



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Liberty Amendments Month Commemorates the American Story

Liberty Amendments Month 2024 is set to begin on June 15, 2024, highlighting history, citizenship rights and culture as they relate to the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. These “Liberty Amendments” granted equal citizenship rights and protections to all American citizens, regardless of race, creed, culture or gender, bringing the United States closer to the ideal of “a more perfect union.”

“The month-long series is a celebration of what it means to be an American,” said Lily Widman, Town of Vienna Parks and Recreation special events coordinator. “Our way of life gives every citizen a say in how the nation is governed and which rights and freedoms should be granted to all Americans, and the series includes engaging, educational and entertaining activities for all ages highlighting the Liberty Amendments and reflecting on our common bonds.”

The festivities begin with the town’s **Juneteenth** celebration on **Saturday, June 15, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.** at First Baptist Church, 450 Orchard St., NW, Vienna. The opening ceremony, which commemorates the passage of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, starts at 12 p.m. featuring various performances and speakers. Following the ceremony, the Earth Wind, and Fire Cover Band take the stage as attendees enjoy craft vendors, food trucks, voting resources, a car show, and kid’s activities.

Returning this year to help commemorate the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> amendments is the **Naturalization Ceremony** on **Saturday, June 29, from 3:30-6 p.m.** at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S., Vienna. At this inspiring event, 15 people from all walks of life will renounce allegiance to their native homeland and take the Oath of Allegiance to become naturalized United States citizens and obtain all rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, including the right to vote.

All Liberty Amendments are at the heart of Vienna’s **Independence Day** celebration, which takes place from **6-10 p.m.** on **Tuesday, July 2**, at Yeonas Park. Families can enjoy live music, food trucks and concessions, and a 20-minute fireworks show beginning at 9:30 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs.

Also returning this year is the **Foundational Documents Reading** on the traditional Independence Day, **Thursday, July 4, at 11 a.m.** at the Vienna Community Center.



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Community members are invited to attend this poetic, round-robin reading of our democracy's foundational documents which continue to support the nation nearly 250 years after its birth.

Closing out the month-long celebration is a **Multicultural Festival** on **Friday, July 12, from 4-9 p.m.** on the Vienna Town Green. The day will be chock full of live performances, kids activities, food trucks, and voting resources all while celebrating the diverse cultures and communities represented across the region.

Each week, one of the four Constitutional amendments will be highlighted through additional children's programs, educational events for teens and adults and special trips. "**Our American Liberty Stories**," an interactive feature for residents to share their unique family history with the community, will also be on display at Town government buildings, the community center, and at local businesses.

Liberty Amendments Month is presented by the Town of Vienna in partnership with other government, business, and non-profit organizations. All event details are listed in the online Liberty Amendments Month calendar: [www.viennava.gov/Liberty](http://www.viennava.gov/Liberty).

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