

Easter Trip to Ceret Planned

Several Vienna residents will be spending Easter weekend in Vienna's Sister-City of Ceret, France. They are members of Les Compagnons de la Parole Francaise (Friends of the French Language), dedicated to promoting Franco-American understanding and friendship.

Ceret has been home to a number of world-famous artists. Picasso and Braque lived in Ceret during the early years of the Cubist period, and a collection of their works hangs in the city's art museum. Ceret is also known for its cherries, the first to arrive in the French markets each year.

The twinning of Ceret and Vienna was initiated by Robert Mercader, who was born in the Roussillon region of France where Ceret is located. Close ties between the two towns were established in 1974, and since then Les Compagnons have participated in the Easter Festival celebrated in Ceret each year.

Anyone interested in visiting Vienna's Sister-City April 18-20 may contact Robert Mercader at 938-7142 for information.

"Spring Fling" Fashion Show

The Vienna Business and Professional Women's Club will hold "A Spring Fling" fashion show at the Community Center on Saturday, March 21, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The show will feature fashions by Twice As Nice and entertainment by the Manassan-Aires Barbershop Chorus. There will also be refreshments and door prizes.

Tickets are \$3 per person, and proceeds will go to the club's scholarship fund. For tickets and information, call 560-1028 or 938-7974. Tickets are also available at Twice As Nice, 390-B Maple Ave., E.

Antiques Show and Sale
Vienna Community Center
March 6, 7 & 8

Sponsored by Vienna Parks & Recreation

Noon-10 p.m. Friday
 Noon-8 p.m. Saturday
 Noon-6 p.m. Sunday

Food & Drink Available

Admission \$2.50 \$2 with ticket

Sign Replacement Costs Citizens

Last year, 150 traffic and street signs in town were stolen or vandalized. At \$20 to \$35 per sign plus personnel and equipment costs, sign replacement can add up to thousands of dollars annually.

Citizens can help reduce these costs by calling the police immediately if they witness or suspect sign theft or vandalism. The assistance of responsible and concerned citizens can keep crime, and the cost of crime, down in Vienna.

March Calendar

- 2 - Town Council meeting, 9 p.m. at Town Hall. (Call the Vienna Newsline, 938-4499, the weekend before the meeting for an update on agenda items.)
- 3 - Historic Windover Board of Review meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall.
- 4 - Ash Wednesday.
- 6-8 - Antiques Show & Sale at the Community Center, noon-10 p.m. Friday, noon-8 p.m. Saturday, noon-6 p.m. Sunday.
- 10 - Mayor's Advisory Committee meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall.
- 11 - Planning Commission meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall.
Newspaper Pickup Day.
- 13 - Teen concert at the Community Center, 8-11 p.m. Admission \$1.25.
- 14 - Vienna Pigtail-Ponytail registration at the Community Center, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 16 - Town Council meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall. (Call the Vienna Newsline, 938-4499, the weekend before the meeting for update on agenda items.)
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day.
- 18 - Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall.
- 19 - Architectural Review Board meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall.
- 21-22 - Open House at Vienna Railroad Station, 1:30-5 p.m. both days.
- 22 - Kite-flying contest, 2 p.m. at Wolftrap Farm Park.
- 23 - Public hearing on request to rezone 143 Park St., S.E., from RM-2 to C-1, 8 p.m. at Town Hall.
- 25 - Planning Commission meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall.
Newspaper Pickup Day.
- 27 - Art auction at the Community Center, 7-10 p.m.
- 28 - Voter registration at Patrick Henry Library, 1-5 p.m.
- 28-29 - Photo show at the Community Center, noon-5 p.m. Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday.
- 31 - Transportation Safety Commission meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall.

There are still openings in the youth golf and the youth and adult tennis programs sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation. To register, call 938-8000, ext. 277.

NEWSLETTER

Mayor
 Charles A. Robinson, Jr.
 Council

Douglas A. Brook
 E. Ross Buckley
 Raymond E. Hicks

Vincent J. Olson
 Robert W. Robinson
 Donald E. Upchurch

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Town of Vienna

NEWSLETTER

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Vienna, Virginia

March 1981

Bond Issue Hearings Set

Two public hearings will be held next month on a proposed 1981 bond issue. The hearings will be part of the regular Town Council meetings on April 6 and 20.

Among the items proposed by the Town Manager for funding are several public works projects. Much of the Town's water and sewer system is more than 30 years old and will probably require replacement before long. Additional water storage facilities and a number of storm drainage improvements are also needed.

Replacement or major upgrading of the Police Department's communications system is another project that could be funded by a bond sale.

Interested citizens are encouraged to attend the public hearings in April and comment on these proposed uses for bond funds as well as the effect a bond issue would have on the Town's tax rate and water and sewer charges.

The March 2 Town Council meeting will begin at 9 p.m. so that Council members may attend the Virginia reception for the National League of Cities Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

Voter Registration Deadline

April 4 is the last day to register to vote in the Town election on May 5. You are eligible to vote if you are a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years old and a town resident.

Voter registration is conducted at the General Registrar's office, 4031 University Drive in Fairfax, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and at Fairfax County libraries each Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. Registration will also be held at the libraries on Saturday, March 28, from 1 to 5 p.m. and Saturday, April 4, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For further information about voter registration, call the Registrar's office at 385-8100.

Candidates for Town Council must file by 7 p.m. March 3. Citizens interested in running for Council may call the Town Clerk's office, 938-8000, ext. 235, for information.

Town Tags Go on Sale March 15

Town vehicle tags go on sale March 15. Fees are \$20 for vehicles weighing 4,000 pounds and over, \$15 for vehicles less than 4,000 pounds and \$8 for motorcycles.

Tags may be purchased by mail or over the counter in the Finance Department at Town Hall. Business hours are 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Tags must be displayed by midnight April 15. For more information, call 938-8000, ext. 221.

Comment from the Council Table:

Too Many Traffic Signs?

By Robert W. Robinson
Vienna Town Councilman

Stop signs in Vienna are at the point of being ridiculous. They are now facing sustained and intense opposition. Most of our four-way stops are illegal because they meet no criteria as required. They are there to slow traffic. That is not their purpose and it is in violation of the State Code. What is worse is some Councilmen confess to the fact that the signs are there only to slow traffic. By request Council felt forced to do something.

A perfect example is the most recent request to remove the stop signs at the Lawyers/Upham intersection. It was said that if those signs are removed, there would be no break in the traffic to let cars out of other streets up the way (toward Maple Avenue). What really happens with a four- or three-way stop sign on a busy road like Lawyers is that traffic starts to back up coming into Vienna in the morning to such a degree that a car is released every two seconds from the stop sign (like the starting line at a race track) heading for the next stop sign, and so on. Now try to break into a line of traffic like that, especially when everyone is aggravated. In the evening it is just reversed; traffic is stopped at the starting line (stop sign) and backed up into Vienna, which makes it impossible to get out of the side streets. Again the situation is - - no criteria, just a bottleneck.

Another case at hand - - the three-way stop at Locust Street and Courthouse Road. Now this is one of the most ideal intersections for visibility you have. The traffic flow is smooth and has never been a problem. The criteria in this case was an accident involving an auto going 80 mph and hitting a pole, killing the driver. I don't think a stop sign, a chain link fence or a red light would have slowed anyone going 80 mph in that case. The town is full of bottlenecks of this type.

How about this one . . . a four-way stop sign, "no turn" signs and a powerful mercury vapor street light all at one intersection. But that's not all - - there is also a police officer there. Why the police officer you ask? Well, he's there to wave traffic through the four-way stop sign! But let me warn you, don't say anything to the police officer; he doesn't like it any more than you do; he is only following orders. If you've never seen a street circus like this before, go to Follin Lane and Echols around 4 p.m. any weekday. One person even wrote to one of the Washington papers asking for help in this area because she can't make the turn to go home. This situation should not be called a bottleneck; let's just call it ridiculous.

I know I'll get calls telling me of many more situations that have a similar story, but I'll get just as many calls from special interest groups squarely at odds, saying that stop signs are needed in their neighborhoods to slow



Robert W. Robinson
Vienna Town Councilman

down the speeders. Again I tell you that is not the answer to speeding. Mr. Dave Gehr, Regional Transportation Engineer, Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation, said, "Four-way stop signs and speed bumps do not slow people down. As a matter of fact, most people drive faster over speed bumps." He was quoting a study. Last year just before election, the people told the Councilmen that they were very irritated with traffic and stop signs in Vienna. It is election time again so I remind you to let them know how you feel, for it left its mark last year.

If you want to see how bad the problem really is, come down to the Council Chambers and see the map showing where all the stop signs are. As a matter of fact, it looks like a map with a bad case of the measles, there are so many red dots on it. I could think of no better reason for forming a citizenry group to insist that Council take inventory of all the stop signs in Vienna and remove all that do not meet the criteria for their existence and start complying with the State Code relative to traffic signs. There comes a time when we get too accustomed to too many stop signs and we just cruise through them. You know what I mean - - we just almost stop.

Many articles have been printed on the fuel wasted at stop signs and Council has received copies of these articles. I honestly believe Council will take no action unless you, the people, let us know how you feel.

My own feelings on this subject are that we should understand that the streets in Vienna are public roads to be used by all of us. I would urge you to give a little more thought to the problem before asking Council to erect any more traffic control signs. Many times Council has to bend the rules in order to comply with your requests. Perhaps a little more thought should be given toward others who also have a right to use the road that runs in front of your home. In trying to hold down the speeding, we are bottlenecking our friends and neighbors as well. Let's work together for harmony for all. We need our open roads.

Park with the Flow of Traffic

Citizens are reminded that vehicles should always be parked heading in the same direction as the normal flow of traffic.

Parking against the traffic flow is prohibited by Town ordinance. A vehicle pulling out from such a position is hazardous both to pedestrians and to other vehicles.

Town police will issue warnings to offenders and summons to those who continue to park against the direction of traffic flow.

Colo-rectal Cancer Presentation

Vienna residents are invited to attend a program on colo-rectal cancer at the Community Center on Monday, March 23, from 10 to 11 a.m. or Tuesday, March 24, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The program is co-sponsored by the Service League of Northern Virginia and the American Cancer Society.

The presentation will include slides and discussion about colo-rectal cancer and instructions for a simple detection test that can be given at home. For more information, call 620-9074 or 620-9549.

Shop at Home -- Support Our
Vienna Merchants.
Sales-related taxes help defray
the cost of local government
in Vienna.



Amateur Photography Show

The Department of Parks and Recreation will hold its annual amateur photography contest and exhibit March 28 and 29 at the Community Center. Hours are noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

There will be two divisions: black and white, and color. Categories in each division are nature, architecture, scenic, motion, informal portraits, children, animal, artistic and category "X" (open). Photos will be judged by local professional photographers and ribbons awarded to the winners.

Entries are limited to four per person. The entry fee is \$3 per person. Photo size may range from 5" X 5" to 16" X 20". Photos must be mounted and ready for hanging and must be labeled on the back with name, address, phone number and category.

Entry dates are March 26 from 4 to 8 p.m. and March 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For entry forms and additional information, call the Department of Parks and Recreation at 938-8000, ext. 277.

Jayteens to Hold Sock Hop

The Vienna Jayteens invite all third through sixth graders to a sock hop on Sunday, March 15, from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Community Center Game Room. The \$1 admission charge includes soft drinks, popcorn and a disc jockey to play all the latest records.

Proceeds go to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. For more information on the sock hop, call Anne Marie, 938-8789, or Elaine, 281-9648. This dance will be chaperoned by members of the Vienna Jayteens as well as by their sponsors, the Vienna Jaycee Women.

The Vienna Jayteens were chartered in November 1980 and have already participated in a number of community service projects. Vienna teenagers interested in joining may call Penny at 281-4906 for information.

Red Cross Offers CPR Classes

If someone was having a heart attack, would you know what to do? The lives of many heart attack victims have been saved by the use of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, better known as CPR.

CPR classes sponsored by the Red Cross are being offered to Vienna area residents through St. Marks Catholic Church. A certificate is issued upon completion of the 12-hour course to those who demonstrate effectively their ability to perform CPR.

For more information about CPR or to sign up for a class, call Daureen Aulenbach at 938-8660.

"Campers Classic" 10 km Road Race

The Vienna Jaycees will hold their annual "Campers Classic" 10 km road race on Sunday, March 29. Registration will begin at Madison High School at 6:30 a.m., with the race starting at 8 a.m. A two mile fun run will begin shortly thereafter.

The entry fee is \$6 for the 10 km (\$8 after March 15) and \$1 for the two mile race. Proceeds will be used to help send mentally handicapped kids to a special camp. Prizes will be awarded to the winners in various age groups. T-shirts will be given to all entrants in the 10 km event.

Checks should be made payable to the Vienna Jaycees, P.O. Box 54, Vienna, Va. 22180, or call Dave Rose at 827-0940 for registration forms and information.