

The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth
November 21, 2022



November

11/02: Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, Executive Director of OAR. We are familiar



with OAR for providing the tree lot with people doing community service in lieu of incarceration, or on their way back to the community after serving. Ms. Valerrama informed us that OAR also has programs to confront and dismantle individual racism and racism in the legal system. Thank you, Brian Kellenberger, for inviting her.

11/16- ISCC Lunch Man/Women of the Year. The president of the ISCC, our own Sandy Bushue ran a flawless meeting of the organization that is an umbrella for twenty Arlington service organizations. There were 16 Optimists in attendance.

Jeff Englander, with assiduous attention to objectivity, read the results of his



award task force selecting the ISCC's Woman and Man of the Year. Unfortunately, the ISCC's Man of the Year, Frank O'Leary, was unable to join us! Congratulations Frank!! (Left: file photo of Frank from October 2021.) The luncheon speaker was Arlington County Manager, Mark Swartz, who outlined some of the challenges facing Arlington, including re-purposing vacant office space and increasing housing in a thoughtful manner.

An interesting note: both door prizes (blueberries from the Kiwanis Club and a seven-foot Christmas tree from our Optimist Club) were won by Peter Wehmann

and Sue Gartner, respectively! Sue graciously gave her Christmas tree door prize to the Sherriff's Color Guard for one of their charities. In a few days, Sandy will be sending out ISCC's first newsletter to all Optimists which will provide details of the luncheon, including the Arlington Board's Proclamation in appreciation of the works being done by the members of the ISCC.



Left to right: ISCC Secretary Deneise Boyd, ISCC President Sandy Bushue, Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz and ISCC Secretary Debbie Whitenton.

11/18-20: Tree Lot Construction. Once again, JB Whitlow has managed the complex task of assembling the tree lot structure, including pods and lighting. This year, many hands made light work on Friday, especially with eight members of Babe Ruth baseball to help. JB and Brian Kellenberger came back again on Saturday to finish up and on Sunday, placed signage to direct our traditional customers to the Knights of Columbus parking lot. Thank you, many Optimists (listed in Sandy's Update, below) and these Babe Ruth Baseball volunteers, in photo below. Photos by Brian Kellenberger.



11/25: Tree Lot Opens for Business. See Sandy's schedule attached as Appendix 2, below. A clearer copy will be sent to everyone by email tomorrow.

December

12/07: Paul Ferguson, Arlington's Clerk of the Court. What is going on in Arlington. Thank you, **Frank O'Leary**, for inviting him. WGCC at 12:15.

12/14: The Annual Christmas Breakfast! Please RSVP to **kellenbergerbk@gmail.com** to confirm your attendance by Friday December 9th. Thank you, **Brian Kellenbeger**, for managing this important event since 2012! WGCC at 7:30.

President's Message by Andreas Baltatzis

Dear Fellow Optimists,

Welcome to the busiest time of year for the Optimist Club! I am Optimistic that our members will rise to the occasion.

First, a big congratulations to Frank O'Leary for being named the ISCC Man of Year! Frank's contributions to Arlington County are



immeasurable and this award helps recognize his incredible work. We are very fortunate to have him as a member of the Club.

Second, the TREE LOT OPENS this Friday (11/25) at our new location 5115 Little Falls Rd. at the Knights of Columbus. Please spread the word by sharing the attached flyer prepared by Clayton Depue's talented daughter. (See Appendix 3, below). There are still spots available for volunteers, especially on the weekends. We have less trees than usual so we should sell out fast! Don't miss your chance to volunteer.

Third, tree lot opening day also marks Thanksgiving (the less important day of the two). I want to wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving. I am thankful for being a member of this great club that does so much for the youth of Arlington County.

Fourth, keep an eye out for the RSVP for the Christmas Breakfast. This is one of our best events and a great way to impress prospective members. Brian Kellenberger always puts together a fantastic program. Thank you, Brian!

Optimistically yours,
Andreas

Christmas Tree Lot Update

by Sandy Bushue



Dear Optimists,

OPENING DAY is this FRIDAY!!

This past Sunday morning I was up very early and decided to drive to the Columbus Club (our new tree lot home) to see JB, Brian and crew's work in setting up our new tree lot at our new location. They worked all day on Friday making great progress, and Saturday, JB, Brian and Jeff Englander put on the final touches including

installing “Old Glory” - BEAUTIFUL! Coming from South Arlington (yes, not all Optimists live in North Arlington) and driving up Glebe Road, I almost pulled in to the Wells Fargo Bank. Sadly, it dawned on me that we are no longer there after 75 years. The WF parking lot had not one car on it and it really looked forlorn. For 75 years, that parking lot and street corner were a frenzy of activity of joyous and happy people and kids this time of year. It was the antithesis of what a thriving community looks like. Not so much this Christmas season.... I think a real loss to WF, but we move on.....

Once I continued to the Columbus Club, I recognized all the signs of holiday activity. I pulled into the parking lot and our lot is the ENTIRE back of the Columbus Club parking lot. We have UBER room!!! It is wonderful!! A big “five thumbs up” to JB and all who helped him: Brian, Jeff, Frank, Greg, Eric Turner, Gavin, Erica and at least eight volunteers from Babe Ruth Baseball!!!! JB sends in this photo of the completed lot – all ready for the trees!



Please note these dates: Weather in Canada has delayed shipping, so the first unload has been postponed until tomorrow morning.

- **Tuesday, November 22, 8:00 am - Unloading trees**
- **Wednesday, November 23, 8:00 am - Unloading trees**
- **Friday, November 25, Noon - OPENING DAY**
- **Thursday, December 1 (tentative) 8:00 am - Final tree unloading**
- **Thursday, December 1, 5:00 to 7:30 pm - VISION 2050 CELEBRATION and Lighting of the Holiday Grove. Dominion Electric, 5053 Langston Blvd, Arlington, Langston Arlington Chorale. President Andreas Baltatzis is participating. Arlington Optimist is providing the trees. The 18' tree is a donation from the Arlington Optimists. I think snacks and drink will be served. Come support this event.**

Three cheers to Richard Knight who handles the unloading. We used to never have problems with the trucking situation. Cannot say that today. The past eight years have been somewhat of a tree lot “nightmare”. We are not off to a great start with one unloading being postponed. I will remain optimistic for 2022!

A big thank you to those who will be working the lot. OPTIMISTS ACT ONLY AS CASHIERS!! We have plenty of volunteers. Barbara and Erica have worked hard to get the help. Thank you, Ladies!!!

Frank O’Leary (aka “Man of the Year”) has the money collection situation under control. Brian Kellenberger has been working overtime getting the signs organized to direct our customers to the new lot (see Brian’s photo, right, of the Optimist sign at the old lot placed by Brian and JB on Sunday).



Three cheers to the PR committee - Tricia O’Hara, Frank O’Leary, Clayton Depue and Erica Burson!! They have put in a lot of effort this year!

The Tree Lot Committee has been working all year to ensure we have a successful 2022 and a bright future ahead. Thank you, Tree Lot Committee. It is now showtime and I am confident your hard work will pay off!!!!!!

Attached (as Appendix 1) is the ad that will be posted in several publications and in Appendix 2 is the most recent the tree lot calendar. NOTE - We have some open spots particularly the weekends of 12/3 and 12/10. We can use help there.

To close, it was reported in the Fairfax County version of the *Sun Gazette* that the Vienna Host Lions Club were unable to secure Christmas trees this year. They suggested their customers support the Vienna Optimist Club. I share this to let you know how great all of you are in keeping our tree lot tradition continuing.....Way to go!!!

Let's go Optimists!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Optimistically,
Sandy Bushue



mw: 142

Photos by Mark Whitenton unless otherwise noted.



Optimist Club of Arlington 16-005;
Mid-Atlantic Region 3;
Capital- Virginia District 16;
Northern Virginia Zone 4;
www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org

Appendix 1

ARLINGTON OPTIMIST TREE LOT 76TH YEAR! **NEW LOCATION: 5115 LITTLE FALLS ROAD - COLUMBUS CLUB**



LOT OPENS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2022
SMALL TREES AND LARGE TREES FROM TABLE TOP TO 14'
FRASER FIR • WHITE PINE • BALSAM FIR

Mon - Thurs: 2 p.m. - 8 p.m. | Fri: 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. | Sat & Sun: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Optimists would like to thank the Knights of Columbus for our new "home".



SUPPORT ARLINGTON OPTIMISTS

All workers are volunteers - 100% of money raised goes to helping Arlington Youth

www.optistclubofarlingtonva.org

Appendix 2



Tree Lot Calendar 2022 SCHEDULE (as of 11/17/22)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: If you need to change your scheduled date and time, it is up to you to find your replacement. Out of courtesy, please contact the lot captain who is responsible for that week.

11/25-12/2: Brian Kellerberger (kellerbergerb@gmail.com / 703.501.0343); 12/3-12/9: Andrew Baltatzis (abaltatzis@gmail.com / 703.862.3452); 12/10-12/16: Jeff Englander (EnglanderJeffrey@gmail.com / 703.500.3028); 12/17-12/23: Bob Patton (jpatton@hotmail.com / 703.981.3412).

The Optimist directory is on the website at www.optimistclubofarlingtonva.org. Please sign-up as a member to access the directory. You may want to do so now.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	NOTES FROM THE OPTIMISTS: Welcome to our new location. We are grateful to the Knights of Columbus who kindly offered their parking lot for us to sell our trees. If all goes well this season, this will be the Optimist Tree lot's new "home". GAR volunteers and Honor Societies from Arlington high schools will be assisting the tree lot daily. There are many duties to be performed on the lot to include: assisting customers to find the perfect tree, using the chain saw for a fresh cut, loading tree in or on vehicles and tying tree securely, making wreath boddies, sweeping lot, restocking trees, directing lot car traffic (if needed) and keeping the lot and shell organized and tidy, and finally, any other miscellaneous tasks. Upon arriving, please study the price list which includes tree variety and size with price and prices for wreaths, garland and tree stands. Please ensure the younger workers are not running around the lot and playing in the tree stacks. Highly recommend that cell phones, keys, etc. are kept in your vehicles. Trees are usually wet and have sap and may damage your phones. Often times, volunteers lose phones and keys among the trees which are then very difficult to find. Please secure these items. Volunteers must wear an Optimist vest. Gloves are a MUST and there are extra gloves in the "shell". Safety is a TOP PRIORITY. Please be careful. Lastly, the Optimists value your time and support of your volunteer service and we are very grateful for your help. Be safe and keep warm and happy tree lot service. Thank you!! Optimistically, Arlington Optimists					BABE RUTH 11/25 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Gartner, Wehmann Noon - 4:00 p.m. Gartner, Wehmann 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. S&B Kellerberger, Autlier	ACORNIS 11/26 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Gartner, Wehmann 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. ACORNIS 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. ACORNIS
	ACORNIS 11/27	BABE RUTH 11/28	BABE RUTH 11/29	BABE RUTH 11/30	BABE RUTH 12/1	BABE RUTH/HOCKEY 12/2	BABE RUTH/HOCKEY 12/3
Captain: Kellerberger	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. S&B Kellerberger, Autlier	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Clough	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Turner	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Depue	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Turner	Noon - 5:00 p.m. Bushue, Mora	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Bushue
	1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Kellerberger	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Harris	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Depue	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Patton	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Depue	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Patton, Englander
	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Patton, Kellerberger						5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD
	BABE RUTH/HOCKEY 12/4	HOCKEY/YULA 12/5	HOCKEY/YULA 12/6	HOCKEY/YULA 12/7	HOCKEY/YULA 12/8	HOCKEY/YULA 12/9	HOCKEY/YULA 12/10
Captain: Baltatzis	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Baltatzis	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Depue	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Depue	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Whitertons	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Bouchard	Noon - 5:00 p.m. TBD	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Baltatzis
	1:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Harris	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Bushue	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Baltatzis	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Baltatzis	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	1:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD
	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD						5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD
	AGSB/SOCCER 12/11	AGSB/SOCCER 12/12	AGSB/SOCCER 12/13	AGSB/SOCCER 12/14	AGSB/SOCCER 12/15	AGSB/SOCCER 12/16	AGSB/SOCCER 12/17
Captain: Englander	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Englander	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Englander	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Whitertons	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Whitertons	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD	Noon - 5:00 p.m. TBD	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. TBD
	1:00 - 5:00 p.m. O'Hara	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Bushue	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	1:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD
	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Englander						5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD
	12/18	12/19	12/20	HISTORY AND LOT INFORMATION: The Arlington Optimists have been selling trees for 75 years. The tree lot has become a tradition for many Arlington families. In many cases, the lot is serving the third generation of Arlingtonians. This year the lot has 3 varieties of trees - white pine, Fraser fir and balsam fir. The white pine and Fraser fir trees are from Galax, VA. Balsam Firs are new this year and they are from Canada. The tree shortage of 2017 still exists and this year we have been adversely impacted. We usually sell 2400 trees. We only received 1700 trees from Galax, VA and the 400 Balsam Firs from Canada. The wreaths and garland are made locally in Arlington and McLean, VA. The wreaths are made by hand and have customized features. The White House Ornaments are from the White House Historical Society. The White House Historical Society selects the design each year. There is NO POLITICAL affiliation with the ornaments.			
Captain: Patton	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. TBD	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD	2:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD				
	1:00 - 5:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD				
	5:00 - 8:00 p.m. TBD						

Appendix 3

Optimist Club Christmas Tree Sale

*Come Visit Our Christmas Tree Lot
and Help Us Help Arlington's Youth*

We have moved!

5115 Little Falls Rd • Arlington • VA 22207

*You will remember us from our previous location
at the Wells Fargo Bank*



*We sponsor academic and sports activities for Arlington youth,
including essay, oratorical contests and Babe Ruth Baseball
and Arlington Soccer and much more.*

*Come visit our Christmas tree lot
and help us help Arlington's youth!*

*All of the profit from your Christmas tree purchase goes directly
to help the youth of Arlington*

We are all volunteers, with no paid staff

571-969-4084



Thank you for being a past customer and supporter