support to making the sales the best ever. Friends from the Vienna Arts Society, local high school teams, and scout members joined club members in preparations, set up, lot operations, and clearing the lot when the sales were complete. Also, thanks go out to Eddie, Dan, Frank, Gary, John, and others for breaking down the lot and transporting our trailer back to the Northside Lot.



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

Visit us:

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



70th Anniversary and Tree Lot 2025 Pictures

Lot Set Up



Anniversary Festivities and Opening:



70th Anniversary and Tree Lot 2025 (continued)

Packing It Up for Next Year:



Reflecting on Optimist Values

Have you thought about what Optimists use as fundamental beliefs to guide behavior and decision making? According to Optimist International:

Optimism - the heart of everything the individual and the club does. Optimists encourage positive action and foster the creation of meaningful change.

Respect - valued in all interactions as Optimists see the worth of the contributions of every individual. Through dignity, compassion, and care, we embrace diversity and foster a culture of inclusion.

Integrity - Optimists maintain a high standard of honesty, ethics, and transparency in everything we do. Optimists do what is right, even when it is difficult and set a positive example for others to follow.

Global Community - all Optimists, as individuals and clubs, embrace shared humanity across all cultures, beliefs, and borders. Optimists commit to thinking beyond local solutions and nurture cooperation and empathy to create a better world for all.

Decking the Halls at the Caboose

Volunteers came out at the beginning of the holiday season to ensure the Town Caboose was in keeping with the holiday spirit. Thanks to all for taking the time to put up decorations and spread holiday cheer!



Holiday Party

Many thanks to all who attended the Holiday Party at Westwood Country Club last month. Dinner, drinks, and holiday music were enjoyed as well as raffles and a trivia contest. Club members gifted \$235 worth of gift cards which were donated to assist residents in the Vienna area.

Socials Coming Up!

Keep an eye on your emails for notifications of club socials coming in the winter months. Cost is covered in your membership – all you need to do is sign up and show up at the appointed time and place. We would love to see you!

From President Wendi Carroll

Warm Holiday Wishes from the Optimists Club of Greater Vienna

Dear Members and Friends,

As the year draws to a close, the board and I would like to extend our warmest holiday wishes to each of you. May this festive season bring you joy, peace, and a cozy, warm winter shared with family and friends.

Thank you all for your dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work, which made 2025 such a successful and meaningful year for our club and the community we serve. Your optimism, commitment, and teamwork truly made a difference, and we are deeply grateful for everything you contributed.

Looking ahead, we wish you an optimistic, healthy, and inspiring New Year in 2026. May it be filled with new opportunities, continued friendship, and many more moments of positive impact together.

Happy Holidays and best wishes for the New Year!

Warm regards,

Wendi C. Carroll

Board of Directors 2025-2026 Optimist Club of Greater Vienna

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Immediate Past President
VP, Community
VP, Digital Communications
Director, Digital Communications
VP, Membership
VP, Youth

Wendi Carroll
Jacque Brewer
Michele Wright
Monica Gomez Isaac
Kara Ariail
Brian Isaac
Jacque Brewer
Dan Woltman
VACANT

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