

## Council Action

(Continued)

Braun to the Transportation Safety Commission to fill the unexpired term of Richard Fisher.

\* Set the regular meeting of December 4 as the date for adoption of an ordinance to bring the Town Code into conformance with the State Code relative to abandoned vehicles.

\* Set January 15 as the date of the public hearing on rezoning Lot 9, Murmuring Pines subdivision. Set December 11 as the date of the public hearing on replacing the transitional zone with a limited office zone and eliminating transitional parking. Authorized the Planning Commission to hold public hearings on other proposed amendments to the Code covering parking requirements.

## Building Permit Required For Home Improvements

Homeowners are reminded that they must obtain a building permit from the town before making any home improvements. The Town Code states:

"No excavation shall be commenced, no wall, fence, structure, premises, or land used, no building or part thereof built, constructed, or altered, no building shall be moved, no sign shall be erected, repaired or repainted nor shall any tree be cleared or destroyed until application has been made and the proper permit obtained from the Zoning Administrator in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and said permit has been posted at the building site in plain view from the street."

## Christmas Activities

(Continued)

## Crafts, Flowers at Freeman House

The month of December will bring a number of holiday activities to the town's historic Freeman House, located at Church and Mill Streets. Holiday shopping at the Freeman House Store will provide you with unusual gifts and handcrafted items, including Christmas tree ornaments, spice bouquets, handcrafted wooden toys and authentic rag dolls.

The store will be open Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. until Christmas.

Sunday browsers at the store will also have an opportunity to watch local craftspersons demonstrate their specialties. On December 3, Mrs. Christian-sen will demonstrate wildlife painting on velvet; on December 10, Lucy Greenwood will do needlework on perforated paper; and on December 17, Judith Harrison will present a "Merry Christmas Herbal."

On December 7 and 8, the public is invited to the Freeman House for the Five Hills Garden Club's Standard Flower Show, "Memories of Christmas Past." Competitions featuring Christmas motifs will be held in several different categories, including horticulture, design and special exhibits. The show will be open from 2 to 9 p.m. December 7 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. December 8.

The Freeman House is operated by Historic Vienna, Inc., a nonprofit organization for historic restoration and renovation.

## Christmas Greens Exhibition

A Christmas greens exhibition, sponsored by the National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs, will open on Tuesday, December 5, at the Botanic Garden Conservatory, Maryland Avenue and First Street, S.W., in Washington, and continue through December 10.

The exhibition is open to the public free of charge from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Special parking will be available.

The theme of the exhibition, "The Enchantment of Christmas," will be interpreted by members of the 155 federated garden clubs in the metropolitan area. Holiday crafting with fresh greens and dried materials will be demonstrated at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. December 5, 6, 7 and 8 by members of the Council of Accredited Flower Show Judges.

# December Calendar



- 3 -- Town's annual Christmas Program at the Community Center, 4 p.m. First Sunday of Advent.
- 4 -- Town Council meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall. (Call the Vienna Newsline, 938-4499, the weekend before the meeting for an update on agenda items.)
- 6 -- Newspaper Pickup Day.
- 7-8 -- Five Hills Garden Club flower show, "Memories of Christmas Past," at the Freeman House and Blake Fellowship Hall of the Vienna Presbyterian Church, 2-9 p.m. on Thursday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Friday. Free admission.
- 12 -- Mayor's Advisory Committee meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall.
- 13 -- Planning Commission meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall.
- 18 -- Town Council meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall.
- 20 -- Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall. Newspaper Pickup Day.
- 21 -- Architectural Review Board meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall.
- 25 -- Christmas Day. Town Hall closed. No trash pickup.
- 27 -- Planning Commission meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall.

## A Message from Santa



Again this year, Santa Claus will have a special Christmas message for the children of Vienna. You can hear Santa on the Vienna Newsline beginning on December 15 through Christmas Day. Call 938-4499.

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

**NEWSLETTER**

Mayor  
Charles A. Robinson, Jr.  
Council

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

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Town of Vienna

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. LXXXVIII, No. 12

Vienna, Virginia

December 1978

## Christmas Activities

The town's 12th annual Christmas program will be held at the Community Center on Sunday, December 3, at 4 p.m. Mayor Charles Robinson will be Master of Ceremonies, and Councilwoman Wanda Pellicciotto will make the welcoming remarks.

The Reverend Harrison Sembower will deliver the Christmas message. Rev. Sembower was ordained at the age of 60. A Vienna resident for 42 years, he has left our town for Gaithersburg, Maryland, but continues to lead a Bible study class at the Community Center on a volunteer basis.

Of course, Santa Claus will be there to hand out candy and listen to your Christmas wishes. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Stars of Bethlehem, the Vienna-Falls Sweet Adelines, the Vienna Community Band and students from Cunningham Park Elementary School under the direction of Susan Smith. The Community Center preschoolers will portray the Nativity scene.

The Stars of Bethlehem are all members of the Cartersville Baptist Church in Vienna. They are a family group of sisters and brothers. The group was founded by their uncle, the late Deacon Joseph Wooden, 27 years ago. They have appeared all over the east coast in benefits for churches and community OUTREACH at Lorton Reformatory. They have done live radio broadcasts on various local stations. Recently, the Stars of Bethlehem celebrated their 27th anniversary at the Old Fairfax Theater in Fairfax.

The Vienna-Falls Sweet Adelines are members of an international organization of 30,000. The chapter was formed 12 years ago and is directed by Bill James. Each spring, they compete with four states and currently hold second place in the region.

The Vienna Community Band was formed in 1974 as a Bicentennial project and continues to provide the community with entertainment. Director Geoffrey Seffens is a music teacher in Fairfax County schools and has been a volunteer director with the band since 1975.

The Community Center preschool classes' Nativity scene is led by Mary Tee Butler. Mrs. Butler has worked with the preschool program for 12 years and through these children provides the Christmas program with the sweetness and innocence of the very young.

(Christmas activities continued inside)

## Public Hearing on 'T' Zone

The Town Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 11, on two proposed ordinances to amend the town zoning code. The hearing will begin at 8 p.m. in the Council Chamber at Town Hall.

One of the proposed ordinances would eliminate transitional parking lots, which are those located on land zoned residential and immediately adjacent to commercial businesses. The second proposed ordinance would replace the present transitional zone with a limited office zone.

Copies of both ordinances are available in the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall.

Do your Christmas shopping at home.  
Support our Vienna merchants.  
Sales-related taxes help defray  
the cost of local government  
in Vienna.





## Comment from the Council Table:

# Cardiac Care Ambulance Arrives at Fire Department

By Charles A. Robinson, Jr.  
Mayor of Vienna

On November 15, I had the honor, along with Councilman Vincent Olson and his wife Valerie, of participating in ceremonies dedicating the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department's new mobile intensive care ambulance unit. The sophisticated electronic equipment of this unit not only monitors pulse rate, breathing rate and other vital signs, but also has the capability to produce a continuous readout electrocardiogram and transmit all of this information by radio to Fairfax Hospital, where doctors, after reading the incoming signals, can prescribe appropriate medical procedures and life-saving techniques to specially trained cardiac care technicians who man the ambulance equipment and are trained and authorized to administer drugs under radio direction from the hospital.

It is estimated that the lives of a very substantial number of people who suffer heart attacks and would otherwise be dead on arrival at the hospital, or die soon thereafter, will be saved with this new equipment. It will enable the cardiac care technicians to stabilize their patients before moving them. Although there are several of these intensive care ambulances in service and planned for the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Service, none had been programmed for location in the Vienna station. Our unit has been possible only through the magnificent efforts of the Vienna Jaycees, who have raised some \$50,000 in public contributions for its purchasing and equipping.

I experienced an enormous sense of civic pride during the November 15 ceremony when the keys to the unit were formally turned over to Vienna Fire Chief Charles Singleton; to the President of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, Dr. Charles Pickell; and to Gerald Miller, Captain of the Vienna Rescue Squad by the Chairman of the Vienna Jaycee Project Emergency Committee, Paul Romano; and by Jaycee President Wallace Owings; Jaycee External Vice President Gary Kinney; and Jaycee Board Chairman Mike Marsden. Fairfax County's Fire and Rescue Service was represented at the ceremony by no less a personage than Mr. George H. Alexander, its Director.

Each year, the Virginia statewide organization of Jaycees awards prizes for the best projects completed by local chapters throughout the State. The efforts

of the Vienna Jaycees to provide this intensive care ambulance unit for our Volunteer Fire Department won first place statewide this year in the health-and-safety category. Nationally, among all Jaycee clubs in the United States, our Vienna project won first place in the health-and-safety category. In addition, at the recent Jaycee international convention in Manila, Philippines, the Vienna project won second prize internationally for all categories among all of the Jaycee clubs in the world. My hat is really off to this group of young men - - the Vienna Jaycees!

Over the years, I have repeatedly said that it is this outstanding spirit of volunteerism and active civic pride in the Town of Vienna which makes our community such a great place. The human lives which this unit saves will in large measure be attributable to the great work of our Jaycee organization in addition to the volunteer and paid cardiac care technicians who will be manning the unit from here on out.



Charles A. Robinson, Jr.  
Mayor of Vienna

## Transitional Zone Hearing

On December 11 at 8 p.m. in Town Hall, the Town Council will hold public hearings on two of the most significant zoning matters which have arisen in several years. At the request of residents in the northwest section of Town, we will be considering one amendment to remove from our zoning ordinance those provisions which permit the establishment of transitional parking lots, and a second amendment to substitute for our present Transitional Zone classification a proposed Limited Office Zone.

For many years, our zoning code has allowed the occupants of commercial property, such as that located along Maple Avenue, to use the first 200 feet of land in the abutting residential zone behind their businesses as a parking lot, subject to obtaining approval of same from the Board of Zoning Appeals, and subject to certain restrictions on its use, including limited lighting, limited vehicle size, landscaping and the separation of the parking area from adjacent residential land by a masonry wall. Many people in the community feel strongly that the development of additional transitional parking lots would pose a real danger to some of the good residential neighborhoods which lie close to our Maple Avenue commercial core. On the other hand, these parking facilities make it possible for the businessman to economically use the commercially zoned property along Maple Avenue which is rather shallow in depth and might not otherwise provide the parking space required for profitable operations.

In addition to transitional parking lots as outlined above, our zoning code also provides that land lying within 200 feet of an existing commercial zone is eligible for rezoning to a category designated as our Transitional Zone. This zoning category was originally conceived as an area in which existing residential-type buildings would be converted to restricted office-type use, with limited parking, limited lighting, limited size signs and other restrictions, including maximum lot coverage of 25 percent. No on-site storage of merchandise and no retail establishments are permitted in this zone, and it has generally been confined to professional-type offices. However, soon after this Transitional zoning category was established, it became evident that, strictly constructed in its original form, it could not be economically used for the office-type businesses which desired to locate in it, and from time to time the Council has permitted case-by-case modification of the lot coverage and other restrictions applicable to the T Zone.

This procedure has resulted in the development of the low-rise office properties now located on the three parcels presently zoned Transitional, i.e., the building at the corner of Berry and Pine Streets, S.E.; the building complex at the intersection of Church and Park Streets, N.E.; and the building complex nearing completion on the Vienna Square property lying just south of Church Street between Beulah Road and East Street, N.E. These are admittedly attractive buildings, and, although they do not conform to the precise original intent of the Transitional Zone classification, they have served to prevent the blight and deterioration which frequently characterize the line between commercial and residential uses in other communities, and they have prevented the spread of retail-type zoning. Many of our citizens, however, feel that the further rezoning of commercial-abutting residential land to the Transitional category should be avoided because of its potentially undesirable impact on adjacent single-family residential uses, especially in that portion of the northwest quadrant of Town which borders on Maple Avenue.

Assuming, however, that the Council decides to repeal the Transitional Zone provisions of our Code, we must decide how to zone the three parcels of land already in the Transitional category. A simple motion repealing the T Zone will leave these three parcels unzoned - - and totally uncontrolled. It is for this reason that the December 11 hearing will also include consideration of a Limited Office Zone which would be applied to the three parcels now zoned Transitional.

The really tough question is whether a Limited Office Zone would be a better vehicle than the present Transitional Zone through which to protect single-family residential neighborhoods against erosion from the continuous pressure for expansion of the Town's commercial core. I am not at all certain that such is the case, and your Mayor, along with his Council colleagues and the Town Manager, will be seeking all of your best ideas on December 11. Mark the date on your calendar, and plan to attend the hearings.

## Reflections on the Proposed Curfew

The Council's October 23 hearing on the proposed curfew ordinance brought out a record attendance of both young people and adults - - about 250 in all. The overwhelming sentiment expressed by both youth and "not so youthful" was in opposition to the curfew, and, thereafter, the Council decided unanimously to reject the idea.

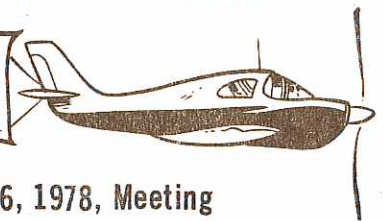
We still need some answers to the vandalism problem, however. On Halloween night (October 31), our Town Police Department, even with a double shift on duty, was obliged to call on the Fairfax County Department for help in order to disperse a group of some 150 thoroughly unruly people in the southeast quadrant of Town. The County Department's response was magnificent. Within five minutes, about 25 County police vehicles were on the scene and a forceful open confrontation was avoided. I have written to Supervisor Martha Pennino and other County officials expressing appreciation for this outstanding cooperation and help.

The curfew proposal was a bona fide Council response to a citizen's plea for aid, and his request for a public airing of his idea on how to reduce the vandalism problem. In practice, a number of local jurisdictions around the country, including at least one in Virginia, have curfew ordinances on the books. They are used by police departments very selectively as a "charge of last resort" to deter the development of situations which experience indicates are likely to lead to serious breaches of the peace. In my judgment, it will be an unhappy day for the community when the Town Council declines to even obtain the views of its electorate on important issues simply because they are controversial or likely to draw adverse newspaper and TV publicity. Councilman Ross Buckley introduced the curfew proposal in the finest tradition of constituency service. The rather intemperate local daily paper editorial comment which he endured reminded me of the shrill media cries against President Roosevelt's efforts to strengthen our national defense a few months before Pearl Harbor.

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will be over and the soon-to-come Christmas holidays will herald the passage of another year. On balance, 1978 has been a period of achievement and improvement for the Town of Vienna. Certainly, our community has experienced some reverses, and some of our friends have been stricken with personal tragedies of various kinds. In general, however, it has been a good year for our community, and we all have received from a bountiful and forgiving Lord a variety of blessings for which we must be grateful.

Your Mayor, the members of your Town Council, your Town Manager and your entire Town Staff send to each of you our very best wishes for a joyous Christmas season and for good health and much happiness during 1979!

## Council Action



### Results of Town Council's November 6, 1978, Meeting

- \* Approved the final plat of the Louk tract as related to the single-family homes, providing each individual plat show the flood plain easement.
- \* Approved the request for budget transfers for the first fiscal quarter.
- \* Authorized the Town Manager to take such action as necessary, within budgeted funding, to coordinate the construction of an asphalt path along the southerly side of Courthouse Road from Nottoway Park to Nutley Road, in cooperation with the Fairfax County Park Authority.
- \* Adopted an ordinance relative to political activities of town employees.
- \* Accepted the offsite improvements associated with Pickett Estates, Section 5, into the town's system for maintenance.
- \* Appointed Richard Fisher to the Planning Commission for a term expiring in April 1979. Recommended Robert P. Delaney to the Circuit Court for appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term expiring in 1983 and John Fitzgerald for a term expiring in September 1981. Appointed Ronald