

VIENNA VOICE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF VIENNA, VIRGINIA • WWW.VIENNA.VA.GOV

AUGUST 2024



New Traffic Devices Improve Emergency Response Time

The Town of Vienna's traffic signal improvement efforts not only make commuter traffic more efficient during various times of the day, they also include a special upgrade that automatically gives fire department

vehicles the green light during emergency responses. During a presentation at the July 8 Town Council meeting, Vienna Fire Chief John Morrison explained how the preemption system works to improve response times in emergency situations.



“Fire vehicles and ambulances have transmitters that turn the lights green, which makes it a little faster for us to get through town,” he said enthusiastically. Morrison also noted that the technology makes it safer for all motorists because while it gives emergency responders green lights to keep moving, it also changes lights for motorists coming from other directions to red to ensure they stop.

Morrison says all fire department vehicles in Fairfax County have these transmitters, and the technology has also now been installed at all Town of Vienna intersections with traffic signals. He says the fire department has already seen an improvement in emergency response times.

Traffic Devices, continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE



Traffic Devices, continued from page 1

“We’ve seen what we think is about a 10 percent reduction in response time as we travel down Maple Avenue,” Morrison reported in his presentation to the Council. “As of now, we can go from Mclean almost to the City of Fairfax and never hit a red light... which makes a big difference to us when we are providing aid to the residents of the Town of Vienna or other fire department responders are coming in or we’re going out.”

Morrison says Fairfax County provided funding for the technology at two of the 15 intersections, and the Town Council approved the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds for the remaining intersections. Morrison thanked the Council and expressed appreciation for the investment in the community. 🙏



Stop Sign Campaign Yields Increase in Violations

For the third year in a row, Vienna police officers stepped up efforts in June to ticket motorists who fail to come to a complete stop at a stop sign, stop light or flashing red light. In the one-month period, officers issued tickets for 236 stop-sign violations and 153 other traffic violations. The number of tickets issues during this year’s campaign was higher than in previous years.

The goal of the stop sign enforcement campaign is to raise awareness and ensure motorist and pedestrian safety by avoiding preventable crashes. The annual campaign began in 2022 after numerous resident complaints and a noticeable uptick in violations. 🙏





Library Construction set to Begin in Spring 2025

Construction on the new Vienna-Carter Library was expected to begin this fall, but Fairfax County administrative procedures are taking a little longer than expected, so Patrick Henry Library will continue to operate on the site until spring 2025. After that, a temporary Patrick Henry Library will open in the Cedar Park Shopping Center, and preparations will begin to construct the new Vienna-Carter Library on the current site at the corner of Center Street and Maple Avenue.

The new Vienna-Carter Library is a joint development project between Fairfax County and the Town of Vienna. While the County is funding most of the project, the Town will help pay for a portion of the parking garage to provide additional public parking for Vienna visitors.

The new library architectural concepts were unveiled to the public on June 28, 2023, during a Liberty Amendments Month “Liberty and Libraries” program. At 19,000 square feet, the new Vienna-Carter Library will be a third bigger than the current building. It will house more meeting spaces and reading nooks for kids and adults, provide ample parking thanks to a new parking garage, and include a welcoming outdoor plaza designed with small gatherings in mind.

The Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees voted recently to name the new library in honor of those who worked to bring an integrated library to Vienna – William McKinley Carter and his wife, Lillian Carter. To learn more about the history of Patrick Henry Library and the future of this Town fixture, visit <https://youtu.be/dsdJ0Hr16ns>. For the latest information on the library project, visit the Fairfax County government website: <https://bit.ly/ViennaCarterLibrary>.



NEW DATE!



Fall Native Plant Sale

**Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024
8 a.m.-12 p.m.
Vienna Community Center**

You'll find lots of native plant options for purchase at the Fall Native Plant Sale on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center. This date is one week earlier than originally scheduled. The sale is sponsored by the Town of Vienna Conservation and Sustainability Commission (CSC).

Also, mark your calendar for the CSC's Native Tree Giveaway, Saturday, Oct. 19. The giveaway begins at 8 a.m. and goes until 12 p.m. or until the last tree is given away. Stop by early for the best selection of tree species.

Updates from Vienna Parks & Recreation



Stay in the Know with Vienna Happenings!

Sign up for Vienna Happenings e-newsletter and get weekly updates on fun things to do in the Town of Vienna! To sign up, visit www.viennava.gov/happenings.

Chillin' on Church

Friday, Aug. 16 • 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Vienna's favorite block party, Chillin' on Church, continues every third Friday of the month through September on historic Church Street. This family-friendly event runs from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and is complete with live music, food trucks, and beer and wine vendors. Admission is free. To learn more including the monthly live entertainment lineup, visit www.viennava.gov/chillin. Thanks to our series sponsor - Delta Dental!



Kids on the Green Tuesdays • 10 a.m.

Enjoy our 7th annual series of free, interactive kids' programs on the Town Green presented by the Town of Vienna and sponsors. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy a 30-45-minute program for children of all ages. Call the weather line at 703-255-7842 or check the Town's social media for updates on weather cancellations. For more information, visit www.viennava.gov/kidsonthegreen. Thanks to our sponsors Rotary Club of Vienna and Vienna Presbyterian Church.

2024 Community Center Maintenance Weeks

Aug. 19 – Sept 1.

The Vienna Community Center pauses all programs, classes and events for two weeks each year to allow staff and vendors time to give the facility an annual deep cleaning and perform building maintenance. During the hours posted below, the building lobby will be open, the front desk will be staffed, and the lobby restrooms will be open and available to the community.

Maintenance Week Hours:

Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday
8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sunday
Closed



Summer on the Green Concerts Fridays • 6:30 p.m.

The Town of Vienna hosts free Summer on the Green concerts on select Fridays through mid-August. The performances on the Town Green feature a wide range of musical genres. Concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. and are approximately 90-minutes long. For performance information, visit www.viennava.gov/summeronthegreen. Thanks to our 2024 series sponsor the Rotary Club of Vienna.

Fall Registration Opens in August

Start planning your fall recreation schedule and be ready to sign up when registration opens at 8 a.m. on Aug. 5 for Town residents and at 8 a.m. on Aug. 12 for those who live outside of the town limits. Explore the fall program guide online at www.viennava.gov/parkguide.





Open for business

Town of Vienna business licenses were issued in June to:

Coach Issam's Driving School
Driving School
450 Maple Ave., E

The Gloss Room
Hair Salon
262 Cedar Lane, SE #124

I am Getting My Nails Done, LLC
Nail Technician
262 Cedar Lane, SE #104

Hiraeth Counseling Services, PLLC
Psychotherapist
450 Maple Ave. E #303C

Nivalis Counseling, PLLC
Psychotherapist
450 Maple Ave., E #303D

Vienna businesses with staying power

Congratulations to the following Vienna businesses celebrating milestone anniversaries this month.

35 YEARS
LISA FRAMM SKLAR, MD
PL INTERIORS, LLC

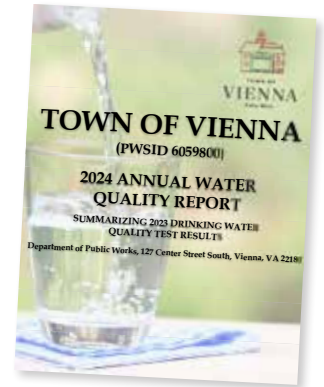
30 YEARS
CASCADING CREATIONS
JOYCE P. HAIR, MD
JUD TILE, LTD

25 YEARS
PEARLBRITE DENTAL, INC., PC

10 YEARS
BOSSCAT GROUP, LLC
TOUCHPOINT SOLUTIONS, LLC

5 YEARS
BOXWOOD & BLOOM EVENTS, LLC
DANA M. SYMONS
JULIE'S POOCH PAD
LINDA COLBERT TUTORING
SKYWALK TECH, LLC
TEMBURNI FAMILY & AESTHETIC DENTISTRY
WARDROBE RESCUE

2024 Water Quality Report



The 2024 Town of Vienna Water Quality Report is now online! This report provides a wealth of information on the 2023 water quality testing. To view the report and to learn more about the quality of your drinking water and its sources, visit www.viennava.gov/WaterQuality. ↻

Report a Problem with Vienna Connect!

Now, more than ever, there are many ways to stay connected to the Town of Vienna and report a non-emergency issue, including using the Town's mobile phone app, Vienna Connect! Just download the app on your Android or Apple device, register, and click "Report an Issue." The platform enables users to upload a supporting photo and features an interactive map that pinpoints the location of each report. Those who report a problem can expect email responses or check the status of their concern via the app.

Using the app might even save time! With the touch of a button, users can find the information they need and cross out items on their "To Do" list with ease like making a payment, checking for upcoming public hearings and Town Council meetings, or registering for a Parks and Recreation class.

Please note: Vienna Connect is only for non-emergency problems that do not require an immediate response. For time-sensitive non-emergency issues such as noise complaints, please call the Vienna Police Department non-emergency number: 703-255-6366. If it's an emergency, please call 911. You can also access Vienna Connect from a computer via the Town website. Just log on to www.viennava.gov, click on the "report a problem" button on the homepage and start reporting. ↻



The Value of Town Commissions and Committees

BY MAYOR LINDA COLBERT



What are the Town of Vienna commissions and advisory committees, who is on them, and what do they do?

The Town of Vienna has seven boards and commissions: Planning, Transportation, Zoning Appeals, Architectural Review, Conservation and Sustainability, Public Art, and Windover Heights Board of Review – all of which are advisory to the Town Council, except the Board of Zoning Appeals. There are also four advisory committees to boards and commissions – Bicycle and Pedestrian, both of which advise the Transportation Commission, Town Business Liaison, which advises the Economic Development Department, and Tree Advocacy, which advises the Conservation and Sustainability Commission. Most meet once a month, but the Planning Commission generally meets twice monthly.

The Vienna Town Council appoints residents to all of these bodies except the Board of Zoning Appeals, which requires a Council recommendation to the Fairfax County Circuit Court for appointment. Residents can submit an application for appointment on the Town’s website and then the Town Clerk sets up an interview with the Council. Some people get involved because they have an interest in or skills for a particular commission. Some people just want to serve their community and apply asking us to find them a good fit.

One benefit of having commissions, is their ability to delve deep into issues pertaining to their specific topic and make recommendations to the Council for a vote. A huge amount of work is done by the members, so by the time it reaches the Council, many of the concerns are worked out. The Council respects the comments and recommendations and uses them to make final decisions. Another beauty of having Town commissioners is that they bring a variety of different backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences to form a cohesive yet diverse group that works together to make the town better. They can act as Town communicators as they engage with their friends and neighbors and are able to both receive feedback on the town and relay correct information to the community.

In Vienna, we are blessed to have many residents who care so much about their town and get involved in Town groups including boards and commissions. If you are interested in learning more, visit the Town website www.viennava.gov/boards.

Thank you to all the past and current board members. I am so grateful for your love of our town and the good work you do to make it the best place to live. 🙏





Word from Juan

Know the Rules of the Road

It won't be long before students head back to school in Fairfax County, and that means an increase in road and pedestrian traffic. Our officers will keep a close eye on crosswalks and bus stops, and here are some ways you can help ensure motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians reach their destination safely from the first day of school to the lazy days of summer:



- **Parents** – Remind your kids about the pedestrian rules and safety measures around school buses, school zones, crosswalks, and signals.
- **Drivers** – School-related traffic will have an impact on travel times. Be sure to allow extra time for your commute as it may be impacted by school bus traffic, pedestrian and bicycle traffic, and drop-off and pick-up times. Be mindful not to stop in the middle of crosswalks or intersections. Avoid distractions and stay focused on the road and what is happening around you.
- **School Bus Rules** – It is really important for motorists to stop for a school bus with lights flashing and stop arm out. This applies to all drivers in both directions unless a median separates your car from the school bus lane. Also, for safety reasons, remind kids to stay at least 10 feet away from the front, sides, and rear of the bus as these areas can be hard for the driver to see.
- **Bicyclists** – Make sure to wear the right gear, such as a well-fitting helmet, and fasten it every time you ride. If you can, stick to the sidewalk; if you're on the road, ride in the same direction as traffic. When you're on the sidewalk, follow pedestrian traffic laws; if you're on the road, follow the same rules as other vehicles.
- **Pedestrians** – Always walk with a responsible adult or in a group of friends. Stick to the sidewalk when possible; if there isn't one, walk facing the oncoming traffic. Stay focused on where you're going and avoid roughhousing with others. Wear bright, colorful clothes to help drivers see you better.

If we all follow these essential safety tips, everyone can help assure an accident-free school year! 🚫



Juan Vazquez is the Vienna Police Department Public Information Officer. He conducts community outreach and public safety programs for area schools and community groups. To contact him, email Juan.Vazquez@viennava.gov or call 703-255-7845.

Be the First to Know with Vienna Alerts

Did you know you can get real-time text and email alerts about urgent situations in town? Vienna Alerts cover everything from public emergencies to road closures, severe-weather warnings and event cancellations. The service is free, and all you have to do is sign up to get the messages! To sign up or manage your message preferences, visit www.viennava.gov/alerts. 📩



Topic on deck: Emergency Preparedness Month



September is National Emergency Preparedness Month. From extreme heat to hurricanes to bitter cold winter weather and other public safety emergencies, it's important for everyone to be prepared to cope with adverse events before they come. Tune in for "On Deck with Mercury" to learn how to prepare your home and family to weather any emergency. Special guests include Police Chief Jim Morris and Fire Chief John Morrison.

"On Deck with Mercury" is a monthly community forum hosted by Town Manager Mercury Payton. If you missed previous episodes, you can still see them on the Town YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/MercuryOnDeck>. 📺



ON DECK
WITH MERCURY

6 P.M., AUG. 13

**LOCATION: TOWN OF VIENNA
COMMUNITY NETWORK (TVCN)**

**COX CHANNEL 27,
VERIZON CHANNEL 38**

**TOWN WEBSITE STREAM:
WWW.VIENNAVA.GOV/TVCN**

**YOUTUBE @
TOWNOFVIENNAVA**



MEET THE MAYOR

Mayor Linda Colbert offers several opportunities for residents to meet with her each month:

- **Meet the Mayor:** Periodically Mayor Colbert sets up “office” in various Vienna locations. The next “Meet the Mayor” is on Friday, Aug. 2 from 9-10:30 a.m. at Frame Coffee Roasters, 302 Maple Ave., W. Stop by, grab some coffee, and share your thoughts.
- **Business Walkabout:** The mayor and Economic Development Director Natalie Monkou visit various businesses on the second Friday of each month.
- **Mayor’s Walk:** Join Mayor Colbert for a chat and stroll through the Town on the third Friday of most months. The next walk is on Friday, Aug. 16. Meet in front of Town Hall at 9:30 a.m. Due to a special stop, this walk is limited to eight people.



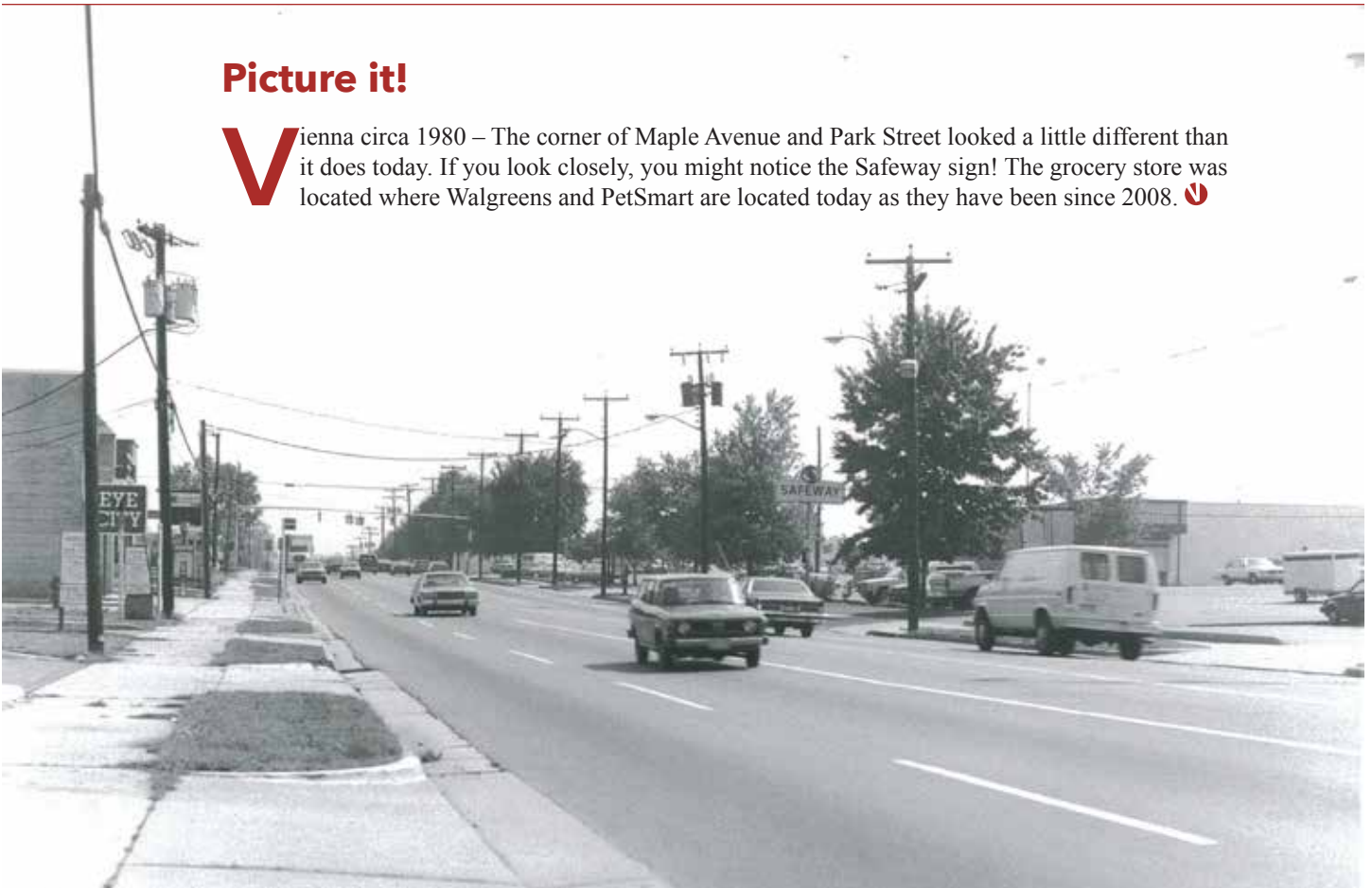
To sign up, please call the Town Clerk’s office at 703-255-6304.

- **Office Hours:** The mayor is available to meet in her office weekdays, by appointment. To make an appointment, email mclark@viennava.gov or call 703-255-6304.

Mayor Colbert also does a weekly Facebook video highlighting upcoming events and Town Council business. You can catch it each Wednesday on the Town Facebook page @ TownofViennaVA. 📺

Picture it!

Vienna circa 1980 – The corner of Maple Avenue and Park Street looked a little different than it does today. If you look closely, you might notice the Safeway sign! The grocery store was located where Walgreens and PetSmart are located today as they have been since 2008. 📍



HAPPENINGS

around town

Alice in Wonderland Tea Party

Saturday, Aug. 3 • 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Children ages 5-12 will delight in this tea party at the Freeman Store & Museum. Join Historic Vienna, Inc. for kid-friendly treats, games, and crafts! Tickets are \$10 per child and will be on sale at the Freeman Store the day of the event.

Summer at the Freeman Store

Wednesdays-Sundays • 12-4 p.m.

Looking for something to do on the lazy days of summer? Visit the Freeman Store & Museum at 131 Church Street NE, and experience what an old-time general store was like in 1859. Browse our gift shop, learn about Vienna's history, or visit our used book cellar. Open 12-4 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday ([HistoricViennainc.org](https://historicviennainc.org))



Freeman Store Book Donations

Donating your used books to the Freeman Store's Used Book Cellar? The store and volunteers appreciate your generosity, but please make sure the bags or boxes are sturdy and not too heavy. The cellar steps are steep and trying to navigate the stairs with heavy boxes presents safety concerns for volunteers. Donations may be dropped off inside the store during operating hours, or left on the porch when the store is closed. Proceeds support the Town's historic preservation efforts. For more information, visit <https://historicviennainc.org/used-book-cellar/>.

Lions Club Dining for Dollars Fundraiser



Tuesday, Aug. 13 • 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious meal and support a worthy cause by dining at Foster's Grille in Vienna on the second Tuesday of every month. Simply ask the cashier to put your receipt in the Lions' box, and Foster's will donate 20% of your purchase to Lions' youth, sight, hearing, and community programs. If you have used eyeglasses and hearing aids to donate, please bring them with you. For more information contact Lion Tom at golfertom1943@gmail.com.

American Legion Breakfast Buffet

Sunday, Aug. 18 • 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Celebrate the end of summer at the American Legion Post 180 Breakfast Buffet! Enjoy Vienna's own Gravy Lady's sausage gravy, Joe's Famous made-to-order omelets, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, blueberry pancakes, biscuits, fruit cocktail, Post 180 cake and more! Adults \$12, Children younger than 12 \$5. Proceeds will be used to support Girls State and youth activities. For more information, call 703-409-3564. American Legion Post 180 is located at 330 Center St., N., Vienna, Va.

AAUW Membership Open House

Saturday, Sept. 7 • 2:30-4 p.m.

Join the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Vienna Area Branch for its Membership Open House at Patrick Henry Library. The branch offers a variety of interest groups, public programs, and engagement in AAUW's advocacy for equity for women and girls in education, the workplace, and the government. Recent program topics included Artificial Intelligence after ChatGPT; Affordable Housing, Myth or Reality; and Exchange Programs for Youth. New members who join at the Open House will receive a discount on the first year's dues. For more information, visit <https://vienna-va.aauw.net>.



Historic Vienna Outdoor Exhibit Through Sunday, Sept. 1

This year is the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Fairfax Resolves! They were written primarily by George Mason, adopted on July 18, 1774, and rejected the British Parliament's claim of supreme authority over the American colonies. Learn more about the Fairfax Resolves through Historic Vienna's new outdoor exhibit along the fence surrounding the Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church St., NE, Vienna.



Mayor's Pet of the Month

Meet Snoopy! This 15-week-old Cavapoo is just as adorable as his name. He loves getting belly rubs and enjoys making his new owner, Heather Colbert, laugh. This warmhearted puppy takes pride in brightening the lives of everyone he encounters. When he's not spending time lying in the shade (which is one of his favorite activities, especially in the summertime), he's out and about giving high fives and snuggles.

Congratulations, Snoopy! You're the Mayor's Pet of the Month! 🐾

Nominations for Mayor's Pet of the Month are accepted on an ongoing basis. To nominate your pet, send an email to Mayor@viennava.gov with your pet's name, type of pet (please be specific), a photo of your pet, and three reasons why you think your animal should be recognized.



CONTACT **Vienna**

VIENNA TOWN COUNCIL

- Mayor Linda J. Colbert**
mayor@viennava.gov
- Sandra Allen**
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- Chuck Anderson**
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- Roy Baldwin**
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- Jessica Ramakis**
jessica.ramakiss@viennava.gov
- Howard J. Springsteen**
hspringsteen@viennava.gov
- Full Council**
Council@viennava.gov

TOWN STAFF

- Town Manager Mercury T. Payton 703-255-6371
- Town Attorney Steven D. Briglia 703-255-6305
- Town Clerk Melanie J. Clark 703-255-6304
- Economic Development Director Natalie Guilmeus 703-255-6338
- Finance Director Marion Serfass 703-255-6322
- Human Resources Director Michelle Crabtree 703-255-6351
- Information Technology Director Tony Mull 703-255-6364
- Parks & Recreation Director Leslie Herman 703-255-6356
- Planning & Zoning Director David Levy 703-255-6340
- Police Chief Col. James Morris 703-255-6390
- Public Information Director Karen Thayer 703-255-6330
- Public Works Director Brad Baer 703-255-6380

Send community news and high-resolution photographs to karen.thayer@viennava.gov. All material provided is subject to editorial review and revision and will be used as space allows. **Deadline for the September issue is Aug. 10.**

**TOWN HALL
MAIN PHONE
703-255-6300**

**PUBLIC
INFORMATION
OFFICE
703-255-6330**

**Police,
Fire & Rescue
Emergency**
911
(Voice & TDD)

Vienna Police
703-938-4900 voice
703-255-5730 TDD
Non-emergency
703-255-6366 voice
703-255-5730 TDD

Community Center
703-255-6360 voice
TTY Virginia Relay 711
120 Cherry St. SE
Vienna, VA 22180

Vienna Town Hall
703-255-6300 voice
TTY Virginia Relay 711
127 Center Street South
Vienna, VA 22180-5179
Monday-Friday • 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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VOICE

August TOWN CALENDAR

2 Meet the Mayor • 9-10:30 a.m.

2 Summer on the Green (VTG) • 6:30 p.m.

6 Kids on the Green (VTG) • 10 a.m.

6 Windover Heights Board of Review • 7:30 p.m.

9 Summer on the Green (VTG) • 6:30 p.m.

13 Kids on the Green (VTG) • 10 a.m.

13 On Deck with Mercury • 6-7 p.m.

15 Board of Architectural Review • 7:30 p.m.

16 Mayor's Walk • 9:30-10:30 a.m.

16 Chillin' on Church (Church Street) • 6:30-9:30 p.m.

20 Kids on the Green (VTG) • 10 a.m.

20 Vienna Public Art Commission (VCC) • 7 p.m.

22 Conservation and Sustainability Commission (VCC) • 7:30 p.m.

23 Summer on the Green (VTG) • 6:30 p.m.

26 Town Council Meeting • 7:30 p.m.

27 Kids on the Green (VTG) • 10 a.m.

28 Planning Commission • 7:30 p.m.

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings take place at Town Hall, 127 Center Street S.
Meeting schedule subject to change; check www.viennava.gov/calendar for updates.
VCC, Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE
VTG, Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave., E