

## Branch Rd. Vacated

Following a public hearing on October 17, the Town Council voted to vacate the portion of right - of - way on Branch Road, S.E., between Valley Drive and Dominion Road. The property owners on either side will each receive half of the 9,732 square feet of vacated land.

The town will retain the easements for the bike trail and the utility lines in the right - of - way. A motion to retain a recreation easement across the entire property was defeated.

The Council agreed with residents in this area of town who object to the increased traffic that could be generated if the right - of - way were ever opened as part of a connecting link from Valley Drive to Talahi Road.

Both the Planning Commission and the Highway Safety Commission recommended against the vacation on the grounds that the town may have a future need for the Branch Road connection. In addition, the occupants of the Technology Park see the connection as an alternative to its proposed Tapawingo Road connection to the Park.

The Planning Commission first recommended the Branch - Talahi connection in the original traffic circulation plan adopted by Council in 1965. Based on this plan, the town purchased the remaining right - of - way from Vepco and the property owner on the opposite side of the Vepco right - of - way. Engineering for the connection was completed in 1974. The Council, however, decided not to open the road at that time because the neighborhood offered strong objections to the proposed project.

## Trash, Paper Pickup

Trash collection crews are some of the hardest working men in town. Give them a break! Please have your trash at the curbside before 8 a.m. on collection day. Many times the amount of trash is so great that an extra truck must be added to the run, especially on the Monday/Thursday route, which results in an earlier start than usual. If your trash is put out on time it will be picked up on time.

The town also provides curbside newspaper pickup every other Wednesday. When you deposit your newspapers at the curbside instead of in the trash can you are helping the town make money and keep taxes down. About 40 tons of newspaper are collected each month. This amount could probably be tripled if every resident participated. At \$15 per ton it would mean thousands of dollars more each year for Vienna.

### Mini - Park

(Continued)

intersections in town, the corner of Maple Avenue and Center Street.

Negotiations between the owner and the potential developers are presently at a standstill pending the results of an engineer's study of the cost of improving the property, which would be substantial. If the town and the owner can agree on a purchase price, the town still has a chance to buy the land to maintain as an "oasis" in the center of town.

If the town does purchase the Mini - Park, it would convey its 1.4 acres at Peterson Lane Park in far northwest Vienna to the Park Authority for development and then accept responsibility for maintaining that park. The Park Authority has assured the town that none of its \$75,000 contribution to the Mini - Park purchase would come from county bond funds earmarked for Peterson Lane Park.

If the Mini - Park is retained, it will largely complete the long - standing plans of the Town Manager to maintain the Center Street - Maple Avenue intersection as a green spot in the center of town.

## Study Concludes City Status Too Costly

The town has received its long - awaited city status study, which concludes that, although there would be certain advantages in becoming a city, it is unlikely that any significant decrease in the present combined town/county tax rate could be achieved, and that, under adverse conditions, the tax rate for city status could well be higher. The unfavorable fiscal impact would largely be attributable to the cost of establishing and operating an independent city school system.

When the Town Council authorized the study in 1975, Fairfax County officials stated that it would be doubtful if the county would consider selling Vienna existing school buildings or provide school facilities on a contract basis for Vienna students if the town became a city. Therefore, unless the county moderates this stand, Vienna would, as a city, be faced with the cost of building four elementary schools and a combined intermediate and senior high school. The study estimates that the cost of constructing and furnishing these five buildings would be slightly over \$16 million. Financing such a project, even with long - term bonds, would, the study estimates, increase the present tax rate by about 20 percent.

Vienna would also be faced with the task of establishing the entire structural organization for operating the school system.

Town officials have concluded that the town should drop any further consideration of city status until the evidence shows that the change would result in decreased taxes or a lesser rate of anticipated tax increases. The Council does, however, intend to "keep its options open." The Mayor and Council predict that if per capita costs for local government in Fairfax County continue their sharp rise, city status for Vienna could become extremely attractive within a very few years.

Town of Vienna

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. LXXXVII, No. 11

Vienna, Virginia

November 1977

## Council Wants Comments On Maple Ave. Traffic

How would you improve the traffic flow on Maple Avenue? The Town Council is asking for citizen input on this problem prior to a study by the Town Manager on ways to handle the ever - increasing number of vehicles on Vienna's main street.

Town Manager C. Clay Harrell calls Maple Avenue "an 'Iron Curtain' or a 'Berlin Wall' where local traffic is concerned," especially during rush hours and at mid - day. The current synchronization of traffic lights along the street gives primary consideration to through traffic, much of which is from out of town, thereby penalizing local drivers and pedestrians.

Based on his own observations, the Town Manager feels that lights are needed where Lewis Street and Pleasant Street intersect Maple Avenue. A light at Branch Road and Maple should also be considered, he said. "Without a light at this intersection, traffic is forced to meander through the Danor Shopping Center and use the shopping center exit at Beulah Road. I seriously question the justification for forcing traffic to have to use our shopping centers in lieu of our streets," he said.

Harrell feels that left turn arrows are a must at the Courthouse Road and Lawyers Road approaches to the Lawyers / Maple Avenue intersection. "Through traffic on Lawyers Road, most of the time, almost cuts off all of the traffic turning left from Courthouse Road," he said. "I have repeatedly counted three or four cars that turned after the light turned red because they just could not turn until the Lawyers Road traffic was stopped. This is not only a violation, but it is going to result in a serious accident sooner or later." He said turn arrows should also be installed at the intersections of Maple Avenue with Center, Park and Glyndon Streets.

If you have suggestions on the traffic situation on Maple Avenue, please send them to the Public Information Officer at Town Hall before November 15 so that they may be considered at the November 21 Town Council meeting. Interested citizens are also urged to attend that meeting and offer comments or recommendations.

## Mini-Park: Still Hope

There is still a chance that Vienna may be able to save the Mini - Park from commercial development. The Fairfax County Park Authority has voted to contribute \$75,000 toward the purchase of the Mini - Park and the Town Council has agreed to fund the balance of the negotiated purchase price, \$95,000 to come from bond funds and the rest from general funds.

Although the town maintains the Mini - Park for the enjoyment of residents, the land is privately owned. The owner informed the town in July that a group had approached him with plans to construct an office building on the site. At a special meeting on July 28, the Town Council considered buying the park but decided that the asking price of approximately \$227,000 was more than it was willing to pay for a park with limited recreational use. The Mini - Park is only about 32,000 square feet in area and is located at one of the busiest

(Continued inside)

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

**NEWSLETTER**

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Raymond E. Hicks  
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Donald E. Upchurch  
Neil M. Walp

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## Comment from the Council Table:

# How the Town Is Financed

By Neil M. Walp  
Vienna Town Councilman

Since this new series of articles by members of your Town Council began, and previously when the *Newsletter* also featured Council articles, I personally have been concerned that not enough emphasis has been given to what is of great interest to most residents - - how the town is run financially.

A discussion of town finances is a complex matter and can open the door to a multitude of questions, and I have therefore considered writing this article with some degree of trepidation. In spite of the problems, considering that few people show up for budget hearings and considering that no effort (that I can recall) has been made to show trends, I am taking it upon myself at least to make an effort.

Space does not permit discussion of revenue and expenditures in one *Newsletter* issue so I am devoting this article to a discussion of revenue only. I have used as my data source town audits beginning with the 1970 - 71 fiscal year and ending with the 1975 - 76 fiscal year. The current year audit is not yet completed. Details of revenues are provided in the accompanying table.

### Sources of Revenue

Many citizens probably still believe that the basic, if not sole, source of revenue is the real estate tax. This is far from the truth; in fact, real estate taxes as a percentage of total revenue have varied between 21 and 25 percent annually in the six years beginning with the 1970 - 71 fiscal year. There are in reality three basic sources of town revenue: local levies, intergovernmental transfers and revenues from sewer and water. These three sources accounted for total revenues in 1975 - 76 of over \$4 million.

Local Levies. These are the source of revenue closest to the pocketbooks of homeowners and businessmen alike. The grouping comprises real estate taxes, delinquent taxes on real estate, penalties and interest, utility taxes, bank stock taxes and cigarette taxes; revenues from motor vehicle and business licenses and occupational licenses paid by all town businesses; returns from programs provided at the Community Center; fines and forfeitures; and revenue from interest on investments and miscellaneous income.

Within this category of revenue is the real estate tax, which totaled \$998,000 in 1975 - 76. It is by far the most significant element of local levies and generally accounts for 40 to 45 percent of locally raised revenue.



Neil M. Walp  
Vienna Town Councilman

There are four other major sources of revenue, the magnitude of which may vary on an annual basis. Generally of most significance is the utility tax, which raised \$388,000 in 1976 and represented about 18 percent of local levies. Business and occupational license revenue constituted \$294,000 in 1976, or 13 percent of local revenue. The last two major sources are the cigarette tax, which returned \$164,000 and the motor vehicle license revenue of \$163,000 in fiscal 1976. Each of these represented just over 7 percent of locally derived revenue.

Intergovernmental Transfers. This source of funding encompasses payments made to Vienna by Fairfax County, the state and a few dollars from the federal government. In fiscal 1976 federal payments amounted to only \$963 as a grant to be matched with town funds. (Federal revenue sharing funds are subject to a separate budget.)

There are three principal non - Vienna sources of revenue: the town share of profits from the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, an allocation from the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation for street construction and maintenance and a share of sales taxes generated within Fairfax County. In fiscal year 1976 intergovernmental revenue amounted to total payments of \$489,000, a little over 12 percent of all town revenue. For that year, sales taxes amounted to 46 percent of intergovernmental revenue; Department of Highways and Transportation allocations accounted for 39 percent; and ABC profits were about 15 percent.

Sewer and Water Revenue. Of the three basic sources of revenue, the one associated with our sewer and water department is the second largest and in fiscal 1976 accounted for nearly 33 percent of revenue accruing to Vienna (\$1.3 million). Typical sources in this category are service charges (your sewer and water bills), fire hydrant charges, connection charges, front footage and availability charges, payments to the town by Fairfax County and miscellaneous revenue.

Sewer and water revenues are subject to some fluctuations in their composition and reflect trends in usage by customers and the amount of growth occurring in the Vienna service area. For example, in fiscal 1972 - 73 revenue from connection fees accounted for only \$12,000; in 1975 - 76 it amounted to \$276,000. This great increase reflected fees paid by the developers of the Townes of Moorefield on Nutley Road. Also, front footage and availability charges have generally been a small source of revenue in recent years but are also subject to fluctuations depending on the amount of home building. Revenue from service charges has not increased dramatically, also due to a slow rate of growth in the Vienna service area.

A sizeable portion of sewer and water revenue comes from Fairfax County as reimbursement for bills collected by the town for the county in our service area, or for use of the town - owned trunk sewer connecting to the Potomac interceptor sewer (and eventually the Blue Plains treatment plant in the District of Columbia). This amounted to \$156,000 in 1976, 12 percent of sewer and water revenue.

### Revenue Trends

A look at a financial picture over a period of years is a valid and useful exercise. It provides a perspective not available by looking only at an annual budget. Although much detail would be possible in a trend analysis, I have chosen to group items and highlight only those that in their own right constitute major revenue sources. The table should provide adequate detail regarding relative changes.

The first feature I feel should be highlighted is the continuous and significant annual increase in revenues. Between 1970 - 71 and 1975 - 76, revenues increased over 65 percent. One could conclude that with all this revenue we ought to start reducing taxes. For comparison I have included in the table total town expenditures for each year. It can be seen that revenues and expenditures track closely.

The difference between the two budget items represents a contingency fund carried forward to the next fiscal year. This "takes up the

slack" when necessary, as in 1975 - 76 when, due to increased sewage treatment costs, expenditures exceeded revenues. In 1976 - 77 town sewer and water rates were increased to reflect more nearly actual costs for services and to place this account on a self - sustaining basis, thus reducing any need to use contingency funds or raise taxes for this purpose. Running your town government is similar to running your home - - costs continue to escalate despite your best efforts to economize.

In the past six years, revenues from local levies increased about 70 percent, or 5 percent greater than the general revenue increase. Real estate taxes, in contrast, increased by some 91 percent. This is largely the result of reassessments during the period - - there were no increases in the tax rate by the town. Revenues from motor vehicle and business licenses rose 101 percent during the six - year period. Other categories of local levies increased modestly and generally reflected overall increases.

### Revenue Trends, Fiscal Years 1970 - 71 -- 1975 - 76

(Thousands of dollars)

SOURCE	1970 - 71	1971 - 72	1972 - 73	1973 - 74	1974 - 75	1975 - 76
Local Levies	1,303	1,346	1,738	1,753	1,909	2,217
Taxes	902	984	1,235	1,236	1,349	1,594
Real Estate	523	537	740	748	775	998
Other	379	447	495	488	574	596
Licenses & Permits	227	246	331	363	387	457
Services	40	34	37	44	50	54
Other	134	82	135	110	123	112
Intergovernmental Transfers	299	327	481	519	551	489
VDH & T	86	87	184	186	188	191
Sales Tax	170	165	227	269	301	225
Other	43	75	70	64	62	73
Sewer & Water	829	940	1,044	1,197	1,097	1,315
Service Charges	667	753	736	760	775	791
Connection Charges	31	27	12	92	59	276
Other	131	160	296	345	263	248
Total Revenues	2,431	2,613	3,262	3,469	3,557	4,021
Total Expenditures	2,322	2,612	2,972	3,122	3,459	4,033

Intergovernmental transfers increased 64 percent, almost identical with the overall 65 percent revenue increase. In this category, payments by the state highway department showed an increase of 122 percent. Sales tax revenue varied, but generally grew at a rate similar to the general revenue increase.

Sewer and water revenue grew at a slower rate than the overall revenue, only 59 percent. This rate of increase was influenced by the significant revenue from connection charges in 1975 - 76. Service charge revenues increased only 19 percent, while connection charges increased nearly 800 percent. This is not likely to happen again, as little high - density land remains for development in the Vienna service area.

I have not tried to develop any conclusions about the town revenue situation. I have desired only to provide some detail and in the process make myself more knowledgeable. I personally find the data illuminating. These data, when viewed in perspective with expenditures in a later article, should provide us all with a clearer picture of our town's financial future.

## November Calendar

- 5 - 6 - - Vienna Women's Club Arts & Crafts Festival at the Community Center, Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. noon - 5.  
7 - - Town Council meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall.  
8 - - Election Day.  
9 - - Planning Commission meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall.  
Mayor's Advisory Committee meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall. Newspaper Pickup Day.  
10 - - Tysons Lioness Club Fashion Show at the Community Center, 8 p.m.  
12 - 13 - - Northern Virginia Coin & Stamp Show at the Community Center, 10 - 6 each day.  
14 - - Public Hearing, 8 p.m. at Town Hall, on application to rezone Lot 10, Moidone Acres, 610 Marshall Rd., S.W., from RS - 16 to RS - 12.5.  
16 - - Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall.  
17 - - Board of Architectural Review meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall.  
18 - - Five Hills Garden Club Show (Christmas Tree Walk) at the Community Center, 10 - 4:30.  
21 - - Town Council meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall. Public Hearing on proposed ordinance to require operators of coin - operated machines to pay a tax of \$200 per year in addition to the retail merchants tax.  
23 - - Newspaper Pickup Day.  
24 - - Thanksgiving.  
26 - 27 - - Northern Virginia Woodcarvers Show at the Community Center, Sat. 10 - 9, Sun. 10 - 6.  
27 - - First Sunday of Advent.  
29 - - Highway Safety Commission meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall.

## Senior Citizen Lounge

All Vienna area senior citizens and their friends are invited to the newly opened Senior Citizen Lounge operated by the Department of Parks and Recreation. The lounge is located at the Bowman House, 211 Center St., South, and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Activities include billiards, cards, chess, croquet, horseshoes and good conversation. Every Tuesday from 1 to 3 p.m. craft classes are held.

## Arts & Crafts Show

The Vienna Women's Club 17th annual Arts and Crafts Festival will be held at the Community Center on Saturday, November 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, November 6, from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

The Festival will feature demonstrations of weaving, quilting, rug making, leaded stained glass, pottery, charcoal sketches and many other arts and crafts.

Proceeds from the Arts and Crafts Festivals have enabled the Vienna Women's Club to award over \$10,000 in art, music and craft scholarships since 1961. Area residents who are interested in joining the club and participating in its many civic, welfare and educational projects are invited to attend the November club meeting, which will be held at the Community Center on Wednesday, November 16, at 8 p.m. For further information, call membership chairman Dorothy Edwards at 938 - 0929 or president Guyla Brinckmeyer at 938 - 1572.

A Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) is not part of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, yet. But with your continued support and contributions, the Vienna Jaycees will be able to purchase an MICU for the fire department.

The vehicle, along with the sophisticated communications equipment inside, costs about \$60,000. When linked with hospital emergency rooms, heart attack and trauma victims are professionally treated on the scene, saving precious time.

60% of all deaths by heart attack occur before the victim even reaches the hospital. MICU's have proven effective in decreasing half of these deaths in some towns.

Help save a life today - - it may be your own! Send your contributions to Project Emergency, Box 525 (in care of Bank of Vienna), Vienna, Va. 22180.



## Moorefield Placed On Historic Register

Moorefield, the oldest house still standing in Vienna, has been placed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The house is located at 900 Moorefield Hill Court, S.W., in the center of the Townes of Moorefield subdivision. It was built around 1790 and was for many years the home of Baptist minister Jeremiah Moore and his family.

In announcing the decision of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, Executive Director Tucker Hill said, "The Virginia Historic Landmarks Register, established by an act of the General Assembly in 1966, is to include 'the buildings, structures, and sites which are of state - wide or national significance.' It is our feeling that Moorefield richly deserves this recognition."

Jeremiah Moore was a native Virginian, born in Prince William County in 1746. He converted to the Baptist faith at an early age and as a minister led the denomination to prominence in Northern Virginia. Because they refused to have their consciences guided by the state - established Episcopal Church, Moore and other pioneer Baptists suffered discrimination and persecution from the authorities.

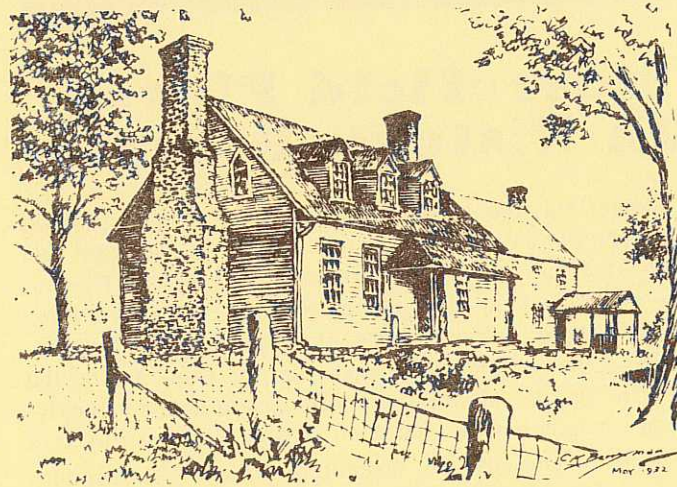
Although the story has not been confirmed through historical records, some writers contend that Moore was  
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## Moorefield

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jailed in Alexandria in 1773 for preaching without a license. There, they say, he "stood firmly against a law which permitted such an outrage, and rather than retract, he remained in jail and preached, like Bunyan, through the latticed door. He attracted crowds by the very novelty of the situation. Washington and Mason frequently came to Alexandria, and they must have known of his imprisonment."

Even if the story is not a true one, it is almost certain that Moore did influence George Mason, Thomas Jefferson and other revolutionary leaders through his speeches and writings for the cause of absolute religious freedom and the separation of church and state.



Moorefield as it looked in 1932.

Moore served for a short time late in the American revolution as a corporal in the Virginia infantry. After the war he returned to his ministry and moved to Moorefield around 1790, although the date is not certain. The years he spent at Moorefield were his most productive. He preached at churches from New York to South Carolina, and one of his contemporaries estimated that "his journeying to preach the gospel from place to place would, if directed to that end, have carried him twice around the globe."

Moore was one of the founders and the first pastor of the First Baptist Church in Alexandria from 1803 to 1811. He was also an organizer of the First Baptist Church of

Washington and preached the first sermon there. His preaching abilities were acclaimed by almost all who heard him. One listener said, "In point of talents Mr. Moore certainly stands in the front row of Virginia preachers. His person and voice are extremely advantageous; his style is strong and energetic, and, indeed, elegant; especially as he had not the advantages of a refined education."

In addition to his commitment to the cause of religious freedom, Moore worked with other Baptist ministers to prepare a plan of gradual emancipation for slaves. Although their plan was rejected by the association of Baptist churches as being an issue best left to the legislature, slaves did become entitled to membership in the Baptist Church as a result.

Jeremiah Moore died at Moorefield in 1815 and is buried in a cemetery about 100 yards north of the house along with his wife Lydia and some of their children and grandchildren.

Moorefield has undergone quite a few changes since then. Several rooms and a brick veneer have been added to the original wooden structure. The decorative front entrance is also an addition. According to Calder Loth, architectural historian for the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, the chimney on the south end of the house is the only original exterior feature visible.

Inside the house, however, much of the original work can be seen, including the raised panel doors and mantel, the slender strap hinges and hand-hewn beams. No definite plans have yet been made for restoring the house. The town is investigating the possibility of obtaining federal grants and other sources of funding for the project.

(Historical information and sketch of Moorefield are from the book "Moorefield" by Thomas V. DiBacco. This book is for sale at the Freeman House.)

## Trim Those Limbs

Many safety signs all around town are obscured by low-hanging tree limbs. The Highway Safety Commission requests residents to keep shrubs and tree limbs trimmed back so that signs may be seen clearly and sidewalks are free for pedestrians. Residents who are able are requested to do the trimming themselves since fall is a particularly busy time of year for the Public Works Department.

## Vienna Light Opera Presents 'Amalh'

The Vienna Light Opera Company will present "Amalh and the Night Visitors," a Christmas opera in one act by Gian-Carlo Menotti, on Saturday, December 3, at 3 p.m. and Sunday, December 4, at 8 p.m. The performances will be held in the James Madison High School auditorium. This fully staged opera is produced and directed by Dagmar White. The resident conductor is the distinguished area musician Stephen Prussing.

The VLOP chorus will support a strong cast of soloists. Also participating are the soloists of the Chamber Ballet Ensemble under the direction of Phyllis Blake and Milica Hasalova-Svehla. The role of Amalh will be sung by Peter Fish, soloist from the Boys' Choir of the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Tickets are \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for students, \$2 for senior citizens and special student rates of \$1 for groups of 25 or more.

The Vienna Light Opera Company, accompanied by the orchestra, will complete these performances by sharing with the audience a few Christmas carols in concert arrangement and will also invite the audience to participate in the singing.

For further information, call 281-3724 or 281-2570.

## Freeman Store Open Saturdays

The Freeman House - General Store, located at 131 Church Street, N.E., is expanding its operations for the Christmas season. The old-fashioned general store will be open each Saturday from noon until 5 p.m. beginning November 5 through December 17. In addition to the regular merchandise, consignment items from area craftsmen will be available for sale.

The general store is also open each Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Free tours of the house are provided on Sundays and craftsmen demonstrate their skills. The house will soon be decorated for the holidays. Santa Claus will be at the store on Sunday, December 11, so bring the children for a visit with Santa.

Historic Vienna, Inc., needs a vacuum cleaner for the Freeman House. If you have one to donate (in working condition, please!) call Nancy Brown at 938-0783.