

November 30, 2016

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The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

Upcoming Events

December

12/01: Last Tree Unloading.

Tree lot "party" starts at 8:00 am. Please help out!

12/07: Social time. This will be a great opportunity to get to know each other better. Please sit with someone you haven't sat next to lately. WGCC at 12:15.

12/14: Annual Christmas Breakfast. Once again this year, Brian Kellenberger will be chairing this event. Look for Madrigal singers, welcoming local officials, and a good time for all. Please bring your spouse and special guests to this wonderful event. WGCC at 7:30 am.



November

11/02: Arlington Co. Bond

Referendums. A representative from County Board Member John Vihstadt's office described the bond initiatives on the November 8 ballot. Thank you. Mark Zetlin, for inviting this speaker.

11/16: Inter-Service Club Council.

At this year's annual luncheon, Sandy Bushue received the Inter-Service Club Council's award for Woman of the Year for 2016!!! Sandy was nominated by the Optimist Board and was selected over nominations from the 21 other member organizations of the ISCC. The ISCC cited Sandy's extraordinary record of involvement and professional advice on

12/21: There will be no Meet 'n' Greet in December.

January

1/04: Gold Medalist Ginny Thrasher. Ginny won the very first gold medal at this summer's Olympics in Rio! Now a sophomore at West Virginia University and a past star in the Arlington Optimist-Acorns Junior Rifle Club, Ginny will talk to us about what her life has been like this past year. At Sehkraft Brewing, 925 N. Garfield St. 12:00 - 1:30.

Christmas Tree Lot

The Christmas Tree lot opened on November 25! Many thanks to all the Optimists who helped with the construction (headed by JB Whitlow) and the tree unloading (headed by Sandy Bushue) -- see stories, opposite and below.

transportation issues for the benefit of Arlington and the Nation, as well as her exemplary work within the Optimist Club to raise funds for the benefit of Arlington's youth sports and scholarships. Remember that Richard Knight was selected as the ISCC's Man of the Year last year! Kudos to these two exceptional people who are excellent representatives of our Optimist Club!

11/18-19: Construction of the Christmas Tree lot: Once again, JB Whitlow has devoted his time and talent to managing the construction of the Christmas tree stands, placement of the PODS, and installation of the lighting and signs.



JB Whitlow, John Karinshak, and Bob Patton building tree frames.



Christmas tree lot ready for business. *[Photo of lot in 2015].*

The opening weekend after Thanksgiving Day was a great success! Sandy Bushue provides the following report:

We had a successful unloading party on Tuesday, 11/22. BIG kudos to Richard Knight for lining up and organizing OAR. Those guys were wonderful and strong. We started at 8:30 a.m. and ended at 11:30 a.m. We had two 18-wheeler trucks completely full. Over 1,000 trees were unloaded. Everyone was pretty tired by the end.

This year the trees are really fantastic!! We switched to a new grower who is really super. The grower, Allen Sexton, even showed up on the lot Tuesday morning to ensure that the trees arrived.

This year's assistants included Greg Clough, Mark & Debbie Whitenton, and, especially, John Karinshak, Brian Kellenberger, and Bob Patton, who worked all day on Friday the 18th to ensure the tree stands were finished.



JB Whitlow directing the PODS delivery truck to just the right spot.



Greg Clough, Brian Kellenberger, and Mark Whitenton once the stands were finished. *Photo by Debbie Whitenton.*

We are off to a GREAT start!!!
Last weekend was our biggest first weekend in our 70 years; it was history making!!!! A huge thank you to those who worked on the lot and to John Karinshak, who managed all the action. Also, I understand we had plenty of volunteers! Way to go Barbara Nicastro!!!



Christmas tree lot in full swing, starting November 25. Photo by Barbara Nicastro.

If you have not come up to the lot to see it, please do. It looks terrific!! Again, big kudos to JB Whitlow for his wonderful carpentry skills. JB, you did another great job!!!!

Greg Clough is the captain this week. He had a very busy weekend last week. To make it more difficult, I made a big error with the schedule that I

11/22: Christmas Trees Delivered:
Under Sandy Bushue's direction, a total of 1,000 trees were delivered in two large trucks and stacked in the lot with the help of 14 Phoenix House



Sandy Bushue puts on her unloading shoes, here with Scott McCaffrey, Managing Editor of the *Arlington Gazette*. Photo by Sue Gartner.

Volunteers who were arranged for by Richard Knight. In addition to Sandy, other Optimists who were on hand to help included Sue Gartner, Richard Knight, Barbara Nicastro, Peter Wehmann, Bill Swanson, JB Whitlow, Frank O'Leary, and John Karinshak.

Thank you all for your much-needed contribution to the unloading "party".

think I need to publicly admit.
Thank you Greg for stepping
up!!!

Also, please check out our
website. Greg Clough keeps it
updated and does such a great
job. So far, we have had two
people who are interested in
joining our Club reaching out to
us through the website.
Another thank you, Greg, for
your hard work!!!

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



Arlington Optimist Club 16-005 Mid-
Atlantic Region 3
Capital- Virginia
District 16 Northern Virginia Zone 4
Arlington Optimist Club
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Phoenix House helps unloading the
truck. *Photo by Sue Gartner.*



Three Optimist unloaders: Peter Wehmann, Barbara Nicastro, and Richard Knight. *Photo by Sue Gartner.*



