

November 30, 2017

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The Optimist Monthly

Friend of Youth

Upcoming

December

12/06: Update on Iran and North Korea Threats. Dr. Andy Semmel returns to brief us on the status of the Iran Nuclear Deal and the North Korean Nuclear Threat. Thank you Clayton Depue for inviting him again. Our special guest will be the Optimist Lt. Gov (Zone 4) , Anne Grabowski. Also, please make a point of greeting Rahul Russell, sponsored by Erin Mendenhall, who is hoping to join our Club. WGCC at 12:15.

12/13: Annual Christmas Breakfast. Brian Kellenberger, once again managing this important event, entices us with the following: It looks to be



November

11/01: Opera Nova. A number of luminaries from the Opera Nova discussed their organization and their contributions to Arlington and beyond. Soprano Jocelyn Hunt (on right) treated us to her stunning voice, accompanied by Barbara Wilkinson (left) on the piano.



Thank you, Tricia O'Hara, for asking the Opera Nova to come speak to us.

another fabulous event with a guest speaker, W-L Madrigal singers, great food and of course great fellowship! We honor our local elected officials, judges, High School Principals, and School Board as our guests for their service to our community.

This is always a highlight of the Holiday Season! You do not want to miss this event.

I need to provide a head count for this one so you need to sign up. Please RSVP using the link below. You should be able to add your name and names of any guests you are planning to bring. [Optimist Christmas Breakfast sign up](#). WGCC: 7:30 am.

January

1/03: Speaker TBA. Since the

11/15: Annual Inter-Service Club Council luncheon. The Optimist Club was well attended at this luncheon, including [Clayton Depue](#), [Mark Zetlin](#), [Larry Gaydos](#), [Sandy Bushue](#), [Sue Gartner](#), [Linda Chandler](#), [Whiz Mountain](#), [JB Whitlow](#), [Bob Patton](#), [Frank O'Leary](#), [Mark Whitenton](#), [Jerry Williams](#), and [Stephen Toth](#). The featured speaker was Reverend Merrill, who praised the work of the service clubs in finding ways to help youth stay connected, an important way to counter teenage depression. His photo, below.



Sandy, who was last year's ISCC Woman of the Year, gave a poignant tribute to the organization and the Optimist Club as she introduced this year's recipient, Julie Rice (Kwanis Club), who was not able to make the

WGCC is closed for the first half of January, we will be meeting at the Holiday Inn, 4610 N. Fairfax Drive. Use the lot with the automated gate on the east side of the building and bring your ticket for validation to the luncheon. At 12:15.

1/17: Speaker TBA. Back to the WGCC at 12:15.

1/24: Meet 'n' Greet Returns! Tricia O'Hara again provides the following encouragement for you to attend and bring a potential member. Westin Arlington Gateway, 801 N. Glebe Rd. from 6:00 to 7:30. The Westin will validate up to two hours of parking.

Christmas Tree



Report : Sandy Bushue's

Most Recent Summary From the North Pole!

luncheon.

11/17: Tree Lot Construction. JB Whitlow had real help this year,



[Photo by Clayton Depue]

including Clayton Depue, Jeff Englander, Brian Kellenberger, Greg Clough, Gerry Maroseck, Frank O'Leary, and Conley Ricker. JB returned all weekend to work on lights and final details, below:



[Photo by Conley Ricker].

11/21: Trees Arrived! With Barbara Nicastro in charge, a number of



Optimists,

The tree lot officially opened on Friday morning, November 22nd at 9:00 am - sharp, with Peter Wehmann and Sue Gartner manning the first shift. If you have not visited the lot yet, you may just want to drop by. The lot is beautiful!! JB and crew really did a great job! Also, the "air" is filled with the joy of Christmas. Everyone is smiling and ready to sell beautiful trees!

Three cheers to Barbara Nicastro for leading the unloading party on the 21st!!!! She was capably supported by Dick Knight (armed with Phoenix House), JB Whitlow, Brian Kellenberger, Frank O'Leary and Conley Richer. Unfortunately, the second truck load of trees did not arrive until 11:30 am so Barbara and crew had two unloading parties. Ugh! Please give Barbara a "way to go"! She and the team did a great job! Also, JB gets a big applause!!!!!!

Optimist came out to help out.



Phoenix House members pose with Barbara Nicastro, Frank O'Leary, Richard Knight, Brian Kellenberger, and JB Whitlow. [Photo taken by Conley "The Thumb" Ricker]

11/24: Tree Lot Opend!! See Sandy Bushue's Repot, opposite.



Sue Gartner and Peter Wehmann sell first tree. [Photo provided by Barbara Nicastro].

11/28: Second Tree Unloading. Once again, Optimists volunteered to help

Hooray..... As of Last Tuesday, all 2000+ trees have been delivered. Kudos to Richard Knight for coordinating Phoenix House. We had great help in unloading one truck! We started at 8:15 am and we were done by 9:26 am. Those guys worked hard!!! And, we had a beautiful day and the truck was there waiting on us. All a very good thing!

Three cheers again to Barbara Nicastro, Richard Knight, Sue Gartner, Pete Wehmann, Dick McHugh, John Karinshak, JB Whitlow, and last but not least, Conley Ricker!!!!

It looks like we have had about 100 trees stolen. Barbara has taken video of the lot to document the number of trees. If you live near the lot, please drive by the lot when you can to ensure everything is okay, particularly between 9:00 pm to 8:00 am. If you see anything unusual, you can call the nonemergency number for Arlington County at [703.558.2222](tel:703.558.2222) or emergency number 911.

To remind, JB Whitlow and Leigh Hurley have been busy planning the "pop up" lot in Ballston. We should

with the second truckload of trees. Optimists included Sandy Bushue, Richard Knight and his Phoenix House crew. The Optimists who helped:



Dick McHugh, Sandy Bushue, Barbara Nicastro, Richard Knight, and Peter Wehmann. Missing from the photo are Conley Ricker, John Karinshak, and JB Whitlow. Sue Gartner is behind the camera.

Additional Photos from the Tree Lot

As the Tree Lot is filled from the first truckload on Nov. 21, Mark Zetlin's crew arrived from his dealership to carry off his pre-ordered huge tree. "They're going to need a bigger truck!" See next page.

have more details to share early next week. I think there will be discounts for the surrounding restaurants for those who support the Optimists. The BID is supplying volunteers, but if you want to help out, I am sure we can find a job for you. The dates are 12/13 and 12/14. Our main lot will remain open.

Thank you to everyone for working on finding replacements for your shift if you have a conflict. If you cannot find anyone at all, please let the lot captain know and myself know. We don't want anyone to panic.

Important facts for all of the Optimist Tree Sellers:

- 1). Trees are ALL Fraser Firs with the exception of 25 White Pines
- 2). We sell wreaths and garland
- 3). Trees are from Galax, VA which is near the NC border in Southern VA. (Actually, part of the grower's farm is in NC).
- 4). We have been selling trees at the same location for 73 years!!!!
- 5). We are ALL volunteers
- 6). Tree purchased are partially tax deductible; and



Below, two Nov. 28 unloading photos provided by Peter Wehmann:



Once again, John Karinshak has been willing to man the cash register at the Pod, this year for each late afternoon to

buyers can determine that number.

It seems this year things are a bit behind and nothing has gone perfectly. On Nov. 21, The second tree truck was late, the signage for the tree lot will only be partially ready on Friday. Moreover, Tree prices are up significantly, this year. As you recall, I did reference this in one of our meetings. Note the link below that explains this is a real national issue this season.

<http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2017/11/21/christmas-tree-shortage-prices-2017/>

Despite the somewhat rocky start with the glitches, we are confident that this season's sales will end gloriously!!!! Note the fun pictures posted on our website and in this newsletter. I think we are going to break last year's record!!!!

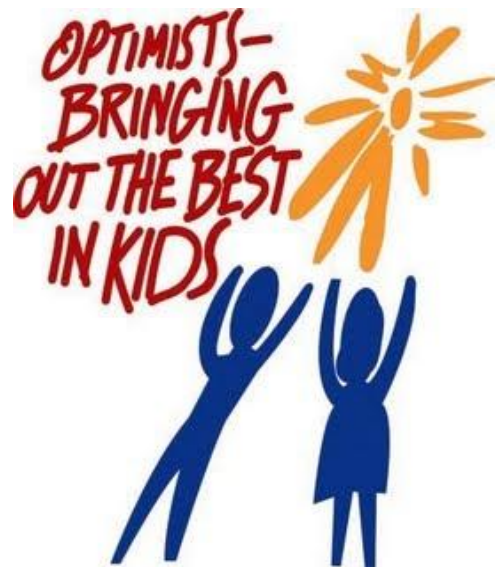
Ho, Ho, Ho,

Sandy B.

evening shift. Dick McHugh is staying the afternoon shifts. Please thank them both for their extra efforts!



John Karinshak and Mark Whitenton with three Yorktown National Honor Society volunteers on Nov. 29. [Photo by Debbie Whitenton].



MW # 84

**Arlington Optimist Club 16-005 ; Mid-Atlantic Region 3; Capital- Virginia District 16; Northern Virginia Zone 4
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End of Newsletter

