

Town Survey...

(Continued from front) decision making.

Of those residents interviewed, 91 percent indicated that the Town streets are kept in good repair, 86 percent indicated that the sidewalks are in good condition and 59 percent indicated that the street lighting was "about right." Some 92 percent rated the Town's twice-a-week trash removal as good or excellent, 70 percent rated recreation opportunities as good or excellent and 88 percent indicated that police response was "speedy."

In the area of trash removal, only two percent felt that the twice-a-week trash collection was insufficient. Some 59 percent urged the Town to continue selling plastic trash bags for household refuse. A total of 95 percent of those surveyed were aware of the Town's newspaper pickup program and 81 percent indicated they used the service within the past three months. Those who do not use the service indicated that segregating papers was either too much trouble or forgot which day was pickup day.

In recreation, most of the people interviewed participated in the athletic programs as compared to the other recreation programs offered. Some 82 percent felt the Town has sufficient parks and green spaces, however 26 percent indicated a need for a public pool and another 27 percent desired more tennis courts. Some 22 percent indicated that they have taken hobby classes at the Community Center.

The Vienna Newsletter, the

Town's monthly publication mailed to every household, was rated by 84 percent as the best source of information about the services and activities of the Town. Some 95 percent found the Newsletter satisfactory or very useful.

Eighty-two percent of those surveyed indicated they felt safe walking alone in Vienna at night. Only two percent indicated that a Vienna policeman was ever discourteous to them. Some 27 percent said their home or automobile has been vandalized within the past 12 months.

In other areas:

* 80 percent indicated that street names are highly visible, 91 percent indicated that traffic signs and traffic lights are readily understood and 64 percent said there were not enough intersections with traffic signs or traffic lights.

* 43 percent indicated that there is a traffic problem in their neighborhood. Some 54 percent cited the major traffic problem as being speeding, 17 percent as noise and 10 percent cited excessive traffic.

* 42 percent felt that the enforcement of laws against stray dogs was not strict enough.

* 76 percent indicated that the water pressure in their homes was never inadequate in the past 12 months.

* 65 percent indicated they were satisfied with responses from Town Hall personnel when they called Town Hall.

* 32 percent opposed utility taxes. Some 70 percent favored higher real estate taxes or auto registration fees in lieu of utility taxes.

Town Council Results

Results of Town Council's September 20 meeting:

*Appointed Mrs. Robert Kelly to the Bicentennial Commission for a term ending December 31, 1976.

*Reappointed Stuart Liss to the Board of Architectural Review as the architect member of the Board for a term ending October 21, 1977.

*Accepted a petition by residents on Wilmar Place requesting additional street lights.

*Reappropriated unexpended Federal Revenue Sharing Funds as proposed in the September Newsletter.

*Requested Fairfax County to authorize Vepco to replace all 2,500 and 3,300 lumen lights in the Town's street lighting system with 7,000 lumen mercury vapor lights, and the installation of additional lights as designated by the Town Manager and citizens.

*Notified Vienna Seafood Market in Jades Shopping Center that strong odors coming from its shop would have to cease or its Occupancy Permit would be revoked.

*Referred request for traffic lights at Tapawingo Road and Nutley Road SW to Highway Safety Commission.

*Agreed to accept park land adjacent to Northside Park from Guy Bennett.

Results of Town Council's October 4 meeting.

*Town Manager was directed to pursue the problems of the heat generated from the electric transformers in northwest Vienna with Vepco.

*Authorized advertising for bids to correct the dangerous curve on Lawyers Road near Sharon Lane.

*Denied request for installation of four-way stop signs at Lawyers Road and Lewis Street and Lawyers Road and Blackstone Terrace.

*Appropriated \$23,025 for the completion of the Freeman House.

*In lieu of Veteran's Day, declared that the day after Thanksgiving will be a holiday and that Town Hall will be closed that day.

*Approved having closed bids on some surplus Town-owned property.

*Directed Public Works Director to paint a stop line just to the west of the easterly entrance to the Seven-11 store on Maple Avenue beyond Lawyers Road, contingent upon the approval of the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation.

*Asked Fairfax County for a highway by-pass north of Vienna to provide a better access to Rte. 7 for residents in the Reston area and thus reduce the traffic using Lawyers Road and Maple Avenue.

Town of Vienna

NEWSLETTER

Vol. LXXXVI, No. 13

Vienna, Virginia

November 1976

Town Survey Finds Services Rated Well

A recent survey of 154 random homes in Vienna indicated that a large majority of those interviewed considered the Town's job of meeting their family's overall needs as good or excellent.

Some 89 percent of those indicated the Town's job of meeting residents' needs as good or excellent. No one indicated that the Town was doing a poor job. Along the same lines, 88

percent said they were getting their tax dollars worth from the Town.

The survey, conducted by Town staff members during the last week in September and the first week in October, was designed to gauge the performance and popularity of various Town services. The findings will assist the Town staff and Town Council in its planning and

(Continued on outside panel)

Town to Have Own Dog Licenses

Beginning January 1, 1977, the Town of Vienna will be selling its own dog licenses and maintaining its own dog control program.

The Town has previously come under the jurisdiction of the Fairfax County Dog Warden and Vienna dog owners were required to purchase Fairfax County dog licenses.

However, as of the first of the year, Vienna will have its own dog warden who will also serve as a park patrolman. The new position was established to combat vandalism in the Town's parks and to offer a better concentration on the enforcement of the dog ordinances.

The Town code prohibits dogs running at large except under the control of their owner.

Emphasis will be placed on



getting the cooperation of the owners. The Town does not intend to operate a dog pound. Any dog collected will be deposited in Fairfax County's pound facilities.

Warnings will be given to dog owners who are in violation of the dog ordinances. A warrant will be issued to any owner who continues to abuse the ordinances.

Fee for a dog tag will be \$5--the same amount charged by Fairfax County. Revenue will help offset the cost of a dog warden/park patrolman.

NEWSLETTER

Mayor
Charles A. Robinson, Jr.

Council

E. Ross Buckley	Wanda C. Pellucio
Raymond E. Hicks	Donald E. Upchurch
Vincent J. Olson	Neil M. Walp

Vienna Town Hall
127 Center Street, South
Vienna, Virginia 22180

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Comment from the Council Table: Boards & Commissions

By Donald E. Upchurch
Vienna Town Councilman

One of the least understood aspects of our Town life is the role boards and commissions play in Town government affairs. The vast majority of the members serving on these groups are ordinary citizens who have indicated their interest in working toward a better Vienna and are willing to give the necessary time and energy. In this issue of the *Vienna Newsletter* I will briefly discuss the various boards and commissions indicating each of its purposes, membership requirements, frequency of meetings and general powers. A common thread in all of our boards and commissions is the central role that citizens play in Town government.

The Board of Architectural Review was established to regulate the exterior appearance of buildings or structures in Town other than single-family detached homes. Signs or other improvements, such as landscaping, are also within the Board's jurisdiction. Some of the criteria applied by the Board in evaluating applications for new buildings or modifications of existing buildings include whether the proposal is suitable in terms of such external architectural features as general design, color, mass, lighting and the like. Neither the Board of Architectural Review, nor the Town Council, can, on appeal, impose any specific architectural style.



DONALD E. UPCHURCH
Vienna Town Councilman

The Board meets once a month and is composed of five citizens, one of whom must be an architect registered in the state and one a member of the state bar. Terms are for three years.

The Planning Commission, composed of nine members serving three year terms, is responsible for developing the land use policy of the Town. Some of the Commission's detailed responsibilities include development of a Comprehensive Plan, administering the subdivision ordinance, evaluating builders' plats for subdividing land, and the preliminary hearing of rezoning applications. Recently, the Commission has been hard at work studying and making recommendations concerning relief of traffic problems around the Northrup-Page Technology Park. A very important, long range project, which the Planning Commission has un-

derway is the development of a Comprehensive Plan--the purpose of which as described in the State code is to guide a "coordinated, adjusted and harmonious" development of the Town. The meetings of the Planning Commission are, like the other boards and commissions, open to the public, and are held twice monthly; the second and fourth Wednesdays. Advertised public hearings are also required for some aspects of the Commissions

Town experience has shown that, sometimes, strict adherence to the zoning ordinance may result in unnecessary hardship to a property owner who may (to use an example) want to build a carport or make other desirable improvements to his property but lack the specified space. The Board of Zoning Appeals has been established to hear such cases, and to authorize such variance as long as their action is not contrary to the public interest. Reasons for such variances include inadequate side yard widths, unusual lot shapes, topographic conditions, and the like. The Board also has the power to interpret the Zoning Map of the Town.

A very important responsibility of the Board of Zoning Appeals is the approval of use permits. Use permits are required for over 30 different types of business activities. The Board's concern is to ensure that these business uses are compatible with the health and safety of nearby persons and not injurious to property in the neighborhood. The Board consists of five residents of the Town who serve for five years and who are

appointed by the Fairfax Circuit Court upon recommendation of the Town Council. Meetings are every third Wednesday of the month.

A very important Town body that deals with a subject close to most of us--traffic--is the Highway Safety Commission. Composed of nine members who serve for two years each, the Commission is charged with studying street and traffic conditions and making recommendations for specific improvements. Subject matter in recent actions include consideration of stop signs, lower speed limits, improved shopping center access and street and curb markings. One member of the Commission is a police officer, one from the public works department and one member of Council. The Highway Safety Commission has important responsibilities that affect our daily lives.

Often the Town Council finds it desirable to appoint a Commission for a particular one-time purpose. For the appropriate celebration of the 200th anniversary of our birth as a Nation, the Town Council established and appointed the Vienna Bicentennial Commission. Staffed with dedicated citizen members and leadership, the Commission was responsible for the State week programs, the greetings exchanged with Governors of various states, the special July Fourth celebration and Community Center programs, and Gov. Godwin's special visit and parade in March, to mention only a few. The Commission also made a special effort to secure and sell quality memorabilia at reasonable costs. Several citizens served on the

Commission at various times. We owe all of them special thanks.

The last group we should recognize is now strictly private--Historic Vienna, Inc. They are charged in their lease with the Town to operate the recently restored Freeman House. Headed by a nine-member board of directors, HVI will be soliciting annual memberships from residents of Vienna and surrounding area and business establishments. Importantly, virtually all the members of the board of directors were members of the old Freeman House Advisory Commission, who labored many months to plan and supervise the restoration of the Church Street house. The Commission was another example of a dedicated group of citizens who were at work for the historical betterment of the Town.

I have discussed briefly the formal boards and commissions involved with Town government and touched on the activities of two of our ad hoc groups. Omitted are the numerous Town supported Community Center sports and recreational programs, many of which are headed by citizen groups. This area is a subject in itself.

We hope that we have demonstrated that the opportunity to serve the Vienna community does exist. While we on the Council have not been able to appoint every applicant to a board or commission where he or she would like to serve, we do have periodic openings, and consequently encourage interested citizens to apply. Application blanks may be secured from the Town Clerk, or through any member of Council. I feel that

interest and dedication are the two most important qualities that appeal to Council.

County Plans Referendum Hearing

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has voted unanimously to schedule a public hearing at 8:30 p.m., Monday, November 22, to consider holding a \$21.6 million bond referendum next February to fund a proposed new courthouse. The Board's action was taken following a staff presentation and discussion of two studies outlining needs for a new courthouse and juvenile detention home.

The growing requirements of the present criminal justice system have outgrown the existing courthouse, built as a one-room facility in 1799, with additions in 1920, 1953 and in the early 1960s, according to a recent article in the county's "Weekly Agenda."

Despite additions, the facility lacks space to provide for ever increasing court case loads, a growing volume of records required by law and related needs, the article said. It also falls short of providing minimum security requirements for judges, jurors, witnesses, prisoners and the public.

The proposed \$21.6 million referendum would fund a two to three-story courthouse designed to minimally meet 1980 projected needs and be capable of supporting future vertical expansion.

At the Center

November 13 and 14

Northern Virginia Coin Show and Sale at Community Center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

November 16

Riverbend Nature Center naturalist will present a lecture on the fox ("Old White Tip") at the Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

November 20 and 21

Annual Welfare League Bazaar at Community Center

November 27 and 28

Northern Virginia Woodcarvers Show with demonstrations from the entire East Coast at the Community Center from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday

December 5

Annual Town of Vienna Christmas Program at the Community Center, featuring songs of the season, nativity scene, visit by Santa Claus and the official opening of the Christmas season by Mayor Robinson with the lighting of the Christmas tree at 4 p.m.

Now that the cooler weather is here the lights to the tennis courts will not be on unless requested.

Requests should be made to the Vienna Community Center by calling 938-8000.

Up to date news is at your finger tips by dialing the recorded Vienna Newsline at 938-4499.

The Newsline includes up to date Parks and Recreation news and Town Council news. On the weekends prior to Council meetings the Newsline carries the agenda items...and the results of the meeting can be heard on Tuesdays after the meeting.

Diving Class Being Offered

A scuba diving class will be offered at the Vienna Community Center, beginning November 29. The course will be offered to couples for \$65.

The eight-week course is being sponsored by the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department and the Vienna Ski and Dive Shop.

Each class session includes a classroom lecture and discussion followed by demonstrations of practical water training in a pool.

The course includes one open water skin diving class and three open water scuba diving classes. A \$10 fee will be charged for each open water scuba dive.

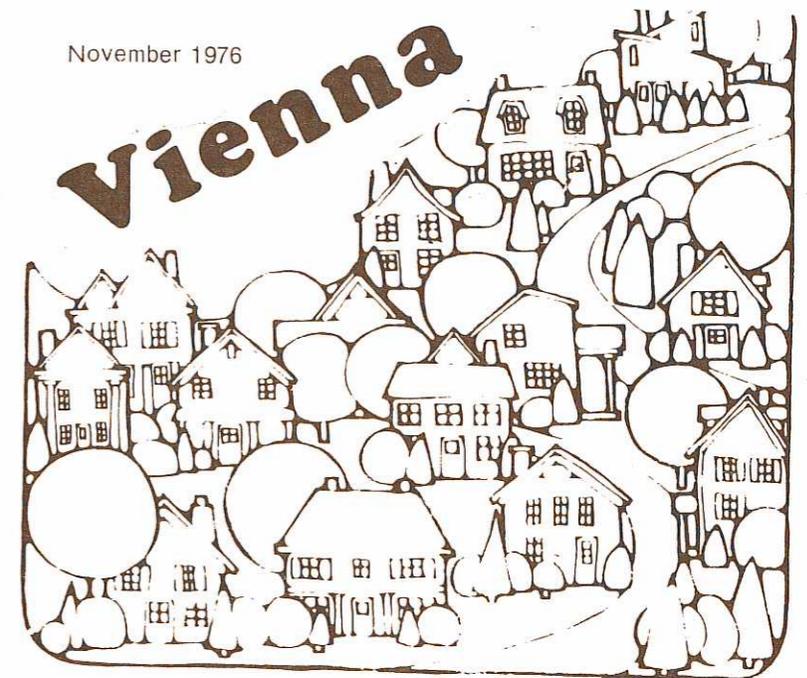
Students will be responsible for furnishing their own gear on the open water dives.

Preregistration is necessary at the Vienna Community Center. For additional information contact the Center at 938-8000.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

- 8 - Town Council Public Hearings, 8 p.m.
- 9 -- Mayor's Advisory Committee, 8 p.m.
- 10 -- Planning Commission meeting, 8
Newspaper Pickup Day
- 15 -- Town Council meeting, 8 p.m.
- 17 -- Board of Zoning Appeals, 8 p.m.
- 18 -- Board of Architectural Review, 8 p.m.
- 24 -- Planning Commission meeting, 8 p.m.
Newspaper Pickup Day
- 25 -- Thanksgiving. Town Hall closed.
- 26 -- Town Hall Closed
- 30 -- Highway Safety Commission, 8 p.m.

November 1976



Light Opera Performance Set

For its fall production, the Vienna Light Opera Company will present two one-act operas. "The Unicorn," and "The Impresario," a comedy with music by Mozart.

The performances will be at James Madison High School Auditorium on Friday and Saturday, November 19 and 20, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for students.

The fully staged production is being produced and directed by Dagmar White. Robert McCord is guest conductor. A special feature will be the Chamber Ballet Ensemble, directors Phyllis Blake and Milica Svehla.

Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE, Vienna. For further information call 281-1333 during the day and 281-2570 after business hours.

Tax Relief Available for Elderly

Tax relief and rent subsidies to certain low-income senior citizens are available from the Town of Vienna and Fairfax County. Both the Vienna Town Council and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors have adopted ordinances providing relief.

Relief is provided for real estate taxes, rental grants, personal property taxes and town auto registration taxes. Qualifications are the same for all four types of relief.

To qualify you must be 65 years of age or older; have a gross household income from all sources of not more than \$10,000 annually, excluding the first \$4,000 of income of each relative, other than spouse, residing in the household; and the applicant, spouse and relatives living in the household must have a combined financial net worth of no more than \$35,000.

Real Estate Taxes

As Town residents are subject to two real estate taxes, one from the Town and one from the County, relief is available for both taxes. Property eligible for tax exemption is the homeowner's residence and the land it occupies, not exceeding one acre.

Forms for exemption from real estate taxes will be mailed to those who previously qualified during 1976. Applications must be filed no later than May 1, 1977 for relief from 1977 Town and County real estate taxes.

Automobile Registration Tax

Persons qualifying for real estate tax relief, rental grants or personal property tax relief are also eligible for relief for the Town of Vienna's automobile registration tax. Persons should file for relief no later than December 31, 1976 for the 1977 registration.

Personal Property Tax

The Town does not have a personal property tax, however, Fairfax County does. Relief is available for the entire personal property tax on one automobile per household.

If an automobile is jointly owned, owners must be 65 years of age or older, except the applicant's spouse who need not have attained the age of 65.

Personal property tax relief applications must be filed with your personal property tax return by May 1, 1977 for relief from payment of taxes due on December 5, 1977.

Rent Grants

Fairfax County offers rent grants for eligible Town residents.

Rent grant applications will be mailed to previously qualified applicants in December 1976. Applications must be submitted no later than May 1, 1977. Rent receipts or cancelled checks will be required to support the rent grant application.

Persons not included for rent grants include residents of rental properties owned and leased by the Redevelopment and Housing Authority, or residents of a non-profit facility whose owners are exempted from payment of real estate taxes.

How to Apply for Relief

The County has two forms that cover all four types of tax relief. Candidates for relief should fill out the forms and return them to the County as soon as possible. Those who have not received their forms should request them from the County, by calling 691-2371 for real estate tax relief and 691-2437 for all other types of tax relief.

After filing for relief with the County, candidates living inside the corporate limits of Town should fill out a real estate tax relief form and automobile registration tax relief form with the Town of Vienna's tax section of the Finance Department. Those who received relief last year were sent forms again this year. If you did not qualify last year, but are eligible this year, you can obtain these forms by calling Mrs. Marilyn Aceto at 938-8000, ext. 227.

For assistance with your Town tax forms, please visit Mrs. Aceto at Town Hall, 127 Center Street S., Vienna.

It is unlawful to use any instrument for projecting missiles likely to injure persons or property, such as an airgun, BB gun, slingshot, grit shooters, bow and arrow, etc., in the Town of Vienna.

By-Pass Desired

The Vienna Town Council is seeking a by-pass north of Vienna that would reduce the traffic now using Lawyers Road and Maple Avenue and provide residents in western Fairfax County a more direct and faster route to Rte. 7.

Council agreed on October 4 to suggest specific routes to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for a northerly by-pass of the Town.

Rapid growth in western Fairfax County (especially in the Reston area) has caused the traffic to increase from 25,160 automobiles per day in 1970 on Maple Avenue to 34,950 in 1975. Traffic on the small two-lane Lawyers Road has increased from 8,550 to 13,070 during the same period.

Town officials do not see any relief in traffic. Traffic is expected to increase as a result of the opening of Sunrise Valley Drive, improvement of Lawyers Road between Hunter Mill and Hunter Station roads, the proposed extension by Fairfax of Lawyers Road to Sully Road and the proposed extension of West Ox Road from Lawyers Road extended to Rte. 50 at Stringfellow Road.

Council will consider suggesting several alternatives for a by-pass route at its November 15 meeting at Town Hall at 8 p.m.

Three alternatives have been previously discussed--the completion of Abbotsford Road, connecting Clarks Crossing Road to Rte. 7 via an extension of Trap Road to the right-of-way paralleling the Dulles Access Road, and the less desirable Meadowlark Road extension via White Pine Drive to the Dulles Access Road.

An additional proposal Council will consider will be the extension of South Lakes Drive, east of its intersection with Hunter Mill Road, on right-of-way north of Wayside subdivision, to the right-of-way of the Dulles Access Road.